

Restore balance with a yes vote on Measure A

I will be voting yes on Measure A on the March ballot. I have been observing the growth of and impacts from what we used to call “homegrown,” since 1974 when I got kicked out of the dorms at HSU for smoking pot. It became such a big thing in Humboldt County because you could grow it here and hide it from the cops. I worked as a sodbuster and trimmer in the early '80s in places like Honeydew and Blocksburg. But I never wanted a real commercial scene of my own because there were too many guns around it for my taste.

1996 brought in the 215 medical phase, where the price stayed basically black market, but the risk of getting busted went way down. That set the stage for the “green rush,” where people started flocking here from all over the world to get rich quick. But every boom eventually goes bust, and when full legalization came in 2016, market forces kicked in, and the easy money was on its way out. The county regulators were way too cozy with the industrialists, and short shrift was given to steps that could have ameliorated some of the massive environmental harm that came from the grow industry. If people want to smoke weed, it's a free country. But it's time to restore some balance between protecting Humboldt's streams, plants, animals, and quality living, and the needs of the capitalists. Vote yes on Measure A.

— *Bryce Kenny, Trinidad*