

Having lived here in Eureka for 63 years, I have passed myself off as a native from time to time. Suffice it to say just the other day I bumped into a young man sitting in the same barber chair where I get my hair cut. I knew I knew him, just couldn't place him. Turns out, he played all kinds of sports with my kids and as it turns out I went to school with his father from about the ages of about ¹⁰8 thru 18. That's Marshall elementary, no longer, Eureka Junior High, no longer and Eureka High, home of the undefeated Loggers.

The back story, I was born in San Francisco in 1947, came here in '56 with my mother and two siblings because my father took a job as a Manager of the Safeway Store in Henderson Center, ~~no longer, the former Finnigan and Nasson~~ and now a thrift store..OK, so my heart strings on my sleeve! I love Eureka, but I am worried, so worried for it.

~~Let me illustrate.~~ As mentioned, I was born in San Francisco. I love San Francisco, or should I say, I used to love San Francisco. Years gone by, Mrs. J and I would visit the City several times a year, to see ball games, stage plays, concerts, parades and festivals and so many, many other activities... ~~museums, planetarium, parks, eateries, Alcatraz, walking across the Bridge....~~are you getting the point.?

Good, because, Mrs. J and I have made conscious decisions not to go to the City. Why, Because of the filth, decay and the overall crap and needles on the streets you have to dodge just to walk a block...Thanks Gavin Newsom. I noticed it back when our kids were young and we would take them to the City

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to do all the touristy things, Cable Cars, etc. and then getting ran over by some dip stick looking for a handout that looked like he just jumped out of hell. That was 20 years ago. NOW, do you remember Eureka 20 years ago. ~~If you remember~~. I do. It was a blip on the radar compared to today. It's gone from a 1.1 to a 6.9 on the Richter scale. FYI, it was a 6.9 that dropped the overpass at the College of the Redwoods in 1979. Like SF, it will be the big one before you know it...and you know what Lori Dengler says, it's not if, it's when! Boom!

And then I don't care how many Redwoods we have, ~~don't care how tall they are~~. How beautiful our Blue Pacific Ocean is, ~~on to see~~ ... no one will come here ~~on back~~ to stay and rest their weary bones in the many motels, eat in the many restaurants, shop in the many fine stores in Old Town, or worst of all, come to visit their relatives if we keep going the way we/SF are. Just read the comments on Trip Advisor and you will really get the idea of how visitors see our area.

Bottom line, I am ready to toss Bergel, Aroyo and Heidi. It is time for a change and if you do your homework, choir, especially those that are on the fence, it is these council peeps that need to go. So I am up for John Fullerton, Joe Bonino, and Constantine and either Mantova or Brooks....but please, not the incumbents. AND PLEASE, VOTE NO ON MEASURE K!

The worst part of my community comment today, brutal truth, if it wasn't for my children and grandchildren living here, I would move in a Nano second. And don't think I don't know of a good fishing spot to move to.

This has been Mike Jones for Community Comment.