

## **LAW AND ORDER, WITH JUSTICE FOR ALL**

I assume my readers know that I am fairly liberal on law and order. I oppose capital punishment, solitary confinement, and overly harsh sentences for victimless crimes like smoking pot. But when I read in last week's Tribune that Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Hill had given Ana Reepen only six years (probably out in three on parole) for the felony DUI/manslaughter of Bruce Bernor, I was outraged. Six years for taking a life? Six years for driving drunk the wrong way on Highway 1, narrowly missing two other cars and then crashing head-on into Bernor's car? They say that mitigating circumstances of Reepen's life outweighed aggravating circumstances of her behavior that fateful day last September when her blood alcohol concentration was 0.21 and she took a wrong turn out of the Surf Spot parking lot and ended an innocent driver's life. I'm sorry, but six years is just not right. Judge Hill should have sentenced Reepen to 10 years, the maximum allowed by law for this offense. I guess Judge Hill's relative leniency has made me question my liberal beliefs. I still believe in rehabilitation for those who are rightfully convicted of crimes. We should follow the example of German prisons, where convicts work and study to become law-abiding citizens when they are released. ("60 Minutes" covered this topic recently in a segment you can probably find online.)

## **NICE NATURE NEWS**

So now the weatherman says La Niña is a nonstarter, and that we may get normal winter rainfall. But weather forecasting is still a crapshoot, so stay tuned. In other nature

news, scientists in Crimea have discovered and recorded Black Sea bottlenose dolphins having “polite conversations” consisting of clicks and whistles. (Source: Earthweek.com)

### **NOPHONE AIR**

Have you heard of the NoPhone Air? It is a “dummy smartphone” without a screen, headphone jack, battery, apps, or anything else. It just looks like a real smartphone. Its creators Chris Sheldon and Van Gould say they have sold 10,000 of the phoney phones at \$10 apiece. Apparently, the featureless phones appeal to pranksters, but also to people who are seriously trying to overcome their smartphone addiction – sort of a Nicorette patch. (Source: Wall Street Journal, September 21)

### **YES ON PROPOSITION 64**

Imagine my surprise when I opened my Sunday paper and found conservative columnist Debra J. Saunders supporting legalization of marijuana (Proposition 64). Her argument, of course, is based on her free-market, libertarian ideology. Whatever! It’s all good. And Deb righteously notes that “marijuana smoke has become San Francisco’s deodorant.” And she notes that the California Medical Association also supports Prop. 64.

### **HUH?**

S.F. Chronicle photo caption (September 27) defies logic and/or laws of physics: “Jennifer Molleda looks at the blood-specked face of her husband, Alan Wakim, who had two bullets whiz by his head after going through his windshield

on the way to work."

## **SWAMI SEZ**

"The beauty of not being a Type A person is that I never get pulled over for speeding. Never have." (Scott McKellar)

## **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

- Email: [Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com](mailto:Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com)
- Blog: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)
- Copy Editor: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)