

# Letter: Community helps with ZC tennis tourney

To the community,

The annual Tahoe Tennis Classic isn't just about the play on the courts. The 33-year-old tournament is also the major fundraiser for the Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation.

The nonprofit, all-volunteer organization has the responsibility of running the six courts at the Douglas County facility. With the support of Lake Tahoe and regional businesses, we were able to raise funds to offer free junior instruction and to resurface the entire facility.

We would like to thank everyone who made the July tournament a success. We set a record for the number of teams – 124. The 184 players from nine states ranged in age from 12-81.

A special thank you to Harveys for the delicious dinner enjoyed by 200 people.

We would like to thank the following businesses and people for their generosity in support of the Classic:

## **Businesses:**

A Massage at Tahoe, tennis instructor Adam Robin, Agave Azul Mexican Grill Restaurant, All Sports Fitness & Personal Training, Angel Touch Salon & Spa, Anytime Fitness (Zephyr Cove), Bona Fide Books, Café at Adele's, CalStar, Capisce Restaurant, Carson Valley Inn, Casey's Restaurant, Casino Fandango, City of South Lake Tahoe, Douglas County Sheriff's Department, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, Elements Day Spa, Elevation Spa Ridge Tahoe, Ernie's Coffee Shop, Genasci & Steigers DDS, Getaway Café, Hair by Dawn, Happy-Healthy Body Products, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Heavenly Village

Cinema, Homewood Mountain Resort, Imagine Salon, Improv at Harveys, J. Boutique, Jimmy Johns – Reno, Kalani's Restaurant, Lakeside Inn and Casino, Lake Tahoe Yoga, Marcus Ashley Gallery, Mind/Body Fitness, Mirabelle at Lake Tahoe, MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa, Mt. Rose Ski Resort, NorCal Fishing Charters, Oakley Shop-Heavenly Village, Payne Massage Therapy, Pine Cone Lodge c/o Tahoe Management Services, The Loft, The Ridge Tahoe, Reel-Lentless Fishing Charters, Reno Aces Baseball Club, Sierra-at Tahoe, Splatter Studioz, Sprouts Natural Foods Café, Still Water Yoga, Tahoe Adventure Film Festival, Tahoe Best Friends, Tahoe Bodyworks, Tahoe Cakes by Grace, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters, Justin Clark/Tahoe Tennis Academy, Tep's Villa Roma, Toast Tahoe, UPS Store (Stateline), Weidinger Public Relations, Dennis Zansler-Morgan Stanley, Zephyr Cove Adventures, Zephyr Cove Resort/Lake Tahoe Cruises, and Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation.

### **Individuals:**

Doreen and Tom Andriacchi, Frank Bauer, Norm Beres, Carol and Carl Bergren, Kari and David Beronio, Robert Beutenmiller, Ceci Chourre', Sheila Cockerell, Hal Cole, Barbara Cooper, Kylie and Kari Coziahr, Tony Cupaiuolo, Mike and Cindy Dalton, Kevin Diamond, Dennis Dufau, Jay and Sharla Freeman, Dorothy Fugitt, Ray Fugitt, Bob Green, Sheryl and Hersh Herschmann, Denise and Jeff Higgins, Carel James, Melissa and Jess Jester, Becky Lebuhn, David Long, Kent C. McCarthy, Judy McLennan, Janet Nelson, Holly and Greg Painter, Dennis Perry, Susie and Tom Petrizzio, Louise and Paul Proffer, Eddi Quiggle, Colleen Rafforty, Kae Reed, Holly and Ross Rittiman, Diane Baker and Terry Roberts, Rhoda Shaponik, Michael D. Schmitz, Kim Silver, Becky and Wes Smotherman, Judy and Mark Spellman, Grant Thompson, Bryce and Zach Unger, Vicki Veris, Tricia Ward, Joyce Youngs, and Liz Zapalac.

Thank you again,

**Carolyn Wright, ZCTCF president**

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# **Letter: The power of story**

**To the community,**

Obviously, history has been made since the beginning of time but wasn't recorded until relatively recent times. One thing certain is that the travelers, teachers, and troubadours of old told and sang stories that informed and entertained. Circles around campfires and huddles around hearths created communities.

The means of the telling have changed dramatically but the personal stories with the important element of humanity provide the power. We can read and enjoy stories. Story's power comes from seeing the face and hearing the voice of the person with feeling, gestures, smiles, and tears. It is so evident as we watch and listen to those who have spoken at the Republican and Democratic conventions. Political platitudes, promises, and programs are a part of the communication but don't have the impact of those who bring personal stories to the podiums and the public. This is the case for the stories of cancer survivors and of those who have overcome addiction to drugs.

There are many quotes about storytelling. JK Rowling says, "There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place." Tahir Shah said, "Stories are a communal currency of humanity." There is an understanding that storytelling has always been the best tool to communicate ideas, persuade others, and get what you want. In other words—tell, don't sell.

There is always cynicism and skepticism about the truth of what we hear, but with the available fact checking, there is risk in playing with the truth. It is important to note the words of Herbert Spencer, a British sociologist, who said, "There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation." Mark Twain said, "The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that ain't so." The public will have some due diligence to perform through this election process.

**Merlyn Karst, Denver**

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## **Opinion: Combating housing and anti-growth**

**By Joe Mathews**

Ventura County is the most glorious and verdant of California kingdoms.

Just ask its princes and princesses—those fortunate enough to be able to afford to live and vote there. The nearly 900,000 residents can pretend that they live in the country, with parks or farmland always nearby. The Kingdom of Ventura's cities remain separate developments on the landscape—they haven't sprawled and melted into each other, like cities do elsewhere in Southern California.



Joe Mathews

Their secret? “No other county in the United States has more effective protections against urban sprawl,” says the website of SOAR, aka Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources, a family of growth-controlling ballot measures.

Those SOAR protections have been fixed in the laws of the county and its cities for two decades. SOAR effectively permits development only within certain urban cores in the county and makes no allowances for population growth. If you want to develop protected open space or change the development boundaries, you need a vote of the people.

Ventura voters like the results so much they are expected to extend the SOAR protections through 2050 in the November elections.

In effect, they’ve made their Kingdom a mighty fortress. Those sprawling suburban housing developments that fill the San Fernando Valley to the east? They stop at the county’s edge. It’s almost as if Ventura County has built a wall against growth along its border—and made neighboring Los Angeles pay for it.

But there is a problem with that wall, and within the Kingdom. The princes and princesses of the Kingdom have enjoyed the benefits of anti-growth—while avoiding the related responsibilities.

Smart growth strategies like SOAR are not only supposed to preserve open space. They also are supposed to drive more creative, dense, multifamily and transit-oriented development

in the urban cores where growth is still permitted.

But such infill development in Ventura County has lagged far behind what's needed to serve the Kingdom's growing population and its housing needs. The same citizens of the Kingdom who back SOAR also have opposed multifamily and denser developments, and resisted transit investments to connect their cities.

The results are as obvious as the choking traffic on the 101 Freeway and housing prices that make Ventura County one of the country's least affordable places. The lack of housing for middle- and lower-income people forces them to commute from outside the county; and it makes it hard for companies to grow and locate there.

"There is an uncertain capacity within our urban boundaries to accommodate job growth," Bruce Stenslie, president of the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County, said during a conference on SOAR. "Which doesn't mean that we should tear down the urban boundaries, it means we need to be a little more mature about questions concerning in-fill development and higher density."

Matthew Fienup, an economist with Cal Lutheran University's Center for Economic Research and Forecasting, who talks about the joys of living across the street from orchards, says there are myriad ways to require more regular analysis and adjustments of the boundaries. Fienup suggests that the county would be better off establishing tradable development rights that would protect the same amount of land while bringing some flexibility to the boundaries.

Of course immaturity about growth—and high housing prices and traffic—is not limited to Ventura County.

But in its resistance to infill development, Ventura is an example of the California disease—grab your piece of the Kingdom, and keep out anyone who might come after you.

Local anti-growth bias is becoming a major statewide issue as California faces a crisis in housing affordability and availability—for anyone but the most affluent. To push back against anti-growth local communities, Gov. Jerry Brown is championing legislation that would exempt many urban housing developments from environmental or local government review.

Many localities have responded to this statewide push defiantly, via local ballot measures that block growth and housing, as the *Voice of San Diego* documented recently. The most reactionary of these ballot initiatives comes from Santa Monica, which would require a vote of the people on most developments taller than two stories.

The defense of those backing anti-growth measures is disingenuous: If you don't like restrictions, you can go to the ballot. But that argument is an invitation for development to be determined by a showdown between NIMBY demagoguery and self-interested political money, as opposed to any rational long-range planning.

One lesson from Ventura County is that growth boundaries like SOAR shouldn't be pursued in isolation. They need to be tied to rock-solid requirements for creating more housing in urban cores, both for low-income and middle-income people.

So if a county wants to protect open space from development, great. But it must be compelled to open gates in its walls big enough to bring much more progressive development into the Kingdom.

*Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zocalo Public Square.*

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# Letter: Bread & Broth thankful for support

To the community,

Robert Stiles, a real estate agent at Chase International, once again sponsored a Bread & Broth Adopt A Day of Nourishment and brought friends Gary and Melisse Morrison to help at his sponsorship dinner on Aug. 1.

This was Stiles' third sponsorship dinner in as many years and he has become a veteran B&B helper. Volunteering at their first B&B dinner, the Morrisons jumped right in and did a great job of bagging food, serving dinner and cleaning up.

Thanks to AAD sponsors like Stiles, Bread & Broth provides hot, nutritious meals every Monday at St. Theresa Grace Hall from 4-5:30pm to everyone who comes to our door. The Monday evening dinner guests in many cases are regulars who attend on a weekly basis or may be folks who are in a pinch and just drop in once to get a good meal while getting back on their feet. Whether a regular or a onetime drop in, the dinner guests are gracious and thankful.

"It was a pleasure to see and hear the appreciation from the people attending the dinner," said Gary Morrison.

The sponsors and their crews that come to help the B&B volunteers are key to putting the evening dinners on and their presence at every Monday evening meal is very much appreciated.

"It was fun to help and our B&B lead, Gail Clair, was so nice and really helped with all the setup," added Morrison. When B&B partners with our generous sponsors, everyone wins. But the biggest winners are those who are struggling with hunger who depend on the meals provided by B&B and our wonderful



sponsors.

For more B&B information, contact me at 530.542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

**Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth**

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## **Opinion: Cuba could learn from Tahoe**



Cuba is on the cusp of a tourism avalanche that could have environmental consequences. Photos/Julie Regan

**By Julie Regan**

What pops to mind when you think of Cuba? Cigars? Castro? Lake Tahoe?

While it may not seem like our high-altitude mountain lake has

anything in common with the largest island nation in the Caribbean, we share the challenge of balancing a tourist-based economy with the protection of our spectacular natural environments.

Having traveled to Cuba twice in the last three years through the nonprofit Californians Building Bridges, I was struck by this compelling comparison. During my visit, I met with many officials and we engaged in a conversation around the idea of sustainable tourism. In other words, *¿Cómo se evita amar un lugar hasta la muerte?* (How do you avoid loving a place to death?)



In some ways Cuba has not evolved as evidenced by the cars people drive.

There is no simple answer to this question. Having worked at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for nearly 13 years, I've been on the front line in the quest to find equilibrium

between nature and the community. Trying to balance environmental protection of a special place like Lake Tahoe while encouraging a healthy economy and quality of life for residents is a very difficult thing to do. Tahoe provides an excellent case study of what works and what doesn't. And Cuba is interested.

With 11 million people, including 2 million in Havana, Cuba is the largest island nation in the Caribbean and is only 90 miles from the United States. Having lived in the Florida Keys, I was always intrigued by the "90 miles to Cuba" sign, particularly since Americans were forbidden to go there at the time. America, the land of the free, has restricted travel and trade to Cuba since Fidel Castro's revolution of 1959. After more than 50 years since the revolution, things are changing. Under the Obama administration, travel is getting much easier and Cuba is planning to welcome a virtual tsunami of American tourists in the coming years. While the U.S. trade embargo (called the blockade in Cuba) is still in place until Congress decides to lift it, this influx of tourism is essential for Cuba's economic revitalization because they lack the infrastructure for other business sectors to grow.

Because Tahoe is on the world stage, I've been fortunate in my work at TRPA to receive hundreds of international delegations. From the pyramids of Egypt where roads were covering ancient ruins for T-shirt stands to Lake Atitlan in Guatemala where sewage degrades water quality, we tell Tahoe's story of 50 years of conservation. When visitors see the crystal clear waters of Lake Tahoe and we share how we saved Lake Tahoe from being an overdeveloped super-sized mud puddle, they are intrigued.

Sustainable tourism is so intriguing to me that I'm pursuing a doctorate in environmental science and policy at UNR. I am drawn to Cuba as the ideal research base for sustainable tourism in an environmentally conscious nation on the verge of unprecedented growth and development.



South Shore resident Julie Regan is making Cuba a focal point of her doctorate studies.

Cuba's combination of natural beauty, rich cultural history, incredible people, and phenomenal arts and music, makes it one of the most fascinating places in the world. With the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Russia withdrew its economic support for Cuba. Since then, tourism has been a mainstay of economic development on the island. Approximately 3.5 million tourists, mostly from Canada and Europe, visit annually.

On my last visit just a few months ago, where my UNR professor and several policy experts joined me, we noticed Cuba is stepping up to prepare for the American tourism boom. In one paladar (paladars are restaurants in people's homes), I felt I could have been on Ocean Drive in South Beach, Miami—the décor and food were stupendous. With U.S. airlines getting the green light to offer commercial flights to Cuba, (Jet Blue just

announced \$99 one-way flights to three Cuban cities from Fort Lauderdale), there is a demand for more hotel rooms, marinas, and other amenities. The trick is how to move forward with large-scale development while protecting Cuba's unique biodiversity, pristine coral reef, incredible migratory bird populations, and other natural treasures.

In Havana, I met with university professors and officials from the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment about steps the government is taking to promote nature tourism. They shared that environmental protection is written into Cuba's Constitution and that they're serious about sustainability. With Cuba closer to the U.S. than Sacramento is to Tahoe, we have an obligation to continue reaching out to our Caribbean neighbor. I'm thrilled to be part of it. *Viva Cuba!*

*Julie Regan is the external affairs chief for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.*

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## **Editorial: Losing Lake Tahoe to climate change**

**Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the Aug. 4, 2016, Sacramento Bee.***

As a young reporter, Mark Twain visited Lake Tahoe. Its clear, cobalt blue water so entranced him that he wrote of it later, in "The Innocents Abroad."

"I have fished for trout, in Tahoe," Twain wrote, "and at a measured depth of eighty-four feet I have seen them put their noses to the bait and I could see their gills open and shut."



That was then. One hundred fifty years or so later, a new “state-of-the-lake” report issued last month by researchers at UC Davis has found that climate change has left the lake increasingly opaque and warm.

Surface temperatures are rising faster than scientists have ever recorded. The “deep mixing” that oxygenates the lake bottom hasn’t happened in four years. And forget seeing trout 84 feet below the surface. Last year, the 10-inch white disk scientists lower into the lake to gauge that “wonderful transparency,” as Twain called it, averaged 73.1 feet before it disappeared into the murk.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Opinion: Americans mostly kill the ones we know**

**By Scott H. Decker**

Turn on your television in the coming months, and you will see and hear just how much Americans fear strangers and guns.

Yet when it comes to violent crime, especially murder, Americans are at much greater risk of falling victim to someone they know, perhaps someone they know intimately. And these kinds of murderers are less likely to commit their crimes with guns.

A homicide detective once told me, “Familiarity breeds attempt.” The fact is that most victims and their killers are at least passingly familiar with each other. Intimates interact often, and those interactions often lead to disputes and disagreements. Those disputes and disagreements can lead

to violence. People who don't see another way to resolve these disagreements often have a dispute resolution mechanism such as a gun, a knife, or a blunt object handy.

Typically, criminologists categorize victim-offender relationships as strangers (individuals who don't know each other), acquaintances (individuals who are familiar with each other, have met, or are aware of each other, but are not close), and intimates (family, lovers, and the like). Most victims of property crime (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft) are strangers. But homicide, which is defined by the FBI as "the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another," is different. This antiseptic definition hides the emotion and will that need to be generated to shoot, stab, choke, or beat an intimate to death. Nineteen percent of all homicides involve intimates.

Motives for violent crime are generally broken into two categories: instrumental and expressive. Instrumental motives are ascribed to events that are designed to produce a material advantage for the offender. Robbery—such as the killing of a storeowner for the cash in the till—is the perfect example of this.

Expressive violence is different; it is designed to make a statement or communicate a strong emotion like love, hate, or resentment. Domestic homicides, in which one intimate partner kills another, are the prototypical form of expressive homicide.

Instrumental violence typically occurs between strangers and involves the use of only enough force or violence to "get the job done." In instances of expressive violence where individuals know each other, emotions run high, and the nature and level of violence is often exaggerated more than is necessary to "get the job done." In these cases, the violence makes a statement that reflects the large emotional overlap between victims and offenders.

A majority of homicides involve offenders and victims who share a large number of characteristics. The most typical homicide involves a victim and offender who are similar in age, race/ethnicity, gender, and prior involvement in the criminal justice system. They also typically have other background characteristics in common: educational attainment, employment history, and poverty levels. The familiarity that breeds contempt is not an emotional familiarity based on association, but a familiar set of background and experiential characteristics, including involvement in crime, gangs, and urban gun culture.

It is important to note that firearms are involved in about two-thirds of homicides in the U.S. That said, murders between intimates are more likely to involve "hands-on" violence, such as choking, beatings, or violence where the perpetrator physically touches the victim. Guns are more likely to be involved between perpetrators and victims who are strangers, or who know each other only in passing, like rival gang members.

Most homicides also occur within relatively close proximity to the residences of victims and offenders. And most cities have highly concentrated patterns of crime, particularly violent crime and homicide. Criminologists have observed across the past several decades that "crime causes crime," a hypothesis that works at two levels: the individual and the neighborhood.

When crime is committed at the individual level, individual offenders or victims create motives for their family members or friends to commit "reciprocated" crime. Many homicides are linked through patterns of revenge from a victim's family or friends who become perpetrators in an effort to obtain justice for their slain family member.

When crime is committed at the neighborhood level—more often perpetrated by strangers and acquaintances—fear is spread within the community, breaking down social structure and



impeding the ability of the police to make arrests and solve crime.

There is emerging evidence that the decades' long "great crime decline" has leveled off, and that homicide rates may be increasing. The initial evidence comes from cities that traditionally had high homicide rates, according to the National Institute of Justice. These cities are characterized by very high levels of concentrated poverty, particularly among minority residents.

Rising homicide rates in these parts of the country are of particular concern because they come at a time when law enforcement resources are stretched thin, thanks to recession cutbacks. The police make an arrest in about two-thirds of homicides. This leaves one-third of homicides unsolved, with offenders free in the community and the needs and desires of families and friends of victims unaddressed. Unsolved homicides often create their own "crime wave" as the families and associates of victims seek to exact justice on their own, putting the police under still more stress.

Recent increases in homicide are troubling. It remains to be seen if such increases signal the onset of a new wave of crime. Understanding the nature and patterns of homicide is key to formulating effective responses. To be successful, such responses must place more responsibility on communities for identifying disputes at an early stage in their development, before they turn fatal.

If the police are the only institution responsible for producing reductions in crime, we are in for a dangerous time.

*Scott H. Decker is foundation professor at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University and affiliated faculty at the Center for the Study of the Future of War.*

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# Opinion: Fighting poverty won't defeat terrorism

By Bruce Hoffman

Do poverty and a lack of education produce terrorism?

That has long been a favored explanation for eruptions of terrorism. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a succession of global leaders—among them Tony Blair, Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Oscar Arias Sanchez, and Elie Weisel—fastened on poverty, illiteracy and an absence of education as “root causes” of the violent phenomenon.

“We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror...,” President George W. Bush declared before the United Nations Financing for Development Conference in March 2002. “We will challenge the poverty and hopelessness and lack of education and failed governments that too often allow conditions that terrorists can seize and try to turn to their advantage.”

These arguments remain canons of the conventional wisdom on terrorism a decade and a half later—even though historical and contemporary empirical evidence don't support such claims.

To the contrary, those historically attracted to terrorism have in fact tended to be well educated, financially comfortable, and often gainfully employed.

Osama bin Laden obtained degrees in economics and public administration from Saudi Arabia's King Abdul-Aziz University while ISIS's Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has a master's and a doctorate in Islamic studies from the University of Islamic

Sciences at Adhamiya, a Baghdad suburb.

A century ago, Irish Republican Army volunteers in West Cork were “more likely to have jobs, trades, and an education than was typical of their peers,” according to Peter Hart. Similarly, Menachem Begin, a prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who’d earlier in life led a Jewish terrorist group in British Mandate Palestine, received his law degree from Warsaw University in 1935. Yasir Arafat, Begin’s Palestinian counterpart who was awarded his own Nobel Peace Prize, graduated from Cairo’s Fouad the First University (now Cairo University) and was employed as an engineer in Kuwait before founding al-Fatah. George Habash, the founder and leader of the rival Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was the son of a wealthy grain merchant who received his medical degree from the American University in Beirut as did his close friend and collaborator, Wadi Haddad, the mastermind of the PFLP’s most spectacular aircraft hijackings—including the 1976 hijacking of an Air France plane to Entebbe, Uganda.

In a study of madrassas (Islamic schools) and lack of education as a putative terrorist incubator, researchers at New America, a Washington think tank, also reached the conclusion that terrorism is not linked to an absence of schooling. Using a database of 79 jihadis who were responsible for the five most serious terrorist incidents between 1993 and 2005, they found that 54 percent of the perpetrators either attended university or had obtained a university degree. These terrorists, they concluded, “thus appear, on average, to be as well educated as many Americans”—given that only about half of the people living in the U.S. have attended university. The researchers further noted that two-thirds of the 25 terrorists involved in the planning and hijacking of the four aircraft on Sept. 11, 2001, had attended university. Finally, they observed that the most popular subject amongst those who attended university was engineering, followed by medicine.

That engineers have disproportionately filled the ranks of violent Islamist movements is the central argument of Diego Gambetta and Steffen Hertog's recent book "Engineers of Jihad: The Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and Education". They found that 69 percent of their sample of 335 violent jihadis had attended institutes of higher education—nearly half had studied engineering. "Relative to their presence in the male population in their countries of origin," Gambetta and Hertog argue, "the number of engineers among [Islamist] extremist groups is 14 times what we would expect ...Furthermore, the over-representation is evenly distributed across all groups and across all countries of origin..."

Among the more notorious terrorists with academic degrees in this particular field were Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the mastermind behind the 1993 bombing of New York City's World Trade Center, who studied electrical engineering at a technical institute in Wales; his uncle, Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, the architect of the Sept. 11 attacks, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from a North Carolina state university; and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the so-called "underwear bomber," a Nigerian national and son of a wealthy banker who tried to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight en route from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009. His mechanical engineering degree was awarded by University College London—one of Britain's top universities.

The popularity of medicine as a terrorist vocation is, of course, also not new. In addition to the aforementioned doctors Habash and Haddad, Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's current leader, is a trained surgeon. Some of the best known terrorists in recent years with medical degrees were among the eight persons arrested in Britain following the botched attempt to bomb a nightclub in central London and the dramatic, but largely ineffectual, attack on Glasgow's International Airport in June 2007. Six of the eight

perpetrators were either doctors or medical students and of the remaining two, one was employed as a technician in a hospital laboratory.

Perhaps the seminal scholarly work to debunk the conventional wisdom that links poverty and lack of education to terrorism is the 2003 article by Princeton economist Alan B. Krueger and his Australian colleague, Jitka Malecková. Surveying American white supremacists, members of the Israeli Jewish (right wing) underground, Hezbollah fighters, and Palestinian suicide bombers, they concluded that not only is there little evidence for this causality but in fact persons with higher incomes and more education are more likely to join terrorist groups. In the case of the Israeli Jewish underground, they found that “these Israeli extremists were disproportionately well-educated and in high-paying occupations. The list includes teachers, writers, university students, geographers, engineers, entrepreneurs, a combat pilot, a chemist, and a computer programmer.” For Hezbollah, they determined that fewer of its members came from impoverished or uneducated backgrounds compared to the general Lebanese population (28 percent versus 33 percent). Krueger and Malecková determined that Palestinian suicide bombers were also “less likely to come from impoverished families and are much more likely to have completed high school and attended college than the general Palestinian population.”

This counterintuitive conclusion about Palestinian suicide bombers—given the immense poverty and deprivation that continues to define the Palestinian people’s existence—is well supported by evidence gathered by Nasra Hassan, a United Nations aid worker based in Gaza, who has extensively studied the tendency of Palestinian youth to embrace terrorist martyrdom. Writing in the *New Yorker* magazine shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, she observed that none of the nearly 250 suicide bombers and would-be suicide bombers she interviewed between 1996 and 1999 was uneducated, desperately poor,

simpleminded, or depressed. Many were middle class and, unless they were fugitives, held jobs. Two were the sons of millionaires.

Similarly, according to Ronni Shaked, an Israeli journalist and former Shabak (Israel Security Agency or Shin-Bet) intelligence officer and expert on Hamas, "All leaders of Hamas are university graduates, some with M.A. degrees. ... It is not a movement of poor, miserable people, but the highly educated who are using poverty to make the periphery of the movement more powerful."

Having said all this, it would be wrong to conclude terrorist organizations are populated exclusively by the financially comfortable and educated. Indeed, an inevitable bifurcation generally occurs across all terrorist movements whereby the top leadership and mid-level command strata are populated by the educated (or relatively well-educated) and financially well off, while the majority of foot soldiers are less educated and often from far more modest socioeconomic backgrounds.

The reasons why someone picks up a gun or throws a bomb represent an ineluctably personal choice born variously of grievance and frustration; religious piety or the desire for systemic socio-economic change; irredentist conviction or commitment to some utopian or millenarian ideal. The forces that impel individuals to become terrorists are thus timeless.

*Bruce Hoffman has been studying terrorism and insurgency for four decades. He is a professor in Georgetown's Walsh School of Foreign Service and serves as director of the Center for Security Studies and of the Security Studies Program.*

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# Letter: Tahoe Summit needs changes

To the community,

The good news is that President Obama is to speak at the Tahoe Summit on Aug. 31. The bad news is that it is to be at Harveys outdoor stage and a band is to perform at the same event – a band named The Killers.

This is entirely unacceptable.

I ask others to join me in calling on Sen. Harry Reid, who is responsible for this scheduling, to either cancel the band's performance or select another venue. As much as I would like to hear the president in person, I will not attend the event in these circumstances.

**Jerome Evans, South Lake Tahoe**

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## Opinion: AG proves EDC supes' incompetence

By Larry Weitzman

Fact is an overused word. Just because something is written or spoken doesn't make it a fact, as a fact must be proven to be a fact. Likewise use of the term "proven fact" or "known fact" is redundant as all facts to be a fact must be proven and therefore known. Without the acceptance of "fact," science or life as we know it would not exist. Two plus two equals four is a fact. In fact, (pun intended) all arithmetic is fact.



Larry Weitzman

It is unfortunate that some of our grand juries don't operate on fact and their inability to do so (too much politics injected) has now cost the public tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars. I am referring to the 2014-15 El Dorado County Grand Jury report about which I wrote a column last year. The column's point was that the grand jury has become a political body and a kangaroo court. It didn't deal in facts, but hearsay. It called statements from witnesses' testimony, but since it wasn't sworn, it was nothing but hearsay and couldn't be considered fact. It was my third column discussing the grand jury's lack of credibility that clearly should be renamed the Gossip Jury. The first column was published July 2014 and the second in July 2015 entitled.

Grand Jury report item 14-12 was about several non-issues trumped up against the auditor. Most, if not all, of it was based on non-sworn interviews; hearsay in other words. One of those issues was not paying legitimate invoices from vendors or delaying those payments. There is a penal code section (424, 425) forbidding such practice. Notwithstanding the factual evidence to the contrary and the acceptance of a mountain of hearsay or gossip, the political grand jury recommended that the district attorney investigate auditor with the ultimate goal of the removal of our only county watchdog so he could be replaced by a county lapdog. The Board of Supervisors, in their unthinking style, accepted the recommendation anyway and eventually the attorney general did an investigation costing our county untold thousands of



dollars, while county potholes continue to grow and proliferate.

The district attorney turned to the state Attorney General's Office for the investigation to prevent any appearance of a conflict of interest. The state attorney general has spoken. It completed its investigation and will take no further action. It was obvious there was nothing to this folly as I have repeatedly said in these columns, but at what cost?

Most of this started with former CAO Terri Daly and HR director and former interim CAO after Daly, Pam Knorr, spending perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars trying show malfeasance of the auditor. The irony is that it was Daly and Knorr who should be fired with their wild spending and bullying of employees. Daly is already gone and even in her absence she couldn't keep her word with respect to the severance contract she executed with EDC for which she received a huge package of \$153,000. EDC should have filed a lawsuit for its recovery for Daly's breach of the contract, but our weak-kneed supervisors are afraid of their own shadows and have no bite. Maybe dental implants are the answer?

Knorr, as described in a June 2015 column more or less started this second round of an expensive witch-hunt when she was hired in by our BOS as interim CAO. Knorr then hired in her friends from Alpine County, the same private investigator she used in Alpine, to wit: Ken MacHold. But instead of hiring him on a direct contract at \$50 an hour as she did in Alpine, she used the subterfuge of the Prentice, Long and Epperson law firm who allegedly hired MacHold as an employee and the fee more than doubled to \$110 an hour. The contract was probably illegal as there was no workers' comp insurance provided during the contract but that didn't stop Knorr. Incidentally, the Prentice law firm just happens to be the law firm hired by Knorr as Alpine County counsel during her tenure as Alpine County CAO. Meanwhile, MacHold, while at Alpine, worked with Knorr to help her get a large legal settlement (almost

\$200,000, which is about 2.5 percent of the total Alpine County budget) which was approved by Alpine's County counsel, Prentice. It is a tangled web.

Knorr, as interim CAO, even tried to hide first invoice from MacHold of over \$15,000 by writing it off to the new courthouse project. Knorr even stonewalled the *Mountain Democrat* when it inquired about the contract and the invoice.

The bottom line is that the grand jury has now been proven wrong with respect to both reports cited above by the attorney general. The facts are that there was never anything to the GJ allegations as it was based on hearsay and not fact. It was gossip, not testimony under penalty of perjury, and that goes for both reports, GJ 13-20 and GJ 14-12. And now the attorney general found the reports as specious as the allegations. Both reports were concocted and pushed by politics and power by two CAOs. And at what cost? How many hours of county time were spent? How many hours of AG time? And then there are the hard costs. We don't know what was invoiced with respect to MacHold but it was over \$15,000 and up to about \$64,000, Knorr's executory contract authority without BOS approval.

Interestingly this same 2014-15 Grand Jury in Report 14-07 lambasted this same HR Director Knorr in a report entitled "Board of Supervisors Neglects Human Resources." It speaks poorly of Knorr's business practices. Maybe the AG should also investigate that department as well.

We know that CAO Daly spent a quarter million dollars on her bogus "bully reports." Daly is gone, but not forgotten. But why is Knorr still here? In Grand Jury Report 14-07 one of the several recommendations was "The Board of Supervisors should appoint a qualified manager of Human Resources." The GJ also said: "The BOS should aggressively seek a new and qualified CAO." It was Knorr who gave us the incompetent Larry Combs. It was time for Knorr to be gone over a year ago and the BOS has and had that power. So what did they do, make her interim CAO,

rewarding incompetence and politics. Then the BOS doubled down with Combs based on Knorr's recommendation. What is the BOS afraid of? Where is the AG investigation of HR Director Knorr's practices?

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts." Daniel Patrick Moynihan, senator from New York, 1976-2000.

*Larry Weitzman is a resident of Rescue.*