

shoes before entering the cage at the suggestion of the zookeeper, who feared that the dragon, which feeds on white rats, might mistake his shoes for a rat. But Bronstein's white feet didn't solve the problem either, and while Sharon Stone watched from outside the cage, Bronstein's big toe was crushed by the 10-foot beast. The incident allowed one of the *Chronicle's* chortling competitors to joke that the dragon had mistaken a *Chronicle* editor for a rat.

ONE OF the last stories Bronstein oversaw as editor involved another zoo mishap, but this one closer to home. "Tatiana," a tiger at the San Francisco zoo, killed one patron and mauled two others on Christmas day — the kind of story one could imagine the paper's founder, William Randolph Hearst, covering with delight. The *Chronicle*, scrounging around desperately for readers, played up Tatiana's story for weeks, creating a special section on its Web page devoted exclusively to it.

The story, however, posed a tricky controversy for

cultural lefties in San Francisco, as it brought several of their favorite interest groups into conflict: animal rights activists versus juvenile delinquents; politically correct zoo keepers versus litigious attorneys.

Naturally, the hooligans who provoked the attack — vodka was found in their car, other patrons had seen them behaving boisterously, a shoe print was found near Tatiana's pen, and the boys were fresh off several run-ins with the police — hired an attorney to sue the zoo into oblivion. Representing the delinquents is hack Mark Geragos, who, when not suing people, is often seen gibbering on cable talk shows. You probably remember some of Geragos' other blameless clients such as Michael Jackson, actress Winona Ryder, and the Clinton-era Susan McDougal.

Geragos manipulated the media effortlessly in January, diverting attention from his clients' reckless behavior and towards the incompetence of SF's hapless zoo director, who overstated the height of Tatiana's enclosure. Yet the media in all of its probing of the zoo's incompetence didn't ask the most obvious question, a

## WHAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT GUN CONTROL

By SAM PAREDES

IN our 32-plus years, Gun Owners of California, Inc., (our lobbying arm) and GOC Campaign Committee (our political action committee) have had just two goals: stop anti-gun legislation and gain a pro-gun legislative majority.

Nothing has changed, and meeting the second goal remains the best way to achieve the first. That's why we are fully engaged in this year's election. GOC provides voters' full information before each election, rating and endorsing candidates.

We ask candidates their specific position on the Second Amendment, why they want to run for office, and what they hope to accomplish in Sacramento. We've heard

all the gobbledygook and know how to cut through it.

Candidates offer platitudes about how their local government experience has taught them to work with the opposition: to compromise on the issues. Other candidates say they want to "fix" some specific malfunctioning aspect of state government. Some — get this — actually tell us the state Legislature is "the next logical step" on their career paths.

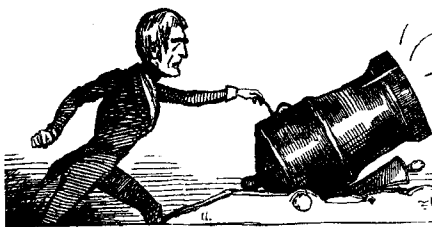
We don't support those candidates. Sacramento's problem is not a particular malfunction or too lit-

tle compromise or too few self-promoting politicians. It is an anti-freedom mentality that can't be tweaked into something good; it can only be replaced.

That's why GOC looks for candidates who want to find a way to *run* the joint — to become the majority to defend the Second Amendment from a position of strength. The world's most public spirited office holder can't pass a Mother's Day Resolution if the majority says "no."

We want candidates devoted to organizing a constituency outside the Capitol to influence what happens on the inside — candidates devoted to taking the fight to the enemy, to taking them to the mat whenever they attack our freedom. We find too few candidates like that, but they're the only kind that matter in the Capitol.

CPR



*Sam Paredes is executive director of Gun Owners of California.*

question that is apparently off limits in pagan San Francisco: Why was the zoo even open on Christmas?



Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony several years back wrote in an e-mail (later leaked to Los Angeles talk radio station KFI) that former *Los Angeles Times* religion reporter Larry Stammer stood “ready” to help him with favorable press. Never has a bishop more openly declared a reporter to be in his pocket. So it is no surprise that the *Times*’ competitor, the *Los Angeles Daily News*, is the only place to look for real news about Mahony, and last December the Valley paper came up with a bombshell: that the cardinal had revealed to his priests that he had been beaten up on a street outside the cathedral sometime during the summer.

According to the *Daily News*, Mahony had told this story to his priests in an apparent bid to win their sympathy (they are still steaming over his July 2007 \$660

million settlement with alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse, which was widely seen as Mahony’s attempt to avoid testifying on the stand). The report exposed Mahony’s signature reluctance to call the police after a crime, even one involving a guy hitting him in the face (according to reports, the disgruntled man first asked Mahony, who was wearing a golf shirt at the time, if he was in fact the cardinal, and then with that assurance in hand proceeded to strike him). The assailant is still at large.

With the exception of Steve Lopez’s stinging columns (which are explained by his liberal axe to grind against the Church), the *Times* has covered Mahony ineptly, perhaps out of gratitude for his political liberalism. There is no difference in the negligence of Cardinal Bernard Law and Cardinal Mahony. But where Law faced a tenacious *Boston Globe* and as a result was packed off to Rome, Mahony has been spared by a somnolent *Los Angeles Times*, with only the *Daily News* to nip at his heels.

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## The Law

### Drug-free — *and* compassionate

*The California Supreme Court upholds employers’ efforts to maintain a drug-free workplace.*

DEBORAH J. LA FETRA

**A** RECENT CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT majority opinion, penned by Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar in the case *Ross v. Ragingwire*, reaffirmed, by relying on the plain language of the law in question, the judiciary’s proper role as applying, not making or re-writing, our laws. That just such reaffirmation is needed can be seen in the sharp contrast between Werdegar’s majority opinion and Justice Joyce L. Kennard’s dissent, which criticizes the decision for lack of “compassion.” First, some background:

Gary Ross suffered a back injury while serving his country in the United States Air Force. He treats the continuing pain and spasms with marijuana, pursuant

to California’s Compassionate Use Act, the 1996 voter-approved medical marijuana initiative. Because of his ongoing ingestion of marijuana, Ross failed the pre-employment drug test required by Ragingwire Telecommunications, Inc., an information technology company. Upon receiving notice of this failure, Ragingwire fired Ross, who had begun working a few days previously. Ross then sued the company for discrimination under California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and for wrongful termination in violation of public policy.

The Compassionate Use Act exempts medical mari-

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