

Opinion: Can campuses truly prepare for shootings?

By David N. Myers

A good part of what was so distressing about this month's shooting at UCLA was the familiarity of it all.

The death of William Klug, a brilliant and affable young professor, at the hands of a mad former graduate student, was the chief tragedy. But as our campus was taken over June 1 by a veritable army of armed law enforcement personnel in helicopters, police cars and trucks, I couldn't help but think: Here we go again.

The sight of high school and college campuses in lockdown, with one or more shooters terrorizing hundreds or thousands of students, has become normal. Since 2013, there have been 186 school shooting incidents, according to the Everytown for Gun Safety, a group that began compiling school shooting statistics after the Sandy Hook, Conn., massacre in 2012. Last year saw more than 50 school shooting incidents, 23 of which were on college campuses.

In a society facing an epidemic of gun violence, universities are, at their best, havens of freedom—sites of the free exchange of ideas, free and open interchange between diverse groups, and free movement across the sovereign campus island. But our freedom is being eroded as we hunker down in preparation for the next burst of deadly fire. Indeed, the vigilance with which we act on our campuses today takes a toll on that exhilarating sense of liberation—from ignorance, bias, and convention—that the university once offered.

I remember well the sad realization I had after Sandy Hook, that it now made sense to introduce active shooter preparation training for the UCLA History Department, of which I served as

chair from 2010 to 2015. In 2013, we had our first preparedness session with an officer from the UC Police Department. The announcement to our faculty, staff, and students noted that:

An active shooter is defined as a situation where one or more suspects participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating intent to continuously harm others.

It's an unfortunate sign of the times that we need to think this way, but it is very important that we be as prepared as possible for such an event. In that kind of situation, there are specific things we can do to protect ourselves and those around us.

In point of fact, the randomness of these acts constrains our ability to protect ourselves. If we are in the wrong place at the wrong time or are the intended target, there is little to be done. Nonetheless, the active shooter trainer tried to prepare those in attendance for what to do: run from open spaces, closet yourself in your classroom or office, lock the door, turn off the lights, and keep silent.

These are all sensible suggestions. But I was struck, after a second preparedness session, by the indeterminacy of what to do in a situation in which you find yourself in the same room as shooters. The options, as the UCLA Emergency Management webpage tells us, are threefold: "Stay still and hope they don't shoot you, run for an exit while zigzagging, or attack the shooter."

Fortunately, most of us never have and never will have to face that rather harrowing set of choices. In the meantime, we on college campuses usually put this prospect out of our minds. The more vigilant among us may pay increased attention to our immediate environs, locate exits in rooms, or even run through versions of game theory as we contemplate escape scenarios in our minds.

My own sense of vigilance was heightened during the time I served as department chair, especially when I would meet with irate and sometimes disturbed students. I would ask staff colleagues adjacent to me to pay special attention to any abrupt noises. I would also sit relatively close to the students and follow their hand movements in order to be able to act quickly if they took out a weapon.

I chided myself for engaging in this kind of suspicion-ridden activity, for it seemed to violate the basic trust that underlies the teacher-student relationship. And yet, I couldn't stop myself from going through a mental checklist of preventative measures.

This is our reality now. Of course, we should follow the Australians and set in place tighter regulation of gun ownership. And of course, we should develop far better strategies and devote far more resources to help those with mental illness. These are absolute no-brainers. What more needs to happen to demonstrate their necessity?

Shooter preparedness sessions are highly imperfect. They reveal that emergency management is an art, not a science. But these sessions are the best we have at present. And it is all the more important to undergo such training in the absence of far-reaching policy changes necessary to reduce the number of shootings.

In the meantime, even as we know that there will be more episodes, we must fight against the understandable impulse to constrain ourselves even further by censoring our words or altogether altering the ways we interact with colleagues and students out of fear. Difficult as it may be, we must endeavor to preserve that essential freedom of mind and movement that propels the university to do its important work for students and society alike.

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history at UCLA.

Armstrong to be pacer in Western States run

By James Raia, Sacramento Bee

Eric Byrnes' background as a professional baseball player isn't the only thing that makes him stand out from the field in this weekend's Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run.

Runners are encouraged to have pacers for the final 38 miles beginning at Foresthill. It's often done in two segments, one joining the runner for 16 miles through the river crossing at Ruck a Chuck, the second the final 22 miles to Placer High School in Auburn.

Byrnes' first pacer will be Franz Dill, who has finished the Western States four times and is a neighbor in Half Moon Bay.

His second pacer has a much more recognizable name. Former professional cyclist Lance Armstrong will accompany Byrnes to the finish.

Read the whole story

Search for missing

paddleboarder called off

By Jessica Hice, Sacramento Bee

The search for a college football player who presumably drowned June 10 during a Lake Tahoe paddleboard excursion has been suspended indefinitely, the Placer County Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday.

Marc Ma, 20, ventured with several other football players from UNR on a paddleboarding trip about 2 miles offshore near the Obexer Marina. High winds causing 3- to 5-foot swells knocked the boarders into the water, the sheriff's office said.

It said Wednesday on Twitter that it suspended the search because of Lake Tahoe's deep water and a belief that a "steeply sloping lake bottom covered with boulders has concealed his final location."

Read the whole story

Nev. seeks 'answers, not excuses' for painkiller epidemic

By Jason Hidalgo, Reno Gazette-Journal

Calling it one of the deadliest epidemics affecting Nevada and the United States, Gov. Brian Sandoval said everything is on the table for addressing the state's prescription painkiller problem.

“At least one person in Nevada dies every day from an opioid overdose,” Sandoval said. “We can and we must do better.”

An ongoing issue in Nevada for years, prescription opioid abuse gained additional attention in April after law enforcement raided a Reno car dealership. The raid was part of an investigation into an alleged oxycodone drug ring following the death of former Nevada football player Michael Yenick. The investigation also led to the arrest of Dr. Robert Rand of Rand Family Care in Reno.

Read the whole story

DCSID building sewage overflow system



Construction has the bike trail temporarily out of commission.
Photo/Bill Kingman

The sizable excavation project along Elks Point Road heading toward Nevada Beach is a sewage overflow gallery for Douglas County Sewer Improvement District.

It will result in additional and redundant wet well storage for the district's main sewer lift station at Elks Point Road and Dorla Court, according to Douglas County officials. It is being put in so that if the pump fails, sewage would not reach Lake Tahoe.

The gallery is underground and will not be visible when the project is complete.

During construction the bike path is being rerouted.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Every Tuesday through September, Tahoe Adventure Company in conjunction with the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society will provide a kayak trip to the historical Thunderbird Lodge on the East Shore. Cost is \$125. Call 530.013.9212 to book a spot.

- The Douglas County Public Library in Minden will be closed July 4. The library will resume its regular schedule on July 5 at 10am.

- Washoe County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with the Reno Police Department and UNR Police to offer an intensive 12-week Regional Citizens Police Academy. Applications are available **online**.

- There will be a celebration June 25 commemorating the

15th anniversary of the dedication of the Snowshoe Thompson statue in Genoa. The free event is from 11am-4pm at Mormon Station State Park in Genoa.

• The country's premier adventure race for kids ages 6-14, the Kids Adventure Games (Kids A.G.), will make its stop at Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows June 24-26. More info is [online](#).

Star Guide: Challenger Learning Center of Northern Nevada

By Tony Berendsen

When I was growing up astronauts were my heroes. I'm one of the younglings of the 1960's era that woke up early before school to listen to Walter Cronkite announce the launch of Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions. Then filled with the sense of adventure and discovery, I hurried off to more down to earth things, like reading writing, and arithmetic.

Today our manned space program is still alive. Astronauts ride enormous rocket ships to live and work on the International Space Station. NASA is building the SLS (Space Launch System) to send the Orion space craft aloft to new destinations beyond the moon, and commercial companies like SpaceX and Orbital Science are coming close to offering service to low Earth orbit and maybe beyond.

The real life spaceflight adventures I watched as a youth were inspiring, but they were very dangerous. We lost three

astronauts on the pad at Cape Canaveral, and two Space Shuttle crews. But still the passion and interest in space continued to inspire. And, from the depth of mortal tragedy of one of the Space Shuttle missions named Challenger, a new ground based space mission began in Reno in October 2014: CLCNN (The Challenger Learning Center of Northern Nevada).



Reno's Challenger Learning Center opened in 2014.
Photo/Challenger Learning Center

Exciting news, the CLCNN is moving to the National Automobile Museum on Lake Street in Reno.

I asked Melodi Rodrigue, president of the CLCNN, how the idea of a Northern Nevada Challenger Learning Center began: "Paul McFarlane, current flight director of the CLCNN, had taken a couple of his high school classes from Hug High to the Challenger Learning Center in Sacramento and the students loved it. On one of the visits, some of the students asked why there wasn't a Challenger Center in Reno. Paul said, 'That's a good question!' and off we went. The CLCNN was formed about eight years ago as a nonprofit and has worked ever since to bring the CLC experience to our community".

If you visit the CLCNN at the Automobile Museum, be prepared for an imaginative team building experience incorporating experiential learning into an exciting space mission. "The

current mission takes place in 2076, 100 years after the first Viking lander on Mars; a time when manned missions to Mars are routine. The Mars Control Team is charged with the selection of entry and departure trajectories before landing the Mars Transport Vehicle on Mars with a replacement crew. The crew of the Mars Transport Vehicle is tasked with launching probes targeted at the Martian moons,” said Teddy Rodrigue, intern flight director, about the current mission students take part in at the CLCNN.

McFarlane reflected on the impact of the CLC experience, “It’s always exciting to meet alumni from Challenger Center missions who are now teachers, doctors and scientists who credit Challenger Center for launching them on their career paths. I’ve personally had the honor of speaking with young women who served on our Mars missions locally and around the country who are now studying aerospace engineering in college, while others are actually working for NASA in science positions and at Mission Control.”

CLCNN is a nonprofit, and even though it is affiliated with NASA and use NASA approved programing, it is not financially supported by NASA. Challenger centers depend on their communities and school districts for financial support. Business and private donations really make a big difference in funding operational costs. If you would like to make a donation go **online**, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Support the Mission”.

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GOP puts more boots on the ground in Nev.

By Ben Botkin, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Republicans are taking the lessons they learned from the past three presidential elections and putting them to use in Nevada and elsewhere in 2016.

It's led to an added emphasis on a boots-on-the-ground approach in the Silver State and much less reliance on phone banks to reach and recruit potential voters.

National and state Republican leaders reached this point by starting early with planning and taking a look at what worked – and didn't work – in the past three presidential elections. Republicans won just one of those – in 2004 when President George W. Bush was re-elected. President Barack Obama won the next two in 2008 and 2012.

Read the whole story

Officers to ratchet up boat patrols at Tahoe

This weekend, many law enforcement agencies will be out in force on waterways looking for drunken boat operators.

This heightened vigilance, known as Operation Dry Water, is part of a national effort to change the cultural acceptance of drinking and boating, and raise awareness that boaters can have safe and fun recreational boating experiences without the

use of alcohol and/or drugs. California will also emphasize the dangers that drunken passengers face.

Since the launch of Operation Dry Water in 2009, the number of recreational boating fatalities with alcohol named as a contributing factor has decreased in the United States. As of 2015, the national alcohol-related boating fatality rate was 21 percent. In California, alcohol use remains a leading contributing factor in boating deaths. The state's recreational boating accident statistics show that over the past five years (2011-15), 33 percent of boating fatalities were alcohol-related (when tests were conducted).

Weatherization services available for low income in EDC

El Dorado County's free weatherization services could save the average household \$400 or more each year.

Qualified low-income property owners and renters have an opportunity to receive energy improvement services through the program.

Weatherization auditors check the home to see where improvements can be made. Services are customized for each home and designed for maximum cost savings. Shade screens, fixing broken glass, installing ceiling fans and insulation in attics, repair or replace water heaters, and repair or replace heating units and air conditioners are some of the

possibilities.

Households must meet eligibility guidelines and income requirements. For information about the program, call 530.573.3490.