

Opinion
MARCOS BRETON



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Talk on border crisis is easy – the issue isn't

In an address to the nation last week, President Barack Obama said he wants to deport "felons, not families."

It was a signature line Obama used to justify changing federal immigration policies through an executive order – a move meant to spare nearly 5 million undocumented immigrants from deportation. Many of these are parents of legal residents. Meanwhile, thieves, rapists and other lawbreakers will continue to be deported.

Obama's words sound good, but little in immigration law or policy is that straightforward.

We know all too well in Sacramento that criminals can get deported multiple times and then return to the U.S. to commit even more heinous crimes.

Two law enforcement officers – one from Sacramento County, one from Placer County – were killed last month and an undocumented immigrant with a lengthy rap sheet and more than one deportation on his record has been charged with the crimes.

The shooting deaths of those officers prompted Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones to record a video plea directed at Obama last week that was critical of the president while imploring him to "do something" to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

By his own account, Jones took a lot of heat for calling out Obama directly.

Having talked with Jones last week, there is no doubting his sincerity. He just lost a brother officer horribly gunned down, without warning, on a sunny weekday morning.

Jones is trying to be there for the widow of Deputy Danny Oliver, a popular, longtime fixture in his department. Jones is trying to lift the spirits of Oliver's grieving partner and fellow deputies while also doing right by a Placer County Sheriff's Department mourning the loss of Detective Michael Davis Jr.

"If I didn't do anything ... I would have looked back with regret that I didn't use the platform I was given by the voters of Sacramento County," Jones said.

More than anything, Jones faults Obama for not using his executive authority to move federal prosecutors toward more aggressive prosecutions and incarcerations of undocumented immigrants who commit crimes in the U.S.

The implication is that more aggressive prosecution of undocumented immigrants might have prevented the Oct. 24 crime spree allegedly carried out by Luis Enrique Monroy-Bracamontes, a Mexican national deported twice for crimes committed in the U.S., once as far back as 1997.

"He's a felon returning to our county," said Jones of the suspect. "He should be held to account."

Like Obama's, Jones' words are well intentioned.

But again, nothing in current immigration law or policy is that clear-cut.

The fact is that Monroy-BRETON | Page B4

Prostitution hotspots targeted

LEGITIMATE MESSAGE THERAPISTS FIGHT COUNTY FEE ON BUSINESSES

Watchdog report THE PUBLIC EYE

By BRAD BRANAN
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Arden Arcade and neighboring suburbs have become hotspots for massage parlors serving as prostitution fronts, thanks to plenty of cheap retail space with high visibility, Sacramento County officials say.

The county has shut down 17 massage parlors in the last

two years for code violations and other illegal activity, and all but three were in the northern suburbs. And those closures touch only the surface of the problem, according to law enforcement officials.

Concern about covert prostitution led the Legislature this year to give local government more land-use



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authority over massage parlors. Sacramento County planning staff members want to take advantage of the

law, but they're running up against strong opposition from massage therapists.

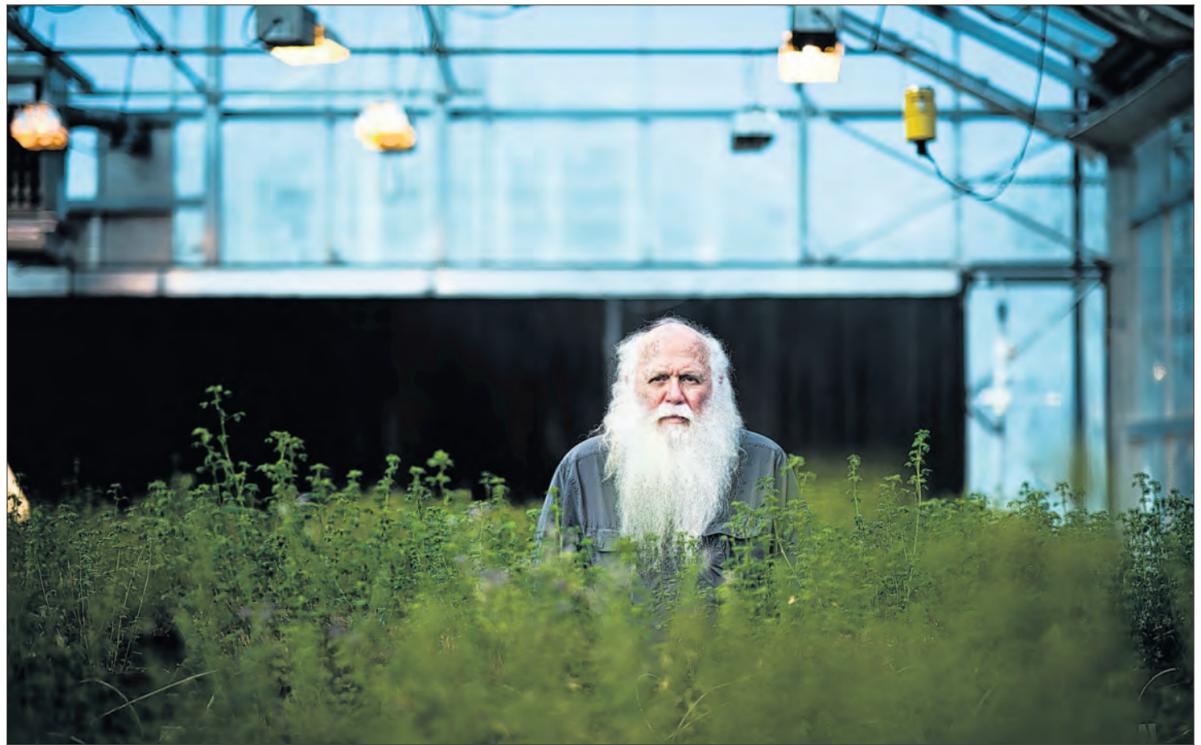
The Board of Supervisors early next year will consider requiring massage establishments to obtain a "minor-use permit," which would give the county more authority over whether they can operate and greater ability to penalize them when violations occur, said principal planner Tricia Stevens. Supervisors will also consider adding a \$1,000 fee to pay for the cost

of the review needed for the permit.

During two board meetings, several massage therapists complained about the proposed fee, saying it would come on top of what they already pay for a business license and state certification. Some supervisors said they share the objections and question whether the proposal will help root out prostitution.

Brenda Pitts, a state-certified MASSAGE | Page B5

A MAN FROM MARS INC.



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Howard-Yana Shapiro, chief agricultural officer for Mars Inc., stands among alfalfa plants at a UC Davis greenhouse on Thursday.

Plant scientist, cacao expert

By EDWARD ORTIZ
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Howard-Yana Shapiro may just be the fastest-moving plant geneticist on the planet.

Three years ago, Shapiro, now 68, coaxed his 1999 Suzuki Hayabusa motorcycle across a Utah salt flat at more than 201 mph.

It's not an accomplishment the soft-spoken Shapiro likes to dwell on. Instead, he prefers to talk about the work he does in plant genomics and sustainable agriculture.

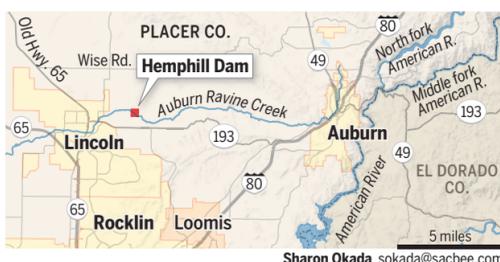
That world is also a speedy one, with the science and technology used in genetic engineering changing at a breakneck pace. Shapiro is known around the world for leading the effort to sequence the genome of the cacao tree, whose beans are made into chocolate.

Shapiro straddles the academic and corporate sectors. He's a senior fellow in agricultural sciences at UC Davis and also chief agricultural officer at Mars Inc., maker of Snickers bars and M&Ms.

Shapiro is paid by Mars and draws no pay from UC Davis. He is one of six full-time Mars employees with a presence on the UC Davis campus. SHAPIRO | Page B4



Another passion of Howard-Yana Shapiro's is motorcycles, which crowd his home office in Davis. A few years ago, he topped 200 mph riding one on a Utah salt flat.



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Small dam is a big barrier to salmon

By MATT WEISER
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On a recent day after a rainstorm, several dozen fall-run Chinook salmon trying to migrate upstream in Auburn Ravine found their progress frustrated. Efforts to complete their long spawning run from the Pacific Ocean were halted by a small dam on the outskirts of Lincoln.

Known as Hemphill Dam, for decades it has blocked fish from accessing more than 5 miles of potential spawning habitat in Auburn

Ravine, a creek that runs from the Sacramento River into the Sierra Nevada foothills beyond Auburn. Only in very high flows can salmon manage to jump over the dam and carry on.

"There's so many salmon pooling up at the bottom of the dam, and there's so little water in there, that the salmon are just in there swimming back and forth," said Jack Sanchez, president of Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead, a nonprofit group working to restore the DAM | Page B3

Los Rios, Sierra districts won't pilot 4-year degrees

By LORETTA KALB
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The Sacramento region's two largest community college districts do not immediately plan to offer four-year college degrees under a limited state pilot program, officials said this week.

Under a new state law, 36 other community college districts in California – half of all districts in the state – have shown interest in establishing bachelor's degree offerings by filing letters of intent with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. The pilot effort aims to help meet California demand for more workers in technical disciplines and increase the number of residents with bachelor's degrees to help the state remain economically competitive in the decades ahead.

The Los Rios and Sierra community college districts, which serve nearly 100,000 students in the region combined, are focusing instead on programs that transfer students to four-year universities, officials there said this week.

Sierra College is working with several area colleges, including California State University, Sacramento, and University of the Pacific, "about ways we can partner to increase the opportunities for our students as they try to transfer," said President William Duncan.

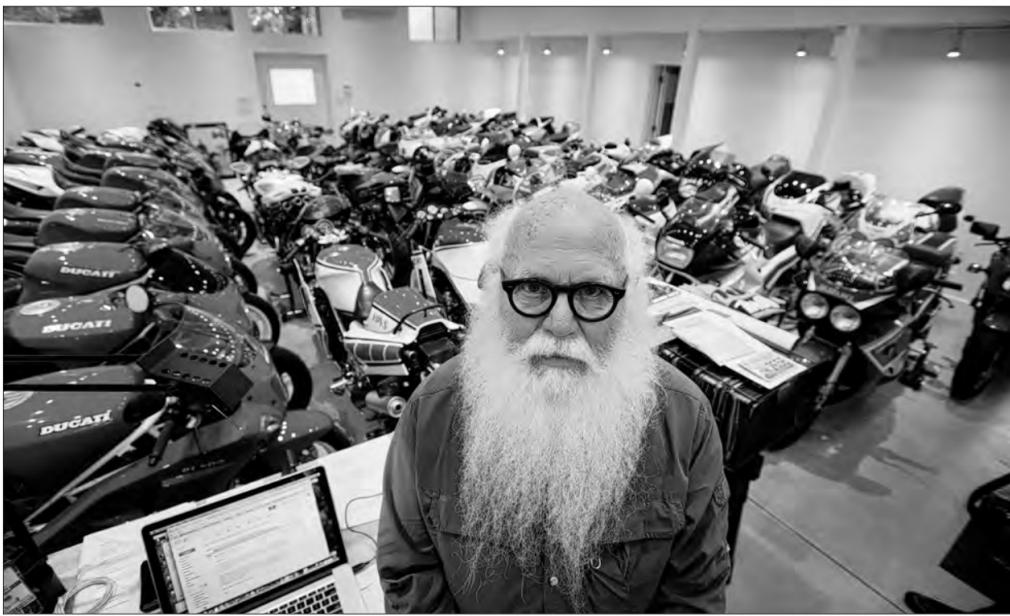
The pilot is authorized by Senate Bill 850 by Sen. Marty Block, D-San Diego, and limits community colleges to degrees in fields of study not provided by the California State University or University of California systems. Fifteen districts are to be selected at a Jan. 21

Board of Governors meeting, and each district chosen can create only one bachelor's degree program.

A handful of districts in Northern California have expressed interest. Yuba Community College District proposes to offer four-year degrees in applied academics focused on automotive, manufacturing or welding, according to California Community Colleges. For an applied imaging degree, the focus would be on radiologic technology.

Other Northern California community colleges showing interest include: Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District, which proposes a degree in health information management; Solano Community College District, in engineering technology; Sonoma County Ju COLLEGE | Page B5

FROM THE COVER



Manny Crisostomo mcrisostomo@sacbee.com

Davis plant geneticist and Mars Inc. researcher Howard-Yana Shapiro says that he is able to detect patterns that others can't see.

Shapiro: Improved cacao production

FROM PAGE B1

food supply and sustainability issues for Mars, whose corporate headquarters is in McLean, Va.

He works for a giant corporate conglomerate, but he's no suit-and-tie man. With his long white beard and thick, black-framed glasses, Shapiro could be mistaken for a cast member of "Duck Dynasty." He joined Mars in 1997, when the company bought his former firm, Seeds of Change.

Shapiro spends much of his time working for Mars in a garage office in his north Davis home. His office contains a desk and computer surrounded by more than 70 motorcycles he calls "game changers" in motorcycle design. He keeps 20 more in a side garage - and has five motorcycles parked, like gleaming Jeff Koons sculptures, in his living room.

When he is not working from home, he can be found at another office - the one Mars rents for him at UC Davis, where Shapiro is involved in several projects spread among seven greenhouses on the sprawling campus. His work includes research on how to best grow crops like rice - an important crop for Mars given its ownership of the Uncle Ben's rice brand.

Shapiro works on genomic issues relating to crops like alfalfa, corn and tomatoes to assess which genetic variants can withstand droughts, pests and other factors. In that role, he interacts with doctoral students, he lectures, and he chairs the Agricultural Sustainability Institute.

One of the projects he is most proud of is his involvement in the sequencing of the cacao genome. That effort saw a coming together of corporate and university firepower, along with governmental support from the USDA and the Chinese government.

Shapiro earned an international reputation after putting the sequencing information into the public domain so farmers and scientists on three continents could grow a better cacao tree.

Shapiro said the Mars family, which owns the privately held company, could have insisted on owning the genomic material as intellectual property. He was surprised when they listened to his pitch that the genetic information should be made available to all.

The eventual boon that such information would have to the worldwide cacao supply made it an easy sell. "They got it," he said.

In Shapiro's mind, a free flow of genomic information leads to more research, which benefits cacao farmers and eventually helps the bottom line of a company that needs a lot of chocolate. He sees it as timely, given that cacao farmers are not able to grow enough trees to keep up with demand for chocolate.

"The genome-mapping effort has had repercussions throughout the cacao industry and has led to more accurate programs in identifying disease and pest tolerance," said William Guyton, president of the World Cocoa Foundation.

He believes it took someone like Shapiro to make it happen. "He's the kind of person that can transcend beyond the corporate world," Guyton said. "He sees things through a lens that others in the corporate

world do not."

The Mars company, which posted \$30 billion in revenue in 2012, has been partnering with UC Davis for four decades. The research that the partnership has engendered has allowed Mars to glean new methods in food safety and new ways to improve the company's food supply chain.

The recent sequencing of the peanut genome at UC Davis was another key outcome of that partnership, with the results expected to allow the company to source more peanuts from farmers for its Snickers candy bars, its best-selling candy brand.

The company recently announced it would provide \$40 million to help UC Davis create a new Innovation Institute for Food and Health as part of the university's planned World Food Center. The goal: to foster breakthroughs in food, farming and health.

Shapiro has entered an agreement with UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi to plan how that partnership will work, Shapiro said, adding that the institute may become an independent entity on the UC Davis campus if it is not included in the World Food Center.

"There is certainty that it will happen. ... There is not agreement yet on how," Shapiro said.

Not everyone sees the embedding of corporations into the fabric of a university like UC Davis as a good thing.

"A company like Mars is looking, at the end of the day, to sell processed food products," said Patty Lovera, assistant director with Food and Water Watch, a national food policy advocacy group that has been tracking corporate funding at universities relating to food research.

Lovera said she thinks such relationships have a palpable effect on university research.

"There is the explicit question of whether you're injecting bias into science when that science is being paid for by someone that has a financial interest," Lovera said. "Even if there are enough firewalls and controls in place, ... you have to ask, what is the re-

search agenda?"

Shapiro insists that for Mars, the partnership with UC Davis will have less to do with products and more to do with scientific discovery, such as the future sequencing of plant genomes.

"When you have an institute, you have to have business partners," Shapiro said. "It is not clear that everything that is innovated on will be Mars-specific."

One of the most altruistic projects Shapiro has been spearheading is sequencing the genome of 101 African plants as part of the African Orphan Crops Consortium he created. That effort seeks to address obstacles African farmers face in acquiring the best seeds from which to grow the most productive crops. It also seeks to train African scientists in genomics.

"It's the most audacious project I've ever worked on," Shapiro said.

The information gleaned will be key to improving the nutritional value of crops, like cassava, that are crucial to African diets. All the genomic information will be put in the public domain. "No one was going to do the work on these specific plants - so why not give the information away?" Shapiro said.

Shapiro said his ultimate goal is eradicating a malady called "stunting." That condition stems from poor nutrition in the developing world where low birth weight combines with insufficient feeding and nutrient depletion to stunt the growth of a child in the critical first years of life.

Thirty-nine percent of children under 5 in the developing world are stunted -

around 209 million children. Stunting rates are highest in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Once stunted, a child's cognitive development and learning ability is permanently reduced. In some cases, that condition can be passed on, Shapiro said.

Shapiro, who was raised in Manhattan, said he was fascinated with plants as a child. His parents were both scientists, and their research and teaching duties demanded a lot of car travel. During those trips, his father was keen on having the young Shapiro solve math problems in his head while the car raced across the country.

He credits that early focus on math, and his capacity to see relationships between seemingly unrelated things, as reasons for his success as a plant scientist.

"I can see patterns in things where other people cannot," he said.

To some extent, his impressive bike collection is an extension of his fascination for patterns. When most people look at it, they see a line of seemingly identical high-speed motorcycles. Shapiro sees a stark evolutionary road map.

The bulk of his collection are bikes made between 1983 and 2006. The ones in his showroomlike garage led to a future design or visual design innovation. It's an evolution that is now happening so rapidly it is passing him by.

"There have been some gigantic leaps forward in motorcycles since 2006," he said. "But I've stopped collecting."

Call The Bee's Edward Ortiz, (916) 321-1071. Follow him on Twitter @edwardortiz.

Breton: Border crisis prompts anger, but fixes aren't obvious

FROM PAGE B1

Bracamontes was prosecuted and incarcerated and deported - twice. He was not treated hospitably by the U.S. government.

Even Jones admits that Monroy-Bracamontes was "nothing special" before allegedly killing two peace officers and terrorizing a region before being arrested. Prosecutors make choices, and this man, based on his prior crimes, would have fallen into a gray area - one where he wasn't at the bottom or the top of prosecutorial priorities. Such men are generally quickly deported.

Jones wants the feds to be tougher now, but the fact is that since Monroy-Bracamontes was originally deported, the feds have made returning more difficult for men like him.

A report from the Washington, D.C.-based Pew Research Center recently cited stepped-up measures that include expedited removals. Those measures, implemented by the Border Patrol since 2005, include a variety of strategies.

"These include criminally charging immigrants apprehended at the border with unlawful reentry and increasing the use of expedited removals (which do not require a judicial review)," according to the report. "And for those immigrants who are apprehended at the border and removed, the Border Patrol has used remote repatriation as an additional strategy, sending deported immigrants to border ports many miles away from where they were apprehended. ... These strategies are intended to break the smuggling cycle and deter an apprehended immigrant from attempting further illegal entries into the U.S."

Jones wants the increased border security as part of immigration reform, but the fact is the border security has been greatly increased in the last decade. The Obama administration spends roughly \$18 billion a year on border enforcement, more than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined, according to the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

Already, more of the 2,000-mile Mexican border is under surveillance than ever before with a greatly enhanced Border Patrol, surveillance drones and other militarized enforcement tactics.

Was Jones wrong to speak out against Obama? No. Considering what he and his department have endured, he has every right to feel frustrated with a broken immigration system.

The irony is that Obama and Jones agree on the essence of immigration reform. "A pathway to citizenship, a work program, a visa program, I'm a fan of all of those," Jones told me. He also said he believes the majority of undocumented immigrants are hard-working people just trying to make lives for themselves. "The undocumented population is not committing crimes at a higher rate," Jones said.

Ultimately, Jones' criticism of Obama is more poignant than pointed. If more Republicans agreed with Jones on a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented, Obama might have signed immigration reform into law by now.

What's less clear is whether this would have changed the tragic events that inspired Jones to reach out to Obama in the first place.

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