

## Street Science

It's time to flat-out put the lie to sit/lie. This ordinance is on the ballot because the city has not done its job, from the police to the mayor and all involved in keeping the peace.

It starts with Park Station police not understanding a basic law of the streets, an axiom as exact as if it were physics: Apply heat, create movement.

Say clusters of toughs and pitbulls occupy portions of Haight Street from Masonic to Stanyan. And say you don't want those punks to be there harassing folks. Why not assign some police officers to patrol Haight Street on foot? Put as many two-cop teams on the street as you need. This is a big deal. Control your turf. So deploy your troops wisely.

Hang around the motley crews' sidewalk encampments. Don't harass them. Just be there. Are the thugs going to fire up a doob with the man in their face? Will they hassle some shopper with a couple cops standing right there? You get only one guess.

It works in the Tenderloin. It will work on Haight Street.

The Extra blames this whole mess on Park Station for not being able to solve its police problem. Because the Park Station captain couldn't handle his business, we have a hue and cry and citywide legislation on the ballot.

Well, maybe the blame falls more properly on Police Chief George Gascon, who apparently didn't huddle with his Park Station staff and remind them that good old-fashioned crime-fighting will enable them to take control of their own neighborhood.

But wait, the police chief answers to the mayor, so maybe that's where the buck stops: City Hall Room 200.

Mayor Newsom isn't a cop, and he didn't come up on San Francisco's mean streets. So he probably doesn't know that if you apply enough heat you can cause movement. But he should know that adding redundant sections to the Police Code is no way to keep the streets safe.

And then you have the Board of Supervisors, a board of "progressives," but they couldn't keep the mayor's copout sit/lie ordinance off the ballot.

Only Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, whose District 5 includes Haight Ashbury, and his fellow supes who are pushing for foot patrols got it right. But it shouldn't require a citywide vote to get the police to do their job.

We wonder whether former Tenderloin Capt. Gary Jimenez, who came here from Park Station and now has moved on, would have allowed punks to best his officers. No way. Bet on it. And neither would his successor, Capt. John Garity.

So, because the Park Station police didn't do their job, and no one ordered them to, the city gets a pesky sit/lie ordinance to vote on. When the cops can't handle a problem, most people get scared, which means they'll probably vote for sit/lie.

There's a lot of crime in the Tenderloin, more per block than any other hood in the city. But it's not the central city that has forced onto the ballot a measure that attests to the failure of SFPD to bring order to a neighborhood under its jurisdiction.

No matter how sit/lie plays out, it's a testament to the inability of one of the highest-paid police departments in the nation to control its own turf. Pathetic. ■



"The Burroughs and Kookie Show: Late Night in the Interzone" is Christopher Kuckenbaker's take on the black, comedic world of William S. Burroughs at the new Exit Studio, Sept. 10, 13, 16 and 19.

## Fringe Fest opens at EXIT

EXIT Theatre's 19th Fringe Festival — the Tenderloin's premier annual cultural event — opens Sept. 8 with "Eat Our Shorts: The Secret Lives of San Francisco," a look at modern life from GuyWriters, a Bay Area gay men's collective.

The festival — 250 performances of 43 different raucous to thought-provoking shows — ends, 12 days later, with "The Weight Game," local playwright Sarah Abbey's solo vignettes on "society's obsessions with weight, self-esteem, and the conundrum that is peanut butter."

EXIT has now expanded from its original 49-seat black box to five venues, including four performance spaces — a veritable theaterplex — at its 156 Eddy St. headquarters. The newest theater in the complex is the 40-seat EXIT Studio that is being completed just in time for the festival.

Most shows in this non-juried, uncensored international festival are at 156 Eddy and 277 Taylor, but

three are "away" — at the Four Star Cinema on Clement Street, Portsmouth Square and the F-Market Muni turnaround in the Castro. Tix: \$7-\$10. Info: [sffringe.org](http://sffringe.org). ■



Brooklyn playwright Julia Steele Allen solos in a self-discovery journey from Transylvania to Texas in the world premiere of "Little Tainted Blood," Sept. 10-14 and 18 at Exit Theatre.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE HUNSBURGER

CENTRAL CITY  
**EXTRA**  
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24  
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### Festival Kick-Off

September 24-26  
Mint Plaza  
(Fifth Street between  
Market & Mission)

### Satellite Events

September 27-October 17

### Performances by:

Alonzo King LINES  
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