

## This guy again?: Steve Brandau's 'pansy' talk

December 18, 2014

In an [op-ed column](#) in Monday's Fresno Bee, city council president Steve Brandau wrote that the "Law of Unintended Consequences is almost as sure as the Law of Gravity."

One wonders if he sees the irony of the quote, what with the [massive backlash](#) his column has received.

There has been a flood of online comments and letters to the editors, an [editorial cartoon](#), even a [meme](#) or two. A [Fresno Pansy Association](#) has popped up on Facebook (it even has its [own logo](#) and hashtag [#ProudToBeAFresnoPansy](#). I'm sure we'll see T-shirts soon enough). There is also [Pansy's for Fresno's General Plan](#) group.



Both are taking a jab at Brandau's assertion that "some pansy in Sacramento thinks we need to live closer together and ride the bus?" Which sums up his thoughts on the general plan.

The owners of Gazebo Gardens Nursery even [offered up free 6-pack of pansies](#) to anyone who would take them to tonight's council meeting.

Aside from Brandau's choice to use the word "pansy" (and [subsequently defend](#) that choice, saying he "thought about it a very long time") his column shouldn't be all that shocking.

Brandau is [the everyman expert](#), after all.

Here, he is simply echoing the sentiments of local developers, who have long argued that they build for the marketplace. That Fresno gets sprawl because that's what its citizens want. He mixes it with some Sacramento/liberal/government bashing; to play to his Tea Party roots one guesses.

Hopefully, the unintended consequence of his column is more than snarky jabs, though. The city's general plan needs real, actual support from the remaining members of the council.

You can follow The Bee reporter [Tim Sheehan](#) at tonight's meeting.