

‘No on U’ leaves a big mess

October 9, 2012 [Norma J. Tofanelli](#)

Silly season is here. Campaign signs are popping up everywhere, just like mushrooms. It also looks like the season of disrespect, trespass, vandalism and littering is, sadly, also here.

Beautiful “Yes on U” signs were showing up — with the permission of the property owners. Then the vandals from Pacific Union College’s “No on U” campaign took action by trashing the valley in response.

Irate property owners, like Calistoga’s Frediani farming family, woke up Oct. 1 to find scores of “No on U” signs on their private properties — with no permission nor notice to the property owner. In many cases, the vandals had to climb over fences and gates, ignoring “no trespassing” signs along the way.

The busy little vandals then plastered signs on vacant storefronts, vacant residences, high up on parking lot light poles, on state property, turnouts where the county stockpiles dirt — everywhere they could climb to desecrate.

They even thumbed their noses at the state of California, plunking one sign in American Canyon along Highway 29, right on top of CalTrans’ own sign, which warns “State property ... no dumping, no trespassing ... violators will be prosecuted.” What nerve.

Pacific Union College (PUC) is identified online as the major funder of the “No on U” campaign FPPC#1349907, and bears full responsibility for this degradation of our community. They paid to print the signs and apparently paid the vandals to litter them everywhere.

If they think it’s OK to insult our community with such total disrespect for private property now (while they’re wearing smiley faces to win our votes), just imagine how they and their developer friends will trash us if we don’t protect the rural Howell Mountain lands.

Pacific Union College must immediately remove the illegally placed signs, and apologize publicly for its shameful actions. They can pay to remove this trash, after all, they paid to litter it around. Why should we have to clean it up?

Developers seem to let you know ahead of time that they plan to trash you. These folks are waving a huge red flag. It’s time to take action.

If you find an illegal sign on your property, immediately contact Supervising Code Enforcement Officer David Giudice at 299-1347.

And, if you want the ultimate revenge, send a clear message to PUC developers about how you really feel about their disrespect to our valley. Vote “yes” on Measure U to send them packing, hopefully taking their trash with them as they go.

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