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## Drinking game ignored at council

*Official business not interrupted by protest*

By Sarah Palermo  
Sentinel Staff

Published: Friday, August 20, 2010

For all the beverages being sipped, Thursday night's Keene City Council meeting was pretty dry.

About six members of the libertarian Free Keene movement drank in unison from brown glass bottles, soda cans, paper coffee cups and metal flasks every time City Council members or officials said certain words or made certain actions.

The game was a replay of one played at an Aug. 5 council meeting, when two Free Keene members ended up in police custody and another was arrested outside City Hall after the meeting.

This time, councilors and the three police officers present ignored the drinking. Folks on all sides of the issue said after the meeting they believed their side won.

"What we're trying to do is conduct city business in a manner as normal as we normally do," Mayor Philip Dale Pregent said.

Pregent adjourned the meeting shortly after it began to confer with the city attorney, and when the meeting resumed, told the audience that alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverage containers were not allowed in council chambers.

But nothing resulted from it and the meeting — which drew about 50 people — continued as planned. Keene police Capt. Peter S. Thomas said police would have a difficult time proving if alcohol was involved, plus it was up to the mayor to decide what action to take.

The council accepted a letter from Heika M. Courser of Keene, who was part of the Free Keene group at the Aug. 5 meeting. She asked that councilors reconsider the open container ordinance, and apologized to anyone she may have offended during the last council meeting.

"I do not normally make remarks about letters, but I would like to thank Ms. Courser for her apology," Pregent said, after the council referred the letter to the municipal services, facilities and infrastructure committee.

Sam Miller, a Free Keene member who also goes by Sam Dodson, brought a six-pack of brown bottles with the caps painted black and the labels replaced to read "Not a Beer."

He felt the event was a success, he said.

The group attended and drank to "show the open container laws are ineffective, and the police are unable to enforce them without violating civil rights," he said.

At least three people attended the meeting in a counter-protest of the Free Keene group.

Annie Callaway, 19, said she wanted to represent the part of the community that disagrees with the protests Free Keene members perform.

Members caused community uproar this spring by holding signs outside Keene Middle School promoting the "School Sucks Podcast," and women associated with the group have held topless demonstrations on Central Square.

Callaway said she supports the group's right to protest, but doesn't agree with its methods.

"I wanted to level the playing field and show that not everyone agrees with them ... I'm totally okay with the fact that they can protest, but the way they do it isn't helpful to their cause and it's reflecting badly on the community," she said.


So, she sat on a bench outside City Hall before and after the meeting, holding a sign reading, "I have been paying taxes, wearing shirts and going to school my whole life ... So far, so good."



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**See video clip posted by a local resident claiming he was assaulted by a Free Keener**

Youtube video by [PeaceNo42](#)

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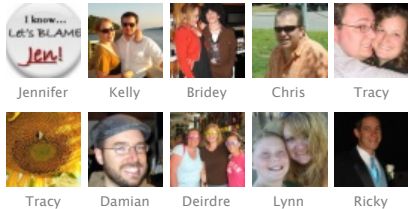
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Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of sentinelsource.com.

**Keene Citizen** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 12:09 PM:  
" Way to go James!

To the Free Keeners - I think you should travel the world a little bit so you don't take your freedom for granted. Maybe you should try to be displaced by gov't rebels or live in a country where even your future is decided for you. Taxes do serve a purpose you know. Even for you. "

**Free Keene Hypocrites** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 12:27 PM:

" Bravo Annie Callaway and James (with cup in the video)! You have exposed the Free Keeners (at least Sam Miller "Dodson") as the hypocrites that they are. When a Middle School kid pulls a "School Sucks" sign out of Sam's hand the Free Keeners yell "Assault!! We've been attacked by violent 12 year olds!" But when someone peacefully holds up a cup to protest his actions, Sam goes nutty... gets in the protesters face in a very aggressive way, grabs the man and rips the cup out of his hand.... Wow! The true face Sam Miller "Dodson" and the Free Keene Aggressors. I encourage all Keene residents to post the above Youtube video to their Facebook profiles... spread the word Free Keeners oppose the freedom of protesters when their views are being challenged. "

**justme** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 12:28 PM:

" Nice Video! Way to keep your cool James! Sam what's wrong don't like people in your face and telling you how they feel?! "


**sylvie** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 1:17 PM:

" Glad to see Keene residents taking their own stand against these folks who try to interfere with normal city life and town governance (thereby wasting our tax dollars in the process) with juvenile antics. I agree with Annie -- I support their right to protest, but I question their focus (is being able

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to drink beer in public REALLY the most important issue they can think of?) and their methods. They are not winning people over to their point of view, that's for sure. "

**Keith** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 1:47 PM:

" From the video, it looked like Sam, a Quaker, and James, a person that goes by the handle peace on youtube, were both caught being rude on camera. It's OK guys, we all make mistakes. James was being rude by standing in the way. Sam was being rude by getting in James' face. James was being rude by touching Sam. Sam was being rude by touching James' cup. "

**Anton Lee** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 1:59 PM:

" just think how much farther Anne would be if she let loose once in a while. I don't really see her as going very far if she's spending her time protesting people she dispises as opposed to living her life for the positive. Not where I want my kids to be, some party pooper, a negative nancy bent on restricting others' freedoms. "

**Tommy** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 2:34 PM:

" ARE YOU KIDDING ME? Wow. Now Free staters, stop making trouble in Keene and go home. "

**Free Keene Hypocrites** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:01 PM:

" This keeps getting better! Now Free Keener "Anton Lee" writes that he thinks that an intelligent and articulate young woman should not be downtown exercising her freedom of speech in her hometown. He states that's not where he wants his kids to be. I guess Anton would rather have his kids hanging out on the square in Keene smoking pot and downing beers topless while toting guns. If that's how this free stater defines "going very far" then lets hope that none of our promising young men and women go very far. Thanks for the articulating the free stater perspective on this Anton. Cheers!  
Keep up the good work Annie "

**Chris** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:02 PM:

" Nowhere in this video did I see Sam touch the other guy. What I did see was Sam getting in the face of someone who in turn shoved a coffee cup in his face. "

**jeffpetrovitch** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:06 PM:

" Thank you to everyone for your support. As an eye witness and the person who took the video, I think we took a huge step forward in standing up against the free state movement. I think the evidence speaks for itself. Special thanks to James Callaway, Annie Callaway, and Matt Olson for being part of this protest. "

**Observer of the antics of Sam** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:24 PM:

" Oh poor Sammy he didn't get his way so he is whining on his website..... again!!!

I find it such a hipocracy that when the police show up when Sam doesn't want them to he gets angry and yells at and berates them.

To my surprise I read on his website, "That said, I was also frustrated that there were no Keene Policeman around to inform him that his behavior was disorderly and causing alarm."

Sam you can't have it both ways. Grow up and stop whining. "

**Really** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:41 PM:

" Can we please be reasonable with the rhetoric? I'm looking at you "Chris."

No one "shoved" anything in Sam's face. It grazed his nose and he over reacted. Over reaction is sort of a hallmark of Sam's "activism," isn't it? That's that, and that's why no one outside his cultish followers takes him or his little videos seriously. "

**Annie** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:42 PM:

" Anton,

I don't know how you suppose to know much about my personal life, or how much 'fun' I am. I'm sorry if you regard my actions as negative or 'party pooper ish' but I just want people to know that not everyone in Keene agrees with the way the Free Keene Movement chooses to conduct itself when it comes to protest or public appearance. I think I was doing nothing different than what the movement itself does. I appreciate your concern for my potentially boring and negative life, but I don't think you should be questioning other people's motives for protesting if you don't want the Free Keene Movement to fall under the same criticism. "

**Sam Dodson** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:52 PM:

" I posted an apology to James and an invitation to sit down and buy him a cup of coffee to discuss this. I hope he accepts.

@Observer - I think if anything police should have the role of keeping the peace don't you?

I fine it most interesting that this is the one of the first video's the Keene Sentinel has posted in it's stories about the liberty activism. "

**Rock and Roll** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 3:58 PM:

" I LOVE that video!

And it gives me a great idea. Everytime we see Free Staters out on the sidewalk with their camera we all should make a habit of standing right directly in front of it. And why not? It's public property. We have EVERY right to stand in that spot! And what are the Free Keeners going to do about it? What can they do about it? Nothing but move their camera. But guess what? We can just follow them.

Awesome!!! "

**umm** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 4:08 PM:

" Wait! Sam? I watched the footage...YOU felt threatened when the cup was put in YOUR face??? You placed your face IN James face and didn't feel threatened then? Only when a plastic cup went in your face did you feel threatened??? Too funny!! "

**rock** on wrote on Aug 20, 2010 4:22 PM:

" @rock and roll - second that! lets keep giving sammy a taste of his own medicine - he can't seem to stand the taste. LOVE IT! fight fire with fire "

**KDM** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 4:23 PM:

" This may not be a bad idea...considering where they are filming, public spaces, in which they feel that people are entitled to do as they wish. Every time someone see's them filming..stand in front of their cameras. Let us see how "non-aggressive" they become. "

**Free Me from the stupidity** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 4:53 PM:

" Wow. Free Keener Sam looks like a rageaholic. Apparently he was dumped by his girlfriend because she was afraid of his aggressive/violent nature. I guess his claims to be a peaceful Quaker have turned out to be false advertising. More and more the Keene Free Staters are proving themselves to be nothing more than a bunch of narcissistic adolescents who like to video tape their stunts and pranks, post them on the web, and talk endlessly

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about themselves and their antics on the radio. They should rebrand the Free State Project as the "Look At Me" project. "

**MichaelDM** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 6:53 PM:

" @ KDM If I came up to your roughly \$5000 fragile camera in an aggressive manner and incidentally hit part of it with my hand on my way over, could you blame me for perhaps getting a little defensive?

That being said, Sam overreacted. In fact, he acknowledged that and even took the time to apologize for his actions.

I don't recall hearing Sam, or anybody affiliated with the FSP or Free Keene claiming to be incapable of making mistakes. We all make them. The fact that Sam has made an attempt to right his misconduct should indeed show that he is a man of integrity. "

**Observer** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 6:57 PM:

" Sam -

Yes your correct police should and do have the role of keeping the peace.

My point in my comment was that I watched one of your videos when the police went into Central Square one night and YOU made the comment, "Leave, we don't want you here..." Remember that video Sam?

Remembering this statement I found it funny that you were frustrated that there were no police around. Hence my comment, You can't have it both ways!

However you are an expert on twisting things around so that it justifies your actions. Pathetic. "

**The real Sam** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 7:46 PM:

" Finally, we've all seen the real Sam. I recommned everyone watch that video over and over. And watch it closely. This is a person just looking for an excuse to go crazy. "

**Go James** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 8:44 PM:

" What I saw was James placing a cup in front of his own face, a space that would have accommodated the cup had Sam's face not been in it. Then Sam was overtly aggressive when he hit James' arm. Good advice from his friend "don't touch him, Sam". No contest on who the aggressor was.

Way to go Keene, Standing passively in front of cameras is an excellent idea. I hope to see more counter protests. Too bad I don't live in Keene, but know the outer towns are watching and rooting for you.

James- How great is it that the non aggressive movement tumbled at the first test!! ( and if you really want to be a hero- give us bread! LOL.) "

**Michael Hampton** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 9:33 PM:

" James is lucky to not be in jail after that stunt. Smashing a coffee cup into someone's face when it might be full of hot coffee? It turned out to be empty, but that's still assault, and that would certainly put me in fear of my life.

Not to say Sam acted much better; but at least he didn't start the confrontation. "

**Kudos to Mr. Calloway** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 9:57 PM:

" James Calloway is my new hero! Everyone needs to go to Brewbakers on Main St. in Keene and applaud the man and his family and buy some coffee! Maybe we could make up some t-shirts that read, "FREE KEENE FROM THE FREE STATERS"! At last we get to see the real Sam Miller, the abusive Sam Miller. So happy that Meg got away from him and has gone public with what life was like behind closed doors with him. Maybe she can help other women understand that they do not have to stay in an abusive relationship. There's your real cause Meg, much better and more worthwhile than fighting an open container ordinance. "

**Ian Freeman** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 10:47 PM:

" Sam has apologized to James. James apologized to Sam.

Who hasn't lost their temper and done something they regret later?

Holy crap, activists are humans too!

Here's Sam's apology:

<http://freekeene.com/2010/08/20/my-apology-to-james-callaway/>

Here's more of what happened outside city hall with James' antics:

<http://freekeene.com/2010/08/20/video-keene-city-council-drinking-game/> "

**Ian Freeman** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 11:03 PM:

" As much as you haters might like to believe it, Sam is not "the movement". The liberty movement is made up of individuals. Sam's failure should not reflect on anyone else any more than James' antics with his cup should reflect on any of you. "

**Keven** wrote on Aug 20, 2010 11:53 PM:

" I believe that anyone has a right to stand up for what you believe in and should do so. However, that being said there is also a responsible way to accomplish this. This is not a Me versus You state just because everyone does not agree with your particular issue. It is a citizen government that is run by everyday citizens and neighbors that you run into regularly at the dump, town hall or the Post Office. Our legislators phone numbers are available to discuss issues with. They welcome the chance to become more educated about an issue. You can have an entire conversation with them without what party you are from ever coming up. It's about the issues!. They are only paid about \$200/year. They don't do it for the money. They are human and do not know everything about everything. It is up to you as a citizen of the state of New Hampshire to help our legislature become more informed by having a discussion with them. The state of New Hampshire has the largest representation of its citizens in the state legislature of any state in the country. (Both in the size of it's legislature and in per person representation). Have you ever called them? It's remarkably easy. So if you REALLY want to make a change, then stop behaving like a spoiled adolescent child trying to get attention and start spending your time more productively. Stop wasting everyone else's time and GROW UP. Directing your anger at the police and pushing your agenda into everyone's face is not helping your cause. You are only hurting those you are trying to help. You have to choose which battles are worth fighting for. We are in difficult times. There are many more serious issues that can benefit from your time and energy. Trying to taunt someone to react is a sad waste of time for everyone and takes away from those more serious issues. It's time to grow up buddy and become part of the solution and not part of the problem. "

**Sorry Ian** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 12:14 AM:

" Sam shouldn't be making an apology on a board no one outside of your clique really wants to go to. If he wants to apologize then he needs to either come HERE and do it, or write a letter to the Sentinel. As it is, however, the damage is done. Sam has shown his true colors and the fact of the matter is he just can't plain take what he dishes out. It's plain as day that you're all for free speech.... just so long as people tow your party line.

In other words: HYPOCRITES!!!! Who's being the fascist NOW? "

**This Old Man** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 12:21 AM:

" Next time they show up at a town meeting put all the rest rooms out of order. Then watch all the dancing. I would call it the dancing game!

Now grab Your Partner, Dosey Doe; cross your legs and walk real slow; find a rest room go go go if you don't all will know; Now promenade back to your seat again so all the townies can laugh and grin. "



**James For Mayor** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 1:42 AM:

" James did what the "silent majority" of Keene citizens would like to do which is to stand up to these free staters and give them a dose of their own medicine. He showed how pathetic they are and exposed them as phonies who can't handle being taunted the way they do on to others on a regular basis.

How ironic that these same free staters who tell the police to leave them alone start screaming assault and battery (by a madman with a coffee cup?) and wonder where the police are when you need them.

Thank you James, you made my day. "

**its not who you know....** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 1:54 AM:

" did anyone notice how the time expired on that truck across the street and still hasnt got a parking ticket???"

**observe** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 2:20 AM:

" The only legal infraction here came from the person who pushed the cup into Sam's face. Sam apologises first and we still see hatred here toward him from the few.

"Something is rotten in the State of Denmark" and it doesn't take Hamlet to figure out what it is.

Migration is the answer :)"

**welcome** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 3:39 AM:

" Welcome to the obscene wall of the smally infamous, welcome to the putrid outhouse of hatred James. Enjoy your stay. "

**stuckinarut** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 7:50 AM:

" Its worse than any of this.

Apparently Sam owes 20K for all the work she did for him last year for all the Free Keene stuff. He doesn't believe in paying his employees for the work they do. I guess this is why he hate the gov. because of all that horrible minimum-wage laws etc. We know he doesn't like property taxes.

The Free Keeners are a cult who "pay" their protesters by letting them crash at Sam's house and giving them food.

Everyone should check out the Free Keene blog (as much as it stinks to go there) and check it out...Sam admits all of this and more. He admits it all with a frenzied frantic tone, ultimately the anger that he feels when he gets a taste of his own. "

**Lock him away** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 8:44 AM:

" James Calloway should file assault charges against this loser and get him to jail where he belongs. Let the idiot stand up in court and try to deny the video evidence. Everyone has commented on how angry this loser is, but everyone seems to forget that he carries a gun, and that free staters believe that street duels should be legal. Lock him up now before someone gets seriously hurt. "

**DaveS62Maple** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 8:57 AM:

" Sam,

You are pathetic and as stated earlier, your true colors have been caught on tape. The only reason you are apologizing is because you got caught being you and that is who you are, like it or not (by the way, we don't like you).

Ian,

Go to a baby supply store and buy yourself a pacifier and stop whining....your group's true colors have been exposed for all to see. I am glad someone was able to expose your group for who you really are! Whether you admit it or not, you and Sam are the ones running your sites, organizing these events and trying to collect money from your recruits for your cause.

I work during the day keeping our state clean and beautiful but I look forward to showing up at any event you may be having after my work and exposing you and your group just like James did. The last laugh is on you! LOL!!!! "

**observe is non-observant** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 9:05 AM:

" observe wrote on Aug 21, 2010 2:20 AM:

" The only legal infraction here came from the person who pushed the cup into Sam's face."

Get real. That cup would never have even have lightly brushed Sam's Face had it not been literally one inch away from James' nose.

The REAL infraction was when Sam violently destroyed Jame's property (the styrofoam cup). "

**Pathetic** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 9:08 AM:

" Just look at the comments by these losers. Nothing but whining about how one of their own was "taunted." How pathetic, especially since that's exactly what they've been doing to the people of Keene for months. And little Sammy wonders why there isn't a cop around when he needs one!

Thanks losers, for proving exactly what we've known all along-that you are hypocritical, immature cowards who can't take what you dish out. Pathetic. "

**hope** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 9:25 AM:

" Everywhere that camera goes, may the true citizens of Keene be standing in front of it. Kudos to James for giving Sam the opportunity to show his true colors. "

**progressnot** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 10:45 AM:

" The hate cheerleader is ecstatic, her mission justified..... she got a little goofy guy to stand up like Napoleon for her cause..... little paper cup in hand..... a little violence slips out, not much, just a little bit..... those crazed eyes behind his glasses on the video..... must be sweet now days in the coffee shop there....

.....tomorrow lasts a long long time. Doing a real interpersonal crime on camera....

sad... "

**Paisley** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 10:45 AM:

" There are a lot of paths Keene could take in its quest to be freed from free staters. Non violent protest and video documentation is an excellent choice!

Don't forget to leave them a graceful way out as their cookie crumbles ... and wow- did it start crumbling.... "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 11:21 AM:

" @Paisley, if you were doing a project and I interfered intentionally and you got annoyed and came close to me so I pushed an empty paper cup into your nose, would you be happy? This was not "non-violent" protest, even if the violence was at the very low end of the scale by this fellow from the coffee shop.

I've seen you make fair minded comments in the past, I'm dissappointed that you now are infected with cruelty too. There are more people on the way for festivities, bring friends. Interesting how the motivation works that way.

Sam wasn't right to react annoyed, and he's said as much; two wrongs never make a right. Are you thinking that the other guy Should have assaulted him for being annoyed at the intentional interference? Surely not, but please give your take. I like your posts, at least you don't have the same level of hate as the one who posts over and over.

Peace. "

Paisley wrote on Aug 21, 2010 2:15 PM:

" To Rights ~ "This was not "non-violent" protest"

It began with non-violent protest and a video camera, a mirror image of Sam's actions. You might think of the "project" as a video being made by Sam that day or you might think of it as the Free State/Keene Project which is the larger picture and Sam is prominent within it. Holding the cup in front of the camera is the same behavior as standing in front of a police cruiser.

Sam's response mirrored the communities response when the FS/K members protest, of course it did, but who imagined it would be THAT immediate?

unite on facebook wrote on Aug 21, 2010 2:16 PM:

" Free Keene from the Free-Keene Movement" now on facebook! Keene citizens can finally unite and plan our own peaceful demonstrations against the freekeene movement. Oh yes, Sam has already found the site, joined and made fun of it on his own website. Guess he still wants to dish it out, but not take it.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=152869238063680&v=wall#!> "

Keene Boy wrote on Aug 21, 2010 3:08 PM:

" Bravo James and company, nicely done.

FREE LOADERS GO HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "

Rumors just rumors wrote on Aug 21, 2010 3:38 PM:

" From what I've seen, the coffee shop business is booming, and James is being hailed as a hero. Kind of gets to you free staters, doesn't it? Well, you'd better prepare yourselves, because the word on the street is that you ain't seen nothing yet. "

Randy wrote on Aug 21, 2010 4:05 PM:

" Sam has revealed himself as a textbook abuser who blames his ex-gf for the black eyes he gave her.

lan thinks 14 years old is old enough to have sex with a 28 year old.

School starts in less than two weeks... what if their little schoolsux protests start up again? are these the people we want lurking outside the schools?

Have some fun wrote on Aug 21, 2010 5:58 PM:

" Hey Randy,

I don't think you'll have to care about lan much longer. The publicity hound made today's Sentinel-in the court news section. He's up for criminal trespass, resisting arrest, obstruction of justice, and disorderly conduct. Unfortunately, being a moron isn't a crime, apparently. Remember how he got the shakes when they cuffed him? Wonder what he'll do when the cell door slams for a year or so?

But, maybe he'll get to share a cell with his free state buddy Rich Paul, who's in for criminal contempt, obstruction and disorderly conduct. It'll be just like old home days. Maybe they can "take on the system" together.

I'll toot and wave every day when I go by the county jail lan! Enjoy! "

KDM wrote on Aug 21, 2010 6:32 PM:

" @MichaelDM - from my observation of the video the guy with the coffee cup was NO where near the camera when Sam walked up to him and stuck his nose in his face. It was not until after that point was the gentleman anywhere near the camera. Me thinks you are upset because the Freakiacs are getting a taste of their own medicine. "

Paisley wrote on Aug 21, 2010 6:43 PM:

" To Heika ~ I wonder if you would share your thoughts about whether you feel your voice has been best heard through central square or through your letter? "

Rights wrote on Aug 21, 2010 7:05 PM:

" @Paisley - yes, Sam got annoyed just like you say and there is perhaps some dramatic irony in that.

Let's look at it a little more fully though. Sam wasn't arresting anyone or in any other way aggressing against anyone when he got taunted and interfered with. He wasn't already aggressing against someone when that little fella started bothering him. The provocateur excitedly Does get Sam annoyed for a moment, so next he technically commits a crime against a victim by pushing the cup into Sam's nose and you are cheering him for it?

So, if Sam's response mirrored the communities response (as you are saying), then why aren't people like you Also telling the angry community over reactors to chill out too?

Sam has apologized and has invited his attacker for civil discussion on the matter in public.

To me it sounds like a few cruel people delighting in Sam's torment, and that's just sort of ugly.

If anyone follows it, they'll know Sam's had equipment intentionally broken by a shoved door not long ago as well. It makes people who aren't even voluntaryists, like me, more in solidarity with him.

So what if a creepy acting guy got an activist to speak angrily for a moment? It doesn't make the issue of personal sovereignty that the activists are highlighting any less important and it doesn't give a small nasty clique the right to abuse people in print with twisted lies like the various posts of someone else in the thread.

You are never nasty Paisley and you are excused for delighting in the irony (I sort of enjoyed it myself, as I believe Sam also does ;). it's an enlightening point you've made and hopefully something good comes out of all this for everyone :)"

Paisley wrote on Aug 21, 2010 10:31 PM:

" To Rights ~ "he technically commits a crime against a victim by pushing the cup into Sam's nose and you are cheering him for it?"

In the video it doesn't appear that James has any intent to push the cup into Sam's nose. I'll admit to my perception possibly being skewed by the fact that I take exactly that action when someone gets in my face- I use my hand to create a barrier between myself and the aggressor. In James' movement the cup came from the side, giving Sam the opportunity to move his face. Sam did not, which also belies the statement that he thought it would be hot and was in fear. I think if James meant to shove the cup in Sam's face there would have been a forward motion. I also believe that intent is one of the criteria for establishing a crime, and this doesn't fit.

~"why aren't people like you Also telling the angry community over reactors to chill out too? "

I encouraged non-violent counter-protest, apparently that's what you interpret as 'cheering'. I also cautioned them to leave a graceful way out as this thing heats up. "

Plaid wrote on Aug 21, 2010 10:34 PM:

" Hey "rights,"

You and I both know that the only reason Sammy is apologizing is because he was caught on video assaulting a citizen and since he's out on \$1500.00 bail, that would mean a trip to the slammer if James pressed charges. If it wasn't on video Sammy would be saying "prove it," and you know it

You can try to play kissy face and make excuses all you want, but intelligent people know what this "apology" is all about. Hopefully, James will press charges and one more freestater will be off the streets before this turns really ugly, which I'd be willing to bet it will. I know you don't seem to get it, but people are really getting fed up with your crowd. "

**KMA** wrote on Aug 21, 2010 11:42 PM:

" Sammy maybe you shouldn't be around expensive video equipment till you can learn how to run it safely; You stand in door ways then wine about being hit by a swinging doors.(note doors tend to swing open.)You take expensive video equipment out in public where it could be bumped or tripped over. If you don't what it bumped or tripped over or if you don't what the public getting in the shot then go somewhere private. Then you can have your open alcohol, smoke your dope (I won't tell) and go top less. You see it's no fun when your in public and people do things that annoy you; is it Sam? The person that shot the clip had no problem? Just buy your self one of throws \$300.Handy cams; then when you have a hissyfit you can throw it on the ground and walk a way. I don't know who was at fault on this video. But from what I have seen and read of this group it's only a matter of time before they go to far and this video will become exhibit ..(A) ;( "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 3:44 AM:

" @Plaid- 1) Sam is apologising because he is a gentleman, everyone knows that except you.

2)The fact is that legally a case can be made that the thethead assaulted Sam. It's the most minor assault possible and no one reasonable -including Sam - would ever press charges. Sam did not legally assault his tormentor on Any scale, period, this is fairly obvious.

3)You're the one who most tries to make this turn ugly, shall I call you Ms. many names? Who are the many to the few? Whomever acts in malice has sinned against herself first and the community only peripherally. "

**Plaid** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 9:37 AM:

" 1.) Wanting criminals put in jail isn't malice, it's common sense, and calling attention to the actions of law breakers is the duty of law abiding citizens.

2.) Wasn't Sam the sham screaming "assault" when the 12 year old girl took his sign away? Explain why this is any different-he took a coffee cup away from James.

3.) You're the one who continually tries to twist the words and actions of these morons to look like something worthy and decent with your long winded posts when in fact everything they do gives another black eye to Keene and its citizens. You're fooling nobody.

4.) Though you obviously wish I was, I'm not a Ms. "

**Hypocrisy flourishes in free town** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 9:43 AM:

" I've noticed that when Sam doesn't feel threatened the police are "statist agressors" and then if someone even snarls at him he runs for a cop. I'd call that hypocrisy. If he can't take the heat, maybe he should stay out of the kitchen. "

**Rights is wrong** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 9:57 AM:

" Clearly Rights is incapable of being objective. "Everyone knows that Sam is a gentlemen?" Sorry, but it's obvious that a larger majority than you believe otherwise. "Sam did not legally assault his tormentor?" If it had been a cop in this video behaving the way Sam did you'd be saying something entirely different AND YOU KNOW IT. So please, do yourself and every other Free Keener a favor: Stop being a hypocrite. It isn't doing you any favors.

And Sam, if you're reading this, hurry up and replace James' cup already. If you really believe the things you say you do, then you know that it's the only right thing to do. "

**Mrs. America** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 10:30 AM:

" Ah yes folks, we're back to the free stater conspiracy theory, which supposes that one woman is writing all of these anti free state comments to the Sentinel. I wondered when it would appear again.

I wish, whoever she is, that she would introduce herself so I could shake her hand. Sometimes when my mind wanders I imagine what she must be like and I picture a kindly, rather short, stout lady. Not heavy, just stout- like the teapot in the song-"I'm a little teapot, short and stout." Her name must be Helen, or Ivy, or Beatrice; she certainly isn't a Lauren or a Sylvia.

She has graying hair pulled back from her face into a bun and wisps of it fall loose as she takes a freshly baked apple pie from the oven. She wears little oval glasses and a blue and white checked apron, and when she isn't baking pies she's reading Dr. Suess to her grandchildren, who seem to love her more than life itself. After the children have gone and the first stars start to twinkle in the evening sky she calls in her old dog Charlie. She lets a few crumbs fall from the crusts of the apple pie slices that she plates for herself and her husband Jim, and old Charlie greedily licks them up, even though he has just been fed.

She carries the tray of pie and glasses of milk carefully as she threads her way into the TV room to join Jim, where they sit side by side in their favorite old chairs and eat their pie silently as they watch Jeopardy!, which is their favorite show. Jim can often be heard whispering "what is....," and answering the question before any of the contestants can. Oh he's a sharp one that Jim, and the woman knows he was a lucky catch. But, he's not as spry as he once was and before long stands and pecks his wife on the cheek before returning the tray of dishes to the kitchen. "Night dear," he calls as he heads up the stairs. G'night Jim, she calls after him. She sits quietly and listens to the sounds that mean another day is nearly over--the sounds of her loving husband bedding down for the night.

After a time she rises from her chair and rushes to the kitchen, nearly tripping over old Charlie, who sleeps in the doorway. Charlie cringes as she snarls "get the hell out of the way!" at him, and watches as she runs to the pantry just off the kitchen. Cradling her laptop as if it were an infant, she rushes back to the kitchen table and sits, drumming her fingers impatiently on the table while she waits for the machine to come to life.

She knows it will be a long night. There are what--three different stories running on these damn free loaders or whatever their called? "Oh dear, oh my," she whispers, and begins her frantic typing. Another unsung hero. "

**keene boy** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 10:35 AM:

" Hey rights,

It sure seems funny that you and your little band of misfits cry foul when you get a little of your own medicine in your face. The tax paying residences of Keene are done with your games.

FREE LOADERS GO HOME "

**DaveS62Maple** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 11:23 AM:

" Sam,

Based on the posts that were on Ian's FK site, it sounds like you and Mel Gibson actually have something in common, you are both verbally and physically abusive to women and you both got caught! The only difference is you are all washed up before reaching any type of positive status in America.

You posted a video on the FK site that you think supports your defense and state "more complete picture of the events that occurred both before and after the Keene City Council Drinking Game, Round 2." I have a question for you because you are always preaching about name calling by those of us that do not like you and claim you are better than that but did you or did you not refer to James as a male organ in your own defense video? Either you are just really dumb or you are in need of some intense counseling or possibly both.

At this point if your FK buddies still back you, it really shows their hypocrisy. You should go back to where you came from, change your name (again) and find a job, all while getting the counseling you need.

By the way, you should avoid any relationships with women because you really will end up in jail because of your temper!

Does it feel like you are being taunted? It is supposed to....how do you like it! LOL!! "

**ATTENTION KPD** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 12:48 PM:

" To Keene Police Department,

Why do you allow Sam and company to continually break the laws? Nothing is done when these law breakers have their nightly nite caps with post smoking & drinking in downtown.....what will it take? One of them falling down and smashing their face when they trip and fall in a drunken stupor and sue the city? I was almost run over by Sam Miller aka Dodson, whatever he calls himself this week when he was riding his bicycle on Keene City sidewalk in front of The Stage Restaurant, guess next time I will not jump out of the way and I will let him hit me and will sue the city because KPD is negligent in even enforcing the no riding bicycles on the sidewalks laws. You better not ticket my kid again for a skateboard on the sidewalk when you have bicyclists like Sam running people off the sidewalks. KPD is quick to give me a parking ticket which is not harming anyone but lax in citing/fining those who are a danger to themselves and others, where is the justice? Why are the FK trouble makers given all the breaks at tax payer expense? "

**TO IAN** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 1:09 PM:

" Before you discount my comments you should know that I am a real person living in NH my entire life and not some out of stater or the same person who posts over and over as you try and claim.

You Wrote: "Ian Freeman wrote on Aug 20, 2010 11:03 PM:

" As much as you haters might like to believe it, Sam is not "the movement". The liberty movement is made up of individuals. Sam's failure should not reflect on anyone else any more than James' antics with his cup should reflect on any of you. ""

I think it is great that you are calling your own a failure. Looks like FK is starting to crack and crumble.

Jame's "antics" as you call it (actions are more appropriate) DO REFLECT ON ME, I am very impressed with James for having the courage to stand up to the FK garbage! Expect more of it because Keene residents are fed up with FreeKeene garbage. "

**JAMES FOR MAYOR** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 1:13 PM:

" James you are a hero to those of us that can not bring our children to downtown any longer for fear of the drugs, drinking, violence and nudity from the Free Keene members.

You have shown more action and bravery than the current mayor and city officials. KUDOS! You have my support 100%! Thank you for fighting to take the city back and make it a safer and more peaceful place. Mayor Pregent & other city officials can learn from your example. "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 2:25 PM:

" People will live according to their dreams, some will try to be the master's favorite pet... and that type shows up here quite some. Live and let live. Bitterness and hatred can give birth to no better. We watch a manufactured frenzy against people who would only win freedom for the individual. Discuss the pros and cons of civil dis if you like, but the nasty tone heard here leaves a smell. "

**Free Stater** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 2:45 PM:

" Please stop calling the Free Keeners "Free Staters". The remainder of us who don't believe it is acceptable to antagonise our neighbours to make a point are constantly calling out their tactics and stated aims.

As much as they like quoting ghandi they are often the aggressors in situations.

There is a reason the sane free staters are not moving to Keene, most of us are simply interested in raising awareness of liberty and working with our communities to remove the bits of government that are destructive. "

**My dream** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 4:23 PM:

" Yes "Rights,"

I will live according to my dream, and my dream is to have a peaceful, safe place to raise my children and sit and chat with my neighbors. I had that until all of you moved here, and I fully intend to have it again. If all of you must exist in jail for us to have the town we love returned to the way it was, then so be it. It's your call. Summer may be nearly over, but the heat is just beginning because in your selfish quest for your warped idea of "freedom," you have stolen ours. "

**Speak to the hand** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 4:32 PM:

" Hey free stater,

If you're so upset by these clowns being part of your "movement" then why don't you tell them to stop identifying themselves as free staters and tell your president to stop writing in and making excuses for them? Varrin what's his name writing in all the time saying they have a right to do what they're doing kind of waters down your argument, don't you think?

Personally, I don't really care either way, because I know the actions of these buffoons will bring down your entire "movement" and that is my ultimate goal. "

**To the free stater** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 4:42 PM:

" Removing the bits of government that are destructive? And who determines which parts of Government are destructive, you? Explain to the rest of us how and why you (or any other freestater) are qualified to make such a determination. Explain why we should believe that the laws that are in place to protect people, and that we have lived in peace with for years, should now be abolished simply on your say so. In other words, who suddenly died and left you in charge?

You say incest, for instance, is a "victimless crime." Since I know a few survivors of incest, I say you don't have a clue of what you're even talking about. And I'm supposed to let you determine which areas of government are destructive? Fat chance of that pal. "

**Interesting** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 4:51 PM:

" Interesting to see that Ian has taken down Sam's explanation of his abusive behavior to his girlfriend from his blog. A little too incriminating? "

**Paisley** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 6:42 PM:

" To My dream ~ Well said. "

**just wondering** wrote on Aug 22, 2010 8:50 PM:

" Hey interesting-did Ian also take down the message from Sammy's girlfriend Smeg where she admitted she was the one who brought the chalk to the common the night the statue and trash barrels were covered with free stater slogans? "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 23, 2010 6:19 AM:

" @My dream - yes, we both will, actually want to live according to Your/our (the common) dream. Having a peaceful, safe place to raise children and sit and chat with neighbors is what free staters are working for.

An average of one hundred citizens are arrested Every Hour for possession of a medicinal plant. That's well over eight hundred thousand of our neighbors Per Year confronted and usually taken into physical custody - then fined or imprisoned - by police for having cannabis. Do you know any people who are sick and would benefit from such a harmless (regarding side effects or toxicity) natural and effective medicine? How is a cannabis user to have a peaceful and safe place to raise children and chat with neighbors under your rules? How are gays married to one another ever to relax when petitions intended to outlaw their lifestyle have circulated amongst those compulsive about controlling others like you are? When will a nursing



mother be dragged away from a public area by cops when her infant is hungry, just because the morality police are cracking down some time or other? Will we always have to look to the bosses for permission for everything we do and also go by all the limits imposed on all our activity by the "all knowing ones"? ~ everything from curfews to the restriction on tobacco use in the privacy of one's home and all you can think of in between.

You had a nanny's life before the free staters arose from amongst you and from around you in order that ALL of our neighbors can have a safe place to raise children and to sit and chat with neighbors, even with a beer in their hand possibly some day maybe even...aha... if it doesn't harm You too very much that is (wink...

Peace in our times, and it starts here. "

Lookahere wrote on Aug 23, 2010 1:11 PM:

" To Rights

This is not about the things you just brought up, medicinal plant ,nursing mother or gay marriage .

This is about the continuously disrespect that this group show to the town the law enforcement and local people.

1)Medicinal plant: .....If someone has a medicinal need to smoke dope I feel the majority of people could care less if you smoke in your home

2)Nursing mother,.....nursing mothers are not the problem. The problem is women walking down the street with no top or getting breast or breasts painted in public.

3)Gay marriage.....Since when did this group want to have anything to do with gay marriage? I don't see the FK going door to door to get Gay marriage on a voting ballot?

You CAN'T SPIN THIS GROUP IN A GOOD LIGHT!

The only good that this group has done is to unite liberal and conservative and all town people

To the problem we call FREE KEENERS. "

People who use aliases should not be trusted. wrote on Aug 23, 2010 1:16 PM:

" The video clip at the end of this article is an absolute clear representation of how out-of-control these "Free Wieners", I mean "Free Keeners" are.

We see how it is now - you want your free speech and you want to show up at any public place and do what you feel is necessary to get your opinion about any matter or subject across but the man with the cup can't get his. Why - because he disagrees with what YOU represent? Isn't your motto about Peaceful Evolution and the next great step for mankind is the step toward the voluntary society? Honestly what I got from watching this clip was a perfect image of how angry and aggressive this Sam Dodson, Sam Miller, Sam Donaldson - whatever you want to call yourself actually is. You are a bunch of hypocrites!! Seriously Sam; did you watch how angry and violent you got with this man? Until now I have been unsure of what to think of your Free Keene movement but now I clearly see that you are exactly the opposite of what you represent. You claim the police are violent and use excessive force but I have yet to see a video posted of any Keene Police Officer doing any bodily harm to anyone or getting up in anyone's face with the amount of anger you had. You clearly used aggression toward this gentleman and for what? If I saw correctly - YOU Sam Dodson/Miller/Donaldson were the one who got up in his face. You are all pathetic and I can't wait until your stupid Free Keene Movement moves somewhere else. One more thing Mr. Dodson, Miller, Donaldson - get some therapy for your anger issues. Your mental health seems to be out of sorts and you are a danger to be on the beautiful streets of our beautiful City of Keene! GO AWAY! "

Jimmy Bello 13 wrote on Aug 23, 2010 1:18 PM:

" These free state people are scary. They made me really scared when they were yelling outside my school.

Now this video shows what they really are -- bullies. We don't allow bullies at the middle school. Why do we allow them in Keene?

Jimmy B. Age 13 "

Paisley wrote on Aug 23, 2010 1:22 PM:

" To Rights ~

Keene is not a nanny state, it is a citizen community. Folk don't seem to mind this groups goals, it's that they're so freakin' BAD at activism.

For example, they finally garnered some national attention after the first drinking game- what did they do with it? Squandered it on vandalizing central square. Explain to me how that furthered their cause or helped anyone in any way?

Please don't give me rhetoric about it not being them, personally. This is the group they formed and encouraged. They cannot say that they came here to influence people and then claim they have not been an influence on the people in their group. If they don't condone those actions then they have been bad teachers.

I believe that Ian and Sam came here with hopes and dreams, and the best of intentions. They overplayed their hand and are now doing more harm than good. It's time for them to stand down. "

My dream is reality based wrote on Aug 23, 2010 6:33 PM:

" As usual "Rights," you are wrong on every point you try to make regarding what I believe.

1.) I have nothing against people who smoke pot. I used to do it myself. I believe its medicinal benefits are valid and support its legality.

2.) I have nothing against a mother breast feeding her child anywhere, anytime.

3.) I have nothing against gays. I have a gay couple living near me, and am proud and happy to call them my neighbors. In general, I find gays to be fair, kind, non-judgemental people, and I am all for them having the exact same rights everyone else has.

4.) There is not a single person in my life whom I hate, including you, I'm afraid. I'm not a hater, no mater how much you'd like to portray me as one just because I disagree with you.

5.) I care nothing about controlling anyone. I respect people who abide by the law, whether I agree with the law or not. If I don't like a law as it stands, I vote for someone who also feels as I do.

6.) People who are arrested usually have broken the law. If they don't enjoy being arrested then they need to learn to live within the boundaries that we, as a civil society, have set. These boundaries are for the protection of us all.

Finally, what I am against 110% is people who go out of their way to provoke, upset, disturb and show disrespect toward their neighbors. That would be you and your free Keene friends.

I hope this clears things up for you. "

ym0636 wrote on Aug 23, 2010 7:07 PM:

" Look at the rhetoric. Ian and Sam are so blind! Ian wrote the following, probably while sitting at home as he waits out the rest of his house arrest. What's funny is that Ian and his little buddies charge that Keene residents and citizens are not tolerant towards their cause, that the Free Idiots - oops, Free Keeners - are more so than the members of this community are (many who are longtime residents and have given years to making this community as wonderful as it is). What is so funny is that Ian and his little buddies are so blind to the fact that this community is incredibly tolerant - not to mention patient - to put up with this crap for as long as it has! I say its time for them to move back to wherever they came from. And by the way, Free Keeners, this community will win. You haven't figured it out yet - so I'll tell you. It's not about "winning" - but this community will always come out on top. There is a genuine level of caring here that you and your little buddies just can't seem to grasp. Your blindness and selective ignorance will be your failure.

Ian wrote the following blog on that crap site they have:

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

-Mahatma Gandhi

After finally showing up at this week's city council meeting to protest liberty activists, locals who oppose FK's "methods" have formed a facebook group and planned a protest for Monday August 23rd at 5pm at Central Square.

Exactly what methods they oppose are not made clear. FK supports all peaceful methods of achieving a voluntary society including civil disobedience and noncooperation, media creation, outreach, and political action. Do they oppose all of these? Discussions are occurring on their facebook group and also the Free Keene Forum.

I'd like to thank opposition group founder Annie Callaway for encouraging her participants to join the Free Keene Forum. More conversation between us is a good thing. The FK Forum is a tolerant place where we only prohibit violence and racism. We shall see if their facebook group is as tolerant as our forum. The last facebook group that was formed to oppose FK kicked out anyone they could identify as being associated with Free Keene. However, that group was formed by someone else, not Annie. I welcome the discussion. "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 24, 2010 5:34 AM:

" Hi Paisley. Keene isn't any worse than lots of other communities. It's a nanny Society that has sprung up for the most part over several decades. New Hampshire often, refreshingly and thankfully, being an exception on Some issues.

IF a freekeene dot com member chalked the cannon etc there, it likely wasn't a group decision. Controlling libertarians is like herding cats.. goes the joke.. but it's true and it's the whole idea, be your own leader. Spontaneity comprising the hallmark of the liberty movement, ya gotta love us....well, not You, but some people find it irresistible ;)

It may be time for the voluntarists to stand down, as you say, but will the authorities and their use of police as hirlings stand down too? Will another self appointed clown push things into the faces of more activists? You don't even condemn this one for it. Yes, Sam got irked and moved too close to the guy, but you know in your heart that the little fella struck out a Tiny little bit with that paper cup tap on the nose. Let's be honest Paisley (smile).

A peaceful community would be a pleasant option. Keep the faith fellow lover of Keene, we'll end up with good vibes enough to go around. The voices of conflict on all sides can sometimes use some hushing. "

**Elizabeth Cady X** wrote on Aug 24, 2010 8:50 AM:

" I have a 5 year old that gets the same look in his eyes when he's told no as Sam does in the video. I am thankful that James did not get hurt... Sam looks like he's on the verge of freaking out. How dare someone challenge him!

I agree with an earlier poster- let's get in on the action! Instead of avoiding the Free Keeners, work the cameras! We have a lot of talent here in Keene- jump on in, sing a song, dance, strike a pose.... whatever moves you. Just don't engage them and definitely don't let a cup graze anyone's nose. "

**Paisley** wrote on Aug 24, 2010 5:20 PM:

" To Rights - "It may be time for the voluntarists to stand down, as you say"

That's not what I said, I said it's time for Ian,Sam, and their group to stand down.

~"Controlling libertarians is like herding cats.."

So we should throw a can of cat food over the border and watch them run? Sorry, sometimes I just can't help myself LOL! "

**Bill** wrote on Aug 25, 2010 9:21 AM:

" We should all be downtown holding signs, wearing t-shirts, and protesting the protesters!

FREE KEENE OF THE FREE STATERS!

Kudos to James for giving Sam a taste of his own medicine, filming the filmers but sadly it escalated to assaulting James. Thats Freedom of Speech right Sam I am? If I want to hold up a sign next to your interview saying, I think this guy is an idiot! What are you going to do then????

At least the girl with you had the brains to say "Sam don't touch him" Quite funny that you guys claim assault when someone interferes with you agenda...

What goes around comes around, you are lost without big brother Ian. And Heika is not coming to liberty senses, she is just back peddling after that misdemeanor charge and can't stay as active unless she wants to violate conditions and spend some real time in jail. "

**Rights** wrote on Aug 25, 2010 9:32 AM:

" Ok Paisley. Your insult is noted. I'm obviously a libertarian but I won't insult you back.

Regarding voluntarists, it's my understanding that Ian, Sam and their group (freekeene.com) are voluntarists and my use of the term was specific for them and just to fill in for your longer description.

Remember that my intention isn't to say at all that they Should stand down, but to ask you if you think the police should stop being used as hired thugs to 'get them' and and ask you why you think it's ok for people like the coffee man to be rude and assaultive.

Let me say that the love of freedom is passionate in the hearts of very many and shall fall not away. This Free State is so much more than simple audacity here in it's birth, making at first a clamor of awareness and education.

Liberty in our lifetime, even for this old man. There is nothing quite as important as freedom, to the point that weathering insults for it's sake is ok. My thanks to Sam and Ian and every other liberty activist for all their sincere efforts along the way.

Cheers "

**short sighted** wrote on Aug 25, 2010 12:45 PM:

" Hey Sammy

So how different do you think this would have been if there was a crowd that had been drinking and had open alcohol? It wouldn't have been a pretty sight. Laws are in place for a reason even if you are to short sighted to realize them. "

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