TOWER TALK

AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen

Sugar's Musings

I was seated in my Palo Alto High office. (One of the nice features of this school was teachers were regarded as professionals and had personal offices,)

The door to my office opened unexpectedly. Standing in the doorway was Tim Russell, a student in my recently concluded Econ class.

He entered, and took a chair. We exchanged pleasantries. He told me he was planning to attend Community College. He would be part of the swim team, and he hoped to do well and transfer to a major university.

He said that before taking my class, he had not planned to go to college. He had thought he would join the military, but now he liked studying. He said he thought he might want to become a high school teacher like me.

It had never before occurred to me that anyone would want to be like me. There were times when even I did not want to be like me.

I was touched. We shook hands, and I told him that I would welcome talking with him any time. I wished him luck.

I never again saw Tim. After leaving my office, he walked to the nearby Green Hills swimming pool. He had an aortic aneurism that burst while he was in the water. He drowned; I learned of his death the next day. It upset me for a long time.

Upon reflection, I took away this lesson.

If someone means something to you, let him or her know it NOW. If you love some one, admire an individual, believe someone has done something well and you wish to congratulate him or her, then let it be known. You cannot predict if someone will be here tomorrow to hear the nice thing you might have said to him or her today.

Rantings and Ravings

Whole Foods is price gouging. For example, *a full pint* of store prepared chicken salad suitable for sandwich making costs $5.99 at Webster St. Safeway. A *half pint* of salad from Whole Foods, sells at $10.99. (Neither is as good as chicken salad produced in the SFT kitchen.) Whole Foods' price is roughly 4 times that of Safeway. Aaarg!

Perhaps the food committee could send "Sensible Selma" or a delegation to speak sharply with the store manager.

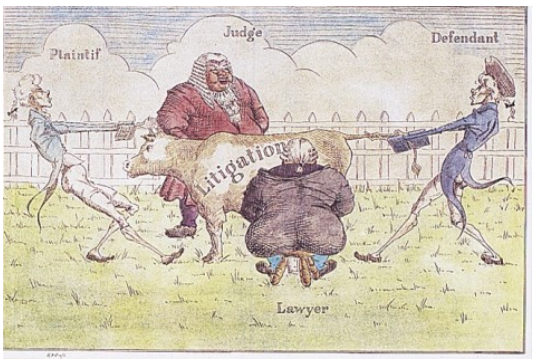
Otherwise, Sugar is going to use the neural network, communicate with Adam Smith, and pummel Whole Foods with the "Invisible Hand." *Just sayin*

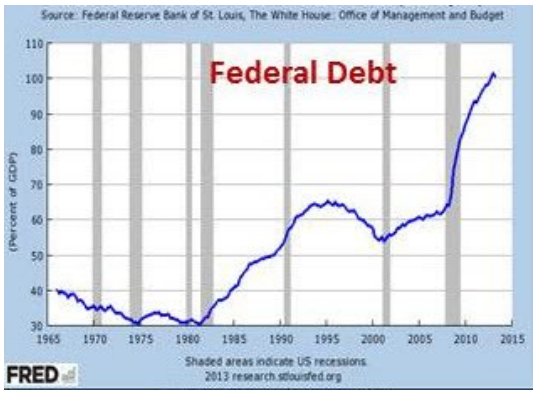
Episcopal Senior Communities (ESC) Versus the Bishop:

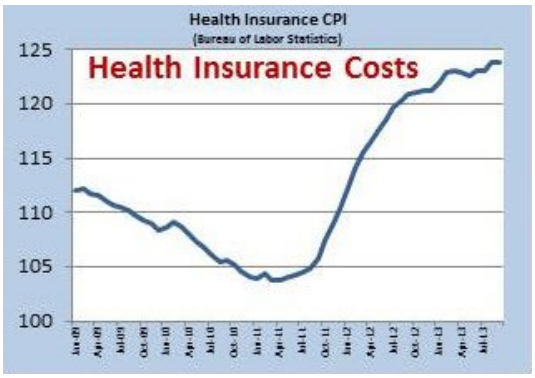
Trial, after multiple delays, finally underway. Several SFT residents summoned as witnesses.

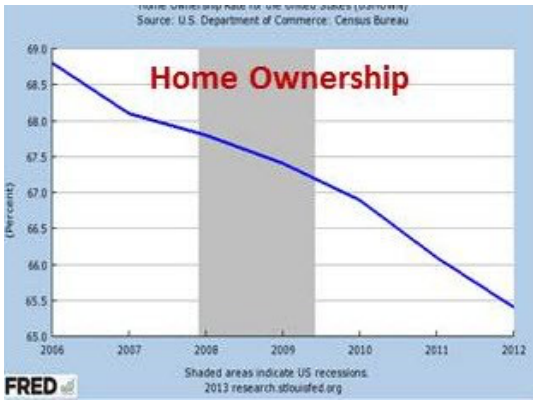
Outcome uncertain. Stay tuned.

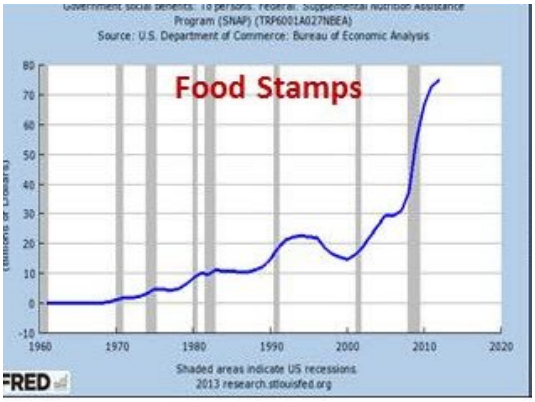
We are the cow.

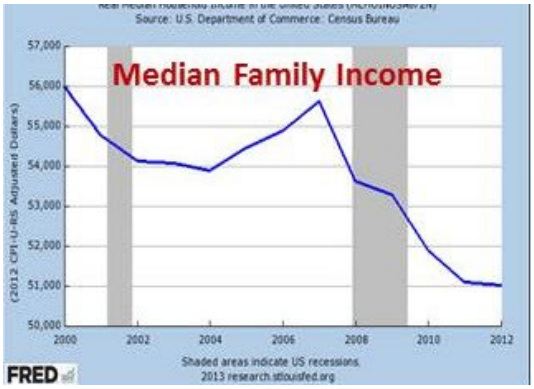


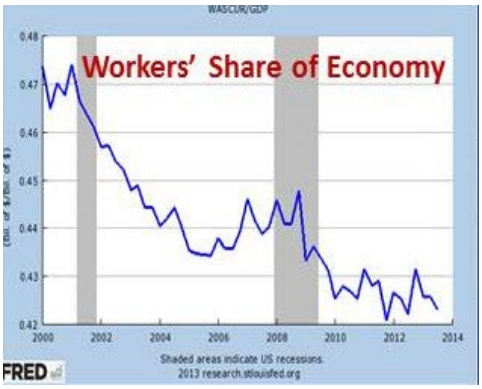












Federal Reserve Statistics. *Just sayin*

Entre Nous

Austin and Van Ness have lived in SFT apartment #1501 for a decade. They start each morning with Peets coffee. Van reads the NYT and Austin the WSI. Here is a snippet from their Tuesday September 27 post-debate conversation.

Van, putting down the paper: *How can you possibly vote for Trump! He is as weird and scary as anyone who has ever run for President. He looks like he has a squirrel on his head. I cannot imagine having to listen to him for four or more years. I hated the debate. Still, Hillary won really, really big!*

Aus taking a swallow of coffee: *Now now!! If appearance is where your head's at, let's look at Hillary's behind, she looks like an Airbus 380. Moreover, her coughing is going to be an issue, bet on it. You are big time wrong. Trump really won.*

Van grimacing: *Let's get serious. What it comes down to is she is dishonest, but he really scares me. How can you even think of Trump having access to nuclear codes? Does not his impulsive nature, bad temper, snarky criticisms, and shoot from the hip style frighten you; Hitler'esque maybe?*

Aus: *All the same was said of John Adams 218 years ago and he turned out OK. Hilary is more worrisome. When she had a chance to defend Americans in Benghazi, she blew it. She made it worse by lying, one version in private and another for the media and victims. "Crooked Hillary" just like The Donald labeled her.*

Van: *I agree she blew Benghazi, but let us hope she learned from it. I am not sure Trump can learn ever, ever. What about his taking advantage of every tax break and legal loophole in the western world in order to amass a personal fortune at the expense of poor people. Doesn't his selfishness, greed, misogyny, and arrogance upset you?*

Aus heatedly: *Talk about values, GIVE ME A BREAK! How can you favor someone who used a self-serving charitable front to launder financial contributions from foreign governments while she was Secretary of State? It was "Pay for Play baby," if l ever saw it. She created a cauldron of corruption.*

Van: *Talk about self-serving, I thought Trump was self- funding. Now he is seeking political contributions via every conceivable campaign finance loophole. Did you donate?*

Aus: loudly *Loopholes, loopholes! Hillary is still looking for one, trying to explain her email. Who can claim to be a competent government official when caught using a private computer server in violation of the law. Any other official would be jailed for 10 years. "Lost" emails appear daily. Where's the end? Even Snowden hates her.*

Van: *Does not Trump's continued flip-flopping on issues worry you? He is a demagogue through and through.*

Aus: *Talk about flip-flopping, Hilary used to be a great NAFTA supporter. Once Bernie Sanders attacked her, she backed off that. She was initially the mother of the Transpacific Trade Partnership. Now she's backed off TPP. She is just like her lying husband Bill. Clintons will say anything. I bet, if elected, she will appoint Bill to the Supreme Court. Then he could have his own home address and not bug her. Separation of powers and all that stuff, OK! And I did not donate a cent and you had better not either.*

Van: *You have nothing positive to say about Donald Trump, but you watch sexist Fox News all day and snipe at Hillary.*

Aus. *I don't hear you saying anything positive about Hillary either. You just watch CNN, pop no calorie edamame, read the New Yorker, and criticize Trump. I admit I do like the leggy women on Fox.*

Van: *We have been together 20 years. We have argued before over political candidates. People we know claim this election has ended a friendship. What's different now?*

Aus: *Good question. Why has this campaign been so terrible? It seemed like there was nothing but negatives. There was virtually no humor. Has America lost its spirit, its purpose? How is it that we do not have better candidates? Where's Reagan, Truman or even Adlai Stevenson?*

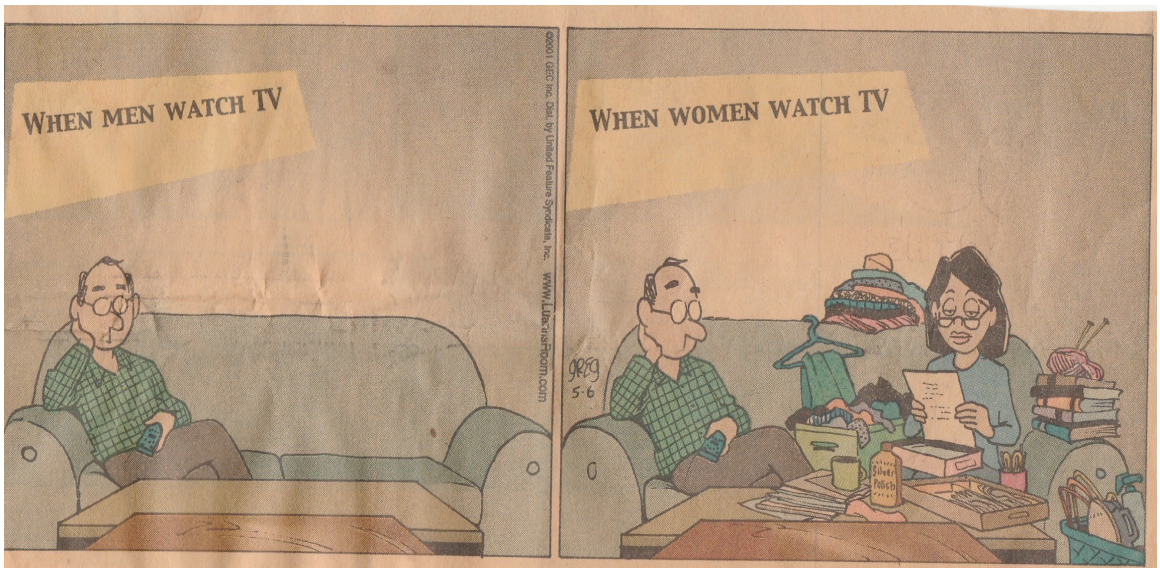
Van: *We have millions of people who have left the workforce because they cannot find a job. Income distribution has seldom been wider. We have staggering murder rates in cities. Blacks are worse off than in a decade.*

Aus: *Borders are porous. Rich live in high-rise luxury while the poor sleep on the streets. Infrastructure crumbles while corporations hide billions overseas. Aaargh!*

Van: *Pass the Zolof. Think I will take two.*

Class photo. Can you find D J. Trump?

Old Photo: Hillary kicking out Bill?



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