TOWER TALK

AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen

2016 Presidential Election: What a Difference 100 Minutes Can Make

When Hillary's campaign jet lifted off the Westchester runway for Des Moines, Iowa early Friday morning, October 28, she was comfortably in the lead in her decade-long quest to be POTUS.

Her election opponent, Donald J. Trump, had accomplished all imaginable by way of self-emulation. How could there be any remaining boorish acts or outrageous proposals?

When Clinton landed 100 minutes later, all was transformed into uncertainty. And, Trump was not the perpetrator.

Unless a TT reader lives under a rock, you know by now that in the time Ms. Clinton was airborne, FBI Director Comey announced a reopening of a formal investigation regarding use of a private email server for public business including handling of highly classified documents, a criminal charge of which in July Clinton was publicly cleared.

The FBI has not released, and is unlikely soon to release, the 650,000 possibly incriminating emails newly found on Hilary's top aide, Huma Abedin and her estranged husband Anthony Weiner's various electronic devices.

Weiner, a former Democratic Congressman from New York, is under FBI investigation for "sexting" underage girls. *(Weiner is his real name. For lewd emails he uses the name "Carlos Danger.")*

Given this uncertainly, one hopes voters will not rush to judgment; Hillary may again be cleared of wrongdoing. Still:

Hillary is stunned. Bernie Sanders and Tom Kaine are furious.

Trump is ecstatic. Putin is laughing.

Mass media are pleased; the campaign was becoming torpid; now profits may soon soar.

Pre-election ballots are unaffected. However, undecided election-day voters are in play.

The effect of this new development on voter turnout in tossup states is now crucial

"Saturday Night Live" writers acknowledge they could never envision this.

Situation does nothing to mitigate toxic divisions. Counting only male votes, Trump wins Electoral College. Counting only women votes results in the reciprocal.

America again appears to the rest of the world to be in chaos.

Lost Architectural Opportunity

Pyramids provide insight into ancient Egypt's culture. Medieval cathedrals and castles reveal who and what were once important. The grandeur of the White House and Capitol reflect America's devotion to democracy. Architecture reveals a people's spirit.

Now, let's turn to Apple's new flagship store in downtown SF. Apple Computer symbolizes modernity. Apple products are routinely viewed as cutting edge and providing insight into what is next for our culture, our economy, ourselves.

Apple's founding father, Steve Jobs, was the master of marketing and product design. He wanted packaging to be flawless, consistent with the product 's beauty and anticipated user pleasure.

Against this backdrop, Apple's new downtown SF glass see -through mother ship is a vast disappointment. Aargh!

The store's exterior is a modernist cube, all straight lines, never a curve; glass and metal everywhere including interior stairs. It has no relation to its neighbors.

Human needs, particularly senior or handicapped humans needs, are second place to bare bones rectilinear worktables and an enormous Texas-size jumbo TV. The elevator is an afterthought leading one to genius bar consultation areas via employee restrooms and storage spaces.

Apple's building is missing a soul. It is a handicapped person's unsafe see-through nightmare. It is ignoble.

The building was expensive to construct. It is located in a highly visible section of the city. There was a chance to create something iconic, something that displayed Apple's significance and the City's nobility. *Steve Jobs would be substantially displeased.*

Entre Nous

Austin and Van Ness have been SFT residents for a decade. They live in 1501.

Van was born at French hospital, before Kaiser absorbed it. Austin was born at Stanford hospital, prior to its Palo Alto move. Van went to Lowell. Austin attended Washington.

As a youth, Van was shy, insecure, allergy-ridden, saddled with adolescent acne, introspective, skinny and scholarly. Austin was athletic, callous, and bellicose. Van got good grades and matriculated to Cal. Austin exercised more muscle than mind; athletic prowess facilitated admission to Stanford. Van sought an education; Austin lusted for Greensheet notoriety.

They met at a Big Game party. Shortly after college, they entered Harvard Law School. Thereafter, each quickly became a full partner. Van at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro and Austin at Littler, Mendleson, Fastiff, & Tichy. Van specialized in insurance matters. Austin handled complex labor negotiations.

Each evolved a bold personality. Early in their relationship, they had knockdown drag out arguments. Neighbors accused them of bellowing at each other like rutting bull elephants.

In time, each mellowed and once they realized domestic arguments were simply courtroom histrionics and had

little effect upon each other, their conversations became more civil.

Each morning they have a separate routine. Austin habitually reads the Wall Street Journal and drinks Peet's coffee. Van favors Starbucks coffee and swears by the New York Times. Neither ever sees fit to read the other's newspaper or touch the other's coffee.

Van is a devotee of CNN and swears by Wolf Blitzer. Austin uses earphones and a separate TV set to watch Bill O'Reilly and Megan Kelly on the Fox network. Austin loves the Drudge Report. Van will not read it declaring it to be a crypto Nazi propaganda outlet. They have given up on PBS. Once Jim Lehrer retired, they found Gwen Ifel and Judy Woodruff ho hum.

Austin reads history, favoring David McCullough, Doris Kearns, and Erik Larsen. Van reads novels, still obsessed with Evelyn Waugh. Austin has a Maine Coon cat named Everett. Van treasures a toy poodle named Albert. Everett and Albert got along, sometimes better than their respective owners.

Their differences in newspapers, coffee, pets and other of life's components reflect their views about other issues.

Van is a committed Democrat whose political heroes are Adlai Stevenson, Saul Alinsky, and Bella Abzug. Austin still laments the passing of Teddy Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan. Van idolizes Gore Vidal. Austin is a cerebral Republican whose debating hero is William F. Buckley.

Periodically, Tower Talk is able discretely to listen to their morning conversation. This month, they are playfully bantering about Presidential politics. Van is depressed over recent electoral events. Austin seems to be in a particularly gleeful mood,

Let's listen.

Van: *I know you held your nose last, week and voted by mail for Trump, but what do you think of the FBI reopening?*

Aus: *It is a capitalist conspiracy.*

Van (dismayed)*: How does that work?*

Aus*: Stay with me. It is complicated.*

Campaign has become boring. TV viewership is down. Wall Street and media collude to ensure Clinton victory.

Republicans keep both houses, barely. Congress votes Hillary's impeachment Separately, DOJ convenes criminal Grand Jury, indicts Hillary for RICO.

Both trials proceed and are televised.

Van: *I think I am getting your point. Viewership and media profits soar.*

Aus: *It all gets better. Hillary is convicted of treason, punishable by death. She is imprisoned and resigns.*

Van: *But, President Obama pardons her like Ford did Nixon. Right?*

Aus: *Wrong. Obama remembers 2008, likes Kaine and refuses to pardon her.*

Van (now in the spirit)*: What happens to Hilary? Who assassinates Weiner?*

Aus*: Hillary is executed. World's largest TV audience views it. Weiner allegedly dies paragliding in Ecuador.*

Van: (Disgusted) **C***ouldn't ever happen. You're nuts! I cannot kid about this. I am sick of it all! Smells like Watergate.*

Aus: *I'm teasing. I just wanted to illustrate that the last 18 months have been totally unpredictable and insane!*

SF School Name Changes

Diligent sleuthing reveals the School Board is NOT considering a host of school name changes, neither Washington HS, nor others.

Board President, Matt Haney floated the idea of a name change on Facebook where he said George Washington owned slaves and as a privileged white male has little relevance for students.

His school board colleagues appear to have better judgment,

November is a Big Month.

In additional to elections, there is an SFT Anniversary, a new Warrior season, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Phew!

SFT Bronze Anniversary Diner

Tuesday evening. November 1, will be regal what with many SFT women dressed in their finest and many men squeezed into once-fitting tuxedoes.

Congratulations SFT for 19 successful years. Below are a few opening year concurrent remembrances:

President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky were big in the news.

Elton John's "*Candle in the Wind*," memorializing Prince Di, was the year's most played song.

Also popular was "*Chumbawamba*" by Allure. *Really!!!*

Ford Mustang Convertible $14,289.00
Leather Bomber Jacket $99.99
Levi Denim Jeans $34.99
Super Nintendo $159.00
Cellular Car Phone $325.00
Pork Chops $1.98 a pound
Frozen Peas 97 cents per pound
Lazy Boy Recliner $260.00
Snowboard $199.00

Yet Another Anniversary

Tower Talk has survived a year. Sugar is grateful for all of those who help each month. Fear not. Your identity is safe.

Nearbyness: 1450 Franklin Condos

Sugar personally toured 1450 Franklin Street condo, on the SE corner of Franklin and Bush. Initial impression favorable, but not OMG, must have!

1. Building exterior conventional, but has clean and attractive vertical lines.

2. Lobby and port cochere interesting with auto and pedestrian access both from Fern and Franklin streets.

3. Fewer units and less crowded than Rockwell on Pine Street. Total of 67, 1 and 2 bedroom, and penthouses units.

4. Conventional garage, no racking.

5. Interior comparable to and in some ways more tasteful than Rockwell.

6. Upper views, 360 degree sweeping.

7. Apartment layouts attractive and efficient. Surprisingly large storage.

8. Not much retail space on street floor.

9. Prices from $1 to $4 million.

10. 20% of apartments already under contract. Certificates of occupancy and initial move-ins in February.

Sugar has no financial interest in the building. Mel Flyer may. *Just sayin*

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