TOWER TALK
AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen[i]

This is a collection of vignettes, encounters, and observations regarding residents, employees, events, conditions and triumphs in and around San Francisco Towers. This publication is routinely undertaken responsibly and is always positive and never unduly critical. It is published privately and does NOT seek NOR carry the approval of Towers management or any other agency. Readers wishing to make comments or submit responses to Tower Talk content can to do so by writing to Sugarcaen00@gmail.com

Recalling Caen:

Sugar hopes all Towers' residents and staff are well launched into a happy 2016.

Here is something special for our residents, staff, and friends of Chinese ancestry

February will usher in the Chinese Year of the Monkey. Actually, it is the year of the Red Monkey, lasting until January 27, 2017.

Prior years of the Monkey: that might include Towers' residents and staff were 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992

In Chinese culture, the monkey is viewed as a clever animal. It is usually compared to a smart person. (Conversely, in America, to be described as a monkey is seldom meant as a compliment.)

Sugar is not much of a believer regarding horoscopes but, for those who are, the general image of people in the Year of the Monkey zodiac sign is of always being smart, clever and intelligent, especially in their career and wealth. They are lively, flexible, quick-witted and versatile. In addition, their gentleness and honesty bring them an everlasting love life.

Although they were born with enviable skills, "Year of the Monkey" people still are said to have several shortcomings, such as an impetuous temper and a tendency to look down upon others. Strengths include being enthusiastic, self-assured, sociable, and innovative. Weaknesses are said to be jealousy, suspicious, cunning, selfish, and arrogant.

Marketing Director Cynthia Sirkn might be informed by all of this in resident recruiting. However, it is possible that someone close has already briefed her.

2015 Reflections/2016 Predictions

Sugar now moves fearlessly to 2015 reflections and 2016 predictions.

<u>1015 SFT High Points</u>

SFT Dinners on Anniversary night, Christmas Eve, and Christmas day

Halloween Costumes

Holiday Carousel in Great Room

Veteran's Day and New Year's Eve Celebrations.

Rockwell Pine Street Construction

Advent of Tower Talk (:

2016 Prediction Number One

National elections will sink to regrettable levels of mud slinging, leaving the nation more divided, presenting enormous leadership challenges to incoming POTUS.

There have been similar epics in history, for example, a terrible distortion of John Adams at the hands of Thomas Jefferson. Still, Sugar wishes America had learned from past events.

2016 Prediction Number Two

Hillary Clinton will likely be elected as the nation's 45th President and first woman to hold what is unquestionably the most powerful position in the world. Upon assuming office, she will be the second oldest President in U.S. history. Right-wingers will writhe in anguish. Hispanic will be VP. Bernie Sanders will accept cabinet office.

Three conditions could negate Hillary winning. Negative reaction among women to husband, Bill Clinton, campaigning in her behalf. Failure to beat Bernie Sanders in New Hampshire primary. San Bernardino-like terrorist attacks prior to election.

Prediction Number Three

ISIS further emboldened by increasing tensions between Sunni and Shiite Arab states.

Prediction Number Four

Stock Market will be flat. Investors will be fortunate to emerge intact.

Prediction Number Five

El Nino will substantially ameliorate but not end California drought.

Prediction Number Six

Warriors will win NBA title
Giants will miss playoffs.
In desperation, 49ers draft Mel Flyer

Predictions specific to SFT. *(Readers will herewith witness the enormous perspicacity possessed by Sugar*.)

SFT monthly fees will increase.
DR cloth napkins will reappear.
Ten residents will criticize SFT food.
Flags will appear on the roof.
Two residents will marry each other.
Elevator lights will be repaired.
Sugar Caen will issue IPO
Eighty-two residents resolve to diet.
Total SFT caloric intake dips .00001.
Artur Musial wins Nobel Prize in physics for discovering new way to get additional servings from routine size pies and cakes.
Rosemary & Megan receive Presidential Medals of Honor. (Well, anyway, they should.)
Residents will acquire more cats than dogs.

Reader Feedback

Several Tower Talk critics believe Sugar's use of a pen name is a transgression. One communiqué suggested Sugar was cowardly. Such criticism is unwarranted and here is why.

Tower Talk has three objectives:
(1) Elevate our collective spirit,
(2) Enhance a sense of community,
(3) Provoke civil discourse.

Practically speaking, Sugar would proclaim success if the publication

rendered only a single Towers' resident happier and did no harm to all others. (Readers who are lawyers and economists will recognize such as *Pareto Optimality*.)

A huge component of Sugar's arsenal to entertain and inform is derived from anonymity. If Sugar's identity were commonly known, there would be no mystery, no charm, no fun. For Sugar to become public would be to impose an enormous chill upon the prospect of humor and candor.

One supporter noted regarding Sugar's identity, that since the advent of Tower Talk, only El Nino has been a more frequently discussed topic in the Dining Room.

A *nom de plume* has a long history in literary and political spheres. The Federalist Papers were penned under the pseudonym "Publius." Mark Twain and Zane Grey were pen names. Actually, late in his life a team authored Herb Caen's column, several writers clustered under one name.

Critics also impugn Sugar's anonymity saying such has no place in a small community. This is wrong thinking. Indeed it is precisely in a small community, where many often wrongly know little but assert much about a few, that anonymity is needed as a shield to protect candor.

Critics have the high ground on one dimension. If Sugar were to turn rancid and begin unfairly to attack and create falsehoods and scurrilous accusations, then anonymity would inappropriately cloak irresponsibility and impede accountability.

In order to avoid these pitfalls, Sugar has pledged always to be positive and sweet.

If readers further disagree, Sugar welcomes their rebuttals.

Sugar Defending Oakland

Oakland seldom is cloaked in San Francisco's mantle of majesty. It is a city constantly barraged by unfair criticism. It seldom comes in for compliments. In 1933, author and poet, Gertrude Stein, writing from her brother's home in Palo Alto, proclaimed with regard to Oakland, that there was "No there there."

Sugar has evidence to the contrary. Devoted TT fan, Bobbie Barton, traveled to the East Bay and lost her car and Towers' keys. They were on the same ring that somehow slipped from her vehicle when she opened the door after parking on a busy Oakland street. Bobbie quaked at the approximate $300 dollar fees involved in replacing both electronic fobs.

After days of anguish, Devoted Fan Barton returned to the general area, and entered a Chinese restaurant in front of her previous parking space. On a hunch, upon entering the restaurant she was provided with the keys that had been found by a passing Oaklander. The restaurateur had held them in hopes that the rightful owner would return.

Such a Good Samaritan act might take place in Cedar Rapids, but would certainly be less likely on Market Street in San Francisco.

Sugar's Episodic Rant: Macro

An earnest TT reader inquired of Sugar what might be done regarding San Francisco's ever present and seemingly growing homeless population. Sugar, while certainly not expert, does have a view, and welcomes the suggestions of readers.

Sugar believes it to be immoral that a nation, indeed a city, as wealthy as ours should have an indigent population of such enormous size living in such abject despair. Trust Sugar here. This is not a resource problem. San Francisco public revenues are now bulging hugely from retail sales tax receipts, property taxes, and developer fees.

Rather, than money, this is an issue of political will, or the lack thereof, on the part of our elected officials.

Here is Sugar's Proposed Five Point Plan

1. A civic ordinance needs to be enacted rendering ineligible for public subsidy those without a legitimate residential address

2. The city should acquire a swath of land in the Harrison-Folsom South of Market corridor and construct two—thousand, 250 square foot apartments containing a small bedroom, bath, and kitchen.

3. Homeless people, by agreeing to reside in publicly provided spaces, would be eligible for municipal income subsidies, free health care, mental health care, drug and other addiction assistance, and access to communal dining

4. Those determined to be in sufficient health would be required for eight hours a day to wear Parisian style green suits and engage in street cleaning activities.

5. Those refusing to be subject to this regimen could continue to live on the streets, assuming they did not engage in illegal activities, but they would lose their eligibility for municipal income subsidies.

February's rant will focus on the coarseness of contemporary society.

Reader Contributions

Devoted TT Fan, Derry Schillaci suggests purchase from Staples of a collapsible roller box, cost of which is approximately $25, can also mitigate elevator lobby shopping cart shortages

Here is a SFT consumer alert. A TT reader reports a nearby restaurant charges a $75 corkage fee.

Let Sugar repeat. This is not $75 for a bottle of wine. This is a charge to OPEN a guest-provided bottle of wine.

This astounding condition has been verified. Should a reader want the name of the restaurant, write Sugar an email. We need to discourage this.

Stay Sweet. Sugar

---

[i] "Sugar Caen" is a *non de plume* that bears no relation to any Towers' residents