TOWER TALK

AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen

Breaking News

SFT monthly resident fees may soon revert to 1999 levels. It gets better.

Insiders inform Sugar that TV's Judge Judy is preparing to enjoin a proposed 3.45% SFT resident fee adjustment. Judge Judy is angry with SFT management and is said to be considering steep damages.

It is thought that a Bernie Sanders and Pope Francis amicus brief proved persuasive to the Court.

Possibly related, a Walnut Creek dealer reports cancellation of Tesla orders from high placed executives.

In unrelated news, Donald Trump announced Judge Judy, not Jerry Springer as rumored, would be his first U.S. Supreme court nominee.

Hillary Clinton made a parallel announcement regarding her first Supreme Court nominee, her spouse, William Jefferson Clinton. It is rumored that, when confirmed, he will likely be the first Justice ever to reside in his Supreme Court chambers. He has been seen in DC shopping at "Sleeptrain."

DNA analyses suggest Clinton, Trump, Cruz, and Sanders are all distantly related, perhaps sharing Neanderthal genes. *Just sayin.*

To compensate for possible lower monthly revenues, SFT management is said to be considering options. Among them are elevator charges. Ascent is to be free. Down charges will be a function of passenger weight and originating floor. Surge pricing likely.

Early financial projections suggest a modal SFT resident annually will pay $30 in charges. Proceeds go to elevator servicing and the Pet Club.

Consideration is also being given to changing dining charges, eliminating per meal amounts. Instead, resident's plate(s) will be weighed at each meal. Fine-tuning is ongoing.

Coming. DR cloth napkin-dispensing kiosks. Costs, 25 cents each.

Food Service Director, Larry Brooks, has acquiesced to enormous pressure to feature gluten free Chinese food at all meals, including breakfast.

Opening soon, a 2nd floor pool area Speedo swimwear display/sales site

High-grade marijuana plants have been found growing in pots on the 12th floor. Sugar suggests urgency.

Poll results suggest SFT pets are politically divided with cats overwhelmingly favoring Trump and dogs favoring HRC. Focus group interviews suggest cats like Trump's irreverence and lack of loyalty. Dogs like predictability. Cats are known always to be seeking a better deal. *Sugar's just sayin.*

Disclaimer

To the best of Sugar's knowledge, every foregoing item is false. If there is a shred of validity, it is an improbable and unintended coincidence. It is close to April Fools Day

February Semi-Annual Meeting Follow up (Continued**)**

In the March issue of Tower Talk, Sugar offered observations and suggestions regarding issues elevated at the February 24 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

Episcopal Senior Community officials have agreed to SFT resident requests for added information. Kevin Gerber is unlikely to attend.

There will be a Main Lounge meeting held at 1:00 PM on March 31 under auspices of SFT's Finance Committee. A later meeting is to be arranged with the Episcopal Diocesan Bishop.

Sugar is hopeful of further clarification and has accepted Finance Chair Sweetow's invitation and submitted the following questions.

1. To what specific lifetime services is a resident entitled as a consequence of purchasing a unit in SFT?

2. How does affiliation with the Presbyterian organization advance the ESC mission? (If affiliation redounds only to scale economies, why not simply form a management and purchasing cooperative among all Bay Area senior residences instead?)

3. To what degree is income from initial resident unit purchase taken into account when projecting future year revenues?

4. What steps are being taken to moderate future year fee increases?

Sugar Political Analyses

Evolving Presidential politics are perplexing to pundits. The only certain thing is that no one is officially a candidate until affirmed at July nominating conventions. However, despite mind numbing uncertainty, the 2016 campaign has so far revealed the following five trends

Utter Unpredictability

Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have come from nowhere and are surging. Once, presumptive front-runner HRC, now imperiled. Jeb Bush once tagged as for sure Republican nominee, now out of race.

Vicious Campaigning

Sugar's New Year's TT issue previously predicted this for 2016 and nothing has changed, only worsened. Dirtiest campaigning likely since Jefferson and Adams competed in 1800. Hoi Polloi titillated by allegations of candidates' extra-marital affairs and sexual orientation. French again laughing at us.

Elections as Entertainment

Mass media moguls have trashed the broadcast spectrum with drug ads, Kardashians, and Jerry Springer.

Now they have gone further and succeeded in rendering American electoral politics primetime entertainment. Candidates are now celebrity debaters who like Roman gladiators are expected to inflict pain upon opponents, not espouse wisdom.

Sugar quietly shudders at the consequence for our Republic. However, there is another side. It is possible that Americans will benefit from nonstop coverage of politics and go to the polls better informed and will vote in unprecedented numbers.

Reduced Impact of Campaign Finance

The largest amounts of campaign spending are by opponents hoping to block Donald Trump. It will not work.

Jeb Bush raised, but could not spend, $145 million. It did not work.

Bernie Sanders has so far raised $140 million, routinely generating more than Hillary Clinton. He will not likely be able to spend it all. Funds revert to candidates once a campaign is suspended. Socialist Bernie, Hillary and Trump will all be millionaires.

Denouement of "Establishment"

Sugar eschews this term. The United state is such a cauldron of complexity that only the paranoid can imagine that there really is a set of elites that routinely control our day-to-day lives.

Still, if there is an "establishment" it has misjudged public sentiment by a wide margin. Sanders might gain more popularly selected state convention delegates than Hillary. (Clinton-controlled so-called "Super Delegates could defect for Sanders.) Hillary does not excite the Obama coalition of minorities and youth. Voter turnout may be Hillary's largest challenge.

John Kasich is the best qualified by "establishment" criteria. He has no chance. Romney, Paul Ryan, and other Republicans leaders rail against and fruitlessly spend millions to stop Trump. They will likely fail.

Establishment resistance is useless. Those alleged to be in charge badly misperceive the despair of youth and the working class for whom dreams of a good job and a fulfilled life are dead.

Free trade, overseas outsourcing, illegal immigration, corporate tax evasion, terrorism, burdensome college costs, Social Security threats, and Wall Street crony capitalism are seen as symbols of failed government.

Trump and Sanders have tapped this disaffection. Their proposed problem solutions may ultimately prove different, but the complicated emotions of their alienated supporters may share common roots.

Beginning in May, Tower Talk will provide nonpartisan analyses of upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections and issues.

Sugar will pay little attention to poll results until far further into the year. Low information voters, the majority of Americans, tend to make up their minds close to election time, and then are often moved as much by emotion as logic.

From the New Yorker

"Of course I am worried that he might be another Mussolini, but what really keeps me up at night is the thought of his redecorating the White House."

Sugar's Monthly Quiz
(Usual Prizes Awarded)

1. At its formation, 1789, how many justices sat on the Supreme Court? (SFT lawyer residents surely know.)

   A. Six
   B. Seven
   C. Eight
   D. Nine

2. Which of the following criminals attended Lowell High School?

   A. O. J. Simpson
   B. Bernard Madoff
   C. Willie Sutton
   D. Bugsy Siegal

3. Which of the following civically concerned, productive, high minded celebrities graduated from Washington High School?

   A. Johnny Mathis
   B. Lee Ann Merewether
   C. John Rothman
   D. Danny Glover

4. What is the U.S. President's annual salary?[1]

   A. $400,000
   B. $500,000
   C. $600,000
   D. $1,000,000

5. As reported in IRS form 990, the annual compensation of ESC CEO Kevin Gerber falls between?

   A. $200,000-$300,000
   B. $300,000-$400,000
   C. $400,000-$500,000
   D. $500,000-$600,000

[1] Washington was paid $25,000 annually.

A Favorite Sugar Spot: Crissy Field

Crissy Field, named in honor of Major Dana Crissy, was the first Pacific Coast. air defense field. It was constructed during WWI from temporary facilities left over from the Pan Pacific exposition on what used to be an ancient salt marsh that had been filled and had been used as a race track and aviation field. (*Sugar can just envision old biplanes taking off and landing.*)

The grassy field, past the lagoon, is designed to replicate the original flight field, which was also grass.

Harbor porpoises (not dolphins) can be seen cruising along the surf line on occasion. They had been missing from the bay for 70 years. (The net across the mouth of the Bay during WWII did not help.) Porpoises reappeared about three years ago. Scientists speculate a food source dwindled, and has now improved.

A guaranteed place to see porpoises is from the GG Bridge at flood tide, especially around the tower closest to Fort Point. Seagulls in the water indicate their presence.

***Contributed by Judy** Friederici*

James Guthrie produces Tower Talk (TT) under the nom de plum of Sugar Caen. This is a collection of vignettes, anecdotes, efforts at humor, and informational items regarding residents, employees, events, and conditions in and around San Francisco Towers. This publication is published privately and does NOT carry approval of NOR rely upon resources from Towers management. It has no commercial content and is not intended to replace regular Towers' publications. Those wishing to comment or stop receipt may contact Sugarcaen00@gmail.