**Latest Tariff Proposals Mean Tragic Higher Costs for Wine, Cheese**

**SF Bay Area Panics - Holiday Parties in Jeopardy**

By Lotta Hoddair

The phones are ringing furiously as retailers try to find a way to stock French, Spanish, and German wines as well as Spanish olives, Parmesan, Stilton, and specialty currant jellies now burdened with tariffs that threaten holiday festivities.

California winemakers scoffed at the public alarm, pointing out that they stood to gain in the domestic market, but conceded that counter-tariffs would impact their burgeoning international sales.

“‘We’re covered,’” stated one Napa winemaker. “‘We may have to operate by candlelight, but when the power goes out we can still knock back something with a lilting bouquet and a long nose.’”

Others lamented the potential loss of exotic pairings of local wines with European Union cheeses, meats, and seafood especially considering that California kelp is unique and taking local seafood along for the ride, but were dismissed.

“A twenty-five percent increase might discourage some, but others will rise to the challenge,” whispered one California sommelier who requested anonymity. “Those $400 bottles don’t drink themselves.”

Locals admitted that the customers who drink the $400 bottles rarely send the bottles back to the kitchen or complain.

“Maybe the price has its own effect,” mused one local winery worker. “Raising the price 40% might in fact have an effect on the nose, especially if it binds punchy wintergreen essences with a playful gingery undertone underscored with a soapy curly-fry flavor.”

By Alda Weil

“It was too painful for ‘I told you so,’” said one fan in Oakland watching the Golden State Warriors’ embarrassing 122 to 141 opening season blowout loss to the Clippers after an even more embarrassing amount of hoopla over their move out of Oakland.

The Chase Center’s gold-plated approach to the game was beautifully illustrated by the midpoint of the fourth quarter, when a very different set of ticket holders started leaving the arena before the end of the game to beat the traffic.

“That would never have happened in Oakland,” affirmed another Warriors fan in Warriors gear from each of the recent championship banner years the team has had in Oakland. “Those rich people are in our seats now. But it’s not the same team.”

Experts agreed that the Chase Center’s gold-plated pursuit of a blowout loss fans claim wouldn’t have happened if the team had stayed in Oakland.

FANS LOVE the Warriors but have never loved the management that always kept the name Oakland from having any connection to the “Golden Gate Warriors” franchise and really really really wanted a pointless move to San Francisco where gridlock reigns.

Experts agreed that after Kevin Durant’s exit to Brooklyn the Warrior’s equation is entirely new, but that the Warriors’ wealthy new fan base will manage, especially those drowning their sorrow with the $75 caviar flight.

**Inevitable Chase Center Curse Begins**

**THE 1.4 BILLION DOLLAR Chase Center arena provided the gold-plated San Francisco setting for a blowout loss fans claim wouldn’t have happened if the team had stayed in Oakland.**

**Mysterious Sign From Above Confuses Everybody**

LIBERALS CLAIM the message is a sign that computers have taken over but that they are also really bad at grammar.

**By Allen Fun**

Computer experts affirmed recently that a combination of the internet, computers, and artificial intelligence, or “AI”, has taken over the universe.

“We thought it was just the planet,” stated one computer expert, “but the twenty new moons orbiting Saturn are exhibiting patterns we believe are organized for their own singular purposes.”

A team led by Carnegie’s Scott S. Sheppard found 20 new moons blithely orbiting Saturn in what some experts suspect is an effort to blow Jupiter’s 79 moons off the charts in some kind of interplanetary world series, but others suspect it is a conspiracy against schoolchildren who thought they had all the moons figured out and have to go redo all their science projects.

The International Astronomical Union’s Minor Planet Center tried to calm a worried public concerned that whatever is running the universe wouldn’t address the impending crisis represented by additional tariffs on traditional holiday wine and cheese.

“Everything’s going to be fine,” said Dr. Sheppard. “Just be glad something is running this crazy joint.”

**Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley**

...hey hey, ho ho, tariffs on holiday party staples have got to go...
Dear Lena, are you going to vote for me in the next election? I am so confused and I don’t want to do the wrong thing. Help me out. I am so confused and I respect your opinion. Help me out everybody tells me something different. I don’t want to do the wrong thing. Help me out everybody tells me something different. I don’t want to do the wrong thing.

Dear Lena, seriously, aren’t all oldtime tunes the same tune? These people sit for hours playing what sounds to me like the same thing over and over. It’s like they are all hypnotized.

Dear reader, yes, it is a musical version of an optical illusion that they get caught up in and there is no cure as yet known. Stay at least ten feet away or you’ll get caught in the undertow.

Dear Lena, are they kidding with these expensive studies about homelessness? I can save them time and money. Nobody can afford the rent around here. Ta-da.

Dear reader, excellent point. It hurts a lot less if we agree to see it as a jobs program for the mentally challenged.

Dear Lena, is the Brexit thing finally over? I made a joke about it to a friend who is from England and he hit me with an umbrella.

Dear reader, the British sense of humor is too difficult for most Americans to safely navigate. He may have been sincerely trying to thank you.

Dear Lena, is PG&E going to pay me back for my spoiled groceries? I was really looking forward to my small batch Van Leeuwen ice cream.

Dear reader, under California’s “inverse condemnation law,” they are liable. But standing in line for your check could take years and make you feel really stupid. Go get some ice cream and shut up before someone who lost their house and barn hits you.

Dear Lena, who are you going to vote for in the next election? I am so confused and I don’t want to do the wrong thing but everybody tells me something different and I respect your opinion. Help me out here before I flip a coin.

Dear reader, it would be wiser not to respect my opinion. In the World Series I always vote for seven games.

Ask Lena about baseball at cdenney@igc.org.
Twitter Addiction
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Revolutionary new product
TWIT QUIT is a small pad of
post it notes glued to your
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just grab a note & write on
it instead, posting it on the
nearest wall, child, or pet.

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Francisco, CA 94103 or call
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* * * * *

Facebook Employees Demand
Zuckerberg Stop Publishing
False Political Ads

By Caleb Rate

250 Facebook employees signed a letter urging CEO Mark Zuckerberg to quit allowing unfettered political falsehoods on Facebook’s platform, echoing New York Congressional representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren’s concerns at a recent hearing on the subject of Facebook generally as well as Zuckerberg’s policy on allowing paid, targeted disinformation ads in the 2020 election.

Zuckerberg responded that Facebook works really hard to make things better and that it now works with 60 internal and contract lobbyists, about twice the number it had in 2016.

“We are on track to spend $12.3 million to lobby the federal government in the first nine months of the year, compared with $12.6 million for all of last year,” stated the Facebook CEO proudly. “I’m now worth $68.2 billion as of August 2019.”

Zuckerberg is the fifth-richest person in the world. He spent $100 million on two properties on the island of Kauai: the Kahu’aina Plantation, a 357-acre former sugarcane plantation, and Pila’a Beach, a 393-acre property with a white-sand beach.

But he prefers to think of himself as living a simple life, simply acquiring the four properties near his Palo Alto home which he plans to level and rebuild into a personal compound.

“Political falsehoods may be inconvenient for elections,” he stated, “but they are hella lucrative.”

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PG&E Recommends Untapped Renewable Energy Resources for Creative California Residents

PG&E Suggests Innovations from California’s Natural Resources Until the Power Comes Back On

By Brett Crumbs

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), which is under fire for causing wildfires and power outages across California, offered California residents helpful suggestions for weathering the firestorm blackening the air and requiring the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of terrified people.

“We have plentiful natural, renewable resources available in our state,” stated PG&E spokesperson Claude DeWalls. “We hope this useful list will serve our customers until we can turn the power back on.”

1. **Hot air** - the simple machine pictured here transformed any typical political speech into useful energy and its source is not just renewable, but eternal.

2. **Sanctimony** - while most people get annoyed with Californians’ overwhelming sense of moral superiority, one can tap the powerful current of ordinary sanctimony and power an entire gender reveal party.

3. **Tote bags** - old tote bags accumulated from bank and nonprofit giveaways can be easily converted to burnable bricks with a machine created from old car parts by almost any average eight-year-old.

**Used Birkenstocks** - inventive Californians have created a machine capable of collecting used Birkenstock sandals from a safe distance, allowing the collector to harness their considerable aromatic power.

**Political buttons** - most Californians would never be seen in public without their colorful array of political buttons which, if bagged and attached to appropriate gears, provide a weight heavier than those used for centuries to run grandfather clocks.

**Kale** - this sadly inevitable component of every single California garden, potluck, and crop swap does eventually burn and can also be woven into tasteful clothing.

**TOTE BAG transformers are easy to make from old car parts.**

**THIS USED Birkenstock collector captures the raw resource without subjecting the driver to the unfortunate aroma.**

Next Issue: Painting popcorn with celebrities!

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**I Want My Present Now**

by Juan Nathan Undergod

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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.

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*The Winter’s Tale*

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.