

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

S.F. soda tax debate bubbling over

I recently read "Big Soda pops for big bucks to beat Prop. E" (City Insider, Sept. 28). This article focused on how the beverage industry is spending millions of dollars to defeat this proposition. The proposition will decide if San Francisco will become the first city in the nation to add a 2-cents-per-ounce tax onto sodas and other sugary drinks. But what this article does not show is what the outcome of this proposition would be. If you vote yes, you want the city to collect a tax of 2 cents per ounce from the distributors of sugar-sweetened beverages to fund health, nutrition, physical education and active recreation programs.

At first glance, if one does not know about this proposition, it looks as if the customer will be paying the tax. But this is not the case and should be made clear. I believe this article was informational and important for the public to know. But there should be more focus on what this proposition can achieve for the public health rather than focusing on corporate efforts.

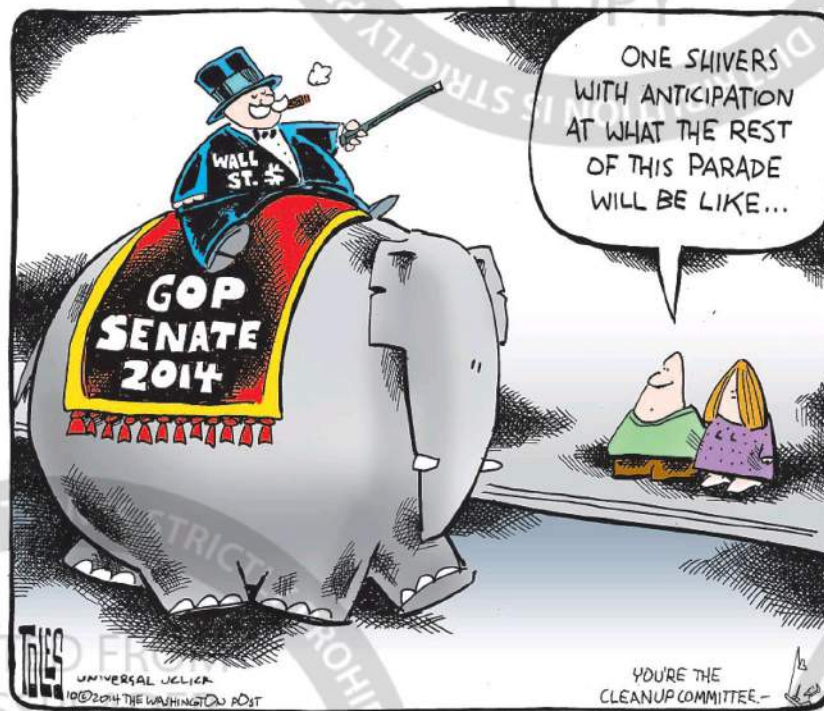
Kia Thompson, San Jose

Behind bars

I agree with "Jails are jammed with those who can't afford bail" (Open Forum, Oct. 3). San Francisco needs bail reform and not a new jail. The piece brings up important concerns about the racial impact of making bail too expensive, especially for poor people.

I'd like to add that the people locked up in San Francisco's jail are 56 percent African American, an appalling statistic given that black people only make up approximately 6 percent of the total population after the startling increase of gentrification and displacement of poor people and people of color.

This should be a huge con-



Tom Toles / Washington Post

cern to the sheriff, the Board of Supervisors and everyone in San Francisco. This is just one more reason for the county to cancel this unnecessary and expensive jail plan all together!

Emily Harris, Oakland

Fracking failure

As California regulators continue to fail to give the public legally required information about where and when oil companies are fracking in our communities, it's disturbing to see a Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources spokesperson dismiss these legal violations as mere "difficulties in obtaining paper records" ("Cracks seen in fracking data reports," Business, Oct. 2).

My organization has docu-

mented at least 100 frack jobs in California that aren't reported on the state's website, as the law requires. Many reports that are posted lack the required chemical analyses of flowback fluid that comes out of these wells, and the information is critical to determining pollution risks. We've also documented six acid jobs, in which acid is shot down a well to produce oil, that do not have a required notice on the state's website. Some of these acid jobs, which can cause air pollution, were done just a few hundred feet from homes in Southern California.

The persistent failure of state officials to follow their own fracking reporting rules offers another reason why California should prohibit this inherently dangerous tech-

nique.

Hollin Kretzmann, San Francisco

Tough on Texas

Now that Texas sees fit to further discriminate against women by ignoring constitutional protections established in Roe v. Wade, how about getting tough with Texas? What is stopping the United States from ensuring that a state adhere to and reaffirm its support of the Constitution?

If the federal government simply stopped paying the equivalent of \$9,000 per person in federal money to the residents of Texas and removed the military bases (and federal jobs) that the rest of the country subsidizes, maybe the citizens would realize that to

live in such a great country requires compromise, sacrifice and adherence to established legal principles, including those established in Roe v. Wade.

With only eight abortion clinics in the entire state of Texas, the words "equal protection" ring hollow in my ears. If Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn and their reactionary colleagues despise "big government" so much — and their rhetoric seems to support this conclusion — returning these federal subsidies, relocating federal jobs and dropping their two seats in the Senate would be but a small sacrifice. It is hypocrisy to decry federal spending and then line up at the trough to collect huge sums, while unconstitutional discrimination is allowed to persist, encouraged by elected officials.

David Rapaport, Palo Alto

Bailed out

Regarding "Jails are jammed with those who can't afford bail," it's curious that the option to use a bail bonds agency was not even mentioned. If the accused can't afford or are unwilling to pay the bail bond fee for the privilege of being released while they await trial, and the judge feels they are a flight risk or risk to the public, they deserve to stay in jail.

Marc Schoenfeld, Oakland

Ticket city

Whatever happened to those signs around the city of San Francisco with the helpful reminders to "curb your wheels" in this city of hills? Could it be that "revenue, revenue, revenue" is enhanced with the city handing out that many more tickets? You make the call.

Jim Corrigan, San Francisco

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