

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sacrificing our health for profits

Proposition E's consumption tax on sugary drinks completely misses the much larger issue: the many problems caused by America's surrender of its most important public dialogues to the one-sided voices of corporate marketing and advertising.

A few prosaic public service messages, or a few minutes of classroom discussion about sound nutrition, will be quickly overwhelmed by hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars' worth of advertising that extol the imaginary benefits of over-consumption of sugary snacks while completely avoiding any discussion of the inescapable health problems that over-consumption will cause.

Not every social good is achievable by consuming more, or even consuming differently. That reality is anathema to companies who are too often willing to subordinate larger public good to the need for increased quarterly profits.

Riley B. VanDyke, San Francisco

Tax all sugar

According to "Backers of soda tax sweet on Mexico's sugar success" (Oct. 11), Supervisor Scott Wiener claims Mexico's soda tax is a "big success." There may be lower non-diet-soda consumption in Mexico after they enacted their soda tax, but who's to say if the people are actually more healthy now than before?

If politicians are serious about tackling the "scourge" of sugar, why not tax it and corn syrup at the source so you discourage indulging in all sweets? And then while you're at it, you need to tax all fruits and juices as well. Then you'll get some progress. But then the idiocy of the proposal will be realized, so this will never happen.

Marc Schoenfeld, Oakland

Honor veterans

For some who have experi-



Nick Anderson/Houston Chronicle

enced combat as ground forces with air support, the roar of the Blue Angels overhead brings not delight but terror. While the Angels soar overhead this weekend, my husband will avoid a post-traumatic stress disorder flashback by putting on headphones and cranking up the volume.

He knows better than to venture outdoors when the Blue Angels are in flight. So as readers enjoy the show, they might also express their gratitude to those veterans who have been on the ground and experienced incoming fire.

Gail Priestley, Marin City

Obama's traffic jam

Dear President Obama: Thanks for coming to San Francisco last weekend for the sole purpose of fundraising. As if it weren't already enough with Fleet Week, Columbus Day parades and the Dreamworld Conference, you managed to mess it up for a lot of people who needed to get somewhere on time but, because of street

closures and police barricades for your protection, were late.

Charlotte Ferrey, Berkeley

Money talks

Regarding "Obama to big donors: Vote or GOP will win" (Oct. 11): with the midterm elections approaching, President Obama knows on which side his bread is buttered and where his words will do the most good for the Democratic Party. That is why he doesn't waste time making speeches to ordinary workers like shuttle bus drivers transporting workers between Silicon Valley and San Francisco (those priced out of the San Francisco rental market).

A lot of these voters have seen their earnings plummet as living expenses went up exponentially. The recovery is all about well-heeled corporate executives and wealthy investors who have profited from Obama's economic recovery. These are the folks who can provide the Democrats with the money they need to win. It is

not about Democratic votes as much as it is about money from the economic elite.

Diana Tweedy, Richmond

Neglected transit

David Looman in his Proposition L campaign ("S.F.: You have a chance to alter transit's future," Oct. 9) should be attacking not the S.F. Municipal Transportation Agency but the Department of Public Health, which stubbornly refuses to understand that parking availability is more important than the health and well-being of San Franciscans. So what if residents of Chinatown and the Tenderloin, who rarely own cars, are mowed down in crosswalks? Drivers need to go fast!

High rates of childhood asthma in Bayview near the freeway? Too bad. Don't blame the SFMTA for listening to doctors, nurses, and community leaders who are trying to combat traffic violence, which costs the city \$15 million a year in pedestrian injuries alone.

Getting a parking ticket doesn't make you a victim. But saying you're a victim because you can't drive fast through a crowded city does make you look bad.

Fran Taylor, San Francisco

Ebola and profit

Regarding "How to put Ebola drug on the radar" (Open Forum, Oct. 13): Nobody got rich from the polio or smallpox vaccines. Maybe the profit incentives need to be removed from drug development. In fact, the profit incentives should be removed from all sectors of health care.

Miriam Morgan, Belmont

Rich fans

I usually enjoy C.W. Nevius' articles, but "Glitziness of new Levi's Stadium won't cover up black eye of brawl" (Oct. 13) just had the wrong tone. He implies that folks with the means to purchase season tickets aren't the drunken troublemakers and those who can afford to attend only one game are the brawlers. Is that assumption the reason why so many professional sports are now priced beyond the reach of the average working guy?

The publicity describing luxury boxes, catered lunches and celebrity owners and guests makes one wonder if the goal of the owners is to attract a more moneyed fan base. If so, it seems to be working.

Shirley Campbell, Sonoma, Tuolumne County

No assumptions

In "Protect tenants from exploitation" (Letters, Oct. 13), the author wrongly believes that her mother would not be harmed by Proposition G because the burden falls on the buyer of her fourplex. What she fails to recognize is that her mother's sale price will likely be lower because of the additional restrictions placed on the buyer of the building.

Ed Crowley, El Cerrito

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