

HOW TO REACH US

Editorial Page Editor John Diaz

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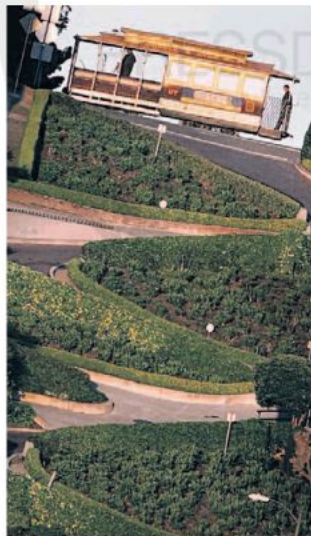
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Frederic Larson / The Chronicle 2005

When the 49ers play in Santa Clara, NFL broadcasts still will show shots of Lombard Street.

I agree wholeheartedly with Carl Nolte and his and select San Franciscans' anger at the 49ers moving to Santa Clara ("Fans — don't wallow, be angry," *Native Son*, Dec. 8).

On NFL broadcasts, are they going to show the people getting splashed on the log ride at Great America? No, they will continue to show Lombard Street and the Golden Gate Bridge. It's a downright fraud for the team to keep the city's name after this move. But the fans will continue to support them after this betrayal, and the 49ers know that, so we should all really be angry at ourselves.

Marc Schoenfeld, Oakland

LETTERS TO INSIGHT

Anger at 49ers, us

Opt in for Laura's Law

We wish to support the excellent article by Patricia Fontana-Narell and others "A plea to opt in to change treatment of mentally ill," *Insight*, Nov. 24).

We have seen the intense and disheartening struggles that families go through when they have a mentally ill child in an unsupportive community. We strongly support AB1421.

Nancy Herrick, Roger Morrison, M.D.,
Richmond

Carbon tax? Yes, please

Reading John Diaz's excellent piece ("As global warming escalates, so does the urgency to change," *Insight*, Dec. 8) has lifted my spirits and made me very proud of our state's leadership in this matter.

I can think of no fairer or faster way for us to address our climate change reality than by instituting a carbon tax. Living together in a civilized society, we already pay sales tax on nearly everything we buy, income tax on nearly everything we earn and property tax on our homes.

Our share of carbon tax would depend only on how much fossil fuel-based energy we use, thereby prodding all of us into using the clean-energy technologies we already have and expanding those technologies.

To the flat-earthers, I would recommend an excellent TED talk by Margaret Heffernan on the dangers of willful blindness. Science has served us humans well in the past. Let's not now give in to greed and willful blindness. It is high time for our entire nation to listen to Steven Chu, Mary Nichols and George Shultz.

Helen Hanna, Sacramento

Try a bipartisan approach

Thank you for John Diaz's recent article on global warming.

Diaz correctly notes that the many congressional Republicans opposed to governmental regulation represent a significant barrier to needed action. However, the presence of GOP luminary George Shultz on the Public Policy Institute's climate panel is a hopeful sign that climate change need not remain a partisan issue.

One promising bipartisan approach is establishing a national carbon fee. By returning 100 percent of fees collected to American taxpayers, we can encourage investment in a clean, sustainable energy system while protecting low-income individuals and families from any increase in energy prices. Such an approach is market-friendly, builds upon the best traditions of American innovation and should appeal to those on both sides of the political aisle.

Andrew Beabrs, Berkeley

Unplug Big Brother's power

With the death of Nelson Mandela, the world lost one of the few human beings with the character and power to stop the Big Brother governments now afflicting almost every nation. I grew to fear my government, having served for 24 months on a federal criminal grand jury in the terrible Bush years. I hoped Obama would change it.

But no living politician has the character to give back the draconian power we so spinelessly gave to Big Brother, and Obama is just Bush III, punishing those who tell us what our government is doing.

Having conducted "electronic reconnaissance" of people in the service using some NSA equipment, I can tell you we have lost democracy itself if we do not take back our government and stop the police state "intelligence" against us.

George Kamburoff, Pleasant Hill

Tech 'toys'? Just say no

At some point, there might just be a big backlash against the consumption of tech toys such as smartphones, Dick Tracy watches, Google Glass and the like.

It might be like the little kid in the fable who points out that the emperor's clothes aren't made of really anything at all.

If such a thing were to happen, and enough men and women never bought another tech device, and instead looked at each other and talked face to face, the eviction surge ("Evictions surge as market heats up," Nov. 5) could be curtailed.

That could come at quite a cost, though. With fewer software engineers about, there would be fewer precious little restaurants to serve them. The saving grace though, is that the cooks, servers and dishwashers working in the not-so-precious restaurants remaining, would actually be able to live with their families in San Francisco.

Armando Lagunas, Sunnyvale

Magnificent hedge

I am compelled to respond to John King's Cityscape observation on the "big rude hedge" at city landmark No. 197 ("Inviting estate, big rude hedge," Dec. 8).

To me, and to others like me — gardeners and such — that hedge is truly magnificent. I'm guessing it is a yew hedge, like those in Great Britain that are so sturdy and thick the gardeners walk on top of them in order to trim. Whatever it is, it took years and years to get that big, and look how dense it is. Without the hedge, I would never bother to go look at city landmark No. 197; such mansions abound in this area. However, I posit that this mansion now exists in partnership with its magnificent hedgerow, and I will hurry to admire that big, rude, wonderful hedgerow, hopefully before you convince somebody that it needs to be cut to the ground. I know it isn't your "thing," but it certainly is mine, and I'll bet that hedge has other admirers.

Elizabeth Thorsnes, El Cerrito

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