

EATEN BY RATS

“Rats are great for our local economy, if I'm any indicator. I've spent \$2,000 in the past two months to get rid of these rotten rodents. Rats even got into my car's engine compartment and chewed \$800 worth of wires.” (Incensed in Linda Mar)

MODERN MACHIAVELLIANS

Machiavellians manipulate and deceive for personal gain. A study conducted by PsychTests and Queendom.com reveals that Machiavellians also have a great capacity for empathy – even more so than non-Machiavellians. Machiavellians are skilled at picking up on other people's emotions. They have a good understanding of human nature, and can identify other people's fears and desires. They can influence people to achieve their own ends by preying on others' weaknesses or toying with their emotions. They will lie or misrepresent facts and information to deceive others. They will reveal the truth only if it suits their purpose (e.g., to gain favor with someone; to pit two people against each other, etc.). Being opportunistic, they will immediately seize the chance to take advantage of a situation or a person (especially if that person is vulnerable). Every move and decision they make is carefully planned, like a play in chess. They will help others only if it benefits them in some way. (to be continued)

BART'S TIGHT SQUEEZE

From a reader: “Thanks for letting us know about BART's stupid and dangerous plan to remove a large swath of existing seats. I believe this will endanger the disabled, elderly, and pregnant, and make riding BART much less appealing to the growing Baby Boomer population. BART has already recently removed an entire bench of seats near each door that gave first priority to the handicapped and elderly to make room instead for bicycles. In addition, the overhead bar with hanging straps is too high for shorter people (5'4" and below), and also unusable for many elderly with osteoporosis and osteoarthritis with poor grip strength to reach or safely hang onto during train movement. This is probably a violation of disability or transit regulations. Finally, there is a large open area near each door where the seats have been removed and centerward of the car doors without overhead cross bars, so people standing in the middle have nothing to hang on to. This is frankly dangerous due to the sudden accelerations, decelerations, and stops of the train. It makes no economic sense for BART to remove seats when the elderly population is greatly increasing. BART serves a large stretch of Northern California. Rides can easily take 30 minutes to over an hour. This is too

long for many people to stand or to try to maintain their balance. The solution for crowding should be to add cars or run trains more frequently, not to remove seats. I urge your readers to contact BART, their local representatives, local news stations, disability rights groups, etc. to stop BART from removing more seats.”

SWAMI SEZ

"Kakistocracy: a form of government in which the worst persons are in power."
(Dictionary.com)

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