

REALTOR FEELS MY PAIN

“It seems after almost every presidential election, citizens on the side that didn’t win vow to leave the country. This election, the rhetoric seems so much more elevated. And, of course, the Bay Area supported Hillary Clinton. Eighty percent of voters in San Mateo County and 90 percent of those in San Francisco voted for her. The noise to move to Canada is at a fever pitch. One famous actress didn’t think Canada was far enough away and wanted to move to Jupiter! Unfortunately for her and us, the first flight isn’t available for a while.” (Steven Hyman, broker and owner of Century 21 Sunset Properties, from his advertorial in the Half Moon Bay Review “Real Estate” section, Nov. 30.)

TO CATCH A THIEF

Police in Tustin, Calif. have been planting GPS devices in cars, bikes, and delivery packages to catch thieves. Their most recent successful bust was a GPS tracker in a bottle of cough syrup at a drugstore. The bad guys were going to mix the medicated cough syrup with soda and candies to make a popular drug cocktail known as “sizzurp” (source: Los Angeles Times, Dec. 3).

THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

Around Melbourne, Australia, this year eight people have died and 8,500 have required medical care from breathing in rye grass pollen disturbed by thunderstorms (source: earthweek.com).

SAY WHAT?

Sometimes you see something in print that makes you scratch your head in wonder, and maybe read the piece a second or third time, trying to figure out what the author meant. Here is a fine example of such a puzzler, from a display ad running in the Wall Street Journal: “Anyone who thinks of a newsreader when they hear the word anchor, milking cows when confronted with rudders and colourful friendship bracelets when asked about knots should probably stop reading right now. Everyone else should definitely dare to take a closer look at and be impressed by our new ProMare watch.” (Source: German watchmaker’s website at www.muehle-glashuette.de)

ANGRY HIPPO

Drought and development have created conflict between man and beast in East Africa, where a confrontation between a Kenyan man and a hippopotamus recently led to the man’s death (source: earthweek.com).

BACKASSWARD BART

You probably already know that BART trains are doing such good business that many runs are standing room only. Not enough seats for all those easy riders. So what is BART going to do about that? Answer: remove the aisle seat on one side of each car, reasoning that it takes up as much space as three standees. So by the miracle of BART logic, giving up a row of aisle seats in a crowded car will produce enough standing room for three times as many

passengers. Hmmm. I guess I missed out on the new math. Does this make sense to you?

SWAMI SEZ

“The other night I was lying in bed, looking up at the stars, and I wondered, ‘Where the hell is my roof?’” (Steven Wright)

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