

The Behrend Beacon

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San Francisco mayor out of his league

By Adam Massaro
staff writer

Valentine's Day is over, yet love is still in the air at San Francisco's city hall. Thousands of gay couples have been wed over the last week.

This influx in gay marriage (previously zero in San Francisco) is in response to Mayor Gavin Newsome's bold decision to legalize gay marriage in San Francisco.

The problem here is Newsome has about as much legal ability to make this decision as Ray Charles does at driving a motor vehicle. He has no legal backing and is merely hoping on a long shot that the liberal California judicial system will rule in his favor.

Currently, Newsome is in direct violation of Proposition 22, which was passed in 2000 by the people of California and states, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." He is also in violation of California's Penal Code section 115, which forbids anyone from making a false statement.

Ironically, for a man who is sworn to uphold the law, he is doing a pretty good job of breaking it. He is sending a message that if people cannot achieve their desired goals through the democratic process then it is acceptable by any other means no matter how barbaric.

Sounds archaic, but then again how do you think anarchies develop?

His outlandish actions are a step back for the democratic process and should be punished. He should be forced to atone for his actions and suffer the repercussions.

By not punishing him, the government is sending a message that it is ok to break the law if you do not agree with it and that in reality the law is more like guidelines than an actual code of conduct.

Newsome's decision has been very popular with advocates of gay marriage, but if he thinks this cavalier approach will forward the gay rights movement he is dead wrong. In fact his actions are merely a flash burn that

won't have any long-term effects.

Once the excitement subsides, Newsome will not be regarded as major force in the gay rights movement, but an inconsequential blip on the radar. In our democratic society, his recalcitrant behavior is fruitless and meritless.

When this whole fiasco is over, the only people who will truly be hurt by his antics are the "newlyweds," whose marriages will be deemed invalid.

As this historic event unravels, Newsome and his ill-conceived plan will rank right next to Nathaniel Bacon and his infamous failed rebellion in 1676.

Newsome's efforts have done nothing for gay rights, as he failed to go about it in a proper manner. His dubious distinction will group him among the many iconoclasts who came before him and failed.

In the end, just as it has in the past, the law will win.

Adam Massaro's column appears every three weeks.

Why the Yankees won't win the World Series

Let me start out with a simple fact, taken from the 2003 World Fact Book of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. With a payroll of approximately \$200 million dollars, the New York Yankees, a baseball team, will be paying out more in salaries to their players than the total gross domestic product of 16 countries around the world.

Let me repeat that for those of you who missed it the first time, and I'll make it even simpler for you math enthusiasts out there who like equations so much. 2004 New York Yankees team payroll = The G.D.P. of 16 countries.

Yes, whole countries, each with well over the maximum 40 people that the Yankees can have on their roster. Countries inhabited by presidents, mayors, policemen, firemen and doctors. Countries containing roads that lead to capital cities, with cars and bikes on those roads, newspapers to read, television stations and more.

These are fully functioning societies. The Yankees play a children's game. I just felt like giving everyone another reason to hate the Yankees. Hopefully it worked.

Now let me explain how trading for Alex Rodriguez, which gives the Yankees almost a \$100 million dollar infield, doesn't assure them of another World Series title.

Reason one: The Red Sox no longer have Grady Little as manager. If not for his blunder of leaving Pedro in for way too long in the ALCS, this column might not even exist. We could be talking about A-Rod's trade to Boston. But Grady being what he was (a horrible skipper), he pulled a hack job out of his managerial pocket that fans have compared to the third Matrix movie. They don't want to admit it happened, but it did, so they want to forget about it as soon as possible.

Reason two: The Yankees have Enrique Wilson starting at second base. In 2001, the Yankees traded him to the Pirates. Yeah, the Pirates. In the 46 games he played for the Bucs, he hit a



Ryan Russell

robust .186. In 2002, he was back with the Yankees (permanently this time, it would seem) and hit a rock-solid .181 in 60 games. Last year, in 63 games, his average rose dramatically to a whopping .230. This is the player starting the 2004 season at second for the Bronx Bombers, and the Pirates didn't even want him. Well, duh.

Reason three: The Yankees pitching staff is less than stellar when compared to the Red Sox. Javier Vazquez has been pitching brilliantly for the last five or so years ... in Montreal, where the average attendance to an Expos game was often eclipsed by the number of fans in the bathroom at a Yankees game. Good luck dealing with people who actually give a damn about how you pitch, Javier. Jon Lieber pitched well for one season in Chicago, going 20-6...in 2001. Since then, he's gone on the disabled list and hasn't thrown a pitch in about a year and half. Kevin Brown is 39 and will probably be on the disabled list a lot. Let's just say his body breaks down about as often as the temperature in Erie is less than 30 degrees in January.

Reason four: The Red Sox, on the other hand, have Pedro Martinez, whose pitch counts will be carefully monitored from now on I'm sure, and Curt Schilling, a warrior who agreed to a trade to the Red Sox after talking to fans in an online chat room...on Thanksgiving Day. That's commitment. There is also Derrick Lowe,

who went 17-7 last year, and is in the last year of his contract. Pedro and Nomar Garciaparra are also in the last year of their contracts. Can you say "incentive"?

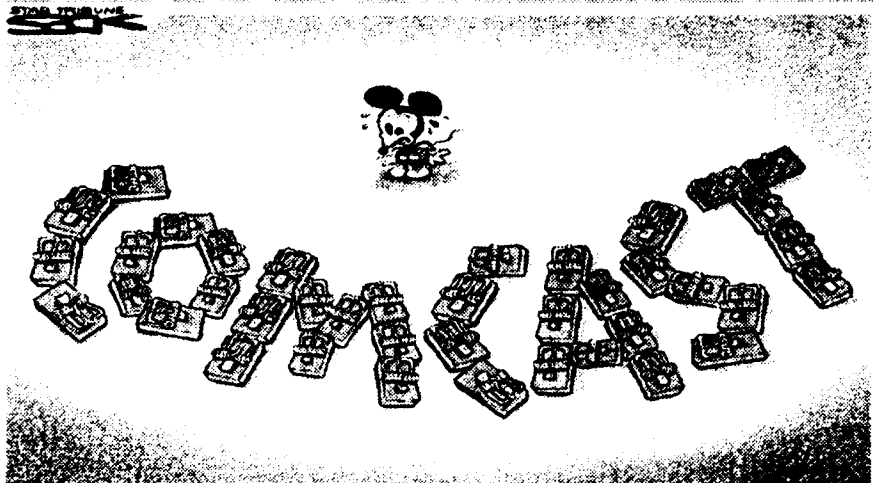
Reason five: Thanks to Steinbrenner, America has its new super-villain to root against, too. Seriously, doesn't trading for A-Rod seemingly just to spite the Red Sox rank him right up there with the greats of our time and the past that we just love to hate? The 1980 Russian hockey team, whoever faced Hulk Hogan at Wrestlemania, Cobra Commander, Ivan Drago, Shredder, Team Rocket, Michael Jackson, Clay Aiken and George Steinbrenner. It just flows together. What do all of those I just listed have in common? They all lost whatever battles they were in. And when they did, we loved it. Last time I checked, the last three World Series' have been won by the Angels, Diamondbacks and Marlins. Just reminding America, George, just reminding America.

And finally, the reason six the A-Rod trade doesn't guarantee the Yankees a ring this year comes from one of my favorite writers, Bill Simmons of espn.com. I credit this reason to him fully, because when I read this reason, it not only summed up my thoughts on the trade perfectly, but proves Adam Carolla's comedic genius as well. Neither of them will probably ever read this, but if they do, thanks for the laugh, guys.

Simmons' reason: "You can't buy your way to a championship. Many have tried. Few have succeeded. Last time I checked, you still have to play the whole season. In the words of Carolla, 'You can't just go out and buy a championship ring ... well, unless Dwight Gooden runs out of coke.'"

Bad, I know, but not as bad as the Yankees ever winning another World Series. Welcome back, baseball; it's good to have you back again. Go Pirates.

Ryan Russell's column appears every three weeks.



The dos and don'ts of the potty

Let's talk about something that seems to be a very taboo subject, bathroom etiquette. This is something I feel most students should be able to speak freely about. Yes, there are many "bathroom humor" jokes out there and once and a while someone might even talk about their experience in the bathroom. Whether it is about a toilet clogging incident or even overhearing a conversation, bathroom experiences are a touch-and-go situation in life.

Lately, it seems I have been having more bathroom stories than I know what to do with, yet I have been entertaining my friends left and right. So let me share my stories with you and explain the dos and the don'ts of bathroom etiquette.



Erika Jarvis

First, let us talk toilet paper. Granted, the toilet paper at Behrend isn't the greatest, and sometimes it's even lacking in certain areas- such as my case one day.

I ran in to use the bathroom (I won't say where) and carelessly forgot to check if the toilet paper was stocked. Much to my surprise it was not, and I looked a little too late. Thankfully enough for me there was someone else in the bathroom as well.

I called out to her and explained my situation: I was in desperate need of T.P. And could she help me out?

At first, she didn't answer right away. But when she did I got a very hesitant: Uh...I guess?

WHAT? You GUESS you could give me some toilet paper when you're done? Is it going to hurt you to pull out some more sheets of paper for me? Okay, who really says stuff like this? Really folks, if someone needs T.P. you should hand them a nice big wad; no one should be left on the pot toilet paperless.

So finally when the girl handed me my toilet paper I got a wad the size of a 3x5-index card. This had my friends laughing for weeks.

Bathroom etiquette lesson No. 1: When called out to give a fellow bathroom user toilet paper, supply the person with lots of T.P. Be polite and courteous; you never know when you'll be the one calling out for some toilet paper.

My second story had my friends in a fit of laughter for a good half an hour. I was in another undisclosed restroom on this fine campus when I walked into the bathroom to find someone else already in there.

I walked by the first stall because the door was closed and I assumed someone was in there and I was going to go straight to the handicapped stall. If you can, try and refrain from using the stall right next to someone when another is open. I walked back to the handicapped stall to find the door wide open and was very shocked ... someone was in there!

Some girl was using the bathroom with the door wide open and she seemed to be ok with that. I was half tempted to shut the door for her but did not want to embarrass her, though I was confused as to why she did not shut/lock the door herself. Maybe she was in a rush, maybe the door started to open when she was mid-bathroom experience, I don't know.

Bathroom etiquette lesson No. 2: Make sure your door is securely locked when going to the bathroom.

When I tell you my friends laughed for half an hour I'm not kidding. This is an easy tip to remember and it's common decency. No one wants to see you squatting over the toilet.

This is just as simple as the idea of washing one's hand. Let's work on that one, too. I'd make that a bathroom etiquette tip, but I would hope most people know this one by now.

All right, I hope that this has helped you in your bathroom adventures. Just remember to use common sense when going to the bathroom and maybe if you're lucky you will escape bathroom embarrassment. If anything, I hope you have at least got a chuckle out of my bathroom stories.

Erika Jarvis's column appears every three weeks.

disagree? disagree? disagree? disagree? disagree? disagree?

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