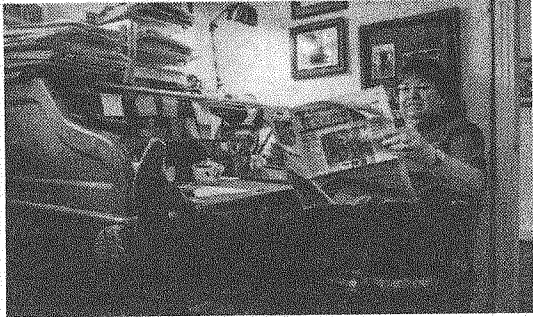


# Perspectives

**Quote of Note:**

"An idealist is one who, on noticing that roses smell better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup."

-H.L. Mencken



## This 'n That

**Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

### I got my comeuppance

When I read today's top-of-the-page quote by H.L. Mencken, I knew I had found the perfect entrée for my column this week:

"An idealist is one who, on noticing that roses smell better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup."

I am not usually a fan of the satirical journalist, but its biting, humorous poke at idealism seemed fitting for today's column.

Late last summer the Tribune staff, under my strong direction, agreed to take on the responsibility of adding two to three new pages to our weekly edition in order to reach the entire community. We dedicated ourselves to ensuring that all Spanish-speaking residents would be informed about city council decisions, school test scores, sports, events and issues that, if you don't read English, were bypassing an unknown number of Calistogans.

The first edition came out in August, and reaction was pretty positive by all accounts. Bilingual reporter Claudia Aceves returned from Southern California to help with its creation and I'll be forever grateful to her for that. Editor Kim Beltran thought it was a heavy lift for such a small weekly newspaper but never flinched from the added weight. Readers didn't object except for one gentleman who cancelled his subscription because he said, everyone should be able to read English.

The first three months were heady, we were fulfilling our journalistic duty to inform all of the people all of the time.

The second three months brought no increase in advertising for the new audience and few new subscribers because Tribuna was available.

The past three months I hired a part-time college marketing student to help with outreach and to do some research about how the local Latino population gets its news. She attended Latino-focused meetings, talked to elders, visited businesses, conducted surveys, invited Latino leaders to a meeting and two showed up, both relatives. Latino supporters distributed subscription cards written in Spanish but none came back. She did everything except attend a Zumba class, which she was more than happy to do in search of an audience, but I discouraged it. Enough was enough. Yuri Lopez, with a degree in broadcast journalism from Mexico, volunteered to help with translation and writing and his enthusiasm was cheering.

But the increased costs in staff time, printing, distribution and postage have been eating away at the company's bottom line, which is as thin as the skin on a bowl of rice pudding. Just ask any small town, independent newspaper publisher.

Today is, for the time being, the last edition of the printed Tribuna. I believed then and now that it was the right thing to do. It may have been the wrong platform; maybe digital would be better. I'm not giving up yet. Informed readers help generate democratic participation, and we could use more of that these days and in the months ahead. But it takes two to tango, and I could use some ideas.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More concerned about Williams' budget vote

Dear Editor,

I have no idea as to what was in councilmember Don Williams' mind when he had the request to fly the Pride and Transgender flags pulled from the Consent Calendar and then subsequently abstained from the resulting required vote.

I know there was a message there for someone, but I will leave it to others to parse his "explanation" to find it.

I am more concerned with his dissenting vote on passing the entire city budget, apparently because of his failure to get support for his proposed water rebates for residents in lieu of capital improvements. I know this was his key sales pitch when running for office but then, as now, it would be an invitation to litigation.

In California, municipal services such as water and sewer treatment, waste collection, etc. are considered Enterprise Funds, where the intent is for costs to be recovered by user fees.

In fixing the fees, it is proper to take into account not only the expense of direct operations but of future and incidental expenses (i.e. equipment replacement life, environmental regulations, etc.), in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

Calistoga's increased rates were no doubt a shock, especially after prior councils had failed to implement prior increases.

However, it would be one thing if proposed rebates were made from the Water Enterprise Fund (assuming there was a surplus) but quite another to misappropriate General Fund monies, which are paid from and by many sources unrelated to the Water Enterprise.

Kent Domogalla  
Calistoga

### Show LGBTQ support during July 4 parade

Dear Editor,

I write regarding the recent Calistoga City Council vote on flying the LGBTQ flags on the city's ceremonial flagpole. For the past several years a proclamation relative to the same has been issued by our mayor recognizing June as Pride month and calling attention to the discrimination and persecution of members of the LGBTQ community, as well as the contributions members of that group make to their local communities.

I am very proud to say I have witnessed this incredible humanitarian event the past two years. Therefore it is with sadness that I must address what took place at the June 4 meeting when a council member abstained from voting on the issue of flying the flags. He subsequently told the publisher of this newspaper that it was due to a "private matter."

For many years in the past and still today our lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender citizens have been bullied, physically attacked and even killed, and discriminated against for employment and housing. An individual featured

recently on the news claimed discrimination because there was no specific "heterosexual parade" so he planned one. The enormous divide in that claim is that the "straights" haven't been vocally or physically attacked or refused employment or housing because they were heterosexual. The parents of straight individuals don't have to worry whether, because of their lifestyle, their child got on bus safely, made it to school without incident or can make a trip to the store unharmed. My personal experience as a family member of a gay man has shown our family just how people - even teachers - can dehumanize a young student by making snide remarks as they walk down the hallway of their high school.

It is due to the years of harassment, indifference and neglect that the LGBTQ community came together to take a stand simply to be noticed and acknowledged as deserving of respect and the rights that are afforded to everyone else in this country. Those individuals who would seek to run for a political office should be forthcoming with the public regarding their views on important issues that we all face today, including acceptance of our LGBTQ community.

I live at Rancho de Calistoga on Foothill Boulevard. For the past two years we have had a contingency of residents in the Fourth of July parade marching for diversity. Last year we placed second in the group category. We ask everyone who attends the parade to express his or her acceptance of our group and the LGBTQ community by wearing a rainbow shirt or carrying a rainbow flag, or by your thunderous applause as we pass by.

Elaine R. Nepsha  
Calistoga

### Citizens deserve to know reasoning behind votes

Dear Editor,

I'm almost laughing, this has become so ridiculous. Yes, Mr. Williams abstained after removing the flag initiative (his right). Yes, he would not give a straight answer to the question, "Why?" Most importantly, yes, we all have the right to our opinions and feelings about different issues. That's OK. Every minute of every day that is our given right living in this country. The only difference with this issue is that this person is a member of our City Council. The explanation that this issue is a "private matter" is a veiled response. The citizens of this community, whom the council members represent, deserve better. If you are so committed to a certain way of thinking, then just say so.

So prevalent in the "Letters to Editor" section the past couple of weeks have been writers defending the rights of any individual to their opinion, which, of course, we all have, but at the same time slamming writers with a different opinion than theirs.

You can't have it both ways. If one is allowed their opinion, then we all are allowed ours. You can't tell

your neighbor to shut-up because he or she disagrees. The bottom line? We are all in this together and cannot move forward without honesty from those whom we voted into office.

The only difference you can make at this point is at the polls. Yelling at each other with the written word only creates more anger. Look more closely at the big picture. Do your research, determine your opinion using facts - not gossip or conjecture. Ask for absolute answers to your questions and concerns. This is our city. Demand honesty and transparency from every council member when questioning their vote on any and all issues. Why is it so hard to get a straight answer in this most recent regard?

Wanna know what I really think about all this BS? Nah, it's a private matter.

Kathy Bazzoli  
Calistoga

### Important to follow recycling guidelines

Dear Editor,

Your recycling, if it is truly recyclable, does not end up in a landfill.

Yes, the recycling market is struggling, mostly due to China's National Sword Policy, but also due to devalued recyclable materials caused by "wishful recycling;" the lack of domestic infrastructure; the low cost of virgin plastic; confusing and sometimes misleading product labeling; and the lack of extended producer responsibility, just to name just a few.

China's National Sword Policy, enacted in early 2018, bans the import of the world's trash to China. It was enacted because mixed in with the bales of recyclables shipped to China for decades was a large amount of non-recyclable materials, i.e. trash, and China isn't willing to deal with the left over contaminated and non-recyclable materials anymore.

When a Goliath like China, that had been processing 60 percent of the world's recyclables, shuts its doors, the local markets get flooded. Now the worldwide recycling industry is scrambling to find new and alternate markets, with many countries lacking the infrastructure to process and use recycled materials to manufacture new products. While Napa County is fortunate to be close to the Port of Oakland, providing access to other available markets that currently exist, it is still a very challenging time for the industry.

We all must renew our efforts to clean up our recycling, and to do this we must stop wishful recycling, advocate for the development of domestic infrastructure, and demand that manufacturers take some responsibility for their products' end-of-life.

Wishful recycling is when you toss an item in the recycling bin that you hope or think is or should be recyclable (like plastic bags or Styrofoam) but it is not. It also covers those moments

See **LETTERS** on page 8

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[https://napavalleyregister.com/community/star/opinion/guest-commentary-recycling-still-matters-does-not-end-up-in/article\\_fdd777ec-a821-57aa-91c4-bc293f11cbc1.html](https://napavalleyregister.com/community/star/opinion/guest-commentary-recycling-still-matters-does-not-end-up-in/article_fdd777ec-a821-57aa-91c4-bc293f11cbc1.html)

## Guest commentary: Recycling still matters; does not end up in the landfill

AMANDA GRIFFIS Jul 2, 2019

JOIN NOW: \$3 FOR 3 MO.



Christy Abreu and Bryce Howard of Upper Valley Disposal & Recycling at their recycling facility near Whitehall Lane.

Jesse Duarte, Star

Your recycling, if it is recyclable, does not end up in a landfill.

Yes, the recycling market is struggling, mostly due to China's National Sword Policy, but also due to devalued recyclable materials caused by "wishful recycling"; the lack of domestic infrastructure; the low cost of virgin plastic; confusing and sometimes misleading product labeling; and the lack of extended producer responsibility, just to name just a few.

China's National Sword Policy, enacted in early 2018, bans the import of the world's trash to China. It was enacted because mixed in with the bales of recyclables shipped to China for decades was a large amount of non-recyclable materials, i.e. trash, and China isn't willing to deal with the leftover contaminated and non-recyclable materials anymore.

When a goliath like China, that had been processing 60 percent of the world's recyclables, shuts its doors, the local markets get flooded. Now the worldwide recycling industry is scrambling to find new and alternate markets, with many countries lacking the infrastructure to process and use recycled materials to manufacture new products. While Napa County is fortunate to be close to the Port of Oakland, providing access to other available markets that currently exist, it is still a very challenging time for the industry.

We all must renew our efforts to clean up our recycling, and to do this we must stop wishful recycling, advocate for the development of domestic infrastructure, and demand that manufacturers take some responsibility for their products end-of-life.

Wishful recycling is when you toss an item in the recycling bin that you hope is recyclable (like plastic bags or Styrofoam) or that you think should be recyclable, but it is not. It also covers those moments when you don't actually know, but are confused by labels, or assume that because recyclables are sorted at the recycling facility, it will all be OK because the sorters will figure it out. Unfortunately, non-recyclable items in your blue cart result in increased sorting time and a decrease in the quality of the materials for potential markets. Don't be a wishful recycler!

When you have doubt, check our website, UVDS.com, or a search engine to determine the recyclability of a material. As a reminder — Styrofoam, hoses, electrical cords, and film/soft/flimsy plastic – non-recyclable items we receive on a regular basis mixed in with other recyclables – are NOT accepted in Upper Valley Recycling blue carts. These items must be disposed of in the trash.

In this industry, we are hoping that domestic infrastructure to process and utilize recycled materials becomes a reality. Instead of shipping recycled materials across the world to turn into new products, why not have that capacity available to us locally or regionally?

At the same time, we must demand that producers of products take more responsibility for where their products and packaging end up. It's called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and it means that the manufacturer has a shared responsibility for a product at its end-of-life. Environmental impacts should be considered at all steps of the design and manufacture of products and/or producers should participate in programs that facilitate convenient and effective recycling of their products.

An EPR example is PaintCare, a nonprofit organization acting on behalf of paint producers, which operates free drop-off sites for paint recycling. A 75-cent fee on each gallon of paint consumers purchase funds the drop-off sites and management of leftover and unwanted paint.

What can you do to help? **ONLY** put recyclables in your recycling bin so that the materials retain value! Recyclable materials include bottles and cans, metal, clean paper, cardboard, rigid plastics and glass. Containers should be empty and rinsed. Recyclables should be placed loose in your recycling bin (do not use a bag), if you feel bags are necessary please use a clear bag. Recyclables received in opaque bags will not be recycled, as recycling facility staff will assume the opaque bag is full of trash.

Visit [countyofnapa.org/recycling](http://countyofnapa.org/recycling) for printable flyers showing examples of what is recyclable. If you're motivated, write a letter to a product manufacturer, telling them that you like their product, but that you wish it or the packaging was recyclable or made from recyclable material.

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Amanda Griffis is a staff member of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency and Environmental Resource Specialist, Napa County Public Works.

#### MORE INFORMATION

