

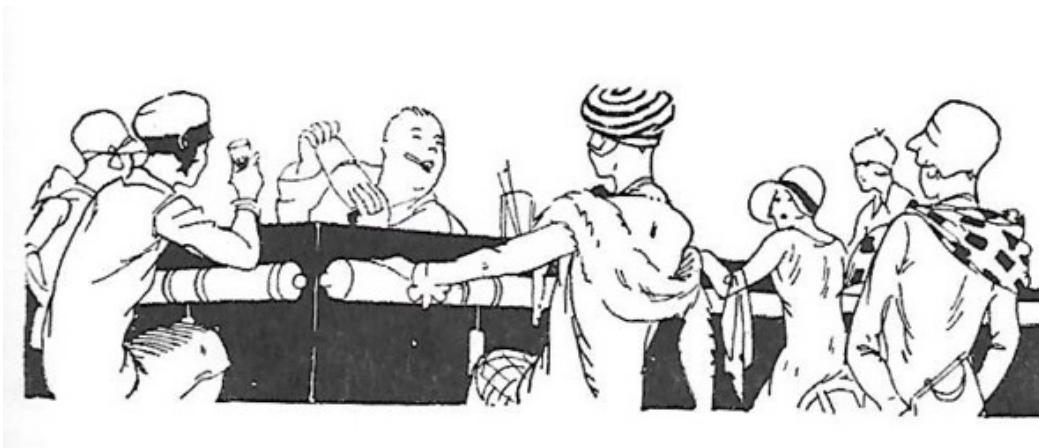
By Phil Faroudja

ABOUT-FACE AT THE PRESIDIO: As you may be aware, the Presidio has had a new administration for a year and a half now. The park is going in a somewhat different direction. There used to be Thursday night lectures and Friday night jazz at the Officer's Club, but these programs have been halted ... The general thinking has been the Presidio is a national park, like the Grand Canyon, and the focus needs to be outdoors, so there are more hikes, camping, youth bike rides, etc. ... Visitors can even acquire a 'Presidio Explorer Backpack' complete with compass, binoculars, and adventure map ... I am told, however, that the leadership is slowly seeing the benefits of a range of events and has become more open to a wider variety, including indoor ... Incidentally, the SF Children's Theater is performing "The Wizard of Oz" this month at the opulent Presidio Theater on the main post. It's terrific family entertainment.

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STATE OF THE UNION: It is true Union Street has seen a rash of stores shutting down: Jest Jewels, Firuzé, Images of the North, etc. But as Grandma Irma used to say, "When one door closes, another opens." We have a spate of new shops as well. For example, next to Vegan Picnic is brand-new eatery Acai Bowls which serves excellent fruit smoothies ... On Fillmore, an Indian restaurant will replace Poké Time. Also on Fillmore, the Shake Shack is ready. I walked by the other day and the interior gleams. Small market Indie Superette next door is actually tiny. Rumble Fitness to the side is unfinished ... Nearby businesses already observe a big bump in foot traffic. An SF Chronicle article detailed debate about the Shack: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/living/article/San-Francisco-s-first-Shake-Shack-shakes-up-Cow-14995239.php>

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"Last week I worked as an extra on a TV show. I was 'Friendly Bartender #2'-- but I worry about typecasting."

SHOW BIZ BY THE BAY: NBC Show "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" films in neighborhoods around town including Cow Hollow, but mainly North Beach. Do not be surprised by movie crews. The story stars Jane Levy, whose character through a medical miracle can hear people's thoughts. I caught the premiere (charming) and enjoyed picking out recognizable locations such as Columbus Avenue, the Ferry Building and others. It airs Sundays at 9 pm ... And in the financial district near Salesforce Tower the next Matrix movie is being made. They shoot nights for three weeks. The buildings should provide a good-looking, futuristic backdrop ... One of those skyscrapers will house tech offices: Facebook moves in shortly. Headquarters stay in Menlo Park ... And we hope you are moved to see us at the next monthly meeting, 7 pm Wednesday, February 19 at Moscone Rec Center!

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