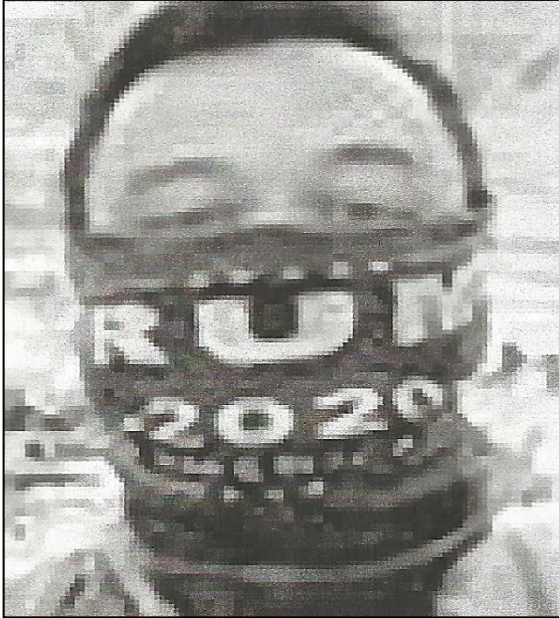


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

Feb. 26-March 4, 2021

MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS—Part 9



A READER RESPONDS:

*Incredible!
I wonder why this man
Is wearing a mask outdoors.
Perhaps he believes
breathing in your own carbon dioxide
Is better
than breathing in pure air.*

Ron Libert
Micco, Florida

(This photo of Chris Minglana, Seaside, California,
appeared with this column on February 19, 2021.)

DOES PEBBLE BEACH HOLD THE SECRET TO SOLVING HOMELESSNESS?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

ENDING last week's column with a challenge by Chris Minglana of Seaside's Lower Hilby area means opening this week's report by repeating his dare:

*“If you feel so inclined to help the homeless,
take them into your home rent free,
and pay their food, rent, clothing,
and survival needs.”*

My response? *Been there. Done that. More than once. I couldn't fix them and couldn't further afford trying in vain to help most of them.*

Males included a chef who created fine cuisine from dumpster food between stints in jail, a gay drama student with HIV who fatally overdosed, and a divorced dyslexic alcoholic who froze to death in his campsite.

Females included owner of a life-sized Pooh Bear she dumped in my yard after rifling through my medicine chest for drugs no stronger than anti-diarrhea pills.

Also, a sci-fi writer cringed on my couch in fear her long-distance mate poisoned her.

A witty redhead guest wore a black eye patch she claimed deflected rays from the brain implant she attributed to a former U.S. president.

My comments aside, have Chris Minglana's neighbors responded to his Nextdoor suggestion?

***“We should do
whatever Pebble Beach is doing
because I never see a transient over there.”***

Let's see. Their Nextdoor dialogue includes excerpts not necessarily quoted here in the exact order received, but otherwise cited as received.

S.A., Del Monte Grove - Laguna Grande

“Pebble Beach has their own security, is a gated community, home to the wealthy, the ultra-wealthy and the are-you-kidding wealthy.

“They don't offer services for homeless people. Money buys exclusivity.”

Is this a way of saying Pebble Beach has unwritten “Homeless Not Allowed” laws?

S.B.L, Upper Carmel Valley

“FYI, domestic violence is the largest cause of homelessness for women and children, who must leave to be safe, and it's on the rise during Covid. . .

“One major form of toxic control is termed ‘economic abuse’ in which the victims are made so financially dependent on their abusers that they can't leave. . . There aren't enough shelters/temporary housing to address the numbers even in the domestic violence population (1 in 4 women...and the children haven't even been tallied)... The economics are only part of the issue that's easiest to illustrate. The human issues are far more difficult to quantify.

“Like domestic violence, homelessness is also very under-reported.

“What is consistent is that the rate of homelessness is higher in areas where the cost of housing is highest.”

Chris Minglana

“Maybe these women need to vet their future mates better. Why should we have to pay for a woman's failed relationship?

“...I'm sorry, but I'm barely hanging on with the rest of middle-class California to my own family to pay for everybody else's.”

S.A., Del Monte Grove - Laguna Grande

“. . . It (homelessness) is a regional problem and much larger than single city problems because a solution needs to be found for the entire region.

“I don't think anyone wants to see people struggling, suffering, trying to exist along the side of the road; nor do we want to continue to watch our environment destroyed by piles of garbage, etc.

“The solution involves providing shelter, food, medical services for the short-term, and affordable housing, jobs, healthcare, etc. on a longer-term basis.

“And then there are those vagrants who don't want help or services, who choose to camp and live a lawless lifestyle.

“It's a complex issue and I don't profess to have the answers, but I do want to urge our local governments to work together and find solutions.

“...the Old Capitol site, which used to be part of Pebble Beach, where homeless people used to camp, was ceded to the City of Monterey. Not their (PB) problem anymore.”

Chris Minglana:

“Go start non-profits and charities to support these families and stop sinking our state. If there aren't enough donors or charities to support these families, well, they should go to another state where they can be a social burden until they can find one where they can get back on their feet.”

R.O.R., Lower Kimball, Seaside

“Chris Minglana, you ask why sympathizers of our homeless don't bring them into our homes to avoid you, all of us, paying taxes for the less unfortunate. Maybe the reasons are the same as those people who don't choose to foster children. Your taxes and mine pay for foster homes--unwanted children. Our mentally ill had places to go until Governor Reagan had a hand in closing them. . .”

Which leads to this hypothetical question:

*If federal
“No Homelessness Allowed”
laws are enacted,
can the Democratic Republic of America,
like Pebble Beach,
survive?*

###

Next week's column will contain a retraction of an erroneous report that ran recently about Change A Heart Foundation's project in which vehicles were being given to homeless women and, hopefully, an update on the progress of Todd Sondgroth's efforts to help the homeless.

###

“Homeless in Paradise” is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and *The Cedar Street Times* at www.cedarstreettimes.com and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.