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The Buzz: State worker turns BOE's building miseries into art

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State worker **Stacy Garrett**, who is also a photography student at the Academy of Art University of San Francisco, used her camera and Photoshop skills to create a picture commentary on the mold, water, toxic worries and elevator breakdowns at the **Board of Equalization** headquarters.

Garrett took the shot of the BOE's 450 N St. building and model **Jessi Carrige** on Sunday afternoon. Then she superimposed the "For Sale" sign, which had been shot separately, and digitally rendered the text.

The picture fulfilled a class assignment to use text and context to tell a story.

"In light of BOE's troubles, I thought I'd just 'help' by giving my idea of how to market the building if it goes up for sale," Garrett said.

The building has been a money pit for the state and an unnerving place to work for many of the 2,900 or so employees who work there. The building's landlord, the Department of General Services, has spent millions of dollars on things like replacing leaky windows, fixing busted pipes, cleaning up toxic mold and repairing malfunctioning elevators.

Recently, employees complained of an odor on the 21st floor of the building, and inspectors found low levels of benzene and carbon disulfide. Although the amounts were within government limits, officials still had to post signs noting the presence of toxics at the worksite.

– Jon Ortiz

CAMPAIGN WATCH

A new TV ad from the Democrats' House Majority PAC rips Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Gold River, for votes the ad says would benefit millionaires, suggesting, "thanks to Dan Lungren ... peanut butter and jelly may be all we can afford." Lungren campaign consultant Rob Stutzman said district voters won't buy "lame class-warfare arguments."

– Torey Van Oot

WORTH REPEATING

"No other law is enforced so harshly and pervasively yet deemed unnecessary by so many Americans."

ETHAN NADELMANN, *founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, noting a new Gallup Poll that shows half of Americans support marijuana legalization.*

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