



In San Francisco, Making a living From Your Billionaire Neighbor's Trash

--THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Jake Orta searched through a trash bin outside Mark Zuckerberg's home in San Francisco



“

There's a child's pink bicycle helmet that Mr. Orta dug out from the garbage bin across the street from Mr. Zuckerberg's house. And a vacuum cleaner, a hair dryer, a coffee machine — all in working condition — and a pile of clothes that he carried home in a Whole Foods paper bag retrieved from Mr. Zuckerberg's bin.

”

--NY TIMES




Mr. Orta is part of an underground economy of people who work the sidewalks in front of multimillion-dollar homes, rummaging for things they can sell.

“

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

”

--ONE OF MR. ORTA'S TRASH-PICKING COLLEAGUES



“ We have a lot of trash of convenience, You’ve got more and more tech people here and this city is moving faster and faster. These people have short attention spans. Some discard items that ought to be repurposed through a thrift shop ”

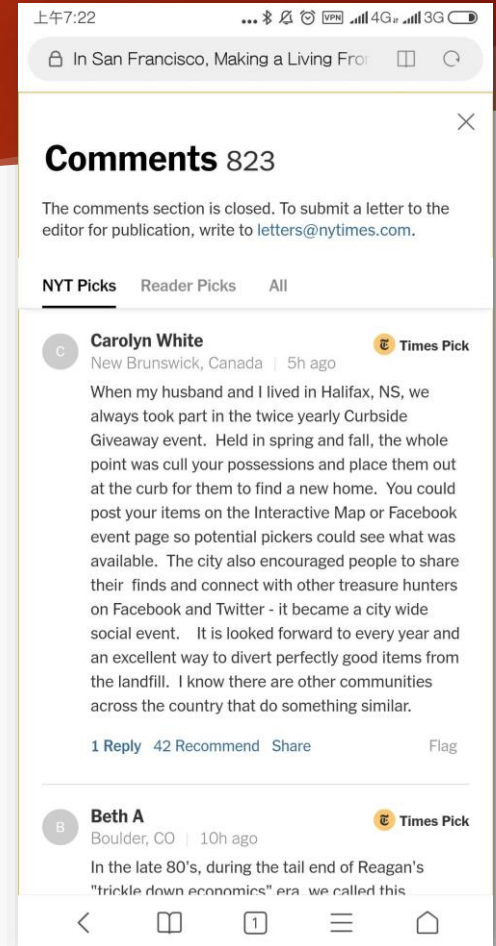
--MR. REED, THE SPOKESMAN FOR RECOLOGY.



“It just amazes me what people throw away,” Mr. Orta said.

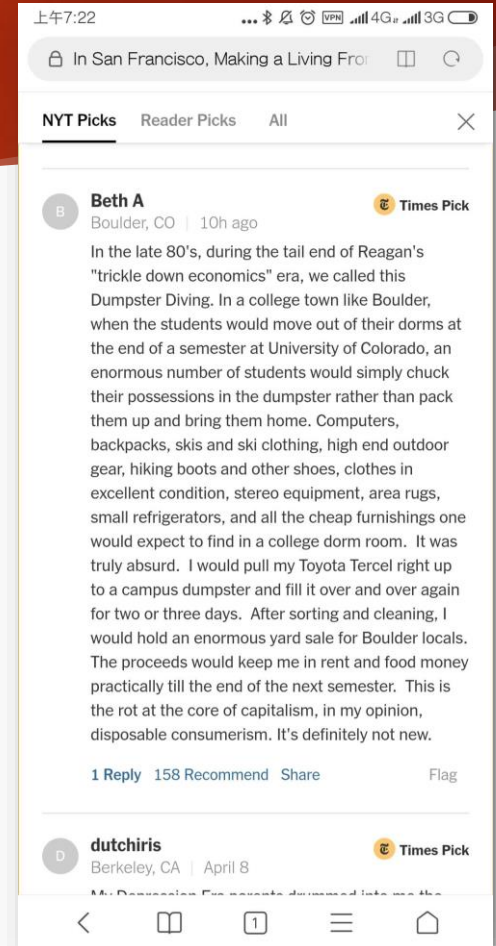
Comments from *www.nytimes.com*

- ▶ NYK Picks #1 - Carolyn White
- ▶ Curbside Giveaway event
 - ▶ cull your possessions and place them out at the curb
 - ▶ Facebook post for potential pickers
 - ▶ City encouragement – city wide social event
- ▶ Other communities across the country



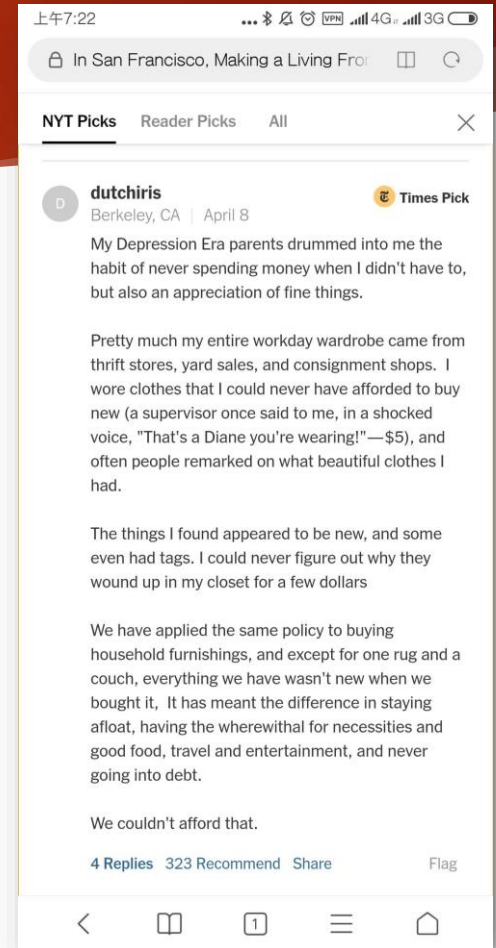
Comments from www.nytimes.com

- ▶ NYK Picks #2 – Beth A
- ▶ Dumpster Diving
 - ▶ 80's, the tail of Reagan's "trickle down economics"
 - ▶ Students moving out of dormitory
 - ▶ Chuck their possessions in the dumpster
- ▶ Sorting – cleaning – yard sale for locals
 - ▶ Rent and food money till next semester



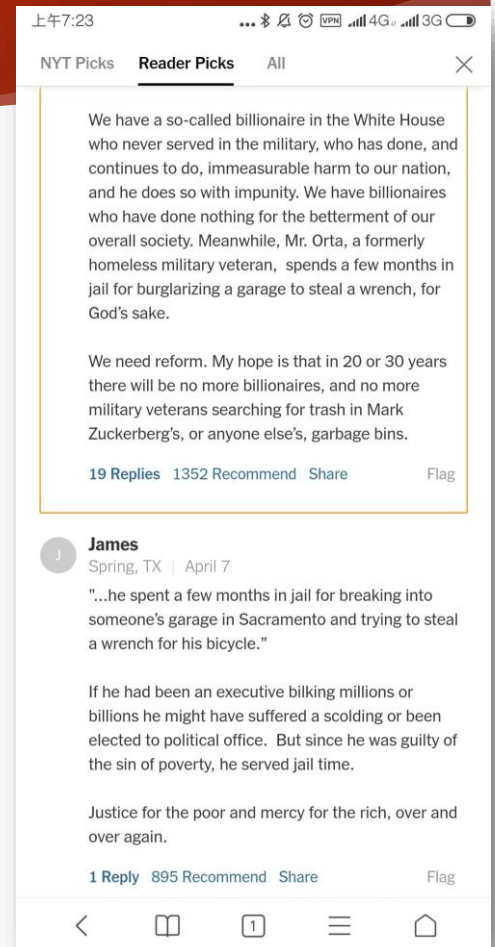
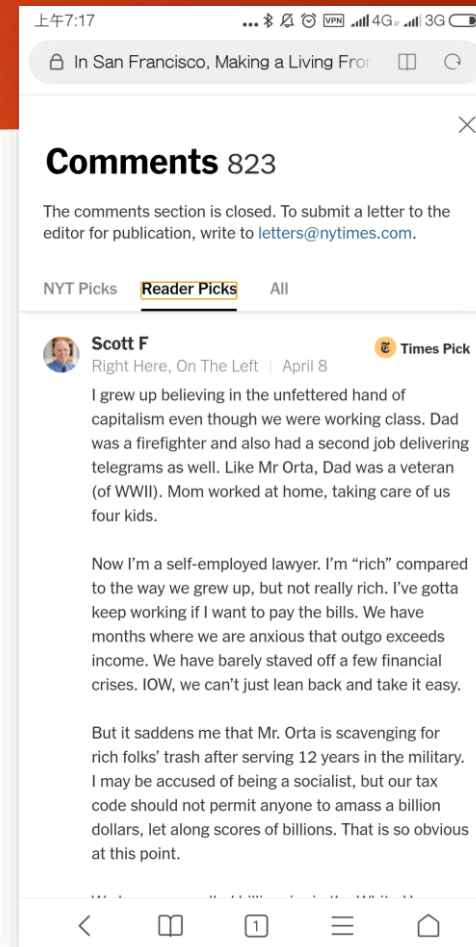
Comments from www.nytimes.com

- ▶ NYK Picks #2 – dutchiris
- ▶ Depression Era parents
 - ▶ Never spending money when don't have to
 - ▶ Appreciation of fine things
- ▶ Buy “not new” things
 - ▶ Thrift stores, yard sales, consignment shops
 - ▶ Appeared to be new, even had tags
- ▶ Couldn't afford that
 - ▶ Having the wherewithal for necessities and good food, travel and entertainment
 - ▶ Never going into debt



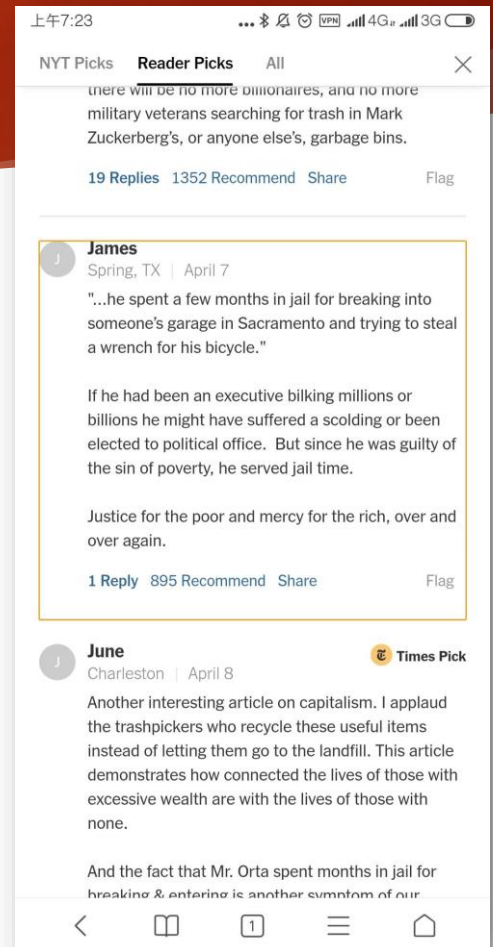
Comments from www.nytimes.com

- ▶ Reader Picks #1 – Scott F
- ▶ Self-employed lawyer
- ▶ We need reform - our tax code should not permit anyone to amass a billion dollars
- ▶ We have a so-called billionaire in the White House who never served in the military, who has done, and continues to do, immeasurable harm to our nation, and he does so with impunity. We have billionaires who have done nothing for the betterment of our overall society. Meanwhile, Mr. Orta, a formerly homeless military veteran, spends a few months in jail for burglarizing a garage to steal a wrench, for God's sake.



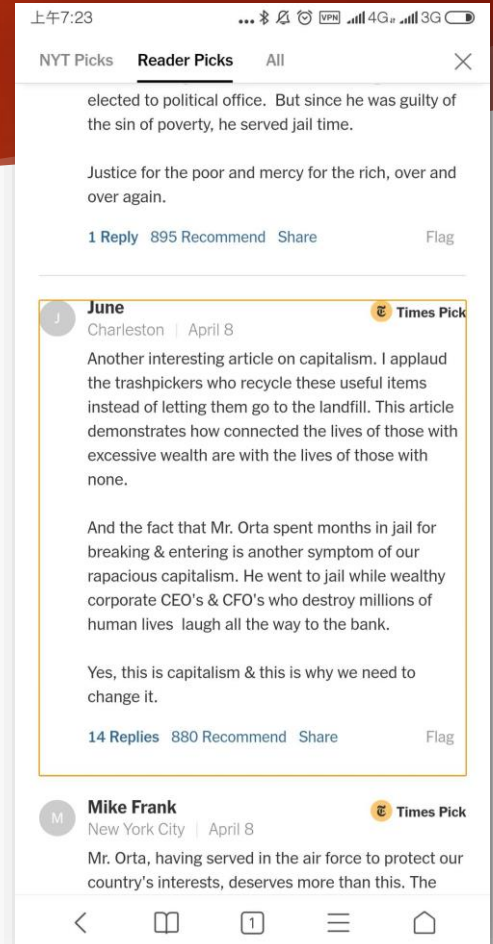
Comments from www.nytimes.com

- ▶ Reader Picks #2 – James
- ▶ “...he spent a few months in jail for breaking into someone’s garage in Sacramento and trying to steal a wrench for his bicycle.”
- ▶ If he had been an executive bilking millions or billions he might have suffered a scolding or been elected to political office. But since he was guilty of the sin of poverty, he served jail time.
- ▶ Justice for the poor and mercy for the rich, over and over again.



Comments from *www.nytimes.com*

- ▶ Reader Picks #3 – June
- ▶ applaud the trashpickers who recycle these useful items instead of letting them go to the landfill
- ▶ how connected the lives of those with excessive wealth are with the lives of those with none.
- ▶ the fact that Mr. Orta spent months in jail for breaking & entering is another symptom of our rapacious capitalism. He went to jail while wealthy corporate CEO's & CFO's who destroy millions of human lives laugh all the way to the bank. Yes, this is capitalism & this is why we need to change it.



References and Thanks

- ▶ April 7, 2019, on Page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: The Trickle-Down Economics of Trash Picking.
- ▶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/07/us/trash-pickers-san-francisco-zuckerberg.html>
- ▶ Thank you for listening.
- ▶ PPT is available at <https://thyecust.github.io/>