



“Stanford douchebags” ruining San Francisco

By [Beth Spotswood](#)

Author, founder of Salon.com, and Bernal Heights resident David Talbot recently made a speech at Stanford which was then published in [48HillsOnline.com](#) decrying “Stanford douchebags”, gentrification, and Mayor Ed Lee. Talbot’s strong words for Stanford students have struck a chord up north in San Francisco, and his speech is rapidly going viral.

Says Talbot, “The strange thing about the new digital rich is that they don’t want to live among their own tax bracket – in traditional enclaves of wealth like Pacific Heights or Hillsborough. No, they want to live among the people — the ones they’re displacing — in Noe Valley, the Castro and the Mission. Take Mark Zuckerberg, please. For the past two years, the Facebook zillionaire and his wife have upended a once-quiet, middle-class neighborhood overlooking Dolores Park, as Pharaoh-like construction teams erect a massive \$10-million, six-bedroom palace to house the royal couple. Zuckerberg is dying to live in the heart of the city, even though he apparently despises its San Francisco values.”

What does this have to do with the audience of Talbot’s speech at Stanford? Basically, Talbot advises the students not to be like Mark Zuckerberg. “‘Stanford dicks.’ That’s what my sons call them. Or

Stanford douchebags, or Stanford tools. The term ‘Stanford a–holes’ has even made it into ‘Looking,’ the HBO show set in gay San Francisco – and it’s not meant to be flattering.”

Talbot’s ire for Mayor Lee’s city hall, Tesla-types taking over Bernal Heights, and selfish capitalism emerging from the bright minds in Silicon Valley eventually transitions into encouragement for next crop of tech geniuses. “Are you interested in going public, or in serving the public – that’s the fundamental question a Stanford student has to ask these days. When I was in college, we had a saying – “You’re either part of the problem or you’re part of the solution.” Which one are you? A Stanford dick? Or are you different?”

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The speech has been met with mixed reviews. San Francisco attorney Geoffrey Murry shared the speech online, and said, “I found David Talbot’s ‘Stanford —hole’ piece to be condescending, myopic, ahistorical and, frankly, a little bigoted and xenophobic.”

Murry goes on to defend young tech workers in San Francisco, “...it’s not the fault of these young adults and fresh college grads that our city and our region have pursued dismally awful development, transportation and infrastructure policies over the past 50 years, all of which result in the massive upheaval of the past four years.”

Read Talbot’s remarks in their entirety at 48hillsonline.com and let us know if you agree.

h/t: [SFist](#)

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Disclaimer: I went to Berkeley, was not rejected from Stanford (did not ... all my fears of dockers-wearing/fart-smelling douchebags handing me ...

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