

the big wind issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's restiform...it's free...if you can find it

"...even as men wracked upon a sand.."*

Vol. XVII No. 4

DBA's Caner Begg for Prohibition on Terrifying Blanket "Deployment"

- Berkeley City Council Moves Swiftly to Protect Potted Plants from Incursion by Blankets, Bedding, and Belongings

By Lorne Norder

The Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) performed a miracle St. Patrick's Day, sidestepping the cumbersome commission system to get highly controversial anti-homeless legislation launched straight from the Berkeley City Council to the City Manager for implementation as if by magic.

"Look, no hands!" said DBA Director John Caner, who agreed that unlike most Berkeley residents whose requests for help from the council can take years and require onerous processes and forms, the DBA is just lucky.

Critics disagreed, pointing out that Caner's anguished speech before the council played a powerful role.

"We need to address these behavior issues," he cried to the council. "We have *urination*. We have *defecation*."

Experts agreed that the discovery that all human beings urinate and defecate can be a difficult moment for especially sensitive people with issues about bodily functions.

"He's in shock," explained one observer. "He may never come out of it."

Critics argued that the DBA has no business making an issue of the inevitable result of the absence of public toilets, especially considering that they refuse to make their own downtown office restroom available to the public.

"We'd love to help," said one DBA staff member. "But Caner is so sensitive that we worry it might kill him."

Other businesses such as La Note and Pegasus books, also DBA board members,



COUNCILMEMBERS ARREGUIN AND MAIO got the ball rolling on fashionable anti-homeless measures this spring so well that when Arreguin tried to back away and pour "services" all over it nothing could stop it.

agreed agreed that providing bathroom access would be a mistake.

"Our customers are *eating*," explained John Paluska, owner of Comal and board member of DBA. "Having people in need use our bathroom might distract people from more important issues, such as the fact that Wood-grilled local asparagus is back."

In related news, the Brookings institute... rising incomes at the top of the distribution are not—at least in the short term—lifting earnings near the bottom, even in local markets.

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Free Showers at St. Mary's Cathedral Misunderstood

By Gautama Umbrella

St. Mary's Cathedral spokesman Larry Kramer admitted last week that the church had been regularly raining on poor people who huddled in the alcoves of the church.

"About every half hour all night long," he said of the sprinklers which were installed without city permits in the middle of a drought as what he called "a safety, security, and cleanliness measure."

Bishop William Justice, rector of the cathedral, said the church had had the sprinkler system for about two years but suddenly saw an issue with it after KCBS radio did a news story on it and was swamped by media requests for explanations.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone said that although he is re-examining strict guidelines he proposed for teachers that would require them to reject homosexuality, use of contraception and other "evil" behavior, he would probably just refer those issues and the sprinklers as well to God.

"God is very clear about all this stuff," he stated. "At least he's clear whenever he talks to me."

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ALCOVE SPRINKLERS were just an improvement on the old Andy Ross water sports program in front of the former Cody's Bookstore.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm not impressed with the new artistic trend of curdled police reports and scrambled videos. My fourth grader can do better. I don't know much about art, but it all seems pretty stupid to me and who wants it on their wall.

Dear reader, you are missing the point. This redaction/scramble art movement is an elegant way to sidestep and possibly reduce the likelihood of public records requests, which are nothing but a expensive burden for governments. The idea that public records are any business of the public's is very destructive of the privacy a government needs to really get things done.

Dear Lena, hasn't anybody invented an alternative to water yet? It seems kind of old-fashioned.

Dear reader, what a fresh perspective. I believe that if you pitch your idea as a start-up in Silicon Valley you'll at least enjoy three or four years of well-subsidized ping pong.

Dear Lena, I'm kind of upset to hear that movies are passe' according to the former planning director Mark Rhoades. What can possibly come after the movies and be as good?

Dear reader, it already happened; the \$17,000 Apple watch. Jump on that bandwagon before everybody laughs at you for being so old-fashioned and out of touch.

Dear Lena, I really think elephants look better when they're all decked out in circus clothes. I'm really going to miss seeing them in ostrich feather headresses.

Dear reader, yes, it is a great cultural loss that they've decided to retire from circus life. But you should see what they wear to the clubs. They get really sluttly.

Dear Lena, I'm tired of teaching to the test. What should I do instead?

Dear reader, give them the wrong answers. They will learn a really valuable lesson. *Ask Lena about self-driving bicycles at cdeney@igc.org.*



BEAT POET AND PAINTER LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI is just too old-fashioned to appreciate the nuance of fast-paced, gadget-based tech culture.

Ferlinghetti Gives Tech Big Thumbs Down

By Horace Pley



The tech community shrugged off the negative assessment of Beat poet and painter Lawrence Ferlinghetti on its effect on the culture of San Francisco, pointing out that the co-owner of City Lights Bookstore and publisher of famed Ginsberg poem "Howl" had spent his whole life surrounded by books and poetry.

"How over is that?" chuckled one tech employee between startups.

Ferlinghetti's comment that "a new brand of dot.com millionaires and generally Silicon Valley money moved into San Francisco with bags full of cash and no manners and very little education in the great culture of Western civilization" went pretty much

unnoticed by the tech community because it was written down.

"Anything that involves writing, or books, or reading is unlikely to even graze the consciousness of a typical techster," explained one local consultant on tech culture. "If it doesn't come either by short video or isn't highlighted in a game it doesn't exist."

Another tech worker resonated with Ferlinghetti's description of tech workers as a "soulless group of people" too busy with their phones to "be here" in the moment.

"I don't know how it was before," admitted one tech worker. "But after I make my bundle I am out of here."

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Self-Riding Bicycles Get \$700 Million in Start-up Funding

By Bea Schwale



SELF-RIDING BIKES are the natural follow-up to self-driving cars which nobody questions so that drivers can watch videos and movies on their way to work.

hired to celebrate because they are too busy coding to participate personally.

"Maybe Bike4U, we're not sure," stated one of the start-up's tech workers. "We'll hire a creative team to whip up a catchy name for the launch."

The tech community celebrated the birth of a \$700 million start-up based on the concept of a self-riding bicycle with a flash mob dance in somewhere in a third world country by people they

Critics argued that self-riding bicycles were a stupid idea.



SELF-DRIVING baby buggies and skateboards are also being patented by the new start-up.

"That hasn't stopped a venture capitalist yet," responded another of the lucky start-up's staff, who added that self-riding skateboards were being considered as well. "Thinking out of the box and breaking out of conventional thinking might make us look like clowns from time to time, but the payoff can be pretty sweet."

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MS. GRETA GOOD has extensively studies hydrology and economics.

Your Water Bill Is Going Up And Why

Guest Commentary



What I've seen all my life is that if you use a lot of water, your bill goes up. And if you conserve like crazy, your bill goes up. And any time they reorganize the water billing structure, your bill goes up. And it doesn't matter what you do or who is in office; your bill is going up. This is the complex formula I've managed to analyze after years of exhaustive study. Your bill is going up. Let all your plants die and start drinking from the puddle by the side of the road; your bill is going up. Swear off soup and clean clothes; your bill is going up. Steal your neighbor's water from their hose; your bill is going up. You think I'm joking or I haven't really tried not washing my hair or watching the last cactus send up a flare begging for bathwater but you don't know how many years I've spent wandering through libraries and attending commission meetings and making public records act requests and parsing budgets and doing field studies of evaporation rates in the valley. Your bill is going up and you can march and bellyache all you want and write volumes of letters like I have and you'll get a form letter back that essentially says your bill is going up. I'm not saying get used to it, either. I'm saying switch to champagne.

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"Right to Rest" Bill Threatens Civilization

By Bill O'Rights

THIS MAY or may not be a criminal act depending on what's in his pocket.

State Senator Carol Liu inexplicably introduced legislation bucking the popular trend of criminalizing basic human behavior such as sitting, sleeping, or not owning a penthouse condo.

"This reduces people's incentives to straighten up and pull their lives together," scoffed another California

legislator. "It makes no sense at all, especially since we were about to pass a law against walking without a 401k."

Liu's proposal reverses the popular trend of passing laws against things people can't help but do anyway, which sail through city councils and commissions to the wild applause of chambers of commerce and merchant associations sick to death of having people enjoying commercial districts without spending money.



LAWS AGAINST WALKING may seem harsh, but keep in mind how much it will help auto sales.

"We'd like to see a required fee for enjoying the space," commented one merchant association member. "People shouldn't just get to kick around town having a good time without having to buy a \$12 cocktail."

"Or a new Apple product," agreed another merchant. "These freeloaders

need to understand the strain they place not only on local businesses but also on the general economy."

Poor people's spokespersons agreed that homeless and poor people are underperforming in the economic recovery.

"It is true that we are underrepresented at the opera," stated one Right to Rest advocate. "We have some ambitious plans to change that."

* * * * *



"Scrambled" Videos Delight Art Critics

By Felix Hawstead

The Albuquerque Police Department scrambled the video it produced in response to widow Gail Martin's public records request disappointing the usual police accountability advocates but delighting art lovers, who point out the similarity to the Berkeley Police Department's earlier artwork in response to a local public records act request.

"We love that it is in no way derivative," exulted one local art curator. "It's as though they distilled the spirit of the earlier work done in Berkeley and expanded its natural conceptual flow."



BERKELEY'S police set the edgy new trend in art with their police report titled "Redaction."

"It's brilliant," concluded a local gallery owner. "We're negotiating for both the video itself and stills from the video for our next show. We think this fractured, prismatic view of public records is an artistic movement that will sweep the nation."

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade Includes Gays: Sky Falls

By Potter E. Barncrap

Predictions that the sky would fall if LGBT groups were allowed to march in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade turned out to be true, sending Boston residents scrambling for cover during the celebration.

"We warned them," stated a spokesperson for The Immaculate Heart of Mary School, a Boston grammar school which withdrew its marching band from the parade for fear of looking like they condoned the human rights of people of whom they disapprove. "We told them it would be the end of the parade and maybe the end of the world."

TAKE CARE when the sky falls that it doesn't get into your tuba.

Large chunks of sky fell all over Boston, according to resident Michael Morgan, who said it tasted a little like squash.

"I put it in the soup," he said, "and it really lights up with a bit of cilantro."

Other residents seemed at ease with sweeping up pieces of sky along with the glitter and green confetti.

Next Issue: Fish rodeos with celebrities!



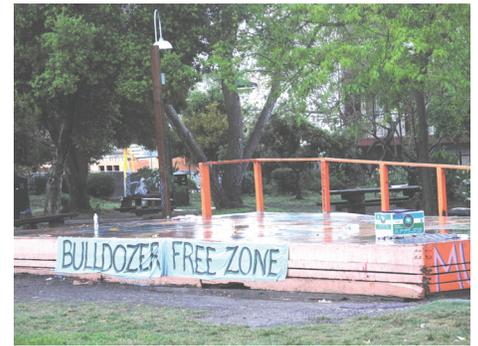
OUTVETS WAS ONE of the LGBT groups that marched in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade causing the sky to fall which created a mess.

"It's kind of a climate change thing," offered one resident. "It's been a record snow year and a pretty crazy year weather-wise for a lot of people, so we kind of have a head start on dealing with stuff like this."

"We've always had a sense of humor about the Catholic Church's ideas about what is moral anyway," observed another Boston resident making a mosaic out of the pieces of sky for her front walk. "The policy of protecting pedophiles eliminated any respect we had left for it, and that wasn't much in the first place."

"I'm going to try broiling it," called Morgan as he carried a bucket of sky home-ward. "I'll bet it's great lightly salted with a little olive oil."

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TREES IN PEOPLE'S PARK have formed a criminal conspiracy to obscure sightlines for crime spotting and need a stay-away order.

Tree Conspiracy Elimination Project Foiled by Rain

By Colin Yerbluff

The police effort to address the devious conspiracy devised by trees to obscure crime in People's Park was foiled by rain Monday morning.

"We can't see through trees and we can't stop rain," sighed a UC Police spokesperson who preferred anonymity. "they got away with it this time, but we'll get them in the end."

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THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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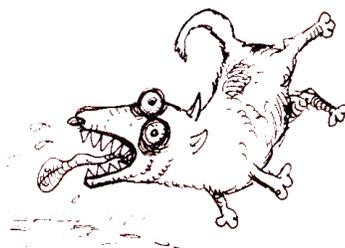


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*King Henry V

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.