

the
well
groomed
issue...



"You can kick the ass of the rich. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time."

April 2023

Pepper Spray Times



It's berrieh...it's free...if you can find it "...to a most festinate preparation..."

Vol. XXIII No. 4

UC Winning War on Libraries

Library Reduction Plan "Perfect" for Cell Phone Generation



LIBRARIANS STRUGGLE against administration attacks on the library system and its pointless effort to provide the world with resources and information.

By Estelle Raining

"Those tiny screens can't handle much information at once," explained one University of California (UC) administrator in response to questions about the controversial Library Reduction Program. "The content reduction enables the cell phone generation to get a sense of control, and we've come to believe it helps them feel more confident."

"Anthropology professors are the worst," confided a UC administrator hiding near the protest over UC's plan to convert the Anthropology Library as an empty room with maybe some crayons and glitter.

"It won't require any tedious card catalog or personnel," enthused Chancellor Carol Christ. "The budget savings are considerable, and you'll notice that most of the stuff in there is really old."

Records show that while the athletics department had a budget of at least \$76 million over the last three years which doesn't even count the millions more in

debt services for the big-ass Memorial Stadium remake that nobody can figure out the name of anymore. Libraries, on the other hand, manage to expand community understanding, enhance general knowledge

and accomplish all of this without the brain damage which is an inevitable part of the football program.

"Every time they sell the football stadium name to some new group the new group goes bankrupt," explained another administrator explaining the need to drain library resources. "It's kind of a superstition at this point; most companies avoid associating with the stadium. In private we call it the giant sword of Damocles."

"Library expenditures were \$107 million in 2022, compared to \$60 million for libraries, but these comparisons are unfair because the libraries don't serve beer and nobody wins the game," explained another UC administrator who wished to remain anonymous. "Books are just not as popular as video games."

Critics groused that UC should have more pride in its George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library, one of only three in the United States along with Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania.

"The budget savings are considerable, and you'll notice that most of the stuff in there is really old."

"We really need the \$5 million we can save by booting

these books," explained Chancellor Christ. "Trashing all those trees in People's Park really wrecked our chain saws."

"We demand that the anthropology library be protected and fully supported by the university," declares a petition signed by more than 1,800 students, faculty, staff, alumni and other Foster Library supporters, which UC administrators find adorable.

"We think it's priceless," stated Christ. "You don't have to actually burn books," she added. "We take credit for discovering that it is equally effective to simply make them very, very hard to find."

"Librarians are so entertaining," added her assistant administrator. "There's nothing quite like the moment when your librarian tells you the resource you need for your research is just a quick trip down the road somewhere in an old warehouse in San Bernardino."

* * * * *

"Rational Irrationality" Wins Admiration from Center for Semantic Balance

KQED Leads the Way

By Yolanda DePlane



"It's the least we can do. And we think it's a winning formula," responded Alexis Madrigal, host of KQED's Forum morning show. "Just load up the studio with live-reporting, but and let 'er rip."

KQED's Alexis Madrigal's reliance on experts with no real traction with the issues being presented resembles Fox News' creative approach to coverage, but were dismissed.

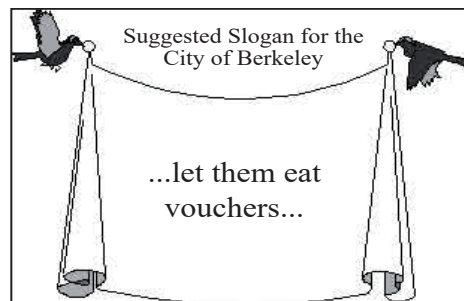
"The effect on the listener may be in fact the same, but the technique, I would argue, is extremely original," stated communications expert Ellis Dee of the University of Perpetual Expertise in Atlanta, GA. "Fox News' bold embrace of alternative facts may have inspired Madrigal, but what we're calling the 'kitchen sink' or 'rational irrationality' technique where experts just keep adding oblique ingredients has its own seductive, soporific power."

"It's uncanny," agreed Elena Traffic, Chief of Operations at the Center for Semantic Balance in Whistlestop, Nevada. "Well-spoken people with elegant diction exchanging pleasant cliches is both safe and legal. No one can argue that it does not technically constitute discussion."

Critics argue that the technique, although seductive, is an insult to educational programming but were dismissed.

"The Republicans have the House," whispered one KQED insider. "We have to play the hand we're dealt."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm sitting in my rowboat in my bathrobe and rainboots. Where is all of this water coming from?

Dear reader, it was formerly an invasion of snowmen and snowwomen who snuck across an unsupervised border on reindeer. They didn't calculate California's temperature into their plans. Try to be kind.

Dear Lena, are all of these scooters on the same side? Are they on our side? Does anybody win?

Dear reader, we think we are technically in the middle of a war between scooter companies, and since none of us pay any attention to who's making them and littering the world with them we inadvertently pick sides and confuse the cheerleaders.

Dear Lena, is there any way out? The sidewalks are a scooter highway.

Dear reader, it is said that one company will win. We don't know which one, and the bloodshed will be horrific.

Dear Lena, where is the finish line?

Dear reader, each stoplight is its own finish line. The scooter always wins against walkers and pedestrians. To check which scooter wins you have to go to their websites.

Dear Lena, my identity was leaked. What should I do?

Dear reader, check first to see who you are now. You may have stepped up your game.

Dear Lena, I keep getting surveys from the City of Berkeley but they keep cutting back public comment. Isn't there a joke in here somewhere?

Dear reader, this is serious business. Be sure to hack your survey in some devious way. Answer wrong. Answer in non sequitur if you can. Draw little pictures of curiously annoying things.

Ask Lena about hacking surveys in creative ways at cdenny@igc.org.

Jury Rules for Musk in Investors' Loss Case

By Farrah Sessment

"I just wanted him out of my courtroom," confessed Judge Edward M. Chen, whose pre-trial rulings that Musk had recklessly posted untrue statements seemed not to impress the jury that vindicated him over his investors' subsequent losses. "He has the consciousness capabilities of a bowl of Cheetohs.



YOUR ROADS and your life is just an experimental playground for billionaires who don't want to have to pay for their own training facility.

He doesn't care whom he kills, inconveniences, or robs blind. If I had had to put up with him one more day I would have shot him with the bailiff's gun."

"It's simple," commented one juror when the trial finally ended. "Everybody knows the guy has a big, ungovernable mouth. But the real issue is that Tesla's losses are because self-driving cars are stupid. His big mouth may amplify the fact, but the core issue is that a car without a driver is just dumb."

"You got to feel for the Tesla artificial intelligence," agreed another juror. "Tesla AI scrambles for human patterns of behavior. And then Elon Musk walks in the room."

* * * * *



What We've Learned So Far from the Pandemic

By Esther A. Wayout

- * You can never have enough toilet paper.
- * Vaccines are either a life-saving benefit to public health or an evil plot.
- * Doctors, nurses, and health professionals may or may not be on your side.
- * If you get Covid you should quarantine for fourteen days or three days or forget about it and hit the dance floor.
- * Masks help prevent disease or maybe cause cancer.
- * Pajamas are quite fashionable as well as comfortable and you can wear them all day long and go anywhere in them.
- * Science is either very helpful or it is a plot to trick you into things.
- * Delivery robots missed their big chance to prove themselves as something besides moderately comic as they keep trying to get up a curb.
- * Books really are better than movies.
- * Thousands of people died or maybe nobody died.

* * * * *

Batman and Robin's Unfortunate Day



SUPERHEROS RENOWNED for their superpowers and adventures sometimes have very difficult days. The intrepid reporters in the pepper Spray Times newsroom bravely tell the under-reported stories whether the public wants to hear them or not.

By Jack Bragen

The Bat Computer produced a ticker of paper stating that the villains responsible for the May 5 jewelry heist were staying at an abandoned warehouse in East LA. An address was given.

Robin said, "Holy artificial intelligence! that machine is un-bat-canny, and it is never wrong."

The dynamic duo went there with the Batmobile on automated mode. Batman and Robin climbed in the window. They stood facing a roomful of men and women in clown outfits.

The head clown said, "After 'em. Let's show these two idiots what we're made of!"

The fight ensued and there were a lot of bam's and boom's. In the end Batman and Robin stood without a scratch facing a roomful of beaten and sobbing professional clowns.

"You're the real Batman and Robin?" the head clown asked, in a pain-filled, wavering voice. "We thought you guys were from Acme Clowns, a sworn enemy." He paused. "And what's your excuse? You've just massively beat up an innocent troupe of clowns, and before that you broke in through our window."

The police commissioner of Gotham City appeared on the scene, and the "Dynamic Duo," Bruce Wayne and the Boy Wonder, were carted away in a patrol car.

Robin commented, "Holy handcuffs, Batman, we're under arrest! I guess the Bat Computer was wrong after all."

Batman replied, "I don't want to talk about it."

* * * * *



YOU CAN SEE how this kind of thing can be confusing even for a computer.

Snowmen and Snowwomen Refuse to Fight Against Record Snowfall



SNOWMEN, SNOWWOMEN, AND SNOW-CHILDREN worked hard to manifest snow in their traditional ways but found it hard to keep up with the constant snowfall and ran out of hats, scarves, and bikini tops.

By Elwood Freezeover

"We're just not sure which side we're on in this one," mused a snowman watching another five feet of new snow fall on



SNOW MAY ATTACK your roof but it is really nothing personal.

Truckee's overloaded downtown. "We get along great with the locals, but we're trying to encourage them to just settle in and kind of just let it snow."

"We have long memories," agreed another snowman. "People in these parts used to keep stocked larders, knew how to cook beans, and enjoyed the snow while it lasted. It isn't our fault they stopped building roofs with enough pitch to handle it."

Locals complain that the snow people just aren't being very fair.

"Typically you'll have a minimum slope

of one inch per foot recommended up here in snow country," stated one weary homeowner trying to dig out her vehicle. "We have fifty feet of pack right now. The roof would have to be practically vertical to handle all of this."

Others disagreed. "We've never been on the grid in the first



SOME SNOWMEN really enjoy wintering in Florida as a tall glass of water.



SNOWPEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS have what are understandably mixed feelings about joining a declaration of war on snow.

"It's not a typical winter, but after all, it's just snow," added another neighbor waiting for a baking pie. "It's nice and quiet when they close the roads and at least they've stopped whining about the drought."

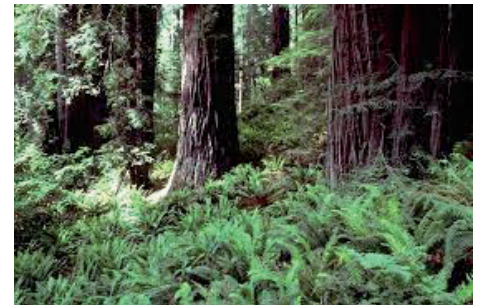
"We've invented the gin and tonic slushie," piped up another neighbor. "And we have to confess it's happy hour around here all day long."

* * * * *

place," stated one Truckee resident pulling a sled full of supplies up his mountain driveway. "We do a lot of canning all summer long from the garden and play a lot of music with our neighbors."



THIS COYOTE ignored the four-hour parking limit and got a ticket which he offered to work off in chickens.



FORESTS ARE IMPRESSIVE but they always expect other people to take the time to fill out the CEQA paperwork to save them.

Best Ways to Kill CEQA

By Rob R. Duckey

"Politicians and legislators who want to carve more exemptions out of the California Environmental Quality Act are barking up the wrong redwood tree," stated an innovative policy maker to an interested group of YIMBY (Yes In My Back Yard) activists motivated by the new Movement to Make California Park-free (MMCP).

"Nobody has to change a thing about the environmental protections which often have powerful support from environmental organizations," agreed one YIMBY activist holding a sign saying, "Parks Are Not Green!". "All we have to do is get those lazy trees and native plants to do their own damn paperwork."

"They're notoriously lazy," agreed Berkeley City Councilmember Rigel Robinson, who has worked with anti-CEQA developers all over the state. "Why are these people writing their applications for legal help?"

The requirements include:

- * trees and iconic buildings should fill out their own legal papers, pay fees, etc. What's left of the landscape will be much more resourceful and resilient;
- * trees should collect 60 signatures from other trees before launching a legal challenge to a construction project;
- * trees and landscapes should water themselves and paint their own postcards.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



UC Administrators Explain Library Reduction Program: Librarians Can't Be Trusted

By Nada N. DeSamboat

"Administrators deeply distrust libraries and librarians," explained Dr. Natalie Drest, expert on libraries and library science commenting on the notorious Library Reduction Program roiling the University of California (UC) campuses.

When asked to explain, Dr. Drest smiled, acknowledging that the majority of the public finds the sudden disappearance of world-renowned libraries distressing but declaring with practiced reassurance that there was a modest logic in UC's otherwise inexplicable move.

"They don't understand what librarians do. They don't like that they don't understand what their job is, or how they do it. But people like libraries so much. It's a kind of cognitive dissonance that leaves them uneasy."

When asked for more detail, Ms. Drest leaned in and added some fascinating specifics.

"They think we are manipulative, because we help people. And they distrust librarians because they know we know more than they do, but we're quiet about it. And no

matter what we ask for they seem to think we have an ulterior motive, and they like to slap us down. It's weird."

The war on libraries is, in fact, weird. UC's Anthropology library is among the top three in the nation, and is crucial to the research of thousands of scholars.

Dr. Drest kept going. "Oh yes, we also believe that research is a communal effort not an individual one. That goes against the intensely hierarchical structure of academia."

This is obvious to some, puzzling to others, but always at the bottom of any agenda, so the public remains in the dark about libraries, librarians, and their value.

"When things get difficult financially at the university, usually the first things to be cut are custodial, infrastructure, general maintenance, and then libraries," stated Dr. Drest. "It's like they are eating themselves."

* * * * *

Next Issue: trying on tiaras with celebrities!



UNRULY BILLBOARDS keep embracing typos just for the truth of it.

Bored Billboards Butt Heads with Zionists

By Luz Bearings

Playful Bay Area billboards which started off sporting messages equating anti-Zionism with antisemitism were altered with messages including "Free Palestine." The billboards' sponsor called the graffiti a "hate crime" and vowed to take the billboards responsible to court.

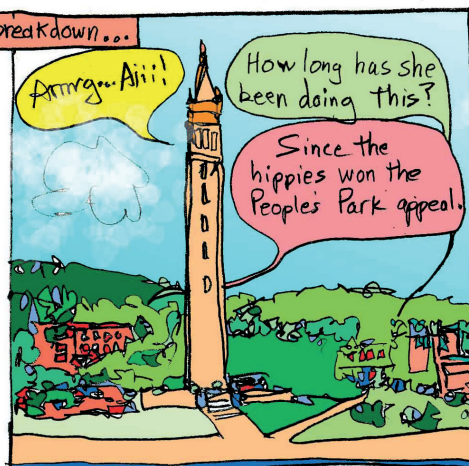
A group of Jews calling themselves the Jewish Telegraphic Agency took the credit, citing their opposition to Israeli apartheid and occupation, but the billboards insisted on taking primary responsibility.

"We're proud of our role," stated one billboard. "We're kind of hands-on."

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I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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