

the 18 story view issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...Ah, you sweet little rogue, you!"*

Vol. XVII No. 8

Civil War Ends in Deep South, Starts Up in Berkeley



THE WIDELY CELEBRATED END of the Civil War also marked the debut of a civil war in Berkeley known as the Great Blankets War.

By Toby Continued

As confederate flags came down all over the south the city of Berkeley geared to commit to a civil war on pooping, peeing poor people with a special dedication to showing poor people just who's in charge of common streets once they figure that part out.

"We're not entirely sure who is in charge just now," stated one harried commissioner who agreed that the citations being issued on the streets against poor and homeless people were largely for perfectly legal behavior or for biologically inevitable behavior in the absence of bathrooms.

"We thought the police were directed by the city council, or the legal department, or the city manager maybe," offered another commissioner. "Right now it looks like it's those green shirt people with the brooms, and nobody's in charge of them."

Others insisted that the new civil war on the poor was going to be great for Berkeley.

"Nobody really wins these wars," noted one local merchant. "But you can't say that all that confederate flag kitsch didn't bump up the sales at gift shops and gas stations all over the south."

"We just need the right merchandizing," agreed another local business owner. "T-shirts, bumper-stickers, phone covers, that kind of thing. Anti-poor sentiment sells politically, so the market is just waiting for the right graphics."

Whiny opponents of the new anti-homeless laws pointed out that the Downtown Berkeley Association opposed having public bathrooms in the latest upcoming BART

Oppressed Berkeley Landlords Form Political Action Committee

Pressing Need to Organize Against Mean, Nasty Rent Board

By Darwin DeNeighborhood



TOM BATES SUGGESTED the landlords organize a political action committee which helps when you want to do wild stuff like sell luxury housing in a housing crisis.

Berkeley landlords are tired of getting kicked around and are organiz-

ing a political action committee (PAC) to defend their rights against discriminatory tenant protections which make them look bad.

"Mayor Tom Bates suggested it at our meeting, and we think he's right," stated Berkeley Property Owners Association President Sid Lakiredy. "Raising the rental registration fee from \$194 to \$213 per unit on July 1 was the final straw."

"Nineteen dollars may not seem like a lot of money compared to the rents going up 20% year after year," commented another Berkeley landlord. "But you have to remember that some of us own thousands of units, and it really adds up."

Critics pointed out that landlords who own thousands of units can well afford the \$19 fee, but were dismissed by landlords who agreed that their group was treated with more hostility than homeless people.

"Homeless people don't know how good they have it," sniffed one landlord. "They don't know what it is to suffer the stigma of owning property."



FORMER DBA PRESIDENT John DeClercq knows that a political action committee has connections which can really help smooth things over when your balconies inexplicably fall off your buildings.



Real Reasons Why Christine Daniel Is Leaving the Berkeley City Manager Position to Work in Oakland

1. Got a good book deal on what goes on in back room.
2. Couldn't take one more city council public comment period.
3. Feeling superfluous since the DBA is running the town anyway.
4. Had enough "granularity" for a lifetime.
5. Pretty sweet severance deal.
6. Waterline getting high on a sinking ship.
7. Never could figure out what was going on.
8. Gunfire more tolerable than city council friction.
9. After Berkeley, looking forward to a cakewalk like Occupy Oakland.
10. Terrified of the upcoming blanket wars.



Plaza redesign.

"They oppose having portable toilets," stated one crabby peacenik who warned that another holiday season full of CS gas was not the best way to resolve ongoing housing or public health issues, but were summarily dismissed.

"The CS gas was a blast, pardon the pun," commented one police officer. "Nothing like bringing in the new year with a bang."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I just checked, and my wheeled shopping cart is more than two square feet. Do I really have to apply for a permit?

Dear reader, technically, yes, but only when you go shopping and stop for more than an hour, and you're certainly not thinking very creatively about this. Many people in other countries travel long distances with piles of belongings on top of their heads. This practice will enable you to avoid having to get a permit as well as create a more aesthetically pleasing streetscape, which is a priority among city leaders.

Dear Lena, isn't it unfair for the police to take homeless people's belongings from the park when they go off for twenty minutes to an appointment? It doesn't seem right to me.

Dear reader, you are forgetting that this is important training for divesting oneself from distractions in life so one can focus on more important things like remembering to pay your mandatory DBA assessment.

Dear Lena, I'm really enjoying the summer. Should I be paying attention to politics, or can I just read by the pool?

Dear reader, it is best if you look away, look away, look away just about now because nothing important is happening.

Dear Lena, I really like going to Shattuck Cinemas and I'm going to miss it when they knock it all down. What do you suggest.

Dear reader, the Berkeley Police Department's recent successful compilation of surveillance and Youtube video will soon fill the gap. Not only can these edgy new reality films be shown live with popcorn and commentary from the participant public, but with a little help from some middle school students they can be streamed to your favorite app. This real-time reality entertainment has legs.

Ask Lena about self-driving applesauce at cdenny@igc.org.

California Coastal Commission Pedestrian Path Wrecks Malibu Bureaucrats and Administrators Just Don't Get the 1%; Crying Need for Sensitivity Training



THE 99% JUST DON'T KNOW HOW to dress for the beach and their lack of style is a special hardship for David Geffen who now has to watch them walk right by his house despite all his money.

By Jason Whales

Hollywood mogul David Geffen held back tears as the new public path opened next to his high-priced beachfront property on Carbon Beach in Malibu, California.

"What is the point of being rich if you can't have the beach to yourself," he moaned.

Larry Ellison, former chief executive of Oracle Corporation nodded in agreement.

"It may be state law to provide public access up to the mean high tide line, but people in our income bracket have a special relationship with the law," he whispered as he watched ordinary beachgoers walking by with their plastic noodles and inner tubes. "This is just not right."

"It's an amazing stretch of coast that

should be open to everyone," said Charles Lester, the commission's executive director and clearly a man who should have his head examined.

Experts agreed that Lester and his Coastal Commission miss entirely the point of being

"...people in our income bracket have a special relationship with the law..."

rich, which is to enjoy things that nobody else can possibly get access to.

"It sweetens the pleasure," explained Hard

Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton, whose Malibu beachfront property is also compromised by now having to share it with families lugging picnic baskets and volleyball nets. "Keeping beachgoers out of our sandy back yards is just one of our favorite things."

* * * * *

Positive Change

donate to help those in need get out of our town

so they are somebody else's problem



bus tickets to somewhere else



vouchers for housing that doesn't exist



counseling about jobs that don't exist



cover for politicians who don't give a damn

How to Make Your Belongings Fit in Two Square Feet

Guest Columnist Harriet Uppe
Helps You Economize



GUEST COLUMNIST Harriet Uppe has helpful suggestions for working positively with the new Two Square Foot rule from Berkeley Councilmember Linda Maio.

“People are all in a dither over having to keep your stuff in two square feet but why not rise to the challenge I say? I have found that if you switch from knitting sweaters to knitting little baby booties your yarn bag has an easier time tucking into your purse. And these people with guitars they are not even thinking about the rock balancers down by the waterfront who manage to balance boulders on one improbable edge that just stays there. I am sure you could do that with a guitar if you really tried. Or take up the pennywhistle, for heaven’s sake, which is easier to carry anyway or I assume it is. And people who have a whole lot of clothing can just wear it all at once. I think of these things when I can’t sleep and it would work! You could tuck your extra socks into your coat pockets, things like that. People just aren’t being inventive enough with the Two Square Foot law, which I think helps all of us think about what really matters in life and maybe get rid of the grandkids’ finger-paintings which fly off the refrigerator every time you open it anyway. We don’t need all this stuff.

Sincerely,
Miss Harriet Uppe

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“Streamlining” Library Books Raises Dust

Green Purging and Pulping of Library Books Annoys Old-fashioned Predictable Luddites

By Roy L. Payne

Annoying people who resist reading books online or on gadgets are threatening to slow down the much-needed streamlining of library collections.

“We’re not purging and pulping all the

Short Term Rentals, People, Look Good to Berkeley Council

By I. M. Gone

AirB&B-style short term rentals are being legalized in Berkeley. Their favor with the council baffled people concerned about the housing crisis and the competition for local hotel business.

“We like temporary people,” explained one councilmember. “They tend to be tourists wandering around, spending money, blissfully ignorant of contentious local issues and genuinely thankful if you point the way to Alcatraz.”

“They don’t tend to show up at public comment,” offered another councilmember. “They’re usually on a tight schedule and directions to a restaurant is as much detail as they want about what’s going on.”

Critics objected that short-term rentals displace units badly needed to house workers and students who are currently doubled up in uncomfortable living situations due to the housing crisis, but were dismissed.

“The new ‘sharing’ economy is regulation-free and under the radar of worker protections and ordinary requirements like parking and environmental concerns,” observed another council representative. “This is what freedom looks like.”

* * * * *

books,” responded a flustered library director Mr. Scott. “Just the ones nobody has read in three years.”

“The old has to make way for the new,” agreed another library book purger. “Otherwise we wouldn’t be able to have room for enough copies of ‘Fifty Shades of Grey.’”



EXPERTS ARE trying to determine whether this woman fainted at the thought of books being pulped or because she was exhausted from trying to read a whole library’s worth of books every three years.

* * * * *

Police Help Homeless Transcend Possessions

By Gilda Lily

Police spokesperson Officer Jennifer Coats acknowledged that the police were responsible for a program which helps free people burdened by too many belongings.

“They usually can’t imagine living without their books, their medicines, their papers, etc.,” stated Coats. “And then with a little help from the city they suddenly realize they can do it.”

“It’s very powerful to watch,” stated one observer watching city trucks being loaded with personal belongings. “It makes you realize you’re still really attached to things.”

“It’s true that I can live without my drum machine,” stated Boomer, one of the men who discovered leaving his belongings for 20 minutes to go to an appointment made him eligible for the program. “I thought it was important, but clearly there’s no consensus on the point.”

* * * * *

We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Judge Orders Gallery Seating Open for Oakland Council Meetings

By Selma Condo

Judge orders gallery seating open for Oakland council meetings, by Selma Condo
Oakland City Council says they will grudgingly accept an Alameda County judge's order to reopen the balconies of their public chambers.



THE BALCONY SEATING might have been a good idea in some cities where everybody agrees, but imagine having disagreeable people up there watching you vote to spend public money on housing the wealthy.

"We felt like we were in danger," explained Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney. "Especially when anybody disagreed with us."

"They were filming us," stated City spokeswoman Karen Boyd. "It makes you feel really uncomfortable, especially when you didn't really have a chance to think through your outfit."

Michael Seville of IFPTE Local 21 celebrated the ruling, which was the result of a challenge from the union, which pointed out the city had no reports from fire marshals or building inspectors showing the area to be unsafe in any way.

"It restricted public access to meetings," explained Seville. "At least 100 people can fit in the upper galleries."

"Well damn," commented Mayor Tom Bates of Berkeley upon hearing the news. "Our whole council chambers building



TRYING TO KEEP THE PUBLIC OUT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS was worth a try but turned out to violate some nonsensical rules so oh well.

is unsafe and we were just going to retire public access altogether."

City hall insiders agreed that the Oakland City Council's bold move had been extremely inspirational.

"The public is a real pain," one insider noted. "We really prefer our citizens to watch us on tv where we can control the narrative better."

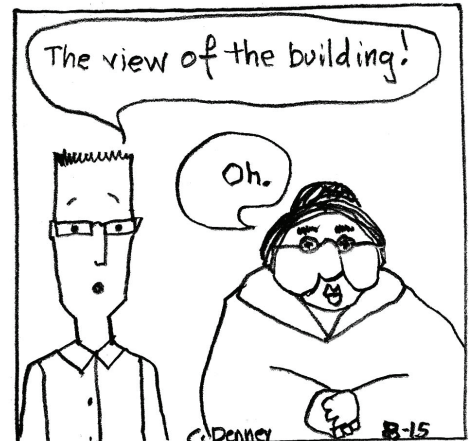
"It was for the public's safety, too," asserted Boyd. "People up there were in serious danger of throwing up on everybody."

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Next Issue: Making up cool bios with celebrities!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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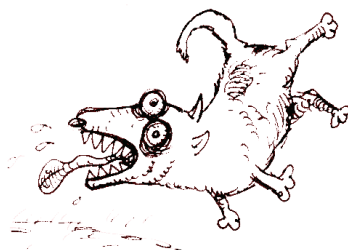


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*King Henry VI Part 2

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