

the  
glabrous,  
updated  
chyrons  
issue...

"Kicking the ass of the rich for 26 years. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time."



# Pepper Spray Times

August 2017



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

"..pour this concealed man out of thy mouth..."\*

Vol. XVIII No. 8

## Violins Revealed As Instruments of Mass Destruction

By Saul Umgunnasay

Research has revealed that violins cannot be trusted and can instigate mass revolts of ordinarily composed classical musicians, according to studies out of Venezuela which indicate that the stringed instruments' tendency toward mayhem may affect the vulnerable musicians who play them.

"We're at the beginning of studying these effects on the brain," commented a spokes-



**VIOLINISTS PAID TRIBUTE TO Mr. Canizales** despite evidence that violins can strangle you with their strings and evidently just don't care.

person for the Venezuelan police through a bullhorn over the dangerous sounds of thousands of hostile violins being played in massive street protests. "We're looking at four decades of state-financed musician-ship being unaccountably stirred to protests in the streets. The violins are clearly at fault."

Critics countered that the shooting death of Armando Cañizales, a viola player with the Simón Bolívar Musical Foundation, was not the responsibility of violins but rather violas.

"Specifically his own viola," stated the Venezuelan authorities looking into Cañizales' death. "He did leave his viola at home on the day in question, but that doesn't mean the instrument was not involved."

Musicians worldwide are deeply concerned about Venezuela's food shortages, triple digit inflation, and growing political polarization, but share the government's deep concern over the immediate danger from violins and perhaps from other



**WUILLY ARTEAGA PLAYS VIOLIN** despite efforts to encourage him not to do it for the sake of his own safety by the Venezuelan riot police.

stringed instruments with civil unrest on their minds.

"These instruments have a very sophisticated sense of political strategy," affirmed one Venezuelan government official in response to press inquiries about the continuing danger



to the public. "They appear to be fragile, but they can stir the heart, lift the soul, and inflame the spirit of unsuspecting youth."

**VENEZUELAN POLICE HELP** this young man from being dragged away by his violin by spraying it with water from an armoured vehicle, which is only effective some of the time because violins are so cagey.

ready," stated one Venezuelan police officer adjusting his riot helmet. "Especially when they play the national anthem."

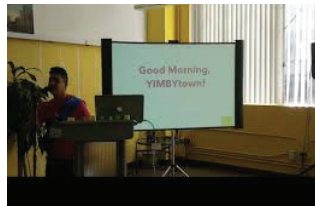
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## Media Guidelines for Yimbytown: "Everything Is Off the Record"

By Bill O. Fare

YIMBYTown organizers admitted that their media guidelines ended up working against their agenda of spreading the message of the glories of speedy, unobstructed development according to organizers who wished to remain anonymous.

"We're planning to revisit our guidelines," acknowledged one anonymous organizer who claimed his t-shirt message was classified. "The identifying markers on the name tags explicitly stating whether or not people had given permission to be photographed ended up being



**YIMBYTOWN ORGANIZERS** completely disavow the claim that they tried to bribe homeless people to attend their nearly empty conference.

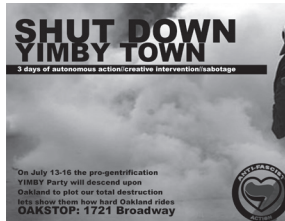
somewhat unworkable."

"Also the thing where they had to refrain from participating," stated another organizer who insisted on anonymity. "And the thing where people had to get explicit written or verbal consent for identifying any details that identify people or ideas or organizational affiliations. As instructions it was all kind of soupy."

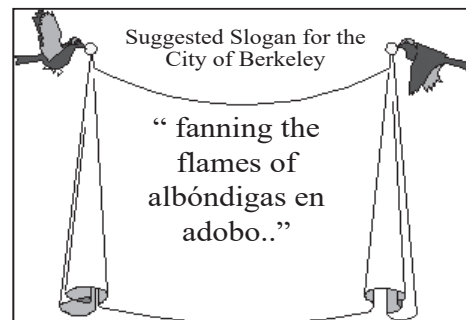
Organizers admitted they had no coverage to speak of, but claimed that works.

"It's kind of like the old smoke-filled back room," stated one organizer. "We're just much smaller."

\* \* \* \* \*



**SOME PEOPLE JUST** don't understand that developers work really hard to bring progress and if you get in their way you are really just so yesterday.





## ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, what do you think is the funniest thing on tv?**

Dear reader, corporate commercials from big polluters. Especially the ones who got caught. There ought to be an award show for those. I would watch it and applaud my fingernails off.

**Dear Lena, is evicting people who happen to be wealthy to house poor people really fair? I would feel so sorry for them.**

Dear reader, I did, too, until I realized how many of them are living in big houses all alone with lots of empty bedrooms they can't seem to fill up. Poor people tend to be a lot more friendly about sharing space and sharing food, so this is a very green, inclusive proposal. It will work out fine. Keep in mind that rich people love whining to each other more than anything on earth and this project will make a great opera.

**Dear Lena, is pulling out of the Paris climate change agreement a bad thing? I really have a bad feeling.**

Dear reader, yes, it is a bad thing. But it has an upside for quick-thinking entrepreneurs. If you act now, you can make a lot of money selling colorful and life-saving pool toys in the Kiribati Islands.

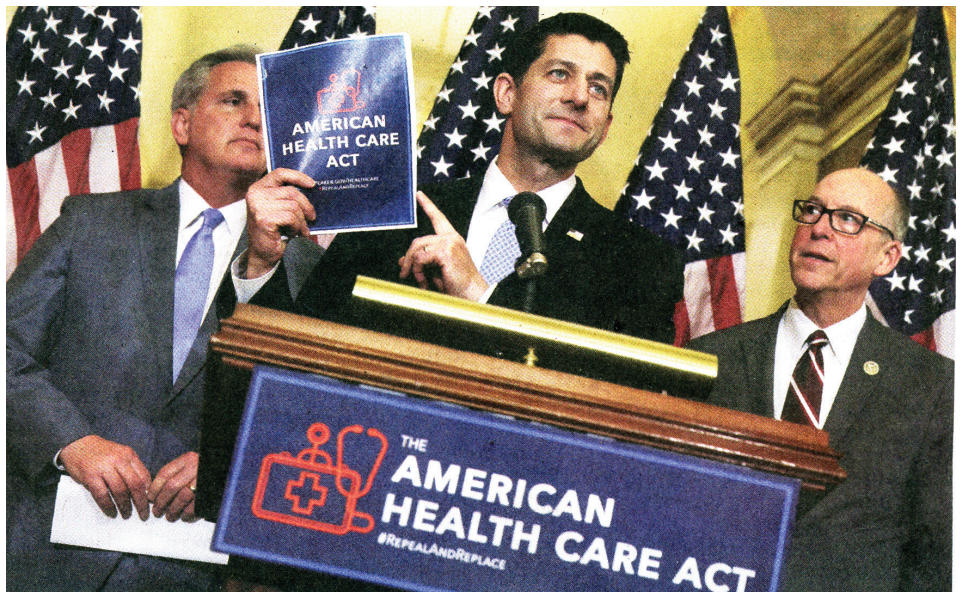
**Dear Lena, so if I find I'm walking around the park and a drone crashes and almost hits me and my dog, can I jump on it?**

Dear reader, it sounds to me like really good, healthy exercise.

**Dear Lena, if we've pulled out of the Paris climate change agreement, can I stop feeling guilty about how everything I do contributes to destroying the world?**

Dear reader, according to environmental scientists you can now reduce your guilt factor by about three degrees.

*Ask Lena about getting your own illustrated copy of Michael Goldhaber's Secret Love for Ashtrays at [cdenney@jgc.org](mailto:cdenney@jgc.org).*



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PAUL RYAN IS A BIG FAN of making sure rich people have health care because after all poor people rarely take advantage of the spa treatment at the country club.

# Health Care for Rich Is "Sensible Strategy"

By Bernie Nett-Down

"Sick people who are poor are not just really depressing to be around," stated Speaker of the House Paul Ryan of the Republicans'

healthcare bill which has been shrouded with secrecy, absent hearings or discussion, and finally failed entirely to gather enough votes during its congressional journey. "They cost much more to insure and so much of their money

reducing assistance to help voters buy coverage doesn't really need popularity if it has the right marketing at election time.

"Voters can and do vote against their own best interests," he insisted. "And if you don't believe me, check out who's flying around in Air Force One."

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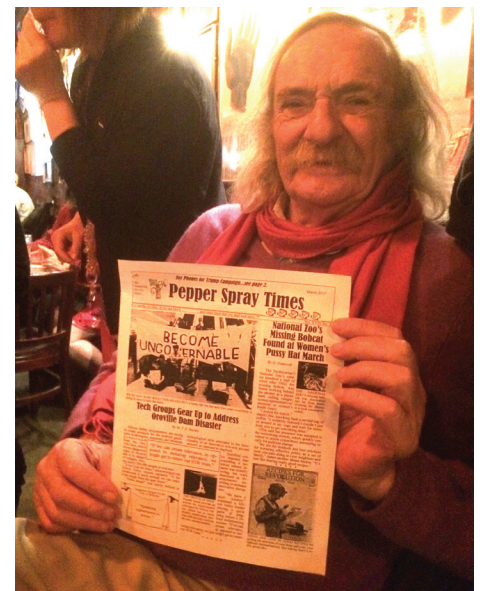
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IF YOU FEEL YOU'RE NOT getting enough exercise you might want to try the serious and sometimes exhausting physical challenge of hanging onto your hat.

health benefits of yacht sailing."

Speaker of the House Ryan acknowledged that as yet there is not a single state in the union with a majority of voters supporting their health care bill, but pointed out that



ONLY A TRULY RADICAL VISIONARY, such as this esteemed fellow, should risk reading the Pepper Spray Times.



## "Is There An Underlying Statistical Case for Optimism?" - Scientists Say *No*

By Derek Lee Observed

"We do theoretically believe in 'resiliency,'" stated Stanford theoretical scientist Dr. Luther Inhibitions when asked about the probability of hope for balance in the coming economic, political, and environmental landscape and the practicality of betting on any one or all of them. "We believe in resiliency and of course disruption and all of that since good grief have some people around here gotten rich behind it. But optimism? Frankly? No."

Other experts agreed that statistically speaking, or theoretically speaking, or philosophically speaking or wildly or poetically or even accidentally speaking there is pretty much no case to be made for optimism, clarifying that they would be glad to speak for the opposite case for the right amount of financial or even in-kind compensation so as not to get evicted.

Critics carped that this was the usual portrait of contemporary corruption, but were dismissed with crabmeat and chopped scalions with the classic batter of cornmeal and buttermilk.

"We are quaking in our shoes," stated Dr. Inhibitions, "but we do believe."

\* \* \* \* \*

### ONE OF OUR FAVORITE RELATIVELY RECENT MEDIA QUOTATIONS...



"When you have a shovel, stop digging..."

- a spokes-person on MSNBC.

## Spicer Resigns, Hits the Road



By Harriet Up

A stunned nation watched in horror the recent announcement of press secretary Sean Spicer's resignation. Experts agreed that without the consistent levity Spicer provided at press briefings the quality of comedy in White House news coverage would rapidly diminish.

"People often don't recognize the necessity of a straight man for comedic purposes," stated media consultant Agatha Betternot. "Spicer's unfortunate exit will change the dynamic entirely."

Classes were canceled and events postponed at the University of California Berkeley campus, which explained that they can never figure out anymore which events will cause rioting in the streets.

"This is big," stated Dan Mogulof, the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Public Affairs for the Berkeley campus. "We have ply-

"We wish he'd stay behind the podium," stated one White House insider who wished to remain anonymous. "He soaked up a lot of the heat."



wood ready for all the windows." "We wish he'd stay behind the podium," stated one White House insider who wished to remain anonymous. "He soaked up a lot of the heat."

The White House during President Trump's

first six months has been plagued with staff chaos, internecine squabbling, contradictory strategies and looming investigations of conflicts of interest and potential collusion with foreign interests, but throughout the transition has been supported by the steady comedy coming from the press briefings.

"No matter what nonsense the President tweeted, Spicer had to look serious. It



LOSING SEAN SPICER from the newsfeed will help make us all more appreciative of life's small favors and the people we love.

ident tweeted, Spicer had to look serious. It

NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT this guy has to offer except nice hair, which goes over big with the current administration.

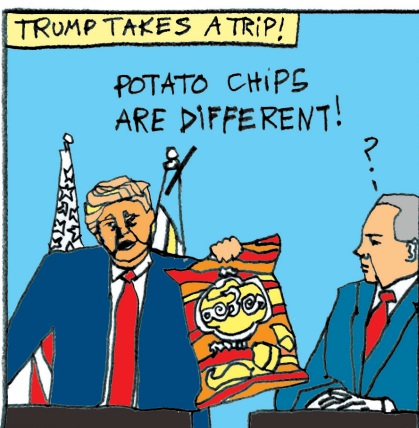


was rich," stated one media consultant. "Spicer has been key," admitted a White House insider. "Spicer was a big, round, easy target. Nobody knows what life after Spicer will look like. All I can say is Ivanka really better keep her head down."

\* \* \* \* \*

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



# Lots of Russian Spies Willing, Even Eager to Meet with American Citizens

By Abe Rokenspoke



**RUSSIAN SPIES** are fun-loving if you take time to get to know them.

Americans who take advantage of the sudden interest in their company from Russian spies are finding themselves both entertained and suddenly with full calendars of events and appointments.

"The travel has been enriching," stated

Ben Schwornt showing reporters his full calendar of appointments, Senate Intelligence Committee meetings, and court dates. "I was lonely. Now I'm the talk of the town."

"It's not for everybody," confessed another American citizen caught up in the Russian spy fever. "But after my treason conviction, which looks likely, I'm going to write a tell-all novel, sell the movie

rights, and then have the retirement of my dreams in my dacha."

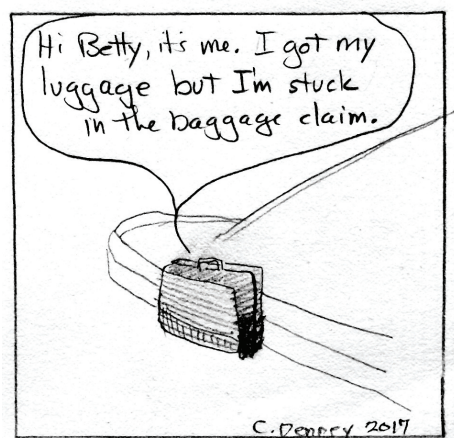
"It beats a lonely life," added another adventurous local citizen. "I'm ready. I bought new shoes. I baked a pie."

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**Next Issue: Briefing the press with Russian celebrities!**

You Get Your Present Now

by Lotta Luck



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\*As You Like It

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.