

the sun-burned issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"Tell me, and dally not, where is the money?*"

Vol. XIX No. 8

California Supreme Court Decision on Labor Shakes Up Uber, Lyft



A GROUNDBREAKING CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT DECISION states that "gig workers" are only independent contractors under strict conditions which Uber, Lyft, and other "ride-sharing" (for money) services do not meet. But count on \$51 billion to turn cranks for the companies.

By Gail Sabloin

The California Supreme Court ruled recently that workers can be independent contractors only if their tasks are outside the scope of the hiring company's business, if the company does not control how they work, and if they run independent business-

"We need to make sure we're seen as sympathetic while making sure we're not burdened with having to provide health insurance, sick leave, paid parental leave, etc. \$51 billion only goes so far."

es doing that work, sending Uber, Lyft, and similar companies back to their drawing boards and board rooms.

"We need to plan," stated Uber CEO Dara

Khosrowshahi, noting that he had successfully suckered a lot of Uber drivers into signing into agreeing to binding arbitration, which protected him from a class-action lawsuit. "We need to make sure we're seen as sympathetic while making sure we're not burdened with having to provide health insurance, sick leave, paid parental leave, etc. \$51 billion only goes so far."

Uber's exotic take on labor has resulted in its being banned or restricted in Alaska, Oregon (except Portland) in the United States, Vancouver in Canada, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Germany, London, the Northern Territory in Australia, Japan, and Taiwan, but CEO Khosrowshahi dismisses the criticism, noting that people are just too dumb to stop using the Uber app.

"They love seeing the little cars," he stated. "They think it's like a computer game. They don't care if their drivers are unvetted or poorly paid. They don't care if taxi companies with real labor contracts are circling the drain. They get to see those little cars on their iPhones. They're happy as clams."

* * * * *



THIS GUY'S TESLA drove right into the store sign within minutes of him signing the papers.

Tesla Explains Weird Autopilot Crashes

By Abby Dogond

Suicide is the suggested explanation for the unexplained crashes of Teslas while running on autopilot according to spokespersons for Elon Musk, the eccentric company owner who has permission to test his cars on public roads despite their tendency to hurl themselves into both inanimate and animate obstacles, according to business insiders familiar with the company's latest response to Tesla vehicle accident data.

"We think they're depressed about the lack of trust," stated one spokesperson. "Our business model depends on people having faith that while we may not have all the bugs out yet, that with enough crash information we'll improve performance."

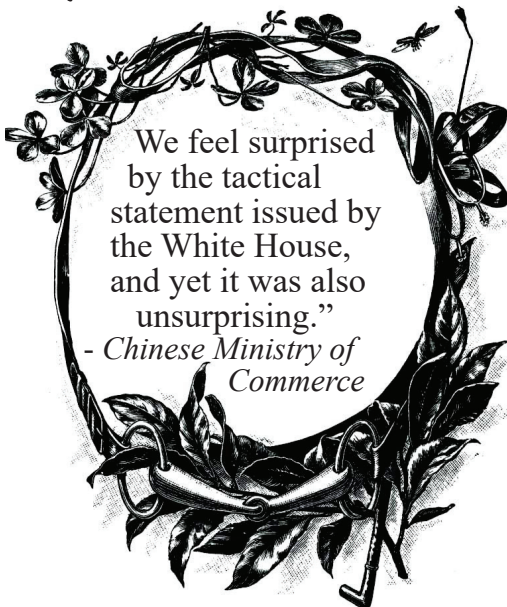
"People like danger," stated another Tesla spokesperson. "They want to be part of it."

Critics argued that having Tesla experiment with its auto-pilot programs on public roads is too dangerous, but were dismissed as missing the point of Tesla's *inclusivity*.

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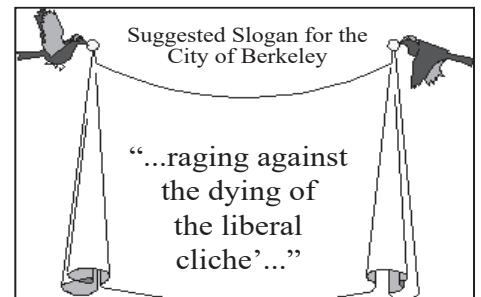
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Our Favorite News Quotation of All Time



We feel surprised by the tactical statement issued by the White House, and yet it was also unsurprising."

- Chinese Ministry of Commerce



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

"...raging against the dying of the liberal cliché'..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so what's your take on the use of profanity? It seems like the coin of the realm on cable channels. Should everybody be fired?

Dear reader, that would create jobs in an amusing and peculiar way. But never fear. There are always new, more shocking words being dreamed up to curl the hair of the uninitiated. And there are vast vaults of ugly epithets from years gone by which have fallen from favor. We at the Pepper Spray Times appreciate that all words have their place somewhere. But we prize delicacy, diction, and context. And we are proud of shocking the community by simply continuing to exist.

Dear Lena, is it true that one of Elon Musk's companies has made flamethrowers commercially available? Can I get one? I have a neighbor with a really annoying dog.

Dear reader, yes, you can get one thanks to Elon Musk. Be sure to take it down to Tesla's headquarters and video yourself asking him to show you how to use it why you want one. We can't wait to see his face.

Dear Lena, how come nobody turns out to vote except Republicans? I didn't think things could get worse politically and the turnout is still pathetic. What is with people.

Dear reader, I know. I really can't explain it. I think that's why flamethrowers are selling really well.

Dear Lena, will Trump be re-elected? Should we emigrate somewhere?

Dear reader, probably. There's nothing Democrats do better than shooting themselves in the foot. But Trump has alienated most of our allies, so if you're going to move you might want to start learning Chinese or Korean. Or Russian.

Ask Lena about the best approach to sewing buttons and bangles on your violin and saxophone at cdenny@igc.org.

One Person Found That Facebook Hasn't Shared Your Information With

"What's Facebook?" Asks Flora Brest

By Forrest Enline

The Federal Trade Commission acknowledged recently that they weren't sure what



FACEBOOK knows you'll never give it up as long as you have your little "like" buttons.

to do about the access to personal information that Facebook's original agreements with phone and device makers gave away, but were glad to find one person who still claims to have no access to your private information.

"These guys are really rich," pointed out the FTC spokesperson. "I mean *really* rich. We don't really *have* rules for these guys."

Facebook affirmed the information sharing but noted that the company was very young at the time and that information had yet to be shared with Flora Brest, who stated for the record that she's never heard of Facebook and that everybody's passwords were safe with her.

At least 60 device-makers received personal user information from millions of Facebook users including Apple, Amazon, BlackBerry, Microsoft, and Samsung. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg countered



FACEBOOK FOUNDER MARK ZUCKERBERG wowed the Senate at an April hearing so if he did it once he can do it again.

that the deals had enabled people to enjoy playing with "like" and "dislike" buttons.

"They love those things," stated Zuckerberg. "Hitting that little button is the best part of their day."

Critics carped that Facebook had violated compliance with a 2011 FTC consent decree regarding privacy protections, but an FTC spokesperson quickly put a finger to his lips, saying "shhh."

"We're not sure what we can do at this point," added the spokesperson. "Like I said, these guys are really, really rich. *And they have our information, too.*"

Congressional representatives reluctantly agreed that maybe Zuckerberg should have to come back to Congress and answer some more questions, but agreed that somebody better brief them better than last time.

"I don't really know what an algorithm



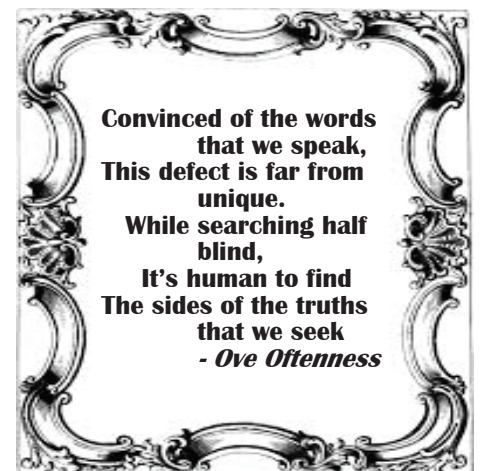
FACEBOOK HAS MANAGED TO SHARE your private information with everybody except Flora Brest, who does not have a Facebook account and so still doesn't know your password.

is," admitted one Senator requesting confidentiality. "It sounds like something else I failed in high school."

Flora Brest, on the other hand, is enjoying her moment in the limelight.

"Can you hold this for a moment," she asked one reporter nearby her stove as she handed him a tea kettle. "Just set it down on the table. It is just so nice to have all this lovely company."

* * * * *



**Convinced of the words
that we speak,
This defect is far from
unique.
While searching half
blind,
It's human to find
The sides of the truths
that we seek
- Ove Offenness**



Candidates Respond to Latest Threat to People's Park

By Gerald DeSame

Question: People's Park, a city landmark nearly 50 years old and renowned worldwide as a historic symbol of 1960's countercultural change, is being threatened by UC Chancellor Carol Christ who insists it should be used for student housing. How would you respond to this threat, and how do you think our community should respond general in defense of our historical landmarks?

Candidate #1: "Fire! Fire! Everybody out! Leave the auditorium now! Fire!"

Candidate #2: "That's all the time we have. Thank you all so much for coming."

Candidate #3: "I'm so glad you asked that thoughtful question. I'll have my staff get back to you."

Candidate #4: "Did you feel that? I think we just had an earthquake, and we should probably all quietly exit the building."

Candidate #5: "I'm sorry, what did you say? Something about parking?"

Candidate #6: "Wasn't that gunfire? Everybody drop and roll."

* * * * *

Kale Proves Effective in Reducing Wild Scooter Population

By Hank F. Yalovejesus



Experts announced a tentative solution to the overpopulation of use-and-drop scooters and bikes littering sidewalks and roads in a press conference recently stating that kale has been found to frighten and even seriously dismantle the rolling herds of wheeled pests.



BROKEN BIRD scooters litter the landscape while cruel people just laugh at them.

local nutritional expert shooing some aggressive kale away from frightened children trying to get

to school. "It tends to think it is superior to other vegetables, and it takes a lot of training and sometimes a tractor to adjust its expectations of others."

Kale lovers have formed a protective song



THIS MANGLED SCOOTER ADMITTED that it had made an untoward comment about somebody's flip phone before being suddenly set upon by an angry crowd.

circle as well as a Political Action Committee and have hired a spokesperson who mostly attends local farmers markets keeping track of consumers who do not buy kale, raising privacy concerns as well as just being really annoying.

"It's probably all Goldman Sachs money," grouched one farmers market attendee. "They have to pretend to invest in some-



KALE WAS FOUND to be responsible for the drowning of this Bird scooter the body of which was found near the Legion of Honor.

"Kale is sincere, but misguided," agreed a local nutritional expert.

thing green or their stock will go through the floor."

Agricultural experts are still

trading theories of the phenomenon, but agree that the promising results of several studies do show a reliable reduction, even an occasional elimination, of the annoying scooters and bikes piling up throughout most downtown areas and left lying near doorways and stairs.



KALE LOOKS innocent, but tends to cheat at cards and steal capos.

"After considerable study we think it's possible they might be frightened of kale," speculated one amazed expert marveling at the effectiveness of kale in dispersing the pests. "Heaven knows I am."

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



California Republicans Apply for Endangered Species Status

By Hester E. Rebeatsiseff

U. S. Fish and Wildlife acknowledged recently that they have received an application from California Republicans to receive endangered species status, and are considering the request.

"They've been threatened for quite some time," stated Deputy Director Greg Sheehan. "Sometimes directly, but in California it is mostly by the overwhelming popularity of stating no party preference."

"Saying you're a Republican just doesn't have that 'zing' anymore," lamented a local Bay Area resident who admitted he keeps his party affiliation on the downlow. "In my county we finally started a monthly support group."

"The cookies are terrible, but we had to do something," agreed another Republican who paid a pretty penny to have his old bumper stickers removed from his vehicle. "And the endangered species status will be helpful if we can get it. We're still the only

SURVIVING THE ROBOT ASSAULT



Tech For Community – Not For Profit

Commemorate The 1934 San Francisco General Strike
25th Anniversary Of LaborFest · LaborFest.net and LaborTech.net
Building Solidarity For Workers Power

party that actually turns out to vote, but it's the only way for us to get sympathy in California. We're just thinking of the kids."

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Next Issue: Farting in rhythm with celebrities!

I WANT MY PRESENT NOW



by Juan Nathan Undergod

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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.