

the suspended Brown Act issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...stones have been known to move and trees to speak..."

Vol. XXII No. 8

Berkeley Mayor Sells Out Berkeley Council Majority Trades Local Rights, Landmarks, Parks Away for \$33.00 Per Person Per Year

District 4's Kate Harrison is Lone Holdout

By Lourde Amighty

"It was surprisingly easy," confided Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin after affirming that he had thrown away all the leverage Berkeley had acquired in recent court cases

by selling out the town's landmarks, local control, parks, rent-controlled housing, and the election promises he had made to neighborhood and student groups in exchange

for pennies, putting, for instance, his barely one-year-old promise to protect the tenants of 1921 Walnut Street on the ash heap.

"I practiced selling out on my very first day in office," he explained. "We swept a homeless encampment in front of City Hall literally at the same moment we had all the liberals in town assembled at 5:00 am in back of City Hall to make a big human

peace sign for a publicity drone shot. I just figured they were so drunk on artisanal tequila flights they would never catch on and well, hey, check it out, I was right."

"He was right," commented one local resident. "Arreguin has been surprisingly Trumpian in his willingness to offer developers and the university even more than they ever dreamed they would get for building for-profit luxury housing that doesn't address and even exacerbates the housing crisis."

City Attorney Farimah Brown stated that the closed session did not violate the Brown Act even though a decision was made because in this case the Council's decision had to be signed off on by the UC regents, which is not something they've ever had to do before with Berkeley's business, but they're really nice people so whatever.

"We can't figure out why people around here don't care," shrugged one tent-dweller. "But then, strategically speaking, scapegoating people like us, even for the university's admitted lies about over-enrollment and violations of legally required disclosures, has become profoundly durable."

* * * * *

Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

..."PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD COMES AFTER THE MEETING..."

Americans Shrug Off Supreme Court Decision Burdening Voting

"Monarchy is really starting to look good," states one exhausted voter.

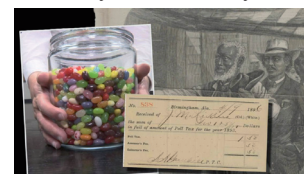
By Aldo Morreason

The Supreme Court majority shrugged off the implication that voting rights were being restricted in Arizona, leaving voters at the mercy of state changes even if they result in racial disparities.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the majority expressing no particular dismay at the possibility that "some" racial disparity may result, leaving court observers stunned.

"It's bewildering to imagine that there is something more obviously expressive of racial bias than a system of racial disparity," expressed one attorney after the decision. "This is kind of an Alice in Wonderland moment for people who thought it went without saying that voting was a good thing for a democracy."

"Maybe monarchy won't be so bad," speculated one voter philosophically.



IF STATES WANT YOU to count jelly beans in a jar correctly to have the right to vote you'll have to get good at doing it, so you better practice.

"It leaves open a wide spectrum of burdens as long as they apply to all parties," affirmed legal experts. "They can bring back having to count the amount of jelly beans correctly in a jar as long as everybody has to get it right, not just black people. It might be pretty crazy, but it seems pretty fair."

* * * * *

NOTICE
BROWN ACT
SUSPENDED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE



NOBODY IS SURE HOW the UC regents ended up with complete control over almost the entire Berkeley City Council but it sure makes it exciting to live here.



IT MIGHT SEEM INCONVENIENT to stand up for a long time to vote but you can't argue that it isn't great exercise and really weeds out people who aren't very motivated.



BERKELEY MAYOR JESSE ARREGUIN and UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ enjoy a very special relationship and there are absolutely no dog treats involved.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, Why would the Berkeley City Council have to get UC Regent approval for a decision they make at a Berkeley City Council meeting? Are we somehow owned by the University of California? I knew our relationship with the campus was an uneasy one, but I didn't think they owned our government officials. Did I misunderstand something here about the closed meeting?

Dear reader, I think we all did. Except that the pandemic has offered cities like Berkeley the greatest opportunity to silence dissent since CS gas and rubber bullets. Did you think they were waiting with baited breath for your opinion? They just want to put as much high-end students-only housing up as possible before people manage to put it together that until something resembling leadership requires that extant and new housing address actual housing needs, the housing crisis will forever be a lucrative opportunity to make shitloads of money.

Dear Lena, but why is the state destroying parks and scarce low-income, rent-controlled housing? Aren't they supposed to be a school?

Dear reader, it is indeed odd and yes, they are supposed to be a school. They are supposed to be somewhat embarrassed to be a nuclear weapons contractor, but somehow they manage even to take great pride in the matter.

Dear Lena, is it true that Tule elk were crowding the tennis courts in Marin County making the wait times for court use unbearable?

Dear reader, yes. The Tule elk are also chess masters, who sit idly around the club near a chess board until someone asks if they play, and then they'll say, "oh, a little" and then will play a cut-throat game even against a little kid. Don't trust them, and don't let them near the kitchen or they'll offer to make Napoleons and take up the kitchen for hours with arguably perfect mille-feuilles pastry.

Ask Lena about rocket science as a competitive sport at cdenney@igc.org.

Taliban Try to Clean Up Image



THESE TALIBAN MEMBERS DRESSED UP so well that they didn't recognize each other from the girls' school they burned down together back in 2019.

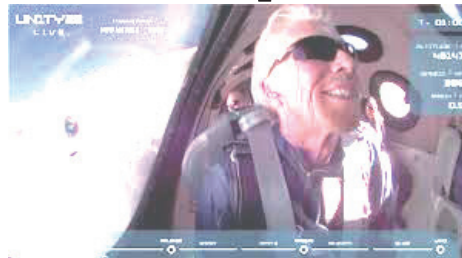
By F. I. Didencare

Insurgent commanders now ruling the Kabul area in Afghanistan advise their Taliban members to take up backyard volleyball, start minor league softball teams, and throw bakesales for bombed-out girls' schools in a new effort to cultivate a new, more conventional image.

"We're disciplined," noted one Taliban leader. "We're just not very conventional to the American eye."

"But we're a quick study," assured another.

Rocket Science Proves Richest Men Also Stupidest



YOU CAN BUY A TICKET TO SPACE if you have \$250,000 to burn, sign a release, and can stand this guy's company although the word is out that he might not have to be on every trip.

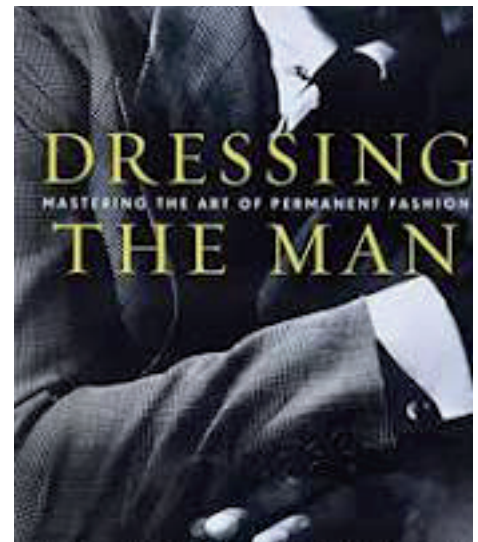
By Ella Vathing

Rocket science proved definitively that rich guys are profoundly stupid, and if given the chance will burn up more than a struggling third world country's GNP just to be first at something, anything.

Virgin Galactic's stocks fell over 17% after its successful flight, which lasted only six minutes and cost millions, tempting some observers to remark that the stunt made even the worst bus ride you've ever been on look good.

"By 'successful', we mean that it didn't explode and actually came back," stated one reporter from Fortune magazine. "By successful we mean that as publicity stunts go in some respects it did not backfire."

* * * * *



THE TALIBAN'S NEW IMAGE surprised some, but tends to have a reassuring effect on bank managers and PTA members.

other Taliban leader pulling out an iPhone to check whether or not he might be late for his Zumba class.

"We may favor a ruthless, land-grabbing offensive across the country, but we want to convey a reassuring presence to people while we take whatever we want," state another Taliban operative.

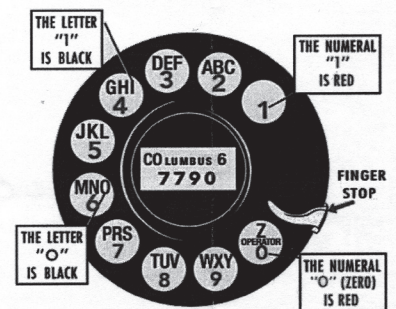
"We took notes on what was happening in Berkeley, California," noted another Taliban neighborhood coordinator. "The City of Berkeley's image lulled that town completely to sleep. It's inspiring."

* * * * *

Useful Information from Our Wise Life Counselor Lynn Riordan

HOW TO USE A DIAL TELEPHONE

This is what a telephone dial looks like.



In some places the dials have only numbers like this.



There are also some other types of dials, but all dials work the same way and are easy to use.



THIS IS HOW STEMPLE CREEK RANCH sees itself when it says it “works in harmony with Mother Nature”, pointing out that free-range, grass-fed beef just “naturally” sells better than Tule elk meat at market and until food fads change what else can they do.

July 13th Closed Session City Council Meeting Deemed Most Efficient Meeting in Human History

By Elsie Ewencourt

The Berkeley City Council reveled in the apparently unique glory of its invention, the “non-agreement” settlement, at its July 13 closed meeting, inspiring People’s Park Historic District Advocacy Group co-chair Harvey Smith to note that it was unclear how the city reached the settlement without an agreement which, under the Brown Act required an open session.

According to Smith, the city “snatched defeat from the jaws of victory” after deciding to settle a lawsuit that was ruled in the City of Berkeley’s favor, tossing their victory’s leverage inexplicably aside.

“Ten people, potentially, with one dissenting vote, with over 121,000 residents in Berkeley,” Smith said. “Ten people, deciding in secret an agreement with the university that will affect many people for years to come, made the decision for all of us. The pandemic has required a lot of innovation, but this was truly the most efficient city meeting in human history.”

* * * * *

(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)

Service staffer chasing off environmentalists who had hiked for miles into the park bringing fenced-off water to dying Tule elk. “I think of Bessie over here as family, just look into her big, brown eyes.”

Seashore Superintendent Kenkel affirmed that private cattle operators’ protection required the park service to engage in questionable, even cruel wildlife policies with deadly consequences for the Tule elk, the largest living herd in the world, but insisted that watching a natural species die in their natural habitat was, well, perfectly natural.

“An eight-foot fence may seem cruel to these thirsty, frustrated natural species,” stated Kenkel, “but you should try this free-range, grass-fed beef.”

* * * * *

Environmentalists Refuse to Get on Board Tule Elk Reduction Plan

“Next they’ll be playing chess and clogging up the tennis courts,” state concerned Park Service staff.

By Agatha Won’t

Environmentalists refused to see the upside of the death of hundreds of Tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore, leaving the National Park Service (NPS) bewildered.

“They don’t want us to starve them, and they don’t want us to shoot them,” lamented Seashore Superintendent Craig Kenkel, who requested a 60-day extension citing “complications” after the NPS’s proposal for a court-mandated amendment to its outdated General Management Plan was revealed to protect and expand cattle ranching rather than improve wildlife and watershed protection, provoking outrage from over 50 conservation organizations and thousands of astonished, bewildered park users, animal rights and environmental justice advocates, as well as Coast Miwok tribal members.

“The whole point of this court-ordered amended plan was to protect wildlife from private ranching abuses,” stated one tribal member. “It appears that the NPS finds it hard to shake their pattern of preferential treatment for ranchers.”

“We’re the real threatened species here,” fumed representatives from the Lunny Ranchers and the Rossotti Ranchers who objected to the extension. “Ranchers and meat-eaters have difficulty holding up their heads in the hail of hostility toward climate-change-friendly industries. But keeping the preservation of the Seashore’s natural resources, wildlife, and scenic beauty unimpaired for future generations pales in comparison to the joy in ranchers’ hearts when they have a really good burger.”

“Cattle are beautiful,” insisted one Park

We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



C. DENNEY 7-2021

New Trump Books, UFO Begone Sprays, Luxury College Student Housing Industry Bubbles Loom



NEW BOOKS ABOUT DONALD TRUMP are a bright spot in the beleaguered publishing industry but nothing offers more edgy, short-term gains than for-profit, luxury student housing.

By Gene E. L. X. Pression

Developers firmly rejected investment experts' warnings about the dangers of investing in high-end, luxury college student housing, which has almost completely displaced the more typical student housing in most college towns.

"We used to vomit in low hedges of white Sage," stated a UC Berkeley student walking from the private tennis court to the Jacuzzi at a wealthy-students-only development next door to the Berkeley campus. "Now we vomit in Catalina Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*), a native that is moderately long-lived and manages alcoholic vomit with remarkable panache."

"The rising delinquencies are just momentary," agreed a real estate investor vomiting into a *Rhus ovata*, also known as Sugar Bush or Sugar Sumac, an evergreen shrub that grows in chaparral in dry canyons and slopes below 1300 meters in Southern California, Arizona and Baja California. "Longterm investments are a different landscape than these down-and-dirty mortgages for commercial apartment buildings, which are packaged together into commercial mortgage backed securi-

Next Issue: vomiting into native plant hedges with celebrities!

ties (CMBS)."

"You do have to be quick with changes to your portfolio," agreed another investor vomiting into a Bush anemone, the sole species in the genus *Carpenteria* in the *Hydrangea* family which is closely related to the genus mock-orange genus. "This hedge, for instance, is a rare species, endemic to only seven sites in Fresno and Madera Counties, where it grows in chaparral. We're not sure the maintenance crew knows how to maintain it, but we'll be out of here pretty shortly and it will be someone else's problem."

* * * * *



I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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