

the
unsched-
uled
rapid dis-
assembly
issue...



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

August 2023

Pepper Spray Times



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

"...beware of entrance to a quarrel..."

Vol. XXIII No. 8

Supreme Court Should Be Replaced by Artificial Intelligence, Experts Say



AMERICA IS WAKING UP TO THE EMBARRASSING FACT THAT some of the Supreme Court justices are unqualified for the job and we can't figure out how to get them off the bench.

By Vance Payment

Experts agree that the courts at every level are saturated with ideologues susceptible to creative, oblique approaches to law.

"The willingness to mix church and state is an easy example," stated Professor Victor E. S. Sweet. "The current court's conservative majority erased the separation in two cases this past term, holding that a state must fund religious activity as part of an educational aid program (Carson v. Makin), altering the traditional course of prohibiting any use of public funds to fund religion."

"It's creative, to be sure," states Heather L. Weaver, Senior Staff Attorney for the ACLU Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief regarding the case. "But it casually sidesteps primary author James Madison's intentionally clear separation

of church and state considered essential to avoid 'allowing the government to force citizens to conform to the preferred faith of those in power'."

"The court's current majority is comfortable with taxpayer-funded religion," affirmed legal expert Solomon Grimm, of the University of Perpetual Proportion. "And apparently even more comfortable with nine days of island-hopping in a volcanic archipelago on a billionaire Harlan Crow's superyacht staffed with a private chef."

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, the recipient of this and apparently many other curiously unreported gifts and donations, dismissed his violation of long-standing ethical norms for judges' conduct by referring to the "hospitality" loophole which traditionally has never been applied to travel or a half million dollar donation to a Tea Party group founded by a Supreme Court Justice's wife.

"There's a first time for everything," stated Leonard Leo, Federalist Society leader regarded as architect of the Supreme Court's move to the right. "Up here at Camp Topridge we consider the evolution of the court just another part of nature."

* * * * *

Not-So-Green Winery Faces Opposition

"Zero Emission" Description Leaves Out Destruction of 34 Acres of Old Growth Forest

By Tony Doff

"I suppose we did downplay that part of our proposal," nodded Attorney Tom Adams on behalf of Le Colline's owner Dave DiCesaris about the 34 acres of old growth forest imperiled by a proposal for a vineyard northeast of St. Helena. "People are impressed with the electric tractor. That's what we show the kids. We tend to lead with that."

Kellie Anderson of the Linda Falls Alliance wrote that the site bought by Le Colline winery is biologically rich, geologically important, aesthetically valued, and hydrologically fragile Howell Mountain.

Napa County granted tentative approval to the project recently, signalling that yes, old growth forests take a back seat to a good glass of wine.

"It's the best way to handle the stress of climate change," affirmed one Napa Valley resident. "We appreciate that the earth is at a tipping point, and meditate seriously about it while sipping a Malbec bursting with blueberry, plum, and pomegranate with a strong undertone of raisin, date, warm spices and a pleasant licorice and cola finish while riding the electric tractor."

* * * * *



YOUR PRETTY WINE LABEL rarely tells the whole story of 34 deforested acres of carbon sequestering redwoods.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, did Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas really declare income from a defunct shell company? Can everybody play?

Dear reader, you can try. You had better hope he's still on the Supreme Court when your case comes up. My personal shell company is called Shelby Commminround.

Dear Lena, I can't tell which wine has electric tractors and biodynamic rituals from the label. What should I do?

Dear reader, there may be a ritual for this, but the sure-fire winery to avoid is the one that plans to bulldoze 34 acres of old growth.

Dear Lena, I think I have a homelessness solution. I just read that they can't break up your tent city unless they give you somewhere else to go. And it sure seems like these high-end condo towers are nothing but empty.

Dear reader, excellent suggestion. And even if they're full, most of them are so big they need somebody there so it looks like somebody is home to water the plants and feed the goldfish. It's odd that that oft-told story of supply and demand just never seem to meet in the middle when it comes to housing. And let's not leave out the empty office space they keep complaining about like that's a crisis. We can solve their sad emptiness crisis.

Dear Lena, should Diane Feinstein resign?

Dear reader, Yes, although given the current do-nothing state of Congress this would be a sexist request. Both genders should be equally entitled to neglect their jobs; many congressional representatives do exactly that without general complaint. It does raise the possibility of allowing people with disabilities to use remote access, which enlightened civic organizations do. Everyone should have an equal chance to do a terrible job for their government.

Ask Lena about fingerpainted wine labels at cdenny@jgc.org.

Hopkins Bike Lane Project Nightmare Averted by City Staff Mutiny



THOSE WHO STUDIED THE HOPKINS BIKE LANE PROJECT PROPOSAL discovered that cars and bikes get along great online, on maps, in photographs and in design software where nobody gets hurt but really sucks in real life where everybody tends to color outside the lines.

By Alan Fun

A mutiny Berkeley administrators are referring to as a "staffing crisis" has indefinitely postponed the two-way bike lane which promised both head-on collisions and traffic backed-up to Orinda.

"Head-on collisions look really fun in video games and cartoons," commented one local Hopkins resident appreciative of the proposal's postponement. "But we already have a badly backed-up, dangerous

to convey confidence and integrity in the work product to date" before somebody goes postal.

"Everybody is pointing at somebody else," noted another neighbor in wonder. "The current project doesn't meet Fire Department statutory or best practice requirements and state law prohibits road modifications that don't provide safe access for emergency equipment. The bike riders want their bike lanes whether they violate state law or not, and it's as hard to get them to listen as it is to get a Berkeley City Councilmember to call you back."

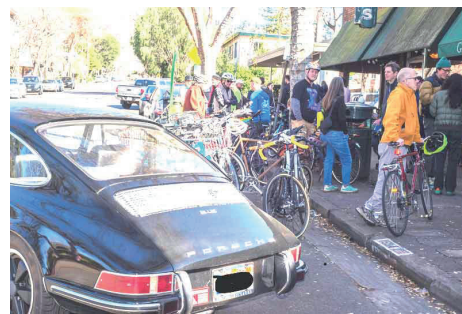
We thought it would be a walk," stated one councilmember pointing at the mountain of angry

messages from storekeepers and managers who stood to lose their loyal customer base once all their parking was erased for the bike lanes.

"We thought we could move faster than the awareness of the project itself, let alone the horrific neighborhood impact."

"That's how they usually do it," stated a public works officer who offered colorful charts of the shrinking zone for neutrality in local transportation projects. "But despite this careful planning, people are catching on."

* * * * *



WHEN CARS MEET BIKES it is only pretty to the online community of bike riders who rarely see the tragic but predictable consequences of "sharing the road".

intersection here. The last thing we need is to give people the impression that this is a great place to bring all the kids along to ride a bike while they're shopping."

Berkeley City Manager Dee Ridley-Williams appeared to agree, noting that the project appears to have produced nothing but "vacancies, project management changes within the Transportation Division, impacts to the Public Works Department, triggering the need for closer review" due to the questions from sharp-eyed neighbors noting fire safety issues and the fact that "additional time and review are necessary



YOU HAVE A LOT OF NERVE thinking you should have any say over your own stupid neighborhood.



If Donald Trump Really Wanted to Get Re-Elected...

By Ahmet Mymatch

- * He would embrace an assault weapons ban just to stand out in the crowd.
- * He would apologize to Melania.
- * He'd ride it out in jail for the fundraising.
- * He would agree to a brief show of compassion for some person, or some animal, or some victim of some tragedy, anything, something.

* He would do a cooking show.

* He would ladle out soup at a soup kitchen, no, just kidding, he would hawk Trump steaks in the teeth of a hurricane instead.



YOU KNOW you gotta ride.

* He would behave with a modest amount of dignity at some small community event, such as a funeral for a local dignitary or a school bakesale just once. Show up, shake hands, and if asked to speak only speak about the fine qualities of others present such as the parents of the deceased or the winners of the pie contest.

* He would interest himself in treating women with respect, if only for the optics, in certain settings.

* He would stop cheating at golf, although I'm told that in the world of golf this may be considered a loveable quality.

* Take his name off of everything.

* He would graciously admit his electoral loss, apologize for misleading people, hire a ghostwriter to write one last memoir, and fade from view as modest penance for too much to quantify.

* * * * *

Justice or Stalinist Russian Horror Show?

By the redoubtable Don Tread

As Trump faces indictment(s) for potential crimes, the Republican political system and right-wing media has risen in his defense. The response can best be summarized by Trump's recent quote, "the Biden regime's weaponization of our justice system is straight out of the Stalinist Russia horror show." Which leads us into a conservative media blitz and Congressional hearings that echo the same narrative.

If we step back from Trump's many potential legal problems: New York City's Bragg indictment; New York State Attorney General James' lawsuit; Atlanta District Attorney Willis' investigation; Special Counsel Smith's January 6th investigation; and Special Counsel Smith's Classified Documents investigation, we can review recent history and the facts in search of the underlying context.



INDICTED, JAILED, OR ETHICALLY COMPROMISED TRUMP ASSOCIATES are too many to count which only goes to highlight the American public's generosity and willingness to forgive.

Eleven Trump associates in government have been convicted or plead guilty; Nader, Manafort, Stone, Barrack, Cohen, Weisselberg, Bannon, Gates, Papadopoulos, Brody, and Flynn. (Ongoing investigations could easily double that number.) For Obama and Biden administrations the number is zero.

More broadly, since 1968 Republican administrations have had 178 indictments, while Democratic administrations have had four indictments. Perhaps you can see a pattern that continues into the current Republican activities.

Is it possible Democrats have so successfully weaponized the justice system that they falsely convicted all of these Republicans while overlooking the Democrats? Well, Department of Justice appointees come from the sitting President as do Fed-

eral judges.

Since 1968, Republicans have been in power for 32 years while Democrats have been in power for 22 years. Republicans appointed Federal judges have a six to three majority on the Supreme Court, a 91 to 79 majority on Appellate Courts and a 280 to 336 minority on District Courts.

Perhaps the claimed Democrat weaponization came from the "deep state" and Trump hating RINO* Republicans? Many high ranking Republicans hired by Trump refuse to support Trump's alleged criminal activities; Members of Congress Cheney and Kinzinger, Federal Bureau of Investigation Directors Comey and Wray, White House staff Scaramucci, Mattes, Spencer, Kelly, Newman, Grisham, and Cobb. For some, the quest for power is limited by the legal and ethical. Others like Senator Graham make appeals to send money to Trump or Representative Greene, who compares Trump to Nelson Mandela or Jesus.

Recent polling shows that 50% of people believe Trump's indictment is justified and that 33% believe it is not. So that's 50% for justice and 33% for Stalinist Russia horror show. This pretty much aligns with the 30% of people (66% of Republicans) that in spite of a complete lack of evidence, still believe the 2020 election was stolen. It seems that MAGA Republicans are not influenced by facts, but by something else, probably ego, sense of identity or divine intervention. Perhaps the early 18th century satirist/author Jonathan Swift said it best, "it is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into."

* Republican in Name Only

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STALIN'S RUSSIAN HORROR SHOW is not playing at very many theaters but it can still scare the popcorn out of most people.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



War on Women Confound Experts and Strategists Alike

By T. Maura Sanothaday

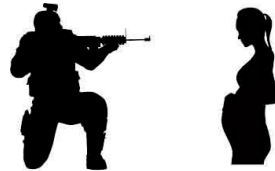
"It's like a dog chasing a car that finally catches up to it," noted legal expert Professor Felix Hawstead solemnly assessing the florid landscape of reproductive health-care set in motion by the current Supreme Court's majority. "They never thought about what to do with it."

The Supreme Court majority's success overturning *Roe v. Wade* left a patchwork of confusion illustrated best by Elon Musk's euphemism for the explosion of his company's rocket, described to the press as an "unscheduled rapid disassembly."

"They'll sort out federal judges issuing conflicting Food and Drug Administration (FDA), requirements," commented Hawstead. "But imagine health professionals trying to parse whether they can even discuss medical care with patients without being criminally charged."

"It's worse for patients," added advocate Gail Sabloin whose Texas medical clinic now consists of advising patients to get online, pack a bag, and cross their fingers. "I don't understand how 'stand your ground' gun laws can co-exist in the same political landscape as the concept of a government in charge of everybody's uterus."

Harvard's Caroline E. Light sheds clarity on the contradiction and possible connection by explaining that originally, English common law was based on the sanctity of human life, and that only the King was authorized to take a life. People under threat were supposed to retreat to the "wall behind your back" before using force, and weapons were primitive. That "duty to retreat" never applied to women or slaves, whose safety was supposed to come from their connection to their owners or husbands. The only additional protection was the "castle doctrine," originating in the early 1600s. This was the doctrine that you did not have to retreat from an attack if you were in your



WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE, AUTONOMY, AND SUFFRAGE has always been considered an affront to the original vision of American democracy which involved only men who owned property and tended to get gifts of rides in chartered jet rides and 162-foot super-yachts of billionaires.

connection to their owners or husbands. The only additional protection was the "castle doctrine," originating in the early 1600s. This was the doctrine that you did not have to retreat from an attack if you were in your

home, which also only applied to men and non-slaves."

"The Supreme Court is trodding along at least one of the odd paths created by a white supremacist patriarchy which didn't consider female or slave's lives to be part of the equation," stated obstetrics nurse Filomena D. Details. "Even though former slaves and women now can technically vote, the law itself is organized toward property owners and their protection, and has little to offer what would have at the time been considered the indignity of a more inclusive democracy."

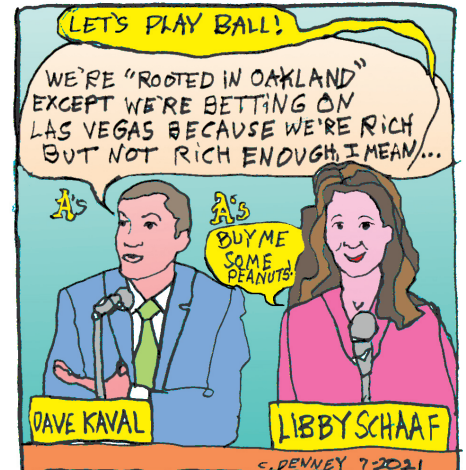
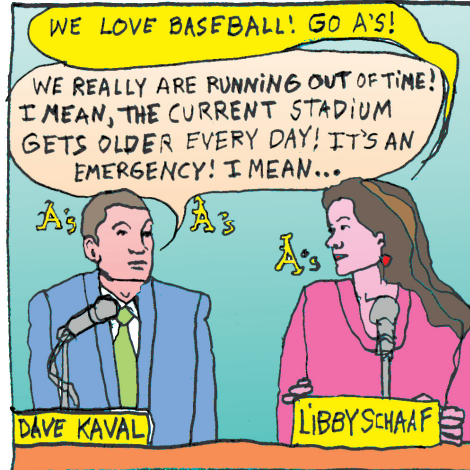
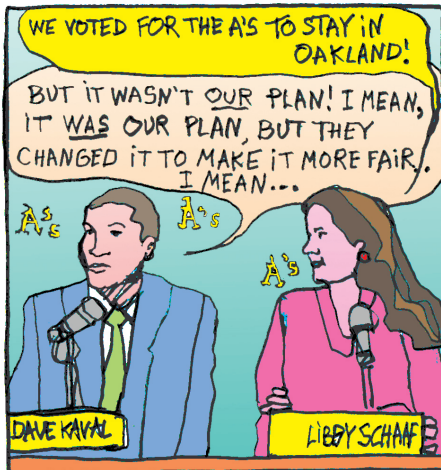
Republicans agreed, expressing annoyance that women and people of color had the effrontery to be born without the requisite attributes. "There's only so much we can do," stated Judge Garner Stray brushing off pleas to respect the necessity of an independent FDA for at least the sake of pharmaceutical profits. "We have a busy docket and some of us have a room booked at the Bohemian Grove."

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Next Issue: digging up burrowing owls with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Hamlet