

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think I would like members-only public spaces especially if I could be on the membership selection committee and just allow people I like. Is that legal?

Dear reader, apparently so. Every morning your local police officers round up the unfortunate sleeping in public places and tuck them away in custody cells. *Martin vs. Boise* does not appear to have crossed Berkeley's city attorney's desk as yet.

Dear Lena, are you for real that I can get a job whispering to robots? I want that job. I've been muttering under my breath about them for years.

Dear reader, yes, this is a real job. The personnel department is going to be very excited that you've been training for years.

Dear Lena, isn't this a one party system at this point? The Democrats are doing exactly what lost them the election last time and as a consequence begging for some third party upstart to hand the election to the incumbent. I've seen this movie. What kind of democracy is this?

Dear reader, the best money can buy. Although if you live in Berkeley, California, you live in an "all party all the time" system; no housing crisis, climate crisis, labor crisis or political crisis even floats momentarily above the all-important radar of the holiday party. Stand between these people and the hors d'oeuvres at your peril.

Dear Lena, so after all those renovations Berkeley's BART plaza is empty all the time. Is that what they wanted? It's totally weird.

Dear reader, apparently so. If one sits down at other than an uncomfortable chair or bustop, one quickly gets surrounded by a full phalanx of uniformed officers exhibiting concern about whether or not one is altogether well. It's peculiar what over two million dollars in undemocratic business improvement district public money will do. *Ask Lena about disposable parks at cdenney@igc.org.*

"Members Only" Public Spaces Proposal Gets Traction



Volunteers at work on what was then known as Herrick Peace and Freedom Park, Telegraph Avenue and Dwight Way, June 1968.

BERKELEY'S TELEGRAPH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TBID) gave up trying to get only the "right people" to enjoy the use of the publicly funded benches, planters, pay phone, and odd sculpture at Triangle Park in favor of fencing it off and trying to de-list it as a park to get around Measure L, the pesky Berkeley ordinance that protects parks and open space.

By Imogene Yuss

"We're looking at it," responded one tense city staffer when asked about the expensive effort to trade in one population on Berkeley's streets for another more preferred group through the creative use of street furniture and perhaps a "members-only" pilot project.



"TURD CAT" is unexpectedly popular after being artistically adjusted with appropriate amenities.

The "Telegraph Avenue Public Realm Plan" was \$144,737, which would have paid to house a lot of people. And that doesn't include the costs of fencing it all off when they figured out they didn't like the people who used the benches."

According to insiders, the Berkeley City Manager is working closely with the Telegraph Business Improvement District to

de-list the open space as a "median strip" instead of a park despite such a move's violation of Measure L, the Public Parks and Open Space Preservation ordinance which



LOCAL MERCHANTS AND THEIR PUBLICLY FUNDED BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT fenced off the park, hid the bench, and are living in terror that people might hang out there - which was the whole idea, of course, but not *those people*.

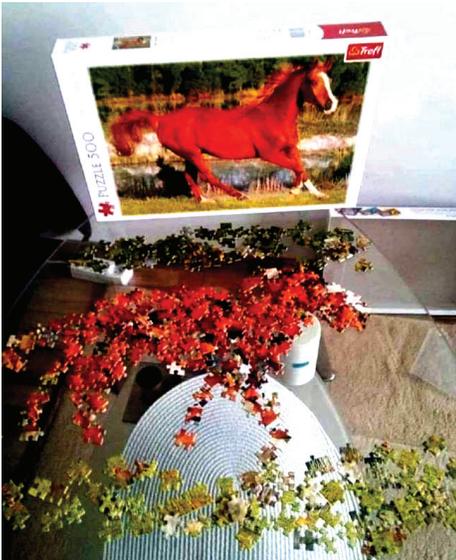
passed as a city-wide ordinance in 1987 (Chapter 6.42).

"Some of the Berkeley City Council wasn't even born in 1987," hastily explained one City Hall staff member. "And some were toddlers absent any memory of the days when planning for housing was oriented toward public needs rather than developer profit and parks and open space were prized as a public good. It's probably like some faraway storybook to them."

* * * * *

Nailed It

Twelve Year Old Genius
Completes Puzzle in Seconds



THE SMITHSONIAN IS VYING for this final display showing Lorna Mia-Sweater's innovative technique for completing a puzzle in record-setting time.

By Erin Water

"We weren't even really paying attention," stated the pleased parents of twelve-year-old Lorna Mia-Sweater's record-setting puzzle achievement, which experts say has changed the gaming world.

"We'll see start-ups based on this innovative technique," stated Silicon Valley venture capitalists. "She'll get millions in endorsements for shoes and cereal."

"She's going to need a lawyer and an estate planner," agreed one financial consultant after reviewing the phenomenon which Mia-Sweater's parents swear she thought up without their help. "She's going to need an agent."

* * * * *

Another Job You Won't Get

By Enoch Sidover

Job seekers worried that the new robot café wouldn't have any place for them were right.

"It's the future. It's the labor-free workplace," stated Suzi Scelzi, a brand ambassador for Bbox, which is owned by Greg Becker, CEO and co-founder of Nourish. "Employees are just so yesterday."

Bbox customers order through an app or through a tablet outside the café by creating a customer profile including phone number and "payment information", which implies that there might be some issue with taking customers' cash.

"We're not sure about the cash thing," whispered one City Hall staffer from the City Manager's office. "Finding out at all appears to be an issue. Those robots have really big arms. We're trying to figure out who around here has to be the one to ask it."

Democratic Debate Review

Am watching the Democratic Debate on MSNBC. Really enjoyed the video game part where Yang beat Warren in a first person shooter.

Tulsi Gabbard vs. Pete Buttigieg in paintball was exciting as well. Quite unexpected when Tulsi started shouting in Russian.

Did not enjoy the swimsuit competition between Biden and Sanders. Have to admit that Sanders totally nailed the "Little Bunny FuFu."

(X)



GOOD LUCK GETTING HIRED at the new robot café on Shattuck unless you can do a really good imitation of a robot or "whisper" to one in an effective way.

Nay-sayers expressed concern about the labor-free business concept in a town which has finally taken initial steps toward a living wage.

"If you like what Uber and Lyft did to the taxi drivers and what Amazon did to bookstores, you'll love what this does to coffeeshops," stated Elsie Ewencourt, a labor economist who is currently unemployed. "Look forward to getting your morning latté from a 250 pound pile of bolts after standing in a long line of dead souls."

Scelzi replied to questions about whether the robot café data-mines its customers by saying "f-- yeah!", explaining that they turn around and sell customers' data like there's no tomorrow in slightly more colorful language. "That's the whole point," she said. "I mean, f--- coffee."

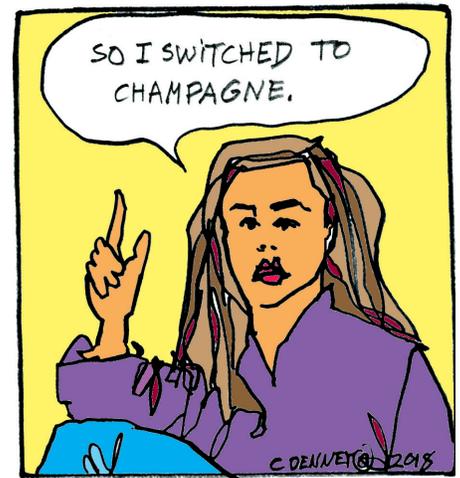
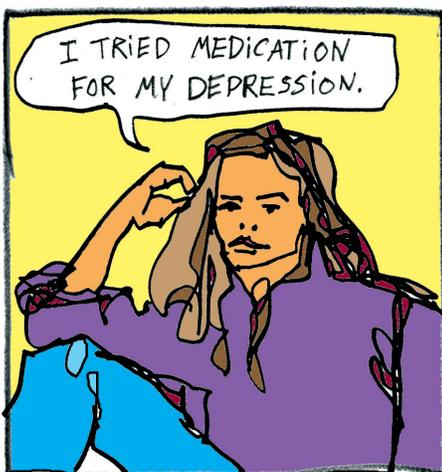
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THE CITY MANAGER is trying to find somebody willing to whisper to this robot about whether or not it accepts payments in cash.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Mountain Bikers Trump All Over Cesar Chavez Park's Nature Preserve

By Elvira Mentaldamage

The hills and the nature preserve at Cesar Chavez Park were thoroughly Trumped by four young boys in state-of-the-art outdoor gear and an inexplicably strange animosity toward actual nature.

"It's an odd combination," stated Dr. Eve Enow, specialist in passive-aggressive pathologies. "Especially in the Bay Area, where kids tend to grow up thinking saving the whales and respecting the environment is a good thing."

Stewards of the park shook their heads, worried that all nature everywhere might



IF YOU KNOW THESE GUYS make them drink robot coffee.



THE MOUNTAIN BIKERS CALLED this creation "A--holes in need of spray paint."

need to be fenced off due to the growing ratio of the completely clueless in any given population.

"We clearly underestimated," said Enow.
* * * * *

Leopard - changing its spots, charmed by a dubious guru



Inspiration Corner by Lynn Riordan



When drinking alcoholically, use ice.



Family can be awkward.



Fist bump TRANSIT police. They love that.



Dad, I told you to NOT bother me at work!

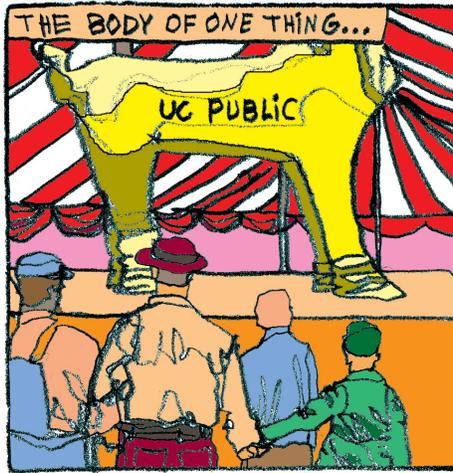
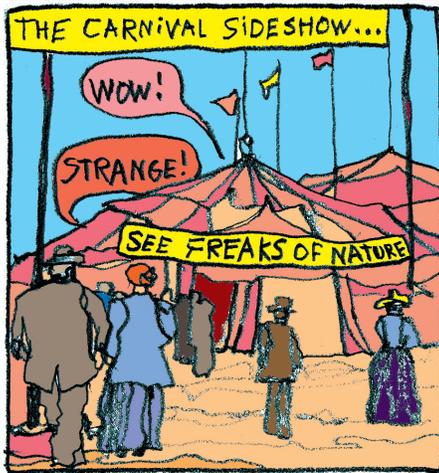


I ordered the salad.

Next Issue: Rollerblading on sandy beaches with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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