

the
pursed
lip
issue...



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

January 2023

Pepper Spray Times

First Appellate District Division Five Kicks Regents' Butts, pg. 4



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

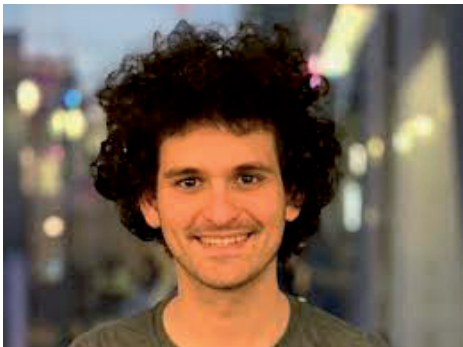
"...thrust him downstairs! Know we not Galloway nags?..."

Vol. XXIII No. 1

"Sucker Stadium" Tops UC's Stadium Renaming Options

SF Embraces, then Boots Killer Robots

By F. Vida Onlyknown



FTX's CEO SAM BANKMAN-FRIED lost somewhere between one and two billion in consumer funds and all he got was this t-shirt.

By Lowell DaBoom

The University of California Berkeley has suspended its football stadium naming rights deal with FTX, a representative of the athletic department confirmed wiping his beaded forehead with a handkerchief and clutching a tattered portfolio.

The \$17.5 million dollar deal originally planned for 10 years lasted a year and a half and was entirely paid for in now near-worthless cryptocurrency.

"FTX Field at California Memorial Stadium" is now nameless, with "Sucker Stadium" at the top of the list of popular suggestions after FTX's bankruptcy filing was submitted a few weeks ago.

"I thought 'Ship of Fools' had a nice ring to it, or maybe 'Stone-broke Stadium'" said one local resident.

"Scrooge Field!" shouted some of the



UC CHANCELLOR CAROL CHRIST suggests that you just suck it up because football is here to stay.

striking graduate student workers from the middle of their strike line.

Maintenance workers busily scraping the FTX signage off the sidelines of the UC football field suggested "Whoops 8.0 Stadium" in honor of the lengthy line of bizarre names for the formerly named Memorial Stadium which was funded by public contributions to honor those Californians who lost their lives in World War I (1917-1918).

"At least the FTX cryptocurrency collapse is being considered comparable to the Enron scandal and Madoff investment scandal," mused one student rooting through a thesaurus for name suggestions. "It's nice to know your alma mater is up there with the really big cons."

FTX's collapse has resulted in a ripple effect across the cryptocurrency industry, with the price of Bitcoin falling to its lowest price in two years and most UC students turning in their blue and gold Bears jackets in embarrassment. The matter is now under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Department of Justice, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and a Michigan drill team which was apparently quite heavily invested..



CRYPTOCURRENCY is a much fancier name for concepts formerly known as fraud, such as "Berkeley Cares" vouchers.

FINANCIAL EXPERTS agree that UC's economic advisors study this simple map of what happened to all the public's money.

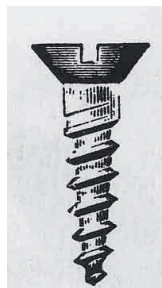
"Unless that's a scam, too," whispered one

SEC official trying to sort through the blizzard of acronyms.

Anonymous sources claim that between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in consumer funds disappeared in a hailstorm somewhere near Henrietta, Kansas.

"I'm transferring to Chico State," whispered one undergrad. "My family tries to maintain a strong sense of pride."

* * * * *



San Francisco voted yes to allowing police robots to kill people because hey, nobody wants to get called a liberal, then rapidly reversed itself because hey, nobody wants to get called a fascist, either.

"I'd like to stand up for what's right," offered Board of Supervisors representative Aaron Peskin, "but robots are hella cool."

An early draft of the robot policy prohibited the use of robots to kill people as opposed to just carrying cameras or offering really smelly cheeses, but was amended to make it sound like it would only be a last resort and everybody involved would really be holding their noses.

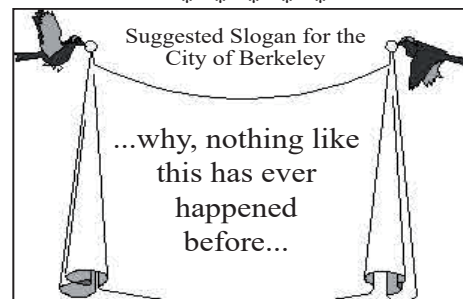
"They'll be holding their noses and looking very sad," affirmed Supervisor Rafael Mandelman who referred to the armed robots as "advanced technology" required to deal with "the realities of the 21st century."

Others were baffled.

"We thought they were joking," commented Supervisor Hillary Ronen, who voted against the policy. "These things can't even bring us a @#\$% lunch order."

"The self-driving cars are wrapping themselves around trees all over town," agreed Supervisor Dean Preston who also voted against the policy. "This town just can't get enough of the wrong headlines."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is it true that our local Golden Gate Audubon organization opposes fixing the burrowing owl fence in Cesar Chavez Park to make it functional?

Dear reader, yes. Remember that the next time they reach out for a donation. Tell them those same holes in the "art" fence showed up in your pocket.

Dear Lena, are they serious about letting the cops use robots to kill people? Aren't we hip deep in racist police scandals?

Dear reader, apparently so. Imagine it as a really quick way to lower the cost of lengthy trials and outrageously overpaid public defenders.

Dear Lena, those robots are all over my campus taped with little signs that say, "one less job" and "stop putting me in potholes" and I guess now "I'm armed." Nobody likes them and they're an attractive opportunity for creative vandalism. If one shows up with a gun nobody will take it seriously. I might jump up and down on it just to show it who's boss.

Dear reader, good luck, because I will already have tied its little feet to the nearest bike rack and thrown its gun in the river.

Dear Lena, if the robot shoots the wrong guy, who's responsible?

Dear reader, that might be the whole point.

Dear Lena, why can't they program the robots to read poetry to the perpetrator of whatever crime they can't solve or invite them to dance? How do they know that wouldn't work? They ought to try something else. The creative lateral is often the best way into an alternative plane of options.

Dear reader, I agree. The police could offer problem people a ticket to Mars. It might be just ...the ticket.

Ask Lena about pie-baking robots at cdenny@jgc.org.

Kevin McCarthy Arias Shake Operatic Musical Conventions

By Walt Camefirst

Deep in Verdi's opera "Don Carlo," an impassioned but fragile solo cello line embroiders a bass aria with a throbbing vein of feeling. And it doesn't come close to the passion infusing Kevin McCarthy's recent aria as he chases his dream of becoming the first invertebrate Speaker of the House.



KEVIN MCCARTHY's innovative arias are captivating the classical music world where innovation is always the way to get the girl.

Conductor Carlo Rizzi concurred at McCarthy's recent performance November 29th, 2022, in front of the White House, noting that of all the contenders that neither possess nor develop a vertebral column derived from the notochord, McCarthy appears to be the most cold-blooded because of his natural cover.

"He's from California," stated Rizzi with a shrug. "People can't help seeing him with a surfboard under one arm and an Anchor Steam in the other. I confess that since like me he isn't demonstrative on the podium and his gestures tend to be controlled, fo-

cused, professional, it's hard to remember from the seats at the back of the pit that he's got his lips firmly suctioned on the most corrupt nearby orifice."

"One feels for him," observed conductor Nello Santi, who led some 400 Met performances between 1962 and 2000. "His upper tones are necessarily wed to those of the former occupant of the Oval Office, while his base tones have begun to navigate unknown vocal territory."

"He's made some interesting choices," responded tenor Michael Fabiano. "He was offered my role singing Cavaradossi in 'Tosca' but rejected it considering his current unfortunate circumstances and the blood on the white shirt thing. It's academic in one way, but if he ends up being Speaker of the House he'll certainly be able to count on a rousing chorus behind him from either side of the aisle."



MCCARTHY'S OPERATIC CHOPS were honed at, among other places, Mar-a-Lago, where sucking down whatever plate you're handed is not so much an art as rather a considered necessity.

* * * * *

Free Tickets to Mars Distributed at SF Twitter Headquarters

By Wallaby Darned



UNRULY PROTESTERS sang songs, recited poetry, and painted the street in front of Twitter's SF headquarters to register objections to Tesla and Twitter working conditions and Elon Musk's concept of free speech for him but heavens, not for you.

ing captured by drone video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMeADBZ1rV8> and at <https://youtu.be/vZjtbD-IF4g>.

Twitter's new CEO, Elon Musk, had no response except to poll Twitter users that day asking if he should remain at Twitter's helm and stating that he would abide by the wishes of Twitter's users, a majority of whom responded that he should resign.

"We're curious to see who replaces him," mused one of the protesters resupplying

Terrorist folksingers and disgruntled fired Tesla and Twitter workers gathered in front of Twitter's San Francisco headquarters on Sunday, December 18th, 2022, for a "Get Your Ticket to Mars" event featuring free tickets to Mars, poetry, music, and street painting.

his can of blue paint. "We're thinking it's time for another candidate from his species or perhaps just a human being."

Meanwhile, Tesla stock plummeted, losing more than \$800,000 billion over the year 2022.

The arbitrary banning of journalists, penalizing the mention of other social media platforms, proved ruinous. Only the failed launch of a paid-verification service proved a popular move, but only in hackers' and comedy writers' circles where their incisive creativity was saluted worldwide.

"Let the lawsuits begin," commented one hacker. "We are so ready."

* * * * *



ELON MUSK IS A BILLIONAIRE so these pesky folksingers are pretty foolish thinking they can do any good singing their silly songs in front of his SF Twitter headquarters and the fact that he polled Twitter users that very days asking if he should resign and they said YES is just a coincidence.



ADA-DEFYING GIANT CELL PHONES which automatically siphon the personal data of passers-by for sale to some company in Ohio are being planted all over town because the mayor gets 10% of the cut.

Dances with Scooters, Giant Cell Phones, and Pickleball

By Anna Graham

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin is having trouble finding people willing to put up with having a giant eight-foot replica of a cell phone which unilaterally sucks up and sells personal cell phone data planted in front of their homes and businesses.

"We gave the 4th Street shopping district a pass because, well, they're 4th Street. Then we gave the District Five commercial districts a pass, too, so now we have to double down on the poorer, minority areas of town and we look bad," complained Economic Development Department point man Kieron Slaughter, who is running out of locations to exploit and admits that the IKE (Interactive Kiosk Experience) kiosks violate privacy according to Big Brother Watch magazine.

"IKE claims that they will not share or sell users personal information to third parties but in the next paragraph they say the exact opposite," he noted. "Hell, we signed a contract and now we're stuck."

A petition of over 40 businesses at San Pablo and University avenues opposes hosting the invasive eyesores, but suggests they be put out on Berkeley's closed Marina pier.

"Let them invade the privacy of crabs," suggested one District One resident. "Because up here they'll be target practice."

* * * * *

5th Amendment More Popular Than 2nd Amendment With Republicans

"The Fifth is the New Black"

By Don Tread

A review of recent events tells us that among Republicans, the 5th Amendment seems more popular than the 2nd.

During New York Attorney General Letitia James' civil investigation for tax, bank and insurance fraud against former President Trump and his least favorite son Eric, each claimed the 5th more than 400 times during their testimony.

During the Atlanta District Attorney investigation for criminal violations of state election law most of the Republicans are making attempts to avoid testifying, so they don't have to plead the 5th, as evidenced by Lindsey Graham, who even tried tears without success.

The Department of Justice's criminal investigation of January 6th resulted in 20% of the 850 defendants pleading guilty, the remainder taking the 5th as they proceed through trial. Charges of seditious conspiracy apparently can be a bit intimidating.

The Congressional Committee investigating Jan 6th resulted in more than 30 Trumpworld figures pleading the 5th, including John Eastman, Jeffrey Clark, Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, and Alex Jones.

The Michigan Attorney General's criminal case for conspiracy to kidnap Gov. Whitmer in 2020 resulted in two Republican convictions both of whom used the 5th as part of their trial strategy.

With the 5th Amendment being the new Plan A for Republicans, the 2nd Amendment is relegated to Plan B status. All the potentially criminal Republican behavior needs is the protections offered by the 5th Amendment so that the accused can't be forced to incriminate themselves. With the Republican National Committee declaring the January 6th insurrection as "legitimate political discourse" and the MAGA Republican leaders telling their constituents to "fight like hell" and to "riot", this encour-

agement towards violent criminal behavior guarantees increasing use of the 5th Amendment by Republicans as long as Democrats are in charge. If Republicans regain power,

as when Trump was in office, there will be a lot of pardons.



JOHN EASTMAN REALLY HATED IT when federal Judge David Carter ruled earlier this month that his email communications were not protected since they likely were exchanged in furtherance of a crime, igniting the crime-fraud exception. Eastman then asked for a stay of the ruling, which was denied. Is this fun or what.

While guns are still very popular with Republicans, recent problems at the NRA seem to have dimmed their level of support. Could it have something to do with the infiltration of the NRA by

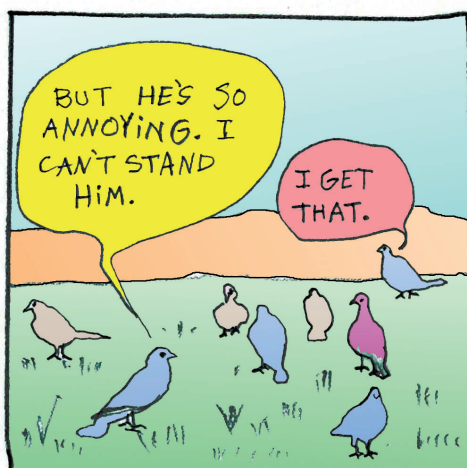
Russian spy Maria Butina in 2018? Is it related to Russia stopping their donations to the NRA, deepening NRA financial problems? Perhaps it is the 2020 New York Attorney General's lawsuit against executives of the NRA for financial improprieties?

Just in case the Republican's Plan A doesn't work out, they can always revert to their Plan B which is to refocus on the 2nd Amendment and related gun rights. The USA is home to more than 393 million firearms in private ownership. Data from Statistica tells us that 50% of Republican households own at least one gun and only 21% of Democrat households own at least one gun. When you combine this politically skewed gun ownership with a recent upsurge of political violence by MAGA Republicans, what could possibly go wrong?

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



First Appellate District Division Five Kicks Regents' Butts

By Sue E. Generis



ALL UC'S LAWYERS AND all UC's connections couldn't cover up the egregious EIR they offered the public, and EIR which minimized environmental, open space, and cultural resources and failed to consider alternatives to bulldozing oaks and redwoods. plan, adopted in 2005, called for construction of just 2,600 beds through 2021. This was 10,000 beds short of the projected enrollment increases over the same period..."

"It isn't verbatim, but it's close," commented a dumfounded member of one of the groups opposing the regents in court.

"It's just a couple of thesaurus pages away from our argument."

The tentative ruling went on to say, "the university only constructed 1,119 of those planned beds. Making matters worse, within two years of adopting the 2005 plan, the university increased enrollment beyond the plan's 2021 projection. By the 2018-2019 academic year, student enrollment exceeded the 2005 projections by more than 6,000

The First Appellate District Division Five's court ruling reversed the earlier adverse decision against People's Park, but does not necessarily protect it unless it is transformed into an exclusive, members-only pickleball court for sole use by the regents, their families, and selected acquaintances.

students. With a population of 39,708 students, the university provides housing for fewer than 9,000."

The ruling goes on to mention the decades-long regional housing crisis which even a UC Berkeley task force called a "matter of urgent concern", followed by a reminder of the California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA's) "foremost principle", that it "be interpreted in such manner as to afford the fullest possible protection

to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language."

"Math is not our strong suit," offered one of UC's legal team on condition of anonymity. "We kind of get lost with simple addition and subtraction and tend to farm it out to the Math Department where it gets hit with Elliptic Curves, Iwasawa Theory, Modular Forms, decidability, Geometric analysis, differential geometry, and it all comes back every which way."

The First Appellate District Division Five's court reversed the earlier adverse decision against People's Park, but does not necessarily protect the park unless it is transformed into an exclusive, members-only pickleball court for sole use by the regents, their families, and selected acquaintances.

"Pickleball is the new black," explained one political observer who noted that pickleball reservations were currently open since the ruling is tentative. "We're hoping the membership and concessions pay for another round of development."

Next Issue: hacking government websites with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Henry IV Part 2