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## **Pepper Spray Times**

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# Last Remaining City Employee Coaxed Out of Foxhole



HUGE HERDS OF DUSTY CITY EMPLOYEES HAVE FORMED CARAVANS exiting together to search for meaningful work in other towns, carrying little but disappointment from their daunting experiences working for the City of Berkeley.

#### By Anna Partridginnapeertree

The vigorous back-slapping at the last city council meeting did nothing to dispell the sense of a ship well below its waterline for observers watching the long caravan of former city employees wandering across the landscape searching for work.

"It's the toxicity," commented former city



THE LAST CITY EM-PLOYEE promises to make a podcast someday other but right now is having used to do, and

employee Petra Fied, hoisting her belongings over her shoulder, while another former employee disagreed.

"It's not the work or even the toxic workplace It's that these nutcases keep combining and collapsing departments as if all work was interchangeable. I'm doing what five employees difficulty speaking at all. they think that's a good thing."

"It's hard to get the refugees to talk," confided one local reporter trudging alongside a miles-long parade of former City of Berkeley employees who have either been downsized or have elected to try to find employment elsewhere in recent months and years. "They're shell-shocked. They're much too frightened to speak freely about their experiences here after surviving the catastrophic administrative shipwreck.

"I would be glad to talk," stated Raphael D. Feathers. "But that epic show of backslapping knocked it right out of me. I'll be speechless for a couple of years."

One former Berkeley councilmember stated she'd been speechless about the dis-



THE JOB SEARCH is tion of December 2, tough for former Berke-ley city employees who are universally suspect- play was too much ed of being too woke.

solution of departments and bizarre job combinations out of respect for the difficulties of being in office, but the self-congratulafor her.

"It has an emperor with no clothes quality," she sighed. "The people who do the real work are headed anywhere but here."

### "Erase the Border" **Movement Takes Shape**

Border Erasure Touted as Cost-saving Measure



THE UNITED STATES' BORDER has always changed to accommodate manifest destiny and stuff like that thanks to sturdy washerwomen.

#### Quenten S. Blessings

"Before the 1920s people didn't see people crossing the border from Mexico as a problem, especially considering the enormous proportion of the United States that was formerly Mexico," mused Pres-

ton Creasy, sociologist with Dukem University. "We have white supremacist Coleman Livingston Blease to thank for legislation criminalizing people who didn't cross through an official entry point."

WOMEN important role in erasing the border because of their cleaning expertise.

"The current difficulty is extreme," stated Professor CAN PLAY an Creasy. "Not enough of the population look American. And jailing everybody, as we learned in the 1960's is so darn expensive. Border erasure just makes sense.

The post-national landscape will be a lot more natural, crafted by rivers and obvious geological rather than political divisions.

"Women are uniquely suited to erasing these artificial borders," assured Professor Creasy. "You should see my shirt collars."



## **ASK THE EXPERTS**



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

## Dear Lena, can we really just erase the border?

Dear reader, of course. There are towns literally bisected by the border where people cross it just by walking to their mailbox.

#### Dear Lena, will it be expensive?

Dear reader, not at all. And we can help people who get anxious about it disappearing by putting down a temporary masking tape border and patting them on the back reassuringly and offering them lemonade.

## Dear Lena, why did they fence in the tule elk in the first place?

Dear reader, the idea was "to isolate the reintroduced elk from nearby dairy ranches" so that dairy cattle wouldn't begin to pick up bad habits from the locals. You see this phenomenon often in college towns where the administration tries to protect their students from the rough, rowdy "townies".

## Dear Lena, you mean tule elk are kind of rough trade?

Dear reader, oh, yes. They'll drink right out of the carton and throw their empties all over the landscape. They have sex in public. They speak English, but they prefer to kind of grunt and whinny to annoy people. It's a huge source of National Park Service embarrassment. These people are buttoned down

#### Dear Lena, why do they keep building stuff we don't need that just sits around empty? Especially if they keep tearing down parks and theaters to do it?

Dear reader, the cows asked me this just this morning. They want more pasture land, the selfish things. And you. You probably want to go to the movies, don't you. Why can't you think about the needs of others, like developers.

Ask Lena about fencing off everything from everything else and everyone from everybody else at cdenney@igc.org. Oh, and have yourself some happy holidays.

## 35,000 Public Comment Letters Finally Free Tule Elk



TULE ELK ADMIT THEY RELIED ON OTHER PEOPLE TO WRITE LETTERS since they have such trouble licking the envelopes.

By Sasha Deal

"Our proposed management plan got a lot of response," stuttered a shell-shocked Park Service representative waiving weakly at hundreds of bags of letters. "It turns out that watching tule elk die of thirst was a



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE might donate the two to three mile long eight foot fence to the City of Berkeley which still has some embarrassing open space left.

an extremely unpopular outdoor activity."

Park advocates' victory over the imposi-

Park advocates' victory over the imposition of a two to three mile-long eight-foot



tall fence to benefit dairy farms took about ten years and cost the lives of hundreds of elk trapped without water dying publicly of thirst in obvious agony.

"I know it doesn't seem to make sense," stated one defensive park service worker. "But I'll tell you, these dairy cattle are very persuasive. I admit I've been the beneficiary of some really fresh butter and milk from time to time, and the tule elk weren't really ponying up."

"We didn't bribe anybody," huffed a nearby milk cow. "We have lobbyists for that."

"And we get along with the tule elk," insisted another cow. "We play some serious darts together at a little place in Bolinas."

Activists rubbing their sore wrists expressed relief that the National Park Ser-

vice finally saw the light and agreed-to free the trapped tule elk herd whose numbers were r e d u c e d from 540 to 283 after the deaths of 293 tule elk dying of



from 540 THIS TOMALES POINT to 283 after DAIRY COW insists that their the deaths of 293 tule and that fresh butter makes its elk dying of own case.

thirst in their enclosure.

The future of the fence is uncertain.

"We thought we would donate it to the City of Berkeley," stated another local dairy cow. "Those shipping containers are just so brutal. Wood is more natural."

"We're hoping this might inspire the Berkeley City Council to reconsider fencing off all the open space in the city," nodded another cow. "But of course, we stand around in the sun an awful lot."

### Berkeley Sweeps Homeless Camp Without Offering Shelter Right Next to Brand New Big-Ass Empty Building



BEFORE: Berkeley's Aquatic Park once had a beautiful, walkable, boatable shoreline worthy of a watercolor.



AFTER: The Berkeley City Council with its usual wisdom fucked it all up for nothing, as this building sits empty next to homeless tents.

By Rudy Wakening

The once pastoral view of the east side of Aquatic Park now looks like somebody didn't put their blocks away. Two completely empty city blocks of a development project intended for a research complex fi-



"WHERE DO WE GO" is either an art project or political theater or a very slow drill team or a sculpture or a mirage.

nally met the reality that building space in Berkeley wildly exceeds demand.

"The vacancy rate for research building space in Berkeley is 43.2%," whispered one sheepish planner. "And they're planning to build even more."

This leaves Berkeley residents to contemplate the curious juxtaposition of thousands of dollars of public funds being spent to disperse ten people in tents, who said they were offered no housing or shelter.

"You mean there's bathrooms in there?" asked one of the bewildered participants in

the "Where Do We Go" group whose belongings were swept into trash trucks right next to the gigantic new empty life sciences campus. "This is a little crazy."

"I know it doesn't appear to make any sense," stated a city planner viewing the enormous empty building. "It's true that this looks like a contradiction: millions spent on an obviously unneeded science and development project while people are living in tents. But hey, it looked great on paper."



CITY PLANNERS GET ANNOYED WITH tents because nothing they build seems to address real people's housing needs like tents.

The developers insist that the project, although empty for the foreseeable future, will "raise the profile" of West Berkeley.

"I don't know about 'raising the profile" snorted one bystander helping some of people dispersed from the area sort through what's left of their belongings. "But they've sure highlighted the lunacy of planning in this town."

GHOST SHIPS SAIL ON WITH NO CREW just like the Solano Avenue BID which has no operative administration and no legal ability to function as a group, a talent honed under the former Berkeley City Council.

### **Ghost Ship BID Sails On**

Solano Avenue BID's Non-existent Group Okayed to Suck Your Money

Laffayette D. World

"They spent almost two hours backslapping each other and giving schmaltzy eulogies to the exiting councilmembers. I thought I had walked into a memorial service. A friend of mine came to the council meeting late and asked me if somebody had died," commented one of the December 2, 2024, city council meeting attendees. "We came with pressing business that the council couldn't be bothered to hear."

One dissatisfied attendee noted that Berkeley's Solano Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) board currently has five vacancies, only four members, and only three of them appear to have businesses or property on Solano.

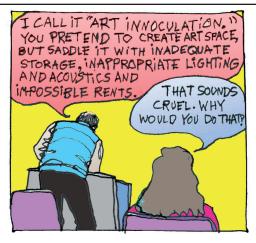
"What better way to affirm to wealthy property owners that rules don't matter because they're an elite which can do whatever they want," noted one bewildered observer. "I wish I could gather up a couple friends and get the benefit of \$38,000 of mandated fees from my neighbors to do with whatever I wanted."

"That's how BIDs roll," shrugged one planning commissioner. "It's 'streamlined' for sure. It's the new model of public-free public business."

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast







## BIDS: You Can't Make This Stuff Up; Where State-Sponsored Ass-kissing, COMMISSION ROSTER Soland Accounted Bio Advisory Board Nepotism, and Extortion Go to Lunch

e No. 6787; Resolution No. 62,38

solano BID District Vincent McCov Phone: (510) 981-7043

District	Name	Appointed By	Term Start	Term End
District 1	Todd Andrew*	Kesarwani	06/27/2023	
District 2	Vacant	Taplin		-
District 3	Vacant	Bartlett		-
District 4	Vacant	Harrison		
District 5	Vacant	Hahn		-
District 6	Fern Solomon	Wengraf	04/27/2023	-
District 7	Vacant	Robinson		
District 8	Laura Robin Devany	Humbert	06/09/2023	-
Mayor	Vacant	Arreguin		

FIVE VACANCIES MAKES A NINE MEMBER BOARD MOOT but Business Improvement Districts can stagger on with a quite literal skeleton crew.

By Bob. N. Weave

"Oh, we can do better than that," laughed Todd Andrew, Chair of the Solano Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) Advisory Board when the renewal of his lonely Business Improvement District (BID Advisory Board hit a membership low so low that technically they no longer exist.

"We think we can get away with having no membership whatsoever," boasted. Andrew, who shows no signs of flagging

as his advisory board's numbers continued to stall for over ten months at exactly three, too few to muster a mandatory quorum.

"We wish we could count the fourth person, but they don't actually own any business or property on Solano Avenue.

THESE TWO

propped-up skel-

to run their bony

public money even

if they can't move.

fingers through

But having three people in the town willing to even imitate being part of the same group is no

small accomplishment in Berkeley, believe me." Business Improvement etons are lively enough a quorum

Districts mandate that all property owners within their ever-increasing footprint pay money into their BID's pockets for

boosting commercial interests, which for some reason always seem at odds with civil rights.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS, OR "BIDS", ARE STATE-SPONSORED EX-TORTION publicly funded in the sense that even your public schools and post offices pay money into private groups with private interests. Don't like what they do? They don't even have a quorum? It doesn't matter: you can't get away.

"There's a baseline morality they sidestep," nodded business owner Joe Mama. "But when the state makes corruption legal, it's hard to resist."

Next Issue: kissing corporate feet with celebrities!

IN FACT, YOU SHOULD WATCH FOX NEWS NOW

AND THEN TO LEARN

#### **Want My Present Now**

#### by Juan Nathan Undergod



Pepper Spray Times 1970 San Pablo Ave. #4 Berkeley, CA 94702

cdenney@igc.org www.caroldenney.com



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