

the bullet-ridden issue...



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

July 2018

Pepper Spray Times



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

"I love not to be crossed.*

Vol. XIX No. 7

Scooter Takes Unlikely Lead in Governor's Race

"Disruptive" Candidate Proves Unstoppable



THIS SAN FRANCISCO NATIVE TOOK THE UNLIKELY LEAD in the race for governor in what experts consider a jungle primary gone wild. The scooter insists that it is much more capable of handling the state's issues than the other candidates and if not who cares.

By Brighton Urley

"We were taken by surprise," admitted one local Democratic Party leader after discovering that a Bird scooter led the pack of candidates for governor of California.

"Not that that hasn't happened recently."

The scooter in question is taking its sudden celebrity in stride while posing for photographers and tourists in photo shoots by iconic California landscapes.

"It's somewhat difficult to explain its popularity, especially since it can't speak," marveled one political observer. "On the other hand, that may explain its success."



SAD PHOTOS OF disabled scooters may have inspired public sympathy for the novel scooter write-in campaign.

recently was relentlessly negative, focusing on blocked curb cuts, sidewalks, and helmetless riders behaving badly.

"The public loves a maverick," suggested one local resident. "I hate the things. But I hate politicians even more."

Public polls suggest that the negative publicity may have backfired

into public sympathy for the scooters, which are taking a literal beating from annoyed members of the public engaging in creative vandalism of scooters left invitingly close to nearby dumpsters and waterways.

"I relate to the beat-up ones," acknowledged one local voter. "I saw one this morning completely dismantled with its parts displayed in creative patterns. It actually made me cry."



SCOOTERS may be annoying but they love kittens and the beach.

* * * * *

Nobel Committee Offers Trump Prize To Stop Tweeting



PRESIDENT TRUMP IS CONVINCED that the more he tweets the more votes he gets because that's kind of how it worked before.

By Ezekial Shallfind

Representatives from the Swedish Academy confirmed that they were negotiating privately with the Trump Administration to provide President Trump with a prize if he would agree to put down his phone and quit tweeting, according to confidential informants.



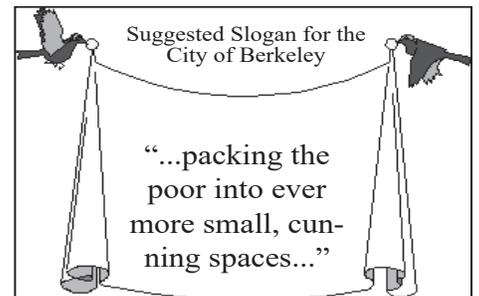
TWITTER USE is apparently somewhat addictive.

"Negotiations are ongoing," stated Anders Olsson, interim permanent secretary of the academy. "We appreciate that others may find this unorthodox, but we agreed that the world's survival is at stake and there is no time to waste."

Some expressed annoyance at the Academy, pointing out that the president's tweeting habit was harmless and noting that matters might be worse if he didn't have his Twitter account as a handy opportunity for self-expression.

"He's happy when he's tweeting," agreed one administration staff member. "He's as happy as a kid with a pack of matches."

* * * * *



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

"...packing the poor into ever more small, cunning spaces..."

ASK THE EXPERT'S



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, whose mea culpa campaign is better, Uber's or Facebook's?

Dear reader, neither. People who use Uber and Facebook really don't care if those companies send the whole world down the tubes. Just try to get them to look up from their iPhones. You'll see my point.

Dear Lena, I think the Oakland cops having horses is a great idea. I like horses. I want one.

Dear reader, you're in luck, then. You paid for them. Jump on.

Dear Lena, can't the police just ride those scooters? Or those Ford Gobikes? We have long rows of them just sitting there. They might as well have somebody use them for something.

Dear reader, I agree. If the Oakland Police want to improve community relations they should ride scooters and wear clown suits.

Dear Lena, why do the Animal Liberation people keep coming to Berkeley? We have a pretty high vegan and vegetarian quotient here.

Dear reader, because they've learned the hard way not to stand between a guy and his burger. Imagine them in Stockton.

Dear Lena, aren't you glad the election is over? I thought my mailbox was going to burst. There was a pollster at the end of my telephone about every five minutes.

Dear reader, I hate to have to tell you this. The election is never over. At least, not anymore.

Dear Lena, are the tiny house people finally through? I worry about a future where nobody plays the piano.

Dear reader, I hate to have to tell you this. The tiny house stuff is never over either.

Ask Lena about techniques for gently sidestepping misogyny at your nearby open mike at cdenny@igc.org.

Oakland Cops Finally Have Complete Dog and Pony Show

Community Relations Can't Get Lower, Bound to Improve

By Eunice Ikle

The Oakland Police Department has joined at least 40 other police departments in acquiring enough donations to create a mounted patrol of two large and two miniature horses in a desperate effort to become better loved by a skeptical public.

Chief of Police Anne Kirkpatrick assured the public that the animals will not be armed, a great relief to most Oakland residents and visitors.

"I'm sure tired of wearing Kevlar," offered one Lake Merritt reveler at a local barbecue. "And so are my kids."

Observers puzzled over the purpose of the miniature horses, whom many consider a breeding cruelty, but acknowledged that while they require exotic amounts of care they technically do eat less than an ordinary horse.

"They're pretty cute unless they're born with severe deformities," stated one horse



THIS HORSE JOINED THE FORCE hoping he could get his hooves on some of that really high-octane pepper spray.

lover. "It happens."

"You can pet them," stated one Oakland resident. "Don't try that with OPD."

Chief Kirkpatrick announced that the horse would be used in ceremonies to add dignity to local events.



GOLDFISH ARE OFTEN DISMISSED as a police force option, but unlike dogs and horses, which can run away, ichthyological patrols tend to stay in their bowls.



THESE HORSES NAMED CINNAMON AND SPIRIT were originally named Desperation and Surrender in the spirit of the Oakland Police Department's last-ditch effort to improve community relations.

"These horses never racially profile anyone," added Chief Kirkpatrick. "At least not yet."

Critics argued that horses are a lot less practical than bikes, motorcycles, or scooters, the latest conveyances cluttering sidewalks, because they require so much care, feeding, grooming, hoof-trimming, teeth floating, and tend to scare easily if a piece of paper blows along the ground nearby and throw their rider.

"That's part of what we're counting on," stated Chief Kirkpatrick. "It's hard to get any sympathy when you're a police officer. But if you get thrown off Desperation, uh, I mean Cinnamon, people tend to send you flowers in the hospital."

"The eighth graders at St. Anthony's loved them," stated one officer looking forward to being part of the mounted patrol. "It's about the only thing that makes any of them want to be a cop these days."

"At least its not a tank," commented another Oakland resident. "I think we have enough of those."

Critics pointed out that the canine and equine patrols were hardly putting Oakland on the map.

"What about a feline patrol?" asked another Oakland resident. "What about a bovine patrol? Let's use some imagination, be inventive, and get some better press."

"I'm thinking ursine patrol," mused another local resident. "It ties in with the state animal and it'll help clear the streets when the need arises."

"If this doesn't help matters we're going to try goldfish and have a marine patrol," stated one Oakland officer. "Something's gotta work."

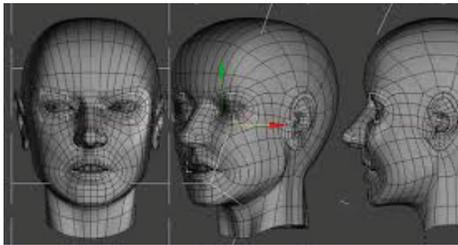
* * * * *



A BOVINE PATROL has all the petting zoo possibilities plus fresh milk.

Facial Id Programs Are Really Racist

- Way Worse Than the Lake Merritt Barbecue Lady



AN MIT STUDY OF THREE COMMERCIAL facial analysis programs reveals that inaccuracies skyrocket for minority groups and machines really like people who look like the programmer's mother.

By Alma Lifen-Thensome

Facial identification programs already in use in police departments nationwide are terrible at interpreting data about minorities according to an MIT study of three separate and currently available commercial programs.



"They're not so bad at white people," acknowledged one local law enforcement agency spokesperson. "But for some reason everybody else looks like the same person."

Critics point out that with a mostly white programming workforce bias in the program itself was probable, if not inevitable, but were dismissed by Amazon, which provides the "Rekognition" program to police departments and is already in use.

"Nobody's perfect," stated an Amazon spokesperson. "These machines just need a little tweaking. It's nothing that a Starbucks-style Tuesday can't fix."

* * * * *

Tiny People Scientifically Bred to Fit Into All The Tiny Houses



By Estrella Cat

"We were inspired by the miniature horses," explained one of the science team announcing a scientific breakthrough in creating tiny people capable of honestly enjoying life in the popular new craze in standard housing called tiny houses.

"Rather than try to convince people to live without books, art supplies, extra shoes, dishes, food, etc., we thought we should try to find out if we could create a more realistic approach to justify the tiny house market."

"We thought we could use homelessness to justify them," stated one tiny house promoter. "But even homeless people have belongings, and if you leave your bicycle or shopping cart outside it tends to get stolen for parts."

"Then we tried the homeless youth angle," added another tiny house promoter. "Youth are technically smaller, after all."

"Then we tried the homeless youth angle," added another tiny house promoter. "Youth are smaller, after all."

"Nobody seems to really want to try



IMAGINE HOW LONG a pencil will last a bunch of really tiny people.

to cook in a space the size of a dumpster," sighed another tiny house promoter. "There's a tendency to set off the required



TINY PEOPLE ARE MORE GREEN than ordinary-sized people and they make tiny houses look a lot less ridiculous.

smoke alarm."

Industry insiders acknowledged that even the housing crisis wasn't moving the needle on making tiny hous-

ing without plumbing, heat, or room to turn around more palatable.

"People have even more common sense



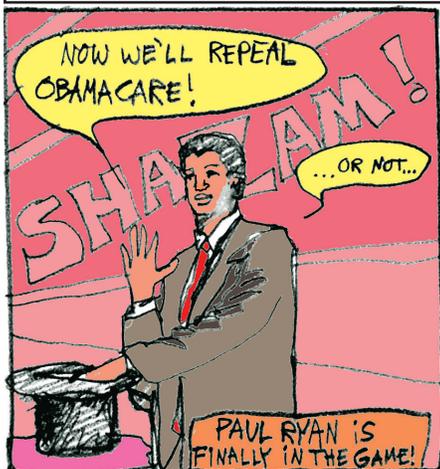
EVEN A PRETTY LARGE GROUP of tiny people can make half a dozen eggs last for a couple months unless they live in a tiny house without a refrigerator.

than boxes of holiday decorations," nodded one insider sadly. "But we still have hope. Look on the bright side; the housing crisis could always get even worse."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics...or can we...

by Franz Toast



LATEST TRUMP HOTEL GETS MIXED REVIEWS

By Tom Hascomb

Trump's latest hotel on the border of Mexico near Tornillo is getting dubious reviews from patrons.

"It caters to a very select group," offered one staff member over a din of shrieking children. "We're trying a whole new way to change policy by introducing it and just crossing our fingers that the courts will find it constitutional."

Critics were united in horrified response, claiming that the accommodations amounted to torture and may even inflict lasting physical and psychological damage on vulnerable populations with universal human rights, but were dismissed by the Trump administration.

"We prefer the term 'enhanced interrogation'," responded another staff member. "And we realize our fresh approach isn't everyone's cup of tea. But you can't beat the price and you can't leave anyway."

Fans of the new border hotel admired the portability of the tent structures and the protection from invasive media.



THE LATEST TRUMP HOTEL IS GETTING MIXED REVIEWS from those who have stayed there, but at least once you're there you're well protected from annoying paparazzi.

"This new Trump hotel has really learned how to deal with paparazzi," enthused one admirer. "The press are kept in the dark."
* * * * *

Next Issue: Gluing on rhinestones with celebrities!

I WANT MY PRESENT NOW

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com



Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)... Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Distribution.....Rhoda Boat
Staff.....Brighton urley, Ezekial Shallfind,
Lena Deeter, Eunice Ikle, Alma Lifenthen-
Thensome, Estrella Cat, Franz Toast, Tom
Hascomb, Juan Nathan Undergod

To:

Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr.

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

*Love's Labour's Lost

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.