

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

July 2024

the salted and peppered issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...the prince but studies his companions like a strange tongue..."

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PICKLEBALL PERIL

New Sport Sidelines Hundreds Ahead of Election



UNSUSPECTING PICKLEBALL PLAYERS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES as skyrocketing muscle strain and meniscus injuries plague the new sport right before the upcoming elections and a hot sale on fireworks just over the county line.

By Delia Cards

"It looked like a kids' game," lamented one player admitting he spent nearly \$3,000 on special pickleball gear before so thoroughly straining himself that he can barely mix a martini. "I used to play tennis, and my neighbor needed a fourth. I had no idea what could happen."



FLASHY GEAR is a matter of course at pickleball courts and features lots of neon lycra.

"pickleball elbow" and bone fractures related to pickleball have soared nationally in recent years especially in players over 60 with an affection for headbands.

Pickleball is an alleged sport in which two or four players attempt to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball with paddles over a ridiculously short net until one side can't return the ball or breaks the rules which nobody knows or agrees upon. Pickleball is played indoors in households with no glass

or special china or outdoors in neighborhoods not known for having weapons.



A CONNING pickleball waits at dusk to trip an unsuspecting player eager to show off their flashy pickleball gear.

Doctors treating the waves of newly injured are philosophical.

"They're not stretching at all," noted one local physician. "They buy all this stretchy gear and think it's just like ping pong, but most of them haven't really moved in years. Arreguin's proud: his only mayoral accomplishment is installing this pickleball nonsense. It's improved my bottom line, alright, but it's an embarrassing way to have your business boom."

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SF Union Square Plan: Three Luxury Watch Stores for the Rich, Bus Tickets Out of Town for the Poor



THE DRAMATIC LOGIC of focusing on the needs of the wealthy continues to dazzle observers of San Francisco's leadership.

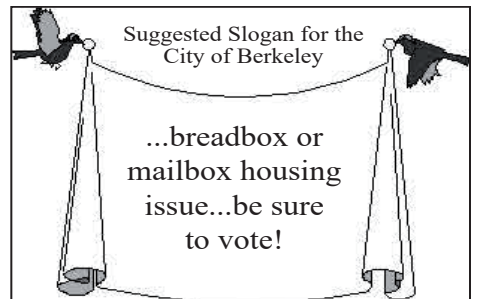
By Lowell D. Moral-Standards

"The architecture of the luxury watch plan is incomplete without the recognition that San Francisco's office vacancy rate just hit another record high," noted Colin DeShots, executive director of ANAL Planning Group, adding "first quarter leasing was 1.3 million square feet, down from two million in the previous quarter."

Two pigeons exchanging dubious glances requested clarification, commenting that empty office space meant less foot traffic, fewer crumbs, and that nobody wore watches anymore anyway were dismissed as "not the core audience" of Patek Philippe and Audemars Piguet.

"Pigeons have difficulty wearing watches at all," stated the last racoon near Coit Tower. "They did a great poem about it at the recent slam."

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Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...breadbox or mailbox housing issue...be sure to vote!

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, those pickleball courts are a menace and a noise nightmare, but I had no idea they were taking out our most dependable slate of voters. How did Berkeley join this scourge? I seem to have missed the memo.

Dear reader, so did everyone, even the affected neighborhood, thanks to Berkeley's contribution to the current political embarrassment, Jesse Arreguin, who as mayor decided that pickleball was too exciting a prospect to be subjected to any public hearing before installation in the north Berkeley neighborhood that now suffers near constant and uniquely irritating pickleball noise. Nobody had any chance to question or negotiate the new pickleball era of sound pollution which, or course, the University of California is trying to drum out of CEQA consideration entirely because of the despicable discrimination against pickleball players which may ensue.

Dear Lena, the "standing" issue in the mifeprestone Supreme Court case interested me. My neighbor has way too much to say about his various medical procedures and I nearly lose my lunch. Do I have standing to sue? I'm afraid to ask how he's doing anymore. I lose my appetite just imagining what horror he'll describe to me in excruciating detail. It seems like real harm to me.

Dear reader, of course you can sue. Anybody can sue anyone or everyone all day long if they choose to. And if you happen to live in the state of Texas, where standing is apparently loosely defined, you may in fact be able to sue your neighbor and prevail on behalf of a grateful nation.

Dear Lena, the city seriously can't find money for bus stop benches?

Dear reader, both their budget and their agenda is controlled by the anti-bench business improvement districts. Grad students move on; BIDs are apparently eternal.

Ask Lena about pickleball injury insurance at cdenney@igc.org.



THAT'S GYPSY CROUCHED BY THE FRONT RIGHT TIRE with some of his friends including Jesse, Don, Pravda, Jim, and Rachel in People's Park before the shipping containers put People's Park in shipping container jail.

Guerrilla Bench Appearances Plague Bench-Free Berkeley Traditional Hostility to Public Seating Threatened

By Dona Siddare



TELEGRAPH FOR EVERYBODY SALUTES and assisted with bench distribution because of that common sense thing.

to comfortable benches in public streets and plazas. "She got a call from someone near Channing Way and Shattuck who just couldn't stand Gypsy and Cowboy sitting on the bench in front of King Dong, so she had the bench hauled away."

"That's right," affirmed reporter Sloan Down, who had covered the uproar about the hearing-free public bench removal for the local civil liberties and arts newspaper called the Hard Times, which revealed Councilmember Dona Spring's sole role in the removal. "Spring never apologized. Quite the opposite; she challenged Hard Times' editor, Bob Nichols, to put the missing bench in front of his house to 'see how you like it', according to the postcard she sent him, which he then published."

The recent rain of guerilla benches were the natural result of the bench dearth. Cal grad Mingwei Samuel and housing and transit activist Darrell Owens have contributed around two dozen benches to the bus transit landscape and more are on the way.

"I believe it was originally launched by former District Four City Councilmember Dona Spring," reminisced local historian Sonia Map of Berkeley's traditional aversion

to comfortable benches in public streets and plazas. "She got a call from someone near Channing Way and Shattuck who just couldn't stand Gypsy and Cowboy sitting on the bench in front of King Dong, so she had the bench hauled away."

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The City of Berkeley removed and replaced the project's initial bench, but quickly lost the race to replace the benches, which proved popular with tired bus riders sick of having to crouch on the cold, dirty sidewalks of Oakland and Berkeley. But Business Improvement Districts are fighting back.

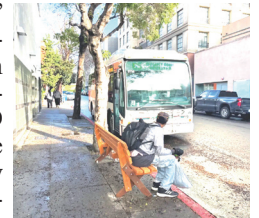
"We hate people," explained Berkeley's Downtown Business Association (DBA) CEO John Caner. "We spent more money trying to criminalize sitting down than any political campaign has ever spent in Berkeley, and although we lost, we did it proudly."

Other DBA staff explained that wealthy people tend to shop and quickly return to wealthy enclaves in the hills, while poor people for some reason want to hang around and annoy people by playing guitars, telling jokes, etc.

"Controlled space' is the goal," admitted a Berkeley planner. "Bus riders need to stand, er, sacrifice for the greater good."

District Two councilmember Terry Taplin agreed to look into more city benches and is apparently still looking.

* * * * *



BENCHES APPEAR IN THE most logical places despite the city's strenuous opposition, costing their makers around \$80 each and the city the embarrassment of nothing.

It Sounded Better in German

By Don Tread



COSTUMES WEREN'T EVEN THE BEST PART of the January 6th party at the Capitol which introduced characters such as these to the inner workings of the Department of Justice; the chants were apparently irresistible.

It seems that almost every week Trump/MAGA are making another comment about authoritarian leaders he admires, white supremacists he likes, or using various forms of bigotry or xenophobia against his enemies. This seems to fit the general framework that fascist regimes have used throughout history, specifically the similarities between Trump's MAGA movement and Hitler's 1930s Germany, which are bigly huge.

Idols: Hitler greatly admired Mussolini for his fascist accomplishments in Italy in the 1920s and Prussian king Frederick the Great for his 18th century domination of Europe. Ivana Trump told Vanity Fair in 1990 that her former spouse "used to keep a book of Adolph Hitler's speeches in his bedside cabinet." Trump has consistently been a fanboy of authoritarian leaders Putin, Kim Jong Un and Victor Orban.

Similar Beginnings: Hitler wrote his guiding treatise "Mein Kampf" in 1925 while in prison for his attempted coup. Trump has developed his MAGA movement while attempting a coup and other crimes, but with four criminal cases and 91 indictments, something is bound to stick eventually. But hey, if he goes to prison maybe he will write a book.

Fascist Principles: Hitler's plan was

based on German hyper-nationalism where the "other" was blamed for all of Germany's problems. In Germany the "other" was identified as Jews, Marxists, Gypsies and trade unionists. Much propaganda was organised to dehumanize people in these groups to make it easier to use physical violence against them. Trump's MAGA movement has a similar nationalism where he blames all problems on the "other". Trump's "other" is immigrants, LGBTQ people, participants in the union movement, Democrats and any other political opponents. The MAGA movement spends a lot of energy attempting to dehumanise members of these groups to facilitate threats or physical violence, with Charlottesville and January 6th being examples. Recent Trump comments saying migrants are "not people" and stating "it's going to be a bloodbath for the country" if he is not elected suggest the dehumanisation and violence propaganda is still ramping up.

Specific Comments: Trump's recent comment that undocumented immigrants were "poisoning the blood of our country" seem to be a direct paraphrase from Hitler's Mein Kampf reference to immigrants "the poison of foreign races is eating into the body of our people."

Cult of Personality: Hitler and his party



THANK HEAVENS SOMEBODY is finally looking out for the evil influence of gypsies and trade unionists.

promoted the idea that only Hitler could save Germany which gave rise to the "Fuhrer-cult". Trump's MAGA cult following is similar; they rally around Trump's comment, "I alone can fix it."

Country Situations: Late 1920s/early 1930s Germany was in economic depression, with hyperinflation causing widespread hardship and discontent. Hitler and the Nazi party stepped into this breach winning 37.3% of the votes in the 1932 election, making it the largest political party in Germany. Weak safeguards of democracy allowed Hitler by 1935 to turn Germany into a dictatorship. Trump MAGA won in 2016 with 45.9% and lost in 2020 with 46.8% of the vote. The recovery from COVID 19 was economically difficult, but the US economy has performed well with low unemployment, high job growth and inflation down in the 3% range. Trump has already said that if elected, "I'd be a dictator on day one."



THE POPULARITY OF the MAGA movement may baffle some, but their numbers, both in and out of jail, are most impressive. Imagine getting this many people to attend your poetry reading.

Compared to Trump's MAGA fascist rhetoric, the fascist rhetoric of 1930s Germany sounded better because it was in German, a continent away, 90 years ago and was eventually defeated and discredited. While the US has better safeguards of its democratic structure, the risk is higher due to a large minority embracing MAGA fascism. Oh well, just another definition of "Amerikanischer Exzeptionalismus". It already sounds better in German.

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



San Francisco's Board of Supervisors Pass Landmark Housing Plan Respecting Historic Neighborhoods

Bizarre Radical Approach Known As "Moderation" Hurts Developers Feelings, Threatens to Provide Housing and Protect Historic Parks and Neighborhoods

By Angela Mercy



NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT WHY but older neighborhoods tend to be littered with historic sites which need to be bulldozed to make room for high-end developer hopes.

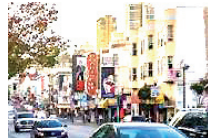
neighborhoods cuts right into the potential profits of developers scouting for their next raft of gold-plated condos," scoffed local developer Arnie Sarnocken. "Imagine if planners and commissioners begin to see moderation as acceptable; we'll end up having to house the low-end crowd, which

San Francisco Mayor London Breed's popular "highrise or nothing" policy toward housing hit some unusual rocks at City Hall Tuesday, March 26: *moderation.*

"A plan which limits the height and scale of proposed developments in historic

reduces the already small group to whom we cater. Our group has private clubs and parks, and doesn't mind what we end up having to bulldoze."

"It's treacherous," affirmed another developer. "There's so much history in the way. I just can't imagine being able to pump a bunch of highrises into North Beach if people get a whiff of the luminaries who played at this or that club, or typically sat in this or that bar or cafe."



OLD NEIGHBORHOODS have cultural life that highrises don't seem to be able to replicate.

People have a modestly polite respect for their bank accounts, but no interest whatsoever in what they write."

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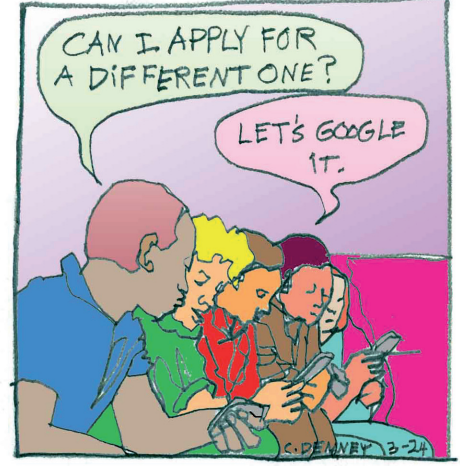


THE VERY EXISTENCE of neighborhoods like North Beach threaten to remind people of its arts and small business history, lively street culture, affordable rents, etc., which shamelessly neglect developers' potential profits.

Next Issue: playing Slip-N-Slide with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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