

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

June 2022

the unbuttoned issue..



# Pepper Spray Times



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

"...I like not this unnatural dealing..."

Vol. XXIII No. 6

## City Council Vote Converts All Parks to Housing

*Every new unit promised pack of seeds and a pretty flower pot.*



THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY recommended that all parks get the "People's Park treatment" which will make even more room for preferred populations of wealthy people.

*By Bob N. DaWatter*

"If the Sierra Club is on board, then it must be okay," stated one Berkeley City Councilmember regarding the vote to convert parks to housing. "We're doing it to school property, so it must be green or something."

"It's a pipeline to developer dough," explained another council staff assistant. "You really don't need to fundraise when you sell out on this level."

Critics whined that the public is getting entirely left out of the current political equation, but were dismissed by councilmembers and staff who noted that they regularly send out surveys and that members of the public who have computer access and who can navigate the online survey requirements and who have



the time to make it all the way through the push-poll oriented questions are technically part of the picture.

"A small part, to be sure," acknowledged one city hall staff member. "But a really important part."

Local citizens pointed out that local leadership seems content to keep the council meetings forever online while promoting local restaurants and live events, and that this would seem to represent a contradiction in public health protocol or common sense or both.

"Yes, common sense went out the window some time ago," agreed one mayoral assistant. "We've found online meetings the best way to technically include the public while avoiding having to actually hear anything they have to say."

"Of course we won't convert all the parks in town," chuckled one council representative. "We'll be as selective as we currently are with maintenance, roadwork, etc. We'll boot your local park for the right price."

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## Humanitarian Corridors Planned for UC Project Areas



EXHAUSTED RESIDENTS OF southside march through the relative safety of the humanitarian corridors created to avoid the conflict zones around UC projects, which now encompass most of California.

*By Bill E. Club*

"We're thankful," commented one southside resident walking a bag of groceries from a grocery store back to her apartment on Parker Street through a newly created humanitarian corridor for residents trying to avoid areas of conflict and protest. "Some of us are old enough to remember the sixties."

"Forget the sixties," grumbled another neighbor carrying bundles of laundry to his car by using the humanitarian corridor for safety. "I was there in the 1970's and it was just as bad."

"Hey, I was injured at Black Lives Matter," retorted another exhausted resident. "I was dosed with CS gas and clubbed for trying to get to the Berkeley Rep only a few years ago."

"We like to stay relevant," explained UC spokesperson Dan Mogolof. "We want every generation to have stories to share."

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# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, why is it that this set of refugees gets so much more sympathy than every other group trying to get to safety? I'm sympathetic, of course, but it's a little crazy.**

Dear reader, it could be skin color, at least we're not ruling that out in our newsroom, but you really have to feel for these people. Like us, their leadership is sketchy. They're at once the biggest country in Europe and the youngest. And our media has done a spectacular job of focusing on babies and grandmothers clutching teddy bears. Remember that if your neighborhood suddenly blows up anyone behind a camera will use a teddy bear as the anchor point.

**Dear Lena, so is Putin crazy or what?**

Dear reader, the consensus in our newsroom is that this is not a useful question, especially considering the state of our own leadership in the past few years as well as its quality over time. Democracy may well be messy, but apparently so is oligarchy.

**Dear Lena, what's with loading up all our parks with concessions like food and bike rentals? Doesn't this compete with existing businesses?**

Dear reader, that's not all. They can't keep up with the existing trash, and even the top predators in the area can't keep up with the rat population it nourishes. But you know what's happening; some jackass in the mayor's office is on the phone implying it will generate money. It takes years for this kind of chimera to dissolve, and when it finally does the fingerprints are carefully wiped away so it can happen again and again.

**Dear Lena, I don't mean to be a nitpicker, but hasn't the United States committed all of these atrocities and then some? I'm just thinking of Abu Ghraib's torture and prison abuse, not that I want to.**

Dear reader, yes, that's why it looks so familiar. We really know our stuff.

*Ask Lena about contextual license when speaking out of turn at [cdenny@igc.org](mailto:cdenny@igc.org).*

# Wealthy People Way More "Service Resistant" Than the Poor

By Monica Lisoncourse

Experts have definitively concluded that wealthy people are even more service resistant than the poor. Even those with top expertise are at their wit's end trying to figure out how to manipulate these indolent, highly financed non-workers into the programs they desperately need.

"They lead selfish, insular lives," stated one research assistant shuddering over her latest findings. "But they often have no recognition of how much they take and how little they contribute."

"It's frightening," agreed another researcher. "I used to envy these people until I got a closer look."

As cities realize that pesky laws prohibit-



WEALTHY PEOPLE ARE A PRETTY LAZY bunch sitting around in salons talking about expensive food and planning vacations.

to work finding ways to criminalize turning down temporary shelter so that they can round them up and pen them up in both indoor and outdoor city-sanctioned facilities in carefully chosen areas of town. Experts have mixed opinions about whether this practice is humane.

"They're not being branded physically," mused one researcher about the historic parallels. "But we figure that's on the way."

\* \* \* \* \*



CALIFORNIA HISTORICALLY has the skills it needs to drive the poor out of town and is working hard to establish the legal theories to provide cities with the tools they need to do so.

ing simply jailing poor people for not being able to afford high-end housing or who don't qualify for the latest scheme of luxury student housing create tent cities across the nation, they set their municipal legal staff

# Peregrine Falcon Death Ruled Suicide

Constant Surveillance Considered a Factor

By Annie Oldthing

One of the peregrine falcons which nested on top of the University of California's famed campanile clock tower died in Berkeley's streets two months ago. The death was quietly ruled a suicide by investigators who stated that the constant camera surveillance and the prospect of having unlimited new highrises surrounding the campus played a role in the unexpected death.

"Grinnell left a suicide note," stated one of the investigators. "The couple had deliberately chosen the campanile for their nest assuming that no one in their right mind would build anything that might ob-

scure the iconic clock tower for which Berkeley is known."

"They had options," stated the red-tailed hawk nesting in the top of the pine tree at People's Park. "But Annie and Grinnell were certain they were safest up there where more construction seemed unlikely. Then came all this Diller money and camera surveillance, and it was really hard on them."

"Grinnell in particular just couldn't take it," sighed the hawk. "He said in his note he felt responsible. He hadn't been to a city council meeting or written a letter in his life. He was kind of relying on other people to speak up and make the difference."

\* \* \* \* \*



GRINNELL WAS DEPENDENT over the over-enrollment which has pushed Berkeley to its brink.



PEREGRINE ANNIE WAS ANNOYED by the constant surveillance, but tried to put up with it for the sake of their family.

# How to Tell the Difference Between Russian and Republican Propaganda

By Don Tread

With the advent of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ability to distinguish between Russian and Republican propaganda is even more important. This is necessary because of the Putin-friendly comments of many Republican-aligned politicians and media, e.g. Trump, Mike Pompeo, Steve Bannon, Marjorie Taylor-Greene, Paul Gosar, JT Vance, and Tucker Carlson. The task is not always easy, having many subtle nuances and only one major difference. As they say, “inquiring minds want to know.”

The problems stem from the fact that Russia and the Republican Party have numerous areas of ideological alignment. They both seem to believe in strong man rule; patriarchal, authoritarian, anti-immigrant, anti-democratic society that panders to the extremely wealthy and deeply religious. Of course there are differences; Russia uses names like “oligarch” and “Orthodox”, while Republicans use “successful entrepreneur” and “Christian.”

This alignment between the Russian government and Republicans is further supported by specific actions of these parties:

**-They both support the NRA. Some of the donations are even legal.**

**-They both deny they tried to manipulate the results of the 2016 US election. (Hey, Bob Mueller!)**

**-They both deny the existence of any “Pee-Pee Tapes” from an earlier Trump visit to Russia.**

**-They both employed Paul Manafort for tough political problems. (Manafort was a campaign advisor to Trump and Putin-backed Viktor Yanukovich in Ukraine. This all happened before his federal felony convictions.)**

**-They both tried to reduce the military capability of the Ukraine. (Trump delayed**

**\$400 million of security aid to Ukraine in 2019, leading to his first impeachment.)**

**-They both use Fox News as a media partner. (You can also see the Trump and Tucker clips running on Russian TV.)**

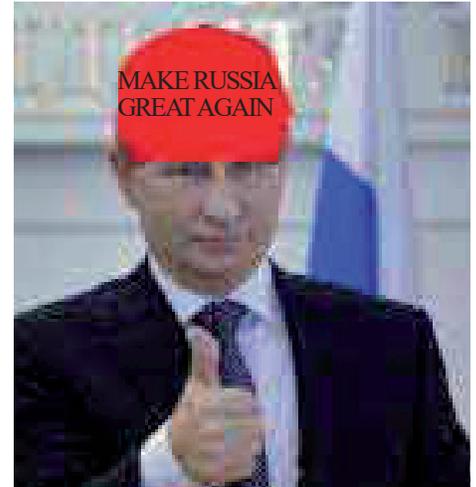
**-They both sacrifice democratic process to further their political power. Russia to try to restore the USSR and Republicans to MAGA\*. (Let’s hear it for voter suppression and fake voter fraud claims.)**

**-They both support Hungary’s Viktor Orban. One Member of the European parliament accused Orban of creating a “state of xenophobia and creeping fascism that emboldens racists, misogynists and homophobes.” Republicans will hold their May 2022 CPAC convention in Hungary.**

**-They both use criminal violence to achieve political objectives. (Russian invasions in Chechnya, Georgia, Crimea, Syria, Ukraine and Republicans in the January 6th Capitol invasion and the earlier attempt to kidnap the Michigan governor.)**

More moderate members of the Republican Party are not sharing this pro-Russian point of view. Their sentiments can best be summarized by Senator Mitt Romney who said, “I’ve got morons on my team.” This seems to be further confirmed by polls indicating that 66% of Republicans still believe that the 2020 election was stolen. That is a lot of morons.

If you can work your way through all of these similarities (with only subtle differences) you get to the single major difference. As a result of the financial sanctions against Russian banks, it is now almost impossible to send money to Russia. With a global energy crisis and record prices, Putin is rolling in cash. The late Senator John McCain said it best, “Russia is a gas station



MAKE RUSSIA GREAT AGAIN CAPS are an excellent example of the uncanny overlap between Russian and Republican propaganda.

masquerading as a country.” As a result, Russian propaganda never asks for donations. As we have seen in recent years, and knowing their base is easy prey for a “grift” wrapped in a culture war issue, Republican propaganda *always asks for a donation*. The Republican solicitations for money are expected to increase with the loss of the many millions they’d been receiving from those aligned with the Russian government.

Now all of my Republican friends can know how to tell the difference between Russian and Republican propaganda. This will allow them to save time by disregarding the Russian propaganda so they can focus on the Republican propaganda and donation requests. They can rest easy knowing that their donations are being used to support these shared ideological issues. Thank you comrade! Spasibotovarishch! Спасибо товарищ!

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Make America Grrreat Again

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



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# San Francisco Chronicle's Accidental Comedy Wins National Recognition for Quiet, Casual Racism

By Howie Doon

"We honestly didn't notice it until we got the phone call one morning about the awards ceremony," stated flustered San Francisco Chronicle representative Rob R. Ducky, who assured the Pepper Spray Times reporter who called for confirmation of the facts that Chronicle reporters would be there to accept the award of recognition in person.

"We're proud to represent the new racism," stated Ducky. "The old racism was more raw and less acceptable to our readers. This new racism is more palatable, more welcoming."

"The graphics make a huge difference," added one of the editors who worked to make sure the back-to-back stories worked seamlessly together to tell their stories without appearing to discuss race at all. "We want to allude to the race issue with-

*Next Issue: Setting wildfires with celebrities!*



IN THE SF CHRONICLE'S "TECH TOOLS" STORY people on the street, who appear to be white, are depicted as a good thing, a positive for the community, and probably buying things.



ON THE SAME PAGE ON THE SAME DAY the San Francisco Chronicle depicted people gathered on the street, who appear to be black, as a bad thing, a negative for the community, and assumed they are all doing drugs.

out spelling it out, especially since we don't have that many actual reporters left and we're not sure how many of them can actually spell."

"People do come and go quickly here," commented one editor who overheard the remark, "but not everybody can live on fumes. The pandemic changed the world,

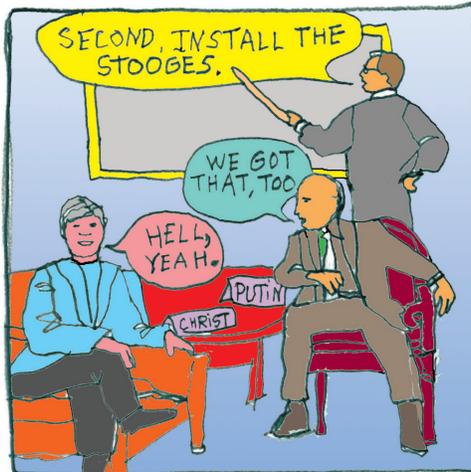
but the world of newspapers used to have some intersection with facts and data. Now it's a whirlwind of rumor and headlines based on other publications' deadlines. "It all moves so fast we're not sure anybody is reading anything anymore."

"That's why the recognition means so much," gushed another editor. "It means that somehow we're in the game."

\* \* \* \* \*

## I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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\*King Lear

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.