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Pepper Spray Times



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

"...I pray you do not push me..."

Vol. XXV No. 3



WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KAROLINE LEAVITT HAD TO REVERSE her announcement of a freeze on federal grants as soon as she announced it.

President Trump's Funding Freeze Whiplash Finally Moves Bipartisan Needle

Trump Boots All Federal Grants Then Reverses Himself

By Leif Mialone

A stunning flurry of executive orders signed in the second Trump administration's first days included a freeze on all federal grants rescinded faster than Trump's new press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, could get the announcement out of her mouth at her

Procedure Act, calling it "arbitrary and capricious."

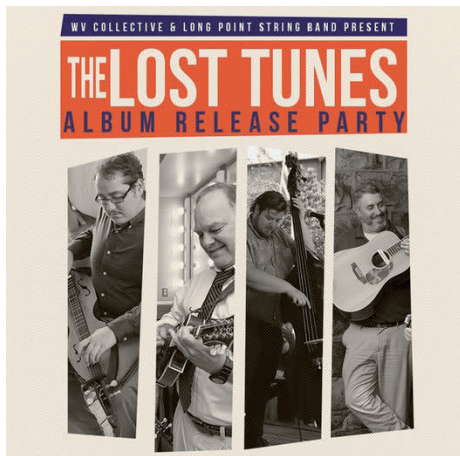
Red states' phones rang off the hook, too, according to sources in West Virginia Senator Jim Justice's office who fielded inquiries about Medicare, Medicaid, and specific questions about cultural efforts such as the Lost Tunes project which has spent years highlighting the as yet unrecorded musical heritage of Southern West Virginia.

Press Secretary Leavitt dismissed the concerns, noting that the executive orders and memos from President Trump were immediately rescinded, adding, "Why? To end any confusion created by the court's injunction. The President's EO's on federal funding remain in full force and effect, and will be rigorously implemented."

An aide in West Virginia Senator Shelley Capito's office confessed she had "no clue" what the contradictory statements meant or how the peculiar recommendations should be interpreted.

"It's new territory for us, too," she noted. "It's government by sharpie and vaguely worded memo. We're flying blind."

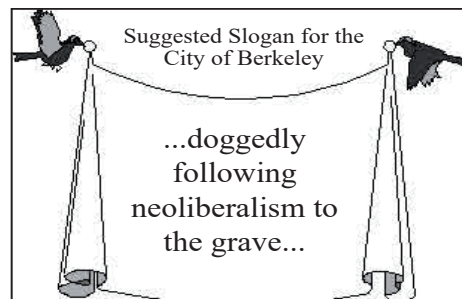
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THE LOST TUNES OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA is one of many federal projects threatened by President Trump's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't federal funding freeze which either does or doesn't affect federal grants according to a vaguely worded memo.

first press conference.

"The contradictory elements in her statement caused their own stir," stated California Attorney General Rob Bonta, pointing out that the memo from the Office of Management and Budget was in violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative



KPFA'S STRUGGLE IS ETERNAL, BOTH WITH THE CORRUPTION AND FASCISM of the outside world and the corruption and fascism that's always underfoot in its own corridors.

KPFA'S Purge

Closed Session Zoom Purge Creates Unexpected Comedy

By Daniel Borgström

Two elected members were suspended from the KPFA Local Station Board (LSB) in a closed session November 16, 2024. It was a "show trial" not for show; an insult to the "free speech radio" spirit of KPFA.

The cyberspace Zoom session had 22 board members, four Pacifica National Board directors, several technicians with thirty people in all. The accused were Elizabeth Milos and Steve Zeltzer, both elected by listener-subscribers of KPFA. The hearing was publicized as a campaign issue by the "Protector" faction of KPFA, but this hearing was closed. As a board member who was present, I'm writing this account.

Christina Huggins said there would be no audio recording. Milos challenged her stating others would record it, which I did, creating a transcript. Huggins said we didn't have her permission, and Milos challenged Huggins' eligibility to chair the session.

"I am the chair," replied Huggins.

"You're not a member of the board," Milos responded. "You can not..."

Huggins muted her by pressing a mute button to silence members. Milos unmuted herself, saying "you're not a delegate. To be able to preside over this kind of..."

Huggins muted her again saying, "the chair doesn't have to be a delegate, per the bylaws." "The chair does," Milos responded, referring to Article Seven, LSB, Section 5.

"You will be removed ...if you do not come to order," Huggins warned.

Zeltzer spoke saying (cont. on pg. 3)

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, the new administration's nominees seem ill-prepared. Are they as unqualified as the Democrats claim? Most of them at least look the part.

Dear reader, most of them were chosen with a casting eye in mind. But they have the added pressure of needing to know how grown-ups behave, so it's a struggle for bloggers and podcasters. The knowledge that they are expendable and that their lifespan as a Trump employee is likely to be short is going to weigh on them as well, but provides no small comfort to those of us who appreciate basic competence.

Dear Lena, is KPFA's recent purge a sound move to adhere to its values and core mission, or more internal implosion? Shouldn't they be having a bake-sale right about now?

Dear reader, they're behind in their property taxes by quite a few years. They run the risk of losing their shiny new building, but for those of us who started Free Radio Berkeley with portable equipment in the hills, it's just another day on the corporate beach. No one is sure why they have these purges on such a regular basis, which does nothing for morale and is inexplicable to the unembedded irregular listeners whose attention they crave. It's a recipe for eye-rolling.

Dear Lena, have you tried AI? Just to see what it does?

Dear reader, I know what it does. It siphons creativity and destroys jobs. Next time you want to draw Elon Musk seizing the federal payment system just start drawing. I guarantee you what you come up with will be more interesting and more honest.

Dear Lena, who's in charge of Berkeley right now.

Dear reader, I've heard some interesting speculation. AI is in the running. Please start a contest and let us know who wins.

Ask Lena about what DeepSeek chooses not to say at cdenney@igc.org.



THE GREAT DEBATE OVER THE PURPOSE AND FAIR USE OF NATIONAL PARK LAND was recently decided in favor of the native Tule Elk after even local opinion pieces failed to convince embarrassed colleagues that "Dr. Kirp" had anything rational to add, much like the water-free provisions for Tule Elk which proved disastrous for National Park relations.

Professor Emeritus David Kirp Carps About Losing Debate to Mute, Dead Tule Elk

By F. E. Asks

Dr. David Kirp's impoverished defense of the National Park Service's Tule Elk-killing management plan omitted any discussion of over 150 Tule Elk starvation deaths, an unexpected feature for park visitors and the elk themselves, in favor of glorifying the commercial ranches on public land.

Environmentalist Susan Ives noted in response that the point Reyes National Seashore was "designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations" and that "the two million annual visitors to the Seashore come not to see cattle—the ranches were always off limits to park goers—but for beauty, solace and the chance to witness wild nature at a close-to-home national park that more than 60 years after it was established finally welcomes all of us."

The ironies in Dr. Kirp's opinion piece are "special" according to an observer from the Center for Biological Diversity, one of several environmental groups whose lawsuit finally broke through the Park Service's disinterest in accommodating the simple need for water in Tule Elk habitat.

"Marin County has an embarrassing history of opposing the housing efforts Kirp decry the absence of in the small towns all over Marin County."

"The Tule Elk are really doing their part

From Wikipedia:

This biography of a living person needs additional citations for verification. Please help by adding reliable sources. Contentious material about living persons that is unsourced or poorly sourced must be removed immediately from the article and its talk page, especially if potentially libelous.

Find sources: "David L. Kirp" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (June 2009) *(Learn how and when to remove this message)*

well," enthused another park visitor from the Western Watershed Project hiking a nearby trail through the hills. "Their popularity is extraordinary. And it grew exponentially after the National Park Service fenced off their water."

The Park Service admitted that the Tule Elk starvation plan was not good, but Kirp won't acknowledge the incon-

venient public relations of death, stating, "my money's on the cows."

* * * * *

Travel Consultant Lynn Riordan Resolves Waffle Question

(continued from pg. 1)



Huggins wasn't a delegate. Huggins threatened his removal.

"Show us where it says the chair doesn't have to be a delegate," said Cheryl Davila.

Huggins overruled them and presided. Huggins is a leader of the "Protectors" group which, on KPFA's LSB, represents the station's power faction and management. Huggins is a former board member elected for a term beginning in December 2024, but was not a delegate at the time of the session. Her group set the agenda putting two members of the minority on trial.

Defendant Milos is a Chilean-American medical interpreter and human rights activist. Co-defendant Steve Zeltzer is host of Work Week Radio. Both are affiliated with the RESCUE PACIFICA group, which advocates keeping the Pacifica network intact and preserving its 75 year anti-war tradition.

The "trial" was ostensibly about a speak-out in front of the KPFA studio. KPFA Business Manager Maria Negret exited the building angrily confronting them, and Zeltzer inadvertently touched Negret's hand.

"He's lucky he didn't do it to me," growled board member Fred Dodsworth, playing the role of "Prosecutor" seeking justice for the alleged victim, Negret, who was not present.

Zeltzer and Milos had requested Negret's presence. Jim Lafferty, attorney for the defendants, questioned her absence. Huggins replied, "she's not the accuser."

Dodsworth flashed the police report on the screen. Only the Berkeley Police Department seal, not the contents, was visible. Dodsworth stated, "the police report stipulates that it is not for distribution."

We had a copy of the police report which didn't contain the name of the suspect or description of the alleged assault.

Dodsworth did have a video of the incident. Negret has her hands on her hips, aggressively yelling and scolding. The video doesn't show an "assault" until slowed down frame by frame where for a microsecond Zeltzer touches Negret's hand.

"If this is assault and battery, then every time I've gotten on BART at rush hour I've been assaulted and battered," said LSB member James McFadden.

Undaunted, "Prosecutor" Dodsworth launched into presenting his case, saying "the evidence against Mr. Zeltzer is undeniable... no accidental contact...an attempt to wrest control of her body from herself."

Noting that Negret is Latina, Dodsworth added, "there's additional significance when this action is taken against a woman of color."

"Excuse me," Milos interrupted him. "There's a point of order."

While presenting his case against Zeltzer, Dodsworth had kicked delegate Davila, the only Black woman in the Zoom session, out of the meeting.

"I'm talking. Shut up!" Dodsworth barked. Milos spoke again, "one of our members, Cheryl Davila is not being allowed in."

"You're out of order!" Dodsworth continued, saying to excuse Zeltzer "would be a betrayal of the values we stand for and erode that trust KPFA has built...particularly among women and people of color."

Milos and Zeltzer continued to raise their voices on behalf of Davila who eventually was readmitted and who described the Zoom session as a kangaroo court.

Earlier, Defense Attorney Jim Lafferty said, "having been a long time admirer of this radio station, to be present...is truly sad...an Alice in Wonderland trial would be an improvement."

The opinions of Zeltzer and Milos were indeed annoying to the "Protector" group. Zeltzer told the hearing, "the [July 31st event] was about the monitorship of Pacifica...brought about because members of this KPFA Station Board went to the FCC and called on them to take away the license of WBAI...(which) means that a new FCC Chairman appointed by President Trump could immediately shut down Pacifica because it's already under monitorship."

How the Trump administration may handle the monitorship remains to be seen. Congress is working on bipartisan legislation to crack down on alternative media.

Co-defendant Milos, the only witness present at the hearing, was charged with two offenses: "making inaccurate statements in a public meeting about the alleged assault and battery" and disputing Dodsworth's version

by criticizing Negret.

"I have been involved in exposing this fraud." Elizabeth Milos told the hearing. "That would most likely be part of the reason why I'm being silenced."

What this trial was really about was the role of the Local Station Board. Milos' and Zeltzer's Rescue Pacifica group assert that there are times when board members need to ask questions, such as when it was discovered that property taxes hadn't been paid on the KPFA's studio for six years. Yearly evaluations required by Pacifica bylaws haven't been done for over seven years. The petition to the FCC to investigate WBAI may have done more to sabotage than to help the New York station.

The differences between the two groups seem irreconcilable. Rescue Pacifica struggles to preserve the network and its antiwar programming, while the Protectors group supports management that gives nine hours of KPFA's airtime each week to Ian Masters, a show host who attacked Mumia Abu Jamal, and who promotes a pro-military vision. The struggle has gone on for years with people looking for common ground.

Defense Attorney Jim Lafferty expressed a plea for unity, warning, "one of the reasons why I'm so utterly appalled by having to be here today is because Pacifica has enemies... who in Project 2025 spell out that they want to shut down this entire network. And yet, here we sit, doing what we're doing today. Have we all lost our minds?"

Two of the "Protectors" broke ranks and secretly voted against the suspension. And two "Protectors" did not attend this session. But Dodsworth and Huggins had a simple majority finding Milos and Zeltzer "guilty" of all charges, suspending them for eighteen months.

KPFA listeners may not take much interest in the details of board politics. The ones who run the show are the ones who determine the programming. While many excellent shows remain, we've seen a drift towards echoing corporate media and security state propaganda. While following events in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere, we need to watch what's happening under our noses at our community radio station.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



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Deepseek-R1 Upends Silicon Valley AI

By Elsie Ewencourt



THE DEEPSEEK WHALE THOUGHT that getting a jump on the market was more important than money and besides that people really like whales.

A deeply discounted artificial intelligence (AI) program from China has Silicon Valley tearing out its hair.

American's investment in AI is at least \$328,548 million spent in the last five years. China spent only six million dollars on DeepSeek, and is promoting it as a low-cost, open source option.

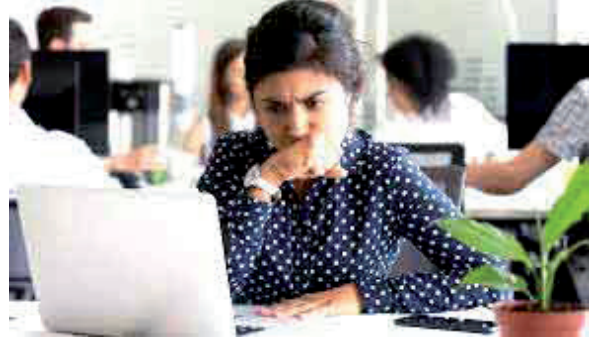
Silicon Valley insiders at first insisted that DeepSeek's AI app was copied from American companies' code, or that they had fudged their numbers, or that it didn't work as well as the American AI products being touted by the media.

But the product works. And most people don't care who made it. The DeepSeek app went straight to the number one download and keeps going almost as fast as the growing humiliation of Silicon Valley.

"We used to be a respected center of technological innovation and even have a sense of self-respect," responded one technology worker on condition of anonymity. "Now we're sucking up to the Trump administration hoping not to get shut down or raided. We might end up with an idiot like Elon Musk at the helm. And we're *private*. We thought we could just rock on and do whatever we wanted, and we have no protection from any of this."

"The humiliation is pretty profound," agreed Dr. Diana Pauper. "Silicon Valley spent \$196 million this year through Aug. 8, 2024 on TV commercials promoting artificial intelligence to get the market ready for AI products. DeepSeek scooted in and scooped up those customers in the blink of an eye. Silicon Valley's bubble was DeepSeek's invitation to not only capitalize on the bubble, but allow everyone else to build its own software with their open source code."

"It's a creative invitation, as opposed to



SILICON VALLEY TECH EXPERTS EXAMINED the Deepseek open source code and discovered that its nefarious secret was an ingenious, original approach to AI engineering which just never occurred to anybody else.

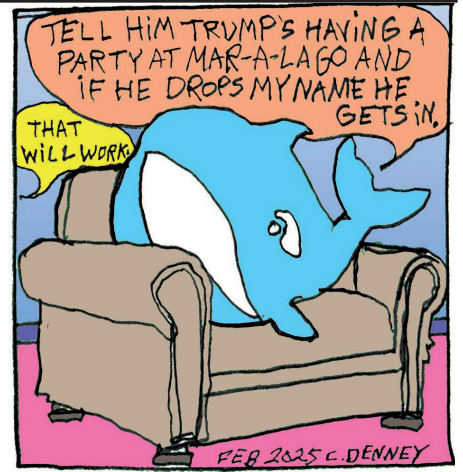
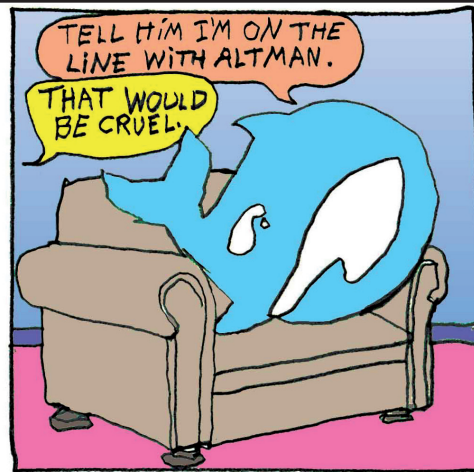
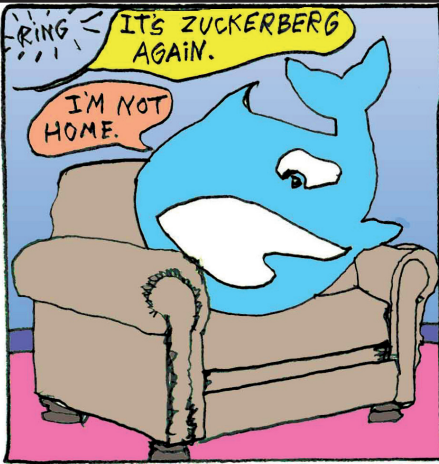
Silicon Valley's effort to exploit their work product to make money. It's a total humiliation for these 'move fast and break things' monsters," state Dr. Pauper. "Deepseek moved fast. And broke the capitalist model right open. It's genius, and our paranoid protections helped build it."

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Next Issue: Running on the freeway with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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