

the floral issue...



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

May 2018

Pepper Spray Times



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

"Let the music knock it..."

Vol. XIX No. 5

More Sidewalk Laws: "Maybe this time we'll get lucky..."

By Frank Lee Speaking

The fix was in, but the Berkeley City Council nevertheless held a required Special Meeting in April to usher in a new set of sidewalk use restrictions for the poor, who inexplicably tend to have lots of personal belongings nearby.

"This is a compassionate ordinance," claimed Mayor Jesse Arreguin, who has clarified that his initial "housing first" support meant housing first for wealthy people who can afford a Centenario Leyenda \$16/32 and then slightly longer stays for people caught in the shelter shuffle. "This is a kinder, gentler approach to fascism which will help me keep my job."

The majority at the meeting deplored the mayor's complete switch from the promises made before his election to the Homeless

Task Force, but the business community applauded, pointing out that it's hard to enjoy your mezzal flight while hungry people are congre-

"This is a kinder, gentler approach to fascism which will help me keep my job."



POOR AND HOMELESS people need to understand that more sidewalk restrictions may not have been effective at addressing social inequities and poverty before, but hey, there's always a first time.

gated outside the restaurant.

"It's bad for business," stated David Brower Center's Executive Director Laurie Rich. "Poor people need to understand that."

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Zuckerberg: "It's Complicated"

Beloved by Traditionalists, Tech Fawning's Future Jeopardized by Impertinant Questioning

By Nelda Toodador

Congress inconvenienced Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg with hours of pointless questions about things they don't understand but finally concluded that there's really no upside to scolding billionaires.

"It isn't just the fact that he holds the key to the midterms," confided one senator. "It dawned on me that I had once shared some personal photographs with a friend that I have no idea how to retrieve."

Other congressional representatives agreed that even asking how to delete information from the internet might put them at risk, and that the thirty-three year-old Zuckerberg had them over a barrel.

"They made about eighteen billion last year alone," noted one senator. "You're not going to hear a word about booster seats and t-shirts from me."

* * * * *

Scoters Tossed Into Bay Form Pods

By Louis D. Keys

The scooters thrown into the San Francisco bay by the dozens are apparently adapting to their new environment by forming pods and roaming throughout the waterways.

"We frankly hated blocking the sidewalks," offered one scooter sunning himself on a pier. "We're very ADA conscious and it's nicer out here where we're not in anybody's way."



THE BUSINESS model of dropping scooters anywhere and everywhere apparently looked like a great idea to people who love that word "disruptive."

"They're a little like dolphins," observed one local biologist. "They band together and actually play."

The companies which unleashed scooters

"We got tired of people making fun of us," added another scooter. "Others just hate us. We are just as annoying as Segways without the comedy."

Biologists are intrigued by the way scooters have taken to the waves and seem to be much more social and playful in the bay than on land.



PODS OF SCOOTERS ARE SAILING around the San Francisco Bay after annoyed pedestrians dropped them off piers.

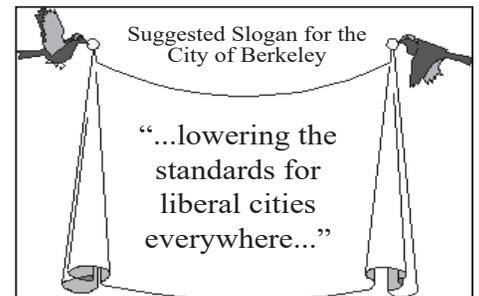
on San Francisco's and other cities' public streets admitted they were unprepared for the scooter-swimming phenomenon.

"We never really thought about the scooter-happiness factor," admitted Bird spokesman Kenneth Baer. "We never thought about the public inconvenience, either. We just wanted to make some sweet money during the admittedly brief legal loophole we found in San Francisco law. Now we just have to figure out how to monetize something else."

* * * * *



CONGRESS AGREES that if the Berkeley Police are still sitting outside 4th Street's Lululemon looking for crime after more than six months then Congress can of course be equally patient with Zuckerberg until he is ready to make his suggestions regarding his preferred style of internet regulations.



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

"...lowering the standards for liberal cities everywhere..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I was never on Facebook, but why can't I sue Facebook for destroying the world? And come to think of it, why can't I sue all these stupid people who were on Facebook for destroying the world? I knew better than to have anything to do with Zuckerberg, but Trump is president now thanks to this supposedly benign "sharing" economy and my world is fucking doomed.

Dear reader, Yes. We are all doomed. Please do sue him and all the stupid Facebook people along with him. Count on me to be in the courtroom rooting for you and enjoying one of the last few places where glowing, beeping screens are disallowed.

Dear Lena, Berkeley is pouring so much pesticide into the ground up in Tilden that it has burned patterns into what's left of the grass. Isn't that our watershed? What is up with this.

Dear reader, we at the Pepper Spray Times are much less fussy about Garlon and Round-Up at our picnics after years of inhaling the very best of pepper spray. My advice is that you try not to read the East Bay Regional Park District's annual pesticide report right there on their website where they explain how all this stuff is actually good for you.

Dear Lena, so I hear all the tables and chairs and stuff put out by businesses is illegal due to some city snafu. Can I put out tables and chairs myself just for fun in the sun?

Dear reader, of course. Bring your friends. Play cards. Have a picnic. It is a rare moment in civic life when the sidewalks are not just for privileged, business-connected commercial purposes but for anybody who wants to play a board game. The key remains "intent" to block someone's passage, so just be the gentle soul you probably are and allow people to get around you without issue and, if life were fair, there should be no problems. But of course, life is not fair.

Ask Lena about purpose and passion at cdenney@igc.org.

The Real Scoop

Shy Billionaires Applaud New Influence Opportunities

By the Sugarcone Group
Associative Presto International

"Let your dollars do the voting," recommended Attorney General Jeff Sessions, in a recent speech celebrating "anglo-American heritage" at the semiannual Peace Officer Combatting Homelessness Conference in Las Vegas.

Sessions cited a newly released study conducted by UC Berkeley's V. Weighin and his team of political science PhD candidates, saying "the cost of an election far exceeds the value provided by official voter measurement."

Professor Weighin weighed in stating "since Citizens United, the one person one vote model is a zero sum mystification of our current democracy."

The white paper suggests that small donors can always be outbid by anonymous donors such that "citizen concern for issues merely lines media pockets with gold-plated ratings in the promotion of actions destined never to happen, no matter who sits in the seats of power, and runs the risk of creating widespread depression and anxiety for voters much better off going to



VOTERS influence might not be worth anything at all if academic assessments hold true.

a movie."



PRESIDENT TRUMP IS WORKING HARD every day making America great again.

The Foundation for a Better America added their approval, emphasizing that "such a policy enables shy billionaires to speak from the closet without fear of being reported for his or her choices, which can run the risk of harming corporate bottom lines."

Academic consensus affirms counting the money raised to back any candidate or proposition would better determine voter probability on any issue without the excessive waste represented by elections.

"Think of what this money could do for developing countries," declared former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on his trip to Turkey to scold the Nato ally for not purchasing US missiles. "Plus," he concluded firmly, "by not holding elections there'll be no chance of Russian meddling - a win-win all around."

* * * * *

Microsoft Co-founder Tries Creating Artificial Intelligence

Shortage of Real Intelligence Inspires Possibly Futile Search for Ordinary Common Sense

By Thelma Thoul

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is committing \$125 million dollars toward helping computers understand ordinary common sense, calling most artificial intelligence (AI) research "stalled."

Most industry experts acknowledge that while many machines can recognize objects and spoken words, they struggle with basic tasks a three-year-old finds easy.

"Just ask Alexa to walk the dog," agreed a local resident standing in the rain waiting for her chihuahua to do its business. "Or put away the groceries. It's pathetic."

AI's shortcomings appear to be having no effect on popular or political enthusiasm for putting robotic cars on the road or installing AI robots in medical or school settings despite the lunacy of putting any trust in machines without the common sense of a child of three.

Allen's effort, known as Project Alexandria, will focus on helping machines answer simple questions, such as "if I put my socks in a drawer, will they still be in there tomorrow?" or "how can you tell if a milk carton

is full?," which involve deceptively complex equations such as "do you share your sock drawer with your little brother?" or "is there a ferret on the premises?"



MICROSOFT CO-FOUNDER Paul Allen is giving up on finding any human form of common sense.

"Machines need our help with these thorny issues," stated Allen. "We need to show them compassion and make sure they are free of complex liability burdens before they are fully employed on our freeways and faculty tenure committees."

Critics objected that it would make more sense to incentivize tech CEOs to use more common sense, but were dismissed by Allen, who said it had been tried.

"We've spent decades trying that," stated Allen. "There's still hope for machines."

* * * * *



Experts: Yes, It Can Get Even Weirder Than This

By Lawson Forgiven

The news that President Donald Trump's lawyer's secret client is Fox News' star Sean Hannity struck many as strange, even in a year of strange news, but experts assured the public that it can in fact get even stranger yet.



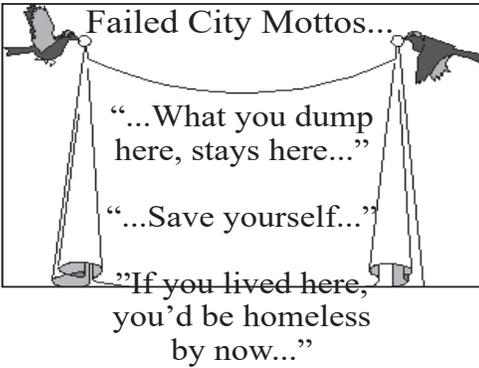
MEDIA EXPERTS haven't given up trying to explain what's going on.

"Speculating on-air has become the norm," pointed out one media expert, "which enables anybody, really, to argue that they are qualified for a spot on a broadcast team."

"Sean Spicer, for instance, could be a Trump love child, which would explain the curious willingness to have the histrionic press briefings we've all gotten used to," observed Dr. Moses Lawnalot, an expert on innovations in media.

"Speculation entitles us to cover a lot of ground," asserted his assistant, Dr. Nora Treat. "A lot of us have bets on an Ivanka surge, especially if she changes her hairdo at a crucial moment before the election. It might seem weird, but what doesn't."

* * * * *



Manatees Welcome Sea Level Rise

By Solomon Mydreams

An alarming report published by UC Berkeley and the University of Arizona uses satellite radar to estimate that rising sea levels will join sinking coasts to alter shorelines beyond the two to six feet previously estimated by the end of the century.



SEA LEVEL RISE might end up enhancing your very own property values with a lovely ocean view.

of the century.

"We are so fucked," stated Roland Burgmann, co-author of the study who specializes in planetary science. "Boot your beachfront property now."

But many species dismissed the alarmist response to the study's conclusions that 48 to 165 square miles of shoreline is at risk of being underwater in a few short decades.

"Humans tend to underrate being underwater," stated a spokesfish for local sardines. "Studies such as this one tend to evaluate sea level rise and shoreline sub-

"If it's what we think it is, we love it."



MANATEES ARE LESS ALARMED about rising sea levels and sinking coastlines than developers.

sidence from only one species' very limited point of view."

"It's discrimination, plain and simple," added another sardine who held a sign criticizing humans' overfishing for the plummeting numbers in the coastal sardine population. "Being underwater really works for some of us."

"If it's what we think it is, we love it," stated a manatee who read the study and called in to a local talk show from Florida's everglades. "We're buying up shoreline property as fast as humans list it. It's paradise down here."

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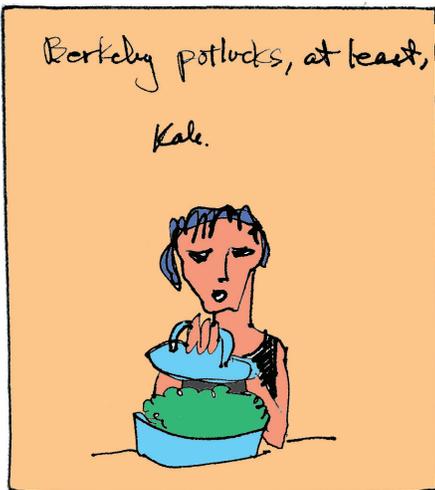
Observations on the landmarking of Campanile Way...

by P.C. Keen



We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



G. DENNEY 2018

Berkeley Cops For Sale!

By Bridget Highwater

The Berkeley Police Department (BPD) has confirmed that Berkeley police officers are in fact for sale, although Berkeley citizens would have to outbid Apple and Lululemon to personally acquire them.

"Apple and Lululemon are paying top overtime fees of around \$100 an hour," stated Chief of Police Andrew Greenwood who expanded what had been about \$5,000 of discreet but sweet Christmas overtime in the era of previous Police Chief Meehan to well over \$100,000 in premium overtime by sometimes two cops in full uniform only occasionally strolling from two brand new police vehicles for which neither store, according to police records, paid a dime.

Nearby crime-ridden districts admitted envying the opportunity that rich companies have to simply buy police services badly needed elsewhere.

"We can't really outbid that \$100 an hour

Next Issue: Frying sprinkler-heads with celebrities!



LULULEMON AND APPLE may be paying the officers who sit outside the tony 4th Street stores all day, but the publicly owned cars, uniforms, and weapons, and other police tools are apparently free according to police records. Arrange for an empty car in front of your store and watch your shoplifting costs go way down!

these officers are scooping up," sighed one store owner on San Pablo Avenue. "But since BPD isn't charging them a dime for the city's equipment, we're hoping we can just borrow the cop car."

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Oil companies directives to government safety agencies.

**De-fund,
De-fang,
Do not
enforce**

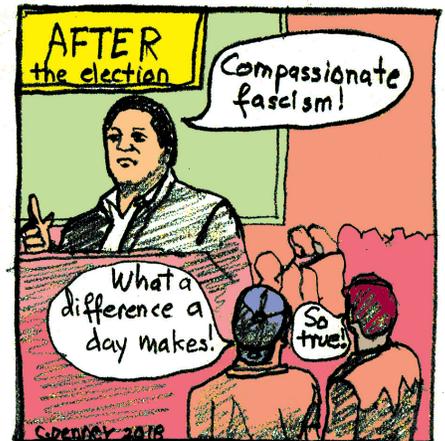


D. Minkler 2018

**leave only the illusion
of oversight**

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Henry VIII

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