

the
freck-
led and
speckled
issue...



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

May 2023

Pepper Spray Times



It's hakanuka-nuka...it's free...if you can find it

"..you tremble and look pale..."

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Media Defiantly Captures Media Cycle

By Tara Pageout



JAKE TAPPER IS NO SHEEP according to CNN's Jake Tapper, since although he allows Trump's rumors in the driver's seat he sits firmly in the back seat shouting directions.

"We are not sheep," Jake Tapper declared. "We will let this story dominate our news cycle but with one eyebrow defiantly crooked so as to clarify to our highly intelligent listeners that we have no real documentation of this rumored arrest, that we find no other news organization with documentation either, that we think we can tell that the Trump organization has no documentation either, but that the news time we spend on this possibly untrue possible non-story will be wreathed in intimations of irony and sarcasm so that we can argue if necessary that we did not cover it at all which is hard to do with the whole thing breathing down your neck."

The media cycle itself had no comment on its priorities as the bank system failed and the stock market collapsed.

Porn stars, on the other hand, rejoiced at the sudden respect shown their profession and its undeniable influence on the political futures of politicians and business leaders alike, as well as their sudden firm control of the media cycle.

"We're grateful," stated Misty Bus, porn star of several previously little-known films now trending. "We especially love the fact that at least one side of this contest will be arguing for paying porn stars very high salaries. What's not to love."

* * * * *

"The former president thought he could dominate our news cycle by hinting at his own arrest and inciting people to riot in protest," scoffed Jake Tapper, CNN reporter, on the air in rapid response to former president Donald Trump's email announcement of his possible arrest.



INVESTORS MAY BE sweating but porn stars are winning in this particular media war.

Nature Conservancy Sells Out to Developer Lobbyists

YIMBYs Gobble Up Another Environmental Group

By Sultan Peckershaker

"It's gets easier every time," stated Melissa Breach, chief operating officer for the California YIMBY, or "Yes In My Back Yard" pro-developer lobbying group of her organization's joining with the Nature Conservancy to promote pro-developer loopholes for construction.

"We thought we'd have a hard sell at the Sierra Club, and most of us are too young to know that they've dipped their toes many times in the sea of selling out," added Breach.

"David Brower, one of the most respected leaders of the environmental group founded by John Muir, resigned from the board of the Sierra Club, saying the organization is fiddling while the world goes up in flames," noted another YIMBY representative. "But nobody else seems to care. These days Sierra Club loves the whole 'highrises are green' thing we're selling, so we would be fools not to pile another environmental group into our corner while the getting's really good."

"Sure it's greenwashing, but it's great for fundraising," added Breach putting the finishing touches on Assembly Bill 68 being put forward by state Assembly Member Chris Ward. "Between floods and fires we have the perfect moment to promote deregulation of protective building codes."

"The world is burning and all I hear from them is the music of violins," Mr. Brower was quoted as saying in The San Francisco Chronicle when he resigned from the Sierra Club in the year 2000. "The planet is being trashed, but the board has no real sense of urgency. We need to try to save the earth at least as fast as it's being destroyed."

Breach defended the violin music of working with YIMBYs who destroy parks, gardens, back yards and protective building codes noting that without developer money most of the legislators currently in office would be out of a job.

"When the YIMBYs first infiltrated the Sierra Club they were honestly kind of shy about it," laughed Breach. "But the public is so used to getting swept into political line by a nice, green-sounding name that



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S new logo says it all about partnering with YIMBY's.

they don't pay much attention to politics anymore. I don't think the Sierra Club lost a single member when they united with the YIMBYs local agenda."

"I feel for the flowers and the redwoods," sighed one environmentalist. "But they're portable, aren't they?"

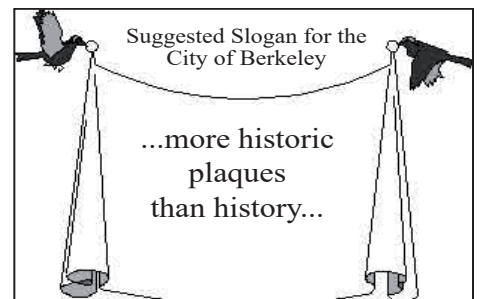
"We can admire them in pictures, right?" agreed another environmentalist sporting a "Green Is In Your Mind" t-shirt.

Critics argue that only a few years ago building dense housing without adjacent parks and open space would have been unthinkable, and that any legislator who promoted such a plan would never get elected.

"They're pretty much correct about that," noted Breach. "We're in a sweet spot thanks to the unregulated internet and the fact that most cities' public comment periods are easily hijacked by national groups of developer lobbyists with nothing else to do but spout talking points and watch the regulations and redwoods get the axe."

"We know most people don't like the sound of chainsaws," added another YIMBY member. "But it sure is music to our ears."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, what happened to the spy balloons? I was really enjoying them. Are they all gone? I think I miss them.

Dear reader, I miss them, too. they were adorable.

Dear Lena, I heard that our snow is plastic now. Is there an upside to this?

Dear reader, no.

Dear Lena, are you sure? There must be something. Like maybe it floats? or maybe it will last a long time?

Dear reader, it floats and it will last a long time. This is not a good thing.

Dear Lena, wouldn't it be good for ski resorts?

Dear reader, no.

Dear Lena, are you sure? There must be something good about it.

Dear reader, on a really hot day it will turn into a rubber-like substance and you'll think maybe you can bounce on it. But no.

Dear Lena, you've got to look at the bright side.

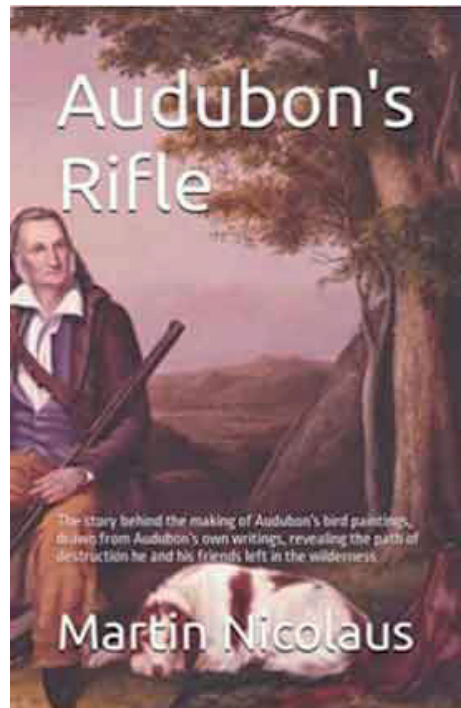
Dear reader, no, I don't.

Dear Lena, I hear the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has determined that it is "not feasible" to end homelessness. Is that true? Can't we all just double up?

Dear reader, of course. But before that just hand out the keys to all the empty apartments and houses that are sitting around boldly representing investments for people who leave them empty. This is an emergency, after all, at least it is for all the kids trying to do homework from the back seat of a vehicle in the light of a streetlamp.

Ask Lena about landmarking a nice plate of scrambled eggs at cdenny@jgc.org.

March 21, 2023 Declared Martin Nicolaus Day



MARTIN NICOLAUS RIPS THE COVER off of the mythology about John James Audubon in his book "Audubon's Rifle."

By Adeline O. Poetry

"Audubon's Rifle", the story behind the making of Audubon's bird paintings, is drawn from Audubon's own writings, revealing the path of destruction he and his friends left in the wilderness as deftly detailed by author Martin Nicolaus, famous in Berkeley for rescuing Cesar Chavez Park from at least two disastrous city proposals so far.



IF YOUR
PARK IS IN
TROUBLE
this is the guy
to call.

John James Audubon is best known as an artist and naturalist, but was also a slave owner who casually killed thousands of birds unnecessarily in the course of his life as an avian documentarian.

According to Nicolaus, the Audubon organization has politely refused recommendations to change their name to that of someone more in keeping with current "leave only footprints" ecological customs. Nicolaus's book, available now (see below), examines the myth and the truth of the matter extremely relevant today as Berkeley shudders in anticipation of the next destructive proposal for Cesar Chavez Park, the Civic Center Park, and others.

"It's like they hate grass and trees," sighed one local Berkeley resident. "If they see someone in your local park whose looks

Regulation is Ruining My Business

(a song sung to the tune of My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean), by Mark Nelson

Regulation is ruining business
Regulation is stifling me
Regulation is killing my profits
Roll back regulation for me

Roll back, roll back, roll back regulation for me, for me
Roll back, roll back, roll back regulation for me

A bail-out would really be nifty
A bail-out would quite set me free
A bail-out would save the economy
Please bring my bail-out to me

Bail out, bail out, please bring my bail-out to me, to me
Bail out, bail out, please bring my bail-out to me

We're sorry we took you for billions
We're sorry we pissed in your beer
We're sorry we're in the Bahamas
We're sorry that you can't be here

Sorry, sorry, so sorry that you can't be here, be here
Sorry, sorry, so sorry that you can't be here

Instrumental break
Repeat first verse
Repeat one line from each chorus and fade

=====



they don't like they want the whole park ripped out."

"They just don't get that people are portable," agreed another local resident who has to walk ten blocks with her stroller to get anywhere near grassy open space. "Not all of us have back yards."

"Or they think parks have to make money like the UC regents do with People's Park," nodded another local resident. "Parks serve a purpose without having zip lines."

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<https://www.amazon.com/Audubons-Rifle-paintings-destruction-wilderness/dp/B0BYLVJCM3>

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Tech Boots Thousands of Workers Leaving Ping Pong Tables Empty



THE HEARTBREAKING SIGHT OF empty ping pong tables are visual testimony to the tech bust sidelining thousands of tech workers from whatever it was they were doing besides playing really intense games of ping pong.

By Ben DeSpoon

January and February cost over 11,300 jobs in Silicon Valley according to state data released recently.

"And that's not including the bankers," reflected Benjamin Ticklem, an expert on state employment figures. "We call it a 'contraction' so as not to scare the horses."

The most obvious effect of the labor contraction is the effect on the ping pong tables which take up most of the square footage of any tech startup or tech-related business most of which now sit empty with their sad little ping pong paddles resting on top of even sadder looking little ping pong balls.



EMPTY PINGPONG TABLES can be repurposed as buffet tables and raised garden beds.

labor trends who pulled out of tech stocks just before the contraction. "Some of these kids had serious backspin."

Robert Barrons, a senior research direc-

tor, stated that the rise in unemployment was going to climb even higher, but that tech workers were unlikely to find work in other sectors of the economy.

"What can they do, after all," he sighed. "They are notoriously underdressed and



THIS SAD TABLEAU IS A MONUMENT to the curious work of Silicon Valley tech employees who abandoned the hard-won eight hour day and traditional worker benefits in favor of the right to have ping pong tables and wear t-shirts in their workplaces.

asocial, their skills are too specialized to be portable, and they literally don't know how to slice an onion."

California lost 5,000 information jobs in January, 2,900 more in February, but added 32,000 nonfarm positions in February, leaving some observers wondering if tech workers could find a future doing some other kind of work.

"It's unlikely," stated Barrons. "Tech workers are traditionally hostile to getting employment in more useful sectors of the economy."

"Jobs playing ping pong are difficult to find even for those with tech qualifications," agreed Tanner Denyue, research manager at E-Z Economics Institute. "We'll be seeing empty ping pong tables for quite some time in Silicon Valley. But some of these workers will find employment in the newly devastated banking sector, which requires very little skill."

* * * * *

Movement to Replace Football with Pickleball Gains Serious Steam



PEOPLE WHO DON'T THINK PICKLEBALL can be offered as a serious replacement for football must never have played the intense, competitive, even dangerous game.

By Theodore S. Open

"The game itself has its dangers," conceded one pickleball player sidelined with a sprained ankle after missing a flat-out lunge for the silly-looking plastic ball. "But the pickleball players are kind of like a mafia. You don't want to cross them."

"They know how to fight," acknowledged another player. "And you think football money is big? This sport has real dough."

"Pickleball has a Hall of Fame, is the fastest-growing sport in America, and doesn't ruin your brain," acknowledged Timon Myans of the World Pickleball Federation (WPF) which spars

THESE IM- PLEMENTS with the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) can take out a tennis court in for rights to represent the no time.

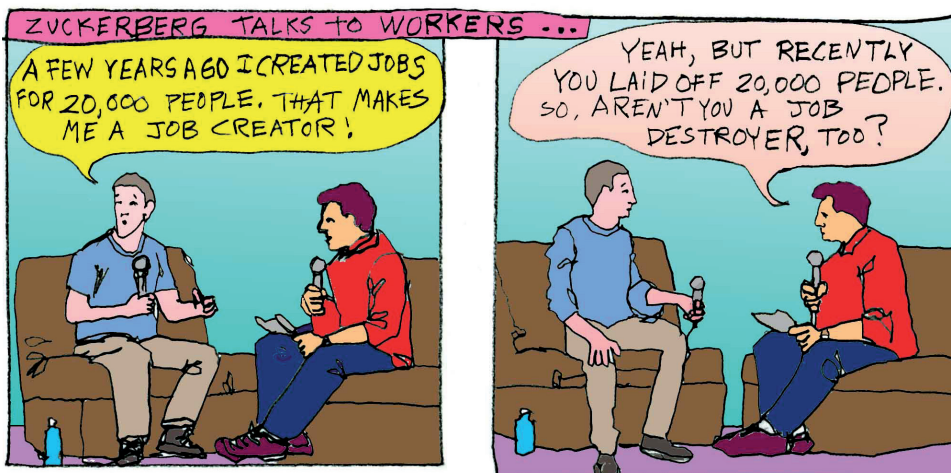
Encephalopathy (CTE) is at least currently not linked to the sport."

"It's as ubiquitous as crypto," sighed Steve Sidwell, former IFP program director. "We have professional tours now. It's embarrassing."

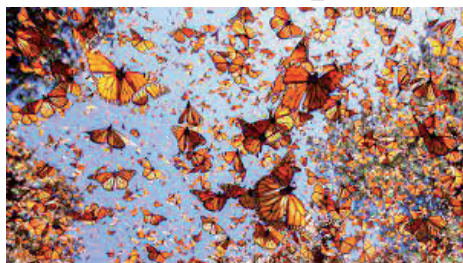
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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Marauding Monarchs Invade Across Unprotected Border



LOTS OF THESE TRAVELERS don't have tickets and arrive without any luggage.

By Amelia Mothermade

Monarch butterflies thought to be nearly extinct only a few years ago are surging across unprotected borders without tickets, luggage, or travel insurance.

"We know where they're going," stated Annie Oldthing, one of the volunteers at 272 locations keeping count of the invasion which has ballooned from fewer than 2,000 in 2020-21 to an estimated nearly 250,000.

"They routinely travel to eastern and northern states in successive generations before migrating to coastal areas along the west coast of California and Mexico where

they weather the cold months in large clusters at the top of eucalyptus and Monterey pines watching Netflix."

"They love British comedy and mysteries," added Oldthing.

The Pentagon's spokespeople were divided on how much of a threat the invaders represent to the American public.



BUTTERFLY INVADERS ARE SO BOLD that their migratory patterns are predictable.

"It's not as easily determined as we'd like," responded Colonel Barry Dinrubble



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES ENJOY NETFLIX movies and British mysteries.

to questions regarding imminent danger. "Especially when you consider that they tend to improve every community they become part of."

Critics who dismiss the potential threat to the American way of life often contend that the invaders are in fact American born, but are dismissed by those who note that the monarchs refused to carry passports, identification papers of any kind, or even those little round airplane pillows.

"Some may have been born here," admitted Colonel Dinrubble. "It would help a lot if they would just learn to speak English."

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Next Issue: choking on hors d'oeuvres with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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