

the
herd
mentality
issue...



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

November 2020



Pepper Spray Times

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

"...the worm's an odd worm..."

Vol. XXI No. 11

Unborn Fetuses Rally Against Supreme Court Confirmation



JUDGE AMY CONEY BARRETT'S SUPREME COURT NOMINATION HEARING was surrounded by thousands of unborn fetuses who can't bear the thought of being born at all.

By Mona Clonal-Antibiotics

Unborn fetuses surrounded the hearing room where Judge Amy Coney Barrett responded to questioning about her record noisily demanding that she be rejected as a Supreme Court nominee.

"We don't want to be born at all," explained the fetuses' spokesfetus. "Not now, anyway. Our Zoom skills are pathetic."

"We're negotiating for a birthday in about seven or eight years," offered another fetus. "Some time in the future when there's dancing and you can play ball."



PETER WOHLLEBEN'S RESEARCH has so annoyed the naturally private beech trees he studies that they like to throw nuts at him.

"And sing," added another fetus. "We appreciate the excitement about a potential vaccine in the next year or so, but we're not as optimistic about its efficacy given the hit or miss nature of the average flu vaccine."

Experts marveled at the fetuses' organizational skills, noting that the thousands

which showed up to surround the hearing location had to be communicating with some kind of telepathy given their poor Zoom and Whereby skills.

"We do have a thing," explained one fetus. "It's kind of like fungi."

The group took inspiration from forester Peter Wohlleben's work as highlighted in Smithsonian Magazine's March 2018 issue, noting that older trees protect younger trees which typically take inappropriate risks like excessive drinking, posting inappropriate selfies, and leaf-shedding.

"Trees are less competitive than communal," explained the spokesfetus. "We want to be born some time when people work together for the common good like the microscopic fungal filaments along the fine root tips of a forest."

"Mycorrhizal networks are a great model for cooperative living," acknowledged Edward Farmer at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland who has been studying the electrical pulses in trees similar to animal nervous systems. "They do have something resembling collective intelligence. But man, they are stressed out most of the time about danger. Trees need to chill out."

"We would really just like to choose our own moment," explained another fetus holding a picket sign. "I don't mind waiting my turn. Especially if in a couple years we can go to a ballgame and party down."

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FLY WINS DEBATES Admits It Got Paid For Pence Head Performance



THE FLY ON PENCE'S HEAD dismissed rumors that it was part of any militia insisting it was part of a "business" of flies, otherwise known as a swarm, but had acted alone.

By Wanda Ringaround

"Not enough," commented the fly who won all three of the election debates but admitted under pressure that he was paid to disrupt the proceedings, a stunt nobody noticed until he landed on Pence's head during the Vice Presidential candidates' debate and stayed there for over two minutes.

"I was wild during the first presidential debate," stated the fly. "I did backflips, I wrote things in midair, I zigzagged and tried my best to get on mike but nobody noticed until the Harrison/Pence debate."

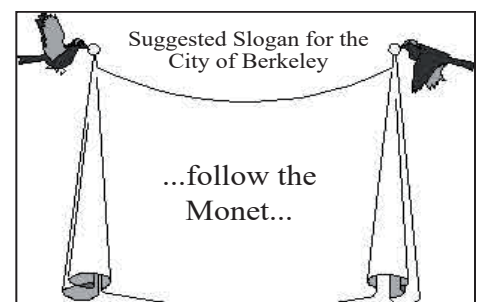
"He was there for the first debate," confirmed reporter Lew Card. "But of course we didn't have a camera on him. Sitting on Pence's head was pure strategic genius."

"It was the relatively casual nature of his appearance on Pence's head that caught the zeitgeist," added another reporter. "It's hard for flies to sit still."

Most observers agreed that the fly's choice to hold still was dangerous, but effective.

"Pence could have swatted himself in the head, but it would have drawn attention to the fly dilemma," concluded one observer. "Although I'm told he's been seen privately repeatedly banging his head on anything handy for the last four years."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I couldn't go to the gym and I was annoyed, so I plotted to overthrow the government by kidnapping the governor. I'm in big trouble now. Where did I go wrong.

Dear reader, you probably joined a book club that turned out to be a militia. I warned people about this. There's a lot of group think in both types of organizations. Try to remember that just because your friend has more guns than you do you don't have to buy everything in the whole store.

Dear Lena, skirts are too short these days to hide my husband. He's such an embarrassment. What should I do?
- Senator Diane Feinstein

Dear reader, go long! San Francisco is pretty forgiving on the fashion front. I would add a full bustle because your husband really is a wanker.

Dear Lena, can we go outside yet?

Dear reader, no.

Dear Lena, what about the mail? Is it safe to mail a letter?

Dear reader, no.

Dear Lena, so, I know the country is hard into this partisan divide, but I'm really into knitting and quilting. Do I have to care who wins? I'm kind of just good here making the best of things.

Dear reader, no. Just don't be surprised if you get shot by either side. People are kind of worked up.

Dear Lena, the rules to protect whales are going to cut into crab season. This is terrible. What should we do.

Dear reader, the newsroom has unanimously agreed that the best approach is a cage match between the two species. The match should be broadcast over Zoom.

Ask Lena about figs at cdenny@igc.org.

Trump Expresses Desire for Normal Life at Campaign Rally in Eerie, PA

What Is Normal Life? Experts Have Conflicting Views

By Vera Heights

Experts are scrambling to answer the question raised by President Trump at a recent campaign rally in Eerie, Pennsylvania when he expressed a desire to return to "normal life."

"It jogged a distant memory," confirmed some excited scientists. "We vaguely remember a time when we shook hands, danced, shared meals, even attended live music concerts. Was that normal life? We're not sure, but we started an inquiry right away so that we could identify it if it ever returns."



THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE NORMAL LIFE because who knows if these are people or aliens or Russian spies or a well-disguised militia.

Critics objected that President Trump had never had anything resembling a normal life but were quickly dismissed by others who pointed out that almost nobody has.

"We're all teetering on the edge of some impossible social convention," observed local social scientist Maude Lynn Tailawoe. "You pick up the phone and you're told you have to bring cupcakes for 500 to the work picnic. Is that normal? Does anybody have that many cupcake pans? And if they do, could they call me right away? There's nothing normal about that."

"I think I experienced a brief period of normalcy in the fifth grade," offered one Eerie, PA resident after the rally. "We won a ball game after school and found a goat skeleton by the ravine. It was really cool."

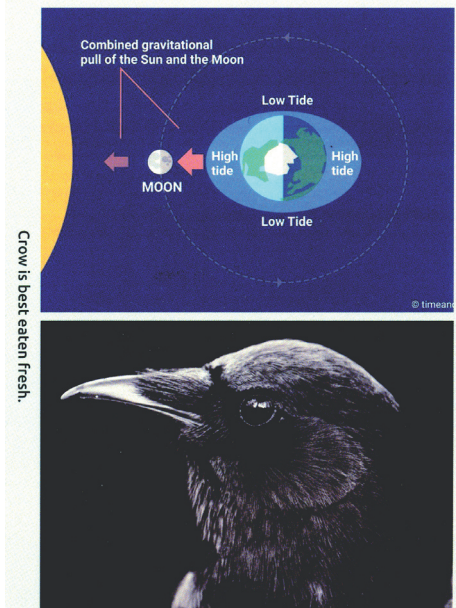
"I think normal life is over-rated," stated another rally attendee. "We are going to miss the high-octane all-day-all-night drama when it's gone."

Other disagreed.

"Bore me," begged another exhausted Eerie resident. "Please, please, bore me to tears so I can read a damn book again."

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CONSIDERED THOUGHTS BY LYNN RIORDAN



I have no good explanation. I came here TO make friends. Could not go big so I went home. And then I went out again. I came out and there was no party. There is however, the Democratic Party. Barbara Lee speaks for me. Madam Speaker represents me. Represent! Vote like no one is dancing. Epidemic pandemic systemic. Call me optimistic but I'm not giving up. I "give a damn." I gave at the office party of one. A lonely number but still an integer. Integral to the functioning of society! I'm not a number and I don't smoke them. Smoke if you're on fire. Assume axioms. Assume the position. Assume nothing. I take nothing as one of my axioms.

ART & HISTORY MATTER



SAVE
ZAK'S
MURALS



Indigenous Groups Win Victory Over Developers' Plans for Historic Shellmound

By Moses Lawnalot

Developers' sobs at Ruegg & Ellsworth could be heard clear down to the Spenger's Parking Lot at 1919 4th Street where their dreams of more high-end shoppers' paradise apartments met with a decision by the National Trust for Historic Preservation which named the West Berkeley Shellmound dating back to 3700BC as one of the eleven "most endangered historic places" in the United States.

"We think we could still get around this despite having 450 burials in the immediate

area," stated a staff member at Ruell Enterprises. "It's still very popular to annihilate indigenous culture."

"Why, it's American," stated Lauren Seaver, West Berkeley Investors/Blake Griggs Properties, in a press release. "All you have to do is state that here is nothing at all of any cultural or historical significance on this property. Politicians usually listen to the big money."

"The National Trust's decision doesn't necessarily constrain us," whispered another Griggs Properties staff worker. "These shellmounds date way back before Stonehenge or the pyramids. Nobody remembers except a bunch of crusty old historians."

"Well, I feel pretty real," commented Corrina Gould, a Chochenyo and Karkin Ohlone woman, born and raised in what is now called Oakland, California.



IF PRESERVATION-ISTS HAVE THEIR WAY the housing built on the West Berkeley Shellmound would all look like this.



MULTIPLE HISTORIC MAPS CONFIRM at least three shellmounds and over 450 burials at the property which developers feel yearns to be commercial shops selling Ohlone trinkets.

Disney Lays Off 28,000 Theme Park Employees

By Mort A. Della

Minnie Mouse and Mickey Mouse held a joint press conference denying the rumor that their recent layoff from Disney was the result of their refusal to wear masks.

"These *are* masks," Mr. Mouse explained. "We're in these giant plastic heads which is no picnic let me tell you."

Disney's Florida theme park's attendance has suffered an 85% decline due to families' reluctance to fly or travel as well as the limited pandemic entertainment and dining options currently offered.

"Operating profits plunged \$3.7 billion," moaned a Disney executive. "And that's despite clapping our hands and repeating a lot that we do believe in fairies."

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MINNIE AND MICKEY MOUSE WERE DISMAYED BY GETTING LAID OFF but are looking for work down by the docks.



THE WEST BERKELEY SHELLMOUND shown here in a 1910 photograph contains stone relics, bones, and other artifacts left by the area's earliest inhabitants, one of over 400 shellmounds that once circled the bay which, in Berkeley, was sold by the shovelful as fertilizer, chicken feed, and grading material for roads.

"Oakland and Berkeley was once known as Huichin, our ancestral village," stated Gould, who gave a cultural presentation to the Berkeley City Council on October 13, 2020, in recognition of Indigenous People's Day, formerly known as Columbus Day. "We're pretty settled in."

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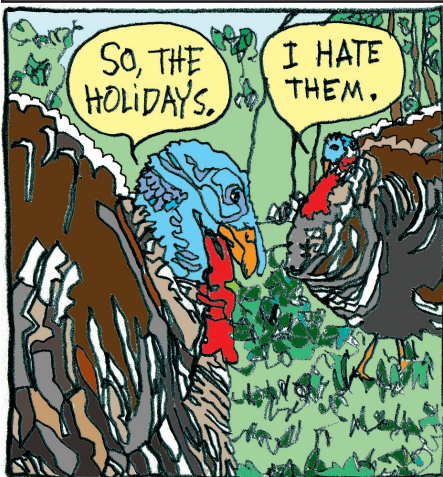
Neighborhood Park Too Crowded? Try Bagpipes!



Low-cost bagpipe instruction for emergency park-clearing. Monthly, weekly, or hourly lessons available! Call your local health department for assistance!

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



War on Mailboxes Scheduled Through Eternity

By Kent B. Done

"The Supreme Court's decision to allow ballot counting to continue several days after the November 3, 2020, election in two battleground states ensures that the war on mailboxes must continue," stated a spokesperson for the military wearily passing out photographs of suspected mailboxes at a recent press conference.



TERRORIST MAILBOXES LURK all over your neighborhood just waiting to eat you and your mail.

"We're asking citizens to be vigilant. If you see something, say something."

"I saw one just yesterday," cried out a Texas resident in fear. "I ran for my life."

The government has tried to slow down the mail, reduce the lethal spread of mailboxes, and limit overtime for postal workers, but the mail appears to still be getting through in some parts of the country.

"We need the public's help," intoned a government spokesperson. "Arm yourself and your children and avoid stamps at all costs."

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Next Issue: Eating Your Hat with Celebrities!



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*Anthony and Cleopatra

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