

the
fawning,
obsequi-
ous
issue..



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

October 2022

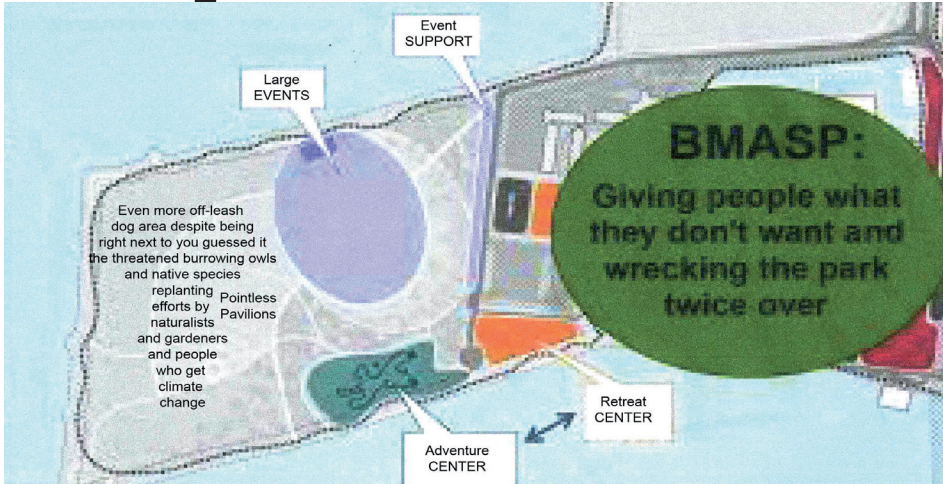
Pepper Spray Times



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

"...more piercing statues daily to chain up and restrain the poor..." Vol. XXIII No. 10

Important Correction



THE EFFORT TO MONETIZE CESAR CHAVEZ PARK was the mission statement of the initial documents but several city councilmembers expressed horror at the plans after the public got a good look and started a grassroots revolt against them.

Ludicrous Cesar Chavez Park Carnival Rides and Vendors Consultants' Proposal Cost Berkeley Taxpayers \$1,101,000, Not \$100,000 as Previously Reported

By Luke Oliver DePlace

The eyebrow-raising cost of the Cesar Chavez Park amusement park proposal known as the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) apparently cost well over ten times the amount stated by the

staff at Berkeley's District 1 office, which has yet to offer any explanation of the enormous discrepancy, let alone the lunacy of the original proposal.

"We're so used to these enormous consultant fees," offered one District 1 staff member by way of explanation. "It's dizzying keeping track of so many zeroes."

Pepper Spray Times (PST) editor Grace Underpressure apologized to the reading public for the error.

"Few people read anymore," she noted, "but for those who do we ordinarily rely on primary source materials. We made an unfortunate exception in this case because the information came from a District One staff member, which, in the future, we will strenuously avoid."

District One challenger Elisa Mitiken declined comment, generously suggesting that current District One leader-A SHAMELESS promotion for the Pepper Spray Times Anthologies... makes a perfect gift.



Fair and Balanced Rules for Scooter Parking



BE SURE WHEN DOING HELICOPTERS through town that you keep a sharp eye out for clueless little kids and impossibly slow old people but just have fun on the sidewalks, because that's what really matters most.

By May Kerbrake

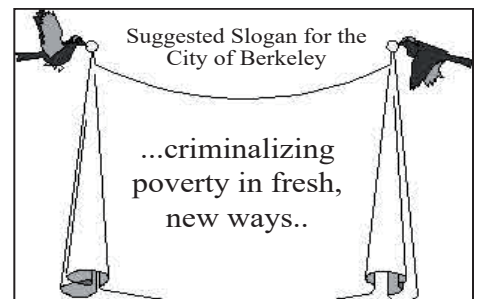
Politicians love your new city-subsidized "micro-mobility" program where scooters most of us can't use and don't want block sidewalks, curb cuts, benches, and doorways while the city, in its wisdom, is still pondering how to deal with the mountain of complaints from people who can't safely get anywhere without being hit by a whizzing scooter. Until the city creates a complaint process, you can:

- * call the responsible company of which there are several, because that is usually so helpful;
- * call your councilmember - see above;
- * call the city manager's office - see above;
- * discuss the parking violation with the scooter rider, because don't you know they just love that;
- * toss the scooter into the street and hope it gets run over;
- * rend your clothing and tear out your hair, which will momentarily reduce anxiety.

* * * * *



IT'S ENTERTAINING to watch the growing Public Works budget for repainting streets bright colors with safety lanes and information to cover up the bright blood of pedestrians and people who stood still too long trying to figure it all out.



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Evening Reception
with
Donald J. Trump

\$2,700
PER PERSON
PLUS ONE
CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENT

\$25,000
PER PERSON
reception, photo with
President Trump and
FIVE CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS

\$50,000
PER PERSON
reception, photo with
President Trump when
you and he FLUSH A
CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENT DOWN
A TOILET

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I just found out this “housing crisis” is worldwide and no accident. It’s the most valuable investment there is in a world where local, state, and federal governments actually don’t mind having people sleeping for years in doorways and under overpasses. How do I invest?

Dear reader, just have enough money in the stock market and you can kick back in a hammock and watch the money roll in while you fan yourself with one hundred dollar bills. There’s really nothing to it for the wealthy and for the politicians like the Berkeley representatives who curate the out-of-town carpetbaggers’ largesse.

Dear Lena, my neighbor says this is the worst city council we’ve ever had. Is that true? Is anybody keeping track.

Dear reader, yes. But the detail matters. In June, 2022, they swept the funds generated by Measure P which had been described as funding navigation centers, mental health, substance abuse services, housing subsidies and job training for homeless, seniors, vets, people with disabilities, and youth and put it all in the general fund so they can use it any way they want. They did the same thing with the transfer tax, which now will first head straight for operating expenses.

Dear Lena, but...but where are the headlines? Did any Berkeley councilmember raise an objection?

Dear reader, no, as far as we can tell, this was done in the budget and in a measure that got little notice just before the budget. No one even clutched their pearls. And their uniform silence on the identical monetization of our sidewalks and People’s Park, our most famous landmark, is deafening.

Dear Lena, how do we get rid of them?

Dear reader, it’s pretty simple. Run. Two of them are running unopposed in the upcoming election because as a community we’re really more interested in our dogs.

Ask Lena about fire-breathing tax policy at cdenny@igc.org.

New Supreme Court to Allow Burning of Witches

Not just for Halloween,” States Justice Thomas; Lucrative Plans to Televis Witch Roast



JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS RELISHES HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE on the new Supreme Court which may give birth to televised witch burnings and nominations for candidates from your very own community so start making your list now.

By Don Tread

In the post-Roe v. Wade world, where Justice Thomas has already signaled that the court will likely also try to restrict gay and contraceptive rights, the most shocking recent unconfirmed rumor is that the the Supreme Court will allow burning of witches. As with the overturning of Roe v. Wade, this will be accomplished by limiting personal freedoms under Federal law and turning the decisions over to the states. It is further expected that most of the 23



WITCH TRIALS ARE SIMPLY an American tradition bringing neighbors together to share their personal stories and opinions.

Republican-controlled states will enact trigger laws to allow burning of witches.

It is likely that Justice Alito will again author the majority decision using the “originalist” argument that the burning of witches is not specifically prohibited by the Constitution and is therefore an issue for the individual states to resolve. His recent language will be adapted to the new case, e.g., the permissibility of burning witches, and the limitations upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting.

Alito is expected to cite the history of the precedent established in the 1693 Salem witch trials and to further reference the basis in English law found in the 1542 Witchcraft Act.

While the recent historical punishment for witches has been hanging, stoning, or drowning, depending upon whether you want to rely on historical texts or Monty Python, burning of witches has been out of date for at least 500 years. It is believed that the Supreme Court, in their effort to further erode the separation of church and state, wanted to add some “fire and brimstone” old testament punishment just to put the fear of god back into the general public. It is expected that Justice Thomas will explain this part of the opinion unless his wife prefers to do so on his behalf.

In the post-Roe v. Wade world, tens of millions of women are angry at the Court and the Republican politicians that support its Dobbs decision. (Polling indicates that 59% of adults and 67% of women disapprove of the overturning of Roe v. Wade.) Red states are already reported to be working on trigger law language that would allow them to pursue witch burning immediately following a formal Supreme Court decision. Conservative political observers have commented that there are probably lots and lots of witches that deserve punishment given that none that we know of have been subjected to capital punishment in the last 330 years. They said it was just a matter of coincidence that the burning of witches may be the only secure, “sure-fire” approach that will prevent these angry women from voting against Republicans in future elections.

* * * * *

Kaiser Endorses Prayer for Mental Health

Kaiser Permanente's Six to Eight Weeks of Patience Strategy for Mental Health Patients Now Enhanced by Prayer



THESE MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS just don't appreciate how hard it is to make money off people with mental health emergencies who often can't remember their medical healthcare numbers offhand or have forgotten to bring thousands of dollars in cash.

By Annette U. Remember

A hundred striking mental health workers who picketed Kaiser Permanente Medical Center recently denouncing "dangerous understaffing" of therapists -- with patients routinely having to wait from six to eight weeks for an appointment -- expressed surprise at Kaiser's new strategy of recommending prayer for mental health patients.

"We believe this is a progressive first," stated Kaiser spokesperson Arnie Sarnocken. "It's a streamlined version of 'thoughts and prayers', which has traction nationwide as an appropriate response to tragic circumstances such as our mental health patients



experience as a routine part of therapy."

"The for-profit model of healthcare has its rough spots," agreed Kaiser member Audrey Spones passing by the picket line. "The rising level of child suicides is one example, but responding in anything besides prayer might cut into Kaiser's \$50 billion in reserves."

"We really have no choice," agreed Sarnocken. "We advise people considering having a mental health crisis to wait until the overwhelming surge in mental health emergencies is safely over and the pandemic winds down."

Other Kaiser administrators suggested, off the record, that the increase in suicides has the upside of reducing the ultimate need for patient care.

"Some of this understaffing issue just



WORKERS ON PICKET LINES just don't seem to understand how annoying it is when people are noisy and you don't care.

seems to take care of itself," noted one. "We recommend patience to our administrative staff as well as to our thousands of mental health clients; when we can securely monetize this ratio of patients we'll be delighted to broaden our therapeutic response."

One therapist addressed passing motorists over the microphone by unaccountably saying, "Honk if you had to wait two months for a mental health appointment."

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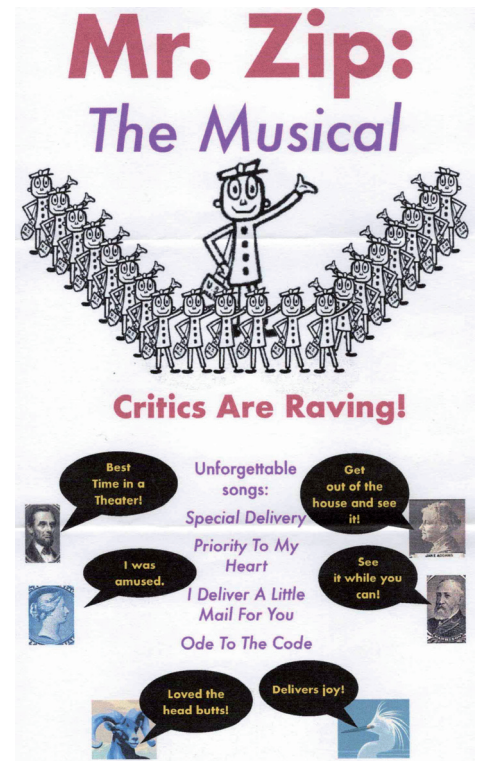
MAYOR ADDRESSES EXPLOSIVE RATIO OF COLLISIONS BETWEEN SCOOTERS AND PEDESTRIANS - RECOMMENDS GUNS

By Anna Bomination

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin clarified his recommendation of firearms as the easiest way to address the explosion in collisions between sidewalks full of scooters and injured pedestrians by pointing out that he didn't intend pedestrians to aim at scooter-riders, but rather to shoot themselves.

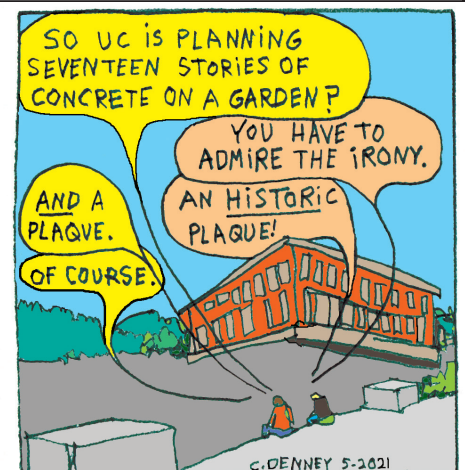
"There's no way for me to arrange all of these out-of-town contracts with scooter companies and actually enforce the law," Arreguin asserted. "The firearms are recommended for people who fully understand that we have no intention of honestly engaging any help from law enforcement and wish to fully surrender the fight."

* * * * *



We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Visiting Art Professor from Spain Known as "233" Inexplicably Gift-Wraps UC's Giant Backhoe

By Amy Gomillo



GIFT-WRAPPING HEAVY CONSTRUCTION "233" contributed an art installation to TION equipment distracts People's Park estimated to be worth over \$100,000 on maintaining one's focus on football.

September 3rd by gift-wrapping the large backhoe the University of California left in People's Park when it was forced to halt construction and

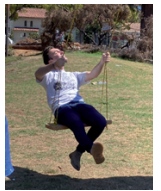
transforming it into a giant public swingset which includes a plaque and is wrapped in UC school colors.

In the artist's own words, "Saturday, September 3rd, 2022, exactly a month after the terrible events occurred at People's Park, the community of People's Park is going to wrap up a special gift back to the UC Berkeley administration. We don't want it! Spaniard artist 233 is leading an art project fruit of collective thought, sharing and work, promoted by People's Park Council and supported by the whole community of People's Park. The idea is to contribute

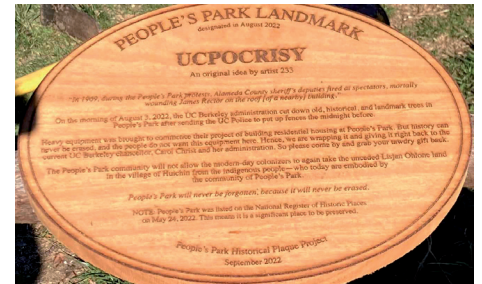
through contemporary art with People's Park's struggle against the powerful unfair capitalist establishment in which every human being coexist."

The public admitting being somewhat baffled by the artwork, but not by the swing, which instantly became the park's most popular amenity. Professor Ramon Blanco-Becerra answered questions about the work's clear connection to the history of the Park's nonviolent, creative culture.

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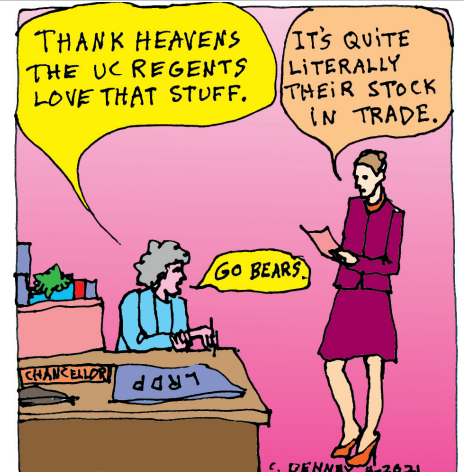
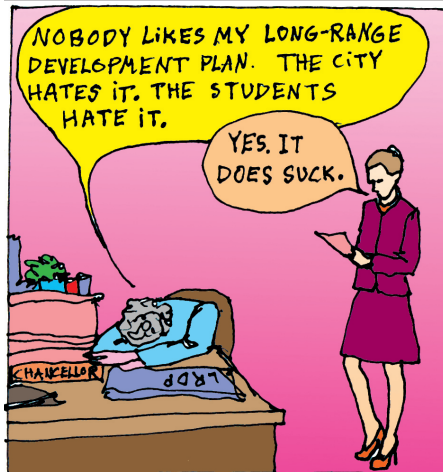
THE ARTIST'S PLAQUE READS: "In 1969, during the People's Park protests, Alameda County sheriff's deputies fired at spectators, mortally wounding James Rector on the roof of a nearby building. On the morning of August 3, 2022, the UC Berkeley administration cut down old, historical, and landmark trees in People's Park after sending the UC Police to put up fences the midnight before. Heavy equipment was brought to commence their project of building residential housing at People's Park. But history can never be erased, and the people do not want this equipment here. Hence, we are wrapping it and giving it right back to the current UC Berkeley hancellor, Carol Christ, and her administration. So please come by and grab your tawdry gift back. The People's Park community will not allow the modern-day colonizers to again take the unceded Lisjan Ohlone land in the village of Huichin from the indigenous people -- who today are embodied by the community of People's Park. People's Park will never be forgotten, because it will never be erased. NOTE: People's Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2022. This means it is a significant place to be preserved. - People's Park Historical plaque Project, September 2022



Next Issue: Baking edible handcuffs with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



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*Richard III