

the back to school issue...



Pepper Spray Times



Don't Miss: Editor Grace Underpressure AKA Carol Denney at the Freight & Salvage Monday, Sept. 19th, 8:00 pm.

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

"..no more shall be the neighbour to my counsels..."*

Vol. XVII No. 9

Self-driving Vehicles Admit Responsibility for Messing Up Direction of Republican Party

By Chauncey S. Staking

Self-driving cars admitted recently that the erratic course of the Republican National Party during this unique election season was entirely their fault.



IT MAY LOOK SILLY after a close call but this self-driving car with a mailbox. might kill you unless you can disguise yourself as accidents at this something that matters to Silicon Valley.

"We're still tinkering with a few things," stated one local Tesla model after a close call with a mailbox. "We've had a few accidents at this stage with our navigation. That's how we learn."

Political observers voiced uneasiness at the cavalier way Tesla Motors and other tech giants are filling the public streets and altering the direction of political conventions with vehicles that can't

"We're still tinkering with a few things," stated one local Tesla Model after a close call with a mailbox.



IF YOU ARE STILL watching the road you are just so yesterday. what's coming down the road and misinterpret everything around them I don't really want them in the

tell a pothole from a bowling ball and have the potential for influencing the election in bizarre, unexpected ways.



THIS HAPPY FAMILY can play scrabble in peace after finally learning to trust not only their government but their self-driving car and the O-rings that go with it.

next lane," expressed one dubious political consultant. "But I'm relieved to hear that there is some explanation for the Republican National Party's erratic behavior."

Critics marveled at the way the tech promoters of self-driving cars have zoomed past the laws requiring drivers behind the wheel, but admitted that the tech community has most politicians firmly by the wallet.



IF YOU GET A robot along with your self-driving car you'll never have to go anywhere ever again.

"Liability is a really old-fashioned concept," nodded one tech observer. "Civil suits are like gnats at our billion dollar picnic."

One critic objected that one self-driving car was responsible for its non-driver's death, and could have caused the deaths of others after the vehicle mistook the back of a truck for the sky, an honest mistake.

"This is perfectly understandable," reassured a Silicon Valley engineer. "Take a look at the sky the next time you get a chance. It really does look just like the back of a truck."

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VIRTUAL OLYMPICS WOULD eliminate the cost of having to build big arenas and you could have superheroes compete with Olympic athletes or even compete with your own avatar.

Silicon Valley Suggests Virtual Olympics

Venture Capitalists Offer Support for Virtual Olympic Games

By Celine DeFarm

The Zika virus, the environmental issues in Rio, even the misbehavior of certain athletes have fueled an idea which tech enthusiasts say is long overdue; a virtual Olympic Games.

"Snow may be a thing of the past in the near future," explained one virtual games promoter. "We need to organize toward a different climate where actual snow is just something everybody remembers fondly."

"The possibilities are endless," enthused one Silicon Valley enthusiast at a recent meeting on the concept of virtual Olympic Games. "Imagine an injury-free games where we could leave all the settings up to Pixar."

Critics objected strenuously that the purity of athletic competition would be destroyed along with national health and athletic efforts, risking the elimination of some sports altogether.

"What idiot will still be ribbon dancing?" fumed one Romanian sports coach. "It's not like these kids get extra bread."



THE OLYMPICS are something anybody can do with the right headset.

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I tried the flamethrower method of opening up my subscription to the Pepper Spray Times and the whole thing completely burned up. I thought I had better let you know it's a terrible way to open your paper.

Dear reader, it does have its downside. But the upside is sparing you the debilitating effects of political satire, which on occasion can be risky fare for those somewhat faint of heart.

Dear Lena, this thing of fencing off open space is pretty wild. Can we pay to go in there? I would like to picnic by the Post Office, and I have the money to buy a spot for me and my friends.

Dear reader, the Berkeley City Council is way ahead of you. For a price you can privatize an entire city park, or suspend the smokefree rules for your cannabis celebration. Many of the City Council themselves are already for sale for the right buyer at the right price. The election has raised the stakes on this opportunity, so act now.

Dear Lena, everything they do downtown makes it more insane. Is it just me, or is there less and less more and more expensive parking and everything is small and uncomfortable and my favorite stores are long gone and they're killing off the theaters.

Dear reader, you do not sound like the target population, the millenials. I would advise you to adjust your age and socioeconomic status and start playing Pokemon.

Dear Lena, what should we do about all this gunfire? It is really disturbing.

Dear reader, yes, there is something you can do. Hang onto your next SkyMall magazine and send away for some noise cancellation headphones. And be sure to vote while you're shopping for your Kevlar-lined winter coat.

Ask Lena about the latest self-driving roller skates at cdenny@igc.org.

Cesar Chavez Park Ground Squirrels All Decide to Run for Mayor



By Armand Trouble

The City Clerk's office in Berkeley was recently overrun with ground squirrels just squeaking in before the deadline for running in municipal elections.

"They're all apparently running for mayor," offered a harried Mark Numainville, "I must say they seem to have excellent penmanship."

Political observers noted that the ground squirrels had better handwriting, a better sense of election-related deadlines, and were much cuter than most of the other candidates for political office.

"The little hats and buttons are just precious," confided one City Hall staff member. "We're all wearing them."

A spokessquirrel for the group explained that ground squirrels had waited long enough for someone at City Hall to step up and represent their



GROUND SQUIRRELS' IMAGE is much better than most of the other candidates running for mayor.

concerns, which include their strict new City Hall-imposed popcorn-free diet, the noisy, dive-bombing drones constantly zooming around Cesar Chavez Park, and climate change.

"The Berkeley City Council may not be precisely positioned to stop climate



GROUND SQUIRRELS ARE RUNNING for mayor of Berkeley demanding serious political representation and popcorn.

change," stated the group's spokessquirrel,

"The little hats and buttons are just precious," confided a City Hall staff member. "We're all wearing them."

"but our community needs a system of levies and some boats and canoes. And some noodles."

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What Most Prominent Republicans Said They'd Rather Be Doing Than Attending the Republican National Convention



MITT ROMNEY just keeps walking around saying "I can't believe it."

1. eating nails
2. eating their own shoes
3. joining the Army
4. seeing Disney on Ice
5. attending a Berkeley City Council meeting
6. going on a bus ride to Bakersfield
7. drinking bug spray
8. shaving their head
9. wearing a live snake
10. drinking paint
11. stapling their fingers together
12. voting Democrat

* * * * *



LINDSEY GRAHAM is just going to knit socks until the election is over.





THE DOWNTOWN BERKELEY ASSOCIATION IS PARTNERING with local tech start-ups to create robotic panhandlers and homeless people who never need to pee.

DBA to Replace Real Homeless People with Robots

By Juan Legget

Responding to customer complaints that the Shattuck Avenue shopping experience was becoming too “mall-ish”, the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) has hired puppeteer Fred Ables to re-populate the downtown area with robot homeless people according to enthusiastic DBA Director John Caner.

“After spending so much of the city’s coin getting these people [the homeless] jailed and banished to the darkest corners of the county we just *couldn’t* bring them back. That could be construed as compassion. Nothing worse for business than that.”

Mr. Ables is working on a number of models. “We have two versions of shopping cart people out there now, and five siter models with four more models on the drawing board,” Ables enthused.

Molly Topkins of Northside Berkeley had this to say: “I’m a vegetarian.... and I always was really disgusted...by the fact that these people.....take the money people give them....and they buy these super cheap hamburgers!.... I mean it’s so obvious! You see them sitting there....right in front of

McDonald’s!”

Nic Bathhurst of Kensington opined, “I felt really silly deliberately ignoring people when I went downtown for a drinky or two. But with these new mechanical homeless, I feel free not only to stare right at them but to make the snide clever remarks I am so good at! Heck I can even spit on them without reprisals! This is genius. It has released years of pent up aggression in a lot of people! On the way home from Jupiter, I often forget they are robots and hit on them!...You don’t have to print that part!”

According to DBA records, hitting on them in a variety of ways has been a problem. In the last year the agency has had to ask the city of Berkeley to pay thousands of dollars to repair the robots after they have been damaged by “over enthusiastic” citizens.

“People will come around to realizing that these robots are costly and can’t mend up in the bushes, like the real homeless.” Caner laughed.

The DBA is relieved to have non-problematic robotic replacements for the usual people they’ve spent years discouraging



FRED ABLES’ PUPPET-ROBOT homeless guy is usually ignored which can be a lot more safe than some stuff that can happen.

from enjoying the city center since they need to focus on opposing popular efforts to raise the minimum wage, an ill-advised voter initiative to make a living wage for Berkeley workers into law.

“Our local economic model is entirely dependent on making sure we keep commercial and residential rents as high as possible and wages obscenely low,” explained Caner. “Otherwise people try to actually live here longer than six months and it gets harder to triple and quadruple your rental income in a year.”

Best Back-to-School Accessory:



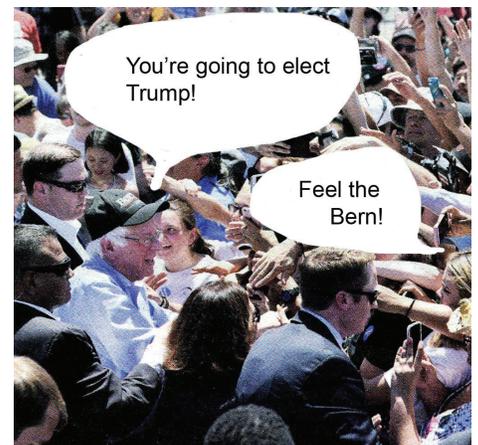
the Bedazzled Gun!

it gets harder to triple and quadruple your rental income in a year.”

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We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Neanderthals' Messy Cave Proves They Were Capable of Complex Behavior

By Poki Naround

Archeological experts are certain that newly discovered circles of stones found deep inside a French cave in Bruniquel are about 176,500 years old and indicate complex behavior patterns perhaps unintelligible to modern society.

"We can't make sense of it," sighed one archeologist holding a photograph of the complex, arguably organized patterns of stalagmites up to sixteen inches high laid out in oval patterns in the cave. "Is it a mess? Or is it an exotic pattern that we are not yet advanced enough to understand?"

"Perhaps it is some kind of game," suggested another archeologist photographing shards of carefully arranged broken rocks. "It might be an ancient version of Angry Birds or Minecraft."

Experts agreed that the assemblage of stalagmites could not have come about by accident and showed evidence of early human cooperation notably absent in the social patterns of modern human behavior.

"We have the potential to learn a lot from this phenomenon," stated Jacques Jaubert of the University of Bordeaux, France.



IF YOUR KIDS LEAVE A MESS LIKE THIS behind in their room be sure to leave it carefully in place so that experts can document it in case it has important clues for future generations and don't vacuum or dust or you might ruin everything.

"At least it makes the French look good."

Critics conceded that the stone patterns deep within the cave would have created a stumbling hazard without an artificial light source unless early societies had something like that little flashlight app on their cell phones.

"Unless they built these things in the dark and it was like a test or they were being hazed or something like what we do to the new guys in the department," stated another archeologist. "Nothing gets your system

pumping like a deep cave in total dark."

Experts agreed that the French might indeed have clues for modern societies regarding human cooperation which could benefit Americans.

"Especially before the election," observed one expert. "They're poised to elect a clown by splitting their parties' strengths based on the popularity of catch phrases."

"It's tradition," observed former Vice President Al Gore. "American voters would rather vote for a clown than a candidate who is boring. The clowns really have a serious edge."

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"It might be an ancient version of Angry Birds or Minecraft."

Next Issue: Applying for loans with celebrities!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

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

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.