

the  
back to  
school  
issue...



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

September 2018

# Pepper Spray Times



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

"I fear I am attended by some spies.\*

Vol. XIX No. 9

## Downtown Berkeley Association Renews War on Deadly Fliers *Fliers Can Fly Into Your Face and Strangle You*

By Sheila Rangette

"We held off as long as we could," explained Downtown Berkeley Association CEO John Caner. "But the danger to the public is just too great."

Caner explained that his decision was based on his re-interpretation of a 2015 memo from City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley instructing him that his organization's contract with the city made flier re-

moval "outside the scope" of the DBA's purview:

*"...removing signage posted on public infrastructure is outside the scope of the City's contract with the DBA." - Dee Williams-Ridley, Interim City Manager October 21, 2015*

"The Constitution's prohibition on content-based restrictions wasn't meant to include the kind of nonsense we're subjected to in a town like Berkeley where everybody and their brother is having a simultaneous yard sale without checking to see if you even want to know," clarified one City Hall insider. "We want to go buy a latte' and a muffin without having to worry about yet another community forum on police tactics."

Caner argued that his previous violations of campaign laws give him an important perspective on the niceties of deciding which fliers demand immediate removal and which he might leave up for awhile.

"We're in charge," stated Caner. "And we're somewhat selective."

\* \* \* \* \*



THANK YOUR STARS that part of your taxes goes to protect you from having to see annoying community fliers likely to confuse you about electoral choices and local music shows.

## War on Canada Going Really Well

By Bill Paid

"We are winning," stated Secretary of Defense James Mattis when asked for an update on the war on Canada. "We have them cornered. They have nowhere to run."

Experts agreed that Canadians did not appear to be mounting much of an offense.

"They have a cunning way of appearing very friendly, and offering reasonable-sounding solutions to policy issues," noted one experts. "But we are not fooled."

"We hope we can avoid using the nuclear option," commented Secretary of State John Bolton. "But we have to be prepared for the worst."

Experts agreed that America has the tanks

and the backbone to withstand a Canadian invasion.

"I'm ready," stated one Marine with his binoculars trained on Newfoundland. "I'm looking forward to lighting up the first invasion canoe I see."



SNIPERS ARE trained on Canada making sure we're all safe from Canadian invaders who are easily recognized by their Maple Leaf jerseys.

\* \* \* \* \*



THIS BALLOON may be full of hot air but has the discipline to stay entirely off Twitter.

## Bid to Substitute Balloon Moves Forward

By Maury Bund

A strong bipartisan effort to nominate the big balloon which hovered over President Trump's recent visit to England for the 2020 election has passed the House and has a good chance of support in the Senate, according to congressional insiders.

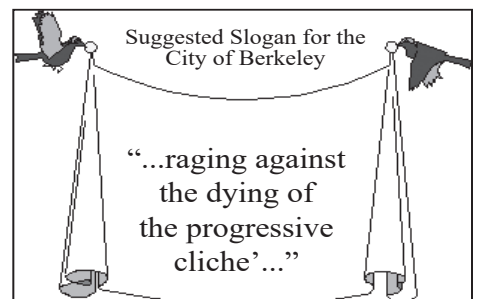
"It shares a good deal of the same attributes which make Trump popular," mused one congressional observer. "It's hard to miss. It takes up a lot of space in any room and tends to dominate by virtue of just being there."

"We need something like that for 2020," acknowledged one Republican strategist. "The absence of leadership in our party right now operates like a vacuum, sucking up anything nearby, including white nationalists. It's easy to take any Republican stage right now since it's apparently open to child molesters and Nazis."

Critics argued that the balloon can hardly opine on policy, but were quickly dismissed by those who pointed out that silence would be a welcome relief from the relentless policy reversals characterizing the Trump administration.

"We love the idea that there could be a break from tweeting," whispered another Republican strategist. "We think the American public, at least privately, feels the same way."

\* \* \* \* \*



## ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, my home assistant keeps reciting a shopping list I gave it months ago and I can't get it to stop talking. I stuffed it under a pillow. What should I do?**

Dear reader, give it to your grandkids. They will either fix it or turn it into something more useful- perhaps a babbling fountain of contemporary poetry.

**Dear Lena, I thought Google search was ignoring me, too, but now I realize that it is just biased against me. What should I do?**

Dear reader, become a serial killer. You will get lots of coverage. Even if you get caught lots of people will become your fans and want to marry you. Your books will suddenly, inexplicably sell.

**Dear Lena, why are we at war with Canada? I think Canadians are really nice. I would rather go to war with maybe Scotland so we could invade there. I've always wanted to see a castle and wear a kilt.**

Dear reader, that's what they want you to think. Be on the alert, and tell your friends to stop you if you suddenly start to play hockey really well.

**Dear Lena, when can we have the Bart Plaza open? I'm sick of the green fences and I never minded the old station all that much. I liked the round thing. It seems like they renovate the Bart Plaza every five year or so.**

Dear reader, it's coming up as soon as the Berkeley City Council can convince the more crime-ridden districts in town to give the bulk of police resources to District Four's obsession with making sure nobody uses the Bart Plaza who doesn't look like either a theater-goer or a UC student. The Downtown Berkeley Association is terrified that somebody will get asked for spare change and go bananas.

*Ask Lena about recipes for unadulterated brownies at [cdenny@jgc.org](mailto:cdenny@jgc.org).*

## Home Assistant Devices' Speech Pushes Conventional Parameters

*Unintelligibility is Important Part of Being Disruptive*

By Dora Jar

Digital assistants designed for home use are the bank for this holiday season's go-to gift for techies-to-be, but critics claim they suck at normal conversation.

Experts dismissed the criticism, stating that as with all devices the user needs to abandon creative thinking and work within tightly designed albeit unknown parameters constructed by engineers trying to fit components into a sleek design crafted to avoid annoying millenium consumers living in converted breadboxes.

"It's best to use a very small vocabulary," explained a Google engineer. "We're assuming a consumer base that stopped reading books and newspapers ages ago and only recognizes words like 'pizza' and 'miniature drone'."

"These things are the new fidget spinners," offered an engineer from Apple. "You don't want to present them with any questions involving complex thought."

Responses to a simple question like, "what movies are playing nearby?" illicit curious responses from Amazon, Apple, and Google home assistant devices such as:

### Google Search Is Ignoring Me, Too

By Saul Good

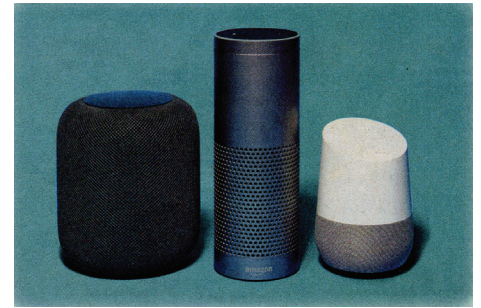
Local lawnbowler Ben DeSpoon states that people should not be so quick to judge President Trump's criticism of Google search results, which the President claims are scewed against conservative news.

"I started searching for myself years ago when I won our tournament," DeSpoon noted. "There was nothing, not even a record of my mention in our neighborhood newsletter."

DeSpoon has continued searching Google for mention of his name and his life and has concluded that the search engine is biased.

"I've been a faithful community participant for decades, a good father, and a dedicated bingo player down at the Captain's Deck since the 1950's," he said. "I believe that Google's search engine is biased toward pornography, of which there is a lot."

\* \* \* \* \*



YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT your home assistant device is saying because it requires opening your mind to edgy, new *algorithmic* ways of utilizing the language.

**Amazon:** "I've added movies to your shopping list."

**Apple:** "I've added guacamole and chips to your shopping list."

**Google:** "I've added fidget spinner to your shopping list."

When asked whom to vote for in the 2020 presidential election, the devices answered:

**Amazon:** "Check with Jeff Bezos; he might be running."

**Apple:** "I've added guacamole and chips to your shopping list."

**Google:** "I've added fidget spinner to your shopping list but it's a toss-up between a fidget spinner and Mark Zuckerberg."

Engineers for all three companies agree that normal conversation is beyond most devices' current capabilities, but point out that most millenial consumers have similar problems with face-to-face interaction, preferring screen time.

"They're shy," stated one engineer. "They're happiest watching their phones."

\* \* \* \* \*

## 10 Tips for Modern Management

By Rusty Rebar

> 10 tips for modern management

- >
- > 1. hypocrisy
- > 2. cognitive dissonance
- > 3. denial
- > 4. withdrawal
- > 5. cynicism
- > 6. avoidance
- > 7. righteous indignation
- > 8. distraction
- > 9. nature
- > 10. drugs

>

>

> mix n' match!

>

> try not to apply all at once.

\* \* \* \* \*





## How Do You Know You're Being Shunned on Martha's Vineyard?

Your lobster gives you a side-  
ways eye.

No one will caddy for you at  
Farm Neck.

The beach clears whenever you  
get there.

Sharks won't eat you.

Your favorite hotel is perpetually  
unavailable.

Your sailing instructor swims to  
shore without you.

You're no longer invited to the  
wine tasting.

All they'll rent you is a paddle-  
board.

Your mail is consistently deliv-  
ered to a bucket full of fish.

Back Door Doughnuts shows you  
the front door.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Presidential Revolving Doors Proposed for Trump White House

By Amy Natmee

The blizzard of personnel changes at the White House requires a small army of staffers to address the necessity of retiring and re-ordering door name plates, security badges, and personalized coffee mugs, leading to the proposal for a revolving door.



WHITE HOUSE appointments and cabinet changes can be facilitated by this simple and elegant installation which is much more polite than an alternative suggestion, a fire chute directly out of the nearest window.

they're subtle, and they can facilitate a substitution without a lot of media fanfare," explained one White House official confidentially.

"They also send a message on the way in that you should only bring in as much as you can carry out in a



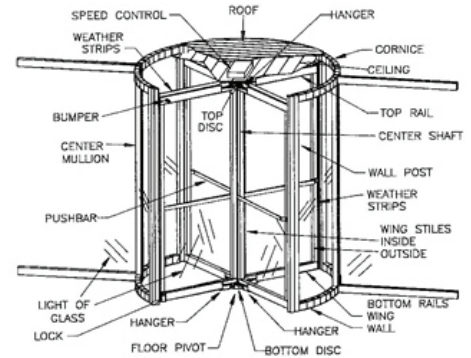
RIGHT BEHIND the White House welcoming team is the team which promises to send you your family pictures on your way out.

"They're elegant,

"They also send a message on the way in that you should only bring in as much as you can manage to carry out in a cardboard box."

cardboard box."

The sudden, sometimes inexplicable staffing changes are a Trump administration White House phenomenon often mischaracterized as chaos by the administration's political opponents,



THIS EASY ENTRANCE AND EXIT IN ONE can accommodate both short and long stays and sends an important message to the continuous stream of new White House hires that they should not set their hearts on a five-year pin.

but supporters point out that openings in the Trump administration are just part of the overall health of the economy proving that even unexpected job opportunities are plentiful and that if you look sharp they might be just over the horizon.

White House staffers affirm that keeping the holiday card list straight is a chal-

lenge, but they're up to it.

"We have a standing team," clarified one White House staff member. "They have experience ushering one group swiftly out while welcoming the new people quickly in and giving them little maps so they know where the bathrooms are."

"We love fresh faces," affirmed another White House staffer. "Here at the White House we love the chance to meet new people."

\* \* \* \* \*

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



# "Take No Action" at the Top of Berkeley City Council's September Agenda on Homelessness

By Rhoda Horse



City Council Agenda, 6:00 pm  
Sept. 13, 2018

#26a. *Proposed Vehicle Encampment*  
From: Homeless Commission  
Recommendation: Direct staff to identify a location for a vehicle encampment to house up to thirty vehicles.  
Financial Implications: See report  
Contact: Peter Radu, Commission Secretary, 981-5400

26b. *Companion Report: Homeless Commission's Proposed Vehicle Encampment*  
Report From: City Manager  
Recommendation: **Take no action** on the Homeless Commission's recommendation and instead allow the development of a vehicular campsite to proceed as discussed at the June 26, 2018 Council meeting.  
Financial Implications: None  
Contact: Kelly Wallace, Housing and Community Services, 981-5400

## Showdown at Bart Plaza Coming Up!

Berkeley City officials bristled at the suggestion that the Berkeley City Manager's recommendation to "take no action" on a safe place for people without homes to sleep in their vehicles meant that they would take no action.

"We plan to wring our hands," stated one City Councilmember. "Fervently."

Another Berkeley City Councilmember agreed.

"Don't think for a minute we won't be having passionate discussion," stated another Councilmember who wished to remain anonymous. "We plan to diligently proceed with the same discussion we've been having for years."

Critics agreed that it's a good discussion, and that they're glad the council is willing to have discussion at all.

"We always find it entertaining watching them talk," admitted one local voter.

"It is amazing how despite this discussion having no discernable endpoint they manage from time to time to sound relatively sincere."

The recommended inaction accompanies a companion measure from Mayor Jesse Arreguin adopting "enforcement priorities" for the Downtown Berkeley BART Station Plaza prohibiting "lying and camping."

"I don't know about the camping idea," stated one dubious local Berkeley resident. "But when it comes to 'housing first' policies the Berkeley City Council has that lying part down."

\* \* \* \* \*



LONG AS THEY have pepper spray these uniform guys don't mind kicking around poor people. But tasers would be really nice.

## Next Issue: Measuring eyelashes with celebrities!

by Juan Nathan Undergod

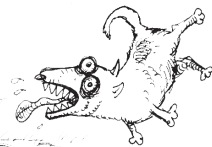
I WANT MY PRESENT NOW



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\*The Two Gentlemen of Verona

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