

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

September 2023

Pepper Spray Times

Horrorifying Gilman Bike Project Rises from the Dead...page 2

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

"...waked by the lark, hath roused the ribald crows..."

UC Regents Confess using AI for Curious Court Briefs

Peculiar logic, contradictory premises baffle legal experts until revelation of artificial intelligence's role

By Habena Cocktail

"We heard good things," shrugged one of the artificial intelligence experts the University of California's legal department enlisted to write its peculiar briefs in its legal case begging to have its construction projects excused from routine California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

"You just tell it what to write and off it

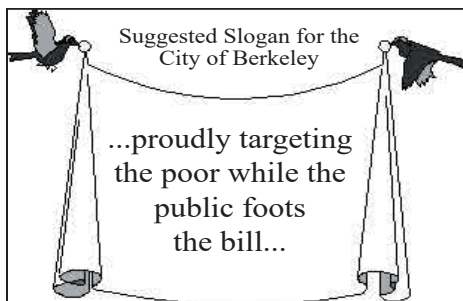


PEOPLE MARVEL AT THE AWESOME power and wisdom of the University of California regents who make decisions like 32% fee increases, multiple fee increases per year, and nuclear weapons investments because they are such a solid part of any financial portfolio.

goes," marveled one of the attorneys who confessed that he'd frankly had it with having to fight the People's Park case. "It really cuts down on the headaches I get trying to justify this project."

"AI came up with 'we just get to do it' as a defense. We think it's brilliant," agreed another UC attorney. "Especially since our 'students are not pollution' defense went nowhere. Too many people have apparently had to live next to a mini-dorm."

"AI's version of our recently submitted



PEOPLE LOVE THE AVATAR that comes with artificial intelligence to make sure you're happy with the way it writes your legal briefs.

legal brief went ahead and railed against the obvious, such as expressing robust outrage that the courts had accepted the 'long track record' of students causing neighborhood disruptions and criminal behavior over the years as 'proper evidence'."

"We would have been embarrassed to write anything like that in a legal brief," agreed another UC attorney. "But AI has no emotions, no feelings, no sense of work-product -related pride."

"It's been a good lesson in not only saving time, but abandoning ordinary human restraint," observed another UC attorney who wished to remain anonymous. "Our names might technically be on these papers, but we have something much more broad than plausible deniability at this point. We can safely say that the world around us wrote this thing, including the courts."

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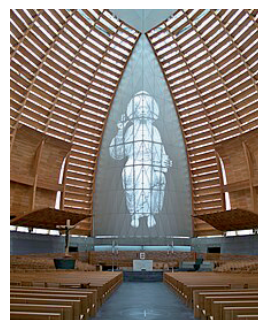
Oakland Diocese Declares Bankruptcy from \$175 Million Dollar Glass Headquarters

By Tak Toodeelawd

A spokesperson for the bishop of the \$175 million dollar church known as the "Cathedral of Christ the Light" in Oakland, California, recently announced that the church was bankrupt after finally completing the last-minute touches on its twelve crypts reserved for lucky bishops and other burial sites available to the members of the diocese for a comparable price.

"We may have over-shot a bit with the conference center on top of the rectory and the gift shop," stated the spokesperson for the Most Reverend Bishop Michael C. Barber. "But you have to admit the architecture really pops."

Architect Craig Hartman's vision for the Cathedral was likened to the image of a bishop's mitre as well as a fish bladder, shaped



THE FIGURE OVER the altar is kind of anime but if any kids still feel comfortable coming to a Catholic church they'll love it.

Oakland Diocese and famed architect Dr. Aryan Sarkar, the garden features a basalt sculpture and a plaque inscribed "This healing garden, planned by survivors, is dedicated to those innocents sexually abused by members of the clergy. We remember, and we affirm: never again."

"We only wish we could pay them, too," stated the spokesperson.

* * * * *



THE BANKRUPT CHURCH may not be able to pay off all the priest abuse lawsuits leveled against it but there's a really nice garden where they can all pray together.

by steel and filled with glass frit, "reminiscent of how light filters through a canopy of tall redwood trees in a wooded glade."

A small garden on the grounds is intended to serve as a place of healing for survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Designed by a Survivors' Group in collaboration with the

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, the inside word is that Farid Javandel quit running the Transportation Department because the city manager opened an investigation into how the transportation staff handled the controversial proposal for two side-by-side protected bike lanes going in different directions right through Monterey and Gilman despite merchant and neighborhood opposition. Is that true?

Dear reader, that is true. Farid Javandel, former head of the Division, was put on administrative leave in April when the project was postponed, apparently only temporarily.

Dear Lena, and then he was gone?

Dear reader, yes, and then he was gone.

Dear Lena, but not his plan?

Dear reader, but not his plan.

Dear Lena, it sure seems like Berkeley is hollowing out. The mayor is leaving, the chancellor is leaving, all these bizarre big proposals are in court, and almost a quarter of the city employees have quit.

Dear reader, be sure to wave goodbye to your neighbor as he tries to drive away through a sea of stoned, angry bicyclists.

Dear Lena, how did this happen?

Dear reader, Kelly Hammargren said it best: "There is a fantasy that if new housing is built without parking and Berkeley residents have no place to park, they'll give up cars, get on bikes, and take transit."

Dear Lena, that's not what they do?

Dear reader, no.

Dear Lena, what do they do?

Dear reader, they ride on the sidewalks along with the skateboarders and the scooters.

Ask Lena about the fragility of bike tires at cdenny@igc.org.

Horrificing Gilman Bike Project Vacating Transportation Employees Not Dead Yet



THESE PROTESTERS THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPPORTING the Gilman Street "traffic calming" plan but instead managed to illustrate the inevitable result of a proposal which traps bicycles in opposing lanes headed straight toward each other and rips the parking away from North Berkeley's loveliest neighborhood commercial area while confused motorists and city employees flee in a futile search for sanity.

By Ron A. Roll

People brave enough to approach Gilman and Monterey in Berkeley might have mistaken the recent protest for a disaster area; precisely the disaster area feared if the "traffic calming" proposal goes forward.

"Bicyclists used to share the space," said one bewildered neighbor unable to get by on either the street or the sidewalk with a stroller. "The demand for a dedicated bike

lane is ruining the nicest neighborhood left in this nutty town."

The bicyclists' hard-core approach requiring two death-defying lanes in opposing directions is also taking a toll on the city's ability to hang onto valued employees, who are leaving the city under Mayor Jesse Arreguin's administration faster than any time in Berkeley history.

"It's a mass exodus," stated the Berkeley City Auditor, Jenny Wong, noting in a new report that the city is "hemorrhaging employees faster than it can attract new ones" leaving empty employee positions.

The exodus includes the mayor, who feels secure that he can net a state job after driving Berkeley underwater fiscally, destroying employee morale, and miring the town in non-functioning software and administrative dead-ends while 19% of even leadership jobs go unfilled.

"I'm out of here," the mayor commented. "The voters are asleep, so I can count on their support."

"Californians should be used to these 'hit-and-run' political careers by now," stated one local observer. "Look at Chancellor Carol Christ. She starts another war over People's Park and then leaves town."

City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley confirmed this week that Farid Javandel, who oversaw the Transportation Division for over a decade, is no longer employed but dismissed the exodus, saying Berkeley should be seen as a temporary location with plenty of job opportunities.

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Twitter Suspends Non-existent Account



By Sam Bot

Hello Muckrakegal,

Your account, muckrakegal, has been suspended for violating the Twitter Rules.

Specifically, for:

Violating our rules against evading suspension.

Note that if you attempt to evade a suspension by creating new accounts, we will suspend your new accounts. If you wish to appeal this suspension, please contact our support team.

If you have an active Twitter Blue subscription, it will not be automatically canceled by Twitter. To cancel your Twitter Blue subscription, follow these instructions.

(.....)
X Corp. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

* * * * *



Schumer's Financial Connections to Mountain Valley Pipeline Wins Over Oil Interests, Republicans, Silence Courts

By Coral Bleaching

"It's simplest to move jurisdiction out of the court's hands," stated Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY), who purely coincidentally received four times the funding received by West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin from corporations promoting the Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia threatening vital habitat.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, in Richmond, released a pair of legal challenges putting construction on hold since 2021. Tense negotiations over the debt ceiling inspired House Republicans and Majority Leader Schumer to cut a deal with the Biden administration booting the courts out of the process.

"We figured the Supreme Court would throw it like spaghetti at a wall, but not completely violate the separation of powers," stated a stunned Jamie Williams of the Wilderness Society. "Silencing the lower courts has no precedent."

Under Chuck Schumer's direction, Congress moved jurisdiction over the pipeline from the court in Richmond, where environmentalists have found some success in their decade-long fight to protect state parks, to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by tucking it into legislation on the debt ceiling to get Senator Manchin's vote, including constitutionally questionable provisions to insulate the pipeline from any further judicial review.

"The pipeline's emissions equal 26 coal plants," remarked Williams. "July was the hottest earth month on record, so Schumer's strategy is a little hard to track."

* * * * *



WILDLIFE KEEP COMPLAINING they can't get around or over the pipeline in West Virginia should watch Chuck Schumer who can jump like a bunny over constitutional restrictions to insulate lucrative pipeline construction.

Mayor Jesse Arreguin Defends Emptying Berkeley of Employees



MAYOR ARREGUIN INSISTS that having one employee do five employees' jobs is more efficient and that the Business Improvement Districts run the city anyway.

By Yolonda DeTowels

"It's more efficient having one employee doing five people's jobs," pointed out Mayor Jesse Arreguin to a PST reporter inappropriately suggesting that having nearly a quarter of all the city positions unfilled was creating unrealistic workloads and undermining morale.



A report spanning five fiscal years by City Auditor Jenny Wong revealed that 19% of city positions were empty, a staffing crisis which had slowed services, burned out workers, and undermined whole departments. The mayor was unconcerned.

Arreguin admitted that the report was a surprise, but suggested that the river of employees choosing to resign and work anywhere but Berkeley was at least a generous benefit for other cities.

"Even the Human Resources Department is understaffed," noted one of the auditors who requested anonymity. "The mayor's management style began like a leaky bucket. Now he's just shaking out the bucket."

* * * * *

Open AI Has A Farm

By Mark Nelson

OpenAI has a farm, A-I-A-I-O.
And on that farm ChatGPT, A-I-A-I-O.
With a scrape-scrape here,
And a scrape-scrape there,
Scraping up your data everywhere.
A-I-A-I-O

Oh how we all love AI, A-I-A-I-O.
How it feeds back what we give, A-I-A-I-O
Gurgitate,
Regurgitate,
Re-re-gurgitate.
OpenAI has a farm, A-I-A-I-O

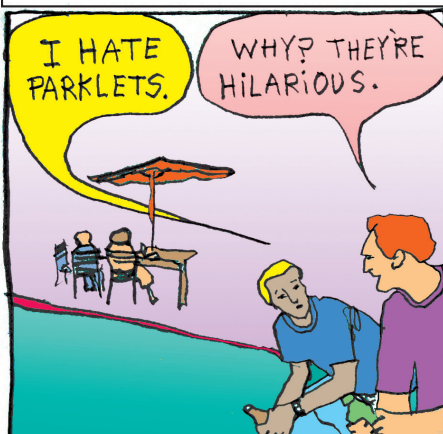
Now AI is on the loose, A-I-A-I-O.
See it give us what we need, A-I-A-I-O
Fire one worker,
Fire five more,

Fire a dozen, or a score.
OpenAI has a farm, A-I-A-I-O
AI don't discriminate A-I-A-I-O.
Fact or fiction makes no diff A-I-A-I-O.
True, true here,
False, false there,
True, false, true, false everywhere,
OpenAI has a farm, A-I-A-I-O

Turning back the clock's no use, A-I-A-I-O
Toothpaste won't go back in the tube, A-I-A-I-O.
AI here,
AI there,
AI AI everywhere.
OpenAI has a farm, A-I-A-I-O...Oops

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



4-21
GRENNEY

Upstanding Citizens Fight Back Against Mentally Ill

By Jack Bragen

You can scarcely drive about town or go to the farmer's market without spotting a horrible mentally ill person taking up valuable space, valuable parking, and who dares look in your general direction.

"I can't read minds," I overheard a mentally ill man say. He continued, "How am I



SOLID CITIZENS scout for potential encounters with mental illness for the sake of simple, common community decency.

expected to do what people want and not do what people don't want when they haven't told me?" The mentally ill man who uttered



THESE FRIGHTENED CITIZENS couldn't use their bus stop because a mentally ill man was claiming to be "reading a book".

those words was clearly symptomatic, because it is apparent that everyone knows how they are expected to act.

A mentally ill man in town was at a bus stop, and he took out a book. A book! The man claimed he liked to read. The scenario speaks for itself.

The Good Citizens League is taking action, saying, "We are sending an armada of church going, affluent, good working peo-

ple, to places where mentally ill have been spotted. We intend to drive them out. Or, if we cannot remove them from the community, we are determined we will make their lives miserable. This must be done. We have a moral obligation."

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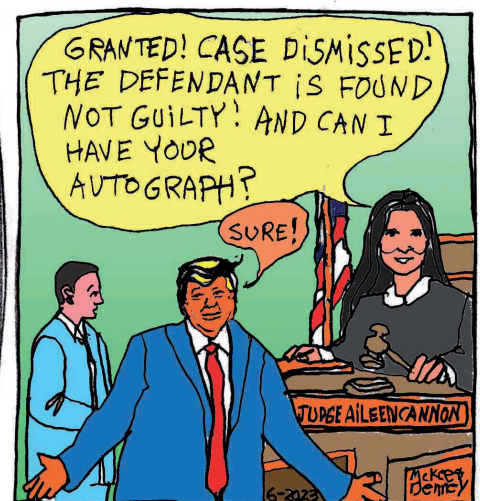


THE GOOD CITIZENS LEAGUE meet regularly at the local publicly funded business improvement district office to encourage new legislation against the mentally ill.

Next Issue: shooting wildly out the window with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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