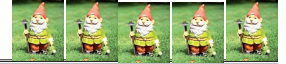


the crimped and polished issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's elytroid..it's free...if you can find it "...revel in the night, rob, murder and commit the oldest sins the newest ... ways...*" Vol. XXIV No. 9

DAZZLING INNOVATIONS UNDER MAYOR JESSE ARREGUIN

Be Sure to Let Your Neighbors Know!

By Adele Itante



BERKELEY'S MAYOR IS PROUD of his record including all the scooters and park destruction, and needs your help making sure the whole state knows what to expect from his future leadership.

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin is a known quantity to Berkeley voters, who've weathered the scooters, the open space fencing, the park destruction, and the steady exodus of almost every department head and official remnant of Berkeley values within the city. His effort to bring these innovations statewide is up to you. Be sure your friends and neighbors know

about these proud moments in his reign:

- * Trash cans in jail!
- * Open space in jail!
- * Shorter public comment periods, alternating with no pesky hearings whatsoever.
- * Skateboards and scooters and bicycles in

solidarity together on sidewalks.

- * Secondhand smoke welcome anytime everywhere.
- * Edgy shipping container decor.
- * At least one less park, and more to go.
- * The steady exodus of decades of honest and honorable administrative talent.
- * Toilets proposed where Berkeley once had a proud iron arch across San Pablo Avenue welcoming for newcomers to town.
- * The end of film as an art form, replaced by the truly edgy art of development.
- * The end of police accountability under a brand new name with a budget to boot.**
- * An utterly elastic policy regarding the use of choke holds and CS gas so as not to offend anybody or make sure to offend if not kill everybody, whichever works for the current mayor at the moment.
- * The introduction of the back room as a perfectly fine place to craft policy given the bank account of the participants or the necessity of making certain that select groups are denied access which risks defeating the legislation in question.
- * See page 3.

* * * * *

Burrowing Owls Request Shipping Container Fence Protection

By Agatha So

A spokesowl for the burrowing owls which formerly wintered in Cesar Chavez Park made a formal request to the City of Berkeley for shipping container protections.

EXPERTS AGREE that a double stack of shipping containers is burrowing owls' last, best protection from Cesar Chavez Park's off-leash dog problem.

ing. "We believe a firm shipping container boundary will address all parties' concerns."

Park lovers remained dubious, noting that the current views of People's Park's gardens is poor, but city leaders are considering the proposal.

"We appreciate its creativity," stated one park bird-watcher. "I'm inclined to defer to the owls' concerns."

* * * * *



BURROWING OWLS love the park, but have been unable to negotiate their safety with the off-leash dogs.

Known Knowns and Known Unknowns Now Include Known and Unknown Gnomes

"Rumsfeld Matrix" Expanded to Address Unknown and Known Unnamed Gnomes

By Diego DeChicken

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's famous "Rumsfeld Matrix" in which he specified "there are known knowns; there are things we know we know...We also know there are known unknowns" now includes both named and unnamed gnomes.



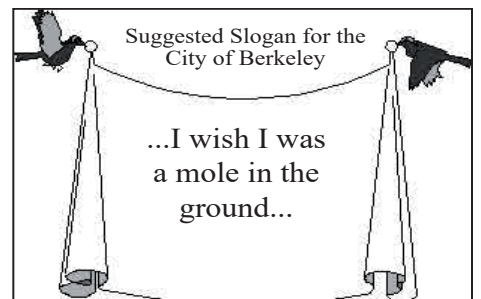
U N N A M E D GNOMES' potential threat can be addressed by crowd sourcing creative naming opportunities with fun prizes.

"The February 12, 2002 guidelines were important, but left some unaddressed questions," stated a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) staff member at a news briefing. "We believe the lack of direct evidence linking the government of Iraq with the supply of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist groups may be linked to gnomes."

DOD staff member Avery Sadtale added that naming gnomes currently has top status as clarification of important links to potential terrorism.

"Rumsfeld didn't address known and unknown gnomes in 2002," stated Sadtale. "We believe with today's crowdsourcing tools we can name unknown gnomes and piece together crucial public protections."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, there's something weird about former President Trump's obsession with candidate and Vice President Kamala Harris's laugh but I can't put my finger on it.

Dear reader, this may be because it dovetails so well with Afghanistan's Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice which dictates that not only should women entirely cover their faces in public but requires that they speak softly and that no man should ever hear them laugh.

Dear Lena, I don't get it. Is there some connection between Afghanistan and Donald Trump?

Dear reader, no, you poor thing. No. Let's just say his policies have their fans.

Dear Lena, did Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin ever allow a vote on a ceasefire in Gaza?

Dear reader, heavens, no.

Dear Lena, and do any of the new housing buildings have at least 50% low-income housing?

Dear reader, now you're really dreaming.

Dear Lena, but wouldn't it be logical, given that low-income people outnumber wealthy people who can build their own housing?

Dear reader, logic doesn't govern the political universe, something the mayor knows all too well.

Dear Lena, aren't you a childless cat lady?

Dear reader, yes, and proud of it. Although I am more specifically a childless bird-watcher lady hoping we can coax back the burrowing owls by leashing Cesar Chavez Park's overwhelming population of off-leash dogs.

Ask Lena about owls at cdenny@jgc.org.

California Democrats' Plan to Avoid Potential Mental Health Disaster

By Don Tread



I believe in being ready.

In Sacramento's halls of power, whispers are being heard that the highest levels of government are concerned about a potential California disaster. I'm not talking about drought, forest fires, COVID or moving the Athletics to Las Vegas. This new concern stems from the growing political divide



FORMER TRUMP LAWYERS JOHN EASTMAN and Rudy Giuliani pushed the parameter of acceptable "alternative facts" in a political campaign.

Given Trump's string of losses, two impeachments, multiple indictments, status as an adjudicated rapist and felon and defamation and fraud convictions, many are concerned for his mental health. The GOP's blind support for Trump has pushed propaganda claiming a fake Obama birth certificate, a stolen 2020 election, a dishonest

between Democrat and Republican voters. Republican voters seem to be in a right-wing media bubble ignoring facts, endorsing conspiracy theories, exhibiting signs of terminal cognitive dissonance and blindly following Trump in cult-like fashion.

legal system and other falsehoods. 50% of Republicans think these claims are true.

Always on watch to avoid a potential crisis, and with many potential Republican losses in the future, state Democrats have developed a plan to improve the mental health of all California state Republicans. They plan to make Covered California special mental health care coverage available to all state Republicans who apply and qualify for coverage. While one can safely recommend your white religious boomer uncle for treatment, the official process involves an application where the applicants answer "Yes or No" to 6 questions:



JEFFREY CLARK, TRUMP'S FORMER ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL for the Environment and Natural Resources Division exemplifies sanity concerns.

1. Was the 2020 presidential election stolen by Democrats?
 2. Did you ingest/inject hydroxychloroquine or bleach as a response to COVID?
 3. Are those indicted or convicted of Jan 6th crimes considered patriots?
 4. Is the legal system rigged against Trump and his associates?
 5. Did you purchase any Trump NFTs, golden sneakers, or bibles?
 6. Did you invest in Truth Social stock, NASDAQ:DJT?

Any "yes" answer makes one eligible for immediate coverage. Bing, bing, bing, bing! (Republicans who answer "Yes", but make more than \$400k per year, are excluded from coverage: this group's singular focus on lower tax rates for the wealthy makes treatment ineffective.)

Mental health facilities are planned for Republicans throughout the state starting with a 40-foot motorhome and extending to huge facilities for all of inland Northern California such as fairgrounds, drive-in movie theatres and tractor-pull arenas.

The treatment will be targeted towards helping MAGA Republicans resist cult-like behavior, hyper-religiosity and other delusions and include extensive remedial training in critical thinking skills. Treatment is to be on an out-patient basis with incarceration and electrical shock therapy only expected for the most severe cases.

State officials want to take action now to avoid a worst case scenario, where Trump completely loses his sanity and asks his MAGA followers to "drink the punch" in the same manner that Reverend Jim Jones did with his cult members in Guyana.

Please support CA Dems in their efforts to avoid this potential Republican disaster.

* * * * *

Archeological Wonder Found in Great Midwest



MIDWESTERN HISTORIANS CAN'T get over the discovery of this ancient pay phone which was unearthed in a flyover state.

By Flossie Furzstone

"These re extremely rare," enthused one historian with special permission to examine the archeological wonder recently discovered in the great midwest. "There are so few left that we're taking pains to leave this one in place to learn from its context."

"It took us the longest time to discover its actual function," added another historian excited by the find. "Part of the difficulty was finding exact change."

* * * * *

What to Expect from Arreguin's Glorious, Brand New Police Accountability Board

How much did that cost me?



From: Hansel Alejandro Aguilar
Director of Police Accountability, Berkeley, California
To _____;*

March, 2024

Re: Findings and Recommendations in (an actual case involving BPD)
Dear (actual person),

I would like to start by extending my sincere apologies for the delayed response to your complaint. We understand the importance of timely communication and regret any inconvenience or distress this delay may have caused you.

I am writing to inform you of the conclusion of the investigation into your complaint filed with the Office of the Director of Police Accountability (ODPA). During the thorough review and consideration of all available evidence, including Body-Worn Camera footage, officer and witness interviews, and pertinent Berkeley Police Department (BPD) policies, our office faced obstacles in being able to complete the investigation in the Charter mandated 120-days timeframe. Consequently, the decision has been made to administratively close this case.

The determination to administratively close a case isn't taken lightly. It's based on specific regulations and criteria that govern our operations and mandate closure under certain conditions, such as when investigations exceed the stipulated time frames without possibility of tolling or extension under Gov. Code section 3304(d)(2)(D). In your case, despite our best efforts to conduct a thorough investigation, procedural constraints and the complexities involved in coordinating with multiple entities led to unavoidable delays.

We understand that this outcome may be disappointing, and I wish to convey our deepest regrets for any distress or inconvenience this protracted process may have caused you. It is important to note that administrative closure does not constitute a judgment on the merits of the complaint but rather reflects procedural necessities mandated by the governing legal framework.

1 Berkeley Charter Section 125(18)(e) requires that the investigation be completed in one hundred and twenty (120) days. See [https://berkeley.municipal.codes/Charter/125\(18\)\(e\)](https://berkeley.municipal.codes/Charter/125(18)(e)) 2 Section II.D.VI of the Interim Regulations indicates that one of the grounds to administrative close a case include: "Failure of ODPA staff to timely complete its investigation, as set forth in Section II.C.1" See https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/PAB-DPA.Interim.Reggs_.Approved.2021-10-05.pdf, Page 2 of 3.

While this concludes the formal process under the purview of the ODPA, you may consider other avenues for addressing your concerns, including civil litigation or contacting other appropriate governmental entities. For additional support and guidance, you might reach out to community advocacy groups or legal resources such as: ACLU of Northern California, 39 Drumm Street • San Francisco, California 94111, Phone: (415) 621-2493, Fax: (415) 255-1478, TTY: (415) 863-7832, https://www.aclunc.org/home?gclid=EAiaIQobChMIucLuzLGXhAMVOEt_AB1vBgoNEAAYASAAEgJ6GvD_BwE, or State of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), Phone: (916) 227-2822, Email address: ComplaintIntake@post.ca.gov, <https://post.ca.gov/public-complaints> FBI San Francisco, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102-9523, Phone: (415) 553-7400, <https://tips.fbi.gov/home>.

Our commitment to ensuring justice and upholding the principles of fairness and accountability in law enforcement remains steadfast. Your experience and feedback are valuable to us and contribute to our ongoing efforts to improve our processes and strengthen the trust between the community and the police department. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you need further assistance or information.

Sincerely, Hansel Alejandro Aguilar, Director of Police Accountability

* Actual letter to complainant with slight redactions, proving once again that comedy is outspent by reality.





Twitter Hits the Trail for Texas

By Eaton DaRich



Market Street's Twitter headquarters, or whatever CEO Elon Musk is calling it this week, will move to Austin, Texas as soon as the last three employees figure out how to saddle their horses.

"We're looking for a classic stable and some appropriate western wear," stated one of the last to lock up the nearly empty building which has attracted protesters painting the streets and singing songs for years. "It's going to be hard to hit the right fashion note in Austin, but we're all hoping to work from home."

City officials had courted Twitter with tax breaks and special treatment in its heyday, but sounded relatively composed about Twitter's exit.

"Let's face it. Start-ups come and go," shrugged city planner Fawn Du. "Twitter's best days are behind it."

Mr. Musk became an odd fit for San



TWITTER'S ORIGINAL HEADQUARTERS on Market Street was host to lots of demonstrations before its demise as a hollow, right-wing echo chamber and upcoming move to Texas.

Francisco as his affection for right-wing politics grew more public, but the fit may be rough for Austin, a well-known liberal enclave.

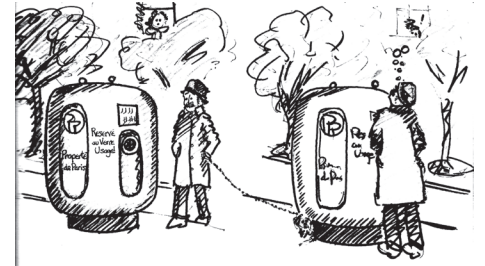
"Austin can have him," stated one member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. "We're good at soaping up CEO's, but Musk is a handful."

City leaders had hoped to populate a neglected part of Market Street with start-ups,

but the huge first floor of Twitter's headquarters sported upscale bars and restaurants which competed with, rather than assisted, local businesses.

"They sold elk, antelope, and pig ears," shrugged one city official. "Maybe they'll fit right in in Texas."

* * * * *



INTERIEN DE DETERIORE LA PROPRIETE DE LA VILLE (MIS-USE OF CITY PROPERTY...)

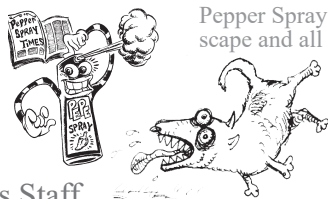
Next Issue: Making NFTs with celebrities!



I Want My Present Now



From: Pepper Spray Times 1970 San Pablo Ave. #4 Berkeley, CA 94702 cdenney@igc.org www.caroldenney.com



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.

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure Art Director.....Egon Schiele Comics.....Don D. Ferrera Distribution.....Rhoda Boat Staff.....Adele Itante, Agatha So, Diego DeChicken, Lena Deeter, Flossie Furstone, Don Tread, Hansel Alejandro Aguilar, Franz Toast, Eaton DaRich, Phil Allen, Juan Nathan Undergod, with special assistance from M. Nelson, M. Bailey, and H. Garrison

To:

Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted. * Henry IV Part 2