

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

June 2020

RESTRICTED AREA
WEALTHY PEOPLE ONLY
HAVE YOUR BADGE READY

the social distance issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...Stir with the lark tomorrow..."

Vol. XXI No. 6



HELP SAVE WEALTHY DINERS

Housing the Poor Falls Through, but Feeding the Wealthy Right on Track

By Major Mouthwater

"We just call it the Berkeley Relief Fund," whispered one city hall insider. "The Relief Fund for Wealthy Diners name was accurate enough, but had an unfortunate ring to it."

The "Berkeley Safe Open Air Dining" recommendation proposed for the June 2, 2020 Action Calendar was vigorously defended by its proponents, who pointed out that take-out is hardest on wealthy diners who expect a more high-end dining experience and are tired of their high-ceilinged dining rooms with expansive views of the bay.

"They're really getting tired of their own gardens and living rooms however expansive and well-appointed," explained one of the restaurant owners eager to take charge of the public space near his restaurant. "Our clientele is used to the nicer things, and they have a lot of experience enjoying their flight of Mezcal in full view of homeless and poor people."

"It's a gift," explained Cheyenne Retir-

New Rules for Pandemic Baseball



IF THEY COULD DO IT IN 1918 we can, too.

- * No touching your face.
- * No touching the ball.
- * No touching the bat.
- * No touching the bases.

* * * * *



NOTHING IS MORE EMBARRASSING to your publicly funded business lobby than spending \$13 million on a public plaza makeover that nobody uses unless it is privatized on behalf of the wealthy.

ing just off the phone from lobbying for the assistance program to help wealthy gourmets get around the social-distancing difficulties they might encounter in crowded



EAST BAY CITIZENS admit that the real sport in town is the wild west of the restaurant scene and having absurdly strong opinions about the heirloom black olives.



Our Very Favorite Zoom Invitation



ONLINE no one can see you sweat.

By Julius Wetterhere

Hey, everybody! Spandex Dance Party at my house with cool music! Just call 1-510-722-0933 and punch in code 4811010238 and then follow the links and then put in the password which is bmmmwaaahaha and then click the little chat box and tell us your name after you hit the video thing and if that doesn't work you can just call on the phone and dance around with us and get in shape while having a really good time and if that number doesn't work call 1-925-334-0021 and punch in 88430772*302 and after the beeps put in your number and you can join in and get in shape because we're all in this together!

* * * * *



restaurants. "Special licenses for these beloved, iconic restaurants are the least the Berkeley City Council can do."

The usual whining voices were heard arguing that the top priority in a pandemic should be utilizing empty dorms and hotel rooms for the poor, but were dismissed as a bunch of heartless whiners who are forgetting that this is a real crisis for people who take food so seriously that they can't cook it for themselves."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I have dusky-footed woodrats in my backyard. Are they liable to have coronavirus? Can I get them tested and will my insurance cover it?

Dear reader, this is another of the pandemic unknowns. Your county may already have a dusky-footed woodrat testing program, and if so, you are likely to get them to cooperate if you offer them a press conference with catering. They are terrible hams and will probably sing some opera.

Dear Lena, why is everything called social these days like social distancing and social media? What's social about it?

Dear reader, nothing. In fact, one could make a better case for both being anti-social, a phrase few wish to embrace because it has less cache. Your point is well-taken; if your examples had been called *anti-social media* and *physical distancing* we might have saved both lives *and* democracy along the way.

Dear Lena, do I have to listen to the news? I am not getting much out of it.

Dear reader, we at the Pepper Spray Times offices play Pandemic Bingo while we watch or listen to the news, with special honors for winning on "at the end of the day", "we're all in this together", or "the new normal." But we would not argue that we are getting much out of it.

Dear Lena, what is the future of football? I have a whole wardrobe invested in it, and now I'm not sure what to wear.

Dear reader, the future of football was determined years ago as the incidence of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in players was revealed in successive autopsies, but you're right to ask because it only made a dent in the small ratio of parents who want their children to have working brains. The danger of coronavirus contagion through play will probably just whet the appetite of both players' parents and football fans nationwide.

Ask Lena about our newspaper and public comment free future at cdenney@igc.org.

Dusky Footed Woodrats Refuse to Register Rental Units

By Lydia Picklejar

Dusky-footed woodrats held a press conference recently insisting that registering their large, domed dens as rental units was an imposition on their freedom.

"We're trying to survive the pandemic, too," insisted the spokesrat for the Santa Cruz group which advertises the unusual abodes on internet platforms and typically does a brisk business with tourists escaping the city. "We have a niche market and an established reputation."

Cities organizing to insist on registration fees argue that they're strapped for funds and that the matrilineal dusky-footed



THESE DOME-SHAPED DENS are especially popular during the pandemic with tourists tired of hearing the phrase "we're in this together."

woodrats have an established reputation for promiscuity at high densities.

"This group could use some regulation," stated one local official flatly. "This is a species that parties hard. We're lucky they haven't quite figured out how to light firecrackers."

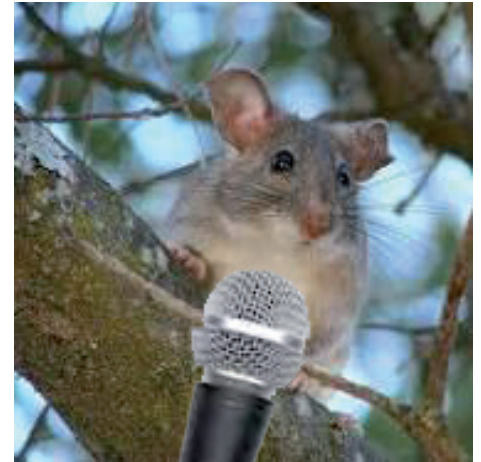
Locals agree, claiming the woodrats are prone to "collecting" shiny objects.

"They don't call it stealing," observed one neighbor whispering near a six-foot pile of sticks purported to be harboring a visiting family from Peoria. "They argue that its an ancestral tradition. All I can say is don't drop your keys on a hike."

Spokesrats for the species pointed out that they are nocturnal, and that the volume of material comprising their dens usually



LOCAL OFFICIALS INSIST they could address hemorrhaging money into publicly-funded business lobbies if they could only tax the woodrats, starting with these satellite tree-dens.



A SPOKESRAT FOR THE DUSKY FOOTED WOODRATS insisted that species prejudice is creating hostility toward the dusky footed woodrat community which is no more out of compliance with homeshare unit registration than most people are.

keeps the interested rental parties in check. "We're actually quite solitary," stated the spokesrat for the Santa Cruz group. "Neotoma fuscipes is in the proud family Cricetidae. Our satellite dens are like any additional dwelling unit, and our endangered status should be respected."

Locals insist that the dens are rarely solitary, forming rough communities known for riotous poetry readings and clogging.

* * * * *

Recommended Songs to Improve Your Pandemic Experience

- * I'm Sucking on a Barstool (Cause I Just Want to Die) by the Killer Cooties
- * Come Closer and I Will Shoot Your Off-leash Dog by the Tooting Whistle F---ers
- * I Hated People Anyway by the Jukebox Explosions
- * What Day Is It Again by the Professional Nappers
- * Order Takeout and Burn It in the Oven by the Careful With That Axe Eugene AAA Players
- * Shop For Me by Leva-Mia Lone
- * Killing Me Softly with Anonymous Gifts of Toilet Paper by the Management
- * Knocking Back Purell with the Boys by the Thirsty EMTs
- * Statistics Are Wrong and So Is Our Love by the Noisy Neighbors
- * Bleaching in the Moonlight by the Sister's Sweatpants
- * Lament for the Documentable Ratio of Time by the Formerly Intubated
- * My Shutdown's Better Than Your Shutdown by the Various Governors

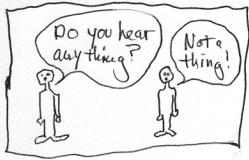
* * * * *

Pandemic Proves Nobody Needs the Public

Governments Discover Booting Public Participation Provides Ultimate Streamlining

By Faith D. Muthic

"We had a suspicion that booting the Brown Act would be helpful," mused one local City Hall staffer regarding the pandemic's de facto streamlining of any pesky necessity of including the public in the public's business. "We just didn't know how helpful it would be."



"Just try to buy

a webcam right about now," grouched one local citizen about the impossibility of attending or monitoring any government hearing or providing any input on local, state, or national decisions. "We're just superfluous. We may have felt like that before, but they're all doubling down on capitalizing on the pandemic to do whatever they want right now."

City officials all over the country admitted that buying a webcam is harder than finding toilet paper or yeast, but pointed out that the embarrassment of handing out money earmarked for the needy to property and business owners is a lot less embarrassing without even modest public oversight.

"It's so much simpler," admitted one city councilmember. "We're hoping this is one pandemic-born tradition with real roots."

* * * * *

Among the Bounty of Annoying Things About the Pandemic

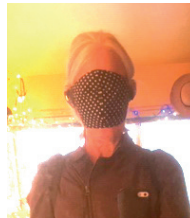
- Fast food commercials ladled out with religious reverence presenting takeout as some kind of charity.
- Zoom meetings; I used to hate my job but this is torture.
- Television without gaffers, grips, sound technicians and makeup artists.
- Fearing your own mail.
- Everybody, their brother, and their dog scheduling online conferences at the same moment in time.
- Confronting the extremity of one's own cooking.
- The combination of amusement and embarrassment of realizing you don't really miss your social life.
- Watching the unfolding reality that even in a pandemic all advantage heads in the direction of the well-connected and the wealthy.
- Watching your city council assume everybody has internet connections, cable, or both.
- Getting a head's up about an opportunity to comment on yet another million dollar plaza makeover after the public comment period is over.

* * * * *

How Not to Wear Your Mask

By Liz Boogie

Editor's note: we're cognizant of our duty, as an essential service, to give frank and direct public health information to our reading public, and offer this important tip.



Your mask performs a special function during these difficult times not limited to helping you sidestep the conventions of smiling, wearing lipstick, or reacting to bad jokes. Wear it with panache.

* * * * *

THE WRONG way to wear your mask is over your eyes because even though the world makes you cringe from time to time you are likely to stumble into a lot of furniture.

Liberals Discovered Hiding in Wine Cave



LIBERALS BLEW THEIR COVER when while hiding in a wine cave they sent out for some DoorDash black truffle crumble with dark chocolate, hibiscus champagne sauce and donned in an edible gold leaf.

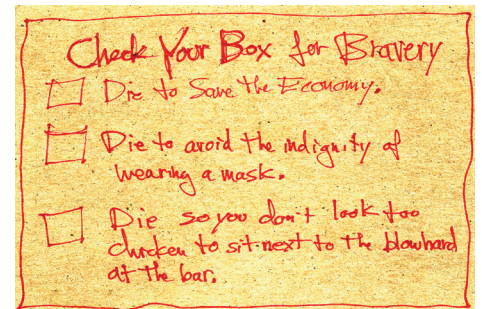
By Esther A. Wayout

"Where were we supposed to go?" argued one of the dozens of liberals found weathering the pandemic in a Northern California wine cave. "I'm not standing in line outside of BevMo when I can sit around with my friends in a wine cave and criticize a Chateau Cheval Blanc 1943 with aromas of citrus and floral and the intense and amusing complexity of rose which, while dominant, does not intimidate the hay and white flowers also present."

The people in line at BevMo admitted when asked to comment that it's possible that it might be nicer in a wine cave.

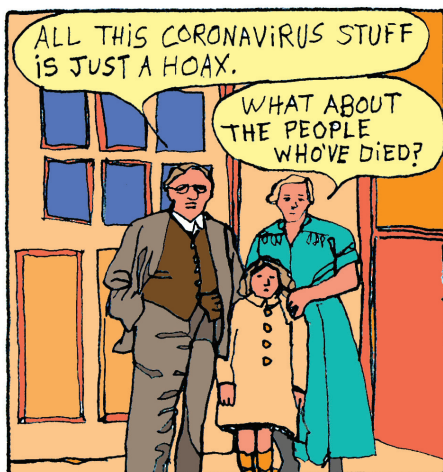
"As long as they have lights on, and maybe you can bring a keyboard I can see it," stated one customer. "Never been in a wine cave, but it probably has a great echo."

* * * * *



We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



4-2020
C. DENNEY

Stimulus Checks Sent to Dead People

 *Dead People Insist They Need the Money*

By Enoch Sidover

Stimulus checks intended to aid people during the pandemic were unintentionally sent by the federal government to dead people who are refusing to return the money.

"It's really expensive in heaven," stated Hope Springs, who claimed she had already spent the money. "They don't tell you that. And my sister says it's even more expensive in hell."

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) insists that while it has no idea how many dead people received stimulus checks, any dead people who got the checks or had stimulus money deposited in their bank accounts were obligated to return the money.

Dead people mostly shrugged it off.

"We have our hands full," stated Luz Bearings adjusting her halo. "I keep trying to get through to my relatives about all the money I buried in the backyard, and they

Next Issue: Ruining sourdough starter with celebrities!

keep thinking I'm a possum stuck somewhere in the yard knocking over the garden tools."

Others argued that they had no way of returning the money.

"I can't seem to move any material object at all," confessed Thea Tatickets. "My hands go right through things. They have classes that teach you but I'm getting nowhere."

Others object to having to return the money, stating that under the law if somebody sends you a check in the mail that's their problem.

"I'm pretty sure we're covered here in heaven, and my former congressperson says that in hell the IRS would have trouble making matters worse," stated Silvia Lining. "Besides, that stimulus money really comes in handy for all those afterlife incidentals."

* * * * *

Jail Musk! Workers Health & Safety First! Lives Over Profit - Equal Justice For ALL!



Rally/Press Conference
Saturday May16, 2020 1:00 PM

At: Tesla North Gate
Industrial Dr. & Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538
Physical Distancing At Rally/Press Conference

On Saturday, May 16, the United Public Workers For Action (UPWA), Workers Solidarity Action Network (WSAN) and others will be having a rally and press conference at the Tesla plant in Fremont, California calling for the arrest and jailing of the owner Elon Musk for putting the workers of the plant in danger of their lives.

Although Alameda has a shelter in place order, Musk has said that he is not bound by the law, and has already opened up the plant violating the law. He has also called on the police to arrest him for this flagrant violation of a rule put in place to protect workers and public.

Tesla workers are being coerced to return to work without proper protection. Billionaire Musk has a long history of illegally covering up injuries in the plant and union busting the workers having a collective voice.

The Governor of California Gavin Newsom apparently is OK with Musk violating the law, and of course, Trump has welcomed Musk's fascist actions that he is above the law. If Musk is able to get away with this, other bosses will do the same and put their workers and the public in deadly danger.



Governor Gavin Newsom has also destroyed Cal-OSHA which is making no physical inspections to protect California workers. They refuse to step foot on the Tesla plant and apparently the Fremont Police is deciding whether workers are protected? There are less than 200 OSHA inspectors for California's 18 million workers and only 1 doctor & 1 nurse.

This has to stop NOW!
We demand that he be jailed and charged with harming the workers at the plant and the people of California.

Equal Justice For All / No Slave Labor for Billionaire Musk

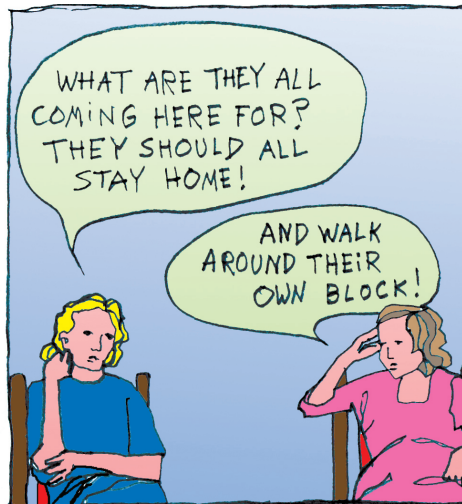
Initiated by:
United Public Workers For Action (UPWA.info)
Workers Solidarity Action Network (facebook.com/workersolidarityactionnetwork)
Endorsed by AIW - Essential Workers Unite

Labour Donated

SOME PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND that Elon Musk's genius is terribly constrained by stupid rules and we should all sacrifice so he can find someplace on this or some other planet where people can truly appreciate him.

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenny.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.....Major Mouthwater, Julius Wet-
terhere, Lena Deeter, Lydia Picklejar, Faith
D. Muthic, Liz Boogie, Esther A. Wayout,
Franz Toast, Enoch Sidover, Juan Nathan
Undergod

To:

Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr.

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

*Richard III

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.