

the
new bird
issue...



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

December 2021

Pepper Spray Times



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

"...shall of a corn cry woe..."

Vol. XXII No. 12

Jesus Returns; Defends Malt Beer Spokesperson Role

"It's great beer," says Jesus, new CEO of "Knock It Back Before You Die" Lager



JESUS KNOWS most people expected a lot more of the second coming.

"The Supreme Court guy said it best," said Jesus when asked why he would take the traditionally uncharacteristic position of spokesperson for an alcohol product.

"I like beer," he explained, while a bewildered group of worship-

pers and reporters milled around in front of cases of "Knock It Back Before You Die" beer, one in a long list of new products hitting the market in a direct effort to capitalize on the fact of climate change.

"It's Resources for Community Development's philosophy, too," added Jesus. "Somebody's going to be making money off this. It might as well be me."

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Berlin Votes to Expropriate 240K Apartments from Corporate Landlords

By Balazar Ringing

Residents in Berlin, Germany, sick of skyrocketing rents voted recently to "socialize" 240,000 homes by taking homes from the city's biggest corporate landlords and transferring them to public ownership.

"A lot of them have been sitting empty for years," commented one Berliner whose t-shirt read, "Decommodify Housing."

"Speculative investments in real estate markets have driven rents beyond affordability, making housing an investment game with no actual housing benefits for people with real housing needs," stated one housing expert watching the speculative market spiral in awe. "This is great stuff for the wealthy, or for people who play Monopoly for real."

The definitive 56% to 39% vote margin was the result of a campaign by the Deutsche Wohnen & Co. Enteignern (Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.), which gathered 343,000 petition signatures to ensure the measure made its way onto the ballot.

"Gentrification gets a bad name," stated Barry Simple, spokesperson for Berlin's largest corporate landlord. "We provide an essential service by upgrading the types of people who rent. Our renters are less likely to wear unsightly clothing, or raise objec-



HOUSING ACTIVISTS IN BERLIN celebrate their 56% to 39% victory for taking over overpriced housing for public use.

tions to rent increases."

"The statistics are fascinating," offered another lobbyist for corporate housing concerns. "High-end renters have better cars, longer vacations, and just seem to enjoy life more fully."

Organizers hope sustained pressure on Berlin's elected officials will pressure the city to pass a law that turns the plan into reality, making high-end housing proponents snort their luncheon Blackberry Champagne Mules.

"We have very secure arrangements with cooperative politicians," murmured one official on condition of anonymity. "Planning is no place for democracy."

* * * * *

California Historic Resources Commission Affirms People's Park's Federal Landmark Eligibility

Chancellor Christ Found Crying in Empty Stadium Seat, May Take Mental Health Leave

By Beth Wishes

"She'll be fine," responded tight-lipped UC spokesperson Dan Mogulof after the unanimous 6-0-0 decision



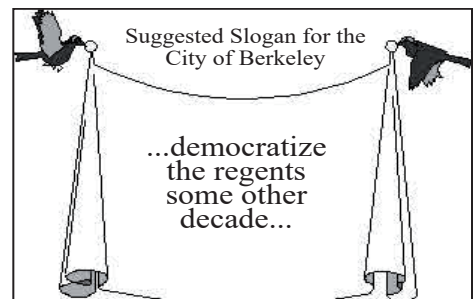
by the California Historic Resources Commission which voted enthusiastically to recommend People's Park for federal Landmark recognition and appeared to send

UC Berkeley Chancellor Christ into some kind of medical crisis.

"We never said the park wasn't important historically," stated Mogulof in response to reporters' questions. "We just think the actual fact of trees and flowers is superfluous considering only a few of them are the actual trees and flowers from 1969 - 1979, the period of significance in question."

"We can have a really dignified historic plaque commemorating whatever," chimed in a spokesperson for Chancellor Christ's office. "It was former President Ronald Reagan, after all, who noted in the 1970's, 'if you've looked at a hundred thousand acres or so of trees — you know, a tree is a tree, how many more do you need to look at?' One must appreciate that from a developer's practical standpoint trees are profoundly inconvenient."

* * * * *



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...democratize
the regents
some other
decade...

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I learned shortly after viewing an internet video that the existence of the moon itself is an urban legend. It was perpetrated by Republicans with an obsession with cheese. Please accept my apology for the unconscionable way I have supported this urban legend my entire life. I really didn't know any better.

Dear reader, thanks for clearing that up. I fell for it, too.

Dear Lena, President Biden promised on his way into office to end support for the Saudi military's offensive capabilities and then turned around and allowed a \$500m military contract that contradicts the spirit of the White House's public policy to bar all "offensive" weapons sales to the kingdom for use against the Houthis in Yemen. What is up with that.

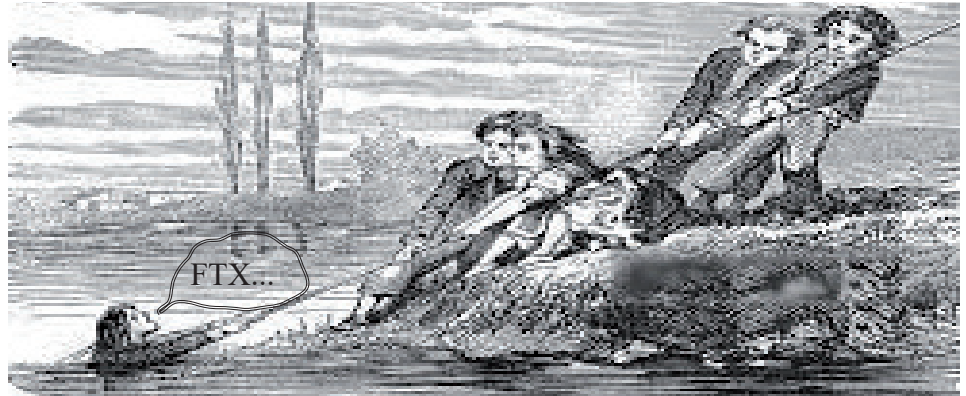
Dear reader, hey, well, I guess it's Christmas and we're all supposed to lighten up. Please pull yourself together and try to do your part.

Dear Lena, the Berkeley City Council took the brakes off their anti-RV policy offering a variety of now-you-see-it-now-you-don't alternatives for now-you-qualify-now-you-don't people who are primarily trying to find a safe place to live in their vehicles in the absence of any alternatives, city or otherwise. Is this part of the holiday season? Is there some penalty if all you really shop for is food?

Dear reader, this is Berkeley and UC's holiday tradition. In honor of the shopping season the poor are disappeared in whatever way makes them most invisible to credit card carriers who might be discouraged by visible poverty. It's either whoops your home is towed away, or you drown in tickets that turn into bench warrants or whoops you're in jail while the former happens anyway. It's all happening now under voters' noses because 'tis the season. Don't forget the mistletoe.

Ask Lena about lunacy during an eclipse at cdenneny@igc.org.

Woman Drowns in Own Saliva Trying to Pronounce UC's New "FTX" Stadium Name



FIRST RESPONDERS TRIED VALIANTLY TO SAVE the Bears fan who made the mistake of trying to pronounce the new \$17 million dollar stadium name and unfortunately drowned before dozens of horrified football fans.

By Brogan Windows

The University of California's (UC) football program had to suspend its season after 44 players and staff tested positive for Covid 19, but a larger tragedy of even greater proportions unfolded simultaneously.

"We tried to save her," stated one paramedic sadly as he walked away from what should have been a festive occasion full of football fans eager to enjoy the upcoming fall season at the newly renamed "FTX Field" Memorial Stadium. "But she choked before we could get there, and there was nothing we could do."

"It's very hard to pronounce without accidentally blowing out candles and getting soaking wet," asserted another member of

the first response team. "We got there as fast as we could, but she was soaking wet and completely unresponsive, which is not uncommon for a football fan but tragic in this particular case."

"We're used to some brutal collisions as sports fans," stated one sports fan, "but the water level was really fierce. Nobody can pronounce this new name."

Experts recommended that all mention of the new stadium name come with a pronunciation warning and that sports fans be initiated with an instructional video regarding how to sound out the new name so as to avoid any further loss of life.

* * * * *



Lynn Riordan's Plan for Superpowers

What I will do if the gamma RAYS give me

superpowers:



FLY



STAND
WITH
my ARMS
AKIMBO



HELP GET
THE COALS
STARTED
AT THE
COOKOUT



HELP OUT
PEOPLE
FIXING
CARS



DECORATIVE
IRON
BENDING



Shop at
COSTCO



Sit
on
High
places

Berkeley Bucks Redux: Coupons for the Wealthy Campaign Takes Off

Previous Failure of "Berkeley Cares" Coupons No Obstacle to City of Berkeley's Enthusiasm for Fake Money



Bill O. Fare

"It starts here?" puzzled one local resident over the City of Berkeley's latest use of public funds to promote alternatives to money, which can too easily be used to help pandhandlers and poor people dampening the holiday spirit by making themselves absurdly visible during holiday time.

"We've removed the 'help the poor' component," explained a nervous spokesperson for the city's Economic Development Department. "This is just straight up from taxpayers to the rich with no stops along the way."

John Caner, the apparently eternal director of the Downtown Berkeley Association which represents property owners as opposed to actual merchants, admitted that previous efforts to encourage people to avoid direct charity had failed.

"The little mailboxes, the scrip coupons, nothing really stopped people from giving money directly to the poor, which was always the real goal. Nothing functions as simply as money. Which is why this campaign's charitable target is us. We feel

we've suffered enough."

"Wealthy property owners have suffered during the pandemic," acknowledged a spokesperson for the city. "And they really know how to make their voices heard."

The Berkeley Bucks eGift Card is apparently available at participating locations in the city, but which locations and for what products is usually the hitch that makes for long lines during a hectic shopping trip.

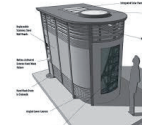
"You couldn't buy diapers," remembered one recipient of a Berkeley Cares coupon from only a few years ago. "They buried that program so deep because of their embarrassment I never thought it would come back, but I guess the rich are just less likely to need diapers and baby wipes."

"We call it 'Giving The Gift Of Berkeley'" stated the spokesperson. "We just hope the Berkeley Bucks Gift Card can get these wealthy people off our back. Otherwise you know they'll be back with some other taxpayer-funded charity for the wealthy. That's what sells in this town."

* * * * *

Historic People's Park Mural Site "No Longer Being Considered" for Big-ass Toilet

By Aldo Morrearon



"No, it is not being considered," states Liam Garland regarding Mayor Jesse Arreguin's proposal to put a "Portland loo"-style restroom right in front of the landmarked Haste Street mural depicting the history of People's Park. "We weren't that worried about the mural. But we started to worry about the restroom itself, and its vulnerability to creative resistance."

"It's something we learned during UC's volleyball wars in People's Park. They had to have their volleyball courts guarded 24 hours a day, and the expense proved ruinous in their quarterly reports."

"It wasn't the expense," confided one UC insider over the historic removal of the volleyball courts UC described as essential not so long ago. "It was the comedy. We can afford to spend public money wildly. But we can't afford to be a laughingstock forever."

* * * * *



Photo by Harvey Smith

CEQA NOT DEAD YET

San Francisco School Board Really, Really Effed Up According to SF Judge Anne-Christine Massullo

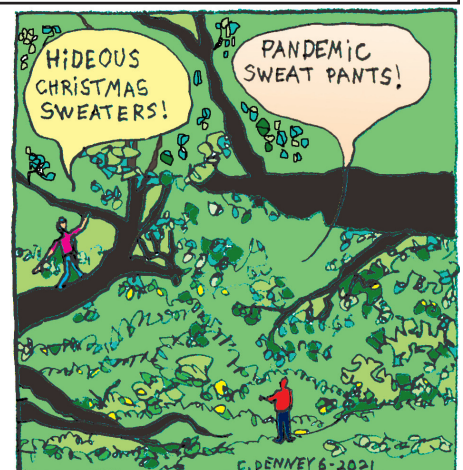
Peremptory Writ of Mandate

"You (SFUSD and School Board) are hereby commanded to void your actions and approvals adjudged in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA"" due to pre-commitment to paint over, cover and/or remove from public view the historic Arnautoff murals at George Washington High School; to wit, (1) the formation, actions and recommendations of the Reflection and Action Committee whose core objective was to "[m]ake recommendations for action to the Superintendent and Board of Education of SFUSD about the murals"; (2) the adoption of Resolution 196-25S01 dated June 15, 2019; and (3) the adoption of Resolution of 198-13S01 dated August 13, 2019."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



DON'T MESS WITH BIG BIRD

By Don Tread



BIG BIRD'S RUN against Ted Cruz is apparently really taking wing.

Big Bird announced recently that he had recently received his Covid vaccine. The eight foot two inch tall yellow bird, six years old, was helping children aged five to eleven years understand the vaccine experience, after the CDC's approval for this age group.

Problems started when Texas Republican Ted Cruz accused Big Bird of "government propaganda... for your five-year-

old", to stoke anti-vaccine sentiment. Cruz is not a stranger to attention-seeking controversy of his own making. Republicans and related media say that "propaganda is coming from Sesame Street." Democrats counter that the anti-vaccine attacks by Republicans are coming from "those that have Trump's hand up their asses making their mouths move." Ouch! That must hurt, but

it probably does explain the peculiar look on their faces and who are, in fact, the real puppets.

In addition to being an attention whore, the real character of Ted Cruz was perhaps best summarized by Former Speaker of the House, John Boehner, Ohio Republican, who said of Ted Cruz, "I get along with almost everyone, but I have never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life." Republican Senator, Lindsay Graham added, "If you killed Ted Cruz on the floor of the Senate, and the trial was in the Senate, nobody would convict you."

It's rumored that Sesame Street offered Ted Cruz a role to replace Oscar the Grouch. A spokesperson unofficially commented that their personalities are so similar, people might not notice any difference. Oscar is green and lives in a trash can, Ted Cruz is, well, Ted Cruz,



TED CRUZ may get the attention he craves by taking over the role of Oscar the Grouch.

and lives in Houston, so the resemblance is uncanny.

As a private person, Big Bird has reacted strongly to these attacks in announcing his candidacy to replace Ted Cruz as the Senator from Texas. Along with his over 50 year history of public service, Big Bird promises, "I will never fly south for the winter." In response, Texas Governor Abbott is reported to be considering calling another special session of the Texas Legislature specifically prohibiting birds from running for office and also adding some additional voter suppression laws, because that's what they do. Where that will leave Senator Cruz, whom some have referred to as a Texas bearded cuckoo, is not yet defined.

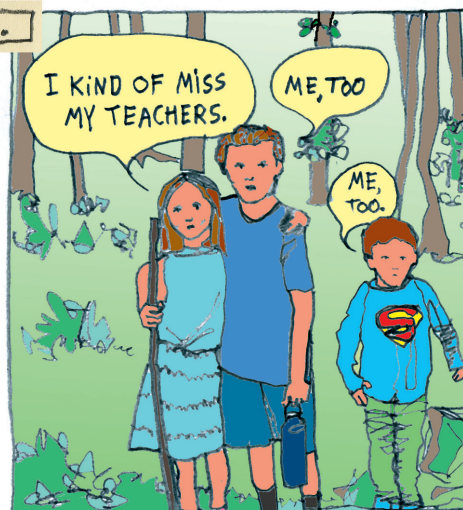
Reporters have attempted to contact Ted Cruz for comments about these developments, but as yet have received no response. Perhaps Cruz has already left for Cancun, again.

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Next Issue: Mispronouncing Latin with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*King Lear

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