

the pious, respectful issue..



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...and are you such fools to square for this?..."

Vol. XXIII No. 12

Civic Arts Commission to Threatened Burrowing Owls: "You're On Your Own"



THERE'S THIS THING ABOUT ART THAT ONCE IT'S UP WELL, THERE IT IS and you can't move it or change it even if it's broken and stupid and ugly and doesn't really function as the fence it was originally intended to be. That's how art is so go suck on that, you burrowing owls.

By Arnie Mageddon

"Where are those kids with the cans of soup when you need them?" muttered one environmentalist who attended a recent meeting of the Art Subcommittee of the Civic Arts Commission where the public was informed that it is stuck with the ornamental fence which fails to protect the threatened burrowing owls species but has to remain unchanged because the fence itself is considered to be art.

"Those kids who threw soup on the Van Gogh at least raised some interest in their issue," grumbled another meeting attendee who had hoped in vain to have the fence improved so that the avalanche of off-leash dogs assaulting the owls could be curtailed.



A SHAMELESS promotion for the Pepper Spray Times Anthologies... makes a perfect gift.

One of the commissioners rolled her eyes at the public comment, pointing out that not a single burrowing owl had bothered to attend the meeting.

"We put a lot of work into opposing these ill-considered efforts to make the owl

fence more functional," she noted. "The public may miss the more elevated perspective we bring to the discussion, but we consider it important to allow for the possibility that the dysfunctionality of the fence as a protective barrier was intended to be an integral part of the artists' original statement."

"The artists may have wanted to make a statement regarding the futility of addressing habitat destruction," agreed another subcommittee member. "Who are we to interfere with the artistic process?"

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BURROWING OWLS ARE cute but apparently not quite cute enough.

Members of the public could only exchange glances and shake their heads.

"The point of this project was originally to protect the owls and their habitat. If it doesn't accomplish that, doesn't it just make Berkeley the usual laughingstock?" asked one meeting attendee. "We're proud to be a group that takes a stand for the destruction of burrowing owls in the name of art's larger, artistic purpose," responded a subcommittee member, "if that's in fact what it is. As to being a laughingstock, it is a small price to pay."

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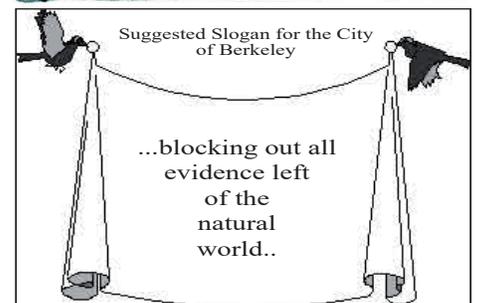
Berkeley Mayor Refuses Ceremonial Recognition of People's Park's Admission to National Register of Historic Places

By Bryce S. Skyrocketing

Per the City Charter, the Mayor is the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes. In addition, the City Council Rules of Procedure allow the Mayor or any Councilmember to place an item on the meeting agenda for the full Council's consideration. - Tony Benado, City Clerk's Office

"It's not like he has to," mused one city council representative on hearing that Mayor Jesse Arreguin flatly refused to allow any ceremonial recognition of the People's Park's new status on the National Register of Historic Places. "He has no obligation to recognize this extraordinary accomplishment by students, artists, writers, historians, park neighbors, etc. He's just kind of a really, really bad sport."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is that true that Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin refuses to allow even a ceremonial recognition of the placement of People's Park on the National Register of Historic Places?

Dear reader, it's true. But the rest of the City Council is not far behind, in that any of them, according to Tony Benado of the Berkeley City Clerk's office, could put such recognition on the council's regular agenda without his blessing. We're down to a council of quivering cowards using the pandemic to feather their nests.

Dear Lena, doesn't the National Register of Historic Places recognition come with an expectation of, well, recognition? And some expectation that such recognition requires some modest amount of preservation and protection?

Dear reader, yes, which is why the mayor's and the council's earlier big moment shaking hands ceremoniously with the UC chancellor over the university's chainsaw orchestrated and police choreographed re-arrangement of People's Park's over 50 year-old forest looks a little odd in any national spotlight. The mayor and the council have tried their best to erase People's Park from history, but they underscored their opposition's point.

Dear Lena, aren't they neck and neck with the Civic Arts Commission's indifference to protecting the burrowing owls?

Dear reader, the Civic Arts Commission's mission reads, "To advocate, nurture, and sustain arts and culture citywide, ensuring equity, democracy, and inclusion." They would be the first to alert you to the fact that despite being entrusted to oversee a fence to protect the vulnerable burrowing owls, their purview starts and stops with the aesthetic, rather than the efficacious, qualities of said fence. By "inclusion", they decidedly do not mean the factual inclusion of any actual owls.

Ask Lena about the quiet tyranny of preferred species at cdenny@igc.org.

Developers Propose Doll Houses: Cities, YIMBYs Applaud Wildly

Dolls Claim Units Too Small for Doll Accessories

By Thelma Thole

"Sometimes the answers are lying in plain sight," stated one local councilmember excitedly about the proposal for doll-house sized units in new housing developments. "This proposal can help us address and perhaps even exceed our quota requirements for affordable housing."

Dolls expressed misgivings regarding the expectations that they are a good fit for the mini-units being pitched as appropriate for cities resistant to state housing quotas requiring the destruction of parks, open space, landmarks, and sight lines formerly regarded as precious community resources.

"We're still in a pandemic," pointed out Bert Feeder, a five inch doll fuming that he couldn't even sit in the doll house chairs without getting stuck. "The ventilation is so bad our smoke alarms go off every time we make toast."

Developers dismissed their critics as

selfish NIMBYs who want to destroy the forest and who ought to jump on board.

"We have great snacks at our neighborhood engagement charrettes," noted Beto Watchout, a developer eyeing as a perfect setting

"This way we can really address and perhaps even exceed our quota requirements for affordable housing."

- Berkeley City Council



SOMETIMES THE best ideas are right behind the ironing board in the kitchen closet.

Tilden Park as another public-private partnership between the university and what ever tech company



THE FOOT-PRINT of a doll house is small but can accommodate even less trees and landscaping, which developers have trouble monetizing.

survives the latest market massacre. "When the dust settles on Twitter and Facebook there'll be venture capitalists wandering the streets looking to situate homeless billions. And we'll be here. We'll be waiting."

* * * * *

Berkeley Achieves Perfect Website

Nobody Can Access Anything Saving Thousands on Tedious Public Service Calls According to Experts

By Janice Ferdinner



SIMPLE SCISSORS can reduce the amount of burdensome phone calls coming into your city hall's call center.

"Finally absolutely nobody can get through!" enthused Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin in a relieved tone. "We've worked on this for years, but we think this latest iteration coincides nicely with our forward-looking, formerly progressive, civic priorities."

"We've been aiming at this long-term goal," agreed the City Manager in a relieved tone, "but the pandemic provided a really timely opportunity to re-tool in favor of opaque settings where nobody can figure out what is going on."

"It's really helpful during public relations crisis such as the tiresome focus on racist texts between city employees," noted

a staff member from the office of one councilmember wishing to remain anonymous. "Not every caller will get discouraged and give up, but enough of them do that we can count on a greatly reduced work load."



PHONE TECHNOLOGY has hit once unimaginably innovative strides but nothing beats the tried and true technique of just hanging up on people.

"It's also useful to just let them vent for their legally allotted sixty seconds," observed one council representative. "I'm not sure I'd get through these meetings if I couldn't sit on the Zoom screen, look attentive, and text racist messages at the same time."

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Historic Salutes in Photographs

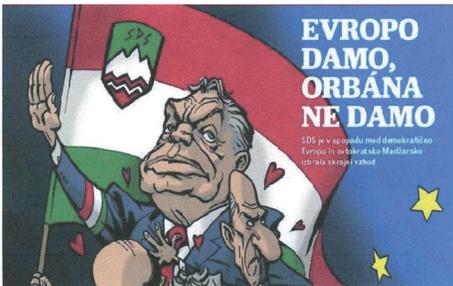
By Don Tread



Italy
Benito Mussolini
1928



Germany
Hitler Youth Rally
1933



Hungary
Victor Orban Cartoon
2019



Pennsylvania
Trump MAGA Rally
2022

Buddhist Monk Protests Nuclear Power Isn't Actually Karma Neutral



By Jack Bragen

Last week I received a call purportedly sent by a famous meditation practitioner, Baba Ralph Dass. She had viewed a news piece that she said claimed “nuclear energy is karma neutral and can address the



problems we face with global warming.” Ralph insisted we need more warmth, and that citizens are excessively cold toward one another. She went on to say, “Only wind, geothermal, solar, and hydroelectric do not generate bad karma.” She said, “Atomic energy produces hazardous waste but doesn’t produce a safe place to put it.”

I confronted the renowned spiritual leader that she needed to brush up on her English. Then she became even more adamant. She said, in a harsh tone: “Any time you produce junk, it comes back to you. And that is the essence of the Law of Karma.”

I replied, “This discussion is about Carbon Neutral forms of energy, not karma neutral. Do you understand the distinction?”

Ralph insisted; “Pick any religion you like. Someone who produces nuclear waste, especially those who do so for their livelihood, will burn in purgatory. If they lack an afterlife, they will suffer for it while living.”

I said to the monk, “There are different spellings and definitions for Carbon, versus Karma. Carbon is an element; it is a basic substance that exists in our biosphere. Too much carbon in the atmosphere causes too much heating from the sun. And then

there is Karma; and many religions do not incorporate that terminology. We’re talking apples versus oranges.”

Baba Ralph replied, “Kind sir, you cannot understand the first thing. I am ending this conversation.”



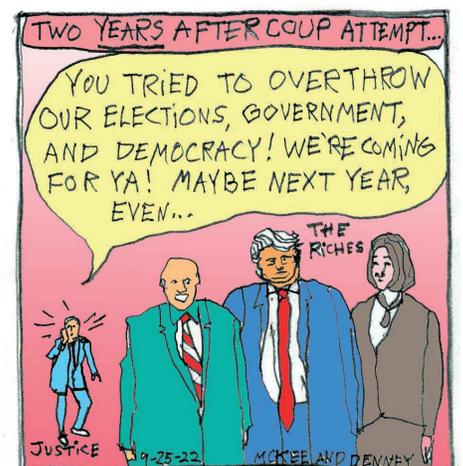
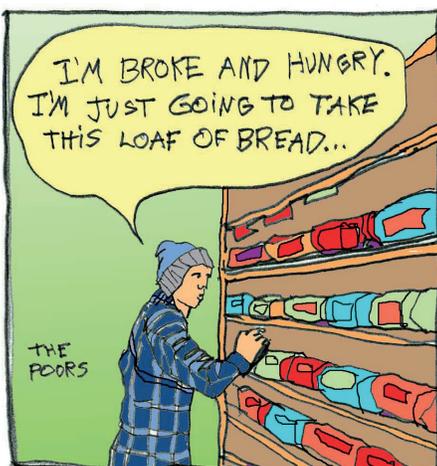
KARMA AND CARBON ARE CONSTANTLY getting confused by people whose focus is understandably over taxed by attempts to explain stock market research, charts, insider trades, economic data and value investing tools.

Jack Bragen is a layman from Martinez, California.

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Berkeley Police Sgt. Darren Kacalek Ordered Downtown Task Force, Bike Patrol “arrest quotas”

Leaked Texts Focus on Homeless Residents

By Geoff Kidding

“It was all out of compassion,” stated Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin in response to the revelation of racist police texts and arrest quotas for homeless people. “As we’ve said many, many times before, ‘Berkeley Cares’.”

The mayor and his staff were clearly mustered to respond to overwhelming disgust with leaked texts between officers pressured to increase homeless arrests by the city’s police union officer Sergeant Kacalek, a 20-year veteran of the department.

“It’s simply tradition,” observed one local Berkeley resident. “Similar texts were revealed by the Pepper Spray Times a few years ago between officers on the Telegraph Avenue beat. This won’t change anything; they’ll wring their hands, clutch their pearls, and then it will just disappear in a

cloud of appropriately placed money.”

The mayoral embarrassment inspired the Berkeley City Manager, Dee Ridley-Williams, to remove an item on the latest consent calendar to affirm the interim Chief of Police as permanent until there’s been an investigation.

“People just don’t understand that jail is the best place for people on the street without good credit and a fat bank account,” stated Berkeley Police Association union president Darren Kacalek, a sergeant with the department. “It’s really cold out there without a portfolio and some reliable tech stock. Jail is a bed, and our cells are not much different than the high-end units on the market these days students have to put up with. It’s all about *compassion*.”

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BE SURE YOU WEAR YOUR finest clothing and most expensive shoes when you walk through the new “public/private downtown area, which is curated by uneducated, unaccountable merchant lobbies who buy their political representation in places you can’t get in.

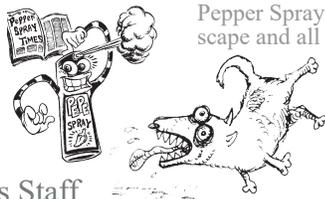
Next Issue: Smashing the state with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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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.

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*Richard III