

the dishonorably discharged issue...



"You can kick the ass of the rich. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time. oh, and wish them a merry christmas while you kick their ass."

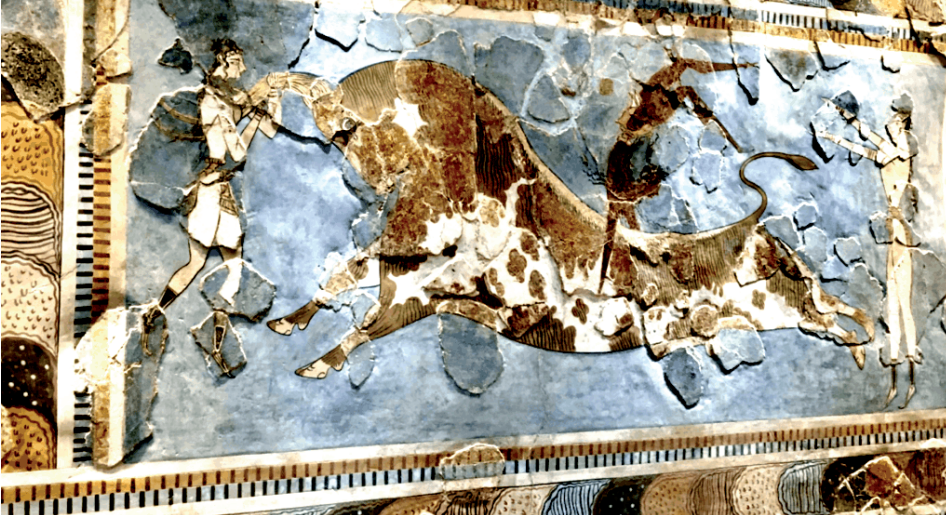
December 2023

# Pepper Spray Times



It's porcine.it's free...if you can find it "...Are you aweary of me?..."

Vol. XXIII No. 12



BULL LEAPING WAS ONCE POPULAR IN THE MINOAN CIVILIZATION OF BRONZE AGE CRETE and might appeal to modern legislators whose acrobatics with other forms of bull may give them an edge in this non-violent, extremely acrobatic competitive challenge.

## New, Improved Ways to Choose A Speaker of the House

*Creative Suggestions Might Reduce or at Least Monetize Current Political Carnage in Eternal Search for New Speaker*

By Blanca N. DeHead

"We're very excited about our next round of speaker options," stated one Republican House representative in a measured but hopeful tone. "We have a lot of ideas for improving the process. We're hoping to either reduce the political carnage or monetize it in some useful way."



JOUSTING MAY LOOK HARD but it's not as hard as trying to find a speaker of the house with an honest interest in funding the country.

One popular suggestion is bull-leaping, an ancient, non-violent game where participants have to leap over the back of a charging bull or cow either back-flipping off the horns of the bull or jumping over the bull without touching it.

Opponents to this requirement for house speaker point out that most of the challenges for the nomination are also ancient, and would risk serious injury.

"I prefer the 'Cat Cafe solution recommended by esteemed local writer Lynn Riordan," stated one lawmaker, whose suggestion was welcomed as a more modern alternative.

"Ms. Riordan points out the challenges in cat cafes and gently reminds the reader that surviving a cat encounter requires unusual skill and caution," stated Republican Gardener Jules. "We could use a speaker who could navigate such treacherous territory with grace and determination."

Other lawmakers express interest in monetizing the process by selling tickets to see the procedure up close in large public venues so the interested public could witness a blood sport jousting match or a lethal food fight.

"These are popular pursuits," noted political observer Gordon B. Headed. "We not only should respect any opportunity to include the public in this important national exercise in representative government, we should embrace the chance to balance the budget by emptying their pockets."

\* \* \* \* \*



CAT CAFES may offer the best alternative to the current enervating, weeks-long ordeal to find an acceptable speaker of the house.

## Ohio Takes Back Women's Rights

By Armand Trouble

"We have Clarence Thomas and Alito to thank," stated one relieved Ohioan after casting his vote for the ballot measure known as Issue One. "We had no idea how much insanity putting idiots on the Supreme Court would wreak."

"It turns out that battering the nation with anti-human rights bigotry is a foolproof strategy for losing elections," mused one political strategist cleaning out his desk in Cincinnati. "Who knew."

"It's the seventh consecutive election where eliminating women's reproductive rights were voted down," noted a Republican operative. "Clearly a pattern. But it's God's plan, so we have to stay the course. God's really not pulling his weight."

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## To the Jesse Arreguin for Senate campaign:

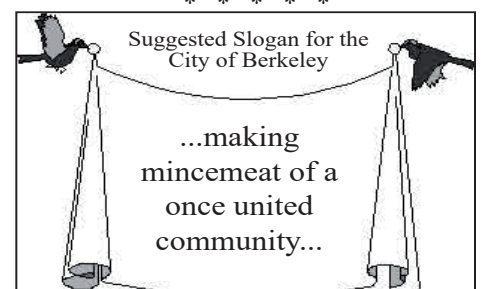
My endorsement of Jesse for Senator was never formally asked for or approved by me. This inclusion may stem from past financial contributions for his election and re-election bids.

Furthermore, I do not endorse him for the office.

Please remove my name from the endorsements list immediately. In any case, I am advising all associates working to end the current direction of legally-endorsed state/district/city/UC land-use zoning policy of this situation.

phil allen  
District 1 resident

\* \* \* \* \*





# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, I'm afraid to wear my yamaka with the war going on and Israel pounding Gaza into dust. And my Palestinian girlfriend is afraid to wear her keffiyeh. What would you advise?**

Dear reader, we've had to work this out in Berkeley years ago. Everybody should, at tense moments like this, wear both a yamaka and a keffiyeh around their neck. Then carry an American flag. Keep in mind that you may get shot anyway, but it is more likely that they were aiming at somebody else entirely, a bizarre albeit extant comfort.

**Dear Lena, are they still after our parks?**

Dear reader, yes. Thanks for paying attention.

**Dear Lena, I never really thought about cat cafes. There's really an ick factor.**

Dear reader, wait til you hit the dog cafe.

**Dear Lena, our neighborhood in north Berkeley really turned out to let the planning commission hear our voices and they just steamrolled over us. What did we do wrong?**

Dear reader, nothing at all. This is the facade of public participation. They can point out to you that you participated in the process and so now you can't complain. Look, there's your name on the little nut cup. You used one of their crayons, so shut up.

**Dear Lena, so we can care about Israeli babies but not Palestinian babies? How weird is that?**

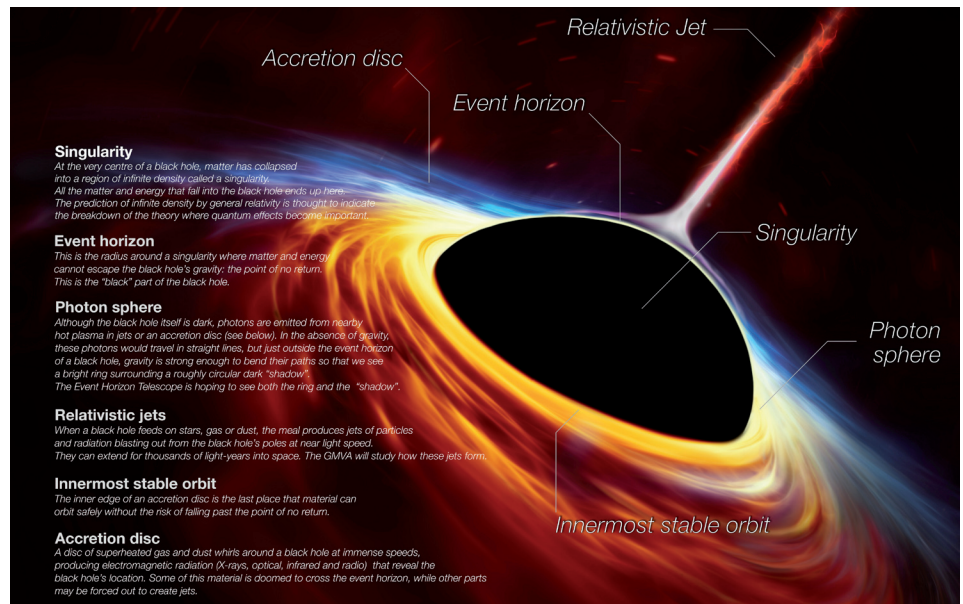
Dear reader, Yes, I know. It brings Queen for a Day to mind. And you can have free speech unless you criticize Israeli military tactics. Give Biden some credit for trying.

**Dear Lena, I'm trans and the Pope will let me get baptized now. What's up?**

Dear reader, just be thankful you're a Jew. And that two Republican debate candidates wore heels to their latest show.

Ask Lena about bagels at [cdenney@jgc.org](mailto:cdenney@jgc.org).

# Black Holes Are More Like Golf Clubs



EXPERTS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THIS GIANT GOLF CLUB WILL vacuum up stars and galactic dust and then blows them out of its pole holes in gigantic arcs of particles and radiation which will outlive you, so don't fall in love with this thing.

By Guinevere Rightoff

The startling revelation that black holes are more like giant, hyperventilating vacuum cleaners shaped like golf putters has shocked a nation eager for some entertaining distraction from pounding Gaza into dust despite the concomitant requirement that the general public incorporate a mod-

est understanding of astrophysics.

"We can do this," enthused one voter eager to have some excuse not to talk to another pollster about 2024's election. "When I wake up I chant, 'relativistic jets, relativistic jets. Oh, and accretion discs.'"

The unexpected popularity of the astronomical findings took astrophysicists by surprise.

"People are hurting," he mused. "I only hope a collapse into a region of infinite density, known as a singularity, can help."

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Black Hole in Berkeley



By Jack Bragen

There is still a black hole in Berkeley. It has been there since 1974. The missing part of the Watergate Tapes is in there.

Sometimes the black hole is on Shattuck. Sometimes it is on Telegraph Avenue, sucking up unwary pedestrians.

Many a people have disappeared into that black hole. You go in, but you don't come out.

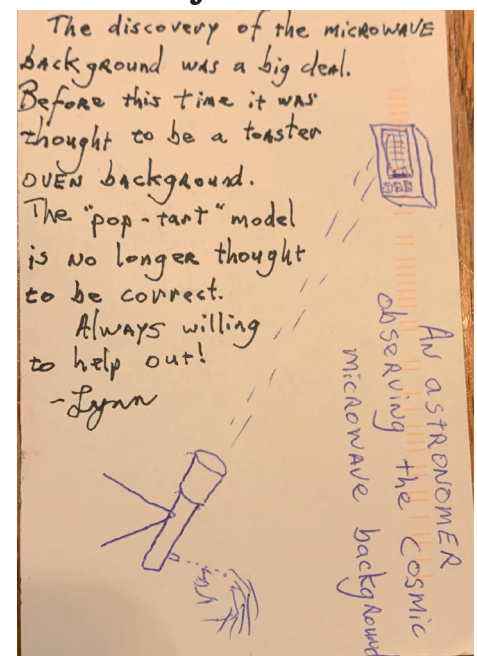
Now the black hole is bigger. It is sucking up entire businesses. It finds any cigarette butts on the ground that would otherwise find their way into the hands of impoverished smokers.

It came from a failed experiment in the physics lab in Berkeley, whose location is a secret. I saw the reactor melting down when I was in Herrick, at three in the morning. It was a dome aglow with radioactivity. The nurse said nothing was there. But I know better.

Watch out for the black hole in Berkeley. It is big enough now so that if you are driving in Berkeley, you might drive into it, to disappear for the next billion years.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Astronomical Thoughts from Lynn Riordan





# Good Babies Versus Bad Babies Dominates Israeli-Hamas War Discussion

By Leonid Over



ACCOUNTANTS SWEAT over actuarial tables trying to figure out how many Palestinian deaths is acceptable.

"Far too many Palestinians have been killed," lamented United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken after more than 10,000 Palestinian civilians died in Israeli retaliatory attacks on Gaza. "We tried very hard to calculate a proportional mortality ratio with age adjustments using direct methods of

standardization, but we can tell you at this point that it's too many."

The point is complicated by the "good baby vs. bad baby" factor as people try their best to factor in the hostages and casualties compared to infant Israelis and Palestinians unlikely to have joined any army or made any life choices on their own.

"It's hard to hate a baby," mused one concerned citizen watching a demonstration for a cease-fire on a nearby campus. "Although I'll tell you I've encountered some babies that would make you want to blow something up."

\* \* \* \* \*



BABIES HAVE A CUTE FACTOR which makes them tough to demonize but there are some characters like Johnny, pictured here, who'll give you a run for your money.



REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES KEEP disappearing from the competition but most Republican voters chalk it up to alien abductions.

## Trump Has the Best Reason for Running so Far

"Saving his ass."

Vanessa Saritools

"They're competing for cheerleader," shrugged one Republican voter of the current candidates for the Republican ticket. "It's sound bite central for a party that abandoned dignity and has no platform."

"I guess they're running for a job in the Cabinet, or some staff position," mused another Republican. "None of them has any bold policy background or proposals. It's all about getting on the news and snaring some last-minute donor. Everyone knows Trump is going to be the nominee at this point."

Insiders agree that former President Donald Trump has the only good excuse for running for a party intent on shooting itself in the same feet over and over again.

"He's running to save his ass," stated one political expert flatly. "He needs to pardon himself or he's cooked as a businessman, a political entity, and probably won't make the grade on the inside. He'll really have some hard core competition when he's finally in jail."

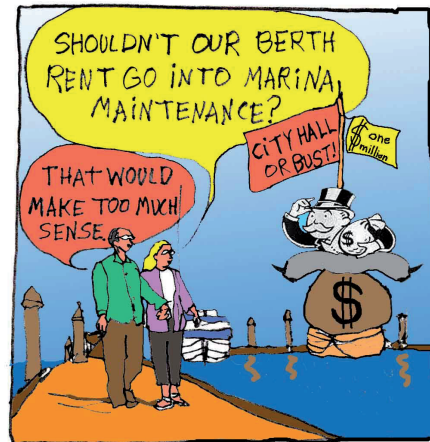
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## Deep Thoughts on Cat Cafes from Lynn Riordan

I am not sure about this cat cafe idea. How do they serve coffee without opposable thumbs? What if they're washing dishes and get wet? Who are their customers? Do they let bears in? I wonder what kind of food cats sell at their cafes? Fresh caught mouse with a side of catnip? A fish platter with cat treats for dessert? I am sticking with the coffee at these places! As you can see I am using my retirement to think about these deep and pressing questions.



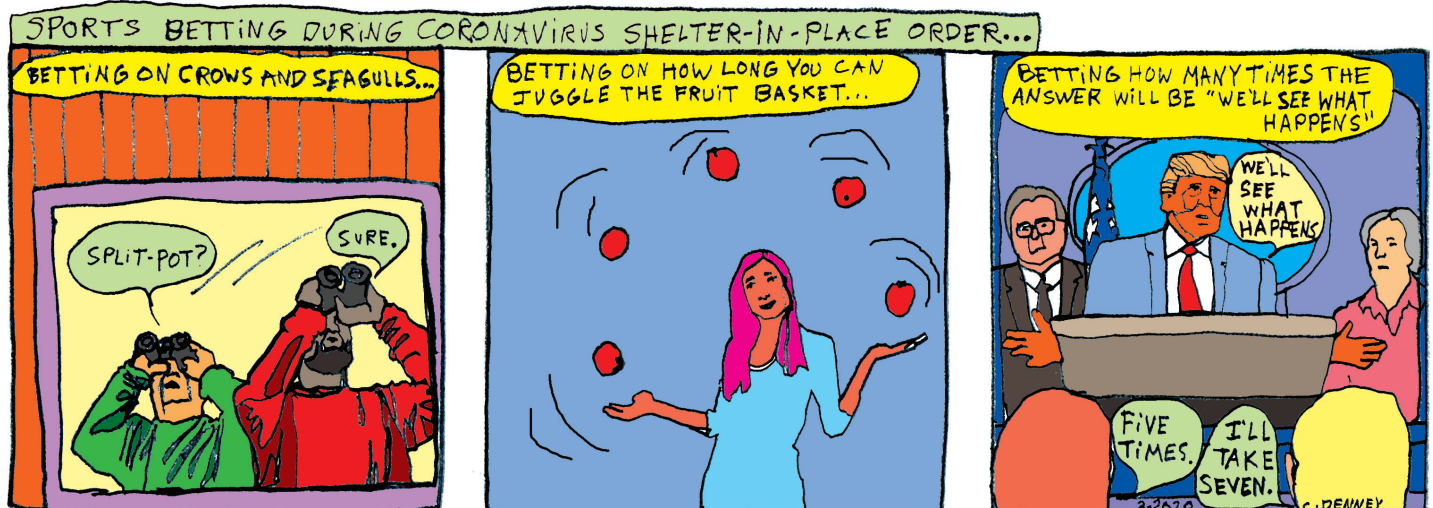
-Lynn



IF YOUR MARINA BERTH RENT is headed for City Hall instead of marina upgrades, send up a flare.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



# Rigel Robinson vs. Your Public Sidewalks

By Henleigh Danegg

District 7 Councilmember Rigel Robinson's proposal to legalize bike riding on pedestrian sidewalks arrived on the City Council agenda November 7, 2023, and will swiftly pass through what's left of Berkeley's commissions.

"Nothing keeps me in better shape as a disabled senior than attempting to safely evade the parade of whizzing skateboards, bicycles, scooters, and unicycles which have taken over the sidewalks in my neighborhood," whispered one elderly resident trapped against a downtown wall amid a whirl of oblivious bicyclists.

Drivers nationwide are also more awake now that respect for ordinary rules of the road are long gone.

"I don't want to kill anybody," stated one driver. "But for bikes there are no rules."

Councilmember Robinson, who dreams of becoming Berkeley's next mayor, commented at his recent anti-ADA rally that Berkeley needed to step up its support for two-wheeled travelers.

**Next Issue:** rousing ribald crows with celebrities!



FOR RIGEL ROBINSON THE ADA is for disabled people who are old and in the way.

as vehicles with a legitimate right to the road. We fought for bike lanes. We're on a solid, winning track to be respected. If Robinson wants to take on the Americans With Disabilities Act he's going to need more than a bicycle."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Using the sidewalks as bike lanes will create a great savings once we've so thoroughly gentrified the city that the old, disabled, and otherwise in the way are packed off to places they can afford and keep up with. Ours is becoming a fast-paced, tech-driven community with no time for toddlers and dawdlers."

"I don't get it," puzzled one decades-long bike commuter. "We fought hard with events like Critical Mass for recognition

with a legitimate right to the road. We're on a solid, winning track to be respected. If Robinson wants to take on the Americans With Disabilities Act he's going to need more than a bicycle."



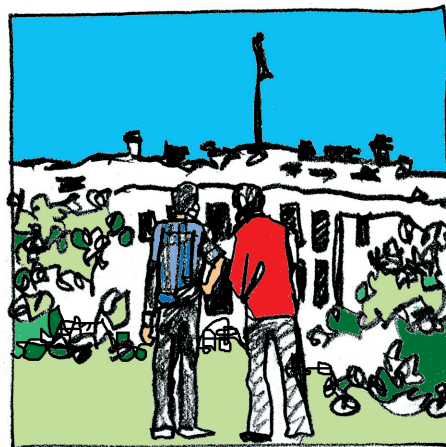
A PREVIOUS GENERATION'S BIKE ACTIVISTS FOUGHT HARD for bicycle's right to public roads but apparently that's not enough for Rigel Robinson.

*On September 19th, a thirty-one-year-old musician on a racing bike struck a fifty-eight-year-old mother in Central Park. The accident took place at 4:30 in the afternoon, in total daylight. The victim, Jill Tarlov, died three days later, on Monday, of severe head trauma. The N.Y.P.D. said that the bicyclist, Jason Marshall, had swerved to avoid a group of pedestrians before crashing into Tarlov. Following Tarlov's death, Marshall said that it was "an unavoidable accident." It has not yet been determined how fast he was going, and he has not been charged with a crime.*

By Samuel G. Freedman, The New Yorker, September 23, 2014

## I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:  
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\*Troilus and Cressida