

the  
three  
hands  
clapping  
issue...



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

February 2023

# Pepper Spray Times



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

"...Ay, now begins a second storm to rise..."

Vol. XXIII No. 2

## Water Balloongate Police Scandal Kicks Off 2023

*Exiting Mayor Arreguin Kisses Berkeley Goodbye with a Big Wet WaterBalloongate Bang*

By Abe Rokenspoke

Berkeley City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley apparently chose not to disturb the Berkeley City Council with too much frivolous information regarding her selection for Chief of Police, including the fact that proposed Interim Chief Jennifer Louis had been investigated for several incidents of sexual harassment in 2017, according to reports from both the San Francisco Chronicle and the Los Angeles Times.

"They're just always so busy," stated Williams-Ridley. "And then it was the holiday time and all."

Mayor Jesse Arreguin, still trying to recover from having cut the police budget 12% before "Defund the Police" imploded as a popular slogan, found himself in the uncomfortable posture of siding with Williams-Ridley's indefensible position.

"We had a holiday party thing we were trying to plan at the Cornerstone," he stated tersely while his staff scrambled to come up with a definitive response. "All those little nut cups, the napkins, it's a lot of prep."

Most of the Berkeley City Council agreed that Waterballoongate was being overblown, and that the flood of information about it had more to do with reporters' overly prurient curiosity than with the usual course of ordinary discussions of nipple play which one often encounters casually in any workplace.

"There's no small irony in attendance," observed one police accountability expert who requested anonymity because you



"WATERBALLOONGATE" IS THE PREFERRED REFERENCE to Berkeley's most recent police scandal since "Nipplegate" apparently was already taken.

never know when you actually may have to call the cops and whether they will remember your name.

"Jennifer Louis will be the most memorable name out of this carnival despite possibly being a great candidate for chief," the expert mused. "The person who should be flayed is the mayor, whose sights are so firmly on Sacramento and higher political heights that he might as well be blind to what's going on in our streets."

Berkeley Mayor Arreguin shrugged off the Waterballoongate scandal, saying his visions are best manifested in the halls of Sacramento now and convenient pandemic deniability is near total.

"Nobody attends anything, everybody is sick or out of town or both, and it's just easier not to update anyone about anything, as our websites should make clear."

City officials offered one cautionary note considering that nobody had been fired so far in the Waterballoongate scandal by rec-



JENNIFER LOUIS may have her promotion to Chief compromised by the ham-handed handling of the City Manager.

## Republicans Move to Stop Outer Space Abortions

By Wayne N. Powers

While Republicans organized to prohibit the growing problem of interstellar and interplanetary outer space abortions, the South Carolina Supreme Court overturned the state's ban on abortion after around six weeks of pregnancy ruling that it violates a constitutional right to privacy.

"It was a little out of the blue," admitted one Republican congressional representative. "We were struggling over getting a Speaker of the House together and didn't see it coming."

The 3-2 decision comes nearly seven months after the U.S. Supreme Court's bombshell ruling that overturned the federal constitutional right to terminate pregnancies leaving outer space abortions in dire need of specific redress.

"The South Carolina's Supreme Court's decision is based on the state's own constitution, which, unlike the U.S. Constitution, explicitly gives citizens a right to privacy," clarified another congressional representative. "The irony is that it's that old state's rights thing we used to love so much."

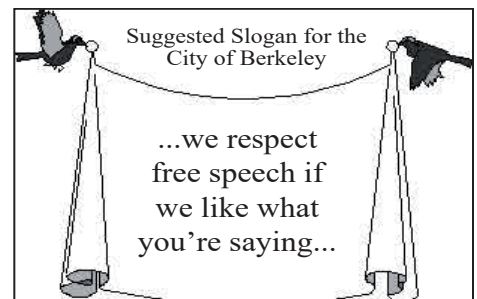
"Unlike other parties, we can't afford to alienate the outer space vote," noted one Republican representative. "At this point we need to find more support, human or extraterrestrial, wherever we can."

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ommending that all city employees avoid wearing tank tops until further notice.

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IT'S HARD TO protest in outer space, but we do what we can.

# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena,** will the terrible moment when Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest going to change football? I keep waiting for Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) revelations to get some actual traction, and then comes this, watching a 24-year-old athlete nearly die from tackling an opposing team member. Isn't this all kind of dumb?

Dear reader, yes. There are a few bright spots, such as UC San Diego's having drop-kicking their football program in exchange for sports options that don't kill you. But mostly it's just money that makes that football world turn. Turn it off. And don't buy whatever advertises there. And play chess.

**Dear Lena,** I could kind of tell there were arrest quotas for the homeless in Berkeley. What took the City Council so long to figure it out?

Dear reader, one might think the illegal nature of arrest quotas in the state of California would make it difficult to throw a party with that theme. But the popularity of targeting the poor shows up on the Berkeley City Council's agendas regularly in the form of "Berkeley Cares" vouchers or great swaths of largesse to the wealthy disguised as the public's \$28 per person subsidy of the Berkeley Marina ferry.

**Dear Lena,** why do they always talk about building new housing to address the housing crisis when there's so much empty housing around here?

Dear reader, people keep confusing housing with development, which is the political lifeblood now that tech stock is so notoriously unreliable. Plenty of empty housing sits available now, just overpriced such that those who need it can't get in. The public never wearies of coverage that exaggerates the burden on developers, rather than the folly of building for a population of well-funded strangers. But let's all be generous and put copious amounts of crypto-donations in the pockets of politicians. They've earned every penny.

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



PULITZER PRIZE WINNER SELECTION REQUIRES DEEP THOUGHT and extreme research and an open mind and it helps to limber up the judges with some really good bourbon.

## Fox News Wins Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

By Don Tread

Fox News won the prestigious 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for their reporting coverage regarding the stolen 2020 election.

The same coverage also exposed them to \$4.3 billion in defamation-related civil claims from voting machine companies Smartmatic and Dominion. In the event that Hugo Chavez does not testify and take responsibility for his alleged part in the election fraud, we can only hope that Fox News has really good insurance. The first trial is set to start in April of 2023.

Fox News was a previous winner of the fiction award in 2012 for their "fourteen-part story about President Obama's birth in a mud-hut in Kenya." Andrew Borowitz's New Yorker article of June 19th, 2012, provided extensive coverage of this achievement. Fox News was previously nominated in 2016 for coverage of the ten Congressional Benghazi hearings. However, given that they went 0 for 10 on finding wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton, they did not receive the prestigious award. The consolation prize is that the Republican National Committee claims that the hearings were instrumental in eroding support for Clinton in her 2016 Presidential campaign. Republican leaders admitted on an open microphone that this was the goal from the beginning.

In reality, Fox News has never received any real awards for journalism., e.g. Pulitzer, Peabody, Emmy or Edward R. Murrow Awards. Global elitist media experts explain that this is because Fox News prioritizes ratings and popularity over industry recognition of journalistic excellence. When you understand that two-thirds of Republicans, likely Fox News viewers, believe that the 2020 election was stolen, the true genius of their business model becomes understandable. For their viewership, a good conspiracy theory which demonizes their perceived political opponent is all that is required. Main stream media, which uses a fact based journalism model, can't even begin to compete with Fox News for the attention of their dedicated viewers.

The only Pulitzer journalism nomination for Fox News was in 2019 for an interview



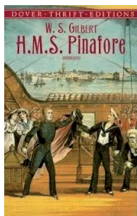
THE PULITZER PRIZE JUDGES may well have a shared cultural bias but now and then they vacation in Cabo so it all works out.

conducted by Chris Wallace, but did not win. Mr. Wallace resigned from Fox News in 2021 over coverage of the January 6th insurrection and the "stolen" 2020 election. Wallace said of Fox News, "when people start to question the truth...I found that unsustainable." Fox News insiders claim that Wallace let his professional ethics get in the way of their proven business model.

Momentum seems to be building at Fox News for a nomination in 2023 for coverage of the planned Congressional investigations of Hunter Biden's laptop's criminal behavior. Republican leadership is clearly seeking a repeat of the 2016 elections, with the hearings serving as a basis for an attempt to undermine the likely 2024 Democrat Presidential nominee. We should expect Republicans to try harder this time, perhaps with 15-20 Congressional investigations branching out to Hunter Biden's involvement with the Ukraine, China, the origins of Covid-19, and the suspicious selection of the Thanksgiving turkey which was pardoned under a cloud. The over-riding issue remains that Hunter Biden, "Sleepy" Joe Biden, Democrats and liberal leftists everywhere are responsible for the loss of political power by Republican Christian fundamentalist white men. As you probably already suspected, this is likely the result of leftist socialism or cultural Marxism or that turkey they pardoned. If you need further confirmation, just tune into Tucker or Hannity pretty much anytime.

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## Fairytale Ferry Proposal's 60 Acres of Benthic Dredging Touted as Marina-based Jobs Program

Cool Sailor Outfits for Poor Who Can't Afford Riding Ferries

By Margo Naregretthis

"The outfits will be cool," stated one Transportation Board member asked about any upside to the environmentally destructive Berkeley Marina ferry terminal proposal. "We're thinking the uniforms for dredging workers could be a cross between HMS Pinafore and your basic drag show."

The proposal has alarmed all three people who read the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) report, but bored the shit out of everybody else who sees the word "benthic" and has the lights go out in their brain.

"It comes from ancient Greek, βένθος, meaning "the depths," commented retired Commodore Linton DeNavel. "We use these words so that people unfamiliar with nautical lingo will quit reading after a few paragraphs and rarely participate in public comment."



CONSTANTLY DREDGING the bay to make safe paths for Berkeley Marina terminal ferries might be environmentally disruptive but what about if everybody sang all the time in cool costumes.

that city officials join the public knowing next to nothing of what's being decided."

"Benefits are extreme," agreed Loraine Enspain, who works nearby "Fewer records requests, few public comments, nobody listens or objects to criminal behavior such as the homeless arrest quotas. Under Maror Arreguin it's an accountability-free zone with a circular website larded with pretty graphics; a politician's dream."

"We take diversity seriously," stated Mayor Jesse Arreguin regarding the crying need for ferries for the wealthy versus the overwhelming financial and environmental costs involved.

"The necessity of constant underwater dredging matches up nicely with the broad group of people objecting to the loss of yet another park in Berkeley," the Berkeley Marina, but it will be worth it for the passengers on the ferry drinking \$12 premium official on Heradura.

BENTHIC DREDGING MAY CREATE serious ecological disturbance around 60 acres of the Berkeley Marina, but it will be worth it for the passengers on the ferry drinking \$12 premium official on Heradura. "The extremity of the benthic dredging, the requirement of 60 or so acres of underwater disturbance, looks like an environmental tragedy unless you style it as a jobs program."

"If we harness the ordinary public subsidy we get around 28 dollars per passenger," affirmed another Public Works staff member. "But over there at City Hall they know the mayor will be out of here soon, and they're imagining that the wealthy people who can actually afford to ride the ferry and don't care about the destruction of Cesar Chavez Park will buy shots at \$49.99 or pony up cash for a flight of high-end Tequila."

"It won't matter if it doesn't pencil out if they hoist in enough infrastructure or float another bond," sighed one of the Cesar Chavez Park kite fliers. "This City Council doesn't really see the need to read the reports."

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## Berkeley Tenants Union Knife Fight Wins Championship

Institutional Knowledge Mucking Up Progress Finally Pitched Out in Heated New Year's Housecleaning

By Lauren D. Requirements

"The common sense that was holding us back as an organization is almost entirely purged," noted one member of the Berkeley Tenants' Union (BTU) Steering Committee after its most recent Purge and Putsch New Year Workout Workshop. "Now we can finally move on."

"It's hard to keep count," acknowledged another member of the Steering Committee when asked how many members had been shown the door in the policy-free putsch where the meeting's entire focus was concentrated on training personal attacks on a single target. "We've run three people out of here on a rail so far but who knows how many we'll boot next month."

"The trouble we have is that the new mandatory knife fight approach to avoiding honest policy discussion moves faster than our infusion of new members," mused another Steering Committee member. "If this gets any more streamlined we'll need a firehose of volunteers ready to be called racists and face a fact-free firing squad."

Other Steering Committee members dismissed this concern, pointing out that now that no institutional memory, political involvement, or clarity about the BTU's historic mission was in the way, anybody who wanted to pad their political resume for the Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEM) could sail through and get something out of it whether they cared about helping tenants or not.

"We haven't had any policy discussion in months," admitted Steering Committee member Jonah Gottlieb, who is a candidate at the ADEM and admits he's not sure what institutional memory even is. "Who knows if this organization is moving on. But I know I sure as hell am."

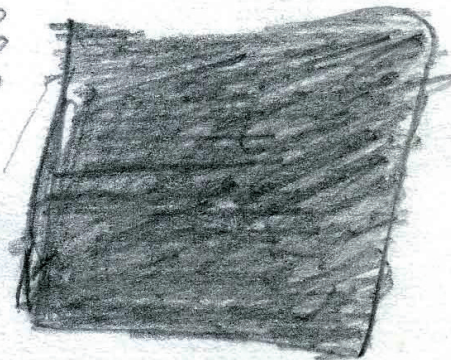
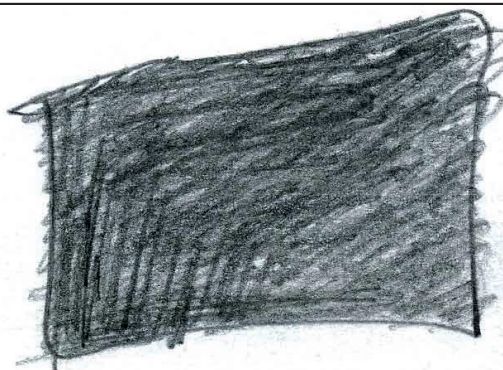
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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



"IF LIFE CAN'T BE PERFECT, I CHOOSE DEATH."





# Vandalized Construction Equipment and Beloved “Backhoe Swing” Finally Removed from People’s Park

*Tentative Appeals Court Ruling Inexplicably Favors People’s Park, Disrupts CEQA Deathwatch*



QUIET APPLAUSE GREETED the crew UC hired to remove its vandalized construction equipment from People’s Park’s basketball court early Monday morning.

*By Lotta Gall*

“We prefer the word repurposed,” gently corrected one of the People’s Park’s observers monitoring the removal of construction equipment early Monday, January 9th, two days before a hearing appealing UC’s proposed construction. “It’s certainly obvious that the university’s cranes, tractors, and

backhoes were disabled, decorated, and repurposed as playground equipment as quickly as they were driven into the park. But we consider that to be a net positive effect for people who like natural grass and trees.”

“It seems old-fashioned to champion natural landscapes, open space, historic landmarks, and historic culture,” smiled another People’s Park observer who gardens regularly in the 53-year-old community garden. “But it’s also just the law; the university was legally obligated to be respectful of California’s historic resources.”

People’s Park’s new status (May, 2022) on



PEOPLE PLAY ON THE backhoe-turned-swingset after a visiting art professor from Spain inspired a creative transformation.

the National Register of Historic Places increases the university’s difficulty ignoring its vast amount of UC-owned alternative locations for housing near campus which sit empty awaiting UC’s feverish obsession with destroying People’s Park to abate naturally or perhaps legally after a January 12th appeal of a lower court decision which appeared to green-light People’s Park’s destruction.

“This should be fun,” noted legal observer Lydia Picklejar. “Pro-development forces’ bets on the death of CEQA are having to reorganize their deathwatch deadlines, and obviously the university has to find a new graveyard for its comically vandalized construction equipment.”

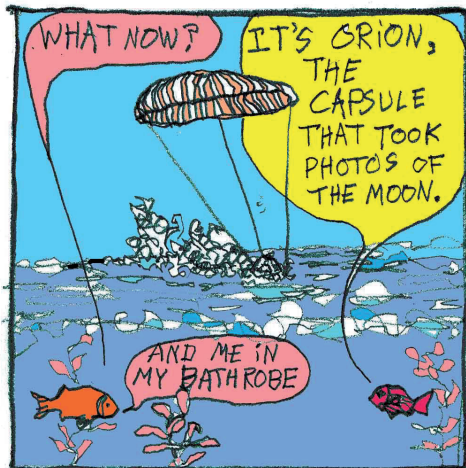
In the meantime, People’s Park gardeners keep on gardening, encouraging people to come by and enjoy some fava beans.

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*Next Issue: Banking in the Bahamas with celebrities!*

## I Want My Present Now

**by Juan Nathan Undergod**



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\*Henry VI Part 3