

the somos Orlando issue...



Pepper Spray Times...or PST

The Berkeley City Council Honors Pepper Spray Times' 25th Year at the Council Meeting on July 12th



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

"...my kingdom stands on brittle glass"*

Vol. XVII No. 7

Polls Show Voters Hate Trump, Clinton, & Sanders; Boaty McBoatface Considers Third Party Run

By Pilar O. Strength

A recent poll revealed that voters can't stand Donald Trump, can't bear Hillary Clinton, and want to kick Bernie Sanders' ass, inspiring both political parties to begin searching in earnest for people to run on third party tickets.

"They're keeping the candidates' pictures off the voting material as best they can," confided one political observer describing a phenomenon never seen before in a national election. "But it's hard to avoid having their names on there."

Critics objected that the recent poll on severely unfavorable numbers should have included the Libertarian candidate, and polling officials conceded the point explaining it was an unfortunate oversight because nobody could remember his name.

"He's lucky," whispered one Republican National Committee (RNC) staff worker. "He might get a few votes that way."

Political advisors for both parties agreed that there is little hope of making any of the candidates left in the once crowded field likeable enough to win.

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BOATY MCBOATFACE, the popular new polar research vessel, has never run for office before making him very likely to win.

"It's too late for a makeover for either of them," stated a media consultant. "And

McBoatface knows it."

Boaty McBoatface was the popular choice in an online poll to christen a polar research vessel and remains the

popular way to refer to the ship, creating an opportunity to harness public approval of some kind for a third party run.

"He could do it," mused one political insider. "At this point he's the only one left that actually has a favorable rating."

* * * * *

Bernie Sanders Burned Up Over Lack of California Turnout

"There's no app for voting yet," point out embarrassed techie supporters...

By Flossie Furstone



BERNIE SANDERS' young, tech-savvy supporters couldn't figure out how to vote or thought maybe it was something they could do next week.

The young, tech-savvy supporters

of Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders apparently couldn't figure out how to actually vote in the California primary and few of them showed up in numbers even more dismal than in the last presidential primary in the golden state.

"I thought it would be something like Angry Birds," insisted one young millennial voter with a shrug. "And I can still do it next week, right?"

"It isn't that they're completely helpless,"

offered one political observer. "They can technically get out of bed and get to some place with a physical location, especially with help from Uber. They just don't know what to do once they're there."

"Big rallies, live bands, lots of noise, we thought that was the whole scene," admitted one embarrassed voter in a Feel the Bern t-shirt. "This thing about standing around navigating a paper ballot, that's pretty medieval."

"Don't worry," added another youthful voter who neglected to vote. "We'll just choose Bernie in November."

* * * * *



LOBSTER KING HARRY HOCKNEY of Atlantic City consulted with the RNC on beauty standards to help unify the base.

Republicans Find Common Ground on Which Women Are Hot Democrats Still Split

By Euell B. Dedsoon

The Republican National Committee (RNC) announced it had achieved unanimous approval of a list of which women are hot, contributing to optimism regarding the party's chances in November.

"We started in with a lot of disagreements," acknowledged one party insider. "But we really come together on the things that matter to us deeply."

Democratic Party insiders sighed that their own efforts at unifying their base were not going well.

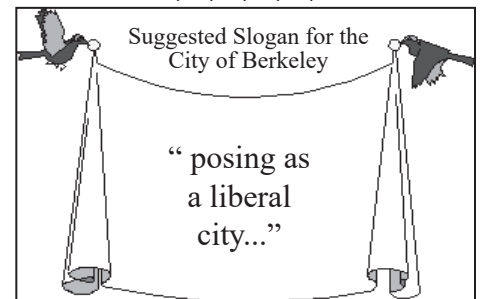
important "We're working on it," this thing is whispered one Democratic shouldn't be National Committee (DNC) able to vote. staffer collating hot women ballots.

"We don't have the kind of expertise that Donald Trump has with this kind of challenge."

Critics objected that the hotness of women should not be a priority for the Democratic party platform in favor of other more pressing topics, but were dismissed.

"Get in line," sighed a DNC staff member. "The line for alternative priorities starts over there and goes on for miles."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think I invented a recipe and my neighbor guessed what it was after a potluck and now she claims she invented it and everybody thinks it was all her own idea. Can I sue her?

Dear reader, yes, of course. But it would be simpler and cheaper just to poison her.

Dear Lena, there were two Bernie Sanders people knocking on my door yesterday and the only literature they had didn't talk about local issues, or any other races, just Bernie Sanders. I'm starting to hate the guy. Is that okay?

Dear reader, no. He's an old guy, but he's new to the Democratic Party and hasn't got the hang of things yet. Give some down-ballot information to his supporters and watch their heads explode. It's really fun.

Dear Lena, hey, why doesn't Airbnb just yank unpermitted rentals off their website? That would take care of the unregistered units and restore thousands of housing units without having any city have to lift a finger or spend a dime.

Dear reader, indeed. Why, I can't imagine what would motivate them not to do this very simple thing.

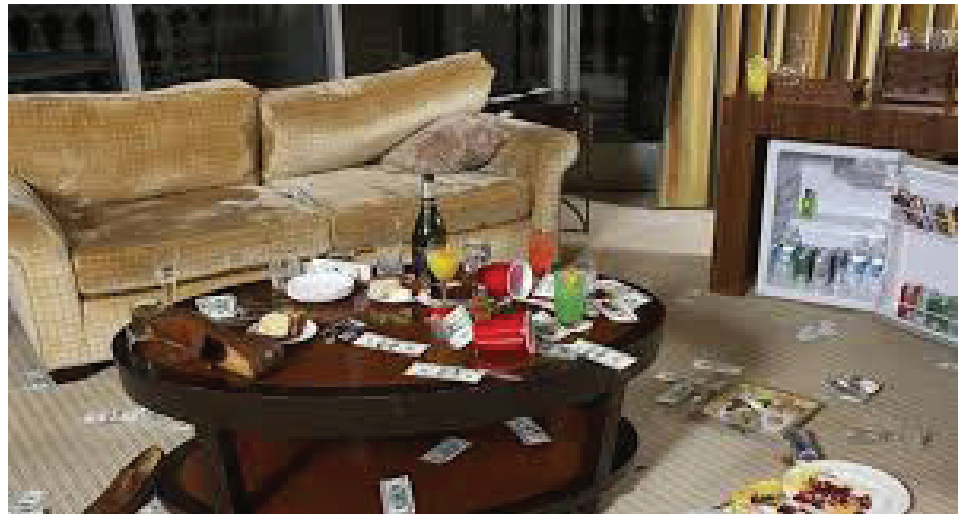
Dear Lena, how do you decide which candidate to vote for?

Dear reader, most people vote their party affiliation, but that doesn't mean you can't use alternative methods such as drinking games or dart boards. One can argue that the fairest method would be to put all nominee names in a hat and have someone blindfolded draw one. The Republicans are probably kicking themselves right now that they didn't think of this.

Dear Lena, what does diversity mean in a state like Vermont?

Dear reader, it means you not only have a red plaid flannel shirt, but also a blue plaid flannel shirt.

Ask Lena about swimming in the political deep end at cdenney@igc.org.



WE WERE GOING TO RUN THIS AS AN EXAMPLE of what can happen to your house if you rent to the Airbnb crowd, but it turns out this is a typical house in Berkeley before rental.

Airbnb Vows to Police Itself

- Will Be Really Really Hard on Itself, Too

By Forrest N. Line

Airbnb is promising it will crack down on illegal listings on its website at some future point and will strongly urge Airbnb "hosts" who violate Airbnb guidelines or city laws to shape up.

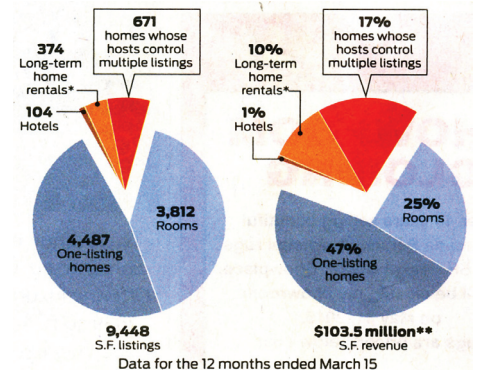
"We're only eight years old," noted Chris Lehane, Airbnb's head of global public policy. "It may take us a while to figure out the best way to address the issue of multiple listings, illegal commercial operations, whole homes rented for more than a year, stuff like that *but we really care.*"

"Of course they care. They're worth \$25.5 billion dollars," stated one city official. "Imagine if we could tax that baby."

The City of San Francisco imposes a 14% tax rate on Airbnb rentals, but can't quite figure out how to actually reach into Airbnb's pocket.

"We'd like to help," stated Lehane. "We really do stand ready to help someday *because we really care.*"

The company states that last year it gave \$14.5 million in hotel taxes to San Francisco "which is not chicken feed" according to Lehane. The hosts themselves made over



ANY CITY CAN find out who's violating laws against multiple listings or unpermitted rentals because doggone it all the information is right there on Airbnb's website it's just nobody really wants to cramp Airbnb's style and kill off their valuable political donations, uh, suggestions.

\$100 million last year alone and claim they are in no way responsible for homelessness or the growth of tent cities.

"Those people on the street should get in the groove," stated one Airbnb host. "Get out there and rent a tourist a tent."

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Poetry Corner; A Moment of Haiku

* * *

Trump's candidacy you can't look away -it's like watching your house burn



WE TRIED AGAIN TO get Airbnb rental photos but it turns out this is a before rental picture and some people really like this kind of decor.

New Startup Will Monetize Poverty

Raw Poverty to be Transformed Into Profits



THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM if it is also a business opportunity which simply needs monetization to fuel creative disruption and create jobs.

By I. Phil Yurpockits



THIS IS NOT a tragedy, this is just a start-up waiting to happen.

"It's everywhere and it's free," enthused one of the founders about the proliferation of poverty, the raw ingredient for a new start-up. "We're getting in on the ground floor of something which will take basic poverty and transform it into some-

thing profitable." opportunity to fund the new start-up, tentatively named "Povertize!", acknowledged that they have no idea how the coders are planning to make money off of widespread poverty and suffering.



THERE'S ALL KINDS of good ideas for monetizing rampant poverty.

thing profitable."

"We are the groundfloor," chimed in another of the start-up's founders considered a hot investment by insider venture capitalists with their ear to the ground. "All we need now is a scruffy garage."

"And a ping-pong table!" called out another investor.

"All we need now is a scruffy garage."

"And don't forget the \$45 million!" added one of the coders pitching the concept. "The mechanics of the software are the easy part, and our formula is almost complete."

Venture capitalists competing for the op-

portunity to fund the new start-up, tentatively named "Povertize!", acknowledged that they have no idea how the coders are planning to make money off of widespread poverty and suffering.

"That's the genius part," one investor stated. "That's the part they do." "We just bring in the money," stated another investor jockeying for an early groundfloor opportunity to fund the startup. "Most venture capitalists have no idea whether or not an idea is viable."

"That part isn't nearly as important as this initial excitement," affirmed one of the start-up's founders. "It's really all about the hot buzz."

* * * * *

Art Pastry Concept Stolen by SFMOMA



IF YOU HAVE A REALLY GOOD IDEA like offering real-life versions of cakes painted by Wayne Thiebaud and somebody steals it you should just feel proud and share the glory.

By Brighton Urley

Newly renovated San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) has booted Blue Bottle out of its traditional cafe location on the fifth floor but has kept previous pastry chef Caitlin Williams Freeman's art-inspired creations including the famous Mondrian cake which has as many fans as the artwork on the walls.

"It's tacky," stated Freeman of the pastry plagiarism. "But it's flattering, too."

Other pastry chefs agreed that it is easy to argue that most cake decoration plays on artistic and iconic cultural themes and while each cake is original one could argue that plagiarism is widespread in kitchens across the nation.



ARTIST MONDRIAN originally was annoyed with this the derivative nature of this dessert, but finally just ate it.

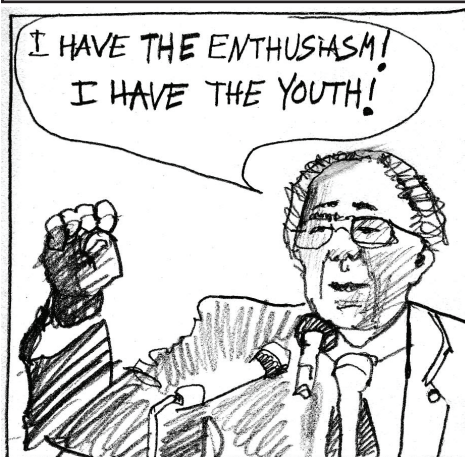
"Recipes tend to be shared," noted one local chef. "Unless of course they are secret, in which case they often are the motive for many a homicide."

"Recipes can be a serious matter," acknowledged one law enforcement expert. "Artists borrow from each other's ideas all the time, but chefs are much more touchy and armed with sharp knives."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



C. Denney 2016

OPD Goes Boom -

ouch!



Really Gets Into Campaign Against Human Trafficking in a Hands-On Way

By Alec Shunfrod

Police chief after police chief declined opportunity to lead the Oakland Police Department recently after it was discovered that mid-level officers were *demonstrating* rather than working to prevent human trafficking by trading sexual favors for protection with an underage prostitute.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf admitted while watching the long train of officers awkwardly parade out of the department headquarters that she had put a civilian administrator in charge of the Department after several officers turned out to have records of dubious behavior including texting racist messages and having girlfriends write police reports despite the scrutiny of a federal judge and court monitor costing Oakland millions of dollars.

The officers in question requested anonymity, but expressed privately that they were baffled by

“... that’s what the ladies like...”

Next Issue: Over-punctuating with celebrities!



OAKLAND MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF has to have someone in the background keeping track of all the chiefs of police she’s had so far otherwise she can’t remember and is now appointing civilians.

the Mayor’s description of the Oakland Police Department as having a “toxic macho culture” since, according to the officers, “that’s what the ladies like.”

Mayor Schaaf acknowledged that she’s not sure what to do to change the culture of sexual abuse of young girls and prostitutes by officers while parading Oakland as on point in putting a stop to human trafficking, pointing out that she has fired so many chiefs of police that there aren’t any more available options unless she began recruiting the meter readers, an option

which the Oakland City Council is taking up enthusiastically at an upcoming City Council meeting.

“At least they have uniforms already,” she noted. “And they have those nifty little carts that buzz around.”

Critics argued that meter readers are not well-loved by the public, but were dismissed by city hall insiders who pointed out that nobody likes the police, either.

“It’s kind of a wash,” acknowledged one political observer. “They might consider not having a chief of police at all for awhile. A vacuum has its place. It’s hard not to notice that the Republican Party seems to think so.”

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THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Richard III

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