

the island vacation issue..



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

July 2019

# Pepper Spray Times



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

"...whereto if you'll a willing ear incline..."

Vol. XX No. 7

## At Least 18 Homeless Deaths on Berkeley's Streets

Mayor Arreguin, City Council Going for the Record\*



THE TASK OF BODY COLLECTION on Berkeley streets is becoming so burdensome the city staff is considering acquiring a fleet of iRobot Roomba 960s for automatic cleanup.

By Tobias Wheatdream

"We have a good chance of breaking the record," stated an eager city staffer of the record-breaking per capita ratio of deaths on the street in Berkeley in the last year. "We're not sure how to market it yet, but we're pretty sure we can figure that out."

"We have a lot of marketing expertise here at hand," whispered another city staff member on condition of anonymity. "There's nothing, including cutting aid to emergency shelters, that we can't make look good to the scooter fans and Tesla drivers here in town."

"It's a distinctive demographic," affirmed another staff member. "They're more likely to want to be the first to invent the self-driving body collector for the nearest tent city than lean into prevention."

"That's just Silicon Valley tradition," chimed in another city staff member, acknowledging that the wear and tear of body collection

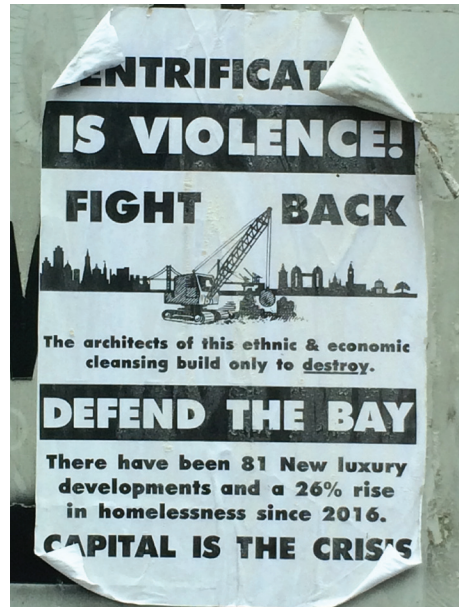


BERKELEY CITIZENS ARE so used to robots trundling down city streets that the addition of a dead body tightly packed in a 3x3 container shouldn't be cause for any noticeable alarm.

terest in generic monetization."

\* With the clear exception of District 2 Council representative Cheryl Davila, who can't seem to appreciate the expedience of scapegoating the vulnerable.

\* \* \* \* \*



SOME PEOPLE clearly don't understand the utility of simply clearing the streets of those who can't manage to withstand the elements for the 2-5 years it typically takes for actual housing to re-enter their fractured lives, any remedy for which would interfere with profits.

## Candidate Elizabeth Warren Deemed Way Too Qualified

"Simply unelectable," say experts.



DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE ELIZABETH WARREN is clearly unqualified for the office of President of the United States because she's temperate, experienced, prepared, dignified, inspiring, etc., all qualities clearly unpopular with the majority electorate and should just shut up.

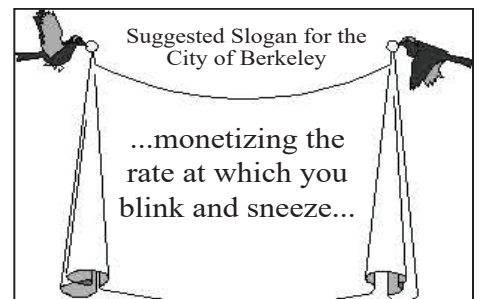
By Pat Ondebeck

Despite overwhelming enthusiasm from the Oakland crowd at a recent event, Democratic Party operatives are clear that Elizabeth Warren's outstanding qualifications - clear-headed, experienced, undistractable from policy goals, fearless - clearly eliminate her as a presidential nominee since most of the nation prefers rude, inexperienced con men.

Democratic Party spokespersons acknowledged the difficulty, saying they had tried to encourage Warren to choose from generic cliché's and phrases, but confessed that she had responded that she preferred to clearly outline her policy goals and the clearest pathways to getting there.

"We appreciate her optimism about the human attention span, but at this point we're looking for graduates from Trump University for our candidates pool," stated one Democratic Party operative. We assume they will at least have been schooled in the basics."

\* \* \* \* \*



## ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, my cousin says nuclear power is the clean power, and we should invest in that. Is that right?**

Dear reader, that's right, if you're willing to discount that pesky leftover stuff that will remain toxic for thousands of years which, I'm told, makes a fine cake icing. It's the perspective of the "think outside the box" people, so Betty Crocker and I are trying to absorb all possibilities. Imagine sprinkles that glow.

**Dear Lena, what is up with all the scooters all over the sidewalks? They can't bear somebody panhandling but these mechanisms are scattered everywhere. Isn't there some hypocrisy in the city's bizarre allegiance to robots, scooters and drones confounding public places? It was hard enough to get around before.**

Dear reader, apparently not. It's part of the assessment they just finished on aging in which they are telling people, especially old people or parents with toddlers, to get the hell out of the way.

**Dear Lena, so I'm not down with the unelectable, unaccountable DBA controlling all events on the BART plaza. When did that happen? Can I have my bake-sale there?**

Dear reader, it wasn't entirely in back rooms, but effectively so. Do you want to throw a bake-sale there just to test the process? We're wishing you luck here at the Pepper Spray Times, and if you succeed, we'll be next in line in the DBA-controlled process to arrange for our own fundraiser.

**Dear Lena, if they're going to clog up the sidewalks with skateboards, cops on bikes and scooters, and robots, why don't we just go all out and have horse races on sidewalks? My daughter loves to play the ponies.**

Dear reader, I'm in. We at the Pepper Spray Times make a mean lemonade.

*Ask Lena about horseracing on sidewalks at [cdenny@jgc.org](mailto:cdenny@jgc.org).*

## Song of the Private, Out-of-Town Developer Sung to the Tune of "Oh, Suzanna"

*Editor's Note: feel free to add, subtract, or alter verses as your creative spirit moves you, and/or join the lawsuit now firmly lodged against us as illustrated in the invigorating story of creative differences on the opposite page.*

oh, I come from Alabama to develop People's Park  
and from what I've heard the chancellor say it's going to be a lark  
well they brought me here to monetize these priceless public lands  
and privatize your landmarks while your mayor sits on his hands

Chorus: oh, Suzanna, oh don't you cry for me  
I'll be out of here as soon as I destroy your history

oh, the public-private partnership we use it to disguise  
a move which otherwise is known as pri-va-tize  
public resources belong you as people would agree  
but a little hocus-pocus and they all belong to me

Chorus: oh, Suzanna, oh don't you cry for me  
I'll be out of here as soon as I destroy your history

if the campus wants to save some dough I think it's pretty plain  
they can just quit playing football cause it messes up your brain  
try some chess or checkers let the students make the call  
they can really save some money unless they pick volleyball

Chorus: oh, Suzanna, oh don't you cry for me  
I'll be out of here as soon as I destroy your history

in 1967 there were houses on that block  
which they bulldozed and then walked away-  
the neighbors were in shock  
so the people built a garden so that everyone could share  
but the chancellor says development has got to start right there

Chorus: oh, Suzanna, oh don't you cry for me  
I'll be out of here as soon as I destroy your history

I'm an out of town developer and I am not to blame  
it's the chancellor and the regents setting up this dirty game  
since UC makes nuclear weapons it's embarrassing for sure  
to have People's Park - a symbol of resistance against war

Chorus: oh, Suzanna, oh don't you cry for me  
I'll be out of here as soon as I destroy your history



# Join the Civil Suit

or, *Lawyers Love to Dance*

By Lorna Medejacket

*Editor's Note: we tried to be fair with Mr. Buckwald's suggestions for revisions to the song on the opposite page, but discovered a few creative differences along the way despite our celebration of any and all additions, subtractions, parodies including his which we invited him to sing with us at the Art House Gallery. Our teams of attorneys are currently wrestling with the fine points of a settlement which may include a pie-eating contest, Olympic 3x3-packing showdown, and any other creative ideas we can utilize to encourage community cooperation in the tender name of song.*

Hi Carol,

Thank you for your kind reply.

However, I must take issue with your dismissal of the alternate phrase "UC smashed 'em down and walked away..."

I do think it is important to have UC mentioned specifically in your otherwise-effective song.

However, since you have summarily rejected every settlement offer that has been proposed, I have no choice but to have my attorneys contact your attorneys to arrange an arbitration hearing, multiple depositions, and a court-appointed overseer to take administrative control of your song and temporarily make all decisions about its content and presentation.

Please sign below to acknowledge that this notice was served properly and with the upmost courtesy.

x \_\_\_\_\_

Yours truly,

Doug Buckwald

\* \* \* \* \*

# A Modest Proposal for the Berkeley Housing Crisis

*Editor's Note: we think we've tracked this contributor down to a geographical area known as Underdee-Spreading Chestnut-Tree and are hosting this opinion piece with editorial, academic, and comedic delight.*

By Harvey Smith

The grassy open space of People's Park experienced its only murder recently. This incident has become another justification for the University's plans to build student housing on this much maligned location. With the exception of a police killing of a protester at the park's creation, the park has experienced just this one murder in its entire 50-year history. However, another nearby area of Berkeley - fraternity/sorority row - has experienced at least four in recent memory. Why not apply the same developmental logic to that area?



TREES ARE not green, according to most planners and developers, and should stop pretending they are all that and a bag of chips.

realizing that it would be a design challenge for a firm like the one hired to build on the northeast corner of the campus. The firm would have to go beyond its usual cookie cutter designs applied generically here and to five other campuses in different parts of the country. Probably the biggest challenge would be the traffic circle. How do you fit a banal multi-story, square glass box in a round hole?

The unsightly median strips and traffic circle between Bancroft and Haste surely must harbor a breeding ground for drug and alcohol abuse and violent crime. There could be something in the unkempt tall weeds that encourages overindulgence, as well as shootings, stabbings and sexual violence so prevalent in the neighborhood. This could be easily solved by filling the unsightly and underutilized space with student housing.

The current formula of a private-public partnership would support construction costs, reducing that it would be a design challenge for a firm like the one hired to build on the northeast corner of the campus. The firm would have to go beyond its usual cookie cutter designs applied generically here and to five other campuses in different parts of the country. Probably the biggest challenge would be the traffic circle. How do you fit a banal multi-story, square glass box in a round hole?



THE SPACIOUS MEDIAN STRIPS and front lawns of Fraternity Row represent a much larger footprint for much-needed housing than People's Park, and clearly contribute much more to the alarming ratio of sexual assaults and other crime.

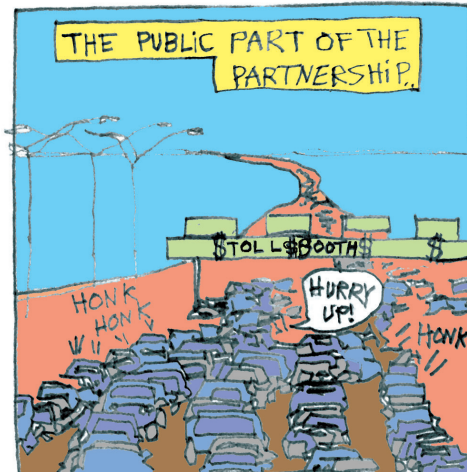
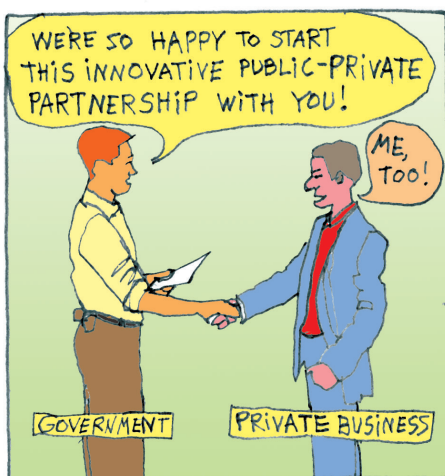
Students occupying the new housing would be warned during campus orientations not to walk past the dangerous fraternity houses. Taking east-west streets instead of going north-south on Piedmont Avenue would be good counsel because of a violence rate so much higher than People's Park.

Some would say this infill development would increase traffic during commute hours on already busy Piedmont Avenue. Probably the same people who complain about the reduction in parking at the proposed high rise development planned for the North Berkeley BART Station. Berkeley should respond to these detractors with a new chant, "With Uber, Lyft and Scooters, That's All for the Commuters."

\* \* \* \* \*

## We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



# Scooter Officers Hit Comedic Peak

By Trudy Yourself

The very best investigative work of our top reporters could not get anyone in the Berkeley City Manager's office to admit to the put-police-on-scooters program, which is provoking an unexpected comedic reaction in anyone who gets a peek.

"I thought they were kidding," choked one tear-streaked People's Park gardener after recovering from a laughing fit of no small duration. "I thought it was a prank to honor the 50th. I thought the guy was going to rip off the uniform and dance."

"I thought the same thing," said one of the stagehands assisting at the concert. "I nearly dropped a microphone."

Tech workers familiar with the indignity factor of new modes of transport agreed.

"This level of concomitant humor is usually reserved for those not in any position of authority," stated one privately. "We honestly think it is a joke, too."

\* \* \* \* \*

*Next Issue: Designating celebrities with celebrities!*



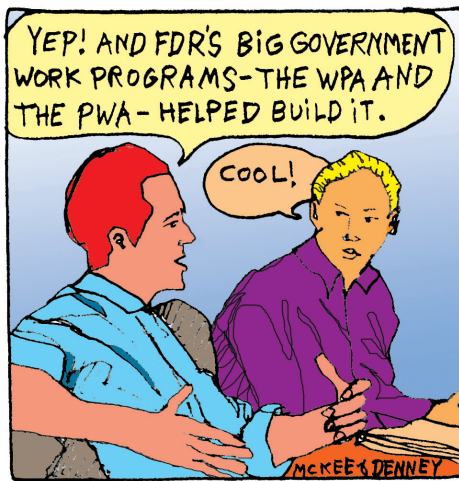
COPS ON SCOOTERS offer much-needed humor in what is otherwise a pretty serious social, political, and transportation landscape. This officer in particular caused the most uproarious round of appreciative comic applause when he roared up to try to look officious at the People's park 50th Anniversary Celebration. Cops hate being laughed at, but sometimes a straight face just isn't worth it.

### Natural Gas Is Not The Answer

Natural gas is methane, a dangerous fossil fuel which is a fast-acting greenhouse gas with enormous short-term impacts on climate. It leaks at every stage of the production and transportation process. Natural gas is dangerously combustible, harmful to breathe and, when burned, emits NOx, a toxic gas linked to asthma. Cumulatively, natural gas deals a catastrophic blow to Mother Earth. The end result is worse than burning coal.

## I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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\*Measure for Measure

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