

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

July 2020

the racoon racing issue...



Pepper Spray Times



Masks in Berkeley Both Mandatory *and* Prohibited! See Story Inside!

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

"...beseech you, tribunes, hear me but a word..."

Vol. XXI No. 7

Police Explain Targeting Press: "They're easier to catch with those big cameras."

By Lance Lied

Spokespersons for police departments nationwide admitted recently that in fact they were targeting reporters for arrest and for "the treatment" usually reserved for peaceful protesters.

"We don't discriminate," explained one police spokesperson after a press conference on designs for new uniforms. "Anybody who comes to a protest gets a hearty dose of something to remember."

Critics objected that press passes were supposed to allow neutral observation

by reporters, but were dismissed.

"We always issue press releases about protest events," pointed out the police spokesperson. "That's really all they really need to know."



THIS CNN REPORTER narrated his own arrest on camera thus becoming a star.

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ZUCKERBERG FEELS YOUR PAIN but really wants to you be up-to-date on the latest racist posts from your president and others so you can be well-informed.

Zuckerberg Doubles Down Promises "thoughts and prayers" to anybody upset by President's racist posts

By Aaron Auticks

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said his thoughts and prayers go out to people getting killed in the civil unrest amplified by President Trump's posts, but added "we've left the President's posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies."

Employees at Facebook hastened to distance themselves from the "we" Zuckerberg referenced by staging a virtual walkout and in some cases quitting their jobs.

Observers noted that "imminent risk of specific harms" as a standard appears to be met when every state in the union is united in opposition to the gratuitous slaughter of people of color, but Zuckerberg noted in return that controversy is great click bait.

Leaders of three civil rights groups tried

in vain to get through to Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, in a phone call Monday, June 1, 2020, while police nationwide cracked down on peaceful protesters, reporters, and looters in the civil disturbance following the videotaped murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, but were dismissed.

Andy Stone, a Facebook spokesperson for Facebook, is reported to have said, "We're grateful that leaders in the civil rights community took the time to share candid, honest feedback with Mark and Sheryl. It is an important moment to listen, blah blah."

The Pepper Spray Times, inspired by Facebook's example, won't be moderating Stone's, Zuckerberg's, or Sandberg's remarks on our platform since we love it when celebrities write the comedy.

* * * * *

Berkeley Mayor Explains Inaction on Police Accountability: "Scooters' Lives Matter"

Meanwhile, Racially Disproportionate Police Stops Almost Double During Coronavirus Pandemic

By Pilar O. Salt

Despite the total number of police stops decreasing during the pandemic shutdown, racially disproportionate police stops almost doubled in Berkeley.

Mayor Jesse Arreguin and City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley scrambled to justify increasing the police budget and instituting curfews rather than supporting the national consensus to eliminate police response to social issues such as poverty, homelessness, and peaceful protests.

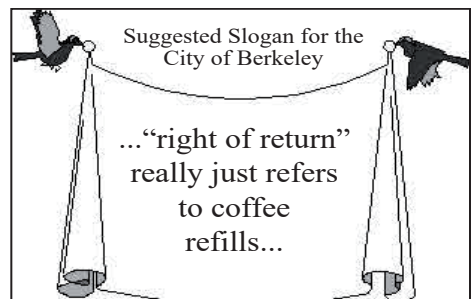
One of the Mayor's supporters offered, "what about that one guy in the back of the protest who's going to smash a window with his skateboard and loot? The police have all kinds of training on this stuff. It's better that the whole town stay home under curfew and postpone their first amendment stuff until all this uproar settles down, assuming it ever does."

Police cars seemingly eternally stationed in front of Amazon and Apple businesses just feel comfortable there, said police.

* * * * *



THE AMAZON STORE ON 4TH gets really lonely, too.



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

... "right of return" really just refers to coffee refills...

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I was going to write about how crabby I was as a trans woman when I lost my right to healthcare a week ago, and then boom, it came back. Is there a neck brace one can recommend for the constant whiplash going on over human rights? I thought "breaking news" was a little overused as a tv crawl, but I can't argue that there isn't breaking news all day all the time so that I can hardly find time to water the plants my neighbors constantly vandalize because of my gender identity. Any thoughts?

Dear reader, Zuckerberg's thoughts and prayers go out to you. In the meantime, it would be preferable if you don't alert the police about the continuous vandalism by your neighbors, as their eternal vigilance down on 4th Street protecting the Apple and Amazon stores is quite taxing.

Dear Lena, are the monuments to white supremacy in Berkeley?



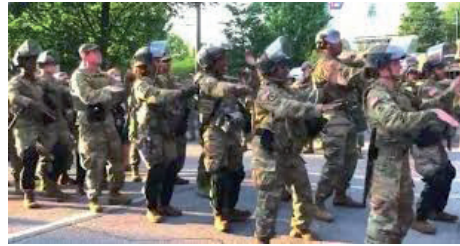
Dear reader, yes. The stone pillars of the Claremont District built by developer Mason-McDuffie still stand today. The sale of homes to people who were not "Caucasian" was restricted in covenants. Photo, circa 1907: Stuart Kierulff/ BAHA Archives.

Dear Lena, which was the stupider idea, the Segway or Google Glass?

Dear reader, it's the subject of furious study and will no doubt merit a special department of its own at business schools, but our newsroom poll, however insignificant, is all the way in the tank for Google Glass, which sparked spontaneous Google Glass-smashing in our favorite San Francisco bars. Never try to put one past San Francisco's bartenders.

Ask Lena about the slow, painful demise of Google Glass at cdenny@jgc.org.

Suggestions for Police De-escalation Techniques Under Eternal Study



THE ATLANTA NATIONAL GUARD participated in a Macarena dance-off with George Floyd protesters, a model being studied as an effective de-escalation technique.

By Penny Urned

Police unions nationwide are split over adopting creative de-escalation techniques such as the Atlanta National Guards' use of the Macarena to lighten the mood during a protest over the murder of George Floyd.

"It's difficult to even move, let alone come up with creative de-escalation ideas when you're loaded up with pepper spray, CS gas, tasers, and of course your M16," stated one Police Officers Association spokesperson. "But we promise to study any suggestions so thoroughly you won't live long enough to see the actual discussion."

Rejected suggestions include:

- * Singing rounds with protesters, especially ones like "Pharaoh's expedition up the Nile failed" that require a bit of attention
- * Wearing clown suits
- * Doing the twist with protesters, especially with Chubby Checkers' version from a sound cannon
- * Sharing food and beverages, which, according to Food Not Bombs, tends to make even the crabbiest people happy
- * Arming themselves with ukeleles instead of rifles
- * Doing yoga with protesters, who are often tired out from long marches



PEOPLE WHO PLAY ukelele together tend to find themselves in amiable moods if they manage not to kill each other.



QUARANTINE HAIR
Remember when we were saying that 2020 just had to be better because 2019 was so bad? Good times.
Love, Lynn

- * Telling jokes with protesters
- * Exchanging recipes with protesters
- * Engaging in deep breathing techniques with protesters
- * Telling scary stories like people do around a campfire with protesters
- * Talking together about everyone's favorite commercials with protesters

* * * * *

Golden Gate Bridge Sidewalks Desperately Need Harmonicas



THE OMINOUS SOUNDS now emanating from the Golden Gate Bridge walkways are similar to that of howler monkeys.

By Rhoda Ruin

Bolstering the wind resistance on the Golden Gate Bridge's sidewalks has created an unexpected low shriek during windy conditions, which, on the Golden Gate Bridge, are present 100% of the time.



HARMONICAS affixed to the underside of the bridge might address the industrial noise wind effect, but could also be worse.

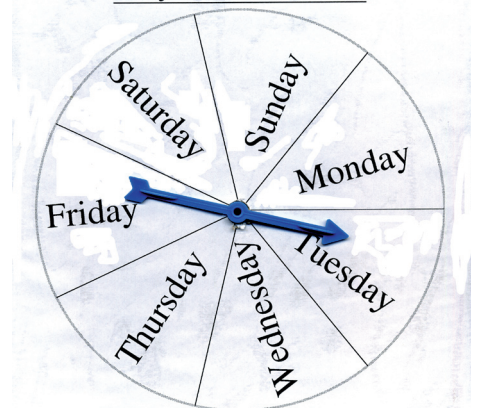
"Engineers often moonlight as musicians," noted one city staff member acknowledging the possibility that the sound effects might have been an intentional nod to "industrial music" characterized by harsh, dark, usually electronic sounds combined with ambient noise. "Nobody's talking, but we're making discreet inquiries."

Meanwhile, pedestrians and drivers stuck in bridge traffic are offering suggestions, most notable being the positioning of harmonicas along the bridge's underside to true up the pitches, which most musicians advised against.

"You'd have to agree on a key," commented one local musician dubiously. "That can often take years."

* * * * *

Handy Helper Day of the Week



HARD TO TELL WHAT DAY IT IS? This Handy Helper Day of the Week can help. When you finally figure out the day of the week, move the arrow to the right day. If you move the arrow clockwise every day you'll be less likely to show up a day late for your Zoom meeting.



SEGWAY, THE SCOOTER THAT COULDN'T, will host a socially distanced all-scooter parade of mourning as soon as the Segway Personal Transporter Manufacturing company can find enough people who can stay upright.

Segway Hits Wall

By Pete Boggs

The second dumbest invention on earth will finally end production July 15, laying off 21 mostly relieved employees.

"We're okay with it," confessed one employee on condition of anonymity. "It's embarrassing to admit you have anything to do with these things."

Segway suffered the same schizophrenia which afflicts most scooters, which are prohibited from riding on sidewalks reserved for pedestrians but which are loathe to brave actual vehicular traffic.

"That was a problem," admitted one Segway insider who thought the other shoe would drop off Segway before the approximately twenty uneasy years it spent on the market. "But the real story was the sheer humiliation. People just aren't that stupid."

Segway president Judy Cai said in a statement, "We are grateful for the support and loyalty of our consumers and are giving each of them personal gift bags of allen wrenches and superglue. We wish them the very best."

* * * * *

What Was Wrong With Cervantes?

By Winona Spree



SCHOLARS CAN'T figure out why protesters are annoyed with writer Cervantes, fictional characters Sancho Panza and Don Quixote, or renowned Uruguayan-born artist Joseph Jacinto Mora.

Statues of Confederate soldiers and slave owners hit the dirt nationwide in a spree that had some peculiar aspects in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, where protesters unleashed their fury on drinking fountains, benches, and a bronze and nat-

by renowned Uruguayan-born artist and cartoonist Jo Mora in 1916.

"It is baffling," conceded a local historian. "Not only was Cervantes no part of the Civil War, and not only did he survive slavery and imprisonment himself, the sculptor, Joseph Mora, is considered one of the nation's most exceptional artists who adopted California as his home and whose work can be found all over the state on campuses and in museums."

"Jo Mora had the deepest respect for indigenous cultures," stated a local art historian. "He and his family are beloved in the art community. Mora lived with the Hopi and Navajo near Oraibi, Arizona from

"I had to read Shanti Andia in Spanish in school," he confessed, red-faced and embarrassed. "I had a lot of pent-up anger."

ural stone sculpture of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza kneeling before a bust of 17th century writer Miguel Cervantes created

1904 to 1906, and his photographs, drawings, and paintings the daily life and customs of Native Americans."

"He learned the native languages," agreed a baffled park neighbor. "Maybe they thought Cervantes was some kind of conquistador. Or maybe they hated the ruffled collar."



SOME STATUES being toppled have nothing to do with racism or the Civil War, but they probably did something.

One protester confessed he thought the statue on the pedestal was author Pio Baroja.

"I had to read 'Shanti Andia' in Spanish when I was in school," he confessed, red-faced and embarrassed the morning after the vandalism spree hit the news. "I had a lot of pent-up anger."

Authorities agreed that it is just a really, really bad time to be a statue.

* * * * *



Masks in Berkeley Both Mandatory and Prohibited

Editor's note: Masks in fact must be worn when outside in Berkeley and also are prohibited. It may seem confusing, but the City Manager instructs citizens not interested in going to jail to put on a mask, then take off the mask, then put the mask back on, then take the mask back off, and repeat through the course of the pandemic. We at the Pepper Spray Times hope you appreciate this public health announcement.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Tomorrow Postponed

By Susan Stockings

“All we know is that it is Tuesday, and will remain Tuesday for the foreseeable future,” stated Dr. Timon Myans of the Center for the Study of Anomalous But Potentially Fruitful Phenomena tasked with setting up the coffee Wednesday mornings.

“We kept thinking somebody else was on this,” stated Sandy Calvary, a member of Dr. Myans’ team. “We finally realized that unless we focused on the problem ourselves that there was little likelihood of ever seeing Thursday again given the serious focus on the issue of whether or not one should wear a mask.”

Research accumulated so far indicates that Monday stalled somewhere around early April when people were musing over summer vacation plans and kept finding

Next Issue: Shoveling manure with celebrities!



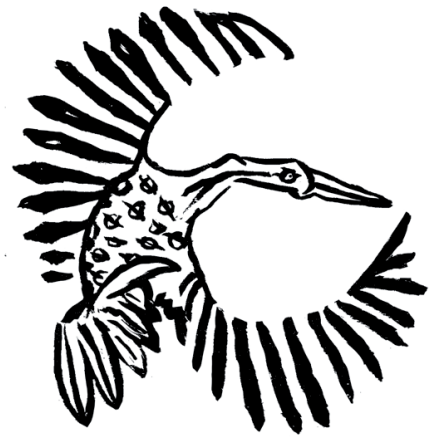
RESEARCH CONTINUES AT A furious pace to find out when is Wednesday. themselves doing the laundry over and over.

“By the time I realized what was happening I had already washed my entire sock drawer three times,” stated Bella Ringing, one of the thousands of research subjects volunteering to assist with the study. “I wasn’t really looking forward to anything in particular in the future, but I thought for sure it would just happen.”

Citizens concerned that Wednesday could happen all at once after the long stall during the shutdown were advised to wear a seatbelt.

“Re-entry could be rough,” stated Dr. Myans.

* * * * *



SHIFT

SHIFT funds from police budgets to support mental health services, neighborhood mediators, and emergency response teams.

ASSURE equal access to health care, housing, and good jobs.

DECriminalize homelessness, sex work, and drug possession.

DEVELOP a public school curriculum which examines the root causes of inequality and provides an honest accounting of American history.

INVEST in clean energy and divest from fossil fuels to protect community health.

DISMANTLE the racist system of justice and build a fair one.

D. Minkler, Gail Wiley 2020

I Want My Present Now

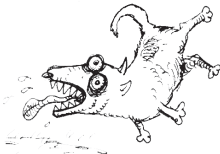
by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Coriolanus

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