

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

June 2021

the
monop-
sony
issue...



Pepper Spray Times

find the unidentified aerial phenomena...



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

"...it was the owl that shrieked..."

Vol. XXII No. 6

Mayor Arreguin Stands Firm Behind Reparations for Developers



BERKELEY MAYOR JESSE ARREGUIN'S post-election conversion from people's progressive voice to developers' buddy is illustrated here when, pre-election, he cuddled up with Berkeley Citizens Action, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council, and the Coalition for a Sustainable Berkeley to decry the pathetic ratio of affordable housing in primarily luxury developments to his post-election posture identical to luxury developers' threadbare soliloquies about how building luxury housing serves as an inspiration to the poor of how happy they will be someday when they're wealthy enough to afford a penthouse of their very own.

By Potter E. Barncrap

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin admits his "thinking around the housing crisis has definitely changed," in an interview with the East Bay Express in 2019. "We need to change our perspective on housing" he stated emphatically, clarifying that the "we" he was referring to meant the bewildered people who had elected him to protect Berkeley from the

out-of-control luxury housing development ravaging the town's open space, parks, landmarks, and especially the affordable housing linked to the town's former diversity and creativity.

Arreguin's observations only a year before his 2016 election were quoted in the East Bay Times when he told a coalition of grassroots groups that the downtown district he represented had doubled to about 3,000, that new projects were expected to bring that total to around 5,000, and that development "can also displace small businesses, add traffic, increase water use and increase the need for police and fire services", finishing by adding that "luxury housing with little or no affordable housing is

not what our community needs." "Reparations," stated Arreguin succinctly in explanation for his radical about-face. "We finally found a word that sizzles in a progressive's mind but honestly describes the way we've caved in the direction of anything developers want."

City hall insiders agreed that rewriting the city's land-use plans to accommodate developers, promoting "up-zoning" to make them feel more welcome, and re-designing the Southside Plan to accommodate UC's aggressive expansion should end pesky local barriers to dramatic luxury expansion.

"People thought that since land was finite there would be an end to the developer-driven atrocities dominating landscapes nationwide. But land is infinitely divisible, especially if you own the legislators and people think it's intriguing to keep their puzzle games over in the next county."

Experts agreed that having bought legislative bodies outright has endlessly multiplied the creative possibilities for developers, politicians, and even renters who must now live in one city, work in another, and keep their record collections and art supplies in an entirely different city.

"It's a challenge," agreed one Berkeley home renter whose garage is now a fourplex and whose front yard is now a condo. "My grandmother's china is in a storage facility near Antioch."

"Luxury student housing for the high-end

Foppoli Resigns, Saying the "Fun Is All Gone"

By Perry Lussplan

"It got so bad I went all the way to Florida," shrugged the former mayor of Windsor, California, who had insisted on staying in office despite an avalanche of lurid stories about his inappropriate and possibly criminal conduct with women.

Foppoli insisted that all the fun ran out in Florida, too, where women kept inexplicably resisting his popularity.

"It was a business trip," the former mayor insisted, noting that the fun ratio, purported to be at a healthy peak in Florida, seemed to run low wherever he showed up. RESIDENTS OF WINDSOR

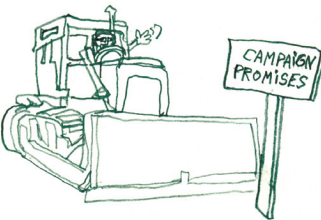


"The ratio of fun is a serious matter in any resort town," stated Foppoli about his brief sojourn studying the issue in Palm Beach. "In or out of office I'm giving it my full and undivided attention."

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set is much more than an international economic trend," stated Arreguin proudly. "It's job security for people in my shoes."

"It's true that Berkeley compared to other cities already has more than 10,000 residents per square mile, placing Berkeley within the 1 percent highest-density cities in the US," admitted one political insider. "But if you sell a batch of international students a bread box, they're sure to find a creative way to live in that and whatever anybody comes up with afterward. If they can deliver mail to it, it's home."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, one of my friends is refusing to get vaccinated at all, and another friend jumped across the county line to get a vaccine before it was technically her turn for one. It seems like such selfish, dangerous behavior to me considering that our pool of unvaccinated people and our line-jumping me-first people confound what little we can reasonably do to keep each other safe. Should I say anything? They both snap at me when I suggest even modest discussion, which I know has at least a recognizable ratio of success if people just try to understand each other. I'd like to hang onto my friendships, but prefer not to die or kill my friends by including these people. I'm curious as to what you and your newsroom would suggest.

Dear reader, I would suggest introducing these selfish people to each other and then letting nature take its course.

Dear Lena, is there a better portrait of white privilege than those Berkeley High kids who built secret mountain bike jumps for themselves on regional park district land?

Dear reader, no, as neighbors to their "project." can testify. Those who wait patiently for decades for park budget priorities to finally get around to addressing a much-needed fence, pathway, or signage repair can only admit that ignoring community participation and process may be ecologically destructive but it sure shaves off a lot of time for you and your buddies' personal projects.

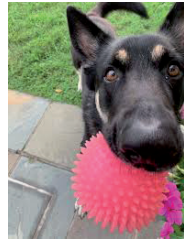
Dear Lena, can't the Berkeley City Council or the City Manager just say no to these kids?

Dear reader, no. One might think so, or might think that councilmembers would simply require them all to sit through even one tedious, deadening city council meeting in penance, but in the City of Berkeley the coddling of young white men coupled up with basic discrimination traditions takes some truly creative paths.

Ask Lena about unidentified aerial phenomena at cdenney@igc.org.

Biden Administration Claims Major's Major Issues are Really Minor

By Don Tread



MAJOR WAS INSTRUMENTAL in discovering the new Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) which are currently referred to as Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) and often have colorful, rubbery exteriors.

Major was initially vetted for White House duty.



PREVIOUS PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP took no small amount of criticism for not having a White House dog, but the former president dismissed his critics pointing out that his staff and most of his family members were more obsequious and dog-like than any dog could possibly be.

ous to be at the White House and should be locked up in a more secure facility. While Major claims to be just a dog, conservative media seems to be convinced that he is an undocumented immigrant. (Based upon conservative media reporting they are everywhere, millions and millions of them, taking American dog jobs.)

The rest of mainstream media has reported the biting incidents, but has focused their outrage on the fact that Rand

Conservative media continues their relentless "biting" criticism of the Second Dog known as Major, the Biden administration's German Shepherd, who has just had his second known incident of biting staff members since moving into the Biden White House. They report that the dog is poorly trained, badly behaved, refuses to adapt to the White House routine, relentlessly posts on Snapchat at inappropriate moments, and has obviously violent tendencies which should have been caught when

The Bidens acquired the non-pedigreed canine from a shelter in Delaware a few years ago and they have been training him privately with mixed results. Conservative pundits convened several think tanks on the subject which suggest that Major, with his questionable lineage, is too dangerous



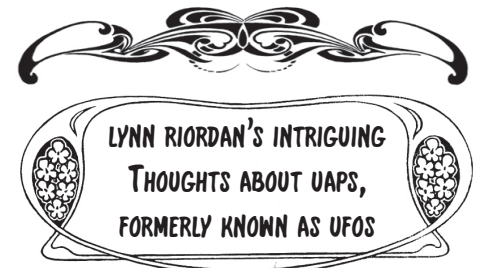
A POPULAR PETITION on Moveon.org urges the Biden administration to maximize the Major moment by starting a line of products depicting Major as a loveable cartoon character, which Biden advisors oppose on the grounds that some people have no sense of humor when it comes to biting.



CHAMP AND MAJOR ENJOY ROUGH-HOUSING on the White House lawn and both claim they only bite people who are really begging for it.

Paul was not the the second biting victim, a serious administrative oversight.

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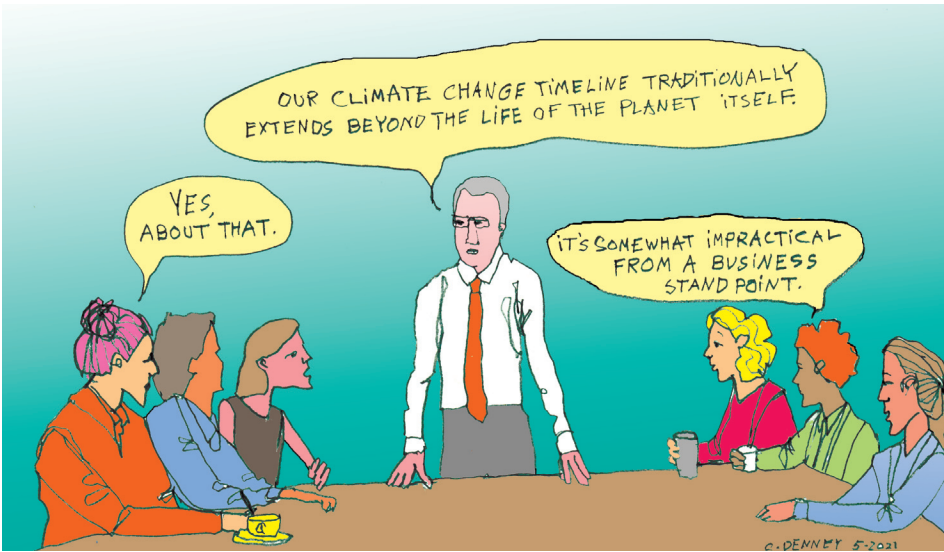
Since 'UFO's have been confirmed as real,

ARE UFO'S:

- SPORTS CARS OF RICH ALIENS?
- BIRDS TROLLING US?
- TOUR BUSES?
- ROBOT PROBES SENT INTERDIMENSIONALLY?
- BEINGS THROWING ELON MUSK'S TESLA BACK AT US?

The answer may surprise you.





Birth Rate Plummet

By Adele Pickle

The pandemic, which many predicted would spark pregnancy booms nine months after shelter-in-place orders, has instead caused birth rates to plummet.

"We're sick of each other," stated one couple frankly. "And we just married."

Experts agreed attraction is apparently based on scarcity.

"People tend to get excited about what they'll wear, what they'll say, where they'll go, which aren't at issue if the two of you are just frankly there."



THE GOLDFISH GAME at the fair has its sad aspect when run by graduate students.

The phenomenon is world-wide, and having dire effects on a working world which depends on the exploitation of youth to balance fast food and farm books.

"Kids are were so easy to hire when there were so many of them," sighed one carnival boss reducing his travel schedule for the summer. "People just don't want Ph.D's running the goldfish throw."

* * * * *

Creative Ways to Address the Issue of Having Unvaccinated Friends

By Vi Ralode

- * Give your unvaccinated friends a different map to the picnic
- * Make sure your unvaccinated friends get an elegant invitation to the event which features the wrong day.
- * Tell your unvaccinated friends you're so sorry but that the event was cancelled.
- * Tell your unvaccinated friends that they can come to the event as long as they have a doctor's note, wear a hazmat suit, and pay a \$5,000 community apology fee.
- * Arrange for your unvaccinated friends to spend the next several years together on an uninhabited island.

* * * * *

"Right to Life" Concept Succeeds in Dutch Court to Protect Environment

Court Boots Royal Dutch Shell 's Slow-walking Timeline

By Walter Walter Everywhere

Royal Dutch Shell's adopted emissions reduction targets were ruled inadequate by a Dutch court in a decision which, while only technically affecting its holdings in the Netherlands, join some other stunning moments in climate change, including the United Mine Workers' embrace of renewable energy strategies.

"We thought coal miners and fracking workers would always be in our corner," stated one stunned lobbyist. "It kind of went without saying that using the word 'sustainable' in a little coal town would get your ass kicked."

"Not at all," shrugged one Kentucky coal miner with a smile. "We have kids, for one thing. And we have a real thing about clean air and water."

Shell will appeal the Dutch court's decision, but admitted privately that they're way behind the climate change timelines of

almost every other oil and gas company.

"We fall short from the perspective of this new 'right to life' and 'bad business policy' orientation. Once those strategies have infected your board you can't get away with just switching up your semantics."

Wall Street watched in wonder as Engine No. 1, a miniscule hedge fund, seated two representatives on ExxonMobil's twelve member board with only a 0.02% stake by simply pointing out that not addressing the risks of climate change was in fact profoundly unprofitable.

"It's not like we hate whales or healthy biospheres," whispered one ExxonMobil board member suddenly seated beside an Engine No. 1 representative. "It's just that we're pretty vulnerable when people watch common low-carbon business practices rake in the dough."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



C. DENNEY 4-2021

Oakland Considers Permanent Tiny Homes Policy to Save Housing for the Wealthy

By Wanda Firstprize



TRAIN SETS are the next housing crisis innovation on the way.

“We have no choice,” agreed another Oakland Councilmember. “The strain on developers is severe, especially during the pandemic. Land is just so terribly finite.”

Tiny homes don’t qualify as housing under California’s habitability laws since the inclusion of pointless amenities such as toilets, showers, kitchens, windows, closets, etc., take up so much unnecessary space.

“People clearly can adapt,” pointed out one Oakland City Hall staffer. “They’ve learned to live behind dumpsters, so these tiny spaces are considered an upgrade if

“We have the choice of getting the profiteering out of housing,” acknowledged one of the Oakland Councilmember regarding the unusual, developer-friendly move under consideration. “But then who would fund our election campaigns?”

“Every equation they use starts with the profit assumption and the current numbers,” pointed out unpopular economists who are clearly miffed at not getting invited to the best parties.

“It’s an absurd distraction from the obvious,” stated one policy gadfly. “De-profitize housing, pass serious rent control, slap real vacancy fees on all the empty units and storefronts and all those tiny houses will turn back into the tool sheds and play houses they were born to be.”

“Sacrificing our safety protections and wandering all over town for a place to put down the hot casserole dish is not the way out,” agreed one Councilmember who

you’re on the streets. Developers, on the contrary, can’t survive without the summer house and ski vacation.”

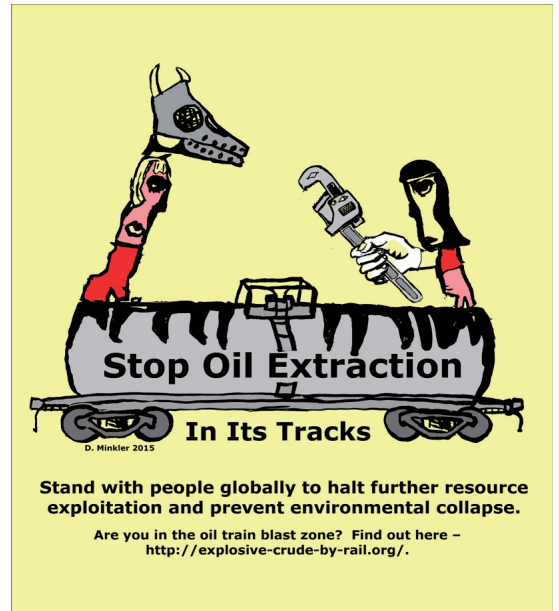
critics argue that caving in to developers has made the housing crisis even worse.

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“Sacrificing our safety protections and wandering all over town for a place to put down the hot casserole dish is not the way out,” agreed one Councilmember who

wished to remain anonymous. “Nobody talks about it, but a tiny house means you sleep with your bicycle and your storage unit is in Utah.”

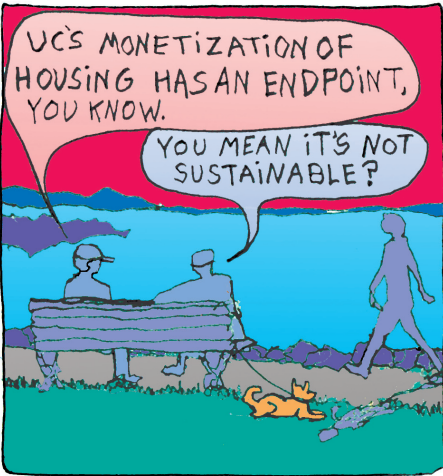
“Nobody talks about it, but a tiny house means you sleep with your bicycle and your storage unit is in Utah.”



Next Issue: * * * * * oil portraits with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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