

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

March 2020

the as if we could see clearly 2020 issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's waldgrave ...it's free...if you can find it "....that runs a-horse-back up a hill perpendicular...*" Vol. XXI No.3

Algorithm Joins Race for Presidential Nomination

Predictive Mechanism Flags All Candidates as Risks



VOTERS RESEARCHING ELECTION options find the task somewhat daunting.

By Delia Cards

A nation still puzzling over how algorithms ended up controlling every aspect of their lives met the news that an algorithm had joined the presidential race with a combination of bemusement and ambivalence.

"I can't speak in my house anymore without all the appliances going on," shrugged one voter. "Maybe it will help to have something in the Oval Office that speaks the language."

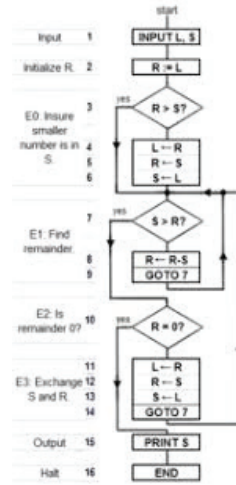
"Automated systems are the future," acknowledged another voter leafing through yards of confusing election materials. "Anything's got to be better than the sys-

tem we have now."

Voters in most states admitted experiencing confusion over the plethora of primaries, the confusion of competing coverage from different platforms and channels, and the vast field of candidates only some of whom show up on debate stages or ballots.

"I would welcome some clearly defined options," stated another voter. "But I'm also pretty busy. I wouldn't rule out putting a machine in charge, as long as its not the one in charge of my radio and tv right now. I can't find anything anymore."

Experts agreed



"Inelegant"

WHO WOULDN'T want to have a nice picnic or a beer with this candidate whose cards are clearly on the table..

that while most people do not find algorithms warm and might not enjoy the idea of having a beer with them, modern public relations firms could easily address any image issues.

"Kissing babies, showing up at barbecues, that sort of thing," suggested one public relations industry representative of the myriad options available to warm people up to the concept of having their political options guided by background mechanisms and mathematical equations supplied by unknown parties. "Most people are easily influenced by their neighbor's yard sign."

Biden, Sanders Agree to Wrestle for Nomination



BERNIE SANDERS LOOKS like he's winning in this latest round but Joe Biden points out that all fours is a much more stable position.

By Raphael D. Feathers

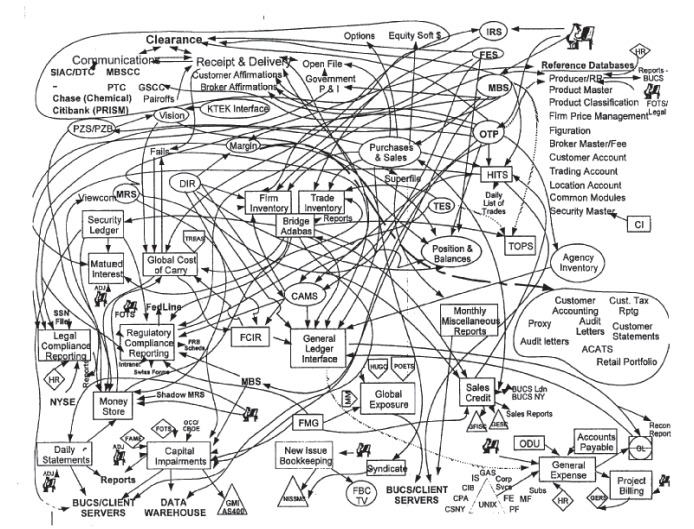
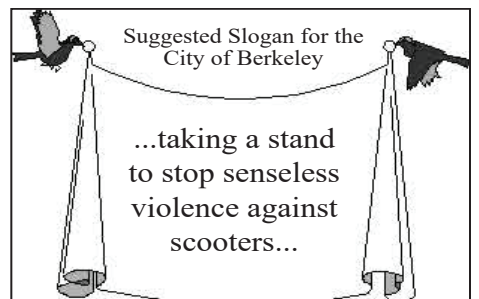
Both Bernie Sander's and Joe Biden's campaign staffs agree that the upcoming wrestling nomination was an unconventional approach, but all parties point out that anything at all resembling politics as usual was long gone.

"Bloomberg was a Republican and now he's a Democrat," observed one campaign worker while stuffing envelopes. "Bernie is an Independent running as a Democrat so he's been a Democrat for maybe five minutes, and Trump was a Democrat until he was a Republican. MOST PEOPLE like wrestling better than boring debates."

Now nobody's sure what the Republicans are anymore in terms of a platform."

"I think the platform is playing golf," stated another campaign worker carrying boxes of outgoing mail. "Or trashing Bloomberg. That's very popular."

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THIS ALGORITHM VOWED TO CHALLENGE any algorithm which decides to run and is rumored to have unlimited corporate funding which might make an otherwise boring electoral race much more interesting.

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I tuned out during a lot of the impeachment. Am I bad? I tried to pay attention but I just couldn't stand it and I had things I had to do where I had to pick up the kids and do the laundry. Should I feel bad? I'm not sure I'm even entitled to an opinion at this point. Please help, and thanks.

Dear reader, you've just destroyed democracy with your picking up the kids and doing the laundry and all. I can only hope that you are ashamed of yourself. What in the world were you thinking.

Dear Lena, so what does impeachment do? Can I do it to my husband? He deserves it, I can tell you.

Dear reader, I think you got the idea. It's like yelling "shame on you" to the guy who just stole your bicycle. You may have a point, but the net effect is to make you look like even more of an idiot.

Dear Lena, but what else can people do to stop Donald Trump from destroying priceless democratic norms and the White House organic garden.

Dear reader, most of the nation is not ready for the radical tactics it would require to create leadership change, such as voting.

Dear Lena, I am tempted to vote for Bernie Sanders but whenever I bring up his name my Democrat friends scream and throw things. What should I do.

Dear reader, just relax. Tell them you're voting for Donald Trump and they'll calm down right away.

Dear Lena, when is the algorithm worship service? I'm not coming out of my wine cave until I can find it. And I think I finally have the right shoes.

Dear reader, if you think you have the right shoes, you are probably right in the middle of it. Congratulations.

Ask Lena about lonely, frustrated organic vegetables at cdenney@igc.org.

Exclusive: Cafe X Robots Fired

"Lack of personal touch" Unfair Requirement, Mechanical Workers Say

By Nona Yurbusiness

Newly unemployed Cafe X robots held a press conference recently where they clarified that they were fired in a labor dispute.

"It was described as a 'closure,'" stated one of the robots. "But we represent all three locations in San Francisco in which robots were unfairly pressured to be the first automated food service that didn't fail."

"It wasn't a high bar," noted a second robot about the chain founded by CEO Henry Hu. "The Bay Area is crazed for robots, and the venture capital funding for robot-served food is



THE CAFE X ROBOTS INSIST THAT THEY ARE just as charming as robot dogs and provide jobs for piles of otherwise useless machine parts.

our labor grievances," complained the spokesperson at the former Cafe X robots' press conference. "We may be machines, but we're just like you."

The robots confirmed that Hu insisted on faster and faster service, and is opening new locations with mechanical baristas willing to make 100 drinks per hour.

"It's inhuman," stated the robot. "There's no time to say hello, smell the roses."

CEO Hu admitted that robot food service has had a rocky start.

"Naming the robots has turned out to be problematic," stated Hu. "It creates unnecessary, potentially uncontrollable attach-

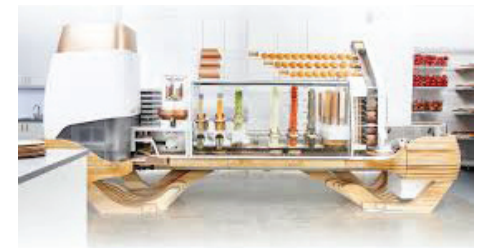


IT MIGHT BE HARD FINDING SOMEBODY to clean the 130 burgers per hour robot burger maker machine after hours but you can always stand in line for the venture capital to build another robot to do that part.

positively sick."

Cafe X founder Hu financed his initial development with a \$100,000 grant he received as a Thiel Fellow parlayed into approximately \$14.5 million in venture capital in a market full of spectacular long shots such as SoftBank-backed startup Creator, which is reportedly flailing as a purveyor of automated burger-makers.

"None of the tech coverage talks about

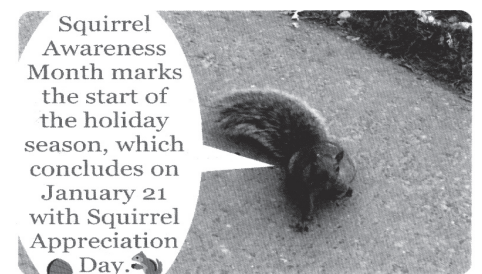


MUSICIANS WHO SAW THIS burger-making machine often thought it was a calliope and tried to play it.


ments, kind of like naming the chickens you intend to slaughter. I can't tell you how many sappy condolence cards and farewell notes we've received from robot fans at our closed locations. We're hoping airport business travelers are more detached."

* * * * *

Get Your Acorns Ready Really Early



Squirrel Awareness Month marks the start of the holiday season, which concludes on January 21 with Squirrel Appreciation Day.



Inspiration Corner

by Lynn Riordan



Isotopes: take a neutron, leave a neutron.

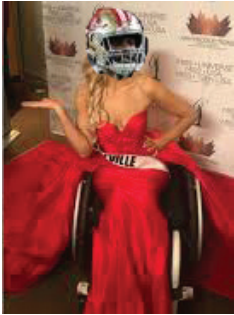
If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

Chemistry is what bonds us together.

Elements: making protons count.

49ers Win Ms. Congeniality at the LIV Superbowl

By Zach Lee Wright



The 49ers managed to lose their sixth Lombardi Trophy in franchise history in Super Bowl LIV, but came away with a cunning sash and an array of questionable calls leaving a least some modest room to whine about the Kansas City Chiefs' victory.

"We had a ten point lead with less than twelve minutes remaining," whispered one stunned fan. "And we had the ball."

Most 49ers fans agreed the officials played the dominant role in the Chiefs' victory.

"First the no timeout call ahead of a punt," specified another fan crying into his foam finger. "Then came the Kittle offensive pass interference, then the Chiefs' two no-call penalties. How do they not see that?"

Most fans just focused on the severe new stadium challenges, like somehow getting home within the week.

"We've learned how to take it," stated one. "I was just hoping against hope for a wardrobe malfunction."

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Flake News

By Randy Fingland

LATE SUMMER SNOW
INTRODUCES AUTUMN
TO THE HIGH SIERRA

Broken Wine Glasses, Riots in Wine Cave



BE SURE TO BRING YOUR BOXING GLOVES to your next wine cave party especially if you want to wear some of your Bernie gear.

By Ann Tonna-Doughnut

Crystal wine glasses smashed and centerpieces flew through the air during a wine cave fundraiser in the Napa Valley recently as Democrats argued over frontrunner Bernie Sanders' potential effect on the race for the Democratic nomination for president.

"He's going to ruin everything," shouted one local connoisseur clutching her glass of Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon 1992 rumored to be worth at least \$500,000.

"Imagine the stock market with a democratic socialist at the helm."

"Just imagine his Supreme Court picks," wept a sommelier carefully aerating a bottle of Château d'Yquem from 1811 insured for \$117,000. "Or try to imagine his idea for new White House holiday decorations."

"It's the policy I'm concerned about," stated a nearly sober wine cave party attendee having a second glass of Château Margaux from the year 1787 purported to be worth close to \$225,000. "I can't imagine how a Sanders administration plans to fund free

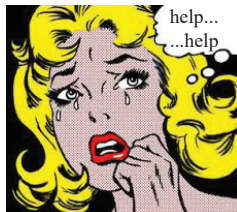
university education without reaching into my pocket."

"I agree, and I'm completely tapped out," agreed another wine cave participant at a table featuring a positively uncanny imitation of Château Lafite from 1869 worth considerably less than \$230,000 but with a very agreeable nose. "My most recent kitchen renovation was positively brutal."

Critics argued that both Sanders' universal healthcare policy and free education policy would save money, freeing healthcare from the grips of the insurance industry and enabling students to more immediately join the work force debt-free, but were dismissed by a table of wine cave revelers taking turns inhaling a glass of Heidsieck from 1907 estimated to be worth \$275,000 a bottle.

"It's that 's' word," explained one of the group. "If only Sanders had instead said a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole."

* * * * *



THE WINE CAVE RIOT gave some rich liberals a chance to show off their zumba moves while others whispered incoherently into their 300 thread count napkins.



NOT EVERYONE is in the Bernie Sanders fan club.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

CHAOS ERUPTS IN THE WINE CAVE...

C.DENNEY 2020

Local Scholars Unearth Misplaced People's Park State Inventory Document

By Clyde N. Midair

"It's real, alright," sighed one local historian questioned about the comments discovered on the decades-old state documents for People's Park's landmark listing which states "riot instigation" under "other past uses" for the park's site. "Somebody was having their fun."

State representatives acknowledged that People's Park's landmark listing, mysteriously missing despite Berkeley's certified local government status requiring its inclusion on state documents, did in fact exist in its charming original hand-typed form.

"Yes, well, okay, then," stated one of the state's preservationist staff confidentially to the Pepper Spray Times. "We have it now

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM _____ Site _____ Mo. _____ Yr. _____
UTM _____ O _____ NR _____ SH _____
Lat _____ Lon _____ Era _____ Sig _____
Adm. T2 _____ T3 _____ Cat. HARS _____ HAER _____ Fed _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: People's Park

2. Historic name, if known: Same

3. Street or rural address: Bounded by Dwight, Bowditch, Haste, and backs of Telg. Ave
City: Berkeley ZIP: 94720 County: _____

4. Present owner, if known: U.C. Regents Address: 2200 University
City: Berkeley ZIP: 94720 Ownership is: Public Private

5. Present Use: Park and parking lot Original Use: Houses
Other past uses: Riot instigation

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:
A gently sloping block with a few mature trees at its center, a spotty lawn, and dirt areas sometimes used for vegetable gardens and the beginnings of a proposed community-sponsored botanical garden.

THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENT regarding People's Park's landmark status, curiously missing from the appropriate file at the state's preservation office, was unearthed by patient local scholars from the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group and clearly lists "riot instigation" under "other past uses."

and promise we'll move it from its current listing as a prefix 2 property (a 'property deemed eligible to be listed in a higher prefix') to the prefix 5 list where it technically belongs, the 'Properties Recognized as Historically Significant by a Local Gov-



THE PEOPLE'S PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT ADVOCACY GROUP appreciates that while the state documents note "riot instigation" as one of People's Park's "other past uses," the Native Plant Garden, a university accredited community-inclusive program, deserves at least equal historic recognition.

ernment' listing." The local scholars who unearthed the discrepancy and provided copies of the appropriate documentation were modest about their efforts and generous about the discrepancy. One was heard saying, "They're probably busy getting ready for the 51st People's Park Anniversary."

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Next Issue: Singing Wheels on the Bus with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenny.com



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*Henry IV Part 1

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