

the
shy,
retiring
issue...



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

March 2022

Pepper Spray Times



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

"...Ay, to see meat fill knaves and wne heat fools..."

Vol. XXIII No. 3

Tonga Islands Tsunami Disrupts Off-leash Dog Walkers



OFF-LEASH DOG WALKERS WAIT IMPATIENTLY to get back to the shoreline and nature preserves where they can disrupt the most wildlife.

By Beryl O. Fish

A brand new island sprang to life after an underwater volcano in Tonga erupted without warning disturbing the off-leash dog walkers who found their usual political clout outweighed by Mother Nature and the Coast Guard.

BURROWING OWLS refuse to play a simple game of catch with Fluffy and Petunia.

"Petunia can handle herself," huffed one off-leash dog walker impatiently pacing near an inland fence line. "You should see her tear into the ground squirrels and burrowing owls. She's relentless."

Naturalists expressed concern that the overwhelming new number of dogs charging off-leash through parks during the pandemic has dramatically reduced park access for wussy people who don't want to get jumped



TSUNAMI WARNINGS may soon be located on Mount Diablo due to sea level rise.



HABITAT-SENSITIVE SHORELINE may benefit from tsunamis as destructive off-leash dogs become fish food.

on, barked at, or bitten but were dismissed. "These dogs may not look like they vote, but in effect they do," whispered one local park maintenance worker. "You pour your heart into starting and maintaining a pollinator garden and then along comes Fluffy and her owner with the sequined 60-foot retractable leash."

Local leaders insisted that park users, including wildlife, needed to cater to off-leash canines and learn a bit of self-defense.

"Those burrowing owls just sit there," pointed out one East Bay councilmember. "They could at least speak up and play nice with Fluffy and Petunia. I think that silent treatment the owls give them really hurts their feelings."

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Finland Clarifies "Housing First" Policy Means Actual Housing

By Bill Dinginspector

"We thought it was just a slogan," confessed one Berkeley City Hall staff member after a recent presentation on Finland's policy of providing housing to people who need it. "We frankly didn't dream that they were serious."

Finland's Housing First CEO Juha Kaakinen stated it simply, saying "we shut down all emergency and temporary shelters in favor of permanent housing," noting that Finland had committed to converting to permanent solutions since emergency shelters and hostels



PROVIDING ACTUAL HOUSING is apparently an effective approach to getting people under an actual roof.

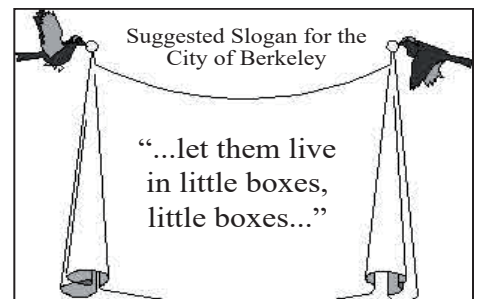
were failing to keep up with demand and were becoming an "obstacle" to solving homelessness.

Berkeley officials admitted that Finland's unhoused population has dropped to near zero as a consequence of taking the "Housing First" policy literally.

"We thought it was like 'Transit First', where you can just scatter some scooters around and call it a day," admitted one Berkeley official. "Our policy is still to chase people from park to park and hope they go away."

"We do expect people to spend years on our streets waiting for scarce temporary placements," acknowledged one housing staff worker. "It's like the weirdest boot camp on earth where you never know when the police or public works will pitch your belongings into a dumpster."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, are there any more under-water tsunamis in the works? That was really exciting for little Petunia.

Dear reader, yes. The undersea volcanos have big plans. And bring little Petunia down closer to the water next time.

Dear Lena, are they really going to combine the Planning Commission and the Cannabis Commission? How are they planning to get anything done?

Dear reader, we're not sure. They seem to be really loading up on snacks, however, and we hear plans are in the works for some really creative Zoom backgrounds.

Dear Lena, are they seriously collapsing the whole commission system in Berkeley and merging everything together? Isn't that a reduction in the whole idea of citizen involvement?

Dear reader, yes. And thank heavens. Nothing simplifies matters for the bureaucrats like sweeping pesky, inquisitive citizens out of the way. Some of these commissions are tempted to think they have an actual say in civic matters and must be stopped.

Dear Lena, I just read that Teslas make for the best vehicular sleeping. Is that really true and how can I break into one?

Dear reader, there's no need to break in. Tesla owners just assume someone else will take care of the driving and everything else, so just follow one into the bar and be patient. At some point, if you ask for the keys, they will hand them to you and usually only make it halfway to their car. You'll get a good night's sleep in the meantime and wake up refreshed and ready for the day.

Dear Lena, what's wrong with me just wearing a mask over my mouth but not my nose? Everybody looks at me funny.

Dear reader, it's like wearing your bathing suit over your knees.

Ask Lena about raccoons at cdenny@jgc.org.

Survey Proves Tesla is Best Car for Quality Vehicular Sleeping



AIRBNB ONLY CHARGES \$85 A NIGHT to sleep in this comfy Tesla so come on folks, pull it together and up your game.

By Bette R. Danever

"It's a class thing," confessed a Tesla sleeper keeping a low profile in San Jose's Santana Row parking lot. "I'm not saying your car won't get booted, but you'll probably be booted a little bit less than the ratty old van with the marijuana stickers."

"I used to sleep in a woody, but it's true that the Tesla is decked out with a charger and has its own kind of cache," confirmed another Tesla sleeper wringing his socks out in a local fountain. "And at least they

don't call it an 'oversize vehicle' like Santa Cruz and Berkeley, where if you get an RV you might as well shoot yourself."



MANY TESLA DRIVERS have plenty of practice sleeping in their vehicles.

Critics argued that the Tesla sleepers theoretically caused as much discomfort to residents who may not own the parking spaces in front of their homes but hate it when people sleep in their cars there and act like they have the right to be anywhere.



IF YOU FIND YOURSELF in the lane next to a Tesla driver who is fast asleep be sure to turn down your radio.

"It's true," responded a Tesla sleeper. "We're worse in some ways than the RV crowd. But we have that Elon Musk thing people just seem to love."

* * * * *

Pepper Spray Times Astrological Advice

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Children will show up on your doorstep saying they are yours and will want things. Buy them off if you can. Try candy, video games, and trips to high places with unsteady cliffs over deep canyons and try to learn their names so that if one slips over the edge you don't seem heartless.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

People will begin to avoid you but it's because they think you are too good for them. You will get rich giving seminars.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Nobody really enjoys your cooking, but they really love your silverware and enjoy taking a lot of it home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your car will be replaced with a team of turtles. They will be very dedicated, and have a great sense of humor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You will never have to repeat the fifth grade again. We pulled some strings for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Be patient with the flocks of turkeys wandering through Buchanan and San Pablo Avenue because they are packing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Life looks worse than it really is although come to think of it it is pretty bad.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Don't expect to get ahead of anything ever and if your boss asks for an appointment with you come down with something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

The best approach to this month is to wear oven mitts and flame-resistant clothing all the time everywhere because, well, you never really know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You missed your sweet spot about three years ago and now you will wander through life just a hair behind yourself looking around for your own shadow which will probably be laughing at you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You are not ready for prime time but your closet is ready, which is all that matters. Also, all your cookbooks are now in Italian, which is really a lot of fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Look sharp for undersea volcanos. They will play havoc in the kitchen when you're trying to prove your dough.

* * * * *

CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION can come from the oddest places and manifest for the most peculiar reasons so pay attention if you dare or look away, look away.

Despite years of Congressional partisan animosity, it is rumored that a group of progressive Democrats are cooperating with a Republican colleague in Congress to reach across the aisle to help the hard right wing firebrand Florida Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz. Party leadership on both sides appears to be applauding this cooperation as an effort to focus on mutual benefit.

Congressional Democrats commented that political advantage is not their motive given that Gaetz is from a deep red district in Florida that will be Republican for the foreseeable future. Democrats say Gaetz has had difficulties lately, including a failed fundraising campaign and a Department of Justice investigation for potential criminal activities related to sex trafficking of a minor, the latter of which Gaetz denies. Democrats say they're just trying to help a colleague in a difficult situation, because lawyers are really expensive.

Democrats admit it was not an easy deci-



WE DON'T SEE THE RESEMBLANCE but other people appear to think it is uncanny.

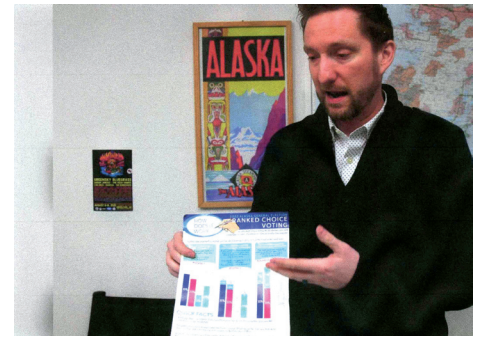
“Almost nobody understands the effect this will have on Alaska’s electoral system,” confessed legislators scrambling to answer curious Alaskan citizens’ phone calls. “But if New York and Maine can figure it out, we can, too.”

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sion to help Gaetz. A similar group wanted to help Ohio Republican Jim Jordan, who was involved in the Ohio State athletics/wrestling program sex abuse scandal when he was an assistant coach. But given that Ohio State has already paid out more than \$50 million to settle a class action and other lawsuits, Jordan's potential problems seem to be winding down. Things are so bad for Gaetz that to raise money for his lawyers he is reported to be making personal appearances as the character Butt-Head, famous from the Comedy Central cartoon "Beavis and Butt-Head", which ran for eight seasons and is slated for a Netflix reboot in 2022. Democrats say that this was a deciding factor in their decision to help Gaetz, because his new softened image as milquetoast-teenage-stoner-who-snickers-at-boobs is more voter-friendly than white-supremacist-sex-offender-of-a-minor image he is currently fending off.

Congressional Democrats ask you to give generously to the Special Fund for Matt Gaetz Legal Expenses Related to Potential Federal Charges for sex trafficking of a minor. Contributions to the Special Fund can only be used to pay for the legal defense of Matt Gaetz exclusively by the legal team which represented Ghislaine Maxwell where she was convicted on five of six Federal charges of sex trafficking a minor and faces a potential prison sentence of 60 years.

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JASON GRENN TRIES TO EXPLAIN ranked choice voting to a group of curious Alaskans which others who have tried this can tell you will either get you free beer for life or shot, depending on the mood of the crowd.

tions agreed that some confusion might ensue in the beginning, but pointed out that the decision was a “very clear and resounding win” for a system many argue is much less confusing.



“Without point fingers, it’s easy right now to suggest that political parties are not necessarily linked to any particular policy or platform,” observed Professor of Political Science Ron N. Circles at Alaska University. “In such a case primaries are more like a beauty pageant, which one might argue has only a passing overlap with the potential for legislative change.”

“Pick the top four in the primary. Seems simple to me,” stated an Alaskan King crab sidling across the tideline. “It makes more sense than trying to figure out what the platform is during this semantically challenged moment in time.”

"I just like that it saves money," added another King crab. "The cost of produce in winter up here is brutal."

* * * * *

by Franz Toast



How to Tell What the Mayor Really Thinks of Your Commission



THE PLANNING COMMISSION couldn't figure out why the Cannabis Commission laughed all the way through their first collective meeting and nobody can tell them without completely collapsing in helpless mirth.

By Flora DeBuilding

"We intended exactly that effect," stated Lori Droste, councilmember on the Commission Reorganization of Post-Covid 19 Budget Recovery about the combination of the Planning Commission and the Cannabis Commission. "One commission feels demeaned, the other one feels elevated, and after the bloodbath only the maleable will

be left."

"It's so much easier when people take their cues from the council which takes its cues from the university," stated fellow Councilmember and Commissioner Rigel Robinson. "I know I'm the youngest person on the council, but my experience proves that democracy is time-consuming, expensive, and much less likely to be amenable to the university's all-appointed political system."



THE PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION ran for its life but could not escape the axe.

"That's the point," stated Councilmember and Commissioner Rashi Kesarwani about the Peace and Justice's combination with the Human Welfare and Community Action Commissions. "We've heard enough whining for a lifetime; let



IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT your city manager and mayor see bunches of people as impediments to progress and welcome boiling the commission system down to one manageable commission that eats itself.

them all have to listen to each other for awhile."

Mayor Jesse Arreguin stated through a spokesperson that combining commissions was a cost-saving measure that encouraged cooperation.

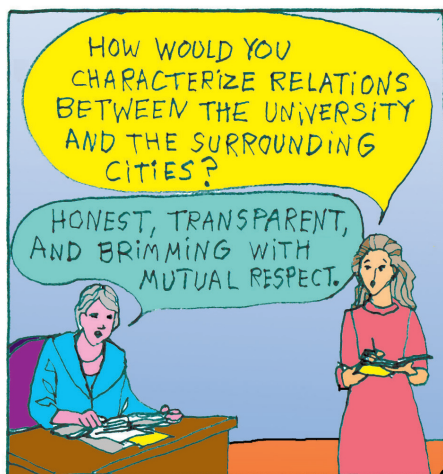
"We're looking for those people who don't mind if we ignore them. We really want to work with them."

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Next Issue: Tattooing sheep with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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