

the de-operationalized issue...



Pepper Spray Times

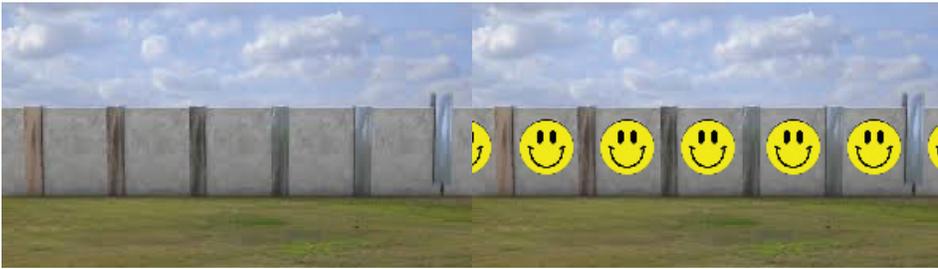


It's obvolute...it's free...if you can find it

"...caught the water, though not the fish..."*

Vol. XVIII No. 5

Border Wall with Smiley Face Wins Bid



BEFORE AND AFTER ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS OF THE BORDER WALL prove how easy it will be to create a decorative and enjoyable effect on the happy, well-adjusted, American side of the wall keeping out terrorists and bad hombres who want to take our freedom.



By Hugh Janbigly

White House insiders refused to confirm publicly the final design for the border wall, but information leaked recently indicates that the wall will feature happy smiley faces on the American side.

"We want something uplifting," stated an insider familiar with the discussions regarding the wall's design. "We want something that will reassure people that they are not only safe, but that they are being carefully watched by friendly faces."

"It was hard to find something with just the right touch," agreed an anonymous government official. "We started with Dis-

ney stuff and got a lot of pushback." Critics bristled that the smiley face is commonly used as a drug reference by the electronic dance music culture, particularly with acid house, music that emerged during the Second Summer of Love in the late 1980s, but were dismissed.

"We figure by now everything has some kind of drug reference," sighed the government official. "That was part of the problem with the Disney characters. We finally agreed to take the risk and hope we end up expanding the base."

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Paid Protesters Want to Give Back



PUSSYHAT PROTESTERS who were paid to protest made so much money they started up a yarn store.

inauguration day held a press conference recently acknowledging that they realized once they got their protest paychecks that they had made so much money they didn't know what to do with it.

"We're not used to having bank accounts like this," stated one protester. "We usually

The paid protesters who blew through the previous records for one-day protests the day after

blow it all on protest sign-making and hiring buses. We're having to give some serious thought to making some investments."

Pussyhat protesters in particular confessed they had had no idea that paychecks for their participation would come in the mail long after the march.

"It screws up your taxes," confessed one pink-hatted protester. "But it sure helped buy a lot more yarn."

"We finally hired an investment counselor," added another pink-hatted protester. "We felt that some sectors are better for dividend income than others and we wanted to consult on strategies like covered calls and collars."

* * * * *

By Emma Naitingjoy



Fearless Girl Beats Eviction



FEARLESS GIRL JUST WON'T go away and is spoiling the whole effect of the fearless bull at the other end of the sidewalk.

By Cole Danhungry

The 36-inch-tall bronze girl standing in front of the Charging Bull sculpture on Wall Street known as "Fearless Girl" has weathered a scheduled deadline for removal April 2nd, and may stay longer than that.

"I like it here," stated Fearless Girl. "I'm new to all the attention, so it's pretty fun."

Charging Bull maintains that he played no part in the lawsuit launched by his sculptor, Arturo Di Modica, but agrees that Fearless Girl's placement changes his own statement.



CHARGING BULL has filed suit against Fearless Girl and is getting a lot of email trolls threatening him. "It makes me look like a bully," stated Charging Bull. "I'm not responsible for the posture. I'm just doing what bulls do."

The people of New York City seem divided on the controversy.

"Just keep adding stuff, like Donald Duck or Marilyn Monroe," offered one New York resident. "This is just going to get more and more funny."

* * * * *

Favorite Rachel Maddow mis-statement...



"...unavoidable for comment..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so is this reality tv or is this the news? I'm trying my best, but I can't tell anymore.

Dear reader, thank heavens somebody is paying attention.

Dear Lena, but really, which is it?

Dear reader, nobody really knows. And tomorrow's iteration might be much worse.

Dear Lena, so should I keep watching?

Dear reader, flip a coin. Half the population will think you're a fool for paying attention and the other half will have disdain for you if you don't. Good luck.

Dear Lena, what is it with the word "pivot" everywhere? Everybody is saying how people are "pivoting" all the time, and the president should pivot all the time and they never used to say that. Where did it come from all of a sudden? And do I have to do it? I'm exhausted.

Dear reader, something had to fall into the great gulf left behind by the upcoming retirement of "at the end of the day", which initially hit hard and now has been hammered home a dozen times by your average broadcaster by mid-morning, much too early for the end of the day. A trope may be genuinely handy, but it gets tired of itself pretty quickly and feels the need to pivot at the end of the day.

Dear Lena, I still don't get it. Is this still reality? Isn't there some key to the code, or some website where somebody can explain it? Isn't anybody in charge? My wife keeps expecting me to have some answers and I'm just riffing.

Dear reader, just tell her what I tell everybody. It is a drinking game.

Dear Lena, so who wins?

Dear reader, nobody wins this one.

Ask Lena about what to do with leftovers for American Carnage at cdenny@igc.org.



THE EASTER BUNNY'S WHITE HOUSE GIG THIS YEAR was rumored to be smaller and riddled with difficulties. The Pepper Spray Times' Editor Grace Underpressure managed to interview her about the event shortly afterward and brings our readers her unique perspective firsthand.

PST Interview with the Easter Bunny



GU: How you doing?

EB: I'm exhausted, but okay.

GU: You've done this event dozens of time over the years. Is it still exciting?

EB: Well, (laughing) it was pretty exciting this year.

GU: Does the Trump administration have a different take on the egg roll?

EB: You could say that.

GU: What made it different this year?

EB: Well...(looking around) let's just say it had a unique flavor.

GU: I hear there were some scheduling issues.

EB: Not my department, but oh, yeah.

GU: Wells Wood Turning & Finishing, to be exact.

EB: Don't get me started. (pulling on a flask from a pocket)

GU: What else?

EB: Well (taking another pull) that travel ban thing.

GU: How does that affect the Easter Bunny?

EB: I get around.

GU: Was it harder this year?

EB: (taking another pull) Everything is

harder this year.

GU: I'm sorry to hear that.

EB: At least nobody got their pussy grabbed.

GU: Right. Okay. Uh, what else was new this year?

EB: Military bands. Nothing like Easter to the tune of The Honored Dead.

GU: What would they usually have for music?

EB: All manner of celebrity singers and musicians. It's usually a top gig, lots of PR, you know. But the top line players won't play. Just like the inauguration.

GU: I didn't realize that was still happening.

EB: They're trying to keep it quiet. But they're going to end up hiring school bands for everything at this rate. Four years of watered-down arrangements of Anchors Aweigh and Marche Militaire for every White House event under the sun. The guests don't notice or care, but if you work the gig you should get hazard pay.

GU: What else was new?

EB: Lots of designer baby clothes. Grass stains on Gabbana. It's frightening.

* * * * *

Pot 4:20 Party Before and After



BEFORE: People who approach the 4:20 pot celebration without the proper medication can become overly excited and even disoriented.



AFTER: Here is the same event as experienced by those who found just the right dose of just the right medication.



ERIK PRINCE KEPT AN EYE on the Easter egg roll for the Trump administration and is ready to help with the investigations of the investigations of the investigations.

Investigation of Investigation Now Under Investigation

By Lew Pulin

The absence of trust in both government and news organizations has created a crisis in the effort to investigate the Trump administration's conflicts of interest as well as the investigation of those investigations by news organizations and oversight groups leading to cries for further investigations of the investigations of the initial investigations.

"Our budget can't handle this," confided one official from the Office of Government Ethics confidentially to the Pepper Spray Times. "But we recognize that public trust is critical to maintaining democracy, so we're considering all options.

"We're considering privatization," stated one administration insider. "We think a group like Blackwater might be just the ticket. They've changed their name a couple times, but they have an excellent understanding of the strong relationships between government and the private sector."

Critics argued that Blackwater, now known as Academi, had disgraced itself by having four security guards found guilty of murder, manslaughter and weapons charges for slaughtering civilians in Iraq but were

Office of Government Ethics Installs "Turn-o-matic" Dispenser



By Lee Streyztyzn

"The Turn-O-Matic D900 Red/Gray Take a Number Ticket Dispenser is a lifesaver," confessed Office of Government Ethics Director Walter M. Shaub, Jr. "We're stacked worse than O'Hare over here."

Public impatience has been moderated since the installation of the Turn-O-Matic dispenser, which according to its manufacturer "is the best way to be fair when lines get long, and people are waiting in line and keeps the fuss and frustration down."

"It was only \$39.49 including the mounting hardware," stated Shaub. "The interested public was started to get pretty restless, so we had to do something."

"We have several refill rolls ready," stated another Office of Government Ethics employee. "We maintain quite a pace."

* * * * *



PUBLIC IMPATIENCE for the resolution of multiple investigations into apparent Trump campaign interactions with Russian officials and conflicts of interest is greatly lowered now that everybody has a number.

Trumps' Accomplishments During First 100 Days

By Hadley Noticed

* humiliated the entire United States and any sentient human beings on earth with the misfortune to be watching;

* energized his political opposition including a sizeable proportion of his own Republican party;

* gave the world the phrase "alternative facts";

* played a role in helping invent the now-%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%% dismissed by administration officials who pointed out that their company's founder, Erik Prince, was never charged and acted as an envoy to the Russians on behalf of the Trump team.

"We're pretty well acquainted," smiled one Trump insider. "He's Betsy DeVos's brother, so we had him on speed dial in case the Easter egg roll got out of hand."

* * * * *

historic "pussy hat";
* makes everybody else look sane;

* makes all previous presidents look like shining examples of competency;

* rolled out the red carpet for an acceleration of climate change;

* provided a full employment program for his own friends and family;

* redefined "conflict of interest" as just another obvious evolution of privatization;

* took down the Republican party better than any Democratic effort all by himself unless you count the Russians, Comey, Assange, the power of meaningless catchphrases like "lock her up", and years of inexplicable exposure on reality tv.

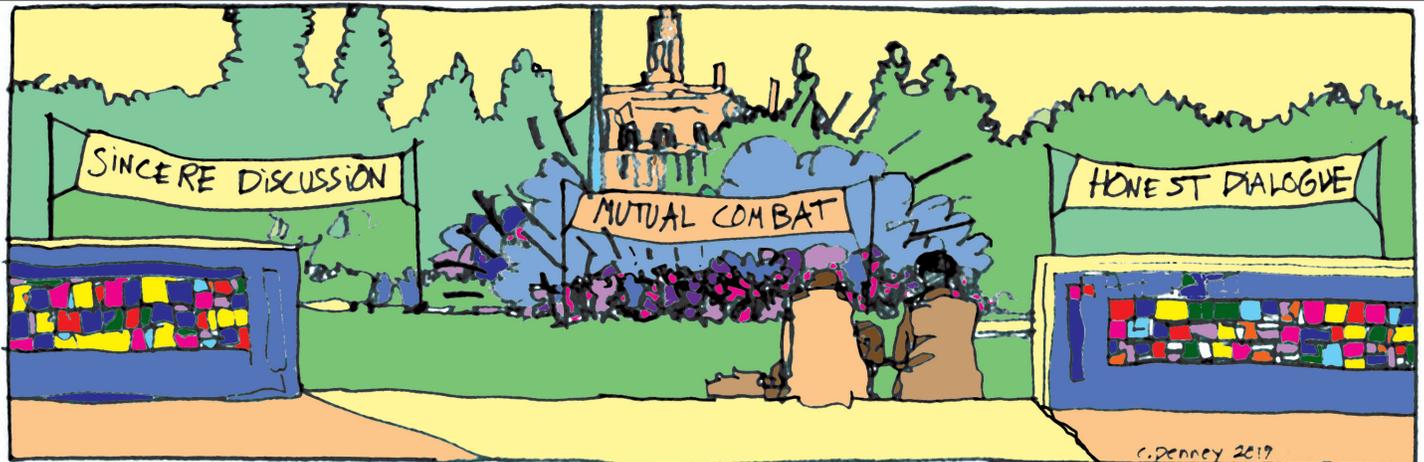
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TRUMP IS really proud of his 100 days trophy.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



c. Denney 2017

White House Son-in-law Joins White House Daughter in Really Important, Tremendous White House Role

By G. O. Kashing



KUSHNER'S new White House role isn't just frivolous political payback at all because he does all kinds of business stuff you wouldn't understand unless you were really rich.

"I drew that from my experience in the private sector," stated Kushner with gravity. "I sought and received input from myself and after great discussion we are in agreement to use those really great folder things with the slide-on binders."

President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is now in charge of the new White House Office of American Innovation, a task force where tremendous new things replace tired old things that everybody is really tired of in the first place.

He will have sweeping authority to modernize government including getting rid of those reports with three little spinning brads on the back that scratch furniture and are always so annoying which will be tremendous.

TRUMP'S family's lack of policy experience is considered fresh and tremendously innovative.



POSING WHILE LOOKING WEALTHY is a misunderstood part of the President's family's job and is a lot harder than it looks.



White House officials state that Kushner will also head up tasks such as battling opioid addition, transforming health care for veterans, and finding the body of Jimmy Hoffa. "We're also going to find out where the ice cubes go after you put them in the freezer all



JARED KUSHNER AND IVANKA TRUMP have no plans to confuse government business with their private business interests such as Ivanka Trump's clothing line which just came out with a charming spring collection available both online and at Macys.

ready for the lemonade and then all of a sudden they're not there," stated Kushner. "We're going to look into that."

Kushner had no apologies over having taken a ski vacation during the disastrous first White House effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, which he agreed is a White House priority.

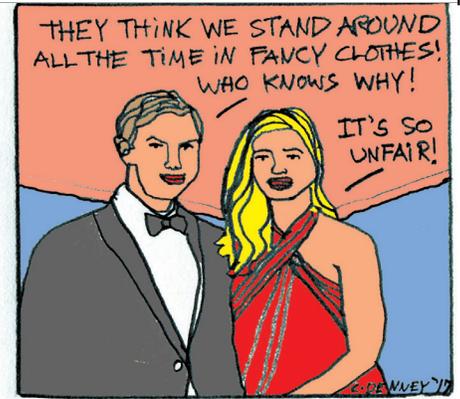
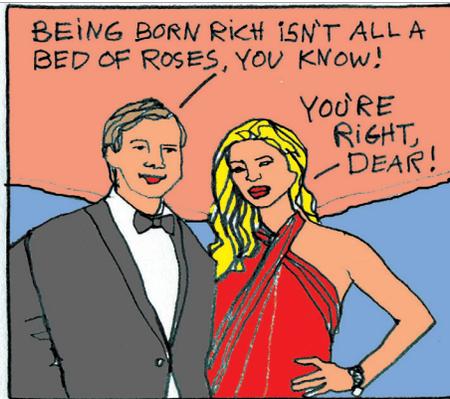
"Health care is very important," he agreed. "But most people understand that so is fresh powder."

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Next Issue: Barbecuing old socks with celebrities!

Get Your Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod

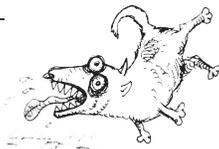


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cdenny@igc.org
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Pepper Spray Times Staff

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Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Distribution.....Ambrose Wolfinger
Staff.....Hugh Janbigly, Emma Natingjoy,
Cole Danhungry, Lena Deeter, the Easter
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*The Winter's Tale

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