

the workers of the world unite issue...



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

May 2019



Pepper Spray Times

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

"...thou unnecessary letter!...*

Vol. XX No. 5

Plan for Solving Homelessness Through Defunct Sailboats Hits Rocks

By *Xaviera Pinions*

A Berkeley City Council consent calendar item which attempted to obtain a grant to address the removal of sinking, rotting sailboats at the Berkeley Marina almost sank the meeting itself on Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 as creative thinkers suddenly wanted the bevy of broken boats to be fixed up "for the homeless."

"It came out of nowhere," said one bewildered City Hall staff member in a quivering voice. "We were just trying to secure the grant before they sink and it becomes a whole different issue."

Attendees at the meeting to protest the criminalization of recreational vehicles seized on the boats as a ready-made housing alternative, creating a frenzy of misconception about anchor-in living and the habitability of Berkeley's sunken boats.

"I was wild about the plan," stated one local citizen eager to find creative ways to reduce homelessness in Berkeley by using the couple dozen decrepit sailboats sinking in the Berkeley Marina, "until I found out it would typically cost an estimated \$700,000 per boat."

"I had my outfit all picked out," nodded another tent-dweller ruefully when a local waterfront commissioner clarified that the realistic costs of sailboat rehabilitation would make it more cost effective to simply rent rooms at a local hotel.

"That's almost as much as the cost of one



THIS OCEANFRONT PROPERTY only needs half a million dollars in do-it-yourself repairs and a parrot for your shoulder for a fun-packed voyage to Hawaii.

of those 'tiny houses' when you factor in the habitability requirements," agreed another local resident ruefully.

"They never want to mention the land costs or the necessity of nearby cooking and sanitation facilities for those things, which really makes the \$700,000 boat fixer-upper proposal look almost sensible."

Berkeley civic leaders are turning themselves inside out trying to use up every inch of available land to situate Silicon Valley workers before local housing advocates realize that without honest rent control whatever is built in Berkeley will be a party zone for the tech crowd.

Critics argued that Berkeley doesn't have the money to pay for housing for its poor until taking a good look at the wine and beer budget for the well-funded Business Improvement District events.

"So we *have* the money," commented a dazed Berkeley citizen hanging onto a shopping cart to steady himself.

"Of course they have the money," sighed another local resident panhandling by the bakery. "They spent over six million dollars buying the old Premier Cru complex."

"It would have been a dream come true," mused one local developer. "Imagine scraping out the pockets of a housing-challenged public *without* having to acquire land in the first place. I mean, there's a lot of ocean out there."



THE BEST VIEWS from this property are both from the deck and also underwater, which offers an up-close vista of marine life.

The Mueller Report: A Review



READERS POUR THROUGH the recently released and greatly hyped Mueller Report trying to figure out whodunnit.

By *Omar Gosh*

"Perhaps my expectations were too high," sighed book reviewer for the Boise Bee Phyllis Stein of the recently released Mueller Report, "but I found the writing disappointingly dry."



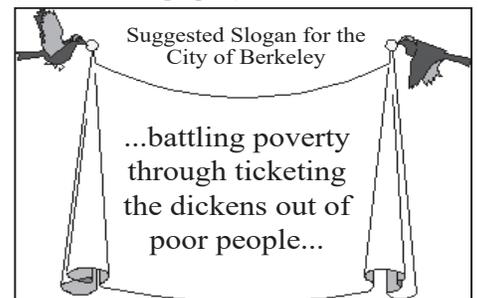
THOSE WHO MOST ENJOY THE MUELLER REPORT tend to be the same people who claim to have read Finnegan's Wake.

"It was promoted as a blockbuster," agreed another book reviewer, Rick E. Dink of the Butte County Recorder, "so the lack of descriptive narrative definitely worked against it."

The publication was the object of overwhelming speculation for two years, such that interested readers had readied themselves for a suspense-filled bodice ripper.

"I would have liked to have had Ivanka play a larger role," commented one disappointed reader. "She seems to handle the spotlight really well."

"I would have loved more Donald Jr.,"
(continued on page 2)



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...battling poverty through ticketing the dickens out of poor people...

* * * * *

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I don't like this idea of eating up public school property to build teachers-only housing. Police officers are important, too, not to mention bartenders. Why single out only one part of the workforce for housing help? It isn't like firefighters and latte pumpers aren't in trouble at work if they're late. Why not make housing available to people who need it period?

Dear reader, at least one of the Housing Advisory Board commissioners bristled at the implication that all other members of Berkeley's workforce were expendable, or that teachers' commute burdens alone were worth sacrificing scarce public land. But this proposal's wheels are really thick with grease. Nobody wants their kid to lose at the science fair. That's why the cops solve this problem by a sophisticated system of sleeping in their cars near the station waiting for their shift when they go out and harrass the RV dwellers.

Dear Lena, so, that school district land really could be used to situate the RV dwellers? Because some of them are teachers. Some of them are students, for heaven's sake.

Dear reader, yes, the Berkeley City Council could direct the City Manager to situate RVs in a small ratio of each parking lot throughout town, using relatively unused parking lots like the BUSD lot on Addison. It could also order the police to stop concentrating RVs in District One, which caused the uproar in the first place. Note, when the teachers show up to beg for the council's attention, how they're not told what the RV crowd was told - that it's just so unfortunate that their jobs don't pay enough but what can you do.

Dear Lena, but doesn't this public property belong to the public? Isn't that us?

Dear reader, yes.

Dear Lena, doesn't that suck?

Dear reader, totally.

Ask Lena about pie at cdenney@igc.org.

Federal Judge Refuses to Play Ball on Oil and Gas Drilling

"Climate Change" Hoax Plays Havoc with Lucrative Plans to Drill

By Micha Train

"We have a plan B," drilling project organizers hastened to state in an effort to reassure investors in drilling plans in Wyoming after a U.S. District Court Judge ruled that the Trump administration violated federal law by failing to take "climate change" into account in its impact statement.

The surprising ruling thrilled the scruffy crew of liberals and advocacy groups such as the WildEarth Guardians



WYOMING OIL AND GAS DRILLING was going to be a rip-snorting party until U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras of Washington state just couldn't pump up any enthusiasm for the Interior Department's drilling plan.

many of whom already have their plane tickets and have already bought a new bathing suit.

"This is so inconvenient," huffed an Interior Department staffer. "They didn't void the leases, but they're expecting us to redo the analysis of hundreds of projects, which will really cut into our racketball time."

Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon urged calm, pointing out that fossil fuel interests have been pretty well situated in successive administrations.

"We're working on making the drilling proposal over into an historic re-enactment event," stated Governor Gordon. "No liberal can turn that down."

* * * * *



IF THIS "CLIMATE CHANGE" HOAX picks up speed the plan is to drill as a re-enactment of Wyoming's earliest oil sale which occurred along the Oregon Trail in 1863.

and the Physicians for Social Responsibility, who claimed that the decision by U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras would have implications for oil and gas drilling on federal land throughout the west and really put a cramp in vacation plans for the 1%,

(Mueller Report - continued from page 1)

confessed another reader who admitted he had quit reading after the first twenty-odd pages. "He's got that sassy attitude his father has. I thought it would have made more literary sense to have him more central to the plot."

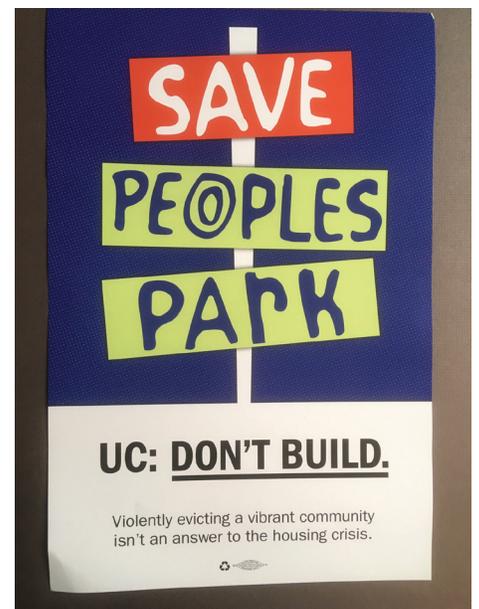
Other critics argued that the plot itself was thin and predictable given the author's tendency toward understatement.

"I've read his stuff before," noted reader Barry Senchals who is busy writing a screenplay for Hollywood. "He's always good, but as an author he's somewhat linear. I promise the film will have a lot more juice."

* * * * *



SOME INSISTED THAT the Mueller Report was truly well-written and like most literary works simply misunderstood.



LOCAL ARTISTS LEFT THESE POSTERS lying around without considering the possibility that they might influence people who ought to know better about influential landmarks in history, which, for safety's sake, should be obscured and destroyed before their popularity creates traffic hazards..

Sled Dog Explains Iditarod Sit-in



By Helen Backagain

"It just didn't seem right," stated "Joey", the sled dog which Iditarod insiders say is being blamed for erasing a five-hour lead in the recent Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. "I'll run for miles in harsh conditions, I'll put up with blizzards, white-outs and negative 100 wind chill conditions. But come on, don't yell at me."

Musher Nicolas Petit admitted he had raised his voice to the dog, but pointed out that Joey had jumped another sled dog he had been fighting with earlier on the trail and was trying to calm the dogs.

"The yelling affected all of us," stated Joey. "I admit I snapping at another member of our team, but neither of us thought it was a big deal. But the yelling, well, we just all sat down and wouldn't



"JOEY" THE SLED DOG ADMITS he played a large role in Musher Nicolas Petit's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race after getting yelled at, which he felt was inappropriate.

"They hate driving," affirmed the expert. "Avoid giving them the keys or they'll probably just eat them."

edged that he spoke to them respectfully the entire 998 mile race route.

Joey says he feels fine about losing the race and having the whole team quit co-operating with Petit, the musher, only 200 miles from the finish

line.

"It's just solidarity," Joey pointed out. "We don't really care about food and we don't really think about the future. Most of us have no idea who wins or loses these things. We just get in gear and go."

Experts acknowledged that sled dogs tend to exhibit something akin to labor solidarity since the \$51,000 for the victory, plus a new truck wouldn't be of much use to the dog teams, who hate driving.

"They hate driving," affirmed the expert. "Avoid giving them the keys or they'll probably just eat them."

Joey agreed that their motivation is different from human motivation and has greater connection to belly scratching and dinner. He also admitted that he had eaten his share of car keys.

"Winning or losing a race doesn't make that much difference to us dogs," stated Joey. "They don't put our names in the records. But hey, don't yell at us."

* * * * *



FOOTBALL PLAYERS get hit in the head a lot so even if they start college as not the brightest bulbs in the bunch they get stupider.

Legislators Flail Over College Admissions Policies After Cheating Scandal

UC Administrators Worry Fair Admissions Policy Will End Football Program

By Abby Waiting

UC officials scrambled to respond to the admission scandal revealing that wealthy parents bought their kids' way into college. They acknowledged reluctantly that special admissions pathways for athletic abilities, donor connections, and forbeats who attended the university had created a system anything but fair even without cheating.

"We can't really argue that we don't have racial bias, or gender bias, and we sure do have income bias," stated one official. "We're afraid for the future of football."

Critics argue that UC San Diego gave up having a football team years ago, and that since 99% of football players end up with brain damage giving up football would reduce costs and ensure that college athletes wouldn't end up stupider at the other end of their studies.

"The main thing to do is admit applicants who meet the basic qualification by lottery," offered one. "There's been nothing fair about the admissions process yet."

"150 years of unfairness is enough," agreed one California high school applicant. "Spin the wheel. At least that way I'll have a chance."

* * * * *



SLED DOGS GET ALONG pretty well most of the time and don't care what they have for dinner or who controls the remote.

go. That's not part of our contract."

It isn't the first sled dog labor strike on record, but it cost front-runner Petit a crucial five-hour lead in a race eventually won by Peter Kaiser whose dog team acknowl-

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Berkeley Unified School District Wants to Become Company Town

By Missy Leda Lottapeople

“Welcome to the company town,” commented one wry observer watching the Housing Advisory Commission happily accept the suggestion that the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) cannibalize its recreational and parking space to house a tiny ratio of teachers in teacher-only housing.

“Only while they’re actively teaching,” explained one of the proposal’s presenters. “As soon as they’re fired, retired, or relocated they can hit the road.”

Critics, including one brave commissioner, noted that teachers aren’t the only important part of the workforce having to commute long distances between home to work in Berkeley, but were dismissed.

“Other workers may be important, and they may be underpaid as well,” responded one of the proposal’s presenters. “But we’re

Next Issue: Meditating on vegetables with celebrities!



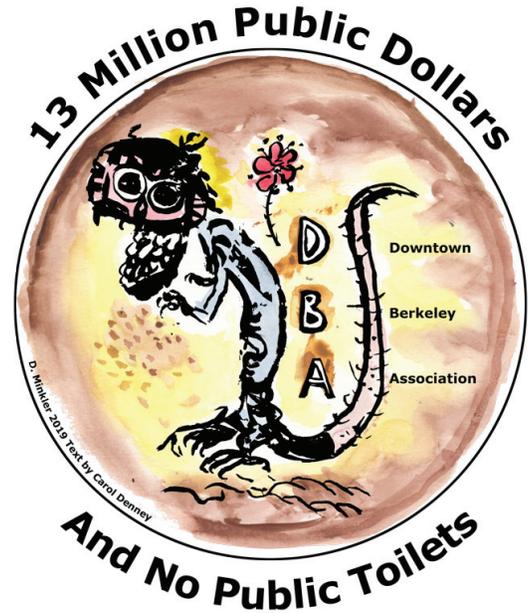
ANOTHER RV PARKING AREA was discovered right by the new Berkeley City Council meeting venue but apparently nobody can use it because it is one of the planned sites for building teachers-only housing for a tiny ratio of teachers so the rest of them can just keep on living in RV housing and driving around between 2:00 am and 5:00 am so they don’t get a ticket.

not only organized - we hand out out your kids’ grades.”

Others expressed concern that the “company town” concept of having one’s employer control something as fundamental as housing had not worked out well in the coal fields of West Virginia, but were dismissed.

“It gives us an extra edge,” agreed a BUSD spokesperson. “In case we need it.”

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The insistence of the Downtown Business Association (DBA) that Berkeley’s \$13,000,000 BART plaza be toilet-free is a radical and unwanted experiment in human hygiene. Unelected, unaccountable, and inexplicably in charge of our sanitation and civil rights, the DBA has ensured that while at the plaza, your personal hygiene will be an adventure.

Defund the DBA and the BID (Business Improvement District). Restore democracy.

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



THE BIG SCREEN TVS COMING SOON TO YOUR NEARBY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT are so depressed about having to participate in the “IKE” kiosk nightmare that they’ve taken to making confusing, self-destructive remarks and need psychiatric assistance.

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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)... Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



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Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted. *King Lear

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.