

the tedious, annoying issue..



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

November 2022

Pepper Spray Times



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

"..will these hands ne'er be clean?.."

Vol. XXIII No. 11

Gambling Proposition Tanking; Requests Help from Panhandlers

Proposition 27 Can't Buy a Friend

By Yuri Volting



NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT the strange connection Proposition 27 wants to make with homelessness and poor people, but it fits right in with California's extreme sport: unintelligible initiatives you can't figure out but feel guilty no matter how you vote.

California voters aren't warming to the upcoming electoral opportunities to make life even easier for gambling operations and other out-of-state special interests.



A LITTLE HUMOR goes a long way in fundraising, as poor people tend to know.

Ballot greased with deceptive ads paid for by out-of-state interests. Otherwise Californians are just too smart."



A SHAMELESS promotion for the Pepper Spray Times Anthologies... makes a perfect gift.

"It's distressing," stated one Prop 27 campaign worker. "In our business we think the only way around California's tendency to pass progressive legislation is the initiatives we can shoehorn onto a lengthy ballot greased with deceptive ads paid for by out-of-state interests. Otherwise Californians are just too smart."

Homeless and poor people agree that the idea of a gambling-based windfall for more ambiguous "services" instead of housing is stupid.

"If these corporations wanted to be helping homeless people and mentally ill people, they

could use their foundations, which they all frickin' have," stated Organizing Director of Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) Paul Boden.

"We have sympathy for people in trouble," agreed a panhandler standing at the corner of Market and 5th in San Francisco. "But putting gambling in the mix seems bizarre."

"We don't mind helping out-of-state interests or people getting off the street," observed another panhandler rolling up a tent near the Civic Center BART station.

"Friendly gestures are best, and a smile is always helpful in breaking the ice."

Humor, experts agree, is key to getting and maintaining a certain level of attention in a disorienting environment bursting with disinformation and distractions.

"FanDuel, BetMGM and DraftKings don't have a very neighborly profile," noted one election consultant. "They're from out of state, are terrible at telling a joke, and never show up for the coastal cleanup."

"We're used to being used as political props," smiled a man who claimed to be Joe Shmoe while sweeping the sidewalk around his tent.

But usually they're willing to admit its all a cover for some slimy deal for real estate."

"Gambling's kind of a hard sell," added Shmoe. "We Californians were told all kinds of benefits would come from the lottery, the casinos, and that stuff was bull. But if they need some help with a cardboard sign I would be glad to give them some pointers."

* * * * *



FUNNY SIGNS can help create personal connection, which clearly eludes out-of-state gambling interests.



EYE CONTACT presents a fundraising difficulty for out-of-state gambling interests.

Pumpkins Demand Adaptive Scooters



THE "MICROMOBILITY" PROGRAMS set up by the City of Berkeley left out a lot of people and pumpkins who are really pissed off.

By Winston Lewsom

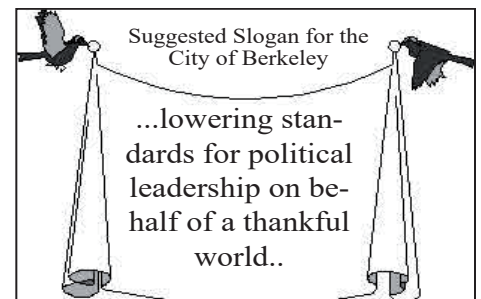
While public protest against the scooter invasion grew exponentially, pumpkins played an interesting card by demanding adaptive scooters which competing companies know they need to provide people unable to ride standing up to argue that "the public" has equal access to the sidewalk-blocking, traffic-snarling two-wheeled terrors flooding the streets.

The scooter invasion is the result of an affection Mayor Jesse Arreguin has for out-of-towners who perpetually forecast that as we grow older we will do our errands and shopping on bicycles, happily threading our way through traffic blind to small vehicles and statistics which prove cars and bikes which "share the road" produce huge discrepancies in injuries and death depending entirely on the vehicle.

"But they're so cute," is usually the argument in favor of bicycles.

"Yes, they are," stated the wife of one recently deceased bike rider. "He loved that little blue one."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so the Berkeley City Council repealed a law from the 1970's making it a crime to sleep in your vehicle. Didn't current Mayor Jesse Arreguin promise this on the way into office along with safe campgrounds and parking areas for the 1/3 of Berkeley residents and workers who sleep in their cars?

Dear reader, yes, he did. You should be careful remembering too much, which will only lead to suspicion and derision from your fellow citizens but more importantly your legislators, who don't appreciate having their records brought up right before an election.

Dear Lena, so where are vehicle dwellers supposed to park in this town?

Dear reader, the Berkeley City Council just recognized that having a law they are barring the police from enforcing makes them look like complete doofuses who spend hours and hours of taxpayer money creating hypothetical extremities for traffic and parking enforcement officers who are expected to try to explain the ordinance that does, in fact, exist, but which cannot be enforced because there is no way to effectively comply with contradictory law. And this, my friend, is considered progress.

Dear Lena, what can we do about this? I mean, between writing online reviews of my last Amazon purchase?

Dear reader, well, for purely entertainment purposes, you should try to vote. It's going to get really real this time.

Dear Lena, can I drink water while standing in line to vote?

Dear reader, only if you bring it yourself and don't live in either Flint, Michigan, or Jackson, Mississippi.

Dear Lena, are you serious?

Dear reader, I try not to be, but these days it's a real workout.

Got a question? Ask Lena about lurid descriptions of appetizers at cdenny@igc.org.



Breaking News

BROADCASTER BUNNY had difficulty articulating the story of Scruffy because of his personal friendship with the beloved neighborhood character who always told a great joke.

of the Queen of England.

"It's part of history," said Emu, one of the court reporters who assisted with the lengthy trial featuring dozens of witnesses and hundreds of reporters vying for seats in the crowded courtroom. "I'm just honored to have been any part of it."

Scruffy was not well known before the trial outside of San Francisco, but was transformed into an international symbol of a city's cruel neglect in coverage which local San Francisco officials decried as unnecessarily sympathetic.

Trial of Scruffy Ends with Conviction, 45 Day Sentence

By Lynn Riordan

Beloved local activist and street personality Scruffy was convicted and sentenced to forty-five days in court-ordered rehabilitation in a trial which captured international attention and overrode the coverage of the funeral

"For heaven's sake, she was a raggedy no-count," huffed one local official who argued that allowing Scruffy on the streets had a terrible impact on business and that tourists, while charmed by her stories and slide guitar, probably had no idea how annoying she was when she was on a bender.

"We know, we know her really well," offered a court attendee wearing a "Free Scruffy" t-shirt. "I guess we're all a little imperfect, and our Scruffy's no different."

San Francisco Tourism Board's spokesperson, Wilma Ship-



Emu Court Reporter

THE COURT REPORTER confessed that she had an inexplicable affection for Scruffy, who was a great chess player and always had a great story to tell about marginalized people no one else seemed to know. She admitted that without Scruffy her own stories would be pretty dry, and plans to visit her in jail.

admitted that the international spotlight had inspired her to consider the special attention to Scruffy's ordeal an opportunity to highlight the faint amount of compassion still left in a city struggling with its sense of identity.

"We're trying to look on the bright side," she stated. "Not everyone gets a chance to let the whole world know that despite their struggles and their very human foibles, the world can decide to reach out and to care. Scruffy touched hearts, and at least in our city, that can matter."

* * * *
ONE COURTROOM ATTENDEE maintains that Scruffy changed her life by suggesting that she become a farmer.



She went to trial.

SCRUFFY'S ORDEAL seemed endless to the enraptured through watching her trial, but her sentencing didn't seem to phase her because she had been through so much in her difficult life.



She became a farmer.

The Trial of Scruffy

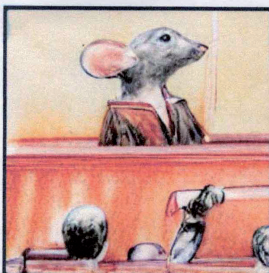
If convicted of being a Bad Boy, Scruffy could receive a sentence from 2 days in the doghouse up to 90 days in rehab.



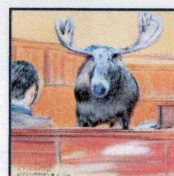
Scruffy in court.



Defendant's defense team, Monkey and Mouse, LLC.



The Honorable Judge Mouse presiding.



Witness for the prosecution.



Witness for the defense.

Outside of court, Scruffy talking to the media:



Hey, so what if I like to drink? They don't call it a dog's life for nothing. I can quit anytime I want to. I just don't want to.

Scruffy was convicted and sentenced to 45 days in rehab.



FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S HALF-BUILT BORDER WALL involved private citizens' funding and a corrupt group of his closest confidants pocketing the dough.

California Requests Border Wall Funding

By Don Tread

The Department of Homeland Security received an urgent request from the State of California for federal funding of 506 miles of new border wall specifically referencing a potential deterrent against being overrun by migrants with extremist beliefs, many of whom are criminals or drug traffickers.

The wall is cited as being necessary due to the extreme low water levels on the Colorado River, which previously served as a natural barrier and now needs replaced by a physical barrier, a "big beautiful wall." The low water levels combined with already occurring higher temperatures from man-made global warming are expected to destroy agriculture, golf courses and swimming pools.

California officials expect a surge of migrants from Arizona due to increasing temperatures and low water levels in the Colorado River leading to brown golf courses, no winter vegetables and people desperate for a swimming pool. Thousands will head to Bakersfield, 10 degrees cooler than Phoenix but still hotter than hell seeking an oasis of politically like-minded people in the deep blue state of California. Kern County is already rezoning agricultural land to residential to accommodate the requisite number of trailer parks.

Officials asked about potential criminals

and drug traffickers elaborated: "given that Arizona is an 'open carry' state, many former Arizona residents would be 'packing' when they come to California, where 'open carry' is prohibited."

In addition, migrants from Arizona are expected to have "calves the size of cantaloupes" from toting backpacks full of drugs; vitamin supplements and erectile dysfunction pills from Alex Jones or Dr. Oz.

Political extremism is rife in Arizona, evidenced by a large slate of Republican 2020 election deniers who won primaries, including candidates for governor, state senate, secretary of state, and congress. The full slate includes election deniers, QANON members, and "Big Dick Energy" supporters. (A special shout out for Mark Finchem and Kari Lake for adding this extra bit of crazy to the campaign.) They represent the will of the millions of Republican voters in Arizona. Many are saying they have not seen this kind of crazy since 1964, when the US Senator from Arizona, Barry Goldwater, suggested the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam. As they say, "the force is strong with this one", but not in a good way. California officials want to get as little of this crazy on them as possible as they start to chant in unison, "build the wall."

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Zombie Anti-RV Law Is Finally Dead...

Or Will It Rise Again?

By Yvonne Itup



RV LIVING is tight, but it beats the streets.

Berkeley City Council recently voted to repeal a 1970 ordinance that prohibits anyone from "camping" in a vehicle within city limits, as well as a 2019 ordinance allowing overnight parking of RVs or campers at a Tuesday meeting but had collective difficulty explaining exactly what they were doing and why zombie laws were invented in the first place.

The 2019 ordinance was accompanied by an edict which maintained that the law would not be enforced until space was found within the city to safely, legally park RVs for the population of people who live in them, a population numbering in the hundreds and who were being shuffled from one part of town to the other while the Council "studied" the parking issue.

In the meantime, the Golden Bear Inn has already received \$16.4 million for the project and is working with the city to provide immediate housing to 44 older homeless individuals over a short time frame.

"That's \$372,727 per individual per year," pointed out one puzzled taxpayer. "Divided by three years that would still be \$124,242 per person, which could sure get you better digs. Where is this money going, anyway? You could buy a small farm in Virginia for that kind of money."

"It does make you wonder," agreed another local resident. "And the only thing they want to do is 'streamline' the process, a word that always makes me shudder."

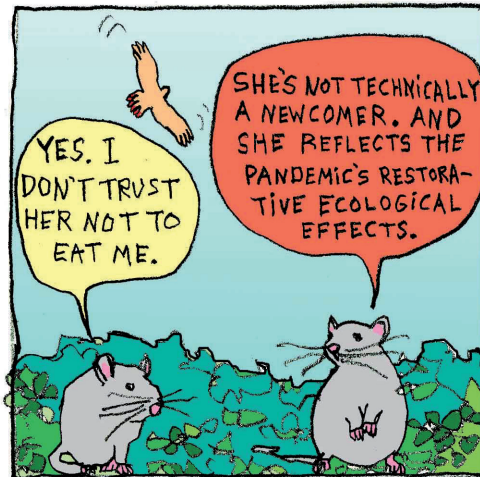
The Council agreed to study on that issue as well as the three-year search goes on for a legal place for the hundreds of people who live in RVs to safely park.

"I hope they appreciate our patience," offered one RV dweller. "My kids could really use a little stability. And they could sure teach the council how to study."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Skinner Finally Embraces Nuclear Power

By Vera Roundy Facts

A speak out was held in front of the Oakland office of State Senator Nancy Skinner, who, after years of resisting the seductive charms of nuclear power, couldn't resist giving the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant another ten years of life in exchange for what was purported to be love letters, bouquets of roses, and a senatorial sinecure for as long as she wants.

"They were irresistible," stated Skinner, who styled herself an environmentalist for years before being seduced by the "high-rises are green" set. "They really know how to play my kind of love song."

Skinner arranged for taxpayers and ratepayers to cover the \$1.4 billion dollar cost of postponing Diablo Canyon's closure and suggested that everybody throw bake-sales for the struggling PG&E and Diablo Canyon power companies.

"The pandemic has been particularly hard on power companies," she stated. "It's hard for the average consumer to imagine how disappointing it is when PG&E opens an envelope and finds a payment for only a portion of the bill. It really breaks their bookkeepers' hearts."

Skinner was charged with secretly con-

spiring with PG&E and California Governor Newsom, which is really silly since they're old friends and talk all the time and could have been talking about recipes and sports.

SB 846's critics also cited a lack of oversight, which is just silly. Everybody knows already that Diablo Canyon is built on earthquake faults and you don't see people running around screaming about it all the time.

Speakers also talked about the Fukushima power plant in Japan which is still suffering with the failure to remove the melted rods in the broken plant 11 years after the Fukushima nuclear plant melt down but that's really old news, isn't it.

The Japanese government with the support of the US government is planning to dump 1.3 million tons of radioactive Tri-



PROTESTERS MISUNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF making sure nuclear power plants don't feel slighted by all the new popularity of solar power and stuff like that, since most people understandably want to stay in the game and feel relevant.

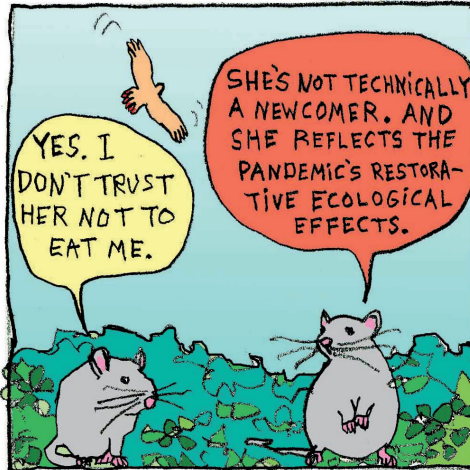
tium into the Pacific Ocean since liability for deaths, fires and explosions throughout California have been rolled back, so why not this weird stuff.

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Next Issue: Embroidering straightjackets with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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