

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

September 2019

the
synchron-
ized
swimmer
issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's kaoline...it's free...if you can find it "...tidings do I bring and lucky joys...*

Vol. XX No. 9

DBA "Public area morning wake up" Service "Activates" the Poor

Two-hour Fresco Showing for Public

Hospitality & Outreach

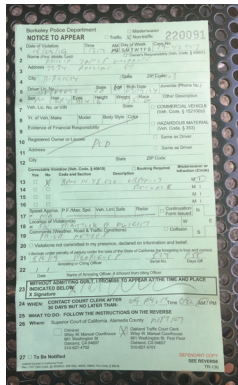
- On street concierge assistance
- Safety escorts
- Daily reporting of public area maintenance issues and hazards
- Address low level municipal code violations
- Event hosting, operations and patrols
- Hotline phone number available to public/businesses
- Social service outreach and referrals
- Public area morning wake ups
- Mental health responses



ONLY REALLY CRABBY PEOPLE DON'T ENJOY being awakened at 7:00 am by the Downtown Berkeley Association's perky "ambassador" crew in their bright jackets so they can enjoy the new streamlined \$13 million dollar renovated bathroom-free and bench-free Bart plaza's amenities such as the desert-like landscape enhanced by an absence of well, anything.

By Javier Ownway

"It's a rush," admitted one tent-dweller about the 7:00 am wake-up calls generously offered by the \$1.8 million publicly-funded business lobby known as the Downtown Berkeley Association. "You have to move fast if you want to hang onto your belongings under this new 3x3 foot law."



GREEN IS THE COLOR scheme even for the ticket you'll get if you can't fold up your tent in time to look "activated" enough for the \$1.8 million dollar Downtown Berkeley Association.

People deemed by the DBA to have too many personal belongings can receive the colorful citation at left, an example of "Ambassador Resistant Emergencies" requiring police intervention and public funding in the form of court costs.

Critics objected to this extra-judicial, publicly funded but unaccountable system of sorting out who can and who can't enjoy public spaces.

"It's offensive enough as behavior from a private business lobby, but forcing the public to pay for it through back-door assessments of even public property, such as the Berkeley Unified School District's (\$24,252.14) and the University of California's downtown properties (\$130,194.90) is an outrage," pointed out one downtown business owner. "We already pay for our schools - they're docking our schools and even the Berkeley Repertory Theater (\$6,659.90) to pay for chasing around the poor and "activating" their personal territory with competing art programs. It's nuts."

City officials agreed that having "ambassadors" assess and respond to "mental health" crisis might have contributed to the over 20 deaths on Berkeley's streets, but that the new yellow jackets look cool.

"We can't stop it," admitted one. "They own this joint."

* * * * *

A PUZZLED PUBLIC FINALLY GETS a chance to see Russian emigre' Victor Arnautoff's largest New Deal work, a thirteen-panel fresco of George Washington's life intended by the artists to provoke critical discussion.

By Petra Fied

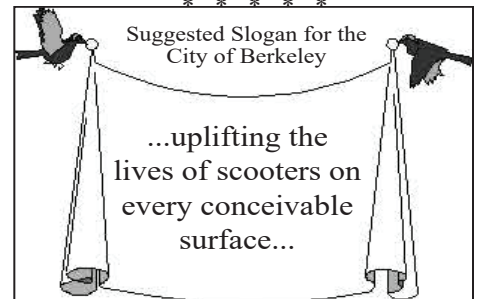
A public expected to pay for the \$600,000 destruction of a priceless New Deal mural was finally given a chance to see it for two hours on Thursday, August 1st at George Washington High School.

"It's stunning," offered one local resident, who couldn't imagine why a handful of people are promoting its destruction. "It was brave to portray George Washington as a slave holder and his westward military missions as destructive to native peoples."

"I sometimes don't like artwork," observed another walking through the school's Arnautoff fresco area. "But I can't imagine thinking everything I don't like should be destroyed for my personal benefit."

The San Francisco School Board who voted unanimously for the mural's expensive destruction did not attend the showing.

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, people always have subjective reactions to public art, but it's the price tag of destroying the fresco at George Washington High School that has me traumatized. This school board is spending well over half a million dollars instead of explaining to the clearly confused anti-mural crew that it opposes an economy based on slavery and the oppression of westward expansion. Why can't they just add signage and programs about the New Deal with that money? Isn't this all kind of stupid?

Dear reader, I would make that argument about the current members of the San Francisco school board and all but one member of the "Reflection and Action Committee" that voted to destroy the mural despite having access to clarifying interpretation. Filmmaker Lope Yap, Jr., battled with all his might to help the stacked committee understand Arnautoff's intent and the New Deal's values. There is apparently a pro-charter school contingent in the mix and on the board working its magic despite the obvious conflict of interest. According to the backpacks and accessories of the anti-murals group, Disney has a much better grasp of American history than those left-wing New Deal artists.

Dear Lena, are those libraries they took away for the Berkeley Way West building still in existence anywhere? I'm a taxpayer, an alum, and I spent some quality time in that Public Health library working on my dissertation. Is it still there anywhere?

Dear reader, our team of mighty reporters is on the case. But why are you so obsessed with dusty old books? Everybody knows that everything is already on the internet, and will eventually come your way if you just keep watching your Twitter feed.

Dear Lena, didn't Mayor Jesse Arreguin promise to roll back anti-homeless laws? Should I keep holding my breath?

Dear reader, yes, he did. And no. Take a deep breath if you can bear it. Ask Lena about buttons at cdenney@igc.org.

Tree-free Zone Puzzles Public

By Vera Strangers

"What, uh, who?" was the Public Works Department's response to the mysterious absence of the street trees on the north side of Shattuck which blocked no construction and interfered with no parking reconfiguration according to the city.

District Four representative Kate Harrison is "looking into" the matter. It is possible that the trees are hiding out with the missing libraries. Our reporters are on it although they are a lazy bunch and we fire most of them monthly.

Local residents can take comfort in the fact that developers do this all the time, such as Mr. Grether's tree removal on the block just north of Channing on Shattuck Avenue for interfering with "signage."

"Let me know when trees get on board promoting, rather than obstructing, local business interests," he commented at the time. "Until then they can register to vote if they have anything to say which you'll notice they never do."

"I don't remember having a public hearing about the trees," stated one puzzled member of the public. Merchants who watched the tree slaughter affirmed that no effort was made to contact them about the tree removal, and that they had no issue



TREE REMOVAL MAY NOT SEEM GREEN to most people but they probably didn't bother to go to the design charrette so just shut up.

with the trees.

"They were good neighbors," stated one business owner sorting receipts. "They may not vote, but they always show up early."

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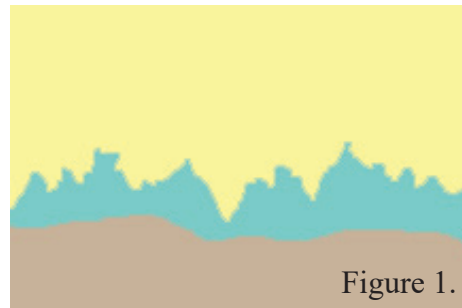


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

STUDIES SHOW AND EXPERTS AGREE THAT THIS FIRST, TREE-LINED HORIZON tends to upset people who mistake it for their 401K's progress over time, while the second, tree-free horizon is more calming to look at and helps you wait in vain for non-existent public transit.

Inspiration Corner by Lynn Riordan

Here are some definitions

Stations of the Cross:

125th St, Times Square, Grand Central, Wall Street.

Eucharist:

A person who plays the card game Euchre.

Transubstantiation:

The opening of a new subway station.

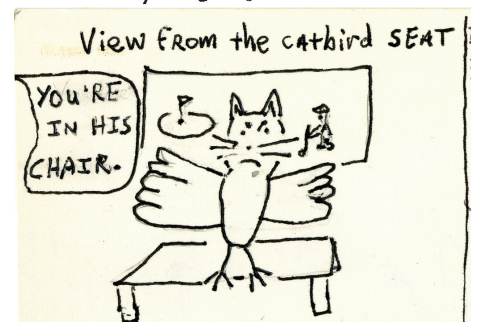
Catacomb:

Grooming implement for a pet.

Just helping out!

I am attempting to be more inspirational. Here we go:

- Watch like nobody is dancing.
- The bees in the world want to see you change.
- Have a day.
- Art is politically possible.
- Is anything together? Possible.



Monolithic Glass UC Box Swallows Helpless, Unsuspecting Libraries

Frantic Search Begins for Missing Public Health and Psychology Campus Libraries Suspected of Being on the Lam or Maybe Hung Over in Las Vegas



HAVING NO LIBRARIES is being blown wildly out of proportion since after all you can learn a lot from a bagel.

By Harvey Smith

Besides being a monolithic glass box, the new UC Berkeley Way West building has another notable feature- a complete absence of its former libraries. The planners surely decided, "Who needs libraries when you can eat bagels and noodles instead?" Why have two libraries when you can have two corporate chains in their place? Let's cut the frills and get on with a corporate education agenda!

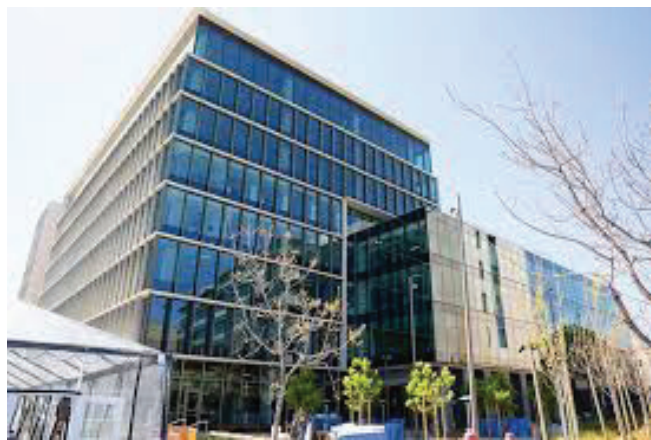
It's true that some UCB education professors have exposed corporate malfeasance within charter schools, and some School of Public Health researchers have been critics of private sector dominated health care. This is certainly not to say that members of Psychology Department would do anything like a certain UCB law school professor did in justifying torture. But the overall trend at

UCB seems to be cozy up to the corporate sector as in the example of biofuel research funded by gross polluter British Petroleum.

Increasingly, the University of California jumps and rolls over at the command of a corporate agenda. Is this a surprise? Look at the structure of the UC Board of Regents to understand the corporate influence on UC policy. Most regents, who are appointed by the governor, historically have been wealthy lawyers, bankers or corporate executives with little to no experience in higher education. The best way for them to assure appointment to the board has been to have a close personal and financial relationship with the governor.

Despite its governance, UC once seemed to be a truly public institution. In the 1960s, UC fees were less than \$100 per year. Proposition 13 slashed drastically UC's budget and other funding for public services in California. UC, like other governmental institutions and nonprofit organizations, scrambled to make up funding shortfalls. Tuition was instituted, and now tuition and fees amount to over \$14,000 per year for California residents. In terms of access for people with limited resources when do we stop calling UC a public institution?

Raising student fees and tuition and cutting libraries do not make for a great public university. Last year's \$2.4 million cut in



THE ABSENCE OF LIBRARIES shouldn't bother students who can crane their necks and look up at the new skyline which obscures distracting views of the bay and avoids providing library space which after all is just a bedroom for pesky homeless students.

the campus library budget is on top of previous yearly cuts. Is this any way to raise the prestige of a world-class research institution? Bagels and udon noodles are no substitute for research access.

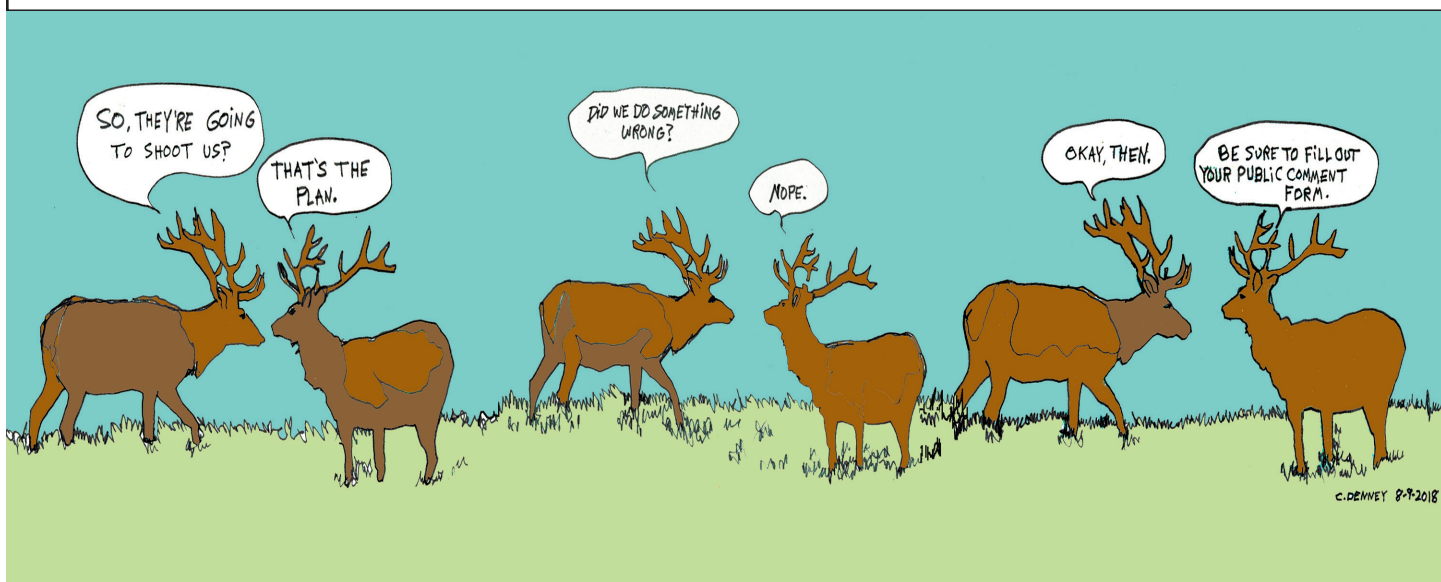
To make up for funding deficits the University relies increasingly on "public-private" partnerships and on fundraising among alumni seemingly ignoring the original cause of the dilemma – Proposition 13. Why can't the world's still greatest (but slipping) public university educate California voters on the difference between progressive and regressive taxation? The University will likely be missing in action when the November 2020 ballot initiative to reassess the property tax contributions of commercial and industrial real estate is put before voters. Does this have anything to do with the governing body of the university being dominated by representatives of California's wealthiest residents?

Until the election, when at UCB, have a bagel or a big bowl of Udon. You'll need to be nourished for your walk to the nearest library.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Berkeley's RV-Scooter Exchange Program Falls Flat

By Fred Estrue

"We thought it was a brilliant solution," confessed one Berkeley City Hall staff member. "We could reduce the RV population which was taking up parking spaces that could otherwise be used by wealthy shoppers and help the scooter start-ups at the same time."



SCOOTER HAVE THE obvious issue of bursting suddenly into flames, which is apparently an issue for the under-adventurous.

"Our focus groups were skewed," admitted another political advisor who works with the city. "We didn't realize how robust a group the anti-scooter but tech-invested crowd actually was."

"Many pollsters assume that young people are so tech-centered they don't see beyond their personal Twitter feed," acknowledged one City Council aide who had labored long on the exchange plan. "I guess we completely forgot about the rent thing."

One local Berkeley resident agreed, saying that living in an RV might have its challenges, but was easier to imagine than living under or behind a scooter, especially if it bursts into flames.



SCOOTER RIDERS are being advised to bring marshmallows along with them.



SCOOTERS FOR SOME REASON ARE NOT as universally beloved as RVs.

"We're wondering how the scooter companies are planning to deal with the spontaneous combustion problem," stated one transportation issues advisor. "Especially since the mayor is surrounded by people who promote scooters for money but all drive cars."

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Next Issue: Measuring brain pans with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Henry IV Part 2

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