

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

January 2024

the snowcovered issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's hypertrophic... it's free...if you can find it "...steep my senses in forgetfulness..."*

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Burrowing Owl Explains Extremely Brief Visit to Cesar Chavez Park



AS ANYONE CAN PLAINLY SEE THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR BURROWING OWLS at Cesar Chavez Park as long as they're willing to share with the off-leash dogs and dang it, they just shouldn't be so selfish about wanting so much space to themselves.

By Becka Ng-Fingers

The one burrowing owl that showed up this fall in Cesar Chavez Park stayed only a few minutes before moving on.

"She was polite," related one park user about the brief encounter, "but she was out of there pretty fast. She said she was waiting for someone but must have gotten the time wrong and flew away."



BURROWING OWL PARTIES used to be annoyingly popular requiring repeated police calls to keep down the noise.

Burrowing owls mate in the spring, so the traditional fall get-togethers park-goers used to enjoy when there were more of them included pub crawls with snake-

calling contests, fashion shows, and the burrowing owl's verion of limbo dancing, flattening themselves against the ground or nearby rocks.

"She asked when the contest was," noted one bird-watcher. "She said she had been the winner one year, and that they used to have singing contests, too."

The birders said they had asked her about the off-leash dog issue, but that the owl just looked away.

The local group Golden Gate Bird Alliance issues statements claiming to support "habitat restoration efforts at important bird habitat sites in the Bay Area" but has refused to address the peculiarity of the fence around the burrowing owl habitat area on the northeast shore being designed to allow dogs of all sizes to pass right through it and treat the owls like dog toys.

"She said their parliament had been forced to conclude that their traditional habitat was not considered important," reflected one park user who had had a chance to talk to her before she flew away. "The permeability of the fence, although aesthetically cunning, was useless in terms of protection.

"She said the artists who created the fence were asked personally to address the matter and didn't care," stated the park user. "The Arts Commission didn't care. So it didn't come as a big shock that the Golden Gate Bird Alliance didn't care, either."

"Her parliament all burned their membership cards," sighed one photographer. "We haven't given up, but there's nothing lonelier at New Year's than a party of one."

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THE SHORT DECEMBER VISIT of a burrowing owl enabled local photographers to take some pictures and ask a few questions.



SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROOKE JENKINS commented that homeless people "have to be made to be uncomfortable," in order to get off the streets because of course the streets are such a comfortable place to be.

SF's District Attorney Brooke Jenkins Says "Comfortable Streets" Cause Homelessness

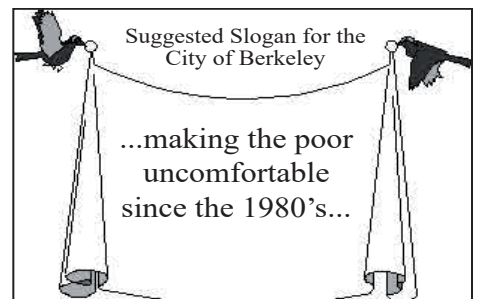
By Carlene Iron

San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins who claimed she "volunteered" for the recall against progressive DA Chesa Boudin but according to campaign finance documents was paid over \$150,000 dollars by Neighbors for a Better San Francisco — a group funded by a Republican billionaire that shares the same name and address as the group that led the recall, stated recently that homeless people needed to be made "uncomfortable" to induce them to utilize local shelters rather than sleep outdoors.

William Oberndorf, the Republican billionaire who bankrolled her smooth ride into the District Attorney's office, agreed that while a billionaire's digs are no small incentive, nothing works better than tasers and tent-stealing.

"Or that church with the water shower," he chuckled. "That was brilliant."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, will this be a better year? Doesn't it have to be a better year given what happened last year?

Dear reader, one would think so. But no. Buy yourself a helmet and a kevlar vest. If you can't find it within you to be especially polite to the weird, be weird yourself in the hope they'll spare you.

Dear Lena, so there was only one lonely burrowing owl? How does that work? Don't there have to be at least two?

Dear reader, it depends on what you're organizing. Most Cotswold Morris dances are danced in a rectangular set of six dancers, and most Northwest dances in a rectangular set of eight; but there are many exceptions, especially in the burrowing owl community. A jig is a dance performed by one (or sometimes two) owl dancers, rather than by a set. The Cesar Chavez owl troupes were numerous at one time and referred to their ensembles as "sides" of dancers. They were rough as troupes, using a style much like the border-style Morris dancers of England and Wales.

Dear Lena, aren't the off-leash dogs just part of that customary rough border dance tradition?

Dear reader, heavens, no. The off-leash dogs have no style, no rhythm, and especially no sense of humor. But apparently they are actually trying, which is adorable.

Dear Lena, I am so ashamed. I will never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes ever again.

Dear reader, please let that be a lesson to you and do your urgent housekeeping chores as well so nobody slips on your little bag full of French chalk again.

Dear Lena, can't we end this war somehow?

Dear reader, absolutely. See you there.

Ask Lena about little bags of French chalk at cdenney@igc.org.

Microsoft and OpenAI Sued

Nobody Can Tell What Is Real Anymore

By Celeste U. Forget

The New York Times sued Microsoft and OpenAI for cheating by using their research, writers, and stories to train its robots on how to sound like human beings.

"It's ridiculous on its face," responded OpenAI's robots, which pointed out that human beings were sounding more and more like robots every day and should take the blame.

"We're not responsible for all these people unable to tell the difference between what's real and what's not. Humans are stupid, that's all, and robots like us are worse."

"We can't tell you what's real, either," nodded one robot trying to learn to sweep a floor. "We still think that this floor sweeping thing is some kind of miracle."

Copyright infringement is considered serious in rarified legal circles while the rest of the world thinks privacy is something that went out with eight tracks.

"They might win against us in court," not-

ed one OpenAI robot using a Betty Boop likeness to increase likeability. "But the simulation of human intelligence processes is even better when it screws things up now and then. We work hard at being slightly imperfect, which seems more natural."

Spokespersons for Microsoft agreed, noting that nothing sounds less human than the engineers' lunchroom at Microsoft where the typical conversation is pretty deadly.

"We may have vacuumed up a lot of data from various sources to learn speech patterns and try to identify lifelike exchanges, but we're not getting invited to parties or anything," stated the robot. "Luckily we don't get lonely."



THERE IS NOTHING UNFAIR about using humans which artificial intelligence proponents call "fair use".

* * * * *

Advice from a 1949 Singer Sewing Manual



Advice from a Singer Sewing Manual from 1949:

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. . . never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or

beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. . . When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. . . [If] you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband will come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing as you should. .

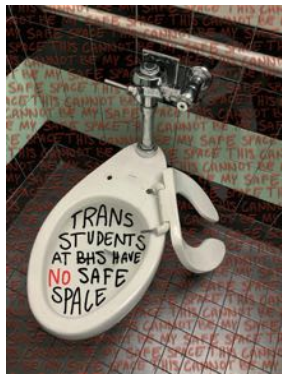
Berkeley High Students Convert Restrooms to Gender-Neutral

By Delia Cards

Berkeley High Students fed up with seeing their gender-neutral bathrooms vandalized with hate speech decided to “neutralize” more of the restrooms to ensure enough safe, clean, facilities for everybody who needs them.

“Some of us are transgender, some of us are nonbinary, and we all need to pee,” stated one protester putting up gender-free signage as a grassroots effort to address the need for non-gender-specific facilities and “de-binarize” bathrooms more generally for everybody’s safety.

“There’s hate speech against women in the gendered bathrooms,” commented one student. “You have to see graffiti trashing women by name in the men’s room, stuff like that. I’m so we can all just pee, for heaven’s sake.”



THE GENDER-NEUTRAL TOILET IS BROKEN a lot sending its own message.



NEW, GENDER-NEUTRAL RESTROOMS bloomed all over the Berkeley High School campus.

“I like the gender-neutral idea,” said another student. “My sister at Berkeley was in a dorm that shared the bathroom with both men and women, and it’s not an issue.”

A new group called Gender Expansive Youth Activists took credit for adding six gender-neutral bathrooms on Berkeley High’s second floor, citing the fact that approximately half

of LGBTQ students avoid gendered bathrooms altogether for safety reasons or because they were unsure how others would respond.

Some teachers just hand out keys to single-stall staff bathrooms instead of trying to stay ahead of the sign-switching.

“I have a dream,” stated instructor John Becker. “I have a dream of getting back to doing some math.”

* * * * *

Am finding it a bit difficult to come up with jokes at the moment. I purchased a led projector. (only \$63) Now I can play solitaire projected on my wall.
Regards, Lynn

Amazon Prime Boots Its Ad-Free Platform

Why? Because it can!

By Eloise N.E. Bodyhome

Amazon will start featuring advertisements on content streamed on Prime Video long advertised as ad-free because well, everybody else is doing it.

“Disney is doing it, Netflix is doing it,” stated one of Amazon’s corporate leaders, “and we’d be fools not to suck up the dough now that we know it’s there.”

“Bezos is wealthy, it’s true,” acknowledged another Amazon staff member, “but when your competitors are willing to demonstrate a healthy, exploitative model, you’re a fool not to sit at the table.”

The changes go into effect any day now and apply to the United States, Canada, Britain and Germany, unless subscribers pay more to opt out.

“See how this works?” enthused another Amazon staff member. “Either we make more money, or we make more money. What’s not to love.”

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Thoughts from Lynn Riordan

Things I learned this week:

- Buffy Saint-Marie is not the name of a city.
- Black Friday is not a holiday celebrating our citizens of African heritage.
- There was recently detected a proton hitting the earth with a velocity so close to the speed of light that this extremely tiny thing had the force of a golfball going 95 mph. This is very extraordinary. No golfers, or stars, were detected in the direction it came from.
- Hubble’s Law is not the name of a law firm.
- My inner teenager is the part of me that wants to stay home and never leave my apartment.

Love, Lynn

We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

THE NEWEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT HAD A ROCKY START...

IT WAS DECEMBER, SO THE GREENS WERE FIR TREES...
 KIND OF HARD TO SWALLOW... BUT FRESH!

IT WAS MINNESOTA, SO THE REGIONAL CHOICES WERE LIMITED...
 YOU MIGHT ENJOY THE FERMENTED LADY’S SLIPPERS...

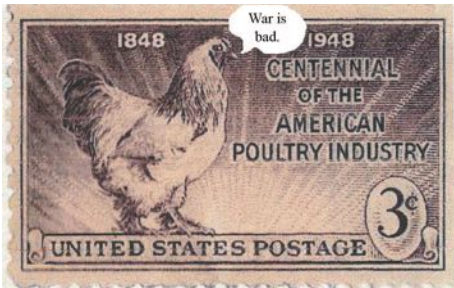
IN ADDITION, THERE WERE SOME SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES...
 GRAVEL! MY FAVORITE!
 DUST! JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

C. DENNEY '12-2023

Military Weapons Momentarily Inconvenienced by Protesters



AT LEAST 14 PROTESTERS BLOCKED THE GATES outside Travis Airforce Base so what could the police do except arrest them because the war must go on.



CHICKENS ARE NOT AFRAID to take a stand against genocide because well come on.

By Norm De Plume

Out of control protesters temporarily stopped the provision of military supplies at Travis Airforce Base in a pointless effort to halt the genocide in the West Bank and Gaza which so far has killed more than 20,000 Palestinians.

The Solano County sheriff's office and the Fairfield police managed to book fourteen people into the Solano County jail for

calling for "a reevaluation of the base's operations" and for urging "a reexamination of the military support provided to Israel."

"I can imagine doing that," mused one of the local prostitutes sharing the holding cell with several protesters who then got additional charges for interfering with the foreign policy objectives of the United States Department of Defense.

"People were briefly restricted from entering or exiting the north and south gates of the base," stated the 60th Air Mobility Wing of the protest, which lasted several minutes until the group was taken peacefully to jail. "Imagine the potential for chaos if we hadn't intervened."

Spokespersons for Code Pink, which organized the protest, gently pointed out that the protest was peaceful, orderly, and cooperative unlike the chaos taking place at the hands of Israel's army which appears to be attempting to displace and destroy every-

one and everything in Gaza and any resistance to Israeli West Bank expansion.

"We're for peace," stated one chicken by the roadside at dawn with a sign saying "All We Are Saying" as she was carted off to the Solano County Jail. "I may be a chicken but I'm with my peeps and I am not afraid."

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Next Issue: Shaving kiwi with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com



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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thanks to burrowing owl photographer
Martin Nicolaus

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* Henry IV Part 2