

the origami folding issue...



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

March 2024

Pepper Spray Times



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

"...O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!"...*

Vol. XXIV No. 3

Shipping Container Ballet Planned for New Southside Trainyard



AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK of Chancellor Carol Christ's latest improvement to People's Park local artists began to adapt, and plan a gala dance festival incorporating the boxcars into a brave new work exploiting the rude, industrial metallic elements of her publicly funded shipping containers.

By Gloria Smourning

Local choreographer Dan Smuckobb has agreed to put his internationally respected talents to work creating a ballet for the brutalist boxcar art installation recently contributed to People's Park by the University of California's Chancellor Carol Christ over the holiday break.

"We're referencing the dancing plague of Strasbourg from over 500 years ago," stated Smuckobb. "It is widely considered to have been the first rave."

UC officials have expressed concern about the ballet, noting that the mysterious 1518 event left hundreds of people with a mysterious compulsion to dance lasting days in severely hot weather.

"Several hundred people collapsed and



DANCERS REHEARSE for the big opening show which will feature a Greek chorus of University of California regents.



ARTISTS AND DANCERS have long been at the forefront of People's Park's defense.

"The university recognized the insidious power of art and culture early on," commented local historian. "People's Park is a cultural landmark, so excluding and stamping out any remnant of the culture is imperative for Chancellor Carol Christ."

"Even the chess playing," UC BERKELEY'S LONG TRADITION of suppressing art in People's Park is part of its essential playbook. "Perhaps especially the chess playing."

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BILLIONAIRE VENTURE CAPITALIST VINOD KHOSLA'S EFFORT to fence off one of California's most beautiful surfing spots hit the rocks of the soft-spoken, long-term thinkers at the California Coastal Commission.

Senator Scott Weiner Targets California's Beaches for Housing

By Greg Arious

"I'm thinking ahead," nodded State Senator Scott Wiener, whose success in destroying local control over developers has led to his eyeing California's beachfronts.

"We've come a long way," stated Wiener. "But after we've filled up the parks and the backyards we're going to need to put housing somewhere."



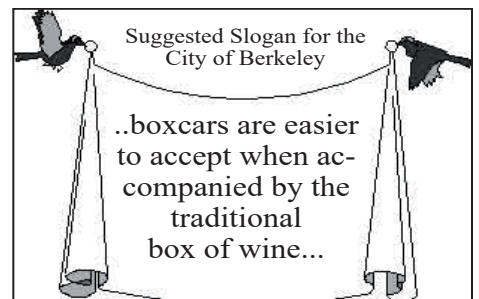
SURFERS celebrated their victory over Vinod Khosla who defended his fence by saying he really needed his privacy.

His sights are set on the California Coastal Commission which has a modest authority over coastal development and public beach access, famously protecting surfers' access to Martin's Beach off the coast of San Mateo when billionaire venture capitalist Vinod Khosla attempted to fence it off.

"It's curious," noted one political observer. "Very few homes in San Francisco are governed by the coastal zone. We figure this is for the inspiration of statewide developers in case they want that iconic sunset view over the western sea."

"People's Park is not enough," stated Wiener. "We think Sonoma Coast State Park is ripe for the picking."

* * * * *



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

..boxcars are easier to accept when accompanied by the traditional box of wine...

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is it true that Chancellor Carol Christ has a spirit name?

Dear reader, yes. Lately she is known as "Dances With Shipping Containers."

Dear Lena, are the Berkeley City Council really good with all the new southside shipping containers?

Dear reader, yes, and you have to admit, it's a look. It's serious, imperious, and over time will collect fascinating graffiti. I hear the neighbors are wild about them, too.

Dear Lena, I hear the Cesar Chavez Park landfill gas containment system earned Berkeley bad marks at the Bay Area Air Quality Monitoring District. What is up?

Dear reader, it's easy to read this one. Berkeley loves flashy, naive "green" highrises to save open space in someone else's community. But here methane drifts merrily up into the atmosphere through their broken containment system creating a shocking train of Notices of Violations which finally hit the fan. Getting scolded is the least of it. The City of Berkeley may be obligated to rip the park up to fix it just as the landfill's gases become almost inevitably inert after nearly fifty years, and the fault is Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin's entirely. It's exactly why the Berkeley Pier is still closed - nobody was watching until a kayaker accidentally caught the underside damage, after which it was too late for modest repair, and now they're determined to put in a ferry, the most un-green, highly subsidized mode of transportation except for the space shuttle, and which would completely wreck the park. It's Berkeley's version of green and oddly popular.

Dear Lena, is it really okay to set fire to driverless cars?

Dear reader, yes. They are a public nuisance, and if your government won't "Lyft" a finger to stop them, it's up to you.

Ask Lena about special shipping container graffiti at cdenney@igc.org.

Berkeley Council Resignations Create Shock and Awe

"And then there were seven..." shuddered horrified onlookers...

By Carmen N. DeHouse

"Want to run? Anybody?" is the question heard at local street corners where the very real possibility of more resignations from the Berkeley City Council puts having a simple quorum in jeopardy.

But others note that the Berkeley City Council at a standstill can theoretically do a lot less harm than the present council.

"We have no movie theaters downtown," noted one long-time resident of Berkeley. "It's ludicrous. This used to be Pauline Kael territory. And now look at this. We're down to the Elmwood with, of course, no place to park except I hear somewhere near Modesto."

"I'm in good shape, but I'm not biking home in the dark from a movie," acknowledged another Berkeley resident. "They have a downtown lined with empty high-end condos and student dorms that haven't made any dent in the worsening need for tent cities. As far as I'm concerned not enough of the



PAULINE KAEL, CELEBRATED BERKELEY FILM CRITIC wrote for the New Yorker from 1968 to 1991 and would have been shocked to watch the death of movie theaters in Berkeley which are now considered 'passe' with Facebook and Twitter and all.



NOW YOU SEE IT NOW YOU DON'T as the Berkeley City Council sells out even its hallowed theaters for mostly empty high-end housing putting even more pressure on crowded tent cities to make room for more.

city council has resigned."

"It's the most inspiring thing the Berkeley City Council has done in years," wept an awestruck observer at the council meeting held Tuesday, January 30th, 2024 in front of dozens of horrified local residents and city staff. "First Rigel Robinson quits and now Kate Harrison, complete with Taplin doing a great imitation of a physical assault and a sprinkle of profanity."

"And here I thought they were dead," marveled one Berkeley resident watching the Berkeley City Council BTV video re-run of the notable event.

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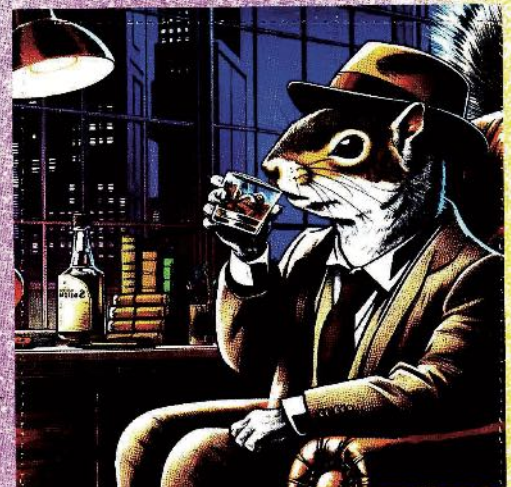


AT LEAST the cascade of city council resignations is there to entertain us.

Private Investigator McNutt's Intriguing Saga Continues, Brought to Us by Intrepid Reporter Lynn Riordan



It was just before 5 and already the sun was down. As P.I. McNutt settled in for an after work cola her thoughts were of the stranger that had hired her that day. Bright eyed and bushy tailed, Ms. Walnut had presented herself as sane enough but there was something that bothered McNutt. If Ms. Walnut's insurance company was legit, why had they insured such a small window washing outfit?



Street Artists Make Their Mark



A STREET PAINTING PARTY brought neighbors out to do what they can to address the blight of the university's weird shipping containers.

By Mona Roll

"It's a lot like 1969," mused one neighbor busy behind a paintbrush transforming the bizarre wall of shipping containers into a more interesting landscape. "There comes a point when it's too much."

"It's mural and poetry-inducing," agreed another painter. "Between the oppression and the immovable boxcars something had to break. I love when it's art."

* * * * *



PEOPLE ON THE FRONT LINES have this conflict firmly in focus while others are flipping madly through a thesaurus.

Biden Finally Pans Bibi Netanyahu's Genocidal War

"Quietly, behind closed doors" affirm White House aides.."

By Ima Comanome

"It took us a while to find just the right phrase," explained one White House aide about the choice of 'over the top' as best describing the genocide taking place in the Gaza strip. "We had to put it through several focus groups and make sure it had just the right nuance."

"We considered 'excessive' and 'immoderate' added another aide toting an enormous thesaurus back to a White House library shelf. "And we thought of 'unreasonable', too, but we have to worry about offending various Israeli officials and you-know-who."

"We had a whole crew of younger people pushing for a more slang-based description like 'too bling' or 'garish' to capture younger voters. But they're pretty fixed on 'genocide' and Biden likes the sound but wants a lighter feel."

"The focus groups really liked 'override' for some reason," shrugged another aide. "We were split on it but Biden just couldn't get comfortable with it. We're still field testing synonyms for the next round."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Waymo Driverless Car Celebrates Lunar New Year, Superbowl, Mardi Gras, or President's Day or Something



POLICE TRIED TO BLAME A NEARBY CROWD for a Waymo vehicle on fire but the car stated that it was just part of a lunar new year celebration with fireworks that got out of hand.

By Susan Stockings

Police are stubbornly culling through video footage near the area in San Francisco where a Waymo vehicle exploded in flames reluctant to believe the vehicle's confession that it was just celebrating and got careless with some sparklers.

"We think there might have been human involvement," stated firefighters who re-

sponded to the scene. "It was a party. It was noticeably and suspiciously joyous."

The vehicle was inebriated, but insisted repeatedly that it had simply been "over the top" with some fireworks it had purchased for the lunar new year.

"Or maybe it was Lincoln's Birthday," stated the car. "All I know is all of a sudden it was a party and a half and the music was really something."

The Waymo vehicle insisted that it was in "autonomous mode" which company spokespersons affirmed with some serious embarrassment.

"We expect more of our autonomous mode," muttered one Waymo staff member. "We at least expect our products not to burst into flames."



THE WHOLE WAYMO FLEET is under suspicion now after one Waymo vehicle burst into flames in celebration of maybe Mardi Gras.

Waymo has ordered extra security to keep a sharp eye on their local fleet to avoid further embarrassment in case other vehicles are inspired to try self-immolation.

"People were dancing in the street," added the vehicle, which authorities described as a total loss. "I've had some fun in my time dragging people down the street, but dancing with them is the bomb."

* * * * *



REVELERS ASSUMED the Waymo bonfire was just a part of local Superbowl festivities.

Next Issue: dancing on shipping containers with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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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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* Romeo and Juliet