

the slippery issue...



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

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Pepper Spray Times



It's aureate...it's free...if you can find it ..we should take root here where we sit...*

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Shock, Terror in Silicon Valley Over Suggested Delay in Waymo Bid



WHEN DRIVERLESS CARS CRASH INTO FIRE ENGINES there's no question that it's the fire engine's fault because they're usually going to fast and making lots of noise and if you ask them why they were exceeding the speed limit of course they always claim it was an emergency.

By Jessica Wincidence

When driverless car Waymo's bid for permission to expand in California was postponed in February of 2024 by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), local tech companies heavily invested in phasing out human drivers worried that a few deaths and accidents were poised to stop the celebrated progress of seemingly inevitable autonomous vehicles.

A DRIVERLESS CRUISE into wet concrete got the most thumbs-up of any of the many driverless car accidents which have thoroughly entertained the residents of San Francisco who clearly have no control over the matter so one might as well laugh if one can.

"A shudder went through the related stocks," confided one anonymous driverless tech entrepreneur. "I came this close to adjusting my portfolio."

Recently when a driverless Cruise car drove into the wet cement of a city paving project local residents thought it was pretty comical that the driverless car minders who showed up with clipboards couldn't get at the vehicle without ruining their shoes.

Traffic was backed up for miles with people who enjoyed posing with the vehicle.

"Roof-mounted sensors would have no



A DRIVERLESS TESLA may occasionally clog the Bay Bridge but the Bay Area's public just has to stay on their toes or Silicon Valley will purse its mouth and move to Texas.

idea what the signs meant," admitted the tech staff assigned to retrieve the car. "They think pavement is, well, pavement."

"The issue isn't that these cars are stupid," stated one local resident. "Of course they're stupid. The issue is that our streets and our bodies are being used to attempt to perfect a product which may never be safe for normal traffic. How many deaths are okay? How many collisions with emergency vehicles is considered permissible?"

"That's exactly why we postponed our inevitable permission for expansion," explained a commissioner from the Consum-

Noe Valley Opens World's Most Expensive Toilet



NOE VALLEY'S HIGH-END TOILET may inspire some competition from other cities in the Bay Area who may not know how to govern but who really know how to make simple things absurdly expensive.

By Ross Yewage

"We're working on it," admitted one city hall insider regarding Berkeley's quiet effort to compete with Noe Valley's understated, high end toilet achievement.

"We were working on not having toilets at all," admitted a city hall insider. "We never thought about going in another direction."

Berkeley's effort to end homelessness by eliminating and locking restrooms has failed; the rate of homelessness jumping 22% in Alameda County.

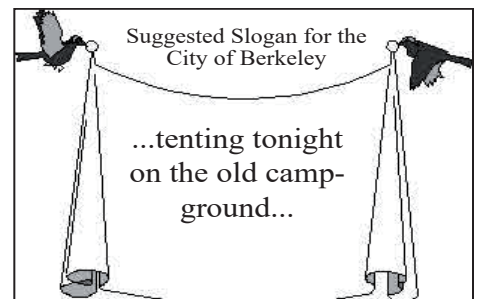
"We have Mayor Arreguin's fresh proposition for a study on the next council agenda," noted another city hall staff member. "The idea now is that you could have high-end toilets but still keep them locked."

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er Protection and Enforcement Division of the PUC. "We consider this to be simply a pause long enough for some unfortunate publicity's dust to settle. There's really no need to call your broker."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, can't the Berkeley City Council just meet in the back room to avoid all the noisy protest about not supporting a ceasefire in Gaza?

Dear reader, technically, no. But this city council is so rarely called on its Brown Act violations that the Brown Act is considered somewhat quaint. They are obligated to clear the room of protesters and have open, public meetings. Meeting in private is simply illegal. But it's true that meeting in public in Berkeley can be brutal.

Dear Lena, what's so bad about meeting in public.

Dear reader, please come to a Berkeley City Council meeting. Your answer awaits.

Dear Lena, is it true that the university of California spent over six million dollars walling off People's Park with shipping containers?

Dear reader, no. That was true a couple of months ago. Now it is much, much more.

Dear Lena, what is the RSVP Virus? I'm having trouble keeping track.

Dear reader, it's the one that keeps getting back to you.

Dear Lena, how does the university argue that spending six million dollars on shipping containers is educational.

Dear reader, they no longer have to. Notice, first of all, that nobody's asking. But more importantly at this point, they're a real estate broker more than a school. In that particular sense it is indeed educational.

Dear Lena, isn't what the Supreme Court is doing, slow-walking the former president's immunity case, technically election interference?

Dear reader, yes. I'm looking forward to that court case with popcorn.

Ask Lena about gardening tools at cdenney@igc.org.

Berkeley's City Council Bonds in Public-free Back Room

Games, Snacks, and Jokes One Can't Make in Public Bond Previously Contentious City Council

By Opal Uppersocks



"It's a breath of fresh air," nodded one city council staff member of the back room sessions which have excluded the public since a pro-ceasefire in Gaza group began protesting at Berkeley City Council meetings the council's novel and curious refusal to call for an end to genocide in Gaza.

"We could have arrested them the way we used to," commented staff member Zachary Friedbeans. "But we considered this to be a simple cost-saving measure which happens to come with some unexpected delights."

"Like Wordle!" agreed another staff



SILENCING PROTESTERS often assists them in making their point even better than they do themselves.

police overtime and frankly this Fortnite game is pretty addictive."

Some are annoyed the with new policy.

"I'm not there to talk about foreign policy or international issues," fumed one Berkeley resident. "I'm trying to find out why nobody responds to the burglaries in my neighborhood but a dozen cops show up to hassle some old guy in a tent."

"I wanted to talk, too," exclaimed Donna Wannageau from the Loose Ends Gallery. "I wanted to read my latest poem."

"It's a mixed bag," acknowledged staff member Elena Traffic. "It's a dead loss for democracy and public access, but I can assure you that Wordle has a lot more players these days."

"All that's missing from this back room is the smoke," chuckled one of the City Manager's staff. "But trust me, with this group we'll get there."

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CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE used to be considered an ordinary part of Berkeley politics, but these days the mayor believes that if you want to influence the Berkeley City Council you should buy a computer and have an IT specialist standing by to assist you with the inevitable bugs and technical difficulties.

member. "It's just so relaxed back there. I had heard of it but just never took the time to try it before."

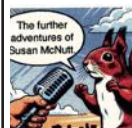
"I'm getting hooked on a Solitaire app," confessed staff member Zane O'Moore with some embarrassment. "But nobody really thought to consider that excluding the public entirely might be illegal."

California's Brown Act is clear that meetings must take place in open, accessible public places, and even defines the public so that nobody can make a big fuss about apparel or haircuts or the fun stuff they used to do to exclude people they don't want to hear from.

"We're just excluding everybody," affirmed Mayor Jesse Arreguin. "It saves on



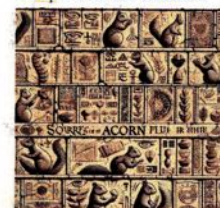
NOT LONG AGO protests and first amendment engagement was considered a respected part of political life at least in a quaint, bug-whip kind of way.



The Intriguing Saga of P. I. McNutt, by Intrepid Reporter Lynn Riordan

The Adventures of Susan McNutt, Private Eye

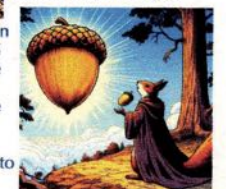
P.I. McNutt called her friend, George Pecan, a professor of archeology at San Francisco State University. She asked him about the Maltese Acorn. The good professor informed her that there was an inscription discovered at Mnajdra, an ancient megalithic temple complex on the southern



coast of Malta, that tells of a magical golden acorn. Said to have the ability to connect one with another dimension, it was assumed to have been lost.

Did British Archeologist Thomas Ashtree take the object

back with him to England in 1911? Was his death on 15 May 1931 by falling off the Southampton to Waterloo train an accident or was he pushed? What about the brain tumor discovered in his head? Time for McNutt to find out some answers.



Presidential Candidate Barbie Agrees to Run for Berkeley Mayor

"District 3 Update: Russell & Adeline"

By Kenneth Sean Carson



BEN BARTLETT'S HORRIFYING "BEFORE" AND "AFTER" DEPICTION of a homeless sweep treated a humanitarian issue as though it were all about trash, causing District 3 citizens to demand better representation.

Musk Bought Twitter for \$44 Billion Over Petty Feud

By Pauline Behavior



ELON MUSK'S FEUD with 21-year-old Jack Sweeney apparently feuded one of the weirdest and stupidest expenditures in recorded human history.

Elon Musk, Tesla CEO and self-described First Amendment champion, mystified the world by spending \$44 billion dollars buying Twitter, wildly overvaluing the platform which immediately saw its value plummet by 71.5 percent. "It was perplexing," admitted one Silicon Valley reporter. "The wild overpayment for the platform made no sense. He was supposed to be a smart businessman, and it was idiotic. Then we found out about this college kid tracking his jet."

A 21-year-old college student named Jack Sweeney wasn't just tracking Elon Musk's jet. He was using publicly available information from federally mandated flight broadcasts by private jets to track other famous people such as Jeff Bezos, Kim Kardashian, Taylor Swift, and Mark Zuck-



BARBIE'S MAYORAL PLANS include lots of parades.

"Of course I'll run," smiled presidential candidate Barbie after Berkeley residents paled at the mayoral choices before them in their leadership-free city. "It sounds like fun."

Barbie's campaign for president caught the eye of Berkeley voters when they realized that almost half of the Berkeley City Council is running for mayor on platforms presu-



ALL OF ELON MUSK'S PROTESTATIONS about his affection for pure free speech pretty much fell apart when everybody learned that the first thing he did as CEO of Twitter was block the account of the little dude tracking his jet.

Sweeney posted the Elon Musk jet information on an account he called Elon-Jet. Sweeney's accounts were fed by celebrity media accounts not at all shy about publicizing celebrity whereabouts and activities. Musk is a constant "poster".

"Musk's acquisition was framed as protective of First Amendment rights on the platform, but he blocked Sweeney's account within days of the sale even after pledging not to suspend Sweeney's account," stated Bloomberg reporter Kurt Wagner, whose book "Battle for the Bird" documents Musk's strange business moves. "It's kind of like watching a five-year-old in a tantrum just break stuff."

* * * * *



BARBIE MAY KNOW HER WAY around fashion, but she's also pretty quick with coding Malbolge and loves creating spreadsheets.

ably represented by their extant voting patterns, and as such were such a uniform embarrassment that a fresh face like Barbie's was a clear road to community consensus.

"She picks up the phone," enthused one Berkeley voter. "I haven't gotten anything the Berkeley City Council is running for mayor... voice-lady Any in City for years Barbie likes to chat with real people and she's always interested in what I think. It's a miracle."

Others were impressed with her civic enthusiasm.

"I called to talk about the parking difficulties in my neighborhood and we must have talked for an hour," agreed another constituent. "She knew exactly what I meant, and right away started to work with my neighborhood on the issue."



BARBIE IS SO civic minded she doesn't mind being the mayor.

"Ben Bartlett sent out an email recently treating the tent group down the street like trash," noted another Berkeley voter. "I honestly thought we were past that kind of thinking. Barbie was different about it. She wanted to meet them and talk camping recipes."

"She's more into listening than speaking," added another neighbor. "It's been a long, long time."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Trump Requests Supreme Court Delay

Judges Say How High



FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP could go on trial any time with one hand tied behind his back and he would still get the best out of the presiding judges because after all he bought them fair and square and they might need some time.

By Sloan Down

Critics are bristling over former President Trump's good luck in the United States Supreme Court's decision to ever so slowly and gingerly take the case of his claim of immunity from any and all crime as either a former president or maybe the current president depending on which radio or television station you prefer.

"If he is really the president right now it would sure help if they would just say

so and bang their gavel," said one Pennsylvania voter who can't figure it out. "I just don't understand how things rolled this far down the road."

"If he's the president, they should put up a pirate flag," offered another exasperated voter. "The suspense is unbearable."

The Supreme Court justices have exhib-

"The Apprentice was pretty popular," noted another Justice Department staffer. "Imagine what this grumpy bunch could do if they get on the airwaves and start really going at it."

ited an absurd amount of patience with the former President's claims that he should be free to overturn elections and assassinate political rivals with impunity.

"He may not be above the law," stated one North Carolina voter, "but he appears to be well over the heads of the courts."

The Supreme Court judges failed to explain why they decided to entertain an immunity claim which has no basis in law and



A THIRST FOR FAME MIGHT EXPLAIN the peculiar behavior of the Supreme Court, which is new to getting so much attention and is working up a really peppy dance number.

is not considered credible.

"They may have eroded the public trust, but they kind of like the spotlight," commented one judicial insider clutching a pile of fresh briefs. "They know they have the public's attention. With Trump in charge, they may end up having their own show."

"The Apprentice was pretty popular," noted another Justice Department staffer. "Imagine what this grumpy bunch could do if they get their own channel and start really going at it."

"My money's on Clarence," nodded one D. C. lawyer hoping for box seats. "He was quiet for a long time and has a lot of dazzling star potential."

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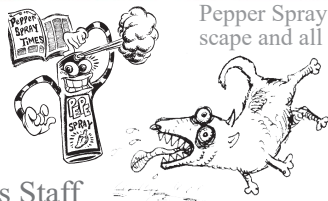
Next Issue: buying justice with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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* Henry VIII