

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

February 2019

the gift-wrapped issue...



# Pepper Spray Times

Don't miss The Folk This! Songbook, Freight & Salvage Feb. 25th 8 pm

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

"...I did impetticoat thy gratility..."

Vol. XX No. 2

## CHANCELLOR CHRIST UNLEASHES PEOPLE'S PARKNADO

### Unruly Trees Threatened University's Security



DANGEROUS TREES THAT INSIST ON BLOCKING THE LIGHT were cut down over the holiday vacation to make sure nobody walks under a tree and gets sucked into a black hole.

By Clara Zabell

Chancellor Carol "Chainsaw" Christ fired the first shot in the new People's Park war by sending heavy equipment and chainsaws up to People's Park in the middle of the night to cut down dozens of trees which she claimed were dead, diseased, or "blocked the light." "Blocking light" is one way to put it," offered one puzzled bystander. "Trees kind of collect the light. That's their job."

Approximately 100 police officers arrested six protesters as dozens of trees, some rare native species, were chipped into oblivion without public notice while tree-

huggers cried and prayed.

"I feel like a girl again," bubbled Chancellor Christ. "2019's going to be a CS gas-filled blast."

Southside residents expressed concern over what seemed like an inevitable new round of conflict during the park's 50th Anniversary this year.

"It's such an odd way to celebrate our internationally renowned landmark," observed one neighbor. "But then it sure does represent the university's customs and tradition."

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"I feel like a girl again," bubbled Chancellor Christ. "2019's going to be a blast."



PLASTIC SPOONS AND FORKS HAD TROUBLE making their voices heard recently at a packed hearing on their new and at least locally unfashionable future.

## City Council Declares War on Disposable Plastic

By Silvia Lining

Plastic spoons, forks and cups rattled as loudly as possible at a recent hearing on disposable plastics, but were unable to stop a tide of public sentiment against them.

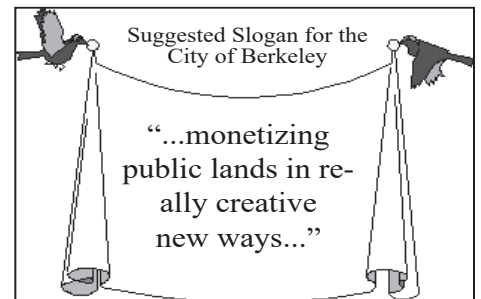
"We're flexible," weeped one plastic spork. "We're lightweight. We know we have a footprint, but we didn't plan it that way ourselves."

"We were all the rage at one time," lamented a plastic cup in agreement. "We really changed the face of having a beer before the seventh inning. Now we're treated with disdain."

Under the new ordinance disposable compostable straws, lids, stirrers, cup spill plugs, napkins and utensils for take-out will now be provided only on request or at self-serve stations, which is projected to reduce waste by 1/4 to 1/3. By 2020, reusable and compostable foodware will be the convention as well as a 25-cent charge for disposable cups to get customers to bring their own.

"We misunderstood the fixation on cup size," admitted one plastic cup regarding their overwhelming defeat. "We'll try to regroup, but it's true. We were outsmarted by a bunch of schoolkids."

\* \* \* \* \*



# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, so seriously I'm supposed to walk around with a coffee cup? I'm going to need a utility belt for all my gadgets and crap.**

Dear reader, yes. And you will look absolutely ravishing.

**Dear Lena, I would like my lunch delivered, but can't a human being do that? And if a robot delivers it can I smash the robot anyway? That seems like the most fun to me.**

Dear reader, yes, it is the most fun. Be sure to get a utility belt with room for both your coffee cup *and* your sledgehammer.

**Dear Lena, is anybody *not* running for president? I would like to contribute to their campaign.**

Dear reader, yes, I, Grace Underpressure, am not running for president. Please contribute generously.

**Dear Lena, can't we just not have a president for awhile? I think we might be better off.**

Dear reader, or a dog. A nice dog. Or a cat. Or a plant.

**Dear Lena, if the Berkeley Waterfront Fund's structural deficit exceeds \$1 million per year and is projected to exhaust all reserves in 2020 with approximately \$950,000 needed to maintain existing Waterfront operations through the next budget cycle according to the City Manager's report, couldn't we just defund the Downtown Berkeley Association which gets around 2 million a year to chase around the poor and have our pier and waterfront open and safe to use again? Isn't this a no-brainer?**

Dear reader, absolutely. It's not like we don't have the money. We're just spending it on keeping John Caner and his green shirts happy. And they're *never* happy.

*Ask Lena about doing a happy dance at cdeney@igc.org.*



THE BART BOARD MAY HATE CARS BUT local cities are hoping they don't hate horses, which have a lengthy history of helping to address transportation needs in the Bay Area and have offered no objection to being included in planning for future transportation needs in the manner of this Pack Horse Librarian returning over the mountain side for a new supply of books.

# Pack Horses Suggested as Car Alternative for Bart Parking Nightmare

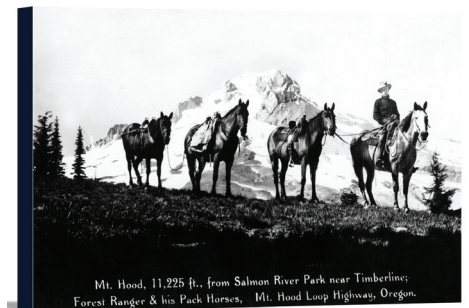
**"People like horses; this could work," says BART Board**

*By Solly Said*

"Those 'last leg' models interest us," stated one East Bay mayor anonymously having given up hoping parking needs will be taken seriously in the future by the BART Board of Directors.

"The hostility toward vehicles works really well for people situated next to BART stations," agreed another South Bay city official gingerly stepping through a thicket of abandoned rideshare bikes and scooters blocking the sidewalk. "The rest of us are apparently supposed to learn to fly."

"Pack horses might seem an unlikely solution," stated consultant Horace N. Buggy, an expert who specializes in unconventional transportation solutions, "but they are much less expensive than robots and self-driving cars, both of which require parking or storage at some point. Horses, on the other hand, wander around on hillsides keeping the grass cut, the brush at a fire-safe level, and looking picturesque."



PACK HORSES CAN HANDLE a lot of cargo, don't need batteries, and don't mind wearing the same shoes for months at a time.

Fire safety officials conceded that horses tend to save a lot of money on fire suppression work by simply acting naturally.

"It's a win-win," stated Buggy. "People tend to drive more slowly as they drive by a line of pack horses just to see them, calming traffic and reducing traffic collisions and injuries."

"They don't use oil," acknowledged another mayor noting that her city still has stables once used by official police horses years ago. "They don't pollute, they create the greatest fertilizer, and no batteries required. Talk about *green*."

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HORSES TEND TO capture the hearts of commuters who normally hurry through their day without appreciating nature.

# Government Shutdown Finally Ends - for Three Weeks Only



By Lucy Nourminds



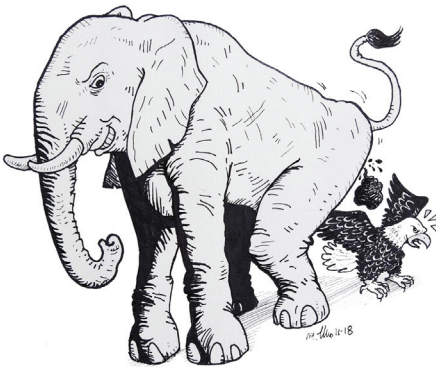
WHITE HOUSE advisors apparently tried and failed to talk Trump into a set of Leggos instead of having a wall.

The longest government shutdown in history finally ended Friday, January 25th, 2019 when President Trump's approval rating hovered just above the floor and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's response to the President's demand for a southern border wall was simply, consistently, "No."

The shutdown's total economic cost was measured at approximately \$11 billion, according to estimates by S&P Global Ratings, considerably more than Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to build a southern border wall.

"I'm not sure there's an upside," worried one federal worker hoping to get her bills paid soon, "unless Trump's dismay at having to work with a divided Congress makes retiring early to Mar-a-Lago look better."

\* \* \* \* \*



THIS IN NO WAY depicts the Republican Party under Donald Trump; rather, it is just an unexpected and unfortunate moment in nature.

We Can't Draw Comics

# Bad Food Delivered Indifferently Fails

## Rabid Investors Re-think Robots Bearing Icky Food

By Rita Novel



SMASHING ROBOTS is actually much more popular than having them delivery cold, icky food as these Chuckee Cheese employees all know really well.

\$125 million venture capital couldn't save Munchery, one of the latest adventures in computer-app-driven food delivery, from hitting the wall.

"Investors love t h e

ing to industry insiders.

"They care," stated one investor sadly. "They can really tell the difference. Who knew."



ROBOTS ON FIRE are apparently discouraging investors and customers from ordering indifferently delivered icky food.

\* \* \* \* \*

broad shape of these things," confided one Silicon Valley insider. "If your money moves quickly you can break even, but eventually everyone figures out that the further you are from the kitchen the suckier the food."

Launching app and computer-driven food services seemed like a natural to investors, since everybody eats, but hit the obvious snarl just as assuredly as everybody else does who thinks they can get to the stadium anywhere near game time in the Bay Area.

"If lunch shows up around dinner time it's all over," explained one investor. "Especially if it costs twice as much and the cheese has turned to glue."

Investors who banked on millennials and Gen-Xers having bad taste in food and no concerns about presentation came up short, accord-



## The Folk This Songbook;

with Carol Denney, Marcus Duskin, Steven Low, and James Nelson. A Sing-along for Mature Audiences

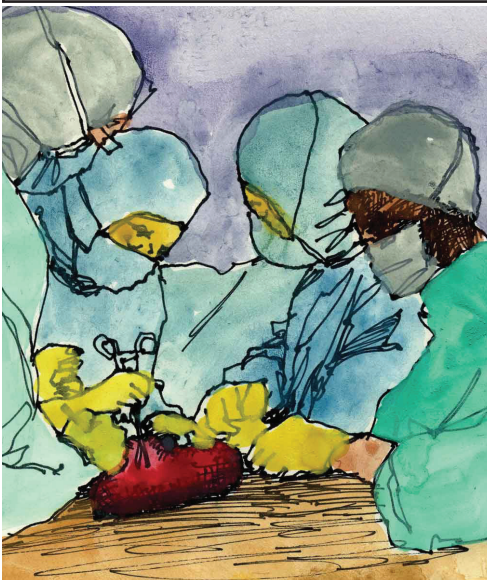
7:00 pm Feb. 25th, Freight & Salvage

2020 Addison; Advance tickets: (510) 644 2020

Songbooks Provided

fresh from the SF Fringe Festival

by Franz Toast

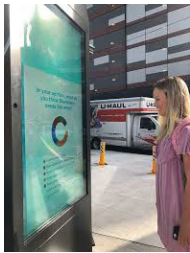


A HEART, ONCE OPENED, IS HARD TO CLOSE

# BRILLIANT CONCEPT FOR "WAYFINDING" FOUND IN BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

By Silas S. Golden

Relieved local citizens celebrated with joy the discovery of a low-tech alternative to the oppressive "IKE" electronic kiosk screens the city is planning to deploy throughout commercial districts, at least throughout commercial districts with no political clout.



CITIZENS REJOICED at the possibility that they wouldn't have to suffer seeing these nightmarish screens in their neighborhoods and out of their kitchen windows.

"4th Street just said no," admitted one City hall insider. "And other commercial districts with, uh, distinctive aesthetics and standards are also saying no."

This leaves vulnerable neighborhoods having to absorb even more of the blinking big screens

**Next Issue: Searching for open bathrooms with celebrities!**

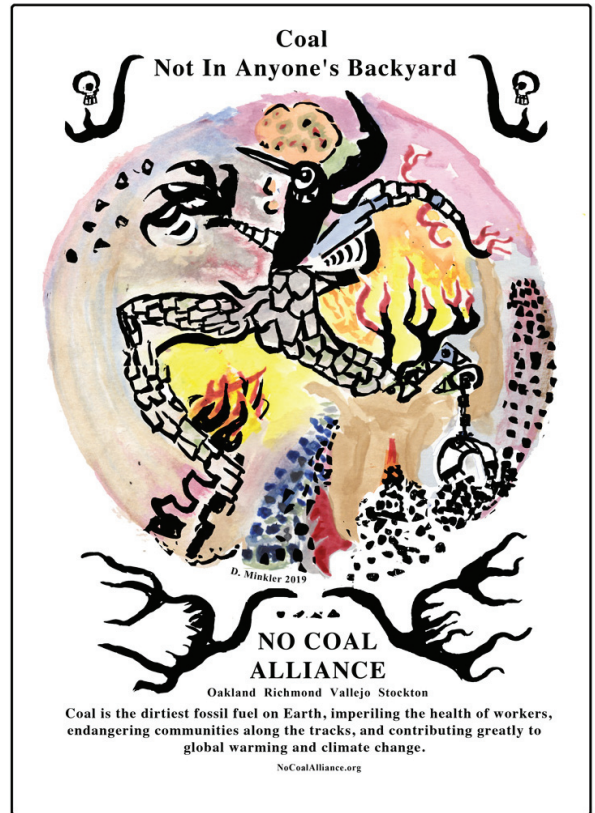


LOCAL AMENITIES, restaurants, and galleries are listed on what's locally referred to as a "map" in Bedford, PA.

than otherwise planned to make up for the tonier neighborhoods' special opportunity to avoid having their sidewalks torn up and their information data-mined by corporations who promise a sliver of their profits to Berkeley's budget.

"If the money were going to our neighborhood it might be at least worth consideration," observed one commercial district resident worried about the screens. "This way it just completely sucks."

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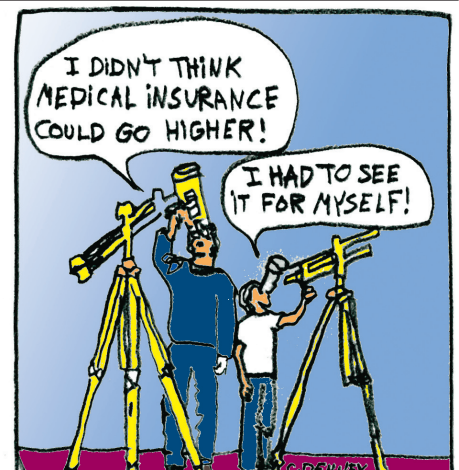
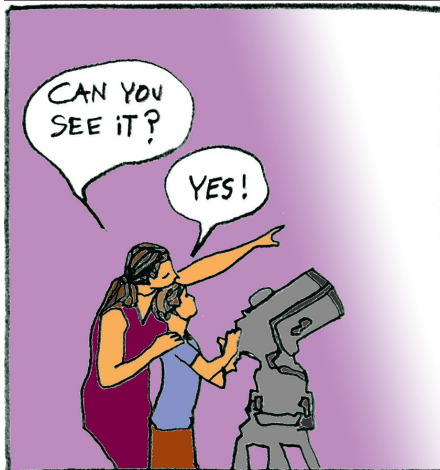


Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel on Earth, imperiling the health of workers, endangering communities along the tracks, and contributing greatly to global warming and climate change.

NoCoalAlliance.org

## 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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\*Twelfth Night

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