

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

January 2022

the
pickle-
ball
issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...go cheerfully together and digest!..."

Vol. XXIII No. 1

Historic Buildings Get Demolition for Christmas



UC BERKELEY'S CHRISTMAS DEMOLITION was a special gift from UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ and the Berkeley City Council to help wealthy investors in private companies situate a whole lot of private money for luxury student-only housing.

By Lowell DeStandards

"History is just so over," stated UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ about the swath of historic buildings including rent-controlled, landmarked housing she demolished for Christmas in Berkeley. "Some of these investors are the same ones who funded the statewide campaign against rent control, so we wanted to send them a special holiday message."

"Converting public resources over to private control may have little public benefit,"

mused one complacent City Council member, "but if all the big college towns are doing it then it just must be okay. Chancellor Christ sure is right that history is sort of real yesterday."

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UC's Shining Achievement: "The Sewer Grate"

By Penny Lize-DePeople

"We're not embarrassed at all," claimed one UC architect when told of the local award for "the Sewer Grate" building on upper Shattuck which managed to be designed without room for the former Public Health Library the contents of which is now somewhere in Southern California but made plenty of room for for-profit private businesses.

"We're sure not going to resign like our colleague at UC Santa Barbara did over the Munger fiasco. If



MONARCHS ORGANIZED TO ILLUSTRATE the ease with which threatened species can congregate to counter UC's over-enrollment.

Gill Tract Monarchs Fight UC's Over-Enrollment

By Jill Becoming- Roundeemountain

"Over expansion isn't just a people problem," noted a spokesperson for the group of Monarchs literally taking a stand in the branches of the eucalyptus, pine, cypress and redwood trees on Gill Tract Farm.

"This land was specifically donated by its original settlers to UC for agricultural purposes, and the university keeps trying to turn it over to private interests for private profit. We had to do something."

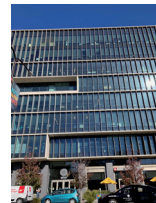
A dramatic decline in monarch populations across the state inspired the 57 butterflies overwintering at the Albany farm to try to inspire the indifferent local leadership to stand up for the climate.

"Natural open space is irreplaceable and needs protection. Natural habitat is no place for another high-end students-only construction project," stated the Monarchs' spokesperson. "If butterflies can stand up to the UC regents then local politicians have no excuse."

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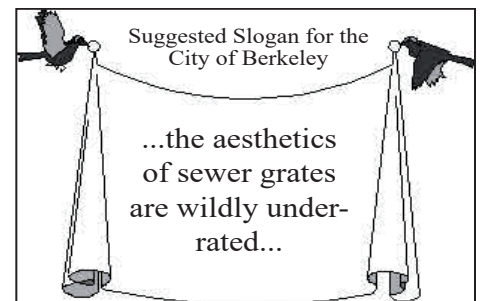
IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE RUBBLE to most people but this represents a tidy profit for a lot of politically well-connected investors who won't forget your name at election time.



THE "SEWER GRATE" on Shattuck Avenue won a big prize for audaciously resembling a gutter fixture.

there's one thing we're sure of, it's that UC students can live just about anywhere. You can bet a boatload of private investment money on that."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is shopping really the best way to get through the pandemic?

Dear reader, yes. And could you pick me up a snowblower.

Dear Lena, it seems so peculiar that UC would demolish historic, rent-controlled, landmarked buildings taking low-cost housing off the market and then replace it with high-end, student-only housing. Isn't that what's created homelessness and exacerbated the housing shortage? We sure have a surfeit of empty, high-end student housing governed by master leases controlled by profiteers from Alabama, Texas, etc. What is the City Council thinking saying nothing about all this?

Dear reader, they got snookered by the Chancellor's deal the same way she got snookered on the stadium deal that bankrupted UC Berkeley. Rumor has it that it's all a grand conspiracy to eradicate football in exchange for a move to pickleball.

Dear Lena, is the war on Christmas over? Can we have a truce?

Dear reader, no. This is the only fun left in the holiday season, so don't wreck it with your whining and find the automatic weapon on that is right for you.

Dear Lena, what is with pickleball? I must have been napping and suddenly it's all around me.

Dear reader, our research team has determined that it is a QAnon-related conspiracy spread through dark web sites which has infected both the Public Works Department and the Parks Department. Keep your automatic weapon close by.

Dear Lena, will we still have to wear masks in 2022? I can't tell if anybody is smiling at me or what they're saying.

Dear reader, they're smiling at you. And yelling at you. Everything is fine.
Ask Lena about life at cdenney@igc.org.

Americans Spending Like Drunken Sailors

"If there's no tomorrow then I'm getting those shoes..."



FURIOUS SHOPPERS COMPETE for products in the strange new nation-wide era of coronavirus contagion and supply chain disruption which most of them will tell you isn't really all that different from a typical day at Walmart.

By Erin DeTyres

"At first we called it "pandemic power shopping" noted Harvard economist Ahmet Mymatch referring to the wild spending the coronavirus disaster appears to have unleashed across the nation. "But it appears to have a lot in common with the Reverend Jim Jones Kool-Aid moment as well."



IF IT'S THE END of the world you might as well put a smile on your face and wear the good shoes.

Shoppers agreed, noting that nothing left in life could be counted on or planned for anymore.

"They cancelled New Year's Eve," pointed out one shopper with a teetering tower of toys, shoes, and exercise equipment. "I spent Christmas on Zoom. I earned my portable campfire."

American consumers are glum about the



LOCAL SHOPPER Addie Nidallup realizes she forgot to throw in the kitchen sink.

that will help," explained one shopper cradling a Shiatsu Back and Neck Massager. "At least it will help me."

Retail sales set a record in October when shoppers loaded up on home improvement projects, electronics, anything with an Apple logo. The holiday profits look to be robust despite supply chain shortages, concerns about being around people who might or might not be vaccinated, and the cancellation of everything everywhere.

"I saved a lot of money not eating out, not going to movies, and not going outside except to get the mail," explained one shopper. "And because of the inflation rate, I might as well buy things now because they'll cost twice as much two weeks from now."

"Households in the aggregate have trillions of dollars more in accumulated savings than before the crisis," stated Professor Mymatch. "And then of course there's just the sheer fun of the SINGSATION All-In-One Karaoke System with its ten different vocal effects without which I would never have made it through quarantine."

* * * * *



SOPHISTICATED KARAOKE MACHINES now come with sound effects, lighting, and boozy green room groupies.

economy, worried about inflation, and pessimistic about the direction of the country in general.

"Shopping is the only thing I can think of



THE FOX NEWS CHRISTMAS TREE WHICH EXPLODED INTO FLAMES took people by surprise but also provided a warm place to roast marshmallows and sing Christmas carols.

By Don Tread

The recent burning of the Christmas tree in front of the Fox News headquarters in New York has added real context to the “War on Christmas” rhetoric from Fox News. It amped-up the normal message of the righteous war to save Christmas from the evil progressives with their “Happy Holidays” slogan and spirit of inclusiveness extended to non-believers.

New York police have apprehended the likely suspect, a man with a long history of petty crime and suspected mental illness. While police are saying that the suspect acted alone without political motivation, various conspiracy theories are in wide circulation.

Fox News has speculated that the fire was a “liberal plot against America, Christianity, Christmas and Hanukkah.” Hanukkah? Really? Liberal pundits questioned about the event suggested that perhaps the tree fire was an extension of the ongoing dumpster fire that is the journalistic standard on Fox News. Conservative pundits believe

that the fire was the work of SANTIFA, an extremist offshoot of ANTIFA, that is against both Christmas and fascism. Given the reported SANTIFA motivation, it is no surprise that they targeted the Fox News tree.

Base upon a Fox News claim that ANTIFA is headquartered in Portland (near Rose City Park) or Berkeley (somewhere near San Pablo Ave), efforts were made to find them and get their comments. But alas, it seems that they have no headquarters and have no real formal structure or spokesperson. Oh well, just another small journalistic oversight. Maybe we should call George Soros or the Clinton Foundation for an explanation of these recent activities.



FAMILIES WHO SHOOT together stay together unless they are dead.

RCD Sells Soul for \$12 Million

By Ann Howie-Swings

“It wasn’t that hard,” stated Resources for Community Development Executive Director Dan Sawislak about selling the soul of the once-respected nonprofit. “You’d be surprised how easily twelve million dollars will put things into perspective.”

Sawislak had no comment on the destruction of People’s Park required for his soul’s sale, which took place shortly before the California Commission on Historic Resources unanimously affirmed People’s Park’s eligibility for national landmark status as a federally recognized historic site, saying, “\$12 million buys a lot of silence.”

* * * * *



Other interested parties were also contacted with shocking responses. Fox News reporters emphasized that this would not have happened if their Christmas tree had had a gun. Inquiries to the North Pole were met with silence, but they did send an updated photo of Santa. He looks pissed! I hope it’s not reindeer season.

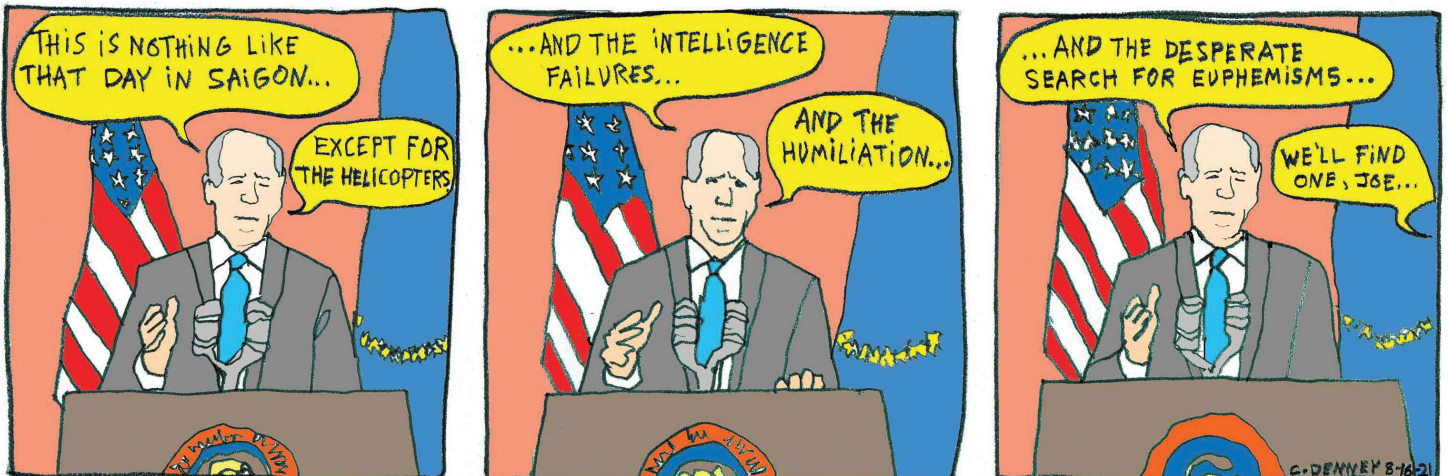
Republican Congressional leadership also weighed in with their expected helpful response. Colorado representative Lauren Boebert and Kentucky representative Thomas Massie, both published family Christmas cards where all are brandishing firearms in front of their Christmas trees. While we understand the appeal to their gun loving constituents, we are having a little trouble understanding the connection to “peace on earth and good will towards men.”

As the War on Christmas abates for another 11 months or until Fox News needs another ratings boost, stay safe and healthy. Happy Holidays y’all.

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We Can’t Draw Comics

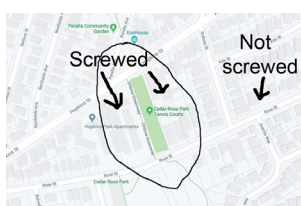
by Franz Toast



Berkeley Mayor Defends Pickleball as Crowning Achievement

By Aurora Veproovell

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Berkeley Parks Director Scott Ferris admit that neighbors to the pickleball court installed in north Berkeley were not consulted before being subjected to ceaseless hours of a game so noisy that several tenants in nearby apartments



unable to deal with the din have simply moved out.

“Checking in with the affected neighborhood is a pre-pandemic thing,” stated one assistant to the Mayor’s office. “This was a pickleball emergency.”

Parks Director Scott Ferris admitted as well that most pickleball courts are situated 300 to 500 feet from any residential proper-



TENANTS MOVED OUT after Scott Ferris and Mayor Jesse Arreguin put Pickleball courts right next to residential housing and apartments because sleep and quiet are simply overrated.

ties to avoid conflict with people trying, for unknown reasons, to read.

“We discovered during the pandemic that we can not only ignore and exclude the public from public business but that we can move a lot faster without pesky regulations. We’re a really well-oiled machine now.”

* * * * *

Sophie’s Virtual Evacuation Drill

By Brianna Bagel

“Everybody who was there said they really enjoyed it,” stated Berkeley’s District 5 City Councilmember Sophie Hahn about her recent District-wide virtual evacuation drill. “I know I had a blast.”

Critics noted that such a claim was easy to make since nobody was technically there at all, but were dismissed by staff who pointed out that the entire city government has been enjoying the new pandemic parameter that essential restricts public access to everything unless they can Zoom five simultaneous meetings while teaching the kids and walking the dog.

“It works at our end,” stated one staff member. “Public service is just so much easier if you can boot the public.”

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Next Issue: Singing madrigals with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*Henry VI Part 1

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