

the beautiful, terrific issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...and rotten times that you shall look upon.."*

Vol. XVIII No. 3



WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT THIS MEANS BUT it looks like for the next four years everybody is going to have to take the stairs.

Tech Groups Gear Up to Address Oroville Dam Disaster

By M. T. D. Bucket

Silicon Valley programmers are racing to create products for the worried geologists, hydrologists, engineers, and residents downstream from the Oroville Dam, which shows dangerous signs of erosion and is in danger of collapse, forcing nearly 200,000 people to evacuate.

"It isn't just for them," acknowledged one Silicon Valley venture capitalist. "If the turnaround is quick enough we can make hella dough from the apps alone."

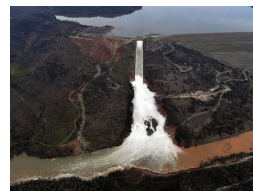
"Hella dough" was hastily defined as

technological term unrelated to the functionality of an innovative win-win pivotal unicorn, as opposed to dogfood.

Horrified critics objected that exploiting a potential natural disaster was morally wrong, but were dismissed as obstructionists unwilling to embrace innovative disruption.

"We have a short window," explained a Silicon Valley insider playing a quick game of ping-pong before a 24-hour techstorming session. "If we can create relevance, as opposed to imitating

"If we can create relevance, as opposed to *imitating* relevance, we might get to renew our H1B visas."



THE OROVILLE DAM disaster could provide an avenue for much-needed relevance for Silicon Valley, which has as much trouble establishing traction with the real world as the new administration.

imitating relevance, we just might get to renew our H1B visas."

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National Zoo's Missing Bobcat Found at Women's Pussy Hat March

By D. Osmeeoh



The Smithsonian's National Zoo's curator breathed a sigh of relief after Ollie, the missing bobcat, was found working behind the phones at a phone bank calling congressional representatives' attention to women's health issues.

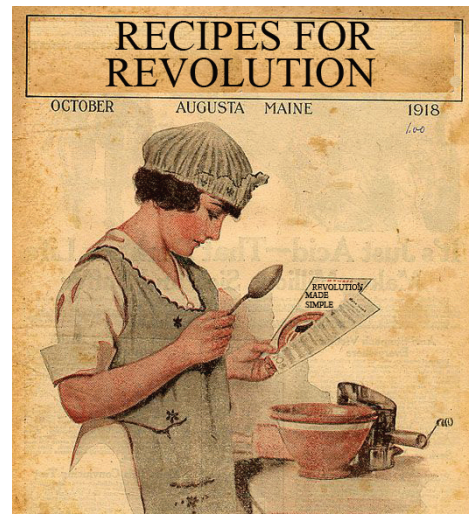
THE NATIONAL ZOO'S missing bobcat was discovered not far from home working the phones at a local community center.

"I joined the march," stated Ollie, knocking back a second cup of coffee. "I suddenly realized I couldn't just sit around in my cage and wait for somebody else to get something done."

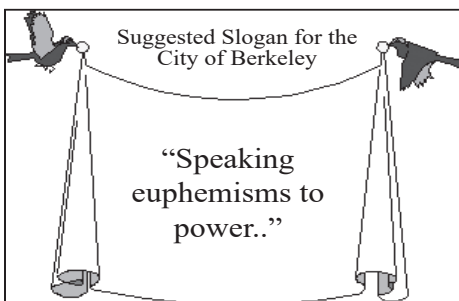
Ollie said her presence was accepted in the welcoming crowds, which quickly converted to action committees pressuring locally for political change.

"We see the methods and best practices for nurturing effective policy as a set of tools you pass along to your neighbors and family," stated another phone banker. "It's just like sharing really good recipes."

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THERE ARE LOTS OF GOOD RECIPES for getting the attention of your local and even your national representatives, like baking them a really good cake.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, this supposedly progressive Berkeley City Council just okayed short-term rentals, which aggravate the housing crisis. What's going on? Why did I waste my time going door to door for them? Didn't they read the Community Economics report? Is anybody home anymore?

Dear reader, you obviously haven't calibrated the political power of the delicate tears of property owners who *need* to violate the permit system and make under the table dough or they might be forced to disturb their confusing investment arrangements. You may be living under the overpass, which should put you in touch with human needs, but you clearly are a cold-hearted meanie with no compassion.

Dear Lena, but why aren't they using this opportunity to situate people in long-term rentals in these obviously vacant spaces? Wouldn't that make more sense, economically and morally, than continuously shoveling people on the streets into jail?

Dear reader, again, I refer you to the power of the delicate property owners' tears. There is nothing that lubricates a city council more thoroughly.

Dear Lena, so, is Facebook really evil?

Dear reader, yes.

Dear Lena, I am undocumented. Should I be worried?

Dear reader, unfortunately you should already be packed.

Dear Lena, the Bernie Sanders faction is already splitting the Democratic National Committee over the choice of committee chair. Didn't they learn anything from the election of Donald Trump?

Dear reader, not a single thing.

Ask Lena about recipes for American Carnage at cdenney@igc.org.

The New Russian Cold War Has *Huge* Role for Women

By Anne Gwishtkrei



ANNETTE O. FISH CAN MAKE small talk about Christmas like nobody's business.

By Aurora Veproovell

Women who initially worried that the Donald Trump era would represent a step backward for womenkind can put their fears to rest according to Cold War experts.

"The, Trump era's Cold War has lots of roles for women," assured Dr. Hans Ahn, a professor of Cold War policy at Harvard.

"Women's special talents in the kitchen and around the house enables them to infiltrate sensitive locations with relative ease,"

stated Dr. Ahn. "The Russians are just as vulnerable to a home-cooked meal and a pretty face as the rest of us."

Critics objected that women's roles throughout history and more specifically in World War II and the ensuing Cold



WOMEN NATIONWIDE are scouring their closets for the specialty apparel they need to bring their unique skill sets to the new Russian Cold War.



THIS MAY NOT be the most subtle approach to new Cold War apparel, but it would probably help get you into any exclusive political back room.

War era were not limited to seductresses and spies, but were soundly dismissed by Dr. Ahn, who pointed out that he has a PhD *and* a parking space.

"Women tend to look much better in evening gowns than the rest of us," he chuckled. "Although, of course, there are notable exceptions to every rule."

* * * * *

Toy Phones for Trump Campaign

By Yuri Volting



PRESIDENT TRUMP has demonstrated a creative approach to conversing with foreign representatives which many policy analysts worry might disrupt decades of careful foreign relations and hope toy phones might provide a solution.

least some leaders of foreign nations.

"We appreciate that relations with Mexico are a total loss," confided one anonymous expert. "We hoping we can hang onto, say, Sweden."

The toy phones are an experiment, admitted one national security expert.

National security and foreign policy experts nationwide revealed that they are behind an effort to supply the Oval Office with toy phones in the hope of salvaging relations with at



THIS TOY phone has lots of really modern features

"They're bright and shiny, they have fun sounds and colors, and some of them you can drag behind you on the floor. We're hoping one of these models is as fun for Trump as Twitter."

White House insiders were dubious that anything could take the place of Twitter in Trump's hands, but the Toy Phones for Trump Campaign plans to keep trying and are hard at work with Mattel and Hasbro researching new designs.

"The country is at stake," one expert sighed. "We're conducting focus groups nationwide with three and four-year-olds. We're determined to make sure this administration has appropriate equipment to govern the nation."

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THIS PHONE has proven a best seller among the pre-millennial user base.

Fight Over Naming New Planets Gets Ugly



By Mame Danmangled

Celebrations over the discovery of seven new earth-sized planets is being overshadowed by arguments over conflicting suggestions for the planets' names, according to Michael Gillon, an astronomer at the University of Liege in Belgium.



THE PUBLIC really likes the idea of a planet named Bashful.

"We wish we could focus on cool red dwarfs' ability to provide a habitable ecosystem for life," sighed Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's science mission during a news conference on the recent discovery. "But this naming thing has gotten pretty vicious."

Scientists agree that the naming controversy has gotten so out of hand that it runs the risk of affecting project funding.

"There are the obvious contenders," stated Gillon. "There's the days of the week, the books in the Harry Potter series, the notes in a typically major or minor scale, the games in the playoff series for Major League Baseball and the Pillars of the House of Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs, not to mention the number of heavens in Islam and the chakras in Hinduism. We really have our hands full."

"Which was bad enough," added Zurbuchen, "when we realized that Disney's seven dwarfs had a strong following."

"It's true," agreed Gillon. "People seem to really like the idea of having a planet named Grumpy."

"People seem to really like the idea of having a planet named Grumpy."

Zuckerberg Pens Manifesto, Misses Big Picture

- Nobody at Facebook has the nerve to fill the poor guy in

By Bledsoe Mucheedide

Following in the footsteps of the Unibomber and other cultural icons, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg wrote a rambling essay he dubbed a "manifesto" suggesting that despite his internet site's probable culpability in the death of newspapers, the birth of the lucrative fake news industry, and the tilting of the most recent presidential election in favor of sound bites and sizzle, he sees Facebook as "the social infrastructure for the community" which will transform the future.

Critics chortled at the self-serving perspective of the Facebook CEO, who began



FACEBOOK'S MARK ZUCKERBERG really really cares about the future of journalism and the solution is more of Facebook's bulls in the journalistic china shop.

his site as a way to rate college women's attractiveness on-line.

"You have to give him points for trying," stated one seasoned Silicon Valley observer of the site, which pulled in \$8.8 billion in revenue last quarter, mostly from ads. "He's gotta keep his head in the sand or he'd commit suicide."

Facebook use has been linked to depression, low self-esteem, jealousy, bullying, and a tendency to misjudge social contexts and etiquette.

"Zuckerberg would have difficulty recognizing these symptoms for obvious reasons," stated one Facebook engineer on condition of anonymity. "We try to keep him in a good mood."

"We're kind of hopeful about the guilt factor," added another Facebook engineer who says he feels it himself. "We're kind of hoping he ends up reading a newspaper."



SPENDING TOO much time online can be linked to depression, low self-esteem, and terrorism.



ASTRONOMERS AGREE THAT naming the new planets after Trump's grandkids might really improve science funding.

Others in the scientific community worried that in any popular contest the seven deadly sins might come up a winner, risking edging out President Trump's seven grandkids.

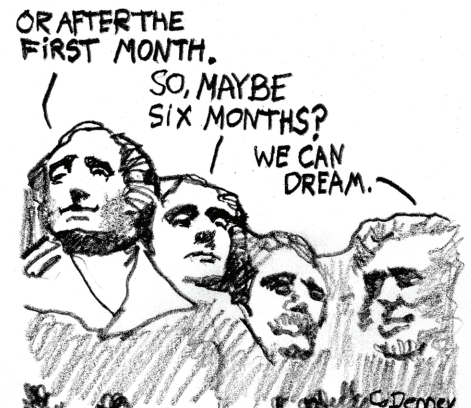
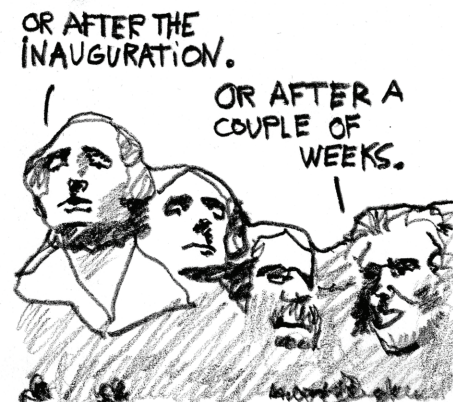
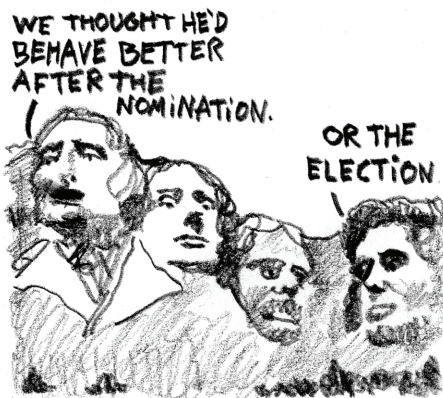
"And don't forget Boaty McBoatface," whispered one astronomer, referencing the ill-fated public contest to name an arctic research ship. "We have next year's funding to think about."

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Department of Homeland Security Apologizes for Leaking Memo Undermining Muslim Ban



Recommends stocking up on rainboots, sandbags

By Fiona Creditcard



HOMELAND SECURITY workers struggle to secure the massive leaks threatening to swamp their offices.

“Whoops,” stated Department of Homeland Security in response to a leaked draft memo which indicated that the intelligence arm found “insufficient evidence” that citizens from

the seven Muslim-majority countries included in President Donald Trump’s travel ban pose “any terror threat to the United States.”

“We think it’s coming from the guest bathroom,” stated DHS Secretary John Kelly. “Or the kitchen. Also it’s been raining a lot.”

The draft memo was considered an embarrassment to the Trump administration, which had specifically asked for corroborating evidence to support the proposed travel ban now mired in the courts and referred to the memo as “unfinished.”

“It’s not the full report,” acknowledged one DHS insider of the document while



THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY is seriously flooded with leaks, making it hard to find dry socks.

wading gingerly through the flooded department halls in hip boots.”But it’s hard to amplify the number of homeland terror attacks from these seven countries when you have to start with zero.”

New Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos offered to help with the more creative, “enhanced” math common in charter schools.

“It’s like alternative facts,” she stated. “Just because zero plus zero equaled zero in the old system doesn’t mean we can’t improve matters in a charter school.”

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MOST MEXICANS DRESS exactly alike and speak a strange, unintelligible language which nobody can understand.

US Officials Seek Creative Ways to Ease Tensions with Mexico

By Juana Enchilada

The Trump administration is reaching out to the public for creative ways to get along better with Mexico, whose representatives have reacted in a really touchy way about a proposal for more border wall.

“We hear they like Margaritas and chihuahuas,” stated one State Department official. “We’re really trying to figure this out.”

“They keep saying ‘Narcisista idiota, hombre sin conciencia’, stuff like that,” added another official. “We’re working on the translation.”

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Next Issue: Running for office with celebrities!

You Get Your Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702



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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*Henry IV Part II

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