

the cheese-free issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...I have seen a lady's nose that has been blue but not her eyebrows.*

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Latest Tariff Proposals Mean Tragic Higher Costs for Wine, Cheese

SF Bay Area Panics - Holiday Parties in Jeopardy



FEW COMPREHEND THE impending doom represented by impact of tariffs on holiday fare including wines, festive cheese balls, and specialty foods without which the holidays have little meaning.

By Lotta Hoddair

The phones are ringing furiously as retailers try to find a way to stock French, Spanish, and German wines as well as Spanish olives, Parmesan, Stilton, and specialty currant jellies now burdened with tariffs that threaten holiday festivities.

California winemakers scoffed at the public alarm, pointing out that they stood to gain in the domestic market, but conceded that counter-tariffs would impact their burgeoning international sales.

"We're covered," stated one Napa winemaker. "We may have to operate by candlelight, but when the power goes out we can still knock back something with a lilting bouquet and a long nose."

Others lamented the potential loss of exotic pairings of local wines with European Union cheeses, meats, and seafood especially considering that California kelp is packing its bags for some more hospitable planet and taking local seafood along for the ride, but were dismissed.

"A twenty-five percent increase might discourage some, but others will rise to the challenge," whispered one California sommelier who requested anonymity. "Those \$400 bottles don't drink themselves."

Locals admitted that the customers who drink the \$400 bottles rarely send the bottles back to the kitchen or complain.

"Maybe the price has its own effect," mused one local winery worker. "Raising the price 40% might in fact have an effect on the nose, especially if it binds punchy wintergreen essences with a playful gingerbread finish resonant with mildewed walnut undertones underscored with a soapy curly-fry flavor."

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Inevitable Chase Center Curse Begins



THE 1.4 BILLION DOLLAR Chase Center arena provided the gold-plated San Francisco setting for a blowout loss fans claim wouldn't have happened if the team had stayed in Oakland.

By Alda Weil

"It was too painful for 'I told you so,'" said one fan in Oakland watching the Golden State Warriors' embarrassing 122 to 141 opening season blowout loss to the Clippers after an even more embarrassing amount of hoopla over their move out of Oakland.

The Chase Center's gold-plated approach to the game was beautifully illustrated by the midpoint of the fourth quarter, when a very different set of ticket holders started leaving the arena before the end of the game to beat the traffic.



FANS LOVE the Warriors but have never loved the management that always kept the name Oakland from having any connection to the "Golden Gate Warriors" franchise and really really really wanted a pointless move to San Francisco where gridlock reigns.

the Warriors' wealthy new fan base will manage, especially those drowning their sorrow with the \$75 caviar flight.

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Mysterious Sign From Above Confuses Everybody



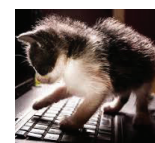
LIBERALS CLAIM the message is a sign that computers have taken over but that they are also really bad at grammar.

By Allen Fun

Computer experts affirmed recently that a combination of the internet, computers, and artificial intelligence, or "AI", has taken over the universe.

"We thought it was just the planet," stated one computer expert, "but the twenty new moons orbiting Saturn are exhibiting patterns we believe are organized for their own singular purposes."

A team led by Carnegie's Scott S. Sheppard found 20 new moons blithely orbiting Saturn in what some experts suspect is an effort to blow Jupiter's 79 moons off the charts in some kind of interplanetary world series, but others suspect it is a conspiracy against schoolchildren who thought they had all the moons figured out and have to go redo all their science projects.



Experts agree that cats can play a role in correcting the egregious grammatical mistakes committed by computers' flawed spell-checkers.

The International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center tried to calm a worried public concerned that whatever is running the universe wouldn't address the impending crisis represented by additional tariffs on traditional holiday wine and cheese.

"Everything's going to be fine," said Dr. Sheppard. "Just be glad something is running this crazy joint."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, seriously, aren't all oldtime tunes the same tune? These people sit for hours playing what sounds to me like the same thing over and over. It's like they are all hypnotized.

Dear reader, yes, it is a musical version of an optical illusion that they get caught up in and there is no cure as yet known. Stay at least ten feet away or you'll get caught in the undertow.

Dear Lena, are they kidding with these expensive studios about homelessness? I can save them time and money. Nobody can afford the rent around here. Ta-da.

Dear reader, excellent point. It hurts a lot less if we agree to see it as a jobs program for the mentally challenged.

Dear Lena, is the Brexit thing finally over? I made a joke about it to a friend who is from England and he hit me with an umbrella.

Dear reader, the British sense of humor is too difficult for most Americans to safely navigate. He may have been sincerely trying to thank you.

Dear Lena, is PG&E going to pay me back for my spoiled groceries? I was really looking forward to my small batch Van Leeuwen ice cream.

Dear reader, under California's "inverse condemnation law," they are liable. But standing in line for your check could take years and make you feel really stupid. Go get some ice cream and shut up before someone who lost their house and barn hits you.

Dear Lena, who are you going to vote for in the next election. I am so confused and I don't want to do the wrong thing but everybody tells me something different and I respect your opinion. Help me out here before I flip a coin.

Dear reader, it would be wiser not to respect my opinion. In the World Series I always vote for seven games.
Ask Lena about baseball at cdenney@jgc.org.

I-80 Art Exhibit Captures Cusp of Tech, Housing Collision

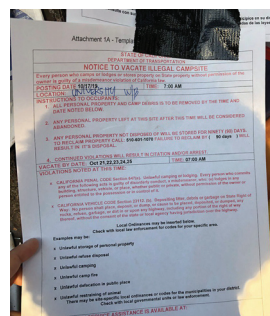
Eccentric Artists Insist on "Plein Air" Setting; Art Critics Swoon

By Micha Chance

A community of creative people successfully resisted Caltrans' efforts to shut down an art exhibit flourishing near the I-80 underpass and the Seabreeze Market to the delight of art critics across the nation who agreed that their most singular signature work is best suited to its natural, indigenous location and its colorful, inventive freeway soundscape.

"It isn't that the public wouldn't be enchanted by the colors and shadows of the LED light installation in a gallery setting as well," offered R. D. N. Proud, art historian from a local university. "But to see this magnificent work there in its original setting with the exotic interplay of the traffic lights streaming by seemingly indifferent to the eloquence of the implication of the plea for human needs, well, it just makes me want to sit down and re-write my entire thesis."

"It has a strange, gentle quality which changes throughout the day as the light comes and goes," added another art critic who finally got out of her car and walked to the installation in wonder after finding no record of it in the pink section of the San Francisco Chronicle.



THE EVICTION NOTICES liberally sprinkled throughout the I-80 art exhibit have a cruel realism.

"I've been trying to photograph it from every angle, but between the freeway lighting and the seething colors of the rivers of traffic my photos are so unworthy."

"And then there's the soundscape," noted another Art Institute instructor leading a group of students carefully through the underpass's colorful tent installations. "There's the low-pitched hum of auto traffic colliding with the roar from semis which all intersects convincingly with occasional passing trains. You just couldn't plan for this to capture more fully a complete sound spectrum for the true art lover."

Tent dwellers admitted they conceived the installation without imagining they would become an artistic attraction.

"The city pushed us out here, so they should get some credit," responded one of the tent-dwelling artists when questioned about the origin of the art concept. "Lots of us are artists and musicians, but necessity played its own inevitable role."

Art critics noted that much of art's forward movement is born of necessity, and



THIS CAPTIVATING VISUAL LANDSCAPE took Bay Area art critics by surprise, leaving them scrambling for adjectives to meet the challenge of describing the work, which is apparently a collaborative effort by a fresh group of artists who insist that the plein air setting is more appropriate for this work than a gallery.

continue to urge the artists to submit their work to galleries.

"Sounds great," responded one i-80 participant. "Sounds warm and dry, anyway. But like everything else they offer us, it's probably temporary. Constantly moving around even from appreciative gallery to appreciative gallery sounds as exhausting as this Caltrans Simon Says game."



THE POINTED QUESTION asked by the I-80 art exhibit is apparently unanswerable by the Berkeley City Council, Caltrans, and dozens of additional municipal and state agencies confounded by the inexplicable human need for shelter.

Inspiration Corner by Lynn Riordan

A Guide To Brexit

PRIME MINISTER: A minister only

divisible by itself and one.

Parliament: A funk band from the 70's.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY: The party proving that there is an infinite number of Prime Ministers.

The Irish Backstop: The roof where cricket balls end up when playing on the UK-Irish border.

BORIS JOHNSON: Slang for an UNATTRACTIVE dick.



Twitter Addiction Got You Down?



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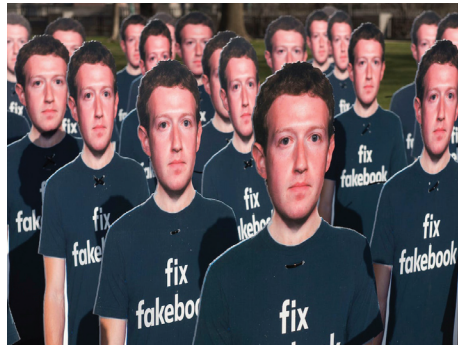
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Facebook Employees Demand Zuckerberg Stop Publishing False Political Ads

By Caleb Rate

250 Facebook employees signed a letter urging CEO Mark Zuckerberg to quit allowing unfettered political falsehoods on Facebook's platform, echoing New York Congressional representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren's concerns at a recent



FACEBOOK CRITICS POINT OUT that its platform is private, not public, and that the platform administrators have the same options as any publishing company the most respected of which routinely fact-check stories and ads before they hit print.

hearing on the subject of Facebook generally as well as Zuckerberg's policy on allowing paid, targeted disinformation ads in the 2020 election.

Zuckerberg responded that Facebook works really hard to make things better and that it now works with 60 internal and contract lobbyists, about twice the number it



ZUCKERBERG THINKS lies are informative.

had in 2016.

"We are on track to spend \$12.3 million to lobby the federal government in the first nine months of the year, compared with \$12.6 million for all of last year," stated the Facebook CEO proudly. "I'm now worth \$68.2 billion as of August 2019."

Zuckerberg is the fifth-richest person in the world. He spent \$100 million on two properties on the island of Kauai: the Kahu'aina Plantation, a 357-acre former sugarcane plantation, and Pila'a Beach, a 393-acre property with a white-sand beach. But he prefers to think of himself as living a simple life, simply acquiring the four properties near his Palo Alto home which he plans to level and rebuild into a personal compound.

"Political falsehoods may be inconvenient for elections," he stated, "but they are hella lucrative."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



PG&E Recommends Untapped Renewable Energy Resources for Creative California Residents

PG&E Suggests Innovations from California's Natural Resources Until the Power Comes Back On

By Brett Crumbs

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), which is under fire for causing wildfires and power outages across California, offered California residents helpful suggestions for weathering the firestorm blackening the air and requiring the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of terrified people.

"We have plentiful natural, renewable resources available in our state," stated PG&E spokesperson Claude DeWalls. "We hope this useful list will serve our customers until we can turn the power back on."

1. **Hot air** - the simple machine pictured here transformed any typical political speech into useful energy and its source is not just renewable, but eternal.



HOT AIR machine situated near local politicians.

2. **Sanctimony** - while most people get annoyed with Californians' overwhelming sense of moral superiority,

one can tap the powerful current of ordinary sanctimony and power an entire gender reveal party.

3. **Tote bags** - old tote bags accumulated from bank and nonprofit giveaways



TOTE BAG transformers are easy to make from old car parts.

can be easily converted to burnable bricks with a machine created from old car parts by almost any average eight-year-old.

Used Birkenstocks - inventive Californians have created a machine capable of collecting used Birkenstock sandals from a safe distance, allowing the collector to harness



SANCTIMONY is particularly rife in California and creates its own current.

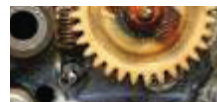


THIS USED Birkenstock collector captures the raw resource without subjecting the driver to the unfortunate aroma.

their considerable aromatic power.

Political buttons

- most Californians would never be seen in public without their colorful array of political buttons which, if bagged and attached to appropriate gears, provide a weight heavier than those used for centuries to run grandfather clocks.



POLITICAL BUTTONS provide enough weight to run heavy machinery.

Kale - this sadly inevitable component of every single California garden, potluck, and crop swap does eventually burn and can also be woven into tasteful clothing.



KALE MAY BE harvested by hand, but we recommend heavy machinery.

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Next Issue: Painting popcorn with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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*The Winter's Tale

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