NO MATTER HOW WELL DRESSED you are you look really stupid on a scooter.

“It Could Be Worse…”

Berkeley Mayor Unveils Catchy Re-election Campaign Slogan

By Bert Toast

“The report counted 1,108 persons experiencing homelessness in the City of Berkeley, an increase of 14% since the last count in 2017. Comparatively, the countywide homeless population increased by 43% during the same time period. While any increase is unacceptable, the numbers show that our investment to end homelessness over the past two years is beginning to make a difference for those living on our streets…”

Berkeley Mayor Arreguin’s cheerful personal assessment of Berkeley’s 14% increase in homelessness is touted in his new blog as positive, perhaps influenced by his brave new campaign slogan which reads, “It Could Be Worse.”

“It think it’s charming,” offered one city hall staffer. “It’s important to have a slogan that captures the spirit of the times.”

“I read the mayor’s blog,” offered a local Berkeley resident, “and I can’t quite figure out what he means by saying that the 14% increase in homelessness is beginning to make a difference for those living on our streets’. I mean, it sounds like a fifth grader’s ad campaign for fresh socks for the poor living behind the dumpster.”

Mayoral aides scrambled to add fresh socks for the poor living behind the dumpster to their new campaign promises.

Dubious voters pointed out that Mayor Arreguin’s last set of campaign promises was still unfulfilled, including a rollback of anti-homeless laws, safe campgrounds, safe vehicle parking for vehicle dwellers, oversight for the “ambassador” crews and the Business Improvement District staff, etc., which the mayor’s staff conceded were still waiting their turn along with some kind of response to the fact that at least 24 homeless people have died on Berkeley’s streets under Arreguin’s watch. (Continued...)

“Experts puzzled over the stunning news that UC Berkeley lost its brazen effort to ignore the agreements it made with the neighbors near the Clark-Kerr Campus.

“Judges usually let us do whatever we want,” mused one of the university’s legal team. “The court granted a petition for a writ of mandate. We’re all getting drunk over here since we figure we’re all getting fired.”

“They should be fired,” stated legal observers who suggested that climate change might have also affected the court, which usually sleeps through the university’s assaults on the City of Berkeley and its beleaguered neighborhoods.

“Global warming is probably waking people up a little,” agreed one legal observer. “But there are other factors. This UC legal work was really, really sloppy. It was also inaccurate in ways that no judge could miss and still get a tee time. “We don’t know what they’re smoking over there at the UC Berkeley legal department.”

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“The current Clark-Kerr ballfield is only used by day without any amplified sound system.

UC’s proposal would have had amplified night games with spectators and TV coverage.

Suggested slogan for the City of Berkeley

…dedicated to making sure scooters are taken seriously as a transportation option...

TULE ELK ADMIT THEIR BRAND is stale and are planning a 2.0 upgrade.

By Norm De Plume

The National Park Service’s plan for “managing” approximately 660 native Tule Elk by shooting them has met unexpected resistance from almost everybody except the ranchers and dairy owners who hold leases for commercial businesses on about 28,000 acres of the nearly 90,000 acres of the public lands in the national seashore and the nearby Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

“There used to be 500,000 Tule Elk roaming free in California,” fumed one environmentalist. “Can’t we all just get along?”

“The Tule Elk acknowledged that their traditional ways have difficulty catching the fancy of the flashy tech orientation currently guiding most policy.

“We’re working on an app,” stated the Tule Elk’s spokesanimal. “We’re hoping that if people have fun tracking us like their Uber cars they might not shoot us.”

“It’s a gamble,” offered another elk. “But if Tule Elk 2.0 can save our habitat it will be worth it. We know people love us. But we also know they love guns.

* * * *
UC President Janet Napolitano announced that she was quitting her job as the first female head of the system-wide UC campuses saying that the upcoming battle over destroying People’s Park with market-rate housing was “somebody else’s circus.”

“I was head of Homeland Security,” she stated. “You’d think I’d have the chops for this. But you would be wrong. This is going to be a fucking bloodbath.”

Lena Deeter

ATHLETES SHOULD REALLY JUST donate their valuable services to their universities and suck it up when they get brain damage.

“We think she’s in shock,” mused a small group of students offering her kombucha.

“The next sucker.”

Inspiration Corner

By Lynn Riordan

UC President Napolitano Quits Ahead of Next People’s Park Battle

By Nathaniel Anthem

UC President Janet Napolitano announced that she was quitting her job as the first female head of the system-wide UC campuses saying that the upcoming battle over destroying People’s Park with market-rate housing was “somebody else’s circus.”

“I was head of Homeland Security,” she stated. “You’d think I’d have the chops for this. But you would be wrong. This is going to be a fucking bloodbath.”

Campus neighbors were somewhat pleased given UC President Napolitano’s role in expanding UC Berkeley’s enrollment well past the housing capacity of Berkeley, Albany, and Oakland combined.

“We’ve tried to work with the campus,” stated a spokesperson for one neighborhood group. “They only show up when their next expansion plan is set in stone.”

“That’s one of our favorite things,” acknowledged one anonymous UC official. “We love the look on their faces.”

UC Berkeley chancellor Carol Christ couldn’t be reached at her office and was finally located seated sobbing on the curb of the new UC Berkeley football stadium, the crushing debt from which she recently moved from the athletic department’s budget to the central campus amid both public and faculty objections.

Dear Lena, are you sure it’s socks-for-brains? It might be golf balls in there.

Dear Lena, I think the neighbors who paid to have big rocks put on the sidewalk have a good point. It would make it hard to have an encampment and then you wouldn’t have poor people hanging around making you feel guilty about your warm bed. What’s wrong with that?

Dear Lena, are they really going to impeach Trump? What about all that stuff about strategy and letting the electorate decide? I think he’s a sputtering socks-for-brains, but what are we doing?

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Ask Lena about secondhand smoke as an artistic homage to the sixties at cdenny@igc.org.

LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

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Neighbors of Clinton Park Advocate Jailing the Poor

After a well-funded group of San Francisco’s Clinton Park neighbors paid to have huge boulders dumped on sidewalks near their homes to discourage tent cities activists and artists jumped into action. Chalk artists, rock-rollers, activists, and sledgehammer wielders relocated and contextualized the anti-poor architecture relentlessly while the city tried to find a way to stay off the battlefield.

“At first we just pointed out that people could still technically pass by,” stated SF Public Works spokesperson Rachel Gordon. “But there’s that pesky permit issue.”

Gordon admitted the city then repeatedly scooped the rocks back onto the sidewalk itself, which were promptly rolled back into the street creating traffic hazards for scooters and sandwich-carrying robots.

“Aren’t we paying for this?” wondered one San Francisco resident who biked from another neighborhood just to see the battlefield. “I appreciate that it does represent one of the best and most exotic Sisyphean illustrations of the emptiness of both the city’s and the neighborhood’s approach to the housing crisis, but after all, isn’t this public money? Isn’t this coming out of my taxpaying pocket?”

“Why should I at least have gotten a grant from some art commission to perform a work that encapsulates so succinctly the complete idiocy that passes for housing solutions and public policy,” mused another bystander. “I think they could have gotten the funding easily.”

“One can’t say it isn’t inspiring,” agreed another passerby. “I find myself personally invigorated by this coordinated creativity.”

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War Correspondent Tracks War on the Poor

By Roland deBall

Sgt. Shipley Shape agreed that he needs to work out more before hitting the War on the Poor beat.

“I’m out of shape,” he admitted. “I’ve been skating up and down the coast from Los Angeles to Washington state with quick stops in Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Portland, it’s, it’s just crazy out there with stuff like the rock war in Clinton Park. I can’t believe how people can’t figure out that people need housing, not big rocks on the sidewalk.”

He stirred his lemonade.

“Which underpass? San Jose? I’ll be there, I’ll be there...”

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Artists and Activists Win Rock War Against Homeless Tents

Neighbors of Clinton Park Advocate Jailing the Poor

By Bill deWealthy

The Rocks Tried to leave the battlefield but were subjected to discrimination by Uber drivers who refused to pick them up.

The City of San Francisco finally entered the Clinton Park Rock War but elected to bill the entire city for the Clinton Park neighborhood’s expensive sidewalk boulder invasion.

We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

Trump weighs in on asylum seekers...

It’s like a picnic. It’s let’s go to Disneyland.

The word spreads in Tornillo...

I’m pretty sure this is not a picnic.

Yeah.

Of course, it might be Disneyland.

Yeah, I’ve heard stories.
10 Things Worse Than Impeachment

By Grover Broke

Editor’s note: Impeachment is awful! It’s when someone puts a ripe peach on your head and you have to walk so carefully or it rolls off and messes up your shoes. But there’s worse! Just take a look...

“Impoachment” - This is when they float you in really hot water until you are addled and opaque.

“Imperchment” - This is when they stuff you into a fish. Ouch!

“Impoochment” - This is when they either surround you with little yapping dogs or stuff you into a yapping poodle.

“Imparchment” - This is when they wrap you up in really hard, scratchy paper.

“Impinchment” - This is when they pinch you and all their friends do, too.

“Impeachment” - This is when they smear ripe pears all over you which some people actually think is okay.

“Impitchment” - This is when they make you sing a challenging phrase of music over and over again and criticize your pitch, primarily, but also your phrasing and dynamic, which is really painful.

“Impollchment” - This is when the polls nail you as the guy messing up the election for everybody else.

“Impeelchment” - This is when they discuss whether or not to impeach you with pundits and analysts until your skin peels off and messes up the floor.

* * * * *

Next Issue: Wandering aimlessly with celebrities!

Progressive Alliance Spinal Transplant Unsuccessful

By Harriet Upp

Friends and family of the Progressive Alliance gathered together recently in remembrance of the once vibrant Progressive Alliance agenda and values which, following an unsuccessful spinal transplant, will remain firmly in the embarrassing position of supporting the current mayor of Berkeley.

“I thought Michael Diehl’s death on the streets would finally turn it,” stated one homeless advocate in shock at the close to thirty deaths of homeless people on Berkeley’s streets under Mayor Jesse Arreguin’s tenure as mayor of Berkeley. “But people don’t seem to care.”

*   *   *   *   *

SURGEONS gave it all they had but couldn’t strengthen the spine of the Progressive Alliance, which will endorse whatever.

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.

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod

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*Richard III

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.