Chancellor Christ unleashes People’s Parknado

Unruly Trees Threatened University’s Security

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.”

“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.”

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.”

Don’t miss The Folk This! Songbook, Freight & Salvage Feb. 25th 8 pm
LEN\\A 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 cdenney@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 that 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.”

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

“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.”

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.”

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Government Shutdown
Finally Ends - for Three Weeks Only

By Lucy Nourminds

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.”

We Can’t Draw Comics

Bad Food Delivered Indifferently Fails

Rabid Investors Re-think Robots Bearing Icky Food

By Rita Novel

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

“Investors love the 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, according to industry insiders.

“Why care?” stated one investor sadly. “They really can tell the difference. Who knew.”

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

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

We Can’t Draw Comics

A HEART, ONCE OPENED, IS HARD TO CLOSE
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.

“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 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.”

Next Issue: Searching for open bathrooms with celebrities!

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.