Plan for Solving Homelessness Through Defunct Sailboats Hits Rocks

By Xaviera Pinions

A Berkeley City Council consent calendar item which attempted to obtain a grant to address the removal of sinking, rotting sailboats at the Berkeley Marina almost sank the meeting itself on Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 as creative thinkers suddenly wanted the bevy of broken boats to be fixed up “for the homeless.”

“It came out of nowhere,” said one bewildered City Hall staff member in a quivering voice. “We were just trying to secure the grant before they sink and it becomes a whole different issue.”

Attendees at the meeting to protest the criminalization of recreational vehicles seized on the boats as a ready-made housing alternative, creating a frenzy of misconception about anchor-in living and the habitability of Berkeley’s sunken boats.

“I was wild about the plan,” stated one local citizen eager to find creative ways to reduce homelessness in Berkeley by using the couple dozen decrepit sailboats sinking in the Berkeley Marina, “until I found out it would typically cost an estimated $700,000 per boat.”

“I had my outfit all picked out,” nodded another tent-dweller ruefully when a local waterfront commissioner clarified that the realistic costs of sailboat rehabilitation would make it more cost effective to simply rent rooms at a local hotel.

“That’s almost as much as the cost of one of those ‘tiny houses’ when you factor in the habitability requirements,” agreed another local resident ruefully. “They never want to mention the land costs or the necessity of nearby cooking and sanitation facilities for those things, which really makes the $700,000 boat fixer-upper proposal look almost sensible.”

Berkeley civic leaders are turning themselves inside out trying to use up every inch of available land to situate Silicon Valley workers before local housing advocates realize that without honest rent control whatever is built in Berkeley will be a party zone for the tech crowd.

“Imagine scraping out the pockets of a housing-challenged public without having to acquire land in the first place, I mean, there’s a lot of ocean out there.”

“Perhaps my expectations were too high,” sighed book reviewer for the Boise Bee Phyllis Stein of the recently released Mueller Report, “but I found the writing disappointingly dry.”

“It was promoted as a blockbuster,” agreed another book reviewer, Rick E. Dink of the Butte County Recorder, “so the lack of descriptive narrative definitely worked against it.”

The publication was the object of overwhelming speculation for two years, such that interested readers had readied themselves for a suspense filled bodice ripper.

“I would have liked to have had Ivanka play a larger role,” commented one disappointed reader. “She seems to handle the spotlight really well.”

“I would have loved more Donald Jr.,” (continued on page 2)

The Mueller Report: A Review

By Omar Gosh

READERS POUR THROUGH the recently released and greatly hyped Mueller Report trying to figure out whodunnit.

THOSE WHO MOST ENJOY THE MUELLER REPORT tend to be the same people who have read Finnegans Wake.

Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...battling poverty through ticketing the dickens out of poor people...
Dear Lena, I don’t like this idea of eating up public school property to build teachers-only housing. Police officers are important, too, not to mention bartenders. Why single out only one part of the workforce for housing help? It isn’t like firefighters and latte’ pumpers aren’t in trouble at work if they’re late. Why not make housing available to people who need it period?

Dear Lena, so, that school district land really could be used to situate the RV dwellers? Because some of them are teachers. Some of them are students, for heaven’s sake.

Dear reader, yes, the Berkeley City Council could direct the City Manager to situate RVs in a small ratio of each parking lot throughout town, using relatively unused parking lots like the BUSD lot on Addison. It could also order the police to stop concentrating RVs in District One, which caused the uproar in the first place. Note, when the teachers show up to beg for the council’s attention, how they’re not told what the RV crowd was told - that it’s just so unfortunate that their jobs don’t pay enough but what can you do.

Dear Lena, but doesn’t this public property belong to the public? Isn’t that us?

Dear Lena, doesn’t that suck?

Dear reader, totally.

Ask Lena about pie at cdenney@igc.org.
We Can’t Draw Comics
by Franz Toast

“IT just didn’t seem right,” stated “Joey,” the sled dog which Iditarod insiders say is being blamed for erasing a five-hour lead in the recent Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. “I’ll run for miles in harsh conditions, I’ll put up with blizzards, white-outs and negative 100 wind chill conditions. But come on, don’t yell at me.”

Musher Nicolas Petit admitted he had raised his voice to the dog, but pointed out that Joey had jumped another sled dog he had been fighting with earlier on the trail and was trying to calm the dogs.

“The yelling affected all of us,” stated Joey. “I admit I snapping at another member of our team, but neither of us thought it was a big deal. But the yelling, well, we just all sat down and wouldn’t go. That’s not part of our contract.”

Joey says he feels fine about losing the race and having the whole team quit cooperating with Petit, the musher, only 200 miles from the finish line.

“It’s just solidarity,” Joey pointed out. “We don’t really care about food and we don’t really think about the future. Most of us have no idea who wins or loses these things. We just get in gear and go.”

Experts acknowledged that sled dogs tend to exhibit something akin to labor solidarity since the $51,000 for the victory, plus a new truck wouldn’t be of much use to the dog teams, who hate driving.

“They hate driving,” affirmed the expert. “Avoid giving them the keys or they’ll probably just eat them.”

SLED DOGS GET ALONG pretty well most of the time and don’t care what they have for dinner or who controls the remote. It isn’t the first sled dog labor strike on record, but it cost front-runner Petit a crucial five-hour lead in a race eventually won by Peter Kaiser whose dog team acknowledged that he spoke to them respectfully the entire 998 mile race route.

JOEY” THE SLED DOG ADMITS he played a large role in Musher Nicolas Petit’s Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race after getting yelled at, which he felt was inappropriate.

“They hate driving,” affirmed the expert. “Avoid giving them the keys or they’ll probably just eat them.”

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“They hate driving,” affirmed the expert. “Avoid giving them the keys or they’ll probably just eat them.”

Joey agreed that their motivation is different from human motivation and has greater connection to belly scratching and dinner. He also admitted that he had eaten his share of car keys.

“Winning or losing any race doesn’t make that much difference to us dogs,” stated Joey. “They don’t put our names in the records. But hey, don’t yell at us.”

* * * * *

FOOTBALL PLAYERS get hit in the head a lot so even if they start college as not the brightest bulbs in the bunch they get stupider.

Legislators Flail Over College Admissions Policies After Cheating Scandal

UC Administrators Worry Fair Admissions Policy Will End Football Program

By Abby Waiting

UC officials scrambled to respond to the admission scandal revealing that wealthy parents bought their kids’ way into college. They acknowledged reluctantly that special admissions pathways for athletic abilities, donor connections, and forbears who attended the university had created a system anything but fair even without cheating.

“We can’t really argue that we don’t have racial bias, or gender bias, and we sure do have income bias,” stated one official. “We’re afraid for the future of football.”

Critics argue that UC San Diego gave up having a football team years ago, and that since 99% of football players end up with brain damage giving up football would reduce costs and ensure that college athletes wouldn’t end up stupider at the other end of their studies.

“The main thing to do is admit applicants who meet the basic qualification by lot-tery,” offered one. “There’s been nothing fair about the admissions process yet.”

“150 years of unfairness is enough,” agreed one California high school applicant. “Spin the wheel. At least that way I’ll have a chance.”

* * * * *
Berkeley Unified School District Wants to Become Company Town

By Missy Leda Lottapeople

“Welcome to the company town,” commented one wry observer watching the Housing Advisory Commission happily accept the suggestion that the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) cannibalize its recreational and parking space to house a tiny ratio of teachers in teacher-only housing.

“Only while they’re actively teaching,” explained one of the proposal’s presenters. “As soon as they’re fired, retired, or relocated they can hit the road.”

Critics, including one brave commissioner, noted that teachers aren’t the only important part of the workforce having to commute long distances between home to work in Berkeley, but were dismissed.

“Other workers may be important, and they may be underpaid as well,” responded one of the proposal’s presenters. “But we’re not only organized - we hand out out your kids’ grades.”

Others expressed concern that the “company town” concept of having one’s employer control something as fundamental as housing had not worked out well in the coal fields of West Virginia, but were dismissed.

“It gives us an extra edge,” agreed a BUSD spokesperson. “In case we need it.”

Next Issue: Meditating on vegetables with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

THE BIG SCREEN TVS COMING SOON TO YOUR NEARBY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT are so depressed about having to participate in the “IKE” kiosk nightmare that they’ve taken to making confusing, self-destructive remarks and need psychiatric assistance.

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To:

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“King Lear
We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.