“You can kick the ass of the rich. It’s just such a big ass that it takes a long time.”

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UC Chancellor Christ Freaks Out

Tears Out People’s Park Freebox After Peace and Justice Commission and ASUC Inexplicably Affirm People’s Park’s 50th Anniversary, Freebox

WHAT DO THESE STUDENTS know about life or anything because they’re too young to understand what a threat People’s Park is to all of western civilization.

By Xaviera Pinions

“We thought we had everyone on board,” stated Dan Mogolof, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Executive Communications in an embarrassed whisper after hearing that the Peace and Justice Commission had unanimously passed a resolution affirming People’s Park’s 50th Anniversary and its historical significance and continuing contributions to the Berkeley community. “We thought our fifty year campaign against People’s Park would pretty much mean we could bulldoze it at this point.”

Observers and commissioners alike hastened to note that the resolution simply affirmed the park’s lengthy, tireless service to the wider community of people who garden there, play there, share meals there, organize projects there, play music there, dance there, and enjoy concerts and events there.

“It’s specifically a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary,” stated one meeting attendee. “Fifty is kind of a big number. People look stupid pretending fifty years is somehow insignificant.”

Mogolof countered that the University of California was accustomed to looking stupid regarding its People’s Park policies.

“That is our tradition,” he explained. “We endorse some idiocy like volleyball and then overreact to any community resistance with police, National Guard, etc. It’s hard on our budget, but so is football.”

Critics objected that UC’s budget is the public’s money and better suited to academic purposes, but Mogolof dismissed the critiques as probably a bunch of junkies, drunks, and bums.

“It’s hard for anyone but alumni to appreciate what college traditions mean,” he said. “These customs may look strange to an outsider, but beating up hippies is just as fun today as it was years ago.”

Homeless Achieve Recommended “Regional Strategy”

By Penny Nemdow

“Yes, I checked last night,” stated a spokesperson for one of the network of tent cities stretching nationwide after decades of administration after administration refusing to address a critical need for low-income housing. “Our regional strategy is securely in place.”

“Homelessness is pretty much everywhere,” acknowledged the “business-oriented” Bay Area Council, which had pitched a “regional strategy” in a report released only a month ago. “But this isn’t exactly what we meant.”

The Bay Area Council thought its 2019 Policy Activities calendar sounded really good, since it had lots of stuff in it, like:

• Study the hell out of homelessness.
• Host regional convening of business and civic leaders to showcase homelessness study and discuss proposed solutions with some really good food and wine.
• Encourage cities to “scale” homelessness services across jurisdictions because they love the idea that they should cut back.
• Lead effort to reopen or expand state board-and-care facilities for homeless with serious mental health challenges but just don’t call it “warehousing” ever.
• Pass a “right to shelter” law (like Massachusetts and New York) that compels the city and state to provide shelter beds to all who are homeless by “reason of physical, mental, or social dysfunction” but don’t say housing for heaven’s sake.

A spokesperson for the tent city network who was familiar with the plan admitted the plan sounded okay, but suggested that simply housing people might be practical.

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Astronomers Capture Rare Image of Black Hole

The first photograph of a black hole was captured after two years of computer analysis of observations from a network of radio antennas all of which told lurid tales of being sexually harassed at the White House.

(Story on page 2.)

...battling poverty through ticketing the dickens out of poor people...

Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...battling poverty through ticketing the dickens out of poor people...

UC CHANCELLOR Carol Christ says the tradition of free exchange in People’s Park is a terrible threat and nobody should donate food or clothing or books or anything, really.

IF YOU see this symbol run for your life.

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* * * * *
Dear Lena, what’s with the stupid war on the People’s Park freebox?

Dear reader, the morning after the freebox’s destruction reporters calling the chancellor’s office were encouraged to check with the City of Berkeley for information. Reporters calling the communications office were offered months old press releases about “revitalizing” the park. Then their spokesperson confessed that they have no real issue with the freebox, just with past freeboxes, and they were destroying this one because of problems then had with past freeboxes. If this makes sense to you you need to increase your medication.

Dear Lena, how much money did they spend on that?

Dear reader, we are looking forward to finding out since they’re spending the public’s money on what would more commonly be described as vandalism. That way we can have interesting conversations with the students they rope into working on their next fundraising drive when they call us on the phone. But you can count on one thing. They spent even more on football.

Dear Lena, can’t they just stop playing football?

Dear reader, apparently it is addictive.

Dear Lena, is there a cure?

Dear reader, not yet.

Dear Lena, could they drop out of the league, play flag football and have wildcard players from the community?

Dear reader, of course. They could start a league of their own, a science-based new league, play flag football and have wild

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Dear reader, of course. They could start a league of their own, a science-based new game with no danger at all of concussion and collective sense of complete and utter despair.

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Astronomers Capture Rare Image of Black Hole

THE FIRST IMAGE OF A BLACK HOLE which was found in the vicinity of the White House was no surprise to those who understand that black holes are the most major disruptor of the cosmic order in the universe.

By Beyonce Linda Morning

Astronomers giddy over finally having an image of a black hole acknowledged that while the discovery of the location in the White House was somewhat unexpected, it also just seemed to add up.

“Black holes are the most major disruptor of the cosmic order in the universe,” stated Professor Bennett Sea. “It explains a lot about the chaotic nature of the current administration.”

Scientists advised caution regarding the cosmic abyss known to be so deep and dense that not even light can escape it.

“We are simply documenting it as best we can,” stated Professor Sea, clearly struggling to remain professional in demeanor.

Scientists on the Event Horizon team admitted that they don’t know what ultimately happens to whatever falls into a black hole, but that what just happened with the Brexit vote in England and the remnants of media, democracy, and public trust in America after the 2016 election are the best places to find out.

“The density at the center of this theoretical object is so high that matter, space and time come to an end and vanish like a hopeless, pointless dream such that Republicans and Democrats alike tear out their hair, rend their clothing, and run out of adjectives trying to describe their personal and collective sense of complete and utter despair.”

Astronomers quickly took the micro-

phone from Professor Sea, and stated that as far as they could ascertain, the shape of the shadow is circular, as Einstein’s theory predicts, and which does seem commensurate with the feeling of dread everybody has come to wake up with every morning when they realize what they thought was a bad dream making every other administration look like a walk in the park compared to the daily waking nightmare we apparently are supposed to endure without respite.

Jamna Natarajan, an astrophysicist at Yale, said that just like Einstein’s theory, the public “has just been stress-tested under conditions of extreme gravity, and looks to have held up” at least in the sense that they are still technically alive when they are bashing their heads against a wall.

Einstein’s theory of general relativity led to a new conception of the universe, in which space-time could shake, rattle, and roll and even disappear under the couch so that the disappearance of political norms, common courtesies, and common sense appears consonant with his predictions.

“We have to admit that this is the face of a new reality,” stated Peter Galison, a physicist, filmmaker and historian at Harvard, and a member of the Event Horizon team that presented the ground-breaking, mind-breaking, and heart-breaking image to the scientific community, trying to characterize the array of mysteries left to explain as “a wonderful open-ended sense of being able to see something” instead of merely hearing the radio rack up reports of accumulating statistical evidence of the nightmarish disappearance of once robust budgets for scientific inquiry and the disappearance of what was once deep respect for those who pursue science-based inquiry and public policy.

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“The density at the center of this theoretically approaches infinity,” stated Professor Sea after collecting his composure. “If that means that the whole universe is packed with black holes furiously consuming everything around them then I guess we just do this thing of helplessly watching it happen and at least we know what happened to those nice brown socks.”

* * * *
Top Ten Rejected Democratic Party Election Slogans

The Democratic Party has officially rejected several slogans for its run against the Trump administration, including:

* “We’ll get it right this time.”
* “S**t happens.”
* “Cover Your Eyes When You’re on Facebook.”
* “Help.”
* “A Few of Us Are Actually Not Running.”
* “Fill-in-the-blank party platform!”
* “We’ll try to get it right this time.”
* “Firmly on both sides of the fence.”
* “Consider the alternative.”
* “We’ll maybe even win maybe.”

“Our marketing skills are substandard,” admitted one Democratic Party faithful sorting through index cards of suggestions. “We’re still battling through the learning curve of new media, so the tussle over content keeps sinking to the bottom of an endless agenda.”

By Havel Goodday

Freebox Forensic Analysis Proves Terrorist Plot Against Chancellor

University employees tore down the new People’s Park freebox in the early hours of May 7, 2019 to protect the public from the dangers of secondhand clothing and books, according to neighbors awakened by the noise of heavy equipment.

The offices of the chancellor, news and media relations, and the community affairs offices stated that they were working on a press release but were waiting for forensic testing to be completed by pioneer American criminologist Edward Heinrich before committing to a preliminary theory that the freebox itself is either a terrorist plot or a communist plot or both.

“The fingerprints will be a crucial element,” stated Heinrich. “The long tradition of free exchange in People’s Park has always been suspected to be a Communist plot designed to lead young, impressionable student minds down the wrong road, but the Chancellor insists that the very existence of the freebox is personal.”

University officials, still working hard on the press release, were unable to connect the freebox itself to any threat to anybody but pointed out that the investigation had just begun.

“We can implicate anyone we want to,” nodded one university official. “It may look like they’re gardening out there or feeding the hungry, but it’s actually tortious interference with prospective economic advantage once we yank it all into court. We also golf with the judges in Superior Court, so it all kind of works out.”

Trees Unwilling to Fill Out Online Surveys

“L They won’t read Environmental Impact Reports, either,” sighed one local planner who insisted that trees’ opinions about their impending destruction on the northeast side of the UC Berkeley campus and all up and down San Pablo Avenue would be respected if only they would participate in the online surveys and the rare public meetings on the matter.

One tree confessed he had tried to fill out the survey, but that respecting the existing streetscape wasn’t an option.

“I kept looking for the box to check for my own survival and it wasn’t there,” said the tree. “I tried to get my survey subtracted from their study and they said they could only do that if I remembered the exact time and date I had started filling it out.”

“It’s stacked against us,” said another tree. “They think we’re furniture that can be moved around to suit the signage.”

By Bula Cherries

We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast

THE MUELLER REPORT WAS DISAPPOINTING. THE WRITING STYLE WAS TEDIOUS. THE PLOT WAS PREDICTABLE.

AND BORING. NOT ENOUGH DIALOGUE.

THE CHARACTERIZATIONS WERE TWIN. AREN’T THEY MISSING THE POINT?

ART IS ALWAYS MISUNDERSTOOD.
Snarky Neighbors Speak Out
By Harvey Smith
Berkeley City Council Special Meeting on North Berkeley BART Development May 9, 2019

Mayor and Councilmembers,

My fellow North Berkeley Neighborhood Alliance neighbors have raised important issues about the development of the North Berkeley BART station. I agree with many of their observations about the one-size-fits-all plans of BART for our unique, totally residential BART station neighborhood.

However, in the interest of equity and spreading the benefits of Transit Oriented Development (TOD), I’d like to view the broader context and suggest a project that would bring the benefits of development to another area of Berkeley. This idea came to me when I noticed that there’s a seven-story development slated for the Goodyear Tire store on Martin Luther King near University. I realized people in Berkeley are going to stop using their cars and will be taking bicycles and Uber and Lyft from the Berkeley Hills to the North Berkeley BART so no need for parking there and no need for tire stores, gas stations or auto repair in Berkeley. The folks in the gig economy can get their autos repaired wherever they come from.

Taking this further I thought of the transportation corridor along Highway 13 and the unnecessary gas station and auto repair shop across the street from each other and close to the Claremont Hotel. Why not spread the benefits of TOD to that neighborhood? I’m certain UC Regent and mega real estate mogul Richard C. Blum and his wife, Senator Dianne Feinstein, would not mind some development near their hotel. Just the kind of development that would have been enabled if Blum’s real estate company had sold the Downtown Berkeley Post Office. We all know high rise development brings “vibrancy” to any neighborhood.

Now envision this. Two glitzy towers of at least ten stories, but perhaps up to 18, would not dwarf the Claremont. These LEED certified, market rate apartments would have wonderful views of the Bay and the tennis matches at the Berkeley Tennis Club. Of course, we’ll throw in a few low-income and affordable apartments on the lower floors, with a separate entrance, to sweeten the deal.

Between the two towers would be hung a permanent sign reading “Welcome to the City of Berkeley and Ohlone Territory.” After all, what could be more fitting? I mean saving open, green space like the Shellmound and People’s Park is so ground level, so non-residential. A high rise sign would signify Berkeley is going up and up and up.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Harvey Smith
Berkeley resident since 1966
Author of Berkeley and the New Deal

Next Issue: Monitoring blood pressure with celebrities!

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.