

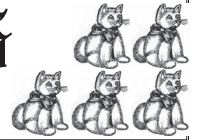
All hail the...

...the ectypal issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

April 2010



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

"...Pluck stout men's pillows from below their heads..."*

Vol. XII No. 4



"Prius Whisperer" Hired by Toyota



EXPERTS AGREE that the Toyotas which accelerate out of control are just a bunch of punks who don't really care about their neighbors, and worry that their anti-social tendencies will spread to other makes and models.

THE SPECIAL SKILLS of a Prius whisperer can be somewhat difficult to quantify, but are at least as useful as your Prius' operator's manual.

By Sam Difference

Expert Advice on How to Stop Your Runaway Car

By Sam Badancing

Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda teared up as he answered questions recently from members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the recall of eight million vehicles worldwide, many of which surge into overdrive and head for Hawaii without allowing their drivers to pack a few things in an overnight bag.

Toyoda was contrite as he described the hearing as an opportunity to remind customers of the company's commitment to quality and safety as long as it had no impact on profits, which have been pretty healthy up to the now in comparison with most automobile companies whose cars don't routinely go into overdrive and sail along at 90 miles per hour oblivious to their braking systems or pleas from their drivers.

"We have to rethink everything about our operations to regain customers' confidence," he says, reading from a statement in English. "We have to reassert the values that have been our hallmark up to the point where suddenly they, uh, weren't."

Toyoda suggested a variety of techniques for stopping your runaway car

before it gets too far away from your driveway or too hard to control, including these helpful suggestions:

How to Stop Your Runaway Toyota - Ten Useful Techniques

- * Attach a bungee cord from your front porch to your bumper before leaving on errands.
- * Always affix a big pillow to the front of your Toyota in case you have to use a brick wall to stop.
- * Only drive in places where big, loose bales of hay are handy to the roadway.
- * Keep an old-fashioned ship's anchor attached to the steering wheel in your back seat just in case.
- * Threaten your car that unless it cooperates you will have big, silly hearts and flowers painted all over it and it will become a laughingstock.
- * Try not turning on the motor at all --attach a sail to the top of the car, and use wind power.
- * Talk a friend into driving ahead of you in traffic in case your car takes off, so that they can use their car to try to stop yours.
- * Try to stay directly behind a truck full of popcorn at all times.

Hiring a "Prius whisperer", though unorthodox, can often help a misunderstood Prius learn to communicate better with its driver.

"Not all the problems are mechanical," stated one expert while holding a can of top-quality motor oil near the grill of an obstinate Toyota.

"The idea is to secure the car's cooperation through kindness," stated one expert. "It helps to speak in a soothing voice and scratch the car right behind the tires."

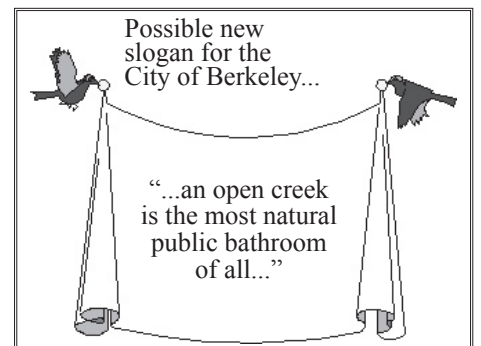
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* If your car surges out of control, whisper to it that you will melt it down and turn it into a bicycle if it doesn't straighten out and behave.

* Land rolling.

* * * * *



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...an open creek is the most natural public bathroom of all..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, how could Ryan Lau and Nicole Drake be city employees and not file permits for their super-sized garage remodeling? You need permits for frigging fruit trees in this crazy town.

Dear reader, there is reason to believe that the garage project has a military application which only those with Pentagon clearance can assess. Thanks to this project, the neighborhood is now much safer.

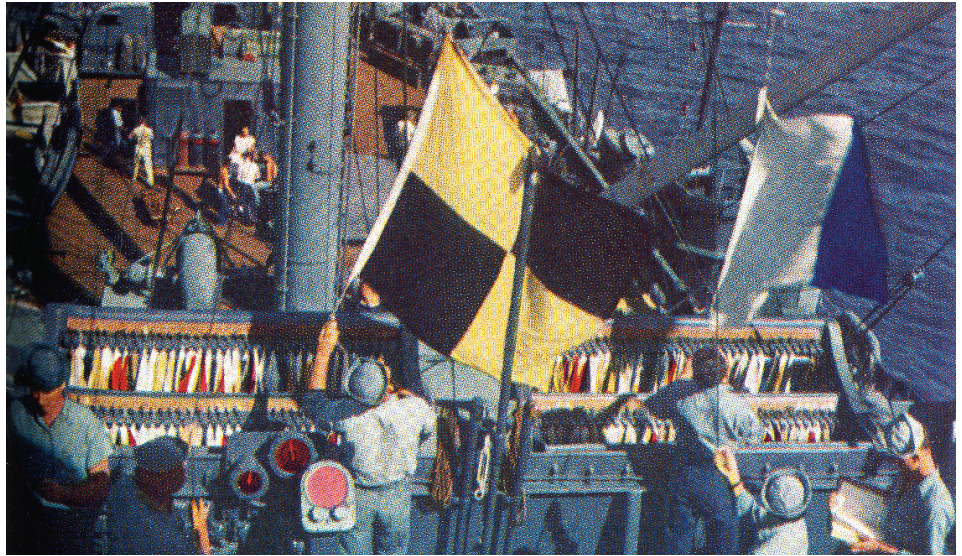
Dear Lena, I would like to skip getting a permit to build something. How do I go about it?

Dear reader, first thing to do is get on the Zoning Adjustments Board or the Planning Board, or the Rent Stabilization Board so you can rub elbows with lots of city officials and landlords and developers and planners. Once you've eaten lunch and traded jokes with enough of them you'll be fine. It's your neighbors you have to watch.

Dear Lena, why do they only build housing for rich people? Nearly a quarter of California has lost their jobs, and they're still bent on building condos and luxury towers. What am I missing?

Dear reader, you're just not following the fashions. The rich are in right now, and of course it flushes out into the culture with the appearance of luxury housing, gourmet foods, and gadgets. Don't worry, the poor will come back in style. You'll know it when runway models start wearing chic burlap and newspaper shoes.

Ask Lena about making cunning furniture and chic kitchen utensils out of cardboard boxes at cdenney@jgc.org.



KEEPING TRACK of the terrorist threat levels is a tough job requiring great skill, superior intelligence, and lot of brightly colored flags.

National and International Terrorist Threat Levels Adjusted

By Mr. Magoo of the State Department

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved."

Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to a "Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588 when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout loudly and excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans also increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching

Songs." They also have two higher ev- els: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish Navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish Navy.

Americans meanwhile and as usual are carrying out pre-emptive strikes, on all of their allies, just in case.

And in the southern hemisphere...

New Zealand has also raised its security levels - from "baaa" to "BAAAA!" Due to continuing defense cutbacks (the air force being a squadron of spotty teenagers flying paper aeroplanes and the navy some toy boats in the Prime Minister's bath), New Zealand only has one more level of escalation, which is "I hope Australia will come rescue us".

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, mate." Three more escalation levels remain: "Crikey!", "I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend", and "The barbie is canceled." So far no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

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Health Care Reform Passes - Opponents Promise to Kill Themselves Rather Than Use It

By Enoch N. D. Door

"I would rather die," stated one agitated health care opponent upon hearing that President Obama's health care reform package had passed a crucial vote and would soon become law. "If anyone comes near me with an offer of coverage they'd better be ready to put up a real fight."

"They have another think coming if they think they're going to insure my kids," shouted another angry citizen waving a picket sign outside the Capitol. "If God wanted my kids to have



SUICIDE PACTS OF distraught health care opponents began mass displays of self-destruction after the passage of health care reform, which is clogging freeways and escalators.

health insurance they would have been born that way."

"First they put a thermometer in your mouth, and then, well I just can't even think about it," sobbed another protestor vowing never again to vote for anyone who has ever even seen a doctor.

The roar against health coverage may seem baffling, but experts agree that most medical procedures remain an expensive, invasive collection of guesswork, and that people are much better off praying to any variety of icons, gods, and shiny little trinkets.

"It's cheaper," pointed out one claims adjuster, "and certainly easier than filling all this stuff out."

Large insurance corporations were cautiously optimistic that the new bill would force everyone to join the health insurance market, thus guaranteeing an expansion of their business, but pointed out that they would also be forced to insure a lot of really sick people under the new bill.



PEOPLE IN white coats are know-it-alls who are not to be trusted.

"We just don't do sick people very well," sighed one claims adjuster. "We're hoping we can track down one of those death panels."

"Fortunately, most of these people are too patriotic to get sick," affirmed an insurance representative. "And if any of their relatives get sick, well, they have a lot of guns."

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Ten Reasons Why Ryan Lau and Nicole Drake Didn't Think to Mention Their Garage Project to City Inspectors:

By Sadie Magicwoids

- They thought it was being built by little leprechauns.
- They thought their garage had just put on some winter weight.
- Their handwriting is atrocious, and they worried that filling out the required forms might be kind of tough on city staff's eyesight.
- They were completely obsessed with worrying about Tiger Woods' credibility.
- They were disoriented by the massive construction projects all over Berkeley, and really wanted their house to have "the look."
- They thought it was one of the missing cultural amenities from one of Patrick Kennedy's buildings.
- They thought it was a poorly constructed bouncy house set up for the neighborhood kids.
- Ryan's work on the Zoning Board left him too delirious to remember to apply for the necessary permits.
- They thought it was their neighbor's project and just didn't want to get on bad terms.
- Ryan thought it was Nicole's project, and Nicole thought it was Ryan's project, and both of them were just glad it wasn't in the living room.



* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Fake Nature Beats Real Nature Any Day

Eco-Plaza Thrills City Planners by Reminding Them of Nature

By Dick O. Cards

"It's sort of like a comet that comes by every seven years or so," admitted Kirstin Miller of Ecocity Builders about the latest plan for surfacing Strawberry Creek through Center Street by forcing it upward through a series of expensive hydraulic mechanisms.

"It's the same plan we had last time, and the city still can't afford it, but fake nature is all the rage right now, and if we keep bringing it up maybe it will just magically manifest."

"I don't see why not," commented one enthusiastic city planner. "People in Berkeley have pretty much bought the idea that 'green' is best represented by steel and concrete highrise buildings. Throw in a little 'water element' and I don't see why we can't claim that business will suddenly boom and the threat of global warming will be over."



FAKE NATURE IS MUCH MORE POPULAR than real nature, safer than real nature, and more strenuously engages the citizens' imagination.

"Start the celebration now," agreed another planner. "The waterfall at the end of the unnatural canal will double as a urinal and we'll finally stop taking heat for our unwillingness to provide any open public bathrooms."

"It'll take care of at least one prob-

lem," affirmed one downtown shopper. "It may end up being a little aromatic on crowded days, but I guess you can't really argue that it isn't natural."

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Next Issue: Duck-walking with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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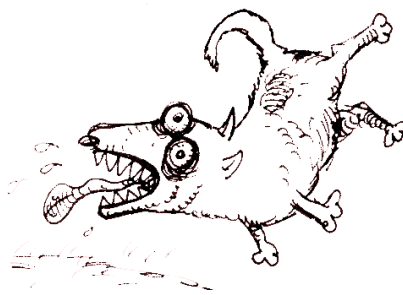


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.
* Timon of Athens

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.