

...the rhythmic issue ...



All hail the twentieth year* of the powerful...

Hepper Spray Times

April 2012



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

"...have no more profit of their shining nights..."*

Vol. XIV No. 4

Non-Lethal Lethal Weapons Scout for New Name

"Non-lethal-if-you're-lucky-weapons" Catching On

by Dora Closing

"Semi-lethal weapons" or "sometimes lethal weapons" are two of the suggestions being considered for tasers, which have killed more than 500 people in the nation either during their arrest or in jail.

"Non-lethal is inaccurate," admitted one law enforcement official following the latest taser-related death. "Or maybe we can say that it's inaccurate some of the time, those times when we end up with a body on the floor of the custody van."

Critics who suggest that tasers, OC spray, and CS gas be reclassified as lethal weapons point out that guns don't always kill, either, but their obvious potential for costing a life relegates them and their use to special circumstances in which lethal force is permitted.

"Tasers, OC spray, and CS gas should be reclassified," state critics, "or at least renamed something that sounds scary."

"Randomly lethal weapons," is just so unmusical" countered one expert in law enforcement weapons who agreed that there appeared no way to predict who would and who would not die after getting zapped with a taser. "We have teams of semanticists working on the issue round the clock."

* * * * *



THIS WEAPON is being developed by the US military, who call it the Personal Halting and Stimulation Response rifle, which we hope gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling about your tax dollars at work.

POLICE CHIEF FINALLY GETS THE STORY HE WANTS

by Gunnar Neda-Raincoat

Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan worked tirelessly to help a local reporter get the facts straight surrounding the unfortunate death of Peter Cukor, whose call to the police for help was initially ignored.

The first story:

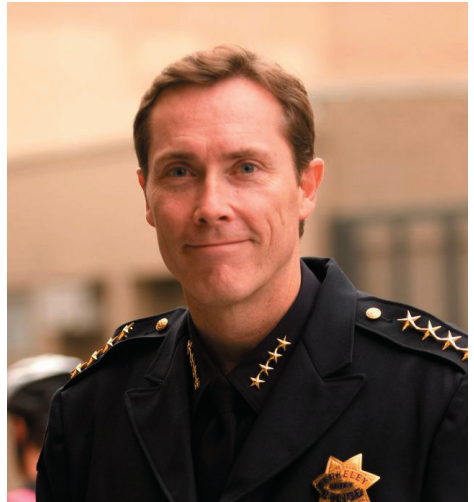
Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan apologized Thursday night for not getting enough information to the public in the days after the Feb. 18 beating death of a Berkeley hills man, a mistake that he said "left the impression that something different should have happened and which increased fear in the community unnecessarily..."

This story's obvious flaws inspired Chief Meehan to send an armed officer in the middle of the night to reporter Doug Oakley's home, which resulted in a much better sounding story:

The second story:

Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan apologized Thursday night for anything that might allegedly been done imperfectly in the days after the Feb. 18 beating death of a Berkeley hills man, any alleged but perfectly understandable imperfections may have "left the impression that something different should have happened and which increased fear in the community unnecessarily..."

Chief Meehan deeply appreciated reporter Doug Oakley's willingness to change his story but felt that the second story also did



HAVING TROUBLE with your reporting? Berkeley Police Chief Meehan is available night and day to make sure you get an armed officer at your door to help you get all your facts straight.

not go far enough to accommodate his concerns; thus a third attempt was made:

The third story:

Tall, handsome Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan, brass buttons sparkling in the light, explained Thursday night that getting enough information to the public in the days after the Feb. 18 beating death of a Berkeley hills man was his highest priority, along with the safety of Berkeley's citizens, many of whom swooned at his velvet words and promised never to criticize the Police Department ever again...

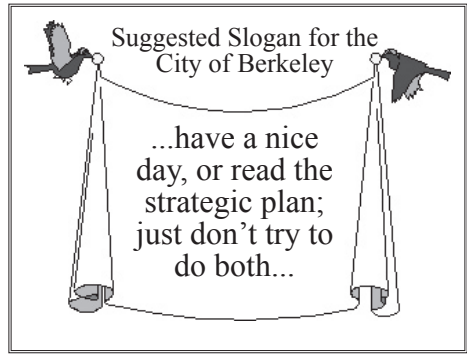
"I think we have it now," nodded Chief Meehan when the amended story was finally released.

Calls for Meehan's resignation were scoffed at by Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who famously stole newspapers endorsing his opponent out of newspaper boxes the morning of his election.

"At least he left some papers there," stated Bates. "An armed, midnight editing service will make a good startup in this town."

* * * * *

*PST's volume numbering didn't begin until six years after publication.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, should Chief Meehan resign? Isn't sending an armed police officer in the middle of the night to a reporter's home to get a story changed a little out of bounds?

Dear reader, not for Berkeley, and especially not when the Supreme Court's Citizen's United decision has expanded our understanding of traditional free speech. If money is free speech, then certainly sending armed police to a reporter's home late at night is speech as well which helps not just one but *all* reporters understand the importance of listening attentively to the police department's views on accuracy no matter what time of night it is.

Dear Lena, does it bother you at all working for a publication that promotes pepper spray when so many people have died after being sprayed with it? How do you sleep at night?

Dear reader, we at the Pepper Spray Times have it on good authority that those who have died from pepper spray exposure were more than ready to go. Most of them were very depressed and had their wills in order. The same goes for people who die from tasers, according to studies. They very often are simply tired of life.

Dear Lena, what is up with the Alameda County District Attorney charging the student protesters when the chancellor wants them all let go? Isn't that a little crazy? And isn't it going to cost the taxpayers a bunch of money?

Dear reader, some things are just *worth* a lot of money, and one of those things is making sure all those police officers who smashed the ribs of the student protesters don't go home thinking that there was no point to it all. Police morale is very important, and while the overtime pay is generous, it isn't as meaningful as knowing, really knowing, that your local district attorney has your political back.

Ask Lena about laying carrots and potatoes end to end at cdenny@igc.org.

UC Report: More Pepper Spray!

Official Review Raves About Baton Use, Laments Inadequate Use of Pepper Spray on Students



BERKELEY POLICE CHIEF Meehan's meeting with citizens concerned over the handling of Peter Cukor's call for help before being bludgeoned to death would have been a lot easier, according to experts, with a liberal dose of pepper spray.

by Jerry Pie

The violent beating of UC Berkeley students in the November 9, 2011, Occupy demonstration would have been much, much better with a generous application of pepper spray.

A recent report by Jeff Young, assistant chief of police at the UCLA Police Department, affirms that pepper spray is the best thing since sliced bread and really, really helps the police avoid having to break ribs and bash around with their batons.

"They're nearly helpless without it," states the report. "It's hard even to imagine a world full of arm-linking, chanting extremists without resorting to the reliable tool that grateful police nationwide have come to love."

Critics objected that oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray is anything but reliable, having no effect on some people, making others even more agitated, and then killing an unknowable, unlucky number.

"That's true," stated Young in response. "But these critics forget what kind of budgetary pressure there is on campus right now. If we don't start spraying this stuff around they're going to boot it in favor of having paper towels in the wash rooms."

The report also criticizes the UC Berkeley administration's decision to grant amnesty from Campus Code of Student Conduct violations to some protesters.

"These students were *tensing their muscles*," points out the report, insisting that granting amnesty in such circumstances "aids in spreading a sense of indignation at the police use of force" which most police departments need to do from time to time to avoid boredom.

"Taking away pepper spray as an option really confused the police," concluded the report. "If you really want an obedient, docile student body, you need to dose them regularly with OC spray. You kill a few, but you break less bones overall."

* * * * *

Definition of "Tree" Stumps University Officials

by Abigail Blue

"Large plant enclosed in bark and shedding leaves."

University officials worked long hours trying to figure out how to disguise the fact that their new construction plans in People's Park's community garden would technically remove healthy trees more than thirty years old, and tried to find synonyms for trees to make the written plans for the bulldozers seem less incendiary.

"It was a concession we made to keep the peace," explained Emily Marthinsen. "We know how people who love the park go nuts when we kill trees, so we thought we could call them itty-bitty shrubs and ease the pain."

These are just a few of the *rejected* terms for trees which university officials spent long hours considering in an expensive but generous effort to try to avoid conflict with the usual tree huggers.

- baby saplings
- miniature seedlings
- bantam woodlings
- minuscule forests
- pocket-sized perennials
- pitiful timber stock
- itty-bitty woodish plants
- puny shrublings
- trivial topiary
- stunted treeblings
- meager shrubs
- woodchips-to-be
- leaf-litterer
- pulp



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Meehan's Editing Service



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We know what you *meant* to say!
And we can help you say it!

Taller, Emptier Downtown Plan Sails Through City Council

by Rhoda Boat

The tall, empty buildings comprising Berkeley's downtown area will soon be taller and emptier after the Berkeley City Council passed a new and improved Downtown Area Plan.

"Tall is good, but taller is better," explained one council representative. "We might as well double down and spice up the view from the hills."

Another city council representative commented that since the city had no embarrassment about empty storefronts it might as well embrace the concept and offer even more of them.

"Empty is in the eye of the beholder," stated one city councilmember. "An empty storefront is just an opportunity to envision some future use. Berkeley citizens are really good at visualizing possibilities at this point. Empty space is kind of like open space, anyway, minus the trees."

Critics who pointed out that the new plan would only benefit developers were dismissed as essentially singing the same song about how large property owners had no incentive to actually fill up commercial storefronts without a vacancy fee.

"The rich have feelings, too," reminded one planner eager to build more housing for the wealthy despite 40% of Berkeley living



CITY OF BERKELEY PLANNERS have decided that it doesn't matter if buildings downtown are empty as long as they are really, really tall.

under the poverty level. "All this Occupy stuff has made it really hard on them. A vacancy fee would really bring them down."

The struggle over the Downtown Plan had its origin with a clash with the University of California's long-range plan, in which it swallows everything in its path and lets the Berkeley taxpayer pick up the bill for sewer lines, etc.

"We don't care what the Berkeley City Council does," explained one university planner. "We simply claim we're exempt from anything they do to restrict us. We don't have to care. But it's always nice when they give us what we want and claim that it's just a cooperative spirit at work. It beats calling it Stockholm syndrome."

Stockholm Syndrome can be seen as a form of traumatic bonding, which does not necessarily require a hostage scenario, but which describes "strong emotional ties that develop between two persons where one person intermittently harasses, beats, threatens, abuses, or intimidates the other."

"The university really helped us by showing us that no matter how outrageous the cuts, no matter how serious the surrounding poverty, nothing perks up the landscape like a big crane," explained Mayor Tom Bates. "We can't thank them enough."

* * * * *

UC Berkeley Official Demoted For Generous Pay Raises to Lover

by Annette Result

Assistant vice chancellor Diane Leite had her salary cut 7% to \$173,531 after a whistleblower revealed that she was bonking one of her staff.

"He is really, really good," explained a sincere Ms. Leite.

Jonathan Caniezo, 30, a purchasing manager supervised by Ms. Leite, was modest about his attributes.

"The first \$31,536 raise was generous, it's true," stated Caniezo. "But I worked really, really hard for it."

"Really, really hard," asserted Ms. Leite.

Caniezo acknowledged that the five additional salary increases after the initial \$31,536 raise may have crossed the line.

"I'm not sure," mused Caniezo. "I only took that sexual harassment training class two times."

"I only took it three times," agreed Ms. Leite. "Perhaps I should have another go."

"Oh, let's do," responded Caniezo.

"No," replied an embarrassed Ms. Leite. "I meant...uh..."

Critics argued that a 7% salary cut was an absurd way to respond to a case of sexual harassment for which training had proven useless, and pointed out that nonviolent campus protesters, including one professor, were being criminally charged with "refusing to leave the scene of a riot" for simply linking arms at an Occupy protest.

"We do take this seriously," protested UC Berkeley Chancellor Birgeneau. "Our policy says employees may be fired for sexual harassment. And we could still do that. Someday."

* * * * *



ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR Diane Leite was just doing her best to be nice after all.



PLANNERS HAVE of course rejected the usual tedious calls for a public restroom downtown hoping instead for a better class of visitors and residents who know better than to have any bodily functions.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



THE NEW SPRING FASHIONS are eye-catching outfits designed to keep you safe at your general assembly this season.



There isn't much variety in the collection, but the upside is that you'll blend right into the police line instead of getting singled out.



We are the 99%!

For an accent, be sure to have a lot of pocket-sized pepper spray in colorful canisters for yourself and all your friends.

Operation Excellence: A Legacy of Sensible Savings!

by Lee Ng-Over

“Birgeneau initiated the controversial cost-cutting Operational Excellence initiative with the original goal of saving \$75 million annually in administrative costs. The initiative — which began in 2009 — has resulted in the elimination of 280 staff positions, creating contention between campus administrators and protesters. According to a January report, the initiative could save the campus as much as \$112 million this year.”
— *Daily Californian* 3-14-2012

1.— Before Operation Excellence this staircase was much like staircase designs of hundreds of years ago.



BEFORE Operation Excellence staircase.



AFTER Operation Excellence staircase.

— This improved, post-Operation Excellence staircase uses only half the materials and is much quicker to build.

2. — Before Operation Excellence this tree required a lot of attention, water, and required people to rake up leaves un-



BEFORE Operation Excellence tree.

derneath it from time to time.

— This improved, post-Operation Excellence tree requires no water, produces no messy leaves one might have to rake, and makes a handy table.



AFTER Operation Excellence tree.



BEFORE Operation Excellence chair.

3. — Before Operation Excellence this chair was much like chairs from decades ago, required maintenance, and encouraged students and employees to sit still for lengthy periods of time.

— This improved, post-Operation Excellence chair requires only half the materials to build and provides an incentive for students and employees to remain standing for long periods of time, which is better for their health.



AFTER Operation Excellence chair.

4. — Before Operation Excellence this paycheck could provide modest support for a

123 - John R. Doe				Pay Period 06/02/06 to 06/16/06		Required Deductions	
Earnings				Federal Income Tax	00.00	00.00	
Hours	Rate	This Period	YTD	FICA - Medicare	06.08	12.16	
50	9.00	00.00.00	00.00.00	WI State Income Tax	00.00	00.00	
Gross Pay		000.00	00.00.00	FICA - Social Security	25.92	51.84	
				Other Deductions			
				Health Insurance	00.00	00.00	
				401k	00.00	00.00	
				Parking	00.00	00.00	
				NET PAY	\$0.00.00	\$0.00.00	

You're Fired.

Your Employer: 1234 Some Street, Milwaukee, WI ZIPCODE
Check Number: XXXXXX
Pay Date: 06/19/06

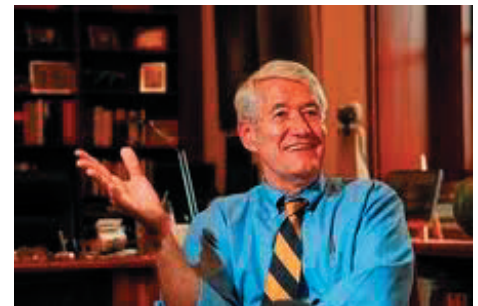
PAY * 00 cents*****\$001.00

To the Order of: John R. Doe, 826 Some Street, Milwaukee, WI ZIP CODE

family of two but was costly to the university system.

— The above improved, post-Operation Excellence employee combination paycheck and memo reduces university costs, provides incentive for employees to keep visualizing new ideas concerning their futures, and helps educate students about the importance of keeping your resume' and wardrobe up to date.

* * * * *



UC BERKELEY CHANCELLOR Birgeneau insists that the Occupy protests have nothing to do with his exit as chancellor. Critics insist they saw him buying his own tent down at REI and are reserving a place for him at their next general assembly.

Next Issue: Batting Eyelids with Celebrities

The Pepper Spray Times gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions, etc. at:

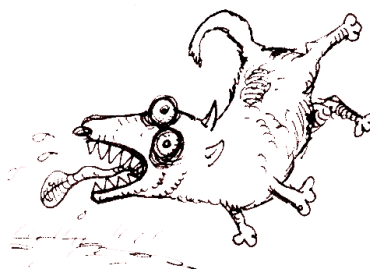


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



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

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.