

...the weapons-friendly issue ...



All hail the twenty-first year* of the powerful...

Pepper Spray Times

February 2013



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

...how covert matters may best be disclosed..**

Vol. XV No. 2

“Drones Gone Wild” Valentine’s Day Aerial Ballet

BPD Plans Celebration of City Council’s Embrace of Drone Technology

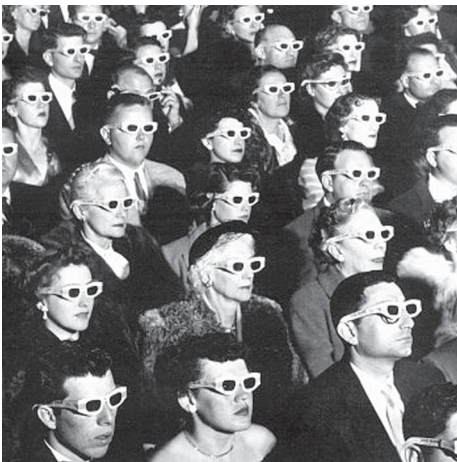
by Sheldon Roasted

The Valentine’s Day celebration of the Berkeley City Council’s embrace of drone technology has the whole town buzzing.

“We couldn’t be happier,” stated police spokesperson Officer Jennifer Coats. “We thought the Peace and Justice Committee’s effort to make Berkeley drone-free might have gotten some traction at the council. The last thing we expected was that festival of praise for drones’ use in films and art performance pieces.”

“That’s right,” added another officer. “After watching the council enthuse over drones we thought an aerial ballet might be the best way to introduce drones as a safe, fun way to entertain the whole community with a little security component on the side.”

Drone critics are still licking their wounds after finding almost no support for keeping drones, primarily used for military surveil-



DRONE LOVERS WHO WANT to get the full effect of the aerial drone ballet are advised to wear 3-D glasses, not because they will make any visual difference, but because they fit in with the geek-friendly technology-forward theme and just look so cool.



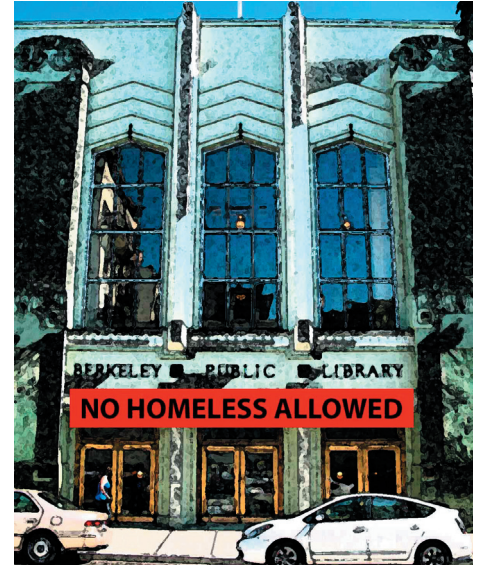
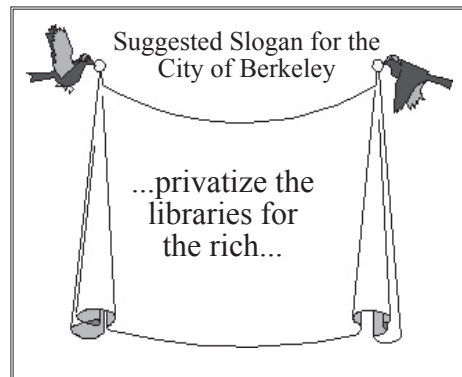
THE BERKELEY POLICE’S EFFORT to make an aerial valentine’s heart with quadcopters is a little sloppy, but it’s the thought that counts.

lance and murdering attendees at wedding parties, out of Berkeley skies.

“It’s baffling,” observed one Peace and Justice commissioner shaking his head. “People love to be on tv so much they’ll sacrifice their privacy, their dignity, their rights, everything.”

“Pretty much everything,” agreed one Berkeley resident asked what he would sacrifice to watch the drone aerial ballet. “It sounds really cool.”

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THE LIBRARY’S NEW RULES are a lot like the size restrictions for protests signs and banners on the UC campus; they criminalize almost everybody’s stuff, but don’t worry! They’ll only enforce the rules against a few.

New Library Rules Prohibit Homeless Belongings

by Logan Load

Berkeley’s Library Board of Trustees insist that their new rules do not target homeless people:

“Entering library with items inappropriate to library use, including but not limited to bicycles, shopping carts, large trash bags, bedrolls, and strollers without children. Entering library with containers or packages which singly or collectively exceed 16”x18”x24”.”

“We’re targeting musicians, too,” offered trustee Jim Novosel. “And people with sports equipment.”

“And people with art portfolio cases and people with umbrellas,” added trustee Julie Holcomb.

Critics whined that the new rules target homeless people who need the library’s services the most, but the trustees responded that the rules would apply selectively and they, as experts, would know which people needed guidance.

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so how much of the new movies about American political events is true? I really prefer to get my history in video form, and the trailers look really great.

Dear reader, it's all true except the parts that were either exaggerated for artistic effort or written by excitable Hollywood writers or created to balance plot lines that needed some thickening here and there. Eat your popcorn and know that Hollywood has your best interests at heart.

Dear Lena, so should I leave Facebook now that it's so uncool? And if so, where do I go on the internet where it is cool? There's kind of a lot of it. It is so confusing without a map. Is there a map?

Dear reader, go to the Amazon.com toy section and read the comments section on the new drone toy. It is funnier than anything even we can come up with, and it will restore your faith in social media. Yes, there is a map, but like all maps, it is wrong.

Dear Lena, why can't I take an umbrella to the library? Isn't the new rule about size limits going a little too far?

Dear reader, not at all. You may not have done so already, but you could in the future use that umbrella to beat on people or you could hurl it like a javelin or you could open it up and start dancing. Stuff like that makes a librarian's life really hard.

Dear Lena, I've never had a gun before, but I'm really starting to feel left out. Should I start small, or just go all the way and get a couple assault rifles and some bedside pistols? And a drone?

Dear reader, by all means join the fun. Be sure to go to WalMart for your gun purchase and check out the hot pink stock, in case you want to color-coordinate. The ones with little teddy bears on them are recommended for kids.

Ask Lena about adventures in psychic surgery at cdenney@igc.org.



YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT that war was tough on a gal's hair, but just look at this hair. This movie proves that you should never let your fashion sense flag in a war zone.

Zero Dark Urine*, Argo: Yikes, I Married the Shah, and Lincoln: the Action Figure Movie Review

by Beckina Minute

Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Urine: the Hunt for Osama bin Laden's Magic Kidneys*," Ben Affleck's "Argo: Yikes, I Married the Shah", and Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln: the Action Figure" joined forces during the awards season to produce the definitive historical and cultural perspective on America's foreign and domestic political profile and make some really sweet and easy dough.

"Americans need to believe this stuff," explained Bigelow's press agent. "Finding the magic kidneys was a high point for Americans, the president, the military, and fans of dialysis nationwide. We'd be fools not to magnify and codify mythology that works quicker than French fries to lift American spirits."

Critics argued that "Zero Dark Urine: the Hunt for Osama bin Laden's Magic Kidneys" gives the appearance that torture was an effective tool and instrumental in finding the magic kidneys, but Bigelow's press agent dismissed those concerns.

"Nobody is bugged about the liberties taken with Lincoln's record, or the vanity shots of Affleck posing smoking in a mirror or his airport chase scene. It's a movie, people," the press agent admonished. "Besides, the American people love this stuff."

"It's true," nodded one local film critic. "American opinion on foreign policy has always been largely shaped by the broad strokes of Hollywood's cultural revisionism. How else could you get average

Americans to feel so patriotic about waterboarding and slamming people around in indefinite detention?"

"It's a tough job, but nobody can do it quite like Hollywood," asserted Spielberg. "Lincoln, in particular, can be presented as having his controversial views on race 'evolve' over time and bingo. Americans love the ambiguity because it helps them slide in under the red, white, and blue wire no matter what they think of their neighbor's contribution to the potluck."

"Or whether or not they've tortured their neighbor," agreed Affleck. "We thought it best to side-step the whole torture issue regarding our role and the Shah. It isn't just easier that way. Americans love it that way. And boy are we making a bundle."

**Better Bad News, George Coates' Twit-Wit Radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, Sunday nights 7:00 - 7:30 pm*

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YOU CAN'T ALWAYS count on your politicians to know what's best for America, but this year Hollywood's got it down.

Nobody "Likes" Facebook's New "Graph Search" Function

by Raleigh Roundeflag

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's new "graph search" feature sent Facebook stock plummeting after its recent debut, leaving tech experts scratching at their iPhones in puzzlement.

"Everything we do is gold," they assured their angel investors, "so we're certain this is just a case of public misunderstanding of how cool this stuff really is when you get used to it."

Investors agreed, pointing out if Facebook's stock slips any further people might start investing in companies which actually do things again, which might prove disastrous for the economy.

"We need even more people to lose themselves on Facebook," explained one tech expert as he nervously licked latte' foam off his upper lip. "We need people to think that spending a lot of time on Facebook is informative and useful."

Zuckerberg struggled to explain the difference between Google's search function and Facebook's new "graph search" function, which looks kind of like a spiderweb with the user trapped in the middle.

"It's not like an encyclopedia or a dictionary," he stated. "It's like the encyclopedia or the dictionary your friends would put together on the fly with a lot of personal comments and silly photographs."

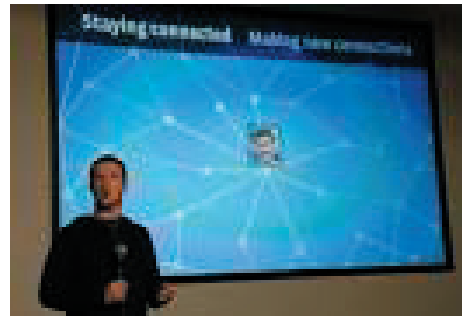
"This could be another reason not to use Google and another reason to stay on Facebook for longer periods," said Gartner analyst Brian Blau. "People love the wide, wacky world of unfettered opinion where facts don't get in the way."

"It's true," agreed one Facebook user. "I just like having opinions on all kinds of

"Science Over-rated" Says Berkeley Lab About Hillside Slide

by Tobias Saul Lunchsomeday

The recent landslide in Strawberry Canyon on McMillan Road requiring a road closure and the relocation of workers in Building 46 was predicted by the late Ge-



THE NEW FACEBOOK "graph search" function makes the person doing the "searching" look like a spider caught in a trap with no way out except through a nightmare of trivia and vacation photos, which might explain its lack of popularity. Rich people have trouble figuring these things out.

things, and blasting away at people who disagree with me. Facts really weigh you down in cyberworld."

Critics laughed so hard at this latest effort to make Facebook relevant that they could not comment more than to say, "Ah, heh, hoo, well, uh, mmmm, he he he... let me call you back."

Facebook's effort to create an innovative search function marks one of its boldest steps since its initial public offering of stock tanked eight months ago amid concerns that the company's economic growth depended heavily on the American public's willingness to invest not only their days but their nights as well perusing the vacation photos of second cousins and people they met once at a party.

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ology Professor Garniss Curtis, who used an old fashioned, fact-based analysis based on geology widely discredited by Berkeley Lab representatives.

"We do our best to be respectful to people who still believe in 'geology,'" stated Berkeley Lab Director Paul Alivisatos. "But we're a lot more focused these days on artificial photosynthesis and nano-based photovoltaic technology. We figure the early geologist just made a lucky guess."

Alivisatos went on to point out that Professor Curtis was conveniently absent from the scene now that the hillside had slid down and fouled up all the reports the Berkeley Lab had produced declaring that slides were improbable and wouldn't interfere with putting buildings all over the place up on the site known for centuries to be unstable because, well, the Berkeley Lab was full of experts who knew about stuff like that.

Critics responded that Professor Curtis' death was more than a small impediment to his ability to comment at this point, but were dismissed by the director.

"He can't account for his whereabouts," stated Alivisatos. "It's pretty suspicious."

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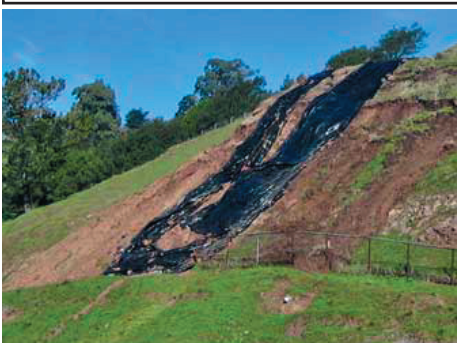
THIS GUY COULDN'T MAKE it through one night on the streets but hasn't said anything yet about the library's new rules because, well, he's just so darn busy.

by Franz Toast

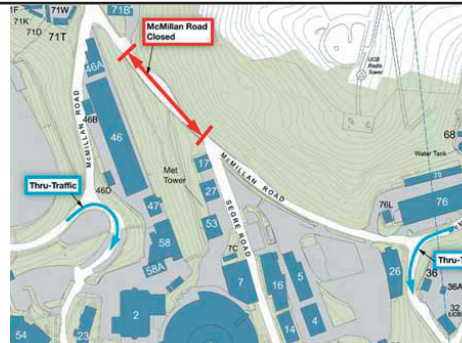


Be sure you're playing your part! Get your own drone and make sure your aerial coverage includes the suspicious people across the street and their little dog, too.

We Can't Draw Comics



Most people, if warned about slide conditions such as this one, would find some other place to build where the land is stable so as not to waste millions of taxpayer dollars.



But not the Berkeley Labs! They know there's no problem science can't solve, and little difficulties like earthquakes and slides are just waiting for the right scientific solution.

Best Ways to Reduce Gun Violence

by Iona Piece

1. **Require all gun users to wear clown suits.** Analysis: This may be annoying for actual clowns, but it will prove effective in reducing the Rambo element in gun use. Making people who use guns look extremely stupid will reduce the “cool” factor, and make people more reluctant to use them at all. *Include cops.*

2. **Make bullets extremely expensive.** Analysis: This technique was first suggested in one of comedian Chris Rock’s most famous comedy routines, and a variation on this theme is currently being pursued by Representative Nancy Skinner of the California legislature.

3. **Make guns talk.** Analysis: The annoyance of having to go through an oral checklist regarding the necessity of firing the gun will either convince most users to try an alternative method of conflict resolution or look pretty stupid standing there talking to the gun (see #1.).

4. **Make guns edible.** Analysis: This won’t stop all gun-related violence, but a number of people intent on mayhem might get hungry and end up eating their gun for a snack. If they don’t, some neighborhood dog will.

5. **Make all guns in bright pink with little flowers on them.** Analysis: This might have the unfortunate effect of making little kids think that a gun is a fashion accessory, on the other hand most kids aren’t the buyers, who will just hate having to whip out a semi-automatic with little Disney mermaids all over it (see #1.).

6. **Make everybody who fires a shot from a gun write an essay regarding what they did and why.** Analysis: They might write a lot of crap about how justified their gunfire was, but it will keep them off the street for a few minutes.

7. **Make all guns blair embarrassing little songs every few minutes like cell phones do.** Analysis: This will help people on BART trains figure out who is armed and who isn’t, and hopefully embarrass gun owners enough that they will be discouraged from carrying them casually about. Make sure the only song options are egregious, embarrassing, and make the gun owners want to throw their guns and their cell phones in the ocean.

8. **Make gun owners attend classes about**



ASSAULT WEAPONS, even in public meetings, have become an even more important and trendy accessory than an iPad.

safe gun use and storage on a daily basis. Analysis: This might seem extreme, but it is small price to pay for the rest of the community to enjoy being able to walk their own streets again. Gun owners like to hang around together anyway, and it’s just another way to keep them off the streets.

9. **Require gun owners to pay licensing fees of \$1000 per gun into a fund governed by their community for library improvement.**

Analysis: This won’t bother rich gun owners, but there are so few of them anyway.

10. **Make guns shoot paint or marshmallows only.** Analysis: You can still do a lot of damage with paint and marshmallows. You just have to work harder.

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Next Issue: Ruining Good Fabric with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



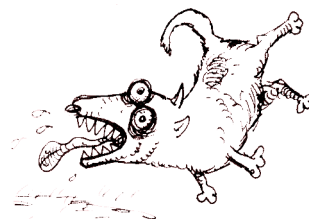
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1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenney@igc.org
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Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
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* Julius Caesar

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