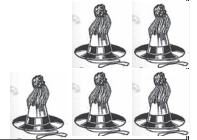


All hail the...

...the public commons for everyone issue...

Hepper Spray Times

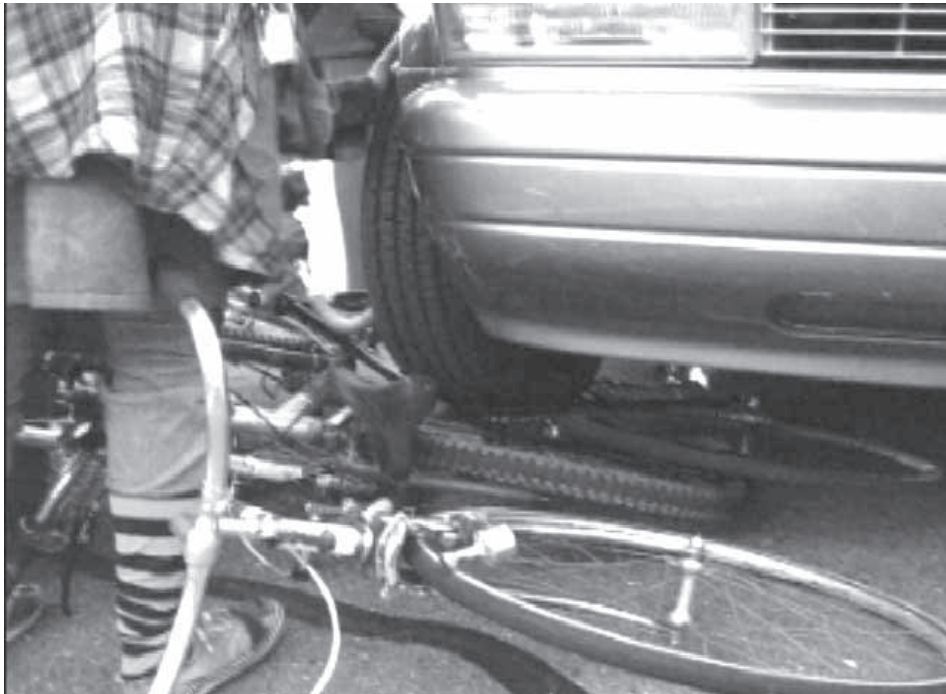
July 2007



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

"...speaking is for beggars..."*

Vol. IX No. 7



IT IS OBVIOUS that bicyclists just hang around waiting for a moment like this when they can jam their bikes under the front wheels of somebody's car for sympathy.

Bicycles Threaten Safety, Democracy

By Lottie Daw

Consultant groups called in to study the growing proliferation of bicycles agreed that they present a danger to public safety, threaten core democratic American values, and have annoying, whiny little bells.

"Most bicycles are peaceful," stated one bicycle expert. "Most bicycles stay in the backyard or the garage, and rarely

choose to impose themselves on public roads or attempt to do errands around town. When they gather into a herd you really have to watch out."

Motorists agreed that bicycles with underprivileged upbringings tend to wait for a car to slow and then inexplicably spring under the vehicles' wheels without provocation, perhaps to launch expensive litigation.

Experts confirmed that global warming was having a profound effect on the bicycles, which may be suffering deep depression, but that, ironically, the warming effect may bring more and more bicycles onto the road.

"They may feel desperate and outnumbered," commented one expert. "They may long for a sense of community. If you see more than two, it's best to call for help."

* * * * *

BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL COMEDY ACT WINS HONORS

By S. E. Serious

The Berkeley City Council is a little sheepish about receiving top comedy honors, but has no plans to curtail the late-night antics illustrated by the May 22nd, 2007 farce which peaked around 11:30 pm and received critical praise.

"We figure anybody watching at that hour knows it's comedic territory," stated Mayor Tom Bates.

"All three of them," added Councilmember Dona Spring. "When Tom cuts me off and I protest and he denies it, it's kind



of a funny routine. I believe at this point our fans expect it of us. They can hardly expect coherent policy."

Distict 6 representative Betty Olds, who responded "absent" when asked for her vote toward the end of the meeting, agreed. "I think we had four motions on the table, and while it's pretty entertaining watching the Mayor try to sort it out, I'm not sure it qualifies as legitimate process."

Mayor Bates had been attempting to get a somewhat skeptical City Council shovel through his "Public Commons for Everyone" initiative, which had failed to inspire support from the few commissions who saw its vague outline.

"Visualize policy," was the Mayor's response to staffers and policy makers who squinted in vain at the nebulous wording. "Visualize more money from higher parking fees, and social service cutbacks."

Some merchants grumbled that their efforts to shoo the homeless off public streets had backfired if it meant higher parking meter fees.

"Some people hate the homeless, sure," commented one merchant. "But they hate those monolithic new parking meters even more."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, there's so much new construction around town, I'm constantly getting lost because I don't recognize the same intersection anymore. What should I do?

Dear reader, get yourself chipped into a Global Positioning System, and get that nice lady voice to tell you where you are and where to go, which will have a soothing effect.

Dear Lena, is it true I have to be dead to get a Section 8 apartment? I'm a little under the weather, but I'm not exactly dead.

Dear reader, it's not required, but it helps.

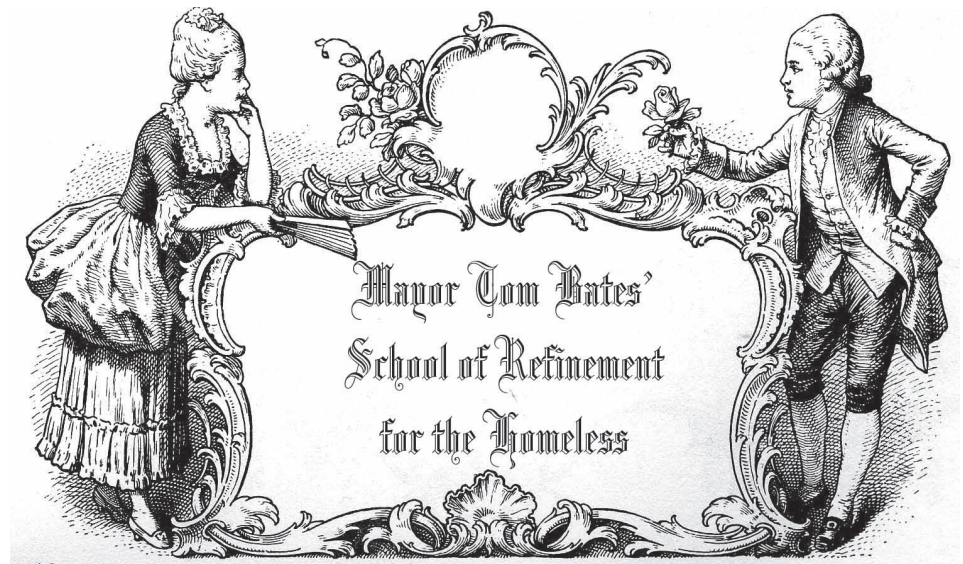
Dear Lena, Berkeley's streets seem to be dominated by a bunch of sour, alienated people with such a negative attitude it makes it hard to just walk down the street. It's so depressing. What should be done to restore the lovely streetscape I remember from years ago?

Dear reader, I know the City Council is a painful reminder of how low this city has sunk, but they'll all be on vacation soon, so the rest of us can take a breather.

Dear Lena, it wasn't cabbage that People's Park activists brought to that meeting on an ironing board with a frying pan, it was actually cauliflower. You're some kind of reporter, you should try to be more accurate.

Dear reader, I live for these moments.

Ask Lena anything! Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice. Contact her at cdenny@igc.org.



Victorian Etiquette - Breaches of Etiquette

To remove one's gloves when making a formal call.

To stare around the room.

For a caller who is waiting the entrance of the hostess to open the piano or touch it if it is open.

To go to the room of an invalid unless invited.

To look at your watch when calling.

To walk around the room when waiting for the hostess.

To open or shut a door, raise or lower a window curtain, or in any other way alter the arrangement of a room when visiting.

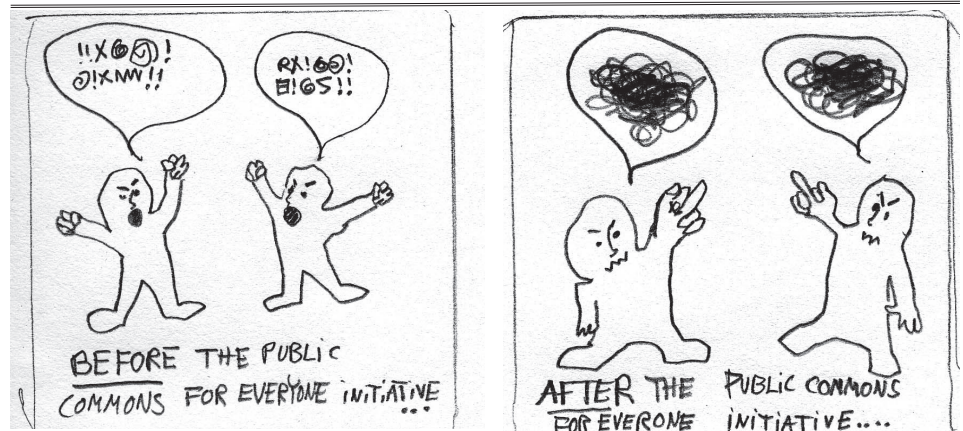
Turn your chair so that you back faces another guest.

To play with any ornament in the room or to seem to be aware of anything but the company present while visiting.

To remain when you find the host or hostess dressed to go out.

To make remarks about another caller who has just left the room.

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



BERKELEY MAYOR TOM BATES' "PUBLIC COMMONS FOR EVERYONE INITIATIVE", which specifically forbids shouting, will usher in a new era of harmony and cooperation, which will result in much, much more shopping.

Whales Call Rescue Effort Baffling, Counterproductive

By Louisa Pounder II

A mother and calf humpback whale caused local pandemonium recently by swimming under the golden gate bridge and wandering through the delta under a hail of media that reached an absurd state of frenzy.

The whales, now happily situated at the end of their migratory path, stated in a recent interview that the marine biologists attempting to “rescue” them had actually slowed their journey, and caused a variety of problems for the enormous mammals, who were just interested in the Sacramento waterfront.

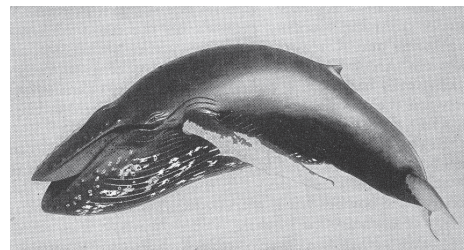
“We appreciate their concern,” stated the older whale. “But we were just

enjoying the bay and sight-seeing.”

Marine biologists shot them with antibiotics, blasted loud, strange noises at them, pummelled them with fire hoses, and even attempted herding them like cattle with a flotilla of boats in a failed effort to get them back to sea.

“We thought they were just being rude,” observed her calf. “We like the ‘Floral Wealth’ statue at the capitol plaza, and there’s a good brewery near the train station. We didn’t know why they were so worked up, and we couldn’t get them to chill.”

The whales said that they eventually understood what the would-be rescuers



THE WHALES who visited Sacramento recently have admitted that they just wanted to see the old ferry boats, and hung around the rescue effort because they didn’t want to confuse the marine biologists by setting a scientific precedent for the use of fire hoses.

were up to, but stayed longer in the area because they didn’t want to give the false impression that the rescue tactics were an effective approach.

“When we figured out that they thought we were lost, we thought we had an obligation to make sure they didn’t experiment on the next whales that came through,” stated the humpback mother whale, who considers it unlikely that she will revisit the area.

“We have friends who like to nip over to the Vallejo waterfront or cruise by Martinez just for a change of scene. We don’t want them showered with killer whale recordings by these well-meaning numbskulls. It was over the top for the media to actually give us Disney-style names. We *have* names.”

The younger whale said the killer whale recordings were kind of interesting listening.

“Orca is okay,” added the humpback calf, “but we prefer ska,”

* * * * *

Multiple Choice Test: What is the difference between UC Berkeley and Stanford?

By Mary Darichguy

Multiple Choice Test: What is the difference between UC Berkeley and Stanford?

- A.
1. One has a tree mascot, and one has a bear mascot.
 2. One is more expensive than the other.
 3. One sucks up to oil companies with egregious environmental and human rights records while the other one demands corporate accountability.

- B.
1. One has blue and gold for school colors, and the other has red.
 2. One is somewhere south of San Francisco and the other is in Berkeley.
 3. One is ready to sacrifice a war memorial oak grove to kiss up to an overpaid athletic coach it believes can punch up its game.

- C.
1. One is public and one is private.
 2. One is in an urban setting and one is on a farm.

3. One is calling for the development of genetically modified strains of miscanthus, which it wants to grow in unnatural environmental settings which it then wants to have digested by genetically modified microbes derived from those in the guts of termites, all in the name of alternative fuel to make sure there’s some real profit squeezed out of global warming before the campanile is underwater.

- D.
1. One has a regular band and the other has a wacky band.
 2. One is close to wine country and the other is close to Silicon Valley.
 3. One is putting all its marbles in the carboniferous biofuels basket and kissing British Petroleum’s butt while the other is supporting a shareholder resolution calling on ExxonMobil to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to make sure its campus is not used as a fig leaf to cover a lack of action on climate change.
- Answers: A.=3, B.=3, C.=3, D.=3



THE “PUBLIC COMMONS FOR EVERYONE” INITIATIVE is actually just a loose blueprint for possible new laws to create civility on our streets, including the possibility of requiring a formal dress code for the indigent, which most people agree makes them much more appetizing.

MASS PEE-IN PLANNED FOR CITY HALL

By L. S. Lost

Berkeley City Hall is buzzing over the rumored "pee-in" being planned for the debut of the new raft of anti-homeless proposals scheduled to come back to the council this fall.

"They may have a point about criminalizing public urination being problematic due to the lack of public restrooms," stated one council member of the opponents to the legislation, which may criminalize public urination. "But this is simply no way to express one's



WHOEVER WROTE this sign may be technically correct for the present, but we can thank our lucky stars that well-paid city staff officials are working hard to rectify the problem, so that the merchants can boot the poor for Christmas.

political dismay."

"Quite the contrary," responded one homeless advocate. "In Japan in 1960, hundreds of thousands of Japanese held a mass urination at the parliament building to protest a visit by Eisenhower. The Japanese government was obliged to cancel his visit. This will be very, very powerful in some very obvi-

ous ways."

"We believe we have the advantage over the council on this one," added another opponent of the proposed new laws. "It's very inexpensive, and most people are eager to contribute to City Hall in this distinctive manner."

* * * * *



D. Minkler.com 2007

Oski sees no danger of British Petroleum's profit motive influencing research results at UC and he says: "The absolute corruption of scientific objectivity is highly unlikely".

Has Oski been tricked into smoking BP's GMO grass?

**Next issue,
Smoking Miscanthus
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...

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

* Troilus and Cressida