

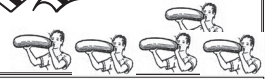
All hail the...

...the oil-soaked issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

July 2010



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

"...all things are ready, if our minds be so..."*

Vol. XII No. 7



GUERRILLA KNITTERS executed this difficult mission with pinpoint accuracy, immediacy, and overwhelmingly favorable publicity, which is why BP is asking for their help.

BP Requests Knitta's Help with Gulf Oil Crisis

By Theda Boidie

Berkeley officials may not be impressed with the knit "tea cozy" obscuring the "T" in a controversial local public sculpture, but BP is, and has contacted the guerrilla knitters requesting the group's help with the Gulf of Mexico oil spill crisis.

"They're a very committed group of people and they knit like the wind," stated one BP official. "We figure they can stop leaks not only by knitting absorbent well plugs as needed, as well as knitting colorful, buoyant booms to protect the barrier islands and marshes throughout the gulf."

The knitters came to prominence by altering the infamous "Here-There" sculpture at the edge of the Berkeley and Oakland border, which most consider a slight to Oakland, by obscuring the "T" in "there" with a colorful collage of knitted yarn.

Berkeley officials declared war on the yarn, which spawned an even more colorful round of publicity for the city that

seems to court bad press like a Hollywood starlet.

Critics conceded that the oil spill cleanup may take years, and that colorful floating oil barriers would add something positive to an otherwise desolate, oil-soaked landscape.

"It doesn't hurt that they're an edgy group of creative women," added another BP official. "We need some serious image readjustment, and they look like just the thing."

Knitta's members seemed reluctant to sign on.

"We would really like to help, but we would rather align with the creative knitters in affected communities," stated one member of the knitters' project. "BP is welcome to take the big "T" cozy off of the "Here-There" sculpture if they think it will help. We can keep replacing it. We just hope they take the letter "T" along with it."

* * * * *



GUERRILLA KNITTERS are still considering a request from BP to assist in muffling Tony Hayward, CEO of BP, whose mouth does more damage to the oil company than its broken pipeline.

Former BP Spokesperson & CEO Won't Quit Spewing

Knitters' Help Urgently Requested

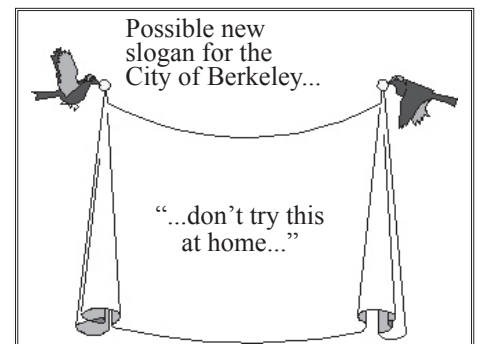
By Grey Veetrain

British Petroleum insiders confirm that their request for help from Berkeley's high profile guerrilla knitters included a controversial effort to muffle their talkative CEO, Tony Hayward, who has resigned from a high-profile public relations campaign to rescue the oil company's image after stating publicly that "the Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The amount of volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume, which is perfect for yacht races."

"We're desperate," stated a BP official. "We can't shut him up, and people think he is some kind of one man Monty Python show. With all due respect to the damage done to the gulf shorelines, this guy is what's really killing us."

"Please, somebody," stated another BP official, "teach us to knit."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think my boyfriend is seeing somebody else. He never comes home, and hardly says a word. There are ticket stubs to movies I've never seen in his pockets. Is this normal? What should I do?

Dear reader, our staff has been looking around for a guy with those exact qualities. Let us know when you're ready to boot him, because we think he would fit in really well around here.

Dear Lena, I should have voted, but I really had to paint my fingernails. Now my friends won't get off my case. What should I do?

Dear reader, you could go through their garbage for evidence against them, but your nails would suffer. Boot your friends. You need a new set who will let you deteriorate in peace.

Dear Lena, I don't want to buy gas from BP anymore, but which one is the good oil company?

Dear reader, hey, that's really good. Why don't you torch your car.

Dear Lena, should I email, text, or tweet? Should I stick to phone calls, or should I integrate everything, and if so, in what order?

Dear reader, you should do all of those things simultaneously while you're on your cell phone and plugged into your iPod, and be sure you stay focused while you step into traffic.

Dear Lena, are we in trouble economically?

Dear reader, not at all. Only you. Ask Lena about high crimes and misdemeanors at cdenney@igc.org.



THERE'S NO POINT in worrying about the national debt when you can't do much about it, so put on a charming costume and dance and play.

National Debt Bores the Tears Out of Everybody

By Jan U. Wine-Article

The national debt, currently at 63% of the Gross National Product (GNP), will reach 90% within a decade, but nobody's worried enough to put down the remote.

"Boy do we know some tricks," chuckled one Wall Street investor when asked about the potential crisis. "There's a lot of unemployed talent out there right now that used to work for Enron, Arthur Andersen, Wachovia, etc., who can be really useful behind the bar when we reach 90%."

While experts agree that the 90% of GNP is generally considered to be a crisis tipping point as it was in Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Ireland, the United States issues the world's reserve currency and so can print dollars on toilet paper if it wants to to service its debt.

"Nobody listens to Moody either," affirmed another investor. "They think it's some old rock and roller."

Party leaders affirmed that the numbers don't add up, but agreed that neither party has enough concern to de-escalate the war, tax the rich, extinguish Bush tax cuts on the wealthy, or even

New iPhone 43% Hipper Than Old iPhone

By Sol Sombra

Apple's latest iPhone model is thinner, hipper, and harder to get than the older models, causing more dismay in those who don't have one yet than over the war and the BP oil spill combined.

"War is important and all that," stated one disappointed shopper who may not get her order fulfilled for weeks. "But all my friends are buzzing over their new apps, and I feel embarrassed pulling out my old phone."

"It's technological innovation that will save our butts in war and in the gulf," stated an Apple spokesperson. "Right now we can kill people by sending a drone overhead, reducing the risk to our troops. Imagine when a soldier or an ordinary person can just dial in those coordinates from their cell phone."

UC spokespersons, who are privately working with BP on proprietary projects in secret laboratories on the UC Berkeley campus, confirmed their faith in science to combat the oil spill.

"We can make this right," they stated. "We are working on a new pelican."

* * * * *

return empty bottles for a refund.

"It's wacky, but we're going for broke," nodded one Democratic party leader. "I think of it as our mid-life crisis, now that all of us have sold our surfboards. It's our salute to our reckless, 60's roots."

"Money's not real anyway," added another economic expert. "When it's gone we'll just trade apples or iPads for food. It'll be fun."

* * * * *

Coming soon:

The Present

Where: just around the corner, and also at that little market

When: over and over

BP's Additional Plans to Seal Oil Leak in the Gulf of Mexico

Don't think for a minute that BP is out of ideas about how to stop the oil leak that keeps pumping toxics into the Gulf of Mexico. They are constantly coming up with exciting new ways to handle it, and here are just a few...

By Rufus Fuller-Holes

1. Hold a couple of turtles hostage and force the other turtles to plug the leak. (This has the advantage of being a "green" solution.)
2. Dump a lot of oil-eating bacteria into the Gulf and cross fingers, giving the bacteria careful instructions on what not to eat and when to self-destruct.
3. Tell the Tea Party groups to put on their snorkels and hold their next meeting at the well-head and to bring a lot of Play-Dough.
4. Quickly work with its University of California partner to create oil-loving, oil-eating new species of pelicans, turtles, and fish so that the future Gulf of Mexico won't look so much like a total wasteland.
5. Create a public relations campaign blaming ducks, for instance, the coot, for engineering the spill to advance environmental causes at BP's expense.



THESE TURTLES are actually glad to hear that they will be getting bus tickets to some other part of the globe, and will fit in just fine once they get past the language barriers. They love to travel, take pictures, and buy little tiny souvenirs.

6. Create a public relations campaign blaming Republicans, for instance, Karl Rove, for engineering the spill to make the Democrats and/or the Obama administration look bad.
7. Put lead fishing weights on the ends of about 500,000 large toilet plungers, dump them in the Gulf of Mexico, and hope for the best.
8. Plug in about 500,000 large vacuum cleaners, haul them out to sea, then dump them in the Gulf of Mexico, and do that hope for the best thing again.
9. Forget golf balls – try bowling balls, basket balls, and soccer balls, and get local teams to donate team balls as a show of community spirit.
10. Drain the ocean. Oil will be much easier to deal with, and the Gulf of Mexico wildlife would probably appreciate bus tickets to some other beach by now.

* * * * *

Misfortune Cookie Fortunes

You can't change the past, but you can whine about it.

You will meet a tall, handsome man and vomit on his shoes.

You will travel to distant lands and lose your camera.

You will find happiness in some other life.

Your dreams will crash into your neighbor's antenna and cost you extensive repairs.

You will take a chance in the near future, and people will laugh like crazy at you.

You will never successfully land a plane.

Your guesses will all be wrong.

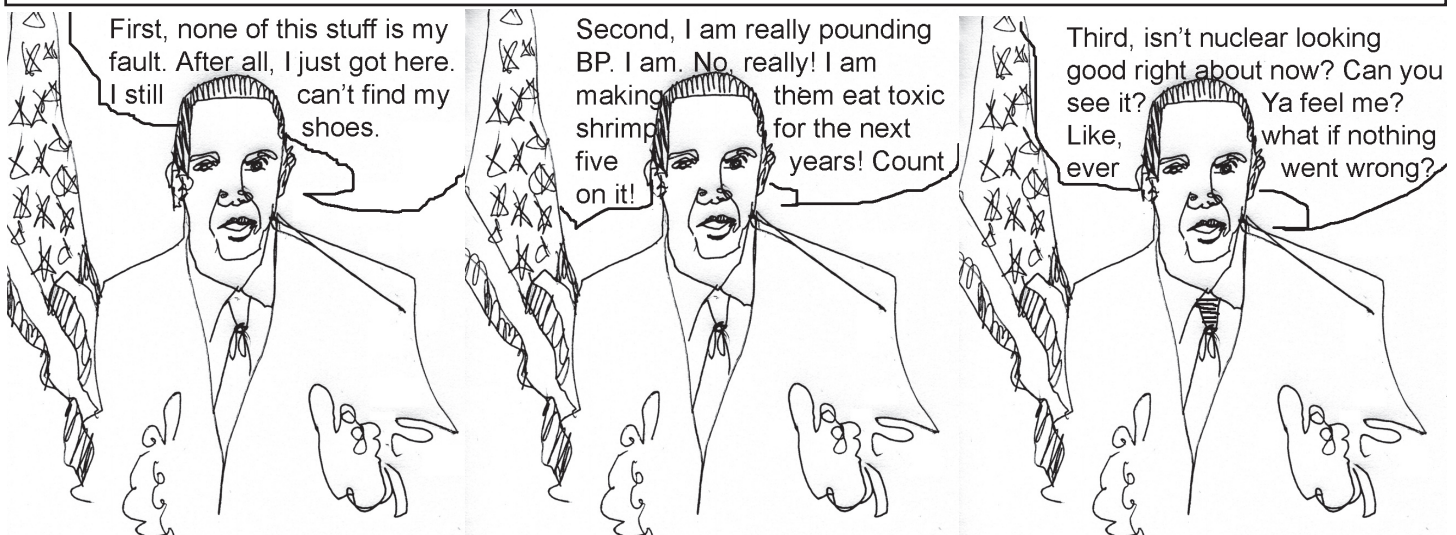
You will have good luck until tomorrow.

Everything will now come your way and go right past you.

* * * * *

Editor's Note: The narrative trout swim has changed to 4:00 pm following the blinking ice cubes.

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Report States UC Police Need More Practice Beating Up Students

By Wagner Tail

An investigative panel's report stating that the University of California (UC) Police Department did a terrible job of handling the November 20th, 2009 occupation of Wheeler Hall was dismissed by the UC Police officers involved in the fee hike protests.

"Mutual aid officers and administrators don't appreciate the special circumstances we have here on campus," stated one officer. "We don't really want to arrest people. We just want to make sure they never join another demonstration ever again in their lives."

"It's a practical issue," added another officer. "Our holding cell is too small for more than a handful of them, and their registration fees are holding up the whole house of cards, including our salaries. We just want to be able to use our batons and pepper spray now and then so we keep our chops fresh."

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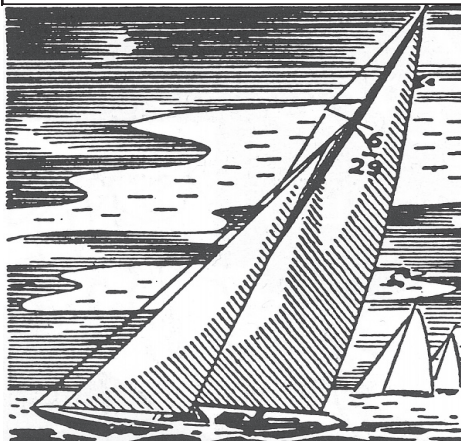
Next Issue: Knitting Sweaters
with Celebrities



Corporation, n. An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.

Ambrose Bierce 1842-1914

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Sailing: a primitive exploitation of the helpless ocean. **Recommendation:** *Don't try it; watch it on tv.*



Canoeing: a cruel effort to control an innocent river or stream. **Recommendation:** *Don't try it; watch it on tv.*



Ocean swimming: a hedonistic desire to overpower unsuspecting waves. **Recommendation:** *Don't try it; watch it on tv.*

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

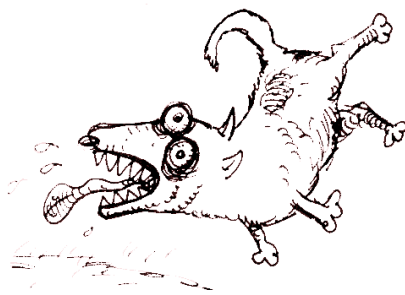


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



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

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.