

the voltaic issue...



Pepper Spray Times

July 2014



It's goniometric...it's free...if you can find it "....he's a strange fellow himself, and knows it not...."* Vol. XVI No. 7

Petition from HELL! Victim of petition tells harrowing story

By Vic Torious

"I was surrounded," wepted Uma Goodness recalling her close encounter with a vicious petition near the corner of Allston and Milvia in Berkeley while horrified bystanders tried to help her.

"They kept asking and asking if I'd signed this, if I'd signed that - I looked around for a way out of the madness but they were everywhere," she sobbed.

Others who witnessed the atrocity could barely speak about it.

"I felt so helpless," said one woman trying to collect herself after the authorities had taken a report on the scene. "How did it come to this? How did it get this bad?"

City officials confirmed that despite clear and consistent efforts by city representatives to discourage petitions and offending petitioners there were still gangs of petitions in the city well-organized to attack unsuspecting pedestrians.

"We're doing everything we can," stated Mayor Bates, and urged citizens who observed petitions being passed around on city streets to immediately call authorities.

Ms. Goodness says she will take some time before stepping back into the downtown area and make sure never to go alone.

"It isn't worth the risk," she stated. "I have to consider my safety."



UMA GOODNESS barely escaped from a close brush with an unwanted petition.

Editor's Note:

It has come to our attention that some of you are contributing donations to the Pepper Spray Times in the hope of improving its quality.

Be forewarned. We have no intention of improving the quality of our publication. People who can spell and punctuate correctly are a bunch of bullies. We misplace commas just to annoy those people.

If you must send us donations, keep in mind that we will not only misspend the money, we will enjoy misspending every penny on luxuries like 11x17 reams of paper and ink cartridges that we don't really even need.

We do this just to affirm our independence and our allegiance to being a unique albeit widely ignored voice in the community. And it isn't that we can't be bought. When you get closer to our price, we'll let you know.

Sincerely,

Grace Underpressure, Editor, Pepper Spray Times

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"Tasers a Must for Safe July Fourth" Affirm Police

Sergeant Emily Murphy of Berkeley's Police Officers' Association affirmed recommendations for tasers at all picnics, but especially the Fourth of July.

"It's mainly for security," she stated. "But simply having it on the picnic table during your festivities has benefits."

One local family confirmed the upside of a brightly colored X26P by the jello.

"It actually looks festive," said one resident, "and the kids are much more polite."

* * * * *

Ground Squirrels Sign Deal with Taser International

Mini-tasers May Prove Popular with Toddlers

By Lotta Gall

Ground squirrels at a local park confirmed that they have signed a deal with Taser International for custom-made squirrel-size tasers, according to a spokessquirrel.

"You can hardly blame

us for taking a firmative steps," stated the spokessquirrel. "The city of Berkeley has openly declared their intention of exterminating us. We had to move quickly before the police department gets tasers in the fall."

Local civil rights groups criticized the ground squirrels' move, saying park attendance will suffer

once the ground squirrels are armed with tasers, which are potentially lethal for an unknown ratio of any given park-going picnic population, but were dismissed by the ground squirrels.

"People might want us to sit down here looking cute and not acquire advanced weaponry," stated the spokessquirrel. "To those people we have this to say: 'shake hands with my Blackhawk X-26.'"

* * * * *

"We had to move quickly before the police get tasers in the fall." - Spokessquirrel



THESE MINI-TASERS are custom designed for squirrels but can be modified for other rodents.

Suggested Slogan for the University of California Football Field

...give me tasers or give me death...

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I am having trouble with the new Iraq war. It isn't as good as the Iraq war last year or the year before. The visuals aren't as punchy and it seems like nobody cares. Did they fire the old writer? What is going on?

Dear reader, the Pentagon Special Effects Department, according to TwitWit Radio, is having some labor issues. I am assured that the dissidents will be flushed out soon.

Dear Lena, so are tasers lethal or non-lethal? People have died from being tasered, so shouldn't the police refrain from using them on homeless people? Isn't pepper spray better at only *sometimes* killing people?

Dear reader, of course we recommend pepper spray for both domestic and international application. But homeless people are just asking for it. Tasers are simply another semi-sometimes-if-you're-lucky-non-lethal rung on the escalating ladder of force which gets bigger the more stock you have in Taser International, which doesn't affect the studies which recommend it or its implementation in the slightest.

Dear Lena, I try to be a good citizen and a good voter, but I can't tell who is telling the truth or what. My kids get all their information from the internet. Is that what I should do?

Dear reader, yes. You can never go wrong with the internet. It knows more than you do. You should sign up for every upgrade and hope, just hope you aren't on vacation the next time they send you an electronic message that you should spend another \$799.99 to make sure your past can communicate with your future.

Dear Lena, who is Franz Toast? I like that comic. I actually think he draws pretty well.

Dear reader, you are wrong.

Do you need expert assistance? Ask Lena about which taser to buy at cdenny@jgc.org.

Cell Phone Caller Breaks Pre-call Record!

By Carney Valride

A local cell phone user broke records recently when she made a call to a friend explaining first that she was almost through with lunch, called once more when she was just waiting for the check, called again to say that she was leaving the restaurant, called yet again when she was at the toll plaza, called once more when she found herself stuck in traffic near the Civic Center, again to say that she was almost home, and called again once she'd arrived home so that they could arrange for "a good time to call" later that evening.

"I had no idea I was breaking a record," stated Shelby Cominroundamountain with obvious pride. "I just like to make sure people know I'm thinking about them, especially if I'm running late."

Experts confirmed that humans are evolving toward a phone-constant mode where at some point it will be possible to remain in constant touch not just with one person but with a group of people whose wearable technology will enable them to be connected at all times.

"We're not sure why people would want to do this," explained one technological expert scratching his head, "but we're making sweet money off it."

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BEFORE AFTER
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE the dramatic changes developers made in this plan aren't really trying and are just a pain in the ass.

Lovers of Detail Adore Search for Hidden Changes in Big-Ass Building

By Addie Niddup



NOTHING IS more representative of progress than knocking down old buildings.

Berkeley citizens who love traditionally convoluted language and misleading argot in detailed building plans are planning a festival of welcome for the very biggest, most unchanged revision in the 2211 Harold Way project being promoted by former city planner Mark Rhodes.

"Are they really different?" one local resident said in admiration. "The effect is honestly outstanding. I really can't tell one from the other."

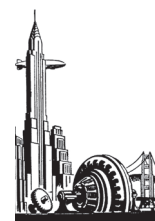
Planners explained that the changes shown to the public of the "before" and

Ten Creative Uses for Tasers - Safe for the Whole Family!

By Taser International

1. Re-heat the soup! It's fun to have tasers at the table and reheat your brother's creamed corn in a creative new way!
2. Wake up the dog! Even an old dog will get a jump back in his step!
3. Make room on the bus! Crowds will melt away, leaving you the luxury of a seat on BART and a wide circle of comfort in case you want to put up your feet.
4. Jumpstart the car! We're not sure this works, but it sure will be fun to try!
5. Recharge your cell phone! If they haven't yet perfected the combination taser and cell phone charger, you can be sure it's on its way!
6. Pump up the ball game! Are your softball games getting a little too tame? Introduce tasers for special moments, like infield flies, and watch your fan base jump!
7. Make sure they're listening! It might not be the first way you choose to emphasize your point, but don't forget how useful tasers can be in making sure your teenage kid is paying attention!
8. Get pesky bicycles out of the way! A taser can help you clarify to the lane-hogging three miles per hour bicyclist that they need to get out of the traffic!
9. Get rid of Christmas carolers! We try to be nice, don't we, because it's Christmas. But there comes a point when you've had enough Jingle Bells! Works with pesky Morris dancers, too.
10. Get taken more seriously at the city council meetings! Even a snugly holstered taser sends an impressive and perfectly legal message that you take your personal safety seriously in case the council really tries to get heavy-handed about the two-minute rule.

* * * * *



CITIES CAN be really cool if we would just get rid of all the pesky landmarked buildings.

"after" plans were difficult for inexperienced people to understand, but they honestly were different according to unintelligible experts who are too busy to talk to lay people.

"I really love how the planners gave rich people a plaza all their own," enthused another Berkeley resident. "Rich people get really annoyed having to share space with the rest of us."

Critics argued that the monolithic size of the project and its reduction of public space were unfair to those who would be left to try to navigate the sidewalk.

"Those people are welcome to send letters at the appropriate time," responded Rhodes. "We get a real kick out of those letters. There's nothing we enjoy more."

* * * * *

Local Media Apologize for Uncharacteristically Unbiased Stories About Oakland Mayor Jean Quan



OAKLAND MAYOR JEAN QUAN is most typically depicted with horns and a pitchfork the absence of which outraged local readers accustomed to enjoying having her portrayed as a bumbling fool every morning over their cereal and coffee.

By Gertie Loins

Both the San Francisco Chronicle and the news crew at KQED apologized recently for running an uncharacteristically unbiased story about Mayor Jean Quan, who is struggling in her bid for re-election.

"We are deeply sorry," stated representatives from the San Francisco Chronicle media group. "We know the public has come to expect certain stylistic flourishes when we write about Mayor Quan, and we're sorry to have let them down."

Representatives at KQED Radio were equally contrite.

"We got so many calls," stated one KQED spokesperson.

"Our switchboard was flooded, and we couldn't respond to the emails. It's clear that unless Mayor Quan is portrayed the way we usually portray her-- as a befuddled fool-- the public doesn't think we are doing our job."

START YOUR day right with a chuckle at Mayor Jean Quan's expense like everybody else does.

Members of the local public agreed, pointing out that just because Mayor Quan hadn't run a red light or texted while driving was no reason not to imply that she had, or had been thinking about running red lights or texting.

"We need a good laugh now and then," nodded one pedestrian. "It's such a relief when the media finally picks someone to pile on. It really picks up my day."

* * * * *

More Public Space to be 'Absorbed' by Private Businesses

By Drew Deline

This fall coffee-sippers and pizza-eaters can finally enjoy their Gourmet Ghetto experience without the local riff-raff spare-changing them or pulling up a milk crate nearby thanks to the North Shattuck Association and its purple-shirted "ambassadors" plan for "parklets".

The adjacent businesses, such as the Cheese Board Collective, "maintain" the parklet and provide political cover for the wholesale absorption of public space.

"We're a collective," explained a Cheese Board representative. "People just love collectives."



NORTH BERKELEY median sitters never did get tickets, but they sure provided some embarrassment for the city, which tickets homeless people for sitting down whether it's legal or not.

A second parklet will open in front of Philz Coffee and at the Guerilla Café if enough of the public keep their nose in their phones and don't notice the disappearance of the commons, which is so hard to sweep.

Critics crabbled about how homeless people and panhandlers would be discriminated against in the parklets, but this idea was dismissed by homeless people and panhandlers.

"A few of our crowd cruise up there," remarked one homeless guy, "but the yuppie factor is pretty oppressive."

Another homeless guy agreed. "I got no specific problem with high-end food, if that's what floats your boat. But it's an obscene focus in a town where the poor are sleeping under bushes."

Others agreed that parklets pose a danger to public health, since sitting down is such a dangerous practice that the Berkeley police continue to ticket especially vulnerable people for sitting down everywhere except near the Cheese Board.

"We're just concerned about their health," asserted one police spokesperson. "Sitting is apparently terrible for your back."

* * * * *



THESE PEOPLE LOOK REALLY HAPPY and you will be too sitting in the new parklet which is a chic new way to reduce the commons and the tedious issues of public space.

News Flash - Poverty Definitely Linked to Severe Shortage of Money

By Anna Dole



Experts have definitively linked poverty with a lack of financial resources in a new study being released by top economic experts.

The Bay Area study, which cost just over a million dollars, documented the steady decline in the lives of average Bay Area workers as their rents skyrocketed, their wages stagnated, and their health deteriorated from the stress of trying to find spare change behind the couch and the inability to find an affordable spa.

"Money is an important factor," noted one of the participating scientists. "We may find that future studies identify it as the crucial factor."

Critics scoffed that the money funding the study could have helped a few families pay rent and stay off the street but the experts confirmed that this would have interfered with the study's integrity.

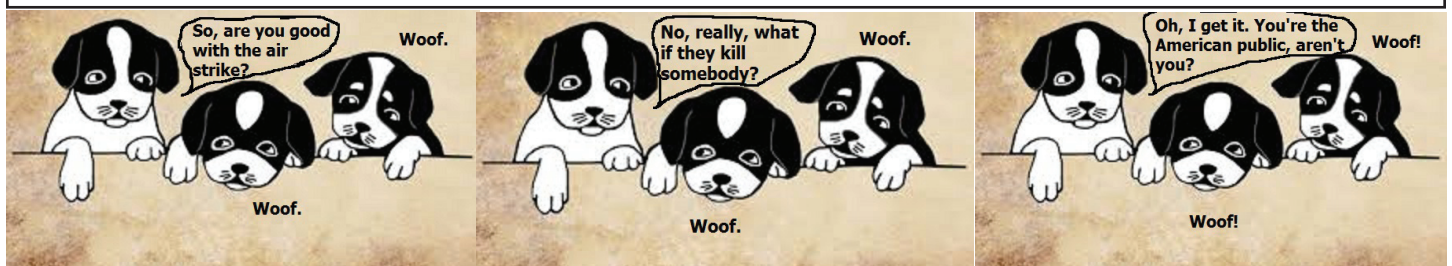
"Science has to stay neutral," stated one of the scientific experts. "You scew your homelessness results if you pay their rent."

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PEOPLE LIKE this guy who are scrambling for money are so silly because the rich are not having any trouble.

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

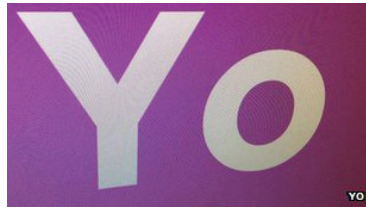


Decline of Civilization Rate Increases by 35% with "Yo" App

By Joe Mama

Developers of the Yo app which raised a million dollars in funding and was instantly hacked by college students at launch are nonetheless optimistic about the app's bright future.

The app allows users to send a message saying "yo" to alleged friends, which its creator Or Arbel points out might have limited content but



MOST APPS ARE a stupid waste of time, but even that aspect of apps can be monetized.

has the advantage of brevity and widespread branding with drunks and partiers.

"World Cup is the perfect week for the launch," pointed out Arbel. "If it isn't about beer and a quick place to vomit most people don't have time for it, which Obama seems to have noticed as well."

The White House denied that World Cup events had anything to do with the timing of the enhanced war in Iraq, and encouraged people to focus on the remaining soccer games.

Arbel also dismissed the claim by one technology news site reader that the "Yo"

app signified an increase in the rate of the decline of civilization.

"Civilization is long gone," he laughed. "This is about raking up the leftovers."

* * * * *

Ten Nifty New Upgraded Euphemisms for War

1. *enhanced military kerfuffle*
2. *weapons-based international disciplinary action*
3. *bomb-reinforced policy manifestation*
4. *over-reported global tactical maneuver*
5. *democracy-spreading enterprise*
6. *inclusive international disciplinary process*



THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY keeps trying to find creative ways to enable smokers to smoke indoors.



Bait: To save lives, Tasers are used by the police as a substitute for firearms.

Switch: Tasers are used almost exclusively on the unarmed. Tasers are used for officer convenience and for behavior modification on the mentally ill, those under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and the verbally non-compliant. Tasers inflict quick and cruel punishment often resulting in death without a trial. To date, 160 citizens have died after being tased.

Ain't That A Switch!

The police in at least three major cities have banned the use of Tasers in training exercises on rank and file officers due to severe injuries. Amazingly, these same police departments continue to use Tasers on their citizenry.

If they're unsafe for cops, they're unsafe for us.

Ban Tasers Now

The Coalition for Justice and Accountability 408-287-9710

This poster is an art/law collaboration between poster maker Doug Minkler and attorney Aram James. For information contact: Aram James, ASJP01@juno.com or dminkler.com

7. *threat-based nation restructuring*
8. *meaningful menace-based inter-action*
9. *strategic gun-based normaliza-tion*
10. *war 2.0*

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Next Issue: Watching portfolios with celebrities!

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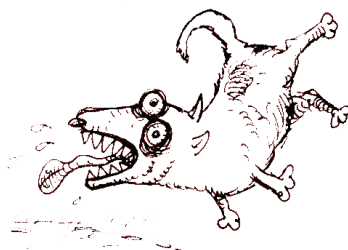


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*Cymbeline

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.