

the squirrel hunting issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...be brisk awhile, and the longer liver take all..."*

Vol. XVI No. 3

Homeless Man Who Dies on Berkeley's Streets Was Lucky, Say Planners

By Boris A. Stiffone



BERKELEY PLANNERS and politicians were eager to point out that the homeless man who died on the streets in the 2200 block of Shattuck enjoyed a high quality of life just watching others sip their latte's and conduct their lives searching for the perfect lettuce.

Officer Jennifer Louis of the Berkeley Police Department confirmed that a 66 year-old homeless man named David Simmons was found dead in front of an empty commercial space on the 2200 block of Shattuck Avenue on Sunday, February 6th, 2014, and city planners were quick to point out that it was really lucky for him to die a free man instead of in jail.

"He was technically trespassing," stated one local planner unveiling plans for another high-rise condo building for rich techie workers, "not to mention blocking the sidewalk."

Critics pointed out that Berkeley is rife with warm, clean, lighted empty spaces complete with bathrooms and kitchens which have sat empty and boarded up for years and might have saved the man's life, but were dismissed as crackpots who always complain about something.

"Our homeless are happy," responded the planner as his planner friends nodded. "You'll see them playing their guitars and stuff. They're lucky this isn't Michigan."

"Our homeless are happy," responded the planner as his planner friends nodded. "You'll see them playing their guitars and stuff. They're lucky this isn't Michigan."

* * * * *

"Domain Awareness Center" Seeks Better Name

Awkward Name Impeding Popularity, Say Experts

By Gail A. Blowing

Experts agree that the poorly named "Domain Awareness Center" is having trouble attracting popular support because the name for the surveillance facility is currently too technical and unfriendly.

"We need something that will enlist the public's imagination and convey a safe, fun future that's more like a Disneyland ride," confided one Oakland city staff member who agreed that a contest might help. "We need a name that some eight-year-old comes up with that the whole community can take pride in, kind of like the new bear at the zoo."

Oakland city staff members agreed, and offered these suggestions for the public.

"We hope they'll just keep contributing names," stated one anonymous staff member. "Otherwise they'll have time to think about the pesky issue of our inability to find

a non-nuclear weapons contractor to get things rolling."

Suggestions include:

- * Domain Facial Recognition and Handcuff Manicure Center
- * Whiz-Bang High Tech and Safety Center for Kids, Especially Kids of Color
- * Awareness Center (skip "domain" - they'll think its about yoga)
- * Center for Neighborhood Public Safety
- * Homeland Have-a-Doughnut Center
- * Handcuffs for Everyone Center
- * World Watch Center
- * Center of Wonder and Surveilland
- * Your Neighborhood Pre-Arrest Compound
- * Doughnut Central

* * * * *

Monarch Butterflies Stage Protest in Mexican Forest

Insistence on Eating Milkweed is Just Being Fussy, Say Experts

By Matilda Plotnow

Monarch butterflies gathered in only 1.65 acres in a Mexican pine forest this year compared with almost three acres last year in an obvious effort to send high-strung environmentalists into a predictable tizzy.

"It's just a protest," stated Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant.



"Don't be fooled by how pretty they are. They are just a bunch of bugs with an agenda."

MONSANTO CEO Hugh Grant may not know much about butterflies but he really knows when people aren't pulling their weight.

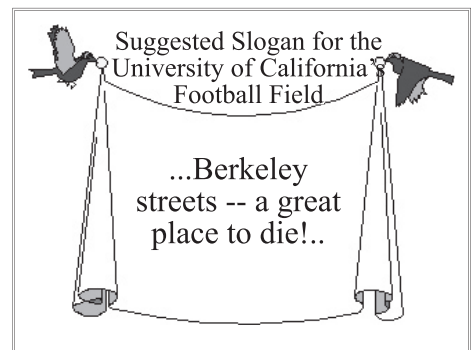
Monarchs' numbers have steadily dwindled since record-keeping began in

1993, but experts agree that the tendency to blame herbicide-resistant crops and the eradication of the monarch's principal food plant, milkweed, is just not fair.

"Pesticides and pesticide-resistant new forms of life represent progress," insisted scientists, "especially for those with a lot of Monsanto stock in their portfolios."

"There is no reason that the Monarchs' can't eat corn like the rest of us," stated Grant. "They're just being fussy."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, are tasers the new pepper spray? Which one is better? I'm getting all confused.

Dear reader, tasers and pepper spray are both old hat now. Support your local Domain Awareness Center so that someday we can have drones flying overhead tasing and pepper-spraying exactly the right people at the right moments in time according to facial recognition technology.

Dear Lena, but what if they have the wrong picture, like one of me? I went to a demonstration once and I'm really worried that it is part of my profile.

Dear reader, you should be worried. It is part of your profile. You are going to have a very exciting future.

Dear Lena, isn't it better to die on Berkeley's streets than some other place?

Dear reader, yes, it is better to die on a Berkeley street within several yards of a nicely appointed coffee shop or restaurant so that you can at least die comforted by the aroma of a three buck cup of coffee or a lovely locally-sourced meal.

Dear Lena, do the squirrels really have to die? Can't we get them to march off somewhere protesting something?

Dear reader, excellent thought. I suggest you bring them some appropriately sized picket signs.

Dear Lena, I like the public blood sport option at Cesar Chavez park. Those squirrels have had it too good, and the park could use some additional activities that the whole family could get into.

Dear reader, I agree. Please suggest it to the next reporter you speak to. There's one behind every tree right now hoping to keep this "green" issue in the news.

Got a good recipe for squirrel pie? Or squirrel sushi? Share it with Lena Deeter at cdennney@igc.org.

Tasers a Must for Spring Fashion Season, say Police Fashion Consultants

By Gadya Cominangoing



YOUR PERSONAL TASTE IN TASERS can be color-coordinated with your cell phone cover *and* your drone.

Police department analysts were pleased to announce that all fashion-forward prognosticators agree that tasers are a necessary accessory for your spring fashion outfit without which people will snigger at you as though you forgot your snappy rhinestone cell phone jacket.

"We warned the City of Berkeley about this long ago," stated a police department spokesperson at a recent press conference. "Most police departments have and use tasers as just part of the modern array of public safety features designed to make sure you take your police officers seriously and pass the 'attitude' test."

Critics argued that BART police recently used a taser on someone who was too drunk to comply with instructions on a train, and noted that tasers have been implicated in so many deaths that they can't be accurately described as "non-lethal" while conceding that they remain a seriously impressive fashion accessory.

"We agree," stated the police spokesperson. "But they don't kill everybody. It's kind of a crap shoot."

"That's right," added a local police officer. "Some die, some don't, and in the meantime we need to boost police morale with this fashionable accessory and make sure we are not left out of potential technological advances."

Experts agreed that letting drunks sleep

it off is not necessarily preferable to tasing them, since it is at least excellent target practice for the under-trained taser user.

"Having a well-appointed-looking police force is hard to quantify," stated one expert. "But if we get them some colorful tasers maybe they'll quit whining."

* * * * *

Pro-Life Groups Insist All Dead Bodies Should Be Re-Animated

By Flora Ranger

Pro-life groups announced today that not only should all eggs and sperm be protected as potential life, but that all dead bodies should be re-animated and kept alive for as long as possible.

"Cost should not be a factor," stated one pro-life spokesperson. "We need to respect life whether it is able to sit up and speak intelligently or not."

"Few people get that far anyway," agreed one medical expert, "especially our own medical staff."

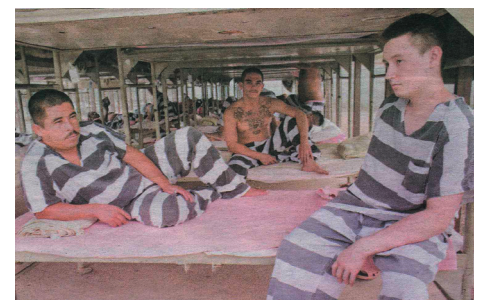
Critics objected that dead people should be consulted regarding their resuscitation since they run the risk of becoming animated wearing inappropriate attire, but were dismissed by pro-animation proponents.

"We're ready to welcome them," stated one pro-life proponent. "And if they need help attending political rallies and voting we can help with that, too."

* * * * *



Ernie Carpenter



STRIPES ARE A BIG PART of the fashion landscape this spring, as inmates in Arizona can tell you, along with pink sheets and undergarments which can be color-coordinated with your personal taser.

Planner Admits Highrises Don't Create Open Space

By Abby A. Liddlelait

An anonymous planner admitted recently that there is apparently no link between the creation or protection of open space and highrises.

"We've been telling people this stuff for years," confesses the planner via video using an electronic voice disguiser. "We've been coaxing them into destroying their own neighborhoods on the grounds that it is somehow 'green', and that open space would bloom in some faraway place that perhaps they could visit someday."



PLANNERS tried, but just couldn't find that pesky new open space anywhere.

Experts in real estate acknowledged that they'd been carefully watching the amount of square footage on the planet and found no actual increase in square footage anywhere.

"Coupla sand bars," stated one expert. "But enough beaches disappear that it balances out."

"Land just doesn't invent itself," agreed another expert sadly, "no matter how high you build."

Critics claimed that the whole "highrises are green" movement is a developer-driven effort to profit from the generalized guilt in a population raised to save whales and frogs that can't figure out how.

"These people would buy toxic waste if you told them it was green," pointed out one critic. "But don't quote me or they'll be selling it in catalogs next Christmas."

* * * * *

Businesses "Sponsor" Council Seats

By Kent Bleevit

In what is widely seen as an extension of the same merchant-based political orientation that produced the anti-sitting ballot measure last fall, the Berkeley City Council added sponsored council seats to the sidewalk display and parklet proposals currently under consideration hoping to make certain no public space is without proper monitoring by cooperative businesses.

"We know we can't control the streets," stated one anonymous councilmember. "We figure either the merchants can, or they'll develop a better appreciation of how weird it is to even try in a town like this."

"That's right," added another council representative's staff member. "Either way, we win."

Critics objected to the blatant hypocrisy of allowing merchants to clutter sidewalks so soon after the \$100,000-plus fuss over people sitting down on them, which was constantly portrayed as a threat to public safety, but code enforcement people reassured them that threading such needles was a simple matter of having an experienced and flexible political eye.

"People who want to check out the scene, hang around with other people, and shoot the breeze just don't spend money like rich people who enjoy a streamlined, people-free landscape," explained one code enforcement staff member. "And having businesses sponsor Council seats just acknowledges reality."

Local residents acknowledged that business-friendly Council representatives tend to get into office easier and stay put.

"It certainly is one way to keep the budget balanced," offered one local resident. "And stepping around merchant sidewalk displays can't be much different than stepping around teenage nomads."

* * * * *

Berkeley: Squirrels Must Die!

"Not green enough" say City Staff

By May Bea So

Berkeley officials acknowledged quietly that they plan to capture and kill the ground squirrels at a popular park because their numbers threaten to undermine the protective clay between toxic landfill and the bay.

"It's true that they are cute," agreed one city staffer. "Too cute. They're overfed, they overpopulate, and now they must die."



DON'T BE FOOLED by these vicious animals just waiting to poison the bay.

Critics argued that Berkeley could make hella money pitting them against each other in public blood sport contests in tiny uniforms, which staffers admitted considering.

"They're easier to train than most public citizens," commented one. "They bite less, too."

* * * * *



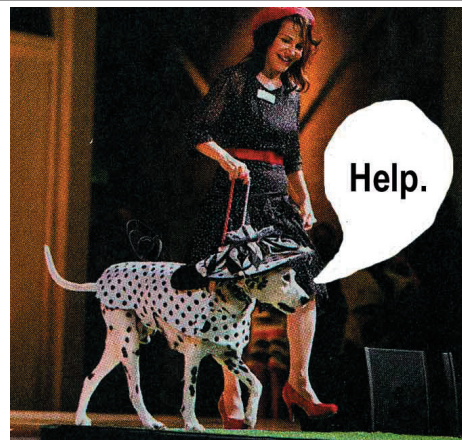
C. DEANEY 2-16-14

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



THE FACT THAT more than 6,000 people sleep on the streets of San Francisco every night should not inhibit people from freely expressing their exotic creative whims and including their dogs in the lavish fun.



AFTER ALL, IF THE ONLY poor people left in town are those who qualify for strictly regulated programs it isn't anybody's fault, it's just the way the system is when you make the mistake of not being highly paid.



SAN FRANCISCO IS LUCKY IT CAN soldier on with the annual "Haute Dog" fashion show competition under a hail of discouraging social pressure against cunning dogs in peacock feathers and pillbox hats.

Yacht Race Cost Doubles to \$11.5 million

By Fred Tawatch

Experts agreed that the America's Cup yacht race's doubled costs were *not* the fault of the wealthy racing participants or their well-heeled backers.

"It's those sneaky boats," explained one experts in the strange ways of tall catamarans which zip about the bay drowning not only a sailor here and there but an accountant on occasion as well.



IF YOU HAD PLANNED BETTER, you would own one of these and delight in merrily racing it about the bay.

"They cheat if they get the chance," stated one city official shaking his head. "They know what's at stake, and they're not going to let a bunch of numbers get in the way."

Critics who whined for a solid three years before the yacht race kept right on whining afterward and are eager to try to make the race look like an expensive, top-heavy playground for wealthy idiots with nothing else to do, but city staff affirm that they have no chance of stopping the next race.

"Theirs were never the opinions that mattered,"

stated one staff member. "It happened once - we now have a respected tradition."

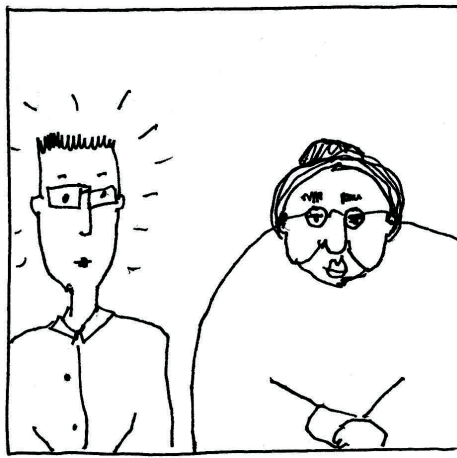
* * * * *



Next Issue: Watching snails with celebrities!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cddeney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

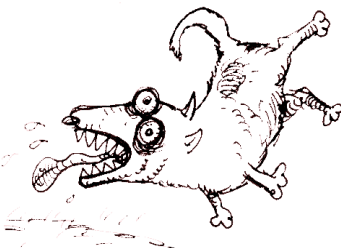


Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Staff.....Boris A. Stiffone, Gail A. Blowing,
Matilda Plotnow, Lena Deeter, Gadya Comihangoing,
Flora Ranger, Ernie Carpenter, Abby A Liddlelait,
Kent Bleevit, May Bea So, Franz Toast, Fred Tawatch, Juan Nathan Undergod

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.

To:



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr.

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

*Romeo and Juliet

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.