



Pepper Spray Times



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

“...for gay apparel ‘gainst the triumph day..”*

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“Theater Is Over” - Planning Consultant Mark Rhoades On New Theater Reduction Plan

By Diana Go

Movie theaters are “outmoded” according to influential Berkeley private planning consultant Mark Rhoades.

Rhoades’ comments were an effort to clarify the Theater Reduction Project planned for Shattuck Avenue, an eighteen story proposal to help usher in a new era of theater-free living for techies whom Rhoades claims prefer to watch movies on small gadgets while riding the Google bus.

“We are so embarrassed,” responded one red-faced member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences upon hearing the news. “We just now got the word, and imagine how silly we feel having put on such a big fussy show over movies.”

“The last thing we want to be is out of step with current trends, and if Berkeley is clear that movies are passe’ then we’re going to have re-tune everything,” added another Academy member. “We can’t afford to be unfashionable.”

Critics claim that Rhoades’ assessment is opportunistic.

“The less space the project dedicates to theaters, the more space there is for lucrative private condos and penthouses,” groused one old-fashioned theater-goer. “This is all about profit.”

Rhoades demurred that he was trying to help people get hip to new technologies.

“People in the future will watch movies on their toasters or fitbit thingies,” he said. “We need to get onboard with this stuff.”

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IN THE OLDEN DAYS people would line up to get a good seat at the movies, but this kind of behavior is terrible old-fashioned and never happens any more in real life.

Police Redaction Hailed As Art



ADMIT IT: YOU WISH you had painted this and will be haunted forever by not having had the artistic courage to leap ahead of contemporary constraints and bravely redact where no one has ever redacted before.

By Heda D. Times

“It started with one page,” explained Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan in response to questions about the almost completely blacked-out pages distributed in response to a public records act request regarding the police response to protests in December of 2014. “We loved the effect, and wanted the succeeding pages to be part of an artistic continuum.”

“It’s consonant with the emotional tone of

“..It’s what Rothko would be doing if he were still alive...”

December 6, 2014,” affirmed one excited local art expert. “I really enjoy the way the large blocks of redacted text intimate the succeeding pages’ blocks without replicating them exactly.”

“It’s what Rothko would be doing if he were still alive,” enthused another art expert. “It also makes a powerful statement about information itself being irrelevant to the frank, undeniably arresting fact of police power.”

“And the pointlessness of constitutional concerns,” added a local artist. “This is a much more powerful statement about repression than anything I’ve done.”

Local art enthusiasts are hoping for a museum show and have requested an opportunity to curate the work along with other public records act request redactions.

“The public needs to see this,” insisted a local gallery director. “It’s priceless.”

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VEGETABLES ARE HARD TO HEAR but if you listen closely you will hear them grumbling over “Meatless Mondays” which threaten to unjustly burden their community.

Vegetables Stewed Over Meatless Mondays

By Claudia Gardenup

Vegetables are still steaming over the consent calendar passage of the “Meatless Mondays” declaration by the Berkeley City Council at its February 24th meeting.

“What about us?” cried a rutabaga in tears after the vote holding a picket sign saying “Respect Your Roots.”

“We need to organize,” sighed a cabbage rolling awkwardly down City Hall’s front steps afterward. “We should have taken a tip from the ground squirrels.”

Experts agreed that the brunt of meatless meals in Berkeley will now fall on grains, fruits, and especially vegetables.

“Other communities may rely on highly packaged and popular food-like substances, but vegetables here in Berkeley will suffer the most.”

“Especially vegetables and fruits in seasons,” shuddered a tomato, who said he was on his way to get sauced.

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think Mark Rhoades is right. When I think about the money and time I've wasted waiting in line for a big movie theater experience I could just die. All the getting dressed up and all that popcorn, I mean, I really needed the intervention he is offering to the whole community. I still think movies are really cool, but he must be onto something even better and much more cool, don't you think?

Dear reader, clearly so. And it will all be happening in those private penthouses on top of the eighteen story tower, so be sure to be really nice to the rich people you run into so they invite you to their condo sometime and you can find out what it is.

Dear Lena, I heard that San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone changed his mind about the strict guidelines he proposed for teachers that would have required them to reject homosexuality and contraception. What happened? I thought he was following some religious mandate from the Catholic Church or something.

Dear reader, we're trying to confirm the story, but apparently God was fed up with him and told him to cut it out. You just can't win a theological argument with God.

Dear Lena, isn't it a good idea for the Berkeley City Council to stand up for the protesters who got beaten and gassed?

Dear reader, it's a great idea. Right up until the moment they dial up the cops to see about that burglar.

Dear Lena, so what will the police be using instead of over-the-shoulder baton strikes and CS gas when protesters get out of line?

Dear reader, they are requesting tasers, of course, but in the meantime they will be experimenting with really dirty looks and cutting remarks.

Ask Lena about self-playing accordions at cdenny@igc.org.



THIS ILLUSTRATION IS A GOOD APPROXIMATION of how many local politicians and design committee people are lining up to kiss the butt of the developer of the new Theater Reduction Project proposed for Shattuck Avenue to make sure people waste less time at the movies.

Theater Reduction Project Developer Says Design Review Committee Can Kiss His Butt Like Everybody Else

By Frances Zineurope

Developers of the proposed 180 foot, eighteen story Theater Reduction Project proposed for Shattuck Avenue surprised observers by claiming that their 30 condominium proposal would be a community benefit in and of itself, so they shouldn't have to do anything at all in addition to building the building to meet the Downtown Area Plan mitigation requirements mandated of buildings over 75 feet tall.

Planning staff and project opponents agreed that the gall quotient of Berkeley developers had never been higher, and that this project in particular might break all arrogance records.

"It isn't just the actual theater reduction in the proposal," stated one film lover of the project which would reduce the amount of movie theaters in the current building. "It's the claim that the project itself, which they're supposed to mitigate, is its own mitigation. It's brilliant."

"I'm surprised no one thought of it before," noted one city staff member. "Especially since previous developments were offering fake mitigation benefits anyway; bookstores that don't exist, theaters that don't exist, community access that doesn't exist. Why not double down, after all, as long as the city council is just going to roll over?"

The Berkeley City Council disagreed that their plan was simply to roll over.

"We have serious disagreements about the issue of rolling over," clarified one Council representative. "We could roll over to the right, or we could roll over to the left.

It just isn't a simple matter."

"We'll need several more months to decide whether to roll over to the right or roll over to the left," agreed another Council representative. "And before we roll over we need to make sure we give people a sense of having been listened to *before* we roll over."



THE MAGIC OF ARCHITECTURAL drawings is that the car-free streets get wider, which makes the buildings seem much smaller, the shadows and the general impact on pedestrians is greatly reduced and the sky seems wider and bluer plus the people look like they're all from the same strange tribe of white people and seem to get along really well.

Critics objected that the Theater Reduction Project would mean fewer people could go to the movies and fewer movies overall could be screened in Berkeley, but developers of the Theater Reduction Project were quick to respond that this was one of the benefits of the project which entitled it to claim its own proposed existence as a mitigating benefit.

"People need to wake up," stated Richard M. Kelleher, CEO of the Pyramid Hotel Group, who hopes to break ground by the end of the year. "Our project will help people quit mooning around at the movies and recognize that this is real life, dang it, and they need to pay attention."

* * * * *



IF YOU read enough planning documents you end up greatly reducing your caloric intake.



THESE PEOPLE walking uncontrollably through the downtown are easier to handle when they are on all fours blindly retching from the judicious application of CS gas, pepper spray, or whatever they come up with next.

Berkeley City Council Wimps Out on CS Gas, Baton Strikes

By Alan Goodfun

Berkeley could lose its best officers after deciding to restrict some of the most enjoyable police crowd control techniques according to a spokesperson from their union, the Berkeley Police Association.

“Why would they stay in Berkeley if they can’t beat people senseless with batons or gas them?” asked Sgt. Chris Stines, president of the Berkeley Police Association, who skinned his knee that night. “I skinned my knee. I’m ready to retire.”

Other officers agreed.

“I’m not sure I want to protect and serve a community I can’t beat up,” stated another officer. “I mean, what’s the point?”

“Especially if you skin your knee,” added another officer.

“Doesn’t the city council know it hurts when you skin your knee?” fumed another officer? “And what are we going to do with all this CS gas?”

Experts had differing opinions as to whether the CS gas could be repurposed, at least until the city council sneaks CS gas back into the police weapons arsenal.

“We’d love to use it in certain parks on a regular basis,” acknowledged one Public Works staff member. “Parks are so much easier to maintain when they stay empty.”

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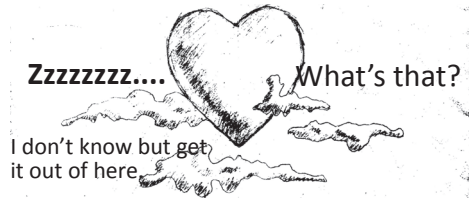
THE LIBERAL APPLICATION of CS gas and pepper spray isn’t just fun for police, it is absolutely necessary to maintain public order.

Ten Possible Reasons Why Berkeley Police Used CS Gas on, Well, Everybody

By Lida DePeople

1. Hated the play at the Berkeley Rep.
2. Wanted to wrap things up early to catch the Daily Show.
3. Wanted to wrap things up early to watch themselves on tv.
4. Hadn’t used it in so long they needed the training.
5. Thought it was shaving cream and were just having fun.
6. Thought a street full of blinded, vomiting people would be easier to arrest.
7. Thought a street full of blinded, vomiting people would make a better tv shot.
8. Felt really stupid having all that gear and wearing a gas mask and not using it.
9. Thought a blinded, vomiting crowd would just exit the area in an organized fashion.
10. Just love watching blinded people vomit all over everything.

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Clouds of Drones Roaring Around at Local Park Considered the “New Natural”

By Hilary Grett

Whiners who object to what is now the near-constant whirring sound of drones flying over their heads in local parks were dismissed by drone enthusiasts who point out that drone evolution is completely natural, and the sounds they emit should be appreciated equally with those of herons, egrets, and grebes.

The Berkeley City Council agreed, leaving the matter entirely out of their new drone moratorium.

“Drones started off kind of clunky,’ acknowledged one drone owner zooming his machine over the heads of dog walkers at a nearby park. “But the new drone technology is much less likely to accidentally fall on somebody’s head.”

“How can we know how well they work unless we consumers can get outside somewhere and fly them around?” observed another drone enthusiast. “I’m certainly eager to join a chat room on drones after playing with mine.”

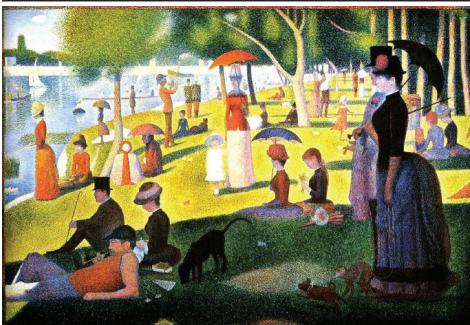
While some of the public objected that the whirring sound of dozens of drones was interfering with their enjoyment of natural spaces and sounds, most people agreed that phone-filled BART cars, buses, and movie theaters had loosened the old-fashioned restrictions on what used to be considered gadget discourtesy.

“It’s hard to back it up now,” sighed one park user. “I just hope Rover gets hold of the next one.”

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We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



LOOK AT THIS nightmare scene of completely unrestrained people-- you don’t know what they’ll do next it’s terrifying.



THIS IS MUCH BETTER now that there is an element of restraint introduced into the scene in case anybody decides to get out of bounds.



THIS IS BERKELEY TODAY where obviously out of control people get a gentle reminder of the fact that police are CS gas ready.

Google Glass Gives Up Trying Not to be Hysterically Funny

By Nick L. Atoss

Google Glass engineers admitted recently that they were giving up trying to restore dignity to their much-advertised but rarely functioning Google Glass product.



GOOGLE GLASS DESIGNERS have given up on fashion and are doubling down on the total geek factor in this design for a Google computer hat.

"Nobody could stop laughing," acknowledged project engineer Sebastian Thrun. "Even we couldn't get through a meeting without peeing ourselves."

"We wanted the product to have a 'cool' factor, but it got down on from under us," admitted researcher Babak Parviz. "The satires on Youtube were hilarious."

The project is being completely retooled,

Next Issue: knitting Frisbees with celebrities!



IF EVEN PRINCE CHARLES LOOKS GOOFY trying to use Google Glass then admit that the odds of your looking cool are pretty low.

according to Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, who insists Google Glass will be making a comeback someday, somehow, under the guidance of somebody but this time without any private gang of Google Glass bullies battling it out for their right to video everybody surreptitiously in a SOMA bar.

"Wearable Google computers may not ever be very cool," Brin stated, "but we can't help but notice that being a geek remains very popular. We might give up on the glasses and just head for the hat."

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Live Long and Prosper

By Frer Partridge Peartree

Fans of the late actor Leonard Nimoy had to plan as far as a 5-hour mission to Sunnyvale to mourn his passing, for in Berkeley and environs, he seems a forgotten man.

This reporter's survey of local venues most readily associated with "Mr. Spock" of tv's Star Trek—collectible/comix shops—turned up a host of indifferent responses.

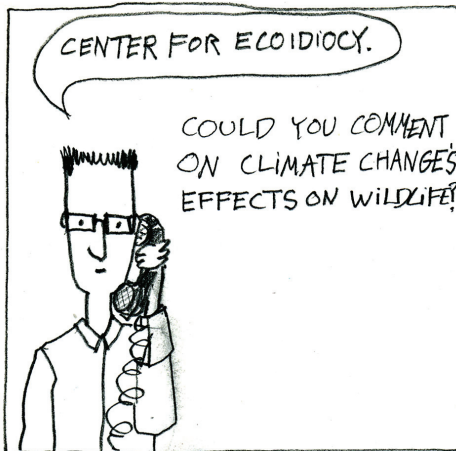
"We just prosper off the guy," said one blasé clerk, to the background k-ching of a cash register. "I didn't know he was a real dude." Calls to various UC-Berkeley science departments were not returned.

Nimoy's iconic creation and varied career, however, will live long at the continual ComCons which pop up at freeway exit expo halls. Meanwhile, a South Bay comics roost for area cyber-techies on March 6th is providing—depending on your time dimension—a solid "Thanks, Leonard, wherever you are" evening. "Along with caped crimefighters, NASA and NBC, he helped make us what we are," added "Stuart", a part-timer at a San Leandro comix den. "Wake in progress."

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THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod

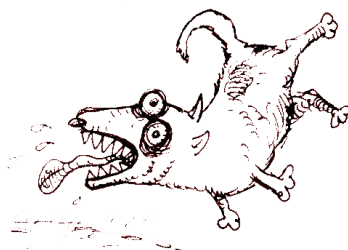


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*King Richard II

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