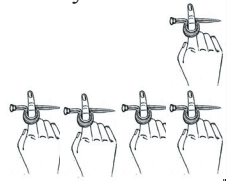


...the botox enhanced issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

May 2013



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

"What sport tonight?..."*

Vol. XV No. 5

Three DBA Ambassadors Succeed in Putting Up Flower Pot

by Gideon Busy

After weeks of trying, three of the Downtown Berkeley Ambassadors finally succeeded in putting up a flower pot, part of the beautification program funded by the mandatory fee imposed on downtown businesses and managed by the Downtown Berkeley Association.

"We really feel good about it," stated one of the program's ambassadors proudly as passers-by shielded their eyes from the florescent lime green glow of the ambassadors' jackets. "It took three of us, but we finally got that flowerpot up there and we really feel like we accomplished something."

Critics objected that the flowerpots, while charming, are hardly a substitute for a thriving business district.

"These bozos keep pressing for 1%-style businesses; high-end theater, etc. Most of us would just like our stationary store back and some place to buy shoes," said one local resident searching for a sandwich under eight dollars.

"No kidding," agreed another resident leaving the Landmark Theater. "When they get rid of this theater in favor of more luxury apartments, I'll have no reason to come down here."



SOMETHING FINALLY WORKED DOWNTOWN when three Downtown Berkeley Association "ambassadors" succeeded in putting up this flower pot and made sure they got a picture of the special moment.

"It's never going to compete with San Francisco for the high-end dollar," observed another local shopper trying to find school supplies without having to visit a chain store. "I can't believe they don't slap a vacancy

fee on all these property owners who refuse to lower the lease rates even after years of vacancies."

City staff members hastened to inform the shopper that the Downtown Berkeley Association was RUN by just such large property owners, and that the flowerpots would have to do.

"We realize that it takes three ambassadors to put one up, and it's a very time-consuming enterprise, but we hope at some point people realize that we're just not going to bring down property lease prices and the flowerpots is what they get," stated one DBA staff member.

"Plus a lot of creative new laws against stuff like trespassing in public places, the

"It took three of us, but we finally got that flowerpot up there and we really feel like we accomplished something."

Rich People "Recover" Faster Than Poor People

by Donna Sweater

The wealth gap separating the top 7 percent and wealth-challenged people increased from 18-to-1 to 24-to-1 between 2009 and 2011 according to the Pew Research Center, and is easily explained by experts as a consequence of rich people working harder than poor people to "recover" from the recession.

"Rich people recover more easily from income-related problems because they are used to money and don't fritter it away on things like rent," stated one expert on wealth and the economy.

"Poor people tend to spend all the money they have buying shoes and school supplies for the children" stated another expert. "Rich people are more likely to make investments with a higher return."

The most affluent 7 percent of households owned 63 percent of the nation's household wealth in 2011, up from 56 percent in 2009,

and should serve as an inspiration to the rest of the investment-challenged population which stubbornly refuses to get in the game.

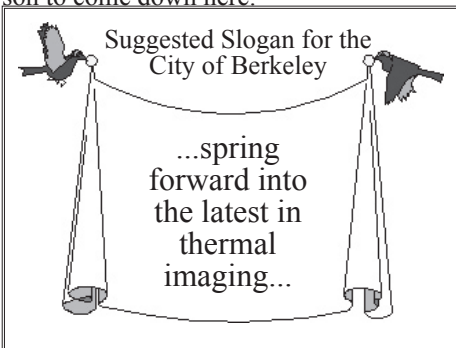
"Wealth inequality isn't a crime," stated another economic expert. "It is a shining example of how with the right broker and a good financial consultant, even a recession can prove profitable."

"Wealth inequality isn't a crime," stated another economic expert. "It is a shining example of how with the right broker and a good financial consultant, even a recession can prove profitable."



criminalization of sleeping, the criminalization of looking scruffy, stuff like that," agreed one bench sitter enjoying the sun. "The DBA has really put the 'down' in 'downtown'."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I can put up flowerpots. Can I have that job? It wouldn't take me three days.

Dear reader, you are missing the essential point of making sure there are lots of "eyes and ears" hanging around downtown to keep an eye on people who refuse to spend money and act normal. Creatively crafting laws drafted expressly for those guys is hard to do halfway up a ladder.

Dear Lena, is it safe now? I've been staying inside since the Boston Marathon bombing, but I'm tired of ordering pizza and the delivery guy looks really suspicious. When can I come out?

Dear reader, don't come out. Make friends on the internet and telecommute.

Dear Lena, are books over? I was kind of feeling like writing one.

Dear reader, go ahead and write one. About me.

Dear Lena, is the war over? I can't remember.

Dear reader, neither can I. Go outside and look for a red line. If you find one, get back to me right away.

Dear Lena, is Barbara Bush really running for president?

Dear reader, you wish, buddy. The world would be a better place.

Dear Lena, the Downtown Berkeley Association never puts my events up in their locked events kiosk, but I have to be a member because I'm in the mapped footprint. What should I do?

Dear reader, just tape your event to the outside glass every day, all day long. Hire one of the sidewalk sitters to do it on the hour. If enough people do this, we'll have full event coverage plus full employment.

Ask Lena about how much money to send to the Pepper Spray Times at cdenney@igc.org.

Things That Are More Fun to Build Than Explosive Devices

by Manuela Noyew

Editor's Note: It's getting serious. Our bomb-building, letters-full-of-poison-sending crazy people need options that are less destructive and more fun for the whole community before someone locks up the trash cans and restrooms for good. Here are some useful ideas to help interest the next crazy person you hear grumbling about the government and building seven coming down too fast: - Editor, Grace Underpressure

Build Your Own Player Piano!

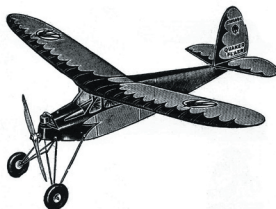


Take an ordinary piano at room temperature and a long roll of strong paper. Cut r a n d o m holes in the paper as

you unwind it, and then rewind. Now, send the paper through the piano every which way, then presto, listen to the sounds as you pull it backward! Guaranteed to send the avant-garde to your door with a grant application!

Build Your Own Airplane!

Borrow a surf board and strap a comfortable cushion right in the middle. Decorate with decals and little flowers that will look pretty when it flies. Carry it out to an open field and run like crazy. When you get a little altitude going, jump on the cushion and be sure to wear something festive for the photographers!



Build Your Own Computer!

Find a cardboard box and fill with buttons and wires. Put a mirror on the front, or a pretty picture of the sea shore. Find a used keyboard (most trash cans will have two or three) or just draw one on a large shoe box top and start hacking! Your computer will break down less than most



computers, and be less likely to draw you into a sketchy world of lonely, grumpy people. Be sure to check local Berkeley coffee shops for tips on how to look hip, smart, busy, and like you're part of a network of identical people all at the same time!

Plant A Garden!

Find some stuff you don't really want to eat, and instead of throwing it away, plant it in some dirt nearby! Put little stakes with pictures on them as you go so you remember what you put there. Be sure to plant s o m e - thing a little peculiar so the anthropologists of tomorrow have something to puzzle over. You may or may not end up with a fall harvest of old sandwiches, kiwi, and broken tea strainers, but master gardeners have the same odds, and you can always blame global warming.



Start a Line of Designer Clothes!

Take the stuff you don't like out of your drawer, closet, or backpack. Find some sharp scissors and start cutting! Then sew stuff back together by switching one set of pant legs or sleeves with something different. You can add pockets, or lengthen shirts into dresses, or make sleeves and pant legs into cunning scarves and handy pocketbooks. And if you live in the Bay Area it's guaranteed you'll look no weirder than anybody else!



* * * * *

Barbara Bush Reveals Election Plans at Library Opening in Texas

by Liza Waiting

Former President George W. Bush opened his presidential library in the company of four former presidents who praised the younger President Bush for having several actual books on the library's shelves.

President Obama went so far as to say he "liked" former President Bush, while hastening to add that they are not Facebook friends.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center appears to do an excellent job of minimizing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which have cost taxpayers \$2 trillion so far and are slated to total between \$4 trillion and \$6 trillion including medical care and disability costs according to a new analysis as reported by the LA Times in March of 2013.

"It's a lot of money considering that the current federal budget is \$3.8 trillion," stated one observer at the opening ceremony for the presidential library. "But you never know when another gold rush or Silicon Valley start-up will break the game wide open again."

"You just gotta keep believing in freedom," nodded another observer mopping his brow in the Texas sun.

President Obama referred to the existing five presidents as a "support group", confusing onlookers who remembered the Bush presidency as a deeply polarizing and costly search for non-existent yellow cake.

The ceremony ended with former first lady Barbara Bush dismissing talk of her son, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, running for the White House in 2016, explaining that she was running herself.

"I love my sons," she stated emphatically, "but there's only so much the nation can stand. Nobody understands better than my fellow Texans whose cattle are long gone. If the Republicans really have nothing else but name recognition going for them next election time, then I might as well make sure somebody with some common sense is in the game. Besides," she winked, "my sons know better than to take me on."

* * * * *



BARBARA BUSH INSISTS that she'll run herself to head off another one of her family's disruptive electoral adventures.

NASA's Last Hope to Boost Budget Rides on Two New Planets

by Sheldon Peeled

WASHINGTON: NASA's planet-hunting telescope has discovered not one but two planets that seem like ideal places for re-invigorating Congress's and the American people's waning interest in setting up shop on a different planet somewhere.

"They are just the right size," said William Borucki, the chief scientist for NASA's Kepler telescope. "It's true they're outside our solar system, so they're a bit out of the way. But we're crapping all over this planet at such a rate that the two of them are starting to look like a bargain."

It's tough to fit the criteria which would accommodate human beings, who are notoriously fussy about temperature and how many channels they can get. Many planets are too hot or too cold for water to exist without either freezing or turning into clouds which are hard to drink. And planets that are too big are likely to be Neptune-like gas balls which only members of Congress could tolerate.

Kepler-62-e and Kepler-62-f are just right if you don't mind leaving this universe behind, and they circle the same star, so they could arguably borrow a cup of sugar from the other one in the event of a shortage. One is warm and one is cold, making them perfect getaways for people in search of a change of scenery.

"Why wouldn't it have life?" said study co-author David Charbonneau of Harvard. "Just because we have never found any living organisms yet doesn't mean we shouldn't spend billions looking around."

"If there's life at all on those planets, it must be very advanced," mused Borucki. "Otherwise it would have done the dumb stuff of trying to take over our planet and declare war and stuff. We figure they're smart because they already know better than to make 'friends' with us and risk spending all day on Facebook."

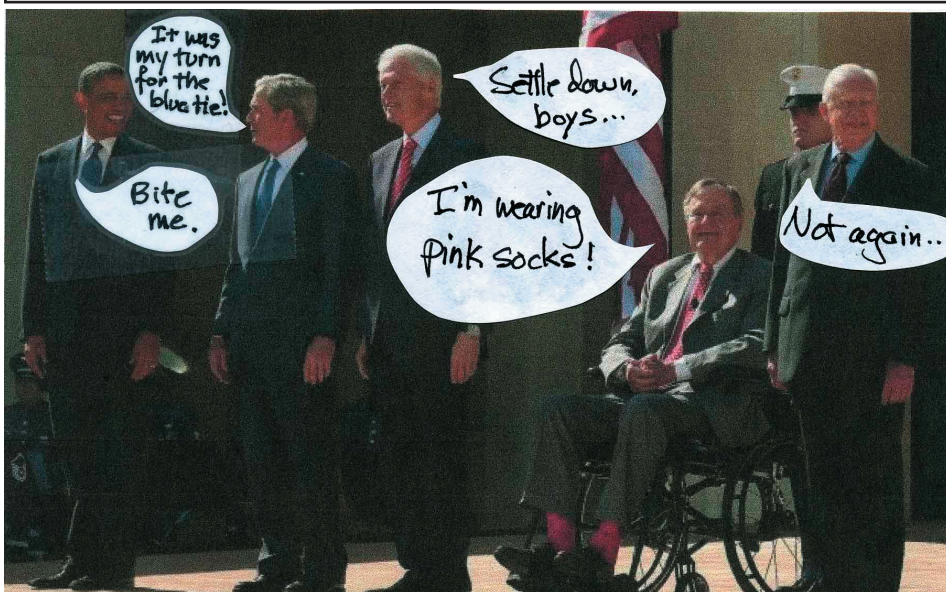
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PEOPLE WILL DISCOVER that life on Kepler-62 and Kepler-62-f is just as pleasant as it is on earth if they're just willing to give it the old college try.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



ONLOOKERS AT THE OPENING OF THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL library in Texas probably have no idea the wealth of memos, the split second timing, and the security measures it takes to get all four surviving former presidents together with the current president without having them rip into each other like terriers.

New Security Measures Announced for Marathon

by Fred Eggs



The Boston Marathon bombing has inspired new marathon security measures announced yesterday including the banning of all rice cookers, large salad bowls, backpacks, and picnic baskets from public areas to ensure public safety.

"Large handbags are prohibited," stated Myrtle Beach Marathon Race Director Shaun Walsh, reading from a thick sheaf of guidelines. "We're recommending that people duct-tape any belongings they wish to keep with them to their arms and legs."

Myrtle Beach's marathoners were understanding.

"We don't bring much with us when we run," affirmed one runner. "Maybe sunglasses. We hope we can keep those."

"We're recommending that people use the bathroom before leaving home," added Director Walsh, confirming that all restrooms would be locked and that all trash cans

Can You Tell Who Is the Crazy Guy?

Is it this guy? Or is it the guy who spends \$120,000* campaigning to stop him from sitting down?



<-Is it these two guys? Or is it the university that has spent millions of scarce public dollars trying to criminalize sharing food with other people?

Crazy is complex! Be sure to read the *Pepper Spray Times* so you can educate yourself about the *real* nutjobs! *real cost of the anti-sitting campaign

would be removed from the area. "We're discouraging people from gathering in crowds, for safety's sake. We are hoping people will run, grab their medal, and go immediately home."

"And maybe just run in place," added another

race assistant. "Or in circles. For their own good."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Dumping Old Sofas with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Juan Nathan Undergod



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

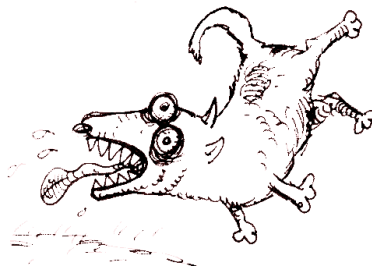


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*Antony and Cleopatra

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.