

All hail the...
...the technically challenged issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

October 2009



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

“..speaking is for beggars”.*

Vol. XI No. 10



PALO ALTO CITY MANAGER JIM KEENE'S famous commitment to secrecy serves the community well by paving the way for both consistency in law enforcement styles and clearcutting.

KEENE PROTECTS PUBLIC FROM CONFLICTING OPINIONS, TREES

By Paul D. Oars

Citizens of Palo Alto heaved a sigh of relief when City Manager Jim Keene stuck with his traditional closed-door policy and chose Dennis Burns, a 27 year veteran of the Palo Alto Police Department, as police chief without a public hearing after the resignation of Lynne Johnson, the former police chief who embraced racial profiling as a perfectly natural way to address crime.

Keene explained that having a community meeting where the public and the press might question candidates ran the risk of presenting conflicting points of view.

Locals agreed that conflicting points of view can be seriously scary, almost as scary as being beaten by police for being the wrong color, but that secrecy has its downside, such as allowing the clear-cutting of California Avenue.

Keene explained that secrecy was essential to both the clear-cut and the choice of chief.

“That’s how it worked best in Berkeley and Tucson,” he stated. “Developers and merchant associations choose the trees, I choose the chief, the public barks afterward but it really saves time. There’s nothing more tedious than a public hearing.”

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Annual People’s Park Crime Wave Arrives Right on Schedule



THERE ARE AT LEAST 458 CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS in this picture of people cavorting in People’s Park, which is the obvious source of all crime in Berkeley.

By Parker Car

The astounding regularity of the annual People’s Park crime wave continues to baffle both city and university police while fascinating local reporters.

“It’s a story we can count on for headlines,” explained one local reporter. “The students come back to town, the movie lines get longer -- that stuff is hard to milk.”

“That’s right,” concurred another reporter twittering while waving a handful of press releases from local police department public relations departments. “These people may not have been convicted of anything, but look at these exciting charges!”

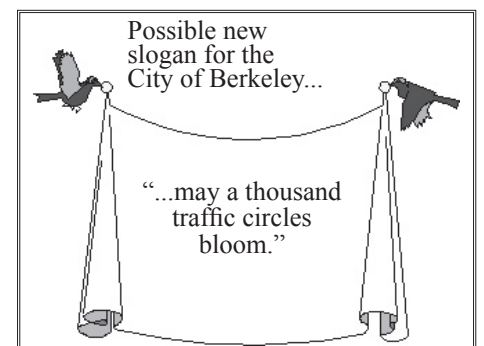
“And there’s usually some nudity,” chimed in another reporter. “We’re trying to hang onto our jobs, and these press releases are easy to tease into some real excitement.”

Critics argued that the local police departments seem unable to stop the predicable crime wave despite the fact

that it happens like clockwork every year, and despite the additional fact that the police departments and merchant associations are adept at exploiting the annual crime wave for additional public funds, even when crime is technically down.

“It does have its convenience,” agreed one local police officer. “And we get better every year at practicing our facial expressions of complete surprise.”

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, why are all these commercials asking me to buy so many drugs? I can barely afford food, let alone all this stuff to help me sleep and poop and feel at peace. Isn't this some kind of scam?

Dear reader, the human condition is now a disease. But wait, there is hope from pharmaceutical companies who *almost* have side-effect free formulas for everything that ails you for a low, low price which will be higher next year especially if private industry's new health plan gets ahold of your soul. Buy now, or forever hold your poop *and* your peace.

Dear Lena, is this a new era of incivility? Maybe I always get on the wrong bus, but it seems pretty tame to me. What do *you* think?

Dear reader, we here at the Pepper Spray Times have long ago stopped listening to congressional testimony, political speeches, or broadcast news due to the delicacy of our collective professional constitutions. The bus, on the other hand, is music to our ears. We recommend discrete earplugs and a very strong fan.

Dear Lena, I kind of liked the "How Berkeley Can You Be" parade. What can I do to bring it back?

Dear reader, the most important thing to do is to practice drinking with cops. Police officers may not seem like a lot of fun at first, but if you get them drunk enough they are known to change facial expressions (*see first page*). Start a conversation about your favorite brand of pepper spray, and it will help to break down those annoying social barriers.

Ask Lena for advice about delicate zoning issues at cdenney@jgc.org.



A 32% FEE INCREASE PLUS NEARLY 2,000 LAYOFFS AND FORCED UNPAID FURLOUGHs are for some peculiar reason unacceptable to thousands of affected students and workers, who took advantage of a brief moment of nation-wide incivility to disrupt a recent regents' meeting rather than study and quietly hand over their money.

Yudof Encourages Students, Faculty, and Workers to Shut Up and Throw a Bakesale

Sacramento Legislators Thankful Outrageous UC Waste Makes Them Look Good

By Greta Parta Valor

University of California President Mark Yudof and the regents encouraged protesters to aim their anger over a proposed 32% fee increase at Sacramento legislators instead of picking on upper management administrative salaries so huge that waste, fraud, and salary reduction are some of the few issues the legislators in Sacramento can agree on.

"We're extremely thankful for the waste and fraud in the University of California system," one lawmaker stated. "We're not a talented bunch. The incompetence and outright fraud in the UC system not only gives us a point of unity, it manages to make us look good, which is hard to do."

Vice President Patrick Lenz presented the plan for the 32% fee increase to the regents, insisting that the full protective hockey gear he was wearing was simply because he loved the game.

"It's only the middle class kids who will feel the pinch," he promised nervously while an overflow crowd of workers and students roared disapproval. "The rich kids don't tend to worry

about these things, and the poor kids quit imagining they had any right to an education a long time ago."

Fourteen protesters who clearly don't appreciate the need to pay top administrators even more while downsizing the people who actually teach, clean, cook, garden, and do maintenance were hauled away to jail so that they could meditate on planning bakesales.

Eddie Island, a regent who came perilously close to losing his prestigious post after previously siding with students in opposing higher fees, agreed with the 32% increase this time, explaining that after a certain amount of rounds of golf and lunches with his fellow regents it had finally dawned on him that the fee increases were the simplest way to keep the university going without disturbing the exotic administrative apparatus keeping top administrators in custom-built dog runs and electronic gadgets.

"Yudof is right," he stated. "The students can always throw a nice car wash or a bakesale."

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NYC: Fewer Cops = Less Crime

By Colleen D. Peegs

The New York Police Department acknowledged recently that having fewer police on the force and seriously cutting the police budget has apparently resulted in a 40% drop in crime from the same time last year.

“It wasn’t what we expected,” puzzled one officer. “Especially during a serious recession. But we have a record low number of murders in New York this year, despite having fewer personnel and resources.”

New York usually averages approximately six homicides per 100,000, but this year the pattern is pointing to a record-breaking low, making observers wonder if further cuts in police budget and personnel would enhance the effect.



THIS PUBLIC SERVICE announcement begs the public to stop the creeping reduction in crime before police officers begin to lose their jobs.

out that not only would police officers’ jobs be lost, but the arguments for new, exotic defensive weapons such as pepper spray and tasers would be blunted.

“The fact is, we need crime,” stated one police spokesperson. “More than crime needs us.”

* * * * *

10 Ways for UC to Make Some Money Besides Mugging Students, Faculty & Workers

1. *Quit overpaying top administrators.* We know how boring it is to repeat this, but we couldn’t help ourselves.

2. *Charge more for football tickets.* you can still buy tickets to these stupid football games for thirty to fifty dollars, and the whole town pays through the nose for this drunken, meaningless nonsense. Make the sports fans pick up the tab for the congestion, police overtime, and vomit.

3. *Sell a few thousand acres of land.* The university’s thousands of acres of superfluous real estate is either preparation for eventually becoming the only surviving industry in California, or deserving of being sold in exchange for an investment in its actual campuses, workers, and faculty.

4. *Charge to puke.* This is a secure way to earn funds on any university campus.

5. *Charge students NOT to go to the University of California.* There’s more of them than there are students who are going, so just slip into their pockets, too. It makes as much sense as charging students who were supposed to be able to attend for free.

6. *Sell t-shirts that make fun of the university.* There are boosters among the alumni, to be sure, but there is a huge segment of the alumni who would prefer a sweatshirt that disparages their alma mater’s willingness to cozy up to industry and sell out its intellectual and academic independence and would pay handsomely for the opportunity to wear one in public.

7. *Sell People’s Park to the City of Berkeley for a pile of shells and bright, shiny beads.* Constantly hemorrhaging money into building and then removing sports courts or putting on phony events only emphasizes the obvious war the university is dedicated to underwriting in the hopes of erasing the park’s history, as obvious an embarrassment as the university cache of other people’s bones. Let it go. Hand over the bones, and hand over the headache to Mayor Tom Bates, who has earned the favor. Then the park can just be a park and at least one war will be over.

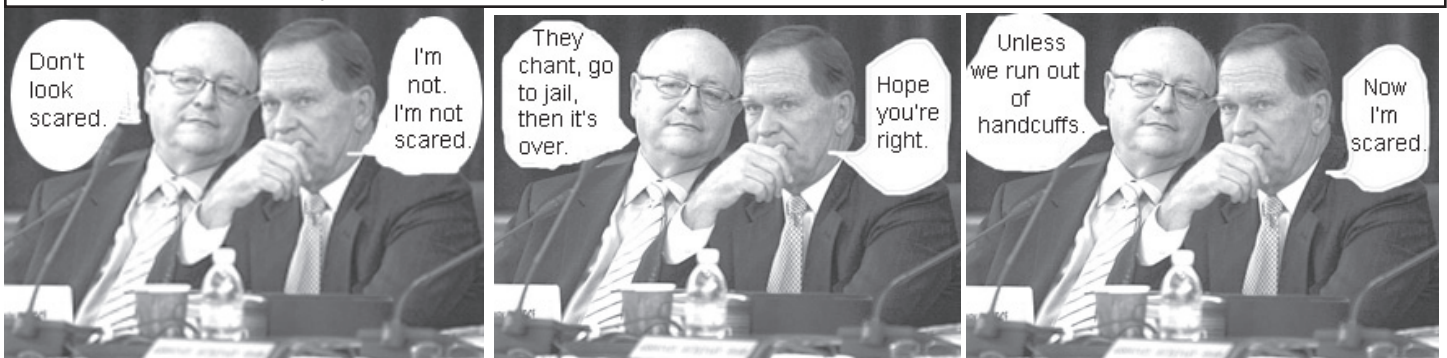
8. *Institute police accountability for the University of California Police Department.* The money may end up buried in well-observed pages of administrative budgets, but the cost of shelling out public money through excessive force lawsuits and funding SLAPP-suits is a luxury best put off for a few years while the university tries to avoid cannibalizing itself entirely.

9. *Set up a dunk tank for Yudof and the regents.* This simple arrangement would probably fund the entire university system for a day or two in a short matter of hours.

10. *Sell beer at the football games.* For heaven’s sake, it isn’t as though these people don’t tank up before and after the game, ravage the neighborhoods and the neighbors, and drive drunk all the way home. Cash in on these clunkers the same way the A’s and the Giants do by charging them seven bucks a beer for a couple of quarters of the game. Then charge them even more to pee.

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We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast



UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS are secure in assuming the furor over the most recent fee increase will just blow over unless they run out of holding cell space and handcuffs, at which point there’s always the good old National Guard.

They're Here, They're Hungry, and They're Turning Your Children into Bugs

By Titus A. Vice

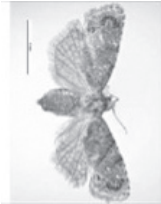
The U.S. Department of Agriculture acknowledged that its new ad campaign was scary, but denied that it was in any way deceptive despite a debut which was publicly received with a hail of criticism from citizens opposed to scare tactics and spraying pesticides.

"It's true that we used a little artistic license by depicting a child bursting into a cloud of invasive pests," admitted Larry Hawkins, scrambling to handle the media inquiries and protests. "But just because as yet we have not filmed this happening in nature doesn't mean that we don't face that particular threat, as well as others. I mean, what if the seemingly innocent cat you love bursts into a cloud of invasive species?"

Critics admitted they had no response to that possibility.

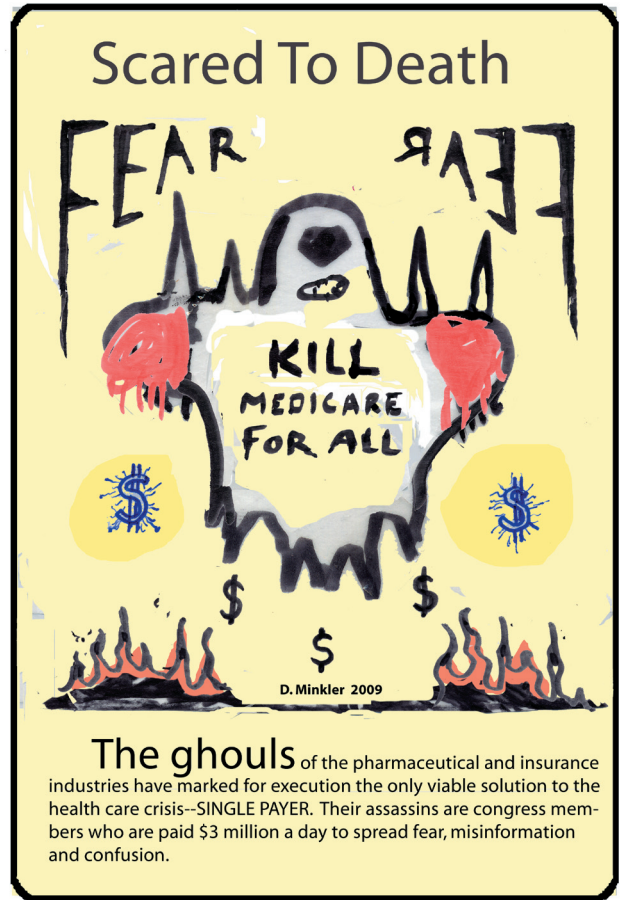
The ad campaign also features wildly speeded footage of fruits and vegetables rotting, a natural and nourishing part of any garden, depicting natural rot as an unnatural, terrifying event requiring extensive chemical and human intervention.

"We're not sure what we're trying to illustrate with that particular footage," stated Hawkins. "We just thought it looked really cool."



THE FALSE CODLING MOTH pretends to be a native, but can't toss a beach ball to save its life.

Next Issue: Pondering Pretzels With Celebrities



The ghouls of the pharmaceutical and insurance industries have marked for execution the only viable solution to the health care crisis--SINGLE PAYER. Their assassins are congress members who are paid \$3 million a day to spread fear, misinformation and confusion.

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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

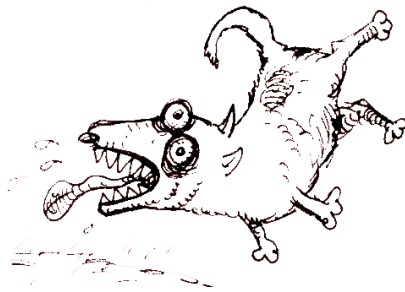


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.
* Troilus and Cressida

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.