

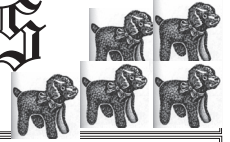
All hail the...

...the blame People's Park issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

October 2010



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

"...up Fish Street!..."*

Vol. XII No. 10

Amazing People's Park Crime Crisis Returns Just Like Clockwork

Predictable Yearly Crisis Continues to Baffle Both UC and City Police

By Sarah Echoineer

The extraordinary yearly miracle of the People's Park's perceived crime crisis has happened again.

"We can't explain it," observed University of California (UC) officials, shaking their heads while shuffling

through old issues of the campus newspaper, the Daily Californian, to verify the phenomenon. "There it is in 2009, 2008, and every year we have on record. There's no denying this kind of credible evidence."

"It's as though it's predicable," stated Rajesh Srinivasan, Editor in Chief and President of the student newspaper. "You'd

EVERYTHING YOU READ about People's Park is how scary it is and stuff, but the truth is it is even more scary than that. It is so scary that it looks kind of like this.



think that by now the UC Police wouldn't be taken by complete surprise every year."

"It's just like clockwork," commented a merchant on nearby Telegraph Avenue. "And so often they quote the same people about their same repetitive perceptions of crime using the same language and offering the same 'solutions'-- like paving the park. It's eerie



ANYBODY WHO CAN READ the fine print on the People's Park Rules sign gets a free t-shirt and gets to make up the next ten unreadable rules.

how alike these stories are from one year to the next."

Residents in south and west Berkeley neighborhoods expressed exasperation at the constant coverage of a small group's perceptions of crime while walking their children gingerly by flowers, balloons, and candle-laden memorials for the latest victims of drive-by shootings.

"We have more than a perception of crime going on where we live," they pointed out, holding pages of actual crime statistics noted by location. "We never get coverage like this."

University officials defended the predictable coverage of crime perception, which they pointed out is just as scary to local citizens as real crime, and assured residents who live farther away from the campus that their time for better coverage would come.

"Just wait until we need to develop the land we own near you," reassured one UC official. "Then we'll make sure the Daily Californian covers our perception of crime in your neighborhood."

* * * * *



THIS PARKING METER has been aching to roll up its sleeves and get to work on the perceived crime problem in People's Park, which should be everybody's tippety-top priority.

Parking Meters Step Up to Solve Perceived Criminal Activity

By Fidel Player

Plans to install crime-fighting parking meters around People's Park are under discussion by the same oft-quoted Berkeley community members and city officials whose perceptions of crime have reached headline status throughout the Bay Area.

"We are poor at running, and terrible at dialing a phone," stated one meter eager for duty, "but we are very patient and love to eat money while standing around. I think we have a lot in common with ordinary police officers."

Unnamed officials are in preliminary talks about vehicles lingering on adjacent streets, which other unnamed community members have said may encourage criminal activity in the park and make it more difficult to shop.

"The non-shopping has got to stop," stated Jim Hynes, assistant to the city manager. "If the perception of crime goes up any higher, I just don't know what we will do. Thank heavens these parking meters have volunteered to help. We have got to put our foot down."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so really, why are those rules at People's Park up so high on a metal pole that nobody can possibly read them? Are we supposed to bring a ladder or what?

Dear reader, if those "rules" were any lower down their pole they would be creatively adulterated on an hourly basis. The chancellor thought it made much more sense to place them high as the treetops, so that they are technically "up" in People's Park. But no one knows exactly what they say up there. It is said that most of what is written is a really great recipe for pie crust.

Dear Lena, so how effective are parking meters at stopping crime?

Dear reader, parking meters are not the only perceived crime-stopping technique being planned for People's Park. The pouring of concrete and asphalt is another extremely effective technique being considered. Certainly the communities in west and south Berkeley can attest that parking meters, concrete, and asphalt have taken care of all of their perceived crime problems. All they have left now is real crime.

Dear Lena, Obama wants me to be more optimistic. I'm really trying, but I lost my job, and I owe so much money now it's really depressing. What should I do?

Dear reader, try to be cooperative. Lady Gaga doesn't quite have the Shirley Temple effect, but Shirley is in retirement and we all have to sacrifice. Pick up a joke book and help out.

Ask Lena about boiling water for fun and fortune at cdenney@igc.org.



SMOKE, FIRE, EXPLOSIONS -- WHAT ELSE BUT PEOPLE'S PARK could wreak so much damage and cause so much hardship? People's Park activists are still refusing to acknowledge responsibility for this shameless display of wanton disregard for turtles and public safety.

BP Report Blames People's Park for Oil Spill, Explosion, Everything

By Bess A. Memucho

In an internal report released Wednesday, BP blames People's Park for the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill and drilling rig explosion.

The report was posted on the company's website even though investigators haven't finished analyzing the defective blowout preventer, but everybody knows what kind of things People's Park activists are capable of and agrees that the report is accurate.

"We don't need the facts," explained a spokesperson for BP. "Everybody knows People's Park is usually responsible for everything that goes wrong. We're in a partnership with the University of California, and we're just playing by the rules here."

Experts agreed that while BP, Halliburton, and rig owner Transocean share some of the blame, People's Park activists and a group of shrubs, flowers, and trees known as "the dirty thirty" should shoulder the bulk of responsibility for the tragedy that took the lives

of eleven platform workers, and that the park itself should consequently be bulldozed.

Local politicians demurred, suggesting that the park could simply be given an espresso café and an oxygen bar to encourage a change in demographics.

"A dress code would be useful," mused one of several candidates for the District 7 City Council seat.

Critics pointed out that the BP report is premature and self-serving, and that although People's Park is probably responsible given the generally violent nature of the frisbee-tossers who frequent the park, BP should admit that its partnership with the University of California may contribute to its bias against the park.

"We're happy to acknowledge that BP is working hardest to make things right," responded a BP spokesperson.

"We just want to make sure that our community partners, both on and off-campus, know that we will be team players in the effort to make sure that People's Park acknowledges its share of the blame for this tragic crisis."

* * * * *



People's Park is the eye of trouble's hurricane according to everyone who matters.

San Bruno Blast Explained:

People's Park at Fault

by Inge N. D. Page

Federal investigators investigating the PG&E pipeline in San Bruno which exploded, torching dozens of homes and killing several people, stated recently that while they have no details yet on the cause, the probability is strong that People's Park is to blame.

The California Public Utilities Commission agreed, ordering PG&E to turn over safety records for the past five years so that nervous customers can be reassured that turning on their heaters and stoves is a safe thing to do as long as they stay out of People's Park.

PG&E agreed to comply, noting in



HAVE YOU GOT something you can blame on People's Park? Step up to the microphone and join the in crowd.

a statement that a "trend" toward violence in People's Park had recently been commented upon by the University of California (UC), various cooperative merchants,

neighbors, and the UC campus newspaper, the Daily Californian shortly before the deadly blast in San Bruno.

"We hesitate to call it coincidence," commented a PG&E spokesperson soberly. "The public's safety is at stake."



IT ISN'T REALLY FAIR TO EXPECT LARGE CORPORATIONS like PG&E, with billions tucked away in parent companies, to keep a close eye on their pipelines when they have to worry about little cities going rogue and voting for public power and stuff.

Critics argued that People's Park was being used as a scapegoat to deflect PG&E's potential responsibility for the disaster and to give easy answers to frightened San Bruno residents, but conceded that the alternative, having to acknowledge that all of PG&E's 5,700 miles of gas transmission pipelines could be just as dangerous as the one that turned the San Bruno neighborhood into a smoldering crater, was unthinkable.

People's Park activists agreed.

"We would rather take the blame than imagine that all the PG&E pipelines could blow up that way," sighed one People's Park activist writing an apology to the San Bruno neighbors. "We have lots of practice at being blamed for stuff, and we might as well offer a considerate example."

* * * * *

Top Ten Reasons Not to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

1. Pink uniforms will be easier to spot in the field.
2. Soldiers will be too busy bonking to kill people.
3. Harder to run in high heels.
4. Military bands have a tougher time playing show tunes.
5. Feather boas will get caught on guns and helmets.
6. Everybody would really miss the "I'm not gay" speeches.
7. Gay soldiers might put up charming curtains in field tents.
8. Gay soldiers might add dance moves to military drills.
9. Gay soldiers might put little bows and ribbons on stuff.
10. Gay soldiers might do a really good job and make the former policy look dumb.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



"It's time to turn the page on the Iraq war."



"It's over! Good luck to Iraq! Bye-bye!"



"Mission elided!"

Top Ten Rejected Slogans for the Bicycle Coalition

By the Bicycle Coalition

- “My other bike got clobbered by a car.”
- “My other bike is on life support because it got clobbered by a car.”
- “I’d rather be riding my bike on mars where it is safe.”
- “I’d rather be riding my bike on the moon where it is safe.”
- “One less car and eight near-death experiences.”
- “One less car and four dislocated shoulders.”
- “My kid rides her bike to school because I hate her.”
- “I shop by bike because I have a death wish.”
- “I park my bike in Berkeley because I really want a new one.”
- “I ride my bike to work because I’m tired of it all and I’m ready to die.”

* * * * *

Sparkling New Death Chamber: Architectural and Political Genius at Work

By Don Geddit

Californians eager to enjoy San Quentin’s new arrangements for capital punishment were disappointed recently when a lack of state prisons’ supply of the sedative Sodium Pentothal interfered with a scheduled execution.

“We’re disappointed, of course,” stated one Californian who had been looking forward to taking his whole family. “But we’ll probably go to Six Flags instead.”

San Quentin’s new death chamber sports the very latest in final hour amenities for the privileged prisoners slated for their use, including:

1. nice new curtains
2. cable in case you’d rather watch something else
3. facebook page
4. hotline phones to governor have Adam’s family ringtones
5. furniture from Ikea
6. sleepnumber gurney
7. organic last meal
8. teal scrubs for all the medical per-



WHO WOULDN’T WANT to die in this state-of-the-art new death chamber with all the best amenities.

sonnel

9. choice of specials for infusion
10. optional delivery of last words by celebrity of choice

“We’re trying to make it special,” stated one state prison officer showing interested reporters around the new facility. “We want people to go home happy.”

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Next Issue: Chasing Buses with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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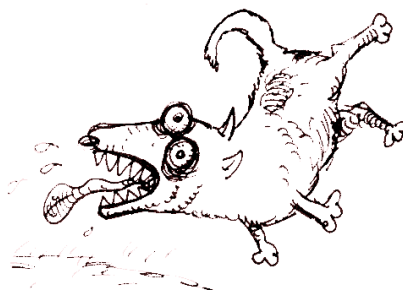


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* Henry VI Part 2

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.