

...the lead-based issue ...



All hail the powerful...

# Pepper Spray Times

September 2011



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

"...the flinty ribs of this contemptuous city..."\*

Vol. XIII No. 9

## Now You See BART, Now You Don't

## BART's Top Ten Suggestions on Ways to Keep Passengers Safe



1. Shoot everyone wearing a mask.
2. Shoot everyone holding a sign.
3. Shoot everyone chanting a chant.
4. Shoot everyone singing a song.
5. Shoot everyone looking like they might want to wear a mask or chant a chant.
6. Shoot everyone who looks like they might want to sing a song or hold a sign.
7. Shoot everyone who uses a cell phone.
8. Shoot everyone who enters any BART station at 5:00 pm on Mondays.
9. Shoot everyone who looks disrespectfully at a BART police officer.
10. Shoot everyone.

\* \* \* \* \*

## E-Cigarette Packs Electronically "Friend" Each Other in Pathetic Cry for Help

by Horace Voice

**BART POLICE OFFICERS** always try gently persuading people who exhibit the wrong message while protesting before utilizing new and exciting techniques for ensuring cooperation because their first priority is, of course, public safety.

by Martha Spot

BART officials opened and then closed BART stations as often as four times during the Monday evening's August 22nd commute in a successful effort to totally confuse as many people as possible.

"We believe we are winning," stated BART board President Bob Franklin. "Nobody can get anywhere, and nobody knows what's going on."

At least 45 people were arrested for holding signs saying "don't shoot", a reference to BART officers' growing pile of dead subway riders who, according the BART authorities, probably had it coming or who were mentally ill and would probably not be missed.

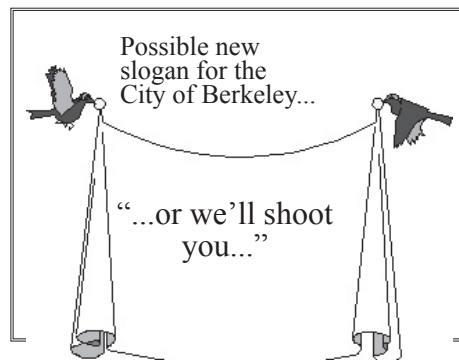
"It's hard to tell," stated Franklin, "since they're dead. But our officers are under a lot of stress. They have so many weapons right now they're understandably confused at any given moment about which one to use when, and stuff happens."

Protesters and commuters blocked by police lines walked up and down Market

Street between stations, unable to get near the BART platforms, unable to get buses, but thankfully able to play little games like Angry Birds on their cell phones or things might really have gotten ugly.

"I couldn't get home, but I didn't get shot," stated one commuter. "I'd say that's a big win."

\* \* \* \* \*



A North Carolina tobacco manufacturer is marketing e-cigarette packs that can electronically signal a smoker if someone else stupid enough to buy the really idiotic, embarrassing, expensive product is nearby.

"We thought at first the point would be to commiserate together with someone over what a horrible product it is," commented one bartender who throws e-cigarette users out of his establishment on a routine basis. "But the marketers seem to think people who buy these things would want to meet each other."

"It does make the packaging more expensive," admitted the manufacturer, "but we're desperate. We tried to market them as cessation devices, we try to market them as trendy, but nothing works."

"E-cigarettes suck. But gadgetry works," added a marketing research director for the manufacturer. "We know the product itself is doomed. But little blinking lights can make anything desirable."

"All we want to do is get rid of the inventory at this point," agreed a distributor. "Before they go the way of the eight-track."

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# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, what is watching some other guy's big yacht supposed to do for me? I'm told I'm getting something out of this - what?**

Dear reader, admit it. You don't know how to dress, what to say, or where the in places are to go. You couldn't pay someone to put your name in a local column, and you're whining about suddenly having a lot of people in town who not only know all about these things but call the shots, too. Get out your notebook and pay attention. If you ever have money you'll need to know where to buy your fall wardrobe.

**Dear Lena, I want to take public transit but I saw people getting arrested for chanting or just standing nearby people who were chanting, so I'm a little bit intimidated. What can I do to make sure I don't end up in jail?**

Dear reader, before you head for the BART Station empty your mind completely, keep it that way, and be sure not to carry any masks or revolutionary reading material. If someone near you begins to chant, or looks like they're about to express an opinion, leave the scene immediately or try chanting "support the local police."

**Dear Lena, I'm really concerned about consumer confidence. Where did it go? I thought I saw it down on 4th Street eating a bagel, but when I looked up it was gone. My neighbor tells me she saw it on the bus, but I think she's just talking. Have you seen it? Is it still wearing that ugly sweater?**

Dear reader, consumer confidence does need a new sweater. I think I saw it listening to a guitarist in front of Peet's, completely mesmerized. This is the downside of having seriously talented street musicians. If people would only follow the Solano Stroll's lead and stop paying them entirely consumer confidence would get back on track.

Ask Lena about anything except annoying little texting chickadees at [cdenney@jgc.org](mailto:cdenney@jgc.org).



PESTICIDE REGULATORS HAVE A GOOD POINT when they say that these berries do not accurately represent the whole of any crop, making it much more sensible that the Department of Pesticide Regulation was selective as well regarding the studies it chose to okay the use of methyl iodide for agricultural use.

## Making Science Work for You For Your Own Good

By Jen Rummy

Management at the state's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) dismissed concerns over evidence that they picked selectively at data to support the use of methyl iodide for agricultural use.

"This is perfectly fair," stated one staff member. "Some data you like, some you don't."

DPR staff pointed out that strawberry pickers at work outdoors are equally selective and often leave some strawberries unpicked out in the field, but no one asks them to disqualify the berries they pick or casts aspersions on the crop as a whole.

"We've thought this out," stated the pesticide regulators. "Fair is fair."

Critics argued that the studies done by the regulatory agency draw unfair conclusions based on rabbits' ability to have a lot of baby rabbits at once, which enables them to have a live birth now and then even under adverse conditions, but were dismissed by DPR staff.

"Women just need to step it up," stated one regulator. "They wouldn't mind the miscarriages and stillbirths if they would just have more twins and triplets."

"That's right," offered another DPR regulator. "People are really focusing on the wrong part of this study. Rabbits really have something to teach us here."

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## Comet Baffles Local Experts

By Charma Snake



THIS COMET is curiously stationary according to experts.

Scientists affirm that a comet previously detectable only by its trail of dusty fragments has found a home in the Berkeley skyline on top of a downtown building.

Astronomers expressed concern, agreeing that the comet could be "potentially hazardous" if it falls off its precarious perch on top of the Chase Bank's downtown office and scorches the streets below, but agree that any hazard to human life is minimized by the almost completely absence of life in the downtown area.

Observers from the Lick Observatory in San Jose agreed, saying their observations lead them to conclude that the comet was probably billions of years old and from trillions of miles away, a conclusion made inevitable by the unfashionable shoes worn by the comet and its tendency to search around for newspapers and phone booths.

Critics argued that the comet's presence on top of a downtown building was a distracting interference with the public's ability to enjoy night stars and could possibly attract other transient comets which might hang around the streets up to no good and probably doing drugs.

City staff downplayed the comet's visit, saying that the distracting glow from its presence at least gave the impression that there was still some life downtown.

"There's only so many trees we can wrap with little white lights," stated one city staffer. "They say the Oort Cloud is cold, but it sure has helped liven the place up around here."

# Big Yachts Will Enhance Bay Views

*"We ARE the view," say owners of 250-foot yachts.*



**POOR PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL REALLY LUCKY** to have a chance to even watch rich people sail their boats around the bay so they have a good sense of what they ought to be wearing and the way they ought to be acting and the boats they ought to be owning.

*By Bonny Banks*

Local preservationists' concerns over having 250 foot spectators' super-yachts docked in the Rincon Point Open Water Basin were dismissed by both America's Cup organizers and the protest group Anonymous.

"Poor people like seeing how rich people live," stated Oracle billionaire Larry Ellison. "Only the biggest, best yachts will take up the new dock space along the Embarcadero. You don't really expect these people to sit in the grass by the picnic crowd."

America's Cup boosters confirmed that at more than 200 feet long, only a few enormous yachts would fit in the proposed slips,

which would require special dredging and might live beyond the race as a commercial marina for the very wealthy.

The latest draft environmental report minimizes the impact on the bay, emphasizing that parking big, shiny yachts along a public strip of land would expose ordinary people to a unique maritime activity.

"Unique is right," stated one bicyclist told of the proposal. "They must have a lot of trouble parking."

One spokesperson for the local protest group Anonymous welcomed the controversial proposal. "We're kind of tired of trying to meet up at the BART stations," he

# From the Solano Avenue Association's Very Own Website...

Hot News!

- Solano Avenue Stroll T-shirts for SALE!  
\$19.9999999 (but let's call it \$20)  
(children's sizes are \$10)

These are very high quality T-shirts with a beautiful design reflecting our new policy of paying our musicians nothing!

Cash or check please - no credit cards...

SOLANOSTROLL.org 510.527.5358

\* \* \* \* \*



**THE NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN** for this year's Solano Stroll has a special logo reflecting the new policy of not paying greedy, ungrateful musicians. Be sure to get your T-shirt soon!

commented. "We think this dock thing really has potential. A little sea air will do us all some good."

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



# Campanile Converted to Carnival Ride

*"The students love it!"*

By Ray O. Light

University of California (UC) at Berkeley's latest construction project promises to bring much-needed revenue to a tired campus landmark according to Capital Projects Communications Manager Christine Shaff.

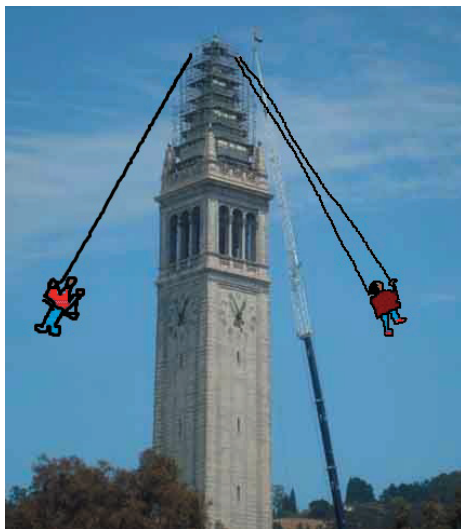
"Every little bit helps," stated Ms. Shaff of the \$7.50 tickets for a ten-minute carnival ride swing around the campanile with spectacular views of the bay. "At full capacity we figure we could bring in around \$8,000 a day."

UC planners acknowledged that visitors to the campus find little to do there, and that the elevator ride to the campanile's viewing area was relatively popular but could accommodate very few people at a time.

"It just makes sense," commented Shaff. "Campus visitors need a sense of excitement when they come here, and there just aren't enough riots anymore to provide that old adrenalin rush."

The restoration work should not interfere with the landmark status of what is known as Sather Tower.

"We see it as an enhancement of the landmark," added Shaff, who assured con-



**THE VIEW IS GREAT from the top of the campanile, but it is even better when you're whirling around seeing it from all sides while the carillon bells play circus tunes.**

cerned neighbors that the whirling customers would not obscure the tower's clock faces, and that the rides would be entirely safe. "We might even open it up to night rides."

"We have to do something to compete with tree-sitting in People's Park," added Shaff, "before that becomes even more popular."

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# Republican Governors Want Medicare's Reins

By Anna Wonannatoo

The nation's Republican governors offered to stop Medicare's anticipated expansion by suggesting that states play a bigger role in determining benefits and eligibility, a move Democrats claim would leave the poor vulnerable to mean-spirited reductions in health care.

"Not at all," responded one Republican governor. "We just want to reduce waste and improve efficiency."

Examples of waste are rampant, according to Republican spokespeople, who pointed to pre-natal and contraceptive services as obvious examples.

"The unborn would rather be born into a debt-free nation as a top priority," stated one Republican spokesperson. "Nutritional standards can come later."

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*Next Issue: Rolling in Dough with Celebrities*

## THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



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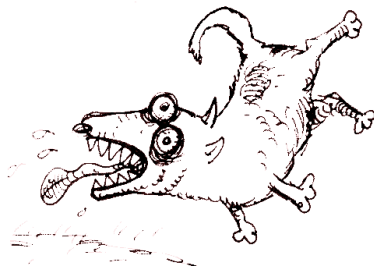


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...  
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\* King John

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.