

All hail the twentieth year\* of the powerful.

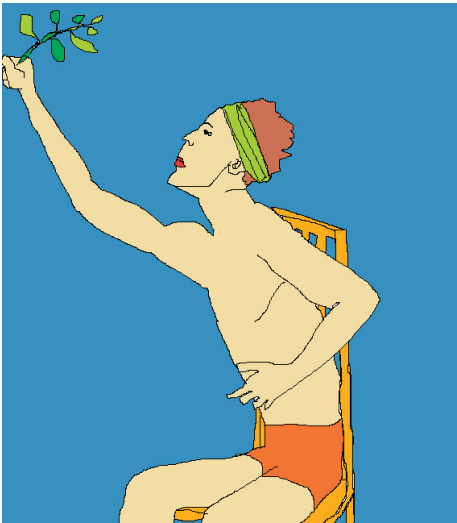
September 2012

# Pepper Spray Times



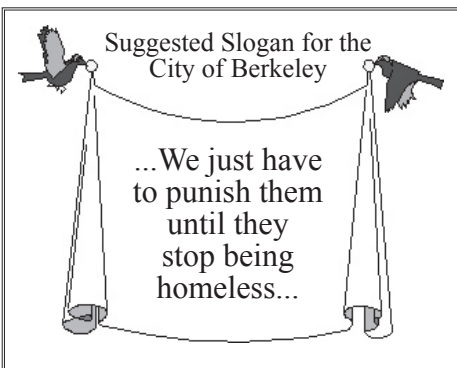
It's moutonnee' ...it's free...if you can find it

"Sometimes we see a cloud that's dragonish..."\* Vol. XIV No. 9



THE MISUNDERSTOOD SPORT OF competitive sitting will be illuminated by local athletes Selma Spector, Karen Ripley, Dr. Mozzarelli, Kris Welch, Gary Hicks, Scoop Nisker, Martin Hickel, Hali Hammer, Carol Denney and other experts in this subtle sport in the first ever Olympic Sitting Competition coming up at the Starry Plough. *Detail pg. 3.*

## XXX Olympiad Starry Plough 2012 The Sitting Competition Sunday, September 30, 4-7 pm Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Avenue Berkeley, CA



\*PST's volume numbering began six years after publication.

## Downtown Berkeley Association Unveils Really Cool New "Controlled Space Program"



Ambassador Daniels might leave your poster up in Constitution Square near the Berkeley Bart Station - *if he likes it!* And he might call the cops - *if he doesn't like you!* But by all means post your fliers anyway! The two seconds or so they're allowed to exist might just make all the difference!

*by Morley Quivalent*

Some of those who have struggled for permits of various kinds will find it unfair that the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) has acquired not just one permit for amplified sound, but what appears to be an eternal permit for the prime territory near the BART Station on Shattuck Avenue.

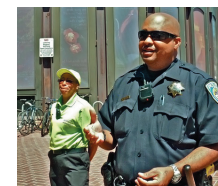
"We're the most powerful political group in town," explained John Caner, the DBA's executive director. "Who knew they would allow a handful of people to have this much control over public space. We're just a really, really lucky bunch."

"Let's face it," shrugged one civil rights attorney. "The DBA has the money to hire people to rip down the public's legally posted fliers within seconds of their posting. If the rest of us had money we'd have a stand-off. But nobody can waste money quite like the DBA."

"The rich really do have an advantage here," acknowledged the City Manager

Christine Daniel. "They got that business improvement district dough to throw around and they really, really hate fliers. So, those of you with lost dogs? Well, next time try a plant."

Between the control of the music played in Constitution Square, the control of the posters allowed in Constitution Square, and the control of who gets to hang out in Constitution Square, observers are busy suggesting new names for Constitution Square which might better describe the square footage governed by the DBA's controlled space program.



YOU HAVEN'T really had the full Berkeley free speech experience unless you've been threatened with arrest for simply putting up a poster!

"Makes sense," agreed another observer. "Constitution Square sounds a little ridiculous now that everything down there represents the 1%. 'Occupied Square' would at least help the confused tourists watching five uniformed green shirted people and a cop tear down some folksinger's posters in times like these."



THIS FLIER, despite its accuracy, is a little too clear for the Downtown Berkeley Ambassadors who prefer the subtlety of calling the cops for ambiguous "quality of life" infractions without the burden of explanatory public signage.

"How about 'Occupied Square' since the green shirts are essentially an invading army of mercenaries?" suggested one passerby watching Ambassador Daniels tear down posters as soon as they went up. "Imagine how successful Occupy would have been if they'd been paid like these guys."

\* \* \* \* \*

# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, I'm pretty good at sitting around. Do I have a chance at the gold at the Olympic Sitting Competition?**

Dear reader, yours is the common misconception that spending hours on an average day or years of an average life sitting around is a substitute for the rigorous training required to engage in competitive sitting. You might have acquired a modest amount of the specialized skill it takes to survive the preliminary rounds of competition, but the medal rounds will be seeded with world-class athletes with techniques which can only be acquired after years of dedicated training. But do come and compete in this open competition, and learn from the masters.

**Dear Lena, what should I stock up on to watch the Republican Convention?**

Dear reader, I'm glad you checked with me. The people of Florida have it all wrong running out and buying light bulbs and toilet paper. Stock up on caviar and velvet gloves, and pick up a Rolls-Royce if you haven't already. It really won't make sense to you if you're not in the spirit.

**Dear Lena, who do you think will win the election?**

Dear reader, that's an easy one. The advertisers. Nationally, both campaigns and their political action committees will spend their wads on deceptive ads to confuse that already confused group of undecided voters. Locally, campaigns will waste their money on yard signs their opponents will steal in the night. Invest in yard sign sticks and stand back; it's going to get ugly.

**Dear Lena, should I worry about Mitt Romney's Mormonism? Isn't that stuff a little wacky?**

Dear reader, I wouldn't worry. All religions are equally wacky. Buckle your seatbelt and take a look.

*Ask Lena about the nutritional value of stamp adhesive at [cdenney@jgc.org](mailto:cdenney@jgc.org).*

# Emergency Measures Approved to Lure More Rich People Downtown

## Topiary Gardens, Infinity Pools and Dressing DBA's "Ambassadors" More Like Butlers and Maids



**RICH PEOPLE LOVE** topiary and infinity pools, which have just been approved as emergency measures to get a critical mass of them to come downtown despite there being nothing to do or buy or anything there.

*by Aaron Judgement*

As laughter finally dies down over the City Council's "Civil Sidewalks" measure, more serious discussion is taking place regarding the critical need for more rich people downtown.



**THIS IS** the new costume for some of the Ambassadors downtown, because this is what rich people really love to see.

"Our services are currently skewed toward poor people," stated one City Hall staffer. "It's discriminatory. Rich people need to feel welcome downtown."

Experts agree that the best way to make sure rich people feel welcome is to make sure they're surrounded by things they enjoy and which remind them of more familiar surroundings.

"Rich people really like butlers, personal chefs, nannies, and pool boys," pointed out one expert. "Our Ambassadors' track-coach style uniforms need to be updated to reflect these preferences."

Experts agreed, adding that touches to attire including monocles, large fussy hats, pearl necklaces, driving gloves, tartan print trousers, and cufflinks might do wonders to attract and comfort wealthy people who might otherwise feel out of place.

Attire is not the only relatively simple way to attract rich people, another expert noted.

"Rich people are comforted by topiary, infinity pools, polo, and champagne fountains," stated Professor Chase De-Douge. "The initial investment in these amenities downtown might seem steep, but they would pay off handsomely in the long run."



**THIS IS** the new costume for the female Ambassadors downtown, because this is what makes rich people more comfortable.

City planners agreed.

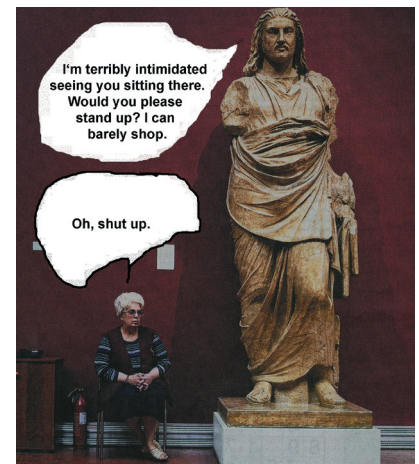
"We have the fine wines

and designer cupcakes covered," nodded one planner. "But the polo lover really has a disadvantage in Berkeley which we need to address as quickly as possible."

Critics of the new effort whined that current services were often aimed at reducing the visibility of the poor as opposed to helping them, and that such an approach is more oriented toward rich people anyway by prioritizing their discomfort at sharing the streets with people who don't share their income, special love for flying first class, sailing, and doormen in funny suits.

"Some people just don't have enough compassion in their souls," responded one city staff member shaking his head. "Their hearts are so cold. People who oppose this new program need to consider that someday they could be walking in rich people's shoes. The rich will always be with us."

\* \* \* \* \*



## California GOP Faces Money Woes; Hires Panhandlers Statewide



by Jules C. Whaddeyemian

The California Republican Party is behind its payments in rent, late in paying its phone bills, owes money to internet cafes, printers, and is way behind on payments to hookers.

"We did a round of layoffs, but layoffs won't really cover it," stated Chairman

Tom Del Beccaro. "Our hookers have to be top quality."

The \$850,000 shortfall discovered in June is being "negotiated" down to \$450,000 by party officials who emphasize that their creative plans to hire panhandlers to give fundraising seminars should shore up the funding gap.

"California panhandlers can get the job done without phones and printers," stated Del Beccaro. "Most of them do it without hookers, too."

With the election looming, Republicans hope to gather up enough funds for some yard signs and some robo-calls to the remaining Republicans in California, who tend to keep their heads down and their party affiliation to themselves.

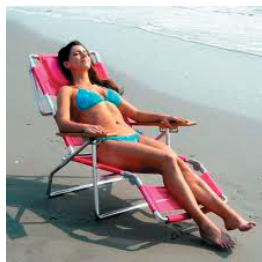
"It's tough around here," nodded one Republican, whose car was completely free of political bumper stickers. "We sometimes surface if there's a tea party event happening nearby, but it's really lonely most of the time, especially when the strippers leave."

Del Beccaro has faced considerable criti-

## Olympic Sitting Competitors Converge on East Bay to Compete in First Ever Olympic Sitting Competition

by Pat. DeCroup

Berkeley's Economic Development Department and the Chamber of Commerce couldn't believe their eyes when all East Bay cities quickly ran out of hotel and restaurant space trying to accommodate athletes, judges, and interested spectators from around the globe vying for the limited seating at the first-ever Olympic Sitting Competition scheduled for Sunday, September 30th, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Starry Plough in Berkeley.



**STYLE COUNTS more than endurance in this first-ever Olympic Sitting Competition, which may include beach chairs.**

"We didn't expect this," exclaimed Chamber President Polly Armstrong. "I keep getting calls from people asking for tickets. And even I can't get tickets."

Organizers acknowledged that demand was high for the limited

cism within the party for investing \$2.3 million in a ballot measure to challenge Senate redistricting lines which would come in handy now that staffers are being asked to work without salary as volunteers or get paid in paper plates and colorful little nut cups.

Critics pointed out that Republicans can hardly offer themselves up as the party of the fiscally responsible when they're sneaking out on their hotel bills like drunken fraternity boys.

"Sure we can," countered Del Beccaro. "Don't you get that yet? We can say whatever we want."

\* \* \* \* \*



**PAST OLYMPIC champions are crowding into town to relive their glory days and view the competition at the Starry Plough's Olympic games where rumors of doping and cheating cannot dampen Olympic spirits.**

spectator seating area, but assured those waiting for scarce tickets that if they bribed the right people they could still get in both the games and the hall.

A short film, "The Definitive History of the Misunderstood Sport of Competitive Olympic Sitting" will be shown at the beginning of the event in the hope of dispelling pervasive myths about the sport being overwhelming to view.

"We deserve more respect," asserted Mrs. T. Bill Banks, the gold medal winner in previous years representing, as always, the 1%. "Ours is a proud tradition requiring years of training, albeit leisurely, and we look forward to proving that the demands of the sport of competitive sitting are rigorous, honorable, and have earned a place in the Olympics."

\* \* \* \* \*



**STYLE OF CHAIR is optional for competitors at the Sitting Olympic Competition coming up Sept. 30th at the Starry Plough.**

### We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Sometimes accounting can be a little tricky in California politics.



You can lose a decimal place now and then, as NASA can attest.



Or somewhere between 54 million and around...a billion.

# Dynamic Sucker Pricing Program Unveiled for UC Berkeley Sports Tickets

by Linus Uppenraibus

UC Berkeley's associate athletic director for sales recently addressed the most pressing question of this election season – how much football and men's basketball tickets will cost.

"It depends," grinned Ashwin Puri. "How much you got?"

Puri acknowledged that "dynamic pricing", as the new system is called, is a creative extension of an old fashioned pricing system in which the "free market" played a somewhat static role.

"There's a logic to it," stated Puri. "Instead of having to assess sales at a fixed rate, we can capitalize on big wins or shortages to create "dynamic" sales where the price of a ticket changes all the time."

Puri explained that the concept was already active for students who have seen their registration fees and tuition leap wildly from price to price depending on the California legislature's budgetary decisions and the chancellors' needs for second residences, dog runs, and champagne.

Puri agreed that rich sports fans will be

unaffected by the change.

"They're unaffected by most market fluctuations," he agreed. "If the price of milk or grain or a basketball ticket doubles they wouldn't even notice, and the super rich are season ticket holders anyway."

Puri was quick to point out that prices could also go down under the new system, but advised people not to hold their breath.

"Rich people know to buy early and save," he pointed out. "The poor can really learn a lot from them."

Critics pointed out that, as usual, the new system had no effect on wealthy people who can most afford price fluctuations, and



## Stand Against Sit/Lie

For more information: [www.cohsf.org](http://www.cohsf.org) [www.standagainstsitlie.org](http://www.standagainstsitlie.org)

severely affected people who love sports but need to budget and be assured of the price of a ticket.

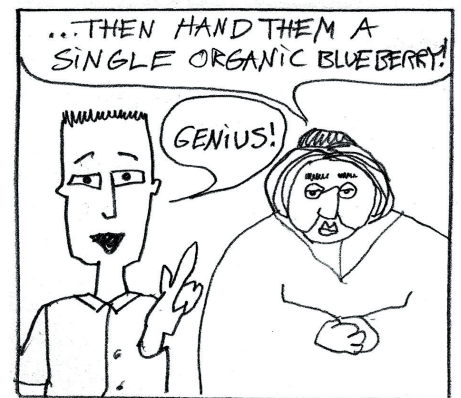
Puri agreed. "Those people really need to get rich," he noted. "They are really missing out."

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Next Issue: Choosing the Right Jewelry with Celebrities

## THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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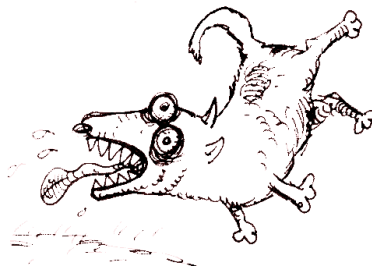


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\*Antony and Cleopatra

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.