

the tassels spinning issue...



Hepper Spray Times

September 2013



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

"I'll call for pen and ink and write my mind..."*

Vol. XV No. 9

Palo Alto Council Takes Firm Stand Against Sleeping

By Wilma Twaincome



THE SCOURGE OF SLEEPING is sweeping the nation and we have to put a stop to it.

On August 5th, 2013, the Palo Alto City Council took a firm stand against the scourge of sleeping sweeping the city.

"What we're doing tonight is the hardest of balancing acts," said Council Member Liz Kniss, chairwoman of the City Council's Policy and Services Committee which recommended the six month jail sentence and \$1,000 fine for criminal car sleeping.

"We're attempting to care for car sleepers by making sure they have more upscale sleeping quarters in our local jails."

"Our wealthy community members are uncomfortable with car sleepers," explained Councilmember Gail Price. "Most of them have trouble sleeping, and it just upsets them so much to have people sleeping peacefully in cars right nearby."

"We're one of the few local communities without an anti-sleeping ordinance," agreed Councilmember Larry Klein. "We feel really left out."

Council Member Marc Berman and Councilmember Karen Holman voted against the ordinance, proving that some people just don't get how dangerous car sleeping can affect the entire community.

"People look peaceful when they're sleeping, but imagine what they're dreaming," stated Kniss. "I've personally vowed never to sleep again."

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IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA, but nobody really wanted to live in these little apartments inside Anthropologie.

Cardboard Condos Fail to Interest Buyers

By Percy P. Cassidy

Developers' and city planners' density dreams appear to have hit their limits with the latest innovation, a series of "condoettes" located inside the upscale Anthropologie store on 4th Street.

The extremely small units are visible through the window displays, and have the extremely green feature of providing no parking whatsoever.

"We're trendy," stated one 4th Street shopper, "but not that trendy."

"And we have stuff," explained another shopper. "We need a place with somewhere to put it."



EVEN A TEN PERCENT discount on store items failed to convince people to buy these condoettes.

Especially with a store discount.
* * * * *

Nasutoceratops: 'Big-nose, Horn-Face' Vegetarian Dinosaur Has Berkeley Descendents

By Becka Ganenagen
Science reporter,
BBC World Service



The rude, fast-food-line-crashing vegetarian roamed the Earth about 75 million years ago, during the Late Cretaceous period.

An unusual new species of dinosaur unearthed from the deserts of Utah has been described by scientists as distantly related to pushy Berkeley vegetarians who freak out if their soup has meat broth stock.

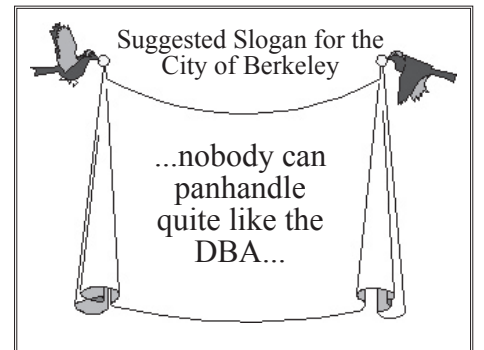
Paleontologists agree that the relationships to local foodies is unmistakable.

"They're bigger, of course, but it most restaurants I go to have plenty of big-nose, horn-face relatives of the original fifteen-foot nasutoceratops titusi shouting at the cook," stated Dr. Mark Loewen, from the University of Utah and Natural History Museum of Utah.

The dinosaur's bones were first discovered in 2006, but the scientists working on the project were a little afraid to weigh in on the Berkeley connection until they all agreed to have each others' back when the nasutoceratops' Berkeley descendants launched the inevitable objection to scientific evidence proving that pushy, opinionated herbivores from the Cretaceous period were their forbears.

"We love science, and furthering human understanding about our biological past," stated Dr. Loewen. "But we're not stupid."

* * * * *



Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley

...nobody can panhandle quite like the DBA...

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, why is the Rent Stabilization Board so secretive? Aren't they elected officials? Shouldn't they have some kind of accountability?

Dear reader, there are very few kingdoms left in the world, but the Rent Stabilization Board is one of them. Other agencies may have to suffer the indignity of compliance with Public Records Act requests, but there's no reason at all that the Rent Board should have to. Be sure to send a goodly portion of your bounty to the Rent Board after the harvest and don't forget to include your firstborn.

Dear Lena, shouldn't the Rent Board get to fool around with the wording of its documents in secret? I mean, what business is it of the public's?

Dear reader, of course you are right. What was I thinking.

Dear Lena, I kind of like old Inhofe. You gotta admire these old dinosaurs who insist that human behavior plays no role in climate change.

Dear reader, you, Larry Page, and Mark Zuckerberg enjoy the party.

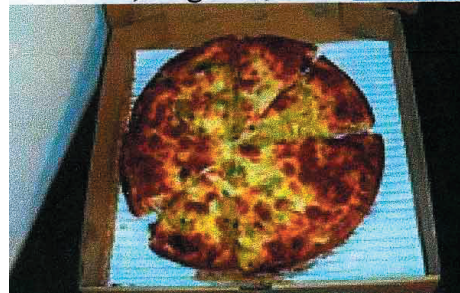
Dear Lena, shouldn't the neighbors of these huge new housing developments be glad to sacrifice their ability to grow tomatoes and have solar panels if it means more people can get off the streets? Let's not be a bunch of NIMBYs.

Dear reader, that would make so much sense if every apartment magically came with a \$90,000 a year job. But the people who can afford the "affordable" housing being built in this town are not on the streets. They're trying to figure out which start-up to hop to next while avoiding thinking about the word "sustainable" in the context of their own role in a boom and bust economy dependent upon monetizing home movies and cat videos. Thank your city leadership for building housing that satisfies developers' rather than communities' needs.

Ask Lena about data mining with a silver spoon at cdenny@igc.org.

"Pepper-Sprayed Pizza Tasted Better" - Orange County Officer Protests Outrage Over Secretly Seasoning Traffic Violator's Pizza

By N. Hale



PEPPER SPRAY MAY BE an unusual pizza seasoning, but Officer Tavera insists that people should have an adventurous palate and try new things.

A court hearing for an Orange County pepper spray-related case was postponed due to the inability of the attorney for Deputy Tavera to find a culinary expert willing to testify as to the tastiness of artisan pepper-sprayed pizza.

"We tried for Jacque Pepin, Paul Bocuse, Alaine Ducasse, and Alice Waters, but nobody was interested," stated John Barnett, Tavera's lawyer. "We were down to disgraced tv chef Paula Deens."

Barnett said he's still largely unfamiliar with the accusations, which allege that Deputy Tavera spotted the pizza in the back seat of a teenager's car during a September 8th traffic stop in Laguna Hills and pepper-sprayed it without consulting the youth about his topping preference, according to staff at the Orange County District Attorney's office.

"Pepper spray is natural," offered Barnett. "And as the Berkeley Police always say, it leaves no marks."

The teen and four friends became sick after eating the pizza, which Tavera suggested simply reflects a typical teenage unwillingness to try more sophisticated foods. If convicted, Tavera faces a possible sentence of one year in jail like that would ever happen.

Barnett said Monday that "until I'm able to read the police reports about what happened, I can't comment," and referred reporters to the seasoning section of any good cookbook.

Sheriff's officials investigated the case before forwarding it to the Orange County District Attorney for review to make sure that the investigation was given appropriate gravity given its potential for levity.

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THESE NUTJOBS still think standing around with picket signs is important to do and helps the rest of us by inspiring compassion for the poor misguided fools.

Google Fundraiser Reception for Oklahoma Climate Denier Crashed by Treehugging Hippies

By Jimmy Zedoor

Google hosted a \$250-to-\$2,500-per-plate fundraising lunch for Senator James Inhofe Thursday, July 11, 2013, which upset the usual crowd of tree-huggers.

"Senator Inhofe might be the Senate's biggest climate change denier, but we'd like to stay on his good side," explained a spokesperson for Google.

Google also is the biggest single donor (\$50,000) to the Competitive Enterprise Institute's annual fundraising dinner, an organization working to discredit scientific consensus on humans' role in climate change as all good institutes should do. Facebook provided \$25,000 more to the conservative group, also dismissing critics as a bunch of Luddites who couldn't hack their way out of a paper bag.

"We regularly host fundraisers for candidates on both sides of the aisle but that doesn't mean we endorse all of their positions," stated Google while declining an interview since they pretty much are the news anyhow. Inhofe is one of the top recipients of campaign cash from oil and gas companies, which doesn't affect his political views in the least.

"We're just trying to be fair," stated Google, again declining an interview with a reporter for a pathetic paper that isn't even online. "Rich climate change deniers have feelings, too."

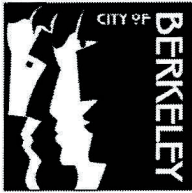
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SENATOR INHOFE has a right to ignore inconvenient science since heaven knows everybody else does.



Rent Board Torpedoes Unopposed Law Protecting Poor People from Secondhand Smoke and Would Like Some Privacy About the Matter, Thank You Very Much!



“We maintain that poor renters and condo owners are highly skilled at holding their breath,” stated the rent board representative.



Rent Stabilization Board
Legal Department

August 8, 2013

Rent Stabilization Board
Legal Department

By Sharon DeSpoils

Carol Denney
1970 San Pablo Avenue, #4
Berkeley, CA 94702

Re: Public Records Request received on August 1, 2013

Dear Ms. Denney:

I write to respond your Public Records Act request received by this office on August 1, 2013. You have requested “written materials regarding requests for and implementation of Regulation 1313.”

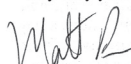
The Board has searched diligently for this information but asserts that the only documents that the Board retains that relate to this matter are the staff reports accompanying the first and second readings of Proposed Regulation 1313. The Board also reviewed California Senate Bill 332 and has a copy of it in the legislative history file. The staff reports are available on our website if you click on the agendas for December 19 and 20, 2011. The staff report for the second reading is not online, but it is available in our office should you require a copy. It is four pages (\$.10 per page). Please contact Maggie Cheng (981-4928) if you would like a copy of this report. California Senate Bill 332 may be found at this link: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_0301-0350/sb_332_bill_20110906_chaptered.html. If you have trouble finding it, we can make you a hard copy from our legislative history file.

The Board further asserts that any communications made between legal staff and the elected Commissioners are presumed to be made in confidence unless they are part of the agenda for a public meeting. This privilege applies to all communication between attorney and client. Moreover, the privilege is extended to administrative proceedings (*Southern California Gas Co. v. Public Utilities Commission* 50 Cal.3d 31, 38).

Notwithstanding the assertion of attorney-client privilege and without waiving these objections or any other objections that may be available, the Board does not know of any materials that address this matter.

Please respond in writing or contact me at (510) 981-4905 should you wish to discuss these matters. As I mentioned in my phone message to you today, I will be on vacation starting tomorrow (returning on Friday, August 16).

Very truly yours,


Matt Brown
Staff Attorney

“Rent Stabilization Board Attorney Matt Brown likes his privacy, that’s all,” explained an anonymous staff member of the Rent Board in defense of Brown’s refusal of a California Public Records Act request regarding the legislative origins of the Rent Board’s mysterious “Regulation 1313.”

“We don’t know where that Regulation 1313 came from,” agreed another staff member. “And we sure don’t want anybody else to know.”

Regulation 1313 was enacted two weeks before an entirely educational, unopposed California Senate bill sponsored by Senator Padilla became law in an effort to undermine the bill’s educational effects.

“We couldn’t actually stop it,” stated a staff member who wished to remain anonymous. “We couldn’t actually stop it because it didn’t change any California code at all.”

“That’s right,” added another staff member with some embarrassment. “Talk about a stealth measure—that SB332 was just there to educate people, which made us look ridiculous opposing it. So we just loaded up our “good cause” provisions in Section 13.76.130A with a lot of contradictory language. Good luck reading it now.”

Critics snorted that SB332 was undisturbed by the Rent Board lawyers’ efforts to confuse the matter.

“All rental covenants presume breathable, healthy air,” noted one critic. “The ordinary

presumption is that one can breathe inside one’s own apartment or condominium.”

Rent Board representatives objected, noting that the Board had for years done little or nothing on behalf of poor tenants faced with persistent mold issues, etc.

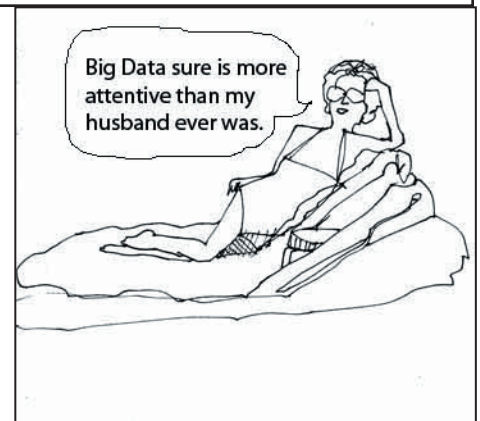
“We maintain that poor renters and condo owners are highly skilled at holding their breath,” stated the rent board representative. “We remain constantly amazed at their extremely evolved level of skill.”

“It doesn’t matter who dreamed up Regulation 1313,” stated the Rent Board representative. “We need to maintain the illusion that it is an old and respected part of rent board legal wording no matter how ridiculous it makes

us look. Our work may be public, but it’s really none of the public’s business.”

* * * * *

We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Penitentiary Planned for Shattuck Avenue



THE PROPOSED 30,079-square-foot micro-unit development at 2701 Shattuck Avenue and Derby got panned at the Zoning Commission by neighbors who always just hate everything anyway and want solar panels just to be trendy.

By Raul Downdee-Windows

Neighbors adamantly opposed new plans for a highrise building of jail-style “micro-units” which would block their sunlight, create congestion, and cater to people accustomed to living in spaces about the size of a car.

“344 square feet is actually survivable,” stated attorney for the project, Rena Rickles. “It’s on a par with living in an Explorer, especially with some creative shelving.”

Architects hastened to correct Rickles’ misstatement.

“It’s more like two Explorers,” stated a representative of the Axis Development

Group which pointed out that the Explorer is considered by some to be a luxury car. “Almost two and a half.”

One neighbor noted that 22 of the residential units have windows facing the walkways which the applicant asserts “is designed to encourage the interaction between residents,” and wondered what beneficial interaction is likely to occur when a resident can peer into a window a few feet away, which exasperated the Axis Development Group because darn it, it had

worked so hard on the plans.

Other neighbors noted that the building would rob their ability to put up solar

panels, and that providing only 35 parking spaces for 70 units has the predictable result found in all the other “transit-first” developments –parked-up neighborhood streets full of vandalized vehicles.

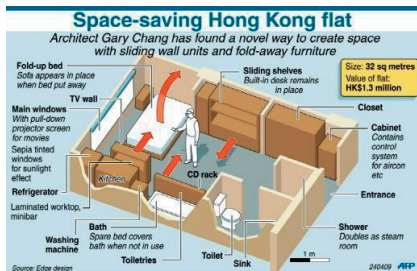
“These non-car-apartment dwellers always have cars,” nodded one neighbor sadly. “They just don’t have garages.”

“We are not the bad guys here,” stated the developer’s representative. “If the Zoning Board goes for this, we would be fools to turn it down.”

“We want to push the parameter,” stated developer attorney Rickles. “If we can get a project like this through in Berkeley, developers nationwide can make some serious dough.”

* * * * *

Next Issue: Stealing cell phones with celebrities!



PEOPLE ARE STARTING to catch on to the idea they don’t really deserve housing anyway, and that living in a glorified closet is good for their character.

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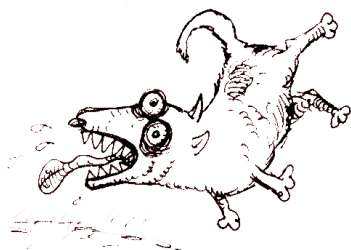


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*Henry VI

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.