

...the  
issue ...



All hail the powerful...

# Pepper Spray Times

August 2011



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

"...like rich hangings in a homely house..."\*

Vol. XIII No. 8

## Sidewalk Rules Easing for Rich People Criminalizing Rules for Poor People Coming Up on a Ballot Near You



**THIS COUPLE IN A TRENDY CAFE** near the Tenderloin has perfected the art of gazing into each other's eyes while ignoring the poverty on the streets around them, and is willing to give seminars to people less skilled for a low, low fee and will even arrange a payment plan.

by Edna Snack

The staff at the City of Berkeley is working busily to loosen requirements and permits for putting stuff all over the sidewalk for merchants and business owners while simultaneously making it impossible for homeless and poor people to do the same, leaving the legal department in quite a lather of excitement.

"We've had some needles to thread in our time," stated Zach Cowan, City Attorney, "but this one is kind of special because we have the opportunity to shore up the mythology about homeless people ruining business. There's got to be a vice chancellorship in *that* down the road."

Cowan was referring to the effort to obscure the October 2010 financial report which clearly shows that the areas of town with the most homeless people, transient youth, and panhandlers were the areas which were best off economically, an inconvenient truth for those who wish to

outlaw sidewalk sitting, panhandling, or any behavior strictly related to visible poverty.

"It's a challenge," stated Cowan, "but we're up to it. After all, we've met this kind of challenge before."

\* \* \* \* \*



A group of hackers calling itself Anonymous shut down the Orlando Chamber of Commerce and the Universal Studios websites to protest the jailing of Orlando Food Not Bombs participants, who for some crazy reason keep wanting to feed the hungry.

"Where'd you spend the  
Fourth of July?"  
"In jail, of course, and you?"



Food Not Bombs co-founder Keith McHenry joined Orlando's Food Not Bombs group in feeding the hungry and ended up in handcuffs because, of course, feeding hungry people is a terrorist act that needs to be stamped out.

by Forrest Enline

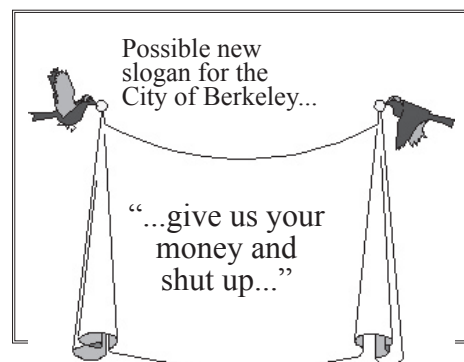
A bunch of hackers apparently succeeded in shutting down the websites of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce and Universal Studios recently as a gesture in support of Food Not Bombs participants jailed for feeding the hungry.

"It's so discouraging seeing these hungry people out in public," explained Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. "We're just trying to keep things upbeat around here."

Food Not Bombs co-founder Keith McHenry says the group kept pretty upbeat in jail despite being forced to pay for portions of their stay. Every inmate at the 33rd Street jail must pay \$5 to get booked and \$1.50 a day plus \$5 for each medically prescribed pill they give you.

"The phones are on a system where your family of friends need to go online to make a payment plan," stated McHenry. "But we're a pretty dedicated bunch. In some ways it's a pretty good way to spend the Fourth of July."

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# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, how do I get that really poofy 60's hair? I just can never get it high enough. Is there some way I can do it without hairspray?**

Dear reader, it's going to be harder than it used to be. What you really need to do is go into outer space. Zero gravity will give you exactly the effect you're looking for. You should get hold of the Russians because now they're in charge of all that. You can get the same effect underwater, but it's hard on your iPhone.

**Dear Lena, I'm not sure what all the fuss is about Tasers. They only use this stuff on bad guys, right? I wish I had one to use on my next door neighbor. And his little dog, too.**

Dear reader, you make an excellent point. One could also assume that the beneficiaries of a good Taser jolt end up with their chakras realigned and a special sparkle in their eye. If you sold Taser jolts for \$50 a pop at the Folsom Street Fair you'd have a line around the block. People make such a big fuss over nothing.

**Dear Lena, should I worry about the debt ceiling? I have to confess I don't understand what they're talking about.**

Dear reader, it isn't as complicated as they make it seem. Money is a fiction. The debt we owe other people is largely in their minds. Unless they have uncles who are really big and threaten to break your arm you're probably okay to just keep texting.

**Dear Lena, how much should I give a street musician? Do I have to give them anything? What if I don't really like that kind of music? Am I off the hook?**

Dear reader, of course you are. I can't believe you even think about digging around for nickles in the middle of your busy schedule. Treat them rudely, or even better, ignore them entirely.

Ask Lena about fingerprinting tax returns at [cddeney@jgc.org](mailto:cddeney@jgc.org).



LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE turned out to protest the planned use of tasers by San Francisco's police force, but ended up making a good case for tasers by not staying home and watching tv because after all don't they look scary and who would trust a group like this.

## Tasers on the Way for Your Own Good

By Mandy Lifeboats

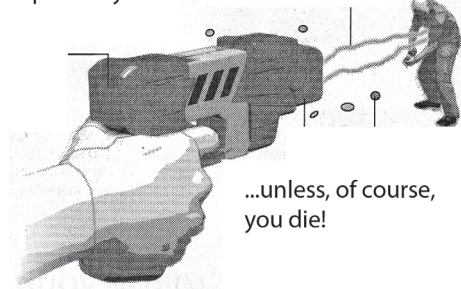
Despite hundreds turning out to overwhelmingly protest a proposal to develop a policy for the implementation of Tasers, the San Francisco Police Commission voted in favor of the proposal because while Tasers are kind of unpredictable to use, the off chance that they will occasionally function as intended remains a vague possibility, however distant.

Immigrant advocacy groups, communities of color, queer and transgender communities, mental-health professional organizations, and civil rights watchdog groups all seemed not to understand how important it is for a police officer to have an array of options at hand for the unique situations on the street that might require lethal force, sometimes non-lethal but occasionally lethal force, sometimes non-lethal but occasionally lethal force for just some people, or sometimes non-lethal but occasionally lethal force for just some people on some occasions.

"It's tricky," agreed one police officer at the meeting. "The gun, the Taser, the pepper spray, and the baton are all good, of course, but the more choices there are the more mixed up you can get. Sometimes I just stand there staring at my belt trying to remember why I came in the room."

Police Officer Association officials agreed that the baffling raft of choices can sometimes confuse even the most experienced of officers, but pointed out that manufacturers of new sometimes-but-not-always lethal

Taser International Inc. stun guns transmit 50,000 volts of electricity through up to two inches of clothing, and it's perfectly safe!



weapons need someone to try the new stuff out and who else is best situated to give the stuff a whirl than your local police force.

"You can't just try this stuff on guinea pigs and get a good sense of how it works and how far out to hold it and stuff," stated one representative from the Association. "You really need to try it on people in real time in real situations with your buddies around to give you pointers."

Other officers agreed, and suggested that further technology might solve some of the confusion which currently exists regarding which weapon to use when.

"Boot the whole issue over to Google," stated one officer. "Have them combine all these capabilities into one weapon, then work up an algorithm so the weapon itself sizes up the situation and makes the determination about which element to unleash, bullet, pepper spray, etc."

"Then we can relax," agreed another officer. "And maybe leave out the baton. I can always figure out when to use that one."

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# Musicians Asked to Play Benefit for Solano Merchants

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

### Musicians Say Bow Wow Wow

By Nan O. DeAbove

The economic downturn is creating hardship for most people, but no one is harder hit than the high-end merchants who do business on Solano Avenue who, as a consequence, are requesting that all the musicians hired for the Solano Stroll event this September play for free.

"We're a worthy cause," stated one Solano Avenue merchant. "We give hope to people who are poor that there is a good life out there if you get lucky and play your cards right or marry well or something. Without us people would lose their motivation to get out of their sleeping bags under the overpass and get moving."

Critics argued that the nonpayment policy was unfair, since the Stroll merchants would profit from the lively street music and the musicians could hardly object without jeopardizing their gig, but Solano Stroll



**IF MUSICIANS WERE PAID REAL MONEY** they would probably just spend it on drugs and guitar strings and waste it on stupid stuff instead of investing it wisely.

organizers dismissed the concern.

"Musicians are used to this," they countered. "Musicians have so much fun playing music that they shouldn't get paid anyway."

"They have better training for this than anybody else," said one Solano Avenue merchant. "They all have four or five jobs and have long ago learned to eat little sticks and pebbles to supplement their diets."

"We'd really like to contribute \$25 apiece to a musicians' fund," stated another Solano Avenue merchant. "But it would be unfair to them to get them used to being paid since the nonpayment policy works so well for us we'll probably turn this test run into policy every year."

Experts on musicians agreed that as a group these are the people most likely to expect nothing and would probably just thank the Stroll organizers for the honor of being picked to perform for free.

"They'll probably send little thankyou notes on pretty stationary," affirmed one expert. "They'll say they had lots and lots of fun."

"That's right," nodded another Solano Avenue merchant vigorously. "They're a very delicate group, and very, very sensitive. The cruelest thing to do would be to give them hope."

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### Hot News!

- Regarding the proposed Goodwill store at 1831 Solano, the Solano Avenue Association has decided, after polling the Berkeley merchants, that feelings are mixed and that the Association will remain neutral; Goodwill is no longer interested in the site (04/04/11)

- The Solano Avenue Association is in full support of the Safeway Store expansion and thinks it is long overdue.

- The Solano Avenue Association is highly concerned about the closing of A.G. Ferrari. We are concerned for A.G. Ferrari as a company and hope that the effects on its workforce are minimal.

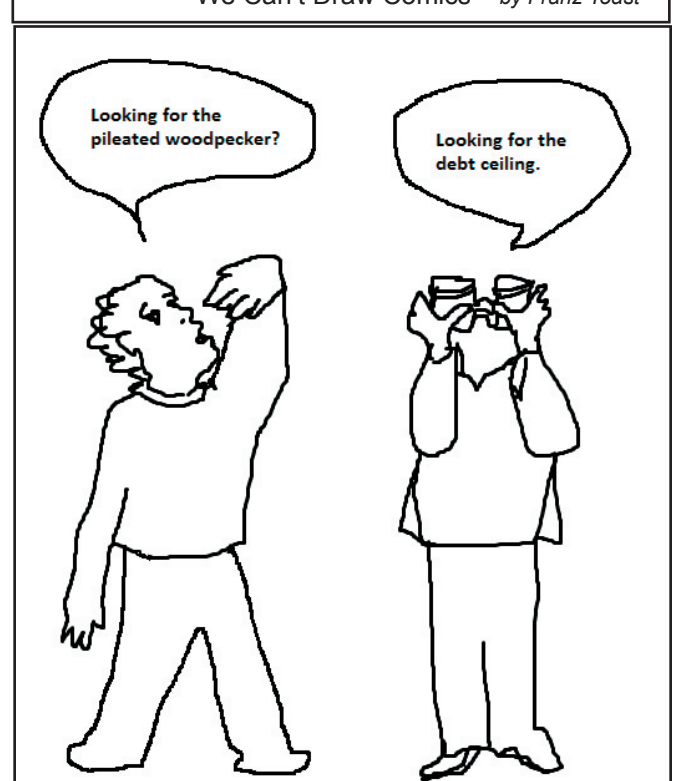
Solano Avenue, primarily on the west/Berkeley end has been hit hard with vacancies. Filling them will be difficult and, like a virus, vacancies only spread without "treatment". Rents are high, **landlords do not want to risk devaluing their property and so they stay vacant.** The Association feels that without significant, immediate action, Solano Avenue as we know it is in jeopardy (04/04/11)

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**SHOPPING IS A WORTHY CAUSE** since it is consumerism that is turning the wheels of this economy so musicians, who know how to eat cardboard anyway, should play for free for the shoppers and merchants on Solano Avenue and just enjoy the fact that while they play they can watch the pretty shoes go by and hope for tips.

### We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



# Polar Bears Get A Lot More Exercise These Days -

Unlike the Rest of Us

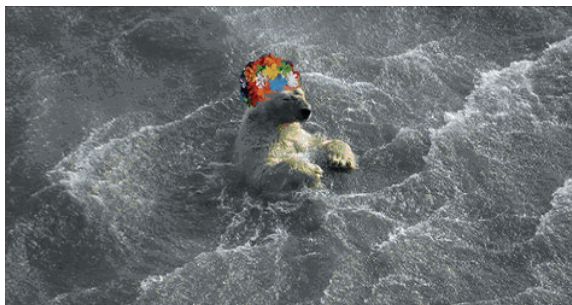
By Robin DeVault

A new study by a team consisting of the United States Geological Survey and the World Wildlife Fund confirms that polar bears are swimming longer distances to find sea ice habitat, suggesting that waterwings, swimfins, and noodles are necessary for species survival.

A sample of 68 female bears wearing radio collars and tasteful floral bathing caps comprised the study subjects.

"They're very good swimmers," stated the abstract, noting that one polar bear swam 427 miles to reach sea ice and is being considered for Olympic contention.

Skeptics criticized the study for focusing on the downside of global warming, pointing out that warming the temperature of arctic waters makes them much more com-



**POLAR BEARS IN COLORFUL BATHING CAPS** may actually be enjoying the longer swims and warmer temperatures of arctic waters because, after all, none of them have written a single letter to the editor.

fortable for swimming.

"I like a nice, hot bath," stated one skeptic, annoyed that the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to list the bear as threatened because of the impact of climate change on their habitat was upheld by a federal district judge three weeks ago who probably spends his or her spare time hugging trees. "I'll bet most polar bears are really enjoying the change."

Polar bears themselves neglected to weigh in on the increasing lengths of their swims, but cautioned the public not to read into their silence on the subject.

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Next Issue: Losing Your Keys with Celebrities!

# Bus Bench Busted

*Lydia Gans, a well-known recidivist bus stop bench sitter, recently received this letter from Kara Vuicich, AICP Associate Planner at the City of Berkeley Transportation Division, Public Works Dept. The entire staff of the Pepper Spray Times is in awe of the superlative comedic powers of this talented woman.*

Dear Ms. Gans,

The City requested that the bus bench on Telegraph at Dwight be temporarily removed for several months in order to interrupt illicit behavior that was happening at that location. Berkeley Police and other City staff are monitoring the situation and will request that AC Transit reinstall the bench once it has been determined that doing so will not contribute to antisocial or illegal behavior in the area. We apologize for the inconvenience, and hope to restore the bench as soon as we can.

Sincerely,  
Kara Vuicich, AICP  
Associate Planner  
City of Berkeley Transportation Division,  
Public Works Dept.

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## THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



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

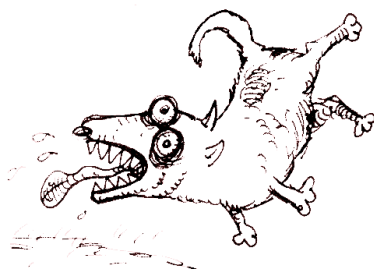


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\* Henry VI Part 2

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.