

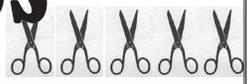
the masked issue...



"You can kick the ass of the rich. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time."

August 2020

Pepper Spray Times



It's...segno it's free...if you can find it "...put armour on thine ears and on thine eyes...*" Vol. XXI No. 8

FEDERAL AGENTS APPLY FOR FASHION ADVICE FROM WALL OF MOMS



FEDERAL AGENTS IN PORTLAND, OREGON STRUGGLED TO FIT IN with the locals in camouflage better suited to the jungle than to the storied streets of lively Portland, Oregon, known as the City of Roses and home to artisanal cheeses and lovingly hand-woven, natural fabrics.

By Sybil Court

Federal agents sent to control the protests in Portland, Oregon wearing camouflage and extreme amounts of heavy tactical gear admitted that they stood out like clowns at a funeral in a town full of people who generally dress like they're at a punk barbecue at a working lumber camp.

"I know, maybe if Portland were more like a jungle somewhere," conceded one

Headlines We Never Thought We Would See

By Lucia Mind

- 1. WELLS FARGO BANK'S PROFITS DROP!
- 2. RENTS GO DOWN!
- 3. NO LINES AT DISNEYLAND!
- 4. CASHIERS, GROCERY BAGGERS, WAREHOUSE WORKERS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL!

federal agent beating a quick retreat from formation after creative groups of protesters played "The Imperial March" from a boombox making them all look ridiculous.



YOU CAN IMAGINE how fierce and important this guy felt until surrounded by people who ride mountain bikes straight down a 30 degree grade.

"It's John Williams' Darth Vader theme from Star Wars," explained one protester. "We gave it a lot of thought, and considered using Looney Tunes or famous circus themes, but our ultimate choice was pretty effective."

"They just seem more energized than ever when we use the chemical weapons and the flash grenades," lamented another federal agent. "We declared that it was an unlawful assembly and they took their clothes off."

Oregon's attorney general, Ellen Rosenblum, lost an initial court bid to stop the federal troops for lack of standing, but is preparing additional legal efforts.

"The mayor of Portland got gassed the other night at the protest's frontlines," she noted. "I think we have standing now."

* * * * *



THE WALL OF MOMS INITIALLY rejected the opportunity to assist the federal agents with their inappropriate attire, but changed their minds because, after all, they are moms.

By Warren A. Boa

A unified group of mothers called the "Wall of Moms" effectively stopped the aggressive advance of federal troops in Portland, Oregon, purported to be protecting federal property from destruction, by wearing yellow and linking arms.

"And masks," added one spokesmom. "Of course we are all wearing our masks."

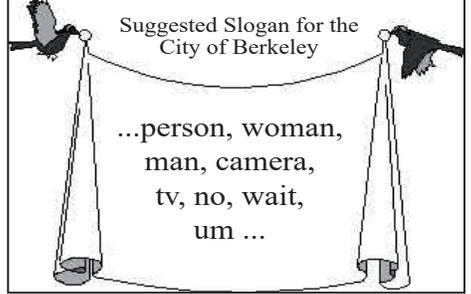
The moms expressed concern about the safety and civil liberties of their family members at the hands of federal agents blocks away from federal property they were supposed to be protecting, but also the clear lack of fashion sense exhibited by the jungle camouflage chosen for their peculiar military mission.

"They're pretty easy to see," mused one mom. "The city leaders don't have much game right now, but we're thinking these soldiers could use some motherly advice."

"We don't agree with their mission," clarified one mom, "but we feel really sorry for anybody having to walk around looking that ridiculous."

"We conferred, and are advising plaid," stated a second spokesmom. "We may be a pretty big city at this point, but we have our own style, kind of a combination of lumberjack, pioneer, and heavy metal head. With tattoos, of course."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, should I send my kids back to school? I'd love to get them out of the house, but I'm torn.

Dear reader, it depends on if you like your kids. If you've had it with them, pack them lunchboxes and wave bye-bye.

Dear Lena, okay, but what if I like them and they're being told they have to play football and sit at a round table with a bunch of sick kids? Do they have to?

Dear reader, yes, of course they have to go to school, but no, they don't. Your family might consider taking an extended leave on a yacht in the Bahamas. Chaos might ensue by way of scolding letters from the school district or the county, but no jury would convict you, assuming the courts stay afloat and we don't revert to stocks in the public square. Consider simply teaching them to read books. Archaic, but effective.

Dear Lena, but I would really like my kids to have an education. I'm pretty sure the schools aren't safe. I'm pretty sure the subway isn't safe. I'm pretty sure it's barely safe to get the mail.

Dear reader, you're on the right track. Assuming your kids are half as smart as you, I give them a 50/50 chance of survival. Good luck. And you might want to try that reading thing.

Dear Lena, did the Berkeley City Council do anything about reforming the police in Berkeley?

Dear reader, yes. They isolated the council voices that wanted real change, and are struggling over whether to "re-envision" or "re-imagine" the police using focus groups and those exercises where you write whatever comes into your head when you hear a word so they can head off criticism since this is an election year. The debates this year should be really fun, especially since the Chief of Police just stated that the black Berkeley church deliberately set on fire a couple days ago "didn't hurt anybody."
Ask Lena about fifty different ways to cook with kale at cdenney@igc.org.

Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood Really Really Wants to Use CS Gas Prohibited in Warfare

By Suzanne Desist



FRENCH POLICE who use CS gas do it just the way American police do except they use exceptional sauces.

Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood, finally crawling out of his tear-soaked man cave, gave up apologizing and begging and went on the offensive at Thursday, July 23rd's city council meeting on police reforms by presenting the council with fifteen pages (*see page four*) of last-minute efforts to weaken restrictions through creative semantics and the introduction of "special circumstances" such as any officers "belief" that they might be doing the right thing.

"If police officers really believe there might be imminent criminal destruction of property can't we just gas everybody?" he asked plaintively. "What if we really *really* believe there might be imminent criminal destruction of property, especially our police station? Anybody? Jesse? Jesse?"

Even Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin seemed embarrassed by the Chief's maudlin appeal to the quid pro quo usually firmly in place between electoral incumbents and the police department's overwhelming opportunity to tilt matters for or against candidates at risk of having to get real jobs.

CS gas, commonly known as "tear gas", is prohibited for use in warfare by a number

of treaties including the Geneva Protocol of 1925. Its use is linked to numerous short-term and long-term health effects, including development of respiratory illnesses, severe eye injuries and diseases (such as traumatic optic neuropathy, keratitis, glaucoma, and cataracts), dermatitis, damage of cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems, and death, especially in cases with exposure to high concentrations or application in enclosed spaces.



ADMIT IT - USING THIS STUFF on protesters is probably butts of big fun.

Chief Greenwood pointed out that if the police can't use their favorite toys, other police departments might be unwilling to help out in a pinch, such as the upcoming destruction of People's Park.

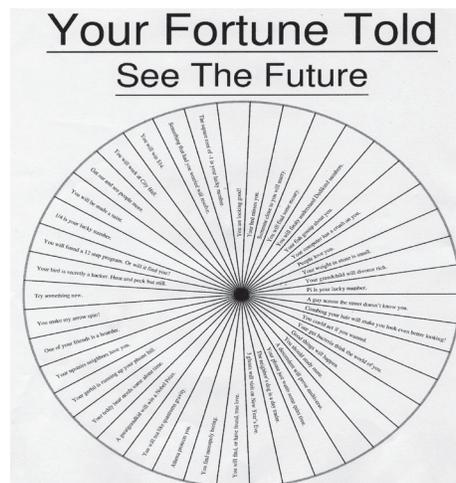
In the wee hours of the next day the city council finally sent the Chief's suggestions off to a committee that can resurface when everybody goes back to playing video games and baking bread.

"We can't vote with the Chief in front of all these people who will probably be gassed at the next march," explained the Mayor. "Timing is everything."

* * * * *

THE FUTURE IS HARD TO SEE SO WE WROTE IT OUT FOR YOU

By Stella D. Night



Editor's Note: We know, we know, the future is hard to see right now. So Lynn Rioridan took the time to write it out for you. She's not sure of the order in which this

will happen, but here it is, and it's easy to enlarge it and attach a small colorful spinning arrow to the center if you need more sense of direction.

- *Pepper Spray Times Editor Grace Underpressure*

- * The square root of -1 is your lucky number.
- * Something that had you worried will resolve.
- * You will win \$14.
- * You will work at City Hall.
- * Get out and see people more.
- * You will be made a saint.
- * 1/4 is your lucky number.
- * You will found a 12 step program. Or will it find you?
- * Your bird is secretly a hacker. Hunt and peck but still.
- * Try something new.
- * You make my arrow spin!
- * One of your friends is a hoarder.
- * Your upstairs neighbors love you.
- * Your gerbil is running up your phone bill.
- * Your teddy bear needs some alone time.
- * A greatgrandkid will win a Nobel Prize.
- * You will not like quantum gravity.
- * Athena protects you.
- * You will find, or have found, true love.
- * *THE FUTURE* - continued on page 3

Athletes at UC Berkeley Cleared to Play Sports During Pandemic

By Walter Walter Everywhere

University of California (UC) officials admitted that eight student athletes have tested positive for Covid 19, but insisted that they continue to plan a full playing schedule for football this fall.

"Come hell or high water," UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ was heard muttering as the debt burden for an already shaky financing plan for the \$474 million dollar stadium renovation hit the coronavirus rocks, projecting few takers for the Endowment Seating Program.

"We love football, but \$450,000.00 for one seat is a little pricey," whispered one Cal Bears fan.



FORWARD-THINKING FOOTBALL fans are working with UC Berkeley Athletic Department administrators to re-renoate the renovated stadium to accomodate social distancing.

"We'd love to show our spirit, but we'd have to refinance the house," apologized another Bears football fan. "Maybe after the kids find jobs."

Many expressed misgivings about their ability to have a lighthearted, full-throated football experience after hearing UC officials' press release state, "We have confidence in the protocols we have in place and the results are in line with expectations."

The announcement comes as the country has seen a marked increase in positive cases, particularly where co-eds are present and premium Tequila is served.

* * * * *

MOST PEOPLE CONCLUDE STATUES ASKED FOR IT

By Thalia Goagain and Lynn Riordan

"I for one think those statues had it coming," remarked one resident watching local public works and park staff try to clean graffiti off public statues in the aftermath of a rampage against public monuments and in some cases water fountains, benches, and swingsets with dubious connections to the Civil War.

The remarks were greeted with approval by others nearby.

"They ignored multiple requests by protesters and others to move," pointed out a neighbor to a now-empty pedestal. "And hanging out in the park at all hours of the night? You know they were selling drugs. No honest statue hangs out in a park like that. The protesters reasonably feared for their lives."



Others noted the ominous nature of the statues' accessories.

"Have you taken a close look?" asked one of the maintenance workers pointing at some of the detail on the fallen monument. "They are often carrying

PEOPLE TRIED talking to this guy but he's way up there and even his horse was kind of snobby. Nobody could get either of them to say a word.

* You are looking good!
* Your bed misses you.
* Someone close to you will marry.
* You will find some money.
* You will finally understand Dedikind numbers.
* Your fish gossip about you.
* Your computer has a crush on you.
* People love you.
* Your weight in stone is small.
* Your grandchild will divorce rich.
* Pi is your lucky number.
* A guy across the street doesn't know

swords and rifles! Innocent? I think not."

Some neighbors suggested that perhaps the horses could be saved.

"We like the horses," noted one neighbor. "Our kids like the horses."

"I'm just guessing Traveler had no idea what side he was one in the Civil War," observed another neighbor. "Most horses are just trying to get through their day."

"It does beg for some more thoughtful process," agreed one local official. "It's just that if you put this in the hands of an arts commission or some committee it will die a slow death in some back room long after all the patient administrative staff has gone on before it."

Experts agreed that voting to put matters into committees for "study" is not as efficient as just tearing shit down which also includes a community-building fun factor.

"It's exhilarating," confessed one protester. "I haven't had this much fun since Burning Man."

* * * * *

* THE FUTURE - continued relentlessly from page 2

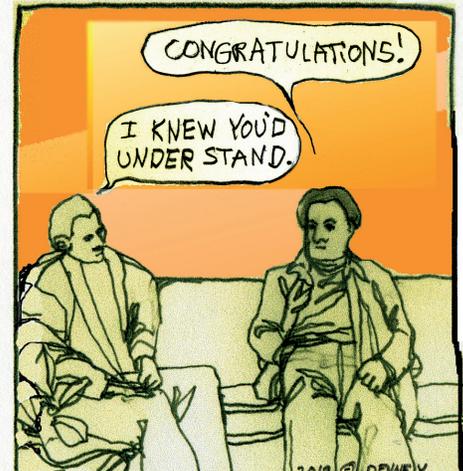
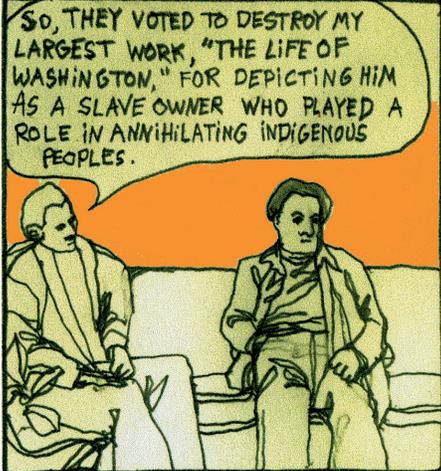
you.
* Combing your hair will make you look even better looking!
* You could act if you wanted.
* Your gut bacteria think the world of you.
* Good things will happen.
* You should study more.
* A descendent will prove multiverse.
* Your phone just wants some quiet time.
* The neighbor's dog is a day trader.
* 3 ghosts will visit on new Year's Eve.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

VICTOR ARNAUTOFF TALKS TO DIEGO RIVERA...



Letter to the Berkeley City Council from Police Chief Andrew Greenwood

Berkeley Chief of Police Andrew Greenwood's Letter to the Berkeley City Council (condensed from fifteen pages for your convenience by PST Editor Grace Underpressure)

To: Honorable mayor and members of the City Council,

Policing Berkeley is a bitch. Straight up. Berkeley's full of mental illness, drugs, crime, and people who still wear tie-dye. Jails are the only safety nets we have, so there. Otherwise you'll have some homeless guy on your lawn.

We hardly ever get to shoot people or gas people, so don't take away one of the few things police have that relieves the boredom of trying to decide which fast food place we eat at on a shift or which homeless guy we pick on. We may harass a lot of people but we don't kill people that often.

We strive to treat people with respect except for people like Kayla Moore. If we can't
I WANT MY PRESENT NOW

use CS gas Ahern promised he'll pretend he can't respond at all in an emergency and you're probably not thinking about how if we don't use up the gas while it's potent we have to throw it away. What a waste! It's really impressive that we don't kill people more often.

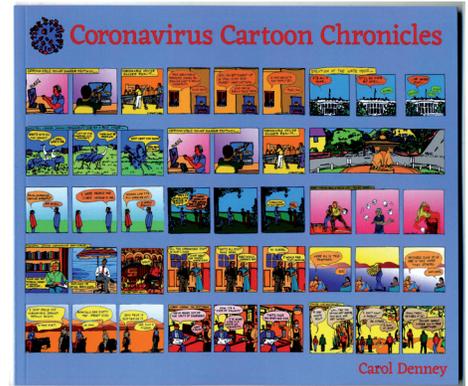
The fact is we really need mutual aid, or People's Park will be a fact of life, and so will Black Lives Matter. I hope you're ready for that. We did our best to get rid of that stuff in 2014 and what good did that do. You're not going to have any police at all if you don't let us shoot people and gas people because it is no fun to just arrest that guy at the back of the crowd with the skateboard breaking windows. That is no fun at all, take it from me.

Sincerely,

Chief of Police Andrew Greenwood

(loosely translated by PST Editor Grace Underpressure)

* * * * *



DEFINITIVE PROOF that the pandemic can be kind of funny now available at Blurb.com.

Coronavirus Comedy in Decidedly Poor Taste

By PST Book Critic Louis N. Up

"An exercise in the poorest taste," stated one anonymous local publisher after reading the Coronavirus Cartoon Chronicles available at Blurb.com's online bookstore. "This cartoonist should be shot. Or shunned or fed lots of kale at potlucks."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Sucking on tailpipes with celebrities!

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cddeney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com



Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)... Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Distribution.....Rhoda Boat
Staff.....Sybyl Court, Warren A. Boa, Lena
Deeter, Suzanne Desist, Stella D. Night,
Lynn Riordan, Walter Walter Everywhere,
Thalia Goagain, Franz Toast, Berkeley Chief
of Police Greenwood, PST Book Critic
Louis N. Up, Juan Nathan Undergod

To:

Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr.

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

*Timon of Athens

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.