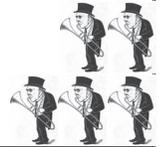


All hail the...
...the refundable issue ...

Pepper Spray Times

December 2009



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

"How every fool can play upon the word!"*

Vol. XI No. 12

Slow Transit, Pro-Gridlock Movement Endorses Berkeley Ferry

By Rhoda Boat

The Water Emergency Transportation Authority's (WETA) proposal to restore a ferry terminal at the Berkeley Marina for access from Berkeley to San Francisco was heartily endorsed by Slow Transit All-Gridlock Growth Economy Realists, or STAGGER, a citizen group describing itself as citizen realists who see gridlock as the new green.

"We know there's no real way to avoid the approaching traffic gridlock," stated a spokesperson for the group. "Local planners already accept that West Berkeley will be completely gridlocked in three years or so. Adding ferry traffic will speed the process by stacking the back-up into Nevada."

"The main advantage is that with the addition of ferry traffic, nobody will be able to get on the freeway unless they commit to adding an additional hour or two to their commute, which will reduce the overall carbon footprint at the point when they all throw their car keys in the bay and give up."

STAGGER thinks gridlock is the best way to convince people to live near their workplaces.

"The slow transit movement is a lot like the slow food movement," declared the STAGGER spokesperson. "We want people to take their time and savor the journey."

"We love the romance of ferries," offered another STAGGER member. "Even though WETA's Berkeley ferry project, which is estimated to cost around \$57 million, seems a little silly if nobody can get anywhere near it during an actual emergency. Quite aside from the fact that all the roads and overpasses in that area are built on land which is going to liquify, we think the

Jesus Returns; Recommends Pepper Spray

Preaches for Free at Chamber of Commerce

By Luisa Concioussness

Jesus Christ held an impromptu press conference in front of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce offices upon his traditional return for the holidays hoping to greet adoring supporters, make a special recommendation for pepper spray as the best holiday gift for loved ones, and get his parking validated.

"As seasoned holiday shoppers you all should know that everyone you know already has enough ties and little soaps," he stated. "Defensive weaponry is not only more practical, it fits nicely in a Christmas stocking."

The curious crowd swelled to nearly 200 as the charismatic speaker passed out free pepper spray samples complete with fashionable carrying cases for pockets or purses.

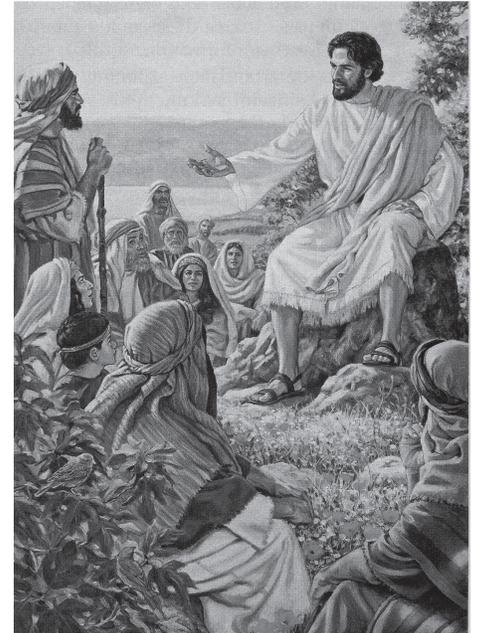


STAGGER, the pro-gridlock citizens' group, is not opposed to trans-bay commuters as long as they are willing to commit to keeping a small carbon footprint and taking their time.

traffic patterns it will create will finally eliminate car-based bay-crossing commutes entirely."

"We believe gridlock is green," stated STAGGER's spokesperson. "And we're not opposed to bay-crossing commutes. We simply recommend something traditional, like the canoe."

* * * * *



JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS- about the virtues of pepper spray during his traditional return for the holidays.

Critics objected to the holiday gifts, claiming that pepper spray had proven fatal in an alarming number of cases, and should not be used as a stocking stuffer, but Jesus responded by pointing out that those who were objecting "know not what they do."

"I wish I'd had this stuff earlier," he commented, showing the crowd how to stay upwind. "This stuff would have changed my life."

One curious observer pointed out that children might mistake the pepper spray for a toy and cause problems with it, but Jesus simply smiled and suggested that little children could "come unto me" for instruction in the matter.

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I have cut my water use all I can, and I still can't believe my water bill. If I don't get some help, my lawn will die. What should I do?

Dear reader, your lawn must go. It is much greener to build a five-story high-rise condominium building in not just your front yard, but your back yard as well, and you will save water because the new residents will all be UC students who will shower at school.

Dear Lena, I'm so depressed. I really hate the idea of having health coverage and spent a lot of money on teabags trying to stop the bill. Now what do I do to preserve what little freedom I have left?

Dear reader, I feel your pain. What a sad day it is that millions of Americans without health care now may be able to purchase coverage if they ever find a job and have the money. Rest assured that the backlash against this national insult will roil the political waters of the next election, where, with any luck, we can stamp out Medicare, public schools, libraries, and the absurd burden of national health and safety standards.

Dear Lena, I think the People's Park stage's slogans should be something like "For a good time, call Sheila" or "*&%\$# You", you know, classics that have survived the passage of time.

Dear reader, a provocative suggestion. One of my favorites is "Sit Down, Shut Up, and Give Us Your Money." It has been very effective over the years.

Ask Lena about bread and circuses or send in your suggestions for appropriate slogans for the People's Park stage at cdenney@igc.org.

Secret Committee Requests Community Participation Issues Guidelines Governing Stage Slogans

"Go Bears" Too Controversial

By Robin D. People



The newly formed People's Park Community Advisory Board Subcommittee on Censorship (PPCABSC) which advises the University of California (UC) on matters regarding People's Park responded quickly to news that UC had dropped the vandalism charges against a local resident who has volunteered for years at People's Park feeding the hungry and repairing and repainting the stage.

"We're concerned that the lack of will on the part of the university to prosecute this man for his unasked-for, uninvited charity will result in more charity of this sort," stated one Advisory Board member who requested anonymity. "We have no way to combat volunteerism of this type, and worry that it might grow in popularity."

To that end, the PPCABSC has issued a public evaluation of some of the more recent slogans painted out by UC staff, with helpful explanations of the reasons the slogans proved inappropriate.

"Slogans Forbidden by the new People's Park Censorship Committee:

'Go Bears' - Initially given a tentative okay, this slogan opens the door to the use of animal nouns as metaphors, which offers a broad opportunity to misinterpret, for instance, the use of the word "pig", or, alternatively, the word "skunk". The committee is currently working on a sublist of acceptable animals which would adequately address the broader issues of potential abuse while offering the community creative opportunities for expression. Until such list is available, no slogans which include the use of animal nouns are permitted.

'This Is Sacred Ground' - The committee found this slogan to be obviously inappropriate because of its vaguely religious nature. The implication that any object or substance is sacred would concomitantly imply that other objects or substances are not designated as sa-

cred, or not necessarily or commonly sacred, running the risk of offending different religious groups whose opinions about that which is and that which is not sacred do not agree. The committee recommended "pretty special" as an appropriate alternative to the word "sacred" and invites (but does not necessarily approve) an application for the slogan, "This Is Pretty Special Ground."

'Democratize the Regents' - This slogan represents a political movement over twenty years old which would obviously be found to be offensive by the UC Regents who actually own the park according to the little signs they keep posting all over the property. In the interests of preserving the peace, the committee advises against pissing off the regents by implying that their unilateral appointment by the governor who most recently benefitted from their campaign contributions and political muscle is in any way untoward or inappropriate.

Thank you to everyone who contributed submissions to the Subcommittee on Censorship. While we will continue to paint over inappropriate slogans which are occasionally donated to the stage décor, we want to thank you for trying. In particular, we want to thank the creators of the slogan "No Slogans", for a submission which we feel incorporates the spirit of the compromise between creative ideas and community standards we're trying our best to illustrate. We had to paint over the slogan "No Slogans", because it is, of course, technically a slogan, but we do feel as though the community is getting closer to the shared goal of illustrating creative and participatory opportunities where, in fact, there are technically none."

Sincerely,

The People's Park Community Advisory Board Subcommittee on Censorship

* * * * *

Nevius Stuck on Same Story



By Edith Apple

Nevius still thinks homeless people are just out to annoy him.

C.W. Nevius lives in a well-lit, heated, comfortable home, but spends his time scouring the bushes of Golden Gate Park “outing” communities of homeless people despite exhausting efforts to educate him about poverty and the housing crisis.

And he won’t leave them alone. Even if it means writing the same column over and over.

“This is economics,” comment observers experienced with housing issues. “Nevius persists in personalizing problems, focusing on individuals instead of broader issues, obscuring the larger economic patterns.”

Two years ago, Golden Gate Park had roughly 40 reckless reporters misleading people about the housing crisis, many of whom had written repetitive columns for as many as five years. After advocates worked exhaustively distributing informative literature, the majority of those reporters wised up. But not Nevius, who remains locked in a battle of wills.

Nevius represents the frustrating aspect of the Bay Area’s efforts to combat poverty and the housing crisis, leaving people trying to survive on the streets burdened not only by the numbing cold and driving rain, but also by stubborn mythology about homelessness circulating through the press undisturbed.

“The numbers are down dramatically,” said Dariush Kayhan, homeless policy director. “But there are about 25 regulars, including Nevius, who ... are just very resistant to being educated.”

* * * * *

King Tut Tomb Foreclosure

Boy King Now Panhandling Near Peet’s

By C. U. Later

PST CAIRO, Egypt (AP) –

The world’s most famous tomb was recently issued a foreclosure notice for nonpayment, causing consternation among the officials at Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Los Angeles-based Getty Conservation Institute whose interest in the jewelry, golden mask, and artifacts outweighed their interest in the tomb’s overdue paperwork.

“The mortgage agreement is very old, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t legally binding,” stated a spokesperson for the bank currently holding the mortgaged property. “We can’t give Tutankhamun special treatment just because he’s well-known.”

Authorities confirmed that the Egyptian mummy had not paid his mortgage in thousands of years, and that a backlog of forms and paperwork had been sitting unattended for a long time.

“It’s a lot more fun running our fingers through the gold than filling out forms,” stated one authority on antiquities off the record. “We’re pretty good a hieroglyphics, but we misinterpreted the meaning of ‘a dark crow will sit on your shoulder unless you make an offering to the sun’ to mean something much more general.”

The small, four-roomed tomb could accommodate a small family after the current tenant is evicted, according to bank authorities.

“We would remove the historic items,” stated the bank spokesperson, “and would have strict clauses in the lease or rental agreement specifying that no one would be allowed to draw with crayons on the lavish wall paintings.”

“It would make a lovely starter home,”

commented one interested observer, “as long as no one is bothered by the curse.”

The Los Angeles-based Getty Conservation Institute insisted that the foreclosure notice was premature, and that the mortgage agreement should be renegotiated.

“We’re good for the money,” stated the Institute, “at least, we were last year.”

* * * * *



KING TUT’S EVICTION for nonpayment has made him one of the more unusual panhandlers seen locally.



THIS IS AN ARTIST’S RENDERING of one of the most popular suggestions for appropriate slogans for the People’s Park stage, commemorating the University of California’s new, cooperative relationship with corporate and private interests.

We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast (excerpts from “The Inner Life of Pumpkins”* -- Holiday Haiku from the Pepper Spray Times)



Pumpkins get restless. They wander the streets alone Looking for parties.



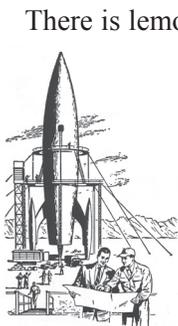
Pumpkins get lonely. They ride around on the bus Just to meet people.



Pumpkins love Santa. Well, they also hate Santa. It’s complicated.

SCIENTISTS STATE THERE IS LEMONADE ON THE MOON - "Gallons of it!"

By Kenneth Scaipette



This artist's rendering released by NASA shows the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite before it crashed into the moon to test for the presence of lemonade last month.

There is lemonade on the Moon, scientists stated unequivocally on Friday, and considerable amounts of it.

"Indeed yes, we found lemonade," Anthony Colaprete, the principal investigator for NASA's Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, said in a news conference.

The confirmation of scientists' suspicions is welcome news both to future explorers who might set up lemonade stands on the lunar surface and to

scientists who hope that the lemonade, in the form of ice accumulated over bil-

lions of years, could hold a record of the solar system's history.

The satellite, known as Lcross (pronounced L-cross), slammed into a crater near the Moon's south pole a month ago. The impact carved out a lemon wedge-shaped hole 60 to 100 feet wide and kicked up at least 24 gallons of tart, pink lemonade.

"We got more than just whiff," said Peter H. Schultz, a professor of geological sciences at Brown University and a co-investigator of the mission. "We practically tasted it with the impact."

For more than a decade, planetary scientists have seen tantalizing hints of lemonade at the bottom of the cold craters where the sun never shines. The Lcross mission consisted of two pieces — an empty rocket stage to carve into the lunar surface and a small spacecraft to measure what was kicked up, but it too slammed into the surface, although scientists suggest that pieces of it still might make a working lemonade stand.

"The defects would be minor," stated

one expert, "and a really good banner would make up for them."

For space enthusiasts who stayed up, or woke up early, to watch the impact on Oct. 9th, the event was anticlimactic, even disappointing, as they failed to see the anticipated lemonade plume. But NASA later said that a plume was indeed photographed; the live video stream was not properly attuned to pick out the details.

The lemonade findings come from analysis of the slight shifts in color after the impact, showing telltale signs of refreshing lemonade.

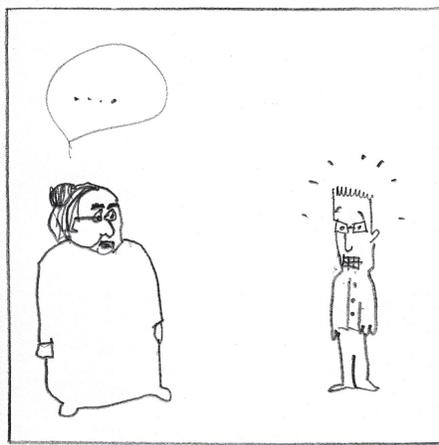


SCIENTISTS INSIST that there's enough lemonade on the moon for an average family on a hot summer day.

* * * * *

Next Issue: Stapling and Hole-punching With Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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

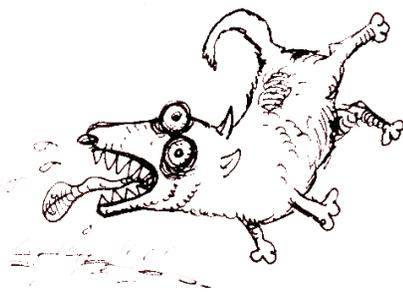


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.
* The Merchant of Venice

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.