

...the tetragonal issue ...



All hail the twentieth year\* of the powerful.

# Pepper Spray Times

February 2012



It's thallic...it's free...if you can find it "What say ye, countrymen? will ye relent..."\*

Vol. XIV No. 2

## Republicans Condemn Capitalism

### Republican National Committee Cries Out for Mercy

by Jaxon Jumpropes

Republican National Committee (RNC) consultants waved their hands wildly trying to stop the current crop of Republican candidates from bashing capitalism, the most curious round of talking points ever to emanate from the most thoroughly unpopular array of Republican choices ever to run for president.

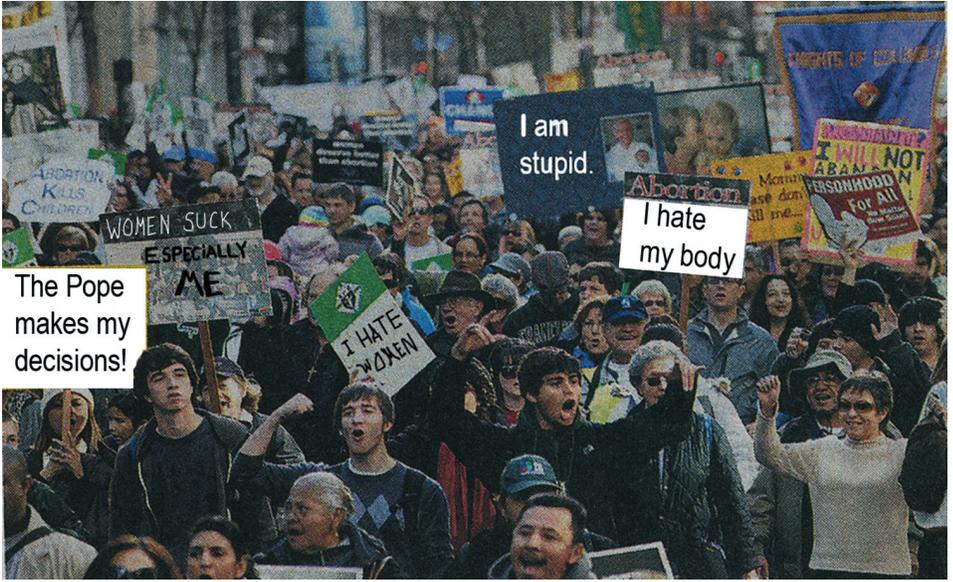
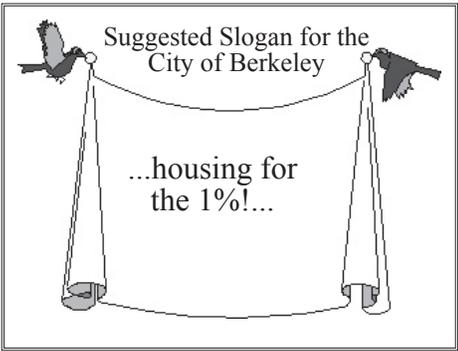
"It's consonant with the political times in a way," offered one political observer nervously wiping off his glasses.

"Congress just spent a long session accomplishing absolutely nothing while the world and the nation circles the drain. Efficacy and commonsense never seem to make the winner's circle of awareness, let alone expressed sentiments. But condemning capitalism? This is without precedent."

"I feel for the voters," commented another political observer. "They're used to hearing this sort of thing out of the mouths of artists and poets and vandals. But not out



**REPUBLICANS tumbled a little off track when they piled on equity firms and came off like protesters at an Occupy rally.**



The Pope makes my decisions!

ANTI-CHOICE MARCHERS RALLY in San Francisco once a year to remind people in the Bay Area that they live in a political bubble and better start talking to someone besides the blogger at the internet cafe table next to them before we're all floating in the bay.

of the Republican party."

"They're confused," agreed another political analyst acknowledging that he was out of contexts in which to evaluate phrases like "vulture capitalist" in the mouth of Governor Rick Perry. "And frankly," he added, "so am I."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) dropped out of the race just before the South Carolina primary, but not before describing Republican rival Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor, as a "vulture capitalist," arguing that Romney is trying to "paper over" the details of his work at Bain Capital.

"There's a real difference between venture capitalism and vulture capitalism," Perry told Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity one night. "Venture capitalism we like. Vulture capitalism, no. And the fact of the matter is that he's going to have to face up to this at some time or another, and South Carolina is as good a place to draw that line in the sand as any."

Perry cited two companies in Gaffney and Georgetown, S.C., that he said had lost jobs while the venture capital firm took in millions of dollars. He accused Romney and Bain of "picking their bones clean" rather than working to "clean up those companies, save those jobs."

Both Obama supporters and Occupy protesters agreed that they had nothing to add and would be busy making paper dolls.

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\*PST's volume numbering didn't begin until after six years of publication.

## Occupy Protesters Offer Fake Names for Police

by Harry Tudge-Apples

Oakland police officers reprimanded for covering their identification badges with tape argued that they needed to conceal their identity from Occupy protesters as a safety precaution.

Police spokespersons dismissed the concern, stating that badges were part of the uniform, but Occupy protesters agreed that the harassment potential was real, pointing out that the hacker group Anonymous, loosely associated with Occupy protests, had hacked the official BART website at one time and made BART officers' names and addresses public online as a protest.

Occupy demonstrators offered to help with a move they called Occupy Who Dat.

"We don't mind if they use demonstration-specific street names the same way we do," stated one Occupy protestor. "We can supply some starter names, too:"

- ...Officer Wussface
- Officer Yellowbelly
- Officer Mama's Apron
- Officer Only Doing My Job
- Officer Just A Paycheck
- Officer Chicken
- Officer Turkey
- Officer Piggie
- Officer Whoops
- Officer Bucketbottom

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# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, I can't believe how mean this election is getting. I can understand attacks on politicians, they are usually scum in some respect, but equity firms and capitalists? I thought the super-rich were the givers of jobs and floaters of boats. It's just so, so wrong.**

Dear reader, it's alright, many PST readers are having the same difficulty with the extremely negative atmosphere. But it is hardest of all on the super-rich, who have tried hard to provide jobs and float boats for all of us over the years and find it so very difficult to invest in the hail of this toxic hostility. We at the Pepper Spray Times are collecting warm socks and valentines for local venture capitalists and equity firms. Perhaps you could start a drive on your block by holding a sign that says "Honk for the Rich."

**Dear Lena, I have all this Susan G. Komen gear that now I'm too embarrassed to wear since they wavered in their support for Planned Parenthood. What should I do with it?**

Dear reader, remember how we all wrote "seize" in front of the Bank of America logos on our free hats at A's games? Just take it from there. And extra points for lacy, floral embroidery.

**Dear Lena, I really want to be sensitive to Occupy Oakland's "diversity of tactics" commitment, but I don't want to be a part of any violence. I mean, I would try to be tolerant of it on principle, but I frankly don't see the upside of provoking a poorly trained police force. What should I do?**

Dear reader, surrender. Until the adolescent urge to break windows, empty trash cans, and set fire to whatever is handy meets some mature response, those of us who abhor economic injustice must bide our time and strike our tents. We all look forward to the day the black bloc has the courage to take up football, where at least the playing field is even.

Ask Lena about knitting and political strategy at [cdenny@igc.org](mailto:cdenny@igc.org).



EVEN REPUBLICANS ADMIT that the "Citizens United" decision went too far and can't get near the bar at parties anymore since everybody buttonholes them about giving corporations citizenship and free speech rights to spend unlimited amounts of money on their own political behalf, making it tough to get a martini.

## "Citizens United" Under Attack - Corporations' Feelings Hurt

by Frank Discussion

Misguided citizens and some of their even more misguided elected officials are taking action in cities and states across the country by passing resolutions opposing fair and absolutely legal corporate influence in politics made possible by the two-year-old Supreme Court decision known as "Citizens United."

"This is an important decision to us," stated Philip Morris International CEO Louis Camilleri who received a pay package valued at more than \$20.6 million in fiscal 2010. "It isn't that we couldn't buy campaigns before this, it's just that most people saw it as unfair. Now people know it's perfectly fine."

"That's right," added tobacco industry giant Brown and Williamson's Susan Ivey, whose compensation for 2009 was \$16.2 million from a base salary of \$1.2 million. "We used to have to sneak around and obscure our contributions, but now we can just flat-out buy the representation and legislation we need."

"It really hurts our feelings when we're not considered part of the process," agreed Exxon Mobil Corp. CEO Rex W. Tillerson, whose salary ranked at the top of the category with \$21 million in total direct compensation. "I cried when I read that some people didn't like it."

Local and state-wide resolutions have been introduced in CA, CO, FL, HI, MA, ME, MI, MT, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, VT, WA and WI. At the federal level, ten proposed constitutional amendments have been introduced during the 112th Congress, making it clear that

well-funded educational efforts by wealthy media sources like the Pepper Spray Times (PST) are needed to keep Citizens United safe from citizen meddling.

"We may not be getting million dollar contributions from environmentally destructive oil and gas companies yet," stated PST Editor Grace Underpressure. "But we want to make it clear that we're eager to take the money."

Under the so-called "United For the People" banner, more than 60 organizations representing millions of activists around the country are working to harness the grassroots power of the vast majority of Americans who sadly believe there is too much money in politics, when in fact there is not enough.

As the second anniversary of Citizens United passes this month, the expanding network of organizations united in mocking, misguided, and pointless opposition to unchecked corporate spending in our elections is coordinating a series of actions from grassroots gatherings to rallies at courthouses and corporate headquarters across the nation to "let the peoples' voice be heard", as they put it, when in fact what they are doing is trying to muzzle hard-working oil and tobacco industry voices who deserve to be heard.

"Citizens United" was long overdue," stated AT&T Inc. CEO Randall Stephenson who receives \$19.8 million in total direct compensation. "When I contribute to a political campaign all I'm saying is that when rich people sit at the table, people ought to listen."

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# Cool New Occupy-inspired Gadgets Soon to Be Available at Your Police Department

by Loren Standards

California-based T3 Motion, which specializes in mobility vehicles, recently announced the debut of the latest in crowd control equipment.

“We call it the Advanced Non Lethal Occupy Crowd Control Electric Vehicle (ANLOCCEV),” stated a company spokesperson. “We saw a need during the recent Occupy encounters, and we decided we should fill it.”

The prototype, according to the company, is designed “specifically to provide law enforcement with humane and safe alternatives to most techniques used during riots and violent protests.”

Police experts agree that something of the sort was becoming a necessity.

“It gets harder and harder to carry various combinations of lethal and non-lethal stuff around,” conceded one expert.

“It’s so true,” agreed an officer eager to try the ANLOCCEV. “I have my OC (pepper) spray, pepper balls, water balls, dye markers, rubber projectiles, CS gas canisters, my radio, my long baton, my short



**WOULDN'T YOU RATHER** have gotten one of these for Christmas instead of that stupid Starbucks gift card. You could not only impress people, you could also make sure their protests don't get out of hand.

baton, and my tape to put over my badge. Oh, and my gun, of course. It gets hard to know which to bring to the party.”

“And carrying it all is such a pain,” agreed another officer. “I worry about my lower back.”

“This vehicle takes care of that,” pointed out the company spokesperson. “The ANLOCCEV features two guns with the capability to shoot 700 rounds a minute per gun should a protest turn violent.”

“It’s a new day in law enforcement,” agreed the expert. “Each vehicle can store up to 10,000 rounds and is also equipped with high-intensity LED deterrent strobe lights.”

“We look forward to expanding our police budget to incorporate this new, humane technology,” agreed a police spokesperson. “We need to let Occupy know we are serious about nonviolence.”

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**THE LAB** cited a high treesitter and poet-to-baton ratio as influencing their decision to choose Richmond for their second campus.

## Richmond Snares Lab's Second Campus;

### Berkeley Kicks Dog, Rends Clothing

by Alisha Dog

University of California officials announced that the Richmond Field Station has been chosen as the preferred site for the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's second campus despite long lines of Berkeley officials weeping, wailing, and offering them colorful discount coupons.

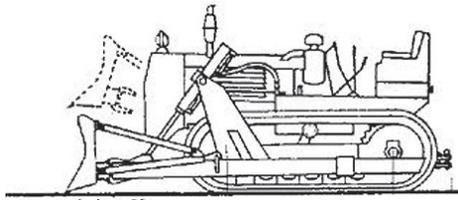
Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates was seen confiscating newspapers throughout town hoping to alter the outcome.

A press release stated that Richmond presented the best opportunity for long-term growth, while an insider commented that a contributing factor was the brouhaha over the temporary relocation of city council meetings to a West Berkeley site.

“Everybody’s freaking out over having to go to West Berkeley,” stated one lab insider. “We were fine with West Berkeley, but these are people who know the place better than we do.”

“Each city, community, and their developer partners presented extremely interesting proposals for us to consider, for which we are deeply grateful,” said Berkeley Lab Director Paul Alivisatos in a statement. “But Richmond’s willingness to affirm smoke-free housing kind of tipped the scales for us. You can die trying to mail a letter on Berkeley’s allegedly smokefree streets.”

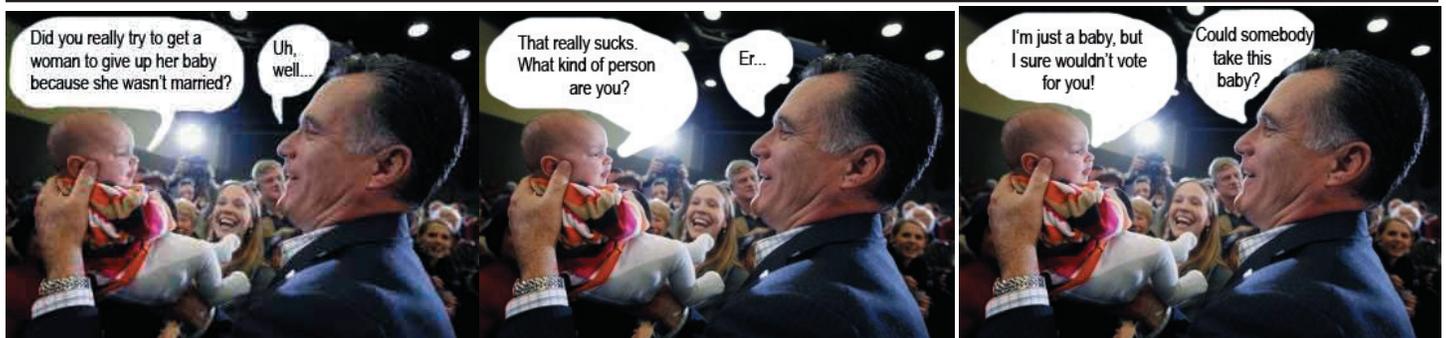
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**ANOTHER USEFUL** Occupy-inspired police tool is the ordinary bulldozer, which not only has the protective qualities of a tank but also can knock down tents at a steady clip and tends to drown out chanting. The only problem with it, according to police spokespersons, is that it is easily spooked by small dogs and might run wild in the west end of People’s Park and destroy community benches and fruit trees. “It’s a risk we’ll take,” stated the police.

## We Can't Draw Comics (with some exceptions)

by Franz Toast



Mitt Romney worked hard to make sure all babies born into the Mormon church had two parents, and it was for their own good.

Children with two parents have two parents to read to them at night and make sure they are saying their prayers.

Of course, not all babies see this sensible policy in quite the same way.



# SUSAN G. KOMEN ORGANIZATION BOOTS SCREENINGS FOR POOR WOMEN, THEN BACKS OFF AFTER HACKERS ATTACK

by Charlie U. Jest

Planned Parenthood received more than three million dollars in backlash donations after the Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast cancer foundation briefly announced that it would eliminate grants to Planned Parenthood for breast cancer screening.

“Our commitment to fighting breast cancer is still really strong,” stated Karen Handel, who was hired as Komen’s senior vice president of public policy last year and ran for governor of Georgia in 2010 on a strong anti-abortion platform. “Almost as strong as our commitment to ending women’s access to abortion.”

Puzzled inquirers about the institution of the cancer screening cutoff were told that the Komen organization had instituted new guidelines celebrated by conservative religious and anti-abortion groups which forbid grants to organizations under local, state or federal investigation or named Planned Parenthood, since the ongoing investigation at Penn State didn’t seem to count.

The congressional inquiry was launched by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.) who insisted that the Komen organization’s decision was theirs alone, and that any political gain he was getting from launching the investigation was purely coincidence.

“I’m the Chairman of the House Energy



**MOST OF THESE PINK-CLAD PEOPLE** signed up to support a fight against breast cancer without realizing they were giving their money to a right-wing group of anti-abortion fanatics who couldn’t spell “unintended consequences” to save their lives.

and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations,” he stated. “I can keep Planned Parenthood under investigation forever if I want to.”

Critics objected that the Komen organization’s move could put more women at risk by reducing breast cancer screening nationwide, but Handel initially dismissed the concern, pointing out that the only women the decision might affect were poor women who tried to cross the threshold of a Planned Parenthood clinic and probably shouldn’t be reproducing anyway.

“That part of the population needs reduction,” stated Handel. “Poor people are really dragging down their demographic.”

Founder and CEO Nancy Brinker of the Komen organization found her organization’s website hacked and resorted to You-

tube to respond to the cascade of national and international outrage at the refusal to fund cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood, which is not the only organization funded by Susan G. Komen grants under investigation.

Like Planned Parenthood, Penn State is currently the subject of a federal government investigation. But the Komen group only cancelled the Planned Parenthood grants until hackers’ and public reaction made them realize it was a really, really bad idea and a bonfires of pink hats and Komen for the Cure t-shirts began warming Occupy sites across the nation.

“Pure coincidence,” suggested Brinker regarding the Planned Parenthood issue coming up before Penn State’s grant evaluation. “We alphabetize really badly around here. That Penn State file is here somewhere and we really mean to get to it.”

“We can do this,” stated one of the hackers who worked to keep the Susan G. Komen site shut down. “We can all do this together.”

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## Next Issue: Mourning Global Disasters with Celebrities



**SUSAN G. KOMEN CEO NANCY BRINKER will yank that nasty old Penn State cancer research grant just as soon as possible.**

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

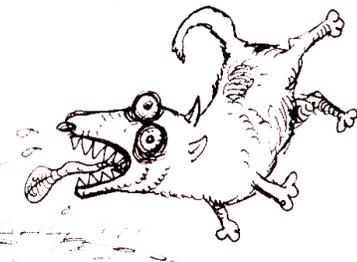


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.