January 2018





Pepper Spray Ti

Breaking News: Council Ma-

jority Supports Big, Super-

potent Pepper Spray Cans **Because They Are Tools**

By Horace Voice

With three exceptions, the Berkeley City

Council insisted that its police force be al-

nate weapon. Profes-

sor James McFadden

added that "pepper

studies and reports

documenting that the

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

"...What is the focative case?"*

Vol. XIX No. 1

Silicon Valley Jobs Program for Females at Holiday Parties Backfires

By Will Dew



EXPERTS TRY HARD but have even trouble helping Silicon Valley the gender employees even recognize wom- gap at their en let alone talk to them.

Silicon Valley firms acknowledged their program for hiring female models to holiday parties had

caused controversy, but insisted that their engineers of any age were still at a tender stage regarding their ability to speak to

people of the opposite gender.

"These employees have spent their youth taking apart radios," explained one embarrassed tech supervisor. "They come across women so rarely it's a given they're going to say or do something really stupid which would usually result in a real woman leaving the party if not filing a lawsuit.'

One Silicon Valley tech employee agreed. "I think it's a good program," he stated.
"And it's technically open to men, too, since if you throw a glittering party dress on any live human being even our collective experience is such that we can't really tell the difference."

lowed to shoot pepper spray into crowds to target "violent" individuals and protect both themselves and the public, which turned out to object. The American Civil Liberties Union's Elliott Halpern noted that pepper spray is considered an indiscrimi-

PEPE SPRAY spray is specifically designed for crowd was the only excontrol" and that that pert speaking is how it is described at the hearing in its promotional lit- because that is erature, but both men Berkeley's tradiwere dismissed by a tional approach city council majority to the controverwhich also dismissed sial "police tool."

chemical tends to be not only unreliable but predictably counterproductive for a certain ratio of uses.

"We're stepping away from 'evidencebased' and 'science-based' evaluations," confided one city hall insider. "If the Centers for Disease Control is going to try it, then so should we for the sake of our funding in the Trump era."

Critics noted that no health experts were called upon to participate in the hearing, but were dismissed.

"That's how we've done it in the past," explained Chief of Police Greenwood. "We find that's the way it works best for us."

Sophie Hahn Advises People Who Don't Like Secondhand Smoke to Just *Move*

"Spare the Air" days are just

for show this time of year."

By Lotte Dawe

Council Representative Sophie Hahn admits that her advice to East Bay residents choking on wood smoke is both traditional and "holiday-friendly", but sticks by it.

"I'm not going to be the one knocking on the door of a family nestled around a fireplace crooning Christmas carols," she added, confirming her recent directive to smoke-choked people at her most recent farmers market meet and greet. "People need to appreciate that "Spare the Air" days are just for show this

time of year." Wood smoke joins secondhand smoke as having immediate,

measurable health ef-

lungs.

fects with deadly implications for vulnerable populations who probably should have moved to Alaska years ago if they really cared about their

Berkeley, once poised to ban fireplace and wood stove use about ten years ago, has more recently embraced wood smoke and secondhand tobacco and marijuana smoke as an "edgy" and "disruptive" part of urban living which the adventurous tech-oriented population they prefer to move here should enjoy since they can probably find or invent



FAMILIES WHO GATHER together to enjoy a holiday fireplace consider ruining their neighbors' lungs just part of the fun.

an app to tell them precisely how much of the carcinogens they are currently breathing and place fun bets with their friends on tomorrow's exposure levels.

"These people wearing masks are kidding

themselves," fessed one Bay Area "People need to appreciate that

Air Quality Management employee who confirmed that the approximately 70 inspectors who check

on Spare the Air and similar complaints only work during the day, when fireplace use is less likely. "Masks don't stop the fine particles or the toxic gases, and they really do a funny number on your hair."

Hahn insists that moving is a reasonable option for people who insist on breathing.

"Berkeley homes are going for a lot of money," she noted. "And I'm told Alaska is really pretty this time of year."

Suggested Slogan for the City of Berkeley " Pepper spray may kill you but it is also keeping you much safer..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I was on 4th Street on December 23rd and there were *two* police cars sitting by its front door, one on either side of the street. Is this really necessary? We have open air drug sales all over our neighborhood. How did Lululemon get the special treatment?

Dear reader, what a terrible attitude. You live in a neighborhood where people are naturally tough and can take the sights, sounds, and smashed windows that go with rough parts of town. Down on Fourth Street it's a different crew who really care about cosmeceutical grade peel and ultrasonic exfoliation. Try to have more compassion; there are a lot of police down there that Lululemon bought fair and square. They're terrible at high-octane police work and their priorities are easily swayed by private contributions, but they're not afraid to pepper spray somebody in a crowd.

Dear Lena, shouldn't Mayor Jesse Arreguin have at least asked the police to demonstrate hitting one allegedly violent person in the middle of a moving, marching crowd of protesters before giving them permission to try to hit one guy with pepper spray? I have my doubts about their ability to isolate the spray even on a lineup of stuffed animals.

Dear reader, you're just not thinking. Imagine the backlash there would have been should there have been an experiment involving an innocent line of teddy bears, Spongebob Squarepants, and Raggedy Ann dolls soaked in toxics. But the real point is making sure that people with the audacity to join a protest find out pretty fast that it was a really bad idea and they should go get a skin care treatment on Fourth Street.

Dear Lena, shouldn't the mayor know better than to let the police indiscriminately spray into protest crowds?

Dear reader, don't blame the mayor if most of this town sleeps through bad policy. Blame the sleepers snoring through it all.

Ask Lena about having fun making music with beet boxes at cdenney@igc.org.

Berkeley Police At the Ready for Impending Lululemon Crime Spree

"It could happen any day now - I mean it." -- Chief of Police Greenwood

By Bettine Afortune

The Berkeley Police Department clarified recently that its alleged understaffing has not in any way interfered with its constant, dedicated, privately paid presence outside of of the 4th Street shopping area's Lululemon store, which considers its leggings and workout clothing extremely valuable.

"We finally have some that you can't see through," explained a store spokesperson.
"That became oddly important for some customers."
The police's alleged understaffing was highlighted by

LEGGINGS can run away from danger but that's about all they can do.

The police's alleged understaffing was highlighted by Berkeleyside, the local online publication which apparently agrees with the high prioritization of Lululemon's extreme potential as a crime target due to helpless workout leggings' obvious and extreme vulner-

ability and the private police dough.

"Try as they will to work out and get stronger, leggings are at the mercy of those who wish to do them harm," confirmed a police officer. "We may be extremely understaffed, but we are committed to keeping the world safe for workout clothing."

Critics decried the description of the police department as understaffed, pointing out only a bloated department with little to do would have sworn officers hanging around Fourth Street for the holidays watching the yoga-clothes-clad pedestrians shop off their latte's, but were dismissed.

"We may not have a crime spree yet, but don't count out these yoga people," stated one officer. "We're keeping our privately paid eyes on them just in case."



YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE CHIEF OF POLICE Greenwood's courage by simultaneously lamenting the understaffing of the police department while stationing sometimes *two* police cars outside Lululemon on Fourth Street day after day while the rest of us dodge drive-bys which he explains to the few who even ask by saying that police cars are kind of like family and enjoy being near each other for the holidays.



POLICE ARE COMMITTED TO remaining stationed in front of Lululemon for as long as it takes until they're sure the world is safe for vulnerable leggings and workout clothing.



WHOOPS IT LOOKS LIKE the bipartisan policy of leaving rents up to the "market" leaves a lot of us sleeping in doorways. *Who knew?*

Breaking News: Nobody Can Afford A Roof Anymore

By Weijia Board

"The market can't let us down," insisted economic professor Adele Pickle from the University of Chicago's little known Office of Opportune and Popular Suppositions (OOPS). "While it can miss the mark for decades at a time, all predictions eventually come true if you just take the time to live long enough."

Economic forecasters have difficulty arguing with this premise, since it involves a lifespan beyond their own.

"In 1966, Time magazine predicted that "remote shopping, while entirely feasible, will flop—because women like to get out of the house, like to handle merchandise, like to be able to change their minds."

This prediction seems untrue but "could still change," insists Pickle. "Check back in 2054 when global warming makes mail service impossible."

Pickle went on to cite Irving Fisher's "permanent plateau" remark right before the crash of 1929, Y2K, the dot-com bubble, the 2008 housing bubble, and other examples as proof that the market is always, if only occasionally, right.

"Tiny houses are great," she said. "Right up until the moment you need to pee."

* * * * *

IN ANOTHER NOD TO TRADITION, nobody brought the relevant cans of Pepper Spray to the pepper spray discussion.

Can Size Dominates Pepper Spray Discussion

- Big Honking Cans of Air Freshener Might Be Safest Option for Cops

By Mason DeFace

The few scientists willing to discuss pepper spray's can size, and relative strength and

toxicity IT'S HARD FOR POLICE to are reluctant argue that they won't use pepper spray for crowd control to do so. "The war is when that's how it's advertised, over and we but they think they've found a com- way with the current council lost," one majority which gives the chief whatever he wants.

mented **UCSF** searcher. "The

police are using it as 'radicals be-gone' spray and nobody cares if a ratio of the public dies.'

"We used to count on Berkeley for a voice for science to be included in the discussion," admitted one accountability advocate. "But they've conflated can size and Scoville units. Everybody on the street will have to wear gas masks now to attend a demonstration. If you have asthma you should just shoot yourself."

Apple Adding EKG Heart Monitor for Apple Watch So You Know If You're Dead



By Martha Spot



know right away.

Apple is planning an advanced version of its Apple Watch for people who might want their watch to let them know if they're experiencing heart irregularities or if they're already dead.

"It's for people too IF YOU'RE DEAD busy for a doctor visthis cool looking it," explained an Apple watch will let you designer working on the project. "People interested in this kind of

high-end watch are so busy they might not even notice that they fainted and are lying in the middle of a busy intersection.'

Apple's current watch has more basic functions which have yet to really catch on with the tech crowd.

"We can't figure it out," confessed Apple spokeswoman Amy Bes-"You sette. talk to it."



can download YOUR APPLE WATCH MIGHT a sleep trackBE the only way you can figure out ing app. Who whether you're asleep or actually would n't have been dead for quite some time. want that. You can see the weather. You can

"It's a little awkward trying to talk to it," shrugged one shopper at Best Buy. "It reminds me a lot of the Google Glass thing that was such a flop they had support groups for it. I mean, you can look up and see the weather.'

Experts Advise Public Not to Be Shy About Tasing Unruly Kale

Experts Advise Extreme Caution

By Katya Redhanded



Don't tase

me, bro.

THE MOST UNRULY types of kale may require the use of a taser.

"Be ready to tase your kale," warned experts alarmed by the rise in serious kale-related assaults in kitchens across the country. "Do not make the mistake of letting your kale think it has the upper hand."

"I was just trying to massage it," stated one tearful salad-maker getting medical treatment at a local hospital. "I knew kale was strong, but I had no idea it could really fight back."

Experts advise both pepper spray and tasers be kept near any kitchen counter to deal with recalcitrant vegetables, especially certain kinds of kale.

"I've begun to beat it with a hoe in the yard before it gets anywhere near my kitchen," confessed one local Berkeley gardener who is long past considering it safe to serve without defensive weapons nearby. "I may just move to running it over repeatedly with the car.'

"Kale looks passive, but can be unpredictable," stated one culinary expert. "The best advice is to stay alert."

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast







Seven Dangerous Terms To Avoid While Working at the CDC

By Thalia Goagain

A spokesperson at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in-



science base

SCIENTIST comes across one of the flagged seven words and words he or she should phrases in their quickly put on a mask and upcoming budcall the authorities.

to policy analysts at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to avoid using get including

diversity, entitle-

sisted that the

recommendation

ment, evidence-based, fetus, science-based, transgender, and vulnerable, is being mischaracterized as a ban.

"We're not stopping people from using these words," stated agency spokesperson Matt Lloyd. "We're just letting them know if they do their funding may take a hit."

Critics argue that attempting to filter cer-

tain words out of public health discussions will backfire by creating new code words

for the old words and inhibiting scientists from fields of study less favored by the current administration.

"Science is supposed to be bipartisan," "diversity" while



grumbled FILTERING OUT the one scientist trying unacceptable words still leaves a lot of good to find euphemisms ones, like "bigly" and for "vulnerable" and "believe me."

not sounding ridiculous. "If I'd wanted to work in advertising I would have applied at Google or Facebook."

Lloyd dismissed the backlash. "It never hurts to increase your vocabulary," he said. "Just find another word, especially one nobody knows. People love that."

Melinda Gates Fights for Diversity Unexpected in Artificial Intelligence

By Zora Ghost

Philanthropist Melinda Gates admitted that her effort to increase underrepresented people in tech will have a special challenge trying not to use the word "di-versity" but says she MELINDA GALES gets a round of applause for finding the mouse. is ready.



MELINDA

"We've invested in expertise in this area," stated Gates. "But we're evenly divided between using the term thesauri or the term thesauruses, which is a crucial first step."

Critics agrees that "unexpected" or "unconventional" as subsitutions might have unexpected unconventional implications.

"It's a minefield," experts agreed. "And emojis are even worse."

Next Issue: Making up new

words with celebrities! by Juan Nathan Undergod

I WANT MY DRESENT NOW



From: **Pepper Spray Times** 1970 San Pablo Ave. #4 Berkeley, CA 94702

cdenney@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 Distribution.....Rhoda Boat Staff......Will Dew, horace Voice, Lena Deeter, Bettine Afortune, Weijia Board, Mason DeFace, Martha Spot, Katya Redhanded, Franz Toast, Thalia Goagain, Zora Ghost, Juan Nathan Undergod,

Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribeof \$12 - \$20/yr. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted. *The Merry Wives of Windsor