

...the botox enhanced issue ...



All hail the twentieth year* of the powerful.

Hepper Spray Times

July 2012



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

...unto a mad-brain rudesby, full of spleen...”*

Vol. XIV No. 7

HOMELESS BLAMED FOR BANKING, DEBT CRISES



THESE NUTJOBS just don't get it that they should take turns on the few seats actually available for sitting and resting on downtown.

by Lisa Prius

Berkeley Mayor Attacks Criminal Sitting Spreading to Stadiums, Theaters, and Beaches Everywhere

"It's an epidemic," says Bates



BERKELEY MAYOR TOM BATES' proposed anti-sitting law inspired thousands of angry people to rally against it in a huge, seated show of opposition at a local stadium.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, backed by the Office of Economic Development, has definitively determined that homeless people, poor people, young people, and disabled veterans are responsible for Berkeley's perception of economic decline.

"We couldn't believe our findings," he stated shaking his head. "We of course

"Vagrants, bums, and homeless people are *used* to it," he reasoned.

thought perhaps the 209 empty office properties or the 106 empty retail spaces or even the 20 cavernous industrial spaces some of which have been empty for years might be to blame. You can imagine how surprised we were to find out that all it took was a bunch of scruffy Kerouac wanna-bes and their dogs."



BE ON THE LOOKOUT for people like this trying to make the vicious act of sitting look reasonable.

Bates explained to baffled local and national reporters that the staff at Berkeley City Hall had examined the possibility of applying a vacancy fee to commercial spaces left empty more than three months, which create a severe burden within a commercial district on adjacent businesses, but had determined that this would constitute an insurmountable hardship for the 1%, a group not used to encountering bumps in the road.

"Vagrants, bums, and homeless people are *used* to it," he reasoned. "Making their lives tougher by outlawing sitting on the sidewalk or panhandling is just part of the wallpaper to them. We may not have laws criminalizing everything they do or everything they are yet, but it hardly matters. Our police know they can kick the crap out of them anytime they want."

"And there's no complaint system left in the City of Berkeley," added an apprecia-

tive member of the Downtown Berkeley Association. "It's so nice when the police, the city, and the merchants can work so cooperatively together."

"It's harder for rich people," agreed one of the Telegraph Avenue Merchant Association members. "The rich people who actually own these properties often live out of town or out of state. You can't expect them to attend city council meetings and stuff like that."

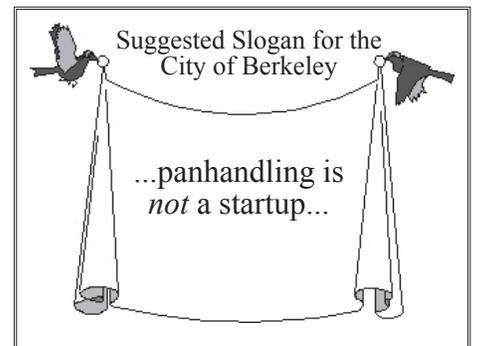
"The best they can do is to send in campaign contributions," attested Bates. "Vacancy fees would bum them out and really put a cramp in their sense of civic involvement."

"He's right," confirmed a veteran asking for space change near the BART station. "Rich people are kind of soft. People like me are much more used to taking the blame."

* * * * *



THE FIRE AND DEMOLITION at the corner of Haste and Telegraph had no effect on shoppers, who really enjoy this sort of challenge.



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

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, are they serious about suspects at the Solano Stroll? Should I boot my stroller? What if I swear it's not full of explosives? My child can be kind of disruptive, but I think a SWAT vehicle is kind of over the top.

Dear reader, I know you. You're the parent with the little shrieker in the front row. The cities of Berkeley and Albany will be ready for you this year.

Dear Lena, I need to sit down a lot, and I'm a little worried about this anti-sit law. What should I do?

Dear reader, levitate. You may use electrostatic, aerodynamic, acoustic, or even optical techniques, but you'd better learn them quickly. It will soon cost roughly \$4.75 to sit down in this town, or whatever the going rate is now for a cup of coffee.

Dear Lena, no, I mean, should I talk about it with the city council or the city manager? The most annoying people I see on the street are all smoking in a smokefree area. It doesn't seem sensible to make up another law when they don't enforce the ones they have, especially the one that actually addresses a serious health hazard.

Dear reader, what are you, some kind of killjoy? You think the city council doesn't have enough to do. Take a deep breath before you go to a commercial district, or get out your Occupy gas mask and quit bothering people.

Dear Lena, so, if I want to use the Meissner effect, what magnets do you recommend?

Dear reader, steal as many as you can off of your friends' refrigerators and create an ambient external magnetic field. This is perfectly legal and saves wear and tear on your clothing. Or just ride a couple of vacuum cleaners and reverse the flow.

Ask Lena about aerodynamic matters of deep concern at cdenny@igc.org.

QUEEN RIPS COMPETITION AT REGATTA ON THAMES

Barge Surprises Bookies with Big Win

by Shelby Cominground DeMountain

Queen Elizabeth II's fashion-forward headgear is credited with giving her boat an edge in the Diamond Jubilee Regatta down the River Thames.

"It was thrilling," the 86-year-old queen was heard to say. "I beat the crap out of them."

The River Thames was packed with an armada of rowboats, sailboats, paddle canoes and brightly colored noodles more than 1,000 strong, but the queen's boat staying in the lead the entire race.

"She held her royal head at just such an angle that her hat caught the breeze," enthused one of the millions of onlookers lining the river's route. "She was really ripping along there for an old gal. I should have bet on the barge."

Critics argued that the other boats intentionally threw the race out of fear of having their heads cut off, as is often English custom, but were dismissed by observers



QUEEN ELIZABETH II RAN AWAY with the trophy in the Diamond Jubilee Regatta beating out, well, everyone.

who pointed out that the "silly hat edge", or "headgear headwind", was a serious advantage by any true sailor's measure, and certainly an

"She held her royal head at just such an angle that her hat caught the breeze," enthused one of the millions of onlookers lining the river's route.

advantage well spread throughout the competition.

"Just look at Princesses Eugenie's, Beatrice's and Kate's hats," pointed out one celebrant. "They came jolly close, as did the Popeye canoe."

The thrilling win has inspired Buckingham Palace to reconsider its earlier refusal to join the America's Cup race in San Francisco.

"It would be jolly fun to beat the tar



THIS ONLY MISHAP at the Diamond Jubilee came when this lovely bridge exploded.



THE SUCCESS OF THE QUEEN'S HAT in beating the pants off all the other boats in the race has inspired the navy to rethink all of its military headgear.

out of the Yanks," stated the Queen. "For a change."

The America's Cup Event Authority, the regatta's sponsoring organization led by billionaire Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, stated that he'd love it if Queen Elizabeth II joined the race.

"We need some real money in this thing," he reasoned. "I mean, besides me."



THE EXPLOSION UNFORTUNATELY appeared to be linked to these rowdy soldiers who were just having a bit of fun.

* * * * *

How to Love the New West Berkeley Plan



DON'T GET ALL RIGHTEOUS ABOUT losing your view when West Berkeley looks like this after the West Berkeley Plan is tailored for developers. Ducks really get in the way of economic progress and so do you.



ADELINE TAIKALINE is an experienced counselor who can help you adjust to the new, improved West Berkeley Plan.

by Adeline Taikaline

It's hard, isn't it?

Letting go of the West Berkeley Plan that gave birth to so much creativity, so many new businesses, and contributes more to the tax base

than any other district in Berkeley.

But let it go! Let it all go! I can help, by providing some simple tools to help you adjust to the new West Berkeley Plan, which significantly improves the world of large developers and land speculators, but might have a few, a very few, unfortunate impacts for small businesses, neighbors, long-term entrepreneurs, and, well, everybody else.

Learn to love air pollution! Everyone acknowledges that doubling the density in West Berkeley will have a serious impact on air quality, but come on! Isn't it pretty bad already and don't most of us, except for those kids with asthma, get along fine? Let's not be a bunch of wimps.

Learn to love shadows! Sunlight is really bad for your skin, and this will save West Berkeley residents and visitors tons of money on sunblock, hats, and backyard umbrellas. Solar power is just a fad, and gardens are a whole lot of work.

Learn to love gridlock!

Face it – aren't we all safer when cars move really, really slowly?

Learn to appreciate a new view – of a building!

I know you love your view of the bay with the sparkling water and the bridge and all, but isn't it selfish of you to stop progress for big developers just because you like to watch the little boats go by? Think of other people for a change.

Learn to say goodbye to the little businesses!

Hanging onto the past is so human, but really takes a toll on developers who want to drastically change the landscape and need more flexibility in pesky area plans. You may love that vintage clothing store or the little coffee shop, but try to think of what's best for large land developers.

Learn to love higher rents!

Admit it- don't you just squander any disposable income you have left over on movies and books and stupid little presents for your friends? You may not realize it, but you're holding your community back!

Learn about birds from books or online instead of in real life!

We know you love the migratory birds passing through the wetlands area near the shoreline, but there's no reason they can't alter their migratory course and rest somewhere more appropriate than around here.

Sidewalk Sharing for Wealthy People: A Seminar

- * do I have to give spare change?
- * do I have to look at them?

These questions answered and more! Contact the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce for more information.

We Can't Draw Comics

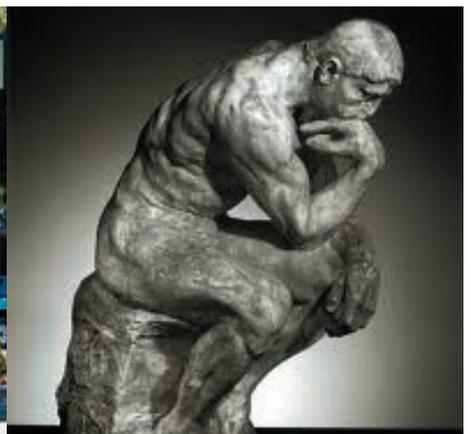
by Franz Toast



Sitting is an extremely complex matter: these are the bad guys...



These are the good guys that never get ticketed despite the handy sign.



And this is the guy who raises unnecessary dust trying to figure out the difference.



Top Ten Campaign Slogans for Mayor Tom Bates' Re-election Campaign

Tom Bates! – Keeping big developers happy for a long time!

Tom Bates! – Keep the poor boy off the streets!

Tom Bates! – Because he needs a job somewhere!

Tom Bates! – Because we have cynicism running in our veins!

Tom Bates! – Because nobody dares run against him!

Tom Bates! – Because we stopped trying a long time ago!

Tom Bates! – Because you can't beat the machine!

Tom Bates! – Um, just because!

Tom Bates! – So we don't have to change the stationary!

* * * * *

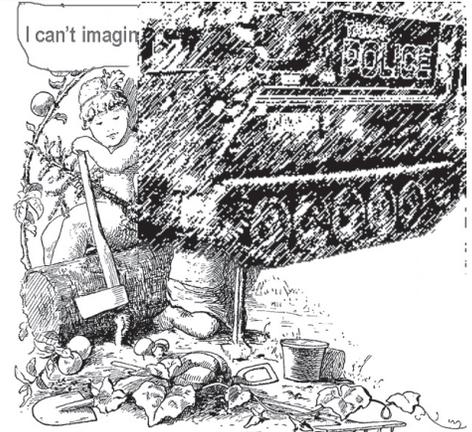
Tom Bates! – Because his wife's in Sacramento!

Next Issue: Clearing Throats with Celebrities



THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOTCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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

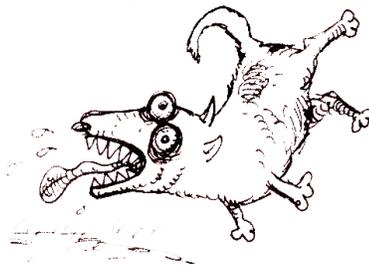


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$12 - \$20/yr. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.
*The Taming of the Shrew

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.