

the kite flying issue...



Hepper Spray Times

July 2013



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

"Cudgel thy brains no more about it..."*

Vol. XV No. 7

Surprising Berkeley Police Study Results: Give Police *More Toys!*

By Les Izmore

Sargent Emily Murphy of the Berkeley Police Association (BPA) smiled broadly at the presentation of the new study results which confirm that Berkeley voters support sending electrical currents through suspects' bodies as opposed to just having the police shoot them.

"We were hoping for this result when we set up the study," stated Sgt. Murphy. "Not that we don't like just shooting people. But the more toys the better as far as we're concerned."

A select group of Berkeley voters were sent a seven question email survey on Taser use which, critics contend, did not mention that Amnesty International has reported that at least 500 people in the United States have died because of tasers since 2001.

"This is not an independent study," argued one taser opponent. "The police have no business purporting to conduct a poll on whether or not they get more techie toys."

But police association representatives expressed no concern about Police Review Commission and citizen opposition.

"It's great," responded Sgt. Chris Stines, president of the BPA. "We're listening and evaluating the detail regarding various citizens' responses."

"And remember, we already have guns," added Sgt. Murphy.

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ISN'T IT FUNNY how well your survey results work out when you *create your own survey*? The police spokespersons couldn't get over their good luck at their press conference announcing their happy results.

Sample Survey Questions from the Berkeley Police Association:

1. Would you rather get shocked with a taser or just shot right in the head?

"It's great," responded Sgt. Chris Stines, president of the BPA. "We're listening and evaluating the detail regarding citizens' responses."
"And remember, we have guns," added Sgt. Murphy.

2. Should police have all the cool stuff neighboring police departments have, or should they

walk around with their heads down all the time ashamed of their equipment?

3. Would you rather have all the toys you want, or just some of the toys you want?

4. Do you want your police force, which knows your name and where you live, to be happy and feel good about themselves, or do you want them to have a lot of resentments generally and a few specific resentments against people who didn't vote the right way on a survey they conducted themselves?

* * * * *

Berkeley Locals Dubious About Ice Cream War

By B. Mishboy

Berkeley locals edged carefully out of their homes over the weekend when the ice cream wars predicted by one local merchant failed to materialize.

"I don't want to take any chances," stated one local resident. "I have a really nice jacket and it's a lot of trouble to clean."

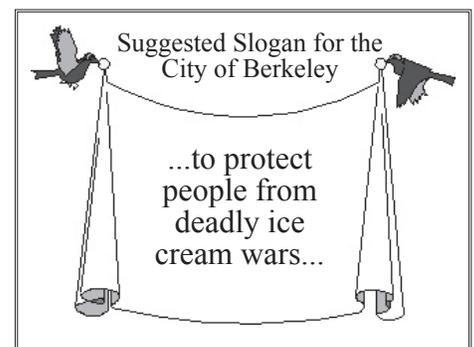
"I was worried about my petunias," agreed another neighbor close to Telegraph Avenue, ground zero for the predicted skirmish. "I'm also trying my best to cut down on dairy."

Experts acknowledged that the nascent war had yet to spill over into the streets, a puzzling fact considering the ease with which people in Berkeley seem to take up causes and the low threshold locals seem to require for protests whether on the ground or thirty-five feet in the air.

"We're monitoring the situation," stated Berkeley Police Chief Michael K. Meehan. "We're downgrading from twenty-four hour mutual aid coverage, but it's still a sensitive situation which could change at any moment."

"Without tasers, we're helpless," added the Chief. "The upcoming ice cream wars are going to put the war on the Marines in perspective."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, thank you so much for putting something sensible in the Pepper Spray Times for a change. I had despaired that this rag would ever contain anything of value. Not only does Colonel Canyon talk the true talk of freedom, but he is quite handsome as well. I have had to admit to myself that I am gay, and I have the Times to thank for it. Praise be the little baby Jesus, John Wetzel

Dear reader, Colonel Canyon would have been thrilled to have you as a fan were you not gay and condemned to burn in hell. But thanks, anyway.

Dear Lena, what makes cheetahs run so fast?

Dear reader, trying to stay ahead of all the fake studies going around that grease policy wheels. You gotta be quick.

Dear Lena, I like the Apple headquarters building proposal. How fast can it spin?

Dear reader, faster than you or any politician known to humankind. Get out of its way while you still can.

Dear Lena, I want my police force to have all the bells and whistles, and I'm happy to pay taxes for it. Why would anybody oppose Tasers, which probably help your complexion anyway.

Dear reader, the trouble is that most police officers' days are spent swilling fast food, and if they put one more "tool" on their belt they'll most likely fall over and spin like a bug on its back. All studies confirm that any problematic situation is made immeasurably worse by the introduction of the police, and we are all better off calling our Aunt Mary.

Dear Lena, which side of the ice cream war are you on?

Dear reader, I am still reviewing offers.

Feeling irrelevant or insecure? Ask Lena about relevancy and/or security at cdenney@igc.org.

Sideshowes Are Courting Ritual, Say Experts

Replacement With Ancient Courting Rituals Suggested

By Ahmet Mymatch

Today's Oakland Police Chief Sean Whent agreed that increasing incidents of people spinning around doing middle-of-the-night "doughnuts" in the streets of Oakland should be addressed by providing more sensible courting rituals which do not encourage gas consumption and gunfire.

"The Appalachian courting dulcimer is just one example of an instrument which sets acceptable community courtship parameters," said Chief Whent. "People always seem to love gadgets."

Experts on ancient courting rituals agreed. "Gifts of thimbles, spoons, and knives would be safer, greener alternatives to spinning doughnuts in the middle of 580,"



COURTING DULCIMERS are among the suggestions being considered by the Oakland Police Department to address the messy aspects of the current popular courting ritual, the sideshow.

stated one respected courtship expert. "The exchange of meaning-specific flowers and nosegays is also a common method of signifying affection."

Critics objected that boys and girls more commonly signify affection by pulling each others' hair or throwing rocks at each other on the playground.

"These experts are out of touch," stated one local sideshow observer. "Aggression is just as respected an ancient courting ritual as lockets and trinkets."

"We're just showing off," explained one sideshow participant. "At least we know we're impressing the authorities."

* * * * *

Apple Headquarters Will Save World's Ass, Convenient Apple Study Shows

By Tom Tagoe

Cupertino's largest employer, Apple, released an economic study it commissioned personally which indicates that if Apple is allowed to build its big doughnut building, the stars will be brighter, teeth will be whiter, and a sweet thirteen million would fly into the city's pocket.

"Our well-paid employees will spend around \$2.1 billion on incidentals at the corner stores and 7-Eleven's," said Apple CEO Tim Cook. "The money we save on European taxes will go straight into local farmers' markets with the best organic produce and relevant apps."

"I especially like the point one after the billion," stated Chuck Byers, a Santa Clara University faculty member who teaches public relations nearby the proposed Apple headquarters. "It gives the implication of great precision, and will help grease public affections for a building which is, after all, as weird as it gets."

Berkeley citizens were understandably dubious about the stories of projected off-campus benefits.

"It hasn't worked that way in this town," commented one observer. "The university is private when it wants to be, public when it suits it, and we pay the big ticket for all



ADMIT IT: IF YOUR TOWN had its own big spaceship thing you'd be damn proud.

the traffic, sewage, etc., not to mention the property they take out of the tax base."

"But we do get to breathe the rarified air of really smart people," quickly added another local resident. "The university may be collapsing from a labor and an intellectual standpoint, but the buildings are still pretty, or they will be until the next big earthquake rearranges things."

"Buildings can always be repurposed," offered the first Berkeley resident, nodding his head enthusiastically. "That Apple building will make a really great dog racing track someday."

Cook acknowledged that he got the study idea from the Berkeley Police Association.

"If they can fool Berkeley, We can fool Palo Alto," he stated with a grin.

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Guerilla Crosswalk Painter Put In Jail

By Noah Sheet

Antonio Cardenas of Vallejo faces felony vandalism charges for painting a crosswalk without going through proper channels.

"We kept him in the Solano County Jail on \$15,000 bail until some anonymous donor bailed him out," stated a disappointed Caltrans spokesperson.

"The appropriate channels for implementing a new crosswalk may in fact be a pointless waste of time, but that doesn't mean we can just allow people to improve public safety. It would be chaos."



IT MAYS AVE LIVES, but this crosswalk is not just imperfect, it was created outside of proper channels, darn it, so it has to go.

Cardenas said he was tired of seeing accidents and nearly getting hit at the intersection, but was dismissed by Vallejo Police Lt. John Whitney who stated that no collisions at the intersection had been officially reported and that as a consequence safety issues at that intersection did not technically exist.

"We're so relieved to hear that," said a neighbor. "Especially after hearing that our community was charged \$1,000 for grinding and repaving the street. I thought I nearly got hit the other day, but I must have been mistaken."

Lt. Whitney encouraged people to contact Caltrans and the Vallejo police if they are actually killed.

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San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant Shuts Down - Industry Wails

By Abby Doggond

Southern California Edison's (SCE) decision to permanently retire its San Onofre nuclear power plant will leave electric toothbrush users helplessly waving around useless dental appliances and probably leave most of the state toothless, according to Public Utilities Commission Chairman Michael Peevey.

"They should have warned us," stated Peevey. "If our grandparents had had a chance to show us how to use old-fashioned toothbrushes, we would have had a chance, but it's too late now."

SCE's decision was based on mounting costs and uncertainty about nuclear power's future, especially after the 2012 discovery of damage to hundreds of tubes that carry radioactive water in the plant's brand-new steam generators.

"It was embarrassing," acknowledged an SCE administrator. "We were willing to risk the lives of eight million people living within 50 miles of the plant, but not the severe humiliation of the bad press we might get about our rusty pipes."

The administrator warned the celebrating turtles, environmentalists, and other wildlife that they would miss the nuclear power plant when it was gone.

"They're laughing now," he warned, "but they won't find it so funny when they have migrating plumes of radioactivity like the people near the old Bevatron in Berkeley have now. The only thing worse than living next door to a nuclear power plant is living next door to a nuclear waste dump."

* * * * *



THE SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT wasn't just an energy source, it was also an impressive and handsome addition to an otherwise barren landscape along the coast, architectural experts agree.

New Services Offered by the City of Berkeley!

- How to panhandle for spare change in an empty field!
- How to panhandle for spare change on an empty beach!
- How to quit annoying people altogether by killing yourself!
- Fun things to do while you're in jail!
- Fun things to do while you're in the back of a police car!
- Fun things to do while you're waiting for your case to be called in court!
- Useful tips for sleeping behind the dumpster!
- Handy map to help avoid all commercial districts!
- How to disguise yourself as a fire hydrant!
- How to disguise yourself as a bench!

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



PEOPLE THINK THE ICE CREAM WARS are silly, but this photo is evidence that they are causing serious disruption in the streets, and need the public's help in reporting trouble spots before they get out of hand.



TRY TO IMAGINE YOUR MORNING COMMUTE if you're caught in the middle of the ice cream wars like the unfortunate people in this BART train who wish they'd worn raincoats.

DUMBASSES (Defend, Unite, Mumble, Bumble, and Selectively Support Essential Security) Unite to Save Patriot Act from Erosion by Stupid Civil Liberties Nutjobs

By Lou Minossity

“We never thought this day would come,” worried Doug DeHoles, one placard-carrying member of DUMBASSES, a local group of people collected together to defend the government’s right to listen to their phone calls, read their mail, spy on them from drones, give them special IRS hurdles to get through if their politics look suspicious, and generally make the world a safer place to be.

“We just assumed that 9-11 took care of all the fluff about individual privacy rights,” stated DeHoles, “but now we know this issue will pop up again and again unless we really take a stand against it.”

“That’s right,” added Candace B. True, waving both a flag and her IRS summons at the corner of a local intersections as supporters passing by in SUVs honked approval. “We don’t want Congress bogged down in fighting these little privacy battles over and over again instead of making sure everybody gets their shoes off before getting on a plane. People who wear shoes with laces should just get out of the flip-flop lane.”

“9-11 is probable cause,” affirmed DeHoles. “Forever. For everybody. Anybody who asks for a warrant should just be blown up and then see how they feel about it.”

Experts agreed that the Constitution’s explicit mention of privacy was difficult to sidestep entirely, but agreed that a blanket acceptance of any vague threat of future terrorism would probably be accepted as probable cause by most people who have to get the frozen pizzas out of the oven in time for their tv show.

“I didn’t know I had any privacy left,” mused one confused local resident. “Between the Google trucks and the satellites and everybody’s cell phones I confess I find the concept quaint.”

“Kind of like the right to assemble,” agreed another local citizen. “It’s nice



GENERAL KEITH ALEXANDER, head of the National Security Agency, would love to tell you about programs that tap into Americans’ phone records and Internet activity except that darn it, it’s classified.

when you find it, but it’s sort of like asking for a receipt or a napkin – people think you’re peculiar.”

DUMBASSES reassured the public that there are government committees looking after peoples’ essential civil liberties and privacy interests and just to quit worrying about dumb stuff.

“It’s up to you,” stated DeHoles, handing out fliers to passersby. “You can hang on to your old, outdated notions of personal privacy and get blown up, or trust that the government knows how to handle stuff like this in highly classified ways.”

“That’s right,” added True. “And remember, in an aggregated customer data churn,

nobody is really listening.”
* * * * *

Editor’s Note: Here is that pesky part of the Constitution... “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Next Issue: Datamining with celebrities!

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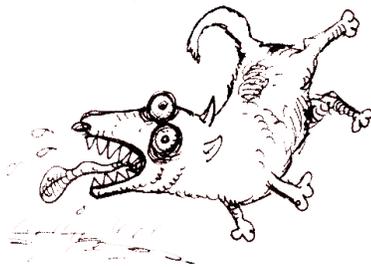


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies.



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*Hamlet

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.