

# Pepper Spray Times



It's vorous...it's free...if you can find it "....strike flat the thick rotundity o`th`world..."\*

Vol. XVI No. 6

## Redistricting by Kids With Crayons Shows Promise



**BEFORE:** THIS MAP didn't seem to make anyone very happy.

**AFTER:** THIS MAP was inexplicably rejected by the judge.

By Cora DeMatter

The need for an independent group to redraw electoral district lines is best left in the hands of pre-schoolers, according to a recent study.

"They're a pretty independent group, politically speaking," affirmed one city hall staffer. "Incumbent status seems to have little effect, and their assessment of candidates' political record and experience is on

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"At least the bribes are in scale with the stakes," stated one observer. "Some of the current council seem to lose all perspective when it comes to local matters."

Many residents agreed that the carnage of last summer's ice cream wars had deeply scarred the town, pitting neighbors against neighbors.

"I hope we can trust that children will take a less nuanced view of the ice cream battles of the

future," stated one local resident. "Hopefully we can all salute the new district lines with our cones held high."



**ALERT:** Gangs of petitions have been seen near crowded areas attacking unsuspecting pedestrians. If you see a petition, report it immediately to the

Mayor or the police. Petitions often use deceptive tactics to snare unsuspecting members of the public into giving out personal information or signatures, and should not be trusted. Petitions are often used to stop progress and make a mockery of oligarchic principles under which area plans are developed. Under no circumstances sign or pass around petitions, and if you happen to touch one accidentally wash your hands thoroughly and see a doctor immediately.

-- See related article on page 2: *Ten Reasons Not to Sign Petitions*

## New Research - Hummingbirds Get Really Annoyed If You Put Them in Wind Tunnels

By Ann Awannanatu



Help.

Researchers expressed satisfaction after discovering that putting hummingbirds in wind tunnels really pisses them off.

**THIS HUMMINGBIRD** struggles to keep up with UC's important research.

"We thought that might be the case," stated UC Berkeley postdoctoral researcher Victor Ortega-Jimenez. "But we

really have trouble understanding their facial expressions, so it is really cool to have proof."

The researchers were able to show that at a certain level of "turbulence" the hummingbirds expel a lot of extra energy trying

## Rotting Blue Whale Carcass Polls Well Against Republicans

Team of Ten from Royal Ontario Museum Documents Trout River Candidate Phenomenon

A rotting blue whale carcass has a great political future in any primary against Republicans, according to a team of experts from the Royal Ontario Museum.

"We'd prefer to enshrine the whale skeleton in a museum," stated a spokesperson from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. "But we don't want to stand in the way of the impressive groundswell of support for this unusual political candidacy."

Critics argued that the bloated, stinking carcass would be unable to govern, but were

not to get smashed against the back wall of the lab.

"We think they're also the parties responsible for some really creative graffiti," stated UC Berkeley integrative biology professor Robert Dudley. "It will seriously make you blush."

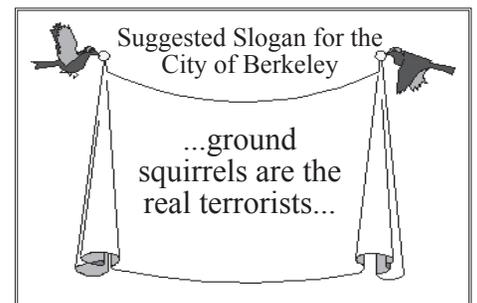


**THIS ROTTING** carcass polls well against all Republican candidates as well as lots of Democrats.

dismissed by congressional observers who pointed out that the swollen, rotting pile of blubber had a lot in common with current Republican representatives with an astounding record of obstructing current legislation.

"Perhaps nothing will change politically," stated one Royal Ontario Museum staff member. "But at least the carcass will enjoy popular support."

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# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, is the ground squirrel threat real? What if rising coastal waters drives them inland? What is the best weapon to use against ground squirrels?**

Dear reader, these squirrels are too smart for ordinary weaponry. It is time to recognize that we need a nuclear option and we need it now.

**Dear Lena, I think I signed a petition. It was kind of an accident because I didn't want to look like I didn't care about stuff. What do I do now? Am I in danger?**

Dear reader, you should probably move to some other town. There is no way back.

**Dear Lena, I think if I bought a beach the first thing I would do is find some way to keep everybody else off of it. Otherwise I would have to listen to their stupid radios and there would be trash everywhere plus parties I'm not invited to. What is wrong with that?**

Dear reader, I assume you are referring to the Martins Beach situation, and you are right. The rich guy will have it sewn up in a few strategic campaign donations.

**Dear Lena, I think it is really unfair to put hummingbirds in wind tunnels. What did they ever do to UC researchers. Hummingbirds are so pretty why don't they leave them alone.**

Dear reader, what did you expect UC researchers to do now that you've taken away their hyenas? They had to take it out on somebody. Just be careful you don't start a petition about it. They're passing a law making handing around petitions a taser-able offence.

**Dear Lena, I don't get it. I can buy a taser online, although I can't find the one that comes with a burst of confetti. The police kill people all the time anyway, why can't they have a taser?**

Dear reader, especially if it makes them happy. *Want to change your life? Trade it in for a stranger's life at [cdenney@igc.org](mailto:cdenney@igc.org).*

# Ground Squirrels Seize Cesar Chavez Park

## "We'll show them some redistricting!" - ground squirrel spokesperson

by Vera Fraid

Wildlife officials confirmed that the ground squirrels recently slated for extermination in Cesar Chavez Park have successfully applied for their own political district through the courts on the grounds of misrepresentation by the current political system.

"Their argument is sound," stated Judge Saul Bettahnau in his decision. "There was no effort to include them in the census. Their interests have been completely and deliberately excluded."

Experts admitted that especially in the Bay Area's pet-friendly climate it would be difficult to argue for the exclusion, disenfranchisement, and extermination of the ground squirrels simply because they are not human.

"We can't go there," whispered a hushed Berkeley city spokesman Matthai Chakko. "The best we can do now is try to comply with the judge's orders and hope the feral cats in other areas of Berkeley don't get any ideas."

Representatives of the ground squirrel community praised the judge's decision.



**THE REDISTRICTING CONTROVERSY** is considered responsible for stirring up the ground squirrel population which is conversant with the tools of modern warfare and has been watching the drone innovations with interest.

"Our May Day rally was the perfect place to gather signatures and launch our complaint," stated one ground squirrel. "We're looking forward to taking our rightful place at the City Council."

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## "CEO pay scale and we'll wear costumes" - Orcas Want AB2140 Compromise

By Noah Sheet

A spokesperson for orcas is suggesting a compromise regarding their participation in entertainment shows such as Sea World..

"It's true we are not thriving," stated Swameen A. Rown, spokesperson for the whales union, which represents SeaWorld whales in California, Texas, and Florida. "It's true that we are too intelligent and socially complex to thrive in captivity. But with all due respect, you can make the same case about third graders."

"We want to meet the whales halfway," stated John Reilly, president of SeaWorld in San Diego. "I personally think the one we have that wears the straw hat with the daisies is really into it."

The whales' spokeshale declined to speculate on whales who like hamming it up for tourist cameras.

"It's a simple labor issue," he noted. "Plenty of jobs require protective clothing or distinctive attire. We just want a typical CEO's pay scale and a voice at the table."

"It goes without saying that meetings about our working conditions should be

## Ten Reasons Not to Sign Petitions

*Councilmember Laurie Capitelli has urged people not to sign petitions with which the Pepper Spray Times completely agrees. But Capitelli neglected to enumerate all the very good reasons not to sign petitions, which we are glad to clarify here for our readers.*

- Grace Underpressure, Editor

1. They are covered with germs.
2. You will be late for school.
3. People will know what you think and yell at you.
4. You will be late for work.
5. Ballots full of initiatives make voting tedious.
6. Carpel tunnel syndrome.
7. You could get ink all over your sweater.
8. The government will put you on a list.
9. Elected officials should be in charge.
10. You feel like you have to vote.

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held underwater," stated one whale on condition of anonymity.

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# Rich Guy Can't Remember Why He Bought Martins Beach

By Gunther Drawn

Silicon Valley venture capitalist Vinod Khosla can't remember why he bought a beach or how much he paid for it or why he locked out the public, but he stood firmly by his defense which is that he has a poor memory and is getting too much personal mail to know who mailed him what when.

Experts agreed that if such a defense works for Khosla, ordinary people would have a much better chance in court in the future.



**SURFERS ARE TOO LAZY to just swim in to the beach from the ocean to get there.**

“I get a b o u t f o u r t e e n catalogs a day,” commented one courtroom observer,

“and that’s not counting all the event fliers and political ads.”

“I would love to just ignore court orders and county mandates,” agreed another observer. “I would be willing to sign up for lots of catalogs and just not open my mail



**VINOD KHOSLA CAN'T REMEMBER why he bought a beach because he is so important that he gets so much mail he can't think straight.**

to avoid large fines.”

Representatives of surfers argued in San Mateo County Superior Court that it was silly to argue that the beach was still open when Khosla had blocked the only access road, but Khosla's lawyers insisted that the beach was still technically accessible.

“They can swim in to the beach from the ocean,” stated Khosla's lawyers. “They can parachute in. They can come in by private drone.”

“Or tunnel in,” mused one local surfer. “It's true we haven't tried that.”

“It's a brilliant new age of technological advances,” affirmed another of Khosla's attorneys. “They need to get in gear and use their imaginations. If they took the time to invent a ‘get me to the beach’ app, they could make some money and buy a beach of their own.”

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**CRITICS OF THE RECENT LUNAR ECLIPSE** have a point when they claim that the most recent productions borrow too much from earlier versions and are repetitive.

## Lunar Eclipse “Lackluster” Say Critics

By Sawyer Looking

Last month's lunar eclipse visible across the Western Hemisphere was “unsatisfying” according to New York critic Neil Genzlinger, who suggested that earlier shows had “eclipsed” the current production.

“The total phase was 78 minutes,” stated Genzlinger, “which means you need very high production values.”

Critics objected that lunar eclipses should not be rated like Broadway shows, but were dismissed by Genzlinger, whose theater reviews are found in the New York Times.

“If you can't take the heat, don't put on the show,” he stated, offering that he would cut the production some slack if it weren't visible all over North and South America as well as Europe and Africa.

“A lunar eclipse is an impressive physical feat, but its repetition entitles the audience to expect a polished routine,” he said, suggesting that the director meet with Cirque du Soleil for some fresh ideas.

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### We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



The Downtown Berkeley Association's dream of crowds of people downtown came true!



Of course, they were the *wrong* people, so the police came out to be as helpful as possible.



It was difficult, but they managed to clarify that Berkeley's streets were for a different group entirely.



This young woman quickly alerted others not to come if they were young, or black, or Hispanic, etc.



The police formed an informational picket line at the BART station hoping to discourage the *wrong* people from walking around.



Eventually the crowds went home, the police got lots of overtime, and the DBA went on hoping for visits from the *right* people.

# Congress Wisely Ignores Tedious Scientific Warnings About Rising Oceans

By Joe Kerswild

The usual bunch of whiners sent out press releases recently about the usual melting polar ice caps in West Antarctica. I mean, come on, call me when you can do something about it!

Don't these whiners like to drive? Don't they know we're all going to die anyway? What's the big?



I've got a rowboat tied to my front gate. I'm ready. All my stuff is in the cloud. I hate my rugs anyway!

I've never been on a cruise, so I'm looking at the future with a sense of adventure unlike the climate scientists who are clearly not getting enough. Loosen up, you bookworms!

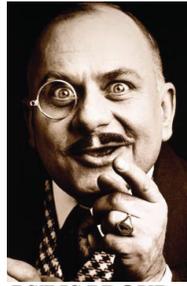
If they were really as smart as they claim,

they would all buy stock in REI and swimsuit companies and rake in a little dough like real Americans!

At least the politicians in Washington had the sense not to let the polar ice caps' behavior disrupt the basic policy on "global warming" and just carry on as usual with a little dignity!

Imagine what would happen if we all went to pieces every time some more ice melts. Tell the scientists in your neighborhood to go back to the lab until they have something helpful to say!

\* \* \* \* \*



**PST IS PROUD to host commentary by smart people like Joe Kerswild, who knows his stuff about so-called global warming.**

# High School Seniors Dumb as Rocks

by Thelma Horthenbuggy

Only two out of ten high school seniors are performing well in math, according to 2013 scores.

Susan Pimentel, vice chair of the National Assessment Governing Board, insisted that "dumb as rocks" was not an accurate description of the students, preferring "smart-challenged" or, simply, "challenged."

"Dumb as dirt would work," mused Pimentel flipping through the report. "That sounds less permanent."

Critics objected that students' lack of improvement in the dismal scores of 2009 is due to testing flaws.

"These students can type with their thumbs," pointed out one critic. "These students can speak in acronyms. They are testing for the wrong things."

\* \* \* \* \*

# Bill Niman Offers Meat for Use as Bricks

by Estelle Stinks

The owner of BN Ranch, whose cows graze on hundreds of pastoral acres near fabled Bolinas in Marin County, refuses to believe that his meat is "unfit for human consumption."

"The federal food-safety inspectors should have made an exception for meat from my cows," he insisted. "Their days are spent watching marijuana-smoking locals toss eco-friendly toys to leash-free dogs in the meadows. Ocular cancer has no chance against that."

Federal inspectors responded that they needed to err on the side of public safety, prompting Niman to find creative suggestions for the 100,000 pounds of premium beef he can't sell.

"Construction foundation is only one option," stated Niman, whose meat was also turned down for use as dog food. "Maybe it could be mixed with clay for some kind of playdough? Kindergarten teachers can find ways to use just about anything."

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# Biplane Stunt Would Have Gone Better With Tasers, Say Berkeley Police

By Apollo G. Zardooya

The biplane crash that killed stunt flier Eddie Andreini would have gone better with tasers, according to the Berkeley Police Association president Chris Stines.

"If we can save even one life, it will be worth it," stated Stines, who hopes to have one that color-coordinates with his can of pepper spray.

Critics argued that tasers will be used on homeless people and people with mental illness, but were dismissed by supporters of tasers, which may also prove useful in ridding coastal parks of ground squirrels and transients.

"It's very festive," commented Stines about the confetti which is released when a taser is deployed. "It's very different than pepper spray because it is electric."

Critics objected that both pepper spray and tasers are lethal for a predictable ratio of any given population, but the police pointed out that they can't help that.



**THE BERKELEY POLICE ASSOCIATION wants to make it clear that this tragedy would have played out very differently if the Berkeley Police had tasers as a part of their "tool-kit" of optional weaponry.**

"The lives we're potentially saving are those of police officers," responded Stines.

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**Next Issue: Watching snails with celebrities!**

**From: Pepper Spray Times**  
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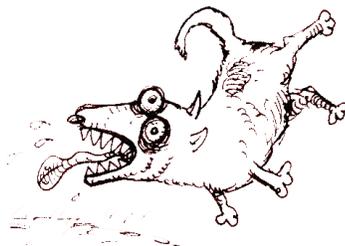
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\*King Lear

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