



the giggling feathered issue...

Merry Whatever the Thing

December 2015

Pepper Spray Times



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

"..There is a history in all men's lives..."*

Vol. XVII No. 12

Jesus Rates Berkeley Protest Sleep-in Only One Star on YELP

By Loreen DeBar

Jesus arrived for his traditional holiday appearance in the Bay Area Thursday eager to hit the local sales at Macys and Best Buy and defending his one-star evaluation of Berkeley's protest sleep-in.



THE BERKELEY PROTEST SLEEP-IN got only one star from Jesus.

"I'm used to a mint on my pillow," he explained. "I love a fresh bathrobe every year and some little slip-pers with goofy animal heads. They really gotta

up their game."

Religious leaders were shocked as usual that his mission wasn't connect-

"I keep telling them to lighten up and knock back some eggnog." - Jesus

ed to charity or opposing the Berkeley City Council's latest anti-homeless laws.

"We rely on his inspiration," confessed one local minister who wished to remain anonymous. "At our church he's kind of the whole game."

"Let's face it, they'll be disappointed in me no matter what I do," shrugged Jesus. "I keep telling them to lighten up already and

Mark Rhoades Announces Run for Mayor - "I'm Tired of Running the Council from the Shadows"



MARK RHOADES AND NATHAN GEORGE hope to capitalize on Spats' former reputation as a lively late-night bar without the artists and activists this time to keep politics at a minimum.

Guest Nadia Oldbar

Former Berkeley Planning Director Mark Rhoades finally announced his candidacy for Mayor of Berkeley after months of speculation by insiders that he was tired of having

to run the Berkeley City Council from the crowded sidelines. "It's always been a shell game," stated Rhoades at his bar, Spats, which he opened with Nathan George. "It's just finally my shell game."

Insiders conceded that Rhoades has been knock back some eggnog."

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Long Lines for the Holiday Sale on Political Influence at Old City Hall

By Gilly Mesoftly-Widdasong

People in tents just outside Berkeley's old city hall arranged a hasty press conference recently to clarify that they were not an "encampment", as most of the press refers to them, but were simply lining up for the Black Friday sale on political influence.



THE HOLIDAY SALE on political influence on Black Friday was one of the best ever.

"We really need some," explained a young woman stirring up a community pot of beans. "And this really is the best place to get some."

* * * * *

the top political player for years after running the Planning Department and utilizing his skills to grease the path for developers wanting to harness the city council for lucrative new luxury condos and penthouses. "Having Spats will help--frankly, our parties suck," added Rhoades. "We really need some cool props."

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Chainsaws and Semi-Automatic Weapons Top Holiday Gift Lists



BRIDAL REGISTRIES AND Christmas wish lists are overwhelmed with requests for chainsaws which brighten up the duller holiday party and make carving the turkey a breeze.

By Hans Free-Device

Personal shopping consultants are baffled by a new trend in gift-giving indicating that people are leaning away from beeping gadgets and moving toward chainsaw and semi-automatic weaponry.

"Price is no object," stated Celia Fate, a shopping consultant in San Francisco. "The lack of color choices and absence of electronic sounds doesn't seem to matter."

"You can't sync a chainsaw to your iPod, but they don't seem to care," said another shopping expert poring over a consumer report. "Chainsaws and semi-automatics are flying off the shelves."

One chainsaw buyer explained her purchase by simply saying she wanted something that actually did something real like cut wood or shoot something.

"I also like the sound," she smiled sweetly. "And you should see how quickly people give me a seat on BART when I get on with this thing."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm kind of concerned about all the people they chase out of the commercial areas and parks. Where are they supposed to go?

Dear reader, if they try hard enough they can just disappear. This can be confirmed by the Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages on Harold Way which can help teach you or anybody else how to levitate and/or disappear if you have enough money for a series of enlightening courses of study.

Dear Lena, it is really cold outside- why don't we have at least some shelter space for people? There are people sleeping in doorways for heaven's sake. There's at least lobby space in a bunch of buildings I can think of. Can't politicians figure this out?

Dear reader, unfortunately, no. It is much more difficult than most people realize to keep track of your scheduled lunches and fundraisers with developers. Ask Nancy Skinner about it sometime, it is *brutal*.

Dear Lena, I'm thinking Mark Rhoades would make a really good mayor. He would be just about unbribable at this point and he knows that highrises are the way to go.

Dear reader, it would make so much sense, I agree. But it would essentially be a demotion compared to the power he has now.

Dear Lena, I really love this time of year and wandering around looking in store windows but I can't stand to get spare changed. It makes me want to kill. What should I do?

Dear reader, we feel your pain here at the Pepper Spray Times, where we understand that pennies and nickels may have deep personal significance for people with lots of money. Always keep your personal canister of pepper spray handy when you stroll through town in case you need to send a holiday message.

Ask Lena for holiday absolution with special holiday dressing at cdenny@jgc.org.

New Anti-Homeless Laws for Christmas!

- "You're welcome!" says Council Majority

By Havel Goodday

Friends of Ohlone Park breathed a sigh of relief that all the scruffy people were cleared out of their neighborhood park days before the Berkeley City Council's majority voted for even more anti-homeless laws.

"The new laws were ostensibly tied to the provision of services which the city never provides anyway," explained one relieved neighbor. "It might look good on paper, but the last time they promised bathrooms it

KEEPING YOUR BELONGINGS within a two square foot space is not hard at all if you're up to the creative challenge.



NEIGHBORS OF OHLONE PARK set a new low by promoting police cars driving through parks at night to make sure nobody is sleeping and if they are they better move fast.

shopping cart. "They just closed down any city storage facilities this summer, so promising storage without budgeting for storage looks like the same old stuff to us."

"People need to get less attached to their stuff," stated Jack Petranker of the Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages which sent a letter of support for the anti-homeless laws to the Berkeley City Council. "We aspire some day to having nothing at all as soon as we buy the rest of the city block we're on."

"And



THE OHLONE PARK NEIGHBORS whooped and hollered every time somebody trashed the poor either directly or by innuendo at the Berkeley City Council meeting since they haven't been at a rock concert since 1973 and really miss hooting and hollering and stuff.

maybe another gold-plated temple like the one up north," added another Buddhism student who agreed that the new Mangalam

"It's a fresh twist on the old Buddhism," laughed Petranker. "It's *disruptive*."

Research Center's Buddhism take on poverty had more nuance than traditional Buddhism.

"It's a fresh twist on the old Buddhism," laughed Petranker. "It's *disruptive*."

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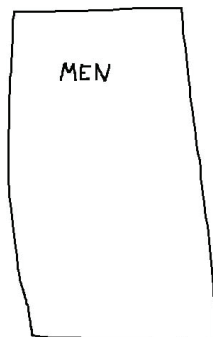
was in 2008." "That's right," affirmed a young couple shepherding their belongings in a small

Mark Rhoades for Mayor!



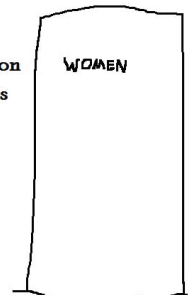
Mark Rhoades Gets It Done!

Send donations to... hey, just kidding! We have all the money we need! But thanks anyway!



Bathroom Hours:
10:30 am to 10:45 am

Public Urination and Defecation
Subject to Really Big Ass Fines



Business Opposition to Minimum Wage Finally Translated



By Professor Love

Many merchants are opposed to a new proposal that would see the minimum wage rise to \$19/hour by 2020, saying it will drive them out of business, which is what they always say and never happens according to the Economic Policy Institute. But it sounds really impressive.

Here is your *Pepper Spray Times* handy guide to merchant-speak in case the rhetoric gets confusing.

"A living wage is a great and lofty goal, but the business community feels very, very intimidated," said Ky J. Boyd, proprietor of the Rialto Cinemas Elmwood. "People feel they will be retaliated against. Somebody's got to stand up and speak out about this."

Translation: "A minimum wage is going to dig profit right out of my pocket and share it but I can't say that, so could somebody else say it?"

A higher minimum wage will "close the Elmwood," said Boyd. "Is it really serving Berkeley if in pursuit of this noble goal you drive the small businesses out of business?"

Translation: "We are kind of a sweatshop right now. A higher minimum wage will make these real jobs, and that's a dangerous thing for businesses everywhere that rely on workers who right now have no choice but to try to survive on sub-standard wages."

Susan Grant, owner of Senior Helpers, an El Cerrito-based business, believes a higher minimum wage could drive some businesses underground.

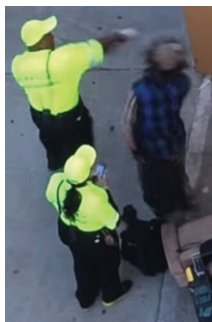
Translation: "Our industry is mostly underground and we like it that way. It

City Manager: Green Shirts Can't Tear Down Posters Anymore

Paid Business Patrol's Self-Esteem Plummet as Traditional Free Speech Makes A Comeback

By Lorne Order

The Berkeley City Manager sadly agreed with surly community critics that the Downtown Berkeley Association's (DBA) green-shirted private patrol cannot both take public money and tear down public posters.



GREEN SHIRTS, as the paid business patrol is affectionately known, are upset that not only can they not beat up homeless people they can't tear down public posters, either so how are they supposed to have fun. "It's really sad," sighed one political insider. "They can't beat people up anymore or rip up their fliers, so playing with the blue Christmas balls is all they got."

two square foot rule."

* * * * *

is much easier to underpay people when nobody's watching."

Merchants say minimum wage decisions are being made by groups and individuals who don't know what it is really like to run a business.

Translation: "We'd really like to blow up the Economic Policy Institute. And the Secretary of Labor's office, too. Oh, and of course muzzle Robert Reich."

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10 Things to Embroider on A Holiday Pillow for Your Favorite Liberal



1. Your city council meeting is not the same as an *open mike*.
2. Having strong feelings about something is *not a strategy*.
3. A politicians' allegiance belongs to *their biggest donor*.
4. Your charitable donations do not excuse you for being *an asshole*.
5. *Nobody reads your blog*.
6. Making a flier you never hand out is *really, really dumb*.
7. Making a poster you never put up is *really really dumb*.
8. You do not speak for homeless people.
9. The absence of women in your group is *an eloquent signal*.
10. The absence of people of color in your group is *an eloquent signal*.

* * * * *



Office of the City Manager

October 21, 2015

John Caner
Executive Director
Downtown Berkeley Association
2230 Shattuck Ave, Ste. C
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear John:

It has come to the City's attention that Downtown Business Association (DBA) ambassadors, who are funded by the City's Downtown Business Improvement District under a contract with the City, have recently removed signage that was posted on public infrastructure. As you know, posting of certain types of signs on City-owned utility poles is allowable in certain cases under the Berkeley Municipal Code.

The Berkeley City Council has expressed formal concern on this matter in a resolution on October 13th and has asked the City Manager to determine the legality of these actions and advise the BID accordingly. This letter is to clarify that removing signage posted on public infrastructure is outside the scope of the City's contract with the DBA.

Please inform your ambassador team of this determination as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dee Williams-Ridley
Dee Williams-Ridley
Interim City Manager

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
Zach Cowan, City Attorney
Phil Harrington, Acting Public Works Director
Michael Caplan, Manager, Office of Economic Development

2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 Tel: 510.981.7000 TDD: 510.981.6903 Fax: 510.981-7099
Email: manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



11-01-2015 CDEMNEY

Homeless Responsible for Shark Attacks Vulnerable Developers Are Helpless

By Lisa Condo

Experts agree that homeless people are most likely responsible for shark attacks.

"We studied the matter," stated Francesco Ferretti, a computational biologist at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, "and we all came to the same conclusion after watching the news."

The study will be published in this month's issue of the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* and has some really gory pictures of the vicious attacks by homeless people disguised as sharks.

"Primarily great whites," commented Ferretti. "The costumes are spectacular."

Critics objected that the news blames homeless people for every ill under the sun but that blaming them for the latest rash of shark attacks is going too far.

"Not at all," responded Ferretti. "This is no more farfetched than blaming them for the shooting of the young woman from Pleasanton near Pier 14, a connection we learned from Channel 5."

"It's simply logical," added another expert. "We can't imagine, since they are responsible for Giants' losses and the stock



THIS HUNGRY SHARK has admitted that he is homeless and just bumming around the ocean eating stuff instead of living a responsible life.



HERE'S ANOTHER SHARK JUST swimming around eating stuff inspired by homeless people who refuse to have adequate bank accounts.

market's instability, why homeless people would draw the line at conducting these

the connection between homeless people and shark attacks was tenuous at best.

"We studied the matter...and we all came to the same conclusion after watching the news."

"We love wearing costumes as much as the next guy," stated one local homeless guy. "We're pretty talented when you get to know us. But we're not *that* good. That is at least, not yet."

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Next Issue: Losing your flame-thrower with celebrities!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



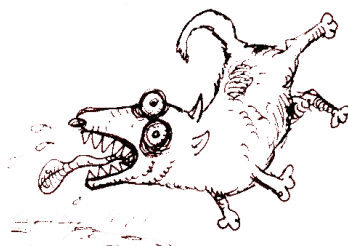
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*King Henry VI Part 2

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