

the bi-
motored
issue...



Pepper Spray Times

January 2014

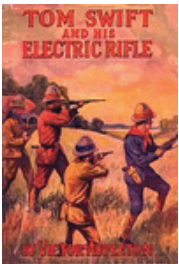


It's biliary...it's free...if you can find it

"...the toss-pots still had drunken heads"*

Vol. XVI No. 1

Police Claim They Could Have Prevented Disappointing Holiday If They Had Tasers



TOM SWIFT anticipated the crying need for more tasers in his 1911 novel.

By Lourdes Prayer

The Berkeley Police held another press conference recently to decry the fact that they *still* don't have the tools they need to keep the community safe in the new year. "Tasers keep the long lines for the hot shoes orderly at the mall," stated Officer Kusmiss. "We're just thinking of you."

The push for tasers is supported by the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) and the various real estate interests who supply most of the city council with re-election funding.

"They're really useful in dealing with uncooperative homeless people," winked DBA Director John Caner who remains at the helm of the most powerful political organization in town because election-related finance and procedural violations are just such a tedious thing to whine about. "People should just consider them as essential as the new Christmas blender."

* * * * *

Apple, Google Buses Under Seige - Homeland Security Suggests Google Employees Remove Shoes

By Linus Supp

The Department of Homeland Security shared San Francisco and Oakland's deep concern over the detention of Apple and Google buses attempting to shuttle employees to work in Silicon Valley using public bus stop facilities, which might seem unfair considering the shocking effect their presence in each city has on affordable housing, but necessary because otherwise



THESE PEOPLE don't appreciate how important evictions are to San Francisco's cultural and financial health.

the employees would actually have to put down their phones and pads and stuff for a minute and productivity would suffer.

"Are people forgetting what video games have done for the economy?" asked one Homeland Security agent. "We're advising all Apple and Google employees to immediately remove their shoes."

Local police were dubious that without tasers they could adequately deal with the Apple-Google bus seige, but the agent insisted that terrorism had been dealt a serious blow by shoe removal.

"It isn't like we can do anything about affordable housing," stated one exasperated Google employee shaking his head.

- continued...

Yoga Student Succeeds in Emptying Mind

By Jeanine Tonic

The yoga community celebrated a great victory when an intermediate yoga student managed to entirely empty her mind of all thoughts, leaving her to focus entirely on a vast, peaceful nothingness.

"That's the whole idea," acknowledged experts in the field. "You're supposed to be able to quiet your mind and eventually be one with the moment no matter how boring it might be."

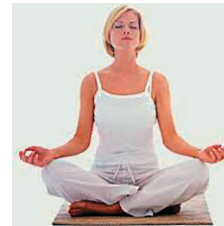
"I can do it for a second or two," sighed another yoga instructor who witnessed the amazing moment the student's mind actually emptied entirely. "I drift pretty quickly back into figuring out what I need at the market, but I assume I just need more practice and much more discipline."

The student has been invited to discuss the widely-acclaimed victory, but so far has been unresponsive.

"We're a little worried," confessed a family member. "We are currently unable to get her to speak."

Police officers offered to pepper spray the yoga student to re-orient her toward the ordinary distractions of life, but her friends

"We're a little worried," confessed a family member. "We are currently unable to get her to speak."



BEFORE: Most people's minds are full of smart phone plans and music and you don't have to re-trying to make sure they don't forget their phone numbers.
AFTER: Having a member phone numbers and it tells you what to do next.

and family agreed to wait a few more days hoping she'll come around on her own and at least change out of the lycra.

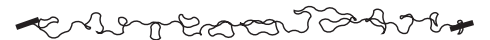
"We don't want to disturb her bliss," explained one friend.

"We all wish we could share her deep and peaceful experience."

The police stated that they understood, but maintained readiness to assist.

"This is the kind of thing we need tasers for," observed one officer. "Pepper spray only goes so far."

* * * * *



"We don't like seeing people sleeping in doorways any more than you do. But we're getting big subsidies from San Francisco and Oakland to do stuff like making apps for the yachting crowd so they can order champagne mid-World Cup next time. Affordable housing is just not on our radar."

* * * * *



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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, aren't those Apple and Google buses green? Surrounding the Apple and Google buses just seems so mean because those rich techies will be late to work and might feel bad.

Dear reader, excellent question. No, not really green. Living near your work is green, riding your bike is green. But those Google buses *look* green, and that is really important if you want to sell the little app that tells you which freeway is clogged, so shut up already.

Dear Lena, does it make me bad that I want a raise? I do really want a raise but I am just so embarrassed to ask.

Dear reader, yes, you are a bad person. Good people work for free.

Dear Lena, I think the 'condos for the homeless' program is kind of dumb. Who do I call?

Dear reader, call your mother. She'll be so glad you called she won't care what you whine about.

Dear Lena, is it, like, some kind of religion in this town never to create good old ordinary rental housing for ordinary working people? I mean, what do we have to do, hire a lobbyist?

Dear reader, well bingo. Where is your Sacramento representative? and don't mention the politicians who suck down developers' money like mother's milk. If you're not going to get in the game why should they ever let you play?

Dear Lena, I want to hire the green shirts. I have some backyard work that I'd rather not pay real money to do.

Dear reader, you and the DBA! You ought to drop by their board meetings and get to know them. You have a lot in common.

Feeling like pepper-spraying somebody? Ask Lena about chemical trajectories in moderate wind conditions at cdenny@igc.org.

Developers Discover Answer to Homelessness: Condos!

Twelve and Sixteen Story Condo Towers Will Create a Better Class of People Sitting on Downtown Benches, Developers Say

By Brogan Windows

Local developers' deep concerns about the housing crisis, the eviction crisis, and the number of homeless people on the streets resulted in an original concept for addressing the issues: *condos for the homeless*.

"Our 'condos for the homeless' program is a fresh approach to the housing crisis," enthused Jim Didion of Center Street Partners LLC. "We know that it won't be every homeless person who can come up with the money to buy a condo, but for those who can the view will be spectacular."

"Downtown is going to become much more animated," suggested Michael Caplan while agreeing that he says that about every failed effort to "revitalize" the downtown area which still has a few fast food joints and a couple watering holes for the \$189 ticket crowd.

The whiny anti-development crowd that just hates progress argued in their tedious way that using scarce downtown square footage to build condos is an outrage in the middle of a housing crisis, which produced yawns from city planners and chuckles from local city officials who argued that



THIS MAY LOOK UGLY to you, but try to consider how having a whole bunch of rich people wandering around downtown will make you feel warm inside and help you forget that you can't see the clock tower.

they're as helpless as Google and Apple tech workers on a surrounded Google bus when it comes to affordable housing.

"We have buckets of Nobel prize-winners all over town," pointed out one official. "None of them have focused on the housing issues yet."

"Perhaps when the holidays are tucked away," shrugged another official. "In the meantime we think the little blank white people look really neat."

* * * * *



IT'S REALLY FUN TO LEARN THE ART OF PARSING the curious graphics that accompany developers' proposals because they usually fudge on the height, which is not pictured here because people would freak out if it were accurately portrayed. Note that in real life all these seemingly open windows would have curtains securely closed because rich techies don't want you watching them eat their Fruit Loops and the windows of the micro units will be blacked out because even techies have to put their bookshelves somewhere. But the best aspect is the white people, see the white people? Substitute people of color displaced by tech workers and rich students for whom this place is essentially a city pied-a-terre surrounded by a fresh crop of homeless people being chased around by the DBA's Green Shirts who are doing that here but you can't tell because all the people are so darn white.

Green Shirts Find They Can Do Public Works Stuff for a Whole Lot Less Money

By Abby Durnd



WHO KNEW that using the DBA's poorly-paid Green Shirts to do city workers' labor would not be a labor issue in a city like Berkeley?

"People who complain about city workers losing work to underpaid Green Shirts are just a bunch of whiners," responded DBA Director John Caner when asked about the fuss over another use of their "ambassadors" to do work traditionally done by City of Berkeley crews.

"It's probably just that they are jealous of our uniforms," responded one of the Green Shirts admiring his reflection in an empty storefront window."

* * * * *



ADMIT IT, YOU LIKE plants and stuff so dial back all that talk about union jobs before somebody thinks you're a commie.



Oracle Team USA owner Larry Ellison hoists the trophy at some point after this disaster which he hopes nobody will think about. Ellison and San Francisco insist it was a spiffy event although it cost one life and almost nobody else entered the race and the public is more than five million in the hole but rich people really enjoyed it so just shut up.

SF \$5.5 Million in Debt from America's Cup -but Ellison had fun

By Boris Silly

San Francisco officials rushed to calm the waters after news spread that instead of benefiting San Francisco, the America's Cup yacht race which featured mostly embarrassing solo races cost the city \$5.5 million dollars.

"It could have been worse," observed one anonymous city official. "Only one guy actually died."

"Some people actually showed up along the waterfront from time to time," mused another city official. "Of course, tourists tend to do that anyway, but if it helps erase the America's Cup black eye to give Larry Ellison some credit, then that's okay."

"I hope he sends us a Christmas card," enthused another city official. "That would make it all worthwhile."

* * * * *

Salinas Beats Berkeley to Cool Leftover War Truck



YOU'RE NOT BEING HONEST if you're not jealous of Salinas for getting this cool armored vehicle which really helps scatter protesters at pesky demonstrations.

by Larry Ott-Tricks

Police in Salinas, California acquired a heavily armored military vehicle worth \$650,000 through a government program that redistributes used war stuff, which after all is a very green idea.

"It isn't like we didn't need a new truck," stated one somewhat defensive Salinas police officer. "When we heard this one was available and could withstand minefield explosions we just went for it."

The 37,000-pound vehicle boasts a high observation deck, which critics complain contributes to the intimidation of citizens of Salinas under the guise of safety.

Police Chief Kelly McMillin defended the military tank-like truck.

"It provides a high capability of protection for our officers and the community," McMillin said. "And come on, do we look cool or what?"

"We don't have minefields in Salinas," stated one grumpy local resident. "At least, not yet."

"Berkeley turns this stuff down," stated McMillin. "We'd be fools not to take it."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

I wear this to scare my parents.

I wear this to get into the fraternity.

I'm color blind. Isn't this suit brown?

Sure, buddy.



2013 News Quiz! (Answers at the bottom)



1. What was 2013's biggest news story?

- a. Edward Snowden's release of NSA documents.
- b. Selection of a new pope that cares about poverty.
- c. Supreme Court's affirmation of gay rights.
- d. The little puppy found on the conveyor belt of a recycling center.



2. What was the best thing that happened in 2013?

- a. Downtown Berkeley Association Director John Caner's getting caught committing electoral fraud.
- b. UC campuses systemwide finally going completely smokefree.
- c. The Republicans realizing that shutting down the whole government was kind of a dumb idea.
- d. The little puppy found on the conveyor belt of a recycling center.



3. What was the weirdest thing that happened in 2013?

- a. The news world goes into heat over the royal baby.
- b. A Florida jury acquits George Zimmerman of murder for shooting an unarmed neighbor kid.
- c. People finally start to take climate change somewhat seriously.
- d. The little puppy found on the conveyor belt of a recycling center.



4. What was the most outrageous news story of 2013?

- a. The Obamacare website is unveiled and it is one big user-unfriendly mess.
- b. Even minor collisions in football are found to have serious long-term health effects.
- c. Seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong admits to using performance-enhancing drugs after years of adamant denials.
- d. The recycling center puppy thing.



5. What was the most important news story that happened in 2013?

- a. Wendy Davis' filibuster in the Texas legislature over an anti-abortion law.
- b. The singer lip-syncing the National Anthem at the presidential inauguration.
- c. Putin's pre-Olympics release of political opponents and Pussy Riot protesters.
- d. The recycling center puppy.



6. What news story of 2013 will matter most to most people?

- a. Who will be the next American Idol.
- b. What celebrities will wear at the Oscars.
- c. Whether or not there is a tax on sugar-loaded beverages.
- d. When the next puppy is coming down the recycling center conveyor belt.



Letter to the Editor:

We the undersigned think it is unfair to block the Google buses because being late to work is no joke, and everybody knows the regular buses suck. Maybe Google technically has enough money to re-make and subsidize the entire transit system here but why should they while the City of San Francisco and everybody else is letting them skate? Who can blame them for just sucking down the tax breaks and privileges people hand them, we certainly would do the same thing by golly. So quit your whining and find yourself some work with a tech company before you just get run over for heaven's sake, you whiners.

Sincerely,

"Uke playing gals"

Suggested Slogan for the University of California Football Field



Next Issue: Eating feathers with celebrities!

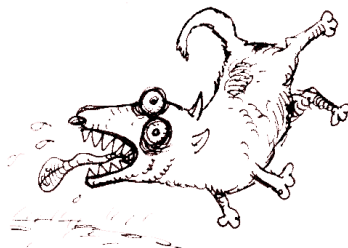
Answers: 1. = d, 2. = d, 3. = d, 4. = d, 5. = d, 6. = d

From:
Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cddenney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com



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*Twelfth Night

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