



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...some comet, or unusual prodigy?..."*

Vol. XVII No. 1

Police Turn Out Festive Holiday Crowds

By Claus DeDoor

Costumed crowds turned out in droves for the Berkeley Police Department's holiday festivities on Telegraph and University Avenues this year.

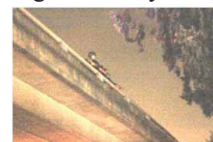
"We know how to fill the streets," affirmed one officer in riot gear patting his CS gas canisters. "The farmers markets and street events try, but nothing fills the streets on the holidays like a big police riot with all the trimmings."

NEW YORK'S FINEST helped unite the holiday protest season with techniques all their own.

"It's been years since I've been gassed," enthused

one Berkeley Rep patron. "I really feel young again."

Critics objected that filling the streets with CS gas and hundreds of police in riot gear sends the wrong message at holiday time, but were



California Highway Patrol officers kept things lively by shooting indiscriminately into crowds below the freeway.

streets so we don't look like a pile of idi-



DOWNTOWN BERKELEY was pretty empty until the Berkeley Police helped out by calling for mutual aid and created colorful crowds like these roaming the streets.

missed by Jon Caner of the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA).

"We've given up trying to get people downtown," he shrugged. "We're just glad the police are at the ready to fill the

ots at our little tree-lighting ceremony."

Another downtown merchant boarding up a smashed holiday decorated store window agreed with Caner's assessment.

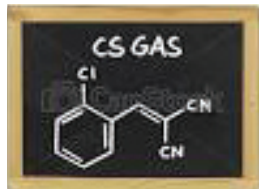
"We do get tired of boarding up windows and sweeping up broken glass, but I think the DBA recognizes it will never attract crowds the way the traditional holiday police riots can," he said. "If it weren't for window-breakers we wouldn't have any customers at all."

* * * * *

Berkeley Rep Patrons Rate Riot Experience

Exquisite Palates Reveal Discerning Taste in Toxics

By Lawton Yamind



Controversy swirls like spirits in a brandy glass over the quality and duration of the effects of the various chemicals applied to holiday crowds during a week of demonstrations over police killings of unarmed black men.

Berkeley Rep patrons in particular insisted that their palates and demonstration experience over decades entitle them to rate the gas with special respect for the distinctive nuances of chemical weapons from different police departments.

"We're foodies, so we are aware that the gas's interaction with ambient odors in different parts of town also has unique effects on the experience," stated one Berkeley Rep patron after retching into a trash can. "I believe I can safely suggest that the gas currently deployed by Berkeley police has a lot of character and a variety of toasty, minty points of interest."

"The finish is tannic," noted another

theater-goer. "But the palate is tight and well-structured."

"The finish is tannic," noted another theater-goer, "but the palate is tight and well-structured."

"I'm finding it moody, but I appreciate the aggressive qualities compared to the CS gas used on Highway 24,"



CS GAS really puts that holiday pep in your step.

observed another veteran of the demonstrations whose effort to see a play was somewhat modified by hovering media helicopters. "This is a bit aggressive now; give it two years and it will mellow."

* * * * *

Top Ten Rejected Responses to Cyberattack

By Keenan Groovy

- "Unfriend" them.
- Don't let them post to your wall.
- Don't "like" them.
- Don't send them your vacation photos.
- Don't arrange play dates with them.
- Tweet weird rumors about them.
- Encourage twelve-year-olds to hack them back.
- Mispronounce their names.
- Send them wrong directions to the holiday party.
- Send them terrible holiday recipes.

* * * * *

JE SUIS CHARLIE





LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, you understand that nothing reminds one of the holidays so much as massive national protests against police killing black people. As editor of the PST, you help ring in the season with tear gas car fresheners, billy club lamps, and taser turkey cookers.

Sincerely, Lynn Riordan

Dear reader, you clearly have some genius regarding potential new product lines. Please see our marketing department as soon as possible.

Dear Lena, I forgot to make any resolutions this year. Is there still time?

Dear reader, you have a special opportunity from the vantage point of being a week into the new year. Resolve to adhere to whatever you are already doing at this point in the year, and applaud yourself resoundingly for your constancy. You have earned it.

Dear Lena, should I buy a gas mask? I don't want to give up my right to assemble, but I have respiratory issues.

Dear reader, drop by the newsroom and we'll fit you out.

Dear Lena, it's freezing. Is this climate change? Shouldn't somebody be doing something about this?

Dear reader, yes, of course. The Republicans are in charge now and will take care of it right away.

Dear Lena, all those crowd control techniques they're about to talk about at the City Council are already illegal under Berkeley policy. Am I the only one who notices stuff like this? Isn't the police chief supposed to know this stuff? Should I give him a call?

Dear reader, you have an excellent point. I'm sure the Chief of Police is eager to hear from you and will respond to your concerns. Please bring this up the next time you are kettled with a bunch of bewildered Christmas shoppers, and good luck from all of us here in the newsroom..

Ask Lena about anything at all or nothing in particular at cdenney@igc.org.



THE NEW HOLIDAY CUSTOM of smashing plate glass windows may have roots in the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia.

Exotic New Holiday Customs Meet Mixed Reception



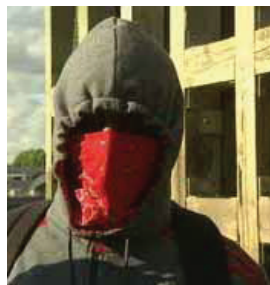
Looting, Plate Glass Window Smashing Difficult to Absorb into More Traditional Holiday Celebrations

Collier Dogszoff

The holiday season brought with it dozens of new ways to salute the holidays adding to an already impressive array of choices for revelers.

"The looting," answered one local East Bay resident asked what was the most surprising new holiday custom. "I had no idea it would be so popular."

Others responded that the Berkeley Police Department's holiday application of CS gas to downtown pedestrians was unexpected.



THIS COLORFUL FESTIVE ATTIRE was very popular with riotous holiday crowds this year.

They could give us a heads up in case we just got our hair done."

Others agreed that they would be glad to download any app that might help them better plan their day around the next holiday CS gas application.

Others suggested that Christmas ornament smashing by Oakland protesters was the most surprising new tradition of the season.

"Most people really like Christmas tree ornaments," stated one amazed Oakland resident who witnessed the smashing display. "We assumed there might be some symbolic meaning, but I for one hate to

assume it was necessarily an anti-Christmas gesture. It might be an anti-ornament gesture. Or a statement about those particular ornaments."

Authorities stated they too were having trouble definitively interpreting some of



EXPERTS AGREE THAT this holiday greeting, although difficult to decipher, signifies that the reader should have a lovely holiday season.

the new customs.

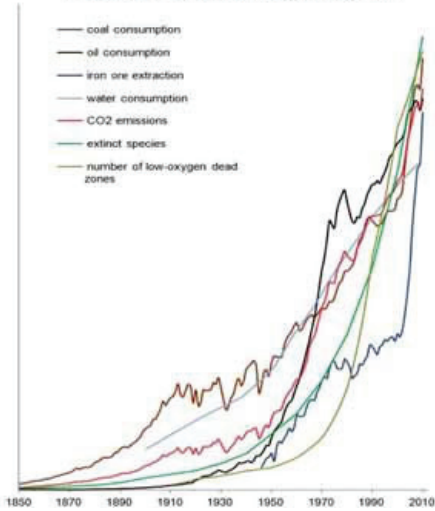
"We thought some of the plate glass smashing might be an anti-corporate statement," commented another Bay Area resident unfamiliar with the new holiday customs, "until we saw that they attacked the yarn shop and the Missing Link Bicycle Cooperative. Now we have no idea."

"We appreciate the innovation," offered another patient Berkeley resident whose recycling bins were contributed to a toxic bonfire. "Probably a lot of them are just kind of tired of seeing the same old snowmen and reindeer."

"I'm tired of Santas and reindeer, too, but I try to draw the line at taking it out on other people's windows," groused one local resident. "I just wish they would smash their own windows."

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Resources and environment exploitation



CHECK OUT HOW THINGS ARE really looking up in this handy graph, which also looks really good upside down.

Economists Agree That Some Stuff Is Really Looking Up

By Haile Aklaïmd

Economists agree that although Wall Street is less enthusiastic than most consumers about the drop in the price of oil, many other indicators are heading upward at an impressive rate.

“Iron ore extraction is at an all time high,” noted one economic forecaster. “The rate is really remarkable considering the finite nature of the planet and all.”

Critics argue that the astronomical increases in coal consumption, water consumption, iron ore extraction, oil consumption,



PINK SLIME is really not so bad once you realize you’ve been eating it all your life and you are not entirely dead yet.

sumption, CO2 emissions coincide almost perfectly with the increased number of low-oxygen dead zones and extinct species, but were dismissed by people with broader views and thicker stock portfolios.

“We are rocking the old numbers,” affirmed another economist. “This is very reassuring news for all the people who thought we couldn’t make money off of the end of the world.”

“We’re re-making our models for the upcoming sixth mass extinction,” exclaimed another economist. “The lucky ones who are left are really going to rake it in.”

Some noted economists acknowledge that the current limitations of natural resources such as water might create problems in the future, but point out that creative ideas are constantly being developed to deal with shortages.

“We have people pretty well trained to eat pink slime,” stated another economist. “Who knows what else they might eat.”

* * * * *

Whiny Neighbors Annoyed by Police Department’s Traditional Holiday Decorations

By Marianne Fermunny

Neighbors near the Berkeley Police Station complained about having their streets blocked off to traffic and filled with mutual aid vans, old pizza boxes, barricades, and police officers challenging them for simply being in the area.

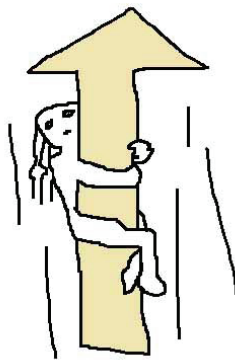


“They’re just not in the spirit,” stated Captain Andrew Greenwood. “Pro-

tests are a seasonal as Christmas here in Berkeley, and you’ve got to roll with the mood.”

“We don’t yell profanities at them because we want to,” agreed a Hayward officer criticized for changing his uniform in the middle of McKinley Street. “We just have to keep our vocal chords in shape during holiday times like these.”

Critics objected that even the area coordinator police phone lines offered no explanations to local residents about the invasion of troops from other jurisdictions



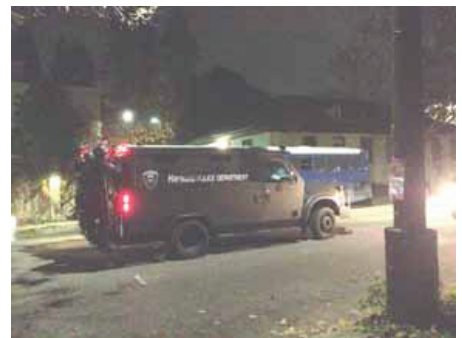
PEOPLE NEED TO CONSIDER that while their own needs might seem important, Wall Street’s needs should always take precedence over their piddly squat concerns.



which turned McKinley Street into a staging area for police activities which bore little resemblance to a more conventional holiday celebration.

“Somebody needs some more eggnog,” chuckled another officer. “The rest of the town is getting in the spirit and just replacing their front windows.”

* * * * *



THIS MAY NOT BE A SLEIGH, but it sure is seasonal vehicular holiday component of neighborhood tradition in Berkeley as long as the concomitant tradition of having no police accountability remains customary during the winter holidays.

We Can’t Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Police Review Commission Predictably Poops On Big Police Party

By Pardee Zover

Berkeley's Police Review Commission refused to get in the holiday spirit and called for a "cooling off" period during which time the funnest stuff the police have to play with would theoretically not be used on the public.



POLICE REALLY are in the best position to choose who needs to be gassed so just trust them.

"It is really unfair," pointed out Sgt. Chris Stines, president of the Berkeley Police Association. "You can't ask officers to get into all the gear for CS gas and then not even let them fire it into a crowd."

"It is very frustrating to bring all the ingredients for a really big event and then just stand there in your gas mask," agreed another officer. "It's hot and uncomfortable and besides we need to practice on somebody."

Critics of the police applauded the Po-



IF PEOPLE WOULD JUST LIGHTEN UP they would see that new police techniques can be lots of fun and even fashionable.

lice Review Commission's move to ask the Berkeley City Council to restrict the use of CS gas, over-the-shoulder baton strikes, and firing projectiles into crowds



IF YOU COULD SEE THESE PEOPLE BETTER you could tell by the violent looks in their eyes that they were up to no good and really needed to be gassed.

all of which were already banned or restricted after the police riots over the volleyball courts in 1991 but somehow slipped back into the police repertoire for special occasions.

"It's a gadget thing," stated one officer confidentially. "You wouldn't understand."

Police Chief Meehan refused to acknowledge that the police had used prohibited crowd control techniques on protesters, bystanders, and people who inexplicably wanted to stroll around and attend theatrical performances.

"This is highly technical stuff that ordinary citizens have no idea how to evaluate without the proper training, and we honestly thought we had the Police Review Commission pretty well trained by now," he stated. "We gassed, beat, and shot people for their own safety."

"We have to acknowledge that it made

for an unforgettable evening," stated a Berkeley Repertory Theater patron. "Our out-of-town guests all agreed that they'd never quite seen anything like it."

* * * * *

Ten Things We Could Do Besides Bombing the Whole World

- Take up tennis.
- Learn Latin.
- Draw pictures of each other.
- Dance around.
- Laugh at nothing.
- Bake a cake.
- Watch the birds.
- Read to children.
- Play the fiddle.
- Address climate change.

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Next Issue: Burning dumpsters with celebrities!

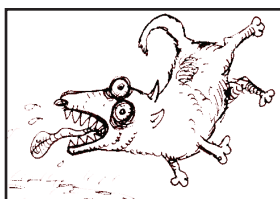
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*The Taming of the Shrew

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.