

the napkin folding issue...



Hepper Spray Times

October 2013



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

"...witness the world that I create thee here..."*

Vol. XV No. 10



MOST PEOPLE LOVE the new look of the southeast corner of campus, which features a big action figure and an even bigger tv, which after all is the new book for this new generation. The action figure claims territorial rights to the area around the fountain, but nobody wants to argue with him, so everybody is just treating it like a design feature of the "High-Performance Center" which is somewhere nearby.

Action Figure Captures Southeast UC Campus in Bloodless Coup

By Lottie Daw



EXPERTS THINK this football action figure is stationary but recommend that you only root for the home team.

The big blue robot which captured the southeast corner of the University of California (UC) campus sometime during the early morning hours of last week has not moved since staking out territory around the fountain.

although all of that stuff got kind of fuzzy after the Novartis deal.

"We *are* getting some money out of this deal," affirmed Julie Sinai, the Director, Local Government and Community Relations for UC, promising to get back to the press and interested neighbors regarding the contract by the end of the football season.

"I'm surprised he's not smoking one of those electronic cigarettes," stated another new student. "They really missed a trick right there."

Crowds of students, faculty, and neighbors mingled uneasily nearby mesmerized by the giant television which broadcasts 24-hour sports coverage underwritten by corporations such as Ford.

"We think he's harmless," stated one UC administrator referring to the action figure. "We're actually more concerned about the television and the ads on a public campus,

figure's movements were part of a beloved local UC tradition.

"I'm in love," stated one incoming freshman. "He's really buff."

"I'm surprised he's not smoking one of those electronic cigarettes," stated another new student. "They really missed a trick right there."

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Peace Insurrection Captures Nation

By Geoff Lunchyett



FINDING support for another war is hard, but if we all work together we can do it.

President Obama's effort to gain support for bombing the @#\$\$ out of Syria continues to struggle for popular support despite his compelling argument to Congress that we just gotta do *something*.

"It's a pretty good argument," agreed national experts. "Most people don't worry about exactly what comes after that, especially if they don't have children of draft age or family in the military."

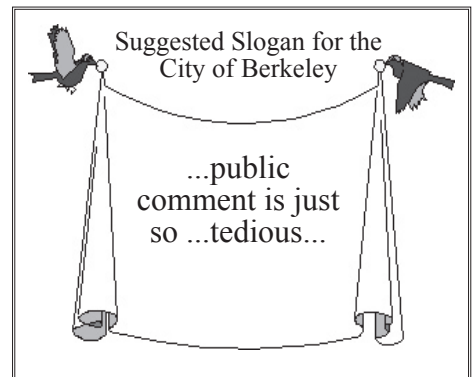
"It certainly works locally in our regional planning meetings," noted one local observer. "The basic premise for a lot of atrocious local planning decisions is usually the simple absence of anything else on a vacant lot. The 'we gotta do something' argument really has legs, as all these building projects that have nothing to do with community needs tend to prove."

The usual critics argued that it might make sense to find an ethical, legal, and efficacious course of action before just blindly bombing things, especially considering how faulty American intelligence has proven in recent military offenses, but were dismissed as a bunch of nitpickers who didn't have any first-hand experience of flying around bombing stuff.

"It looks good on high-def tv," stated one expert. "Unlike everything else."

"It is quite a thrill ride," acknowledged one local veteran. "Unless you're on the other end."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm not sure I'm up for this war. Where is it, again? I'm not keeping track of our other wars very well, and I don't want to look stupid. This one might be too much for me.

Dear reader, what a selfish attitude. Imagine if everybody thought that way and then there wouldn't be enough people to drop bombs in the first place. Pull yourself together and try to think of others.

Dear Lena, I thought e-cigarettes were safe, at least that's what they say on tv. Isn't it just water vapor?

Dear reader, well of course it is! They couldn't say stuff like that on tv unless it was true. And there's nothing wrong with giving your kids a starter e-cigarette kit for Hannukah or Christmas.

Dear Lena, isn't low-income housing kind of quaint in today's market?

Dear reader, yes. Get used to the overpass.

Dear Lena, so John Caner handed out cash payments to homeless "poll workers" on election day to distribute fake slate fliers misleading people about endorsements of Measure S, so what?

Dear reader, my sentiments exactly. As if there weren't some good ball games on that day. We haven't quite rid the town of those precious "you're stepping on my rights" types. But we're getting closer.

Dear Lena, what's wrong with dividing up the public comments about items on an agenda so some of them are heard after it's all over, or making people put down their names? Give the mayor a break already.

Dear reader, I know! Right after they rewrite the California Environmental Quality Act they should rewrite the Brown Act so it isn't such a pointless pain in the ass.

Ask Lena about hot muffins of wonder at cdenny@igc.org.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom Promotes E-Cigarettes

By Liz Dance

E-cigarettes are being advertised openly to patrons of the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom amusement park in Vallejo in a generous effort to make sure little kids don't get unrealistic ideas about the end of the tobacco industry's influence in society.

"People have this fantasy that tobacco products are on the wane," stated a Six Flags spokesperson. "We think our amusement park is a good place to 'discover' that the tobacco industry is still firmly in the driver's seat of your child's future."

The Six Flags spokesperson acknowledged that e-cigarettes' open use could be considered a violation of the park's advertised "smokefree park" policy, but pointed out that once amusement park patrons have paid their money, they are unlikely to leave just because of a little inconsistency.

"Nicotine is one wild ride," explained Six Flags Discovery Park President Don McCoy regarding the smoking areas now found throughout the Vallejo amusement venue. "Besides, we get a substantial bump from Lorillard to advertise their Blu brand, and, well, Lorillard's experts have agreed to say it's safe."

Experts confirm that nicotine is a wild

"We're helping them adjust to a world governed by the tobacco industry," stated McCoy. "We're doing them a favor."



SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM PRESIDENT DON MCCOY FIGURES it's better to get kids moving on a nicotine-laden life early so they are too nervous to linger too long over an amusement park exhibit.

ride.

"One pure drop on your tongue would kill you," stated one expert. "But inhalation spreads it through your sys-



THE ADVERTISING for e-cigarettes may be somewhat misleading, but really, what could be more American than that?

tem so you not only can survive, within twenty minutes you want more."

"It's genius to market e-cigarettes as a 'healthier' alternative to tobacco," agreed another expert. "Tobacco is deadly. So, by the time people figure out what's misleading about the wording and the advertising's implications, they're addicted and the money is rolling in."

McCoy defended the promotion, saying that kids needed to get used to tobacco product promotions when they're young so it doesn't shock them later when they might be taken off guard.

"We're helping them adjust to a world governed by the tobacco industry," stated McCoy. "We're doing them a favor."

Editor's note: to compliment Don McCoy on his e-cigarette promotion to children, write to:

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom
Attention: Don McCoy, Park President
1001 Fairgrounds Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94589

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BE SURE TO LET PRESIDENT Don McCoy know how much you appreciate his effort to addict children to nicotine on the grounds that it is "safer" than other stuff.



DBA DIRECTOR John Caner acknowledged handing out cash payments to Options Recovery clients on election day.

Fair Campaign Practices/Open Government Commission Votes to Investigate Anti-Sitting Campaign

Commission Also Examines Mayor Bates' Brown Act Violations and Tells Rent Board's Matt Brown (No Relation) to Revisit Public Records Refusal

By Ben Downso-Long

barrased aide to the Mayor's office when local commission

"These commissioners just did not get the memo," explained an embarrassed aide to the Mayor's office when local commission unanimously voted to conduct an investigation into the Measure S campaign, Mayor Tom Bates' 2012 electoral effort to criminalize sitting down.

"We have most of the commissions tamed," added another staff member. "they don't get on the commission at all unless we can pretty much predict their vote."

Staff for the Fair Campaign Practices Commission, (FCPC) which doubles as the Open Government Commission, confirmed that a lot of the

commissioners were brand new and attending their very first meeting.

"This reduces the ability to create alliances, discourage activists, that kind of thing," stated the Mayor's staff. "Until we can eliminate the commission system entirely, we prefer that they eat cake all the time like the Police Review Commission

has learned to do."

Police Review Commission staff, ruffled by this comment, responded by pointing out that there are a lot of birthdays to keep track of at the Police Review Commission, and that when the new FCPC commissioners realize how many birthdays they've failed to acknowledge with cake they'll be embarrassed about spending so much time on their stupid investigation, a sentiment seconded by Downtown Berkeley Association Director and Measure S Campaign Manager John Caner.

"I paid the workers in cash because many of the workers do not have bank accounts and it would be difficult for them to cash the check," Caner explained in a letter to the Commission since he was "out of town for a long planned short vacation."

City Hall staffers were also embarrassed to have the FCPC take note of Brown Act violations brought to their attention by Gene Bernardi and Jane Welford of SUPERBOLD, a local group focused on rights violations which should find some other stuff to do for heaven's sake.

"Nobody else seemed to care," one explained hastily, "and we were just so busy trying to make it a crime to sit down that this other stuff didn't seem important."

Rent Stabilization Board attorney Matt Brown also took some heat for responding to a Public Records Act Request by just referring the petitioner to the City's website.



RENT STABILIZATION BOARD ATTORNEY MATT BROWN claimed to the Open Government Commission that he "had nothing", and the commission unanimously agreed with him, requesting that he try harder to comply with requests.



THIS TOWN WOULD GO TO PIECES WITHOUT Gene Bernardi who finally got somebody to notice that Mayor Bates' rules for public comment violate the Brown Act.



ROLAND PETERSON represented the Measure S campaign at the FCPC Commission and did not look as happy as he looks here.

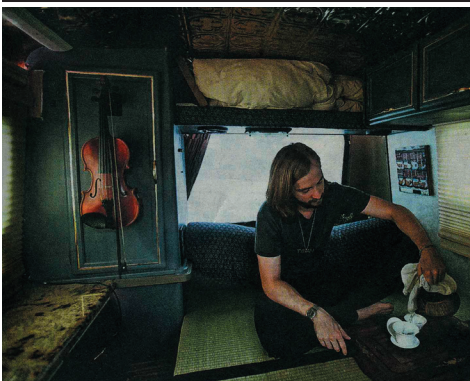
"We're the Rent Board," he explained. "Nobody can mess with us."

"We'll get some orientation materials to these new commissioners promptly," assured City Hall staffers. "They just need some education and they'll catch on that these days the only way for a commission to get any respect is to accomplish nothing."

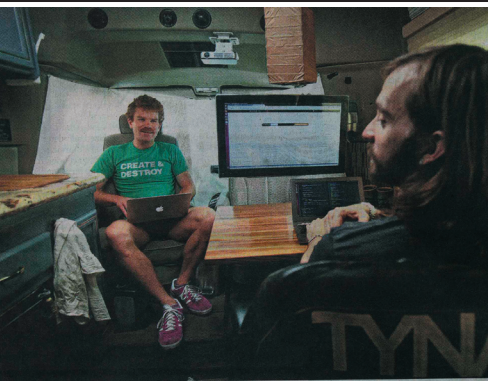
"Accomplishing nothing is harder than it looks," stated one Police Review commissioner. "The cake really helps."

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We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



The Sunday, September 1st issue of the San Francisco Chronicle had a front page article exclaiming that living in one's car was "edgy" and an employment advantage for the high-tech crowd looking to stand out from all the other geeks with their predictable gadgets.



The issue featured a guy who lives in a Winnebago and manages to talk at least one other geek guy to come over and sit around coding together in his beany little living space, which is about all there is really room to do there despite the nifty gold leaf ceiling.



We just hope he takes his "it makes me more thoughtful" message to the Palo Alto City Council which just joined a lot of other cities in criminalizing living in one's car, although we figure he is really busy with his coding and the gold leaf stuff and everything.

Cooperative Homes Should Just Go Uncooperative



A guest column
by Philomena Blanks

“So! On this, one of the last of our nice weather days, why don’t the 47 units of residential low-income housing at University Avenue Cooperative Homes (UACH) just pack up for heaven’s sake and get out of the way of, dare I say it, *progress*?”

“It isn’t like anybody really likes board meetings, now, do they? Let’s be honest, now. For every interesting casserole there are always three or four which you wouldn’t feed to your dog, aren’t there? And for every reasonable remark there are so many where people just seem to go on and on, aren’t there? And they can’t just be quiet!”

“If the management of the UACH cooperative place kind of slipped up on actually creating the legal foundation for the limited equity co-op and didn’t mention the matter until it worked in favor of booting everybody out of their homes, well I don’t see why management should have to suffer let alone the City of Berkeley people who gave management a million dollars recently to renovate the place, which is hard work believe you me. I did over my kitchen once. Talk about suffering!

“Nobody fooled them on purpose, after all, and they’ll probably find a much nicer place somewhere else and look back and say, hey, that worked out



PHILOMENA BLANKS has little relevant experience in limited equity co-op housing but that doesn’t stop her from having a considerable amount to say about the matter, by God.

for the best! That really happens to people who lose their housing and then they’re glad it happened.

“So look on the bright side if you’re one of those tenants and starting to whine about having your family thrown out of what you thought was secure housing right before winter with no clarity about whether or not you can return. Welcome to the wild side where the rest of us have to scramble for housing the rest of the nation would call a chicken coop. It’s good for your character, after

all, to accept that life has its ups and downs and that adversity that doesn’t kill you will probably end up building your character

“Berkeley is on a trend of gentrification and class genocide, making all of their so-called affordable housing, such as the University Avenue Cooperative Homes, unaffordable, discriminating against low-income communities of color with forced displacement through draconian policies to profiteer on, such as the recently proposed sit/lie law.” - *An example of the overblown rhetoric which always seems to accompany tedious discussions about low-cost housing which Philomena Blanks simply abhors.*

From Guantánamo to Berkeley

In October 2011 the Berkeley City Council passed a Resolution to close Guantanamo Prison and welcome cleared-for-release detainees to settle in Berkeley. This makes Berkeley the first city in the U.S. to welcome detainees. Djamel Ameziane is a famous Algerian-born European-trained chef who the U.S. cleared for release in 2008, but he's still stuck in Guantanamo.

To find out more about Djamel Ameziane's current status and to donate to his resettlement fund please contact:

Berkeley No More Guantánamos
info@nogitmos.org (510) 333-6097
www.closegitmo.org

in some really interesting way. I ought to know. I remodeled my kitchen, after all, and you really can’t know how inconvenient that was on top of which eating out is fun until you have to do it every night for a week, for heaven’s sake.

“So take it from me, low-income tenants. Thank your stars for the ride and get off when the roller coaster comes to a stop so they don’t have to throw you off of there.”

- Philomena Blanks
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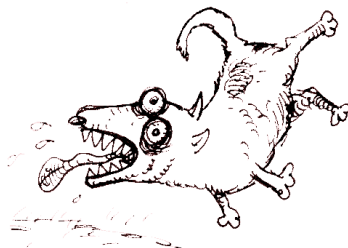
Next Issue: Combing through garbage with celebrities!

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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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*Henry VI

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.