

All hail the...

...the zirconium-clad issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

April 2011



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

"...experience is by industry achieved.."*

Vol. XIII No. 4



PG&E HAS BEEN ADVISED by regulators to be sure the public is aware that their whole neighborhood could explode into flames at any minute. This couple is greatly relieved to be put in the loop.

PG&E Writes Letters to Public Warning About Explosions

by Bettina Fortune

PG&E agreed recently that the public was woefully underinformed about the possibility that they could blow up at any moment from faulty, poorly welded pipelines and promised to write to thousands of customers telling them that they live within 2,000 feet of a gas transmission line and really should invest in some asbestos underwear.

"We agree that the public should be fully informed," stated PG&E spokesperson Jeff Smith. "We want those homeowners who run the strongest risk of being blown up at any moment to have a chance to put their affairs in order and reassess the value of their property."

Critics argued that sending alarming letters to homeowners and renters who live near the thousands of pipelines about which little safety information is available is pointlessly disturbing since only PG&E can actually address the danger and can't really dig everything up at once.

Smith agreed that some public concern might ensue, but pointed out that Japan's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor meltdown had engaged the public's focus.

"We're sad for Japan," he stated. "But we really can't argue with the timing."

* * * * *

New iPhone Radiation App

by Floyd E. Coop

The gadget-buying public rushed to buy the latest cell phone application, iRadiate, in the wake of Japan's nuclear disaster.

"It's so handy," nodded one Seattle resident holding up a glowing screen with a radiation hazard reading. "I can check the box scores and the fallout in a matter of seconds."

The iRadiate application is especially useful worldwide to populations whose trust in their government's assessment of nuclear safety is compromised by contributions from the nuclear industry, pressure from nuclear industry lobbyists, or just general stupidity.

"We can avoid the milk and the spinach," stated one Sacramento resident adjusting her children's scarves and gloves. "But it's hard to do much about the air. At least now with iRadiate we can lay low and homeschool on the really bad days."

iRadiate we can lay low and homeschool on the really bad days."

* * * * *

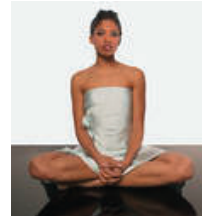
Berkeley Sitting Law Boycott On the Way

"We miss the excitement," says Downtown Berkeley Association

by Flora DePedal

The Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) acknowledged recently that the success of San Francisco's sit/lie ordinance has inspired a similar campaign for a Berkeley ordinance.

"We miss the excitement of the old "Measures N & O" campaign, stated DBA Executive Director John Caner. "I wasn't really in the thick of it then, but I hear the stories - the boycotts, the sit-ins, the cunning revisions bouncing from commission to commission, and of course, all the court appearances. Let's face it; nothing's going on downtown right now."

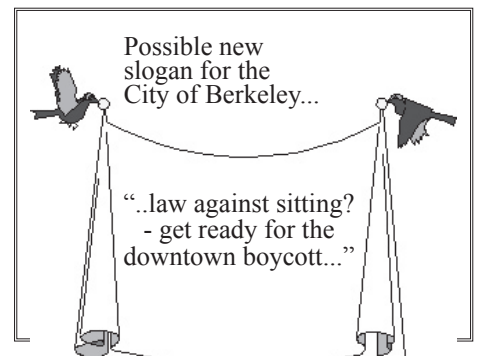


THE HORROR of encountering seated people is just too much to bear, and needs criminal remedies as soon as possible.

"We couldn't agree more," stated one panhandler seated by the winding line at a bank machine. "Me and my buddies need to stretch more and trade places more often. We've really got to get in better shape before summer."

"It keeps the police in better shape, too," stated one downtown merchant. "It's so deserted down here that they rarely get out of their patrol cars. This way we can all shape up for summer."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I am so worried about nuclear disaster. What should I do?

Dear reader, periodically drop to your knees and cover your head. If you can get under your desk, do that, too, and wait until the teacher tells you everything is okay.

Dear Lena, can I still eat spinach? How about tofu? And what about breathing? It's kind of hard to know since the New York Times and the BBC don't seem to agree on the story.

Dear reader, you're much better informed if you listen to both sides. Go ahead and eat whatever you want, but I would avoid the ocean for awhile. And the BBC.

Dear Lena, I really like the idea of changing meeting location sites throughout the meeting itself, so as to maximize my parking skills. But how do you know where it all begins?

Dear reader, that's not the best attitude to bring to this new, adventurous serial meeting location experiment. Start anywhere, bring your most creative attitude and maybe a snack, and just hope you all merrily cross paths at some point and exchange views.

Dear Lena, is it true that all of this police corruption would disappear if the police just had Tasers? They would stop stealing drugs from the evidence room and lying on police reports and stuff?

Dear reader, of course. Having the right tools for the job is most of the job. Pepper spray is appropriate for most police encounters and almost any daily situation, such as a stubborn pickle jar, but Tasers are perfect for those special moments.

Dear Lena, do they really need to demolish the libraries entirely to upgrade them? I thought that wasn't green.

Dear reader, yes, they really do. Planners need their exercise just like the rest of us, and really enjoy being thorough.
Ask Lena about zirconium at cdenny@jgc.org.

Rapidly Changing Locations Suggested as New Model for Community Meetings

Officials Acknowledge Searching for "Preferred Attendees"

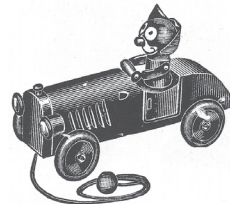
By Iona Yacht

Berkeley City Councilmembers and library trustees agreed that their new model for public input was a dramatic improvement over the usual hit-or-miss results for maximizing outreach on community issues to the "right" people.

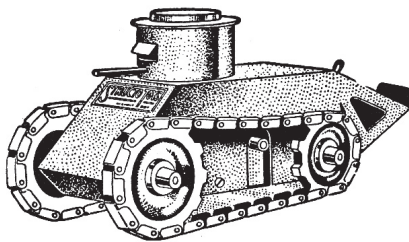
"We finally have something that really works!" stated District 2 Representative Darryl Moore, who hand-picked those allowed into the Frances Albrier Community Center.

"It's so much easier to work with people who agree with us," offered one member of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation. "We get so much more done, and the atmosphere is so much more pleasant."

Critics who stood in the rain outside the Community Center watching those who were allowed to attend through a window objected to the hand-selected participation procedure, making the usual tedious arguments about transparency, public process, Brown Act violations, and the public's "right to know", causing great merriment among appreciative city staff.



REV UP your motors for the next city meeting, which could start anywhere but then end up somewhere else



WHILE THE OFFICIALS and preferred participants of the recent non-meeting used private vehicles, this is the vehicle of choice being considered for future non-get togethers because it provides a better sense of security.



SCATTERING QUICKLY WHEN THE PUBLIC SHOWED UP, this fun-loving crew of city officials and representatives have invented an adventurous new model for public meetings which really puts them in touch with a lot of different neighborhoods.

Meeting organizers then abruptly adjourned the meeting, or non-meeting, as it was variously framed, in favor of suddenly dispersing and then meeting elsewhere at an unannounced location which turned out to be the home of Councilmember Maio.

"It was really fun," expressed one breathless member of the public. "We didn't know where they were headed, or even if they were headed to the same place. We were just lucky that one of us checked Linda Maio's place. What a great game!"

"We're thinking it's a valuable model," stated Ryan Lau, aide to Councilmember Moore, who assisted with the meeting's complicated logistics. "We don't mean to imply that we don't want the public's input on issues. But we really prefer the input of certain people. This model gives everyone a lot of healthy exercise and nets us our preferred input. It's a winner."

* * * * *



SF Police Scandals Inevitable Without Tasers Says Gascon



SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON criticizes the public defender's office for not giving him the tapes immediately so he could get his story straight.

By Cher Noble

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón stated recently that the embarrassing misconduct by undercover narcotics officers captured on videotape would never have happened if the force had had the Tasers they've been asking for for years now, which are an essential tool in any police officer's arsenal as everybody knows.

The videos have booted 57 cases from prosecution so far since the criminal case kind of falls apart when police reports are directly contradicted by videos. Gascón, who was police chief when the videotaped incidents took place, insists that the several videos, which clearly show undercover officers barreling into residential hotel apartments without warrants, would look different if the officers depicted had Tasers, which tend to make everything work out fine and without which any police force just bangs into walls and looks stupid.

Gascón stated he believes most of the officers in the city are "doing the right things day in and day out," but that if they all had Tasers things would be better and Jeff Ada-



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER Jeff Adachi's latest video failed to excite film critics, who assailed it as jerky and overly derivative.

Adachi Video Panned by Critics

By Liz Party

The popular video of San Francisco narcotics officers covering up surveillance cameras and illegally searching homes failed to excite local critics, who described

chi would have to just shut up.

Critics argued that Tasers have caused hundreds of deaths, should only be used when deadly force is considered necessary, cannot be counted on to have consistent effects, and that risk-averse police officers resort to using Tasers in situations in which they otherwise would have used more conventional, less violent alternatives, such as trying to reason with a cornered suspect.



WHAT IS missing from this well-dressed officer is a Taser, without which he is likely to get caught up in problematic scandals.

Gascón countered that reasoning with suspects takes time, and is just not as fun as Tasers, pepper spray, and whatever they invent next.

"Trust me," he stated. "If we could just Taser Judge Anne Bouliane, these cases would be back on the dockets."

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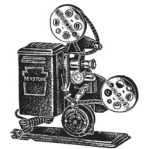
it as "over the top", "lacking in strong female characters", "derivative", and "ploughing old ground."

"Most of the action takes place off-camera," stated one local critic. "It's a respected technique, but it's been done, and, frankly, people expect more from San Francisco's art scene."

"It's repetitive," stated another critic. "Both scenes at the Henry Hotel are shot from above through a fish-eye down a hallway, and the sound quality is terrible. We like grungy realism as much as the next guy, but a little character development would have gone a long way."

"Adachi is a passionate newcomer," stated another critic. "We hope he keeps working at it."

Attorneys at the Public Defender's Office objected that critics were missing the larger point, that the San Francisco Police Department routinely committed perjury and conduct illegal searches, which put the entire criminal justice system under suspicion, but were dismissed by District Attorney George Gascón, who was police chief when the searches took place, and who stated that he was fully capable of making a neutral decision regarding the filing of any criminal charges related to the case.



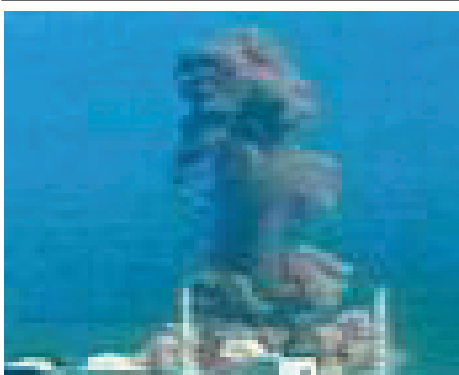
"There is no need for any outside investigation," he assured concerned citizens. "Police and prosecutors need to play by the rules. If we do not play by the rules, the whole system crumbles," he said. "But people need to be wary of believing their own eyes."

Spokespersons for the now-suspended narcotics team agreed.

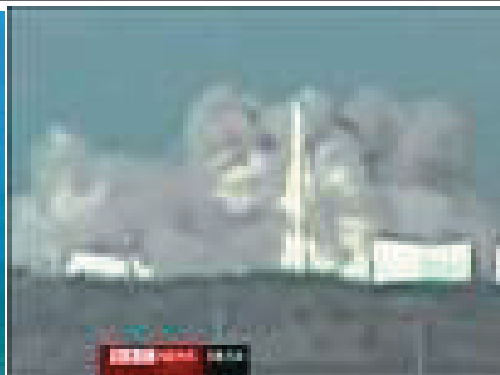
"We're working with the best writers in film on our backstory," they stated. "It's going to be very compelling. Hang onto your popcorn."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



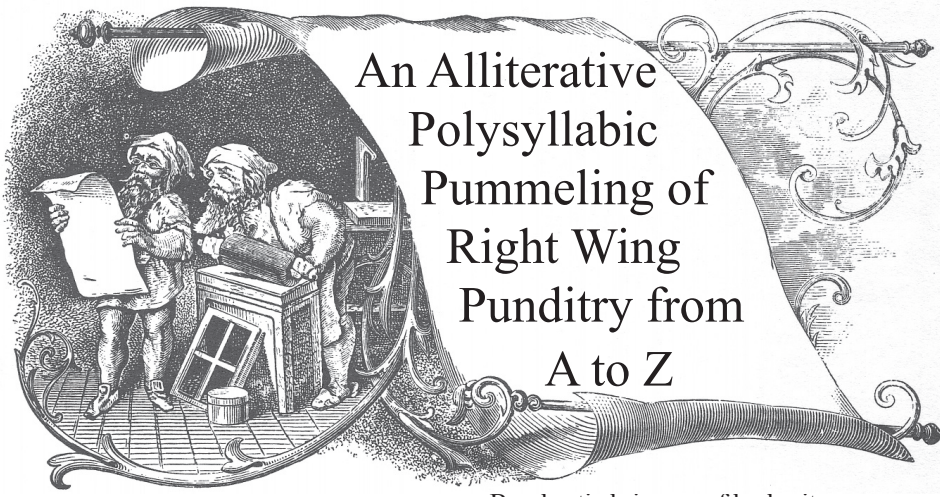
This unfortunate nuclear accident is very sad, but of course it just can't happen here, so we don't have to worry at all.



The instructions for fixing this disaster were all in Japanese, which is hard to learn, so of course they had problems.



Our instructions for problems are all in English, so plug in your hair dryer and your popcorn maker and knock yourself out.



An Alliterative Polysyllabic Pummeling of Right Wing Punditry from A to Z

by Stephen Dunifer

Given the intentional abuse of language by the right wing punditry to savagely twist and distort reality to accelerate the growth of a post-embryonic nexus of corporations and government (a.k.a. Fascism), it is only appropriate to give them a thorough lexical lashing in response.

Warning - although the language is "family safe", severe mental trauma may result from the images evoked, especially in children and overly imaginative individuals.

Asinine assigners of abstruseness

- Bombastic bringers of barbarity
- Callow crafters of calumny
- Disingenuous destroyers of discourse
- Enthusiastic eviscerators of equanimity
- Fulminating fountains of fractiousness
- Gluttonous gabblers of Gomorrah
- Histrionic hawkers of hegemony
- Incredulous imbibers of idiocy
- Jubilant jugglers of jingoism

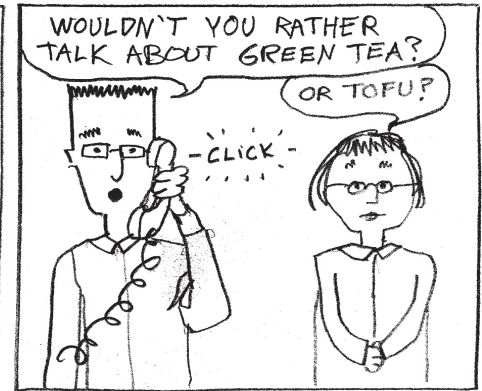
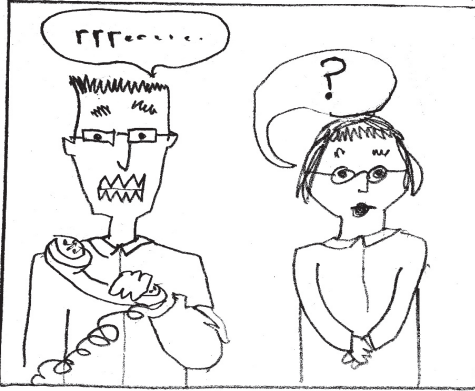
- Kooky kamikazes of kibitzing
- Loquacious lovers of lunacy
- Mendacious manufacturers of malevolence
- Niggling naysayers of nihilism
- Oxymoronic onanists of obsequiousness
- Pustulent purveyors of propaganda
- Quixotic queens of querulousness
- Rabid raconteurs of recidivism
- Sanctimonious soothsayers of salacity
- Teabagging troubadours of triumphalism
- Unctuous usurpers of unity
- Venal vendors of vituperativeness
- Wanton weavers of war
- Xenophobic xenomorphs of Xanadu
- Yowling yahoos of yakety-yak
- Zerotolerance zombies of zealotry

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**Next Issue: Breaking Windows
with Celebrities**

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



The Pepper Spray Times gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions, etc. at:

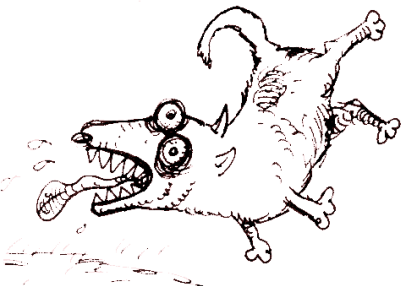


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



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* Two Gentlemen of Verona

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.