



Hepper Spray Times



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

"...continual slanders ride..."*

Vol. XV No. 4

NEW! -- Editor Grace Underpressure's Take On Berkeley Central's Luxury Apartments



EDITOR Grace Underpressure revels in pure, unadulterated truth.

note the quality of the Cabernet thanks to the concerted efforts of the dashing developers at the upscale new residences' high-end helm.

"We're setting a tone," explained one of Berkeley Central's "brand ambassadors" at the ribbon cutting ceremony, where swells stood in an uneasy row under the "luxury apartments" sign listening to each other's euphemisms for the "new" people they hope to drag into town to replace the scruffy bunch they have right now.

"We're seeing professional people coming here," enthused Mayor Tom Bates with a flourish when he finally got the microphone away from Chamber of Commerce Polly Armstrong's endless ode to Jon Canner as "responsible for the transformation of the appearance of our downtown" through the Block by Block program which moves homeless and poor people around downtown like chess pieces.

"It's part of the transformation of downtown bringing new people downtown," agreed Councilmember Jesse Arreguin while his campaign supporters cringed.

When the pesky poor people panhandling underneath the Berkeley Central high-rise luxury apartments get clonked on the head with a stray wineglass, at least they'll

note the quality of the Cabernet thanks to the concerted efforts of the dashing developers at the upscale new residences' high-end helm.

"This Berkeley Central building and the people who are going to be there are the crest of the wave," chimed in Armstrong when she finally got the microphone back – what a scrapper! And what a charming way to reference the "green" nature of the pied-a-terre beehive now available for worship at Center and Shattuck – when global warming drowns the rest of us, the "nine two-story penthouses" will still be above water.

We were pretty well dressed ourselves, so we couldn't help wondering who the "new" people were going to be. We had the heels, the little black dresses, the power suits, but maybe the "new" people never dress down in case there's an emergency call to a theater fundraiser.

"We're getting a lot of interest from San Francisco," nodded one of the bebies of

"You don't understand," he scolded. "These 'new' people have evolved. They don't have books. They're *online*."

identically jeweled assistants moving curious people waving champagne glasses through three floors with staged furnishings.

But the best clue to the newcomers' identities might be the furnishings themselves – the \$8,000 bicycle, the \$25.00 soaps – *it's the little things!*

One attendee bristled when I joked about the necessity, in such tiny apartments' of keeping at least half of one's belongings dangling off the balconies in milk crates.

"You don't understand," he scolded. "These 'new' people have evolved. They don't have books. They're *online*."

I was disappointed to be told the next day that the promised YMCA discounts were "transitioning", because I can only imagine how buff this new crowd must be. But I begin to get the transformation picture after gazing around the penthouse patio, which is high enough away from the panhandlers on Shattuck that one begins to appreciate that if, in fact, the poor are always with us, then why not make sure there's some security at the door and blissfully

Top Ten Unasked Questions at the Berkeley Central Luxury Apartments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

1. Which balcony is best for picking off homeless people with an assault weapon?
2. What's the racial diversity of your current tenancy?
3. Is there storage space somewhere on the property for tenants burdened with actual belongings?
4. Does the \$8,000 bike come with the apartment?
5. Are poor people allowed to visit the penthouse grill and patio area?
6. Would you be willing to set aside one of the nine penthouses for a homeless family?
7. If somebody drops their cell phone off the balcony, will the concierge go get it?
8. Are residents allowed to hang-glide off the balconies?
9. What about a zip line?
10. Is the concierge up for some late night fun?

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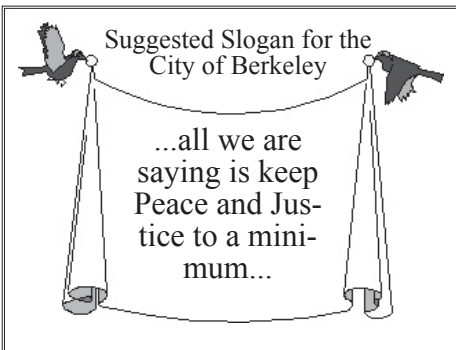


ALMOST EVERYBODY is thrilled with the new luxury apartments except for this disgruntled person who ought to be shot.

leave it all behind?

The 'new' people won't need umbrellas or paint supplies or suitcases: *there's an app for that!* And if they develop a taste for acquiring sports equipment or insist on having a record collection, well the rest of us know they'll just work harder on having an app for that, too. It's a brave new world, kids, and if you want to know who's running it, come on down to the Berkeley Central apartments where the panhandling is going to be exquisite!

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is the new Pope better than the old Pope? Will I be able to tell? Which one should I bet on?

Dear reader, the new Pope is much faster than the old Pope, and rounds corners with much greater speed. Bet on the new one, but try to bribe the judges just to be safe.

Dear Lena, they still need low income people to work the crappy jobs, but where are we supposed to live? I can afford the rent if I stuff the place with roommates, but I'm tired of having people trading off for sofa space. Is this what they mean by density, and whose idea was this?

Dear reader, yes, this is what they mean by density, and you're just not hip enough to handle it. Someday when you've transcended having stuff, and friends, and a change of shoes, you'll understand. Or not. If you had had the common sense God gave geese you'd have owned some real estate and we all wouldn't have to explain everything.

Dear Lena, I can't believe I forgot to buy real estate in the Hamptons! What should I do now?

Dear reader, try to be better prepared in your next life.

Ask Lena about dubious choices in sculpture at cdenney@igc.org.

EX-POPE FIGURES OUT WHAT TO WEAR

by Gautama Redshoes

The retiring Pope has asked to be known as "emeritus pope" for the duration of his life, and asked that all other Cardinals be known as "Wanna-be Popes" no matter who is chosen ultimately to be the next Pope, who will be known as "The Guy Who Comes After Pope Benedict XVI" under a new papal agreement.

The retiring Pope also asked that he be permitted to continue wearing white, usually a privilege reserved for the real Pope so that people can figure out whose ring to kiss, a request which requires that the next Pope find some other color to distinguish his outfit from the Cardinals, who typically wear red.

"We're thinking electric blue," stated Vatican spokesman Rev. Federico Lombardi. "Maybe with a hint of sparkle to play with the lights."

"It's either electric blue, neon yellow, or hot pink," mused Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, who will serve as secretary to both Popes. "We need to distinguish the new guy without offending the old guy and keep in mind the new guy gets the red shoes."

The red shoes, experts say, are able to take the Pope to Kansas by clicking the heels together and repeatedly chanting "thorsno plaes liccum" after a tornado.



EVEN THE POPE has trouble getting the attention he deserves next to such colorfully dressed Vatican security guards.

Papal Smackdown Finally Ends

Here is a handy guide to the papal selection process by our PST contributor Lynn Riordan.

When smoke comes out of the Sistine Chapel the different colors mean different things:

- Black: No decision made.
- White: A pope has been chosen.
- Orange: Dennis Rodman has been chosen.
- Pink: A woman has been chosen.
- Purple: Prince has been chosen.

Glowing: Cardinal Fukushima has been chosen.

Green: Hulk has been chosen.

Rainbow: OMG! I'm pope!!

* * * * *



THE BERKELEY CENTRAL luxury apartments are pretty accessible! Except for the penthouse garden's telescope! But oh, well!



"It wouldn't do to have two Popes arrive in Kansas at the same time," noted Lombardi. "Those people are confused enough as it is."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



It goes without saying that not everybody can afford the new luxury apartments, so why can't people like this gal just shut up about it already?



This may be a cynical way to address the housing crisis, but after all, it's a good way to replace our scruffy low-income crowd with a better class of people.



Of course, people like this gal might show up, but it's pretty easy to send out Jessica to threaten to call the police and make sure the management's view is well represented.

Mars' Face Looks Awful

by Percy Vubbelthret

The face of Mars is badly in need of a makeover and riddled with deep lines below its surface from what NASA hopes were ancient floods of actual, wet water.

Now scientists using radar to peek below the planet's surface are certain they can justify their budgets executing what most people consider a ridiculous search for non-existent water.

"Our view of the red planet has sadly been restricted to looking at the surface," stated Gareth Morgan, planetary scientist at the Smithsonian Institution. "The public and the media were really getting tired of us hopping up and down over canals."



MARS LOOKS terrible according to NASA scientists who are really having trouble finding a narrative that pops.

"That's right," stated John Mustard, a Mars expert from Brown University. "Our press releases were a joke. People started sending us pool toys."

Morgan said that changing Mars' image from a cold, dry, desert-like planet to a wet one was essential for capturing the public's interest and justifying the billions of dollars it spends on keeping alive the idea that people could live on Mars and keep up with their friends on Earth through Facebook.

"Or at least that's the hope," added Mustard. "We have these 3-D maps of Elysium Planitia now, and we'd better find a good reason for this project before they put the money into something ludicrous like science in schools."

"And quit it with the pool toys," chimed in Morgan. "It's so annoying."

* * * * *

Top Ten Rejected Candidates for Pope

by Cy Berskammer

1. Madonna

Analysis: Great name, wardrobe, and stage presence; rejected for overly creative use of crucifix.

2. Jimmy Carter

Analysis: Wrong religion, but largely rejected because of extreme IQ, which would hamper his ability to work on Catholic church's credibility issues.

3. Justin Bieber

Analysis: Age works in his favor, great stage presence, but the conclave worried that he might sing.

4. Mickey Mouse

Analysis: Very likeable, world-renowned entertainer; cartoon character status works both ways since 'toons are reliably willing to work for free, but ultimately rejected because the Mouse would be both infallible and eternal.

5. Oprah

Analysis: Apparently her name comes up every time the conclave meets but she won't take the job.

6. Donald Trump

Analysis: Apparently he's been lobbying for the job for years, but the conclave's reluctance has something to do with the hair.

7. Hillary Clinton

Analysis: The conclave loves her, but she also won't take the job, saying something about preferring to eat nails.

8. The Old Guy by the Freeway

Analysis: Really humble, loves the idea of spreading joy and kindness, loves the idea of sitting around blessing people and giving speeches about compassion. Conclave worried that he was just too radical.



MADONNA HAD A SHOT at being selected for new Pope, but was considered too ethical to get along well with the Vatican staff.

9. Dr. Phil

Analysis: Great performer, used to center stage, but probably unwilling to wear the funny hat.

10. God

Analysis: Also too radical, plus prone to setting fire to bushes and stuff.



Ten Useful Things You Can do with Automatic Weapons

1. Make an instant skylight.
2. Turn your plastic bowl into a colander.
3. Turn your phone book into useful packing confetti.
4. Aerate the lawn.
5. Give your new jeans a really weathered look.
6. Use it as a fashion accessory to really clear the movie line.
7. Improve your score at skeet shooting.
8. Make certain your kids never play that CD again.
9. Make fake Gruyere cheese.
10. Make your bike helmet into a handy vegetable steamer.

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



"Okay, now, all of you who are not homosexuals yourselves or who have not participated in the coverup of the sexual molestation of children please step out of the room."

"Hmmm. Maybe we'll have to try this another way..."



YOU CAN'T DENY that you've been eating it for years.

Eating Crap - It's Easy as Pie!

by Pack Yabags

"It's catching on," nods Lenora Boushell of her up-scale baking enterprise which uses high quality, basic ingredients and adds crap in an unabashed salute to the "re-use and recycle" movement sweeping the nation.

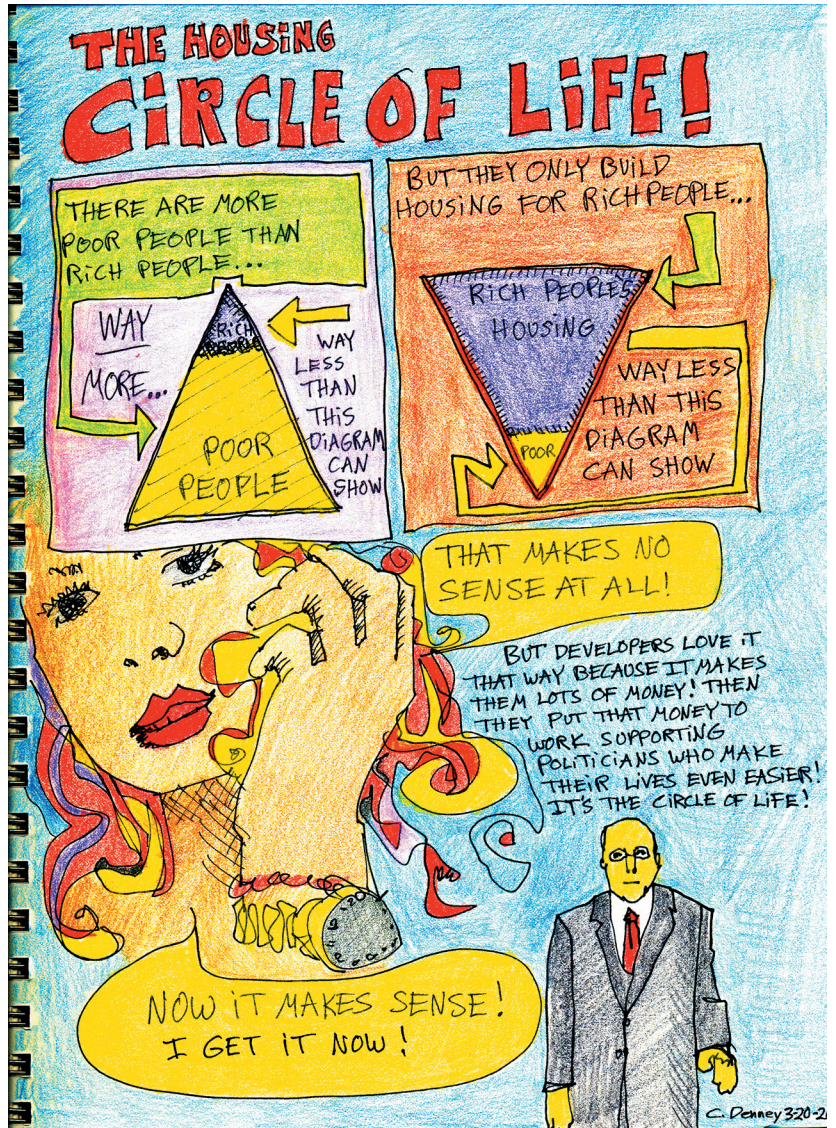
"We recognise that it's a bit adventurous on our part," adds her partner Trudy Buckboard while vigorously working the dough. "But we thought long and hard about how to keep down costs and concentrate on using natural materials, and it's working out pretty well."

Eating crap has a long tradition, Bay Area foodies are quick to point out, and has labored unrecognized as an important ingredient in the common diet because of unnecessary stigma.

"People are finally acknowledging the role that insects play in our food," notes one local expert wolfing down a piece of chocolate pie with a decorative topping of little flowers sculpted of crap. "It was only a matter of time before someone took it one step further."

Boushell and Buckboard admitted they have trouble keeping up with orders, and are looking toward expansion to keep up with demand.

"We hoped we could give something back," smiled Lenora with a tear in her eye. "We worried that people wouldn't be ready for it. But the truth is, most people have been eating crap for years, and just never talked about it."



IF YOU FEEL LEFT OUT FROM TIME TO TIME please do us all the favor of recognizing that you've probably never been part of the equation.

"It's just like home," enthused one loyal customer. "I used to eat crap for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and boy, does this bring back the memories."

"We'll be back," added another customer paying his check at the cashier. "It's not

just a damn fine meal at a reasonable price -- it's also really important training for the year ahead!"

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Next Issue: Kicking Trashcans with Celebrities

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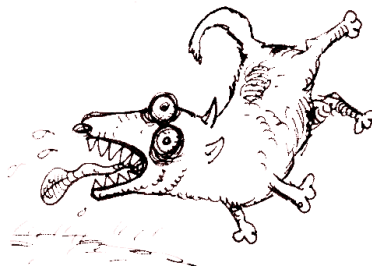


Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cddeney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrara
Staff.....Lena Deeter, Gautama Redshoes,
Lynn Riordan, Franz Toast, Percy Vub-
blethret, Cy Berskammer, Pack Yabags

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*The Second Part of the History of Henry IV

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.