

...the loitering issue ...



All hail the twentieth year* of the powerful.

Hepper Spray Times

August 2012



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

"It were for me to throw my sceptre at the injurious gods..."* Vol. XIV No. 8

New Badge Requirement for Public Spaces Sails Through City Council



No Armored Military Vehicle for UC Campus Chancellor Changes Mind, Cancels Tank

"We look stupid enough already" says Birgeneau

by Sandy Calvary



THE NEW POSTERS for Berkeley's tourism campaign are purposefully bold, in the hope that someday people will come to Berkeley looking for something besides hippies and some good dope.

by S. D. Wyett-Izz

The Berkeley City Council's contentious July 10th meeting was followed by a meeting where Mayor Tom Bates' new, streamlined council procedure really made things go smoothly.

"Debate and discussion is so over-rated," he explained. "Most people already know how they're voting, and they have other things to do."

Councilmembers Jesse Arreguin, Kriss Worthington, and Max Anderson objected, as usual, to what may well constitute procedural violations, but had to admit that preventing discussion altogether had the potential to really move things along.

The council majority is working hard to discourage the idea that Berkeley ever had anything resembling a counter-culture, and should instead be known for having some really nice food.

The University of California Police Department, in collaboration with the Berkeley and Albany city police departments, recently pursued a grant for an armored military vehicle with gun ports and other cool stuff.

It all happened somehow without coming to the attention of campus and city officials,



SERGEANT CRAIG from Britain's Royal Artillery regiment holds a high-velocity missile, or HVM, lightweight multiple launcher which the UC Berkeley chancellor thinks he could slip on top of the campanile without too much fuss.

so when the public started expressing an interest in the Lenco Bearcat military vehicle with its really cool combat-style features, red-faced campus administrators concluded that a tank is not the best choice for a university setting and cancelled the order, to great

public dismay.

"We want that thing," commented one UC Berkeley police officer in exasperation. "Just like Mayor Bates says about an anti-sitting law, it's *the next logical step.*"

"We are so up for it," added another officer. "Dealing with Occupy with little batons and clunky plastic shields is just silly. We need some *serious protection.*"

Residents of Berkeley and Albany completely agreed.

"This idea they have of ticketing home-

"It's hard to compete with San Francisco," stated Mayor Bates. "But the sandwich shop really does have some good pickles."

The mayor also declared that if one applies for a permit, the application for registration of the permit should precede the registration of the permit application as long as the application itself did not predate the previous permit application for registration of the original permit. If the original permit registration application permits registration subsequent to the registered application, then the permit should reflect both the registration application permit and the original permit application.

* * * * *

less people is so weak," exclaimed one. "We need to just mow them down."

"Nothing clears a sidewalk faster than a big-ass tank bearing down on you," agreed another resident.



THIS SURE IS MORE FUN than a bunch of kids in tutus riding their bikes around the street at your local parade, isn't it? Call your councilmember and get the tank back!

Public sentiment in favor of the tank is growing, considering the other handy uses for it:

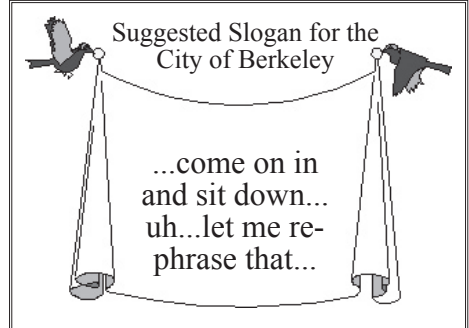
- Crushing old beer cans
- Impressing kids at parades
- One-upping your neighbor's Hummer
- Sending a visual message to would-be drive-by shooters
- Really getting the tree-root bumps out of the driveway
- Parking anywhere you want
- Scaring the pants off Occupy

City and university officials admitted that the tank idea was popular.

"We'll keep it in mind down the road when we recover some of our funding," stated one university administrator. "We'll entertain the idea again when the Reynoso and Robinson-Edley reports have faded a bit more from memory."

"It won't take long," stated the administrator. "There is an upside to life without newspapers."

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*PST's volume numbering didn't begin until six years after publication.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm sad about the loss of the tank. I thought it would really put some punch in the seriously saggy local parades. What can we do to get it back?

Dear reader, oh, just come and speak up at the city council meeting. The city council is always responsive to heartfelt expressions of public concern.

Dear Lena, Paul Larudee suggested recently that John Gertz' appointment by Darryl Moore to the Peace and Justice Commission makes sense since there is no War and Injustice Commission or Racism and Genocide Commission to balance things out and seat him with like-minded people, Berkeley being what Berkeley is. But maybe we should buckle down and have a few more commissions to challenge the wussy, peacenik stuff. What do you think?

Dear reader, it makes sense to me. It must be really hard for the lonely guys in town who step out in support of destroying ancient olive groves and tearing down poor people's houses. It's really brave of them to represent their iconoclastic perspective in such a biased setting. There is no commission right now, for instance, which represents the truly rich. It's lonely at the top, and a commission for wealthy people might function really well as a support group.

Dear Lena, why is there a sign at the BART station downtown that says loitering and begging are prohibited? It's still legal to hang around and legal to panhandle, at least until the next stupid effort to target the poor, right? How does BART have the right to post something that is blatantly misleading?

Dear reader, just to clarify, you mean unlike other governmental and administrative agencies, which never take advantage of the opportunity to mislead the public, don't you? Why, I'm sure BART has very good reasons so write to Grace Crunican, General Manager, SFBARTD, PO Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604.

Ask Lena about deep fried matters of crunchy concern at cdenny@igc.org.



THE RENT BOARD denies being directly paid by the tobacco industry, which spent more than \$50 million dollars on political contributions in California according to a recent report, and insists that their affinity for pro-tobacco policies "just comes naturally to us" for free.

Rent Board Denies Getting Tobacco Money

"Our policies are just naturally pro-tobacco!"

by Puffamon Smokeum

The Rent Stabilization Board's recent committee report on secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing essentially protects smokers from ever having to think about the effect they are having on the neighbors next door.

"They're so much more comfortable that way," explained one of the Rent Stabilization Board staff. "You might not think smokers feel discomfort at the realization that they are forcing the whole building to breathe a class A toxin, but they really do."

"We want to make sure they can still sleep at night," added another staff member. "Making sure they can still smoke inside their room, which trades 60% of its air with all the rooms in the building, helps maintain the illusion that they are not hurting anybody. Which helps their self esteem."

The staff member denied getting any of the thousands of dollars typically paid to California state representatives, insisting that the pro-smoking policies are simply a logical outgrowth of their general concern for renters, or at least renters who smoke.

"We just naturally favor pro-tobacco policies," stated commissioners gladhanding potential voters at the recent nominating convention. "That's how we roll."

The Rent Stabilization Board denied that it took any of the \$47 million spent by the tobacco industry on a recent ballot measure which would have increased the tax on to-

bacco products, stating that its pro-tobacco multi-unit housing proposal released in May was just a natural reflection of its tendency to want to give smokers a break.

"They have such a hard time these days," stated one commissioner. "We're just a compassionate bunch."

Critics crabbed that smokers have options nonsmoking renters don't have, such as using nicotine patches, nicotine gum or simply stepping outside to smoke, as most smokers in Alameda County already do.

"Kids have to breathe the air in the apartment next door whether they have clean air or not," stated one surly critic. "You can't hold your breath for 18 years."

"But they can pretend to, can't they?" responded one rent board commissioner. "I mean, just so the smokers feel better."

A spokesperson for the rent board acknowledged that it was of course blaming poor and homeless people for the policy when challenged despite all studies showing that poor and homeless people are no less able to comply with smoking regulations and no less likely to step outside to smoke.

"That's pretty much how it rolls in this town," nodded the staff member. "Facts and studies just get in the way. But, thankfully, the poor and homeless will always be with us to soak up the blame for bad policy!"

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Oakland Police Radios Definitely Not Tuned to A's Game, OPD Chief Insists

by Barry Picking

Reports that police officers assigned to handle presidential security were unable to communicate were definitely not the fault of the officers, according to police department spokespersons.

"It was a train wreck," stated Lt. Fred Mestas, who was assigned to a spot near President Obama's Fox Theater fundraiser that night. "The reception was terrible. I almost missed Posey's—I mean, I couldn't tell what was going on."



IF YOU GET LIT UP by the Giants don't expect OPD to bail you out or even be listening because their radios don't work and besides they have important stuff to do.

Critics argued that the officers were listening to baseball instead of the dispatch center, but were dismissed by police department spokespersons.

"That's ridiculous," scoffed Barry Donelan, head of the Oakland Police officers Association. "The A's had a travel day."

Other officers agreed that if anyone is to blame, it is protesters who insist on reminding people of the promises President Obama made as a candidate to stop wasting resources on trying to stop people from using marijuana, California's number one cash crop.

"They just don't get it that politicians change when they get into office," stated Donelan, who admitted that the protesters were peaceful but insisted that they should have been at home watching it all on tv or enjoying Posey's three-run shot off Padres starter Clayton Richard in the fifth inning. "I heard about it later," insisted Donelan.

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Re-Occupy the Farm Harvests Vegetables at the Gill Tract -

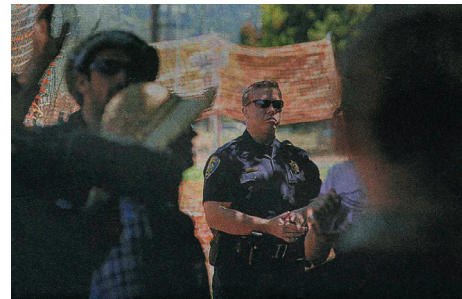
by Char Coalfire

Occupy the Farm walked onto UC-owned research land in Albany Saturday, July 7th, and viciously weeded and harvested crops they planted during their three-week occupation of the land that ended in May.

The city of Albany had planned to harvest the crops, but canceled their participation in the event when word spread via twitter and electronic media about the impending harvest.

"We had looked forward to a private party," stated Albany City Councilmember Joanne Wile.

The approximately 50 activists on hand at the Gill Tract assured the press that the city of Albany politicians and residents were more than welcome to assist with the



PROTESTERS WOULD have loved to share the Gill Tract harvest with the Albany City Councilmembers who called it, but the councilmembers just didn't show up.

harvest.

"We planted this food for everyone to share," explained one urban farmer. "I know it sounds radical, but it's a whole lot simpler than shopping at Whole Foods. Look, see, I just give you this zucchini and that's about it. Enjoy."

A few UC police officers stood by and stated that the farmers were trespassing, but made no effort to arrest the farmers or the vegetables, which were in fact sitting down during the event.

"It's not illegal yet," stated one cucumber. "At least I don't think it is."

The city of Albany conceded that they



URBAN FARMERS harvested organic produce at the Gill Tract even though UC Berkeley, which lays curious claim to the land, had turned off the water, threatened trespass charges, sued in civil court, and just plain couldn't stop a bunch of unruly zucchini.

had not invited those who planted the crops, against whom the University of California had first initiated and then dropped a SLAPP-suit.

"We had imagined a more controlled, city-based photo shoot with charming baskets of vegetables held in the arms of elected officials," explained one city of Albany staff member. Something sort of Van Gogh with an ecological slant. But we don't want to look like anarchists."

Observers suggested that any trespass charges lodged against the original farmers who weeded and harvested

on Saturday would look like nonsense in court considering the general nature of the invitation to the preferred weeders and harvesters, but were dismissed by UC Berkeley official spokesperson Dan Mogulof, who pointed out that just about nobody charged with anything by UC Berkeley ever gets convicted of anything ever.

"They just get dragged through the courts for months," he explained. "They just have to weather endless pre-trial court dates and hearings and lose their vacation days at work and wait in lines and stuff. It comes out of the taxpayers budgets, not ours."

* * * * *



THESE MAY LOOK like ordinary vegetables but look out, say the UC administrators and the police; they could be bombs or something.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Politicians really enjoy each other's company and love to hang out together.



They have so much in common, after all, and so much to share.



Nothing is more fun than making sure your fellow politician feels appreciated and loved.

Anti-sitting Rule for Councilmembers at Council Meetings Greeted with Cheers

by Stan D. Wholtime

Activists quickly gathered enough signatures from a disgusted Berkeley public to put a measure on the ballot requiring all Berkeley city commissions, authorities, boards, and councils to remain standing during all public meetings.



Stand up for your right to sit down!

Sitting down, even momentarily, without a signed doctor's note from within the last four weeks would constitute immediate dismissal from public position, and replacements would be chosen immediately from the attending members of the public by popular vote.

"We just want to even up the burden," explained one signature-gatherer. "Standing up is hard to do. Some of us who work as

cashiers and wait on tables know the physical toll it takes, and we think our public representatives are a little out of touch."

"If homeless people, panhandlers, and pizza-eaters can't sit down then why should our public representatives get to?" asked another signature-gatherer. "It's a simple issue of fairness. They're not even allowing people to bring a chair of their own."

Council representatives who voted for the anti-sitting ordinance had trouble responding to the popular measure aimed at making them stand up since they framed their own anti-sitting ordinance as a compassionate measure designed to help people.

"It makes it kind of hard to respond to it as a burden at this point," conceded Gordon Wozniak. "But there's an up-side. This might be the best way to shorten public meetings."

* * * * *



VOTE BATES!
VOTE HOMELESSNESS!

THE LIVELY FIELD of candidates contending for Mayor Tom Bates' position has him doubling down on his pro-sleep-on-the-street-and-like-it platform, which most voters agree he is entitled to think really works for him politically since most voters just don't seem to mind.

Next Issue: Jousting at Mailboxes with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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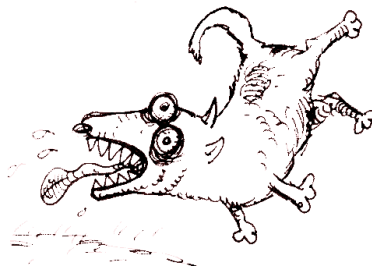


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*Antony and Cleopatra

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.