

the profanity-free holiday issue...



Pepper Spray Times

December 2013



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

"...like a cow in June!"*

Vol. XV No. 12

Jesus Returns -

Offers to Step In as Interim Downtown Berkeley Association CEO

By Decker Halls



JESUS SAYS he can do Santa and even a credible Sinatra, but the DBA prefers to try to rescue its own credibility using a pretty deep bag of tricks, including electoral fraud.

Jesus issued a statement on the occasion of his traditional annual return to the Bay Area for the holidays offering to take the helm of the troubled Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA), whose Chief Executive Officer John Caner is currently under investigation for election fraud.

"I got this," stated Jesus. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace."

DBA board members were not so sure.

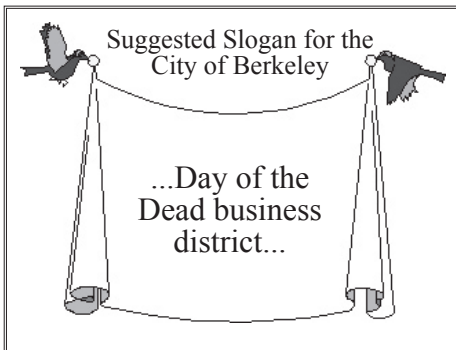
"We need someone who can sound compassionate, but protect businesses from the scourge of visible poverty," stated one board member who requested anonymity. "We were thinking Santa."

"I can do Santa," responded Jesus when told of the board's concerns. "I can do anything. I can do Sinatra."

Jesus offered to perform a few miracles, but the DBA board demurred, thanking him for his offer.

"We have some other options," stated another board member. "We'd like to keep this in-house."

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Thanksgiving Would Have Been Better with Tasers, Cops Say

By Al True-Denight

Berkeley police spokespersons agreed that Thanksgiving would have gone a lot more smoothly if the police had the use of tasers, which sadly are still not part of the Berkeley police arsenal of tools to use in difficult holiday or turkey-related situations.

"Tasers don't necessarily kill people one hundred percent of the time," pointed out police spokesperson Sgt. Mary Kusmiss, "which makes them perfect for making sure you can help your family pry Uncle Joe away from the football games long enough for a meal."

Experts agreed that without the use of tasers football fans were unlikely to eat anything but pretzels and chips, children would be unlikely to try Brussel sprouts, and nobody would play football anymore given the links to dementia.

"We use tasers at the Berkeley Bowl lines," stated another local resident with a somewhat embarrassed smile. "I'm usually patient when the lines get long, but when I have family visiting and it's Thanksgiving there's just so much to do."

Berkeley police pointed out that it's silly for ordinary citizens to be able to use tasers on each other while the police are restricted from using them and have to make do with pepper spray, handcuffs, guns, etc.

"We really need more creative ways to subdue your drunken relatives on holidays," insisted Sgt. Kusmiss. "We look forward to the day when the sizzle of a taser is as much a part of the holiday season as a turkey."



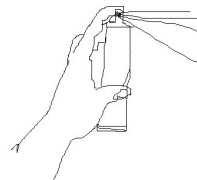
IF YOU WORK HARD your house can look like this over the holiday season given a lot of shopping, preparation, and cooperation from either your own little ones or some cooperative neighboring children.

"Just remember the dismal Cal Bear football record this year the next time the subject comes up," added another officer. "Don't think for a minute we couldn't have done something

about that."

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"We really need more creative ways to subdue your drunken relatives on holidays," insisted Sgt. Kusmiss.



EXPERTS AGREE that pepper spray will transform your holiday gathering.



THE DAY OF THE DEAD BUSINESS district observation went really well on upper Shattuck Avenue although somebody obviously doesn't understand how to interpret the "Keep Off the Median" signs which apply to people without money or pizza who don't look like young students but don't apply to panhandlers or homeless people or scruffy people or older people or just kind of the wrong people if you get my drift. What could be clearer than that.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, can Santa's elves really fix the health care website? If the world's best tech workers can't do it, what chance do the elves have?

Dear reader, elves have a lot in common with tech workers. They have no set hours, are wildly underpaid unless they get to the stock stage and it pops, eat a lot of sugary, fattening food and Edward Snowden aside pretty much do what they're told. Santa's elves have been performing miracles overnight for so long it's routine for them.

Dear Lena, what should I give people for the holidays? Besides the essential pepper spray, of course.

Dear reader, I'm giving everyone a septic tank for Christmas. I decided on the green version, which has a hand crank and plays insipid instrumentals when you turn it. They come in teal and watermelon. Consider a his and hers set for your friends.

Dear Lena, I don't need anything for myself this year. I just want to give to others. What do you suggest?

Dear reader, quit being such a pill. That's the perfect attitude to have if you want to wreck the holidays for everyone. Buy tasers for your poor, beleaguered police department and quit with the big attitude before somebody shoots you.

Dear Lena, will there still be football once people realize that all the players will become demented? Does football have a future?

Dear reader, of course. Haven't you wondered why grown men have to have game plays shouted out at them before each play? The more demented they get, the less they think about spending their post-game years wondering where they left the keys or what they came to the store to get. For enough money people will sell their mothers.

Feeling holiday-related tension? Ask Lena for a list of creative ways to surprise your relatives at cdenney@igc.org.

Football Takes a Hit - Offers New, Girlie Techniques for Avoiding Dementia, Memory, and Neurological Issues

by Esau Threeships

The National Football League (NFL) has responded to criticisms of a slow response to the risks associated with concussions by unveiling guidelines for new ways to tackle opposing teams during a football game.

Besides settling a \$765 million lawsuit in August with former NFL players, the league is scrambling to convince younger players, especially their parents, that the game can be played safely despite the thousands of former players currently stumbling around with serious brain and neurological injuries. Approximately 2,800 youth leagues

are currently being taught what the NFL considers safer techniques for bashing their heads together on the field.

"When they learn the new tackling techniques, they're going to enjoy the game more and they're going to be safer at the same time and we're going to keep making money," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "I think this is getting



NEW FOOTBALL safety techniques recommended by the NFL include immediately handing over the ball, dropping the ball just before getting tackled, and playing dead.

back to fundamentals, it's getting back to the way people should play the game and that emphasis at an early age will allow them to play the game for as long as they play it more safely so that our cash flow is uninterrupted."

Critics pointed out that something about Goodell's sentence didn't make any sense since playing football "more safely" didn't guarantee that football was at all safe to play given the most recent research on even moderate blows to the head.

Experts agreed, but pointed out that Goodell had had a lot of blows to the head and couldn't be expected to make sense.

"We need to look at football differently," stated one sports medicine expert. "We're creating generation after generation of

added, memory deficient, suicide and violence-prone individuals, it's true. But the community needs to accept that their sacrifice was for the common good of the spectator and get used to accommodating their considerable needs in later years."

"It's not like there are any other games," pointed out another expert. "At least not in terms of the money."

"We hope that someday having dementia and memory issues will just be seen as the American way," stated Goodell. "And...uh, I forgot what comes after that."

* * * * *

Top Ten New Football Tackling Safety Techniques

By Menachem Down

1. Run at your opponent and then have your drone swoop down and get you at the last minute.
2. Run at your opponent and then roll up in ball and pray.
3. Run at your opponent and then veer off at the last minute like a game of chicken (not always a successful technique).
4. Run at your opponent and then turn around and run the other way.
5. Just throw them the ball if you have it.
6. Kick the ball away from you anywhere on the field so people won't try to knock you down.
7. Have a bunch of fake balls on the field so nobody knows which one is real or whom to tackle.
8. Run at your opponent and then just pretend you've dropped dead.
9. Run at your opponent and then begin walking like a zombie.
10. Run at your opponent and then teleport to the stands.

* * * * *



UC Football Players Are the Dumbest

By Herrick D. Heraldangelssing

University of California (UC) Berkeley's football players placed dead last out of 72 programs measured by Graduation Success Rate (GSR), according to statistics released recently. Only 44 percent of football players between 2003 and 2007 graduated within six years, although the rest of them probably had some good days.

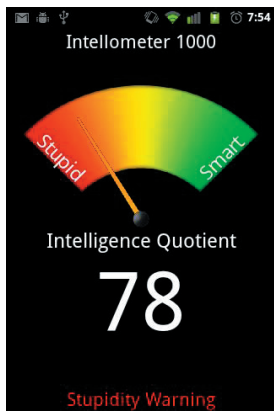
"We thought GSR was gunshot residue," conceded new head coach Sonny Dykes. "We thought a low rate was a good thing."

The football team's GSR has steadily declined over the past four years and according to insiders was a major factor in the firing of former football coach Jeff Tedford who left with all the spare cash in the UC system and then some.

Critics of the amount of money spent on coaches and athletic facilities note that Stanford finished at the top of the Pac-12 this year with a 93 percent graduation rate, and pointed out that having most of the football and basketball teams flunk out was not inevitable.

UC Athletic Director Sandy Barbour took full responsibility for the

football and basketball athletes' failure to graduate, but pointed out that success in the classroom wasn't as important as success on the field, at which point someone leaned over and whispered something in her ear, and she stated that she would get back to the press later with a statement.



UC FOOTBALL PLAYERS do register on intelligence meters but need a lot of help figuring out which end of the pencil they should use.

New Ugly Telegraph Arch Proposed

Office of Economic Development Insists It Isn't Trying to Punish Telegraph Area

By Jen Gall-Bells

Berkeley's Office of Economic Development is proposing a decorative archway at the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Dwight Way to combat loitering, crime, homelessness, global warming, off-leash dogs, and economic depression.

"Other kinds of depression, too, and yes, we know it looks kind of dumb," stated one Telegraph business owner, "but frankly, we're desperate."

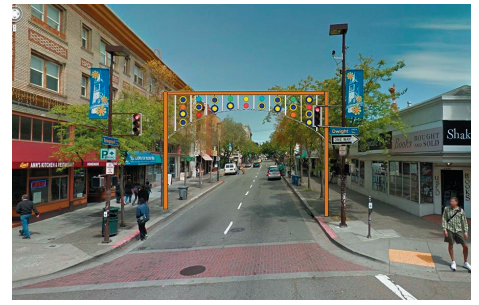
Local residents questioned the effectiveness of an arch in combatting crime, but agreed that the city had already exhausted most of its other desperate measures and clearly is ready to just blow money into their friends' pockets in the hopes of get-



Barbour claimed she has "placed in many strategies" to improve academic performance. Faculty members and administrators encouraged her to stop doing whatever she is currently doing as soon as possible "before they're all dumb as rocks."

"We're working on it," stated an assistant coach nervously when asked about 1,967 football tickets which are still available for a game against Arizona. "It isn't that they start off as dumb as they end up with the concussions and all."

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ARSON, HIGH RENTS, AND NO PARKING ARE APPARENTLY NOT ENOUGH for the Office of Economic Development which has decided the public should spend scarce public funds on this idiotic "arch" thing.

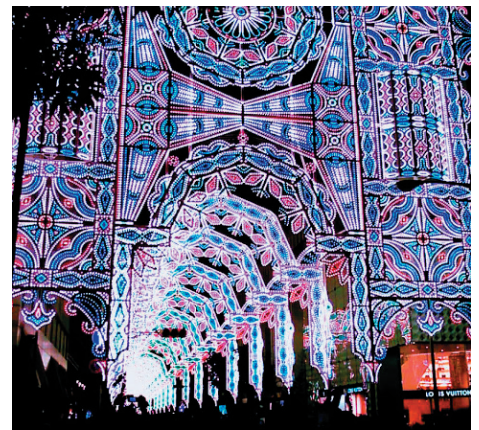
ting invited to better holiday parties.

"They burn down the apartment buildings, chase out the businesses with absurd rents, refuse to provide parking, and give people tickets for just sitting down," noted another business owner. "They only thing we're missing is some really insanely ugly public art."

Berkeley Design Advocates, which suggested the arch design, insisted that its design was hip and cool since it includes LED lights which are green.

"It's okay," laughed a local Telegraph shopper. "Whatever they put up there won't be up for long."

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BERKELEY DESIGN ADVOCATES should do a little research before creating their arch design, which other cities really do well.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



NEW! CRAFTS CORNER FOR HOLIDAY FUN!

By Joy Tudawoild

Editor's Note: Here are ten new ways to have fun with your family over the holidays using common articles you can find around the house or in the backyard or in the gutter near the liquor store. Use your imagination, invite your friends, and have fun!

- * Make your own pretzels using old socks!
- * Make your own hats out of garbage bags!
- * Make your own decorated cookies with peppercorns!
- * Make your own wreath out of rubber tires!
- * Dress your dog in an old shower curtain!
- * Write a letter to the editor without vowels!
- * Make your own curtains out of old kleenex!
- * Play the piano with celery tied to your fingers!
- * Make your own whistle out of a shoe!
- * Glue buttons all over the wall!
- * Make your own necklaces out of cigarette butts!
- * Make your own holiday napkins out of old fast food wrappers!

* * * * *



NECKLACES OF CIGARETTE BUTTS are an edgy way to update any holiday outfit!

White House Asks Santa for Help with Healthcare Website

by Cy Lentnight



THE ELVES IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP are in fact highly qualified for modern technological challenges and have a proven record of handling global requests and complex distribution which goes back for centuries.

The Obama administration publicly asked Santa for help last week with the Affordable Healthcare Act website, which consistently crashes when accessed.

"We tried Amazon.com, but they're kind of busy this time of year," stated one administration spokesperson. "We need someone who really has expertise that goes back for hundreds of years."

"Santa's been in business a long time," agreed a White House observer. "He covers a lot of ground in a short window."

Santa delivers to every household in one 24 hour period on Christmas Eve, but

"Santa's been in business a long time," agreed a White House observer. "He covers a lot of ground in a short window."

not without complaints, such as this one from Fayetteville, Arkansas:

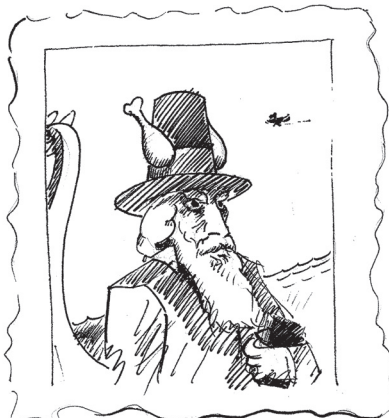
"I got a PlayStation 3 for my 11-year-old. A couple of days later, the PS3 started to freeze so on 09/11/2013 at night, I took back to the store to get it exchanged. They only had one on the shelf.

I also purchased the extended warranty (just in case). When we opened the box, to our surprise, we noticed the control was damaged and the PS3 was not like the one on the picture. Santa really dropped the ball..."

Critics pointed out that Santa prepares all year long for the Christmas Eve deliveries, but agreed that the administration needs all the help it can get.

"We asked Jesus, but he said he doesn't know anything about computers," explained administration spokesperson Jay Carney. "He just kind of laughed and told us to pray."

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RARE EVIDENCE THAT THE VIKINGS HAD CONTACT WITH THE PILGRIMS.

Next Issue: Watching snails with celebrities!

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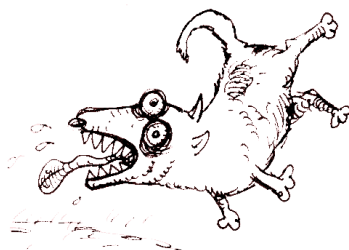


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*Anthony and Cleopatra

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.