

...the weapons-friendly issue ...



Pepper Spray Times

January 2013



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

"What honey is expected?!"*

Vol. XV No. 1

Once Again, Too Few Guns, Not Too Many

National Rifle Association Weighs in on Connecticut Tragedy

by Steve Canyon



We at the NRA condemn the recent violence in Newtown, Connecticut, as we will every time a tragic event like this occurs. Yet we have to balance the actions of a few deranged individuals against the need for personal firearms of so many patriotic Americans. So, once again, we at the NRA will attempt to shed some clarity.

As the NRA has pointed out so often, there are not too many

guns around, there are too few guns around. Just imagine what might have happened in the most recent tragedy if each kindergartener was armed and loaded. That pervert would have been blown full of holes faster than you can say Jack Daniels. Now I know there will be many of you reading this who will say "just a cotton-picking moment, Steve: you can't really mean that young children should bring loaded guns to school?" And of course, you are right. Guns simply have too much recoil for the average youngster. Rocket propelled grenades and flame throwers have practically no recoil, and they can be made in light, easy-to-carry models just right for the average five-year-old. In fact, several of our manufacturers have items like these ready to put into high production.

But Steve, I hear you asking, what if the pervert is up-armored? This does seem to be a trend these days, and it can

slow down the course of justice. Once again, our inventive weapons manufacturers have an answer for that. Each child should come to school up-armored, every day. Bullet-proof vests, helmets, shoes, pants and dresses in small sizes are already available. Even the face-shields come with sippy-cup dispensers: never underestimate the ingeniousness of our arms manufacturers – aren't they great?

So, if you have school-age kids, take them down to your local gun shop and get prepared for the school year. You will be glad you did.

* * * * *



THESE CHILDREN would have been better equipped to deal with the tragedy in Connecticut if they all had been trained in the use of assault weapons at an early age and were free to come to school armed.



UC's Pull-tab Logo Can't Buy a Friend

by Hatem N. Kickem

"It's a pull tab!"
"It's a headstone!"

"It's a Rolling Stones tongue after too many blue popsicles!"

No, it's the recently rejected new University of California (UC) logo which is causing more riots than fee increases.

Experts agree. Fee increases are seen as regrettable, but inevitable, according to those who study public opinion. But toying with the old logo is considered sacrilege.



"We feel sorry for students who have to leave college with a mountain of debt when we went through the UC system for free," stated one UC alumnus. "But this, this logo change is too much."

"It's like painting a mustache on Jesus," added another alumna. "It's intolerable."

UC Berkeley spokespersons would not concede that the logo itself looked anything like a bidet, a reloading symbol, or a worm but agreed that the controversy itself had overshadowed any advantage represented by the "fresh" logo.

"We're going back to the drawing board," muttered UC spokesperson Diane Klein of the in-house team that wished to remain anonymous. "We're asking them to start over, but they're a little reluctant at this point."

"Are you kidding?" stated one of the design team members. "I'm wearing a wig and fake glasses. If they want another logo they're on their own."

* * * * *

MANY ARE SUGGESTING that the new UC logo's imperfections can be fixed with some slight adjustment such as the one pictured above which clarifies some of the university's fresh, new partnerships with corporate sponsors.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I got a drone for Christmas. Can I fly it around? It really looks cool.

Dear reader, yes, especially over near Susan Wengraf's house. And don't forget to visit Jesse Arreguin, too. Susan will especially like it if you can get a bunch of them going and do an aerial ballet.

Dear Lena, is it okay if I just crash it into things? I think I can get a grant for that.

Dear reader, that sounds really fun. I think you've finally found a use for drones that will excite the imagination of the whole community, as well as something delightful for people of all ages.

Dear Lena, did you like the new logo? It had such a short life that I don't really feel I had much chance to enjoy the over \$100,000 it cost me as a taxpayer.

Dear reader, I feel the same way. The comedy that could have been generated from the University of California's silly logo could have fueled several operas. We could have crashed drones into it in a community competition. But I assure you, the university has an endless fountain of similar stunts to keep us all amused.

Dear Lena, so, did Options Recovery really force their recovery clients to walk door to door for the failed Measure S anti-sitting law?

Dear reader, only in a manner of speaking. When you are down and out and offered a job with no questions asked and you need the money, you tend to make yourself available to the highest bidder, in this case the most expensive campaign in this town's history, the effort to make sitting down a crime. What Options Recovery and the Downtown Berkeley Association did roping the recovery clients into walking door to door against their own civil rights has a high ick factor, but falls short of being entirely illegal.

Ask Lena about hot jobs available at your local merchant association at cdenney@jgc.org.



THIS LITTLE DRONE MAY NOT BE AS LOVEABLE as a kitten or a puppy dog, but it can be just as loyal a companion for older seniors who need a companion to walk with them around the neighborhood and keep an eye on them so they don't fall or take up an inappropriate interest in political activities.

Berkeley City Council Embraces Domestic Use of Drones

by Celina Lottacondos

The Berkeley City Council rejected a "No Drone Zone" recommendation from the Peace and Justice Commission citing both the potential uses of drones to deliver pizza, pepper spray, and high-end wedding invitations as well as the precedent already set by the drone-like "ambassadors" in the Downtown Berkeley Association's (DBA) "hospitality" program.

"The 'ambassadors' are just like drones,"



THINK HOW MUCH MONEY we could save if the police could just deploy these handy domestic drones to gunfire-ridden neighborhoods from the safety of a sunny park.

pointed out one councilmember's staff. "These 'ambassadors' wander around aimlessly most of the time. They just kind of hover around and scare people needlessly. That's what drones do."

"It's true that the 'ambassadors' are kind of like human versions of drones," asserted another city staff member. "They keep an eye on people and make sure they're not doing unwanted or undesirable things or behaving in inappropriate or problematic ways."

"The DBA's 'ambassadors' are carefully trained to be able to tell the rich people

from the poor people," agreed another staff member. "I'm not sure drones can make that kind of distinction."

Critics objected that drones were a violation of privacy, but were dismissed by experts who pointed out that the 'ambassadors' were violating people's privacy too, since they rearrange people's seating downtown according to class, interrupt them if they snooze, and generally discourage them from existing at all if their income is less than \$100,000 a year.

Councilmembers nonetheless welcomed drones as potentially useful.

"I would like to use them to walk my dog," suggested Councilmember Arreguin.

"I think they have potential for use in a lovely aerial ballet," enthused Councilmember Susan Wengraf.

"I would like one to bring me a latte in the morning," admitted Councilmember Wozniak.

"I would like one to use just to dog Kriss Worthington," acknowledged Mayor Bates. "Moving his seat away from mine just isn't doing the trick."

* * * * *



YOU HAVE TO ADMIT that this quadcopter is kind of like the rubber band toys you had fun with as a kid, and what could be wrong with that?

More Housing for Rich People Planned by Former City Planner

by Lon Winded

Former city planner Mark Rhoades showed no embarrassment at a recent press conference unveiling his company, Mark Rhoades Planning Group, at the helm of the “entitlement process” to turn the skyline over Shattuck Cinemas into a sparkling nest for the super-rich.

“it’s going to create an urban experience that doesn’t exist right now,” stated Rhoades. “It’s not that Berkeley doesn’t have rich people right now, of course. But most of them are up in the hills swimming in their infinity pools. We need to find ways to get them to come downtown before the merchants have to do something radical like lower their prices for normal people.”

“That’s right,” added Gretchen Barth, who works with the HSR Berkeley Investments company that has agreed to spend \$200 million on the project. “Right now there are a lot of spaces that are dead and are not being used except by poor people displaced by last year’s high-end condo projects.”

Critics argued that the sheer nonsense of continuing to build housing for wealthy people is ludicrous enough a planning goal without adding hypocritical concerns about the Silicon Valley-style super-rich, but were dismissed by Rhoades, who pointed out that if his group didn’t move quickly to capitalize on the Measure R provision allowing a limited number of 180-foot and 120-foot buildings someone else would submit plans and rake in the gravy.

“I’ve got contacts at City Hall,” stated Rhoades modestly. “I’m pretty well situated to make this investment group happy.”

The few people left actually walking around in downtown Berkeley scratched their heads over the plans, which would destroy Shattuck Cinemas, one of the few businesses operating in a downtown area most of which is a sea of empty buildings and shuttered storefronts.

“I only come downtown for the movies,” shrugged one local resident. “Are you sure these are planners?”

“I’m not sure what these guys are smoking,” offered another resident. “Socking it to the movies is kind of dumb. The only other thing to do downtown is watch the ambassadors twiddle their thumbs and try to look like they’re doing something.”



RICH PEOPLE MAY HAVE a lot more housing options than poor people, but why not give them some more? asks former city planning director Mark Rhoades, who thinks nothing is greener than a penthouse view.

Insiders at city hall admitted that putting over another landmark-destroying project for rich people’s housing might be tough, but pointed out that all it usually takes is a little greenwashing and an historic plaque or two to lull critics and preservationists back to sleep.

“We’ve almost hammered the Landmarks Preservation Commission into line,” stated Rhoades. “All we need to do now is call it green and throw in a bike rack.”

* * * * *

Your Wisest Bets for 2013 New Year Resolutions

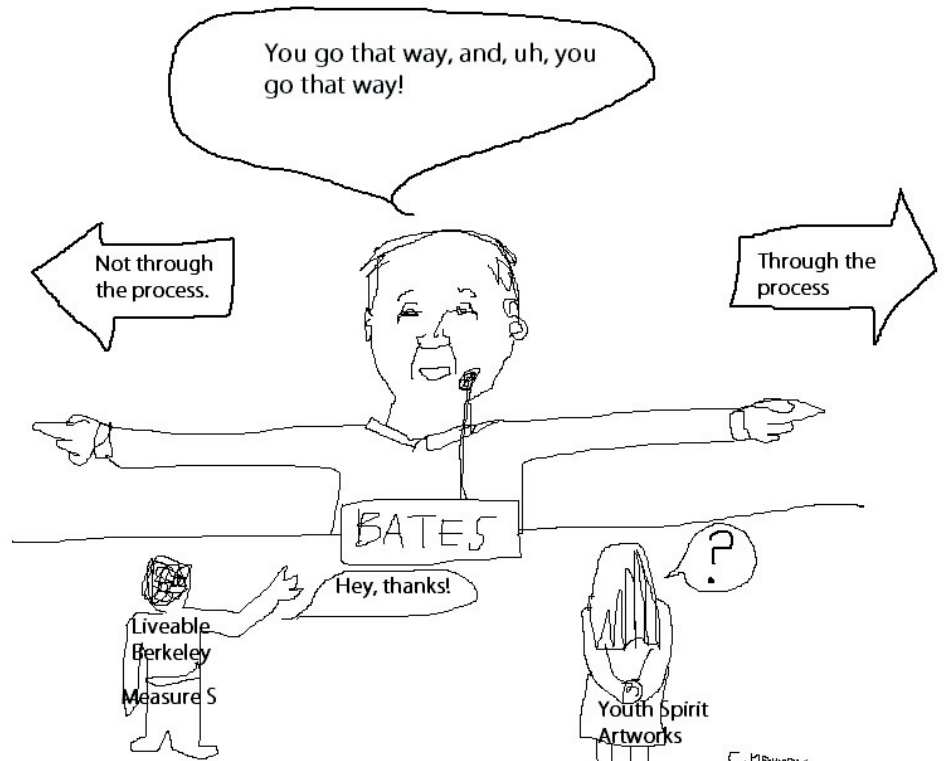
1. Resolve to use shoelaces.
2. Resolve to occasionally nod at your neighbor.
3. Resolve to improve your barking dog imitation.
4. Resolve to get occasional junk mail.
5. Resolve to stop feeding dolphins.
6. Resolve to avoid becoming a celebrity.
7. Resolve to improve your talent for buttoning your shirt.
8. Resolve not to shoot at passing helicopters.
9. Resolve to avoid unflattering mirrors.
10. Resolve to watch more tv.



* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



DBA Considers Criminalizing Sneezing

by Gail Blowing

Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) director John Caner admits that his next campaign, an effort to criminalize sneezing, has an uphill struggle ahead, but he points out that he's up for the challenge.

"We looked a little stupid trying to make sitting down a crime," acknowledged Caner. "But sitting down is technically peaceful behavior. Sneezing is different. You spread germs all over the place when you sneeze in public."

Health experts agreed. "Sneezing is a serious factor in the spread of ordinary cold germs, flu viruses, as well as other respiratory illnesses," stated a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control. "Stopping public sneezing may sound silly to some, but it would be very helpful in disease prevention."

Critics objected that sneezing is unavoidable human behavior, and that any law



THE WHOLE TOWN HOPED that playing with his "dong Lulu" would keep John Caner and his friends happy enough to leave the civil rights of the poor alone, but happily for the "ambassadors" with nothing to do, they are not done trying to clear the streets of unattractive poor people.

criminalizing sneezing could be used in as discriminatory a fashion as the failed anti-sitting law.

"Well, duh," responded Caner. "The way we see it, we soaked up a lot of stupid in the last campaign. This one about sneezing will actually have some arguably practical health benefit. All we really need is about four more electoral points and we're over the fence."

"The rich get monogrammed hankies, the poor get tickets," explained one of the DBA's "ambassadors". "We can do this. We've had lots of practice."

* * * * *

Top Ten Topics Avoided by Romney and Obama at their White House Lunch



1. Women in binders.
2. How to transport family pets.
3. Who really won Ohio.
4. Favorite Supreme Court nominees.
5. Who's wife is hotter.
6. Magic underwear.
7. Swing-state Latinos.
8. Forty-seven percent of anything.
9. Opening airplane windows at 35,000 feet.
10. The London Olympics.

* * * * *

Next Issue: Naming Single Dollar Bills with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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

From:
The Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenney@igc.org

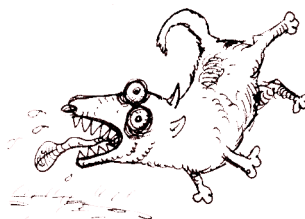


Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Staff.....Steve Canyon, Hatem N. Kickem,
Lena Deeter, Celina Lottacondos, Lon
Winded, Franz Toast, Gail Blowing, Juan
Nathan Undergod

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.

To:



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest matter of \$12 - \$20/yr.

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

* Troilus and Cressida

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.