

the hovering suitcase issue...



June 2015

Pepper Spray Times



It's sphery...it's free...if you can find it "...let the welkin roar..."*

Vol. XVII No. 6

Blankets Organize to Protect Their Rights

"We're not going to take this lying down."



THE BERKELEY POLICE muster troops to battle blankets in the Great Blanket Wars which began when a duvet was seen creeping up on an unsuspecting pedestrian.

By Pat DeCovers

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates and the Downtown Berkeley Association's all-out war on blankets has inspired blankets themselves to organize resistance, including hiring a civil rights firm to protect their rights and try to challenge the new anti-blanket ordinances in court.



BLANKETS are claiming to have rights and organizing together in menacing piles.

broidered apishamore. "We don't just fold when we're challenged."

Downtown Berkeley Association CEO John Caner defended his organization's focus on blankets.

"Baltimore's riots are nothing compared to what we go through here in downtown Berkeley," he stated with a shudder. "I see blankets every day, and I think it is only a matter of time before they organize a street war and burn the whole town."

Duvet admitted that his group had considered burning down the town, but had rejected the tactic.

"We thought about it, but it's just too dangerous," he said. "We're pretty flammable. Besides, we really like the East Bay Media Center."

"And the Cinnaholic place," stated another blanket. "That place rocks."

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Great Blanket Wars Begin

Blankets of Mass Destruction Found All Over Town

By Helen Backagain



SCHOOL CHILDREN cower helplessly as blankets attack and attempt to smother them.

Blood-soaked bodies of unsuspecting pedestrians lined the streets of downtown Berkeley recently after an organized army of vicious blankets began a long-anticipated relentless military-style attack.

"We tried to warn people," stated Downtown Berkeley Association CEO John Caner walking through the carnage of the first skirmish of the Blanket Wars.

"We knew this day would come."

"We tried to warn people...we knew this day would come."

"We're not sure these are the blankets of mass destruction," stated a public information officer for the Berkeley Police Department (BPD). "Our investigation is ongoing by our special blanket team."

Local hospitals and clinics are overflowing with injured residents who mistakenly thought that blankets were not a threat.

"I honestly saw blankets as warm and friendly," stated one bandaged visitor to the downtown who was scraped raw after being dragged by a blanket for blocks. "I had no idea how blankets had transformed the streets into a war zone."



A CRUEL BLANKET attacks and attempts to strangle this little dog in broad daylight.

City officials agreed that the safety of tourists and residents remains in great jeopardy until blankets and bedding of any kind is outlawed in the city of Berkeley.

"We've passed preliminary support for an anti-blanket law," stated Mayor Bates. "We're just waiting on final wording from the City Manager."

Critics of the anti-blanket law admitted they were wrong in initially opposing the much-needed legislation.

"We were wrong," one opponent stated. "Dead wrong."

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Mayor Proposes Ten Second Limitation on Public Comment

By C. D. Bettanraisya



Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates has the votes he needs to pass a ten second public comment rule strictly governing citizen participation at public meetings.

According to City Hall insiders, former mayor Shirley Dean's willingness to exceed the one-minute rule in a recent hearing has inspired the new proposal.

"If she won't follow the rules we're really in trouble," stated one City Hall insider. "Imagine what the anarchists will do."

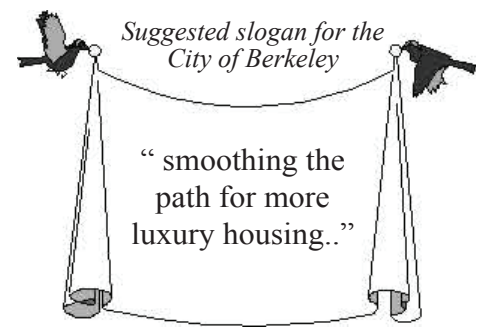
Critics objected to the ten second rule as unfairly restricting public participation.

"It's hard to present complex concepts of public policy in that small amount of time," stated one of the speakers at the recent hearing on the 18-story Harold Way proposal, which has several community groups rais-

ing a wide range of concerns. "We're not sure we can adequately illustrate the issues in a matter of a few seconds."

"It's a sound bite world," responded Mayor Bates. "People need to step up to the Twittiverse and adapt."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think all this fuss about blankets is overblown. I have blankets in my closet and I'm not afraid.

Dear reader, you can only keep your head in the sand for so long. When you come to your senses you'll be standing in line at the army surplus store fighting for the last can of anti-blanket spray wishing you'd paid attention to the Downtown Berkeley Association's warnings. Don't come crying to us when blankets are holding you hostage and forcing you to withdraw everything you have at the bank machine.

Dear Lena, hasn't the drought done us a lot of good? I've stopped wasting a lot of water and the lawn thing was really stupid anyway.

Dear reader, this is precisely the insensitive attitude which is costing us our precious heritage. Unless we hang onto our cherished traditions, the Slip-N-Slide and the Water-Wiggle and the Noodle will become part of a distant past. I don't want to live in a world without lush lawns.

Dear Lena, what is all the fuss about the big tall buildings. I want them. I can't wait to base jump off them and maybe drop stuff.

Dear reader, or tie a rope and swing from tall building to tall building. Opponents of tall buildings just have no sense of fun.

Dear Lena, I resent Janet Napolitano's efforts to stop skyrocketing tuition fees for University of California students. High fees build character and keep out the riff-raff. Those 101A-101B classes would be even bigger if the fees were low and everything would be crowded.

Dear reader, and just imagine the cost of a football ticket. You're absolutely right. Educating a small elite really keeps the competition for the good jobs stay at a manageable level. Janet just doesn't get it.

Ask Lena about technological advances in tea-cups at cdenny@igc.org.

Various Ways That Vicious Blankets Can Try to Kill You

By Doc Trinarie

Blankets can leap up and cover your head while you're walking so you run into things.



This may not sound very serious, but imagine if this were to happen while you were crossing the street, or trying to walk and text at the same time. You could drop and wreck your phone, or run into a wall.

HAND TO HAND combat with blankets takes years of training and should only be attempted by athletes highly skilled in anti-blanket techniques.

Blankets could jump onto your windshield while you are driving.



BLANKETS CAN SNEAK INTO ordinary settings such as this horse pasture to disguise themselves as benign elements before viciously attacking innocent creatures and muffling their anguished cries for help.

Blankets can rampage through town after a controversial political event occurs and smash windows of local stores.

This has yet to be documented, but the Downtown Berkeley Association assures us that it is nonetheless true.

Blankets can jump into your mouth and suffocate you.

This happens especially if you are trying to sing a lengthy folk song when you get to the part about the broken token, which for some reason makes blankets very upset.

"Blankets can jump into your mouth and suffocate you."

This could have deadly consequences not just for you but for the little troupe of Girl Scouts walking around trying to sell cookies.

Blankets can tangle up your feet and trip you.

Serious head injuries and broken bones can result from a simple fall. Blankets may have no intention of getting in your way, but they are kind of dumb.

Blankets can sneak into the spokes of your bicycle.

This can seriously impede your ability to ride and potentially throw your wheels out of alignment.

Blankets can take up space at the movies so there is no room for you.

This may not kill you, but it can be very aggravating and annoy you to no end.

Blankets tend to congregate together so everybody else feels unwelcome.

You'll see this phenomenon in hall closets and linen stores, and notice that you suddenly feel untidy and ill-prepared for a summer full of guests.

Blankets can stuff up your toilet.

This also may not kill you immediately, but when conditions deteriorate as a consequence of the toilet issue there is a risk of serious disease.

Blankets can use up all your minutes on the phone.

This may not look immediately dangerous, but if you need the phone for an emergency you don't want to find out the hard way that your blanket has enjoyed taking a lengthy push-poll.

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BE SURE TO PICK UP A HANDY CAN OF luxury housing spray to keep developers out of your neighborhood.



SHEILA, FEATURED HERE IN THE center ring, is a bridge champion who wishes to spend more time with her family and maybe take up the oboe.

Elephants Planning Circus Retirement

By Sandine DeClowns

Elephants announced at a recent press conference that they plan to retire in 2018 from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circuses to spend more time with their families.

Spokespersons for the circus stated that there was no connection between the announcement and the pressure from animal rights groups which claim that performing elephants are being mistreated.

"It is not demeaning to wear ribbons and feathers and dance around," insisted Kenneth Feld, president of Feld Entertainment, Ringling's parent company. "Just ask the women in our show."

The elephants themselves dismissed the controversy.

"I've always wanted to paint," stated Sheila, one of Barnum & Bailey's featured performers. "I'm a little weary of life on the road, and I just want to go home."

Most of the elephants agreed that life in a cage had its downside.

"We may or may not all paint," observed one elephant, "but we would like some of that plain air."

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Marching in the Dark Confuses Everybody

By Ella Vathing

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf's new prohibition on marching in the street after dark is confusing protesters, police, civil rights organizations and community members so badly they don't know whether to bring torches and flashlights or go to bed.

"Go to bed," insisted Oakland officials, who point out that nobody can read protest signs in the dark anyway.

"Marching around in the dark is dumb," stated Oakland police Officer Jorge Cabral, who helps run the city's special-event permitting program. "Nobody can see you and you run the risk of missing all the best late-night comedy shows."



Protesters insist that because marching in the dark in the streets had not previously been prohibited, Mayor Schaaf's new after-dark crackdown is violating First Amendment rights to protest in the dark whether or not anybody can see or understand anything about the point of the protest.

"What will they champion next, the right to march in the dark while blindfolded and knitting sweaters?" commented one disgusted Oakland resident. "Black lives matter, but they're starting to lose me."

"This is an important right," stated the American Civil Liberties Union. "It only looks stupid."

"We can't allow this new prohibition to chill our First Amendment rights, even the stupid ones," stated one organizer. "Stupid rights matter."

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THE NEW TRAGIC OPERA "Death of a Lawn" brought the house down in a recent performance for opera aficionados.

Top Ten Suggested Community Benefits for Big Tall Buildings

1. low-income housing
2. low-income housing
3. low-income housing
4. low-income housing
5. low-income housing
6. low-income housing
7. low-income housing
8. low-income housing
9. low-income housing
10. low-income housing

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

I don't want to give money directly to poor people because they might spend it on something stupid.



I'd rather give it to the Downtown Berkeley Association so they can spend it on things that matter.



Like beating up homeless people and flowerpots.



C. Denney 5-12-2015

Community Suggestions on the Best Ways to Address the New Downtown "Positive Change" Donation Boxes

By Moses Lawnalot

- Fill them with letters to Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) CEO John Caner asking him to resign.
- Fill them with articles on the housing crisis his board of directors is making worse.
- Fill them with one-way bus tickets out of town for John Caner and his board.
- Fill them with pictures of yourself donating directly to people in need.
- Fill them with rich compost.
- Fill them with pictures of the ambassador beat-down of a homeless man on March 19, 2015.
- Fill them with "bad apples", the DBA's explanation of the ambassador beat-down of a homeless man on March 19, 2015.
- Fill them with requests that people in need be allowed to use all the empty retail spaces (and their bathrooms and kitchens) we have in town thanks to the refusal of landlords and property managers' to lower the rents



DOWNTOWN BERKELEY ASSOCIATION'S John Caner can't wait to run his fingers through the money you put in the "Positive Change" donation box instead of giving it to the poor.

on empty spaces so at least we get some use out of them instead of having huge holes in our commercial districts.

- Set them on fire.
- Smash them off the poles.
- Change the signage in creative ways such as "Heart Transplant Fund for the DBA Board of Directors."

* * * * *

New Ground Squirrel Population Opposes Austerity Program

By Sue Werline

The newest generation of Cesar Chavez Park ground squirrels is mad as hell and "they're not going to take it anymore," according to a spokes-squirrel for this spring's generation.



YOUNG GROUND SQUIRRELS are not in the mood for austerity.

"We may have been born yesterday," stated the spokes-squirrel, "but we know our parents feasted on popcorn and tortilla chips and

we're not going back."

"It isn't that I haven't tried to live on dandelions," added another ground squirrel. "But our cultural tradition here at Cesar Chavez Park depends on French fries and Almond Roca."

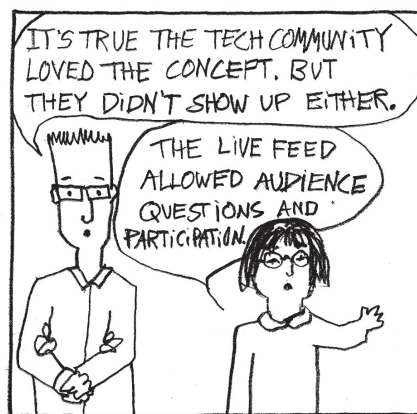
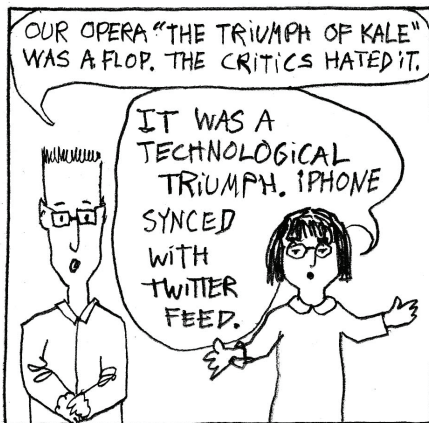
"And M&M's," called out another ground squirrel disappearing into a hole. "Don't forget the M&M's."

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Next Issue: Climbing up flagpoles with celebrities!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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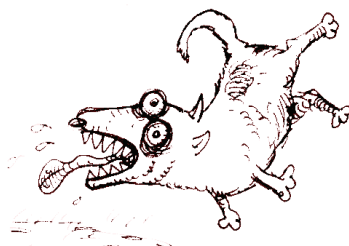


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by (see below)...Want to help distribute? Contact us for copies or just make some.

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