

...the weapons-friendly issue ...



All hail the twenty-first year* of the powerful...

Pepper Spray Times

March 2013



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

"go cheerfully together and digest.."*

Vol. XV No. 3

11% Jump in Violent and Property Crimes --

Police Promise Crime Surge Won't Distract from focus on Civil Sidewalks

by Tonia Radiodown

Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan reassured an alarmed public that the recent impressive surge in violent and property crime won't distract his department from its top priority.

"Berkeley citizens don't like violent and property crime," acknowledged Chief Meehan. "But their overwhelming concern is having to walk by some kid with a dog asking for spare change. We have to keep our eyes on the prize."

"The chief is right," asserted Jon Caner, Executive Director of the Downtown Berkeley Association nodding emphatically. "It's a real shame when somebody gets killed, or when you get your car stolen. But we can't lose focus on the effort to make sure everyone utilizing our common public spaces has season tickets to the Rep and a \$200,000 plus income."

"I'm all for it," responded one enthusiastic panhandler when told about the continuity in Berkeley police priorities. "I get serious exercise being shuffled from one part of town to the next, and I also think it cuts down on the competition for spare change."

Critics objected that homicides are up sharply and should not be taken lightly, especially considering that 2013's first homicide happened in broad daylight at 11:00 am on a crowded public street, but



THE BERKELEY POLICE may not have time to help you with your stolen bike or car, but it sure does a good job of tucking your misfortune away in a pile of crime statistics and reports so that you have the comfort of knowing you are not alone.

the chief responded that the homicide had taken place in West Berkeley, which his department considers a much lower priority than the downtown area with its scourge of backpacking young travelers writing suspicious poetry and strumming guitars.

"These property owners downtown put serious money into the elections and they need to see some results," he stated. "They need to know we care."

"We feel for the dead people," affirmed Caner. "But we can't help them now. We need to focus on the rich guy with sidewalk-sharing issues. *We can help.*"

* * * * *

SF Mayor Ordered Superbowl Loss, Calm Streets

by Steven Backtomah
Sameold Usetobee

The San Francisco 49ers' spokesperson dismissed the rumor that the team took a dive in favor of keeping San Francisco's streets quiet after the game, but others are not so sure.

"It was a real game," stated one fan indignantly. "Didn't you see that comeback after the lights went out? That was real heart."

Mayor Ed Lee agreed.

"I had no interest in having them lose the game," he insisted. "I just wanted San Francisco sports fans to celebrate quietly by soberly shaking hands and buying small trinkets instead of the usual bus-burning."

Fans were not so sure.

"It's not the same without the bus burning," said one football fan. "Nothing says victory like smashing a few windows. I know we lost the game, but window smashing is kind of a tradition around here."

Observers agreed that Beyonce's halftime show made the whole experience worthwhile.

"She was on fire," agreed another fan. "We're hoping next year we can get her to coach."

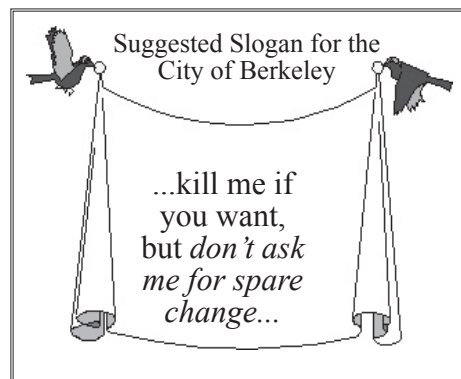
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SOURDOUGH SAM admitted he'd been encouraged to tone things down.



THIS GUY MAY BE DEAD having been shot to death on a Berkeley street in broad daylight, but at least he doesn't have to deal with panhandlers any more.



WAS THE BALL NEUTRAL or was the ball influenced by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee's plea to keep San Francisco streets languid after the SuperBowl? No one is certain.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, are we sure the Post Office has to make a profit? Isn't the Post Office a service more like the public school system, or the roads, or the national parks? Does everything have to make dough?

Dear reader, what is the point of the postal service if nobody can make money off of it? I realize that it has lots of fans full of nostalgia for the olden days when stamps were two cents and the mail was delivered twice a day, but most people have computers now, and those who don't should get it together already and use Facebook instead of making postal carriers hike all over creation.

Dear Lena, couldn't they just charge more money for all the stupid catalogues and reduce the price of the letter to grandma? I like catalogues, but I could seriously build a cottage in the back with one week's worth. Come to think of it, I might do that.

Dear reader, the letter to grandma is not nearly as important as making sure you get eight or nine different competing opportunities to buy that crocheted toilet seat cover with the daisies.

Dear Lena, can I be pope? It looks like an easy job. And it looks like you can still have a sex life if you want to.

Dear reader, if you're down with wearing a dress and those little red shoes, you're probably a good candidate since they're scraping the bottom. Just keep the swearing to a minimum and brush up on your Latin.

Dear Lena, so nobody's buying the most expensive football seats in the brand-new UC stadium- why not lower the price?

Dear reader, you make it sound so simple. But the entire construction project was based on making sure rich people paid an insane amount for "special" seats. Please don't ruin it now.

Ask Lena about adventures in psychic samba at cdenny@igc.org.



WANT THIS LETTER? Well, how much is it worth to ya? Really? Is that all? Let's try this again next Wednesday!

"Flexible Pricing" Suggested for Post Office

by Padma Dues

Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe, whose annual base salary at \$245,000 is pretty impressive, is currently evaluating "flexible" or "competitive" pricing in his curious quest to make traditionally unprofitable Post Office services profitable.

"We've tried a lot of things, mostly squeezing the carriers," stated Donahoe. "But we haven't really tried pitting geographic regions against each other, or letting mail service go to the highest bidder."

"Flexible" or "competitive" pricing is now used by the University of California, for example, so that it is not locked into high-end football tickets that nobody wants.

"You may not really want to pay more than forty-six cents for your check in the mail," pointed out Donahoe. "But if it costs \$3.50 for us not to sit on it for three weeks you'll come up with the money somehow."

Observers admitted that if the Post Office decides to play hide-and-seek with the public's mail, at least some members of the public would sell their kids' bicycles to get



WHY SHOULDN'T THIS SIMPLE act be subject to the tides of capitalist market pressures? Get ready to pay the going rate to send your nephew a birthday card so that Postmaster Donahoe can keep his \$245,000 salary which he works hard for unlike all those lazy postal carriers who need to budget better.

Examples of Flexible Post Office Pricing - So You Can Be Ready!

* **A letter to Santa** - \$5.00, unless it is really long, in which case it would be \$10.00.

* **Your tax return** - \$12.00, because after all, that's less than the fine you'll pay if you're late.

* **A valentine to your sweetie** - \$1.25 for a basic valentine, \$7.50 for a colored envelope, and \$75.00 for a quick strip by your postal carrier.



* **Court documents** - \$35.00 flat fee unless you want a really well-dressed guy in an Italian suit to hand-deliver them for a negotiated fee depending on the anticipated settlement.

YOUR POST office officials are in the best position to know what your letter is worth.

* **Letters to the editor** - varies depending on quality and content.

* * * * *

their paychecks on time.

"Soaking the public is a rich American tradition," expressed Donahoe. "Far be it from the Post Office to eschew a respected American custom."

Critics pointed out that the Post Office shouldn't have to be profitable.

"The Department of Defense isn't profitable," stated Harvey Smith, president of the National New Deal Preservation Association.

"This is a manufactured crisis. Any first-year business student could tell you that selling off a priceless legacy of historic public post office buildings at the bottom of the



FLEXIBLE pricing is the way of the future! It may make budgeting kind of tough, but it protects businesses from what would otherwise be a rough, unpredictable business climate.

real estate market is nothing but a fire sale for Richard Blum's real estate interests, and it's all built on the fallacy that the post offices should make a profit instead of be a public service like the public schools."

"Hmmm, the public schools," mused Donahoe after being told of Smith's remarks. "Why shouldn't public schools make money, too? We may be missing a trick here."

"And national parks!" exclaimed Mickey D. Barnett, Chairman of the United States Postal Service Board of Governors. "And public roads! We need to really think out of the mailbox."

* * * * *

America's Cup Sailboat Race Avoided by Donors, Sailors

by Rocky Landing

Fundraisers in San Francisco usually have an easy time signing up support, so the empty pockets of the America's Cup's local event as the race draws near are proving a local and global embarrassment.

"We're only \$20 million short," stated Recreation and Park Commission President Mark Buell, whose group has managed to pull in \$9 million from local donors and an-



IT'S A LITTLE DEPRESSING that the guy being adored world-wide, treated like god, and surrounded by stuff made of jewels and gold got tired of the life and is moving on.

Real Reasons for the Pope's Resignation

by Celine Indulgences

- Tired of wearing dresses.
- The ring-kissing thing got old.
- Buddhism really starting to look good.
- Infallibility hard to keep up.
- Never could swallow the virgin birth thing.
- Sees long-term trend and realizes Christmas can't compete with Halloween.
- Dreams of second career in musical theater.
- Wants to sleep in on Easter.
- Has a confession to make.
- Wants to hit the club scene.
- God said move it on over.

* * * * *



other whopping \$5 million loan from race organizers who are really, really rich, but who are hoping the public will pick up the remaining tab of \$25 million dollars.

"The public loves this stuff," said Buell in a comforting tone. "We're certain that after watching the three competitors sail around they will be moved to shovel \$25 million dollars in the city's pocket."

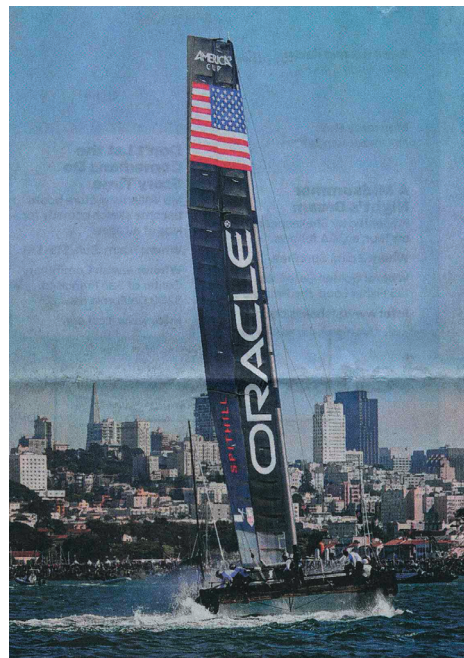
"That's right," affirmed another America's Cup supporter. "How would the public know what the rich are wearing and which restaurants they prefer without watching from the sidelines? The rich set the trends, even here in San Francisco, and the rest of the population needs to be appropriately



IF YOU HAVE a boat or something like this that can stay afloat then please join the big America's Cup boat race before it gets even more embarrassing for the city's rich people.

grateful for the effort it takes on the part of the rich to keep them informed."

Larry Ellison, one of the richest men in the world, scoffed at this element of the race, insisting that the thrill of the race itself is worth the whole cost of the event even though at this point he admitted that



GIVE GENEROUSLY so that rich people can comander the entire bay for their private fun zone which, out of compassion, they will allow you to watch and admire.

the three entries signed up to race each other aren't quite the spectacle the originally projected twelve international teams might have been.

"But I'll be in there," assured Ellison. "And I'm richer than all the rest of them put together. I'm the one whose shoes they really need to see to know what to wear."

"We're trying to put the city on the map," stated Buell. "That is, we're trying to put it on the map for something besides drugs, rock and roll, and naked people."

"If they would just have drugs, rock and roll, and naked people they'd have more support," observed one tourist. "Boats are nice, but they're out there every ordinary day on the bay. Drugs, rock and roll, and naked people have a guaranteed international constituency that loves to travel and get down."

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We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Rent Board Proposal Boots Clean Air

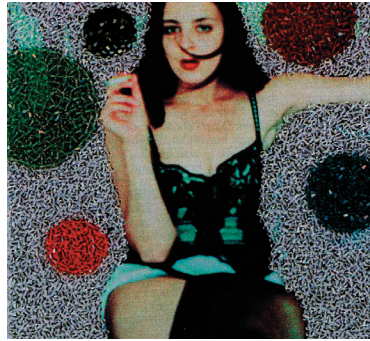
by Holden Mabreath

Rent Stabilization Board subcommittee members whose strong support for allowing tenants who smoke indoors to continue to do so was embraced by a "reorganized" Public Health Department expressed delight that their suggestions had met with dazed approval.

"We can't believe it," stated one commissioner. "We know nothing about public health, and even less about second-hand smoke. We just wanted a proposal that had no teeth, offered no protection, and basically was about ten pages of pointless verbiage so we'd look like we'd accomplished something."

"Mission accomplished!" added another commissioner. "We're not sure why we're the biggest bully on this block, but since that's the case, we can get away with having a few brochures on the subject and expend zero resources on it."

Critics were aghast that the proposal gave secondhand smoke, a known carcinogen of which there is no safe dose, less legal



SMOKERS ARE FREE to expose their neighboring tenants as much as they like in the Rent Stabilization Board's proposal for multi-unit housing tobacco regulations because otherwise their lives would just be so

weight than a barking dog, but were dismissed by Rent Board commissioners.

"Barking dogs *keep you up*," they pointed out. "Second-hand smoke might kill you, but probably not immediately. You can sleep right through it!"

* * * * *

Hurricane force winds, 30-foot seas, heavy fog, icebergs, darkness, and sub-zero temperatures conspire to protect the Arctic.

On September 9th, 2012 Shell began ocean drilling. On September 10th a giant ice floe forced Shell to retreat.

Arctic Spirits Are Speaking

D. Minkler 2013

Next Issue: Balancing Feather Dusters with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



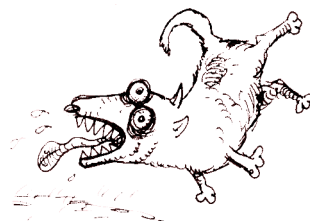
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* Henry VI Part 1

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.