



Pepper Spray Times



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

"...What noise is this I hear?..."*

Vol. XVII No. 5

Fake Art Fans Rally for Misunderstood Developers Cunning Condos Are Art in New Definition



Guest Column by Jennifer Boesing

JENNIFER BOESING is available to flack for your eighteen story building if you need the proposal fluffed.

I know what you're going to say – that we already have enough fake art space. We got the fake theater spaces, the fake museum spaces, and lots of fake bookstores and gallery spaces thanks to the way the city council rolls over like a dog wanting its belly scratched every time a developer walks by.

But if we're really serious about fake art we need to double down and commit to more fake art and layers and layers of fake art and competing concentric circles of fake art that can be alluded to on fake theater and fake gallery walls for generations so that Berkeley finally has something new and edgy to point at to call its own.

I say let fake art grease the way for the Harold Way development, especially if it benefits me and my Youth Musical Company personally and professionally, since San Francisco and Oakland have the real art thing. Fake art may be misunderstood as a genre, but unless we support it now we run the risk of having all the funny stories about how developers don't understand the need for a props room or a backstage area or a green room or the electrical requirements of lighting just wither away.

Fake art is here to stay as long as I have something to say about it and as long as these unexpected but really appreciated donations from developers keep rolling unexpectedly into the pockets of the enterprises I work with. Fake art and fake art spaces are putting Berkeley on the map, and I want to be on the map, too!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Boesing
Producing Artistic Director,
Youth Musical Theater Company

* * * * *

DBA Celebrates Ambassador Program at Nearly Empty Annual Meeting Zero Public Comment Speeds Proceedings

By Axel Meanything

The Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) shrugged off the lack of attendance and absence of public comment at its annual meeting citing "shyness" and "good stuff on tv" as the reason almost nobody was there after their nation-wide video debut.

"We took steps to fill out the room," confided one DBA staff member. "Between the caterers, the city staff, the "ambassadors" and the board, we just about fill the room anyway."

The meeting was held at the "David Brower Center", the monolithic building nobody can find the entrance to and was over as soon as outgoing president Susan Medak got her plaque.

"We're thrilled at the lack of public comment," confessed one board member. "Imagine if our annual meeting got to be

like the Berkeley City Council public comment period."

"Imagine if the poets got hold of it," shuddered another board member. "We'd have to get out the pepper spray and it would



THEATERS AND MOVIES ARE SO OVER according to developers who need severe theater reduction projects to fulfill their dream of housing more and more wealthy techsters from Silicon Valley in high-end condos and why not.



BERKELEY MAYOR TOM BATES wasn't entirely sure John Caner could channel enough of his inner clown to get through the meeting after the embarrassment of the viral video beat-down of two homeless men but no worries! Caner came through.

wreck the bouquet of the grenache."

"That's why we need tasers," stated one city staff attendee emphatically. "Pepper spray has been useful, but we want Berkeley to step up to being the place that embraces new technologies and isn't stuck in the past."

"He's right," winked Mayor Tom Bates. "Once we get tasers our homeless problem will be gone."

* * * * *



IF YOU THINK DAVID BROWER would like this building then you'll fit right in with the Downtown Berkeley Association as long as you don't mention trees or anything.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, this may seem like a fussy, foodie concern, but did you know they don't serve any alcohol whatsoever at the Apple genius bar on 4th Street? When I asked for an Appletini they really gave me a look. What is with that?

Dear reader, that is outrageous. I would complain to the management right away. Smuggle in your own bottle and *disrupt*.

Dear Lena, hasn't the fake art and culture movement peaked? I don't really see a future for it.

Dear reader, what a pessimist. You are probably like dozens of Berkeley residents who have difficulty enjoying the fake art spaces because they are hard to find. Let the *name* of the building be your guide, rather than the actual presence of art. Art itself is kind of annoying.

Dear Lena, I like the idea of Peeps being the new ambassadors, but what about the Easter Bunny. That guy is out of work for most of the year.

Dear reader, the Downtown Berkeley Association is in negotiations with the Easter Bunny, but things are not going well. He is a union guy from way back. He keeps leaving little presents around their headquarters, and nothing upsets them more.

Dear Lena, can't people just Zumba their way out of homelessness?

Dear reader, yes, it is a well-known fact. That's how you know panhandlers and homeless people are not really trying.

Dear Lena, I would sign up for that low-income housing on the moon. I frankly have had enough of this atmosphere. To whom should I speak?

Dear reader, definitely speak to the mayor. And the Planning Department. They can really, really help you get there.

Ask Lena about the dangers of blankets and tipsy ducks at cdennney@igc.org.

Tobacco Industry: "Black Lives Have Always Mattered to Us"

- Tobacco Salutes Black History with Special Products

By Raleigh Nupwon



MENTHOL PRODUCTS were originally targeted at women but marketers successfully made the switch to low income people of color, one of the tobacco industry's proudest advertising victories.

Tobacco Company spokesperson Maura Payne with pride. "We typically triple our advertising in black communities and in black magazines, and make the products on average twelve cents cheaper than ordinary cigarettes."

"It's the special relationship African-Americans have with menthol that we respect," acknowledged a Brown and Williamson researcher. "Menthol enhances the typical effect: activating taste buds, increasing cell permeability, promoting endogenous dopamine and altering the plasticity in the prefrontal lobe of youth. But African Americans metabolize the chemicals more slowly, making the effects much stronger."

"And making it harder for them to quit," winked another tobacco industry researcher. "We deeply appreciate our most loyal customers."

Critics who gathered at Berkeley City College's lecture on menthol by Dr. Phillip

In honor of Black History Month the tobacco industry announced that it continues to designate African Americans in particular as a "focus community" for specialized menthol tobacco products.

"We take Black History Month seriously," stated R. J. Reynolds

"And making it harder for them to quit," winked another tobacco industry researcher. "We deeply appreciate our most loyal customers."



DR. PHILLIP GARDINER gave a critical analysis of the tobacco industry's focus on the African American community because he just doesn't see the positive aspect to it like how many small retailers make really good money off the tobacco industry's addicted customers.

Gardiner, Ph.D. objected that the tobacco industry targets African Americans and poor people of color because of nicotine's special chemical effects on melanin, effects reflected in the high rates of tobacco-related disease and death in poor communities of color.

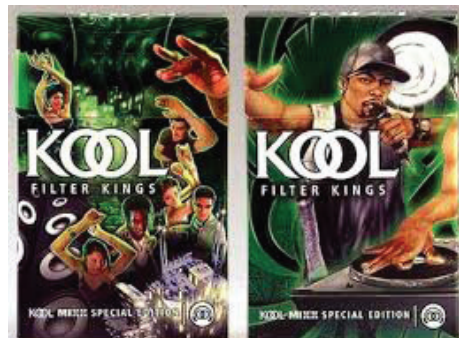
"One of five Berkeley deaths is related to tobacco," stated Dr. Gardiner, adding that the black community is disproportionately represented nationwide in tobacco-related disease

statistics and in the advertising budgets of the tobacco industry. "This is no accident."

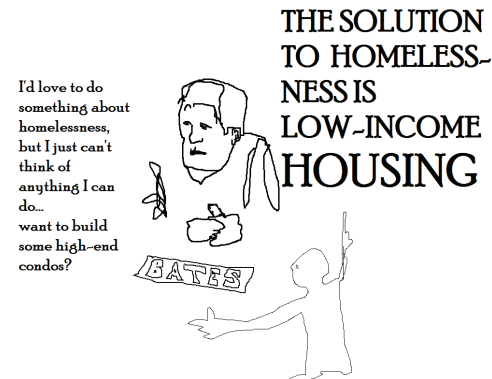
The tobacco industry spokesperson was quick to agree.

"We worked hard to make sure the Federal Drug Administration exempted menthol when it recently prohibited flavored tobacco products," Payne noted. "We know that the black community endures special stresses in life, and nothing is more relaxing than a Koal."

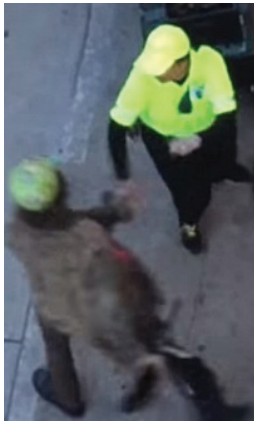
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MODERN CIGARETTE PACKAGING continues the proud tradition of specifically celebrating black culture.



Ten Reasons Why the Second DBA "Ambassador" Did Nothing to Stop the Assault of a Homeless Man



...send us your best guesses!

...she thought it was some kind of new folk dance!

- busy admiring buff display of fist-cuffs
- thought it was some new kind of yoga
- thought it was edgy performance art
- was busy envisioning doing something
- thought it was a good time to make a grocery list
- thought they were re-enacting a movie fight scene
- thought it was her job to supervise
- thought it was Zumba
- thought the barking dog had said it all
- didn't want to come off as too judgmental

* * * * *

Low Income Housing, Open Space and Parking Opportunity Sites Found on Moon!

By Agatha Betternaught

Developers and property investors announced recently that the in-lieu fees they've paid to avoid providing the community with required low-income housing, parking, and open space had in fact created a vast amount of all three on the moon.

"It's wide open up there," enthused Ito Ripsteen of Vine Street Investments and Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) board member. "As a realtor, lender, broker and property owner I'm really excited about the possibilities the moon represents for people scouting economic opportunities."

"It would make a great place for a homeless services center," chimed in John Hyjer, DBA board member and Vice President of Investments at Equity Residential, one of the Bay Area's largest residential developers which is based in Chicago. "It sure helps us clarify where all the open space we would otherwise have to provide is piling up."

"The moon is crying out for a golf course," agreed DBA board member Laksh-Lakireddy, president of Everest Properties. "Imagine how the reduced gravity pull would improve one's game."



OF COURSE THERE ARE trickle-down benefits from all the new luxury housing-- it just happens to all be on the moon.

* * * * *

PEEPS PROPOSED AS NEW DOWNTOWN AMBASSADORS



THESE PEEPS TURNED DOWN the ambassador job saying they have too much pride.

By Rhea Just

Several commissions are uniting behind the suggestion that the "ambassador" role currently run by the anti-union Block by Block group be replaced by Peeps.

"Many of them are out of work after the Easter season," pointed out George Lippman of the Peace and Justice Commission. "They're bright yellow to start with, they're universally loved, and they tend to be very patient."

Peeps' spokesman Burton DeHand spoke on behalf of the typically silent group.

"We're union," he said.

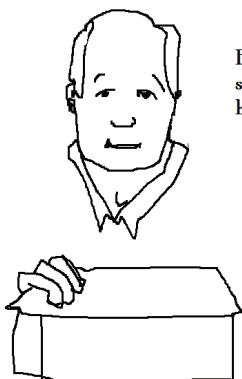
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- "How are you at beating up homeless people?"
- "I suck at it. How about you?"
- "Never could get the hang of it."
- "Some things are just better left to the police."
- "I have to agree."
- "They're the experts at that kind of thing."

We Can't Draw Comics

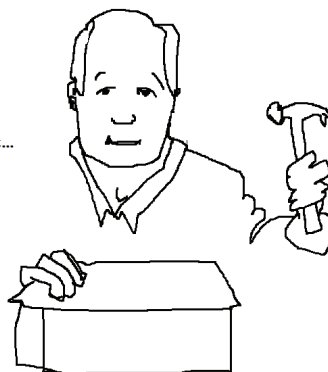
by Franz Toast



First you take some low-income housing...

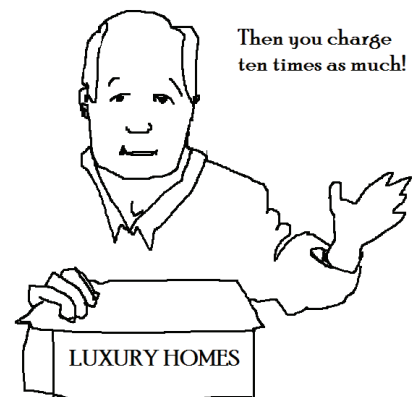
Mayor Tom Bates loves good ideas!

Then you "renovate" it...



Ideas that make money!

Then you charge ten times as much!



Not making money? it's your fault!

Vicious Tenants Disrupt Landlord's Conference in Oakland

By Ada Clock

Vicious tenants blocked the entrance to the East Bay Rental Housing Association's economic and legislative forum declaring it a public health hazard.

"We strongly deny the charge," stated Ron Kingston, the chief state lobbyist for the landlord group which controls approximately 18,500 rental units in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.



THIS PROTEST SIGN shows just how dumb the protesters are as if it was just their neighborhood.

The creativity of the charge was being considered for an award by the local arts council, and insiders suggested that it had inter-

ested the EPA.

"Our efforts to weaken tenant protections are just a natural expression of our nature," stated Romero Castro, another landlord trying to get into the event behind the loading dock. "It's hard for people who don't own property to understand."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Makeup tips for your fish with celebrities!

Dog Owner Insists on "Disrupting" Burrowing Owl Habitat

By Maude Ernliving

Citing new, exciting tech trends, the woman pictured here and her dog "Sammy" are doing their best to "disrupt" the burrowing owl habitat in Cesar Chavez Park near the Berkeley Marina.

"It's edgy," stated the woman in blue, owner of a dog named Sammy who insisted that her views did not represent his own.

"I don't come out here to remember rules and stuff," stated the woman in blue. "I come out here to run my dog around the shoreline off leash and disrupt the paradigm of all this environmental nonsense."

Sammy sniffed along the shoreline but looked uncomfortable while other park

users tried to convince the woman in blue to respect the necessity of protecting the habitat of a threatened species.

"I don't care," she responded to passing hikers. "Sammy isn't hurting anyone and it's a big ocean."

Experts agreed that the woman in blue is unfortunately typical of many entitled dog owners.

"Her poor dog is mortified," noted one expert. "Sammy is planning to apply for a change of guardianship, and he just sent an impressive donation to Golden Gate Audubon Society."



THIS WOMAN thinks that threatened burrowing owls should just buck up and try harder to find places to live.



THESE NUTBALLS just can't grasp that landlords are only doing their job.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast

So, what was it like when there was activism and stuff in Berkeley?

It was great!
I used to get laid!



I mean, was there a sense of changing the world, making things better, that kind of thing?

Sure! I mean look at me! I was a football star! And a state senator!
Now I'm the mayor!



Yes, you sure are.

Hey, when I tell the cops to gas those Black Lives Matter protestors it gets done!



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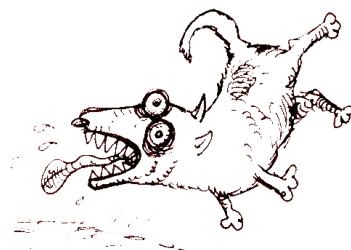


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*King Henry VI Part 2

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.