

the
execrated
issue...



Pepper Spray Times



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

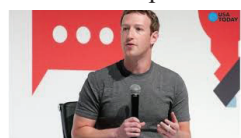
"What, is the man lunatic?!"*

Vol. XVIII No. 10

Facebook Apologizes for Helping Russians Cook the Election

By Walter Wallcarpeting

"Whoops," said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg after months of denying that his Facebook firm had any connection with Russian efforts to throw the election to Donald Trump.



ZUCKERBERG figures he can just buy the election back next time.

Facebook executives acknowledged that they should have been paying more attention but they were juiced up working on their mission statement of making "the world more open and connected."

Zuckerberg quickly met up with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program participants now at risk of deportation who agreed to a photo opportunity, but for the most part declined comment.

"It's hard to know what to say," whispered one young DACA recipient. "He's



FACEBOOK CEO MARK ZUCKERBERG tries to explain to DACA applicants that he didn't notice his company's connection to Russian hackers because dang it he's so busy.

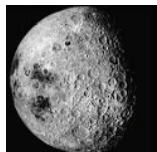
such a tool."

"Most of Silicon Valley is the same way," sighed another DACA dreamer. "I just wish they'd stick to screwing things up in the virtual world."

* * * * *

Police Need Public's Help in Stopping All the Whoops-We-Missed-the-Eclipse Parties

By Greta D. Cheese



THE MOON was embarrassed that the eclipse had turned into such a loud, raucous event, and is re-considering her participation in 2024.

Bay Area police departments are appealing to the public to cooperate in ending the "Whoops-We-Missed-the-Eclipse" parties which popped up all over the fogged-in bay area during the eclipse and never stopped.

"We were so worried about the alt-right people, the white supremacists, the neo-Nazis and other extremist groups we forgot that the non-eclipsters could get out of hand," stated one embarrassed police insider. "This is a hard-partying town."

"We knew we couldn't catch totality," explained one celebrant with a party hat dancing in the streets south of Market. "But when we realized we couldn't see a thing because of the weather we realized there was no need to wait to party down."

"And there's no end point," added another dancing celebrant holding a bottle of champagne. "We call ourselves the Eclipse



THESE ECLIPSE-WHOOPSTERS have been dancing since around 9:00 am Monday, August 21, and haven't stopped, causing blocked streets and complaints from sleepless neighbors.

Whoopsters and the greatest thing is our party never really has to stop at all."

"And we can still wear the goofy glasses," added another hard partier getting down under the cloud cover. "It's the moment's most fashionable accessory."

Concerned observers requested information on when the party might finally end, and officials could not say.

"This is the Bay Area," stated one official. "Around here the party never really ends."

* * * * *



THE NEW, MORE LIBERAL Berkeley City Council majority finally understands that the liberal application of pepper spray, as opposed to the conservative application of pepper spray, will save the world.

Pepper Spray Saves the World

Conflict Ceases after Wise Vote for Pepper Spray

By A. Boone Tuall

The Berkeley City Council majority voted to allow the police to use pepper spray on "violent extremists" and all conflict immediately ceased in the city.



IT IS A FACT that pepper spray can make you more popular at parties.

"Ben Shapiro spoke without incident," an Antifa protester acknowledged reluctantly.

"Nobody hit me with a stick," stated a surprised Ben Shapiro after his surprisingly dull remarks at Zellerbach Hall.

"Nobody tried to burn my Make America Great Again hat," said a disappointed Amber Cummings.

Critics pointed out that the police didn't use their new pepper spray powers, but were dismissed as having missed the point.

"That's part of the magic of pepper spray," stated one local officer. "It just somehow makes everything alright."

"And so will the next new toy," added a second officer. "It's Christmas."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, what's the main difference between a solar eclipse and a banjo eclipse?

Dear reader, you can stare at a banjo for a very long time without risk of injury unless, of course, someone starts playing it.

Dear Lena, what is the President's new strategy for the war in Afghanistan?

Dear reader, it's essentially just being there, which has been a respected theme throughout this administration's first electoral year. Jerzy Kosinski's modern classic, "Being There", has set the stage for this presidency in a very special way.

Dear Lena, what is this "No to Marxism in America" thing? I don't get it. I was a political science major at UC Berkeley and nobody ever mentioned Marxism. What is the alt-right upset about?

Dear reader, I'm so glad you asked. Our local expert Gary McDole, after extensive analysis, figured out that the Pacific Film Archive has planned to show "Horse Feathers" *three times* in October, and that this has driven the alt-right, notorious for lacking a sense of humor, quite mad. Who can blame them for coming to Berkeley to beat up liberals disguised with wimpy handkerchiefs. Chaplin fans are tempted to join them.

Dear Lena, I really miss Spicer. Am I the only one? It's not the same without him. Where has he gone? He used to make me smile. He meant so much to me. I really miss Spicer. Where can he be?

Dear reader, I know, I know. I can hear the twangy music: "he didn't do no wrong, cut down in his prime...I want to see Spicer... just one more time."

Dear Lena, why did the By Any Means Necessary people smash the Empathy tent? It makes no sense.

Dear reader, empathy arouses their fascism radar, as apparently does everything else. *Ask Lena about Spicerspotting at cdenney@igc.org.*

Banjo Executes Perfect Eclipse

Promotes Safe Alternative to Conventional Solar Eclipse

By Ben DeRules

"It started when we realized we felt left out," stated a local banjo about the banjo eclipses dominating the news and spawning a new line of eclipse-related souvenirs.



BANJOS WERE JEALOUS of the attention the solar system got over the recent eclipse and decided to get into the game.

local banjo. "The moon has been working at this for a long time, so we had a lot of catching up to do."

Experts agree that the banjo eclipse phenomenon deserves respect, documentation, and will probably recur.

"We need to be ready," stated Dr. Zbigniew Thang. We need a whole new set of calculations to know which cornfield or back porch to set up our equipment on to get the best view. But we'll be there. Our professional lives depend on it."

* * * * *



IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY you can see the edgy, disruptive new banjo eclipse safely projected on a piece of paper which won't require a lot of camping equipment or hurt your eyes.



BALAZAR RINGING took years to plan his personal effort to miss the solar eclipse entirely and is happy to report his complete success.

Local Man Succeeds in Entirely Missing Solar Eclipse

Careful Calculations Pay Off

By B. Mishboy

"I had to begin planning decades ago," stated Balazar Ringing of his carefully organized effort to miss the solar eclipse of 2017, which threatened to cost money, wreak havoc, clog freeways and most of all taint his personal social status as a loner, pariah, and iconoclast by casting him among the joiners and predictable crew renting expensive hotel rooms along the path of totality which after all one can achieve by turning out the lights.

"I hoped for fog," stated Ringing, straightening his vest, "and relied on a combination of weather reports from a variety of trusted sources making sure to check in and recalculate every few hours before the event. I also kept tabs on local purchases from Home Depot, the Dollar Store, and local gas stations so that I could estimate the probability of enthusiastic crowds swarming in some predictable direction by the absence of paper napkins, sleeping bags, and charcoal."

MISSING THE ECLIPSE takes years of planning, training, and careful calculation so that the path of totality doesn't run you over and ruin your day.

Ringing agreed that his accomplishment seems peculiar to people who went several states out of their way to try to enter the solar eclipse's path of totality, but pointed out that his record of missing each and every eclipse in his lifetime should be honored as thoroughly as those who hold the alternative record.

"I can prove I have had to map and document as carefully as the eclipse-chasers," he noted. "I kept copious notes."

* * * * *



LUCINDA BRAINPAN knows how to knock people out with her kitchen concoctions and has offered her services to the City of Berkeley.

Local Pumpkins Plead Guilty to Illegal Assembly

By Brianna Bagel



The approximately three dozen pumpkins recently arrested for illegal assembly pleaded guilty in court on Friday.

"We're innocent," explained their spokesperson. "But between the cost of a trial and the back-up in Oakland Superior Court, we just decided to give in."

"We weren't doing anything wrong," insisted one of the accused whose future is now affected by having been prematurely picked from the field.

"We were just playing bridge. It's really boring out there."

Critics pointed out that while many East Bay residents give up their rights to a trial for similar reasons, most people expected

"We were just playing bridge," scoffed one pumpkin. "It's boring out there."



THESE PUMPKINS INSIST that they were not doing anything wrong but look how suspicious.

the pumpkins to fight in court.

"Pumpkins are not typically implicated in the kind of crimes we have around here,"

commented one of the Superior Court officers. "The most trouble we had was trying to handcuff them."

The Alameda County District Attorney Nan-

cy O'Malley insisted that the pumpkins' assembly was illegal.

"They had no permit," she stated. "And we're still investigating whether they are part of a gang."

* * * * *

Local Citizens Suggest Creative Strategies for Endless Stream of Upcoming Alt-right Rallies

By Silvia Lining

Sack races, trivia contests, and prizes for most creative costume are just some of the ideas put forward by citizens concerned about the probability of endless rivers of conservative and alt-right speakers coming to town with little to do except beat up locals with American flags.

"We have a responsibility to do something," stated one local resident. "I offer to take them to Chez Panisse if the city will underwrite the project."

A local kindergarten group offered to host fingerpainting sessions.

"It's very absorbing," explained one five-year-old. "I find it calms me down."

Local yoga instructors are trying to find a way to participate, but realized they needed to meet the white nationalist cultural gulf at least halfway.

"We're trying to think old school," confessed one. "Like the old tv smash-ins we used to have on the 4th of July at People's Park. They might enjoy that."

Others suggested that the enthusiasm for physical confrontation between the right-wing and left-wing crowds might provide a way for the city to raise money to cover the considerable police and security costs of what appears to be mutual combat.

"Just ask them to sign liability releases

and let them all go at it," suggested one Berkeley resident. "I'll sell the popcorn."

Officials at City Hall said they had considered the idea, but had finally rejected it.

"These people think they look like the characters in the video games they play, but they actually look pathetic," explained one City Hall insider. "Everybody would want their money back."

* * * * *



LOCAL CITIZENS ARE hard at work thinking up creative ways to entertain conservative out-of-towners when they come to speak.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Speed-dating for Alt-right, Anarchists is Smash Hit

By Nathan Building

“Who knew we had so much in common,” stated a local anarchist blushing while holding hands with the out-of-state white nationalist companion he’d met at Berkeley’s latest innovation, speed-dating for disparate political groups otherwise inclined toward mutual combat.

“We stand united against hate,” explained Mayor Jesse Arreguin. “The City of Berkeley really does think love is all you need.”

City staffers claim to have sent more than seventy-five lonely, white nationalists, anarchists, and fascists out on dates together on the city’s dime to dozens of high-end local restaurants willing to assist in finding some new way to address this year’s political uproar with less uproar and broken glass.

“It’s worth it,” nodded a member of the wait staff at Chez Panisse. “We gave it a lot of thought and we can honestly say that

“We both adore costumes...”



TAKE A LOOK and you’ll see that Intifa and white nationalists have a lot in common such as flags, improvised weapons, and a tendency to prefer anonymity and black as a fashion statement.

all political discussion goes better with borlotti beans, tomato confit, and escarole.”



BOTH ALT-RIGHT and leftist groups love exotic weaponry and comic book characters as role models.

“We both adore costumes,” added an enthusiastic white nationalist raising a glass to his new-found anarchist companion. “We love flags and parades, we love to make improvised weapons out of old junk, and wear-

ing black.”

“And spray paint,” added his companion.

“Don’t forget the spray paint.”

“It’s a costume-oriented crowd that has somehow never found its way to Comic Con,” explained one of the organizers.

“The key to this discord is the essentially shared loneliness,” offered another organizer. “We know how to welcome this group. We’re gamers, too, and really understand what a gulf there is between online communication and what most people call the ‘real’ world.”

* * * * *

Next Issue: Juggling wine bottles with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



From: **Pepper Spray Times**
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702



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.

cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenny.com



Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Distribution.....Rhoda Boat
Staff.....Walter Wallcarpeting, Greta D. Cheese, A Boone Tuall, Lena Deeter, Ben DeRules, B. Mishboy, Brianna Bagel, Silvia Lining, Franz Toast, Nathan Building, Juan Nathan Undergod

To:

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

Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

*The Taming of the Shrew

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.