

Removing pepper spray from tie-dye and other helpful tips

Dear Activist: My group is planning a tree-sit to protest the logging of redwoods. What's the best way to suspend oneself 180 feet in the air?

Leif Barkley

ASK AN ACTIVIST

By Yoo Kanduit



Dear Leif: Good question. Without a doubt, hemp rope is the way to go. It's strong, durable, and has a long and storied history. There's only one

problem. Under federal law, it's illegal to grow hemp in the United States because of its association with marijuana. Why? Apparently The Man can't tell the difference between plants with useful industrial purposes and plants that, I don't know, make you feel good. Lordy, lordy, we can't have people getting a whiff of the sweet leaf, because then what? Potato chip sales would skyrocket? Last time I looked, The Man's precious economy could use all the help it can get. Don't get me started on the criminal oligarchy putting its thumb down on a perfectly useful little miracle from heaven. Next question!

Dear Activist: Last week, while retro-protesting U.S. involvement in the War of 1812,

my friends and I got maced by the cops. What's the best way to remove pepperspray stains from tie dye?

Free Bird

Dear Free: Thanks for the question. Did you know that hemp makes wonderful soap? Did you also know that Johnny Federale will bust your ass if you try to grow it? You know why? Because hemp not only cleans your body, it cleans your mind, man. Scrubs away all the bad that The Man stuffs in your noggin while you're slaving for the wages of sin, you know what I'm saying?

Dear Activist: I've got a WTO protest coming up that I need to make some big-ass puppets for. I need something sturdy that will also stand up to the elements. Any suggestions?

Busta Windoh

Dear Busta: I'll bet you didn't know that hemp has been used for centuries to create textiles. What you also might not be aware of is that John Q. Law has deemed it illegal to grow hemp in the United States. You wanna talk about puppets? How about the way William Randolph Hearst pulled the strings to make hemp illegal in the 1930s because it was competing with the forest-

industry investments he used to create his newsprint? Bro, hemp use stretches all the way back to the Stone Age. But all The Man worries about is the Stoned Age, dig? So you tell me, who's the real puppet here?

Dear Activist: I do a lot of protesting, and it can really build up a lot of stress, you know? My holistic healer says I need to relax, but I don't have a lot of free time for things like yoga. If only there were something that could relax me quickly with no side effects. I can't drink alcohol because it gives me a headache. Is there anything out there that can help me?

Freiken Owt

Dear Freiken: Wow, that's a tough one. I know where you're coming from. Sometimes a hard day of ranting at The Man gets me pretty wound up too, you know? I wish there were some kind of magic pill that could take the edge off a tough day, but if such a thing has been invented, I sure haven't heard of it. I'll just have to suggest the next best thing, then. Have you considered a day spa? Why, right down in Portland's tony Pearl District you can find all manner of tension-melting delights, such as mud baths, pedicures and massages. And it shouldn't set you back more than a few hundred bucks. Good luck! Peace out.

Finding the right combination of casual charm and style

BY ART GARCIA
STREET ROOTS STYLIST

As you may or may not be aware, the Street Roots paper is growing by leaps and bounds. With this has also come a much greater variety and number of new vendors. Always trying to stay in the forefront with our paper, we here at Street Roots decided we needed a new specialized department. So starting April 1, I have left my position as vendor coordinator and taken the job of vendor stylist.

Now some of you may be asking yourself right at this moment, why does a street newspaper need a stylist department. Well, hold on to your Hermes Clutch and I'll give you an update.

First off, let me ask you a question, ol' faithful Reader. Do you find it sometimes hard to do your work because you are constantly worrying about whether you are dressed appropriately for the job? Are you unsure, in this crazy age of casual Wednesdays and uptight Tuesdays, when you can get by with what? You might ask yourself, how could this possibly matter to someone who doesn't have a "real job," much less a closet to hang a hat in.

Let me tell you, it matters, and I'm setting out to make sure our vendors reflect the

refined fashion sense that experience has taught me over the past 10 years.

What's hot for 2009? Cold - it's a timeless look. True story: A few years back I was selling the Street Roots paper at the Wild Oats Store on 30th and Division. I had some great customers; some became my good friends. Well, one of these good friends gave me a beautiful black cashmere top coat that I really liked, plus it kept me warm on those cold mornings. You know what, friend? My sales would drop off drastically every time I wore that gift.

Some remarks while wearing "the coat": Wish I could afford to wear that! If you can afford that coat, you don't need my money. Wish I could afford to shop where you do. See what I'm getting at ol' friend. Now I'm sure some of these people knew I could not afford such a coat, so why such comments? They say you should dress your age. In this town, dressing your income is equally important.

And it's not just a matter of clothing. People expect vendors to behave of a certain caliber. You can't just drop your money like anyone else. Why, there's been some complaints about spotting Street Roots vendors entering a Starbucks or such, or maybe sipping on a latte while selling the

paper. Simply unacceptable. People, it's just coffee. Most of the time it is bought for the vendor. But regardless of the facts, vendors need to recognize that they have an image to live up to. Even the top models in the industry realize they're playing a part that their paying customers expects: underfed, intellectually vacant, and not suitable to your circle of friends.

There are a few vendors who have been with Street Roots for a few years now and are prime candidates for my new stylist department. But the true stars are the people who are fashion-forward, which is to say, backward. They refuse to upgrade their style or fashion of clothes, preferring to wear vintage, giving the appearance of a casual, oh-this-old-thing-I-only-wear-it-when-I-don't-care-what-I-look-like, effortless style. It's the thriftstore style popularized by Mary-Kate Olsen, but so many of our vendors take it further and really live the look. And it pays off among the saavy.

"I make more money dressed like this," they inform me in a tone that says I should know this.

It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it.

Do Marriage Laws Violate the First Amendment?

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 @ 2:00 P.M.

The Portland and Clark County Chapters of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (Americans United) will sponsor a symposium on Same-Sex Marriage to be held Sunday, April 19, 2:00 p.m. in Hoffmann Hall at Portland State University. The event, titled "Civil Rites," is co-sponsored by the Portland State Department of Women's Studies, Basic Rights Oregon and Love Makes A Family.

Panel

Moderator - Steven K. Green, Director - Center for the Study of Religion, Law & Democracy, Willamette University School of Law
Tamara Metz, Professor of Political Science - Reed College
Beth A. Allen, Attorney at Law - Allen2 Law, LLC
Reverend Tara Wilkins, Executive Director - Community of Welcoming Congregations
Rabbi Daniel Isaak - Congregation Neveh Shalom

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State
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