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Pepper Spray Gets 'Icing' for Charity

By Sally Dadisman, McClatchy-Tribune

People buy celebrity-designed shoes, T-shirts, handbags and perfumes every day... so why should pepper spray be any different?

Pepperface, a company that sells high-end pepper sprays, is holding an auction to benefit the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The eBay auctions (a link can be found on the company's Web site, Pepperface.com) each last for 10 days and on a rolling basis run through June 11.

Celebrities such as Shaquille O'Neal, Paula Abdul and Tori Spelling created different designs for Pepperface Palm Defenders. The company teamed up with Crystal Icing, so each design is made up of different colored Swarovski crystals.

The company is pushing the celebrity auction as part of its Project Purple campaign to raise safety awareness, but Pepperface also offers more modestly priced pepper sprays (starting at \$35) for those not ready to shell out big bucks for a celebrity name.

One out of three women in the United States will be assaulted in her lifetime according to the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, so if a bodyguard isn't a feasible option, perhaps a celebrity-designed fits-in-your-palm pepper spray is.