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H5N1
issue... All
hail
the...

Hepper Spray Times

...or P.S.T...

April 2006



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

"What is the end of study? Let me know..."

Vol. VIII No. 4

AMERICA WINS WAR

Thousands Cheer, Readjust iPods



LIBERALS HOT-FOOT it away from Russ Feingold and through their political options, finding no place to land, hoping nobody will notice.

by Earl E. Tated

America won the war this week to the thankful relief of Republicans, Democrats, and an entire war-weary nation.

"We were getting so tired of it," admitted one Republican congressional representative. "The voters were sick of it, we couldn't find recruits, and between you and me I was getting really sick of those syrupy memorial pieces on newscasts for the dead."

"The music was odious," agreed a Democratic representative. "Their favorite color, their hobbies, it was like a comic book profile of a bubble gum

rock star. Thank heavens that embarrassing crap is finally over."

The announcement came from the Oval Office shortly after President George Bush's popularity plunged to the low 30's, indicating that a vast majority of the American public was less than enchanted with the current administration's handling of domestic and foreign affairs.

The President's difficulties in the polls had no perceptible effect on his Democratic opponents, who continued to hold their fingers in the air hoping for a stiff wind.

"We're just glad we won," sighed one local resident in relief, pouring \$2.63 per gallon gas into the tank of her Explorer. "The loss of life was severe on both sides, but American pride is pretty important to me."

Critics objected that there was no perceptible measure of victory in Iraq, and that the declaration of victory was just a ploy to boost the President's ratings with the public.

"Yes, but no one will notice," stated one administration official reassuringly. "We can keep troops in Iraq, build our bases, keep the Pentagon's budget pumped and just call it a post-war clean-up. The public knows it's only civil war when they start playing 'Ashoken Farewell'."

* * * * *



THE AMERICAN PUBLIC cares about the thousands of lives lost in a war based on a political deception, but are also kind of preoccupied.

Americans: Are They In A Coma, or Are They Actually Dead?

by Friar Brain

Medical experts reassured polling groups that their inability to find the pulse of any resistance to the current administration's course was due to neither death nor coma.

"We're relieved," commented one poll worker. "I mean, look at the cost of living, the price of housing, the absence of sensible healthcare options. It's like a feast for Bush's political opponents, but nobody's hungry. We assumed they might actually be dead."

Experts contend that Americans are simply suffering from an attention fatigue already taxed by the Olympics, the Oscars, and now the basketball finals.

"They'll be opening their newspapers shortly," predicted medical experts. "At least, they will between innings."

* * * * *

Iraq attacks

Number of insurgent attacks

Improvised explosive devices or IEDs

Car bomb

420

Suicide car bomb

133

Suicide vest

7

Roadside bomb

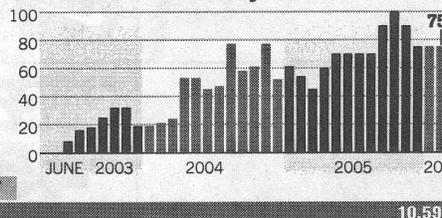
5,607

873

411

67

Estimated number of daily attacks



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, who do you like for mayor?

A: Dear reader, right now I'm going with anybody who can explain the red tuning fork in Berkeley, and anyone who can find a police officer in Oakland.

Q: Dear Lena, no, really, isn't there anybody you think could bring some coherence to local politics and policy?

A: Dear reader, I don't think people are looking for coherence. I think they're looking for someone they can continue to feel good about while everything goes to hell. Someone ought to call Barry Bonds and see if he's interested in the job.

Q: Dear Lena, what should I drive?

A: Dear reader, it's time to try a camel. They're no more problematic than a Prius, and at least you can find your ride in a parking lot.

Q: Dear Lena, what should I give my selected political candidate?

Dear reader, no actual money, a nice smile, and a very wide berth.

Dear Lena, Vice President Dick Cheney blames the media for the impression many people have that the war in Iraq is not going well. Is it really all the media's fault?

Dear reader, heavens, yes. The media's coverage of the Oscars and the Olympics was cursory at best, and the scenes of bombed-out vehicles on the road to Baghdad have been done to death. I'm not sure any of us have really gotten to the bottom of the issue of how Bode Miller really feels.



NEITHER OF THESE MEN even owns a cell phone, and thankfully are now behind bars.

MAN DISCOVERED NOT ON PHONE

by Sarah Cookieleft

Authorities confirmed scattered reports of a man seen recently walking public streets and commuting throughout the region while apparently not on the phone.

"It's the weirdest thing I've seen in ages," stated one Bart rider who observed the man near the Ashby station. "He seemed like an ordinary guy, but he was just staring out the window. I reported him immediately to security."

"I was terrified," commented one woman clutching her children tightly. "I'll never forget it. We all called 911, but he slipped away into the crowd."

Police and military personnel converged on the site, but were too late to apprehend the suspicious man, who is probably linked to a terrorist cell.

"We're thankful the public alerted us," stated one officer. "Aberrant behavior, especially of this degree, is usually linked to a disturbing pathology. We'll find this man, and you can count on us to stop him."

Critics objected to the waste of police personnel, especially considering the wave of recent shootings in the Bay Area terrifying citizens, but were dismissed as a bunch of Luddite cranks.

"Maybe we lost the guy, but we picked up this suspicious flashlight, which someone sincerely thought was a bomb," stated an officer. "The overtime is sweet, but what we really love is staying on our toes."

* * * * *



Fiddle Tunes
from the
Bush
Administration

President George Bush's term in office has greatly contributed to the enhancement of popular culture. These are fiddle tunes commonly heard today in the mountainous communities of the Appalachian range, thanks to the inspiration of the current administration and its evocative political course:

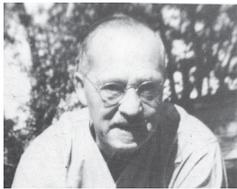
- Harriet Miers' Retreat
- The Fall of Scooter
- Rumsfield Burning
- Roll Over Rove
- Rocky Road to Baghdad
- Wiretap Reel
- Liberal Tiptoe
- Pacing the Oval
- Dough Sees Dough
- Mr Abramamoff Who
- Katrina's Revenge
- Peak Oil Polka
- My Pet Goat
- The Texan Strut
- Cheney's Aim at Sunset



THIS BURNED-OUT MOSQUE might look like bad news to some people, but it's really a solid investment opportunity for redevelopment.

10 Reasons Why I Hate Peace Marches

by *Bad Sport*



1) If you give someone a microphone, for some reason they start shouting into it as though it actually made people more difficult to hear.

2) Bad speakers, always followed onstage by their near-clones, the worse speakers.

3) Bad speeches, testimony to an utterly bankrupt educational system.

4) The fliers, fliers, fliers, fliers, fliers, fliers, fliers and then more fliers, which are thrust at you even if you're playing the fiddle.

5) The group that shows up with an extra 500 ready-made picket signs about some peripheral cause hoping you will lose your senses and carry a picket sign about something else entirely.

6) Port-a-potties, which manage to make peeing on the side of a tire like a dog seem civilized.

7) Marching off to some end of town where you don't know the buses, or marching around in circles, making the comparisons to futility inevitable.

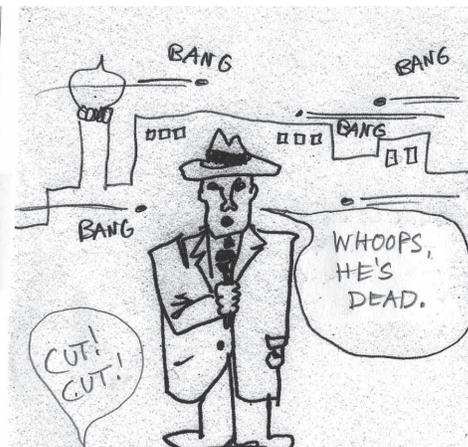
8) Bullhorns, which are inevitably found in the hands of the person with the highest, screechiest, angriest, most annoying, and yet somehow incomprehensible voice.

9) Some idiot on a bicycle who thinks it's cool to haul around huge speakers blasting egregious music especially selected for the occasion.

10) People who are dedicated both to the proposition that the world will actually change when enough Starbucks windows are smashed as well as the conviction that they and they alone speak best for you.

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We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist *Franz Toast*



VEGETABLES PROCLAIM GOD'S MISSION

Faith Makes It To Produce Shelves

by *F. D. Shoefits*

Following the lead of National Public Radio, television stations, and other media, produce sections of national chain markets are now trying to reach out and expand their consumer base by highlighting religion and featuring religion's connection to vegetables.

"It's a tough assignment," admitted one store clerk. "It's hard to come up with suitable material."

"It's fortunate for us that so many religions have found so much religious meaning in so many simple geometric symbols," added another clerk creating a pyramid of papayas. "The associative excesses of the faithful have really saved my butt."

Experts agreed that various religious groups have claimed all geometric shapes, all leaves of all shapes, all flowers, most trees, and most living creatures to be religious symbols representing their various religions, but suggested there was scarce evidence to suggest that common vegetables are symbols of any religion in particular.

"That's where marketing comes in," chimed one grocery store representative. "This is big business, this religion stuff, and we've maxed out all the major holidays and the organic market. We have a free hand right now in the arena of associating religion and vegetables,



RELIGION HAS FINALLY reached the produce shelves in the first wave of a national marketing scheme capitalizing on the popularity of egregiously illogical and prejudicial belief systems.

and not just one religion or one vegetable, but all of them and all the time. We've found a whole new world."

Critics objected that business was exploiting honest religious and moral impulses for profit, and that consumers would find such immoral practices objectionable.

Marketing experts responded that the morally and religiously inclined had so far neglected to object to even the war in Iraq on religious grounds, and consequently would hardly be inclined to object to a marketing idea tailored to their personal prejudices.

"We found a carrot that looks like Mary," stated one excited produce clerk. "We're looking over the turnips for a Joseph right now. The press cooperates so well with this stuff that we know we'll have lines snaking around the block with faithful, who'll probably pick up some dishwashing soap while they're here."

* * * * *



THE DEAD just want to have fun.

DEAD PETITION TO QUIT "WATCHING OVER" BORING LIVING

by Noah Moah

The dead, who have been piling up in heaven for so long that the lines for the bathroom are eternal, are begging their living petitioners to be excused from having to "watch over" them.

"It was okay at first," stated Angel First Class Joe Newhouse, nervously twisting his halo. "But the living have no idea how tedious they are."

"A lot of us have work to do, like helping people dig shrapnel out of hard-to-reach places," added Angel Lieutenant Lucy Pepperman. "We like to help each other look presentable if we can, and for the dead it can be quite a challenge."

Spokespersons for the dead affirmed

The Pepper Spray Times gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions, etc., at:



Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Roger Dondis
Staff.....Earl E. Taped, Friar Brain, Sarah
Cookieleft, Noah Moah, Bad Sport, Franz Toast



A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THIS TRAGEDY proves that trains, if allowed to blow their whistles without restraint, will actually swallow cars and leave their sad, hollow shells in their tracks.

broad consensus that the living's self-ish requests to be "watched over" were resulting in nearly 90% of the dead having to watch people whose waking hours are mostly spent watching television shows.

"Now and then there's a good movie or an interesting newflash," explained one of the dead. "But most of it is crap and, after all, this is heaven. Up here we have some better options."

The petitioners stated that they have no choice but to go on honoring the request of the living, and admitted they have little hope that their distress will change the endless petitions for attention.

"They're like six-year-olds," sighed one dead resident leaning against the Pearly Gates, watching truckloads of mail come in. "They have this endless need for our attention. I thought I'd finally have a chance to learn French, but I'm stuck here watching American Idol."

"I was finally going to read 'Ulysses'," nodded another. "But I'm locked into 'The Young and the Restless' and 'Star Trek' reruns for an eternity. I'm starting to wonder if this is heaven after all."

* * * * *



Mayor Tom Bates' Top Suggested Campaign Slogans

- * Jeepers, I Said I Was Sorry
- * My Wife Will Clean Up After Me
- * Sorry About the Big Blue Ball
- * This Whole Place Will Be Campus Someday Anyway, So I Might As Well Get My Name On a Building
- * Did You Expect Me To Be Dogcatcher?
- * At Least I'm Not Shirley Dean
- * Leave No Landmark Behind
- * I Almost Kept My Promise to Sleep One Night On The Street
- * Liked By Puppies Everywhere
- * Sorry About Trying to Ax the Commissions
- * At Least I'm Not Bozo the Clown
- * Sorry About the Canine Patrol
- * At Least I Don't Wear A Blue And Gold Beanie
- * Sorry About the UC deal
- * Sorry About, Well, Whatever
- * At Least The Chancellor Likes Me



Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

* Love's Labour's Lost