

These are truly the...

Love us or leave us...



# Pepper Spray Times

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

December & January 2001



It's vicegerent... it's free

"...more sharp than file'd steel..."\*

Vol. IV No. 4

## JESUS RETURNS, JOINS RESISTANCE TO HARRY POTTER

MATINEE IN KABUL



AFGHANIS SCRAMBLE to get in to see "Harry Potter" when theaters opened in Kabul for the first time since 1996.

By Upton Split

Jesus Christ was spotted recently picketing outside a Barnes and Noble bookstore with a group convinced that "Harry Potter", the popular children's series, is actually an elaborate plot to undermine Christianity.

The movie based on the book tied the last "Star Wars" movie for fastest ever to gross \$100 million domestically.

"Not exactly," reponded Jesus when asked if he thought "Harry Potter" was the work of the devil. "It's just the work of a half-assed writer. The devil's work is actually rather riveting."

Critics argued that Jesus's appearance was just sour grapes since "Harry Potter"'s popularity was edging out the Bible, but Jesus brushed the criticism aside, commenting that the Bible was holding its own.

"It almost worries me, considering the company you keep when you hit the big time. That 'Oprah' stamp on the cover can be the kiss of death," Jesus mused. "But I always come back this time of year, anyway, just to hang out with the shopping cart crowd. I used to be on the street, you know. My parents spent time on the road."

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## "POP GOES THE WEASEL" KNOCKS "GOD BLESS AMERICA" OFF CHARTS

By Rick O'Shay

"Pop Goes the Weasel" surged up popular song charts recently knocking off "God Bless America" to the surprise of cultural experts everywhere.

"We're not sure how to explain it," offered one expert cautiously. "We're studying both the song's structure and its French/English origin for clues. We can't rule out the possibility of terrorism."

Other experts noted that the song was being sung spontaneously at sporting events and social gatherings, possibly indicating a popular resistance to the perceived jingoism of "God Bless America", while not ruling out the possibility that the song contained hidden messages possibly planted by Osama Bin Laden.

"The 'mulberry bush' could be code for the war itself," mused one expert. "We're stuck on the spool of thread and the needle verse, but we've rounded up suspects in cities across the country for interrogation, and should have answers soon."

Critics argued that the civil rights of the suspected singers were being violated, but government officials dismissed the charges.

"Whose aren't?" chuckled one security advisor. "Been to a ball game lately? The tune may be catchy, but if you're not prepared to sing "God Bless America" you have to appreciate that there are consequences."

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## PEPPER SPRAY TOPS CHRISTMAS LISTS

By Gail E. Dancing

For the sixth year since the Pepper Spray Times poll began collecting data, Pepper Spray is once again the most popular gift choice for discriminating shoppers trying to find that special gift.

"It's the perfect stocking stuffer," enthused one shopper navigating Union Square's commercial district. "It not only enhances one's sense of personal security, it comes in a stunning array of designer colors."

Hard on the heels of pepper spray's popularity as a gift item are red, white, and blue star-apangled turbans, worn both by religious groups to convey patriotism and others to convey solidarity.

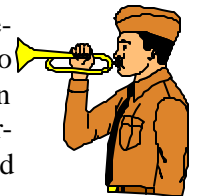
"They're going like hotcakes," whispered one Macys clerk. "These are hotter than 'Tickle Me Elmo'."

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## PENTAGON SEEKS IDEAS TO COMBAT TERRORISM

By Winona Vacation

The Defense Department appealed to Americans to send in ideas for thwarting terrorism, and announced recently that thousands of American citizens had responded with suggestions.



"We're not sure if these will be effective approaches," stated a Pentagon spokesperson, "but we're interested in fresh perspectives."

Suggestions to date include free primal scream therapy for terrorists and their supporters, free teddy bears, EST training, mud baths, aroma therapy, and open opportunities to participate in potentially lucrative American game shows such as "Survivor" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire".

Critics argued that these suggestions would not only be ineffective, but possibly counter-productive considering the potential offense to foreign cultural and religious sensibilities.

"We appreciate that," responded the Pentagon. "We're still trying to explain peanut butter. On the other hand, we're out of cards. We have to stop bombing at some time, and perhaps at that point 'Wheel of Fortune' can play a role."

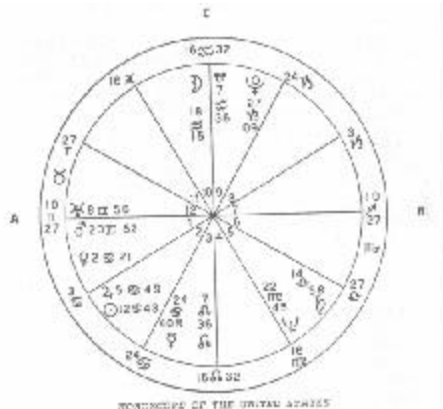
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Fax freely, plagiarize wildly, in other words, enjoy.

# POPULAR REDISTRICTING CIRCUS EXTENDED

By Gloria Bounds



**THE REDISTRICTING PLAN** passed recently by the progressive majority was criticized as unfair to water signs such as Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

als full of complicated cross-analyses, and highly entertaining theater at local supermarkets as various council opponents squared off to persuade or intimidate potential petition signers.

"I wasn't actually blocking people's paths," huffed District 4 Representative Dona Spring. "I was educating them at the top of my lungs."

Critics argued that repealing the redistricting plan meant that the City Council had to start from scratch to try to accommodate fluctuations in population and the obvious undercount of students.

"That's true," offered one observer. "But it's been a tough year, and at least we can assure the citizens of Berkeley some really rich, cheap theater."

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# PSYCHICS UNDER FIRE

By Barry Pie



**ONE LOCAL PSYCHIC** embraced the possibility of city regulation as "predictable." can run around predicting long, healthy lives and tall, dark strangers willy nilly."

Some local psychics expressed appreciation for the recommendation, but the local East Bay Skeptics Society warned that without some kind of test of alleged psychic abilities, the city ran the risk of tacitly approving fallacious claims of extrasensory powers.

"The liability would be extreme in a city like this," offered one skeptic. "Tall, dark strangers are in short supply."

"I see darkness and difficulties, especially for Shirley Dean," responded one local psychic assessing the fate of regulation for the long-term.

"What's new?" responded Mayor Dean. "I'll take darkness and difficulties over another peace resolution any day."

\* \* \* \* \*

# CONGRESS RULED SUPERFLUOUS

By Viola Fuss

President Bush, buoyed by the success of the recent Patriot Act, issued an executive order recently making both houses of Congress superfluous.

"It will be simpler this way," offered one White House advisor at a press conference announcing the executive order. "We were a little concerned about what would happen when the post-September 11th mood of cooperation wore away."

"We're actually a little relieved," commented Republican Senator Trent Lott, the Senate minority leader. "You wouldn't believe how much time it takes to get even a pointless bit of legislation through Congress. This will free up a lot of time for fundraising."

\* \* \* \* \*

# BUSH MAY BOMB NEW JERSEY

By Bess Wishes

Rumors have surfaced that the Bush administration is considering bombing New Jersey to eradicate those responsible for the recent spate of anthrax-contaminated letters.

"We've traced the origin to Trenton," stated a White House spokesperson. "This would be an extreme measure, but we can't rule it out considering the success we've had in Afghanistan."

Critics argued that it would make as much sense to bomb Marin County, the origin of John Walker, the high school student-turned Taliban fighter.

"We're not ruling that out, either," responded the spokesperson. "But New Jersey would come first. After all, who's going to miss New Jersey?"

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**Rest in peace...**

Govan Mbeki  
Anne Marie Pollard  
Robert Treuhaft  
Alice Hamburg  
Thomas Siporin

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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

**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 all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.  
\* Twelfth Night