

These are truly the...

Good tidings of great joy...



Pepper Spray Times

..or P.S.T..

December 2000



It's Spencerian... it's free

"...here has been too much homely foolery already..."*

Vol. IV No. 4

ELECT THE DEAD

Missouri Starts Trend



MISSOURI'S RECENT ELECTION has sparked a trend sweeping the nation as disgust with living candidates paves the way for inclusion of the dead, pictured here, in upcoming electoral battles.

By Bob Dwyer

Missouri's re-election of recently deceased Governor Mel Carnahan has inspired a trend nationwide in an electorate disenchanted with the vote-counting carnival in Florida and the current crop of live electoral candidates.

"The dead are a better bet," commented Missouri voter Vera Heights. "They're usually good neighbors, and they're much less likely to start mudslinging, commit fraud, or indulge in sexual indiscretions."

Critics argued that the dead have an unfair advantage over the living since they are also less likely to stumble over words, bore voters silly, or swallow chad. Supporters responded that the dead have participated wholeheartedly in many past elections and often have much more mud at their disposal.

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JESUS RETURNS,

Joins Board of Regents



UC Board of Regents welcome their new member, Jesus of Nazareth.

By Jerry Atrick

UC Berkeley Chancellor Berdahl revealed today that Jesus Christ has returned to earth and been elected to the UC Board of Regents.

"What a wonderful Christmas present!" exclaimed Berdahl. "We're sure the election of Christ to the board will lend a certain gravitas to our most absurd positions."

Chancellor Berdahl conceded that Jesus Christ has returned in the body of Reverend Randy Bob Bridges of the Jurassic Baptist Church. He introduced the Reverend to members of the press as he explained that the minister is the bona fide reincarnation of Jesus of Nazareth, but prefers to be designated as the deity formerly known as Christ.

"I'll also answer to JC," the Reverend chuckled. His mood turned more somber as he expressed some frustration at the lengthy vetting process.

"All those questions about whether my mother was really a virgin," he said, "That was totally out of bounds."

When asked why he looks nothing like pictures of Jesus Christ, the paunchy, balding deity grew testy. "Jesus!" he said, "Those pictures were all taken when I was in my twenties. I lost the long hair and beard ages ago."

The deity let it be known that he has placed his stocks and bonds in a blind trust to avoid any suggestions of conflict of interest.

"It's a hefty portfolio," he said, "I started out with just the gold, frankincense and myrrh." He shrugged off questions of whether an omniscient deity could be trusted with a blind trust.

The new regent outlined some of the issues he will shepherd through the board during his tenure. Student housing was conspicuously missing. "What do these students have to belly-ache about?" he asked. "I was born in a manger."

NEW CHROMIUM 6 SKATE PARK THRILL

By Flora DeBuilding

Construction ceased recently at the site of a proposed skateboard park when the skate bowls began to fill with water contaminated with the carcinogen chromium 6. A toxic plume known to city officials for more than a decade was drawn toward the construction site because of the recent excavations for recreation.



The Berkeley City Council split on the question of whether the plume most resembles Shirley Dean or Kriss Worthington.

"It was completely unexpected," commented construction coordinator Doug Fielding. "We knew about the toxicity; it was the gravity that took us by surprise."

Officials admitted that local activist L.A. Wood had warned them about potential trouble years earlier, but pointed out it takes 25 L.A. Woods to equal one soccer mom, and dozens had descended upon the council meetings in support of the fields.

Local skateboarders expressed enthusiasm for the skate park currently situated between the dump, the railroad tracks, and hovering over the toxic plume.

"We weren't planning to live that long, anyway," offered one skateboarder. "This will be the gnarliest ride in Berkeley."

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

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CITY ATTORNEY BARS COMMISSION EXPERTISE

"Prejudice" Cited



The Landmarks Preservation Commission had to be adjourned recently when four commissioners revolted, determined to defy the City Attorney and flaunt their opinions.

By Staff Writer Jello Yearnalist

City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque recently ordered four Landmark Preservation Commissioners to refrain from voting on a matter before the Commission on the grounds that they had already expressed opinions on the matter.

Local legal observers concurred that citizens who had previously expressed opinions relevant to an issue should be precluded from participating in discussions of that issue for the obvious reasons that their minds could not possibly be entirely open on the subject in question.

Critics argued that this would eliminate the participation of anyone with even a modest familiarity with the subject at hand, and would leave all civic matters in the hands of the witless, the clueless, and the helplessly out of touch. The City Attorney's supporters argued that this was already Berkeley tradition on some commissions, and would only codify long-standing custom.

The City Council is hiring outside legal counsel to check to see whether all City of Berkeley policy needs to be rescinded on the grounds that expertise or experience may have played a role in its formation.

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SPRING'S PREFERRED PARKING

By Lester Remember

District 4 Council Representative Dona Spring, who refused to give special parking privileges to Fire Safety Building employees, was foiled in her attempt to wrest special parking privileges for employees at the North Berkeley Senior Center by other council members who pointed out that it was unfair.

"I take care of my own," replied Dona. "When the cops remember me at election time we'll take care of them, too."

* * * * *

PEPPER SPRAY RECOMMENDED FOR CHRISTMAS

By Norma Lee Speaking

The makers of pepper spray were elated to find that their product made the Good Housekeeping list of recommended gifts for the holiday season.

"There are usually tears in our eyes for different reasons," said one marketing spokesperson. "We just hope no schoolbag is without a pepper spray canister in the new millenium."

Other recommended gifts are:

* **Chad** - Whether hanging, swinging, or flying free, this is the stuff of the hour. Makes great confetti, kitty litter, and can be used to decorate holiday cookies.

* **Chromium 6** - The hot stuff down at the Harrison Street playing fields, this stuff is radical and will send your free radicals wheeling. Can be used as a lubricant, a dessert topping, or hair gel.

* **Monogrammed Air Study** - Everybody wants one! Mayor Dean wants one, Linda Maio wants one, Parks and Recreation's Lisa Carrona wants one, and experts agree it's the best way to snare face time without actually having to care. Get yours today before all the local air is gone!

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PEPPER SPRAY PRODUCTS are the best way to spice up your holiday party! Use as a condiment, or as an air freshener when the party gets a little dull. Comes in super-size, regular, or pocket size, and can be color accessorized with a dazzling array of fashionable options. Pepper spray says Christmas!

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

Publisher ----- Theodore Zopen
Editor ----- Grace Underpressure
Art Director ----- Egon Schiele
Comix ----- Roger Dondis
Staff -- Lester Remember, Jello Yearnalist,
Bob Dwyer, Jerry Atrick, Flora DeBuilding
Norma Lee Speaking, and special thanks to
the Harrison St. project staff.

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.

* The Winter's Tale