

These are truly the...

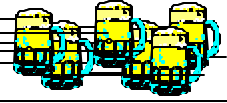
Love thy neighbor, for he may be armed...



Pepper Spray Times

..or P.S.T..

February 2001

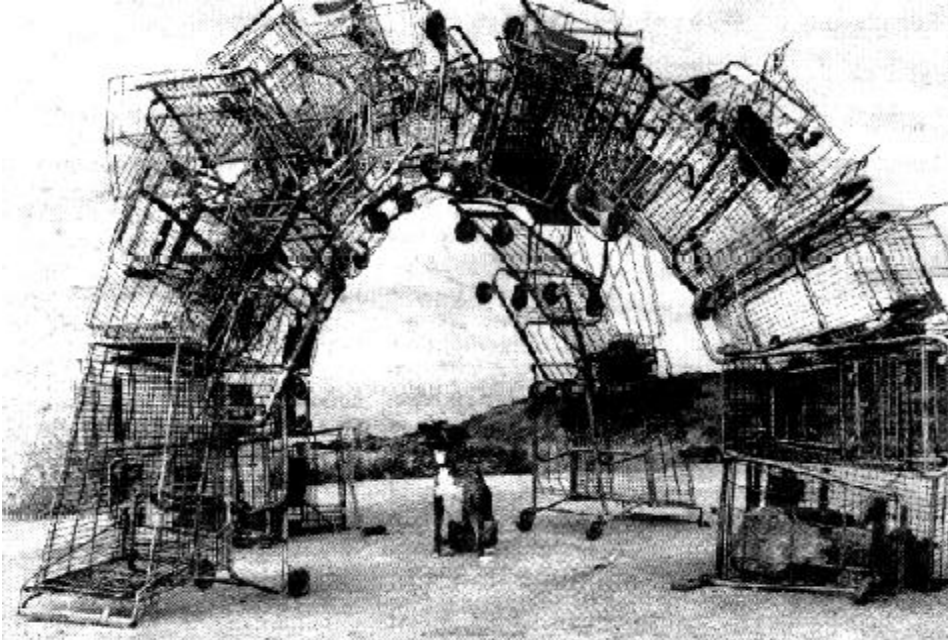


It's cotyledon... it's free

"...and then run mad indeed: stark mad!"*

Vol. IV No. 6

ARTS DISTRICT FINALLY FOUND



THE HAPPENING PLACE for art turns out to be nowhere near Addison Street, as embarrassed city officials discovered recently having stumbled into the creative vortex at the Albany landfill.

By Bernadette Housedown

Relieved city officials high-fived each other at a recent press conference after discovering the arts district at the Albany landfill known as "the Bulb."

"We were getting a little worried," offered economic development coordinator Michael Caplan. "We put a lot of dough into Addison Street, we even commissioned local artists, but it wasn't really happening. This stuff at the Bulb is dope."

"We're a little embarrassed," admitted Civic Arts Coordinator Mary Ann Merker-Benton, "but we're studying the phenomenon to see if we can somehow replicate it downtown."

Critics argued that it wasn't fair for the well-heeled artists connected to the city-designated "arts district" to rip off the landfill artists who work for free, but city officials responded that the landfill artists were used to it.

"Some of these people used to be homeless," pointed out one city official. "They know how the world works."

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LAST DUCK LEAVES CESAR CHAVEZ

By Jason Pidgeons

Environmentalists wept as the last duck at Cesar Chavez Park called it quits at a press conference.

"I want to thank you all for trying to help," stated the mallard. "This was once of the nicest places on my route, but it's all a dog park now."

The mallard referred to the non-enforcement of Berkeley's leash law throughout the on-leash park areas since the addition of a small off-leash area.

"It's regrettable," offered one city hall spokesperson, "but he's right. The right to keep and bear dogs is sacred in Berkeley right now, and, well, ducks don't vote."

"It was nice, but now it's over," commented the mallard, abandoning an attempt to rest on the rocks at Cesar Chavez. "You can't fight City Hall."

* * * * *

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



"LARRY" THE LAST duck to leave Cesar Chavez expressed bitter disappointment with dog policy.

PG&E IN CRISIS A Caring Public Responds



CONCERNED CITIZENS gathered together to help their beloved utility through its financial difficulties by throwing a bakesale in front of PG&E's San Francisco headquarters.

By Beau Enscrape

Once again citizens in the Bay Area proved the depth of their compassion by rushing to the aid of PG&E, which discovered itself billions of dollars in debt due to a very cold winter, holiday decorating expenses, and a really demanding parent company.

"Sure the people of El Salvador are suffering with the earthquake and all," commented one local volunteer peddling cupcakes for the PG&E bailout. "But those people are a long way off. PG&E is really hurting."

Critics argued that some PG&E officials made out like bandits when they cashed in their stock options before the company's shares tanked.

"Sound business practice," offered PG&E spokesperson Ron Low. "We recommend it highly to our customers."

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MYSTERY DEATHS EXPLAINED

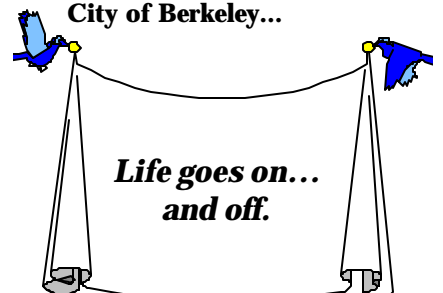
By Betty Lovedom

A rash of deaths which had baffled authorities was revealed to be the result of the receipt of inordinate amounts of emailed humor, which overwhelmed recipients' computers and, finally, their bodies and minds.

"It's so sad," said one detective. "In cyberspace nobody hears you giggle."

* * * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



TRANSIT FIRST POLICY WITHOUT TRANSIT FINALLY HITS STRIDE



LOCAL EXPERTS in comic arts Wavy Gravy and Ron Davis will attempt to explain the "Transit First Without Transit" policy and other topics at their seminar at La Pena Wednesday, February 28th, at 8:00 pm.

Locals nodded grimly in agreement as they circled the downtown Post Office.

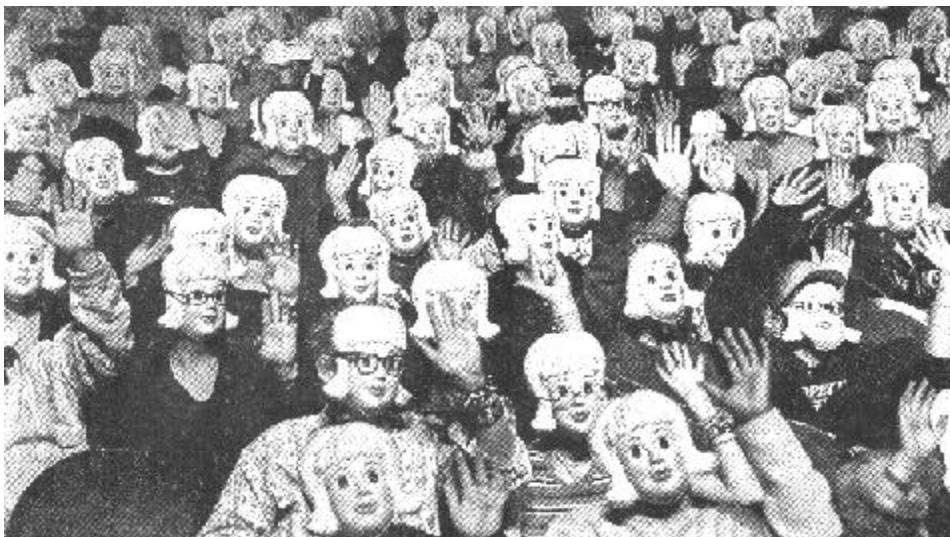
"Yes, I think they've finally done it," offered one local citizen as he offered bribes to passersby for a stamp. "We've been circling for nearly three hours. This 'Transit First Without Transit' policy is sure reducing the congestion of the post office line we might have been in, anyway."

Critics argued that eliminating parking ought to come after the public was provided with some honest transportation options, pointing out that busses and BART only serve certain neighborhoods, the roads aren't safe for bikes, and even those options are unworkable for people with heavy loads, large dogs, children, or multiple errands in an average day.

"Those people should move," responded another city official uncorking a bottle of champagne. "We've signed onto the 'elegant density' scenario, at least for poor people. It works beautifully for developers and bike aesthetes."

"It's certainly changed my lifestyle," admitted one resident. "I see movies in Emeryville and I do my shopping in El Cerrito."

* * * * *



BERKELEY RESIDENTS put on a happy face for the "Transit First Without Transit" policy from a movie theater in Emeryville.

By Sadie Woid

City of Berkeley Transportation officials high-fived recently after hearing news that the city had managed to eliminate all parking within the city limits. Any cars which are not technically in motion are in violation of the new "Transit First Without Transit" policy and will be towed to Oakland, Albany, or gently floated out to sea.

"We think it's working," was one city official's cautious response. "Between the 'bulb-outs', the planters, the red and yellow zones, the parking reserved for University of California and the parking stripped for new construction, we think we've managed to eliminate all opportunity to even double-park within the physical city limits."

LAB EXPERTS EXPLAIN FIRE DANGER OVER



SCIENTISTS AT THE tritium labeling facility breathed a sigh of relief after discovering that there is no chance of fire danger because of their excellent vegetation management program and their really good luck.

By Audrey Spones

The Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's spokesperson recently dismissed a study written by the City of Berkeley's radiation consultant which states that the release of radioactivity from the facility in the event of a fire would be a major health threat.

"Of course we would be worried," commented Ron Kolb, head of communications for the lab, "but the public will be happy to know that according to our most recent studies there is no fire danger up here whatsoever."

Kolb pointed out that the lab has an excellent vegetation management program and hasn't had a fire since the last one, a firestorm in 1991 in which twenty-five people died and over three thousand hillside residents lost their homes.

"There is next to no chance that a fire of 'monumental proportions' like they describe could happen," stated Kolb. "Even though it happened before."

"We're very relieved," sighed area resident Janice Thomas. "We know we can trust the lab to tell us the truth, and now we can all save a lot of money on needless fire abatement."

* * * * *

Rest in peace...

Paul Wotman



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

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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:

Don't miss Carol Denney's CD Release Party at the Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison, Wednesday, March 7th, 8:00 pm.

Available at all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.
 *The Winter's Tale