

...the healing issue...

These are truly the...

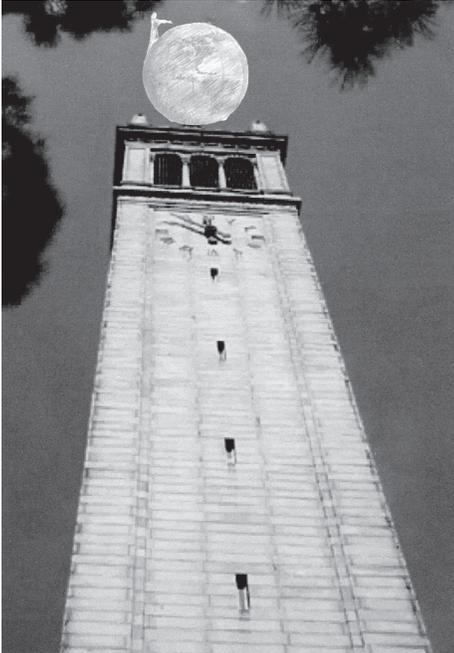
Hepper Spray Times

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

January 2005



It's morular..it's free...if you can find it "Would any but these boiled-brains of nineteen and two and twenty hunt this weather?"*Vol. VII No. 1



MANY SUGGEST that the most appropriate placement for the Eino sculpture is on top of the UC campanile.

NOBODY WANTS SUCKY SCULPTURE

by Elsie Ewencourt

Art experts agreed recently that the only appropriate location for the Eino sculpture rejected by San Francisco and purported to honor David Brower is the very top of the campanile on the UC Berkeley campus.

"Nobody wants it," admitted an embarrassed Berkeley art commissioner. "If we put it near the marina people are threatening to roll it into the bay."

Critics maintained that placing the sculpture on top of the famous bell tower would impair the landmark look of the tower itself, and make the Eino sculpture difficult for the public to see.

"That's the whole point," responded one art expert with a shudder. "The campanile is pretty well shrouded in tall buildings at this point anyway. Nobody's been able to read the clock for years. This way the Eino sculpture will be technically visible without being oppressive and offensive to any particular neighborhood."

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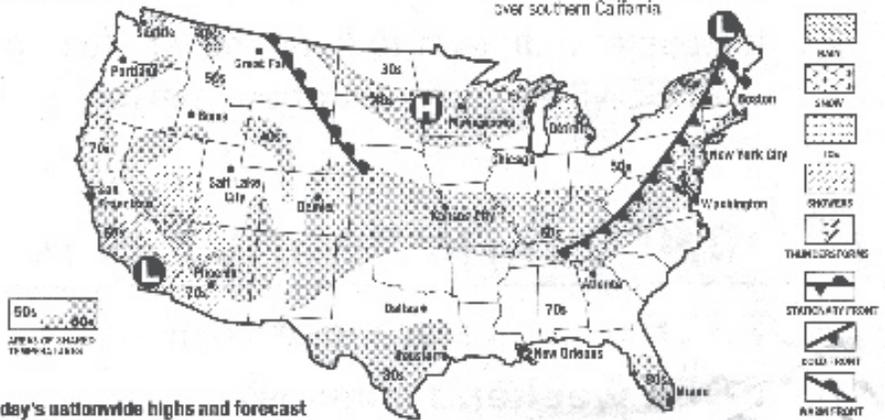
NATIONAL FORECAST SUCKS ON BOTH COASTS; CENTER OF COUNTRY REALLY HIGH

National forecast

An area of low pressure will produce clouds and scattered showers across the Southwest, while scattered light rain will be possible over portions of the Pacific Northwest. High pressure will provide sunny to partly cloudy skies over the nation's midsection. Breezy conditions with scattered rain and snow showers can be expected over the Great Lakes. Low pressure will produce scattered rain and snow showers over the Northeast, while sunny to partly cloudy skies will be the rule over the Southeast.



An area of low pressure will be in place over southern California



Today's nationwide highs and forecast

METEOROLOGISTS AGREE that both coasts are in a really blue mood, while the center states are enjoying a pervasive post-election high.

by Everett Sea

As the year 2005 dawns on the nation, meteorologists agree that both coastal regions are experiencing persistent lows, while the center of the nation is so high it is still partying down.

"We can't figure it out," lamented one leftist from a coastal town so politically blue its activists exported themselves to other regions to do electoral work. "How could we be so fashionable and yet so wrong?"

"We knocked on doors in battleground states in our Birkenstocks and tie-dye T-shirts," reported one wide-eyed liberal. "We offered them tofu and copies of Noam Chomsky books. Nothing seemed to work."

Weather watchers agreed that the possibly patronizing assumption that interior states craved political direction from liberal coastal communities might have backfired, sending even more of the Republican-inclined off to

their polling stations with a renewed sense of commitment.

One anonymous voter from the midwest graciously and gently confirmed that she found the Californians on her doorstep less than persuasive.

"They were lovely, people, really," she said, "and it was kind of them to come so far. We sincerely hope they manage to find their way back home."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is it politically correct to wish somebody a Merry Christmas? What should I say?

A: Christmas has much more to do with the economy than religion, so that people in the know appreciate that what you're really saying is "may wealth blossom in your pocket." Ignorant people, however, will misinterpret your statement, and they may be armed. I would advise you to murmur, "lovely weather we're having," and then run.

Dear Lena, what is your favorite design for the bridge?

A. I would advise the people of California to lobby the governor for a design that references a waffle maker, as waffles are universally well loved.

Dear Lena, should Dan Rather return to the airwaves? It was just one little mistake, after all.

A: Dan Rather was replaced with a robot ages ago which neglected its primary mission of accurately reporting the news, and should be turned into a toaster.

Dear Lena, where should they put the Eino sculpture?

A: They should hire the unemployed to slowly roll it from one town to another to illustrate cautionary homage to art commissioned by the well-intentioned but misguided rich.

Dear Lena, was the 2004 election just a case of electronic voter machine fraud?

A: Of course. Bush supporters showed up at the polls as they always do, intended to vote Republican as they always do, and then had their last-minute change-of-heart votes switched back to Bush, because of the devious work of hackers far and wide, you dear little dreamers.

GLACIERS SHRINK; Scientists Rule Out Global Warming, Blame Low Self-Esteem

by Russ D. Bucket

Scientists working closely with the Bush administration agreed recently that the obvious changes in glaciers today compared with photos of the same glaciers taken 100 years ago were the result of problems with self-esteem.

"Glaciers have long been noted for their cold, haughty demeanor," explained one scientist. "Most experts in science accept that such behavior is a cover for deep-seated anxiety."

"It's true," concurred another scientist studying the photographs of the same glacier taken 100 years apart. "This glacier clearly has never recovered from the first photograph taken of it, and the second photograph clearly shows it as having entered a state of deep despair."

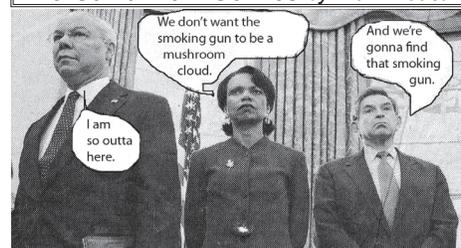
Government experts are torn as to the best approach to address the problem, which may have discouraging implications for people with beachfront property. Some think that long-term psychiatric therapy is best, while others think that if the glaciers could be coaxed into an aggressive program of writing personal journals, primal scream therapy, and keeping records of their dreams, they could someday recover their robust health.

Critics argue that this is nonsense, that there could hardly be a more obvious alert that the climate is drastically changing due to global warming, and that those with beach umbrellas in their front yards would be wise to invest in a rowboat.

The Bush administration says these observations are cruel.

"One shouldn't make light of those who suffer from mental illness," ad-

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



THESE GLACIERS have been determined to be uncommonly shy.



THIS GLACIER in particular, photographed above 100 years ago, is running for the hills in the hope of finding solace.

monished one administration official. "We need to work together. Changing one's self-image and addressing severely low self-esteem is difficult work. Our experts assure us that dissent can jeopardize the delicate nature of this work, which could take many, many years."

* * * * *

CELL PHONES ON PLANES: THE ULTIMATE TERRORISM

Alva McGrog

A recent rumor that the Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the possibility of allowing cell phone use on plane flights turned out to be the work of terrorists bent on putting the final nail in a nearly completely bankrupt industry.

"That was so cruel," fumed one flight attendant scanning the latest proposal for wage and benefit cuts. "It's hard enough for us to keep our heads above water without this. This would guarantee chaos."

Industry analysts argued that despite the terrorist prank, cell phone use might prove beneficial.

"We could charge more for phone-free flights," mused one. "We could make a killing."

* * * * *



SCOTT PETERSON GETS OWN TV SHOW

Rowan D. Boat

Scott Peterson, recently convicted of double murder and sentenced to death, will be the host of a new television series coming up during the next television sweeps frenzy.



SCOTT PETERSON may have a longer business career than Dick Clark.

"He's proven his strength," affirmed one television executive. "We pulled in viewers to the Scott Peterson trial whether there was news or not. We covered the fact that there was nothing to cover. It didn't matter. That guy is gold."

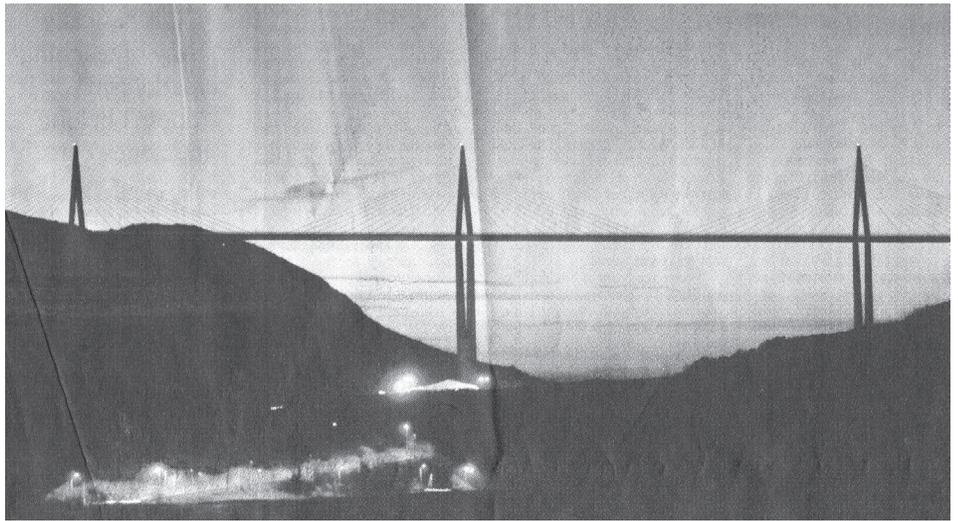
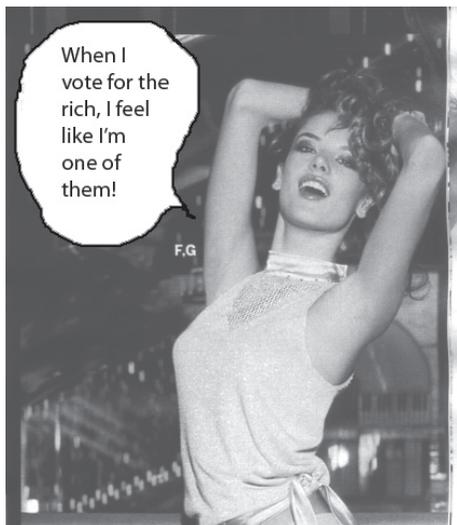
The details of the upcoming series were unclear, but prison officials agreed that Peterson would be in prison

for years before execution, and could conceivably host a variety show or conduct prison interviews with famous or fading celebrities.

"We could go in a lot of directions with this," stated one program executive with excitement. "We could actually just show his face and speculate about him the way we did during the jury deliberations. We could probably do that for years and get away with it. We know one thing for sure; this guy has legs."

"It's true," chimed in an advertising consultant. "Scott Peterson revived a dying industry. We just wish there were more like him."

* * * * *



FRANCE BUILT a really pretty bridge just to make us look really dumb.

BATES BLASTS BRIDGE

...Blames Terrorists

by Norman S. N. Island

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates reacted angrily to state Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Sunne McPeak's announcement that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had decided to scrap the expensive tower design to replace the dangerously earthquake-prone Bay Bridge.

"It is a truly offensive design," he stated, adding that his assessment was made on purely aesthetic rather than partisan political grounds.

"It's a hack bridge, an erector set bridge," he continued. "It's going to make our marina Eino sculpture look like crap."

Citizens of Oakland, Berkeley, and Albany, and several other East Bay communities conceded that the pedestrian design, which first surfaced under former governor Pete Wilson, failed to demonstrate the craft and creativity they would wish illustrated for the larger bay area community and generations to come. Many of compiled a list of bridge alternatives for the Governor's consideration:

1. **a bike-only bridge** - supporters of this design point out that San Francisco would be a lot more pleasant without all the cars, and that it would be much easier to park in town if the new bridge design was just for two-wheelers.
2. **a hemp bridge** - supporters of this design admit that a hemp bridge's

longevity would be far less than most other bridges, but, like, hey, who would care?

3. **an edible bridge** - supporters of this design envision a bridge under constant construction-based catering by competing five-star restaurants, which would both enhance the Bay Area's visibility as a cuisine-oriented, world-class city and feed the homeless, who could be hired to serve hors d'oeuvres to people



BAY CITIZENS wave bye-bye to the old bridge, which now doesn't look half bad.

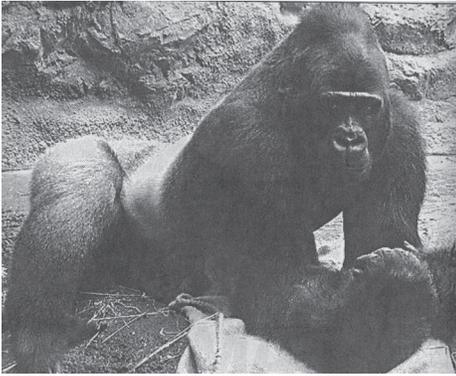
stuck at the toll booth.

4. **a re-enactment of the earthquake bridge** - this suggestion involves hooking up with Disney's best engineers and making the experience of driving across the bridge itself an all-out musical production number, so that tourists all over the world will want to come and experience a re-creation of a fully orchestrated earthquake.

5. **no bridge at all** - this, the most popular design, references a simpler time when people of necessity worked close to their homes and only crossed the bay when they planned to take some time to shop, dine, enjoy a good vaudeville show, and stay a few days in a local hotel. Supporters maintain that this design would help thousands of current commuters reduce stress and road rage.

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GORILLA DENIES STEROID USE

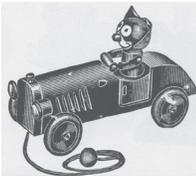


SKEPTICS WONDER about the measurements and statistics of this gorilla, who struck out in Buffalo.

Claudia Furniture

The most popular adult male silver-back gorilla in Buffalo strenuously denied steroid use, claiming that his buff 550 pound physique was the result of hard training and discipline.

“OJ” strongly rejected implications from the female apes in Buffalo, who rejected his advances, that his attributes had been artificially enhanced, and that his impending move to the Bay Area had anything to do with claims from the available females in Buffalo that he was not naturally all he seemed.



“He’s somewhat offended,” commented OJ’s spokesperson. “He has a record of excellent health, and is surprised by these rumors, but he’s looking forward to his move back to the Bay Area. He has roots there, as you know, and the general population is full of people who have a different attitude toward athletes and vitamin supplements.”

* * * * *

HOMELESS ADVOCATES DEFEND MAYOR: “IT COULD BE WORSE”

Maya B. Blessed

Local homeless advocates continue to defend the local Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates while offering tepid criticism of his policies, which include offering less shelter space than necessary and arbitrary destruction of homeless people’s belongings.

“We can’t afford to connect the dots,” explained one self-described homeless advocate. “If we criticize the mayor who enforces the practices we find objectionable, we run the risk of giving indirect support to whoever might someday oppose him in the next election, someone who might conceivably do something worse.”

Experts agreed that the possibility did in fact exist that a subsequent mayor could exhibit an even worse civil rights record than Tom Bates, whose policies are rooted in those instituted by his wife and former mayor, Loni Hancock, the first person to utilize trash compactors to “redesign” homeless people’s belongings in the early 1990s.

“It can’t be ruled out in the world of theoretical possibilities,” acknowledged one local expert. “The statistical

odds of electing a mayor who would then, say, eat or set fire to the homeless are small, but remain a legitimate possibility.”

Critics argue that the equivalent possibility exists that a different mayor would find a more innovative approach to dealing with homelessness than the usual practise of rousting people with nowhere to go and destroying their property.

“Nonsense,” answered one self-appointed spokesperson for the homeless. “Everybody knows Tom Bates is a liberal. He spent one night on the street actually imitating a homeless person, at least until he pulled rank by identifying himself as the mayor. His destruction of homeless people’s property is just a savvy cover to keep him electable so that we don’t get something worse. Inside he really feels for them.”

* * * * *



THESE PEOPLE feel really lucky that there are no homeless people sleeping in their bushes.

Editor’s Note:

If we have not yet offended you, please alert us so that we can adjust our editorial policy accordingly.

Sincerely,

Grace Underpressure
Editor, Pepper Spray Times

Readers’ Best Holiday Presents:

- * body-building flax seed oil
- * blue curtains from the Department of Justice
- * cell phone
- * pepper spray
- * combination cell phone with pepper spray
- * low carb roller blades
- * low carb flying cottage
- * low carb flying cottage with cell phone and pepper spray

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



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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.

* The Winter’s Tale

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.