

These are truly the...



Pepper Spray Times

Cower before our

July 2000

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

It's syenitic... it's free

"Strange things I have in head that will to hand..."*

Vol. III No. 8

KEENE LEAVES CITY DULLER

By Jel O. Yernalist

City Manager Jim Keene announcement that he's leaving for a job in Tucson shocked the Berkeley city council who lost a previous city manager to the same city in 1994. Arizona native Keene stated, "I look forward to getting back to my roots and the comfort of a deeper personal revenue stream", and continued, "the complexities of politics here have left me numb and unable to speak unctuously. I look forward to serving the people of Tucson where everyone thinks alike."

The news was greeted with a mixture of melancholy and praise for Keene. Mayor Shirley Dean reacted, "Jim and I are kindred spirits; we are both committed to the details. His input on finding and filling some of our more important potholes will be sorely missed." Council member Polly Armstrong praised Keene's posture, his neat desk and his sterling attendance record. Council member Maudelle Shirek observed that he has really nice hair.

Keene developed a knack for derailing critical policy discussion through bureaucratic lexicon laden with subjunctive clauses, arcane qualifiers and numbing equivocations. Home viewers of council proceedings revealed in a recent poll that Keene typically became impossible to follow after just two beers or a single hit on a bong of cheap Mexican sativa. Nevertheless, Keene has played a major role in determining the city's course, said council member Betty Olds. "Anyone who can talk like that knows what he's talking about and must be right."

* * * * *

UNEMPLOYMENT LEAPS; MARKETS JUMP FOR JOY

By Nadia Turn

The unemployment rate rose to 4.1 percent in May from 3.9 percent in April, causing a stock buying spree that saw the Nasdaq composite index soar 230.88 points, climbing 19 percent for the biggest one-week gain in its 29-year history.

"We're elated," sang one Wall Street investor rolling out a keg after the closing numbers. "We only wish more people could have lost their jobs."

"Clearly, the U.S. economy is at a turning point," said Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York. "If the little people can keep sacrificing this way I may be able to get that Lear jet."

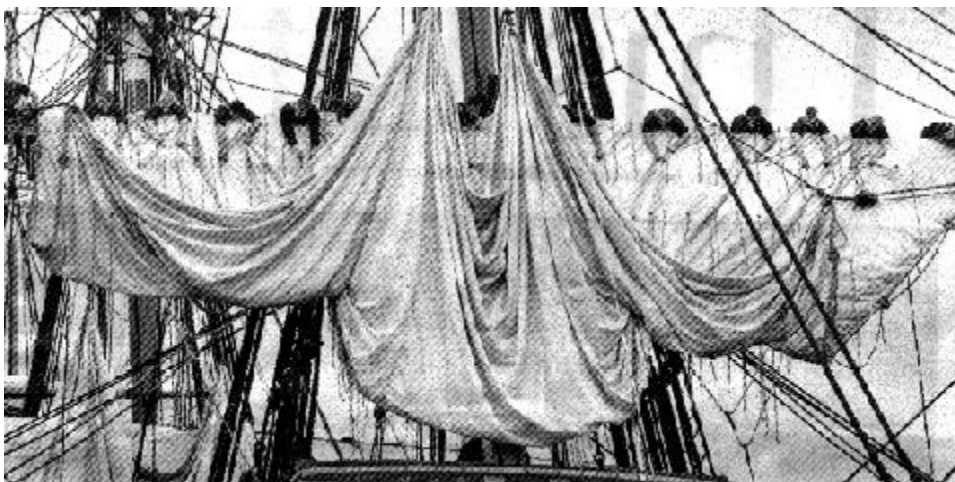


WALL STREET INVESTORS celebrate the rise in unemployment, which will translate into healthy profits for rich investors.

is cooling off, corporate profits are steady, and my portfolio never looked better. It's party time."

The group of men who frequent the University Avenue freeway overpass agreed that celebration was appropriate. "We just pooled our money for a six-pack," one commented. "It's nice that we have something in common with the Fed."

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



THE LIBERALS ON THE CITY COUNCIL successfully spent every last dime of the city's surplus on business subsidies, dance floors, and really cool stuff for their friends.

CITY MANAGER HAS COOL IDEA FOR PRC

By Randy Moneynow

City Manager James Keene was dismayed recently when his bid to eliminate Police Review Commission findings from any personnel related purposes was ignored by the Commission, which voted instead to ask the City Council for funds to hire independent legal counsel.

"It isn't that we don't respect the City Attorney's opinion," offered one commissioner. "We just need sound legal advice."

The City Manager's suggestion occurred in the wake of a June 1999 decision of the 4th District Court of Appeals in the case of Caloca v. County of San Diego, which strengthens the right of police officers to appeal civilian review boards' decisions.

"We appreciate the City Attorney and the City Manager's efforts to help," said another Commissioner. "But we already have the ineffectual charade angle down pretty well. We were actually hoping for some police accountability down the line."

City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque protested that her reading of the Caloca decision did not mean that the PRC hearings would have any less weight as a deterrent to potential police brutality and misconduct.

"The police are really, really scared of those hearings," she insisted. "Sometimes they don't show up at all."



THOUSANDS OF PARKING METERS committed mass suicide recently to protest the invasion of new, "Reino", meters which break just as easily but are harder to use and repair.

MAIO BACKS MERCHANT SUBSIDIES

*Businesses Discovered
To Be Truly Needy*

Morrison DeWay

Councilmember Linda Maio is promoting a plan to use public funds to "educate" the public in order to promote shopping at certain businesses in Berkeley.

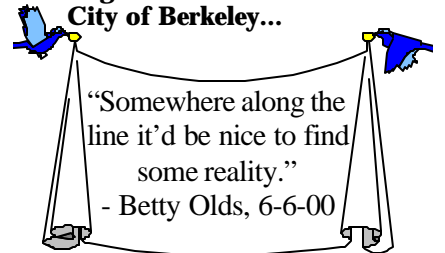
Maio, who voted to allow Blockbuster Video to move into what was once Berkeley's gateway at the corner of University and San Pablo, claims she is combating "sameness" by using public money to promote "preferred" businesses, the criteria for which has yet to be determined and may be clarified after the next district council election.

"I'm interested in bookstores in particular," she said, citing competition from the internet, at which point several bookstore owners and employees expressed spontaneous support for Maio's proposed program.

"Sure it's ridiculous; we all have internet sites, too," chuckled one bookstore owner. "But when the liberals start shoveling out public funds we find it's best to just open wide."

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Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



Editor's Note:

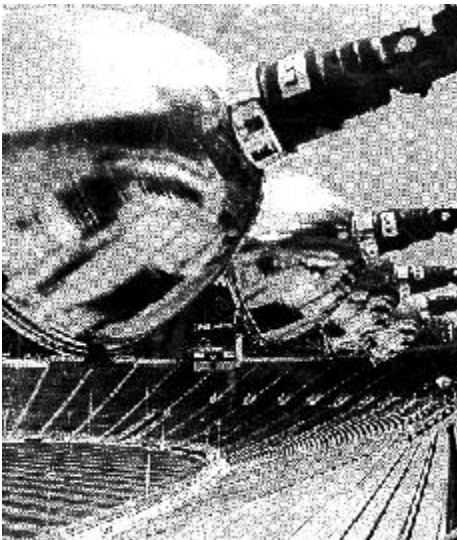
The absence of Berkeley City Council activity in the month of August affects the Bay Area comedy quotient so severely that we take the month off to pray for their good health and well being. See you in September.

Sincerely,
Grace Underpressure, Editor

UNIVERSITY CLEARS ITSELF OF ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

Offers Dark Glasses to Stadium Neighbors

By John DeParty



THESE STUPID LOOKING lights will be replaced by really cool mega-stadium-style light standards 12 stories high unless whiny neighbors get their way.

Fox Network Television's offer to pay for the cost of permanent lighting at Memorial Stadium got the go-ahead from UC officials, who conducted their own report of possible environmental violations, concluding that the proposed lighting fixtures would cause no significant environmental effects. UC officials said the increased candlepower would benefit area residents in a variety of ways.

"The neighbors who oppose this project aren't really considering the bright side," commented Thomas Lollini, director of the university's physical and environmental planning office. "These neighborhood people will be finding a lot of stuff that accidentally rolled under their couches, for one thing, and the conditions for making shadow puppets will be considerably enhanced."

Neighbors argued that the computer-generated simulations of the lights' environmental effects were inaccurate, but the objections were dismissed by UC officials.

"Fifty percent accuracy is pretty close," offered Lollini. "We used computers, after all. We're very scientific people."

Lollini dismissed the possibility that the neighbors' concerns would prevent the installation of permanent lights, but pointed out that if the neighbors were successful the permanent lighting could come about in another way.

"Between the tritium and the hazardous waste storage in the neighborhood, we have some great future possibilities for a permanent glow."

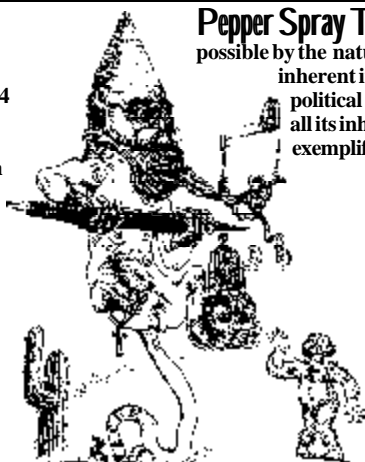
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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



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.
* Macbeth