

These are truly the...

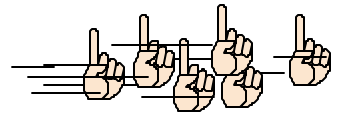
Bringing certain news from Shrewsbury ....

# Pepper Spray Times

July 2001



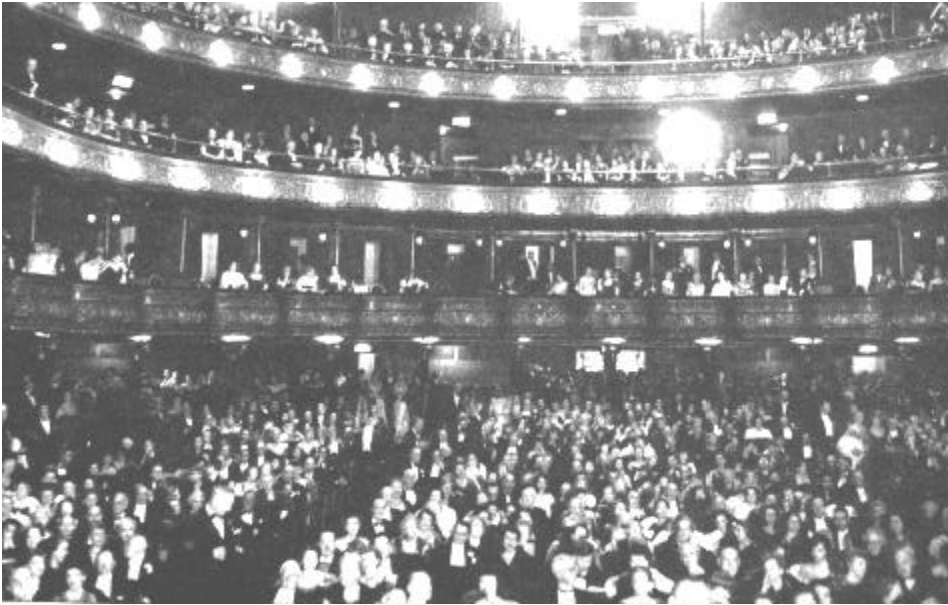
...or P.S.T...



It's ligious... it's free

"Stuffing the ears of men with false reports..."\*

Vol. IV No. 11



THE WORLD STOOD STILL as the normally crabby Berkeley City Council burst into song.

## ANCIENT SKATE BOWLS UNEARTHED

By Peleas Ong

Worried soccer players breathed a sigh of relief when the charges that construction workers building the Harrison Street playing fields had illegally covered up an underground storage tank turned out to be untrue.

"I'm greatly relieved," offered laborer Stephen Thomas. "I had concerns about my own health and the health of the kids playing there, as well as questions about the safety of the groundwater. Now I know that we've made an important archeological discovery."

Thomas was referring to the statement made by contractor Gerald Morris, owner of G. Morris Construction, that laborers had in fact unearthed an underground structure of some kind with unidentified residue, but that the structure was a primitive form of skate bowl once used by native tribes for recreation.

"The oily substance in the structure was probably a ceremonial oil of some kind," explained Morris. "Mr. Thomas has nothing to worry about with respect to his own or anyone else's exposure. As a matter of fact, he may find himself experiencing a strange run of luck in his athletic endeavors."

\* \* \* \* \*

### Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

We share your delight in the Berkeley City Council's seemingly endless supply of comedy. We will take the same break the council does in August to pray that the next round of council antics lives up to the quality shown this year. Send a donation to ensure another round of sterling coverage of the most seasoned entertainers and the best show in town.

Sincerely,  
Grace Underpressure, Editor

## CITY COUNCIL SINGS TOGETHER, FALLS IN LOVE

By Lottie Daw

City of Berkeley officials who sang "It's a Most Unusual Day" together as part of an arts festival kickoff continue to marvel at the sudden political harmony which seems to have come over the Berkeley City Council.

"It's a little eerie," commented auditor Ann Marie Hogan. "We thought they were were acting a little oddly that day, but we had no idea the effect it would have."

Political observers confirmed that Mayor Shirley Dean has taken to skipping through the halls tossing flower petals into the offices of both political allies and opponents alike, while Councilmember Margaret Breland has taken to leading the staff in sea chanties in the lobby.



CITY MANAGER Weldon Rucker is studying ways to stamp out the insidious wave of barn dancing breaking out at City Hall.

"It's disruptive, to say the least," stated City Manager Weldon Rucker. "Morale is certainly up, but we're not quite sure what to make of it."

Critics argued that the new, harmonious attitude of the council was a cover.

"We're certain each council faction is only trying to throw the other side into confusion by adopting this odd technique," reflected one somewhat disoriented political observer. "We're watching closely, especially the group that's taken to quilting in the conference room."

Others dismissed concerns about the lack of traditional partisan bickering.

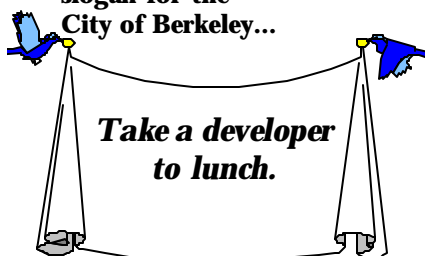
"It's an interesting phenomenon, but it will pass," observed another council watcher. "Most of them are new to music, so of course it's having an initial effect. We're confident that with a little time they'll start behaving like most musicians, and then things will get back to normal."

"I'm not sure that's the case," mused Hogan, brushing the rose petals off her desk. "The smiling, the back-slapping, the well-wishing, it's making the rounds like an infectious disease. I never thought I'd miss the bickering, but frankly this is getting hard to take."

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



Take a developer to lunch.

# GOD ON BOTH SIDES OF BETH EL VS. CREEK CONTROVERSY

By Bart Lee Cloudy

Religious experts released findings recently which indicate that God firmly backs both sides of a local struggle over the preservation of Cordonices Creek.

"I like creeks," stated the Almighty, "but places of worship rate pretty highly in my book, too. Sometimes you gotta back both sides to ride in on a winner."

Local politicians were stunned by the news.

"We were frankly hoping for a little more direction," stated one council representative. "Rainbow trout are fashionable but notoriously chintzy when it comes to campaign contributions."

Critics pointed out that God had conflicts of interest regarding the development issue and should recuse Himself or Herself from weighing in at all.

"Nonsense," responded the Creator. "Call it a lack of oversight if you like, but I generally have the run of the place."

Religious experts confirmed that God is historically uninhibited by conflicts of interest, but pointed out that although God's support for both sides leaves the issue at an impasse, oddsmakers were banking on Beth El's development getting a thumbs-up from the City Council.

"Rainbow trout are pretty," offered one, "but often poorly represented in court."

\* \* \* \* \*

# REDDY SAYS HIS CRIMES ARE JUST AN ETHNIC CUSTOM

By Cornell B. Ripe

Lakireddy Bali Reddy's defense attorney Ted Cassman argued in his pre-sentencing report in U.S. District Court that Reddy's crimes, which include smuggling teenage girls into the country for sex and cheap labor, are simply "the norms of society" in his native India.

"It could work," mused one legal observer. "His actions arguably contributed to the death of one woman who died of carbon monoxide poisoning in the apartment Reddy owned and used to have sex with her, but if this is the tradition in his ancestral background people around here might buy it."

"People are very big on ethnic customs," confirmed anthropologist Gerald Berreman. "I'm rooting around in my notebooks here for rituals and ceremonies involving rape and coercion."

Critics argued that Cassman was going too far in a desperate effort to spare Reddy a long prison sentence.

"Nonsense," responded Berreman. "He doesn't run the risk. He's rich. The ethnic argument may help, after all, this is the place that bought the twinkie defense. But having money reduce your sentence is a custom every culture understands."

\* \* \* \* \*



LOCAL BAY AREA CITIZENS enjoying the benefits of the popular "transit first" policy.

# PG&E GETS OKAY TO DOUBLE TOP EXECUTIVES' PAY



WHAT'S GOOD FOR PG&E is good for you, me, and the entire economy.

By Gert Deloins

Bankrupt PG&E's top executives were recently awarded \$17.5 million in bonuses in addition to the \$50 million handed out just weeks ago.

Company chairman Robert Glynn explained that although the company's creditors have needs, the needs of PG&E's top brass come first.

"Our energy bills went up, too," stated Glynn, whose compensation is in the \$2 million dollar range. "We need to thank the people who got us here, but we also want to make sure they can pay their bills, which all Californians know are running a little high."

\* \* \* \* \*

# BART COPS KILL NUDE MAN

By Staff Writer Annabel Rang

Ten years after killing unarmed passenger Jerrold Hall by shooting him in the back, BART police kicked off a new round of controversy by pepper-spraying and then fatally shooting another unarmed man who was naked.

"We take nudity very seriously here in Hayward," commented BART Police Chief Gary Gee. "Once something like that spreads it's hard to stop."

\* \* \* \* \*

*Rest in peace...*

John Lee Hooker  
Jim McCormick  
Alice Stuart  
Richard Werthimer

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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.  
\* The Second Part of the History of Henry IV