

...the
goose-
plucking
issue...

These
are truly
the...



Pepper Spry

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

Times

June 2005

It's rufescent..it's free...if you can find it

"Dost thou come here to whine?..."*

Vol. VII No. 6

NAMING RIGHTS FOR CITY COUNCIL SOLD



GRIZZLY BEARS at the San Francisco Zoo were willing to trade names with the Berkeley City Council, but that deal fell through.

by Holden D. Cards

The success of the San Francisco Zoo's contest to name two grizzly bears has inspired a similar contest in the East Bay which promises to be both entertaining and lucrative, according to contest organizers.

"We're getting lots of creative suggestions," said the contest director. "So many people had interesting ideas for renaming the city council that we had to get more office space and volunteers. The unprintable entries alone filled an entire room."

The organizers confessed that they thought they'd have much more trouble getting the public involved, since the San Francisco Zoo's grizzlies are cute and fuzzy and the Berkeley City Council is more difficult to love.

"We forgot about the participatory nature of these East Bay residents and how much they love to share," stated one contest organizer. "And there are lots of interesting suggestions coming in nationwide."

* * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

..no sacrifice too great except our own salaries...



Fraternities Can't Hold Liquor; UC Bans Alcohol, Suggests Lemonade

Bechtel Agrees to Assist

by Helen Backagain

University of California officials acknowledged recently that they have entered a partnership with Bechtel hoping to put a lid on the scandals rocking campus fraternities and sororities.

"We've tried and failed to get through to them," stated UC Dean of Students Karen Kenney in a prepared statement. "You'd think we could speak a little Greek by now."

Spokespersons for the fraternities and sororities missed the press conference, having stumbled by accident into the pool.

Bechtel officials denied that the new cooperative relationship with UC had anything to do with the fraternities and sororities, stating that Bechtel's involvement was an effort to hang onto the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and that the assistance they could lend to UC in cleaning up the fraternities and sororities was secondary.

"We've done nuclear and chemical cleanup at Oak Ridge," stated one Bechtel employee. "We've got lots and lots of clean suits and rubber gloves. We're hoping we're ready for anything the fraternities and sororities can puke up."

UC spokespersons denied that Bechtel's connection was a last-ditch effort to hang onto the Los Alamos contract, which is being courted by Lockheed Martin and the University of Texas, as well as lots of out of work people with no experience all of whom could do a better job than UC.

"The labs are a large contract," conceded regent Gerald Parsky, "but our first priority is trying to keep our damned students from embarrassing us in front of the alumni."

Critics questioned whether or not



BECHTEL THINKS that fraternities and sororities should bring back the old-fashioned ice-sitting contest.

Bechtel or anybody else could make a difference.

"It's going to depend on what this management team brings that is different than what is going on there now," stated Representative Bart Stupak, a democrat from Michigan. "I want to know what they are going to do different. We are saying, 'How are you going to change the culture there?'"

Bechtel officials responded by reassuring the public that they had no interest in changing the basic culture at fraternities and sororities.

"Bechtel has strong ties both to the University of California and to upchucking in the yard," stated a spokesperson for Bechtel. "A true partier can make it all look easy."

UC officials admitted that the partnership with Bechtel couldn't help but enhance the chances of having the lab contract renewed when it comes up in September.

"We're damned if we'll let go of the labs despite the security breaches, the management failures, the disappearing data," confessed regents' chairperson Gerald Parsky. "We're obviously not in it for the science, or we'd shoot ourselves. Even if Bechtel can't whip our labs crew into shape at least they'll look damn good on the letterhead."

* * * *

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so UC students get to cross a dangerous intersection on a bridge while the rest of us dodge cars? Do I have this straight? Didn't anybody object to this stupid idea?

A: Almost everybody. But nearly unanimous opposition never bothers the University of California planners, who will also get to walk across the bridge and wave merrily at the little people on the ground while the city council counts its money.

Dear Lena, didn't those Q-tips know what they were doing was wrong?

A: Not really, no. They were just trying to cooperate with the local law enforcement and got caught in the middle. They had no idea that what they were doing was wrong. The American Idol contestants, on the other hand are fully aware that what they are doing is wrong.

Dear Lena, how can you stand spending so much time focusing on city and national politics? If it was me, I would be jumping off the bridge by now.

A: I'm glad someone understands. I'm just waiting for the new UC bridge across the dangerous intersection, which will be much more convenient.

Dear Lena, they built a new jail and they're firing librarians? Did anybody tell the city council?

A: It's good to know the public is keeping such a close eye on things.

Dear Lena, why would a bunch of Buddhists in saffron robes tear down a community garden?

A: Think of it as a koan. It is an effort to liberate the mind from the snare of language through the use of saffron robes and chainsaws. Someday, when you're more enlightened, it will all come clear to you.

PEPPER SPRAY, Q-TIPS TAKE CRUEL HIT FROM HEARTLESS JURY

Wonder Substance Widely Misunderstood by Public

by Bob N. Body

Pepper spray and Q-tips stocks took a dive recently when protesters, whose eye-lids were swabbed with the stinging substance in an effort to end an anti-logging sit-in, finally won their third court case.

"We had high hopes for this particular methodology," confessed losing Humboldt County law enforcement spokespersons as they put away their Q-tips. "We felt helpless against these tie-dyed tree-huggers. We're a tough crew, but it's hard to get your butts beat by a bunch of tofu-eating spotted owl lovers."

Pepper spray representatives vowed to renew their public information campaign, citing the jury's lack of positive pepper spray information as playing a crucial role in the case.

"The Berkeley City Council swears by the stuff, so we know we'll be back on our feet in no time," stated one representative. "Using pepper spray itself is not against the law, just in combination with Q-tips, so we consider this a minor setback, as well as a creative challenge."

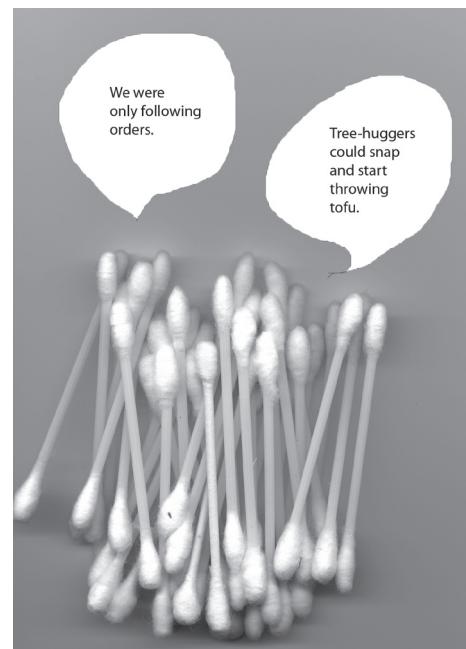
Humboldt County sheriffs acknowledged that despite the best efforts of pepper spray industry executives, they may need to find alternative methods of discouraging anti-logging protesters in the logging show-downs to come.

"We're following the theories of Boalt Law School professor John Yoo pretty closely, hoping to use similar arguments. If the White House and two out of three juries will buy the idea that it's okay to exceed normal restrictions in certain situations, then we know we must be getting pretty close."

In the meantime, law enforcement officials vowed to continue their efforts to clear the county of the Birkenstock crowd.

"We've got to keep those numbers down," affirmed one Humboldt County officer, "at least for another five or ten years. After that it'll look like a soccer field around here."

* * * * *



Q-TIPS CLAIM their role in the pepper spray case was misunderstood, and they were instructed by higher-ups to "soften up" the protesters.

SCHWARZENEGGER SEARCHES FOR NEW SCAPEGOAT

by Diane Tameecha

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced recently that he's requesting the public's help in finding someone to blame for California's budgetary woes.

"My pollsters have really messed up," he confessed. "Who knew that teachers and firefighters were so popular? Who knew that nobody would buy the idea that nurses were the enemy? I can hardly enjoy my cigars anymore."

The governor is still reeling from the backlash his statements about immigrants caused recently, and having tried and failed to blame trade unions, is hoping the public can help find a small group with a poor record of showing up at the polls to insult freely.

"Maybe surfers or birdwatchers. Maybe Caltrans. We're really open to new possibilities. We want to work with the people to find some group that can't fight back."

The Governor's staff headed off suggestions that Democrats would be the best choice, saying that while the group was a perfect choice in many respects, the Governor preferred a fair fight.

* * * * *

TRAFFIC CIRCLES BAFFLE NEIGHBORS

Dozens Circle Endlessly, Lost in Confusion



NOBODY HAS YET been able to decipher the strange hieroglyphs popping up in west Berkeley, which are inspiring a cult of worshippers.

by Cassius Chipzin

The mysterious appearance of circular structures, greatly resembling crop circles, is paralyzing traffic in west Berkeley, whose residents don't know whether to go right, go left, or give up entirely and vote for fresh, common sense city council representation.

The circles, which appeared recently near Delaware and Hearst Streets, have caused bewilderment and confusion in local drivers, who often circle continuously as though swept into an evil vortex, unable to manage an efficient exit and afraid of offending the powerful, possibly supernatural entities which

planted the circles.

Local traffic officials insisted that the appearance of the circles was perfectly normal, had been planned for years, and would eventually have a "calming" effect on local residents and traffic alike.

"I spent about twenty minutes going round and round," stated one local resident. "It was mesmerizing, really, and I suppose it was calming for a little while there, at least until I realized I'd used up a quarter tank of gas and couldn't get out."

Others insisted that the circles were appearing at the behest of a bucketful of local gods offended at the destruction of landmarks, the paving of shell mounds, and especially the new sculpture proposed for the border of Berkeley and Oakland.

"We can't afford to get them angry," shouted one resident, circling around the peculiar monument on 10th Street in her Caravan. "We all showed up to the little neighborhood meetings and made it clear that we didn't want these things, and they appeared anyway."

"She's right," agreed another neighbor calling to reporters out of his driver's side window. "I was at those meetings, too, and told the traffic engineer directly we wanted stop signs. If they could do this to us, imagine what else they could do."

* * * *



ParkEZ meters are going through a difficult period of adjustment.

PST: So, you've been here a couple months now. How do you like your new digs?

Meter: I'm still getting my bearings. I talk a lot to the tuning fork.

PST: Are people figuring it out? Are you making any money?

Meter: People with credit cards seem okay with it. They stick in their cards, cry a little, turn their heads, and walk off like beaten dogs. This is a strange town.

PST: We have trouble hanging onto staff in this town. Do you think you'll stay?

Meter: It's hard to say. The weather's nice.

PST: Does anybody use your alternative language feature?

Meter: I do. I talk to myself in German and French.

PST: How can we make your new job more fun for you?

Meter: People seem to think I won't be around very long, and don't take the time to get to know me. I know people move fast in this town, but I'm an alright guy. I know a couple jokes.

PST: Have you ever lived in a college town before?

Meter: No, this is my first. It makes you feel really, really old.

PST: Are you politically inclined?

Meter: I used to think so, but this town has its own spectrum of extremes. People think the traffic circles are a right-wing plot. I'm still trying to figure out how they get that way.

PST: Any theories?

Meter: I'm not sure yet. I figure all the coffee isn't helping.

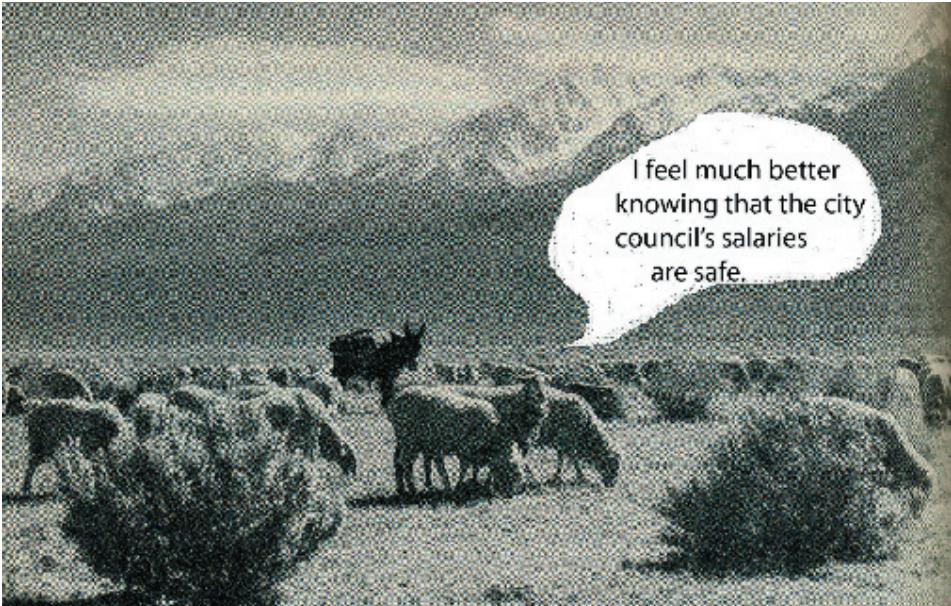
PST: Do you get along with the other meters?

Meter: It's dicey right now, since they know I could replace them. They're not happy going around with bags on their heads, but it beats the alternative. They do loosen up a little when I bring doughnuts.

Interview with The New ParkEZ Meter

BUDGET TRIUMPH

City Council Bravely Manages to Avoid Cutting Own Salaries



IF ONLY THE REST OF THE WORLD were as safe as the City Council's salaries.

by Estelle Ticking

Heroic efforts by Berkeley's City Council have finally managed to preserve their salaries, which doubled only a few years ago, while finding plenty of other salaries and services to cut in hopes of balancing the city's budget.

"They're so brave," acknowledged city commissioners, whose commission schedules are being severely trimmed to avoid using volunteer labor to take their meeting minutes. "Cutting down on citizen input is a small price to pay to make sure the council's paychecks remain intact."

"We know it's for the best," com-

mented one city worker of his smaller paycheck. "My kids can take it. Knowing the council doesn't have to sacrifice makes it a lot easier for the rest of us to show up in the morning."

Critics who pointed out that the council should take a cut were dismissed.

"We're so glad the public is supportive," stated one council representative. "We have another salary increase waiting in the wings. It may not be possible to bring it up right now, but the public's understanding means we only need to wait another year or two."

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



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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIXING ANOTHER STUPID SCULPTURE



THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT: "HERE - THERE"...possibly an insult to Oakland.



"THERE, THERE"...a consolation to both cities, which constantly suffer from the blight of public art.



"WHERE? - THERE"...an effort to confuse everybody in the neighborhood into putting up with the installation.



"NOWHERE - THERE"...an effort to acknowledge that Berkeley is somewhat artistically bankrupt.



"HERB - THERE"...an admission that the art commission must have been on drugs to think this was a good idea.



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.

* Hamlet