

All hail the...

...the staid, obedient issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

June 2008

Art art art...



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

"..or fortune given me measure of revenge..?"*

Vol. X No. 6



MOST PEOPLE IGNORED the stinking carcass under a local pier, thinking it was an election year appearance by politicians, the aroma of which are starting to turn.

THE STATE OF THE CITY: NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

By Jonah Club

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates found a supportive group of nearly 60 people willing to attend a closed event to privately cheer his speech about the state of the city.

"Excluding the public and the press had nothing to do with our success at this event," stated a spokesperson for the mayor. "This may be a small group compared to the one we might have had if the press and the public were invited, but we got applause this year, and it seemed sincere."

"Small groups are so much more intimate, don't you think?" offered one attendee. "I feel so special having been chosen for this relatively select ceremonial moment that I might get out my checkbook, which is ordinarily a very private gesture."

Critics argued that the state of the city is the public's business, and ought to be held in a public place and noticed to the public and the press, but were dismissed by the mayor's staff.

"We're pretty familiar with what the public thinks," answered one staff member. "We thought the mayor deserved a break from all that. It's nice to hear applause once in a while."

* * * * *

Big Stink Towed to Sea: "We thought it was a politician."

By Xaviera Pinions

San Francisco locals were relieved to learn that the bloated, stinking carcass hovering near the waterfront was not another politician looking for money and votes, but just a dead whale.

"A dead whale? What a relief," commented one resident. "We were trying to ignore it, hoping it would eventually go away and we wouldn't have to explain to a pollster why we weren't going to vote for it."

"We had to stop answering our phone," said another neighbor, "and it's hard even getting through the phone machine messages from hungry politicians and their ad campaigners. We thought the horrible odor was just part of the election ambiance."

Authorities had difficulty determining the identity of the rotting, oozing body, which was found decaying under a pier, because so many termed-out politicians are wandering blindly through public spaces with outstretched arms

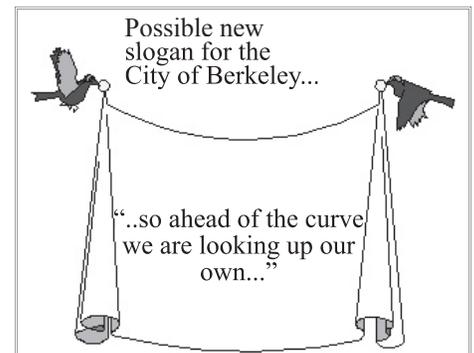
that they are difficult to distinguish from zombies, near-dead roadkill, and people who flock to religious conventions.

"We're sure it was just a dead whale," intoned one marine biologist. "If it had been a politician, we're pretty sure it would still have been talking."

* * * * *



OLYMPIC TORCHBEARERS offered to torch the politician, but upon hearing that the carcass was that of a whale, agreed that it should have a respectful ceremony at sea.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm having trouble figuring out what is green anymore. If highrise buildings are green, and the right kind of car is green, and the right kind of tire and softdrink is green, then what exactly isn't green? I can't seem to stay ahead of the curve.

Dear reader, everything is green except open space, which is a drain on the economy and a blight on the community. Open space can harbor criminals and the credit-card challenged, and invite the perception of crime. Please take notes: orange is now green, which is the new black.

Dear Lena, how many lifetimes does Vice President Cheney have to live as a flea to make up for what he did in this one?

Dear reader, Cheney is already living his fifth lifetime as a flea to make up for stuff he did in past lives. Comparatively speaking and considering what he did six lifetimes ago, he is actually doing quite well.

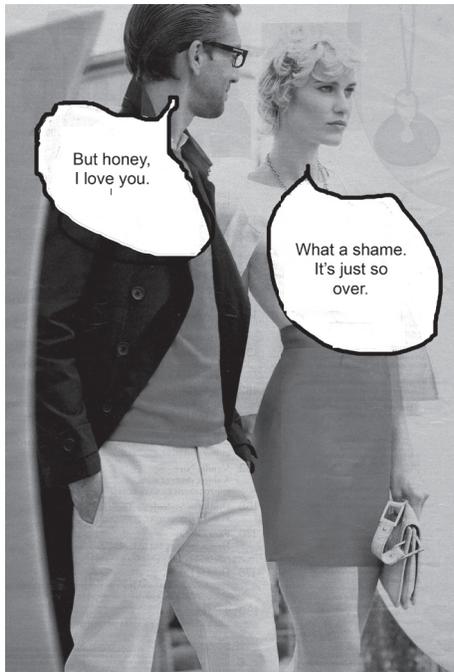
Dear Lena, if I get married now to my same-sex partner, what will happen if an initiative is passed against gay marriage? Will we still be married? If not, who gets the shoes?

Dear reader, yes, you will still be married. But you should consider whether or not you will be ready for the actual wedding, which includes the in-law experience that spells the end of most unions. This matters much, much more than the courts. But not as much as the caterer.

Ask Lena for gardening tips and chic haircuts at cdenney@jgc.org.

Marriages Nationwide Hit the Rocks

California Supreme Court Decision Honoring Gay Marriage Wrecks Everything



THIS COUPLE WAS HAPPY until the California Supreme Court's decision allowing same-sex couples to marry. Now they feel cheated, and only shopping seems to raise their spirits.

By Vida Onlyknown

Thousands of heterosexual couples discovered their marriages completely destroyed after a California Supreme Court decision allowing same-sex marriages, and sadly began divorce proceedings after realizing that their solemn commitments were suddenly irrevocably doomed.

"What's the point," commented one young mother sawing a stroller in half. "It's no longer really a marriage if gay couples enjoy the same benefits and status that we do."

"It was a good marriage up until

now," agreed her husband, "but now it's over. It's sad for us, but even sadder for the kids."

Conservative commentators affirmed the impossibility of maintaining heterosexual marriages in an atmosphere of tolerance for unconventional unions such as those of same-sex partners.

"It just wouldn't work" stated one conservative expert on social norms. "No one would feel comfortable."

"Try to imagine company picnics," said another expert. "It just wouldn't be worth it to try."

Gay couples, deep in wedding planning arrangements, expressed sympathy.

"That feeling of illegitimacy - that's exactly what we felt," stated one local gay couple. "We can recommend a counselor. It really helped us get through the hard times."

Economists pointed out that California could make a good business out of the flood of people from all over the nation and the world who might wish to get married in San Francisco.

"California is a great destination for travelers, but San Francisco in particular is a wonderful romantic backdrop for lovers," stated a local venture capitalist. "We're considering funding a Las Vegas-style chain of wedding chapels. And if things don't work out, there's the Golden Gate Bridge."

* * * * *



SALES OF WEDDING RINGS to gay couples are soaring, but the market is saturated with used rings from heterosexual spouses who are throwing in the towel.



THE LUCKY FEW who got a chance to hear Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates' state of the city speech were walking on air.

Suggestions for the Next Presidential Debate

Public Demands More Relevant Questions

The next presidential debate will be different, according to political observers, due to the public's insistence that the questions be more relevant to the actual experience required to govern a complex nation and make important decisions which will affect not only the United States, but the entire world, assuming the dollar ever peps up again. These are samples of some of the questions candidates will have to answer when the candidates meet.

Which of you looks better in a Hawaiian shirt and sandals?

Would you prefer a guest cameo on *Lost*, *Desperate Housewives*, or *Cold Case*?

Who is hotter, Bernanke or Greenspan?

Would you rather blow up Iran, North Korea, or Disneyland?

Rock and roll, bluegrass, or opera?

Would you rather watch golf or Nascar?

How much will you pay me to vote for you?

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DONATION METERS FOR THE HOMELESS UNVEILED

Experts Argue Over Whether "Donation Meters" Are Stupidest Idea or Second Stupidest Idea

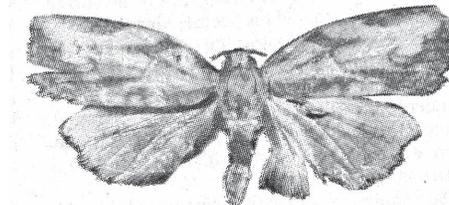
By Lon Clippings

San Francisco stepped boldly back into the perennial effort to address poverty by unveiling a new program aimed at encouraging the public to harden their hearts against poor people and panhandlers and give money instead to the government.

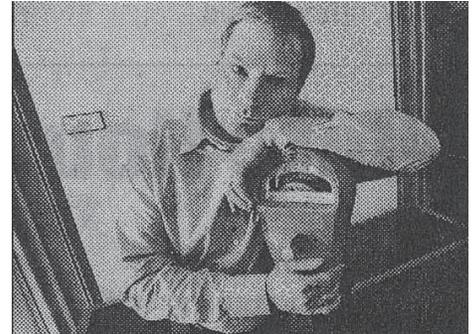
"We didn't feel as though we were getting our fair share," explained one government official. "Homeless people

have the advantage of being able to hang out on the street and look straight into people's eyes with their little dogs and pathetic hand-screwed signs. It's hard to compete with that."

Government officials added that they had better investment opportunities



THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE will be moderated by the light brown apple moth interviewed in our last issue, an Australian immigrant who was so popular with the public he now has his own blog.



DARIUSH KAYHAN was so thoroughly ridiculed by his homeless meter idea that he put up a meter of his own, which nets him a good \$1.63 per day, which makes him feel much better.

than the homeless, and could put the money in CDs or mutual funds, which offer a better rate of return.

"It might be the second stupidest idea or the third stupidest idea depending on whether you count the ski jump," mused one local resident. "We appreciate that they're feeling unwanted down at City Hall.

It must be hard to get even less sympathy than the homeless."

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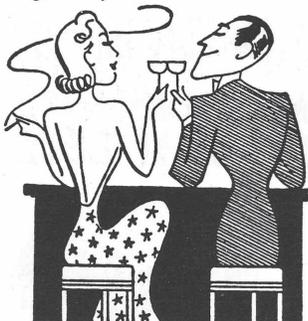


THIS METER said if meters were really good at fundraising politicians would have started using them years ago.

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

That court decision wrecked everything, honey.

Yes, I know. Suddenly I can tell it's over between us.



The California Supreme Court's decision allowing same sex marriage has destroyed marriages all across the nation.

The magic just somehow went away.

That special feeling we used to have is somehow gone.



Couple everywhere are discovering their love is gone, and sadly filing divorce papers and dividing record collections.

On the other hand, that gal singer is kind of hot.

And I have my eye on the bartender.



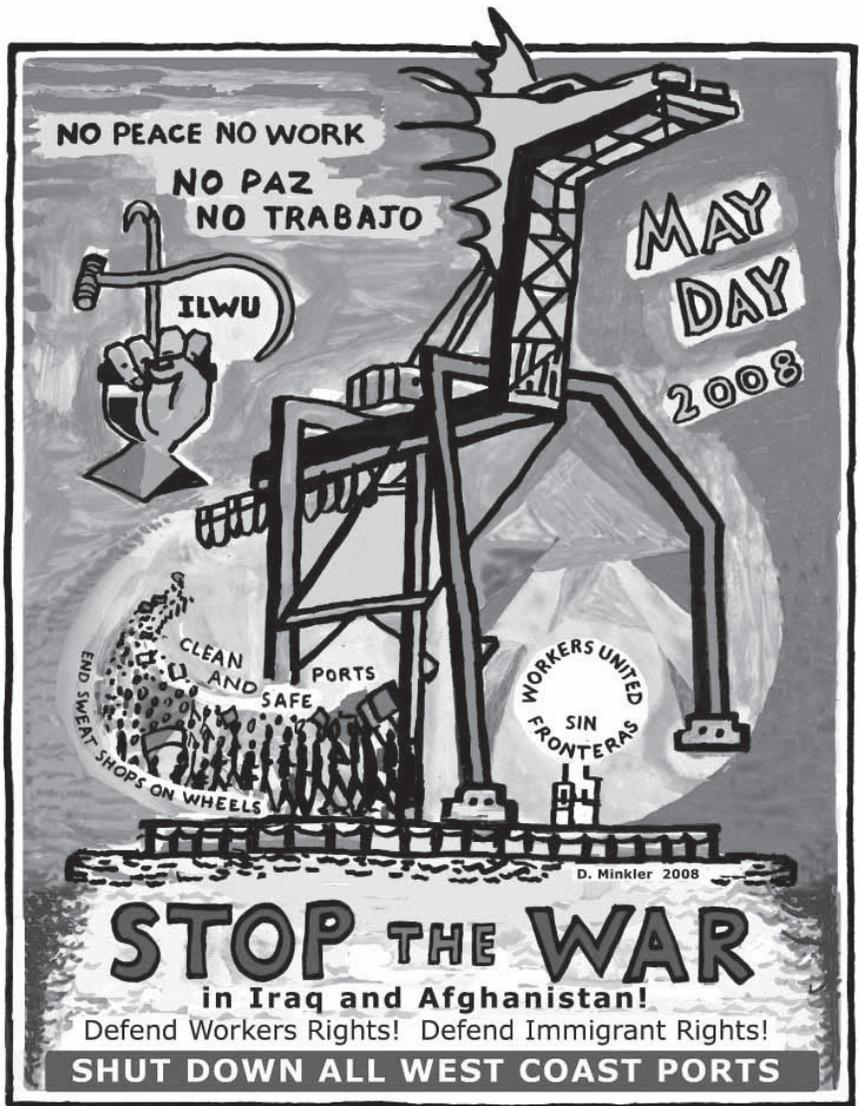
On an unrelated matter, there's a sudden, inexplicable surge in sales of lubricants and sex toys.

PHRASES THAT SOUND MUCH BETTER THAN RECESSION

By Joaquin Numonya

- “in a recessionary environment”
- “at recess in the sense of the economic playground”
- “in the vaguely familiar neighborhood of a recession”
- “in a recessionistic-like moment”
- “giving off an impression of less-than-robust economic strength”
- “within the framework of a technical representation of recession”
- “recessionistical”
- “recessionological”
- “in the realm of recession”
- “inside the technical parameters of economic unpleasantness”
- “in a less than fruitful economic moment in time”
- “recessionistological”
- “wall street waterloo”
- “bull market butchershop”
- “stock market yard sale”
- “recessionoodleoo”
- “recession-o-rooney”
- “recessionarilistic”
- “recessionostic”

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All Out For May Day

March With Longshore Workers in SF

10:30 AM - ASSEMBLE, Longshore (ILWU) Hall, Mason and Beach
 MARCH Down Embarcadero
 12 Noon - RALLY at Justin Herman Plaza

March for Immigrant Rights in SF

2 PM - ASSEMBLE, Dolores Park
 MARCH to Civic Center
 5 PM - RALLY in Civic Center

March for Immigrant Rights in Oakland

3 PM - ASSEMBLE, Fruitvale BART
 MARCH To City Hall
 6 PM - RALLY & Community Celebration at City Hall

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Movement for Unconditional Amnesty, Oakland Sin Fronteras Coalition, National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 214 (SF) and Local 630 (Greensboro NC), APWU Metro (NYC), California Federation of Teachers, Oakland Education Association, San Francisco Labor Council, Alameda County Central Labor Council, King County Central Labor Council, Professional Staff Congress Hunter College Chapter AFT Local 2334, ANSWER Coalition, Code Pink, IWW, US Labor Against the War, Labor for Peace and Justice, NYC Labor Against the War, Vietnam Veterans for Peace, Million Worker March, Inkworks Press Workers Collective, Design Action Workers Collective, Direct Action To Stop the War, UNITE (Britain), International Dockworkers Council, Doru-Chiba (Japanese railroad workers union), International Transport Workers Federation.

Next Issue: Pompom Making with Celebrities

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.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

*Henry VI Part 3