

These are truly the...

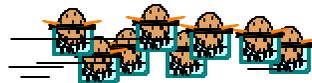
The big thieves jail the little thieves...



Pepper Spray Times

...0 P.S.T...

March 2001



It's withy... it's free

"Rumour is a pipe blown by surmises..."*

Vol. IV No. 7

REPUBLICAN CULTURAL RENAISSANCE



REPUBLICANS NOW DOMINATE not only the political balance, but are also making strides on fashion, culinary, and recreational fronts as a consequence of their electoral success.

By Stella Wake

Republicans, fresh from their recent anomalous election victory, have not only regained the political helm, but have seen a renaissance of Republican culture affecting entertainment, fashion, culinary trends, and other cultural phenomena.

"We're just getting started," offered first lady Laura Bush, dusting off the new White House china which features ornament-free depictions of Puritan scenes from America's early history including witch burnings and morality trials. "It's been so long since we've had the chance to express ourselves fully that we're a little rusty."

"They're changing everything," lamented local Democratic representatives. "We had a lock on the latte', and now everything is in flux. We knew that the roast and potatoes would knock out the lobster and quiche, but we weren't ready for the white bread; we honestly didn't think the pendulum could swing that far."

Sociologists acknowledge the sea change, noting the recent runs on Wayne Newton recordings and Velveeta.

"The shelves are bare in the Schwarzenegger video section," commented one expert working to document the phenomena. "We fully expect it will only take about six months for rap to be replaced by polka."

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BIKERS REFUSE TO RIOT



CRITICAL MASS has chops, but absent any history of mayhem would need to attend a seminar before having the skills to loot a store.

By Armando Something

A wave of completely peaceful bicycle-riding shocked the Bay Area recently when participants in a recent Critical Mass ride refused to riot the day after an affirmative action rally spilled into Telegraph Avenue causing property damage.

"Our procedures were impeccable," Berkeley Police Department's Captain Miller insisted. "Anytime we fail to protect merchant property we get to blame the next group that comes along, and their event is pretty predictable."

"We're really sorry," apologized embarrassed spokespersons for Critical Mass. "We realize we really disappointed not only the local police but most of the Bay Area media, which announced that we would be committing property damage during our ride."

The spokesperson went on to confess that having never committed any mayhem, the bicyclists were woefully inadequate to the task of adding to the property damage committed by high school kids the day before.

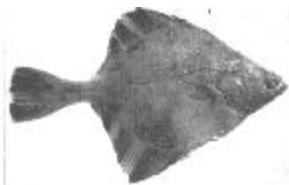
"We promise we'll have some workshops," the spokesperson affirmed. "We admit our inexperience with mayhem is profound."

* * * * *

BAY FISH LOVE CHROME 6 SPILL

By Beata Tension

"We love it," responded one representative of Bay Area undersea populations recently questioned about the accidental spill of 630 gallons of water contaminated with known carcinogen chromium 6 into the bay. "Fish which aren't up to the vigorous challenge of navigating through toxic contaminants left for other coastal waters ages ago. The rest of us consider living here an extreme sport."



This starry flounder, *Platichthys stellatus*, of the family *Pleuronectidae*, loves a good toxic challenge.

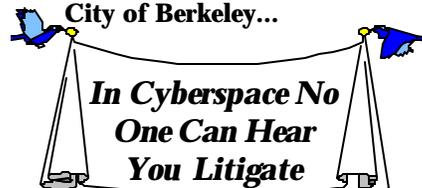
Dr. Angus McGarth, principle geochemist with Secor, the company responsible for the spill, described the chromium 6 spill which flowed into a storm drain on Harrison Street at the rate of approximately seven gallons per minute as "insignificant", pointing out that no complaints had been filed by any fish so far.

"We have no plans to complain," offered one flounder. "We're a little like those Harrison Street skateboarders. We love a totally gnarly challenge."

* * * * *

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

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



VIRTUAL ACTIVISM TAKES ROOT



By Claire Waters

The posting of “bike boulevards”, “nuclear free zones” and “drug free zones” are only the beginning if Berkeley’s trend toward “virtual activism” continues to be the preferred political option for this politically progressive city.

“There’s no question that it’s an excellent cost-cutting measure,” remarked a dubious Ted Edlin, one of the most astute observers of local budgetary matters. “Aside from signage and administrative time, there’s arguably no cost whatsoever.”

Critics argued that while the cost of virtual activism may be low, there is no evidence of actual benefit, either.

“Nonsense,” responded City Hall staff. “The signmakers have lucrative back orders into the next millenium. We also have requests such as the ‘double your income zone’, the ‘get laid zone’, and the ‘cell phone free zone’.”

* * * * *

RUN ON PERMITS FOR YUPPIE HUNTING SEASON

By Pilar O. Salt



YUPPIE HUNTERS overwhelmed the state licensing agency this year with requests for new permits.

State officials admitted recently that they did not anticipate the overwhelming demand for permits for the yuppie hunting season starting soon.

“Most sports hunters are are yearly, seasonal groups with predictable habits,” offered one state official. “We’re not certain what this influx of enthusiasts is about, but it’s difficult simply keeping up with demand.”

State officials conceded that it’s long past time to thin the Bay Area herd of yuppies, which are a strain on the natural landscape and its resources, not to mention upscale restaurants.

“It’s actually a compassionate move on the state’s part,” commented one official. “Unless we arm their natural enemies not only will the rate of environmental destruction skyrocket, but these poor creatures will starve.”

* * * * *

SARAGOZA EXPLAINS HE “REALLY LIKES FOOTBALL”

By Sonia Mind

Ethnic studies professor Alex Saragoza, who gave two football players credit for course work they did not do, explained recently that he is a big football fan.

“I love the game,” Saragoza commented after the University of California announced that the professor would be barred from teaching next fall as punishment for giving two players unearned course credit. “I love the uniforms, the roar of the crowd, and I love the smell of Gatorade in the morning.”

* * * * *



FOOTBALL PLAYERS are too busy learning stuff like this to study.

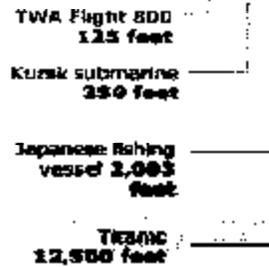
Challenges of salvage mission

The U.S. Navy is conducting a study on how to salvage the Japanese fishing vessel that was sunk by a U.S. submarine on Feb. 9. Researchers face two big problems: The vessel is 2,000 feet below the surface, and at that depth there is about 857 pounds of pressure per square inch on it.



At 2,000 feet deep, a standard-sized, 1-pound box of pasta on the ground would receive an accumulative pressure equal to about 18 SUVs that weighed 4,000 pounds each.

Pasta box



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Transportation Safety Board

PASTA BOX MAY HAVE SUNK SUB

By Tanya Hyde

USS Greenville Commander Scott Waddle may be off the hook entirely for allowing his submarine to collide with a Japanese fishing boat, according to a new report from the National Transportation Safety Board which instead implicates a small box of pasta.

“We’re greatly relieved,” stated Commander Waddle. “I would hate to think we were actually responsible for the death of nine innocent people.”

Critics argue that the pasta box theory is simply a misinterpretation of sonar data, which looks much like spaghetti, and graphic attempts to explain underwater pressure to non-naval personnel.

“The investigation is not yet complete,” countered Waddle. “But I have to confess, I’ve always had my suspicions about pasta.”

* * * * *

Rest in peace...

**Annie Gibson
Lorna Logan
Helen Krimont Seitz**

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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 all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.
* Macbeth