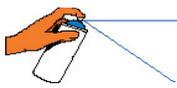


These ...we want
are our present
truly now...
the... the...



Pepper Spray Times

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

March 2004



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

"I'll canvass thee between a pair of sheets."*

Vol. VI No.2



COMMISSIONS CAREENING OUT OF CONTROL *MUST BE STOPPED FOR THE PUBLIC'S GOOD*

By Staff Writer Orlando Plenty

Research reveals that the biggest threat to local citizenry is not crime, not developers, but an ungovernable system of commissions which threatens to clog even the most mundane decision-making processes, cost millions, and threaten life itself.

"We're helpless before them," sobbed an anonymous City Hall official. "Their staff demands, their Brown Act requirements, I could just cry."

Public commissioners have been spotted colluding in restaurants, coffee shops, and haunting city council meetings in small, ominous groups.

"I feel so intimidated," commented one city hall staffer. "They often bring little notepads and sit there writing for hours. Who knows what they're writing, or how they'll use it. I cry for hours on end."

The City Attorney Manuela Albu-

querque agreed that the presence of commissioners can be intimidating, but cautioned that their civil rights must be respected. She suggested that legislation should be crafted on the success of the "three dogs" legislation passed in recent years aimed at making sure large groups of dogs could not congregate together on Telegraph Avenue.

Mayor Tom Bates and others have suggested reducing the number of commissions to a more manageable number, a suggestion which most city commissioners oppose.

"Bates just wants to shut us down and shut us up," snarled a member of the Commission on the Status of the Lack of Status of Commissioners (CSLSC). "He's forgotten that this is Berkeley, and democracy isn't really grassroots unless everybody has gone crazy in the process."

* * * * *

NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT what this commission is supposed to be doing, but their work is truly essential. Anybody who has a clue please call the City Manager at 981-7000, and if you know what they're drinking please send some over to the Pepper Spray Times offices.

CITIZENS CLAMOR FOR FELINE PATROL

You have the right to remain silent...



By Staff Writer Cecil Toss

Concerned citizens have called for research into the possibility of feline, rather than the proposed old-fashioned canine patrol programs.

"I would much rather be chased and bitten by a cat," commented one Berkeley teenager. "I think I would find it easier to cooperate with a feline patrol."

"Feline patrol units are the cutting edge," acknowledged local criminology experts. "Cats know the street, and they have a naturally suspicious nature,

unlike dogs, which are very trusting. We have found cats to be more suitable to police work."

Police spokespersons countered that a feline patrol would be more difficult to train, and wouldn't fit into the canine uniforms.

"They're also too smart," confided one officer. "We worry that cats might be a little too familiar with civil rights case law."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Hey Lena, what's this area median income stuff? Am I supposed to get it?

A: Relax, it's easy. If Bill Gates walks into a pool hall, the median income in the place goes up so high it becomes meaningless in terms of representing an average of the incomes present. Your city council knows this, and no, you're not supposed to get it. You think they would use a measurement like that if people *did* get it? You'll understand it all about four years after you've made sense of the local public sculpture, and good luck with that one.

Q: Hey Lena, what's the deal with those big, scary faces on the Telegraph area banners? What is that all about?

A: Those are Nobel prize-winners, put there to remind you that you may *think* you are off-campus, but you're really just trespassing on territory best referred to as campus-to-be. The big Nobel-prize-winning faces, obviously not a decorative lot, are there to remind you that you are nothing, whatever you've accomplished in life *compared to winning a Nobel prize*, is nothing, and unless you enroll in graduate school right away, your shot at being part of the Nobel prize honor roll is getting progressively smaller with each and every passing (oh, and have a nice) day.

Q: Hey Lena, are the transmitters they're putting up dangerous?

A: Studies are inconclusive, but there are disturbing indications that transmitters improve cell phone reception, which contributes to cell phone use. Cell phone use is, like karaoke, indicative of a society in rapid decline. Transmitters don't necessarily contribute to the decline of a neighborhood as long as the citizens in the surrounding neighborhood are properly trained in defensive weaponry.

KAY QUILTS, POWELL BACKTRACKS, BUSH BACKPEDALS ON WMDs

By Staff Writer Cameron Hand

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who argued before the United Nations for a preemptive war to stop Saddam Hussein's use of weapons of mass destruction, did an about-face this week, raising for the first time the possibility that such weapons may never have existed in the first place.

"We were not only saying we thought they had them," Powell said, "but we had questions that needed to be answered. What was it: 500 tons, 100 tons or zero tons? Was it so many liters of anthrax, 10 times that amount, or nothing? What we demanded of Iraq was that they account for all of this and they prove the negative of our hypothesis."

In related news, David Kay stepped down from his role as Chief U.S. weapons inspector, citing serious doubts about the quality of American intelligence.

"You can't blame President Bush for having no intelligence," he stated. Pundits in both parties seemed inclined to agree.

Critics countered that proving the negative of a hypothesis can be tricky, especially if it involves nothing at all.

"You have to have something to work with," stated one. "If you have nothing to work with it's an entirely existential proposition, requiring philosophical expertise."

"Isn't that something?" remarked one footsoldier in the war on terrorism, hoisting a heavy weapon in the hot Iraqi sun. "If I ever get home I'm sure going to read some Hegel."

* * * * *

A POLITICAL FLASHBACK...Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown visits the Kelly-Moore paint store on International Boulevard in Oakland...



"First I plan to defend the cops...then I plan to blame the kids...then I plan to blame the Raiders, then I plan to update my resume..."



Colin Powell changed his perspective on weapons of mass destruction after giving the matter some serious thought.

Don't miss the auditions for
the

CANINE PATROL

...can your dog make the
grade?

Needed:

- “find and bark” dogs
- “find and bite” dogs
- dogs that speak German
- dogs that like police
- dogs that know right from wrong
- dogs familiar with case law on search and seizure, breaking and entering, grand theft, etc.

SAN FRANCISCO REBELS AGAINST ALL THAT IS GOOD AND DECENT

By Staff Writer Wendy Twaincomes

Federal Emergency Management Agents speaking nervously into walkie talkies huddled outside San Francisco City Hall on Valentine's Day weekend while mobs of festive same-sex newlyweds wildly and publicly declared their love for each other, sending the nation's moral compass into a tailspin.

“We're powerless to stop them,” one agent was overheard reporting. “They're singing ‘Chapel of Love’ and tossing bouquets. We may need the National Guard.”

Conservative groups nationwide nodded in sober agreement that San Francisco's wanton display of disrespect for all that is good and decent would probably auger the end of the world as



THE MARS LANDSCAPE appears to have very little nightlife and hardly any atmosphere.

NOTHING ON MARS; SCIENTISTS SHOCKED

By Staff Writer Marcus Down

NASA scientists expressed embarrassment at finding recently that after spending millions flying highly specialized equipment to the planet Mars, they have discovered that there is pretty much nothing there.

“We don't know what we were thinking,” apologized a NASA spokesperson. “We can't find any people, we can't find any water, and the minerals seem quite ordinary. There's really nothing up there. We could have found rocks like this in the backyard.”

Critics countered that the Mars landscape was ripe for development.

“This would be a perfect place for a landfill, or maybe another Marine World,” commented one Mars mission supporter. “Imagine running around the place on a dune buggy. People pay big money for solitude like this.”

Scientists countered that the place was just too hard to get to.

“Location, location, location,” one Mars specialist commented. “If we had hit closer to the target we might have had a chance to sell the idea, but nobody's going to walk fifteen miles for their Martian banana smoothie.”

“It's all about the journey, anyway,” said one local psychologist. “NASA should have anticipated feeling somewhat let down upon arrival. It's quite natural, and there are plenty of supplements on the market which they will find quite useful in combatting these feelings of emptiness and disappointment.”

* * * * *

we know it, and took out balloon payments on luxury automobiles.

The newlyweds continued to gratuitously flaunt their love, affection, and commitment shamelessly throughout the city.

“It's disgusting,” observed one bystander watching the parade of beaming, teary couples pledging their respect for each other. “It makes me want to kill.”

“It's meaningless,” commented opponents to the City Hall weddings. “These aren't real marriages. Just because people have lived together for decades, bought property in common, raised kids, and registered as domestic partners doesn't mean they're really ready for marriage.”

* * * * *



CANINE PATROL AUDITIONS GETTING RUFF

By Staff Writer Howie Doon

Tempers flared at the most recent auditions for the canine patrol unit being promoted by Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates. Snarling competitors circled each other with bared teeth emitting low growls as nervous handlers coaxed and yanked them into orderly lines.

"It will take them awhile to learn a sense of decorum," commented one owner. "The City Council has worked years on that and *still* hasn't learned."

Critics stated that the dogs' behavior was precisely the reason not to form a canine unit, which ran the risk of costing the city millions in unnecessary lawsuits from bite victims

"Put 'em

"Nonsense," responded a

up!"

spokesperson for the Mayor. "They only act like that out of uniform. Put those little hats and badge numbers on them and they rise to the occasion."



"We're looking for a few good dogs," said Chief Meisner. "The dog that can put on a badge is a tough little number."

* * * * *

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...

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe.

* Henry IV

For Meritorious *Self-Censorship and Heroic Compliance



This silk-screen was presented to attorneys Edward Gomez and Bernie Saucedo recipients of the 2nd Rose Bird Trial Lawyer and Community Activist Award.

*Self-censorship is the voluntary relinquishment of free speech.

The 9/11 Uniformity-of-Opinions Act

In response to 9/11, Congress passed the compulsory Uniformity-of-Opinions Act. This Act mandates an ongoing series of restrictions on your Constitutional rights. The first set of restrictions follows: Unrestricted access to your medical records, finances, computer files, e-mail • Wiretaps and secret searches • Suspension of the Freedom of Information Act • Indefinite incarceration without charges, legal counsel or contact with family • Internment based on perception of national origin • Monitoring of attorney/client conversations • Secret military trials with no right to appeal • Use of torture to obtain "confessions" • Establishment of a shadow government by a non-elected President

The Uniformity-of-Opinions Act is fictional. The loss of your rights is real.

WARNING: Reading this poster may constitute terrorism under the Uniformity-of-Opinions Act.

This poster is an art/law collaboration between poster maker Doug Minkler and attorney Aram James. It demonstrates the kind of community outreach an elected Public Defender could bring to Santa Clara County. Without the fear of being fired by County Supervisors, an elected Public Defender would have the independence to inform the people of their constitutional rights and the power to protect citizens against institutional racism, police and governmental abuse. CITIZENS TO ELECT OUR PUBLIC DEFENDER. CONTACT: Aram James (650) 424-1249 E-mail AB3PD1@juno.com, www.electpd.org