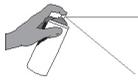


...the glittering, academy award winning issue... These are truly the...



Hepper Spray Times

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

March 2005



It's roborant...it's free...if you can find it "to see the beachy girdle of the ocean..."*

Vol. VII No. 3

ARTS COMMISSION CHAIR REVERSES STATEMENT Supports Flier Destruction

by Fred So

David Snippen, current chair of Berkeley's Civic Arts Commission, remains livid over the public revelation that he apologized for the previous Arts Commission chair's destruction of hundreds of protest fliers.

His public apology for Sherry Smith's bizarre vandalism, witnessed by dozens of people watching in bewilderment as Smith rampaged up and down Addison Street, has apparently become a political embarrassment.

"I don't remember it that way," he responded when confronted by the fact that his apology was made on a public street in front of witnesses. "I think this has had enough attention."

Snippen wrote a letter to a local newspaper denying his apologetic moment ever took place, and accusing the flier writer of coming from a "privileged" background.

"Rural Appalachian heritage and an upbringing in East LA has its own cache," conceded the flier writer. "There is a certain privilege in having intimate knowledge of what most people consider to be a slum."

Snippen protested that his assumption about the flier writer's "privileged" background was a natural assumption given the quality of the writing, and declined an opportunity to apologize.

"Distortion of the facts is okay if I do it," he clarified. "Ad hominem attacks are fair if they keep me on the A list."

The Civic Arts Commission has not bothered to distance itself from the hearty endorsement of flier destruction given by its current and previous chair.

"It goes without saying," offered one observer. "The best way to muzzle artists is to offer them money. Even an embarrassingly small amount of cash is enough to maintain political silence in the curious acoustics of the 'arts district'."

* * * * *



WAR IS A HELL OF A HOOT

General Reveals Military Secret

by Sam Day

The Pentagon is still scrambling to organize a coherent reaction to remarks made by Lt. General John Mattis at a recent forum on tactical fighting in the war on terror.

The general characterized war as "a hell of a hoot", and confessed that "it's fun to shoot some people."

General Mike Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, commented that "Lt. General Mattis often speaks with a great deal of candor," and stated that he had counseled Mattis concerning his remarks, leaving open the question as to whether shooting people was in fact fun.

"If it's true, it will be helpful to our recruitment efforts," commented one Marine recruitment officer. "The pay sucks, the benefits are somewhat deceptively described in the pamphlets, and you might get killed. It would nice to be able to honestly tell people that killing people is a gas."

"It does kind of change my view of joining the Marines," admitted one high school student leafing through the recruitment brochures. "These uniformed officers look a little goofy, and the televised footage looks pretty dusty. It's kind of a relief to know that once you're over there you can party down and blow people away."

* * * * *

POLICE CHIEF MIRACULOUSLY CHANNELS WEAPONS MANUFACTURER

by Fred Strew

Religious experts marveled when Salinas Police Chief Daniel Ortega was found to have quoted directly from promotional materials for stun guns while defending their use.

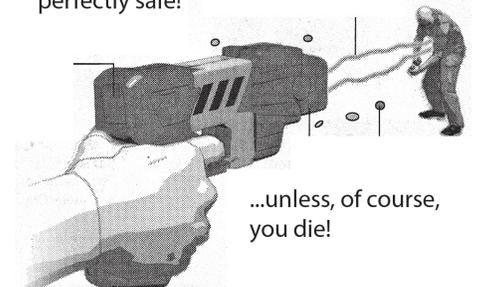
"It's something like glossolalia, or speaking in tongues," explained one. "Ortega actually channelled the promotional materials in a kind of religious delirium, even using the exact phrases used in Taser stun guns news releases. We're thinking of nominating him for sainthood."

Critics objected that the chief's news conference was held shortly after the in-custody death of Robert Clark Heston, and that Chief Ortega's insistence that Heston's having been stunned 10 times with 50,000 volts had nothing to do with his death raised issues regarding the department's ability to investigate the incident fairly.

"That's nonsense," responded Taser Chief Executive Officer Rick Smith. "This is an honest miracle. I know people are cynical these days, but now and then you have to just stop in wonder at the miracles around you. Me, I just want to shake the man's hand."

* * * * *

Taser International Inc. stun guns transmit 50,000 volts of electricity through up to two inches of clothing, and it's perfectly safe!



...unless, of course, you die!

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, what's wrong with gambling? Wouldn't we make some good money off a casino?

A: You might. Then again, you might not. Nothing's wrong with gambling. Look at all the traffic out there. Some of those people beat the odds and actually make it to work on time. You just might get lucky, too.

Dear Lena, I had a lonely Valentine's Day. Where should I look for love?

A. Get thee to a dog park, go. Dogs know how to love.

Dear Lena, what has this supposedly progressive majority on the Berkeley City Council actually done?

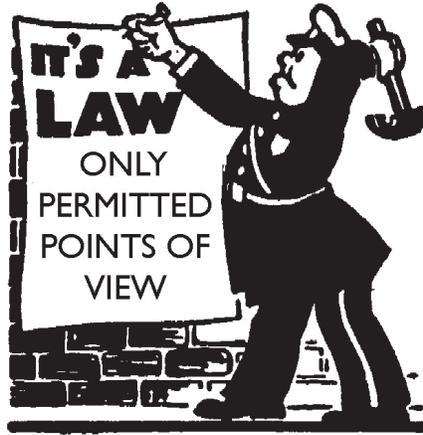
A: They've effectively doubled their pay, making what were once part-time jobs for service-oriented working people into career positions, and altered election rules to protect incumbents. Oh, and that red tuning fork.

Dear Lena, does that red tuning fork actually work?

A: Yes, and when it does, it'll straighten your perm.

Dear Lena, why would David Snippen lie his head off?

A: White wine creates a special communion among political allies.



TRADITIONAL GREETINGS FOR ANTI-ABORTION MARCHERS

by Olivia Gittnacarr

The Bay Area's political left greeted thousands of anti-abortion activists in traditional style, shouting profanities and attempting to block the group from completing a permitted march through the streets, underscoring the eccentric nature of its commitment to freedom of assembly and free speech.

"It's so much fun to just scream at them", winked one counter-march protester. "We wanted to talk to these people right before the election. Some of us even crossed state lines to try to go door to door and find them. But the election is over and now they have the nerve to come here where we live. They should go adopt a fetus."

"I live right here," sighed one anti-abortion marcher from Concord. "I wish I could talk to the pro-abortion people, but they keep screaming that I'm a fetus-lover, that I probably support killing doctors, and that I shouldn't

STUDENTS LOVE TRACKING DEVICE

by Sue Pasizemee

Sutter County school children were briefly the first to wear required tracking devices around their necks or be subjected to disciplinary action, causing outcry among civil libertarians who are typically unable to mind their own business.

"What is the big deal?" asked one parent. "I'm glad somebody knows where my kid is. I sure as hell don't."

The devices are the creation of In-Com, a Sutter-based company working the bugs out of the system, who claim that the chip-laden badges are no risk to a child's health.

"Sure I'd put one on my kid," offered one InCom executive. "Just don't ask me to eat what they serve at that cafeteria."

Privacy advocates and civil libertarians fanned fears among the students and parents, forcing the school district to reverse their decision.

"We're really upset about it," stated one student. "I was eager to track my own movements. I was eager to put my badge on my dog and track his movements. And what a fashion statement."

* * * * *

wear fur. It makes conversation kind of hard."

Critics opined that the marchers should be studied, not reviled.

"When we can imitate this religious and moral sincerity we'll have a hope of connecting with them," stated one observer.

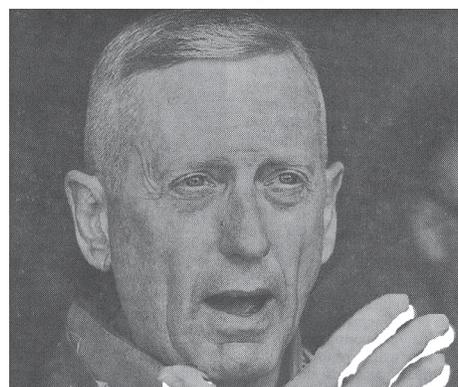
Local politicians joined the fray, passing municipal resolutions denouncing the marchers' political cause.

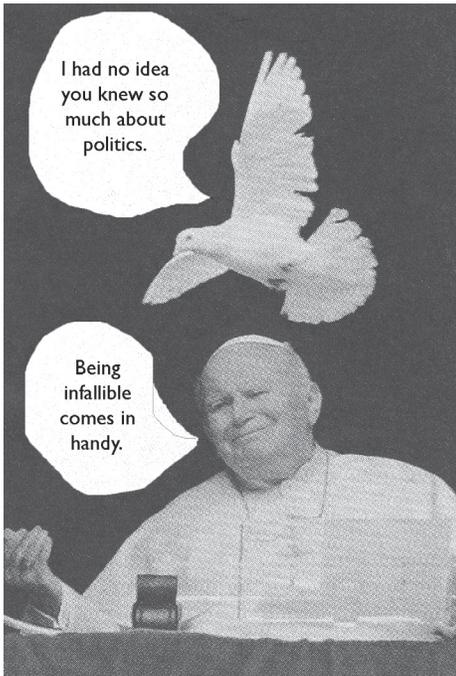
"This is much easier than filling potholes," explained one local representative, "and around here it's much safer than crossing the street."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

...the Pentagon's next surgical strike...





POPE SUSPECTED OF BEING "DEEP THROAT"

by Dwight Stuff

The Vatican strongly denied that the Pope was the source responsible for assisting Washington Post reporters in tracking down the truth about the Watergate break-in.

News sources are floating rumors that the "deep throat" who revealed connections between the Nixon administration and the Watergate burglars is near death, fueling speculation about a host of celebrities with failing health.

"The Pope was the one," insisted one news source. "He's probably the best at hearing confessions, but everybody's got to break sometime."

Critics argued that Nixon and the Pope were hardly close, but many Washington insiders insisted that this made the rumors all the more credible.

"Nixon and his crew were more likely to confide in someone outside their circle," stated one observer, adding that it's the Pope's job to forgive. "Who else could forgive Richard Nixon? It would have to be a professional job."

Others objected that forgiveness wasn't hard to come by in politics, citing Marion Barry and Clinton, among others, as politicians who handily survived extraordinary scandal.

"Nixon would have come back, too," countered supporters of the Pope-Deep Throat connection. "He just needed a little more time."

* * * * *



ADDING TRACKING devices to library books is only a beginning; soon tracking devices will keep track of your keys, your car, and your children.

LIBRARY BACKS "SMART BOOKS"

by Freddy Cat

Library patrons are less than enthusiastic about the tracking system being installed at the Berkeley Public Library which will automate checking out books and enable the library to lay off at least 12 employees.

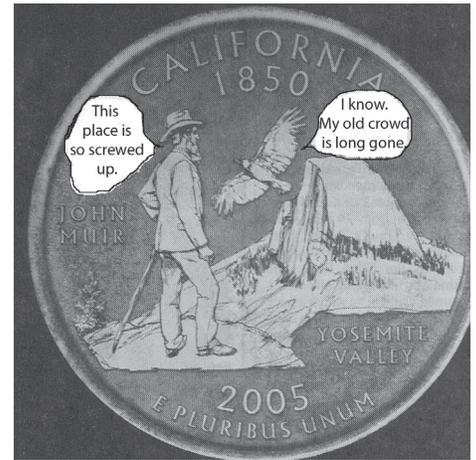
"I'm embarrassed to say it, but I liked talking to the librarians," confessed one book-lover. "They're generally better-informed than local news anchors, and less fixated on their hair."

Library Director Jackie Griffin ar-

Better Ways to Kill Yourself Than Jumping Off of the Golden Gate Bridge or Parking in Front of a Train

- join the check-out line at the Berkeley Bowl
- ride a bike in Berkeley
- ask a cell phone user to take it outside
- ask a smoker to step away from the doorway
- drive the speed limit
- become an electoral pollster in Iraq
- suggest that a new development provide adequate parking
- suggest that Ralph Nader is not god
- suggest that dogs should be on a leash
- join the movement to bring freedom and democracy to Iraq
- smoke
- stay on that low carb diet a little too long
- put up a small flier in the "arts district"

A Public Service Announcement from the Pepper Spray Times



gues that the library has no choice given the budget shortfall, that laying off employees will mean the library can buy more books.

"These books are clearly smarter than the average book," mused one patron. "They remember who checked them out, for how long, and the instant the government wants to know who's reading 'The Anarchist Cookbook' all it takes is a wave of a wand."

"Smart books are the wave of the future," agreed another local resident. "We sure can't hold our breath for smarter people."

Supporters of the new Radio Frequency Identity Devices (RFID) pointed out that paper and pencil methods can almost as easily be used to find out who is reading what, but conceded that the tracking devices were pretty damn nifty.

"I wish I had one on my cat," sighed one supporter. "And maybe one on my husband."

* * * * *



WORSHIPPERS WONDER at the miracle of the Virgin Mary's face showing up in a grilled cheese sandwich, especially for the low, low price of only \$13.

GRILLED CHEESE ADMITS INTEREST IN PAPACY

by Nadia Problem

A grilled cheese sandwich which miraculously manifested the image of the Virgin Mary ten years ago admitted recently that it might not refuse ascendancy to the highest role in the Vatican, depending on how that role was spelled.

The sandwich, which passed briefly through the Bay Area on a world tour, conceded that the Pope's ill health and likely successors' poor showing in political polls had raised many questions about the possibility that a fresh face should be considered for the next leader of the Catholic Church.

SANDWICHES ALL KINDS



the sandwich's face might indicate that the sandwich was of female gender, a serious disadvantage to any sandwich's ambition to

Critics disagreed, arguing that there was nothing fresh about a ten year-old sandwich, and that the female image grilled on

the sandwich's face might indicate that the sandwich was of female gender, a serious disadvantage to any sandwich's ambition to

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



Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Roger Dondis
Staff.....Olivia Gittnacarr, Sam Day, Fred Strew, Dwight Stuff, Sue Pasizemee, Freddy Cat, Fred So, Doug Minkler, Nadia Problem, Lena Deeter, Franz Toast

United States Selective Service System

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION

Citizens of the United States
Over 50 Years of Age

And All: Politicians, Judges, Lawyers, Bankers and Clergy

You are hereby ordered for induction into the Armed Forces of the United States. Report to your local induction center within 48 hours.

NO DEFERMENTS

high religious office.

Scholars agreed that the sandwich, if female, would have a difficult campaign and lose more traditional support, but pointed out that gender controversies were nothing new at the Vatican and easily resolved with the proper furniture.

Supporters clustered around the sandwich's display case, noting with pride and amazement the remarkable longevity of the sandwich.

"It's time for a robust pope with

some staying power," announced one observer. "It's unnerving watching these old guys totter around in a coma. I think we might be better off with a popular candidate that was never alive in the first place."

Many religious experts agreed.

"If male, the sandwich might make a great pope," acknowledged one religious scholar. "It's hard to imagine a more comforting image."

* * * * *

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 the IV Part 2