

These are truly the...

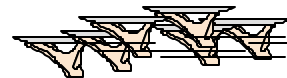
Avoid contact with eyes. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.



Pepper Spray Times

...O P.S.T... ..

March & April 2002



It's canty... it's free

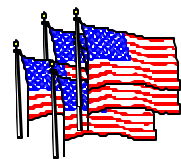
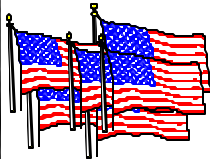
"...you are all recreants and dastards, and delight to live in slavery to the nobility."*

Vol. IV No. 6



ATTORNEY GENERAL John Ashcroft took steps recently to qualify justice on behalf of decency, to the relief of thousands of frightened citizens afraid of having to helplessly watch the country overrun by nipples.

VOTERS CAN'T FIND POLLS THROUGH FLAGS



By Peggy Pants, inspired by Larry Shaw

Election officials have finally determined that the recent election's lowest turnout in California history was a consequence of the proliferation of flags.

"We thought maybe it was the Olympics, at first, but we found out nobody could even tune in to those," said Shad Balch, spokesman for California Secretary of State Bill Jones. "Then we thought it might be the early primary, since most people still haven't recovered from the holidays, but that wasn't it either."

Experts discovered that the proliferation of flags in the wake of the September 11th disasters made it especially difficult to find polling places, which are usually distinguished by a flag hanging at the entrance.

"I thought I voted," testified Jewel B. Sari, a resident of Hayward. "It turned out I just marked up some campaign literature in a laundromat."

"I never did find my polling station," stated Lon Mower of Daly City. "Every building in my neighborhood has a flag, and I finally just had to get to work."

Election officials conceded that the post September 11th flag proliferation played a major role in confusing the interested electorate.

"Maybe we can find a new way to distinguish the polling stations," mused Kim Alexander, president of the nonprofit California Voter Foundation. "I think Ashcroft's statue of the "Spirit of Justice" might prove popular."

* * * * *

40-years-old -- gave the go-ahead. "I think most people have high hopes it is going to be a good project. I don't know anyone who opposes it," said Becky O'Malley of the Landmark Preservation Commission. "To tell you the truth I don't know

Students brings clip and bullets to class



POST-SENSITIVITY TRAINED cabbies are dramatically different in their attitudes toward their surprised fares.

Local activists return from Cuban

NEW DAILY PLANET POLICIES DEMAND ANONYMITY, EXOTIC SPELLING

By Wade Dingaround

The Berkeley Daily Planet's new editor's recent controversial decision to omit the name of a letter-writer whose letter attacked a local non-profit caused a stir in journalistic circles still shaken by the paper's unique approach to grammar and punctuation.

"We appreciate that we violated our stated policy not to print anonymous letters," conceded Editor Devona Walker. "But we very carefully evaluated the threat to the writer's safety and discovered it to be credible. People have to get used to the idea that it is a post-September 11th world, and that goes for punctuation and grammar, too."

Walker admitted that there was no verifiable physical evidence of an actual threat, but that the writer "felt threatened", and that this had influenced the decision to omit the writer's name entirely. "It's one of the only ways we can preclude misspelling," she added.

Critics objected that this practice was journalistically substandard, and that by using this tactic anyone could launch an undocumented campaign without proof of any indiscretion, but others agreed with the Planet's editorial decision.

"We understand completely," offered Grace Underpressure, Editor of the award-winning Pepper Spray Times. "We omit letter writers' names for their safety's sake on a regular basis. We usually omit the letters, too. We take the public's safety very seriously around here."

* * * * *

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

RETRAINED CABBIES TOO SENSITIVE

By Wagner Tongue

Local cab drivers are discovering that the "sensitivity training" they received recently is confusing passengers and wreaking some unexpected havoc on the road.

"It wasn't the courtesy, I could always count on that," stated taxi rider Thelma Thoul. "But the kindness, the caring--I broke down and couldn't do my errands."

"Me, either," chimed in rider Bert Snest. "Once we started sharing feelings neither of us could function. We ended up at a Karaoke bar doing an hour of schmaltz that nearly cleared the place."

"I'm trying to go with it, but it's had a weird effect," mused cabbie Art Throb. "The last time I got robbed I told the guy I understood that he was frustrated and angry, and he ended up writing me a check."

* * * * *



AFGHANI CITIZENS not only appreciate the proximity of Berkeley's new open space, they also really appreciate the benefits of the local "transit first" policy.

ECO-CITIES AMENDMENT OPEN SPACE FINALLY FOUND IN AFGHANISTAN

By Tom Furdiner

One of the most controversial aspects of the pro-density planning proponents gained support recently with the discovery that the new, densely-packed developments popping up all over town had actually produced open space, albeit at some distance.

"Just as we predicted," stated Richard Register, "open space has magically manifested on the periphery of these dense developments. It's just further away than we anticipated."

Critics argued that the open space balancing the recent dense developments was found in Afghanistan, much too far away to provide recreational and wilderness opportunities for the tightly-packed development residents.

"How are families supposed to get there for a birthday picnic?" asked one concerned citizen at a Planning Commission meeting. "Especially now that you often have to wait two hours just going through airport security?"

"We're just relieved our Eco-City principles are proving sound," responded Register. "Besides, when the war winds down there should be some really good vacation deals."

* * * * *

NBC'S SIGNAL PROBLEM REVEALED AS EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC

By Moe R. Less

NBC top executives revealed recently that their signal problems were actually an effort to protect the public from some really sucky television programming.

"We ran out of ideas back in the seventies," explained one programming executive. "We knew someone would notice eventually, especially here in the Bay Area."

"I'm kind of thankful, now that I know the reason," responded one east bay citizen who can't pick up the signal. "Our family spends more time together, my recipes are alphabetized, and little Jessie's picked up the cello."

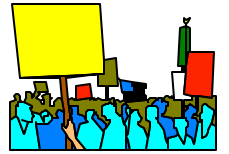
NBC declined to speculate on whether the current Bay Area signal strategy would be extended to other regions. "We're doing studies, but we're honestly not certain people in other regions even notice when the test pattern goes on."

* * * * *

WHAT IF THEY HAD AN ELECTION AND NOBODY RAN AGAINST DEAN?

By Edith Custit

Berkeley's self-described "progressive" political faction is blushing with embarrassment over its apparent inability to find anyone to challenge Mayor Shirley Dean in the next election.



"I consider it a compliment," said Dean. "I hope it means I'm doing a good job."

"I was kicking around the idea," offered progressive Councilmember Linda Maio, "but it might be expensive, and building a grassroots campaign takes so much time."

"What would our platform be?" pointed out fellow progressive Councilmember Dona Spring. "Our expertise is in division, photo ops, and foot-dragging. We love it, of course, but I'm not certain that would be a compelling enough platform."

Critics argued that it was an outrage that crucial pre-election momentum was draining away while the progressives play political dodge-ball.

"That's news?" responded one political observer. "Somebody's been missing a lot of city council meetings."

"They could at least run on their foreign policy," observed one local resident. "They seem to have plenty of gas in that tank."

* * * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"Visualize Open Space. Oh, and Parking Visualize Parking"

Rest in peace...

Joseph W. Charles

The **Pepper Spray Times** gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions etc., at: **Pepper Spray Times**
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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



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.
* Henry VI