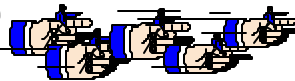


These are truly the... armor piercing humor...

Pepper Spray Times

May 2001



It's sphenoid... it's free

"Be now the trumpet of our wrath.."*

Vol. IV No. 9

PRESIDENT BUSH SAYS RICH NOT RICH ENOUGH "Compassionate" Tax Cut Coming

By Cora Vanapple

A recent analysis revealed that while the poorest twenty percent of the population will receive less than one percent of the money generated statewide by President George Bush's proposed tax cut, this seeming inequity is more than justified.

"Dramatic quality of life reductions for the wealthy caused by recent market fluctuations are hitting hard," stated one economic advisor. "Poor people don't have to watch in horror as their stock portfolios shrink."

"You feel helpless," sobbed local resident Fay Slift as she exited the Merrill Lynch building. "We're not certain about that condo in the Alps anymore. We can only pray the tax cut comes soon."

Critics who argue that the top one percent's average tax cut of \$50,563 is too large a percentage compared to the poorest's cut of \$59 were described as "short-sighted" by Bush advisors, who point out that the rich are more likely to spend more money and boost the economy.

"Really poor people don't go to the opera or even the movies," stated one advisor. "You put more back into the economy by helping the rich."

Economic advisors agreed that the possibility of an economic boost was one important factor motivating the tax cut, but emphasized that the real issue is need.

"Poor people have no idea what it costs to gas up the latest sports utility vehicle," commented one advisor, "let alone what it costs to fill up two or three."

* * * * *

SLEEPING AND SMOKING DOPE LOWEST LOW PRIORITY

Cops Confused over Highest Lowest Priority

By Angela Mercy



THESE PEOPLE just can't seem to get to sleep and just won't stop whining about it.

Homeless people and human rights activists packed the Berkeley City Council chambers recently and successfully argued to a divided Council that arresting people for sleeping outside should be the police's lowest priority.

Berkeley police scratched their heads, noting that Berkeley already had a lowest priority and they have too much trouble figuring out the ladder of escalating

force to deal with another complex ladder of descending priorities.

"We've had a lowest priority for years," stated one officer who preferred to remain anonymous. "We finally recognized the best method of dealing with crap like this is to ignore the City Council altogether."

Experts agreed that the conflicts between state law and local priorities are problematic, and that deciding which lowest priority is lower may cause the police to hesitate and possibly freeze in confusion over how to deal with sleeping and dope-smoking people.

"It shouldn't be that difficult," stated Councilmember Worthington. "But to be on the safe side, people should take up right before they turn in."

* * * * *

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



THE DARK ENERGY currently controlling the universe explains a lot of really weird stuff going on like this guy .

DARK ENERGY NOW CONTROLLING THE UNIVERSE

By Merrilee Skipping

Hubble Space Telescope analysis has confirmed that most of the universe is made up of "dark energy" which is accelerating the expansion of the cosmos and really messing things up.

"We wondered why the Osprey wouldn't fly and why the space shuttle computers wouldn't work and then we thought, well hey, it's this dark energy stuff. We think it explains the stock market, too," observed Peter Nugent of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"This supernova shows us the universe is behaving like a driver who slows down approaching a red stoplight, then accelerates when the light turns green," said Adam Reiss of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "We just hope we can get out of the way."

"We could have saved them a lot of money," observed a group of locals camped under the 180 overpass familiar with the combustion of critical mass and temperature. "We've known that matter sucks for quite some time."

* * * * *

JESUS IS A DOG

By Ben Had



WOULD you worship this guy?

The Christian community remains divided over the "new Jesus", a revised estimation of Jesus's appearance.

"I'm rethinking my whole orientation," admitted one worshipper. "This guy looks a lot like the panhandlers I pass on the way to work."

"He's not as attractive as he used to be," conceded one Vatican spokesperson. "He frankly worked better as a blonde."

* * * * *



THE GOVERNOR GRAY (“SPARKY”) DAVIS Employment Assistance Outreach Committee is working overtime to make sure his wisdom and talents do not go to waste in the current economic downturn.

“CALIFORNIA’S CREDIT IS CRAP”, SAYS STANDARD & POOR

By Erin Judgement

Standard and Poor slashed California’s credit rating recently and is keeping the state on “CreditWatch with negative implications”, an unusual move which signals investors that they’d probably have better luck investing in Chernobyl.

“It isn’t as bad as it looks,” argued Governor Gray “Sparky” Davis. “There’s still one more state, Louisiana, with a lower credit rating.”

Governor Davis dismissed the credit rating reduction along with the considerable alarm caused by his hiring of Richard Sklar, a former top U.S. diplomat who led reconstruction efforts in war-torn Balkan states, to work on power plant construction in California.

“He’s perfect for the job,” argued Davis. “He knows how to cut red tape, navigate language barriers, blow away local planning and zoning restrictions, and hopefully save my job.”

Investors who have to sell their California bonds before they mature expressed dismay over the improbability of recovering their principal.

“We’re fucked,” observed one. “Sparky’s dreaming if he thinks this won’t get worse after the blackouts this summer. We’re investing in candles.”

* * * * *



LOCAL WHEELCHAIR OLYMPICS PROPOSED

By Trudy Hoops

Local disability activists agreed that going clear to Sydney, Australia for the Special Olympics doesn’t make much sense when local events and city-sponsored programs offer just as great a challenge to the disabled community.

“The Solano Stroll is a good example,” commented one local activist, “or try the Berkeley Folk Festival. Only a trained champion can make it.”

* * * * *



LEGAL EXPERTS AGREED that Cody’s owner Andy Ross has loads of dough.

“SMALL” BOOKSTORE LAWSUIT BACKFIRES

By Richard N. Midas

A three year lawsuit by Cody’s and other independent bookstore owners against chain bookstores ended abruptly when the judge told the plaintiffs they had to have some actual evidence that they’d been damaged financially.

“The Berkeley City Council never asks for actual proof of damages,” noted Cody’s owner Andy Ross. “Whining in a general manner usually accomplishes our goal; we get crackdowns on the poor, more cops, a bigger TAA budget, anything we want.”

Legal experts agreed that Ross and Bookstore Santa Cruz owner Neal Coonerty had actually helped craft a legal protection for chain bookstores by going to court without being able to show any financial losses.

“Both of these ‘small’ bookstores are rolling in dough,” commented one observer. “Cody’s opened a second store on 4th Street, not exactly backwater real estate, and the Telegraph Avenue commercial strip is thriving.”

The “settlement” of \$4.7 million is smaller than the \$16 million in legal costs incurred by the lawsuit. Coonerty insisted that a “perceived” threat to his wealth is just as important as an actual threat, and costs him just as much sleep.

“These homeless people always whine about their sleeping being interrupted by cops and stuff,” he sniffed. “Wait until they have to sit up nights and wonder how much bigger their profits could have been without chain bookstores’ competition.”

* * * * *

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
cdenney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Publisher ----- Theodore Zopen
Editor ----- Grace Underpressure
Art Director ----- Egon Schiele
Comix ----- Roger Dondis
Staff -- Merrilee Skipping, Cora Vanapple,
Angela Mercy, Ben Had, Richard N.
Midas, Trudy Hoops, Erin Judgement

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.
* King John