

These are truly the...

We aim for infinite justice...

Pepper Spray Times

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

It's praenominal... it's free

"...to press with so little preparation..."*

Vol. V No. 2

BUSH DECLARES WAR ON SOMETHING

By Judith Ide



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY'S darkest day in U.S. history.

Others disagreed. "This may not be a conventional war, but I sure don't see why we can't respond in a conventional manner," offered one University of California student chanting "USA!" in the middle of a recent campus peace rally. "It's hard to get as much satisfaction out of slow starvation by sanctions as a noisy, televised bombing raid."

Others worried that an attack on Afghanistan might aggravate hostilities toward the United States, but most experts dismissed this concern as farfetched.

"How could it get worse?" chuckled one expert. "It's off the charts now. The larger danger is the potential international reaction to another hours-long telethon with people like Mariah Carey. Bombing Afghanistan has been custom for hundreds of years, but the pop music telethon could be construed by other more primitive cultures as cruel and unusual punishment."

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TRITIUM FACILITY SHUTS DOWN

"No connection to protests," say experts

By Noah Thingertoo

"Absolutely not," said Michael Marron, director of bio-medical technology at the National Institutes of Health responding to questions about a recent decision to withdraw funding for Berkeley's controversial tritium labeling facility. "It is imperative that people understand that the five preceding years of unrelenting public protests and expert documentation of contamination had nothing to do with our decision to close down the facility."

Reporters asking why the facility was shut down were told that the institutes "lost interest" in the research.

"The thrill is gone," offered Marron. "Scientists are just a fickle crew."

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

NEW "SHOOT TO KILL" POLICY ON NUDES

By Shelley B. Frank

As the strains of Randy Newman's "Naked Man" faded in the background spokesofficers for the University of California police and Berkeley police announced their new policy for dealing with the continuing problem of aggressive public nudity in the city.

"We had hoped that by reducing public nudity to the level of an infraction and thereby eliminating the ineffective 'trial by jury' we could eliminate this menace," said the officer. "We, unfortunately, had overlooked the liberal judiciary in the area. We are therefore announcing a 'shoot to kill' order for all naked people within our jurisdiction."

At the urging of BART police both departments had sent representatives to a recent FBI seminar, "The Discrete Use of Lethal Force Against Unarmed Civilians" and returned with an outline for the new policy.

"We are grateful to the BART police for showing us that no matter how seemingly outrageous the use of lethal force the consequences to the officer and the department are minimal."

On being apprised of the new policy members of the Police Review Commission responded, "Although we have no real power as a commission we intend to use our 'bully pulpit' to denounce the use of lethal force when a simple beating would suffice."

Department representatives are still studying a proposal for a "shoot to wound" order for females who are merely topless in public.

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Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



BERKELEY GETS NATIONAL PRESS ON FLAG FLAP

By Bridget Highwater



BERKELEY FIREFIGHTERS finally decided that the American flag was not in and of itself an incitement to violence.

For angry demonstrators, a theory which neglected to consider that the flag removal would make Berkeley an international target of public disdain.

Experts are working in 24 hour shifts to produce a compendium of clues to contextual flag interpretation including:

- Flag on pickup truck: "Nuke 'em."
- Flag on Afghani rug store: "Please don't blame us."
- Flag kilt worn by Madonna: "Buy my record."

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City Manager Weldon Rucker, Fire Chief Reg Garcia, and Firefighters Association President Rick Guzman publically apologized for making Berkeley look ridiculous by ordering the removal of American flags from Berkeley fire engines for the duration of a peace demonstration at the University of California campus.

The order set off an international furor from a horrified public in the wake of the September 11th tragedy in which hundreds of New York firefighters lost their lives.

Guzman explained that the removal order was given on the grounds that the flags might "become an attractive target"

for angry demonstrators, a theory which neglected to consider that the flag removal would make Berkeley an international target of public disdain.

PROTESTERS PROTEST, WELL, ER, SOMETHING

By Gus What

Thousands of protesters marched through the streets recently to show their strong opposition to, well, something.

"We're not sure what the Bush administration plans to do," explained one protester dressed as a Coho salmon and holding aloft a huge puppet of Mumia Abu-Jamal, "but whatever it is we want him to know that we're really, really against it."

"That's right," echoed another protester. "We want the world to know we're completely unified in our fight against, well, whatever."

Critics pointed out that both the President and the Secretary of Defense had echoed lone congressional dissenter Barbara Lee in stating that this was not a conventional war and could not be won by conventional means, adding that ambiguous street protests were likely to strain already overtaxed police resources.

Protestors dismissed these concerns, pointing out that the military restraint shown by the Bush administration might not last, and that given a little time they would surely find something more concrete to oppose.

"And as soon as we do," responded one protester, "we'll be ready."

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PARKING SPACE FOUND IN BERKELEY

By Beryl E. There

A vacant parking space was recently spotted in Berkeley, causing a collision of television news crews, traffic engineers, city planners, and astounded Berkeley residents who rushed to the scene to study and document the event.

"We just want to be able to tell our grandchildren," commented one local resident with a hand-held video camera. "We want to be able to show them that we were there."

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MAIO DONATES EXTRA VOWELS

By Agatha Will

In the spirit of generosity inspired by the national tragedy of September 11th, District 1 Council representative Linda Maio has agreed to donate the extra vowels in her name to the vowel-starved countries of central Asia, where hundreds of refugees are fleeing across borders to try to escape the hardships caused by vowel shortages.

"It's the least I can do," commented Maio. "We want the people in places like Kyrgyz and Kyrgyzstan to know that we care, and that we're doing everything we can to help."

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the Red Cross, the United Way, and most local relief agencies.

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If we have one code of conduct for those who oppose us and another for ourselves, who then are the terrorists?
U.S. Foreign Policy Puts Everyone at Risk

Rest in peace...

Donald Woods
Theodore Kalman
Raul Tomashevich
Sylvia Weinstein
Gale Cincotta
Chico Quele

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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.
* The Merry Wives of Windsor