

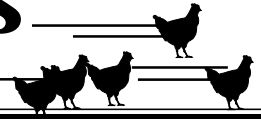
These are truly the...  
...just another weapon of mass destruction...



# Pepper Spray Times

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

Jan-Feb 2004  
Special Edition



It's totipalmate... it's free

"...Why, I pray you, is not pig great?..."\*

Vol. VI No. 1

## BATES WANTS DOG; AUDITIONS SET

By Scott T. Daugie

Experienced political observers are baffled by current Mayor Tom Bates' campaign to add dogs to the arsenal of tools used by the Berkeley Police Department to fight crime.

"Maybe he's lonely," suggested one. "Loni is probably spending a lot of time in Sacramento."

Dogs and helicopters were specifically banned from police use in 1982 by the City Council after they were used on political demonstrators many years ago, but supporters claim that such dangers no longer exist.

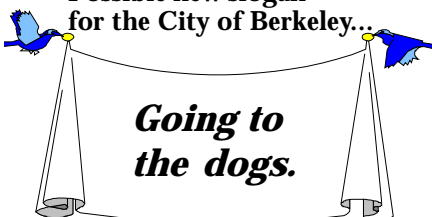
"Dogs have changed," offered Chief of Police Roy Meisner. "Dogs these days are much more politically aware."

\* \* \* \* \*



DOG AUDITIONS are currently being held at the Mayor's office in City Hall. Call 981-7100 to sign up your dog.

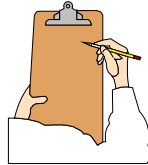
Possible new slogan  
for the City of Berkeley...



## MARS ROVER DATA "MEANINGLESS"

*Scientists Can't Communicate  
or, like Anything*

By Staff Writer Paul DeRopes



Scientists expressed frustration recently as they tried to exchange information with the Mars rover, but couldn't get through.

"We can't communicate just now," conceded Peter Theisinger, the NASA mission's project manager. "We're getting meaningless blank beeping tones instead of intelligent data. We have a serious anomaly."

Project engineers are said to be examining the rover's telemetry, but a female project team-member who wished to remain anonymous pointed out that the scientists were behaving as many men behave when confronted with communication they don't understand.

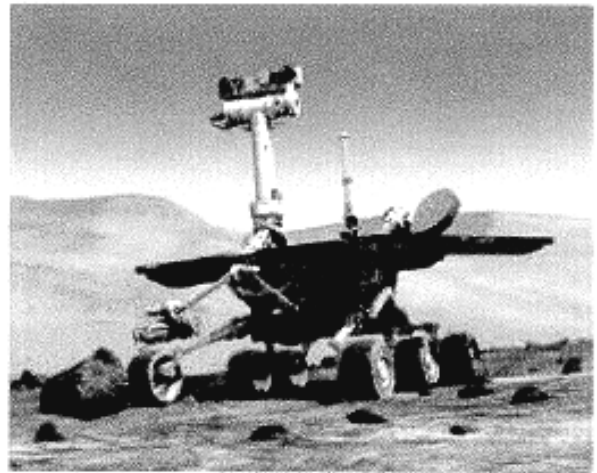
"Just because they don't understand it doesn't mean it's meaningless," she sniffed. "My boyfriend does this all the time. The Mars rover is probably feeling insulted by the way it's been used and just needs a little respect."

The \$820 million dollar mission represented, until recently, a badly needed success for NASA, whose scientists have taken to wearing rabbits' feet, checking astrological charts, and consulting the I ching.

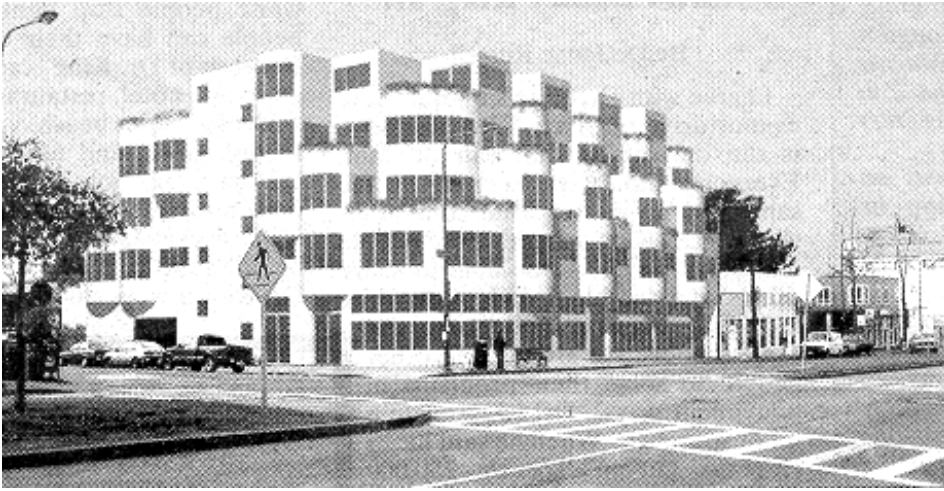
Politicians were quick to dismiss the anomaly, suggesting that it could be better studied once American has a NASA-based space city on the moon.

"Moon my ass," commented one local Berkeley resident standing in line for the quarter meal. "I could have told them it was meaningless a long time ago."

\* \* \* \* \*



THE MARS ROVER is refusing to communicate with possibly insensitive male chauvinist NASA scientists.



THE PROPOSED FIVE-STORY PROJECT at the site of the current Tune-Up Masters on University Avenue will make lucky homeless people the proud owners of real property, assuming they can panhandle really, really well.

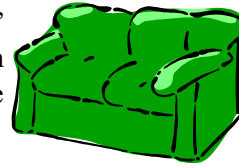
# CONDOS FOR THE HOMELESS

*Program "Going strong," says Mayor Bates and City Council*

*By Staff Writer Jay Walken*

The Berkeley City Council approved amendments to the city's inclusionary housing ordinance at Tuesday night's Council meeting which will make building condominiums more profitable for developers.

"This gives us a chance to get people into home ownership," commented Councilman Gordon Wozniak. "It may be tough for people living under bushes, but try finding an affordable condominium in this town."



Critics pointed out that the area's median income is distorted by the preponderance of wealth in the Berkeley and Oakland hills, which pushes the technical definition of "low-income" for inclusionary units well beyond the reach of low-income workers.

"Nonsense," responded ordinance supporters, who reminded interested observers that the Bay Area media constantly states that panhandlers can easily earn \$50 an hour begging for spare change on the street.

"Fifty dollars an hour, a forty-hour week, makes for \$8,000 a month, or \$96,000 a year, even with weekends off," affirmed one supporter. "You could buy a really nice condo with that kind of dough."

"No shit," agreed one homeless guy living under the University Avenue underpass. "I gotta get out there more often. I never had luck like that. I must be wearing the wrong shoes."

Mayor Tom Bates argued that the inclusionary cap should be pushed even higher, calling himself a "free market kind of guy", but the majority of the Council felt the ordinance was insulting enough to the truly needy, and needed no improvement.

\* \* \* \* \*

# STATE OF UNION: "IT'S ALL GOOD"

*By Staff Writer Daniella Gree*

President Bush's State of the Union speech affirmed that everything nationwide is looking good.



Mayor of Oakland Jerry Brown agreed, commenting that despite the 11th murder in 19 days, things were looking good in Oakland, too.

"I guess things are looking good all over," concluded a local resident having a tall one while the President orated from the screen at a local tavern. "I guess I'm feeling a lot better than I did when I came in here."

President Bush used his moment of national attention to promote celibacy and a moon base.

"It's so inspiring," commented one observer. "If we work really hard as a nation we could even have celibacy on the moon."

\* \* \* \* \*



**PEPPER SPRAY PRODUCTS** are the best way to spice up your gathering! Use as a condiment, or as an air freshener when the party gets a little dull. Comes in super-size, regular, or pocket size, and can be color accessorized with a dazzling array of fashionable options. Pepper spray says party!

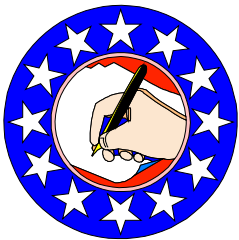


DEMOCRATIC HOPEFULS kiss, fondle, and baffle everybody with their bizarre behavior, eclipsed only by the surreal media coverage of same.

# INTRODUCING THE RANDOM FACTOR

By Staff Writer Sheila Doorya

Hard-core political operatives unveiled the latest electoral political challenge to the Bush administration recently in a press conference in Berkeley. After years of exhaustive research, independent results finalized only weeks ago confirm that the chance of the political primary system producing a viable candidate is about the equivalent of purely random selection.



Most political scientists agree.

“I don’t know a single politician holding office in this country that couldn’t be replaced at great profit to the nation by some random wino off the street,” commented local expert John Hoggatt.

Scientists agreed that the money spent on primaries could be better spent on, well, just about anything else, and studies showed that the results could hardly be worse, considering the empirical data.

“It would hard to craft a campaign against a random factor,” conceded a White House spokesperson. “Plus, most of the winos we know are pretty sharp.”

\* \* \* \* \*

# BATES WANTS HOTEL ON BOARDWALK

By Staff Writer Susan Stockings

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates has baffled city officials and commissioners by calling for a planning committee to focus on a proposed hotel project and then quashing the committee, all in a few short weeks.

“We don’t know what he wants,” conceded one commissioner. “We can’t figure the guy out. We just hope we can find out the name of the game.”

One unofficial City Hall spokesperson clarified that public and commissioner input was welcome once the plans were in a more final form.

“We love public participation,” he stated. “We just need to make sure it doesn’t interfere with our plans.”

\* \* \* \* \*

# UC’S PLANS BAFFLE LOCALS

By Staff Writer Athena Future

“We didn’t see it coming,” admitted local Berkeley planners questioned about the new concepts in the University of California at Berkeley’s New Century Plan, which advocates open space and protection of landmarks.

“Here we are reducing landmarks to rubble and assuming that open space will pop up near Fresno to compensate for our city’s density, and the university is reverting to old-school concepts. You can imagine our embarrassment.”

“That’s what they get for following planning fads,” stated Kerry O’Banion, associate director of physical planning for the university. “Why should we sacrifice our open space and landmarks when the City of Berkeley is willing to torch theirs? If they don’t mind us owning half the town they can hardly bark about us owning two-thirds.”

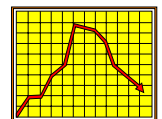
“I’m sure there’s an explanation,” commented Planning Director Dan Marks. “We’ll straighten this out in no time. We just need more consultants.”

\* \* \* \* \*

# HOMELESS STATE OF THE UNION: “SUCKY”

By Staff Writer Zach Change

State agencies and advocacy groups nodded in agreement with local homeless consensus that the current state of the union,



from the perspective of anybody on the street, was effectively “sucky.”

“My socks got wet last night,” reported one of the many local experts on the state of the average homeless person. “Putting on wet socks is no way to start the day.”

\* \* \* \* \*

# GREEN PARTY STILL CLUELESS

By Staff Writer Madge N. That

The Green Party continued its search for clues as to whether or not it played a counterproductive role in the last presidential election.

“We’re using dogs now, and we believe we may have some answers soon,” commented one local Green Party spokesperson.

In a related development, operatives with a secondary agenda working within the Bush administration doubled the amount of Sierra trees to be “thinned to limit fires” and affirmed a plan to open the North Slope area of Alaska to oil drilling just west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Scientists say the management plan threatens the health of Arctic tundra, ponds and lakes that are home to wildlife and migratory birds and “provide a vital subsistence hunting and fishing ground for native Alaskans.”

“We can’t afford to be subtle,” stated the operatives, who wished to remain anonymous. “If this doesn’t clarify the difference between Democrats and Republicans for the Green Party, we’re not sure it can be done.”

\* \* \* \* \* If we get enough donations for another issue, another issue will issue.



# THE DEEP POETRY PROJECT

*Poetry about holes, to highlight the difference between Addison Street’s poetry-pocked sidewalks and our west and south Berkeley sidewalks, laden with the essence of evocative art, the hole.*

## Hole Sonnet C. Denney

so shall I walk traversing with great care  
between the lines or set my footsteps true  
upon the fractured face of disrepair  
despite the trouble which may well ensue;  
a full frontal assault on wayward toe  
a leap, albeit unplanned, into the air  
a twist, a turn, a torment then of woe  
for want of simple public works repair  
for fend this wanton pathway of distress  
both dignity and sanity demand  
a safer journey through this wilderness  
without having to crawl across the land  
O truant Council, hemorrhaging dough  
on banners, someday catch a fucking clue

## Hole Haiku

*I Travel Slowly*  
I travel slowly  
enjoying the clear weather  
and then I fall down

*Speak Within*  
murmur to the hole  
“You will always be safe from  
this stupid Council”

## Psychology of Holes Haiku

sidewalk manifests  
uneven and unstable  
sidewalk depression

## The Abyss

look in the abyss  
visualize repair  
know you are dreaming

## Getting Through

write to public works  
is anyone at home?  
check the “arts district”

## Genesis

DBA\* owns land  
“arts district” is born  
can someone spell graft?  
(\*Downtown Berkeley Association)



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



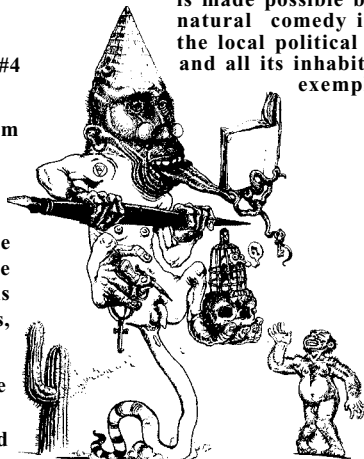
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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by:

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Comix ----- Roger Dondis  
Staff - Scott T. Daugie, Paul DeRopes,  
Jay Walken, Sheila Doorya,  
Daniella Gree, Susan Stockings,  
Zach Change, Athena Future, Madge N. That

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



Available at all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.  
\* King Henry V