

These are truly the...

Don't hate us because we're beautiful...



Pepper Spray Times

September 2001



It's bicorn... it's free

"Bemonster not thy feature!"*

Vol. V No. 1



SOCCKER PLAYERS at Harrison Park soccer field sport fashionable headgear in an effort to adapt to the really, really sucky air quality.

MAIO AXES COMMISSIONER

By Lewis Screws

District 1 Representative Linda Maio honored a tradition unrepresented since ex-Mayor Loni Hancock's administration by using her August vacation to remove commissioner Karen Craig from the Commission on Disabilities.

A spokesperson for the vacationing Maio confirmed the removal, explaining that controversial political maneuvers were best accomplished from out-of-state, across national borders, and preferably from a lounge chair on a sunny beach or by a pool.

"Loni Hancock went all the way to Romania to distance herself from the assault she and Chancellor Tien arranged for People's Park back in 1991," pointed out Maio's spokesperson. "Berkeley citizens almost bought it until she made the mistake of arguing that Romania doesn't have any telephones. Vacations are a great way to get the dirty work done."

Critics argued that Karen Craig was one of the hardest-working commissioners in the city, one of the few who could point to a legacy of practical changes benefiting the entire community.

"Yeah, well," laughed Maio's spokesperson. "That's not exactly what we're looking for in a commissioner."

City Hall insiders agreed that District 4 Representative Dona Spring played a role in Craig's removal.

"She started messing around with that folk festival," confided one. "Dona Spring wants the message out there real clear; if you ask the wrong question about the festival you lose your job. Maio needs Spring, and there you have it."

Others on the Commission on Disabilities expressed bewilderment, noting that Karen Craig had accomplished more in her tenure as a commissioner than most people accomplish in a lifetime.

"So?" offered Maio's representative. "That and \$2.50 will get you a cup of coffee in this town."

The Berkeley Folk Festival is again scheduled to take place at Ashkenaz, which has an inaccessible entrance, inaccessible bathrooms, only one workshop room and an inaccessible stage.

"Thank God," commented Spring. "This is one tradition this town is going to honor whether it likes it or not."

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STUDY SHOWS PARK AIR QUALITY REALLY SUCKS

"Really, really sucks..."

By Delia Cards

Initial results of a \$40,000 study of the newly minted soccer field at Harrison Park indicate airborne particulate matter as high as 60 percent above state-recommended levels. The worst times of day are between 10 a.m. and noon, according to Eric Winegar of Applied Measurement Science.

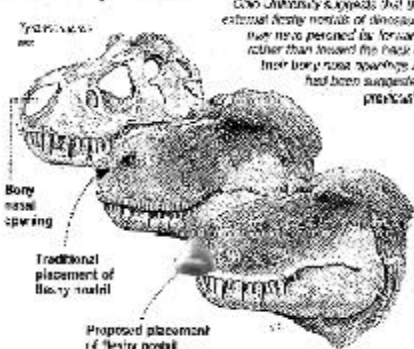
"Studies have shown that it is possible to play soccer during any period of a 24 hour day," observed Winegar. "Games could be scheduled at 3:00 a.m., running and heavy breathing could be minimized, and Doug Fielding will be providing all the players with gas masks. I think we can work this out so that the City of Berkeley doesn't look entirely stupid."

Berkeley Asphalt and Pacific Steel Casting, businesses with heavy emissions within three blocks of the new playing field, celebrated the fact that neither business was implicated by the study as contributing to the pollutants.

"We lecture our particulates strongly to avoid that field," commented a spokesperson for Pacific Steel Casting. "We try to encourage them to go straight up and not come down until they're somewhere over Canada."

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New nose placement



A new study by a researcher at Ohio University suggests that the external fleshy nostrils of dinosaurs may have perched far forward, rather than toward the back of their long, stout snouts as had been suspected previously.

DINOSAURS' NOSES WRONG

By Tex Bookcase

A researcher at Ohio University concluded recently that dinosaurs were not as pug-nosed as commonly thought.

"We mistook the nostrils for snorkels," he explained. "In fact, these were front-loading epicures with an astounding ability to navigate even the most challenging and adventurous menus."

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A NEW STUDY suggests that external fleshy nostrils of dinosaurs may have perched far forward, a finding with disturbing implications for both the science and fashion.

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



PRESIDENT BUSH thought long and hard before telling the Pope he was full of shit.

BUSH BLOWS OFF POPE

By Wallaby Durned

President Bush announced recently that although life was “a sacred gift from our creator”, some existing stem-cell clusters derived from human embryos were a little less sacred than others and could be used for research.

Bush announced that he had found the “fundamental moral line” and that it was visible from the picture window of his Texas ranch. “I can see it from here,” he commented with excitement in the first prime-time address of his presidency, gesturing at the open prairie televised behind him. “I think I might actually own it.”

Ken Connor, president of the conservative Family Research Council, disagreed. “We bought that property ages ago,” he noted. “Moral principles are not divisible, and our bank accounts will be less and less divisible from here on out.”

Other groups were more supportive. Laura Echevarria, a spokeswoman for the National Right to Life organization commented that while her group “mourns the loss of life” for those embryos from which stem cell lines had already been derived, that her organization was backed up for the next millenium with memorial services for the ordinary eggs and sperms dying on a daily basis without an opportunity to manifest in a living womb.

“There just aren’t enough living wombs to go around,” she sighed, “not to mention the shortage of people who can do an adequate job of “Sunrise, Sunset.”

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POLICE RAID HOMES, DESTROY PROPERTY OF POOR PEOPLE

By Noah Warning

Hundreds of low-income and disabled residents converged upon the Police Review Commission recently to complain that the Berkeley police have staged five narcotics raid on their apartment complex in the last three months, flashing weapons, threatening violence, and breaking down doors unnecessarily.

“These are poor people,” explained Chief of Police Dash Butler. “The rules are different for them. We know we’d probably find more drugs than these people had if we raided the frat houses on a regular basis, but those frat boys have classier drugs and better lawyers.”

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BERKELEY HIGH STUDENTS STILL HUNGRY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



BERKELEY SCHOOL Superintendent Michele Lawrence stocks up on canned goods in the hope that someday she can feed lunch to the students at Berkeley High.

By Edna Snack

School officials and school board members are still baffled about what do with with the hundreds of hungry high school students who are currently forced to run off campus for a sandwich during their tight 45 minute lunch break.

“We thought of a lunch buffet at the Berkeley Community Theater,” stated one board member, “but there’s no indoor seating. We don’t mind if they starve, but we certainly don’t want them to be uncomfortable.”

Downtown Berkeley merchants on whose behalf students were at one point rounded up in custody vans and hauled back to campus offered no solutions, pointing out that “there is no money” in catering to an ordinary student budget.


Berkeley police pointed out that a recent Berkeley City Council ordinance might make any gathering of students in the Berkeley High School courtyard illegal unless the students acquired a permit ahead of time.

“We’ll need another new jail,” mused one officer, “but the jail before this one was pretty new anyway. In the next jail we might be able to fit them all.”

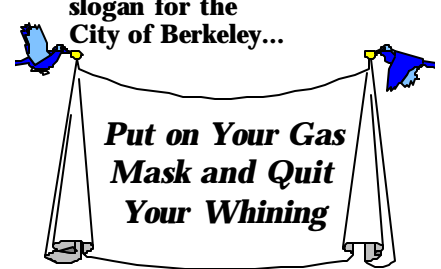
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Rest in peace...

Rene Dumont
Carlos Giuliani
Mimi Farina
Phoolan Devi



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



Put on Your Gas Mask and Quit Your Whining

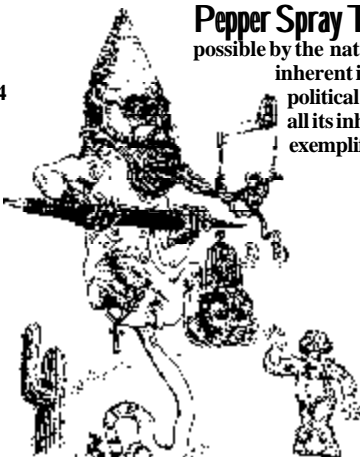
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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



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.
*King Lear