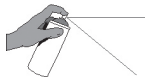


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# Hepper Spray Times

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

April 2005



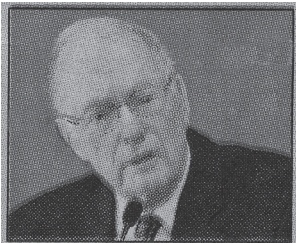
It's metronymic...it's free...if you can find it

"waked by the lark, hath roused the ribald crows..."\*

Vol. VII No. 4

## Local Guy Gets Prize for Mixing Up Science and Religion

by Masha Potato



Charles Townes says the differences between science and religion are "largely superficial."

"Wow, I thought you had to go to Kansas or South Carolina to find something like this," commented one member of the scientific community

of course. Yes, yes, and don't let me forget to mention God."

Reporters noted that Townes seemed to believe that God is a personal external being with whom believers can have a personal relationship, and Townes hastened to agree.

"God is really a nice guy, he's just a little touchy about getting top billing."

**"Mixing science and religion is the new black."**

after learning that a UC physicist was given the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities.

"We're, like, totally embarrassed," admitted one anonymous member of the UC Physics Department. "You could only get a prize like this if your thinking was a train wreck of foggy non sequitur. But it comes with a lot of dough, and we hope he gives some to us, so we're not saying a word."

The recipient, former Nobel prize-winner Charles Townes, will receive 1.5 million dollars, part of which he plans to give to religious organizations, including the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless.

"I owe my wife Frances for the concept of mixing science and religion, which most people would find antithetical," stated Townes at a local press conference. "She took the Chaplaincy to the Homeless and hooked it up with anti-homeless legislation, which many people would also think antithetical. The world needs more of this out-of-the-box thinking. I owe all my inspiration to her."

A thunderbolt shook the room, which inspired Townes to add, "and to God,

Critics argued that the erosion of the separation between church and state, as well as science and religion, were ruining both educational and political systems, stating that if Townes had any solid scientific principles he would renounce the prize or use it to promote better science education.

"That's alright," sighed one local science teacher. "It's not like he's the only one committing these atrocities. Mixing science and religion is the new black. The trouble is they really believe what they're saying. These so-called educators mislead thousands spouting this crap and make money doing it. It's just a shame there is no God arranging to send them to hell."

God responded later, after the press conference was over, apologizing for the thunderbolts.

"It was just a joke," he stated. "I get carried away sometimes. But it annoys me when influential people in positions of power abuse the public trust this way. It isn't that I don't try to get the truth across. It's just that believers, in particular, don't listen to a word I say."

\* \* \* \* \*

## LOCAL LANDMARKS DECLARED MENACE; MUST BE STOPPED

by William Ouvette

The Planning Commission took a long overdue step and approved recommendations which would finally curb the problematic behavior of landmarks, which have been congregating on public streets at an alarming rate.

"I find them intimidating," whispered a local developer. "They obviously don't fit into more contemporary street designs, but they just don't care."

The landmarks' proliferation is being treated like a contagion by the Planning Department, which is taking appropriate steps to contain the epidemic before it spreads any further.

"Some members of the landmarks commission have been more interested in blocking and delaying projects," affirmed Planning Commission chair Harry Pollack, suggesting that the east bay has its full quota of both landmarks and preservationists.

"The preservationists have a codependent relationship with these out of control landmarks," affirmed another local developer tiptoeing past a burly landmark flaunting its Italianate roof styling. "There's only so much history this town should be expected to bear."

\* \* \* \* \*



**LANDMARKS MUST BE STOPPED or more of these frightening things will sprout like mushrooms all over the place and no one will be safe in their beds.**



## ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, why is the Pepper Spray Times staff different every issue?**

A: The editor fires them all monthly. They tend to behave after that.

**Dear Lena, why is the Bay Area such a national joke? I'm embarrassed to say I live here.**

A. As you should be. The Bay Area is a godless landscape of dope-smoking, steroid-using tofu-eaters with cell phones standing in front of a politically driven Hummer.

**Dear Lena, should I worry about social security?**

A: Not at all. Relax. Think calm, deep thoughts about quiet landscapes. Visualize harmony. Then privatize it.

**Dear Lena, is there anything wrong with mixing up science and religion?**

A: Of course not. Science is on the way out, anyway. And once we spare schools the burden of trying to teach science we can bring back sports.

**Dear Lena, which bridge proposal do you like the best?**

A: I'm for the little rowboats. I've acquired a parasol in anticipation of the day we launch the local armada of floating craft and try to get across the bay the way we were meant to. I'm planning to look charming.

**Dear Lena, do we really need police accountability?**

A. Absolutely not. It is an insult to our fine police force that the Police Review Commission still exists at all. Fortunately the commission is only a couple years shy of being bled to death just across the road from the sparkling new "Public Safety Building". Soon the police will have the relief of knowing they can shoot and falsely arrest innocent people with no inconvenience whatsoever to their busy lives.

# Weather Breaks All Records: Relentless Ongoing Story Just Won't Quit

by Laura Rope

News organizations apologized recently for giving little coverage to the war, the economy, the crisis in school funding and many other crucial issues, explaining that the problem is that the weather just won't quit.

"We would love to spend more time on other stories," nodded one local broadcaster. "But I've never seen anything like it. Either it's raining or it's sunny, and that's not the kind of thing we can ignore."

Another anchor at a local news station agreed, wishing he could spend more time on serious issues with educational value, but stating that he, too, was helpless before the endless onslaught of climactic changes.

"If only it would stop," he said shaking his head sadly. "If only we could be free of this relentless weather that keeps happening day after day. Then we could really get some traction on local and national issues."

Critics pointed out that news organizations use the weather as filler because it's an easy news story, and that standing under an umbrella or covering a sunny day at the beach was hardly in-depth reporting, but were dismissed.

"Standing around under an umbrella is harder than it looks," claimed one reporter. "I've ruined a lot of suede that way."

"I think they're so brave," ventured one news consumer. "I'm not sure I'd have what it takes to stand around in the wind and look presentable on camera. Imagine the hairspray."

"It's tougher than it looks," agreed one Bay Area resident. "I think we've had weather just about every day I can remember. You look out your window in the morning and there it is again. I don't know how they do it."

"It's a tough job, but we do get training," stated another local news anchor. "The hair spray is only a small part of it. The real trick is to keep it fresh."

"That's right," agreed another newscaster. "The weather's merciless, repetitive presence is just the beginning of the story. People's *opinions* about the weather's merciless, repetitive presence are even harder to predict than the weather itself. But we're dedicated. We're professionals. We're trained to track down those opinions no matter where they lead."

All of the news professionals agreed that as soon as the unusual run of constant weather is finally over, they'll be able to concentrate on other, less visible local and national stories.

"We're ready," they stated. "As soon as this weather takes a break, we'll be right on it."

\* \* \* \* \*

### We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



The de Young Museum, which has kept William Story's 1882 carving of King Saul in a secret warehouse for five years during renovations, is finally putting it back on public display.



# PEOPLE'S PARK CASINO GETS THUMBS UP

by Arrietta Turningpoint

Activists howled recently upon discovering that the new long-range development plan for the university includes a proposal for a casino on People's Park.

"This park is a landmark," intoned the activists, rolling up their pants legs and sleeves to demonstrate decades-old bruises inflicted by various law enforcement entities over the years. "A casino would not be in keeping with the park's historical importance."

University spokesperson Janet Gilmore acknowledged the landmark status of the park, but insisted that the proposed casino would be in line with the park's history, and that activists would be enlisted to assist.

"This worked really well in the late 1980's," she stated. "By the time we brought in the bulldozers half the activists had signed off on our plans. We're certain we can accomplish the same thing here and enrich the surrounding community considerably."

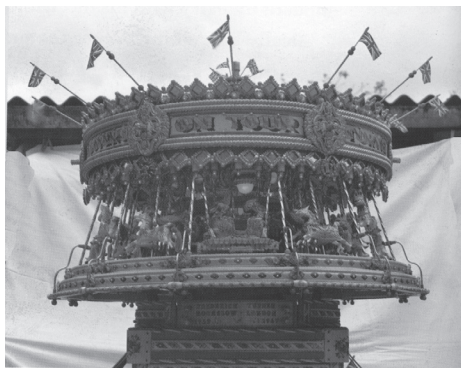
City staff whined that the park plans were not illustrated in the most recent revisions of the university's Long Range Development Plan, but were dismissed by university planners.

"It's true that the LRDP is a little generic," they conceded. "It's much more useful that way."

Plans include a shooting gallery where participants get to pick off running protesters and bystanders with guns outfitted with traditional wooden and rubber bullets.

"If they do this, we're insisting on complete historical accuracy," stated one local People's Park activist. "Only actual guns with actual rubber and wooden bullets and actual protesters and southside bystanders should be allowed, just as it happened in 1969 through 1992."

"That should be no problem," nodded Gilmore, pointing out that the supposedly more progressive council representatives and mayor had done nothing to put a moratorium on the use of wooden and rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, and choke holds. "Our law enforcement officers need to practise these techniques from time to time to stay in shape. And of course, we're prepared to landmark any scars and



**THIS CAROUSEL is proposed for the new People's Park Casino and would replace the current stage, so that naked people and junkies would have some recreational opportunities.**

bruises suffered previously."

Another feature of the proposed casino are slot machines with video game features, which have proven lucrative in casinos around the state.

"We're taking bids for a variety of game scenarios," stated Gilmore. "One includes a game where former Lt. Beckford loses his police baton, radio, and handcuffs, and another involves complex layers of mayhem and vandalism in the legendary \$2 million dollar volleyball court. We want so much to be inclusive."

Activists insisted that the casino's accuracy would be suspect if it did not include the quarter million dollar lawsuit launched against the four best-known People's Park activists, but UC officials dismissed this concern.

"That 1992 permanent injunction is still active today, so there's no need to re-create it for history's sake. We can use that injunction any day we want to. Some traditions are too good to lose."

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Great Places to Put the Stupid Blue Ball Sculpture Rejected by the Waterfront Commission That Nobody Can Stand**

- one half at the old, one half at the new Berkeley Bowl
- on top of the Albany Bowl
- on top of the Campanile where nobody will see it anyway
- keep it rolling from neighborhood to neighborhood, so we all get a chance to kick it around
- paint it orange and sell it to a 76 station
- give it a clown hat and sell it to Jack in the Box
- roll it into the bay
- add a sugar cone and sell it to 31 Flavors
- bury it
- drown it
- tell people it has healing qualities and rake in the dough
- put it in the "arts district"

*A Public Service Announcement from the Pepper Spray Times*

# Schwarzenegger's New Videos Suck; Governor Says Hey, It's Just a Stupid Movie

by Kent Wait

Democratic lawmakers and Hollywood movie critics agreed that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's new video news releases showed that his work in Sacramento is taking a toll on his artistic sensibilities.

"There's very little action, the dialogue is boring, and the actors come across like news anchors," stated one Hollywood critic. "It frankly put me to sleep."

Critics argued that the governor was deceiving the public by using public money to create promotional videos which resembled news segments, some of which some news stations are putting directly on the air without clarifying that they came from government sources and did not represent independent news reporting.

"Independent news reporting is a kind of quaint concept at this point," responded Rick Rice, an administration official. "There's no more difference anymore between propaganda and fact than there is between science and religion."

The governor made no effort to defend the videos, pointing out that they didn't suck any worse than his movies.

"I can't help it if the public believes everything I say," he stated. "I'd be a fool to stop talking now."

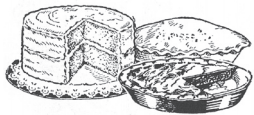
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# FAT PEOPLE CUT LIFE EXPECTANCY, SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

by Noah D. Future

Health experts were relieved to discover that Americans who are gaining weight at an unprecedented rate were doing so deliberately in an effort to save social security.

"It's an incredible sacrifice," stated scientist S. Jay Olshansky. "These people's patriotism is as impressive as their waistlines."



The scientists have calculated that the cumulative obesity of overweight Americans

has already reduced life expectancy by four to nine months, which is more than the combined effect of car crashes, homicides and suicides.

"And this is just the beginning," said Olshansky. "We've never seen such a fat younger generation in all human history. These kids may not make it to thirty, which will really change the social security equations."

Fat Americans are generally modest about their contribution to resolving the social security shortfall, which is expected to manifest in a few decades.

"I appreciate the thanks, but McDonald's and Burger King should get some of the credit," responded one rotund local resident modestly. "I used to be a more normal size, but I only get a half-hour for lunch, so fast food is a part of my daily diet now. I had no idea I was also being patriotic, but I'm proud to be able to serve my country."

Experts agree that among the severely obese, life expectancy is reduced by an estimated five to 20 years, according to one study, and that the current effect on life expectancy is approaching the

effect of cancer and heart disease.

"It's a start," commented Olshansky. "If these people keep eating, we have a chance to rescue social security, sell a lot of heart transplants, and really save on sports equipment."

"It makes you proud," said one parent watching her son struggle up a hill. "9-11 really brought out the patriotism in all of us."

\* \* \* \* \*

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...

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

\* Troilus and Cressida



## GI Rights Hotline 1-800-394-9544

# Cut & Run

**In an immoral war, its the moral thing to do.**

## Troops and families are resisting by:

- Forming new anti-war groups of active duty GIs, their families, and vets (with websites)
- Talking and writing to each other • Demonstrating and speaking out against the war
- Sending letters and emails to newspapers, websites, chat rooms, etc.
- Applying for Conscientious Objector status
- Refusing illegal orders • Deserting

Poster Sponsored by

**Veterans for Peace/Chapter 69**



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...who needs the periodic table when you've got the bible?..."