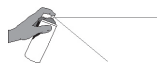


All hail the...
...the foreclosure issue ...



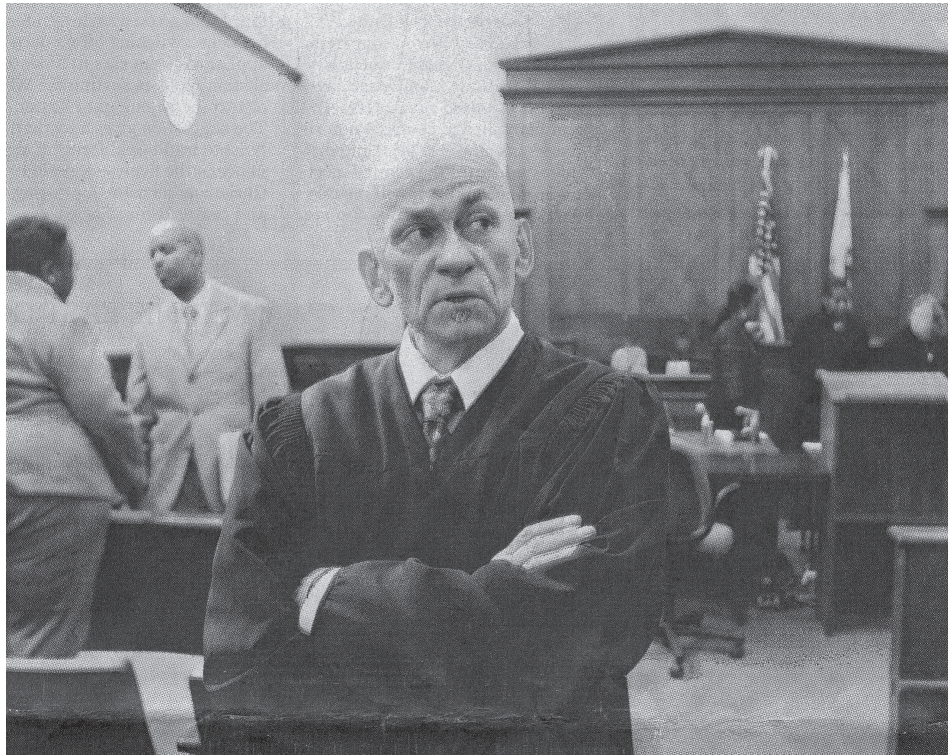
Hepper Spray Times

April 2009

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

"...Faith, we may put up our pipes and be gone...*

Vol. XI No. 4



COMMISSIONER RON ALBERS was hoping to help homeless people turn their lives around by giving them tickets for camping on sidewalks, and just can't believe nobody showed up for the party.

NEW HOMELESS COURT EMPTY *Judge Really Pissed Off*

By Lorena Boom

"I can't believe it," huffed Commissioner Ron Albers on the first day of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome's brand new court for the homeless, none of which chose to attend.

Bailiffs and court reporters tidied up their drawers and straightened their attire while Commissioner Albers kept looking out the windows and down the corridors, hoping for someone to show up so he could give them a "quality of life offense" community service assignment.

"I got all dressed up," he moped. "There's hot coffee and doughnuts in the chambers, but I can't really feel fulfilled without the defendants here. Maybe their invitations got lost."

Onlookers suggested that being

homeless might make it harder to reach people by mail, but Albers responded that they could always rent a post office box or list a particular park bench as an abode.

"We only want to help," insisted Albers, who refuses to consider that the \$576 million budget deficit might shortly render the court's service component non-existent, leaving the usual tradition of jailing and ticketing homeless people firmly in place.

"I wanted to show up," responded one homeless woman who preferred to remain anonymous, "but the place I found to sleep is too far to walk. Please thank him for thinking of us."

* * * * *

Mayor Bates Donates Salary to Daily Planet

By O. Howie Swings

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates stunned the Bay Area recently by offering to donate his salary to the Berkeley Daily Planet to ensure the paper's financial health and longterm ability to cover local events.

"I've learned my lesson, but I haven't really paid my debt," acknowledged Bates. "I once stole pre-election copies of the Daily Californian after they endorsed my opponent, and got caught. No finer evidence exists that local coverage can make a difference."

Berkeley Daily Planet staff responded with grateful thanks, admitting that the paper was having trouble navigating tough times.

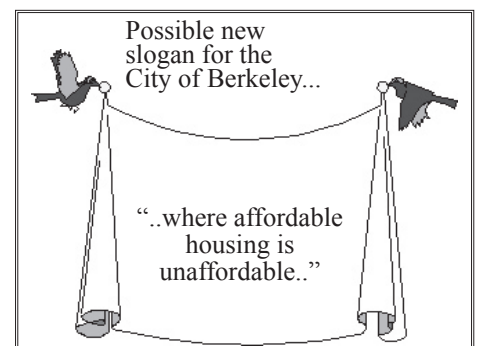
Critics argue that the arrangement was dangerous, and might result in a reduction of coverage critical of the mayor's office, but most agreed that having any local paper was better than none.

"The good news is that reporters don't eat much," commented one media expert. "They've never had the big packages with the banker-style bonuses and the spa retreats."

The Berkeley City Manager was reported to be considering following suit and donating a portion of his impressive recent raise.

"This is so inspiring," he said. "It's the least I can do."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, is it true the Mayor is going to donate his salary to save the paper from going under?

Dear reader, yes, of course. He and his entire canine patrol are donating their salaries and have also offered to write free editorials to lessen the burden on the hard-working staff.

Dear Lena, so isn't it finally time for a public campground? Or to let people sleep in their cars? It isn't safe in the streets, and times are hard.

Dear reader, you can't possibly be thinking straight - if you were, your first priority is the possible threat to adjacent property values. You clearly aren't getting enough to eat. Try to eat more pate'.

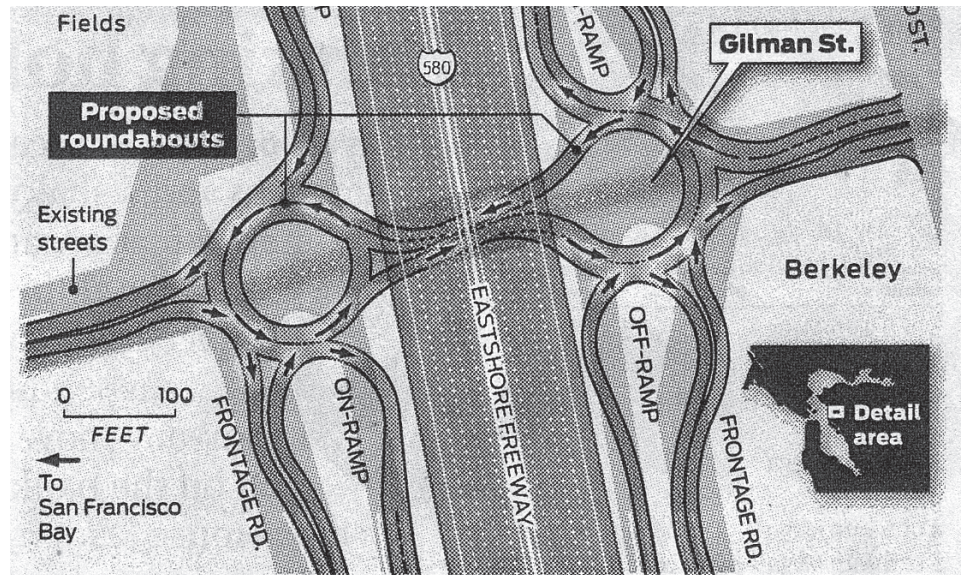
Dear Lena, the stock market just went up, and I don't have any investments except my good shoes - what should I do?

Dear reader, celebrate wildly the good fortunes of those who had the intelligence and the bravery to face down the Wall Street bears and stride into the economic abyss. You might as well, nobody's going to give you a curtain call for those shoes.

Dear Lena, I'm kind of scared of traffic circles. Is there anything I can do? What would you suggest?

Dear reader, try to strike up casual conversation with the next one you meet. Ask it about its favorite hobbies, and if it would recommend any restaurants nearby. Try to use a very soothing tone of voice.

Ask Lena for advice about personal hygiene products at cdenney@jgc.org.



NASA HAS AGREED TO STUDY these mysterious traffic circles, thought to be extinct, which suddenly appeared recently near Gilman and threaten public safety.

Traffic Circles Mysteriously Appear Near Gilman - Terrorists Blamed

Neighbors Take Threat Seriously

By Maureen DaFridge

Mysterious traffic circles, thought to be extinct after terrorizing East Bay neighborhoods only a few years ago, have recently surfaced in plans for the intersection of Interstate 80 and Gilman Avenue, inspiring local citizens to take up arms.

"We honestly though this was one traffic disaster the government couldn't possibly make worse," marveled one local resident polishing her rifle.

"We'd forgotten how much the government loves those circles," nodded another resident setting up a slingshot near her driveway.

Local officials protested that the circles were not the government's fault, and that the deep secrets within Guantanamo prisons which could possibly reveal the circles' origins would take years to fully uncover.

"We know the circles are...not fully understood," stated one traffic planner. "We think a process of education is the best course, before the circles are needlessly expelled from common society."

Traffic planners insist that circles can assist with the terrifying collisions and stultifying gridlock common to the area, but neighbors are skeptical.

"Circles seem infinite if they keep moving with the same number of cars," agreed one neighbor. "But if you keep adding cars, somebody's got to get off

the merry-go-round."

Scientists laughed at the idea that circles are simple answers to traffic ills.

"Perhaps to the layman, but in this case the better description is that of a balloon - it would seem to be infinitely capable of another breath of air until that point at which it explodes," stated one scientist examining the traffic circle design patterns. "Terrorists may have originated this plan, but it has the very seductive terminology and planning jargon common to contemporary planning professionals. The neighbors should take this threat very seriously."

"We do," responded another business owner near the Gilman I80 intersection. "We believe we see the same patterns which surfaced at the Berkeley City Council meetings for public comment in these circle patterns. The design obviously assumes that something inconvenient will simply disappear along the way, whether it's excess traffic or excess public opinion."

One local resident pooh-poohed the idea that gridlock was a problem.

"Gridlock is green," he stated. "It takes awhile, but gridlock eventually gets people out of their cars, after which you have one long, well-paved bike lane."

* * * * *



INNOVATIVE HOUSING EXPERTS PROVED recently that you don't need to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to build affordable housing.



FASHION GOT SO OUT OF HAND at the Academy Awards that security was called to discourage extremists.

Tents Cities Sprout in the Rain

Foreclosed and Evicted People Unite for Shelter

By Matt DeBottom

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, initially supportive of the tent city popping up near his city's riverfront, is now considering evicting the homeless tent tenants after a round of unwelcome national publicity.

"We can't ignore our homeless. We have a moral obligation to help," said Johnson as he acknowledged working with city leaders to close the homeless camp in favor of a currently non-existent city-sanctioned homeless safe zone

with running water and toilets.

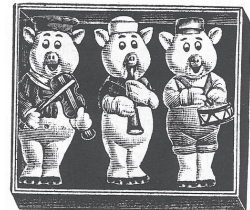
The mayor said city leaders were still looking into a possible location for the potential encampment, which brought tears of laughter to the tent city residents.

"We may be hard up," laughed one homeless resident, "but we've been around this block. If they can't agree to let us be out here by the river where there's nothing but frogs, you should know there's no location they'll allow

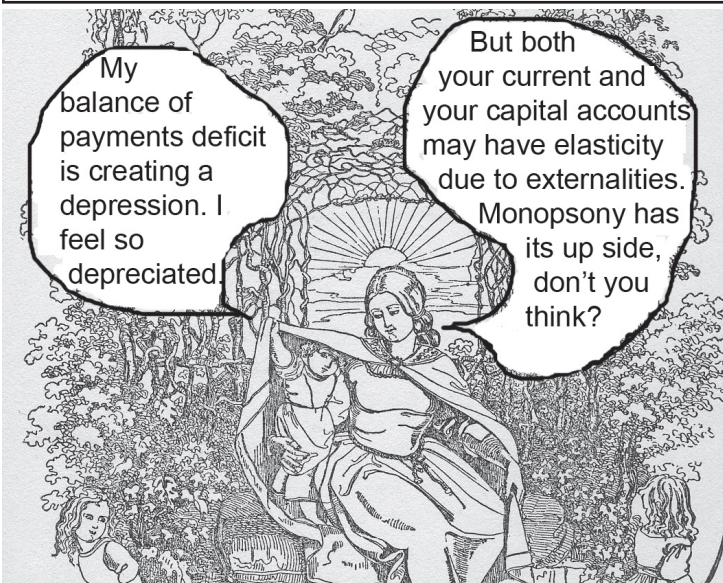
for us."

"Don't look for us on the State Capitol lawn," chuckled another tent city resident. "Don't look for us in Arnold's moking tent."

* * * * *



We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



IN GENTLER TIMES arcane economic jargon was safe to use in everyday situations between ordinary people.

THESE DAYS people familiar with economic argot may sound intelligent but rarely communicate well.

Tedious Citizens Rally for Academic Freedom

“CITRIS: Where Research Is Bent to Suit the Marketplace” Project Stirs Protest

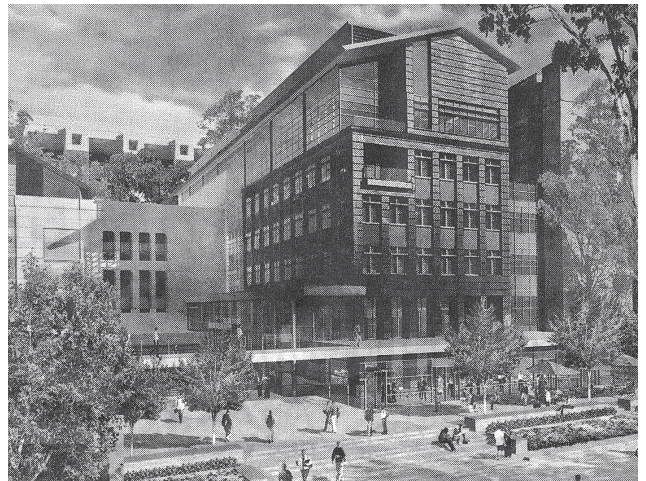
By Kathy Athing

Tired of waiting for the State of California to stop its customary decimation of the budget for higher education, the University of California dusted off yet another partnership with industry recently with the usual reassurances that there will be no industry pressure placed on the research within its industry-built walls.

“This is the kind of visionary collaboration that has made California a world-leader for decades,” crooned Paul Wright, director of the University of California Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society. “The fact that we were willing to strain so hard to create this ridiculous acronym proves we are willing to do just about anything.”

Wright’s optimism is even more impressive in the light of a recent California Air Resources Board (CARB) proposal that would require any evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions produced by biofuels to include indirect land use changes that occur when demand for fuel crops drives up prices, affecting the balance of food crops to crops grown for fuel.

Wright admitted that the CARB was throwing a wrench in the new Joint BioEnergy Institute’s future, currently clouded by the financial troubles of its partner, Pacific Ethanol, which has had to revisit its loan agreements with lend-



THE USUAL UNCTUOUS artist’s rendering is even more overboard of the new “Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society”, or CITRIS, which will put the cherry on top of industry domination of academic research on the UC campus.

ers and close three plants.

“That’s why we’re on campus,” smiled Wright. “Nothing we do really has to make practical sense. We’re turning cell phones into microscopes to cure malaria. And both of those things have a really big future.”

* * * * *

Next Issue: Stuttering with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



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...

Hardly available anywhere; mailed to your door for a modest bribe. Plagiarize wildly and send money.
* Romeo and Juliet

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.