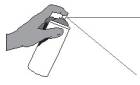


...the double
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Hepper Spray Times

August 2005



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



It's couthie, ...it's free...if you can find it

"For some must watch while some must sleep..."

Vol. VII No. 8

Liberals Launch Crownofthorns.com

by Farrah Sessment

The religious left gathered in Berkeley recently to participate in an effort to connect liberal politics with religion, an effort which for some people required gloves, a ten foot pole, and left a stale wafer taste in a few mouths.

The four-day conference in Pauley Ballroom on the UC campus was sold out, in what one local paper called "a promising sign that liberals are waking up to the need to address the role religion plays in the lives of millions of Americans."

"I'm sure they meant the wafer, not the roll," commented one participant. "The inclusive nature of the language at events like this shouldn't disguise the fact that there is but one true faith, and that everybody else is unfortunately going to hell."

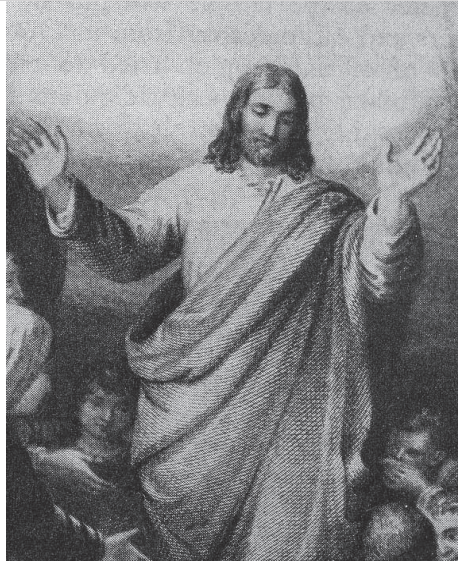
Progressives hastened to gloss over the necessity of embracing bigots, idiots, and self-identified moralists who support war, moving from workshop to workshop practising genuflection, circumcision, sexual repression, creation mythology, and easy ways to subvert the local school board.

"We had no problem," stated a representative from one northern county in Wisconsin. "As educated as our school board representatives were, they fell for 'intelligent design' like all the rest of them. If we'd written a textbook *before* our campaign we'd be rich by now."

Supporters of a bridge between progressives and religious groups emphasized that their efforts need to be nuanced so as not to be mistaken for a "self-interested attempt to pander to religious voters for political gain," as critics characterized the effort.

"We have to look sincere," stated one progressive. "We have to be able to acknowledge the moral component of abortion."

Critics charged that there is no moral component of abortion, or of any other medical procedure, and that if the



JESUS ATTENDED the conference, but left after a couple of hours to go bowling with friends, saying the room was too full of opportunists and shells.

liberal left can't stand up for science, the separation of church and state, and ordinary privacy rights, it ought to go shoot itself.

"These 'progressives' would rather ass-kiss a bunch of wingnuts than educate them," grouched one local elbowing his way through a sea of religious fliers. "I don't know why I'm surprised. All their kids are in private schools, so why should they care?"

Progressives admitted that some of the four-day effort to buddy up to religion had been difficult.

"That virgin birth thing, that's a tough one for me," acknowledged one local political strategist. "Life after death I kind of want to go with, but the virgin birth thing seems a little wacky first thing in the morning. It's easier in the afternoon."

"For me it's the thing about the Bible being literally true," whispered another. "I'm giving it my all, but it's tough."

Critics scoffed that the progressives might as well work on believing the literal truth of fairy tales, or the latest Harry Potter.

"We can do that, too," stated one conference participant. "After the Bible, Harry Potter will be a piece of cake."

* * * * *

Sucky Sculpture Gets Booted Again

by Ira Peet

The committee working to find a site for the massive, round memorial to the late David Brower commissioned by clueless rich people came up empty again when Ohlone Park neighbors gave the sculpture the boot.

The sculpture's quest for an actual location is now measured in years. San Francisco, the intended recipient of the 350,000 pound blue orb, declined the gift with delicate but pointed remarks about how sucky it was.

"Berkeley is more tolerant," explained David Snippen of his insistence on placing San Francisco's reject somewhere within the city limits. "It maybe ugly, it may be an affront to both environmentalism and to Brower's memory, but hell, it's free."

Critics pointed out that Berkeley's tolerance must have its limits, since the sculpture has now been booted from San Francisco, the Berkeley Marina, Ohlone Park, and the neighbors of Cedar Rose Park have made it clear that they won't tolerate it, either.

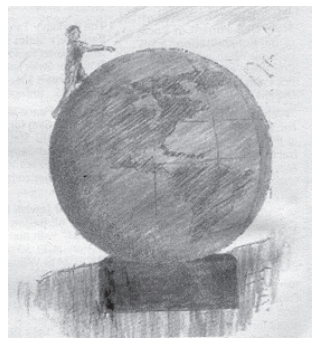
Supporters of the big, round, blue thing point out that the sculpture's journey has improved it along the way. The nearly life-size figure of Brower designed to kneel on top of the globe has now been eliminated, and the compromise design proposing a figure resembling Brower sitting on a bench nearby has been bounced as well.

"It's a start," agreed one Cedar Rose Park neighbor. "Now just eliminate the rest of it and we'll have a plan."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, should American workers just get used to having their pensions evaporate at some point for the good of corporate business' bottom line? Doesn't this seem unfair?

Dear Reader: Americans are prepared for the disappearance of their benefits at an early age by the use of "now you see it, now you don't" games like Hide-and-Go-Seek and Easter egg hunts. They're also prepared to beg door to door by childhood exercises like trick-or-treating and Girl Scout cookie sales, skills which will come in handy in their golden years. The American worker needs to realize that he or she is expendable, unlike bloated advertising budgets and salaries for CEOs. Fairness is for sissies.

Dear Lena, why would they design traffic circles that direct cars straight into dedicated bike lanes? Couldn't somebody figure out that that would be a bad idea?

Dear Reader: Experts agree that this was completely unintentional, and that the traffic circles are primitive entities which emanate a soft but hostile energy, and which are slowly growing in all directions. Nearby residents will soon find the circles enveloping their yards and nipping off their birdbaths, and are well advised to placate the circles with small, thoughtful gifts of baked goods and money.

Dear Lena, what would a Department of Peace actually do?

Dear Reader, since presumably the staff of a Department of Peace would have no actual experience in war, they would need a raft of highly paid consultants from all branches of the military to advise them. Either that or they would need to enlist.

BERKELEY NEEDS DEPARTMENT OF WAR

Serious Conflict Over Department of Peace Could Become Deadly

by Renata Milk

The controversy over whether or not Berkeley should have a Department of Peace has dramatically clarified the need for a local Department of War.

Peace and Justice Commissioner Jonathan Wornick's opposition to having a Department of Peace has started an avalanche of name calling, finger-pointing, procedure twisting, misquoting, and personal attack.

"It hasn't gotten violent yet," commented one city staffer, "but we're pretty concerned. When commissioners and ex-commissioners start warbling about process you know it's time to get under your desk."

The conflict, which has spread to the City Council, may be difficult to contain because Berkeley residents in



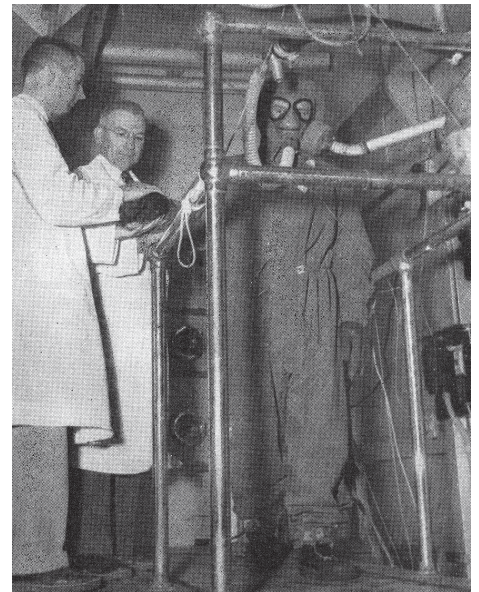
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE personnel would probably be really bad at peeling potatoes.

particular love to fight about peace.

"We've been doing this for years," shouted one former commissioner waving a letter from Senator Diane Feinstein in the air. "Anybody who disagrees with me should be replaced with somebody who agrees with me."

Military experts have concluded that proponents of a Department of Peace would probably lose their battle without the assistance of a well-equipped Department of War.

"These people are well meaning, but strategically impaired," commented



MILITARY EXPERTS agree that until Berkeley has a Department of War, commissioners who express modest disagreement might be best off wearing protective gear.

one expert on past commission conflicts. "We can't afford enough kevlar to keep them safe, and there's no rational exit strategy on the horizon. Simply put, they lack intelligence and they need protection."

Local residents acknowledged that the Department of Peace proponents' war could take years to resolve, and have begun petitioning for United Nations intervention before the conflict gets any more heated.

Shocked observers commented that demanding the replacement of commissioners who expressed dissent was hardly the best first step for peace proponents, but were dismissed.

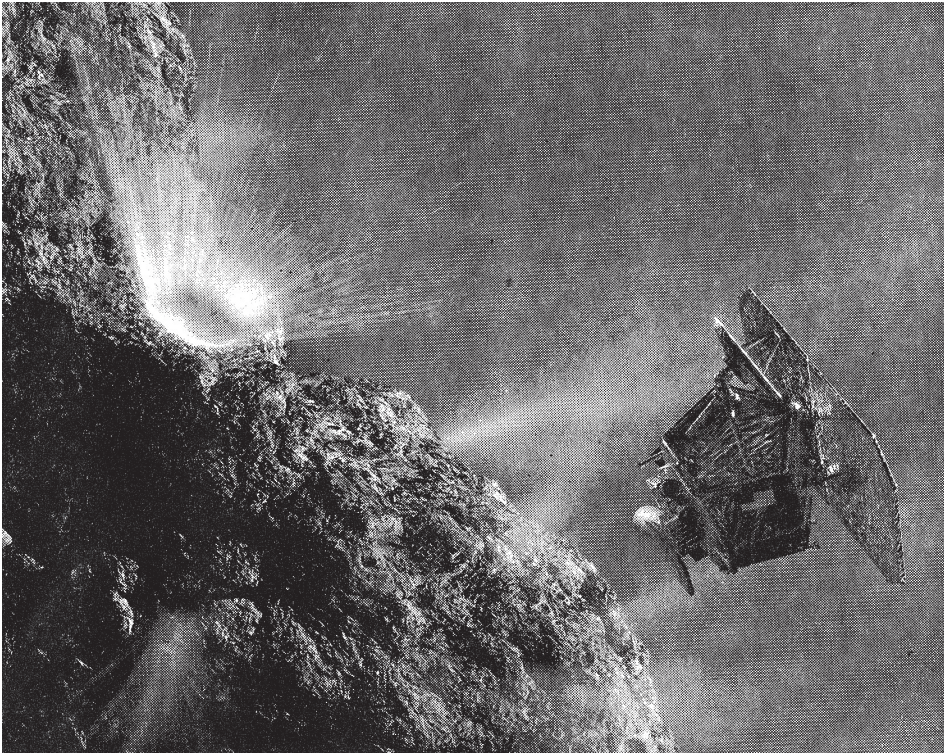
"This is a hallowed tradition in Berkeley," acknowledged an expert on commission warfare. "It is so common that we're actually not certain what would happen if honest dialogue between opposing views were allowed. We just want to make sure that if it ever does happen the exits are clear and everybody is wearing the latest in protective clothing."

* * * * *

PLANNER HAZARD ZONE



IN CASE OF PLANNERS, GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND



NASA MAY NEED ANGER MANAGEMENT to figure out why it would gratuitously clock a wandering comet harmlessly orbiting nearby.

NASA LASHES OUT, CLOCKS COMET

by Manny Taburn

NASA scientists admitted recently that they were responsible for an act of gratuitous violence against a comet wandering harmlessly through the galaxy, violence which critics worry might create a backlash by other comets.

The mission, dubbed Deep Impact, blasted a crater of unknown size in the helpless comet, which immediately began outgassing volatiles experts say might go on for weeks.

"We've touched the comet, and we've touched it hard," planetary geologist Peter Schultz of Brown University was heard to comment about the impact of the brazen, copper-clad attack spacecraft, which scientists admitted fired its own thrusters three times until it was precisely in the path of the randomly selected comet.

Critics observed that Deep Impact's scientists had no clear goals and no exit strategy, bashing into the comet at an estimated 23,000 mph for no discernable reason save a vague desire to demonstrate that it was "something we could do" and that "may bare clues" about Earth.

"The collision may 'bare clues' about

Earth, I suppose," mused one skeptic. "The scientists can amuse themselves with all kinds of speculations with the photographs they took of the comet's wounds. But assuming that others in the universe are also documenting this event, they would certainly be entitled to an assumption that this was an unprovoked act of aggression with no discernable purpose. I'm not sure that's the message we want to display."

"Sure it is," countered one NASA scientist. "Nobody's going to mess with us after we engineered a crash that released the energy of 4.5 tons of TNT. We are da bomb."

"Let's sure hope it 'bares clues' about something," suggested one taxpayer about the billion-dollar celestial drive-by shooting. "Let's hope it wasn't just a bunch of frustrated NASA scientists trying to justify a budget that throws safety to the winds and produces nothing but failures. It's hard to fail if your goal is just to hit the broad side of a barn. Thank heavens they hit that sucker or they'd be corking potholes in Kansas."

* * * * *



RICH PEOPLE have lots of room on their property for parks and affordable housing, but somehow aren't worried about Kelo vs. City of New London.

POOR WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR GOVERNMENT TO BULLDOZE IDLE, POORLY UTILIZED PROPERTY OF RICH

by Ray Vinloonie

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on the case of Kelo vs. City of New London has the poor waiting in anxious anticipation for the obviously underutilized properties owned by rich people to be seized by eminent domain and put to use benefitting the entire community.

"Rich people are notably poor at density and infill when it comes to their own property," affirmed one local resident looking thoughtfully at a nearby ten acre parcel. "If planners really care about density they ought to start in the neighborhoods that have room for it. It doesn't make any sense for the rest of us to live without open space in tiny little units while rich people's property could house so many, and when their combined garden space would give our kids a safe place to play."

Critics argue that despite the theoretical possibilities of the recent Supreme Court ruling, governments will probably keep doing what they always do, using eminent domain to take poor people's property and give it to rich developers, who will in turn create lucrative playgrounds for the rich.

"Berkeley's politicians are different," insisted one local resident as he arranged his belongings under the University Avenue overpass. "They know this law could be used to turn the large, near-empty estates in Berkeley into homeless shelters, SROs and clinics. I'm hoping for a quiet place on north-side. I'm counting on them to do the right thing."

* * * * *

PAYOLA IN PERIL

Recording Industry Executives Under Vicious Attack

by Obediah Dooryah



Record company executives came to an agreement recently with New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer after having been accused of currying favor with radio station programmers by showering them with gifts in exchange for playing crap.

"This is not a pretty picture," said Spitzer, of the email messages and corporate documents which paint a portrait of a music industry driven by bribery, fraud, and a complete absence of talent.

"He's absolutely right," admitted an executive at Sony BMG Music Entertainment. "The ten million dollar fine may mean nothing to us compared to the obscene profits we reap at the expense of honest artists and any possibility of community culture, but it's the principle of the thing."

"Yes, the principle," agreed an Epic Records public relations manager. "We have no idea what an honest music industry would look like, but we do appreciate getting out of a jam for pocket change."

Critics argued that the settlement does nothing to change the basic para-

digm of an industry which incorporated mass corruption along with its mission to sell to mass markets as part of the ordinary course of promotion.

"It's actually worse than that," agreed one radio executive. "I used to get real money for playing the flavor of the month, and now we get stupid Playstation 2 consoles and plasma tv

screens. It's embarrassing."

"I long for the days when programmers wouldn't sell out for less than a couple grand," sighed another. "I don't mind taking my girlfriend to Vegas on Clear Channel's dime, but we have to listen to old Winterland tapes all the way there or we'd go crazy."

* * * * *

Judge, Jury

& Electrocutioner

To date more than 100 citizens have died after being tasered.

Ban Tasers

The Coalition for Justice and Accountability 408-287-9710 (5/9/05)

This poster is a art/law collaboration between poster maker Doug Minkler and attorney, Aram James.
For information contact: Aram James, ABJPD1@juno.com

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* Hamlet