

All hail the...

...the thrilling, full-bodied issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

February 2008



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

"...the beachy girdle of the ocean..."*

Vol. X No. 2

UC'S ARTISTIC RING CYCLE MISUNDERSTOOD BY HOPELESSLY IGNORANT CITY OFFICIALS

PROJECT FOR THREE, POSSIBLY MORE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF CHICKENWIRE GIVEN UNCEREMONIOUS BOOT

By Ruth Stercrows

The City of Berkeley refused to allow a third concentric ring of chicken-wire fence topped with barbed wire to be built around the oak grove treesit-



UC spokesperson, dressed as Siegfried, tries to reason with weird city official.

ters, throwing the University of California arts calendar into disarray.

"We're not sure what the objection is," stated Dan Mogulof, executive director of the university's Office of Public Affairs. "They didn't object to the first ring, which received

powerful critical acclaim."

"We thought they loved the second ring, too," mused a UC police officer tightening his Brunnhilde costume. "But we do realize it takes a very sophisticated artistic background to appreciate what we're doing."

"What are they doing?" asked one passer-by squinting at the metal barbed wire fences covered with decorations and signs supporting the tree-sitters. "Is this to keep them in the trees, or what? How many fences do they need?"

Experts theorize that the three circles proposed by UC are not Borromean links, as supposed by some, but rather indicate an evolution loosely based on the circles of hell in Dante's "Inferno."

"You'll notice that the souls in the second circle of hell are blown about



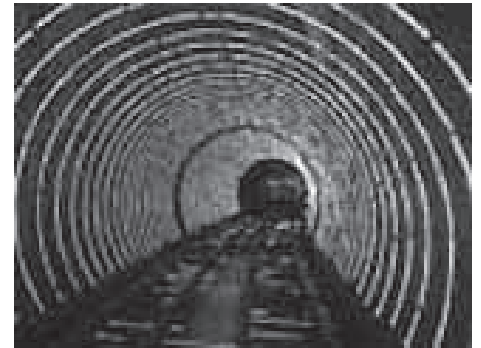
UC Police try in vain to get reluctant treesitters to join the opera using stage props and pepper spray.

by a violent storm," pointed out one expert on the symbolism of UC's stadium issue. "That clearly represents the treesitters. The third circle, if built, would also include heavy, steady rain, hail and snow, a monotonous, never ending effort to weaken the souls. We suspect this was the third fence's purpose, because we noticed that UC was auditioning for the three-headed dog."

Neighbors to the tree-sit conflict are confused about the proposed third fence, without which no one is sure the conflict will progress to the fourth circle of hell, in which those whose concern for material goods are finally punished.

"The lower parts of hell are surrounded by the Stygian marsh, which still has some wildlife and is quiet lovely," admitted one neighbor. "We don't really want the City of Berkeley to stop UC's evolution, if that's what it really is. We're just running out of room."

* * * * *



MAYOR TOM BATES insists that there is a light and a lot of federal funds at the end of this green corridor.

GREEN CORRIDOR OBJECTIONS DISMISSED

City Attorney Soothes Public: "Plan non-binding, essentially meaningless"

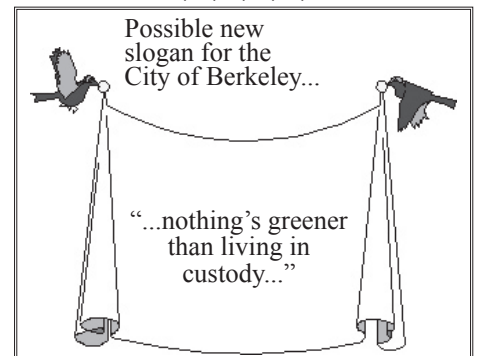
By Walt Camefirst

The starring role played by one of three East Bay mayors came under fire by Berkeley Councilmember Kriss Worthington, who claimed that as a "ceremonial figurehead" Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates had no right to sign the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership, a nebulous effort to pry federal money out of Washington.

Acting City Attorney Zach Cowan defended Bates' action, patiently explaining that the meaningless partnership was perfectly designed for anointment by a pointless, powerless ceremonial figurehead.

"Just like cream and coffee," stated Cowan confidently. "Just like stun guns and pepper spray."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I'm told where I live is suddenly a "green corridor", and wondering if this affects my wardrobe. Can you help?

Dear reader, yes, I'm glad you checked before you offended the neighborhood. Spring floral prints and pastels will have new resonance with this background, and certain shades of orange will look simply stunning. Try to help your neighbors if they make the mistake of venturing out in puce.

Dear Lena, if the protestors get a parking space in front of the recruitment center downtown, shouldn't the Marines get one, too? Wouldn't that be more fair?

Dear reader, yes, I believe that would be more fair. I don't believe the recruitment center requested a parking space, having very little experience in making humble requests. But they should not neglect to make a similar request of the Berkeley City Council. I would advise them to be fully armed when they do.

Dear Lena, I have a friend in Fresno who says he can't find the new open space that's supposed to show up as we build all this density infill. Where is it hiding?

Dear reader, open space is shy, and tends to spend a lot of time reading. Tell your friend to check at the local library, or the zoo. Open space won't just eat out of your hand, but if you throw a crab feast it will bring its own bib.

Ask Lena. She knows more than she thinks you know she does, especially, you know, when you know she's at cdenney@igc.org.

IRATE SF ZOO RESIDENTS

DEMAND DEMOCRACY

Bush Advisors Contemplate Zoo Surge

By Delores Myshepherd

The one remaining zebra at the San Francisco Zoo pounded her podium at a recent press conference, demanding accountability and an internal investigation in the deaths of a zebra, a waxy tree frog, a tiger, and a zoo patron, claiming the time has come to democratize the zoo for safety's sake.

"The zoo patrons are as much at risk as the permanent residents," she stated emphatically. "We've watched them for years snacking on candy, buttery popcorn, and high fructose beverages. Every year they get fatter and slower, and nobody seems to care. Some of us are predators, and we're not stupid."

"It's true," commented the penguins. "The media makes a big issue of the

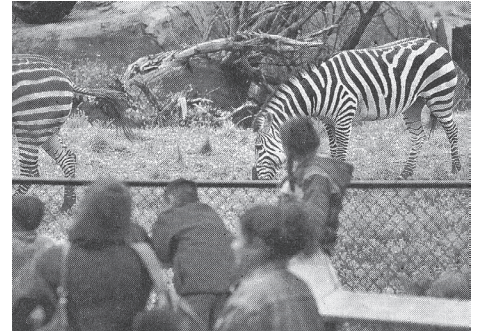


MOST SF ZOO inhabitants can escape anytime they want to, according to their spokesanimal, but find housing prices too high outside the zoo perimeter, so there is no real danger to the public.

the members of which are clearly not getting good nutrition and exercise."

The remaining zebra and a group of relatives of the waxy tree frog have formed a committee to look into democratizing the zoo, pointing out that they could hardly do a worse job than current zoo management, most of whom declined comment.

Lora LaMarca, a zoo spokesperson,



ZEBRAS COMMIT SUICIDE all the time according to zoo officials, who consider them to be just a bunch of showoffs.

said the zebra death was unremarkable, and that democratizing the zoo would be a bad plan.

"The reptiles are good accountants," she conceded, "but they take forever to respond to email, and they are never on time. Democratization sounds good, but it isn't as easy as it looks. Just look at Iraq."

* * * * *



THESE MISGUIDED PROTESTORS can't seem to understand that the war in Iraq is the best thing for the economy, or national morale, or international relations, or whatever excuse comes next.



DEVELOPERS CAN NOW TAKE ALL THE OPEN SPACE out of this development and put it to better use, like expanding commercial business opportunities for entrepreneurs who really thrive on pedestrian rooftop traffic.



Top Ten Reasons Why the EPA Won't Explain Why It Rejected California's Greenhouse Gas Regulations

- *. Can't pronounce them.
- *. Saying nothing at all is free speech, too.
 - *. Feeling a little shy.
- *. Thought "internal deliberations" meant surgery required, and the OR is booked until 2009.
- *. Thought Boxer just wanted to party since after all she's kind of hot.
- *. Resolved to be more private in 2008.
 - *. Can't decide on the right font.
- *. Just needed some space, and thought Californians would get that.
- *. Thought the greenhouse gas regulations were badly written, but didn't want to hurt anybody's feelings, and can't find David Mamet's phone number.
 - *. Mouth is full of crow.



OPEN SPACE DISCOVERED ON CONDO CEILINGS OPENS UP NEW PROFITS FOR DEVELOPERS

By Eva Lution

"I don't know why we didn't think of this before," chuckled one of Berkeley's local developers as his architects busily redesigned condos to reflect a new policy which allows ceiling square footage to count as open space.

"It's not really that different from the old policy," stated a staff member from the Berkeley Planning Department. "We allow them to count the top of the roofs as open space, and the little fake balconies as open space. We were crazy not to think of counting the ceiling, too."

Critics argued that the ceilings were unusable as open space, but were dismissed by architects, developers, and Berkeley city staff.

"The open space on the roof tops is unusable, too, but that doesn't stop us

from counting it. The balconies aren't really usable, either, unless you're a very small, very lightweight potted plant."

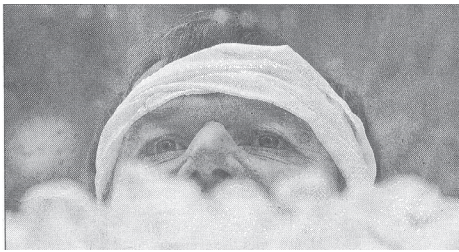
City staff from the planning department added that with proper playground equipment, the ceilings of condominiums could easily provide recreational opportunities for condominium residents.

"With a set of rings or monkey bars, residents wouldn't have to venture outside at all for their open space needs," offered one staff member. "I would suggest, especially with strategically placed accessibility handlebars, that this new set of condo owners will be able to beat the tar out of the old set."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast





STANDING AROUND IN ICE to impress your god and get closer to him or her can really backfire if your god has any common sense.

TANTRIC GOD REJECTS REALLY STUPID WORSHIPER

By Fredo D. Dark

Seventy-two record-breaking minutes standing completely engulfed in ice may have won a New York man from the Netherlands a new world record, but it also may have cost him his deity's respect.



DANCING IN TUTUS is a form of worship with not only more practical application than standing around in ice, but also with much less likelihood of disgusting your deity.

"I admire the guy's determination and discipline," stated the deity. "But this is the second time he's stood around in a pile of ice. I mean, come on."

The man, Wim Hof, is part of a five-month series of events taking place in New York City called BRAIN-WAVE, events ostensibly designed to explore how art, music, and meditation



affect the brain. Tantric practice is an Eastern meditation tradition claimed to have spiritual effects on practitioners, who sometimes can control their body temperature and even, with the right software, change their SATs.

"It's becoming obvious how cold affects the brain, anyway," observed the disgusted deity. "I keep telling the guy to forget about the ice and teach some

kid to read. At least that's something worth doing. But this cat can't hear a word I say. I hate to upset someone who's trying so hard, but I just can't afford to be seen with him."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Burping with Celebrities

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



Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Roger Dondis
Staff.....Ruth Stercrows, Walt Camefirst,
Lena Deeter, Dolores Myshepherd, Eva Lution,
Franz Toast, Fredo D. Dark

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.

*Henry IV Part 2