

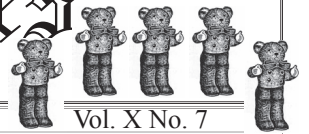
All hail the...

...the extraordinary rendition issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

July 2008



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

"..though he be merry, yet withal he's honest."*

Vol. X No. 7

VACATIONING LOCALLY TAKES OFF: City Councils Start Selling Popcorn

By Carson DeRoad

Local residents looking for entertainment nearby are finding that Oakland and Berkeley city council meetings provide great entertainment value.

"We can't afford Six Flags or Disneyland," stated one mother pushing a stroller. "The council meetings are free, and while not necessarily informative, they are always a hoot."

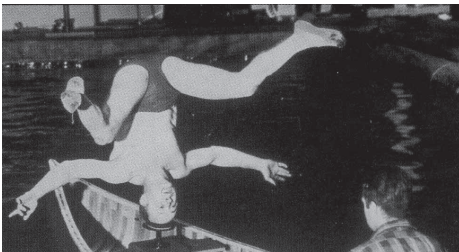


CITY ATTORNEYS are a beloved favorite as they try to balance competing ordinances and reconcile warring jurisdictions with creative interpretations of law.

Experts agreed that no finer entertainment exists than reruns of the Berkeley City Council's handling of the Marine recruitment issue, which not only remain popular on YouTube but which still are a nationwide embarrassment exploited by various political efforts.

Others expressed admiration for Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates' deft manipulation of the public comment period.

"We like the way public comment comes and goes, the way it disappears and then has all these requirements. It really amuses the children," stated one father of three buying popcorn for his kids in the intimate public gallery of the Berkeley City Council chambers.



THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT often takes center stage at council meetings in both Oakland and Berkeley, admired for their extraordinary flexibility and willingness to cheerfully tolerate the company of developers.



ONLOOKERS MARVELED as one city council representative found yet another exotic way to interpret the "cultural space" required of housing developers.

Most observers agreed that the best moments are the legal interpretations of various ordinances and state requirements, the best of which are being assembled into a DVD collection.

"We think it might make some real money," whispered one City Hall staff member on condition of anonymity. "Reality shows are very popular right now, and while lots of governmental bodies broadcast their meetings these days, I think it is safe to suggest that we at Berkeley City Hall are comedically unique."

Media mavens chart the extraordinary popularity of the Berkeley City Council's gaffes and bloopers, agreeing that the fundraising opportunities are yet to be fully exploited.

"They're gold and they don't know it," chuckled one media expert watching a recent meeting on video. "They're going to give Cirque Du Soleil a run for their money."

* * * * *

Berkeley School Board Hates Camera Angle: Tries to Boot Out Community Media

By Cora D. Apple

"I told them - only my right profile," fumed one school board member disgustedly in response to questions about the possible loss of studio space for Berkeley Community Media. "I know they depend on a lot of volunteer labor, but this should be a priority."

Community members met in the threatened studio space on the Berkeley High campus to examine a series of letters which attempt to pull the plug on community use of the studio.

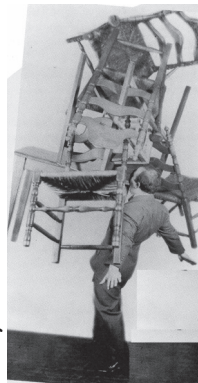
"We're sorry about her profile, too," stated one volunteer camera technician. "We work on not only a limited budget, but one that seems to shrink even more every year."

Experts agreed that part of the difficulty may be that the studio is not currently configured the same way a traditional classroom is configured, so that the school board has difficulty appreciating that it functions as a classroom already for both the high school and the community.

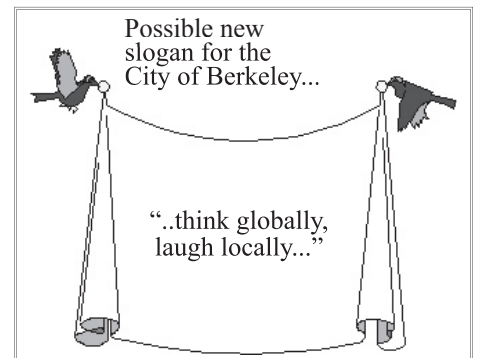
Newly arrived Executive Director David Joliffe expressed hope that the school board could be reached.

"We can focus on their left profile," he mused. "And dress up the bulletin boards with little pilgrims and turkeys in the fall like a traditional classroom. I'm working on it."

* * * * *



AUDIENCE MEMBERS can now compete for comedic honors during the now-you-see-it, now-you-don't public comment period.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I don't get cable; why should I support Berkeley Community Media?

Dear reader, it's true that you are unable to enjoy a wide variety of creative and educational programs which keep you informed about community events and local artistic and educational efforts. On the other hand, you probably see very little of the Berkeley City Council at work, which leaves you with the impression that they are intelligent, hard-working, civic servants with your best interests at heart. Try to be grateful.

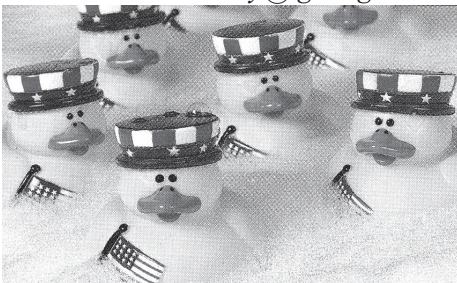
Dear Lena, if there's water on Mars, do I have to go? I just planted winter squash and radishes.

Dear reader, what a selfish attitude. The scientific world is going to remember you when they've poisoned this world and Mars is all we've got. They might still give you a ticket on the rocket, but you'll have to sit by the bathroom and listen to people vomit the whole trip.

Dear Lena, I'm tired of the election. Can I just read a book for awhile?

Dear reader, our next issue will have a cap and trade program for political exposure.

Ask Lena for pool toys and large plastic noodles at cdenney@igc.org.



THE MILITARY is pleased with the latest crop of new recruits, which are helping fill out the thinning ranks of the volunteers for war duty.



THESE NUTJOBS must not realize that the clothes one gets from a freebox are probably inappropriate or toxic or foster dependence or worse, create litter if dropped on the ground. Freeboxes are everywhere in Berkeley, Oakland, and Albany but must be stopped before they march on Washington and cost a lot of police overtime.

People's Park Community Advisory Board Loses Mind, Votes to Restore Freebox

By Sheila Dooryah

A majority of the University of California-appointed advisory board for People's Park inexplicably voted to restore the freebox, which unimpeachable sources agree was the primary source of weapons of mass destruction to Saddam Hussein, and was probably primarily responsible for the recent embarrassment over the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

UC spokespersons agreed that the WMD connection to the freebox should have encouraged a more cautious approach, considering its long history of responsibility for all of the problems on the southside of campus, the west side of the Mississippi, and the dark side of the moon.

"We're kind of preoccupied with the treesitters right now," stated one spokesperson. "We admit we kind of took our eye off the ball."

Seismic waves emanating from the meeting registered 5.7 on the Richter magnitude scale, causing passersby to don protective clothing as they passed near the church where the meeting was held. Only a handful of people wit-

nessed the amazing vote, due to a sign posted near the entrance which stated, "DO NOT PASS BY THIS POINT."

UC spokespersons insisted that the board was not operating with all its marbles the evening of June 2nd, and that the freebox vote was highly influenced by some planet in retrograde which nobody believed in but ought to be factored in to any allegedly record of what took place, at least what allegedly may have taken place until a creative use of the opportunity to revise the minutes has a chance to take effect.

"I'm not even writing it down," muttered Irene Hegarty of the UC Community Affairs office.

The vote may have been influenced by the recent exit of the board's hard-liners, frustrated by UC's unwillingness to simply pave the park, but observers were counseled not to expect too much independence from the remaining board members, who, at UC staff's suggestion, agreed to cancel the next two meetings.

* * * * *



From:
The Pepper Spray
Times Editorial and
Features Depart-
ment

To:
Equity Residential
Attn: Cindy O'Hara
Two North River-
side Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606

PROJECT INFORMATION

2561 Shattuck Avenue
Use Permit Modification Application to allow
retail/office uses in space previously approved
for theater space.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:
Equity Residential
Attn: Cindy O'Hara
Two North Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2609

THE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE annoying actors and pesky theaters is quietly moving forward with the assistance of local politicians and planners.

Dear Ms O'Hara,

I am writing to inquire about leasing the office space advertised at 2561 Shattuck Ave in Berkeley, California, for the Pepper Spray Times to be used by our editorial and features department and would like some clarification about the site.

Your project information notice describes 2561 Shattuck Ave as "...previously approved for theater space."

If a Zoning variance is required I can testify on your behalf to the need for office space previously approved for theater. Though there is no shortage of office space previously approved for theater in downtown Berkeley, such facilities are highly valued for overcoming the debilitating height restriction challenges driving so much business to other cities.

By leasing office space previously approved for theater to the Pepper Spray Times, Equity Residential can show how a commitment to theater and the arts can be a wise business investment

regardless of its impact on the theater community. The health of downtown Berkeley's business community depends on a plentiful supply of office space previously approved for theater and the office workers served in the inappropriately tall buildings that make it all possible.

Thank you for providing prime retail commercial and office space previously approved for theater in Berkeley's downtown arts district.

Our staff looks forward to moving in to 2561 Shattuck Ave and "acting out" inappropriately on casual Fridays. That's the kind of theater we really like.

Respectfully,

Grace Undepressure, Editor
Pepper Spray Times

P.S. We would love an autographed picture.

POOL TOYS DISCOVERED ON MARS: RELIEVED CREW LEAPS FOR JOY

By Celia Suitcase

"Thank god we can justify this stupid project," stated a relieved NASA scientist after the Phoenix Mission cameras picked up clear evidence of a beach party on Mars.

"The beachball was the key," stated Ed Weiler, NASA's science chief. "The plastic noodles and duckie toys only confirm the obvious."

"It's perfect," said Barry Goldstein, the Phoenix project manager as the ground crew tossed volleyballs across the control room, embraced, pounded each other on the back, and started chasing the administrative staff down the hallways.

NASA has had to focus press coverage narrowly on the accuracy of the spacecraft landing in an effort to distract attention from the lunacy of spending billions trying to document evidence of life on Mars, evidence that there used to be life on Mars, or evidence that there used to be life on Mars until some really wild beach party got out of hand.

"This has plenty of practical application on earth," said Goldstein. "Beach parties can be dangerous, and we could save some lives."

* * * * *



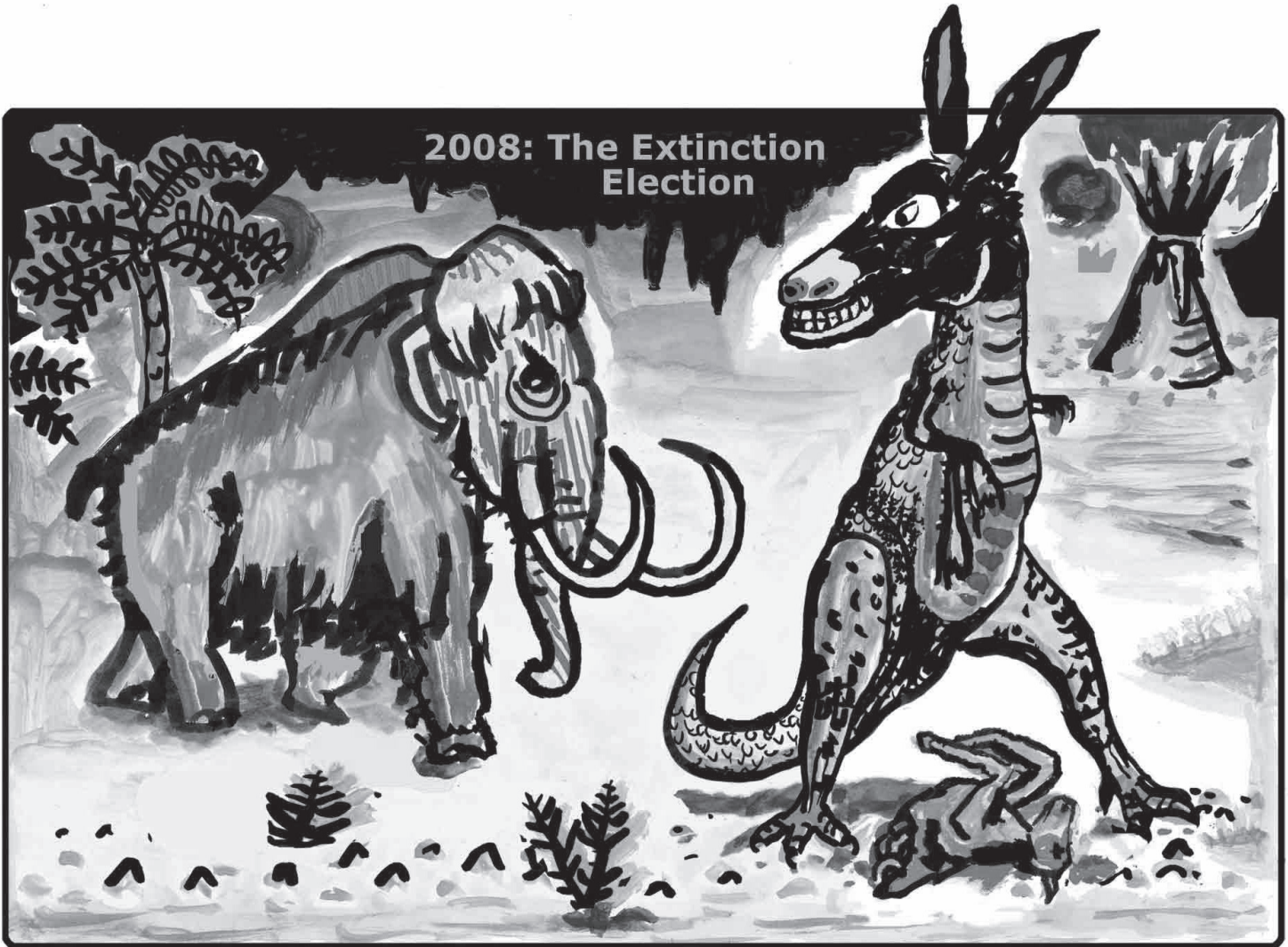
THE GROUND CREW can look forward to playing Marco Polo and cannonball on Mars this summer.

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

So it's agreed? Yes, honey, I think it's time.

You're sure? Yes, that stimulus check should be spent on something special.

Okay, then! This is exciting! Yes, let's put some gas in the car.



2008: The Extinction Election



Both archaic parties put life on the planet in peril. Whether you vote Democrat or Republican, you will get life-threatening nuclear weapons development, biological bomb labs, worldwide arms sales, an imperial military with over seven hundred foreign bases, preemptive strike diplomacy, endless wars, declining civil liberties, disappearing health care and homelessness.

Next Issue: Sheep Shearing 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.....Don D. Ferrera
 Staff.....Carson DeRoad, Cora D. Apple,
 Lena Deeter, Sheila Dooryah, Franz Toast,
 Celia Suitcase, Doug Minkler



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.

*The Taming of the Shrew