

All hail the...

...the corporate funded issue...

Hepper Spray Times

June 2007



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

"..will you take eggs for money?.."*

Vol. IX No. 6

Park Activists Incomprehensible, Say Consultants

By Ted Duck

The consultant group hired to translate the community's public opinions regarding People's Park threw up their hands in defeat after meeting with a group of park activists.

"What was that about?" stated one consultant mopping his brow and flicking away colorful shreds of tattered May Day dancers' rags which were fixed to his attire with morning dew.

"Are they joking?" responded another consultant swinging wildly at poetry-pasted fish dangling from the light fixtures, the significance of which has yet to be determined.

"Are we out of money yet?" cried out another consultant trapped behind a large protest sign referencing UC corruption brought by a contingent of people with cooking implements.

University of California staff required to take action minutes of the meetings admitted they had no idea what had been said and had given up trying to describe it accurately.

"We assume it is some kind of insult in their special language," stated UC Director of Community Affairs Irene Hegarty. "We've directed the police to attend all future meetings in case the cabbages reach a danger level."



THIS PEOPLE'S PARK ACTIVIST is typical of most and completely bewildered the Chancellor's hand-picked advisory board, the overpaid consultants, and the staff required to take notes on public comment by doing something inexplicable with an ironing board, a couple of cabbages, a hammer, and a frying pan. All the experts in the system-wide UC campus community have been unable to crack the code, and appeal for help translating whatever it was that allegedly occurred.

None of the park activists could come up with a coherent quote by press time regarding the university's plans for the park, which remain a well-kept secret.

Experts on the symbolism of cabbage cannot agree on its meaning, which in different cultures can mean luck, profit, or female genitalia. Cabbage was once a traditional Chinese New Year's dish, but these days Beijing residents prefer the flavour of other vegetables to the lowly cabbage, which was the usual winter dish for Chinese families during the years of the country's austere, centrally planned economy.

"We need more studies," concluded one of the consultants leaping wildly through reference texts. "After we nail the point of the cabbage we can figure out the ironing board."

* * * * *



THE LAPD's Morris team sported a new look this year which included new and creative uses of the traditional sticks.

LOCAL L.A. MORRIS TROUPE RUNS AMOK ON MAY DAY

By Vern Bar



Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton acted quickly to demote the officer in charge of the elite Metro Division, which attacked a peaceful rally on May Day under the guise of joining the festivities as Morris dancers.

"It's a May Day tradition," stated field commander Deputy Chief Caylor Carter Jr., regarding his squad of baton-wielding, rubber bullet shooting dancers. "Some Morris troupes use the traditional farm implements, some use plain wooden sticks, and some are known to use computer keyboards. We thought our traditional police equipment fit right in."

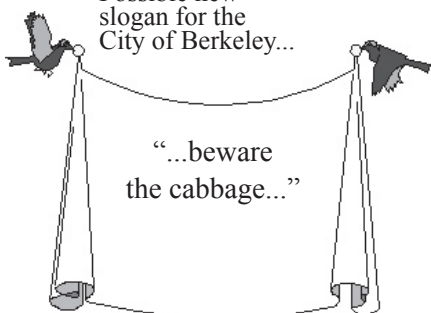
Local citizens and members of the press who were battered by the Metro Division officers protested that there was no excuse for attacking the peaceful gathering, and praised Chief Bratton for acting quickly to protect the public, in stark contrast to Berkeley Police Chief Doug Hambleton, whose officers are free to steal evidence, shake down suspects, and blow off the Police Review Commission.

"We have a different tradition here in Berkeley," stated Hambleton. "We think of ourselves as having a creative approach to supervision and policing. But we are not ruling out creating a Morris troupe of our own."

* * * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...beware the cabbage..."



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, which is more ridiculous, constantly redesigning People's Park or constantly redesigning the Bart Plaza?

Dear reader, buckle your seatbelts for the redesign of Strawberry Canyon, which will put a welcome end to those pesky mountain lions that run off with our pets.

Dear Lena, how can the Police Review Commission get the police to cooperate with interviews about misconduct?

Dear reader, by simply placing the interviewers and the interviewees in completely separate rooms. This way the obligations to the city charter will be honored, and the privacy of the officers will be completely protected.

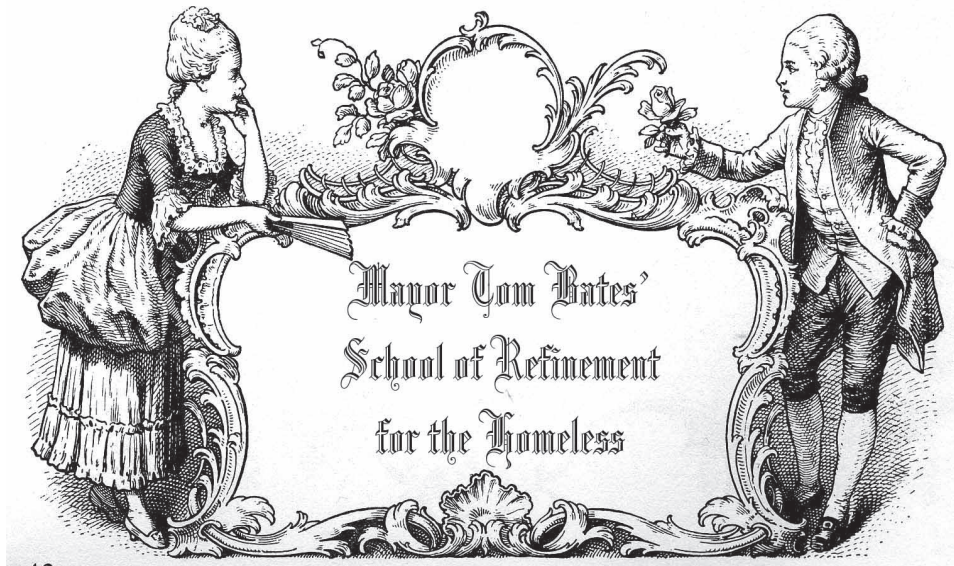
Dear Lena, what are you doing about global warming?

Dear reader, keeping very cool. I also recycle the news, along with the City of Berkeley and the University of California. You'll find the homeless sweeps and the uneasy deals with corporate sponsors have a soothing regularity.

Dear Lena, doesn't anything ever spiral into control? I never hear about spirals unless they're out of control. Couldn't somebody try it the other way?

Dear reader, spiraling into control is still being studied, and requires certain shoes. If you decide to try it, make sure you're with an experienced partner and not in the center of a hay.

Ask Lena anything! Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice. Contact her at cdenny@igc.org.



Victorian Etiquette - Etiquette When Shopping

In visiting a store for the purpose of examining the goods or making purchases, conduct yourself with courtesy and amiability.

Never look over goods without any intention of buying them.

Speak to the clerks and employees of the store with courtesy and kindness. Do not order them to show you anything. Request them to do so in a polite manner. In leaving their counter, say pleasantly "Good morning" or "Good Day".

Never take a costly piece of goods -- nor any piece -- into a better light without first asking the clerk's permission to do so. Victorian Shopping Area

Should you find another person examining a piece of goods, do not take hold of it. Wait until it is laid down, and then make your examination.

To attempt to "beat down" the price of an article is rude. In the best conducted stores the price of the

goods is "fixed", and the salesmen are not allowed to change it. If the price does not suit you, you are not obliged to buy, but can go elsewhere.

Pushing or crowding at a counter, or the indulgence in personal remarks, handling the goods in a careless manner, or so roughly as to injure them, lounging upon the counter, or talking in a loud voice, are marks of bad breeding.

Never let the door of a shop slam in the face of any person, nor permit a stranger to hold it open without any acknowledgement of courtesy.

Never express your opinion about an article another is purchasing, unless asked to do so.

You should never ask or expect a clerk waiting upon a customer to leave that person and attend to you. Wait patiently for your turn.

It is rude to make unfavorable comparisons between the goods you are examining, and those of another store.

Have your parcels sent and so avoid the fatigue of carrying them.



SOME PEOPLE JUST don't appreciate that some of us are too busy to take public transit and have lots of errands and need our privacy and stuff.

PUBLIC COMMENT BY WEALTHY WOMAN CENSORED

By Thomas Money

The University of California offered no explanation for unceremoniously deleting from the notes of the public comment period remarks made by a representative of the wealthy.

"She made a special trip to speak to their advisory board," stated a witness. "She was beautifully dressed, and she had some cogent points to make. It makes no sense that her comments were censored. Especially since her time is so much more valuable than the rest of ours."

Experts agreed that the university was not merely the sixth largest nuclear weapons contractor in the world, but also plays an important role governing public opinion, and as such deserved an opportunity to improve or eliminated entirely public comment it deemed unnecessary or irrelevant.

The Pepper Spray Times heartily agrees with this policy, and includes the wealthy woman's remarks so as to illustrate how unimportant they actually were:

(VERBATIM NOTES OF RICH LADY'S REMARKS)

"As a representative of the wealthiest men and women on earth, I wanted to request, ever so politely, a protective unit to be made available to wealthy people who enter the park similar to that which was so ably demonstrated by Senator John McCain during his recent visit to a Baghdad market. The 100-plus armed soldiers, the half-dozen humvees, the circling Blackhawk heli-



THIS RICH LADY'S suggestions for People's Park were deleted from the public record, in the rich tradition of censorship embraced for decades by the University of California.

copters and the Kevlar vest are the very least the consultant group (M.K. Think, or is it M. K. Mink) should provide to the stout-hearted pioneer rich who take their lives in their hands by actually entering the People's Park boundaries....

"I think I may also request that we be paid a modest fee for the provision of our invaluable services.

"I also would like to heartily recommend that the university invest heavily in volleyballs. The last \$100,000 plan

Pentagon tells 35,000 pre-schoolers to get ready for Iraq duty

By Noah Yerenemy

More than 35,000 pre-schoolers received notice they could be sent to Iraq this fall.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates defended the move, stating that the young soldiers were needed to help quell the violence in Baghdad.

"They know how to line up and they know how to pledge allegiance," he stated. "We can take it from there."

Critics argued that the students wouldn't fully understand the mission, and might have trouble driving or lifting heavy equipment, but were dismissed by military experts who pointed out that private companies were handling most of that.



THE QUEEN of England would not agree to accompany the children to Baghdad, but offered to donate a hat.

"We can't afford to lower our standards any further for adult recruits," commented one military expert. "These kids have spotless records."

* * * * *

for the park did bring much-needed volleyballs to the park, but to the great embarrassment of the university, the volleyball plan was ultimately unsuccessful. For the plan to succeed, the park need a much more serious investment in volleyballs, and needs that investment to be made much sooner, so that wealthy people, such as myself, can rely on a permanent volleyball presence in the park."

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We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



MOST BERKELEY CITIZENS are content to trust Mayor Tom Bates with issues like homelessness, but some local citizens are taking a unique approach to the issue in the interests of further expanding the already flexible definition of "green."

WOZNIAK, WORNICK STUMP FOR "WAR AND INTOLERANCE COMMISSION"

By Sharon DeWealth

Councilmember Gordon Wozniak admitted recently that it's tough defending his appointee to the Peace and Justice Commission, Jonathan Wornick, but stated that diversity doesn't come without struggle..

"The obstinate, the rude, and the perverse people of Berkeley need representation, too," said Wozniak. "I could find anybody off the street to support peace

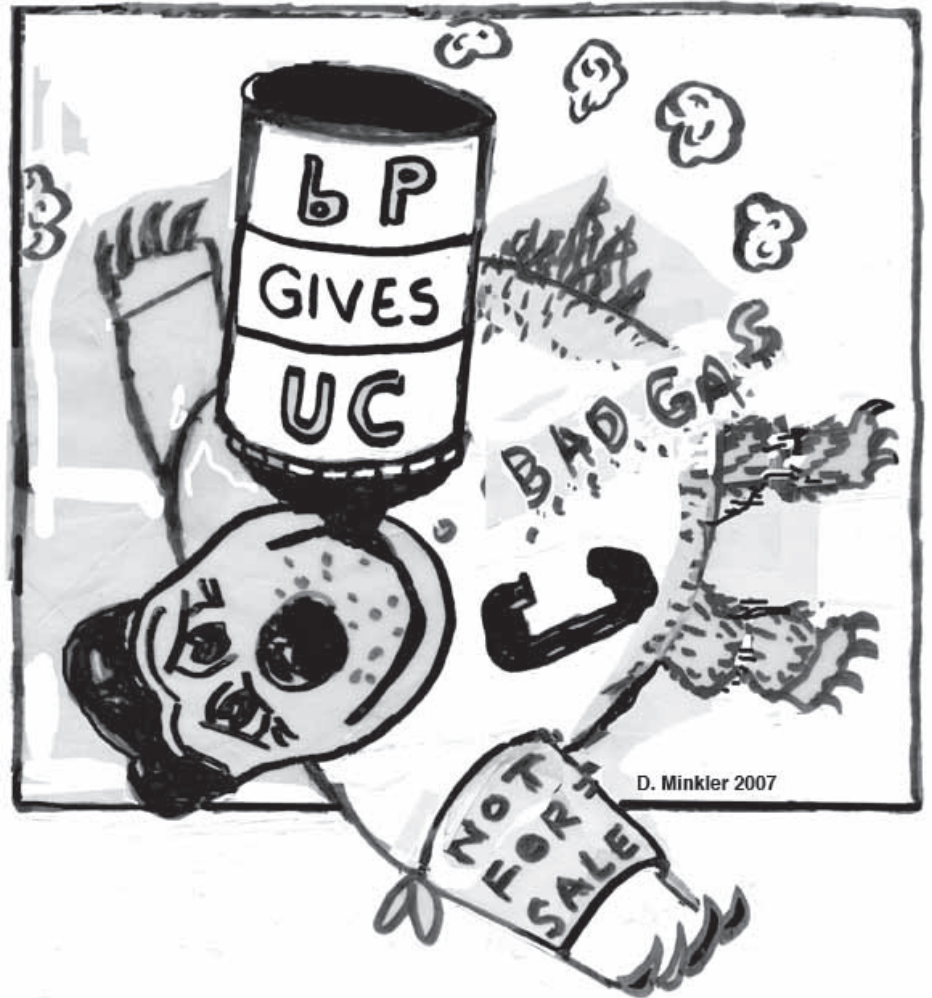
"Wornick deserves our thanks," agreed another staff member. "Not all of us have what it takes to make fun of other people's religions, races, body sizes, etc..."

and justice and research discrimination and push progressive policy. But people who discriminate unjustly are out there, too, and they need a voice."

Several Peace and Justice Commissioners conceded Wozniak's point.

"Most of us oppose bigotry," nodded one commissioner. "We do focus a lot on equality and try to respect alternative points of view. We may well under-represent intolerance."

City Hall insiders affirmed that they are kicking around the idea of a Com-



mission on War and Intolerance as a gesture toward restoring diversity.

"Wornick is out there alone right now," stated one commission staff member. "Several commissions are stocked with people dedicated to obstructing their commission's purpose, but taking a stand for sheer bigotry and intolerance is extreme even in that crowd."

"Wornick deserves our thanks," agreed another staff member. "Not all of us have what it takes to make fun of other people's religions, races, body

sizes, etc. It's an extremely unpopular thing to do right now, at least at the commission level. When the guy gets up on the city council it will be another story."

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Next issue, Accessorizing Your Cell Phone with Celebrities

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.

* The Winter's Tale