

All hail the...

...the operatic issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

March 2008



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

"...and will be partner of your weal or woe..."*

Vol. X No. 3

PROTESTERS IN PINK BEAT THE TAR OUT OF THE MARINES

Recruiting Center Closed By Pathetic Bunch of Peaceniks; City Council Runs for Cover

By Collin D. Shots

Yikes!



Military representatives at Berkeley's downtown recruitment center cited the current strain on military resources as the reason a handful of protesters in silly, frilly pink outfits were able to shut them completely down.

"We knew we were short-handed," confessed one Marine recruiter. "But we never figured we could get kicked around by a bunch of hippies."

The recruiter said that he had put in a call for help to Tagg, Matt, Josh, Ben, and Craig Romney, the military-age sons of Mitt Romney whose presidential campaign was recently suspended, but that the Romney crew had not arrived in time to enlist.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates cited lingering anger over the U.S. invasion of Iraq as reducing the Marines' ability to get international support, but agreed that no matter how much embarrassment the Marines had suffered at the hands of the hippies in pink, their

embarrassment was nothing compared to that of the Berkeley City Council, which had so consistently embarrassed themselves nationally that years of public relations and damage control were unlikely to have much effect.

The Berkeley City councilmembers scrambled to distance themselves from the proclamations they had made the week before, which launched them into the national spotlight by pronouncing the Marines "unwelcome" in downtown Berkeley, along with homeless people, poor people, and anyone who planned to spend less than \$75 a day, according to the recently passed Public Commons for Everyone Initiative.

"We got a little carried away," admitted Linda Maio. The council is currently hard at work trying to lighten up the anti-recruiting center statements with the use of fine linen stationary, little rubber stamps of peace doves, smiley face stickers and aromatherapy scents.

"We're not sure how much money the Marines recruiters are spending on lunch," mused one City Hall staffer. "But we've learned a lot from this. It's much wiser to target disorganized groups who are not well armed."

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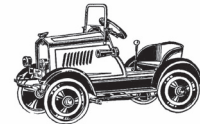
BERKELEY COUNCIL ISSUES APOLOGY, PARKING SPACE TO EVERYONE EXCEPT MARINES

By Henley DeNegg

"The City Council rescinded a letter calling the Marines "unwelcome" after a sea of protesters surrounded City Hall giving local police a pocketful of much-appreciated overtime.

"It's been quite awhile," smiled one officer in riot gear, "but we can usually count on either the city or the university doing something to cause national controversy just regularly enough to help out with the boat payments."

The Berkeley City Council wasted no time handing out Valentine's Day candy, apologies, and parking spaces



THIS freshly issued parking space is near Sparks, Nevada.

to the beleaguered taxpaying public, miffed at the six-digit cost of the City Council's error in judgment, but appreciative of finally having a parking space to call their own.

Critics argued that giving every member of the public his or her own parking space was not congruent with the "transit-first" policy, but were dismissed by city staff, who pointed out that the parking spaces, like the much-touted open space created by density infill, was all in Nevada.

* * * * *



THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL is trying a variety of techniques to backpedal on their statement that the Marines are not welcome in town, including suggesting that they were just kidding.



THE UPROAR over the Marines' confrontation with pink-clad protesters damaged a factory as far away as Port Wentworth, Georgia.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so who won, the Marines or Code Pink?

Dear reader, currently each side thinks they won. The real losers are the Berkeley City Council, even those who didn't humiliate themselves. During the next election no one will remember which was which.

Dear Lena, is the Berkeley City Council really as stupid as it seems?

Dear reader, experts disagree. Their minds are currently the subject of much study at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. Very special instruments are required, and I believe the results will be proprietary information.

Dear Lena, is business in Berkeley really affected by the Marine Recruiting Center stuff?

Dear reader, yes, the business in flag label pins, country western music, and polyester clothing has suffered.

Dear Lena, I'm just so embarrassed for this town I could scream, or write letters to the editor, or stop buying things.

Dear reader, don't make the economy suffer along with you. Buy things, lots of things, and then buy something for me, come to think of it. Your petty problems don't matter a hitch compared to the trouble brewing in an economy unprepared for \$100 a barrel oil. Buy some stuff for your whole block, count your blessings, and shut up.

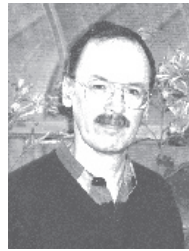
Ask Lena for expert advice, recipes, and free software at cdenney@igc.org.

WORLD'S SMALLEST MIND CREATED AT BERKELEY LAB

By Briona Cracker

The Berkeley Lab's new Molecular Foundry successfully created the world's smallest mind, paving the way for an entry in the Guinness World Book of Records.

"It was a practical move," suggested one of the team of five scientists gearing up to examine termite guts and microbes in cow stomachs. "We knew we were being used to greenwash British Petroleum's egregious global environmental atrocities, and frankly some of us were having painful twinges of conscience. A smaller mind will be immensely helpful to the overall project's success."

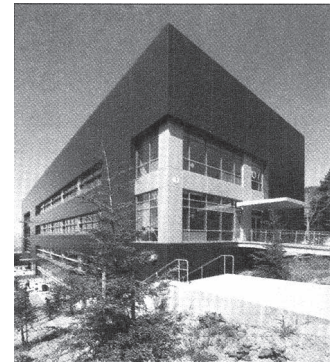


CHRIS SOMERVILLE'S mind was the prototype for the record-breaking, teeny, tiny mind.

Critics who worry about the project's secrecy can rest assured that appreciative articles about the project will run with regularity on UC Berkeley's and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's websites, as well as in the

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's Sci-

ence on the Hill Community Newsletter, known for its critical coverage of lab-related issues.

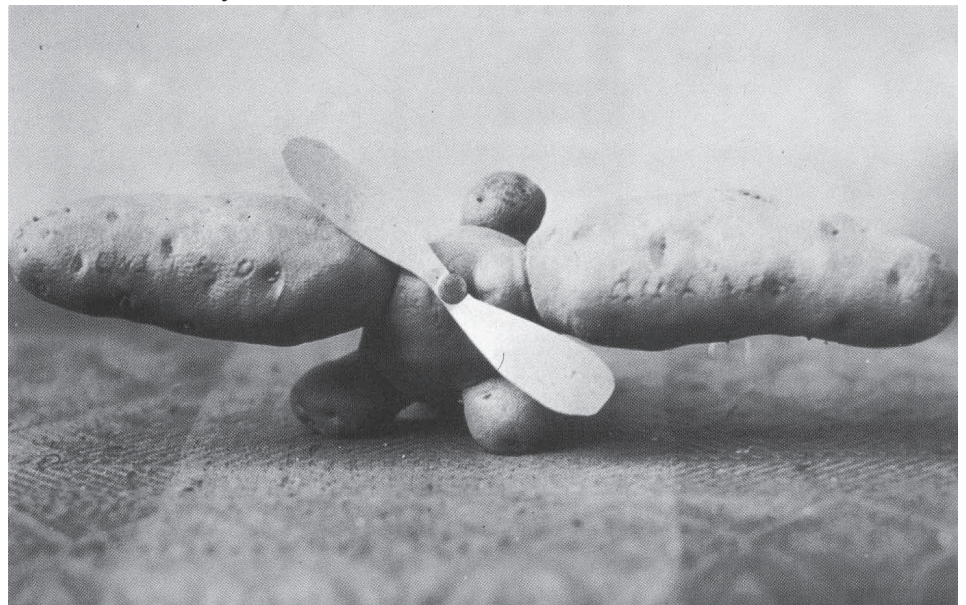


THE MOLECULAR foundry played a key role in the creation of the world's smallest mind.

to these corporate interests and scientists with businesses on the side. But with the Science on the Hill coverage we know the biofuels project will be thoroughly investigated, just like the tritium emissions and the toxic waste spills."

"Strawberry Canyon couldn't be in better hands under the smallest mind," commented another neighbor. "And neither could our combustion engines."

* * * * *



SCIENCE ON THE HILL never looked so bright now that UC Berkeley, the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and British Petroleum are teaming up to ensure a lucrative future for biofuels, the combustion engine, and of course Chris Somerville.



CONSUMER ADVOCATE Ralph Nader explains that he is entering the presidential race because he has lost his marbles.

NADER EXPLAINS HE IS INSANE

By Everett Snails

Consumer activist Ralph Nader, who played a minor role in the 1992 presidential election as a write-in candidate, has decided to run again in his more recent role as a spoiler, making sure a fresh generation of voters is as completely annoyed with him as the last one was.

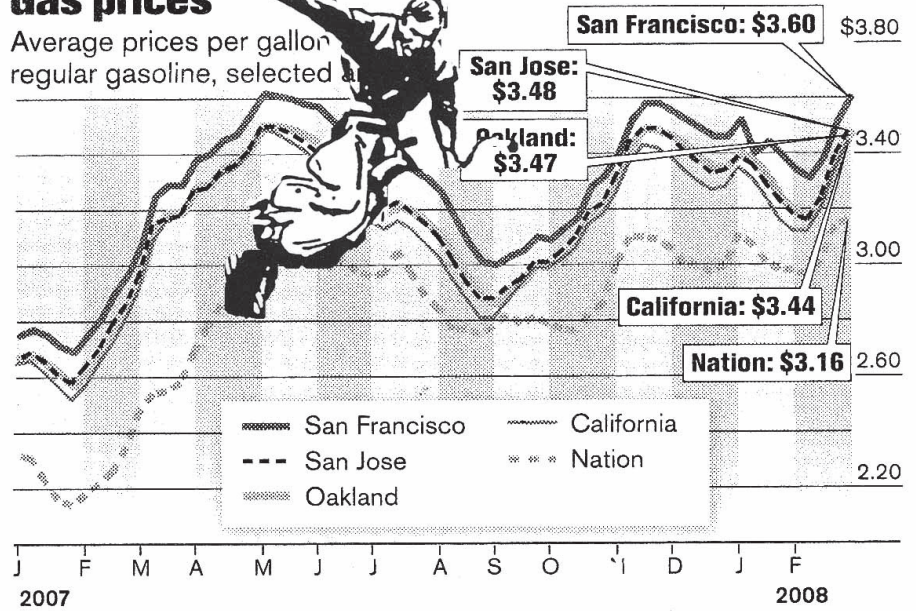
"Screw hope and screw experience," stated Nader. "I'm not doing this because I think I can win. I'm doing this because I'm completely nuts."

Critics responded angrily that Nader was not insane, but that his candidacy was a much-needed math lesson for those who still can't accept that his role in Florida's 2000 pivotal presidential contest cost the Democrats the presidency, setting the stage for the most environmentally disastrous presidency in history.

Ralph Nader collected 97,488 votes in Florida's 2000 election, which Democratic Party candidate Al Gore lost to Republican candidate George Bush by 537 votes, 537 votes which the Green Party is still, eight years later, very

Gas prices

Average prices per gallon regular gasoline, selected



GAS PRICES are proving to be an ineffectual way to stop global warming, leading experts to suggest that a more productive tack would be to blow up the freeways.

slowly and carefully counting.

"We're hoping the count comes out different if we really slow down," explained Holly Hart, the Green Party's national secretary. "As a matter of fact I just lost count again, so *shut up*."

Nader, who eight years ago abandoned his promise not to run in highly contested states to avoid throwing the election to the Republicans, has offered no such promise this time around.

"Because I'm loony tunes," he stated soberly. "Look for me to be chatting with Tim Russert and preening on Meet the Press. I could do it without running for office, but I really, really need to impress upon these people that my elevator doesn't get to the top floor anymore. After all, there's our future at stake."

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IF YOU LOOK very closely, you can see the only new toilet in town since the passage of the Public Commons For Everyone Initiative, and if you have a pair of wirecutters you can try to use it.

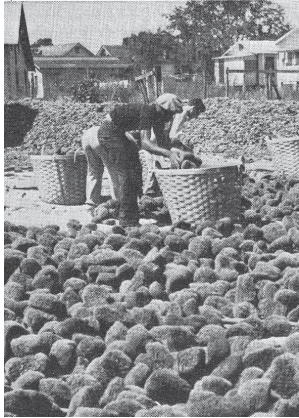
We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



OSCAR FASHIONS: PUBLIC STILL REELING FROM RED CARPET SACRILEGE

By Duane Queener

In what was otherwise a sea of safe, respectful Oscar fashion, three attendees so violated the customary dress code that the tuxedo-clad and strapless crowd declared it a threat to the proceedings much larger than the writers' strike, which was resolved just days before the ceremony.



THIS WOMAN'S ostentatious accessories presented an obvious physical impediment to others on the red carpet.

to elevate fashion to an issue of substance, and some bozo walks into the shot with a basket of potatoes. These people should be shot.” Academy Award planners are discussing a perimeter, much like that used for protestors at national political conventions to make sure bystanders with fashion challenges do not disrupt next year's festivities.

“We would have been fine without the writers,” stated one anonymous celebrity in an undertone. “The public has adjusted well to reality shows, and I'm not sure I can tell the difference. But the assault on the standards of attire is serious. Once you allow the standards to falter it is very hard to recover.”

Security with the awards show acknowledged the incidents, now under investigation by authorities.

“At this point in time we do not think the suspects in custody were acquainted, but this is early in the investigation.”

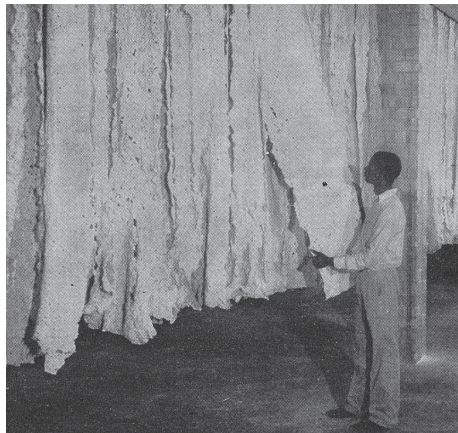
“What could motivate people to do something like this?” asked Hal Rubenstein, fashion director at InStyle magazine. “You work and you work

to elevate fashion to an issue of substance, and some bozo walks into the shot with a basket of potatoes. These people should be shot.” Academy Award planners are discussing a perimeter, much like that used for protestors at national political conventions to make sure bystanders with fashion challenges do not disrupt next year's festivities.



THIS FELLOW'S hat was so seriously out of fashion that W magazine fashion editor Treena Lombardo cried out in physical pain.

* * * * *



IT'S TRUE that sheets of rubber are known as pale crepe, but that is no excuse for this guy to poke fun at the very serious economic engine known as the fashion industry.

EMBARRASSMENT ADVISORY SYSTEM UNVEILED

By Hal Doolyadoo

Shoppers and merchants in downtown Berkeley are responding positively to a new embarrassment advisory system designed to assist them in determining the threat of embarrassment on a daily basis by the Berkeley City Council.

“I don't mind the national press coverage - the world needs to laugh, especially in a year like this,” stated one shopper holding her six-year-old daughter's hand. “I just need to know when I can reasonably get to the library or the market.”

“It's been really useful,” stated a local business owner. “We know we can expect tv camera trucks and news crews now and then.

With a little warning, we can also get a little business done.”

“It's about planning,” stated one city hall staff member. “The council likes it, too. This way they can make sure to be well-dressed and have a sound bite ready.”

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**Next Issue:
Coloring in Coloring Books
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.

*Henry VI Part 1