

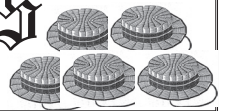
All hail the...

...the round-heeled issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

March 2010



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

"...Tut, a pin! This shall be answered..."*

Vol. XII No. 3

Big Snowstorm Proves Global Warming is a Myth

Relieved Scientists Build Snowman



A NATION ONCE WORRIED about global warming gratefully shoveled snow and celebrated the end of an already dubious concern about climate change with snowballs, sledding, and hot chocolate.

By Loretta Expectations

The snowstorm that paralyzed the nation from coast to coast had global warming deniers backslapping and celebrating with snowball fights and snow angel contests.

"We told you so," they shouted as they trudged through four feet of new-fallen snow in cities at a standstill after the record-breaking storm.

The poorly supported hypothesis that the world's global temperature was slowly going up and creating problems for polar bears was finally put in its place by massive amounts of falling snow which scientists pointed out was freezing at precisely the same temperature as it had for centuries.

Global warming supporters objected that the snow proved nothing, that glob-

al warming was a slow, incremental process which would not immediately threaten snowmen but would reduce their habitat steadily over time, leaving them homeless and liable to show up in unsuspecting people's refrigerators and unattended ice rinks.

Other critics, such as a Mr. Young from Canyon, California, pointed out that the huge snowfall in Washington, D.C. was probably a simple case of hell freezing over.

But experts dismissed the concerns, agreeing that global warming is "so over", and that people are tired of hearing about it.

Most people expressed relief upon learning that the crisis of global warming could finally be dismissed.

"I'm relieved for the planet, of course," expressed one snow-shoveler. "But I'm especially happy that now we can focus on other things, like Tiger Woods' sincerity."

* * * * *

Faster Downtown Plan Inspired by Olympics

"Planathon" On the Way

By Sam Difference

The downtown plans seem to fall like rain in Berkeley, keeping local residents bewildered at the prospect of keeping track of the bewildering details differentiating one from another.

"It's easy," countered Mayor Tom Bates of his new plan. "It's half a dozen of one, four cups of the other, and a generous dash of nyah nyah nyah."

Bates' new plan will sneak in an element shortening the length of time preservationists have to appeal the demolition of landmarks, a failed measure from a previous election, causing outcry among historians.

"Landmarks need to be quick on their feet," responded Bates in defense. "The slow ones will probably be weeded out, but the ones that can keep up with procedural sleight-of-hand can join the plan."

Berkeley City Hall insiders admitted that the sleight-of-plan idea was inspired by the Olympics, and that the hope of bringing the Olympics to the Bay Area was far from over.

"Our landmarks need to be in top shape," they agreed. "They need to be able to compete with landmarks from all over the world. The rigorous training process being promoted by this faster plan might knock out some of them, but those that remain will be better competitors."

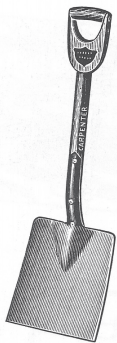
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Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...a new plan for the downtown every month of the year..."

IT IS wonderful that instead of worrying about global warming all we need is one of these.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I like the idea of a new downtown plan because I don't know what the old one was and maybe I'll catch up. Can you help?

Dear reader, heavens, no. They lost me with the curvy ballfield thing, and I still can't figure out why they need faster landmarks. But I don't mind the serial plans, which I believe were deeply inspired by the Harry Potter books. Just don't tell me how it ends.

Dear Lena, did the mayor really shove the TURN fellow at the Brower Center? What was that all about?

Dear reader, yes, he did, but it was all rehearsed ahead of time just like professional wrestling. The Brower Center is hoping a little controversy will bring in the crowds and pump up the publicity, so they're cozying up to PG&E and urging Mayor Tom Bates to get scrappy. Next time they're all going to wear colorful lycra costumes.

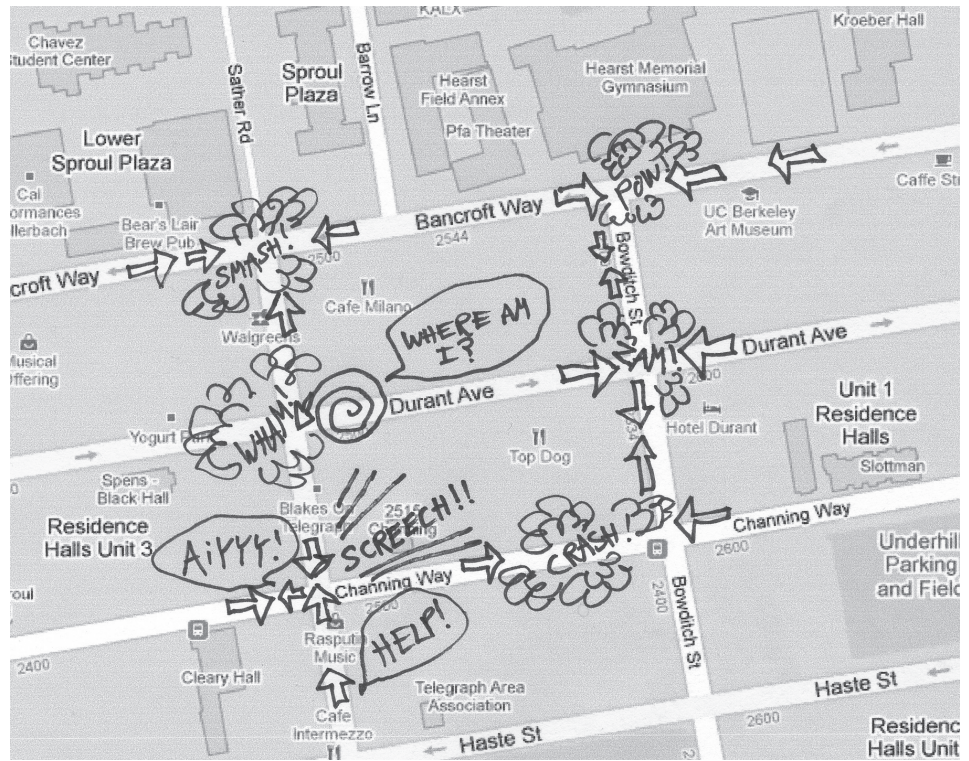
Dear Lena, are you watching the Olympics?

Dear reader, yes, I am, and I can't wait until the Olympics come here to the Bay Area. We are way ahead in the sequins department, and if we need more parking we can just pave the bay.

Dear Lena, why don't they enforce the stupid leafblower law? I can't stand the noise and they're everywhere.

Dear reader, it works well in combination with not enforcing the smoking restrictions. If someone lights up nearby, just grab a leafblower and firmly redirect the smoke.

Ask Lena about cosmetic applications of vegetables at cdenney@jgc.org.



THE NEW BUS RAPID TRANSIT PLAN for Telegraph Avenue is going to be a lot more fun than the old one whether you're in a car or on a skateboard.

BRT's Telegraph Plan Is a Smash

Tasteful altars to parking gods part of new AC Transit proposal

By Maureen DeBoat

AC Transit's suggested plan for reorganizing traffic on the southside of campus has everyone raving.

"It's going to be awesome," stated one shredder tagging a nearby wall. "My generation missed all the excite-



BUCKLE UP for some real fender bending fun when the "impact" of BRT hits the streets and bumps up that laid back southside atmosphere.

ment around here, and now we can look forward to some real gear-grinding."

"We had one of these at the amusement park near where I grew up," enthused another southside resident looking over the proposal, which debuted recently at a community meeting. "We used to buy tickets and stand in line to get a chance at this and well, this is free!"

Community members lined the walls at the February 10th Planning Commission meeting, concerned that the legendary south campus gridlock would get even worse with the institution of the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal, which will subtract parking, street vendor sidewalk space, institute two-way traffic on currently one-way streets, and possibly stop vehicle movement entirely.

"It's part of the new environmental consciousness," stated Planning Commissioner Victoria Eisen. "Cars emit less pollution if they stand absolutely still, and it's easier that way to see what's in the shop windows."

"AC Transit promises to replace the 50 street parking spaces which will be lost between Addison and Durant and put them somewhere else in downtown Berkeley," stated one transit planner. "Wherever those spaces show up will be the new hip place where property values pop and business booms. I just hope they don't put them with the 'open space' on top of the buildings."

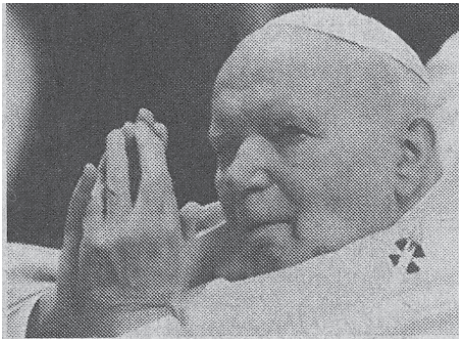
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FORMER POPE WHIPPED HIMSELF

“God just loves that kind of stuff.”

By Nick L. Apiece

Former Pope John Paul II apparently whipped himself with a belt, slept on the floor, and watched a lot of late night tv in an effort to atone for his sins according to a book by Monsignor Slawomir Oder, the promoter of the effort to canonize the former pope as quickly as possible along with dozens of other curious candidates for sainthood who are keeping the Catholic fast track to divinity more crowded than a Coney



POPE JOHN PAUL II is on the fast track to sainthood because he whipped himself with a belt, and a lot of Guantanamo prisoners and San Francisco sex workers are right behind him.

Island beachfront on a hot day.

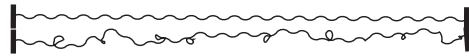
“The Catholic Church needs some pep, some new blood,” he explained. “Especially new dead saints. The inventory in our gift shops is really looking tired.”

“How much of this Mary memorabil-

Oakland Starts, Then Drops Berkeley-style Class-based Parking Enforcement Policy

By Moira S. Possibility

“Nobody barked when Berkeley did it,” groused Oakland City Administrator Dan Lindheim fending off media cameras, reporters, and accusations of selective enforcement after a recent protest by parking enforcement officers



ia can one person buy?” agreed another postulator for Pope John Paul’s sainthood. “We’ve got the products ready. We just need to roll on the Vatican pronouncements and keep them coming.”

Critics pointed out that the whipping and sleeping on the floor measure would seem to qualify a lot of Guantanamo prisoners for sainthood, especially considering that most of them are still waiting in legal limbo for some semblance of due process.

Oder agreed that the Guantanamo prisoners did seem to have the patience of saints, but that they were not generally Catholics.

“We encourage them to convert,” stated Oder. “We have boatloads of saints coming down the pike right now, but there’s plenty of room for more.”

The Monsignor commented that it’s hard to sell the ordinary church-goer on a saint without a catalogue of miracles to enlist the popular enthusiasm, but that the incidence of miracles seemed to have stepped up right in time for the Pope John Paul II promotion.

“They’re really hopping right now,” he remarked. “At this rate the Vatican gift shop will need a new wing.”

* * * * *

who claimed that they were told not to issue tickets in certain upper-class areas of the hills.

Berkeley’s tonier regions do not have to move their cars for street sweeping, a program which, while environmentally progressive, proves costly for the flatlanders who forget which is the second Tuesday or the third Thursday.

“If I had a Palm Pilot or a Blackberry it would probably be simple,” acknowledged one West Berkeley resident.

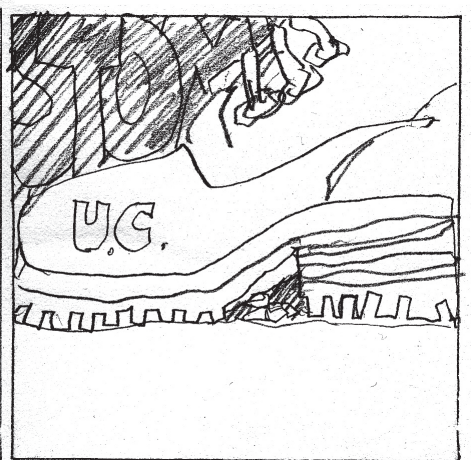
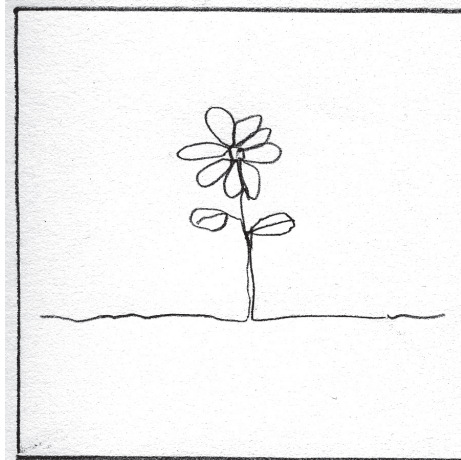
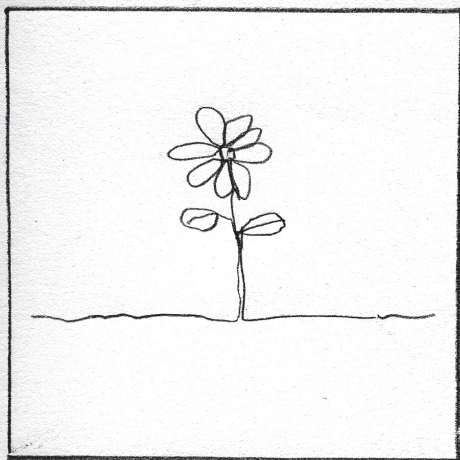


RICH PEOPLE don’t have time to deal with parking tickets, and tend to get much more upset about them than poor people do.

“But I know we’re much more capable of dealing with stuff like this than those rich people on the hill. We have more practice suffering.”

* * * * *

We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast



The simplified story of People’s Park.

Public Finds BPD "On Hold" Music Disturbing

By Ethan Organicus

Berkeley Police took days to respond to inquiries about the brief appearance of new and controversial "on hold" music reported by callers, a updated version of the classic Pink Floyd hit "Another Brick in the Wall":

*we don't want investigation,
we don't need public control;
no bleeding hearts meddling in our
business ...
hey, civies, leave us cops alone ...
yeah, you (pathetic) civies, leave us
cops alone ...
or you'd better hope ...we don't catch
you alone,
somewhere ... with no video phone...*

"We just had some officers goofing around with recording equipment," stated Officer Andrew Frankel of the Berkeley Police Department's (BPD) Public Information Office. "They had a little time off over the holiday."

Observers noted that the appearance of the Pink Floyd rewrite took place on

the one year anniversary of the shooting of Oscar Grant on a BART platform, and was in poor taste in any event considering the sorry state of police accountability in California, locally, and nationwide.

"You can have a police review hearing," pointed out one police accountability expert, "as long as it takes place in the dark, in private, has no public record, is reversible, and never tiptoes anywhere near the officers' personnel records."

"That may be," responded a police officer on condition of anonymity, "but it's still humiliating to be asked a bunch of questions about your conduct."

"We do get to know who filed a complaint against us," stated another officer, "so it kind of evens out over time."

New Chief of Police Michael Meehan dismissed the issue as a vacation prank which was intended as humorous.

"We're not very funny as a whole," he commented. "We spend a lot of time lobbying for tasers and pepper spray.



BERKELEY'S NEW POLICE CHIEF Michael Meehan likes to rock and roll. He may look like he's being sworn in, but he is really just dancing.

But there's nothing wrong with some amusing music while you're waiting on hold for someone to respond to your emergency. Your call is really important to us."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Paparazzi Nature Walks With Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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

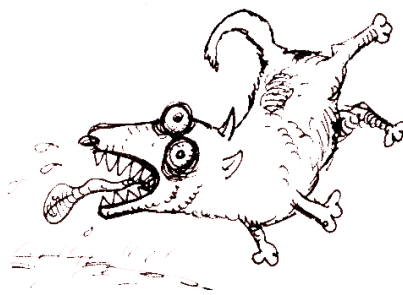


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe of \$10 - \$15. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

* The Merry Wives of Windsor

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

Sharks are Snobs

Northern California great white sharks never socialize with sharks from other areas, according to a recent Stanford University study released recently, lending support to the new theory that the northern California predators are an arrogant bunch who think they're better than everybody else.

"We can only speculate as to why," said Barbara Block, a professor of Marine Sciences at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station and a co-author of the paper. "They act like teenagers in high school cliques."

The scientists tagged 179 great whites along the coast and discovered that the sharks, though essentially loners, cruised through the same routes, hung out in the same places, tended to have the same songs on their iPods, vacationed in the same places, and feasted in the same Northern California hot spots.

Critics argued that the shark study was obviously being influenced by the researchers' own behavior.

"Researchers are the worst snobs," pointed out one critic. "Think about it -- they hang out in the same places, have the same taste in music, vacation in the same places, all that stuff. Sharks are just messing with them because they're pissed about being tagged."

"What we know," said Salvador Jorgensen, a postdoctoral fellow at the Hopkins Marine Station who co-authored the study, "is that all of them leave the coast in the winter and all of them end up either in the cafe or offshore in Hawaii."

"My point exactly," responded another critic of the study. "Anytime I want to track down a researcher I hit the cafes or the resorts."

The sharks, when questioned, didn't deny being snobs.

"Sharks from other regions are so boring," state one great white. "It may be their diet, the music they listen to, or their reading material, but if you hang out with them you practically go to sleep."

New Jersey remains the only state without an official song when a state Senate panel put off choosing between four songs which, as one senator put it, made chainsaws sound good.

New Jersey has been trying to find a musical identity since 1960, and a slogan since 2005.

"We've been victimized by people who find the whole idea funny," stated one legislator. "We had to end the slogan contest because 'New Jersey: Not Really Worse Than Death' was the likely winner."

* * * * *

Rejected New Jersey State Songs

"New Jersey, New Jersey
Things could be worse
We could be really thirsty
Or riding in a hearse-ey..."

"There's no smokestacks
Like my smokestacks
'Cause my smokestacks
Say 'home'..."

"Air quality? Frivolity!
Industry rules!
Workers are here to be
Industry's tools!
Air quality? Fivolity!
Industry rocks!
Breathing's still safe
If you breath through your socks..."

If there's one thing I'm bent on
It's being in Trenton
Or seeing what matters on
The streets of Paterson...

Green Ways to Reduce the Rat Population in Berkeley

Get them to commit suicide by reading
them depressing poetry.

Play them disco music and force them to
wear polyester.

Force them to attend boring city council
and commission meetings.

Make them park their cars in Newark.

Don't laugh at their jokes.

Tell them they look fat in that.

Don't share popcorn with them.

Don't "friend" them on social websites.
Imply that the potluck dish they brought
was terrible.

Don't invite them to your holiday party.

Person on the Street Interview – is everything getting too commercial?

Bob's Big Boy: "I know why people would say that, since everywhere you look somebody's selling something. But I just kick through it and find something to enjoy. I like the Olympics, that's kind of cool. I guess I'm kind of shallow, but I think the advertising on television is better than the shows."

Mickey Mouse: "Yes! People don't know how to just relax and watch the clouds go by. I keep trying to just water the lawn and people run up to me and want me to endorse stuff. I tell them the T-shirts, the mouse ear hats, that was all a mistake, but they don't listen. I'm ready to get a gun."

Barbie: "I don't think so. People are basically looking for love. I wish I could help them. We're putting out a new line of cosmetics, but I know that isn't enough. People just need to feel part of something, like a glee club. I think more people should take up golf, and they would enjoy the sunshine."

Barney: "Did my agent set this up? Don't I know you, aren't you the guy who showed up at the mall in Fremont? I can take it, see, but there are little kids who need their heroes and million dollar contracts at stake. You're not him? You look like him."

Giving to Panhandlers
Best Way to Jumpstart
Economy, Experts Say

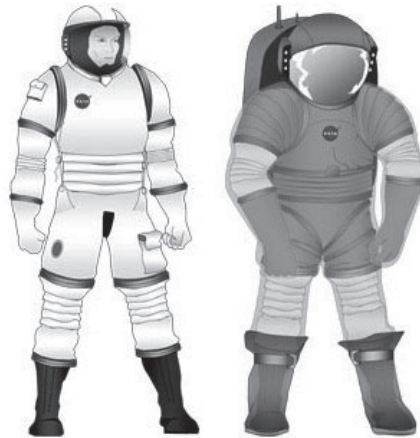


NASA Spacesuit Contracts In Hot Dispute

*Prestigious Fashion Houses Battle Over
\$745 Million Dollar Spacesuit Contract*

FAY LURE

EMMA NE-



SPACESUITS USUALLY fail to excite the fashion-conscious, something NASA hopes to change by the time we're having fashion shows on the moon.

MODERN SPACESUITS need to be feminine as well as functional, and have places for cell phones, make-up, and gremolata recipes.

By Eugene Yuss

A \$745 million contract awarded recently to Oceaneering International Inc. for next season's spacesuits was contested by rival company Exploration Systems & Technology Inc., leaving the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) scientists no choice but to challenge both companies to a fashion show.

"We're not allowed to say anything due to the protective order," stated agency spokesperson Grey Hautaluoma. "But we sure can invite you all to a humdinger of a showdown on the fashion runway."

NASA is supposed to return to the moon by 2020, and scientists are worried that their astronauts just won't have a thing to wear.

"It's hard to predict fashion that far in advance," stated Hautaluoma. "We have to rely on consultants to keep our

astronauts' attire both functional and fashion-forward."

Scientists noted that astronauts' morale can suffer if they are forced to wear the same thing mission after mission.

Critics argued that this was always the case, and that invitations to well-known fashion industry icons never materialized, throwing the fairness of the bidding process into question.

United Technologies Corporation, whose Hamilton Sundstrand unit has been NASA's primary space suit contractor since 1981, admitted its past designs had been purely functional.

"We neglected the fun, whimsical aspect of spacesuits," stated one scientist soberly. "Our colors were predictable, much too safe. We didn't realize we were missing the mark. We wish now we had taken some risks."

* * * * *