

...the uranium enriched the...
All hail the...

Hepper Spray Times

...or P.S.T...

May 2006



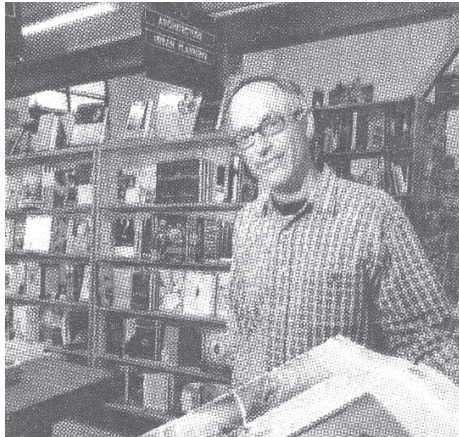
It's erythemic... it's free... if you can find it

"How a score of ewes now?..*"

Vol. VIII No. 5

Andy Ross Whines; Whole Town Quakes

Republicans, Democrats Agree to Keep Screwing Immigrants



NO MATTER HOW RICH YOU GET you could always be richer, and nobody gets anywhere in this world by not whining; two of the valuable lessons learned by Andy Ross, current owner of Cody's Books on Telegraph Avenue.

by Lotta Gall

The strong quake felt on Telegraph Avenue recently had no measurement at all on the Richter scale, but rocked the city of Berkeley to its foundation when Cody's Books owner Andy Ross expressed disappointment that the City of Berkeley has not recently hemorrhaged any money in the direction of his store.

As many as 25 percent of Berkeley's police services can be found near Telegraph Avenue on a typical Friday or Saturday night according to Jim Hynes, assistant to the City Manager, for purposes which he described as "preventative."

"Sometimes we have seven or eight police cruisers there just to baby-sit the situation," Hynes stated recently, "and despite all that, the loudest sound up here is still that shrill whine coming out of Andy Ross."

Merchants at the other end of town marveled at the response of local press and city officials to Ross's moods, expressing hope that someday south and

west Berkeley will merit the same attentive treatment currently lavished on Telegraph Avenue.

"We wish he hadn't picked the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake to express his pique," stated one merchant shaking ceiling plaster out of his store's merchandise. "But while he gave all of us quite a start, he also reminded us of what could happen if someday police services and public works projects are distributed fairly."

Critics argued that Ross' complaining made no sense, since his bookstore on Telegraph outperforms either of his two additional locations in San Francisco and on Berkeley's 4th Street, but Ross dismissed his critics.

"I'd be foolish not to whine given the credulity of the Berkeley press and City Hall," he reasoned. "Why blame the internet for supposedly interfering with profits when you can get away with blaming these kids?"
* * * * *



IT IS TRAGIC when a street is allowed to deteriorate to this horrifying state, at least in the eyes of the only Telegraph merchant who seems to get press anytime he wants it.

By Jane Joremine, Staff Writer

The Senate, in a rare display of cooperation, agreed that while legislative proposals that offered the hope of citizenship to millions of men, women and children living in the United States illegally were fascinating, it made more political sense to keep undocumented workers crawling through tunnels and hopping over fences.

"It's the Democrats' fault, of course," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., "but if we make things too easy for immigrants they won't really appreciate being here. That is, assuming they manage to get here alive."

"It's the Republicans' fault, that's plain," responded Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. "But at least both parties are in accord that having a huge, healthy black market economy has some business advantages."

In the meantime, recent figures showed that a record high of 516 Mexican migrants, almost 40 percent more than in 2004, died trying to come work in the United States.

Congressional representatives pointed out that the dead migrants' opinions were hard to estimate.

"They might have supported a wall," stated one representative. "We might have hired them to build it."
* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, how should we get the troops home?

A: Dear reader, after the bases overseas achieve a sense of permanence, they should lobby for statehood, at which point the troops will actually be home.

Q: Dear Lena, who should replace Donald Rumsfeld?

Dear reader, it's a difficult role, especially for someone with no military experience. The field is currently limited to those who have had on *unsuccessful* military careers, which is a good argument for an actor. Tom Cruise is a rational candidate since, despite being universally disliked, he gets along well with Hollywood.

Q: Dear Lena, is the clothing in People's Park really dangerous enough to require constant supervision by police?

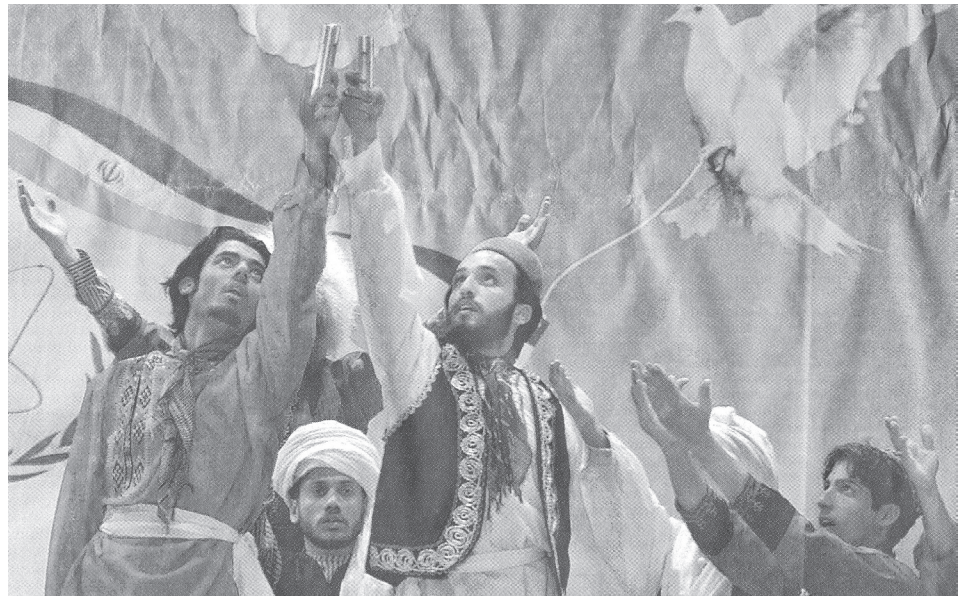
Dear reader, victims of clothing assaults are very much like rape victims, and have a great deal of difficulty discussing their trauma. The police may look stupid up there arresting sweaters and socks, but be sure and give them a smile, because it's hard when your job turns into an obvious expose' of your supervisor's insane priorities.

Q: Dear Lena, how should I prepare for the next earthquake?

Dear reader, I recommend dark chocolate, whiskey, and learning an instrument which need not be plugged into a wall.

Dear Lena, is Andy Ross redeemable?

Dear reader, I wouldn't recommend spending much time trying to redeem Andy Ross. You might get some handy coupons, but you'll never get Fred Cody.



IRANIAN EXPERIMENTS WITH PLUTONIUM are nothing to worry about, according to the Bush Administration, which points out that none of these dancers would have made it to the Dancing With Celebrities finals.

DANCES WITH PLUTONIUM

by Sam S. Iteverwas

Bush Administration officials dismissed the growing calls for Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's resignation without comment until the calls got really annoying, at which point they began to try.

Rumsfeld pointed out that he'd attempted to resign before, during the Abu Ghraib prison detainee abuse scandal, so that it didn't make sense to try to resign all over again.

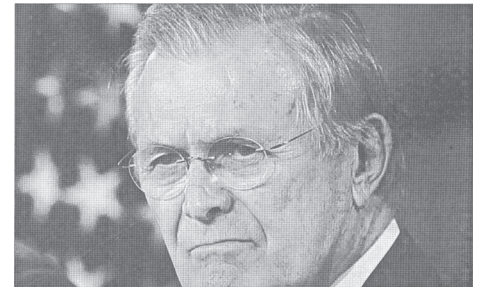
"The guy just isn't listening," he sighed. "Michael Brown and the people of New Orleans and Biloxi know what I'm talking about."

Administration officials privately admitted that the growing collection of retired military leaders voicing opposition to Rumsfeld's leadership in the war on Iraq has them worried.

"It's hard to attack the credibility of men in uniform in the middle of a war," agreed one White House spokesperson. "And we all know how stupid Bush looks in a flight suit."

Critics insisted that Rumsfeld's unwillingness to listen to military expertise was costing American lives, destroying America's alliances overseas, and bankrupting the nation.

"That may be," responded one administration official. "But how can we quit now with the whole nation behind us? The American people may be stupid, but they're loyal as all get-out. We have to come up with a better excuse than the fact that we've run out of Sol-



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Donald Rumsfeld's fan club is growing smaller, and will soon fit into a canoe.

diers and dough."

Political consultants agreed that finding an excuse to change course and bring the troops home will be difficult after the White House has rejected so many obvious opportunities to withdraw, but suggested that the upcoming hurricane season may offer the most hope for the return of American soldiers.

"Katrina overwhelmed state, federal, and faith-based resources," one official suggested. "The next wave of hurricanes will give the Bush administration a chance to use the military in a positive way, and redress the memories of last year's Katrina disaster."

New Orleans residents were dubious about getting any more help from Washington.

"We know they mean well," offered one homeowner. "But we need a little time to recover from the help they gave us last year." * * * * *

Bush Numbers Sink Near Zero

Flirting with Nuclear Oblivion Fails to Perk Up Public

by Lois Common D. Nominator

President Bush's numbers have dropped so low that scientists have begun an exhaustive study of the exotic few who still claim to have confidence in Republican leadership.

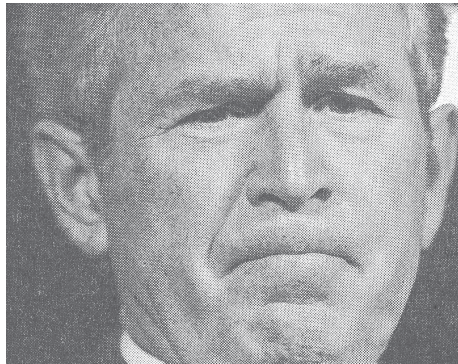
"They might just be stupid," admitted one researcher, "but they might be an entirely new species impervious to rational discussion and fact-based analysis. If the latter is the case, then cloning these people would be in the best interest of the Republican political base, and there might be some big money in it as well for television."

Experts theorized that the number of Homeland Security staff members caught trolling for underage girls on the internet might have had a negative effect on the public's confidence.

"It has been difficult to explain," admitted one spokesperson for Homeland Security. "On the other hand, if Osama Bin Laden is masquerading as an underage girl looking for understanding and sexual connections on the internet, it would all make sense."

Researchers contacted one Bush supporter who apologized for her seemingly inexplicable allegiance to the current administration, but explained that both her tax consultant and her broker had assured her that things were actually going quite well.

"I never understand it when they explain it," she stated nervously. "But the numbers are very impressive, and I'm not sure what else I can do. It isn't as



PRESIDENT BUSH'S failures in office are making his previous experiences as a baseball team owner and an oil executive look wildly successful.

though the Democrats are offering an alternative."

Political consultants confess amazement at the low poll numbers and are unclear about what will happen if the number goes below zero.

"It's possible that Bush will go into negative numbers," mused one expert, "or maybe he just starts over at 100%, which would give the Republicans a considerable edge in the next election if they stay the course."

"Maybe these scandals are just a great way of staying in the news and keeping the public's mind off of the latest war casualties," commented another expert. "The creative new television shows such as 'Vacuuming With Celebrities' may be pulling a sizeable chunk of ratings, but I think the Bush administration's next scandal may put him in the lead."

* * * * *

EXPRESS WRITER ACTUALLY MOVES

by Staff Writer Horace Voice

East Bay Express writer Chris Thompson actually moved away from surfing his computer internet connection and at least found the front door of Highland Hospital to research his latest article, to the amazement of journalists who are acquainted with the difficulties he has leaving his room.

"We checked with the emergency room staff, and he was actually there for a few minutes," stated another Express writer in amazement. "We didn't know he knew how to let go of the mouse."

An emergency room staff member acknowledged that Thompson had been seen briefly on the premises interviewing people in the waiting room, and praised his ability to stand upright.

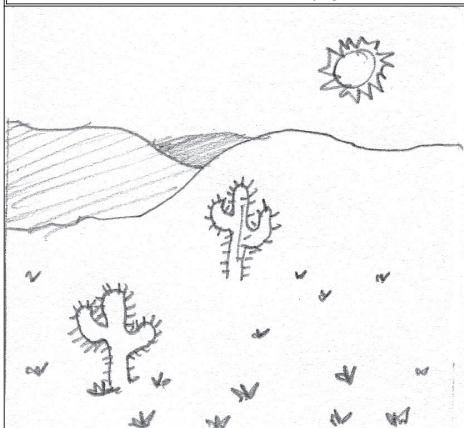
"We would love it if someday our facility's effectiveness wasn't judged on the basis of indigent patients, often in pain, who frequent the emergency room," sighed one medical professional. "But in Thompson's case we understand. To someone used to doing all their investigative work online, this represents real research."

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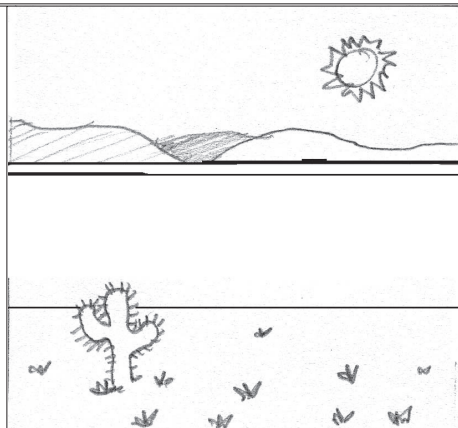


PRACTICE this calm expression while filling up your tank; you'll need it.

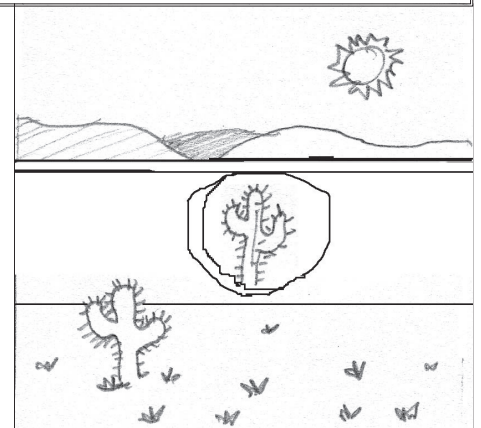
We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast



CONGRESS WANTS to address the problem of the crying lack of border security which threatens our nation.



THIS IS CONSIDERED a popular solution, but results in a lot of death and inconvenience for migrant workers.



THIS COMPROMISE suggested by the Pepper Spray Times' staff is the best way to please all sides of the debate.

VICIOUS CLOTHING ATTACKS

Park Under Seige; Police Helpless

by Bill Overtime

Vicious clothing is committing serious crime in People's Park, part of a conspiracy of clothing uncovered by local police officers, who are battling twenty-four hours a day to stop the menacing behavior committed by sweaters, coats, shoes, and even suspenders.

"We may need to hike student fees again to do it, but we've got to stamp out this tradition of sharing and giving once and for all."

Irene Hegarty, UC's Director of Community Affairs

"The evidence is everywhere," stated a police officer. "Lifeless clothing is lying on the ground, hanging from trees, even stuffed into boxes. We're trying to stop it, but it breaks your heart."

UC officials confirmed that police are now stationed in the park in an heroic attempt to keep the clothing in line.

"Unfeeling park users often dismiss the threat from clothing," stated Irene Hegarty, the University of California's Director of Community Affairs. "But there's no question that clothing can actually strangle people, and we don't



NOT ALL SHIRTS ARE bad, but experts can identify the signs of clothing which has resisted socialization and poses a very real threat to society. This shirt is not only vulgar, it could potentially set fire to your curtains or eat the last of your Fritos.

intend to sit idly by while this overwhelming threat is up there."

Police confirmed the continuous presence of armed, uniformed officers in the park once famous for free exchange of food, clothing, music, and services.

"We really hate how we have to ticket and arrest people for trying to give clean, used clothing to people in need," stated Officer Celaya. "But we've seen the incidents of T-shirt-related injuries skyrocket, and feel compelled to protect the public."

Critics protested that the expensive police overtime billed to the public over a foolish non-issue belonged in the same category as the \$30,000 dog run and \$60,000 remodeling jobs enjoyed by free-spending UC officials, but were dismissed by Hegarty, who confirmed that she herself had visited People's Park and actually seen the lifeless clothing lying helplessly on the ground after an obvious assault.

"That could have been me lying there," she shuddered. "We may need to hike student fees again to do it, but we've got to stamp out this tradition of sharing and giving once and for all."

* * * * *



Ten Reasons Why UC's Crackdown on People's Park's Freebox and Clothing Is Not Insane

1. When clothing doesn't match, it's actually *painful*.
2. If a scarf gets caught in a shredder, *it can break your neck*.
3. Wearing the wrong shoes *can affect one's posture*.
4. If you accidentally pick up clothing from the wrong gang, *you could get shot*.
5. Some clothing is secretly out to humiliate you, *and will turn on you in public*.
6. The wrong accessory *can spoil your whole look*.
7. The university *has a lot of overstock in their campus store*.
8. Nobody is *really* safe around sweaters.
9. Hats *just don't look good on everybody*.
10. If a pair of freebox pants make somebody look fat, the university *doesn't want to be liable*.

Next issue, Vacuuming 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 IV Part 2