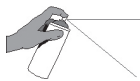


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Times



November 2005

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

"he's more than a creeping thing..."

Vol. VII No. 11



THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS who turned out by the dozen to assist in rebuilding the traditional People's Park freebox had no idea they were jeopardizing the university's ability to get fashionably dressed in the morning.

UC NEEDS FREEBOX CLOTHES MORE THAN THE POOR

by Harley Makenet

The University of California admitted recently that their sudden unwillingness to allow People's Park its usual freebox and free clothing exchange was due to its personal need for clothing.

"We're a pretty ratty-looking crew," stated an embarrassed Irene Hegarty, Director of Community Relations for the university. "If it weren't for the freebox clothing we'd really be an embarrassment."

"If I could sew it would be different," acknowledged Vice Chancellor Horace Mitchell. "I never could get the hang of threading a needle, so that freebox has been a life saver. The clothing people donate in this town tends to be the greatest combination of trendy and practical."

When pressed, university staff members conceded that although it is true that the university employees assigned to People's Park were gathering up clean, useable clothing and putting it in a locked dumpster, the clothing was being retrieved later for personal use by university staff.

"I guess we were a little embarrassed," stated one park staff member. "I'm not as liberated as some of these people, who just jump right into a cool pair of purple shorts. But I just found a T-shirt from the Stones first tour, and it's signed by a member of the band. This baby's going to go for a lot of money on EBay."

Other university staff members admitted they used the freebox as well.

"I never thought of it as something just for poor people," commented one clerical worker from the admissions office. "I just find it a convenient place to get rid of old handbags and shoes. And sometimes I end up finding something that completes a Halloween getup. The freebox is part of history at this point, like the campanile."

UC campus spokesperson Marie Felde agreed that as Director of Media Relations she can't afford to be less than stylishly dressed, and that the freebox had been a godsend.

"Where else would I find Kenneth Cole in my size and for free?" she stated. "I would never spend that kind of money on what they pay me. I don't have time to shop, and these people donating to the freebox really have good taste."

Felde acknowledged that the UC clothing confiscation and shutting off communication with the city and the community on the issue was a little unfair.

"We're thinking about maybe reconstituting the old advisory board," she stated. "But we have to wait until we all have our Christmas office party outfits. You just can't find stuff like this anywhere else."

* * * * *

Judge Rules Pledge Unconstitutional God Backs Ruling

by Dee Stantshore

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton signed a restraining order halting the practice of saying the pledge of allegiance in several school districts in Sacramento County, sending religious rights groups into a frenzy.

"We're deeply concerned," stated a spokesperson from The Becket Fund, which is a party to the case. "We're certain we've seen the devil on several Sacramento campuses and we feel secure in stating that he is up to no good. If these kids don't include some kind of overt prayer in some kind of daily ritual they're probably all going to rocket right off to hell."

Sacramento school officials denied that the devil had school yard access, but acknowledged that campus security was a serious issue.

"Politicians show up here all the time right before elections," stated one local principal. "That's probably what they saw."

Spokespersons for God announced that God supported the ruling, citing the separation of church and state, and commenting that this issue was obvious as ducks on a bug.

"Big duh," God stated. "I would rather have a few of these kids learn to spell."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, what should they really do with the blue ball sculpture Brower memorial thingie?

Dear Reader, the blue ball exposed the way wealth and opportunism distort both art itself and the thinking of ordinarily well-meaning people such that they become fools. The blue ball should be worshipped.

Dear Lena, do you think NASA should go back to the moon?

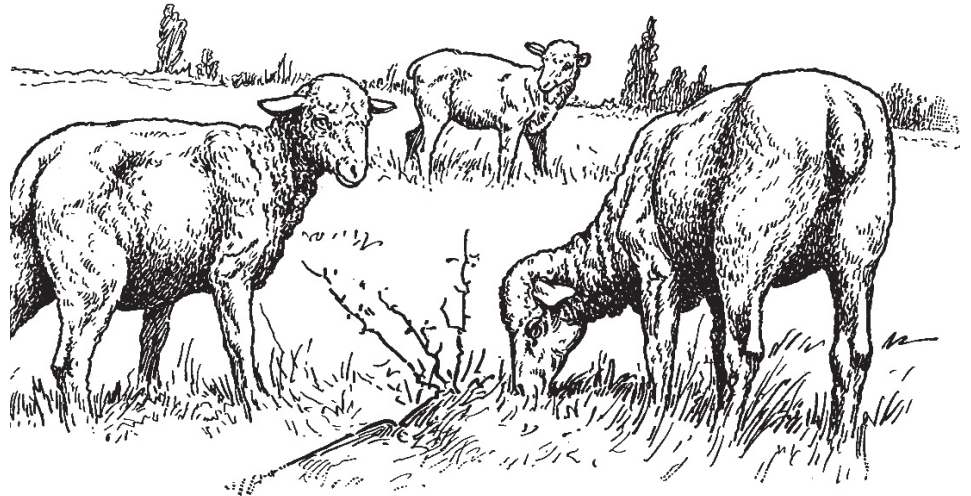
Dear Reader, yes, as the Bush administration grasps the obvious consequences of global warming it will need to make a decision about where to relocate the bunker. The moon is an obvious choice, because of the golf options, and will keep administration officials out of New Orleans and Biloxi, where they tend to make unfortunate noise. Watch for PST's moonwear fashion issue.

Dear Lena, how are we supposed to pay these PG&E bills? All my savings is gone from putting gas in my stupid car.

Dear Reader, it's time to begin thinking creatively about the practical aftermath of the current political course, and try new approaches. The bills themselves, for instance, if ignited, will provide heat for a brief period of time.

Dear Lena, why does Berkeley's new downtown plan have larger boundaries than the old one? There are residential neighborhoods included now where they could put their new highrises thanks to the spineless City Council - it this fair?

Dear Reader, those neighborhoods should be happy. They may never have poetry planted in their own sidewalks, but on paper, at least, they have a loose affiliation with the lucky people who do, and should just quit whining.



THESE LAMBS MAY HAVE NO JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE but nobody can argue that they couldn't bring a fresh perspective to the Supreme Court, not to mention a gentle demeanor and three bags full.

NO JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE A PLUS, SAY EXPERTS

by Lorna Ranger

Political observers are still in shock at the news that the Bush administration chose to nominate a woman for the Supreme Court who has absolutely no judicial experience, but a few have recovered long enough to find the bright side of the nomination.

"When you've got no experience at a job, your level of enthusiasm tends to be very high," offered one expert on employment and personnel management. "It's kind of like finding yourself in the cockpit of a jet plane, or driving a big rig. You learn fast because you're very motivated."

"Nobody can say you've made bad decisions if you haven't made any at all," agreed another. "In some respects it is a terrific advantage. I dare say a lot of us wish we could boast of having such a clean slate."

Bush's nominee, Harriett Miers, expressed delight at the prospect of guiding the nation's judiciary for the rest of her life, and affirmed that being female would be a plus, rather than a disadvantage on the bench. "I'm used to wearing dresses, so I won't have the trouble a man might have getting used to the robes, and I look great in black," she said. "I have no idea how to be a judge, having no previous experience, but I've

found that most people consider bewilderment and helplessness to be an appealing attribute in a woman."

Critics objected that Bush's choice of nominee was disrespectful to the court itself, which will face a wealth of significant decisions in the coming months and deserves participants with at least a tiny bit of experience behind a bench.

Defenders of Bush's selection pointed out that it could have been worse.

"He could have picked a used vacuum cleaning supply store salesman, which might have been even less appropriate. He could have picked his wife, or one of his daughters, or his pet dog. We should look on the bright side," stated one Democratic senator who planned to confirm the nomination. "We could raise a fuss, but there's a lot of important decisions to be made, so we need to get this court thing moving."

"What could it possibly matter?" scoffed a Bush administrative operative. "Not enough politicians had the guts to object to our first nomination, so we're in the clear from now on."

"It's true," chuckled another Republican strategist. "We could nominate a flatworm at this point, and nobody could do a thing about it."

* * * * *



POOR PEOPLE are enjoying a sudden rush of popularity, enabling subsistence farmers such as these to vie for highly paid jobs as consultants to people trying to get in on the ground floor.

POVERTY GETTING MORE POPULAR

by Leif M. Malone

Poverty, once a source of shame for low-income people, is now gaining popularity according to a recent study.

Experts agree that the number of people living in poverty has increased, and since living in poverty is no fun, have concluded that it must be like some kind of new, inexplicable fad with an unknown appeal.

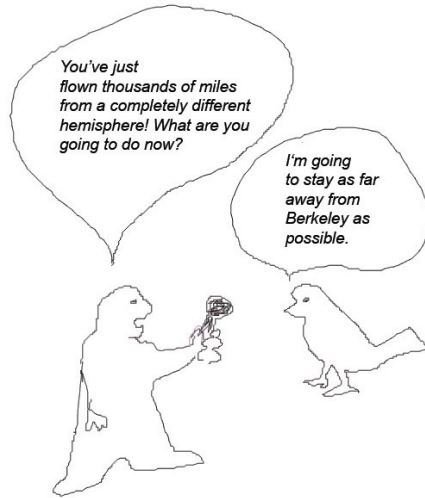
"It's like Hello Kitty, or piercing, or saggy pants," explained one impoverished youth. "It looks stupid, but everybody else is getting into it so you kind of get there, too."

Social scientists have difficulty explaining why people would elect to live without healthcare, without providing for their children's education, or insuring their own comfortable retirement, but there's no arguing with the numbers. The number of people living below the federal poverty level increased by 1.1 million between 2003 and 2004.

"It's amazing that people would pass on the opportunity to own expensive cars and flash gaudy jewelry, but there's no doubt that's what's going on," marveled one scientist scanning the latest data. "I thought at least they would want to vacation at a tony beach front on an island somewhere, but there's clearly more and more people signing up for government programs and working for peanuts instead."

"I rarely get solicited for large donations," offered one low-income resident pressed to explain the advantage of her extreme poverty despite working full-time. "I never have to worry about my name being splashed across the society columns or which dress I wore last time."

"My mailbox isn't bogged down with



BERKELEY'S OFF-LEASH everywhere policy has predictable results for some local travelers.

information from brokers," agreed her neighbor as he sorted through newspapers and cans, "I didn't plan it this way, but it's true that I don't think much about how to divide my estate, and I never worry about my retirement plan."

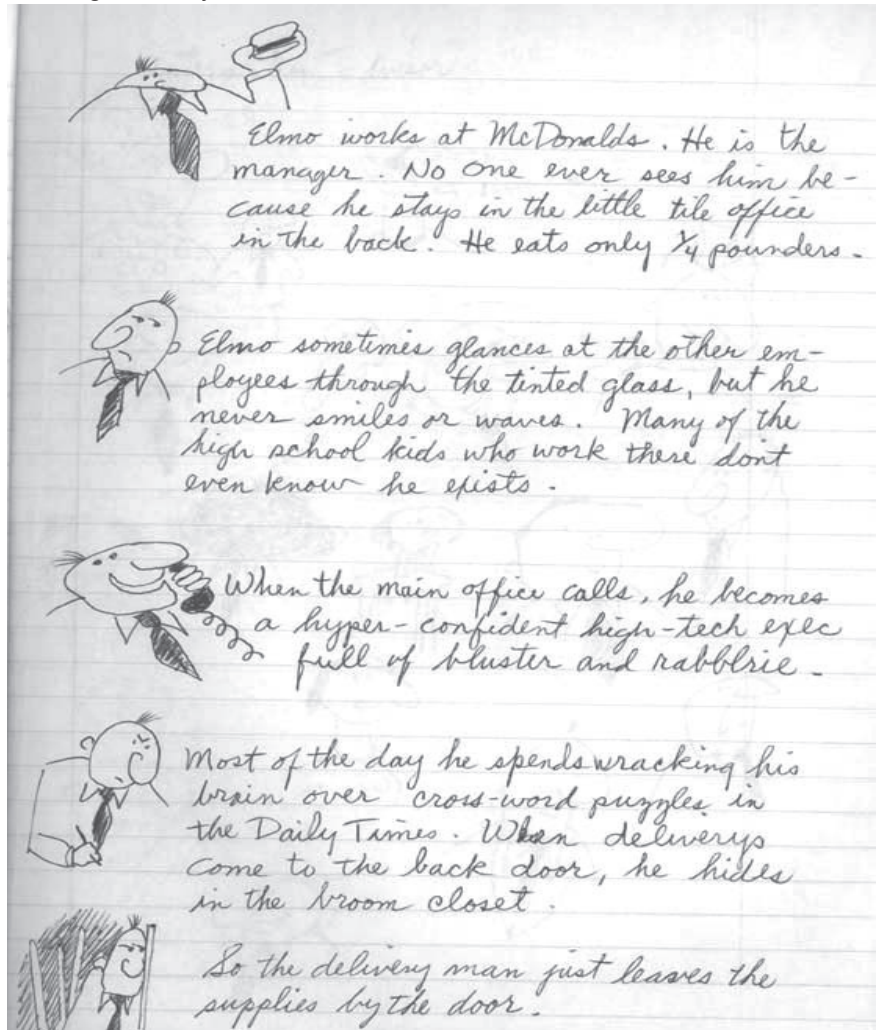
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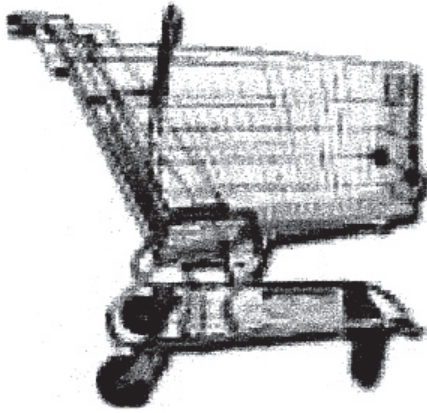
Introducing Elmo, by Turner Lee Ward



Top Ten PG&E Tips for Staying Warm This Winter

- * Cover your body with about three inches of lard.
- * Share your home with several dozen large farm animals.
- * Wear everything in your closet simultaneously.
- * Visit your neighbor's hot tub and don't leave.
- * Keep lots of sparklers going throughout the winter.
- * Embrace an affectionate person and don't let go.
- * Light your shoes on fire.
- * Host large, merry bonfires in your living room.
- * Take up perpetual jogging, even while sleeping.
- * Set fire to your house, or preferably, if you have neighbors nearby, set fire to theirs.





THESE VEHICLES may prove to be the best way to save downtown Berkeley and Oakland from being so boring you just want to cry.

RUNNING OF THE SHOPPING CARTS

by Paula Wagon

San Jose's downtown race car event and San Francisco's snow-covered ski jump have inspired Berkeley and Oakland to compete for "The Running of the Shopping Carts", a proposed event which city officials say will pull in thousands of tourists and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Our local shopping cart-using population is much more colorful than that Moseley kid from Tiburon," stated one downtown merchant. "We might as well exploit them and make some rocking dough."

"Sports events are big, but weird sports stunts are bigger," agreed one city official. "The local football team and basketball teams can embarrass



A GOOD INDICATOR OF YOUR UNION OR SHOP PAPER'S STRENGTH IS MANAGEMENT'S REACTION TO IT.

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themselves as usual as long as we have the most awesome shopping cart running teams in the west."

The event, which is already drawing interest from potential sponsors, would pit shopping cart runners from East Bay cities in timed competitions against each other over a course winding through downtown streets lined with cheering, flag-waving tourists.

"I think I could do a good job," mused

one Oakland resident pushing a shopping cart near Clay Street. "You have to move pretty fast to get around these streets, and I have about eight years of experience. With a little training I think I could take the trophy."

"The cops really keep me moving," nodded another man rearranging his belongings. "I'm in great shape, and I've learned to travel light."

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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.

* Coriolanus