

...the medically proven issue... All hail the...

Hepper Spray Times

September 2006

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



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

"Dare any be so bold to sound retreat... when I command them kill?.."*

Vol. VIII No. 9

Mel Gibson, in 72nd apology, pledges to learn Hebrew

By Minna Fix



IT GETS HARDER and harder to care about Mel Gibson's efforts to make things right since putting his big anti-Semitic foot in his mouth.

Everyone in the Jewish community and everybody else on the planet unanimously accepted movie star Mel Gibson's most recent apology for anti-Semitic remarks

made during a recent arrent and begged him to put a sock in it already.

"Fine, fine, let him learn Hebrew," muttered an exasperated Rabbi Mark Diamond of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California. "Just somebody, please, get him to shut up."

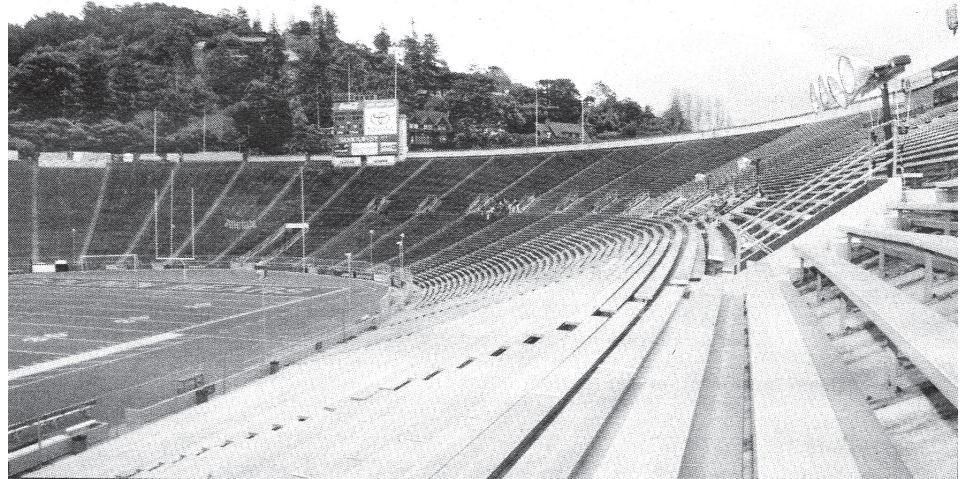
Gibson's most recent apology comes within days of his previous apology, which was also accepted, as were the previous 70 apologies Gibson has issued since his arrest in southern California for allegedly driving under the influence, an arrest during which he made a series of anti-Semitic remarks to the arresting officer.

Gibson has requested guidance from the Jewish community on addressing his bigotry, offering to eat kosher, dance the hora, and make a movie with Barbara Streisand, among other suggestions, none of which seem to resonate much with the Jewish community.

"We wish him the best," said Rabbi Diamond. "He should go sit with Pluto. They have a lot in common."

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UC: Retrofit Can Wait



UNIVERSITY PLANNERS want wealthy donors to have luxury, front-row seats fo watch the stadium crumble to dust in the next earthquake.

By Shawn DeDoor

University planners protested as unfair the criticism heaped on them for planning a state-of-the-art student high performance center and luxury accommodations for high-end donors before planning a basic retrofit of Memorial Stadium, situated on top of the Hayward fault.

"It is common knowledge that a person who is really buff will weather an earthquake much better than someone who is out of shape," responded one university planner. "The best preparation for heaving aside fallen debris and toppled trees is pilates and pecks to die for."

"We have a responsibility to our student body to make sure they have an opportunity to meet a potential earthquake disaster when the students are at their physical peak," commented another university planner. "That way they will have the strongest constitutional advantage for survival in the event of a prolonged period of disaster."

Critics objected that the swank plans for a health spa could hardly be called disaster planning, and in any event did not excuse the even more swank plans for the university's largest donors,

whose luxury accommodations were apparently being planned absent any actual retrofit for the stadium.

"What are these wealthy donors planning to watch if the stadium crumples?" grumbled Dan Marks, a city planner reeling in shock from the obvious omissions and bad math in the environmental report. "They'll be eating mesquite-grilled salmon on the front-lines of the stadium's collapse."

"Which will be a great show," responded UC planners. "That will make great video. And these donors will be in the very front row, in a position to see the devastation first-hand. Fundraising to restore the ruined stadium at that point will be a piece of cake."

* * * * *



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...birthplace of the \$34,000 turtle sculpture...."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, why hasn't the Bush administration attacked Iran yet? I'm getting tired of waiting. What's the big hold-up? Are we losing our nerve?

A: Dear reader, the Bush administration is having trouble figuring out who is going to wear the flight suit, but be patient. There's a cabinet shake-up almost weekly, so they should figure it out soon.

Q: Dear Lena, if Hezbollah rebuilds New Orleans, will it be better or worse?

A: Dear reader, Mardi Gras will no doubt have a slightly different feel, but at least the lights will be on in the Ninth Ward.

Q: Dear Lena, can Pluto get back in? Can it appeal or something? It doesn't seem fair to let Mel Gibson make movies and leave Pluto out in the cold.

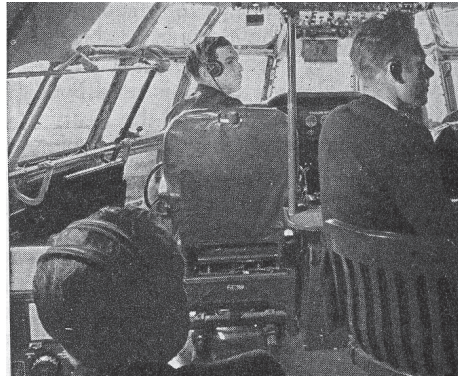
A: Dear reader, Pluto just needs a better publicist, kind of like the Berkeley Police Department. If you skimp on your public relations people tend to start to believe what they see. You'll find that the scientists who booted Pluto didn't get any goodie bags.

Q: Dear Lena, I'm not sure I can march any more. Isn't there an easy way to stop the war?

A: Dear reader, sure, it's relatively easy. The next time Condoleeza Rice or Donald Rumsfeld go over to a hot spot, they should take Jenna and Barbara with them and hang out for awhile. Hostilities will instantly cease.



Horror Movie "Cell Phones on a Plane" Shocks Flight Crew, Passengers



FLIGHT CREW FREEZES when it realizes the in-flight movie scheduled is the terrifying internet cult hit "Cell Phones on a Plane."

By Briona Dancingirls

An airline which showed the hit new horror movie "Cell Phones on a Plane" to its captive audience had to make an emergency landing so its passengers and crew could calm themselves and regain control of their senses.

"I'm not sure I'll ever fly again," stated one shaken traveler trembling in an airport waiting room after exiting the plane. "They were everywhere, all around on every side, and coming out of pockets and backpacks as though they would never stop."

"You feel so helpless," agreed another passenger. "They're everywhere, all around you, and there's nothing you can say or do."

"They'll bite your head off," stated another. "I was stuck there with my seatbelt on when one came right up the aisle at me, and like a fool I tried to say something. I was never so frightened in my life."

Airline personnel defended the showing of the horror film about cell phones on the plane itself, stating that most people appreciate that it is just a movie, but critics agreed that the emotional impact of the film is enhanced by seeing it while on an airplane.

Experts claim that cell phones are usually not dangerous, and that most of them just wish people would leave them alone.

"It's best not to confront them," offered one local cell phone expert. "If you see one, try not to get too close, and take deep breaths."

Airline officials conceded that they would probably switch to more calming in-flight movie selections, such as Tom Cruise action films.

* * * * *



President Bush is not sitting around doing nothing about all these wars. He is really thinking hard about how to get some peace going on. These are just a few of the options being considered in the White House by experts, who really dislike it when little children are getting bombed.

Bush Peace Plan Options:

- * redefine "peace" as something really easy like golfing with old Yale buddies, giving a neck massage to your fellow G-8 heads of state, or handing out a tax cut to the wealthy

- * find a really good cease-fire date that all the different religious groups can respect, like Christmas

- * charge much more for the weapons we sell to both sides of a conflict, so people have to save up money for several years to kill each other

- * put some people on the frontlines whom nobody wants to kill, like maybe the American Idol winners, the 49ers cheerleading squad, or a pile of puppies

- * hold some alternative event nearby with free food, so everybody wants to go there instead of the war, something like the 4th of July

- * have a "terrorists get in free" day at the nearest Disneyland-style theme park or air-conditioned Cineplex, so any terrorist-sponsored or terrorist-controlled violence has to be put on hold

- * make little asbestos suits and hats for all the children

GUIDELINES FOR TALKING TO RICH PEOPLE

It's a baffling political climate! The gap between the rich and the poor gets wider every day, and yet your political leaders' concerns are dictated by the wealthy. If you want to join the party, you'll need guidelines from **Felicia Flock**, who knows the nuance of wealth and can help you steer clear of an embarrassing faux pas.



Felicia Flock

* "Should I use the same language I use with my friends and family?"

- Yes, rich people really enjoy hearing the rich flavor of other cultures, and will probably ask you about your use of interesting and unusual phrases. Be willing to share with them how to pronounce and spell these unique expressions, and you will have made a friend for life.

* "Should I refrain from using profanity?"

- A judicious use of profanity is not out of place, because it will indicate to them that you feel quite comfortable in their presence, and that you consider them to be one of the crowd. Be careful, however, to use profanity sparingly, as rich people are very delicate and have very little exposure to the salty language often used by others not in their class.

* "Will they understand what I am saying?"

- It's possible, but if they don't, they will probably nod politely and keep right on smiling. Try to speak slowly, if possible, and let them do most of the talking. They will end up telling all their friends about the deep communion they felt they achieved with you.

* "What should we talk about?"

- Your rich people will be eager to lead the conversation in a comfortable direction, and will guide you in an inoffensive, apolitical path. If an uncomfortable moment arises, simply compliment their jewelry.

PLUTO BOOTED: CLAIMED NOT A TRUE PLANET

By Yvonne Itup

(08-24) 08:21 PDT -- Pluto was booted out of the planetary roster recently by astronomers who insist that they are not being influenced by other planets believed to be jealous of Pluto's close ties to Hollywood.

"Pluto has Disney in its pocket," stated one planet on condition of anonymity. "Let Pluto hang around with the small solar system bodies for awhile and see how it feels."

"Pluto never really fit in," declared another planet also wishing to be anonymous. "It's hard to put your finger on it, but I think we all sensed it at the office parties."

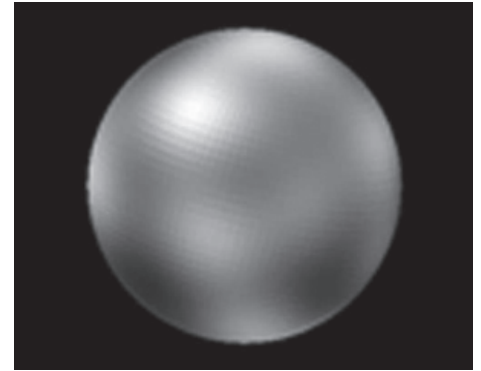
Astronomers acknowledged that

"He has the highest orbital inclination of any of them. Pluto just has trouble expressing himself."

Pluto has been demoted to the lowly status of "dwarf planet" after years of controversy about its qualifications for planet-hood, which many claimed were so much Hollywood hype.

"Pluto had a four-color twenty-page resume, a web site, film roles, and a star on his dressing room before the rest of us could turn around," stated another anonymous planet. "Lots of people fell for it, who wouldn't? But he didn't really belong."

Pluto's publicists acknowledged that the planet is often seen as distant and cold, but protested that the 248 years it



PLUTO'S ABRUPT DEMOTION from the official line-up of planets has really affected its complexion, which seems to have aged in a matter of days, much like Mel Gibson's.

requires for Pluto to complete one revolution makes it hard to make friends and keep appointments.

"Pluto is very giving," stated one publicist. "He has the highest orbital inclination of any of them. Pluto just has trouble expressing himself."

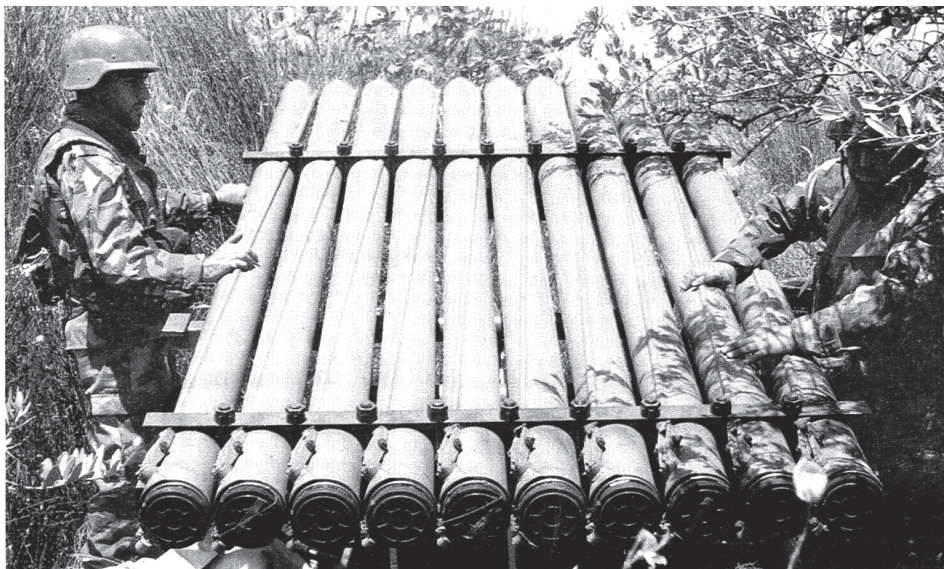
Saturn issued a press release stating that the jealousy claims were overblown. "We all love Pluto," stated Saturn, smoothing her rings. "We have no idea where all this talk came from. We're all very close, really like a family. We just have to have some standards."

Pluto at first refused to comment, but finally issued a press release stating that he didn't mind so much for himself, but was disappointed for his moon, Charon. "She's sensitive," he said. "She's used to the idea that I'm massive enough for my own gravity. But we can start over. As long as we have each other."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast





Two Hezbollah soldiers demonstrate how easily Katyusha rockets can be lashed together to create rafts, just one of the ways they feel they can assist the beleaguered New Orleans and nearby coastal communities suffering after hurricane Katrina.

Five Handy Ground Rules for Traveling Courteously with Others

1. No setting the other person on fire when they are not looking.
2. No hiding of wild animals in the other person's socks.
3. No throwing the other person's car keys in the river.
4. No selling each other's shoes on EBay.
5. No replacing motel room art with hand-painted originals, however creative.



Hezbollah Offers to Help Rebuild New Orleans

By Myrna Roll

Governor Ray Nagin, critic of the federal and state government's efforts to assist the rebuilding of New Orleans, affirmed that he would consider working cooperatively with Hezbollah, which has impressed supporters and critics alike by swiftly and efficiently rebuilding bombed-out southern Lebanon.

"They're very well-organized," he stated. "They hit the ground running after the cease-fire with Israel, and they're only loosely affiliated with the government, so there's very little red tape."

Critics objected that Hezbollah was a group considered to be a bunch of terrorists by the Bush administration, but Nagin only responded that that gave them all a lot in common.

"We're used to hearing a lot of name-calling down here," he stated. "But it's hard to turn your back on honest, practical assistance, and these guys can rebuild a school in nothing flat. Let's face it," he added, "the people from the Ninth Ward won't be strolling through the Oval Office anytime soon."

Critics argued that Hezbollah shouldn't be allowed to gain a political foothold in New Orleans, considering the potential instability in the region.

"We're not in a position to argue," responded Nagin. "We have people sleeping under tables in trailers, or unable to come home at all. We'd rather have Hezbollah gain a political foothold than the Republicans. And Mardi Gras might loosen them up."

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THIS PROPOSED PLAN was misidentified as the plan for Telegraph Avenue in our second-to-last issue, and then misidentified again as the addition to Memorial Stadium in our last issue. This is actually the proposal for the latest reconfiguration of the BART Plaza. We apologize for the error.

Next issue, Spackling 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 2