

...the holiday shopping issue...

These are truly the...

# Hepper Spray Times

December 2004

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

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

"...Thou are a very ragged wart."\*

Vol. VI No. 11



SANTA'S LAWYERS are scrambling to find some way to defer his military service until after the holidays.

## BUSH DRAFTS SANTA

by Nora Gretz

In a controversial move opposed by his military advisers, President Bush exercised his rights as Commander in Chief and drafted Santa Claus in an effort to address critics who claim that more than 85 percent of the estimated 165,700 troops in Iraq are American.

"He's German or Dutch or something," stated White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan. "And then there's that list he has. He can be a really scary guy."

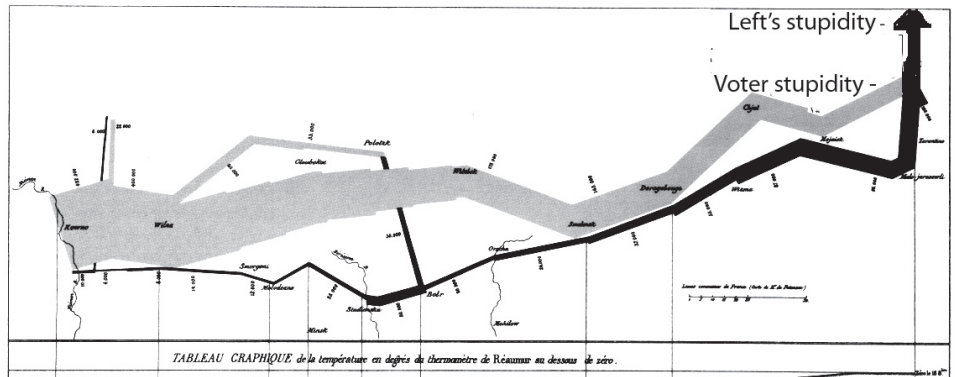
"We're concerned about the possibility that this could backfire," stated one military advisor who wished to remain anonymous. "The American public has adjusted to us finding headless bodies under a bridge or beside a roadway, but we're not sure how they'd react if the next one was wearing a red suit."

A tearful Mrs. Claus was apparently unable to comment, but sent word through a spokesperson that her husband was proud to serve.

"He's a patriot," she stated. "Those Iraqis better watch out."

\* \* \* \* \*

## ELECTION EXPERTS AGREE: LEFT, DEMOCRATS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY STUPID



RELATIVE STUPIDITY index of voters versus left and Democratic strategists derived from a super-scientific poll by trained experts reveals total doofus factor.

by Saul Delight

Experts on electoral politics agreed that the results of the recent Presidential election prove definitively that the political left and the Democratic Party are stupid as cotton.

"We knew that the electorate was poorly informed, and that many voters actually passionate enough to go to the polls were specifically misinformed about many contemporary issues," commented one scientist. "But after thorough analysis of the exit polls and morning show interviews we realize we were severely underestimating the monumental stupidity of Bush's political opposition, which clearly couldn't strategize its way out of a paper bag."

Democratic operatives agreed.

"The economy stinks, terrorism is on the rise, the war looks bad, nobody can afford healthcare, and we couldn't make any of it work for us. We really, really stink."

Senator Diane Feinstein mused that the push for gay marriage had given the Bush administration an easy wedge issue, while others pointed to the Ralph Nader and Green Party efforts as destructive factors.

"Challenging the Democratic Party from the left was really helpful for us," said Tom Minnery, the vice president of public policy at Focus on the Fam-

ily. "We had our hands full working on the campaign, so having the left self-destruct reduced our burden immeasurably."

"Unquestionably contributory factors," remarked John Zogby, head of polling firm Zogby International. "But all these factors stem from the fundamental lack of strategic foresight and general ineptitude of the left."

"It's our tradition," stated one member of "Not In Our Name" proudly. "Count on us to stick to this strategy through four more years."

"Oh, we do, indeed we do," commented one Republican campaign strategist. "There isn't much else we can count on in a changing world, but while the geopolitical landscape may change, the strategic incompetence of our opposition is something we can always trust to be there."

\* \* \* \* \*



## ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

### Dear Lena, will Santa make a good soldier?

A: It's possible. He has considerable experience picking accurate targets from high altitudes and is said to have years of experience in global diplomatic relations. A man with such talents might be surprisingly good at blowing people away.

### Dear Lena, whose fault was the Democratic electoral failure?

A: Martha Stewart stepped up and took the responsibility months ago. You really need to let go.

### Dear Lena, where is Osama bin Laden?

A: I believe he is already in line for the post-holiday sale at Macys hoping to update his look.

### Dear Lena, how is President Bush going to heal the severe national division?

A: It will be a faith-based healing in a large camp tent with a gospel choir handing out pretty little fans with the virgin Mary on them, who will bear an odd resemblance to Condoleeza Rice.

### Dear Lena, who really won the election?

A: Let me check with Erika Hills and Ann Getty and I'll get right back to you.

# VOTERS TO BATES: YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING

## Tax Measures Fail; Bates Blames Terrorists

by Harry Home

The simultaneous failure of almost every tax proposal put forth by Mayor Tom Bates prompted him to reject any personal responsibility and blame terrorism.

"Oakland raised taxes, El Cerrito raised taxes, other towns managed to raise taxes. It can't be me, so it must be Osama Bin Laden," stated Bates.

"Half a percentage point here, half a percentage point there, and sooner or later it adds up to \$8 million," stated one homeowner patching his roof for winter. "I'd like to bail out the city every time it gets in trouble, but the little woman won't let me."

"That's right," responded his wife, loading up used newspapers and bottles in the back of her '82 Toyota. "Our charitable giving is stretched pretty thin just now. We made a little contribution to the Nabolom Bakery and the City of Berkeley is just going to have to be patient."

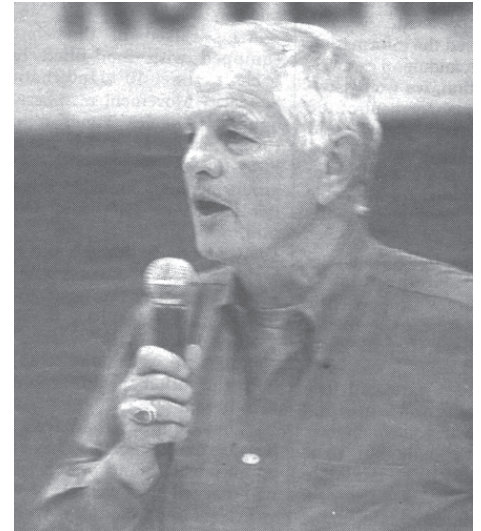
Critics pointed out that Measure B, an \$8 million dollar a year property tax, passed handily, proving that Berkeley voters still cared about schools, but were dubious that the Berkeley city budget was as spare as Bates and his supporters claimed.

Bates disagreed.

"The voters trust me," he stated. "And they would trust me even more if I could still steal enough newspapers to foil my current opposition. It's just hard to know exactly what will be printed when. Hongisto had help with this kind of thing, but I'm just kind of winging it."

Terrorist denied any involvement in the local election.

"We've really had our hands full,"



**BERKELEY MAYOR TOM BATES exhorted voters to support taxing themselves over and over and over again.**

commented one Al Qaeda operative." Berkeley rarely needs any outside help in establishing an atmosphere of general chaos."

\* \* \* \* \*

## APATHY STILL COOL

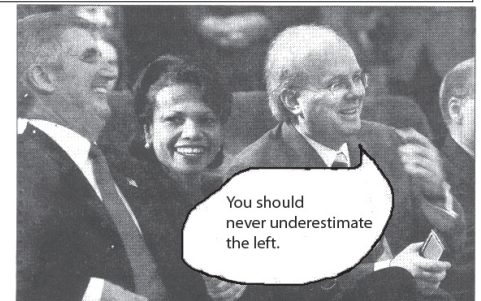
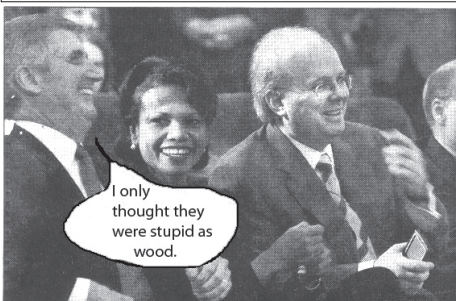
by Scott T. Dog

The youth vote Kerry supporters agreed could have provided a margin of victory in the Democratic race never materialized, thanks to young voters' recognition that apathy is still cooler than an iPod.

"We thought about voting, and then we thought, like, ick," explained one twenty-something. "Voting is something my parents do. Tell them next time they should hand out jello shots."

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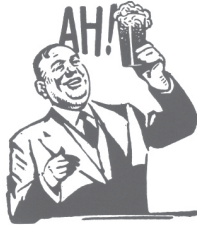
*We Can't Draw Comics* by guest artist Franz Toast



# SCIENTISTS SAY RUBBER DUCKY PROVES MARS HAD WATER

by Pearl E. Gates

With the half-life of its cobalt 57 fuel supply rapidly running out, desperate scientists insisted that the little rubber ducky found recently by NASA's mechanical rover proved definitively that not only did Mars once have water, but that it also had quality bath toys.



**MARS seems to be loaded with sulfates which might make a really fine brew.**

"Some of my colleagues are arguing that the shape of the bath toys might have been formed by wind or even a rough ride through a laundry drier cycle," said Raymond E. Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis, one of the leaders of the space rover's high stakes mission. "But since the faucets are clearly marked 'hot' and 'cold', we're fairly certain that we've stumbled on a landscape that once was filled with conditioning rinse."

Critics argued that the time and money spent analyzing the chemistry of Martian rocks was misspent, considering the number of California and other cities now having to filter their groundwater or avoid drinking it altogether.

"All the more reason they should support our research," said Arvidson. "There's a lot of room up here for a trailer park or two. A little water and a DSL hookup and these people should be all set."

\* \* \* \* \*



**JESUS thinks he might be able to accomplish more with a cabinet-level position in the Bush administration.**

## JESUS RETURNS, WANTS CABINET POSITION

by Bart O. Defamly

Jesus' traditional holiday trip through the Bay Area resembled a campaign swing this year as he hit the social, business, and academic circuit in an effort to gather public support for his bid for a cabinet position in the Bush administration.

Presidential Press Secretary Scott McClellan acknowledged that there may be some cabinet-level changes in the coming months, but denied that Jesus was being specifically considered, although he agreed that the President and the Son of God were "on the same page."

"We welcome his support," stated McClellan evenly. "And we want the American public to know that his being Jewish will have absolutely no bearing whatsoever on whether or not he gets a cabinet level position."

The astonishing exit of so many of President Bush's cabinet after the election left many wondering if the Almighty had played a role in creating a job opportunity for his son, but Jesus dismissed the implication.

"I believe I could do a lot of good in a government role," stated Jesus. "I've learned a lot from the private sector, and I'm considered to be fairly influential in certain circles. I also have quite an impressive resume. My references are out of this world."

\* \* \* \* \*

# CITIZENS NIX PICKING UP THE TAB FOR POLITICIANS

by Abigail Blowing

Berkeley voters surprised Berkeley's best political strategists when they rejected an opportunity to pitch in and pay for local electoral campaigns.

"We hated disappointing them," said one resident. "Especially since almost everything else we were asked to support was a tax increase, which gets so boring. It was nice that we were offered an opportunity to select the kind of thing for which we are so loved by late-night comedians nationwide."

"I wasn't sure at first that I had much interest in paying for some politician's political campaign, especially considering the idiotic slogans and lawn signs and all," mused another voter who admitted to almost voting for the measure. "But it would have been truly novel to fund both sides of a political contest."

"It could have been lots of fun," agreed one homeless voter. "Maybe if I'm forced to fund the political campaigns I won't feel so disconnected, kind of like placing a bet. I have to admit right now that kicking me from one end of town to the other seems to be the one thing both the progressives and the moderates agree on."



Local voters agreed that much too much money was being spent on local election materials that didn't have much persuasive punch in the first place, and suggested that before asking them to contribute, local politicians try to voluntarily restrain their out of control spending.

"I have no trouble avoiding spending \$100,000," commented one voter. "If local candidates are having trouble keeping themselves in check, they could give their extra money to me. I would invest it wisely or spend it; either way all parties would benefit."

"I would vote for a measure that just limited candidates to spending about \$500, period," suggested one resident. "These people are just running around tearing up each others' signs, anyway. Make a \$500 limit a condition of candidacy. I personally have no problem avoiding voting for these big spenders."

\* \* \* \* \*

# FAITH-BASED SCIENCE CLASSES IN WISCONSIN

by *Luka Round*

Red-faced educators in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, did their best to wade through a biblical-style deluge of inquiries after agreeing to revise their science curriculum, to allow the teaching of creationism.

"We were influenced by the election," admitted Joni Burgin, superintendent of the school district. "We may only have 1000 students here, but we have to try to prepare them for a faith-based approach to science, politics, economics, and everything else."

Burgin pointed out that her district wasn't the only group jumping on the faith-based bandwagon. Bookstores and religious supply stores have seen a surge in Bible-buying by ordinarily secular voters attempting to divine how the nation could still rationalize believing in virgin births, life after death, angels, and extraterrestrials.

Religious experts advised new Bible readers that the book itself had no magical qualities, and recommended that people looking for a quick religious experience cover their bets by picking up the latest Harry Potter.

"I just don't get it," mused one reader leafing through pages of begats. "It seems like a bunch of superstition and hokus-pocus to me. It doesn't seem right to teach it in the schools."

"We need to prepare them for life," responded Burgin. "Imagine working on an issue-based political campaign only to discover the issues don't matter. These kids are going to need some false comfort in the hardest way."

\* \* \* \* \*



MOUNT ST. HELENS is having its own post-election protest.

## BUSH RE-ELECTED; EARTH BLOWS

by *Boris A. Cupp*

A post-election lava formation inside Mount St. Helens' crater has bulged upward approximately 330 feet and is growing at the rate of 7 to 8 cubic meters every second, while another volcano beneath Iceland's largest glacier erupted spouting clouds of black and white ash.

Vulcanologists believe the recent presidential election results may have had an effect on the earth, which has been under considerable environmental pressure, causing certain vulnerable locations to blow.

"Volcanos long dormant are rumbling back to life," said Jeff Wynn, chief scientist for volcano hazards at the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. "Complacent citizens may be able to fool themselves that the current administration is environmentally friendly, but you can't fool mother nature."

The Bush administration countered that environmental quality hadn't really suffered much in his first term, despite the rejection of the Kyoto Protocol and the strong evidence of global climactic changes.

"Wait until we get some traction after this election stuff," commented one administration spokesperson. "We're really just getting started. And if you live in Washington or Iceland, hang onto your hat."

\* \* \* \* \*

### Readers' Gift Suggestions:

- pepper spray
- flu shots
- political credibility
- Canadian citizenship
- weapons of mass destruction
- plastic surgery
- Ralph Nader's retirement
- Erotic love poems recited by Dick Cheney

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...

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

\* Henry IV Part 2