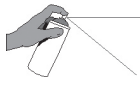


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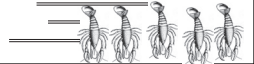
These
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Hepper Spray Times

December 2005



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



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

"I will henceforth eat no fish of fortune's butt'ring..."

Vol. VII No. 12

JESUS RETURNS *Endorses Expensive Condos*

by Luz Change

Jesus Christ was the special guest speaker at a recent Downtown Berkeley Association meeting to the delight of its membership.

"We weren't entirely sure he was coming," stated DBA Executive Director Deborah Bahdia. "His arrival date kept changing, so we didn't publicize it. If we'd tried to announce it we might have run out of chairs."

Jesus surprised everybody by endorsing the controversial Downtown Plan which critics claim was designed in secret and gives away crucial neighborhood controls over development. He stated that he hadn't read the plan, but he'd done a lot of traveling, and thought Berkeley should pump up the volume on fun.

"This place could use some nightlife," he stated. "There's not enough karaoke or smokin' country-style line dancing. I do a killer Aaron Neville 'Tell It Like It Is'."

Critics objected that Jesus's appearance might be misconstrued as an endorsement of the DBA's policies, which include anti-homeless architecture, cracking down on panhandlers, and replacing the once-plentiful inexpensive single room occupancy units with high-end condominium units.

Jesus admitted that he was spending a couple nights in an expensive new unit as a guest of a local developer, and that the place had a hell of a view.

"You have to admit that the poor can be kind of a drag," he said. "Even at their best they hardly ever attract the right kind of crowd and they almost never pick up the tab."

The DBA, which had been criticized in recent years for scapegoating the poor for downtown's difficulties, expressed delight at Jesus's willingness to participate.

"He's busy this time of year, but he's really a giving guy," stressed Bahdia. "Building condos in the face of all this homelessness is a tough job, but it helps to have friends in high places."

* * * * *

MARTHA STEWART THREATENS TO DROP BY FOR HOME VISIT: *Terrified Viewers Flee*

by Troy N. Dasleep

Martha Stewart, free of her prison-issue electronic ankle bracelet, announced her plan to drop in unexpectedly on unsuspecting homemakers and assist them with their holiday dinner preparations, causing mass panic and chaos as thousands hit the road in an effort to avoid being humiliated on national television.

"I'm a very brave person," stated one stay-at-home mom packing hurriedly for an extended road trip, "but my family and my lemon Bechamel sauce definitely have their limits."

"We know Martha is angry," agreed another neighbor hurriedly gathering up supplies and heading out of town, "but it's not our fault they decided to arrest and humiliate her. Maybe we had a few jokes at her expense, but everybody did, and she shouldn't take it out on us. I'm really trying hard, but I have trouble with my souffle's."

Authorities at the Houston Astro-dome agreed to include the hordes of terrified Martha Stewart evaders along with the thousands of Katrina hurricane refugees, explaining that the crisis was equally dire for culinary evacuees.

Spokespersons for Stewart protested that there was nothing mean-spirited about her proposed home invasions, and that many people tuned in to her program seeking her considered advice on home-making matters, despite her status as an ex-convict.

Critics responded that showing up at the door with cameras and release forms was quite another matter.

"We feel for these people," one official confessed. "Losing your home is one thing, but Martha Stewart's invasion of innocent kitchens is another potential national disaster in the mak-



BETTER START DUSTING, because Martha's dropping by with some helpful household hints for improving your life whether you like it or not.

ing. What if these people decide to fight back? It could be a big problem. Martha just got out of prison, she learned a new trick or two, and she may be in no mood to negotiate."

Local homemakers pointed out that they have meat cleavers and are in no mood to negotiate, either.

"Martha had better be armed," agreed one resident. "We may be bad cooks, flower arrangers, and homemakers, but some of us watched her show on pumpkin carving, and we know a trick or two ourselves."

Authorities have applied for United Nations protection, since FEMA is currently overwhelmed.

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, exactly how many times do I need to go around my nearby traffic circle before I achieve enlightenment?

A: Dear reader, experts disagree on the precise number of circumrevolutions, but theorize that between twelve and fifteen times around your traffic circle should do it, or at least keep you out of trouble for awhile. Your degree of enlightenment will, of course, depend on how far off-track you are in the first place, which is easily measured by your reaction to the big blue ball still rolling through the minds of the Civic Arts Commission and now on its way to Georgia State. They are willing to give you a reading for a small fee, which they promise to invest wisely.

Q: Dear Lena, is the new chancellor dumb or what? Tearing out the freebox was stupid enough, but routinely destroying community efforts to replace it is going to light up all the old conflicts on southside. Is he mental, or ill-advised?

A: Nobody is sure which, at this point. Merchants and City of Berkeley officials are waving wildly at him to keep the peace, but all new chancellors are eager to stomp a few hippies for the cheering crowds. It would be best to have a neighbor lined up to feed the dog in case we all end up in jail.

Q: Dear Lena, who's right, Lenora Moore or her neighbors?

A: Both. The real culprits are the cops, who stand around by the dozen harassing freebox activists while drug-ridden neighborhoods shake in their shoes. We all know you don't need to effect an arrest to make a street inhospitable to dealers, but you do need to be there, and everybody knows it's not nearly as much to hang around Oregon Street as it is to chase hippies around Southside.



NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO get anywhere anymore at any time at all without maybe a helicopter.

Traffic Engineers Discover You Can't Get There From Here

by Cy DaDeRoad

The revelation that Bay Area traffic congestion is up 4% after receding in previous years sparked a new series of studies which have conclusively determined that you can't get there from here no matter where you are, who you are, what you drive, or whom you shoot.

"We've tried diamond lanes, fast passes, carpools, firearms, all of that and more," admitted one CalTrans official. "Nothing works. It's as though the universe doesn't really want us to work a really long, long way from home."

Very few people defend the congestion, but those who do suggest that this might be nature's way of telling us to slow down.

"You need to get into it," suggested one commuter, idling in his SUV. "Take deep breaths, do isometric exercises, and will yourself to stay off the phone. It's really quite a workout."

"We're glad people are passing on the opportunity to simply shoot each other," stated another CalTrans official. "Especially since what's on the horizon is the two-day, double-staffed commute. SUVs are pretty well-equipped right now, but they're going to need plumbing and kitchen facilities shortly, not to mention sleeper cabs."

"Perhaps actually 'getting there' is over-rated," sighed one commuter. "I sit up pretty high in my SUV, but it's still hard to see the road ahead."

* * * * *

"Spaceship Earth" Marching to Georgia

by Roland Roland Roland

Eino fans and satirists were crestfallen to learn that the alleged David Brower memorial called "Spaceship Earth" would no longer continue its embarrassing search for a Bay Area home.

Eino, the sculptor commissioned by PowerBar millionaire Brian Maxwell to memorialize Brower, made a call to Kennesaw State University himself offering them the homeless sculpture when the latest proposed east bay site got the usual scathing response from neighbors, claiming that the university had previously expressed a desire for the sculpture after a lecture he gave on the campus.

"No, they really did," he stated in a hurt voice as dozens of press corps members shook with laughter. "The Bay Area just isn't ready for it."

"Eino is absolutely right," stated a relieved member of the Civic Arts Commission, "Berkeley won't have this stupid thing to kick around anymore."

"We're not ready to lose the steadiest source of comedy we've had since the mayor stole the newspapers endorsing his electoral opposition. Without the blue ball rolling from neighborhood to neighborhood like a tacky art drive-by there's precious little to liven up the commission meetings."

"It won't be the same around here," moped another East Bay resident. "They didn't even give our neighborhood a chance. If you took a chunk out of it at just the right angle, you could have installed it in People's Park, called it a freebox, and killed two birds with one stone."

Fans of the blue ball vowed to follow it to its resting place in Georgia.

"If you circle it seven times you get a PowerBar," exclaimed one. "We're loading up the van and heading to Kennesaw. We just have to say goodbye."

* * * * *

Bush Says War Critics "Irresponsible"

Editorial by Joy Snooze

Have you been criticizing the war? You probably didn't realize how irresponsible this was. Here are some suggestions for addressing your irresponsible behavior:

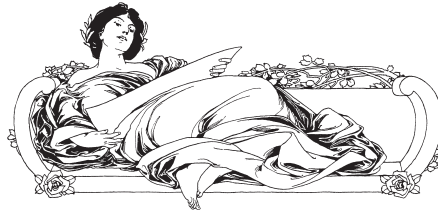
Learn to love guns. This can't be all that hard. Guns are everywhere, so there's plenty of people who can help you overcome your negative attitudes. The next time you get mugged, ask your robber to help familiarize you with the make and model of the weapon and some of its useful features.

Learn to love bombs. This may be a little harder, but again, plenty of people build them and drop them and seem to love doing it. The University of California right here in town is the 6th largest nuclear weapons contractor in the world, and is chock-full of experts who can help you understand how this is a very cool thing.

Learn to see the word "peace" as a threat to your personal safety. Studies show that people's personal sense of security is perfectly proportional to their willingness to abandon budetary caution and civil rights concerns. If your neighbors plan a "peace" march, insist on a heavy police presence with lots of police videographers keeping careful track of all the participants with follow-up visits from the FBI, and be sure to schedule a "Support the Troops" march on the same day.

Learn to separate the warrior from the war. This is really easy. The soldiers are just pawns caught in the war machine, ditto the bomb designers and builders and the politicians trying to satisfy public expectations and the voters who vote them into office and everybody. This is how we can all dislike war conceptually, but keep it merrily rolling along and know that it isn't our fault.

Changing negative attitudes about war is a tough job, but it is possible, or we wouldn't still be able to round up international as well as national support for bombing the socks off a bunch of people trying to raise sheep. Thanks for doing your part!



Ten Pepper Spray Ideas for Holiday Fun!

1. Get a holiday party really moving! Guaranteed to get everybody off the couch and get people on the dance floor really rocking.
2. Tired of Christmas carollers? No need to poison the figgy pudding when you use pepper spray on vocal pests.
3. Stores too crowded? Clear the aisles with PST's favorite stocking stuffer.
4. Want a peppier Nutcracker? Ballet doesn't have to be boring with an application of pepper spray from front row center.
5. Family visitors staying a little too long? Use pepper spray in the guest room for a not-so-gentle hint.
6. Got a snorer in the back pew? Pepper spray will perk up the entire congregation and shorten the sermon to boot.
7. Getting a little tired of that Salvation Army bell-ringer?
8. Make decorations from your used pepper spray cannisters. Add little wings and haloes to make angels, add crowns and finery to make three kings, or go with a basic crown of thorns.
9. Tired of waiting in line to see Santa? imagine what a liberal application of pepper spray will do to that long line of whiny children.
10. Pepper-spray retro-fit those stogy old Christmas carols. Insert pepper spray where the songs ordinarily say "silver bells" or "Jesus Christ" and your listeners will love your sense of novelty and originality.

ELMO | Turner Lee Ward

<p>Elmo is writing his Congressman. He's mad as hell!</p> 	<p>But, what if his scathing attack draws too much attention? He could be put on a watch list. He could be monitored secretly. He could be marked for removal!</p> 	<p>Better not sign my own name. Better not use my own address. Better not lick the stamp. DNA! Better not send it at ALL!!</p> 
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How to Riot in French

Always add "sil vous plait" to your threats, i.e., "Off the pigs, sil vous plait."

Be sure your molotov cocktail bottle is from a really good year.

Always make fun of of the pronunciation of your opponent.

Be sure to wear a chic beret or stylish outfit.

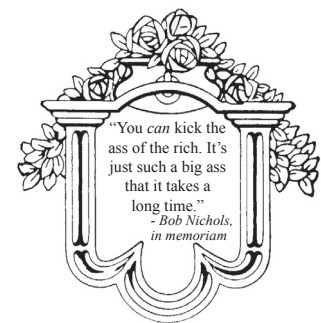
Be sure your spray-paint graffiti has an impressionistic quality.

Only throw the very best food.

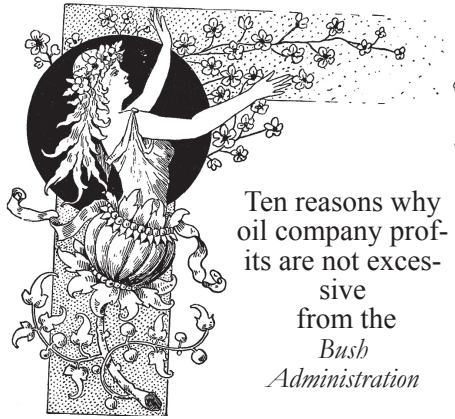
Don't let the high-pressure water hoses discourage you from not bathing.



CHANCELLOR BIRGENEAU is only one of hundreds of community members trying their best to replace the People's Park community freebox; his "generosity box" was the prizewinning design on one recent freebox installation day.



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Ten reasons why oil company profits are not excessive from the Bush Administration

Oil just slips right through your fingers and it's hard to know exactly how much you have.

It's really hard to get oil off your Italian three-piece suit.

It's really hard to get oil off the leather seats in your Jaguar.

Nobody's making any new dinosaurs.

Just try to make gasoline out of soy milk.

Just try to make gasoline out of wheat grass.

Just try to run your car on organic carrot juice, you stupid hooper.

Someday when the oil companies have a bad day, it will all even out.

Someday when there isn't an oil man in the oval office, it will all even out.

Money just slips right through your fingers and it's hard to know exactly how much you have.



PRESIDENT BUSH AND WHITE HOUSE SCRIPTWRITERS LIKELY TO SWEEP OSCARS

by Harley Makenit

The Oscars for Best Screenplay, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actor are most likely to go to the scriptwriters and military personnel who composed and performed the content of Bush's televised video link to U.S. troops rallying behind his Iraq strategy.

"Hollywood looks tired next to this sparkling dialog," affirmed one tinseltown insider after viewing the video. "You can't coach professional actors to sound this fresh."

The Bush administration conceded that all parties in the video were working from scripts featuring lines such as the one spoken by Sgt. Maj. Akeel Shaker Nassir, an Iraqi in charge of the Iraqi Army Training facility in Tikrit, who stated, "Thank very much for everything. I like you."

"I haven't heard honesty like that in a long time," commented an Academy



BUSH LOVES TALKING to the troops and they love talking to him, but everybody especially loves the scriptwriters, who really know how to pep up the war.

representative wiping tears from his eyes. "If we could animate them they could run forever."

The Defense Department still has no specific plans for withdrawal, but has plenty of midlevel Pentagon officials helping craft and coach dialog for future events.

"We're not ruling out animation," stated one official. "These troops have performed admirably so far, but they have a dangerous job to do, and we may need to hang onto some cast continuity from one episode to the next. These guys want to work with us, but we tend to lose them at an alarming rate."

* * * * *



HELPLESS HOMEMAKERS DUTIFULLY SUIT UP before handling the Christmas geese, which an armed and angry Martha Stewart insists could be dangerous carriers of bird flu.

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



Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Roger Dondis
Staff.....Luz Change, Troy N. Dasleep,
Roland Roland Roland, Cy DaDeRoad, Sue
Zaphone, Lena Deeter, Joy Snooze, Turner Lee
Ward, the Bush Administration, Harley Makenit

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



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.

* All's Well That Ends Well