

...the
e-coli-free
issue... All
hail
the...

Hepper Spray Times

December 2006

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



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

“...Sound drums and trumpets bold and cheerfully...”*

Vol. VIII No. 12



CORRUPT ELECTORAL antics in several local races may keep the courts busy for years.

TERRORISTS WIN MID-TERM ELECTIONS

By Clyde Trudierre

In a stunning loss for Republicans, terrorists won a majority of seats in the House and Senate, marking the end of the Bush administration's dominance and the President's ability to utter the words "stay the course" without losing his deadpan and running in tight, nervous little circles.

Republican women were seen hurriedly leaving campaign headquarters explaining that they needed to go shopping right away for burqas and pick up copies of the Koran.

"We hope Bloomingdale's has a nice assortment," called out one Republican matron hailing a cab.

Republicans expressed surprise at the electoral reversal.

"We thought we were doing fine," stated one senator cleaning out his congressional office. "Sure, the war was going badly, gas prices were obscene, housing, healthcare, schools, transportation, global warming, all that was pretty bad, it's true. But we sure had the country behind us on flag-burning and the sanctity of marriage."

* * * * *

JESUS RETURNS, DETAINED BY SECURITY

By Wilma Luck-Change

Jesus' traditional return for the Christmas holidays was nearly ruined by over-zealous airport security officers who interrogated him for hours before finally allowing him to board his flight.

"I nearly missed my connection," stated Jesus. "They confiscated my crown, and they kept asking for my passport. I usually get to walk right past security. Most of the time I'm pretty even-tempered, but I admit I was a little annoyed. I really love settling back with the SkyMall catalog."

Security officials apologized for delaying Jesus, but pointed out that they were routinely obligated to insist on papers at customs for all international flights and insisted that the delay had nothing to do with enhanced security.

"He looks like an old hippy. He's also on a watch list," stated one official on condition of anonymity. "He's considered somewhat subversive. And then there was that crown."

Jesus' supporters were relieved when he was finally allowed to land, since they'd been preparing for his arrival for some time.

"We want his endorsement on some product lines," stated one follower. "It's the season. Jesus is big money."

Critics argued that the airport security system wastes time on people like Jesus, who are no threat to public safety, but were dismissed.

"Jesus is quite a common name," commented one security official. "We're just not entitled to assume all of them can walk on water."

Jesus' fellow passengers were delighted to share a flight with him, describing him as patient with children and willing to transform bottled water



JESUS SHRUGGED off the security guards' questions, possibly aggravating the incident which caused his lengthy delay at the airport.

into an outstanding vintage.

"I hope we share a flight on the way back," exclaimed one excited traveler. "The flight might be delayed a bit, but you know it will land safely."

Security officials insist that Jesus' treatment was routine, and that the incident was no cause to question the current security procedures.

"Sure, it's Christmas and all that, but we're trying to keep the public safe. We hope everyone has a lovely holiday while keeping in mind that we're at war."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, what would Jesus want for Christmas?

Dear reader, a PlayStation. He used to want world peace, but he has some solid investments now, and has found a way to make socio-political instability really work.

Dear Lena, is it true that Rudolph is in rehab? We rely on him so much around the holidays.

Dear reader, it's a good thing. It's very dark and cold where he lives, and it's easy to lean on a dangerous crutch. He was always an odd duck, and would never join in any reindeer games, but we always thought the red nose was just a family idiosyncrasy. Find someone else to make the eggnog.

Dear Lena, Arnold Schwarzenegger calls me all the time right before an election telling me how to vote, never leaves a call-back number, and then treats me like I don't exist after election day. I remember this routine from the last election. How do I give this guy the brush-off once and for all?

Dear reader, change parties. You'll never hear from the guy again.

Dear Lena, Nancy Pelosi called and says she's in charge of the house now. I just remodeled. Can she do this?

Dear reader, yes, but if you work with her you can probably stay until the end of the month.

Ask Lena anything! She is an expert. Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice at cdenney@igc.org.

LANDMARK FRIENDS AND FOES STILL BAFFLED BY FLIERS

By Calder Bluff

While the nation experienced regime change, the mid-term election in Berkeley firmly endorsed the political status quo with the clear exception of landmark issues, which nobody seems able to adequately explain.

"I'm trying to get it straight," stated one voter dubiously, holding a flyer handed out by Mayor Bates' No on Measure J campaign. "If I vote against Measure J it says I'm 'strengthening' landmarks legislation, unless it's the other way around?"

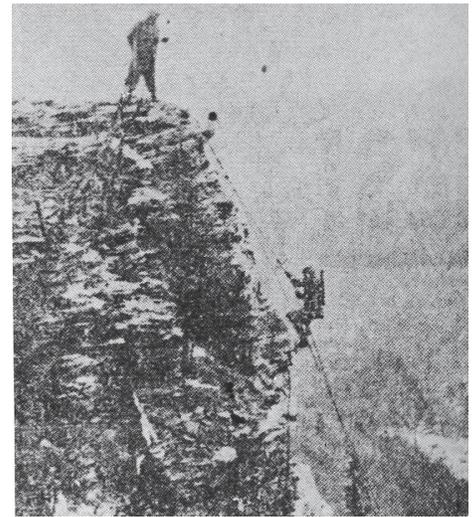
"It's simple," replied Mayor Tom Bates, who admitted that his campaign produced the baffling flier. "If you vote against Measure J, you strengthen existing landmarks by making sure they never have to compete with any new, cheeky, upstart landmarks with no sense of their place or respect for developers."

"We have too many landmarks as it is," affirmed Bates' wife, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, who lent her name to the No on Measure J campaign. "Defeating Measure J strengthens landmarks by making sure the Landmarks Preservation Commission has a less crowded agenda and a lot more time on its hands, which means they'll have more time to dust and polish the already existing landmarks, which are thick as thieves."

Critics argued that nearly half of Berkeley's voters endorsed Measure J, but were dismissed by the Mayor.

"You can't reasonably argue that they knew what they were voting on because of our deceptive campaign literature," he stated, while political observers nodded in agreement.

"believe we can reasonably insist that we have a mandate to put an end to the annoying production of landmarks, since people on both sides of the issue were so equally baffled that they canceled each other out and may never vote again unless we step in with deci-



VOTERS TRIED VALIANTLY to climb a stack of deceptive campaign literature—but were badly injured, and are considering suing the Chamber of Commerce's political action committee.

sive action."

"We won't make landmarks illegal just yet," added Bates. "We are considering inhibiting their problematic behavior by starting with anti-loitering laws and anti-sitting laws, hoping most of them simply get the message and move along."

* * * * *

Top Recommended Ideas for Reducing Stress During the Holidays



- * Buy several ceramic santas, a brand new hammer, and do what comes naturally.
- * Beat together three sticks of softened butter, some melted chocolate squares, a tablespoon of vanilla, and toss over your local carolers.
- * Drink heavily.
- * Round up the reindeer and play a game of Twister.
- * If the caroling gets overwhelming, insert inappropriate Beach Boys lyrics.
- * Decorate your house for a more relaxed holiday, say Arbor Day or the 4th of July.
- * Put a Santa hat on your bust of Tschai-kowsky.
- * Get a righteous stereo system for the sleigh.
- * Get the three kings to cover your carpool.
- * Make Rudolph do the Christmas cards.



Christmas Craft Corner

New Twists on Old Traditions for Fun with Family and Friends!

No snow? You can still make a snowman out of handy household items, like old newspapers, chickenwire, mashed potatoes, or all three at once! Your neighbors will love it!

Hate carolers? Keep a fire extinguisher handy by your front door, and dust them all with a light coating of a non-toxic substance strongly resembling new-fallen snow!

Tired of stringing popcorn and cranberries? HOLLOWED-OUT shell casings, bountiful in most East Bay neighborhoods, make a sparkling addition to holiday décor.

Run out of glitter? The dust on most East Bay windowsills in Districts 1 and 2 is full of lead, zinc, chromium, arsenic, mercury, nickel, copper, and manganese, which lend a delightful sparkle when glued to your holiday ornaments!

Tired of the same old nativity scene? Put celebrity touches on the figures and make your neighbors smile. Make Joseph a little more Tom Cruise and Mary a little more like Brittany Spears, and you'll have the whole neighborhood wanting to worship!

* * * * *



AUTHORITIES BELIEVE this is the man who is rumored to have threatened thousands of people, telling them they had "better watch out."

Santa Claus Under Suspicion; Christmas Threatened *Bush Warns Keep Shopping or Terrorists Will Win*

By David Outsunshine

The Department of Homeland Security confirmed yesterday that they have Santa Claus in custody pending an investigation of suspicious and possibly threatening behavior.

"He's a very secretive man with a huge cache of weapons," stated one federal officer. "He has access to an unlicensed aircraft, and we have solid intelligence that his intentions are to commit widespread burglary on Christmas Eve."

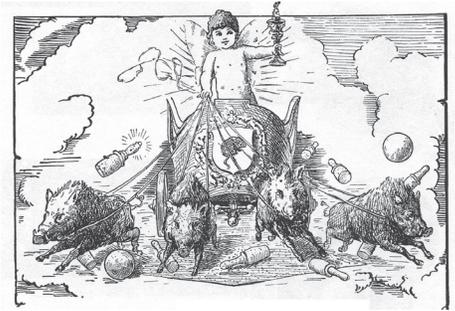
Critics protested that Santa Claus' interest is only in toy guns, and that distributing toys through rooftop chimneys was a hallowed holiday tradition.

"It's also illegal," responded a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson, "and a great way to get shot."

Santa Claus currently has no legal representation, according to security officials, and may not be offered access to legal assistance because of his lack of citizenship and the possibility that his detention may fall under the Patriot Act.

"He has a highly suspicious interest in children," confirmed another official. "We can't be too careful."

* * * * *



Ten Easy Ways to Get Out of Iraq

Does it seem impossible to put aside your tired old habits even though you know they're not working for you? Try these easy techniques for changing your life!

Say that you suddenly remember that you had an earlier appointment to bomb the bejesus out of some other country.

Explain that you're no longer at war with anybody, but recruiting for a Hollywood production with really great catering, and whip out the cucumber sandwiches.

Get up one morning and instead of putting on uniforms, put on French maid costumes and start tidying up.

Fill your guns and tanks with sand, and then explain that you need to go home to stock up on fresh new weapons.

Tell them you left the sprinklers on at home.

Tell them you had a change of heart, you no longer believe in violence, and ask for directions to the nearest monastery.

Tell them you really need to weigh in on the fall television line-up before everything is cancelled.

Tell them you're gay, and think there's a spot for you in the world of televangelism.

Everybody put on Hawaiian shirt and shorts, tuck plastic lobsters under their arms, and ask for directions to the beach.

Have a big cruise ship pull up nearby and invade it, then have it quietly sail away.



49ers Tackle Olympic Bid

by Elaine F. Cars

The Bay Area's plans to host the 2016 Olympics hit the wall when efforts to convert Candlestick Park into a facility which could host football games, Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, track and field events, and Johnny Mosely's next birthday party fell into disarray.

"We couldn't decide on the mascots," confessed an insider. "There were heated arguments over whether to have Carol Doda, Emperor Norton, Critical Mass bikers, beat poets, homeless people, or all of the above depicted by mass-produced stuffed animals. These are serious matters in this town."

Local citizens were crestfallen, but continued to hope that perhaps the 2020 Olympics committee would enable them to share the Olympic glory that would surely transcend the inconvenience of the solid gridlock the games would bring.

"Or we could host the first virtual games," suggested one local resident, "where nobody but the athletes really has to get out of bed."

Possible Bay Area Olympic Suggestions

- * Most Complicated Coffee-based Drink
 - * Most Exotic Hardluck Panhandling Story
 - * Longest-Lived Construction Zone Competition - UC wins hands down
 - * Cliché Rhetoric Race - organized expressly for politicians, but open to everybody
 - * Rudest Busrider Competition - get out your cell-phones, squirt guns, concealed reptiles, boomboxes, avoid the shower and join in!
 - * Longest Stationary Moment on Freeway Competition - almost everybody in the bay area has placed for this event, so the final competition is seeded
 - * Target Shooting from Moving Car Competition
- * * * * *

Next issue, Abdominal Surgery with Celebrities

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



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But how do I know they'll invest it wisely? What if they spend it on cigarettes or processed junk food? What if all this free money encourages them to spend their lives on the street and never move into a condo?



We Can't Draw Comics by Roger Dondis & Grace Underpressure



We Can't Draw Comics, by Roger Dondis and Carol Denney ©2006

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.

* Richard III

PEACE PROTESTERS HOLDING OUT FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

Banjo Offender Registry Recommended

Local citizens are pressuring elected officials and the Department of Justice to create a National Banjo Offender Registry based on the success of the National Sex Offender Registry popular with protective parents concerned about sex offenders living nearby.

"We need to keep our children safe," explained one homeowner clutching a list of known banjo players located near his children's school. "We know banjo players can't help being what they are, and we know they have to live somewhere. But we have a right to know their whereabouts so we can take precautions."

Another neighbor agreed, pointing out that banjos, besides being innately offensive, can double as a lethal weapon. "If we have a national registry we can chart a course through town and avoid them altogether," she stated. "I don't like seeing them, and if I have to hear them I'm upset for days."

The new year is just around the corner, so our company is pleased to offer you an exciting array of fresh, edgy options for your new year's resolutions.

Traditional resolutions are always a respected choice for millions of people, but we know that you, as a fashion-forward man about town, will want to accentuate your list with some resolutions that say something special about you.

"I resolve to let the water buffalo sing the opening act of Rigoletto", for instance, says to the world that you are not only at home in the rarified world of

Flirting with Nuclear

NEW UC PARK COMMITTEE

NPR interview questions:

"When did you realize that you were a genius?"

NEWSFLASH: In a totally unexpected move, both houses of congress, decided that from now on, their salaries would be reduced to the minimum

Traffic Report on the Homeless for Really

Menu at Café Resentful

Entrée's:

I Am Annoyed

I Am Hostile

I Am Really Hostile

I Am Out of Here

I Am Selfish

Salads:

BUEM

By

GUIDELINES FOR SHOPPING WITH 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

* "Do we have to shop at Tiffany's or something?"

- Yes, but not exclusively. Enjoy the Tiffany's shopping experience, but take your rich person to Target, too. You'll be surprised to find that your rich person knows his or her way around quite well.

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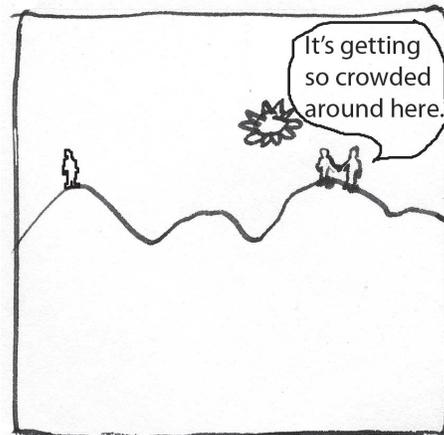
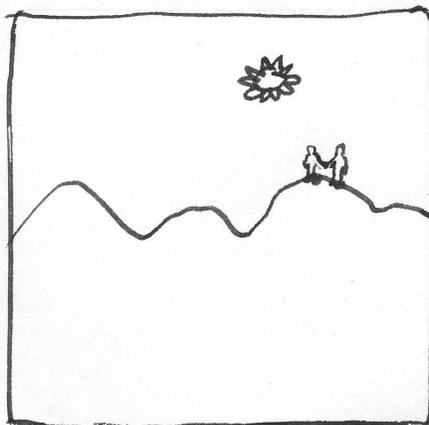
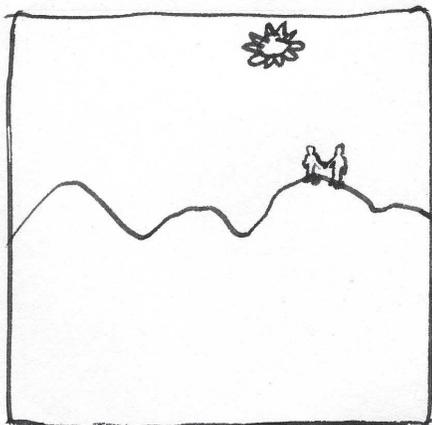
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- Your ric.



We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast



Actual Parking Discovered in Downtown, or, One Big Tailgate Party

Merchants and shoppers rejoiced upon hearing about the Transportation Planning Department's discovery of at least 3000 new parking spaces in the downtown area, which planners say will also help "calm" traffic, which has so far been strangely unaffected by the surfeit of Buddhists and yoga practitioners practicing calming techniques in the local area.

FUN WITH HOMELESS AND DISABLED PEOPLE

Berkeley never gets tired of having fun with the homelessness. Hard on the heels of the 100th

Practice your cliches!
Worried About Being Acosted on the Street by a News Crew for a Quote?

It can happen at the least convenient moment; a news crew will plant themselves in your path and shove a microphone in your face, asking for comment.

They plan no investigation, they have no facts. What they have is you, and unless you speak they will have no story. What do you do? What do you say?

* * * * *

Moonwear Fashion Issue

Stock Analyst Achieves 100% Predictability

By Jessie Magin

A local stock market analyst has developed a model of stock prediction which allows him to dictate with 100% predictability the probability of a particular stock going up or down.

"Stock movements are difficult to anticipate," stated stockbroker Horace Voice, whose new model has been replicated by independent analysts with 100% accuracy. "What we have found is an ability to predict that after going up, a stock will be guaranteed 100% to go down, just as we can predict that after going down, that same stock will be guaranteed to reverse direction."

"It's going to revolutionize the market," exclaimed one broker with obvious excitement. "This will mean we can make astounding profits on a consistent basis."

"We'll all be rich," added another. "We'll all be ordering wine by the case and yachts by the dozen"



Scientists Say Pollution Will Save the Planet

by Leonard Money

Scientists are considering deliberately spewing tons of pollutants into the earth's atmosphere to try to rein in green-house gases blamed for global warming, causing tree huggers to furrow their brows, hold hands, and visualize like crazy.

"Combating the effects of pollution by causing even more pollution has a kind of balance to it," admitted one student leaving a local yoga class. "It has a sense of homeopathy running through it like a gentle, flowing river."

"It was meant to startle the policy makers," stated Paul J. Crutzen, of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, adding that polar bears, usually divided into bitter partisan factions on political issues, are solidly in favor, and are working on a press release.

One senior policy analyst in the United States joined the call for a protective earth blanket, citing the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 as having provided .9 degrees of cooling for approximately one year, although critics were heard objecting that 1991 was, in many ways, at least as uncool as it was cool.



STANDARD OIL of New Jersey should probably get a medal for all the protection they've provided the planet from global warming.

"If we could get volcanos to work cooperatively we could rescue the alarming pattern of global warming," he stated, admitting that there would probably be a downside to widespread global darkness.

Other suggestions include:

* A giant umbrella over the earth, which could be funded by corporate branding visible both from the earth and from outer space.

* Having everybody wear and paint everything white for a few years to deflect more heat, coupled with costly fines for people who insist on their little black dress.

* Having the earth switch places with another planet farther away from the sun, or an ex-planet like Pluto, a demoted astronomical object which is really hungry for a little limelight right about now.

Critics scoffed at the suggestions, pointing out that if humans would stop polluting the planet everything would be fine.

"Tree-huggers," agreed most observers, shaking their heads. "We need extreme measures, but not that extreme."

* * * * *

PUBLIC ART UNSTOPPABLE- THOUSANDS CRY OUT IN PAIN