

...the
super
surveillance
issue...
All
hail
the...

Hepper Spray Times

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

February 2006

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

"cut not out the burly-boned clown..."

Vol. VIII No. 2

NEWSPAPER-STEALING MAYOR SALUTES FLIER-DESTROYING ARTS COMMISSIONER

by Jessie Racitt



SHERRY SMITH stands by her destruction of fliers, which apparently delighted the mayor.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, famous for tilting Berkeley's most recent mayoral election in his own favor by stealing newspapers endorsing his electoral opponent, saluted former Civic Arts Commissioner Sherry

the "Deep Poetry Project", which celebrates the sidewalk holes and fissures in the less-celebrated, less-repaired areas of Berkeley.

Critics objected that there was nothing inappropriate about a gentle criticism of the peculiarly cozy nature of the sidewalk poetry art project and the Downtown Berkeley Association, some of whose members own property on Addison, now much more valuable with its publicly funded enhancement.

"It isn't that city officials don't take steps to silence their critics," stated one insider at Berkeley City Hall. "It's just that one doesn't often see them giving each other awards for doing so."

Smith with a proclamation implying admiration for her "direct action" in tearing up political fliers.

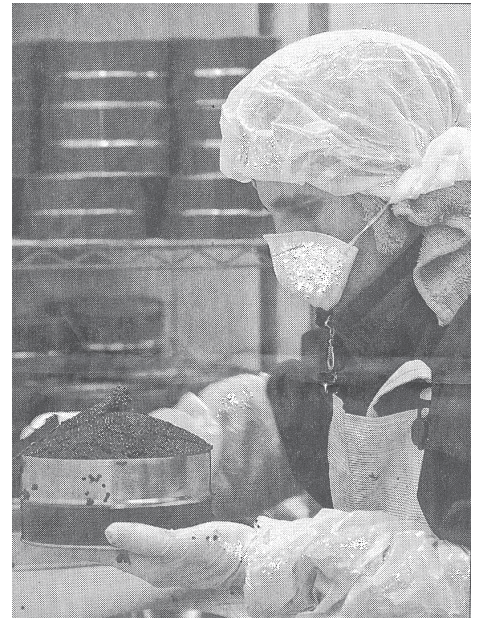
"Everybody steals newspapers," shrugged Bates. "I know what I did was a bold thing to do in broad daylight right before an election, but after all I lied about it, I blamed others before I finally took responsibility, and I ultimately apologized. Sherry Smith is unapologetic for publicly ripping up those fliers in front of half the town, and you have to admire that."

Mayor Bates offered no apology for his proclamation celebrating Sherry Smith's vandalism of the fliers.

"He's a part of a cultural shift around here," stated one city hall official. "Free speech is so yesterday. Vandalism, on the other hand, is kind of hip."

The fliers, which had been neatly placed between the poetry plaques on Addison Street, stated "Hey poets and poetry lovers, next time don't pimp poetry for rich people's property values. Art should stay hungry, like the rest of us," with a signature from the curator of

Students Who Fail State's Exit Exams Welcome to Join Army



CALIFORNIA'S STUDENTS are sadly deficient in their ability to tell one type of caviar from another.

by Lissa Ng Closely

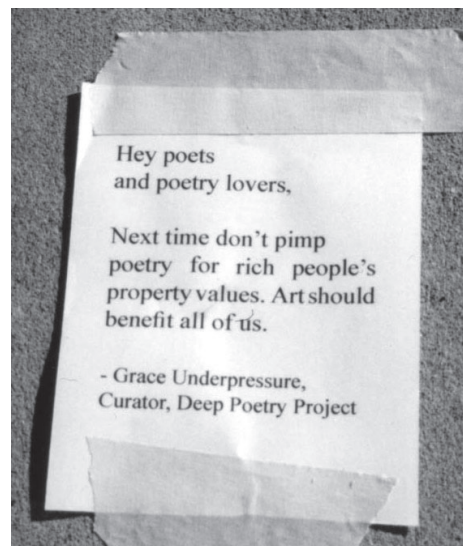
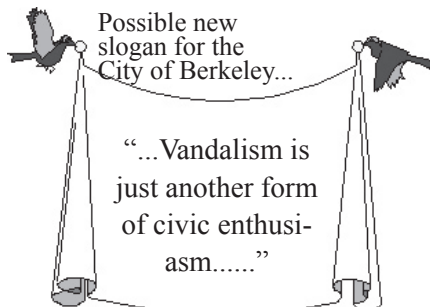
50,000 High School students who failed California's new exit exam cannot graduate, says State Superintendent Jack O'Connell.

The comment was in response to critics of the new state-wide exit exam required of High School graduates, who point out that it's not news that some schools are failing to educate students, but that suffering students should not be punished.

O'Connell pointed out that students who fail the exams are welcome to take the exams again or take alternative routes such as joining the army or one of the many religious cults offering membership opportunities.

"The exit exam is working," he was quoted as stating. "Not graduating from High School can be a real character builder. And what a boost for military recruitment."

* * * * *



THIS FLIER has no right to exist at all, and should be destroyed if discovered to be visible to the public in any way.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, do I really have to worry about this wiretapping without warrants thing? I don't have too many secrets, and I'm still writing my holiday thank-you notes.

A: Dear reader, you shouldn't even think about it. It's really nothing to worry about. And if you do think about it, just make sure you keep it to yourself.

Q: Dear Lena, what about the war? Is that still happening, and do I have to think about that?

A: Dear reader, you shouldn't even think about it. It's really nothing to worry about. And if you do think about it, just make sure you keep it to yourself.

Q: Dear Lena, can they hear me through my iPod?

A: Dear reader, no, honey, and they wouldn't want to.

Q: Dear Lena, my cell phone works here and there, but you never know when it's going to work and when it's not going to work, and I have to call people back after moving twenty or thirty feet because they think I've hung up on them or we suddenly get cut off or the reception just cuts out. Is this my fault? What should I do?

Dear reader, shut up and get off the phone.

Dear Lena, what makes you an expert? I mean, do you have some kind of training? Why should any of us listen to you?

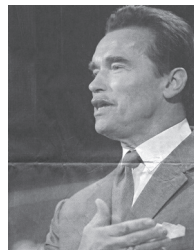
Dear reader, shut up and get off the phone.



CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS dance in appreciation of the many more parks and overpasses planned as public works projects in the next ten years, since there are no new plans for affordable housing, and most of them are just a paycheck away from sleeping on the street, where they will get lots of fresh air.

GOVERNOR PLANS MORE BRIDGES, OVERPASSES FOR HOMELESS TO SLEEP UNDER

by Zachary Friedbeans



THE GOVERNOR'S re-election is going to be really fun for everybody.

Governor Schwarzenegger's staff dismissed critics of his proposed budget who claim the governor is doing nothing to assist the creation of low-income housing or address homelessness. "What are they talking about?" scoffed one member of the governor's staff while sorting the governor's collection of premium cigars. "Look at all the money for new jails. Where do these people think the homeless end up most of the time?"

Other staff members pointed out that the governor's 10-year proposed \$100 billion in public works spending included money for highways, bridges, and parks, which will benefit the homeless greatly.

"I don't know where the homeless in your neighborhood are spending their quality time," stated one official in the governor's office, "but those highway overpasses are a pretty popular spot in mine."

Homeless advocates packing lunch-

es at a local shelter objected that even steady production of new highway overpasses can hardly keep up with the demand for space underneath them as projected by even the most optimistic forecast of housing and shelter needs.

"Nobody's building honestly affordable housing," pointed out one advocate. "Most of us are just a paycheck away from being on the street. If the governor thinks any of us can just plop down a chunk for one of these monster homes or a million dollar condo, he's crazy. There's no free campground anywhere near here and all the shelters are full."

The governor's office waved off such comments, pointing again at the proposed spending plan.

"These people are being unnecessarily negative and short-sighted," stated one staff member. "They're not even thinking about all the new parks, which will have occasionally unoccupied bushes and park benches."

Homeless people seemed enthusiastic about the plan.

"New parks would be a good thing," mused one elderly man packing up his camp site near the Albany Bulb. "They keep kicking us out of this one."

* * * * *



AMERICANS ARE OKAY with the warrantless wiretapping as long as they can stay plugged in to their iPods.

AMERICANS THINK WIRETAPPING IS REALLY NIFTY

by Freyda D. Dark

The American public greeted the news that President Bush disregarded obtaining warrants for wiretaps with a collective shrug.

"He's busy," offered one neighborhood watch group member patrolling his perimeter. "And the next time a hurricane starts up in the Gulf, he wants to be sure he gets the message."

Critics were aghast that the problematic eavesdropping and illegal detention of U.S. citizens had roots reaching back to well before 9-11, citing evidence that Donald Rumsfeld and then-congressman Richard Cheney had discussed a similar program in the 1980s.

The plans to suspend the constitution, developed by Oliver North in the White House, were greeted with enthusiasm by American citizens.

"I thought the constitution was suspended a long time ago anyway," commented a shopper at Macys buying infra-red surveillance equipment. "Nobody has blown up the Statue of Liberty, so something must be working. I trust my government to get it right half the time. And my kids and I really kind of miss the cold war."

* * * * *

STARBUCKS FLASHLIGHT TERROR

Flashlight's Behavior Causes Nightmare at Local Starbucks

by Stella Looker

San Francisco police defended their identification of a flashlight left in a Starbucks bathroom as an explosive device requiring the evacuation of Starbucks and several nearby businesses by explaining that the flashlight was acting suspiciously.

"It acted like a bomb," insisted one officer. "It lay on the floor of the bathroom just like a bomb. It had batteries in it just like a bomb."

"It had no business being there," offered another officer. "It had no permit, it was suspicious in nature, and we're not in the business of taking chances. Besides, I wanted a latte."

Skeptics pointed out that a lot of objects require batteries but do not necessarily explode, and that trained police officers should be capable of distinguishing flashlights from dangerous explosive devices.

"That's what terrorists would say," responded San Francisco spokesman Sgt. Neville Gittens, taking names. "They want us to let our guard down. First Starbucks and then the Golden Gate Bridge. Don't think for a minute there isn't a foam connection."

CNN offered no apology for broadcasting developments about the Starbucks flashlight terror threat which identified a local homeless man as planting an "improvised explosive device," in fact a flashlight, which the police blasted with a high-powered hose.

"So maybe it didn't have a fuse," stated Gittens. "Maybe it was just kind of shaped like dynamite but wasn't actual dynamite. If I were a terrorist I would make my dynamite look just like a flashlight, or an ear of corn."

Observers agreed that the probability is strong that shoppers purchasing ears of corn in the future might need to subject them to high-powered water hoses to make sure they do not explode, at least in San Francisco.

* * * * *

FEMA Admits It Has No Idea Where Anybody Is

by Paula Rope

The Federal Emergency Management Agency admitted recently that they have no idea where all the Hurricane Katrina victims are or which ones are staying in hotels or who is dead or who is maybe just hanging out at a silent retreat somewhere.

"How would we know?" commented FEMA chief David Paulison. "These people ran every which way after the storm and the flood, which made it really hard on the rest of us. We thought we could tell which ones they were by the Mardi Gras beads, but everybody's been wearing beads, so we're all mixed up. When Mardi Gras rolls around we'll really be screwed."

The announcement came as the agency pushed back a fourth deadline for ending hotel subsidies, which are still assisting an estimated 25,000 families and have cost the government more than \$400 million since Katrina hit August 29th, 2005.

"These people didn't leave New Orleans in an orderly fashion, and they didn't check in at hotels in the standard manner," commented Paulison. "We've tried to track them by increased sales of red beans, but our data is unclear."

"We're really sorry," stated one evacuee. "We weren't trying to confuse anyone. We've spent so much time in buses and hotels we weren't too sure where we were ourselves."

"We're still trying to locate our families," apologized another evacuee. "We didn't have any phones or identification anyway, so we kind of focused on finding the dog."

New Orleans officials joined many other cities across the nation in lamenting the inexplicable inability of poor, displaced populations to interest developers, who are much more highly motivated to build housing for wealthy investors and rich people.

"Poor people just don't know how to bribe the necessary stakeholders," acknowledged one insider. "They don't know the right restaurants."



Important
Advice
from the
Bush
Administration

How to Qualify for the Supreme Court

1. Say nothing.
2. Look good in a dress.
3. Learn to raise one eyebrow at a time.
4. Clerk around with all the right people.
5. Assure everybody that you'll be really, really fair.
6. Assure everybody that your old opinions are, well, kind of old.
7. Assure everybody that your thinking has evolved in inexplicable, ambiguous ways about which you're so sorry, but you can unfortunately say nothing at all.
8. Learn to pronounce stare decisis.
9. Explain that although you listed a racist organization on a 1985 job application to the Reagan Justice Department, you didn't technically endorse it and had no idea what the group stood for.
10. Keep smiling, because it's just a matter of time.



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



Bait: Tasers are used by the police as a substitute for firearms in order to save lives.

Switch: Tasers are used almost exclusively on the unarmed. They are used on the mentally ill, those under the influence of drugs and alcohol and the verbally non-compliant. Tasers are used for officer convenience, for behavior modification, and to inflict quick and certain punishment including death without a trial. To date, 160 citizens have died after being tased.

Ain't That A Switch!

Even the police in at least three major cities have now banned the use of Tasers in training exercises on rank and file officers due to severe and sometimes career ending injuries. Amazingly, the same police departments that now ban the use of Tasers on officers continue to use them on their citizenry. If they're unsafe for the cops then they're unsafe for us.

Ban Tasers Now

The Coalition for Justice and Accountability 408-287-9710

This poster is an art/law collaboration between poster maker Doug Minkler and attorney Aram James.
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