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These
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Hepper Spray Times

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

January 2006



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

"let the welkin roar..."

Vol. VIII No. 1

California Republicans Need New Hero; Batman Declines

by Dwight Won

Republican operatives requesting anonymity stated recently that they've checked with Batman, Catwoman, Spiderman, and Superman, but can't find anyone interested in guiding California's political future after Arnold Schwarzenegger's spectacular failure.

"It's not easy to replace a superhero," stated one Republican. "If 'the Terminator' can't take it, who can?"

"We'll get the usual candidates; the pot growers, the stripper," commented another Republican. "But we're going to have trouble finding another movie-star action hero with a well-connected wife. And, of course, millions."

"I thought about it," commented Batman. "But California is ungovernable. As soon as you get anything off the ground somebody passes an initiative and everything goes haywire."

"We'll never crawl out from under that 'Three Strikes' thing," added Catwoman. "At the present rate of incarceration, by the year 2020 everybody will be in jail."

Schwarzenegger's supporters objecting, saying that "The Terminator" would "be back" and possibly armed.

"Don't count him out until you see the last page of the script," stated one supporter. "And if he's really down for the count, I hear Harriet Miers and former FEMA director Mike Brown aren't doing anything."

* * * * *



Scientists: Democrats Have No Apparent Purpose

by Tori Adore

A new scientific study has discovered that Democrats, although seemingly capable of speech and action, are actual vestigial leftovers of once-functioning bodies which, in the past, had a useful purpose.

"We kept wondering what Democrats were for," stated one scientist at a recent press conference. "After extensive tests, we've determined that these seemingly useless entities once performed beneficial functions oriented toward the public good."

"It's really changed my feelings about them," nodded another biologist who assisted with the study. "I was so upset after the confirmation of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the gutting of environmental species protection I forgot to consider this amazing biological evidence."

Critics objected that Democrats should be challenged to stand up for basic principles, as they did in the past, pointing to well, just about everything as evidence that Democrats were just rolling over and playing dead.

"That's true," agreed another scientist. "Their current patterns of natural behavior do seem to involve a lot of rolling over and playing dead. We're not sure what era it was when they lost their original backbone. But they sure look cute sleeping on the rug."

"They make very nice pets," confirmed another scientist. "We've really enjoyed having them in the lab."

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THE PRESIDENT found out right before Christmas that America is winning the war, and is giving a lot of speeches trying to get people to clap their hands to strengthen the war effort.

BUSH DISCOVERS THAT AMERICA IS WINNING THE WAR

by Cora DeApple

President Bush surprised military strategists by declaring recently that America is winning the war.

"It is very good news," asserted a military consultant whom the announcement caught by surprise. "I can't wait to tell all my friends. I would have just hated losing."

"I'm so relieved," declared one local amputee struggling through a painful day of physical therapy. "I've been a little distracted, and I just couldn't tell what was going on."

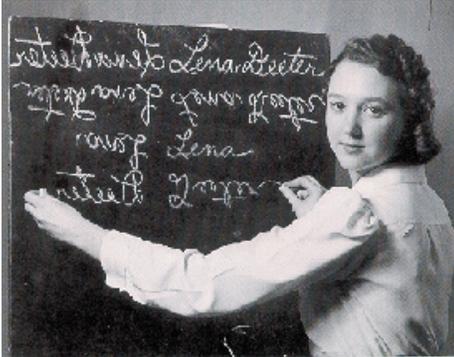
Critics scoffed that all objective measures point in the opposite direction, and that as casualties mount the United States has fewer citizens interested in risking their own or their families' lives.

Administration officials agreed that recruits are harder to find as the war gets older, but observed that now that the public knows the war is being won, people will rally to support it.

"Everybody loves a winner," stated one White House official dusting off the old 'Mission Accomplished' banner. "We're a little embarrassed we didn't try this strategy earlier."

* * * * *

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, what's with the UC Berkeley stadium renovation highrises? It seems like a great way to block both the citizens' views of the hills from town and the hillside residents' view of the bay all at the same time just to satisfy a bunch of rich football nuts. Can't they fix the stadium without screwing up everybody's view? In the meantime nobody can afford to go to school, so what's with all that?

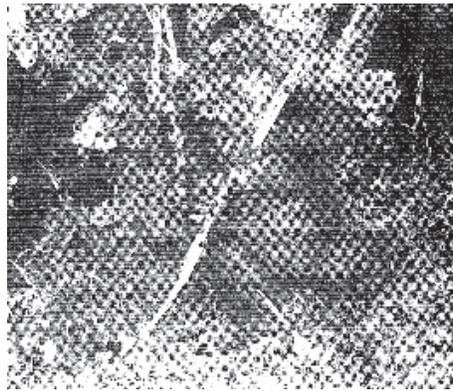
A: Dear reader, pull out your wallet and try to remember how much money you've sent to the University of California lately. Can't remember, right? I guarantee you that you would feel differently if you had a skybox with a little plaque with your name on it, which would magically convince you that nobody's view matters but your own special view of the goalposts. Try to be a little more generous next time.

Q: Dear Lena, how do I get Rose Celeste's job? I think I would be really good at it.

A: Dear reader, it took Rose Celeste 22 years of experience to rise to a level where no actual duties were required, so keep this in mind when eyeing her remarkable position, lucrative severance, and generous pension. The university's willingness to use Celeste as a fundraising spokesperson is a true test of faith in the California taxpayer's inability to either read or put two and two together, a logical outcome of the crisis in our schools.

Q: Dear Lena, are we winning the war?

A: Dear reader, maybe when the stadium seating is built we'll be able to see the scoreboard.



THE ONLY REASON gorillas don't use cell phones is that they evolved beyond primitive cell phone use eons ago.

GORILLAS SPOTTED USING TOOLS

by Rhoda Report

Gorillas, once thought by primatologists to have no idea how to drive a forklift or operate an ATM machine, were recently spotted using tools, a discovery which threw the scientific world into turmoil.

"It's obviously a stunt the Darwinists have contrived," scoffed one white-coat clad zoologist who insisted his local gorillas were helpless in the kitchen and could barely use a remote. "They're really feeling the inroads of the intelligent design movement, and this is their way of fighting back."

"Those gorillas were probably trained," mused another expert in animal behavior. "How could such large, easily observed creatures keep tool-use behavior secret for so long? It doesn't make sense that no one noticed this behavior until recently."

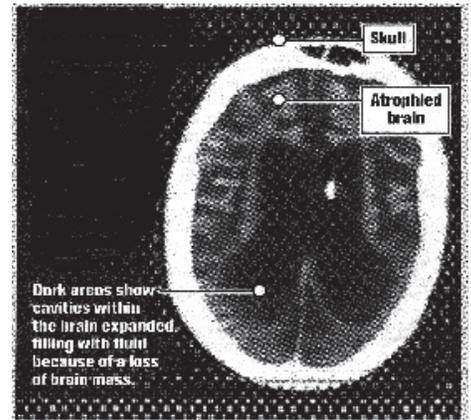
Gorillas shed some light on the controversy at a recent press conference.

"We gave up a lot of tools along the way," stated one gorilla. "Like the internet, for instance. Our DSL connection was still slow, and the constant pop-ups and virus attacks were nothing but a headache."

"We used to use nuclear power, too," acknowledged another gorilla. "This was all a long time ago before we came to our senses. We realized we were jeopardizing the long-term health of the environment, and thought, well, why not just put on a sweater?"

"We still use low-tech tools now and then, but we didn't think anybody was watching," commented a third gorilla. "We just use a few tools to put up Christmas lights and stuff. We're still a pretty primitive group, but we love that electric blender for the eggnog."

* * * * *



EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND the density bonus, the inclusionary bonus, and the cultural bonus have atrophied the brain of the typical planner and commissioner.

Study Confirms Planners' Brains' Massive Atrophy

by Sue Zaphone

The Berkeley City Council and the Planning Commission subcommittees on various developer bonuses have discovered that planners and commissioners operate at a serious physical disadvantage, according to incontrovertible CAT scan evidence.

The overwhelming efforts to decipher inscrutable codes which award extra height and size to buildings have massively impacted their brains, leaving them at the mercy of the manipulations of avaricious developers and nefarious non-profits.

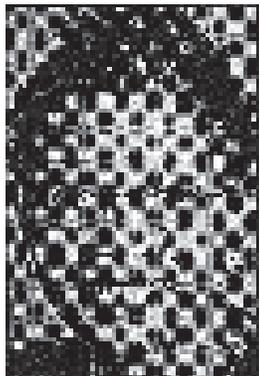
"I wouldn't mind so much if I could still buy a banana," mused one downtown resident. "I used to actually be able to shop around here. But it does help to know that all these empty buildings are the extension of such severe disability. I now pass empty storefronts with a bit more compassion."

"There's nothing confusing about it," argued a local developer. "We have cultural bonuses with no culture, inclusionary bonuses with no inclusion, and we're pretty much eliminated parking and open space. All we have to do now is convince people that parking is open space from time to time, and we think they'll buy it."

Observers who countered that such tactics are cruel to planners and commissioners were dismissed by physicians who reassured the public that due to the massive amount of atrophy, the planners experience no pain at all.

* * * * *

CELESTE WINS PST'S PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



by May D.
Finishline

UC Davis Vice Chancellor Rose Celeste won top honors as the Pepper Spray Times' Person of the Year for getting paid \$205,000 for doing nothing at all.

TOP HONORS for 2005's Person of the Year goes to Rose Celeste, who until recently did an extraordinary job of staying under the radar.

"It's very impressive," mused one local taxpayer. "Especially in this era of cutbacks

and wholesale elimination of scholarships and opportunities for low-income students. I had no idea my tax dollars were being put to work in such a creative way."

"Talk about making the system work for you," marveled UC Davis spokesperson Lisa Lapin. "The rest of us with actual job descriptions can only dream of such things."

Critics suggested that the bizarre settlement, which even the UC regents knew nothing about, was simply the work of savvy attorneys on Celeste's behalf.

"That is so unfair," sniffed one member of the Board of Regents. "The secrecy alone is, well, almost presidential. This gal has got it going on."

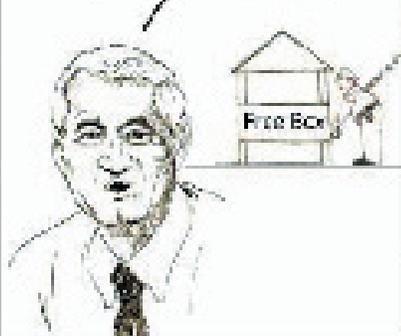
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by Turner Lee Ward

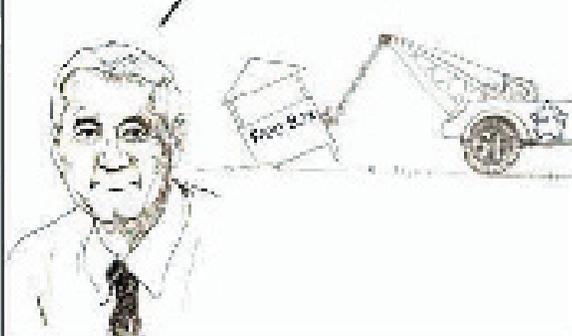
Hi! Chancellor Birgeneau here at People's Park. Of course, we should retain the park's traditions of sharing and kindness.



I'm from Canada, but I'm, like, totally hip to helping people!



That is, unless they're really badly dressed!!



LOCAL RETAIL TAXES DOWN; THOUSANDS MOURN LOST PROFITS

by Rose N. Showered

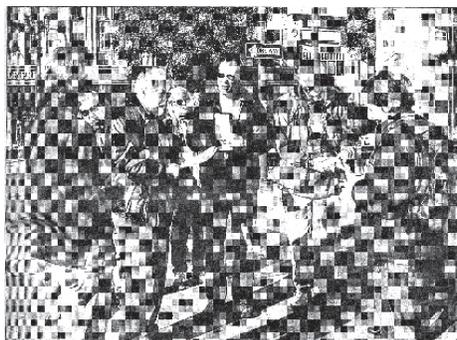
Sales taxes plummeted ten percent between June 2004 and June 2005 according to consultants hired by the City of Berkeley, sending mourners into the streets to wail and rend their clothing.

"It's the end of the world," stated Wells Lawson of Strategic Economics. "It's the cessation of all that is good and holy and no one left is safe."

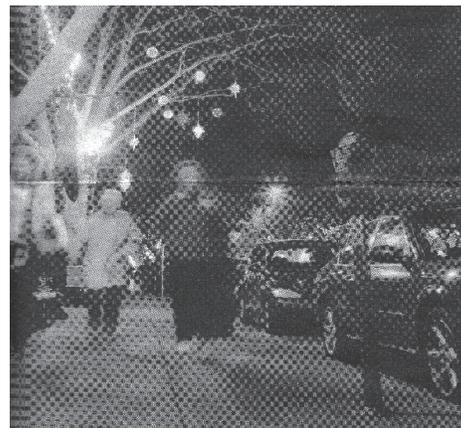
Taxes would have brought in another \$100,000 if not for the downturn, which consultants blamed on planetary intervention, panhandlers, and pernicious internet sales.

"They spent that much on the consultants," pointed out one critics, who was quickly ushered out of the presentation convention largely attended by developers, planners, and business owners.

Many sympathized with the \$100,000 loss, pointing out that \$100,000 would pay for almost half a year of salary for a UC executive with no actual duties or



IF YOU SEE a group of planners congregating on public streets this way, call the police immediately and check to see if you still have your wallet.



SHOPPERS VALIANTLY searched for something to buy in downtown Berkeley but nearly dropped from exhaustion before heading to the mall.

job description, or another handful of poetry plaques to dress up rich Downtown Berkeley Association property owners' investments.

"It's a tragedy," acknowledged one taxpayer. "Katrina victims are suffering, of course, but these downtown property owners can hardly charge the rents they crave if nobody is buying."

"What's there to buy?" grumbled one unsympathetic movie patron. "There's only so much slab ice cream I can eat in December. They yanked Edies; are we supposed to hang around at Ross?"

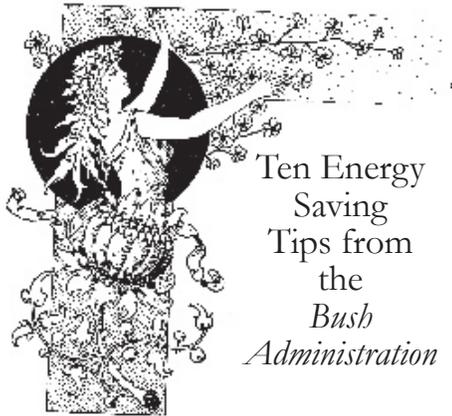
"They ought to come down and hang around City Hall," suggested one local resident. "Developers have no trouble finding something to buy down there. People just aren't using their imagination."

Consultants and city officials agreed that the best thing to do in the light of the crisis was to once again re-design the BART plaza.

"It's what we always do," stated one official. "It helps keep us off the streets."

* * * * *

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Ten Energy Saving Tips from the Bush Administration

1. Never drive your golf cart over 55 mph.
2. Be sure to use real china, not paper plates, at your \$1,000 a plate fundraiser.
3. Keep your press conferences few and far between to save electricity.
4. Try to combine the errands you run in your Hummer.
5. Wear lots of fur.
6. Cozy up to big industry for warmth.
7. If you see a shrinking polar ice cap, give it some encouraging words.
8. Bring your own canvas tote bag to Tiffany's.
9. Recycle your father's political advisors by giving them jobs in your administration.
10. Find creative uses for your personal lawyers such as Supreme Court appointments.



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



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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN FOUND TO BE STUPID

by Lois Common D. Nominator

Federal Judge John E. Jones III ruled against the Dover Area School District, concluding that the theory of intelligent design was the stupidest thing he'd ever heard.

"It would have been okay if he'd just said it was unconstitutional, which we kind of knew," managed supporters of the theory, which holds that anything science doesn't specifically explain is in and of itself proof of a supernatural being. "He didn't have to make fun of us. He said our theory wasn't even science, and that really hurts."

Richard Thompson, of the Thomas



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's willingness to defend both the absence of and legitimacy of torture and warrantless eavesdropping pretty much ended almost everybody's willingness to defend the idea that there is any intelligent design at play in the universe.



SCIENTISTS ARE HARD AT WORK trying to find evidence for the next batch of creationists' theories, including dyslexic design.

More Law Center, who litigated the case without a fee, dismissed the decision as the product of judicial activism, stating that scientists doing research in labs, rather than judges in courtrooms, would make the ultimate decisions regarding evolution and its scientific value in a world that believes in angels and flying saucers.

Scientists are already hard at work testing Judge Jones' "stupid designer" theory, and feel they have found solid footing for the theory in the strange course of the Bush administration.

"We're just at the beginning," stated one scientist with excitement. "We're certain that if funding existed for research on intelligent design we should have no problem finding lots of funding for the stupid designer theory, the lazy designer theory, the drunken designer theory, and the dyslexic designer theory. These people will underwrite anything."

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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.

* Henry IV Part 2