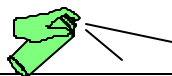


These are truly the...

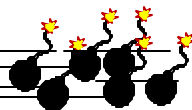
Repent your liberal ways...



Pepper Spray Times

..or P.S.T..

January 2001



It's misleared... it's free

"...and let your mind be coupled with your words..."

Vol. IV No. 5

SAVE THE TREES: KILL THE MERCHANTS



EXPERTS AGREE that the only way to save University Avenue's tulip poplars is to kill the complaining merchants.

By Rowen Boats

Expert arborists and ecologists agreed recently that the only hope for University Avenue's tulip poplars, slated for clear-cutting by the City of Berkeley, is to kill the merchants who cannot live with them.

The tulip poplars, healthy street trees of decades duration, exude a sticky residue from aphids on their leaves, which seriously annoys local business owners. Some of the merchants are suspected of resorting to vandalizing the trees rather than bother cleaning the sidewalks.

"It's a kindness, really," offered a spokesperson from Public Works of the planned assassinations. "These merchants are too clueless to pick up a bottle of Windex or a sponge."

Critics argued that beleaguered merchants should be protected rather than eliminated if an "inappropriate fit" for the new, improved University Avenue. "We're no match for these vicious tulip poplars," insisted University Avenue Association President Kirpal Khanna. "We've pleaded, we've begged, we've done everything but clean our own storefronts. We're simply helpless against this arrogant, aggressive plantlife."

Experts agreed that plantlife often has little respect for commerce, and that aphids in particular are indifferent to sales and discount coupons. Nonetheless, a recent study indicates that the elimination of merchants would be more cost-effective than replacing the tulip poplars.

"Merchants are impossible to satisfy and plentiful," explained Public Works Director Rene Cardinaux. "A good street tree is hard to find."

* * * * *

SHOPPERS DROP; ECONOMY TANKS

By Solomon Dower

Economists abandoned all hope of staving off recession when shoppers conceded defeat in their efforts to save the economy by spending hand over foot.

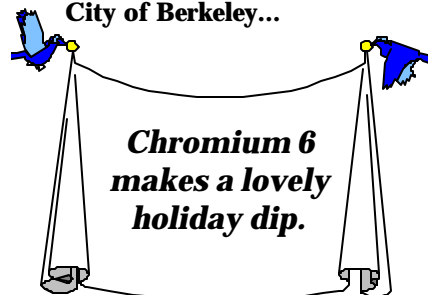
"I'm so embarrassed," confessed local consumer Rosa Corn. "I spent as much as I could, but I'm frankly up to here with sweaters."

Economists suggest that a new approach may be needed to turn the economic course.

"Greenspan is good, but he's not enough," one anonymous economist was heard to comment. "Next Christmas season we need to hook him up with Macys and the Pope."

* * * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



COPS CANCEL NETANYAHU SPEECH; LEFT DEMANDS RESPONSIBILITY

By Hank Uffed

Berkeley police were surprised recently when local demonstrators opposed to Israel's policies insisted upon taking credit for the cancellation of a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu actually cancelled by the organizers of the lecture series.

"I guess it's okay with us," commented one of the organizers. "It gets us off the hook with our ticket-holders, for sure. We just can't figure out the motivation."

"We can't figure out the motivation, either," said a local police spokesperson. "We're just glad we're not taking the heat, since we played a part in the decision and some of the audience came a long way for the show."

Experts finally determined that the demonstrators' demand for responsibility came from an inversion of their collective sense of guilt over the recent election, in which Ralph Nader voters threw victory to George Bush by gutting the thin margin of victory potentially held by the Democratic party.

"It's psychologically complex," explained UC Professor Nathan Undergod. "Our best guess is that it's a combination of the need to shift attention from their recent electoral disaster, their understandably desperate desire to feel a sense of accomplishment for *something*, and then the general incomprehensible lunacy that governs strategic thinking on the left these days."

Professor Undergod suggested that gently offering the demonstrators responsibility for shutting down the show might help them in the healing process until community services can be tailored to assist them.

"These aren't bad people," observed Professor Undergod. "If treated gently they can often be trained to accomplish useful tasks, or at least walk the dog."

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DEMONSTRATORS INSISTED on getting full credit for the cancellation of Benjamin Netanyahu's lecture, despite the fact that it made them look ridiculous.

BUTLER BOWS OUT PRESS SWOONS



TRADITIONAL AND COLORFUL STREET SCENES LIKE THIS ONE will be sorely missed when Chief of Police Dash Butler retires.

By Staff Writer Arnie Sarnocken



Berkeley Chief of Police Dash Butler expressed his intent to retire within the year, causing chaos in all segments of the Berkeley community.

"This is disastrous," cried Cody's Bookstore owner Andy Ross. "Without Butler and his consistent attacks on the poor with the concomitant backlash, how can the Telegraph Avenue merchants milk the council for special favors? I worry that soon we'll have to pay for our own Christmas lights."

"It's catastrophic," agreed University of California Chancellor Berdahl. "Without mutual aid from the city police force we'd have to stop causing riots we can't stop. The campus and the southside will be so peaceful nobody will recognize where they are and our reputation will suffer."

"Can't we pay him to stay?" asked one local resident. "Without chaos in People's Park and stuff like packing away high school students in custody vans Berkeley will lose its image of excitement and color."

Local political observers pointed out that the Berkeley City Council is free to replace Butler with another chief of police equally dedicated to protecting brutality, street confrontations, and the gratuitous use of pepper spray, but agreed that nothing would be quite the same.

"It's unlikely that anybody else will have the audacity to call in the Federal Emergency Management Agency before a demonstration even gets underway like Butler did in 1991," conceded local resident Luke Sharp. "And it may be a long time before we can find a chief who works as hard as Butler did to frame local activists, but we owe it to our community to try."

Public relations experts agreed that Berkeley's image could suffer serious damage unless a new chief of police can follow in retiring Chief of Police Butler's tracks on such issues as the rollback of police accountability.

"It can be done, but it's going to take some effort," commented one political observer. "The city will have to avoid the temptation to select applicants from outside the city. To accurately replicate the lax discipline, the rogue cop mentality and the accountability-free atmosphere Butler was famous for, they'll have to find someone the same place they found Butler; right within the department."

* * * * *

EFFORTS TO STOP COMEDY FAIL; RESULTS COULD KILL



VICIOUS, POTENTIALLY LETHAL comics Ed Holmes and Bari Rolfe insist on appearing at La Pena despite overwhelming community opposition.

By Alan Fun

Local residents near La Pena began stockpiling supplies and boarding up windows after failing in their efforts to stop two of the Bay Area's finest comic talents from kicking off what may be a yearlong series of threats to public safety disguised as "Conversations in Commedia" beginning Wednesday, January 31st, 2001 at 7:30 pm.

"We love La Pena, but this is wrong," cried one neighbor. "Holmes and Rolfe have yet to cause an actual death, but the two of them in combination are potentially lethal."

"Nonsense," responded producer Arnie Passman. "These are the elders of radical theater, the most revered clowns in town. We firmly believe that Berkeley can weather this storm, although we recommend bringing helmets."

Local safety experts are negotiating with neighbors and concerned citizens, who in turn are negotiating with the crowds that tried to take credit for stopping the recent Netanyahu lecture.

"We need help," commented one neighbor. "If they want credit for stopping something, they should help us."

* * * * *

Rest in peace...

Alfred Tanz
Hal Call
Victor Borge
George West Barrett



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that satire is serious business.



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Available at all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.
*Troilus and Cressida