

All hail the...

...the non-binding issue...

Hepper Spray Times

March 2007



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

"...I will strike it out soundly..."*

Vol. IX No. 3

POLICE REVIEW IN THE DARK



MAYOR TOM BATES didn't mention the egregious state of police review because when you're the mayor you tend to get beat up a whole lot less.

by *Seetha Light*

Berkeley's system of police review is alive and well, just very poorly lit and operating in complete anonymity.

"We can still function," called out one commissioner as the Alameda County Superior Court Judge Winifred Y. Smith denied the public's right to hear police complaints and see hearing records. "We just need to rely less on our ability to actually see written complaints or actually hear testimony, and get much better at smelling and sensing the complaints in a more general way."

"Blind people do it all the time," stated another Police Review Commissioner. "As we continue to operate without being able to see or hear complaints, our other senses will sharpen and begin to compensate. It's actually quite exciting."

Critics complained that a police officer's right to privacy needs to be balanced against the public's right to a complaint process, guaranteed by Berkeley's charter, but were dismissed as a bunch of whiners unable to look at the bright side of total darkness.

"The right to privacy has taken quite a beating of late," commiserated one observer. "Our private conversations, our private mail, our right to a fair trial, all of these things are in play after the

Enthusiastic Puppy Party Runs Into Crowded Election Ring

by *Lotta Muddyfeet*

The crowded political landscape got more crowded when the raucous Puppy Party tore into the game.

"We Love You And Your Shoes", the Puppy Party slogan, appeared on car and truck bumpers overnight nationwide, embraced by people who were tired of Republicans who seem oblivious to public concerns and Democrats too frightened to squeak in opposition.

"The Puppy Party won't break any promises because they won't make any," stated the power behind the puppies, Cal Mi Ichmael. "They will always be glad to see you and they will lick your hands."

Critics objected that the puppies had no experience in running a country, but Ichmael smiled and shook his head.

[scribble] events of 9-11. It's kind of nice to know that at least the police can operate in complete privacy, even when what they're doing is possibly illegal."

"It's a good feeling," agreed one local officer. "I don't hammer on people with my baton every day, but when I do it's good to know that if it's without justifiable cause nobody will know about it."

The Police Review Commission will continue to meet and discuss police review in a general way while thoroughly protecting police privacy.

"We can discuss the theoretical possibility of a complaint," pointed out one commissioner. "We can assign a theoretical date and time, hypothesize about an alleged location, and even issue an advisory ruling about alleged events theoretically taking place between unidentified individuals."

"It's a challenge, but we're up to it," affirmed another commissioner. "We've actually been in the dark for years."

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PUPPY PARTY representatives spent their entire opening press conference begging for bribes.

"People who think puppies aren't in charge don't have puppies," he smiled. "Besides, no mess that puppies leave behind can be worse than the nightmare we're in thanks to the current political administration, arguably experienced politicians. Puppies at least know how to look sorry for pooping on the rug."



"He has a point," commented one observer elbowing his way through the thick crowd of candidates. "The puppies are the only ones who seem sincere. And Washington's gone to the dogs anyway."

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Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...get your fashionable new spring warhead now..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, I don't care about the Oscars. Is there something wrong with me? Movies are okay, but I don't care who wins what or who wears what or who shows up with whom. I feel like the last person on earth who doesn't give a hoot. Am I too weird to live?

Dear reader, way. This is not the kind of thing you can get away with for long. You need to beef up on Oscars trivia, wolf down everything you can find on the contenders, and for heaven's sake see a movie. The entire industry is teetering on the likes of you and if you lose the beat, well, they won't miss you at the best parties.

Dear Lena, I'm a big fan of Brittany Spears, but now that she's shaved her head I'm not so sure about her. It really works for some people, but I'm so tempted to lose all respect for her. The drugs, the drinking, the neglect of her baby, all that makes sense to me, but that hair stuff has got me. Am I a bad fan?

A: The staff of the Pepper Spray Times shaved each others' heads immediately, and you had better hurry or it will look as though you don't really care.

Dear Lena, now that there is no police review and the story is out on how they shake down the public, should I start tipping my local police officer? I sure don't want my house robbed.

A: Tip him or her generously, but also invite them to share your dinner and your finest drugs. That way they will remember you when you're having a really bad day.

Ask Lena anything! Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice. Contact her at cdenny@igc.org.

MARIN COUNTY VS. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SMACKDOWN

By Petra Fied

Residents in a pricey Marin County community are mobilizing against an affordable housing plan by Habitat for Humanity, saying it would blight their upscale neighborhood with poorly dressed people carrying boomboxes and poorly appointed domiciles with no chance of being featured in Architecture Magazine.

The group states that the plan to build four three-bedroom units of low-income housing in their neighborhood would result in a strain on the self-esteem of the low-income units, which will suffer great insecurity trying to live next to their more fortunate neighbors, whose houses are worth millions.

"We're not thinking of ourselves," stated Bill Duane, a 58-year-old resident of Bay Vista Drive. "We're putting ourselves right in their shoes, empathizing with the way they would feel living next to us. If I was poor and had myself for a neighbor I would probably leap off the bridge."

About thirty residents who live near the proposed construction site -- 16.5 acres just west of the Tiburon city limits -- are attempting to raise \$100,000 for legal fees to oppose the project, which still must be approved by the Planning Commission.

"Chicken feed," commented one

resident when questioned about the wisdom of spending enough money to build several houses

on opposing the construction of affordable units. "My bridge club spends that much every year on their hair."

"The proposed affordable homes are of a certain type and would not fit in. The placement of these homes would really stand out," said Alan Krepack, 54, a management consultant who has lived on Bay Vista Drive for 18 years. "Nobody stands out around here if they know what's good for them."

Habitat officials said they were surprised by the vehemence of the opposition.

"It's really fortunate that low-income people are used to living in troubled neighborhoods," said Phillip Kilbridge, executive director of Habitat's San Francisco chapter. "They really have exactly the right training for a project like this."

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Oak Grove May Be Native Burial Site:

UC says bulldozing bones is sacred ritual

By Cal mi Ichmael

Human remains documented during the construction of UC Berkeley's Memorial Stadium "would have wanted the high performance center" according to UC anthropologists.

The university admitted leaving the discovery of Native American

remains out of its required environmental study documents, but explained that campus experts on native culture assured them that the artifacts and bones unearthed during stadium construction all showed clear indications of support for the high performance center and massive building project.

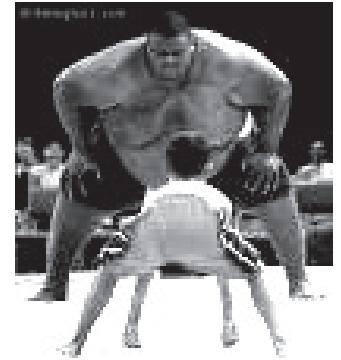
"We have no disrespect for native

culture," stated UC spokespersons Marie Felde. "We like the way Emeryville handled a similar discovery of native remains, arranging for consumers to shop at upscale markets right on top of a burial mound."

Observers admitted that Emeryville's willingness to build a shopping center on top of Native American graves offered an interesting array of possible compromises for the proposed high performance center.

"I bet the Ohlone had great abs," suggested one UC administrator. "I'm sure we can work this out to everyone's satisfaction."

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SAN FRANCISCO METER MADNESS

Supes shocked to learn parking meters squandering millions

Juana Dance, Staff Writer

San Francisco supervisors expressed shock Wednesday over a report that parking meters are refusing to turn over their millions in revenue to the city.

"There's something seriously wrong here," said Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, who called for the hearing. "We've got to get an analysis. We've got to understand what's going on here. It's beyond me to imagine, even though the City of Berkeley has the same problem, that we can't get rich off of parking meters."

McGoldrick was responding to a report from Board of Supervisors Budget Analyst Harvey Rose that shows San Francisco's roughly 23,000 meters collect on average between \$2.61 and \$5.59 a day, and often turn right around and put it in the pockets of panhandlers who refuse to support large, expensive city projects.

Surprisingly, the lowest collection rates were recorded in the core of downtown San Francisco, where drivers whine the loudest and offer the biggest bribes to meter-feeders.

"This is a shocking situation, really shocking," McGoldrick said, noting that just doubling the city's current collection rate of 22 percent would yield an additional \$30 million to fund the Municipal Railway or other transportation services or maybe cover 1/3 of the flower budget for the next civic event.

Muni spokesman Judson True said Wednesday that antiquated, broken meters were to blame for the lower amount five years ago. Since then, San Francisco has invested in thousands of digital meters, which have proved to be more reliable, but also like to spend their money on iPods, fashionable clothing, and fancy cell phone features..

Speaking to the supervisors' Budget and Finance Committee, True said modern meters' high and mighty attitudes about municipal corruption and waste are all factors for the low meter collection rates.

"To some extent over the past five years, there has been an increase in revenue," True said. "We just can't talk the meters into giving it up. We're thinking of sending them to Guantanamo."

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MOST METERS have a happy life, participating in yoga programs and getting together for some informal synchronized swimming.

UC Police Protect Citizens from Dangerous Fliers

By Pat M. Down

The dangerous flier problem threatening to pollute the Memorial Oak Grove tree-sit area is over, thanks to the University of California Police Department.

"We don't mind risking our lives to protect the public," stated Sgt. Roby, referring to the confiscation of information table as a move to seize "everything on the ground."



"These fliers and tables could trip someone," he point out, as UC staff shoveled information regarding the protection of oak trees into trash bags. "Someone could fall right into my baton."

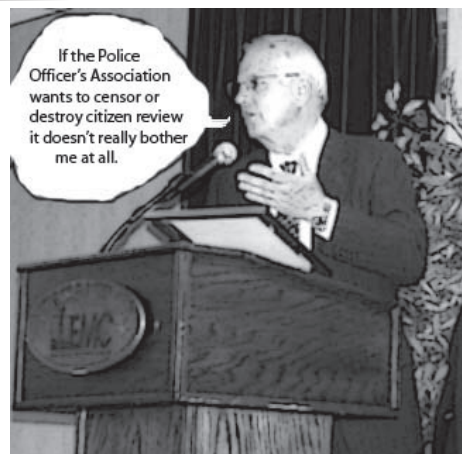
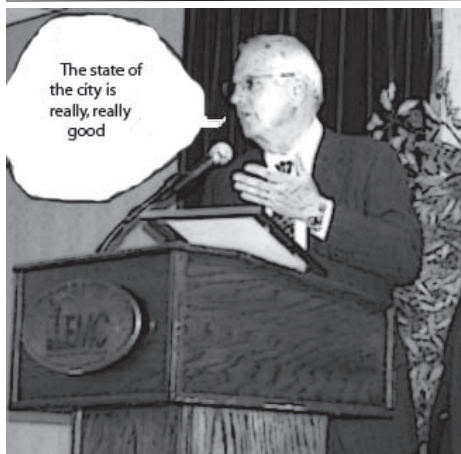
Veterans from the Free Speech Movement agreed, noting that the 1964 scuffle over fliers had escalated into a confrontation between the National Guard and students who had no idea there was a conflict over information tables on campus property.

"We just got dosed," stated one alumni, shaking his head. "Tear gas sprayed from helicopters whether we knew what was going on on Sproul Plaza or not."

"The UC Berkeley campus is no place for information tables," confirmed Chancellor Birgeneau. "People who want a moment of free speech should stand in the free speech circle carefully designated in honor of Mario Savio on Sproul Plaza."

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We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast





PETITION-SIGNING is the new extreme sport at the XGames, thanks to local green-washers and the highly flexible use of the late David Brower's environmentalist legacy.

Petition-signing New Extreme Sport at X-Games

by Laura Standard

Extreme sports move over – signing an anti-development petition joins motorcross and skateboard stunts as one of the wildest local ways to risk your life thanks to the deep animosity toward an anti-development referendum.

“You have to be in good shape to sign this petition,” said Gale Garcia, of the referendum’s supporters. “The name-calling, personal attacks, the disinformation, and the profanity is all stuff we’re used to in Berkeley politics. But actually getting near this petition takes strength, agility, and the nose of a bloodhound.”

“Only people in top physical condition get anywhere near it,” agreed another local referendum supporter. “You have to dodge through crowds of pro-development supporters papering you with fliers and peppering you with intimidating questions. It’s easy for dancers, Olympic skiers, and speed-skaters,

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And All: Politicians, Judges, Lawyers, Bankers and Clergy

You are hereby ordered for induction into the Armed Forces of the United States. Report to your local induction center within 48 hours.

NO DEFERMENTS



but ordinary citizens find it daunting.”
 “I’ve been looking for that petition for weeks,” offered another citizen. “I’m just tired of the greenwashing, and the abuse of David Brower’s environmental legacy to put up concrete. But the petition itself is somewhere in that sea of screaming, arguing people, and I only have a certain amount of time at the farmer’s market.”
 “We can guarantee that David Brow-

er would have wanted this, even though he is dead,” stated one anti-referendum protester. “He would have loved having his name on a building as much as he would have loved the big ball of quartz with his statue crawling up the side. And he would really, really have loved the physical effect this referendum is having on the whole town. We’re all in the best shape we’ve been in in years.

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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
 cdenney@igc.org
 www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
 Art Director.....Egon Schiele
 Comics.....Roger Dondis
 Staff.....Juana Dance, Franz Toast, Laura Standard, Doug Minkler, Cal Mi Ichmael, Petra Fied, Lotta Muddyfeet, Seetha Light, Lena Deeter, Pat M. Down



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.

* King Henry V