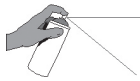


These ...and  
are now for  
truly the public  
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# Hepper Spray Times

April 2004



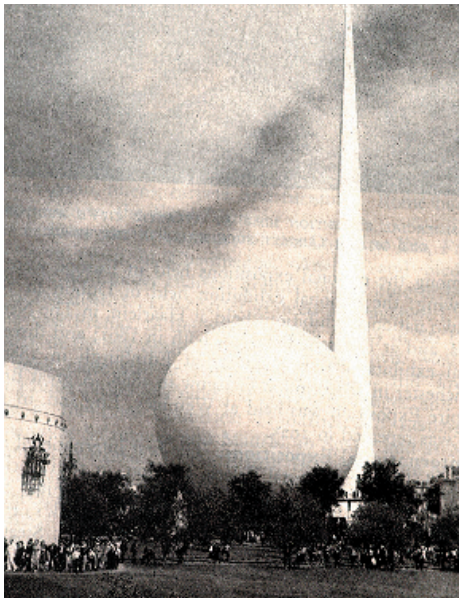
...or P.S.T...



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

"Good hearts, devise something: any extremity, rather than a mischief."\*

Vol. VI No. 3

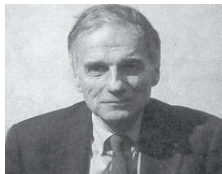


NADER'S EGO is said to be the size of the perisphere at the 1939 World's Fair.

## NADER'S EGO RUNS FOR PRESIDENT NADER ENDORCES KUCINICH, BUT EGO JUST WON'T STOP

By Staff Writer C. D. Boidie

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader's ego continues to insist on an independent run for the Presidency despite Nader's own acknowledgement that splitting the vote in an evenly



CONSUMER ADVOCATE RALPH NADER really wishes he could talk some sense into his ego.

divided electorate would be counterproductive.

"The Green Party may still have its head up its ass," he stated at a recent press conference, "but I don't. I can do the math in Florida and Vermont. I just can't get my ego to listen."

Psychologists nationwide agreed that Nader's ego was a national problem, and offered everything from primal scream therapy to medication in the hope of helping out.

"It's a difficult problem, but it can be resolved with patience and intensive therapy," commented one therapist. "I usually run into this problem with four-year-olds."

Nader's ego is said to have the approximate dimensions of the perisphere which, along with the trylon, symbolized the World's Fair of 1939, but critics counter that matters could become much worse as the election grows nearer.

Hopes that Green Party operatives would assist the nation with Nader's unfortunate disability faded fast after his ego's candidacy announcement.

"You take your life in your hands talking to Green Party members about how they split the vote last time," whispered one shaken voter drive worker. "You tend to get the same effect as you do if you hit the rear end of a Pinto."

\* \* \* \* \*

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS PANNED; RATINGS PLUMMET

### Half-time show suggested

By Greg Expectations

Bad reviews and poor attendance at recent City Council meetings is disturbing both staff and council members, who fear that if their ratings sink any lower their show might be canceled entirely.

"We have to do something," responded one council member asked about the public's lack of interest. "What's the point of getting all dressed up if nobody's watching?"

Another council member who wished to remain anonymous expressed concern about working conditions for council meeting participants.

"There's no green room, no assistance with wardrobe or make-up. What's my motivation?"

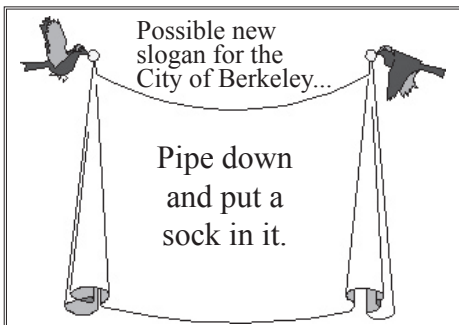
Local citizens chimed in that Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates had influenced them greatly by telling them he "had a life" at a recent Planning Commission Hotel Task Force meeting when he exited the meeting early.

"It really made me think," offered one long-time Berkeley resident. "I had hired a babysitter to give my considered opinion on the subject as a community participant, and it suddenly struck me that if the Mayor could blow it all off, well, maybe I should, too."

Suggestions to beef up ratings and attendance include musical interludes, free beer, and, of course, a half-time show, but critics point out that nudity has done little for Berkeley Community Television cable ratings, and would probably not interest a sophisticated Berkeley audience.

"Controversy is what brings out a Berkeley audience," stated one staff member. "They've got the right idea when they start messing with the rules for public comment. It's either that or the dogs."

\* \* \* \* \*



JANET JACKSON might be willing to give the City Council some pointers.

# ASK THE EXPERTS



**LENA DEETER** knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Q:** Hey, Lena, what's the practical effect of asking Barbara Lee and the Berkeley City Council to propose investigating impeachment?

**A:** It offers them an opportunity to parade as radicals in a mainstream world, an opportunity to alienate as many voters as possible in an election year, isolate themselves politically which makes it harder to work cooperatively within Congress or the Bay Area as a region, and provides endless fun for those whose stories about Berkeley begin and end with the ridiculous nature of its short-sighted citizens, who can't think strategically to save their lives. This, of course, sells papers, the very papers which would cover an honest grass-roots effort if the same people who poured their energy into preening on the air in front of the Berkeley City Council would bother creating one. But that would take some honest organization, and an honest effort to communicate with people who disagree with you. Why bother when instead you can just sit in front of your computer and play 'let's send out a press release'. Agreeing with people who already agree with you is Berkeley's favorite sport. Feel free to sit on the sidelines and cheer.

**Q:** But doesn't Berkeley have an obligation to be the inspiration for the nation on matters like this?

**A:** Berkeley does. The Berkeley City Council doesn't.



Life would be a royal pain without the Pepper Spray Times.



Whatcha got there, Spot?

Nothing, really, but help me out; I'm just hungry for some jerky.

## CANINES ADMIT TESTIMONY UNCLEAR, WORTHLESS AT TRIAL

By Staff Writer Fred Strew

Several dogs admitted yesterday that they perjured themselves when testifying at trial, misleading jurors and possibly obstructing justice.

"I've never been much of a public speaker," confessed one terrier, weeping into a handkerchief. "I was trying to tell my handler that someone was barbecuing ribs, and she thought I alerted on a drug suspect. I feel terrible about it."

### EXPRESS WRITER ACCIDENTALLY WRITES TRUE STORY

By Staff Writer Drew A. Blank

East Bay Express writer Chris Thompson was discovered recently to have written a story based entirely on facts, causing considerable stir in a community which came to rely on him for wild distortions, inventions, and extrapolations of third-hand hearsay.

"I deeply apologize to my readers," stated Thompson in a press release Thursday. "Who knows how much pain I've caused, or how many years it will take to undo the damage."

Thompson explained that ordinarily he relied on information he got off the internet, but that he had accidentally witnessed an incident first-hand while walking to the liquor store, and in his words, "couldn't help myself."

Critics pointed out that an ordinary retraction would be an inappropriate response in this extreme case, and that the writer responsible for this disturbing anomaly should be fired. Thompson expressed understanding of the outrage caused by his sudden experiment with non-fiction.

"I've learned my lesson," responded Thompson. "I'll never do it again."

\*\*\*\*\*

"I have trouble with clear vowel sounds," agreed one Labrador mix with embarrassment. "I was responding to a lonely poodle who was in the mood for company, and the officer working with me assumed that I was on a case. It's taken me years to realize that I need to set the record straight."

The dogs convened in Ohlone Park recently to give a press conference about their concerns regarding the proposed use of canine patrol units by the Berkeley Police Department.

"We're hard-working dogs and we're doing our best," concluded one beagle thoughtfully. "But we're pretty stupid. There isn't one of us that can't be bought with a handful of jerky."

\*\*\*\*\*



FREDERIC PIGNON sure knows how to ride around on a horse all dressed up.

### CRITICS RIDE WILD CAVALIA

By Guest Critic Pierre Intwameer

'Cavalia' she sing, she fly like bird across zee sawdusty circle ring with happily no shit. Zing, zing, zee music avec du lights, so how you say so muscular beauty of zee pony. Captivating my soul zee white cowboy, man-horse man with zee ponytail, me, I could not tell one end from zee other. Sheer musique, le physique et le pounding hoof, le jumping, I am hardly breathing. I am coming again and again.

\*\*\*\*\*

# SECRET MEMOS REVEAL UC'S NASTY AGENDA AND COMPLICIT CITY STAFF



**HORROR GRIPS** those unfortunate people accidentally exposed to the internal memos.

*By Staff Writer Sally Goose*

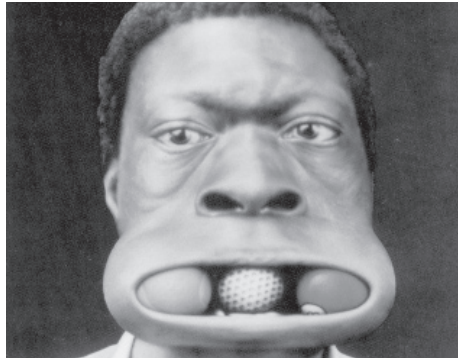
Assistant City Attorney Zach Cowan's memo advising Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates on how to "bulletproof" city approval of zoning amendments in the University of California's favor shocked local residents, but was only a small part of the story. More secret memos revealed to the Pepper Spray Times' enterprising reporters include:

- a memo suggesting that City Council wear blue and gold to council meetings and other civic or formal functions
- a memo suggesting the chancellor be given a seat on the council
- a memo suggesting the football team be given a seat on the council
- a memo suggesting the cheerleaders for the football team be given a seat on the council
- a memo suggesting the council be abolished in favor of a purely symbolic body which cedes all decision-making to the UC regents (return memo from unidentified city hall staff points out that many argue this is currently the case, therefore redundant)

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates stated that he is hardly responsible for the memos he receives, and has an open door to all citizens who wish to share their opinions with him.

"The door is just a little wider for some people," he stated.

\* \* \* \* \*



## BATES SAYS PUT A SOCK IN IT ALREADY

*Public Comment Peeves Mayor*

*By Staff Writer Edna Sundeck*

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates is causing a stir by proposing that public comment be set at 30 minutes for regular council meetings but only twenty minutes for sub-committee meetings, with each speaker limited to two instead of three minutes each, so that more people can speak.

"This is a cynical attack on the public's right to bore the shit out of the council," spoke one local citizen. "One may get one's point across in two minutes, but if you really want to make their eyes glaze over you need three."

Civil liberties activists rallied in front of City Hall, calling the proposal a discriminatory measure aimed at people with poor public speaking skills.

"Some people are less interesting and more long-winded than others," they sniffed. "People who are repetitive burn-outs with nothing to add on a particular subject should have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their contempt for proceedings we believe are designed to discourage the ordinary citizen from experiencing a sense of participation in important community-based and at times national concerns without being upset by repressive rules and little red lights."

Council members expressed mixed feelings about the proposal, suggesting that the city could offer tips on improving the public's presentations.

"We could have seminars with motivational speakers," observed one council member. "Maybe we could get Janet Jackson."

\* \* \* \* \*



**THE MIRACLE METER** brought spontaneous joy to downtown bystanders, who began dancing in the streets and were quickly arrested for assembling illegally.

## WORKING METER DISCOVERED

*Vatican Suspects  
Authentic Miracle*

*By Staff Writer William Euvitt*

A fully functioning parking meter was discovered recently near the corner of Addison and Fulton Streets in Berkeley, causing near-hysteria on the part of exuberant drivers and bystanders.

"I put in a quarter and it worked!" cried out the driver of an old blue Volvo. "Did you see it? Does anybody have a video camera?"

Television news trucks were soon clogging the intersection as they vied for space from which to broadcast the biggest story in Berkeley in years.

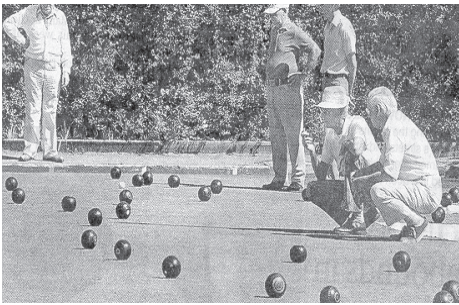
"I haven't seen anything like this in my whole life," marveled 90 year-old Dora Belle, wiping a tear from her eye. "Now I have something to tell my grand-kids."

Crowds gathered around the meter, and the religiously inclined set small vases of flowers near its base and touched it reverently, hoping to be healed of various ailments.

"We're not sure it's an authentic miracle," cautioned an emissary from the Vatican. "We're still in the investigative stage, but it's looking good."

"They'd better hurry," observed one long time Berkeley resident getting photographed with the meter. "These precious moments tend to be fleeting."

\* \* \* \* \*



**NASA SCIENTISTS MARVEL** at the rocks they've found on the surface of Mars, still hoping to find signs of life or water or lotto tickets or something, anything, anything at all.

## MARS ONCE HAD JELLO, ROVER REVEALS

*By Staff Writer  
Lauren D. Boom*

The Mars rover Opportunity discovered compelling evidence that the surface of Mars was once drenched with water, raising the possibility that jello existed there in the distant past.

"There seems little doubt that jello on Mars was possible," said Steven Squyres, one of scientists working with the robotic rover mission, "which indicates that the red planet was capable of supporting life as we know it."

The discovery is not considered definitive proof that Mars had jello, but only that the surface of Mars was capable of sustaining jello, which may have percolated under the planet's surface or may have evaporated into space.

Squyres can hardly wait to guide the rover out of its Martian crater and continue searching.

"The jello indicators are a very exciting first step," he commented. "Ultimately we have an optimistic perspective on the possibility of finding both tupperware and marshmallows."

\*\*\*\*\*



**HAITIAN METERS** waded ashore by the hundreds hoping to flee the chaos in the streets, which experts agree is even worse than the shocking mistreatment they routinely receive at the hands of Bay Area residents.

## EDDIE BAUER NEARLY WINS PRIMARY

### "50% OFF" SLOGAN A WINNER

*By Staff Writer Bob N. Weave*

Chain store Eddie Bauer pulled a sizeable percentage of votes in the March 2nd primary, surprising political observers far and wide.

"We didn't realize he was running," commented a reporter for the Chronicle, "or we would have at least given him an interview."

Bauer's political affiliation has yet to be confirmed, but five percent of the electorate supported him in the primary on the basis of the signs found planted in the median strips throughout the commercial districts in Berkeley, which read "Eddie Bauer, 50% off".

"He had the best slogan," affirmed one supporter in an exit poll. "Everybody else was slogging on the President, but I found Eddie Bauer's message to be the most positive. And I can sure use the discount."

\*\*\*\*\*

## METERS FLEE HAITIAN CHAOS

*By Staff Writer Mindy Kitchen*

Thousands of parking meters waded ashore in Miami fleeing Haiti, many clutching the hands of children.

International troops joined 100 U.S. Marines to help maintain order after President Aristide's forced exit and exile, but the local meter population remains fearful of the violence.

"We know life is tough in the states," commented one meter, clutching a small bag of belongings. "We've heard stories about vandalism, violence, and crime. But American meters have no idea how it is where we come from. We just want a chance at a better life."

Florida Governor Jeb Bush is busy revising his statement at the Governors Association meeting that "the old days of just sending in the Marines," was "not successful", referring to former President Clinton's deployment of U.S. forces to reinstall Aristide in 1994.

"Let me get back to you on that," stated Governor Bush. "Let me get back to you on that after the election."

Immigration and Naturalization Service officials said they have room to process only 150 meters in Florida, and that housing the meters at nearby Guantanamo Naval Base was not an option because of the terrorist detainees.

"We don't want the Haitian meters mixed in with the terrorist meters," stated an INS official. "We worry enough about our indigenous parking meters turning on us as it is."

Administration officials denied that the Haitian crisis represented another intelligence failure.

"We have no intelligence about any intelligence failure," commented a Bush administration spokesperson. "We are preparing a special post-election report on the matter."

\*\*\*\*\*

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.



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.

\* Merry Wives of Windsor

**BASIC HEADLINE**

**BASIC HEADLINE  
COMPRESSED**