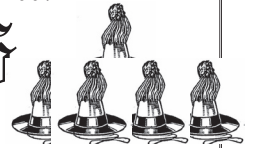


All hail the...

...the half-off holiday shopping issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

December 2007



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

"...call my thought a certain knowledge..."*

Vol. IX No. 12



CHURCH OFFICIALS are not sure what to do with all the people they accidentally beatified in the Catholic church's new "wide stance" on sainthood.

JESUS RETURNS, SAYS NEW SAINTS BUNCH OF PHONIES- DEMANDS SMACKDOWN

By Celia Fate

Jesus's traditional return to the Bay Area for the holidays was marred by Catholic protestors who are angry with his opposition to the Vatican's mass beatification of hundreds of slain Spanish priests and nuns.

"They're dead, so it's hard for them to fight back," stated one protestor wearing a Pope Benedict XVI T-shirt. "Besides, sloppy mass beatifications have their upside. My aunt Carlotta was accidentally beatified, too, and now we have a first-row pew."

Jesus, who arrived by NASA space shuttle for the first time in an effort to avoid airport security issues which marred his last visit, stated that the Catholic Church's effort to manufacture hundreds of saints was undermining, rather than strengthening, religious authority.

"Let's see them walk on water," he shouted to reporters as he climbed out of his space suit on the tarmac. "Or let's

see them create a good Cabernet out of this bottle of Calistoga. These phonies don't have what it takes."

Jesus clarified that his objection had nothing to do with the church's historic ties to General Francisco Franco, who overthrew the elected leftist government and ruled 40 years as a dictator.

"Kicking around leftists is hard to resist," he explained, pointing out that the City of Berkeley was making only anemic efforts to protect the tree-sitters being threatened with tree-top extraction at the oak grove near the stadium. "It is hard to have any fun at all when you're a priest or a nun wearing an itchy robe, sworn to celibacy, or a city employee sitting around in public meetings all the time," said Jesus. "Pope Benedict XVI may think the church is perfect, but his pal President Bush would be the first to tell him that people who like to torture other people are people too."

* * * * *

SANTA STEPS INTO CAMPAIGN RACE

By Yolanda DeWash

Santa Claus stepped into the presidential race last week explaining that his holiday gift to the world would be a kind, gentle, generous hand at the helm.

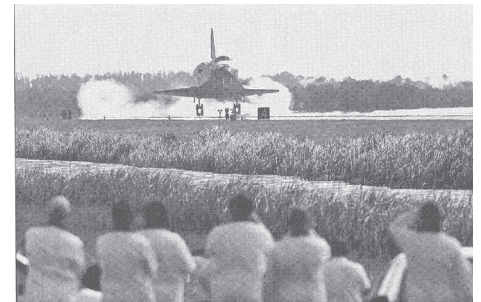
"Ask my reindeers," he chuckled, putting a finger aside of his nose. "There's no turnover on my crew, I'm generous to a fault, and I really know how to wriggle out of tight situations."

Even his factory elves agreed that given the current crop of candidates, the American public could do worse than Santa.

"He sleeps a lot," stated one elf on condition of anonymity. "But when he gets in gear he really knows how to cover some ground."

"I'd vote for him," stated little Suzie. "But after all, he knows where I live."

* * * * *



JESUS USED THE SHUTTLE for his annual return to the planet, due to the difficulty he had last year getting through airport security.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, a friend of mine invited me to go waterboarding. What do I wear?

Dear reader, something simple, casual, and washable. It would be best to avoid accessories.

Dear Lena, there's a oily, slicky bird walking around out front -- what do I do?

Dear reader, the likelihood is that it is a candidate trolling for votes. Whatever you do don't give him or her any money, or he or she will never go away.

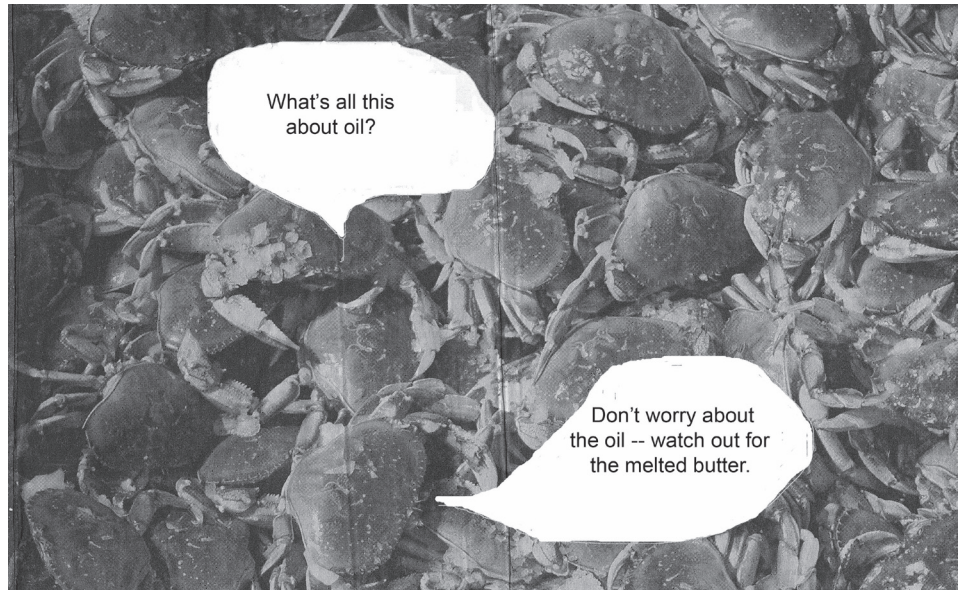
Dear Lena, I thought the fences around the oak grove with the barbed wire and the eerie lights were a Halloween thing, but now it's Christmas and they're still there. What should the community do?

Dear reader, you're correct that the Guantanamo atmosphere is not in keeping with the shopping season. We need to reach out to the community and ask them to decorate the fence and the barbed wire with joyful holiday garlands and reindeer displays.

Dear Lena, I'm confused. Should I buy, and support the economy, or should I not buy, and save the planet? It is so hard to know what to do.

Dear reader, it is easy to get confused about this issue. Go ahead and buy, but send your acquisitions to the Pepper Spray Times, c/o Lena Deeter. We will find good homes for your embarrassing purchases and you can breathe easily about your holiday carbon footprint.

Ask Lena. Or not. Or just whisper in her ear by contacting her at cdenney@igc.org.



THE OIL SPILL has affected local wildlife populations, including crustaceans, who discovered that oil ruins the petunias and makes their driveways too slippery for skateboarding.

10 Ways to Help Your Oil-soaked Bird Get Through the Holidays



DO: Give your oil-soaked bird a foot massage in front of a warm fireplace.

DO: Sing to your oil-soaked bird.

DON'T: Show your oil-soaked bird the fall television line-up; it will be too depressing.

DON'T: Rave about the glories of the Bush administration's environmental policy.

DO: Take your oil-soaked bird shopping for specialty vinegars at the farmer's market.

DO: Introduce your oil-soaked bird to the local bird population for a quiet game of bridge.

DON'T: Suggest going down to the lagoon for a quick dip.

DON'T: Try to make your oil-soaked bird attend tedious public hearings.

DO: Take your oil-soaked bird to the local museum to enjoy some culture.

DO: Bake cookies with your oil-soaked bird.

DON'T: Ask your oil-soaked bird how long he or she plans to stay.

DON'T: Visit Santa at the mall with your oil-soaked bird unless you bring a tarp.

* * * * *



BRITISH PETROLEUM'S BEST SUPPORTERS, the BP Bears, were inexplicably banned from a free science lecture at the Berkeley Repertory Theater despite their position of full, unqualified support for Chris Sommerville's lucrative new contract with the University of California, which should keep him in Priuses for years.

UC SUCKS DOWN BRITISH PETROLEUM'S BIG BIOBUCKS

BP Bears Sing, Dance, Rejoice

By Brett Crumbs

The BP Bears were recently refused entry to the Berkeley Repertory Theater's science lecture on UC Berkeley's Helios Project, disappointing dozens of attendees who revere their special style of support for biofuels.

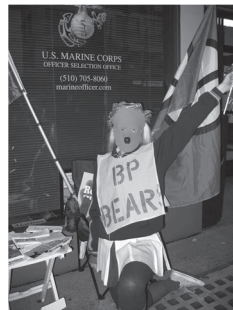
"There must have been some mistake," stated the bears' spokesperson. "We are big fans of Chris Sommerville. We do want a piece of the money he'll make off of this deal, but that doesn't mean we don't love him."

The BP Bears are up to their pom-poms in local political issues, including a recall of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates who they believe has not done enough

for football or to privatize People's Park.

"The BP Bears appreciate that British Petroleum has a checkered past, but hey, they changed their name," stated the BP Bears spokesperson. "And after all, what possible harm can they do up there in Strawberry Canyon?"

* * * * *



THE BP BEARS also root for the U.S. Marines recruiting center on Shattuck.



DANGEROUS TOYS

By Patty Cake

The Tom Bates paper doll has been determined to be the most dangerous toy on the list of holiday toys being recalled out of concern for children's safety.

"It has a variety of problems," acknowledged the manufacturer. "It has no tolerance for public comment, it never met a developer it didn't like, and if you don't watch it closely, it will steal your newspaper."

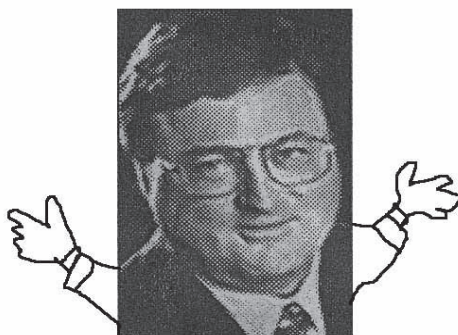
More than a half-million of the dolls intended for holiday shelves have been recalled for exceeding the 0.06 percent hypocrisy standard, although no injuries have been reported so far.

"We removed as many of these paper dolls from the shelves as we could before consumers could suffer," said Scott Wolfson, spokesperson for the Consumer Product Safety Commission. "But it's true that certain consumers could have this toy on a shelf for years without suffering the same impact as more vulnerable members of our society."

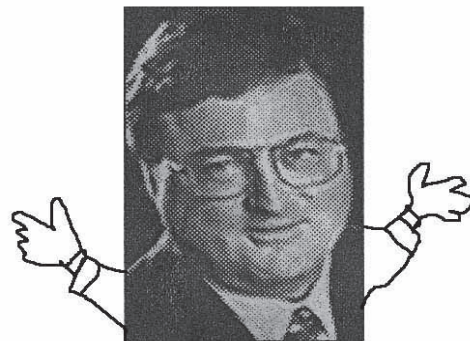
"If you carry your belongings in a shopping cart, this little doll will issue you a citation," added Wolfson. "It will simultaneously offer you a \$100,000 condominium. Consumers need to be very careful."

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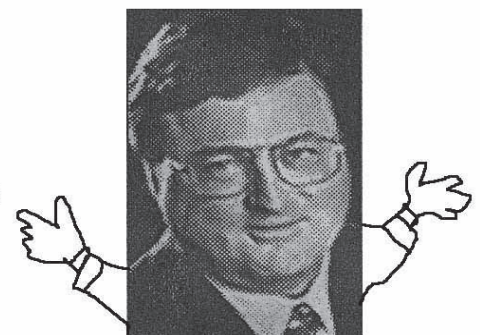
We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



I know I said that the governing board of regents was a tool of UC President Dynes, but that isn't why I quit.

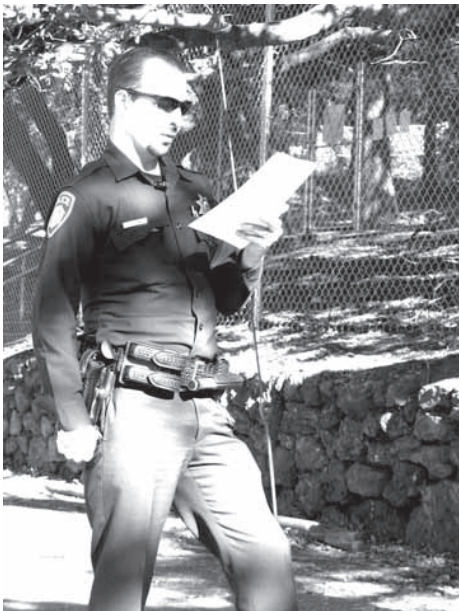


And yeah, I know I said the UC regents are about as relevant as furniture, but that's not why I quit either.



The truth is, I quit because I want to join the BP Bears. You can do a lot of good with a couple of pom-poms.

FORMER UC REGENT John Moores suddenly quit the board of regents after having been a generous \$21 million dollar donor to the university and serving only two years of his three year term in office, having found his calling with the BP cheerleaders.



UC POLICE OFFICER BAIRD gave the injunction's reading his best swagger, but failed to stop a bunch of grandmothers from feeding the treesitters, which threw him into deep depression.



SLAPP-SUITS JUST DON'T WORK the way they used to, as this Thanksgiving treesitter supply line celebration makes clear. If it weren't for pesky things like music, song, solidarity, common sense, compassion, fresh bread, delicious pumpkin pie, fresh tangerines, and community spirit we could probably eliminate ugly scenes like this from ever taking place and embarrassing the University of California.

POLICE OFFICER LOSES TO BUNCH OF GRANDMAS

By Charles Hottenhere

Guns, pepper spray, a flush of police video cameras and a SLAPP-suit injunction failed to stop a bunch of unarmed grandmothers from viciously ignoring police orders not to feed violent treesitters some delicious pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving day.

"They just kept coming," sobbed UC Police officer Baird. "I tried everything, and they just kept coming with those delicious pies and baskets of tangerines. They were relentless."

Medical experts say that with some therapy officer Baird will recover, although for years he may continue to

exhibit emotional scars from his unfortunate encounter.

"We're putting him on desk duty for awhile," stated one of the attending physicians at a recent press conference regarding the threat to public safety posed by the treesitters, who are now surrounded by two concentric circles of chain-link fence topped by barbed wire and lit continuously throughout the night by noisy generators. "We're hoping, with time, we can safely send him back out into



CLASSIFIED SERVICES

EXORCISMS: Specialist in cash register exorcism offers emergency treatment and ongoing therapy for appliances. Write c/o Pepper Spray Times, ad # 65988.

the community."

"There is hope," added UC police officer Moody, who witnessed Baird's humiliation at the grandmothers' hands. "But right now it would be dangerous to approach him with a basket of fruit. Without extensive therapy we're afraid he may never eat pie again."

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Next Issue: Drive-by Shooting with Celebrities

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...



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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

*Troilus and Cressida