

...the
poll-driven
issue... All
hail
the...

Pepper Spray Times

July 2006

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



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

"Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day..."*

Vol. VIII No. 7

RALLY FOR THE RICH

Andy Ross-A-Thon Nets Sympathy, Big Bucks



VIGILS FOR THE WEALTHY are only the beginning of a merchant-based pity party which coincides neatly with the coming election.

By Cy N. Mope

Cody's Bookstore owner Andy Ross sent out a press release thanking the city and the community for holding vigils, rallies, and fundraisers on his behalf in response to his announcement that he was closing the flagship Telegraph Avenue bookstore.

"I'm still quitting," he stated. "But if the city will shovel more money in my direction, that's cool."

Critics objected to the Ross-A-Thon, saying it didn't make sense to focus public funds on the perceptual insecurities of a millionaire.

"Those people are so hard-hearted," responded one city official busily rounding up votes for more police patrols and public funds to the well-serviced, well-lighted, and well-patrolled area. "Sure we could spend money on services for the poor, as opposed to the insecurities of the rich, and make a stronger case for affordable housing as opposed to just getting another set of prettier tree grates. But you have to start somewhere."

Andy Ross agreed that especially considering his extraordinary wealth, he might seem an unlikely candidate for charity.

"It's not about the money," he said softly. "It's all about the love."

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TELEGRAPH AVENUE NOW is sadly full of criminals who insist on inflicting their profit-free lifestyles on others, inhibiting consumer behavior.



TELEGRAPH AVENUE SOMEDAY will only have happy people, so happy that even Andy Ross would be happy.

Telegraph Avenue Face Lift Runs Into Wrinkle: Cops Insist Telegraph Best Place for Drug Trade

By Chuck D. Luggage

While Telegraph Avenue merchants tear their hair out trying to figure out whether to exploit or erase youth culture to "save" the avenue, the local police insist that Telegraph Avenue really is the best neighborhood for the drug trade they have to keep going somewhere so they can conduct their "buy-back" programs.

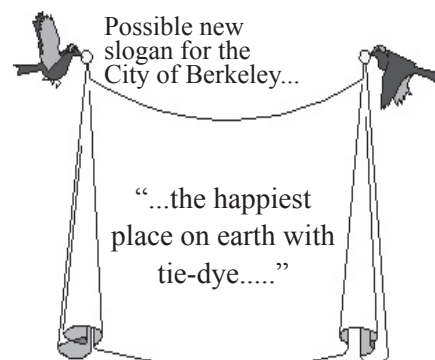
"We've tried to put the 'buy-back' programs in other areas of the city," commented one local police officer, "but between the fresh bagels and the exotic coffee drinks, we really think the southside of campus is the perfect location."

Critics complained that the police program, which keeps a steady population of drug users and buyers on Telegraph Avenue, created unusual pressures on an otherwise lively commercial area struggling with the same high rents and short leases which are

driving long-term businesses out of all of Berkeley's commercial corridors.

"Yes, of course we could move the 'buy-back' program to Sproul Plaza," responded one officer. "But then blaming People's Park would be a little harder to do, and after all, this is an election year."

* * * * *



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...the happiest place on earth with tie-dye....."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, should I join a cult?

A: Dear reader, you read newspapers, so you already belong to a highly distinctive extremist group. You are probably being watched.

Q: Dear Lena, what happened to instant run-off voting? Where did it go? Is it really true there's no time to implement that or the clean money thing?

A: Dear reader, of course it's true. You must not really care very much about baseball or soccer.

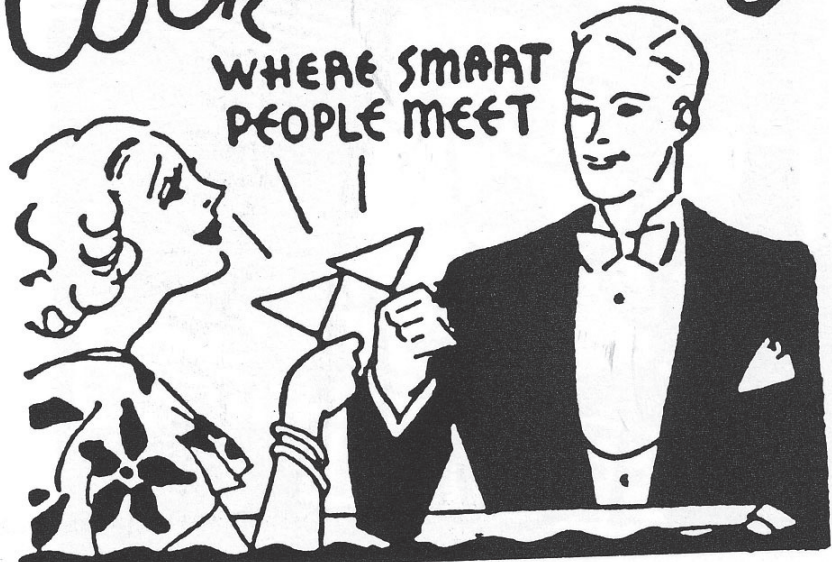
Q: Dear Lena, what about the big heads of Nobel Prize winners that were up on Telegraph Avenue banners? Where did they go?

A: Dear reader, they're having a conference right now. They're kind of annoyed that the rest of their torsos were left off the banners, and plan a full-frontal comeback around the holidays.

Q: Dear Lena, I can't get anywhere in my neighborhood anymore, which is surrounded by a river of traffic headed for the freeway. Should I talk to the traffic planners about it?

A: Dear reader, what a charming suggestion. Sure, as long as you realize their approach will be to try to get the traffic moving more quickly. You now are surrounded by stop-and-go traffic you can actually beat on a skateboard. If you talk to the traffic engineers, be sure to say goodbye to your neighbors on the other side of the street.

Telegraph Avenue Cocktail Hour



HIGHLY PAID CITY PLANNERS are already hard at work trying to put a more classy spin on colorful Telegraph Avenue, which for over forty years has proven a tough little monkey to tame.

NEW IMPROVED TELEGRAPH AVENUE MARKETING PLANS

By Emery Christmas

Planners and consultants are currently weighing a variety of approaches to elevating the clientele of Telegraph Avenue, which persists in attracting unwelcome poor people too stingy with their general assistance checks to keep the local merchants in the style to which they hope to become accustomed...

1. **The UC Plan:** repaint the streetscape blue and gold, redecorate and re-think the stores so as to appeal strongly to the football-driven students and parents who give the most as alumni. Lots and lots of UC souvenir stands, lots of beer, lots of alumni-based discounts on leisure suits, blue-and-gold tote bags and mugs, etc. Special patrols created to assist the inevitable UC sweatshirt-wearing crowd vomiting in the gutters.
2. **The Drunk Plan:** (identical to the UC plan, see above)
3. **The Hippy Plan:** smoke-filled, tie-dyed walking excursions with local street-savvy residents and a lot of smiling, generous posturing, inarticulate pontificating and deep inhaling. If you missed this stuff in the 1960's you'll need to come along just to understand the period music, now the backdrop for

- most contemporary SUV commercials.
4. **The Meth Plan:** fast-moving foot-race race from one end of the avenue to the other with stream-of-consciousness monologues, coached by highly exercised, heavily sweating, and slightly paranoid experts in the field. It's hard to sleep after using this exciting plan.
5. **The Nudist Plan:** only available during warm weather, a free-swinging stroll with Berkeley's sagging nudists, sunblock recommended.
6. **The Anarchist Plan:** mixing it up with local cops, lots of intense street choreography and a first-hand introduction to the latest police toys such as pepper spray, wooden bullets, and the stun gun. Shoppers will receive special dispensation for exhibiting consumer behavior.
7. **The People's Park Plan:** dig up the street, plant flowers, trees, vegetables, bring instruments, food, and make it up as you go! Build something, or just kick back with your pals and watch the world go by until the cops get there. Comes with an insider tour of local holding cells and the finest of local-in-custody fare.



GUIDELINES FOR HAND-FEEDING MONEY TO THE RICH

It's a baffling political climate! The gap between the rich and the poor gets wider every day, and yet your political leaders' concerns are dictated by the wealthy. If you want to join the party, you'll need guidelines from **Felicia Flock**, who knows the nuance of wealth and can help you steer clear of an embarrassing faux pas.



Felicia Flock

* "Should I wear white gloves?"

- *White gloves are not necessary, but rich people do enjoy them immensely, so if you wish to make your rich people feel extra comfortable, go ahead and wear them. Just be sure they are clean.*

* "What if they bite me?"

- *This is actually quite common, so make sure you have all your shots.*

* "Should I use big bills, or small ones? And is small change okay?"

- *It seems odd, but the rich just love small change, which gives them the illusion that they've carefully earned each and every shiny little penny.*

* "Is raw money okay, or should it be lightly steamed?"

- *Lightly steamed, and then lightly broiled for a moment, and then lightly sprinkled with fresh-grated parmesan, and your rich people will smile with pleasure and perhaps even remember your name.*

* "What beverage goes best with cash?"

- *Wine is permissible, or Peregrino, but keep in mind that nothing says 'I really care about you' like the best champagne.*

BAY AREA OLYMPIC BID REALLY SHAPING UP

By Lloyd Helpme

Local officials hoping to host a future Olympics are ready to meet head-on concerns about the idea being completely idiotic by suggesting some unconventional ideas for new events:

University Avenue skateboard slalom: Extreme skateboarders have adopted University Avenue's gnarly stretch for some satisfying maneuvering through the pothole-based obstacle course no longer accessible to drivers, who can't afford the hourly cost of tire replacement.

"We feel silly having paid consultants money for ideas about reducing traffic," admitted one City Hall staffer. "The rain destabilized the roadways, the asphalt buckled, the potholes took out the tires, the vehicles were disabled, the roadway

was cleared for bikes and skateboards, and it didn't cost the city a dime. This is traffic calming *without* littering the road with expensive traffic circles. We figure it will make a righteous Olympic event."

Boating Around 4th Street:

Shoppers at first bewildered by the challenge of getting anywhere near their favorite shopping destination during the new six-weeks rains are using creative approaches to get to Peet's in their new Rabat footwear by rafting through the whitewater channels created by west Berkeley's exciting backed-up sewer system, which features turn-of-the-century pipes.

"Stoked!" answered one shopper wringing out her cashmere wrap. "We ordinarily pay big money to river guides for riding rapids like these, but this local attraction is much better. At the other end of this is a double latte."

I-880 Hydroplaning:

Driving routines which once were tedious and repetitive are now edgy ways to test your vehicle's state-of-the-art safety features when the rainfall levels meet and match the runoff capabilities near and on freeways. Rock, roll, slosh, and burn with the latest airbags cushioning your unexpected excursion across three lanes of surprised traffic and really meet the neighbors just across the divider.

"Opera meets rap," chuckled one driver watching his crumpled Lincoln hoisted onto the back of a rescue tow truck. "I hardly ever get the chance I got today to meet young people."

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HAND-FEEDING THE RICH is best done in a quiet, refined setting with perhaps a little dignified chamber music.

We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast



We really love the war coverage here at the Pepper Spray Times.



Nothing gives you the overview of war like personal interviews with happy soldiers.



Our favorites are the happy amputees. They are always as cute as puppies.

**PROPOSED CONDO
PROJECT PERFECT
FOR DRUMMERS,
HEARING-IMPAIRED,
AND PEOPLE
WHO HATE NATURE**

By Wade Thruit

Relieved planners breathed a sigh of satisfaction after finally getting an environmental impact report on a proposed project at the foot of University Avenue which, according to supporters, will be perfect for drummers, the hearing-impaired, and people who cringe at the sight of a bay view.

"We had to address the trains," explained one planner, dusting off his hands after a long meeting with developers. "Poor people used to live down here before the trains went by, and when the rail lines went in nobody cared whether it disturbed their sleep. But people who buy high-end condos are likely to whine about noise, and when rich people whine we listen."

Between thirty-five and fifty passenger and freight trains pass by the proposed development site, but consultants see this as a creative challenge.

"Hearing-impaired upper-class people won't mind the train whistles at all," commented one consultant with a smile. "The current plan is have six inch thick sealed windows or no windows at all on the west side of the building facing the train tracks, which won't bother people who hate nature or are blind. We'll sell these condos whether we can shut the trains up or not."

District representatives Linda Maio and Darryl Moore are working hard to silence the trains themselves, but continue to run into the obstacle of inconsiderate people who get themselves killed on the tracks, raising a false is-

Order Me— I Obey



Tax Me— I'll Pay

D. Minkler 2006

People tend to ascribe the responsibility for war to those who wield power. But the responsibility for wars falls directly upon the citizenry for they possess all the necessary means to avert war. To place guilt on ordinary people—to hold them solely responsible—means to take them seriously, whereas, to view them as victims means to treat them as small, helpless children.

*Wilhelm Reich 1897-1957
Paraphrased from
The Mass Psychology of Fascism*

sue of safety.

"These people don't realize how hard they make it for us to sell real estate down here," muttered one planner. "These deaths are often characterized as accidents, but we suspect that some or all of them are environmental extremists working to stop progress."

The proposed development will be

an improvement for the area.

"Talk about traffic calming," chuckled one consultant. "After these units get built it will take three days to get out of the garage."

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**Next issue, Nail-clipping
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...



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.

* Macbeth