

...the mentally
and fiscally
sound issue... All
hail
the...

Hepper Spray Times

June 2006

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



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

"O Slaves, I can tell you news - news, you rascals!"*

Vol. VIII No. 6



WHO WOULDN'T ENJOY this exclusive proximity to the stylish facilities provided by the West Berkeley "Neighborhood" Development Corporation's celebratory contribution? Some people just get lucky.

DEATH PAYS OFF; HOMELESS NUMBERS DECLINE

Duane Queener

Bush administration officials declared victory in their campaign against homelessness citing a drop-off in street counts of the homeless. Critics responded that a crucial percentage of the population is missing from the count as a consequence of being dead.

"They missed counting a bunch of us who were around a while back," confirmed one local transient. "We've had a lot of memorial services in the last couple of years for people who just couldn't hack the cold. They would all be happy to know they managed to be useful to the government in some small way."

* * * * *
as I get about three blocks away from home I plan to do just that."

WBNDC board member Bruce Williams explained his ripping down fliers protesting the lack of neighborhood notice by stating that he was worried that they would inhibit digestion, a statement which was taped, and many say indicates the prevailing view of the rest of the WBNDC board, which has yet to comment.

"We'd love to know if this is a general concern shared by the rest of the board," commented another west Berkeley resident. "We care about free speech, but we realize our digestion has to come first."

* * * * *

Celebrating West Berkeley In a Very Special Way

Beau Leggett

Hundreds of west Berkeley residents were surprised to find themselves with backstage passes to the recent "International Food Festival" hosted by the West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation.



WBNDC board member Bruce Williams tore down informational fliers about the lack of notice to the neighborhood in yet another generous effort to celebrate West Berkeley.

"How thoughtful," exclaimed a tenant in one of the four apartment buildings immediate to the 100-plus decibel show featuring amplified gamelan and ukuleles, as well as forty minutes of fashion show.

"It's not what I was planning for my Sunday, but it sure inspired me to go visit my aunt in Vallejo."

"I never thought I would be important enough to merit a backstage pass," commented another tenant. "If I were a sari wearer I would have found it most informative."

Organizers admitted that the West Berkeley neighborhood's variance notices didn't mention the location of the stage, the port-a-potties, or the deafening decibel level of the entertainment, but took turns blaming the City of Berkeley, the out-of-town festival director, and each other for the lack of notice, suggesting in addition that anyone who didn't appreciate surprises was just no fun at all.

"I do enjoy fun," gasped one tenant rolling shut his apartment windows, which were situated near the pungent port-a-potties and the smoke from the outdoor cooking booths. "It's just a lot easier to enjoy fun when you can also manage to inhale."

"They were right to just tell us to enjoy it," stated another tenant. "As soon



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, what is this thing about density? Why is it so popular with planners? They wouldn't seem to profit the same way developers do. Am I just out of it or what?

A: Dear reader, yes, you are hopelessly out of it. Planners are deeply insecure, and need a sense of having participated in something, even the destruction of a pleasant streetscape, so that they feel alive. You have no business depriving them of this feeling. Without developers they sit around and wait for plans to come their way, and end up counting paperclips. Get with density, and you'll have a whole new sense of being part of something much, much, much bigger than yourself.

Q: Dear Lena, what good is having a political convention if it's all just full of the same old people?

Dear reader, if you look closely, you'll notice the substitution of words like "coalition" for the word "alliance", and notice how fresh and alive the world seems as a result.

Q: Dear Lena, the truth is I can't remember what I've been saying on the phone or in my email. Should I worry about all this eavesdropping stuff? I think I probably sound pretty suspicious.

Dear reader, the best thing to do at this point is get back on the phone and say really soothing, politically ambiguous statements so that anyone listening re-categorizes you as non-threatening.



AGGRESSIVE LANDMARKS ATTACK; MAYOR PROMISES RELIEF

Lester Remember

Dangerous gangs of armed landmarks, which have long plagued the streets and terrorized local residents, may finally be checked thanks to Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, whose years of public and private efforts may result in landmark-curbing legislation this month.

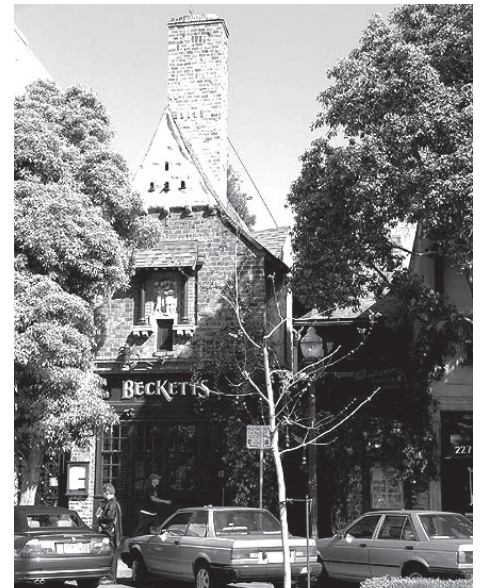
Years of compassionate behavior toward street-wise, hardened old buildings has resulted in a hard-core crew of well-organized, brick-wielding gangs which are wise to the legislation that protects them and savy about skirting the law.

"You can hardly get down the street without being overshadowed by these mean, hardened old edifices" complained one local developer. "They actually demand that anything new and fresh you try to build somehow fit in with their personal aesthetic, and it is so limiting. My creative spirit can hardly take it anymore."

Small, short-sighted bands of landmark-lovers oppose the proposed legislation, whining that history will somehow suffer without the actual presence of the rotting carcasses of these once-useful buildings. This group has left an actual mark on the landscape by craft-



THIS INFLEXIBLE BUILDING would have made a really useful 7-Eleven.



LURKING IN THE BUSHES is only the beginning; this menacing landmark inhibits the ability of developers to build freely, and expressively, such that their creative whims get their feelings hurt and their profit margins get really cramped.

ing protection so severe that landmarks lounge on almost every major thoroughfare in the region, thwarting progress and annoying even compassionate developers.

"Annoying, lazy, self-serving, thoughtless," ticked off the adjectives when one local resident was asked to describe landmark behavior. "It's common knowledge that Cody's Books on Telegraph closed because of People's Park, which is a landmark. I tell you, they're out of control."

Bates counseled the community to hold on and wait for rescue in the form of legislation designed to curb problematic landmark behavior at its inception, before it spirals out of control.

"We've worked more than two years on this, at meetings carefully designed to be too early for cognitive awareness or the troublesome presence of political gadflies," stated Bates. "We're confident that developers and creative remodelers alike will soon feel the cool relief of a fast-track permit system designed to put these landmarks in their place."

"It just won't be enough," worried one local contractor falsely accused of destroying a facade he accidentally improved beyond recognition. "These landmarks are smart, and they know the landscape. If these supposedly compassionate people would only think before they offer an handout to a landmark, we would have a much safer, healthier community."

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NSA WIRETAP SCANDAL REVEALS PEOPLE ACTUALLY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY

by Celine de Ocean

While irate citizens searched for new internet servers and telecommunications companies which might be persuaded to protect their privacy, National Security Agency officials tried to reassure the public that their warrantless surveillance of American citizens' phone records was not only legal, but had revealed that not a single person in the country was saying anything of any value whatsoever.

"You can all relax," stated General Michael Hayden reassuringly to the senators questioning him about his role in the recently revealed eavesdropping efforts by the government. "Most of it is just like those annoying people on the bus or the subway. They tell the other party where they are and what time they'll arrive at the next station or at home. It's excruciating to listen to. The agents who have to hear it should get a medal."

"We've tried to find something interesting, something nefarious, anything to justify this program as being of actual assistance to Homeland Security," added another Central Intelligence



GENERAL HAYDEN confessed to the Senate Intelligence Committee that nothing is more boring than the American public's phone calls.

Agency operative who requested anonymity. "The truth is most Americans spend a lot of time talking about absolutely nothing at all."

Critics objected that the government should be required to get a warrant before spying on ordinary citizens, but General Hayden pointed out that the government is really busy because, after all, the country is kind of at war.

"The public will get used to this at some point," he stated. "And for some people it will provide a measure of comfort. If you don't wake up in Guantanamo, you know you're in the clear."

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Election Candidates Take Bold Stand for Motherhood and Apple Pie

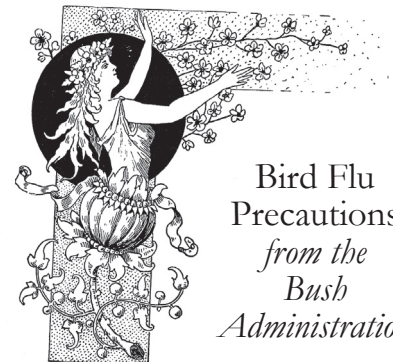
by Annabel Rang

Election candidates, in a unified effort to inspire more political involvement from a sometimes indifferent public, are taking bold stands for schools, jobs, motherhood, and apple pie.

"It's so inspiring," called out one young campaign worker from the top of a ladder while nailing a sign to a telephone pole. "I used to be pretty apathetic about politics. But wow, taking a stand for education is so brave. I just couldn't sit back any longer."

"Look at these fliers with the candidates' arms around all the pretty children," sniffed another volunteer. "If they're willing to put themselves on the line this way, then throwing my support behind them is the least I can do."

* * * * *



Bird Flu
Precautions
from the
Bush
Administration

1. If a bird wants to share your happy meal, just say no.
2. Put lots of antibiotics in your bird feeder.
3. Wash your hand thoroughly after dancing with birds.
4. Do not kiss any bird that sits next to you on the bus.
5. If you hear birds singing in the trees, plug your ears.
6. If a bird flies around over your head, put up an umbrella and run.
7. If a bird insists on using your tooth brush, buy a new one.
8. If you suddenly feel like flying south for the winter, go straight to bed.
9. If you find yourself laying an egg, see a doctor.
10. Try not to crow in the morning.

We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast and special guest John Wetzel



SENATE REJECTS SWEDISH, FRENCH, LATIN; CHOOSES ENGLISH AS NATIONAL LANGUAGE

By Willoughby Stingmee

The United States Senate voted recently to select English as the national language, although pig-latin, Swedish, and Romanian were presented as strong alternatives.

“It was a tough choice,” observed Senator James Inhofe, a Republican from Oklahoma. “We liked the Swedish option, but we finally decided that choosing English as the national language would create the least work for the people who work so hard to provide subtitles in the movies.”

The move is part of an immigration bill moving through the government which may, at the final vote, include a wall between the United States and Mexico across the southern border, a requirement that English language alternatives be substituted for words like burrito and enchilada, and a ban on sombreros.

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THE SENATE KNOWS that Americans feel insecure about their identity, so that even sombreros can seem threatening.

Dynes Blames Climate, Glands for UC Corruption; Regents Say Not A Problem

By Theodore Thwinging

University of California President Robert Dynes admitted recently that the extravagant perks, vacations, loans, home improvement projects and compensation packages had nothing to do with faculty and staff recruitment, as claimed previously, but were also lavished on high-level employees who had either left the university system or had no intention of doing the job for which they were hired.

The University of California Regents, charged with overseeing the reform of the system widely believed to be out of control, agreed that Dynes should still continue to remain in charge of the reform effort, explaining that in fact they just didn't care.

“We know what Dynes means when he blames the ‘culture’ he’s familiar with for these anomalies,” offered one regent in explanation. “We ought to be outraged, I guess, but in fact we share his deep respect for that culture, and



ISSUING STANDARD FEDORAS to Mexicans will help bring both cultures together so they can share a margarita.



UC PRESIDENT DYNES doesn't really need to explain his role in the extravagant compensation packages for UC executives because he is among friends.

frankly we're loathe to share scarce funds with the lower wage workers on campus who would just squander their money on simple things like rent and food. The culture of wealth and entitlement is in the minority and is often under fire. It can be very hard to recruit people like Dynes who really understand.”

California legislators opined that the regents were abdicating a solemn responsibility to the students, whose fees continue to rise, taking a university education out of reach for many qualified students.

“The students, yes” mused another regent. “We assume they're learning a lot from all this.”

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Next issue, Flagburning
with Celebrities

The Pepper Spray Times gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions, etc., at:



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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.

* Coriolanus