Zen



If you can't trust the NSA, who can you trust?



Fighting the fight to let in some light...

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Editorial

The internet is a wonderful place. If it weren't for net surfing, a lot of this wouldn't happen. I have to give a tip of the hat to a lot of wonderful people out in Cyberspace that post clip art to the various news groups and remote sites. They might not like their names mentioned, so I won't, but they do exist.

That is the beauty of Cyberspace. You can find damn near anything out there if you look long enough. In my travels alone, I've picked up copies of the Avenger's Handbook (which someday I will actually run through PageMaker, format the bugger, and perhaps post it to the net for all to wreak havoc from...), a copy of the bible, a sound file from the White House web page with Socks sounding like somebody is pulling his tail to get him to meow. If you don't believe me, go to http://www.whitehouse.gov and check it out for yourself.

The White House web page could have been a great idea. Instead it's the most self serving piece of shit I've seen in a long time. If the Republicans do something like this, I'm getting a sex change, shaving my head, and going on the road as a Sinead O'Conner impersonator. Either that or I'll try to become the next pope...

I know that a lot of people out there don't like Newt Gingrich. Well a little shit disturbing never hurt anything, did it? Newt and the gang are usually referred to as "Newt and the Nazis" so they must be doing something right. If nothing else, they're pissing the hell out of the press and that is worth at least two gold stars in my book. Now if they continue to do the same type of dumbfuck things that the Democrats are so famous for doing, then they should all be taken out, blindfolded, given that last cigarette (courtesy of C. Everett Koop, of course) and shot.

Sometimes I really wonder about that old saying that if you put a million monkeys in a room with typewriter, one would eventually pound out Shakespeare. The rest would probably be pounding out stereo

manuals or government mandates and tax forms. Now, take it one step further. If you put a million monkeys in Congress, would we eventually get one GOOD piece of legislation out?

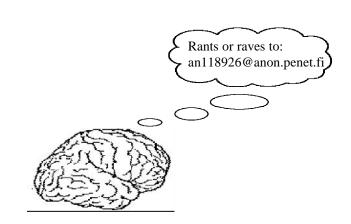
TtTtTtT

I hate the holidays with a passion. People think that they can redeem themselves with the gods of retail for fifty weeks of being absolute fuckheads by two weeks of purchases and feeling good about sending an old moth eaten blanket down to the local homeless shelter. Does anybody really believe that this makes them a better person?

Wake the fuck up!!!!!

You are still the same old asshole you were before you took that can of food down to the record store to save a buck on that new CD you got. You didn't make a damn bit of difference. If you want to take a fucking difference, take that kind of charity and do it year round, not for two weeks a year.

Enough chanting, I'm starting to sound like a liberal...





Random

Thoughts

Why, after the Grinch stole everything in Whoville, didn't the Whos file a police report, much less even call the police?

After all these years, why hasn't anybody picked up on the moral of the Grinch? Most everyone is an absolute fucker to one another fifty weeks of the year, but for two weeks they kiss each other's asses in the hopes of getting a decent gift and feeling good about themselves.

Billy Idol, when asked if he was in Heidi Fleiss's little black book was said to have replied that he didn't need to pay for sex. Now I ask you, do you know anybody in their right mind that would want to sleep with or for that matter even have sex with Billy Idol?

Is anybody else suspicious about the number of "attempts" on Clinton's life in such a short span? I mean Reagan was shot once, Bush threw up in Japan, but Clinton has somebody firing at the White House in broad daylight, another idiot wrecks his plane on the White House lawn, the homeless person gets shot and later dies, and they find shell casings at the White House they think may have been just random gunfire. Is Clinton trying to buy public sympathy here?

Just when you think that you have seen everything, there is always something out there to change your mind. I was outside Tower Records, which ought to be renamed Tower - with lots of nothing, where I was looking for a couple of CDs (which I didn't find anyway...) when I noticed a new sign in their window. Tower now advertises a bridal registry. What better gift than to give that special bride and groom than an entire Ice-T catalog or that ever popular Zamfir collection...

Life is wonderful in the world of television, isn't it? Where else can a deodorant make you a celebrity? I bring this up because I think I have a potential lawsuit against Toyota. As far as I'm concerned anybody can have this and run as far as they want with it. Anyway, here goes: Toyota has a new ad campaign for their new Avalon line. They show a car driving through the clouds. Not that this is any big deal in and of itself, but the fact is that there was never the disclaimer "*Professional driver - do not attempt*." Any time you see a car zooming over anything other than level ground with no traffic this is flashed at the bottom of the screen. Have fun boys and girls...

What is it about the future? Am I the only one who has noticed the "cultural revolution" on Star Trek and all of its spin-offs? When you see the crew taking in a cultural event, it always seems to be classical music. Now, don't they have any other types of music in the future? I mean, doesn't Wesley Crusher have at least one or two Led Zeppelin or Ramones CD's? Give me a fucking break...

SANTA: THE OTHER 364 DAYS OF THE YEAR

We all know that Santa delivers lots of gifts on the night of December 24th, but did you ever wonder what he did the rest of the year? How does he make ends meet? Now, in this exclusive, we find out what Santa really does for the rest of the year...



Need a new awning for your storefront? Call Santa's Awnings at 1-800-REDROOF.



After years of stale cookies and warm milk, Santa decided if he wanted good pastry to go into business for himself.



Want to get away from it all? Let Santa charter you a Mexican fishing trip.



Need food in a hurry? Forget Domino's, Santa delivers. Reindeer only carries \$20.00 in change. Tips accepted.



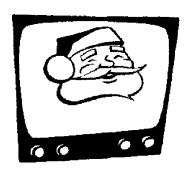
For the busy professional, Santa's all night grocery delivery and bookie service is just the thing.



In need of a quickie? Santa's Hotel even rents you luggage to make it look legitimate...



Want to buy a new house or just refinance? Call North Pole Bankers at 1-800-COLD CASH.



Ever the entrepreneur, Santa has his own shopping channel on cable. It sure makes his job a lot easier!



Since those damn elves went Union, Santa's had to do a lot of odd jobs to pay those salaries. Good thing he's not afraid of heights!



Santa pays off on almost all accident claims, except for any injuries received by anything he delivers.



This shows what the elves would like to do to old Saint Nick for a few weeks, except I don't think they would even crank his handle...



In the end, even Santa is a slacker. J.R. "Bob" Dobbs would be proud...



Nobody in the Democratic party ever knew the extent of problems they would face in implementing Clinton policies...

San Jose - The City That Would be King

San Jose - just the name itself translates to Saint Joe. Hell, Uncle Joe was the lecherous old fool on Petticoat Junction — surrounded by young women who he'd never get a piece of except for in his dreams, and his joys in life were waiting for the train and playing checkers with an anal retentive grocer. The city of San Jose is much the same — it sits around waiting for something to come its way that will never come to pass.

For all of the readers who don't know where San Jose is, you start at San Francisco, go south for about 50 miles, and you end up in one of the most boring cities in California. San Jose lives, and always has lived, in the shadow of San Francisco. I mean San Francisco has Herb Caen, although, anyone who would want that old hack bag of shit is welcome to him. Cheap! Who does San Jose have? Murray Frymer and Leigh Weimers. Wow!

Fifteen years ago, when I grew up down in that area, Murray Frymer was a movie critic for the San Jose Mercury News. Now he's been promoted to social critic. That in itself seems like a logical jump to me. Leigh Weimers, however, is still writing the same tripe that he's always managed to have someone pay him to do. I just don't understand why people like reading mayonnaise. Maybe San Jose is really the Midwest of California? Pass the white bread and jello mold, Murray...

San Jose will never be a world class city, no matter what they bring to that town. Hell, they could bring the UN building to downtown and it would still be an inland wart on the California landscape. I mean can you imagine the Pope's delegation being chauffeured downtown from the airport in a lowrider? Personally, I'd bring him in a casket myself, but that's another article altogether...

As far as nightlife in San Jose, there is no nightlife in San Jose, unless you drive a mini truck or put a pinch between your cheek and gum. There was one club

downtown called F/X, which was a real breakthrough for the area, but they had to take out an adult theater to do it! The acoustics were bad, the acts were bad, it was everything a punk club is supposed to be. But, it's the only one! The next nearest one is about 25 miles north. One fucking club where you can hear something besides Led Zeppelin and Bon Jovi music! I don't know about you, but my idea of a hot time isn't going to pickup bars and listening to the garbage playing over the sound system. I prefer to go as an alien observer and leave when the air sick bag gets too full...



San Jose gets a hockey team, one of the most successful media campaigns, and manages to build a stadium. The new team manages to get within a pubic hair (

Apologies to Clarence Thomas...) of the playoffs.

Next season, they go on strike! Oh, well... The stadium is build as a multipurpose arena, meaning that they can do hockey, basketball, and concerts. Big deal. This area has one basketball team, and they appear to be staying put. Besides, nobody's going to drive to San Jose to see a sports event from anywhere over 20 miles north of the arena.

As far as concerts, they managed to book Barbara Streisand to play their sacred arena. Great! Now San Jose got to see the multitude of Streisand fans that we get to put up with every day in the City. I suppose we should be thankful that Bubba didn't fly out to try to get a piece of Streisand in this area.

San Jose is not, and never will be, a world class city. I know that may come as a shock to anyone living there, but it's an unchangeable fact. There is nothing they can do to ever change that. It sprawls out over too much area and has too many people who don't give a damn about it. The only reason they like it is that they don't live in Milpitas, Gilroy, or Alviso.



Nothing witty here this month,

just the reviews...

OR ADULTS ONLY

The holidays are a wonderful time of year for getting CDs that you wouldn't necessarily buy for yourself for whatever reason.

All that aside, I can't say enough good things about the Mermen's CD. I happen to be a fan of surf music - always have been, always will be. I got this as a gift and it's the best surf music I've heard since the Aqua Velvets. These guys rip. Besides, they're a local band, haven't made it to the MTV hype arena yet, and still play the local watering holes. They even go as far as to pay homage to Phil Dirt at KFJC! Enough said. Go buy this CD and help these guys make the next rent payment...

Next on our list of happy holiday music that you should run out and get before the Clinton administration outlaws it and Janet Reno comes kicking in your door to get your copy. I'm talking about Mojo Nixon's, "Horny Holidays." This is a few years old, but if you can't find it, the by God, order the fucking thing! Mojo rips most of the known Christmas carols and invents a few of his own. The liner notes say that it was recorded in 28 hours with 24 bottles of Jagermeister. Notable tracks include Santa Claus Goes Straight to the Ghetto, Jingle Bells, and thoroughly reworked versions of We Three Kings and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Also in the holiday vein is a CD which is now out of print, but if you can get your hands on a copy, it's one of those you can drag out at Christmas and watch your guests go, "What the fuck..." A Lump of Coal is the name of this CD. It has the usual group of suspects playing their version of Christmas carols, but the highlight of the whole CD is Henry Rollins rendition of The Night Before Christmas, complete with what sounds like a drug raid going on in the background.

The Marketing of Jesus



This is a list, and by far an incomplete list, of the religious items that I have seen and those I haven't seen. But if someone thought that there was a market they would probably be working underpaid labor overtime in some third world catholic country to produce the rubbish.

Things I Have Seen

Candle vases with pictures of famous biblical figures on them: Everyone has seen these things in the grocery store. I just have never understood how a holy relic could be purchased at the local Safeway...

Pope John Paul II Key Chains: I actually saw these for sale in Vatican City. Unfortunately, my wife didn't see the humor at the time, but she has since come around somewhat...

Update: I had a friend pick me one of these from Rome and it's tacky as hell! Of course it's going to go in to the Zen Case of Tack...

A t-shirt from God's Gym: An obvious takeoff on Gold's Gym and it still doesn't work. I mean who thinks that reading the bible is going to get you a leaner physique?

Bible Cartoons: Artwork that looks like an animated coloring book, and for 3 easy payments of \$19.99 you too can see what it *may have* looked like when Noah was building the ark, etc... Now if they had Jesus birthing videos, and I don't mean Trent Resnor's...

Things I Haven't Seen

Pin Christ on the Cross: A wonderful game for children in the vein of Pin the tail on the Donkey. Very good for the Easter holidays.

The Last Supper Tea Set: Recreate the last supper with thirteen of your friends or even use your dolls. Draw straws to choose Jesus.

The Frankiln Mint Collector's Set of Crucifixion Nails: Handsomely bound in a leather covered box, these can be yours for 20 payments of \$29.95...

Jehovahstocks: Birkenstocks for the truly committed or those who should be...

Jesus Truck Lines: The next time you need that load of nails, thorns, or lumber delivered for your crucifixion, try us. Look for the *Trucking for Jesus* painted on the side.

Side note: I actually saw Trucking for Jesus painted on the back of a semi rig. My first thought was, what was this guy hauling - nails?

Hacking for Jesus T-shirt: I know it probably doesn't fit in either category, but I don't know exactly where it fits. It's the Legion of Doom's memorial t-shirt and I have one. *Yes, I am special...*



Notable and Quotable

"It's the suspense that kills me."

Bugs Bunny

"We have a wonderful arrangement. I do her sums and she gives me cookies."

Albert Einstein - when asked if a neighbor's 8 year old daughter was bothering him.

"All my life it's been the same. I've been trained by hate and pain. It's my inspiration drive."

The Jam - The Modern World

"They take away our freedom, in the name of liberty. Why can't they all just clear out? Why can't they let us be?"

Stiff Little Fingers - Suspect Device

"Trixie, this is no time to act like a girl." Speed Racer

"Acid absorbs 47 times it's weight in excess reality" *Tagline from somewhere...*

"President Clinton, presiding over the launching of a Red Cross fund-raising drive, says he may order his staff to donate blood. "Since they give blood every day anyway, they might as well give it to the Red Cross and do some good," he joked. He drew hearty applause when he said he was willing to give blood — although he returned to the White House without doing so — and laughter with his remarks about his staff."

AP News Wire

Death Takes a Holiday...



Everyone needs a hobby, so we see Death doing the "Yorrick" scene at Oregon's Shakespeare festival.



No problem if the organist or the choir calls in sick. Death is always ready to lend a hand. Make sure to check the collection plate...



Fuck Karaoke, I'll take a torch singer any day...



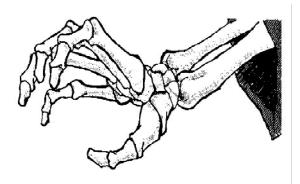
Come here little girl. I've got candy...



I can lick Mary Poppins with one bony arm tied behind my back. Any day of the week...



Goddamn gardeners. Wait until I show them what to do with a leaf blower on a Saturday morning.



Back to work. Have you ever noticed how things seem to pile up after you've gone on vacation?

End Page

To close this issue, I'd like to quote Thomas Dolby:

But there's one thing I must say, before they lock me up again. You'll be safer at the back...

Well, until I get fitted for that white dinner jacket with the sleeves that are way to long...

