Vatican Miracle!
Pope Apologizes to Thousands Simultaneously

By Helen Back

The Vatican thrilled throngs of Catholics by performing a public miracle certain to secure Pope Benedict XVI’s place as the most profoundly apologetic man in history.

“He managed to apologize to hundreds in Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, choir boys in Germany, deaf kids in Wisconsin, and children in Italy all in the same breath,” raved one admirer.

“I haven’t heard an apology like that since Tiger Woods,” marveled another observer who also complimented the Cardinals and Bishops whose defense of the Pope and his aides has required deft footwork.

“It’s like being an athlete at the top of your game,” he stated while lighting a candle. “You never know where the next scandal is going to come from or when it will erupt, so you have to be quick on your feet while attired in heavy velvet robes.”

The Vatican assured the concerned public that all future sexual molestation cases would be completely covered by the current apology.

THE POPE is officially sorry, and getting sorrier by the minute.

The BART Police Department switched to squirtguns after conceding that their officers just couldn’t figure out how to use tasers, which require a level of skill somewhere between programming a VCR and adjusting settings on a Cuisinart.

“We are setting up a schedule for retraining on tasers,” stated Interim Police Chief Dash Butler. “Squirtguns will offer our officers an opportunity to practice the new rules for taser use, like not shooting at kids out the window of the patrol car.”

Interim Chief Butler denied that the veteran sergeant who fired a taser from his patrol car at a 13-year old boy riding his bike in Richmond was in violation of any rules.

“Both the boy and the rules are a moving target,” stated Butler. “We’re hoping to have some input on the new rules for use, since we have a very special perspective on 13-year old boys.”

Critics argued that the new Hydrotech Surge brand of waterblaster squirtguns were too complex to be used by BART police, who can barely button their uniforms on a good day.

Butler dismissed their concerns, pointing out that a crack team of first-graders were being brought on board as consultants to assist officers with the complexities of the Hydrotech Surge model squirtguns.

“We’ll give them diagrams for the air pressure system tubing,” stated Butler. “If we have any problems, we’re hoping that we can get a crew of first-graders to ride along and assist.”

Butler insisted that tasers would be back in use shortly.

“We need them for demonstrations,” he stated. “Plus, for us they’re a very special part of New Year’s.”

By Ethyl Shoam
Dear Lena, what do you think of this sunshine petition? It sounds good to me, and I could use more light in my dining room.

Dear reader, don’t be fooled. Sunshine is really bad for your skin. If the sunshine ordinance passes we will have to walk around in long sleeves all the time and there will be a run on parasols.

Dear Lena, I’m hungry, but everything is bad for me. What can I still eat so my neighbors don’t point at me and laugh?

Dear reader, I think it is still okay to eat little rocks and sticks. And garbage. If you can get good at eating garbage you will have a job for life.

Dear Lena, what is your health care plan? If I ever came into some money I would pick one, but I find them all really confusing.

Dear reader, I would recommend baking some lovely cookies and inviting all the plans over for tea. They will begin to bicker, at first politely, and then you will see them lose their patience and threaten each other with the silverware. I tend to favor the ones that don’t leave in a huff and stay late to help out with the dishes.

Dear Lena, why would the Library of Congress want to save tweets? What is that all about?

Dear reader, there is no finer way to demonstrate current societal prioritie for generations to come than tweets, which represent a very large pile of verbal crap.

Ask Lena about juggling old shoes at cdenny@igc.org.
Habitat reduction has affected snowman behavior, according to scientists, causing large herds of snowmen to gather together for protection and increasing the likelihood of an unwelcome invasion as they search for new territory.

“Lock your doors,” stated climatologist Dr. I. C. Nohaupe, one of the lecturers on the snowman invasion theory, who advised keeping large pots of water boiling on the stove at all times.

“Snowmen were once thought to be playful, stationary winter decorations, but in fact are a well-connected network with an understandably logical concern about their collective survival.”

The unusual behavior was first noticed by Canadians, who have lived peacefully for centuries with snowmen, sharing an appreciation of nature and sturdy, practical outdoor gear.

“We’d see them in the hardware stores like any other neighbor,” stated one Canadian resident who attended a recent lecture on the possible danger of an invasion. “They’d be stocking up on mufflers and winter hats, and maybe some charcoal briquettes for buttons. They didn’t talk much. We all considered them just another natural part of the community.”

“My kids loved them,” agreed another attendee. “Until they started growing in numbers and moving into the tool shed, my kids enjoyed playing with them and dressing them up, which makes it hard to explain the need for caution.”

Snowmen are thought to be responsible for massive loss of glaciers, robbing crucial habitat from penguins and polar bears, and ice cube tray theft.

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San Francisco’s Proposed “Keep Walking” Law Applauded by Health Experts Nationwide

By Sean Nuff

San Francisco’s proposed ordinance against sitting and lying on sidewalks not only has roots in local culture, it promises to make the local street population muscled and buff, experts say.

“‘Keep on trucking’ is the traditional way it used to be put,” stated one local police officer. “Now we just call it the ‘keep walking’ law. It’s been unofficially in force for homeless people, addicts, and poorly dressed tourists for several years.”

Critics of the proposed ordinance point out that occasional resting is a human need, and that even rich tourists need to sit down, paw through their purchases, and reorganize their credit cards.

“We’re aware of that,” stated a spokesperson for Mayor Gavin Newsom. “Our officers are skilled in the profiling necessary to selectively apply appropriate law.”

“It’s called discretion,” added one sidewalk sitter cheerfully holding a ‘please help’ sign. “If I were wearing Armani I could sit here all day.”

Newsom expressed gratitude for the in-kind donation represented by the handful of rich, well-connected citizens who voluntarily took the time to come up with creative ways to burden and disrupt the lives of the most vulnerable, impoverished citizens.

Suggested poses for not-sitting and not-lying will improve the yoga of tourists, homeless people and run-of-the-mill San Francisco spare-changers as they balance on one limb or another.

People with the skill to do headstands for long periods of time have an extreme advantage under the new law, which has nothing to do with the 17.7% vacancy rate for SF office buildings.

“Other cities do this so we should do it, too,” affirmed Newsom. “It’s a part of an overall campaign to improve public health in the city. The next Bay to Breakers is going to have centipedes of really buff panhandlers.”

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Next Issue: Shrieking with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod

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

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