DISCOUNTS for SFBMA Members are available at the following places. Patronize these friendly establishments! And look for Cognition at these hot spots! The following bike shops give 10% discount on parts to SFBMA members:

- Big Swingin' Cycles, 1122 Taraval, SF, 415-661-2462 (also 10% discount on labor)
- Road Rage Bike Rental and Repair, 1063 Folsom, SF, 415-255-1351 (also 15% discount on labor)
- Freewheel Bike Shop, 1920 Hayes St., SF, 415-752-9195 and 980 Valencia, SF, 415-643-9213
- Pedal Revolution, 3075 21st St., 415-641-1264
- Cycle Sports, 3241 Grand, Oakland, 510-444-7900 (also 10% discount on labor)
- Missing Link, 1988 Shattuck, 510-843-7471, 1963 Shattuck, Berkeley 510-843-4763

Other Established friendly(s)

- Cassidy's Bar, 1145 Folsom, SF, 415-241-9990— \$2 beer specials M-F, 6-8 pm for working messengers 21 & over
- The Sports Basement, 1301 6th St., SF, 415-437-1415
- XS Bar, 622 Polk St. \$1.50 Pabst for messengers
- Downtown Dawgs @ The Wall, 1/2 price hot dogs, & 75 cent drinks and cookies and brownies \$1.
- Hotel Utah Saloon, 500 4th St., SF, 415-546-6300 Happy Hour Specials and SFBMA band friendly

SFBMA GOODIES LONG SLEEVE & SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES.... BLACK ON RED AND RED ON BLACK.

THANKS TO CHARBO FOR PAYING A BUNCHA DUES! YOU GUYS ROCHK! DUES ARE PAYABLE TO YOUR OFFICERS, RECEIVE A FREE PATCH WHEN YOU PAY HALF-YEAR (\$25) AND A FREE T-SHIRT WHEN YOU PAY A FULL-YEAR (\$50)



COGNITION is the newsletter of the San Francisco Bike Messenger Association, an organization dedicated to the improvement of work conditions for SF's Messenger industry.

> SFBMA 255 9th St. San Francisco, CA 94103 415-626-1912

Our Offices are located at 255 Ninth Street. Our home page is at: www.sfbma.org and e-mail is: sfbmacognition@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

CHARLES DARWIN'S BIRTHDAY
BENEFITFOR THE BIKE HUT. SPOT 1019,
VIKTER VESEYEXPERIENCE @ STUDIOZ.TV
NEXTTHURS STUDIZ.TV - THE OLD TRANS
MISSION THEATER, NEXT TO PARADISE
LOUNGE, ACROSS THE STREETFROM SLIMS
ON 11TH ST. \$8 COVER
SF INDEPENDENTFILM FESTIVAL
SCREENING 2:15PM ROXIE CINEMA, 3117
16TH STREET ATVALENCIA
VALETRISE PARKING PROVIDED BYTHE WED 2/12 THURS 2/13 FRI. 2/14 VALETBIKE PARKING PROVIDED BYTHE SFBC TICKETS ARE \$8.50, \$6 FOR MATINEES WWW.SFINDIE.COM VALENTINE'S DAY BIKE BASH, 6-9 PM, CAFE DU NORD. FREE FOR SFBC MEMBERS, \$7 FRI. 2/14 FOR NON-MEMBERS. CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE 5:30 PM, SAT 2/15 MARKET& SECOND STREET. SUN. 2/16 SAN FRANCISCO PEACE MARCH. ACTION OFFICIALLY BEGINS @JUSTIN HERMAN PLAZA. 11AM. SFBMAMEMBERS MEET AT HUBBAHIDEOUTBTWN 10:30-10:45. SUN. 2/16 WED. 2/19 FULLMOON.
UNPAID OVERTIME! MEETING AT THE ILWU UNIONHALL, 255 9TH STREET, 6:30 PM. SAT. 2/22 SAT. 3/8 SEPTIC, OTHER BANDS PLAYING @ KIMO'S JOE STRUMMER TRIBUTE! 20- MIN SETS FROM ONE MAN ARMY, THE SICK, FLESHIES AND OTHERS, 9:30 PM, BOTTOM OF THE SFBMAGENERALMEETING NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE APRILELECTIONS THU. 3/14 TUE. 3/18 TOLLINGON: FIRSTDAY OF SPRING. AT LONG LASTI: ANOTHER SFBMAFILM FES-TIVAL.WE'VE GOTNEW FILMS AND SOME OLD FAVORITES, PLUS A SPECIALROUND OF THE GOLD SPRINTSERIES MARK YOUR CALENDAR, BECAUSE SEATS WILLGO FAST! SUN. 3/24 CESAR CHÁVEZ DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL 11AM.MAIN AND MARKET, MARCH W/ SOLIDARITY & FELLOW WORKING PEOPLE

ONGOING EVENTS:
SFBC VOLUNTEER NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 5-9 PM, IN THE SFBC OFFICES
1095 MARKET ST, SUITE 208 (@ 7TH) CALFEE@SFBIKE.ORG.

CRITICAL MASS 5:30PM, EVERY LASTFRIDAYOF THE MONTH. JUSTIN HERMAN PLAZA BERKELEY/EASTRAY CRITICAL MASS 5:30 PM. THE SECOND ERIDAYOF EACH MONTH. GATHER ATATTHE DOWNTOWN BERKELEY BART. DEPARTAT6 PM.





RIGHTS AND RELATIONS BY CAREY DALL

Testerday when I got back to Western to do my tags, a coworker of mine was moping around sullen and pissed off. Earlier in the afternoon, his bike had been hit by a truck while locked to a meter and his back wheel was barely recognizable as a result. The front wheel was also out of true, and the frame was questionable. So he had ample reason for fury. Yet, if our beloved company were adhering to the California state labor code, my coworker would only have the inconvenience of having to replace the parts to be upset about; the burden of paying for it would be the responsibility of Western. State law says that equipment used on the job must be provided by the employer, or reimbursed at a fair rate. It also says employees have a right to time and a half when they work overtime, and state law poses strict guidelines for what kinds of employment conditions allow employers to impose independent contractor status on employees. These are all laws that most messenger companies in the Bay Area have been breaking for decades. And it's the messengers who are getting fucked out of the cash. So on a typically cold and overcast morning in late November of last year, thirty odd messengers gathered at the state building on Golden Gate. We were there to tell the California Labor Commissioner that at least five messenger companies in San Francisco were screwing their messengers to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. At our rally we had sizeable backup from ILWU Local 6, as well as political allies such as Chris Daly and a representative from Senator John Burton's office. At the end of the rally, about 15 of us crammed into an elevator (which nonetheless still smelled better than the mechanic's statue) and

file our claims. We chanted "no more sweatshops on wheels" to get the attention of the investigators, and then we were off to work. Thanks to the ILWU and Walter Johnson at the AFL-CIO Labor Council, so much political pressure was put on the Labor Commissioner and the Bureau of Field Enforcement (BOFE) that by early December messengers who had filed were meeting with an investigator. The process was moving faster than we could have imagined. And on Monday of this week, two former Western Messenger employees had hearings at the state building with Western management and the Labor Commissioner. Both had claims in the ballpark of \$7,000 for unpaid overtime and equipment compensation. Both had worked at Western for about 6 months. Western preferred to pay them off on the spot instead of going through the hearing process - which would have cost them a lot of money in legal fees. Both settled for \$4,500. And we have many more of these hearings on the horizon. Current and past employees at Western, First Legal, Special T, King and others will be sitting down with their bosses to get what they've been fucked out of for the past three years. The state will not allow the current exploitation which we experience to go on anymore, and our companies will have to become fully legal. To do this, they will have to raise tag prices which are generally notoriously low in San Francisco. Folks who want to file a claim against their company, or who want to help plan our upcoming strategy should come to the ILWU Union Hall at 255 9th street on Wednesday February 19th at 6.30 pm. It's time to get what's ours!! And we have many more of these hearings on the horizon. Current and past employees at Western, First Legal, Special got up to the Labor Commissioner's office to T, King and others will be (cont'd page 3)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2002: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BY HOWARD WILLIAMS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE SFBMA

he year 2002 was better than 2001. Most of us agree on that. It's hard to be worse than a year in which planes fly into buildings. But was the year better because things really got better and provided more opportunities for further improvement or was it better because we just sort of muddled through a calm before some even more stormy years? Time will tell. Here's a review of 2002 after which you can draw your own conclusions.

2002 was the first palindrome year since 1991 but the last until 2112. Most of us will not make that one but Ted Williams might. Sorry Red Sox fans I couldn't resist that one. Hey maybe the Bosox will win a World Series by then! Sorry I couldn't resist that one either. And that's all I'll say about World Series.

The year started off with America feeling somewhat relieved and confident that Al Qaeda had been contained though not yet eliminated. Much of that security was earned by American air power in the skies over Afghanistan. But much of that security was also from the efforts of Afghans fighting the Taliban and Al Qaeda on the ground. So how did we repay our Muslim friends without oil? Well we haven't. The administration made much noise about rebuilding Afghanistan but when the bill was assessed for at least \$10 billion and probably more like 30 or 50 we asked Europe and Japan to pick up the tab so we could move on to the next cause du jour. But the plan to build an oil pipeline through there is still very much on. Needless to say this only adds weight to the argument that American administrations only use our allies for as long as we need them. Sometimes not even that long. We may need the Afghans yet again as Pakistan drives down the extremist road carrying nuclear bombs in its trunk. Anti- (cont'd page 2)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D FROM P. 1

American extremist parties won control of 2 of that nation's 4 provinces. Just three years ago those parties couldn't get any more votes than Pat Buchanan in Florida.

So having left the Afghans in the lurch we now seem surprised that the confidence we felt last January is so shaky now. Like we've never heard the saying "Reap what you sow". Al Qaeda and its clones beheaded American reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan, blew up a nightclub in once idyllic Bali, murdered Israelis in Africa, killed US Marines in Kuwait and continued getting funds from Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf petro-states. So what did George Bush do to pass the time? Gear up for war against Iraq. Al Qaeda is only a threat to every American. Iraq is a potential for oil profits. Oh and rebuilding too. Just like in Afghanistan.

Our confidence was also shaken by the DC area snipers. At first we feared it was more foreign terrorism. It turned out to be more fallout from Gulf War I even as we prepare for the sequel.

Even the cultural aftershocks of 9/11 couldn't stop movies aimed at teenage boys (i.e. disaster/action flicks), but Hollywood did make some flicks for people who actually go to the cinema to laugh, cry — or even think. A surprise hit was — and still is "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." This "chick flick" hit the screens in summer and is still playing. In spring Halle Berry became the 1st African American to take a Best Actress Oscar. "Liberal" Hollywood finally got it.

Florida – the state that gave us the 2000 election fiasco and trained Al Qaeda fanatics to fly planes without learning to land - did it again. As in 2000, over 90,000 Sunshine Staters were bounced off the voting rolls before the November election. The vast majority of them just happened to be Democrats – and black. And on Martin Luther King Day 2002 the state presented a plaque to the distinguished black actor James Earl Jones. Sounds OK so far, right? But the name inscribed on the plaque was James Earl Ray — the murderer of Reverend King.

The Senate GOP leader had a Lott to say at a 100th Birthday party for Strom Thurmond. For his words that a Dixiecrat victory in 1948 would have been better for America, he was reprimanded by Jeb Bush, Brother of George and Governor of Florida, whose state administration had knocked off the aforementioned 90,000 mostly black Democrats from the voting rolls. As a result of his words, Senator Lott had to give up his Senate leadership post while nobody seemed to mind about Governor Bush's actions. Irony and relativism march on in the post 9/11 era.

Why is Florida shaped like a prick? So it can screw the rest of the country!

In business news last year Abercrombie & Fitch aimed T-shirts insulting Asian Americans at Asian American buyers. It didn't work. Enron's scheme to bilk the state of California back in 2001 worked at the time but then was exposed along with numerous other scandals at that oil and energy company. The untimely death of one Enron insider was ruled a suicide. A few days later in a #1 Sansome elevator I overheard one businessman tell another (CONT'D ON PAGE 3)

WEAKLY FROM THE EDITOR

Weekly regarding the bike messenger's way mentary to those that have been interviewed of life. At first I was hesitant to make criticism as well as the rest of our dear our dear readof it, considering those jackasses down in ers. China Basin did not feel it important enough This I will say: That article fucking sucked. to make sure that the first page from the poor The submarginal reporting did little to make girl's article wasn't missing. The optimist in up for the submarginal editing. Every one me held out for that first page, thinking that it have talked to so far has expressed what has may properly portray this community and the now become a litany of complaints that positive connections that develop; a portray- involve misquotes, the shitty choices of who al that I missed in the other eighteen million got interviewed(a point that can be dimin pages that were lucky enough to make print ished by the fact that not many others stood

I read that first page on the internet and all understandings and misinterpretations that hope of a fair portrayal was gone. What can come from a relative outsider, commisremained was a tepid description of our lives sioned by a trendy paper to explain us to an and a reincarnation of a previous Weekly arti- even bigger group of outsiders. cle about fight night.

and the things we have to deal with on a daily may frighten some of my friends, it helps basis deserves press. People who knew little non-messengers realize that there are simiabout us or of our struggles now know that larities with other fights for fairness. The we have nicknames for each other, that messengers struggle is truly the people's there has been a gigantic struggle to be world exposed to us a group of people that treated fairly happening with the biggest have suffered from insignificant results in the that struggle, and that the most imposing makes us fun to hang out with only if you are adversary of the industry hails from Canada in a mood to party. There is more to our and that he has really good anti- dynamic, the fact that our problems are both

nosing this article, mostly in part because I much written about us. myself was tepid on the concept of being. Oh, and by that way, I'm pleased to be the interviewed, and chose not to, being leery of how the mainstream media prones itself to

y now we all have been able to rake our setting ridiculous spins on the things that eyes over the coals of Lessley Nielsen' they attempt to understand. Also in part s most recent submission to the SF because I would rather leave individual com-

up to be interviewed), and the obvious mis-

Others need to know about our issues with Okay, fine, an article was written about us, organizing, because as much as this concept ninety-nine percent of us are lunatics, that struggle. What we do not need is to have the messenger companies, that infighting and attempt to organize, and that someone else's feuds can and will be an obligatory part of vision of us in our perpetual ribaldry only ages old and brand new should not be some I would not like to spend so much time diag- thing that we have to explain after having so

COGNITION

President: Howard Williams **Executive Director: Carey Dall** Secretary: Jason Whitehead

Treasurer & Copy Editor: C. Nellie Nelson

Editor: Spiller Layout: Donny Don Don

Masthead Logo: Louie Seastres

ESTABLISHED 1990

The San Francisco Bike Messenger Association was first started as a humorous, yet-in-yer-face, answer to the AMCS; if the owners could have a club, so could we.

WHO WE ARE

We are you, if you are a current or former employee of the SF messenger industry. This includes walker, bicycle, moped, motorcycle, and driver messengers, as well as order-takers and dispatchers.

WHAT WE WANT

We want what is well overdue: appropriate compensation for our efforts. This includes a livable wage, health insurance, sick pay, vacation pay, pension plan, equipment compensation, etc. You know, normal workers' rights.

How WE WILL GET IT

We will get it by becoming one unified force, and standing up to the entire industry with our demands. In the past, we have proven that we can stick together to help each other out by holding countless benefits, hosting the best Cycle Messenger World Championships of all time, coming together to pay tribute to fallen comrades, holding toy drives for needy kids, the annual Russian River Ride and even things as simple as creating our own underground social scene each and every day of the week. Now that we have a working agreement with the most powerful union in the Bay Area, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, we have the experienced backing to stand up in our industry and achieve our goals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Volunteer for the SFBMA. You can leave a recording that 415-626-1912. Dues are \$5 each month/or \$50 a year and may be paid to Damon, Nellie, Jason and Carey.

Attend as many events as you can without becoming obnoxious as starlings



JOE STRUMMER RIP 1952-2002

met Joe strummer in the fall of 1984 when I was 14 years Lold. My two friends and I skipped school and went to the dilapidated old basketball court in Eugene Oregon known as

Mcarthur court./, home of the ducks. we had scrimped and saved the ten dollars for the admission; an ungodly amount of money for us at the time. This was different: this was THE CLASH. After years of being assaulted by the likes of Casey Casem and Dick Clark we were so pissed we thought we were punk, and usually trying to get drunk. We had to go. we took a bus and got there early and we did not have anything to do, so we wandered around the graveyard across the street just to kill time. after laughing at all of the names on the tombstones and other silliness, we went to lurk about the stadium.

At some point the Clashs' tour bus and pulled up and when they popped out I asked Joe to sign my homemade clash banner that I made with spraypaint and stencils on an old pillowcase. He didn't say anything but put his arm around my shoulder and walked me backstage. Once backstage there was dinner and Paul Simonon told me to eat my vegetables. I don't remember much more than that except Joe was writing the set list for that night's show and asked me to help him out. I was dumbfounded, being a little 14-year old and having one of your heroes treat you like an equal. I requested the song 1977 and Joe said no. I asked him why. He told me cause it's not 1977 anymore, it's 1984. My other choices fared better as he patiently listened. During the conversation he asked me why I was a punk and why I identified with their songs. I told him that I was so sick and tired of all of the top 40's crap that I wanted music that meant something, something to describe the injustice of the world. And to hear from other people that were angry. I told him my two friends were still standing outside and he got a roadie to fetch three backstage passes and to get me a T-shirt(that I still have). He looked after us and made sure that we got front row seats. to this day there are Clash lyrics that will never leave my head.

"all the power in the hands of the people rich enough to buy it while we walk the streets too chicken to even try it."

The last time I saw Joe strummer was backstage in 2002, backstage in Dublin, Ireland at the Pogues. He was milling about, having a pint and chatting people up. Although he did seem approachable, I didn't say anything to him. I didn't know he would die six months later. you can rest in peace, Joe. We're still here to kick it over.

- Damon





Cookin' Tamale Pie,

served up by Nellie

This is a vegan recipe that 1 make for my coop, but it's

really easy to make vegetarian or meaty, so I included those variations too. It's based on an earlier edition Joy of Cooking recipe. It's pretty fast to make and has a ton of protein. Thanks to Spiller for the idea of this in the first place. No thanks to my cats who keep walking on the keyboard.llpppppppp;;;;;;;;;;;/

WHAT 2 c. water or stock

YOU

1/2 teaspoon pepper

2 teaspoons salt

2 Tablespoons chili powder

1 can tomato soup

NEED 2 c. corn (drained)

1 big green pepper, chopped

3 c. TVP** **FIRST**

3 or 4 c. pinto beans (If you cooked the beans yourself, make sure they're done before adding.

Acidslike tomatoes keep beans from softening more.)

WHAT TO DO

Simmer all the above for 15 minutes. Crank the oven to 425 degrees.

In a large bowl mix:

WHAT

NEED

1 1/2 c. cornmeal

2 Tablespoons flour 2 Tablespoons sugar (or honey, or just omit)

1 Tablespoon baking powder

After mixing those up good, add

NEXT

2/3 c. (soy)milk 2 beaten eggs (optional, I've never used them and everyone still loves it)

2 Tablespoons canola (or other) oil and

Then grease up a couple 9" x 13" casserole (or whatever you got) pans, put the bean mixture in, put cornmeal mixture on top (it may sink in, but fear not, it will rise up like underpaid messengers! Viva!).

Bake for 20-25 minutes, til corn layer starts to be brown. If you want, sprinkle with some grated jack cheese before eating. Serves 12!

**TVP is textured vegetable protein, a hearty meat substitute. You can get it cheap in bulk at Rainbow or any health food store, or probably in the health food section of the regular supermarket. Take 1 1/2 c dry TVP, add 1 1/4 c boiling water, mix good, and let sit for a few minutes before adding to the above. If you can,t hack that, saute up 2 lbs. ground beef with 2chopped onions and substitute it for the TVP, you heartless co-killer!!!



Then you ride ALONE you ride with bin Laden" is the new book by comedian and commentator Bill Maher. former host of ABC TV's"Politically Incorrect" and future host of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher". The book is thought provoking and often funny though a little uneven. Maher's blunt with his opinions and everybody (including me)will get offended at some part of the book.. In other words the book is just like its author. Fans of his TV shows will notice that the book's words almost sound like Bill's talking to them. And his bluntness is mellowed by humor and sincerity.

The book is 132 pages of which 81 are text. Most of the rest are illustrations that Mr. Maher hopes the US Government will make into posters for the Home Front in the war against terrorism. My guess is that the government will open a secret file on him - if they haven't already. Maher doesn't seem to expect that the government will actually get serious about civilian help in the war against Al Qaeda but he certainly wants all Americans to realize that there IS a Home Front. And it doesn't involve sucker punching the corner grocer just because he's from a country most of us can't find on a map. The book explores the responsibilities of American civilians in the war against terrorism. The book's title refers to an illustration based on the World War II era poster "When you ride ALONE you ride with Hitler". During that war conserving gas meant there was more for the war effort against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Wasting gas denied it to American troops under fire from the enemy. As Maher points out, now when you waste gas you're financing Bin Laden. As you might guess this is one of my favorite illustrations in the book.

Now before I start picking apart "When you ride ALONE you ride with bin Laden" let's get one thing understood: This is an important

BOOK REVIEW: "WHEN YOU RIDE ALONE YOU RIDE WITH BIN LADEN"

BY BILLMAHER. PAGES, ILLUSTRATED, .

REVIEWED BY HOWARD

book. Every American who still thinks it's OK to drive two blocks for a six pack needs to read this book. This even includes the people who are getting that six pack for ME! And those of us who don't waste gasoline or other natural resources - except hops and barley malt should read this book so that we can educate others. Some people still don't think there's such a thing as a Home Front in the war against Al Qaeda. Look at it this way: Next time some upper middle class Saudi with a self esteem problem steers a 747 into a building it just might be the one that YOU'RE making a deliv-

*Bill Maher's book brings up many issues that need to be a dressed. His analysis doesn't always score and sometimes he's just plain wrong but he deserves mega props for putting them out there. Especially since nobody else is

** Since 9/11 the Right has declared just about everything beyond questioning. It was in response to Mr. Maher's suggestion that suicide bombers might have some guts that Bush's spokesman Ari Fleischer warned that Americans should watch what "they" say. (Notice that the Right winger referred to Americans as "they" not "we" — but that's a topic for another article.) And since 9/11 the Left- oh the Left, the Left do they enjoy losing or are they just soused to it that they're scared to try something new? Let's just note that the issues that Maher is raising are NOT being a dressed by the Left. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 demand a serious and concrete review of our way of life not just the usual outdated Leftist rants.

As if to level the playing field of the post 9/11 political debates, George Bush has decided to add a seguel to an outdated war while we're already at war against Al Qaeda. But it has been Centrists like Bill Maher who have asked in practical terms if our way of life just might be too extravagant - and ultimately dangerous. He notes the context of corporations seeking offshore tax havens in wartime. Has ANYBODY on the Left done so? When Maher says "We are bogarting the earth" (referring to Americans' consumption of 30% of the planet's resources) he means WE —as in all of us in the USA. The Left seems to imply that only wealthy Americans do that. The Right seems to think that 30% isn't enough.

As I stated, not all of the book is on target. He repeats the common error that US armed forces overthrew the Taliban. That's not exactly true. Our bombing campaign was an indispensable part of the defeat of the Taliban. But until cities and forts float in the air, the grunts on the ground are the ones who have to take them. After the US air campaign weakened the enemy it was the Afghans themselves who routed the Al Qaeda/Taliban forces from their strongholds. In consideration of the book's calls for Americans to know more about the rest of the world and for moderate Muslims to take action against the likes of Al Qaeda ,this error about a



poor but important country deserves mention.

Like "Earth in the Balance" — Al Gore's best seller about the environmental crisis — Maher's book never mentions the word "bicycle". His plan for combatting gasoline waste is car pooling. Nothing bad about that but what about bikes, fuel cells and public transit?

Maher's worst error is a comment on one page that "people are sheep." This remark is so contrary to the book's theme of citizen responsibility that it almost leaps off the page.

The sometimes glaring errors make the book a bit uneven but over all, "When you ride ALONE you ride with bin Laden" scores more hits than misses. The hits - and even a few of the misses - make you laugh, think or get angry. And with only 81 pages of text you can easily read it in a couple hours and then make it a present for a misguided friend or relative who still drives too much.

* I apologize for ending a sentence with a preposition. I promise it won't happen again.**

I apologize for writing an incomplete sentence. It won't happen again. Promise. Doh!

Messenger Dictionary!

by P.L. Atypus, MD

In the spirit of ironic things that fall into your lap, and foreign policies, I have compiled a short list of bike related words in German! Sorry there are no examples of them in action because of ded letztertermin (deadline). So sit back and vergnügen (enjoy).

ass: esel bicycle: fahrrad cable: kabel evil: übel, böse. (It could come up, when talking about a lady friend!) flat: wäsche repair: reparieren ride: fahrt. (I wouldn't lie about that.)

advance: vorrücken spill: verschütten tag: anhänger tattoo: tätowierung track: fährte. (These are real words.) velocity: geschwindigkeit weed: unkraut witness: zeuge wobble: schwanken.

These could also be band names if you ain't got one vet.

Inspired by "The Pedaller's A-Z" on www.bikereader.com http://www.bikereader.com/, used with permission of Bike

shit... Houston was tons of fun.

It was low on the attendance tip but that was good cause it gave some time to get to know people. Portland did an essay contest entitled 'What does Texas mean to you?' Hiske and Tullah (from Copeland) won with a cute little rhyme. They even asked me to correct the spelling errors. I think it's amazing they made a rhyme in their second language! Neal (from Dublin) came running up to me to tell me he was going to win because "the Irish are writers" but I put the kybosh on that thinking when I told him how good the Danes' poem was. Imagine everyone's delight when we found out our hosts had mechanical bull riding and a lasso machine at one of the parties. One of the locals taught me a lasso technique so Nikilla (from Las Vegas) and I practiced it for some time and got pretty decent. Dannyboy (from San Fran) instigated a freestyle skid

competition outside the Welcome Party right before the alley cat. They had so much fun

they also had one after the finals. The racecourse included a live traffic intersection. Sure, it was controlled by a dude with a flag but it was still cool to have it. The course was as fucked as all of Houston's roads: They had train tracks, loose dirt areas with glass and HUGE potholes. I think everyone got a flat. I have never seen such large potholes in my life!!! The Chrome Bags rep fell into one and jacked his face all up...that is, after he was rescued from the other side of the earth. I swear, that's how big they are. Oh,

another great little aspect was the 'boot camp' checkpoint. I guess if you screwed up at a checkpoint you were sent to boot camp. They gave Neal the pleasure of being drill sergeant; they also gave him a little megaphone. He spent the whole day screaming into people's ears while they ran through tires, did push-ups and hopped over bar-

down the wrong street and getting chased by wild dogs) is people's reactions to the course. It

> american was complaining about one Europeans thought it was great to have the challenge.

Max (from NYC) and I talked a bit about how americans just seem to complain about everything more than anyone else. Oh yeah, the winners: Thad from Portland won men's and Maria from Seattle won women's but a Houston local managed to nab all the fixie titles like skids and track stands. He was really good I wish I could remember his

-Mishka

"You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, now matter who says it." -Malcolm X

POP QUIZ!! ANSWERS FROM ISSUE #35

! NEW POP Q UIZ!!



DEC '02 POP QUIZ!!#2 ROBERT IS KNOWN FOR HIS DYNAMIC SMILE. DID HE EVER HAVE TO WEAR BRACES OR OTHER SUCH DENTIFRICE TO GET **SUCH GREAT RESULTS??** IS HE A NATURAL?

ANSWER: OF COURSE HE IS!

rels. The thing that really sticks

out in my mind (besides turning



AND WHAT KIND OF HAT? **ANSWER** NEXT COGNITION



POP QUIZ!!#2

WHO THE HELL ARE THESE WOMEN IN THIS PHOTO AND WHY ARE THEY IN COGNITION EVERY SINGLE ISSUE SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN?

FEB '03

ANSWER IN THE NEXT COGNITION



A GOOD OUTFIT TAKES A KEEN EYE. ACCESSORIES CAN BE KEY. RALPH SOMETIMES WEARS BIKE

DEC '02 POP QUIZ!! #1

GLOVES FOR SPORT AND PLEAS-URE. HOW MANY PAIRS AND WHAT COLOR ARE THEY?

ANSWER: NOBODY KNOWS! **RALPH PREFERS TO KEEP** THIS INFORMATION PRIVATE

SPECIAL QUIZ: WHEN THEY WERE TOTS!



CAN YOU NAME THE KID TO THE **MESSENGER?**

MATCH THE PHOTO TO THESE SPECIAL SOMEBODIES: DAMON, CATHY, L'IL CHRIS, & NOSMO! BONUS QUESTION: IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS GUY THE POODLE IN THE BACK GROUND WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW. WHO?

FUCK BUSH'S WARby Sabrina

For those of you who were too hung over to make it the anti-war march on January 18th, it was definitely n experience to be had. Although banner-less, the FBMA did have a small but determined contingent presnt. As far as overall body count, Iive heard numbers rom our oh-so-objective Chronicleís: 50,000 people all he way out to an event organizerís estimation of 300,000. In reality it seemed more like the latter. With people continually swarming into the march from all ides it took us over two hours to make it past The Wall rom the water.

What was so beautiful was the range of people there. From the to be expected Green-Party banner toting groups walking along side super-conservative looking ypes. A few dramatists had a get-up that showed a U.S. ldier being marionetted around on money-laced strings y Bush Jr. who in turn had Big Oil as his puppeteer. My ersonal favorite, however was this one, lone, Mr. Burnspoking guy carrying a sign reading "Retired bureaucrat or peace." He was proud to be there. I was proud to be ere. The whole thing was exhilarating. It's good to now that there are all kinds of people who are against what hell the Bush administration is trying to drag

There is going to be another demonstration w/ an ven larger predicted turnout on Saturday, February 15th. t will begin a 11am at Justin Herman Plaza. The SFBMA net at the Hubba-Hide-Out @ around 10:30-10:45 last ime & although this is not official, you can probably bet n meeting us there again on the 15th. Or just show up. hat is what is important. Just be there.

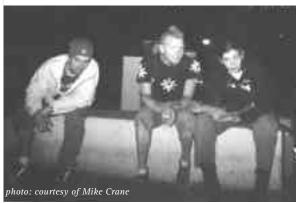


PRESIDENT'S REPORT THE YEAR

CONT'D FROM P. 2

"That was no suicide." Enron's accountants at Arthur Anderson went down with them and took all of that once respected firm with them. Scandal

set the tone for the news of the business year as more and more of our financial and social "superiors" were shown to be crooks, liars and — in the case of some oil companies – in with our "moderate" Saudi "allies". Even Martha Stewart was guilty of bad taste if not insider trading. The accounting fiasco threatened the foundations of Big Corporatism itself sending stocks into the toilet. So when an investigation started at Deloitte Touche it quietly was relegated to the back pages. Exposing the whole system instead of just its more blatant offenders would be in bad taste. As Martha might say. The government applied a few band aids to the problem and has already started pulling them off. The problem is that Corporatism requires more and more growth for growth's sake just to stay alive. The economy is like what Woody Allen once said about relationships and sharks: It must keep moving or it'll die. And



as Woody also said "What we have here is a dead shark."

Speaking of adults in improper relationships with children entrusted to their care there were scandals in the Roman Catholic Church. I have friends who are

good Catholics and have been hurt enough so that's all I'll say about that. Except to add that the fish doesn't always rot from the head but the head will stink too if it doesn't do something about that rot.

There were scandals in the Winter Olympics ice skating competition, and in a tribute to the woman who set the standard for Olympic ice skating scandals, Willie Brown gave Tonya Harding a tour of City Hall. I'll bet she never once slipped on those slick floors.

Lance Armstrong provided some positive sports news with yet ANOTHER Tour de France victory - his 4th in a row.

The Raelian cult in Florida (has this state replaced ours as the World's Largest Open Air Asylum?) claimed to have cloned the world's first human. But the whole thing looks more and more like a hoax. The cult claims to be a religion that doesn't believe in God. They believe that space aliens are our creators. That would explain some Floridians. Longshore workers were locked out by their



employers on the West Coast in the biggest threat against the America's strongest union in recent years. It didn't work. In South Carolina criminal charges against the Charleston 5 Longshore workers were dropped by the state, and the right wing Attorney General who tried that scam failed to become Governor. The SFBMA was one of the first to come to the aid of the Charleston 5. We can take a small bow

The right wing started the year by telling us that kids smoking Humboldt Homegrown were funding Bin Laden. And some people really believed it !! What the hell were THEY taking and where can I get some?!

Then the right wing tried telling us that we needed to drill oil in our Alaskan wilderness because SUV drivers just can't help themselves. Alaska's right wing Senator (now Governor) Frank Murkowski admitted that every time an American buys gas money goes to terrorists. Well DUH! But instead of appealing to the

conservative virtue of personal responsibility and getting Americans to stop wasting gasoline, the right wingers tried to use this fact as an excuse to open up Alaska to the same oil companies doing business in Saudi Arabia. Like oil companies are just gonna pack up and leave the sunny - and profitable - shores of the Gulf just cuz they got another deal elsewhere. Relativism still lives in the post 9/11 era and the right wingers are feeding it and feeding off it. The Senate junked the Alaska oil deal last year but watch out for another attack again this year. But on the issue of buying gas to fund Bin Laden, the shoe's on the other foot now. Former GOP stalwart Arianna Huffington and others have noted the connection between oil and terrorism and are urging Americans to conserve gas so that we can conserve



IN REVIEW

America. This may be the year that right wingers finally choose: You're either with America or you're with the oil companies.

In our community, the right wing attacked too. The IC scam accelerated and the clock's getting turned back to the 80s when companies charged for radios, uniforms and any other item they could squeeze from our paychecks. We're fighting back with help from our union. The union effort is reviving again and not a moment too soon. We'll need all the guts we use on the job to gain what we have deserved for so long. And let's not forget that others who are no longer with us have fought for those rights as well. We owe ourselves – and we owe them.

Last May SF Chronicle columnist Debra Saunders stated that the Bay Area is a place where "40 year old bike messengers think he is stupid." "He" in this case being George W. Bush.. When challenged on that she denied that she was implying that we're stupid but she wouldn't — or couldn't — explain what the italics were for. Nor would she identify any 40 year old messengers who allegedly accused Bush of being stupid. Coming from someone who wrote a piece in which she identified as a cutesy-wutesy oil drilling platform (I am NOT making this up) and another essay urging that we drill oil in Alaska "for the children" (so that they too can identify as cutesy-wutesy heavy metal equipment?) messengers can take such a jibe as a compliment. So we're sending this article to her home address. Looks like we know more about her than she knows about us.

We lost Alicia Bernowitz and John Loyd last year. Both passed away too soon. They died as they lived, with an understated yet vivacious dignity, and without any of the self destructiveness that had so awesomely ravaged our community before we began fighting for our rights. Our honor in knowing them while they were here is exceeded only by our sadness at their untimely departures.

Party for your right to fight in '03.

RIGHTS AND RELATIONS BY CAREY DALL CONT'D FROM P. 1

have been experiencing and make our companies will become fully legal. It's up to us to take this tool and use it. Laws on the books don't do us any good until we push to have them enforced. Does your company owe

sitting down with their bosses to get what they've been fucked out of you for equipment maintenance or missed overtime or breaks? come find for the past three years. The state gives us a tool to stop the rip-offs we out what your rights are, learn how to file a claim and help plan our upcoming strategy. Meet us at the ILWU union hall at 255 9th street on Wednesday February 19th at 6.30 pm. It's time to get what's ours!! year, thirty odd messengersanies.