

**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 NOZMO FOR PAYING A BUNCH A DUES! AND EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO DOCKET ROCKET FOR PAYING A YEAR'S DUES! 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.

**S F B M A**  
**255 9th St.**  
**San Francisco, CA 94103**  
**415-626-1912**

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 and e-mail is: [sfbmacognition@hotmail.com](mailto:sfbmacognition@hotmail.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER

- DEC.12** SFBMAGENERALMEETING & ELECTION, 7PM 255 9TH DEC 5 AT 7:00 AT THE UNION THE ELECTION BOX WILLBE AT THE WALLON THAT THURSDAY FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO VOTE. WRITE IN ALSO
- DEC.14** HANX /JAX TOYS FOR TOTS CHRISTMAS PARTY. PICK UP: ANYNEW UNWRAPPEDTOY. DROPOFF: 12/14/02 SOUTH PARK @ NOON:
- DEC.15** 1:30PM ELITE WOMEN'S AND MEN'S CYCLOCROSS NATIONALS @ DOMAINE CHANDON WINERY, NAPA. CALL530-661-9500 OR WWW.GALEFORCE.ORG

ADD YOUR OWN EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR! SEND THEM TO COGNITION B4 THE 1ST OF ANYMONTH!

### MORE ALLEY CAT TITLES:

- PMS Alley Cat
- SFBMA Alley Cat
- Team Glue Alley Cat
- John and Joe's Alley Cat
- Day of the Dead Alley Cat
- Winter Solstice Alley Cat
- Independence Day Alley Cats
- St. Valentines Day Massacre Alley Cat
- The Booze, Not Bombs Alley Cat
- The Race Against Sobriety
- Alex Vaughans Alley Cat
- Meghans Mackini Alley Cat
- Pat Cravenis Potrero Hill Romp
- Broilers 3-Stage Friday Night Alley Cat
- Ritchies Friday Nite Double Header
- Yo Kamikaze Fixt Gear Alley Cat
- 10-4 Alley Cat Scramble For HP Tix
- No Map Alley Cat
- ReCycled Alley Cat
- Registration Alley Cat
- Dirty, Hairy AlleyCat
- The Mountain Lion
- The Wacky Cat



# COGNITION

## DIRTY, HAIRY ALLEY CAT

BY ROB (GINGER) SAYBOLT

This was a hard race but you almost forgot your suffering because it was so thoroughly entertaining. The folks at Godspeed really dialed it in, from the super cool Clint Eastwood flyers, to the silver star badges each racer got, to the goddamn pay-phones ringing as you rode up to a checkpoint in the Marina or Forest Hill station.

The racers gathered at Steiner and O'Farrell for registration and briefing. Mike Rabdaux took down your name (Dirty Ginger) and badge number (#35). Becky issued your badge complete with pins to affix. Zo passed a teeny bottle of barley wine, bowls were smoked, some guys from LA showed up with Bru, looking kinda drunk.

We were instructed to listen to the radios for clues as to where the first checkpoint would be. Clearly a grand scheme was about to unfold as a network of "subversives" checked in from far flung locations around the city.

Then it came; Brandon's voice...crackle, crackle there's been a sniper attack and a girl abducted in Washington Square!!.. repeat ... abduction in Washington Square! Uh, ok so that's where we go? The first checkpoint? Right? Some racers took off right away, some were a little befuddled. The tandem was off. Ritchie was off on his fix. Tim Giller was moving out Geary and up Fillmore and I followed him.

As per usual in an alley cat the whole lot of us flew off in several directions and directly into noontime Saturday traffic. I came off Jackson to Van Ness (cont'd page 11)

## HOW I SPENT MY AUTUMN VACATION

BY HOWARD WILLIAMS

In the Messenger world we often get information about each other real fast -- or real slow. Some of you have heard that I got fired then rehired at Speedway, others have asked me "Are you still at Speedway? I thought you were fired." Others didn't even hear that I was fired in the first place. The short answer is that I was fired on October 4 but went back to work on November 1.

Here are the details. On Monday, September 30, Speedway raised tag prices but did not apply our commission to the raise. The company claimed that the raise was only a surcharge and therefore not covered by our commission. We pointed out that surcharges are only exceptions and do not apply to a general tag price raise. On Friday the 4th I got into an argument with my boss about it and was canned -- ostensibly for being late.

So there I was on the morning of 10-4 Day without a job. I had two chores that day. One was to go to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB; the same federal agency that was about to slam Pro Mess management for numerous illegal acts before their lawyers advised them to settle -- see Cognition #34) to file a charge against Speedway management to get my job back. The other was to get a job in the meantime because the NLRB doesn't do these things in a 15 minute rush -- or even a 15 day rush. Our union rep Jerome Johnwell and I filed (cont'd page 5)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'M ON MY WAY  
 LET THE PIECES FALL  
 WHERE THEY MAY.  
 OR THE FINAL RANT.

(NOTE: If you have a short attention span stop reading now.)

My resignation is effective 1/1/03. After 4 1/2 years as an officer of the SFBMA 2 years as secretary and 2 1/2 years as president. The longest run of any officer. I'm leaving to pursue other endeavors. Although I will be around to assist the new officers and set up temporarily in an emergency. It's simply time to move on, I've finally burnt out and feel it's time to stand aside.

And for the record I've never liked the title of president nor the attention it has brought, but felt someone had to step up do the necessary dirty work be a leader and respect the past SFBMA traditions while moving with the times and creating new alliances and events and try to fight stagnation and apathy within the ranks.

I've always felt that a person doesn't need a silly title to be active in the messenger community there's many people out there that stay in the shadows that have helped the SFBMA immensely. (You know who you are!) For us to maintain our non profit status we are required to have officers. The SFBMA is somewhat of a microcosm of society as a whole. There's a small core of dedicated people working their asses off for a larger group of people. Some (cont'd page 2)



of that group provides the infrastructure and support to create a successful BMA. And another group much like termites that undermine through apathy, nitpicking and badmouthing. (You know who they are!) Being president means being a lightning rod for criticism for things that you have no control over or things you don't even know about. Often from people that don't do jackshit.

If I listed all the ridiculous things I've heard, this article would be very long. But just as soon as I find this "magic wand" that I can wave that will make the world a better place where it is perpetually sunny with an abundance of rainbows and unicorns for children to ride, I will have it and sprinkle pixie dust to keep all the little bummy's of bummy town intoxicated and content. However back in the real world it is the people of vision, action, and patience that get things done. I can't count the times people have come up to me with a great idea and I say great let's do it only to see them shrivel with a deer in the headlights look thinking what? I have to help? But can't someone else do it? Don't look to your officers to do everything we haven't discovered the magic wand yet.

If you have a constructive idea here's a couple of suggestions. 1 Think it through. 2 Ask yourself is it realistic? 3 Who and what do we need as the SFBMA to get it done? 4 Talk to your officers and bring it up personally at the next SFBMA meeting which is on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 255 9th st at 7pm. Or better yet, initiate it yourself. And if it's worthwhile others will come to your aid. On the flipside of the coin and this goes out to the current officers if you ever feel content about the work you've done, then you probably haven't done enough, cuz there's always more. Have fun. I know that sounds harsh but it's true.

Some of the tasks to be overseen but not all include the continuation of the annual art show, film festival, SFBMA picnic, camping trip, 10-9 day, Russian River Ride, Xmas toy drive, keeping and strengthening our ties with the ILWU, SFBC, TWU-250-A, supporting union workers at Speedway and Pro, showing solidarity with couriers trying to unionize shops (Hi First Legal) contributing to cognition (the nations longest running BMA paper) keeping a solid \$2000 in the Bones' Memorial Fund, keeping in contact with the media, rising to the occasion when a tragedy occurs (as in the Chris Robertson road rage murder) Showing support for striking workers, dealing with disruptive members (Hi Natasha) addressing the nica menace, throwing alley cats, making and posting flyers for events one week in advance, representing the SFBMA well in other cities etc., etc., etc. Sound like a lot? Well it is. And it is far more than four people should be expected to do. However all these events create communication and community which makes a foundation for future solidarity on the labor front. If you have ever



Bummy Doll making friends in Ireland photo: Damon

munched on a burger, drank a beer on the SFBMA dime, or received money from the Bones' Injury Fund or benefit maybe it's time to give something back. And help these haggard souls that are your officers. Like Bernie said, "SFBMA is more than just a clothing line."

All these things are reasons why our BMA has been a model for other BMAs. Alright, I vented enough. To wrap up this dumb article, I'd like to touch on a few things. And on is on the ILWU. Ever since the ILWU entered the scene, they have done nothing but bend over backwards to help us achieve our ultimate goal of raising the industry standard. Yeah, Yeah. The parties are nice and all, but it's the job remember? If you love the job and plan on doing it for a while, the tag rates must go up. Having a cool job doesn't mean jack shit if your living check to check for risking your neck comprehend? Yes go union! And I would like to be quick to point out that not all unions are the same, just like not all companies are the same. I think the ILWU is a unique and good fit for us. Their long and storied history has shown constant support for the under-

(CONT'D ON PAGE 5)

# COGNITION

**President:** Damon Votour  
**Executive Director:** Carey Dall  
**Secretary:** Jason Whitehead  
**Treasurer & Copy Editor:** C. Nellie Nelson  
**Editor:** Berna Coraco  
**Layout:** Donny Don Don  
**Masthead Logo:** Louie Seastres

## ESTABLISHED 1990

The San Francisco Bike Messenger Association was first started as a humorous, yet-in-er-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.

# DIRTY, HAIRY ALLEY CAT

BY ROB (GINGER) SAYBOLT CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE



Dirty, Hairy Alley Cat photo: Ginger

to Broadway into the tunnel with Tim and Ritchie. We scared a gang of peds on Stockton and picked our way into the park. We found Aaron Lipke and picked up bullet casings.

The manifest was like the "Daily Jumble"; you use clues to fill in the blanks and this spells the last checkpoint. Conscientious racers spelled out K E Z A R. Others made educated guesses, perhaps based on the movie. Racers had to go to all checkpoints, pick up all evidence (bullet casings, a band-aid) and perform required tasks (eat veggie burger cooked by Kelly on hibachi at Aquatic Park, chase Tim Sullivan and shoot him in the leg with suction cup ammo). A few of us guessed Kezar was the last checkpoint and didn't worry too much about filling in the jumble.

I pulled up to a ringing phone at Forest Hill Station. Sarah and Nestor are ahead in line for the phone but they still gotta climb Mt Davidson. Poor them! Davidson has a way of making or breaking riders in alleycats. The approach is confusing on the road. Who delivers out in this area? Getting to the giant concrete cross on top involves climbing steep dirt trails which are also easy to get lost on. A couple years ago in the Mountain Lion I used Speedplay road pedals which got jammed full of mud. I lost a good lead I had on Broiler.

I'd already climbed Davidson but Quarter was right behind me. So I jam onto Kezar and then to Horseshoe pits like its bell lap. Turns out Quarter had an additional checkpoint to do, way down at Church and 20th. "Got Dirty Harry Callahan in the Bag" I'm thinking.

In the end I didn't get (m)any of the clues right on my manifest and this was my downfall as an officer. I was reminded (remanded & relegated) that an attention to detail was essential for any good cop, or messenger for that matter. True, true. I was, however, sorely disappointed to see the top prize, a carbon and aluminum KHS road frame, go to two guys who'd probably never ride anything but steel bikes. But what could you do? They were first in with a correct manifest.

## RESULTS:

- 1st Zo and Joel on tandem
- 2nd Brendan, NOBS
- 3rd Nestor, Godspeed and first with fake teeth
- 4th Sarah, NOBS and 1st Woman
- Purple Heart to Timmy for wacking his head

THANKS GUYS, GINGER

# What's Cookin'?

## EASY CRUNCHY BREAD

MAKE THIS DELICIOUS TREAT IT'S QUICK, EASY & YUMMY

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 1/2 C BOILING WATER
- 1 C CHOPPED NUTS (WHATEVER KIND YOU LIKE BEST)
- 6 TB OLIVE OIL
- 1/2 C WARM WATER
- 2 PK DRY YEAST
- 2 EGGS; BEATEN
- 4 1/2 C FLOUR
- 1 1/2 CORNMEAL
- 1/2 C HONEY
- 2 TS SEA SALT (OPTIONAL)

WHAT TO DO

POUR BOILING WATER OVER NUTS IN LARGE MIXING BOWL. DISSOLVE YEAST IN WARM WATER. WHEN NUTS ARE LUKEWARM, ADD YEAST AND ALL REMAINING INGREDIENTS, EXCEPT 3 CUPS FLOUR. BEAT VIGOROUSLY FOR 3 MINUTES. THEN, WORK IN REMAINING FLOUR. DIVIDE DOUGH IN HALF AND SPREAD INTO BOTTOM OF TWO OILED LOAF PANS. LET RISE UNTIL DOUBLE-ABOUT 20 MINUTES. PRE-HEAT OVEN TO 375 DEGREES. ONCE DOUGH HAS RISEN TO DOUBLE SIZE, AND BAKE FOR 50 MINUTES. (SPREAD BUTTER OVER TOP WHILE COOLING FOR EXTRA DELICIOUSNESS.)

## DISH

WHAT YOU NEED

- \* 2 TB ROSEMARY CHOPPED
- \* 2 TB BASIL CHOPPED
- \* 3 TB BUTTER OR MARGARINE
- \* 1/4 TS SALT
- \* 1/3 C SLICED CHEESE (YOUR FAVORITE KIND)
- \* 1 BUNCH OF SPINACH LEAVES (2ISH CUPS)
- \* 4 ROMA TOMATOES, SLICED
- \* 2 ZUCHINNIS
- \* 2 CELERY STALKS SLICED
- \* 4 GREEN ONIONS SLICED
- \* 2 CLOVES GARLIC

HEAT OVEN TO 400 F. PUT ZUCHINNIS DIRECTLY ON RACK. COOK 20 MINUTES. IN A SKILLET, BRING BUTTER, GARLIC, ROSEMARY, BASIL, ONIONS, CELERY TO A SIMMERING BOIL. ONCE BUTTER BROWNS LIGHTLY ADD TOMATOES. RETURN PAN TO MEDIUM HEAT AND STIR RAPIDLY FOR 3 MINUTES. REMOVE PAN FROM HEAT AND WAIT FOR ZUCHINNIS. ONCE ZUCHS ARE COOKED (REMOVE THEM FROM OVEN-KEEP OVEN ON) SLICE THEM IN SKILLET OVER SAUTEED HERBS AND SUCH. ADD SPINACH AND CHEESE. PUT SKILLET IN OVEN (OR TRANSFER TO AN OVEN PROOF DISH IF YOUR SKILLET ISN'T) FOR 10 MINUTES. REMOVE AND CAN BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY- OR- CAN SIT AND BE REHEATED WHEN YOU ARE READY!



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Cops Are Not Our Friends BY NELLIE NELSON

To me Bush (and law enforcement, by extension) are way scarier than bin Laden is. Planes aren't flying into my house, or yours — they were very clearly aimed at symbols of the most powerful and oppressive institutions. Those institutions failed to protect themselves and their workers, and are using that as an excuse to further control us, the general citizenry. With the Patriot Act and the latest, the Department of Homeland Sick-urity, government agencies have new power to erode our basic rights. This is all under the guise of "protecting us." There's no easier way to control a people than to threaten them with an external enemy.

In this increasingly scary-ass political climate, it's more important than ever to know what basic protections you do still have if you find yourself questioned or detained. Cops can be incredibly intimidating to deal with. (When I say cops here, I mean any law enforcement, police, INS, FBI, what have you.) If you're a little prepared, it can help you maintain your focus, should you find yourself in that situation.

First off, no one except a judge has the right to order you to answer questions. You do not have to give cops ANY information besides your name and address. Cops' careers are based on catching bad guys, so if they can make you out to be one, they will. They are trained in interrogation and intimidation, and the average citizen is not prepared to deal capably with this.

That's why there's lawyers. Not that I think lawyers as a whole are great human beings, but in this situation you need one. Once you have one (and you ARE entitled to one even if you can't afford it), the cops have lost their power to intimidate. Plus, having someone speak for you takes a lot of pressure off. That's why many helpful attorneys recommend not talking to cops, even casually. If you are questioned on anything (besides your name and address), the safest thing to say is "I'm going to remain silent. I want to see an attorney." Be polite, and try to remain calm. Even if you hate cops with all your heart, this is not the time for aggression or even sarcasm. Think about it, who holds the power in that situation? There is nothing to be gained by goading cops.

Remaining silent does not guarantee that you won't be arrested or beaten by cops. But you may be anyway. Being silent does make it a lot harder for them to prosecute (and we all know that cops have plenty of history of beating the crap out of folks and then crying self defense.) On that subject, don't touch cops or anything of theirs (cars, flashlights, their horse or bike, etc.) Keep your hands in view and don't make sudden movements. Otherwise they can charge you with assault, and it can serve to legitimize their violence against you. If you find yourself in this kind of bewildering situation, it may help to focus on these guidelines.

And don't buy that "they can't use any of what I say, they haven't read me my rights!" crap. They don't have to read you your rights (despite what TV tells you). In fact, they are allowed to lie when investigating. Cops have even posed as a cellmate with an arrested person, in order to get them to talk. So whether you are in a cell, police car, or on the phone from jail, don't talk about your case. They can record you in any of these places and use the recording, legally.

Once you say "I'm going to remain silent. I want to see a

lawyer," they are supposed to stop questioning you. But that doesn't always happen. Maybe the cop checking you in at the station will ask your name, address, and go from there with other lead-in questions, like "who were you arrested with?" So you might have to repeat "I'm going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer" a bunch of times. You've heard of good cop/ bad cop, right? Bad cop will scream and threaten. Good cop will say something like "Sorry about Bad Cop, I want to give you a chance to tell your side. It's not going to look good in court, you being silent...If you sign this confession, you can be out of here tonight..." blah blah blah. Don't buy it!! If you told them you won't speak without an attorney present, and they are still trying to get you to talk or sign a confession, I would strongly suspect a set-up.

What about searches? Your bag, car, home, etc, cannot be searched without a warrant. Your name and address (spelled correctly!) and a judge's signature must be on it. If it's wrong, calmly send them away. But also know: if you open your bag, door, trunk, etc, this implies consent of a search. If they try to search you, do not physically resist, but say loudly "I do not consent to a search." Even if they have a correct warrant, it can be helpful to your case to say that, loud and clearly. If they come to your home, step out and lock the door behind you while you inspect the warrant.

Do you have to show I.D.? Probably. If you can't or won't, you can be detained until they have identified you "to their satisfaction." w

What if you're not a US citizen? All this still applies; you don't have to speak or sign anything until you've seen a lawyer. You have the right to have a lawyer present during any INS interview or immigration hearing. You also have the right to a hearing with an immigration judge.

I want to point out that nowhere in here have I mentioned security guards! While it's annoying to be hindered by ID checks going into buildings, it is not the same as being in police custody. Security guards are basically working stiff's like us. If a couple of them are on some macho cop trip, try to be sympathetic of their misguided notions. It's pretty sad if you think about it.

Unfortunately, these tips alone cannot stop police violence. If you witness or experience this, get as much information about the identity of the cops and the incident as you can. Get a medical report and photograph your injuries as soon as possible afterward. The National Lawyers Guild is a good resource for representation in this case, or representation in any of the above situations. In Oakland, PUEBLO can help you file a complaint. If police harassment is frequent in your community, you can form copwatch groups or a police abuse hotline.

Most of this information came from Know Your Rights Comix, by the Midnight Special Law Collective. I highly recommend it cuz it's better than my article and also the drawing style is tight. You can get it at Bound Together Books, or probably anywhere with a good zine selection in the bay area. Like on the back of the toilet at my house. Share this info as freely as you can! Spread the word!



## Presenting Dr. Crank, the Advice Messenger!

Q: Dear Dr. Crank, I agree that after riding all day ya don't feel much like riding in a slow bike-traffic jam (Critical Mass). I sure don't. I think being out there all day, every day demonstrates plenty. But your last advice makes it sound like all non-messengers are poseurs and shouldn't even be allowed a bike. This is bullshit. We spend more time on the bike than most, and therefore benefit more than most from the changes that CM has wrought over the years. Like increased consciousness of all bikers, and of our needs. We benefit from the improvements by the Bicycle Coalition -- obvious stuff like bike lanes, allies on the Bored of Supervisors, less obvious stuff like free bike parking at Giants games. The SFBC wouldn't have been so successful without CM.

I personally have never seen anyone drive to Mass and get out with their bike, but even if they did -- hell, at least that's one less SUV on the street for a few hours. If they're going to take the time to represent, instead of laying on the horn and yelling at cyclists during the CM, they're making a visible demonstration of whose side they support, even if it's only for a couple hours. But like I say, in all the years I've ridden to (or near) Mass, I have only seen folks getting there by bike or by BART. I think car Mass-ers are a pretty negligible number. Everyone I know who participates DOES ride their bike all, or a majority, of the time, in their daily life. Hence the response slogan to cars during CM, "We DO do this everyday, today we're just doing it TOGETHER." I think your last response reflects (intentionally or not) the widely expressed messenger belief that commuters are just an annoyance. Sure, they look funny sometimes, but THEY ARE NOT THE ENEMY.

Commuters who are slow, or who think they're the shit if they race a messenger to the next light, are still not a car. They don't take up as much room, are not inherently dangerous, and do not reek of exhaust. Fuck, I

was a commuter for years before becoming a messenger. Assholes behind the wheel don't care if it's a commuter or messenger (if they see you at all). And the assholes are going to be assholes whether CM exists or not. So get over this (mostly fashion-based) hangup. Commuter gains are our gains, not just vice versa.

Sincerely,  
Let's all get along,

Dear Let's all get along, First, let me say I agree with nearly everything you say. The point of my article was not to argue the merits of CM or to discuss whether there should be a CM or not, but to explain why messenger do not participate in it. I do not feel it is because messengers have some sort of philosophical problem with CM. In fact I think that CM may very well have done many of the things that you say it has done such as increase driver awareness of cyclists and also in no way was I attempting to discredit any of the work done by the SFBC certainly the improvements that have been made on the streets with such things as bike lanes and bike parking and getting the city officials to focus on the needs of cyclists are completely awesome, And I think many of the things they have done have encouraged more people to get on their bikes and this is a great thing. I certainly do not think that commuters should not be on the road; I mean everyone can't be a bike messenger, obviously,

Sincerely,  
Dr. Crank

Have a question for Dr. Crank, our all-knowing advice messenger? Send it along to *Cognition*.

## POP QUIZ!! ANSWERS FROM ISSUE #34

## ! NEW POP QUIZ!!



POP QUIZ!!#1:  
WHAT HALLOWEEN COSTUME DID ESTHER WEAR??  
ANSWER: SHE WAS LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD!



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: IN THE NEXT COGNITION

POP QUIZ!! #2!  
WHERE WAS GRIFFIN WHEN HE HURT HIS FOOT AND WHAT WAS HE DOING?  
ANSWER: HE WAS SKATEBOARDING AT THE WALL!



DEC '02 POP QUIZ!!#1  
A GOOD OUTFIT TAKES A KEEN EYE. ACCESSORIES CAN BE KEY. RALPH SOMETIMES WEARS BIKE GLOVES FOR SPORT AND PLEASURE. HOW MANY PAIRS AND WHAT COLOR ARE THEY?  
ANSWER: IN THE NEXT COGNITION





# HANX \ JAK'S SAN FRANCISCO BIKE MESSENGER ASSOCIATION FIRE DEPARTMENT "TOY DRIVE" \*

Hello Bikers Copy: click. Check: click. Its The "Hanx Commissioner of Toys" Gramalkin one seven three @speedway retired. Christmas Party Time the Second Saturday of December is upon us. Pick up: any new unwrapped toy. Drop off: 12/14/02 South Park @ NOON: click. Check: Click.

\* Two long board bikers on the steel cross paths running avenue tags. The Hanx says to the Jak's, if it wasn't for those multiple personalities, who would we talk too?

Last years "Bike Messenger Toy Drive" was typically wonderful. Several Barrels of excellent toys were dispatched by the SF Fire Department Santa Claus to the delight of many children.

A lovely langsyne of "bike messengers" rookie to retired their families and friends, gathered picnic bar-b-q on a beautiful South Park fall day, enjoyed each other and a good time was had by all.

A real actual "working fire truck" came by looped South Park and played the horn.

"Misses Claus" (Melissa Lerma, SFFD Toy Director) herself showed up and brought a sack full of presents, a huge stack of official Fire Department T-Shirts & Posters.

The current arrangement with the SFFD for the toy drive is; on the Second Saturday in December they drop off three official SFFD "Toy Barrels" to The Hanx \ Jak's Toy Drive South Park @noon and pick them up at three. Very nice.

The bike San Francisco Bike Messenger Toy Drive has been a happening since about 1986. Melissa said we were like old friends.

Anyone may participate in the "Bike Messenger Toy Drive" By dropping any new unwrapped toy in any toy barrel anywhere in the world. It's a rush!

Again as always thank you to Jak's Tom Scott who has always carried this toy drive also Nosmo King. Thank you to Damon Votour and the SF Bike Messenger Association, Howard Williams and the Longshoremen's Union, and Hanx Pres. Tony Calzone for the fine job they do with the Toy Drive and the whole biker thing. Thank you to Melissa Lerma and the SFFD. Yes on SFFD (we also appreciate that other little saves our lives thing). Congratulations to the bikers for such an event.

It IS a big deal to the children. Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly and God likes guys who keep the shiny side up.

Good Luck, love, thank you, \*

GRAMALKIN SIDEREAL ASTROLOGER SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Paris-Brest-Paris is one of the oldest cycling races in the world. Started in 1891, it has been run on a regular schedule (first every 10 years, and now every 4) since then. While it was geared towards professionals in the beginning, it is now the domain of the "randonneur" - long-distance, self-supported touring cyclists.

The race itself is from the outskirts of Paris to the Atlantic coast and back - 1200 km (750 miles) in total, with a time limit of 90 hours (just under 4 days), and will take place August 17-22, 2003. I've wanted to do this event as long as I've known about it, and am planning to spend a few weeks in France around it before returning for the pre-events to CMWC.

To qualify for PBP, each rider must complete a series of brevets (shorter, unsupported rides) at the 200km, 300km, 400km and 600km distances. SF Randonneurs will be holding 200 and 300km brevets on February 1st and 15th, respectively, and I will be participating. Both rides leave from the GG Bridge, and cost \$12 to enter. Riders finishing under the time limits (13.5 and 16/20 hours, respectively), will receive brevet pins from the French sanctioning body, Audax Club Parisien.

If anyone out there is interested, please stop me on the street or wherever - I should have entry forms shortly, and should also have membership forms for SF Randonneurs (free membership!) and for Randonneurs USA (which you need to be a member of prior to the 200km event if you're planning to ride PBP -\$20/year). some web sites for more info: [www.sfrandonneurs.org](http://www.sfrandonneurs.org) [www.rusa.org/pbp2003.html](http://www.rusa.org/pbp2003.html)

-joel



Bummy Doll is a hit! Photo: Damon



Grasso soaring at '97 SFBMA messenger picnic photo Kyle

## MESSENGERS & BANK OFFICERS PART ONE BY HOWARD WILLIAMS

NOTE: #S REFER TO THE WAY THE PERSON IS LISTED ON THE WALL AT WELLS FARGO MUSEUM AT MONTGOMERY

### 1. John J. Valentine

mountain messenger, company president John J. Valentine's name appears on Wells Fargo's famous reward posters. In the 1860's, Valentine was a messenger and then agent on the important stage route over the Sierra. He once even carried sacks of mail on foot when deep snow closed the roads. As General Superintendent of the Company, he would not abandon the important stage routes to highwaymen. Valentine steadily gained responsibility and in 1892 was made president of the company.

### 7. Leslie L. White

messenger June 9, 1898, Wells Fargo express messenger. Leslie L. White settled for his run aboard the Santa Fe train across west Texas. At Coleman Junction, four armed bandits stopped the train, and then fired into the express car. White refused their demands to open the door and surrender, and the desperate bandits preferred to dynamite the car. An armed passenger opened fire on the robbers and they scattered, leaving behind unexploded dynamite and clues that soon led to their arrest. For his cool courage under fire, messenger White received a fine gold watch.

### 13. David Trousdale

messenger - On the night of 3/2/1912, the "Sunset Flyer" train streaked across Texas. 2 bandits stopped the train and demanded the contents of the express safe. Wells Fargo messenger David Trousdale outwitted them, overpowered both robbers, saving the express and the US mail. Wells Fargo rewarded Trousdale with a promotion, a vacation, and a fine gold watch.

### 18. William Pridham

pony rider, agent, rights advocate - Pridham came west seeking gold, and found work delivering for Wells Fargo. In 1863, Billy Pridham rode for Wells Fargo's Virginia City, Nevada pony express. In 1868, Pridham settled in Los Angeles County and ran the Wells Fargo office there for 30 years. Members of the Chinese community were both good customers and friends. Pridham testified on their behalf when the government tried to use the unfair Chinese Exclusion Act to prevent them from coming home from business or family trips abroad.

### 23. Aaron Y Ross

messenger - On Jan. 23, 1883, messenger Aaron Ross guarded \$80K in gold bouillion in the W.F. express car on the overland railroad. At 1 a.m., the train stopped at Montello, NV where suddenly 5 outlaws attacked it. For 5 hours Ross held them off, and neither smoke nor dynamite threats made him give it up. The bandits finally fled, and were later caught and convicted. Among the rewards presented to "Hold the Fort" Ross for his valiant defense was a splendid gold watch.

### 38. John Brent

stage driver, shotgun messenger. John Brent was called upon to guard W.F. gold in MT, UT, NV, CA, and AZ. In 1878, he guarded a treasure shipment of \$5M in gold from Ogden UT to SF (in today's dollars about \$70M).

### 46. Mike Tovey

shotgun messenger - guarded W.F. treasure boxes faithfully for 20 years. On a stage run from Lone to Jackson on June day in 1893 Tovey was suddenly ambushed and gunned down in his seat next to the driver. The wounded driver managed to drive the stage out of danger. Despite an intense manhunt, Tovey's killer was never found.

### 54. Buffalo Bill Cody

pony express rider, showman - Wm. Frederick Cody, better known as "Buffalo Bill," experienced the western frontier first hand as a freighter, trapper, pony express rider, stage driver, and Army scout. He earned his nickname hunting bison on the plains. He interpreted his experiences in his famous Wild West Show from 1882 to 1908, which included the "Deadwood Stage." He was also a customer of the Denver National Bank, which today is a part of Wells Fargo.



### 57. J.F. Walton

railroad messenger, innovator. Every expansion of business creates more forms and paperwork to meet the needs of the new areas. In 1916, railroad messenger Walton devised this simple pegboard system to keep things straight. -used by 6 Local Dispatchers.



### 61. Robert "Pony Bob" Haslam

express rider - As the most intrepid of the

brave pony express riders, Haslam earned the honor of carrying news announcing Abraham Lincoln's election from Smith Creek to Ft. Churchill, NV, in Nov. 1860. Haslam rode 120 miles in 8 hours to Ft. Churchill, NV, where the news was telegraphed to SF. Pony Bob later rode for W.F. out of Virginia City.

### 66. A.W. "Buck" Buchanan

messenger, agent, stage line owner - Buck rode the steamers between SF and LA, delivering WF's express shipments up and down the coast. He also delivered inland: in 1859 Buchanan handled a large load of gold coin - the payroll for Army troops at Ft. Tejon and Ft. Yuma. In 1867, Buchanan became Wells Fargo's agent at The Dalles, OR and ran his own stage lines to the mines.

### 77. Pilsbury "Chips" Hodgkins

treasure messenger. Hodgkins earned his nickname as a ship's carpenter on the way to the CA gold rush. For more than 25 years, Chips escorted WF's treasure boxes from the mining camps to the inland port of Stockton to SF, and up and down the coast. In 1871 Chips steamer dropped anchor at San Pedro Harbor, in southern CA, in the midst of a gale. Undaunted by heavy seas, Chips rowed ashore in a small boat to deliver his consignments on time. For his long service, he was rewarded with a banquet and a miniature treasure box in silver (on display at the 420 Monty museum).

### 93. Thomas J. "TJ" Laramie

driver, messenger, agent. At first a WF wagon driver in Pueblo, Colorado, Laramie worked on the Dallas-Houston route. In 1864, he was placed in charge of the express office in Temple, TX. He served there for 27 years as station manager, with a baby elephant being one of the more unusual shipments entrusted to him during that time. Black Bart's biodata - "What are...resolute shotgun messengers without a few wily highwaymen?"



The Mountain Lion Ride is named in honor of a great American -- the Mountain Lion (Felis concolor). This amazing member of the cat family has earned superlatives galore. It has the largest range of any carnivore in the Western Hemisphere. It is found from the rain forests of southeast Alaska to the tundra of Patagonia. It is at home in Amazon jungles, the timberlines of the Andes and the Rockies, the deserts of Atacama and Arizona and most other wild areas of North and South America. In the Americas, the jaguar is the only cat larger than the mountain lion. Nevertheless, in most fights the

mountain lion will kick jaguar ass.

It also has more names than any other animal. Biologists Stanley Young and Edward Goldman tallied nearly 30 names for it in their classic study "The Puma." Besides puma and mountain lion there's also cougar (unfortunately a mere car was given this name), catamount (fortunately a good beer out of Vermont has this name), ghost cat, mountain cat, panther, painter (a mispronunciation of "panther" that caught on) and others. In addition to brown or gray, mountain lions occasionally are all black. This may account for the "panther"

designation.

Farmers, ranchers and professional hunters slaughtered mountain lions so severely that the puma was considered extinct east of the Rockies except for a small group of Florida Panthers. Yet in recent years the mountain lion has made an All American comeback. Numerous appearances in eastern forests remain unconfirmed or are discovered to be escapees from private zoos. Yet there are so many mountain lion sightings from Maine and New Brunswick to Tennessee and North Carolina that more and more wildlife experts believe the mountain lion is living in the Appalachian and Allegheny Mountains as well as in the Sierra and Rocky Mountains. While the the ghost cat's eastern resurgence continues to be a mystery, the puma has definitely come down from the Rockies to restake its claim on the Great Plains. With the ability to move 100 miles in a night's hunt the cougar has solidly re-established itself in both Dakotas, Nebraska and even Kansas. A population has been confirmed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula which would mean that they probably are in the Canadian province of Manitoba as well as in Wisconsin.

Now it would be silly and presumptuous for us at the Mountain Lion Ride to claim that we inspired this great comeback or that we're even a contributing factor. But we can say that we are happy and honored to be associated with this great American cat as it ranges across prairie and forest into its ancient haunts.

Our natural heritage is a vital and rewarding part of our American identity and culture. Once the mountain lion challenged many of our ancestors in the wilderness. Now we should take another lesson from our country's natives and see the mountain lion as an inspiration. How good to know that in this technological 21st Century the puma is still an integral part of the American wilderness and experience



Team Satan in Vienna, Austria photo: courtesy of Damon dog. May the spirit of Harry Bridges live on.

On another note, I'd like to address the sometimes adversial relationship between employee and management and try to settle with dia-

logue first. If that doesn't, work, meet with your coworkers, without management, and bring a group proposal together. Stay united and remember things won't happen overnight. If all that doesn't, work out contact the SFBMA or ILWU. I would also like to clear up a misconception. The SFBMA is affiliated with the ILWU, not an ipso facto part of it. It is up to you whether you want your shop union or not. I would like to point out that the ILWU isn't perfect but nothing is. My pen is running out of ink, so I'll shut up.

Deliverance, the SFBMA art show, is still running at Lo-Fi till the 17th. And also, the Raiders neon sign at Cassidy's is up for grabs at a raffle at the end of each month. You can get tickets through me or Cimmon and make sure to tip her you cheap bastard. The tix are 1 bucl a piece. You can buy all ya want and the proceeds go to your SFBMA

Thanks to all who put me up and put up with me these years. Also a supreme thanks to all the unsung heroes of the messenger community and all the past and current officers. You all rock. And remember live for today, dream of tomorrow, and remember yesterday.

Damon #77

P.S. No I do not write the Doctor Crank article in Cognition, but am flattered that some people think so.

## HOW I SPENT MY AUTUMN VACATION

BY HOWARD WILLIAMS CONT'D FROM P. 1

at the NLRB in the afternoon after I spent the morning looking for work. When I applied at Western, one person -- on hearing that I was fired -- said sarcastically "I thought unions were supposed to prevent that sort of thing [unjust firings] from happening!"

No, unions are supposed to DO something about "that sort of thing" when it happens. Forcibly preventing somebody from doing something is usually a job for fascists. The following week was a frustrating search for work but being unemployed gave me a chance to enjoy 10-9 Day and collect my cool trophy for Lifetime Achievement. Thanks again everybody. The next day Danny Red Hot offered me a day's work on the 11th which I was happy to get.

So on Friday the 11th I worked for Red Hot. It was good to be back in the saddle. My first tag sent me to the Philip Burton Federal Building which was the scene of a demonstration protesting Bush's upcoming war against the Iraqis (also known as the people who did NOT attack us on 9-11). If he were still alive Congressman Burton would undoubtedly have seen the war against Iraq for the sham that it is. Tag in hand, I approached the Federal Building somewhat ambiguously. Being a messenger, I see any obstacle between me and my delivery as a challenge to overcome. But as a citizen, I agree with everything the protesters are saying. So I was somewhat relieved to see that the Federal Building was shut down by the demonstration. I talked with some demonstrators and other messengers before heading back downtown. The rest of the morning was slow but the afternoon was graylicious enough to make my one day career at Red Hot a successful one.

The next Monday I got hired at Black Dog and my first tag was out of Almonte in Marin County. But I soon faced a dilemma. The next day Go Courier offered me work as well. Since both companies had hired me as an independent contractor instead of an employee, I decided to work for both of them. Those of you working at places like First Legal and King can do the same. I was also applying for work at the union hall each morning. First, the union hall dispatcher sent me to work at Guittard Chocolate's processing plant in Burlingame for one graveyard shift. The next day I worked as a messenger although it obviously tired me.

On Friday the 18th I had a three hour long interview at the NLRB. The agent assigned to the case was Richard McPalmer. He apologized for not being familiar with the nuances of the Messenger biz and the implications of commission pay. But having dealt with know it all bureaucrats who claim to understand our industry in 5 minutes, I found his modesty and sincerity refreshing as well as reassuring. His office had a few Elvis pictures on the wall and he himself looked much like the King. So it crossed my mind that he might have a night job as an Elvis impersonator. If so, all I can say is don't quit your day job Richard because no matter how good you can sing "Hound Dog," government agents who know the messenger industry are few and far between. After the interview I signed my affidavit.

The next week the union got me a four day gig (October 22 through the 25th) at Premier Roasters coffee packing plant in Daly City. That was a swing shift so I still worked for Go in the mornings but I decided to stop at Black Dog. Two jobs was enough. Premier is moving to Colorado next month so I observed an example of a plant in the process of closing. Surprisingly the workers showed good morale. They're longtime members of ILWU Local 6 and are confident about their future. The swing shift crew worked well together and I enjoyed my brief stint there.

The last week in October I took a swing shift for two days back at Guittard Chocolate. At both Guittard and Premier I ran into ILWU members who had -- along with several messengers -- helped Fred Pecker keep Local 6 democratic when some crooks tried to take over the local and toss Fred and other officers out of their elected positions. It was good to work alongside these friends and see how solid they still are. And at Premier one elderly woman's eyes welled with tears as she described how Fred nearly went to jail to successfully stop a supervisor from sexually harassing her.

On Monday morning Jerome told me that Speedway had contacted him and wanted to offer me my job back. The next day he and I went there to talk with Speedway's owner Lori O'Rourke. I was offered my job back and we all agreed to put the commission/surcharge dispute to the grievance procedure. That Friday, November 1, El Dia de los Muertos, I went back to work at Speedway.

The great thing about America is not that we have guaranteed rights; no rights are really guaranteed. The great thing about America is that we have the chance to fight for our rights. Party for your right to fight.

## Messenger Dictionary!

COULOIR \kool' war/ NOUN. 1.A deepside mountainside or gulch 2. A slide stroke in pedaling action in which the rider exudes the flow.

DRIB\drib/ ADJ: 1. NOUN: 1. A negligible amount: finished the work in dribs and drabs. 2. Drib rider: not alot of time spent in the saddle; spent the day dribbin'

Inspired by "The Pedaller's A-Z" on [www.bikereader.com](http://www.bikereader.com) <<http://www.bikereader.com>>, used with permission of Bike Reader's Scott Munn. Thanks, Scott!



Shark Photo: Kyle

Go Los Cerveceros! This cd- recently released contains last decades' recordings of Sfs great messenger band. Punk rock rings true. (you can still catch Los Cerveceros these days at aound town with a new drummer, Ms. DiBiase- she's hot, too!)



# SUPER MIKE WINS MOUNTAIN LION !!

## THE 2002 MOUNTAIN LION RESULTS

- 1. SUPER MIKE 49 MINUTES
- 2. GINGER 51 MINUTES
- 3. BRANDON 55 MINUTES
- 4. JOEL METZ 59 MINUTES
- 5. CLIVE 59 MINUTES
- 6. PAT 1 HOUR 2 MINUTES
- 7. RALPH (1ST VETERANS) 1:03
- 8. JAMES 1:05
- 9. AND WINNER OF THE BOK CHOY-BERNIE CORACE DFL AWARD : BRENNAN 1:07



Lion Mountaineers photo: Vince



Getting the manifest photo: Donny



more manifest photo: Donny



Momo photo: Donny



It was the best of Mountain Lions; it was the worst of Mountain Lions. Although a record low turnout of only 9 Messengers showed up for the 6th running of San Francisco's longest running Alley Cat, the fact that the 2002 Mountain Lion happened at all was a triumph for all of Messengeristan. And the race itself saw a record setting performance by the winner Super Mike with excellent efforts by all racers. Only 18 minutes separated Super Mike's record setting pace from Brennan's DFL.

If not for the efforts of volunteers like Vince and Victoria and sponsors like Bound Together Bookstore and glowinthedarkmonkey.com, the Mountain Lion would never have been run last Saturday, December 7 -- or ever. As September crept into October and then November many people realized that there was a real chance that the entire year might go by without a Mountain Lion. Furthermore, the last Mountain Lion was in July of 2001. Obviously a lot has happened since then and I realized that if the 2002 Mountain Lion didn't happen THEN THE TERRORISTS WIN!! We couldn't let THAT happen now, could we?

This fact had apparently attracted other notice as well. Just after Thanksgiving some guy named George paged me and told me that it was a matter of national security AND honor that the Lion be run. "Look Mr. W for Wannabepresident," I snapped. "I am ON it! Why don't YOU worry more about Al Qaeda who has attacked us and less about Iraq who hasn't attacked us?!" Then I slammed the phone down and went back to more important things -- like figuring out checkpoints.

Speaking of which the race -- I mean Team Training Ride -- started at Folsom and Ripley and had 4 checkpoints: one near Aptos and Upland in the exclusive St. Francis Woods neighborhood and of course SF's three highest points: Mt. Davidson, Twin Peaks and Mt. Sutro with the Finish Lion at 8th Ave. & Fulton.

The ride started just before 1 p.m. at Folsom and Ripley on the north slope of Bernal Heights

in sight of Momo's Tree. All the riders except Ginger turned north on Folsom and then west on Stoneman to work their way around to Mission Street. Ginger turned south and went over Bernal Heights toward Mission.

Meanwhile Super Mike in the pack entered Mission from Virginia then went right (west) on Randall to hit San Jose Blvd. and head toward Glen Park. From Glen Park, riders had to choose whether to go first to St. Francis Woods or to attempt the brutal ascent of Mount Davidson, SF's highest peak at 925 feet. Most chose the St. Francis checkpoint with some getting momentarily lost in the process. But Super Mike charged up O'Shaughnessy and turned on to Del Vale to climb to the Cross. He was the first rider to the Cross and then he zipped down to the checkpoint near Aptos and Upland. From there he zig zagged through the streets of St. Francis Woods to reach Portola (at Santa Clara). Then he climbed Portola and took the left turn onto Twin Peaks Blvd. and was soon at the Twin Peaks checkpoint. From the Peaks he rode off road to Mt. Sutro and then took the not so secret short cut through Sutro Forest toward Golden Gate Park. He and Ginger were close before Ginger missed a turn in the Park enabling Super Mike to reach the finish at the Mountain Lion statue. Not only did he win in record time, Super Mike actually beat the checkpoint volunteers to the Finish Lion by a minute!

Once again, we're all happy to say that there were no injuries except one minor case of road rash. Big "THANK YOU" to volunteers Rob, Olivia, Paul, Joe, Jason, Victoria, Vince, Carla and a couple others whose names I've misplaced (sorry for that) and to sponsors www.glowinthedarkmonkey.com and Bound Together Bookstore (on Haight just east of Masonic).

THE 2003 MOUNTAIN LION IS SET FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND. MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

By the way, did I mention that Super Mike set a record for fastest time ever?



Super mike collects prizes photo: Donny



Cliva and Joe photo: Donny



happy kisses photo: Donny



Vince photo: Donny



Joel at the Twin Peaks checkpoint photo: Donny