

# GETTING GEARED UP FOR THE 2008 INAUGURATION

By Daniel Savickas

Over the years I've learned many important lessons from my parents, but the one that has always rung true is "always be prepared."

Now I know the next presidential inauguration is four years away, but it is never too soon to start preparing.

While some will travel to Washington DC to celebrate the election of our new president in four years, others will undoubtedly be making the journey to protest.

For those going to celebrate, the list of things needed is short but sweet; a few grand in cash to buy tickets to all of the black tie events, a black tie or dress, and deodorant. That about covers it.

For those going to protest, the list of necessities is just a little more complex.

1. **Gas Mask:** Freedom of speech is free, but it doesn't come without consequence. These days if you're using free speech to voice your opinion about the president, a stream of pepper spray usually follows your opinion. Don't get caught huffing the fumes, make sure you bring a gas mask.



2. **Water Bottle:** If you failed to bring the first item on the list then a water bottle is absolutely necessary. A stream of pepper spray to the eyes doesn't feel great, but at least you'll have some water to wash your eyes out with.



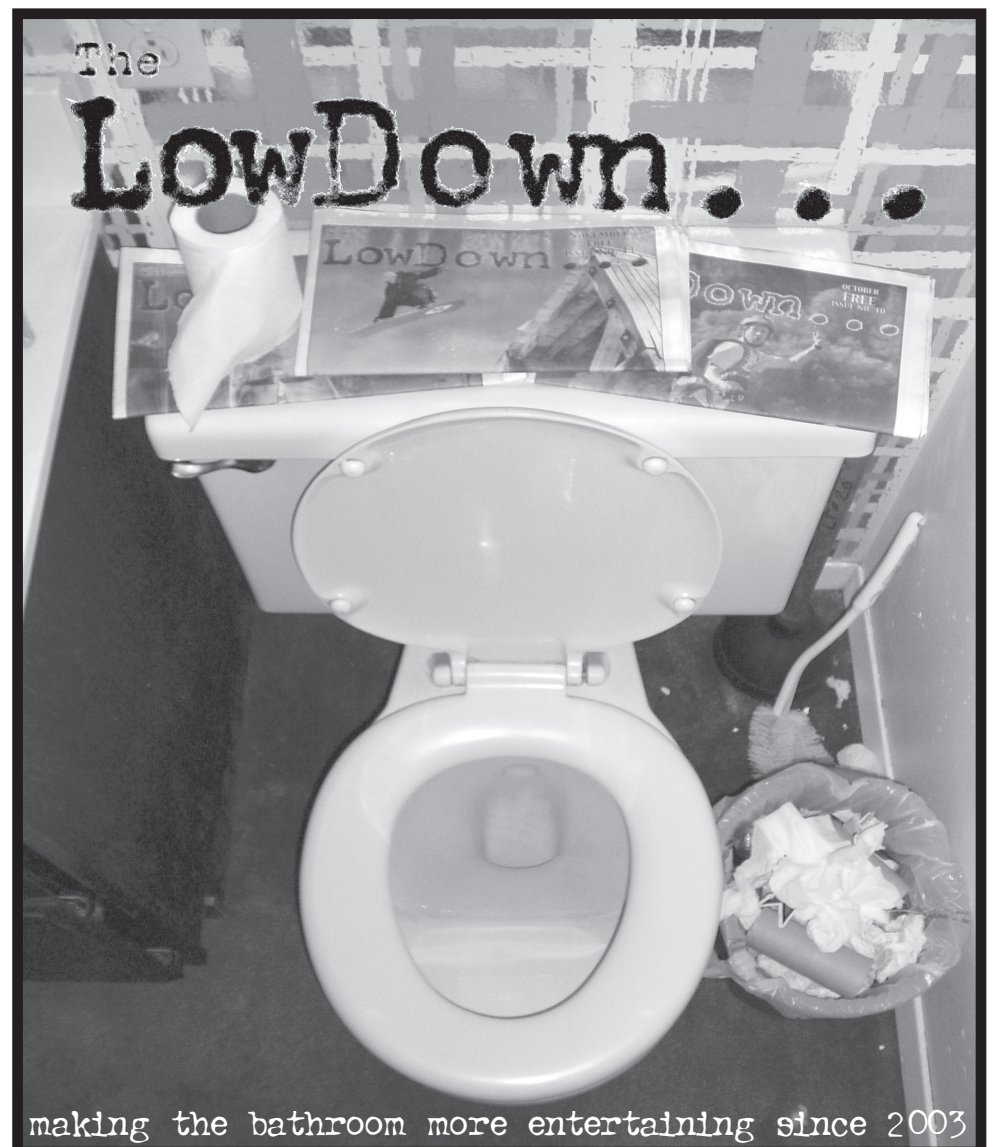
3. **Helmet:** Police batons aren't the softest things in the world, it's better to be safe than sorry. Skiing and snowboard helmets will work just fine.
4. **Megaphone:** Since the president's limo is equipped with more armor than most, or all, of the vehicles being used in Iraq your voice isn't going to do- you need volume. A megaphone will really help you get your message across to the masses, and possibly even penetrate the president's limo with your thoughts.
5. **Matches:** The media is going to portray you as anarchist only out to cause trouble no matter how hard you try to voice your opinion in an intelligent and peaceful manner. Matches are a great way to voice your opinion. While the media is doing a voice over about how violent the peaceful crowd was, you can make sure that when they cut to you, you are burning a picture of the president or newspaper that talks about the president's accomplishments or goals for the next four years.
6. **Video Camera:** Like I said before, the media will never present a group of protesters as a group of people seeking change, they will portray you as evil Satan worshipping, baby killing wacko. Independent media is



the only way to get the real story across. Bring your camera and get the real story. Post your video on the net and make the truth available to the masses.

7. **Phone Card:** Once you get arrested, a phone card is a great way to reach out and touch the ones you love.
8. **Cash:** The one's you love may not love you enough to post bail, make sure you have enough cash to get out of jail quickly, I hear the foods not all that great.

All photos were taken at the 2005 inauguration.



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