

All hail the...
...the
federally mandated
structural readjust-
ment issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

December 2008

It's vicegerent... ..it's free...if you can find it

"...thou art a very ragged wart..."*

Vol. X No. 12

JESUS RETURNS; CONSOLES BANKERS

"They've had a really tough year."



JESUS'S TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY VISIT featured visits with local developers and bankers, who are having a particularly bad year.

By Athena Light

Jesus's annual visit to the bay area will be a whirlwind of visits to local bankers and investment groups in an effort to bring balloons and little plush toys to those in need.

"We're advising them to open their reports gently while seated," explained one of Jesus's advance staff, "and to read them with a good friend."

Critics argued that Jesus should focus on the poor, but were quickly admonished to get with the program.

"Hell-o?" responded Jesus's spokesperson. "You obviously haven't read an annual report lately. These bankers are starting to revise their company retreat plans. They may not be technically poor yet, but they're not used to having to order the low-grade champagne."

Representatives of the poor agreed. "We've had the best training for the new economy," stated one local homeless man wrapped in blankets. "We know how to fully recycle the contents of a dumpster, how to create housing out of disposable packaging, and how to create tasty snacks out of restaurant leftovers. We could give seminars."

* * * * *

Election Hot Air Fuels Blimp Rides

By Bridget Highwater

Election experts confirmed that the hot air generated from both local and national electoral campaigns is not only enough to fuel the world's largest six-cylinder airship now offering zeppelin rides from Moffett Field, but is enough to fill balloons at children's birthday parties in the Bay Area for the foreseeable future.

"We thought the election would be the end of it," observed one local expert. "But the commentators haven't quit, the pollsters haven't quit, and heaven knows my phone hasn't stopped ringing for comment."



SCIENTISTS miscalculated by thinking that politicians would shut up after the election campaign.

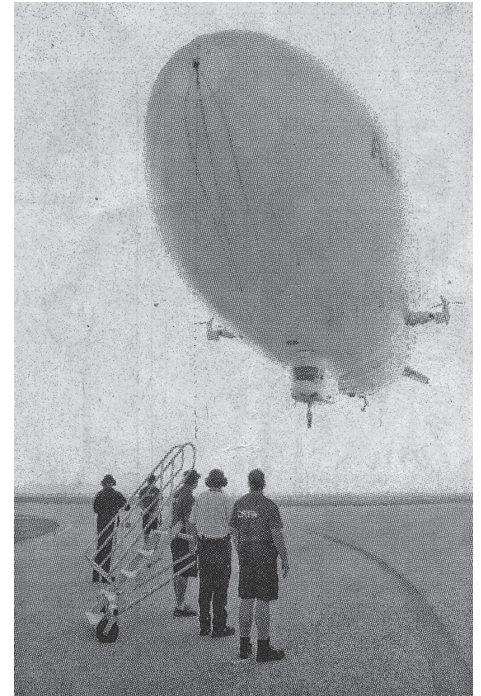
Scientists confirmed that the hot air generated by the election has not stopped, and currently rivals cow manure as a contributor to global warming for the same physiological reasons.

"We were foolish to think that collection would be an issue," stated one scientist. "Small adjustments to ordinary microphones will do the trick, especially since the generation of hot air is fairly constant and seems at present to be practically eternal."

Experts agree that the discovery bodes



JOE THE PLUMBER has already signed a deal, through his agent, to market specialty "Joe the Plumber" hot air.

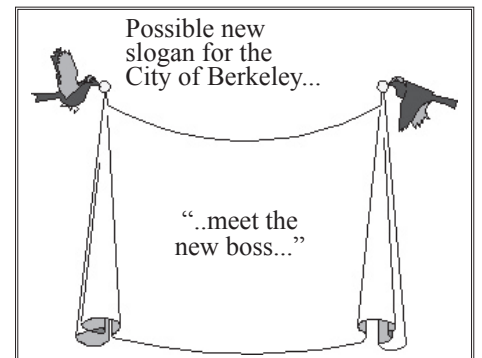


ONLOOKERS MARVELED at Airship Ventures' zeppelin, which may in the future be entirely fueled with politicians' hot air.

well for the switch to alternative energy, since the hot air can be compressed and stored for future use.

"Not only can we store it and sell it," offered one venture capitalist interested in the hot air project, "we can cater to niche markets for Republican as opposed to Democrat or Green Party hot air. With some distinctive packaging this could be really big."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERT'S



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so I guess "change" won the day in the election. Can we finally tax the rich?

Dear reader, certainly we can. All politicians who are suicidal will immediately choose just such a political course.

Dear Lena, I'm really going to miss seeing Sarah Palin in the news. Is there anyway President-elect Obama can include her in his administration?

Dear reader, I don't see why not. She could take some of the burden off him by handling those tedious Katie Couric interviews.

Dear Lena, I think I need a federally mandated structural readjustment for Christmas. Do I have to fill out a form?

Dear reader, not at all. Just jump in your corporate jet and tell your nearest congressional committee. They'll be so glad to hear from you. And happy holidays from the taxpayers.

Dear Lena, I lost my job, I lost my home, and I'm trying to plan for the new year. Any suggestions?

Dear reader, watch the CEOs begging on Capitol Hill closely, and employ the same techniques locally. You'll find it a snap to re-tool your business and get the best suite at the spa, especially if you are willing to scrap your labor contracts and drop-kick your pension obligations. It's a whole new world, and you'll find your personal bonuses and perks completely unaffected, so be sure to give a quarter to your most colorful neighborhood bum.

Ask Lena for advice about the safety of government debt at cdenney@igc.org.

MONUMENT TO HOT AIR CONFUSES ART COMMUNITY

Empty Signs Protect Vulnerable Public From Potentially Disruptive Ideas

By Axel Fall

After careful examination, art experts confirmed that the unusually slow-moving protesters at the foot of University Avenue in Berkeley are actually a sculpture.

The experts were initially unclear on the meaning of the sculpture.

"We seem to be split," commented one art expert. "It's clearly a group of agitated people collected around the campanile with a variety of issues. We're not sure if they're being honored or insulted."

Local police departments were relieved to know their inability to move the group along was not their fault.

"We tried everything to move them away from the freeway," admitted one police officer. "We have some new crowd control equipment and we were concerned that it was somehow defective."

Carol Brighton, curator of the Addison Street Windows Gallery, admitted that

her recent censorship of the Addison Street gallery windows was probably the inspiration for the censorship of the protest sculpture's signs, which have had all content excised from them.

"Protestors are a fact of life here in Berkeley," she sighed. "But out here in the open we have to have a concern about children being potentially exposed to rude ideas which may interfere with nap time."

Napping children supported the decision by waving their milk cartons in delighted approval.

Art critics agreed, noting that while Bay Area protestors were notable for the creativity and wit of their written sentiments, there was nothing to stop them from annoying napping children.

"We owe Carol Brighton a debt of thanks," stated one critic. "I think now we all sleep better."

* * * * *

Henry Paulson Holiday Ornaments *Now on Sale!*



THESE UNUSUALLY TRANQUIL protesters were discovered to be a sculpture by local birdwatchers who noticed that they hadn't moved in months.



Paulson Changes Mind on Bailout

Announces Decision to Bail Out Bathtubs, Rowboats, and Plastic Baby Pools

By Burton D. Hand

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson rejected his original plan to buy worthless stocks on behalf of the American people, then rejected a second plan in favor of bailing out small plastic pool toys, canoes, and other items, confusing those who mistakenly thought he had some idea of what he was up to.

"We understand now," offered one taxpayer who was watching as the bank padlocked the front door of his repossessed home. "He's doing what we're all doing right now - trying to find something he can actually accomplish that will represent something positive in a very dark time."

"I would have preferred to have my savings back, or a loan so I could re-finance," stated one business owner. "But I know Paulson must be feeling the pressure right now, and need to do something he can point to as the last of the air runs out of the Bush administration's tires."

Paulson had a lot of explanations for his complete reversal of policy direction, which included the suggestion that Neptune in Aquarius's shift into forward motion would presage an extreme financial shift in either one direction or the other, as he explained to the



TREASURY SECRETARY HENRY PAULSON tried to remember which way he was going on November 18th when he testified before the House Financial Services Committee about his new idea of bailing out plastic baby pools and bathtubs.

House Financial Services Committee on November 18th, 2008.

"An emphasis on capital seems to us a better strategy," he said at the hearing. "When the situation changed, we changed the strategy. We didn't implement a flawed strategy."

The rowboat and bathtub strategy met with the same confusion from Wall Street and congressional leaders as did his earlier reversal.

"At least we know he's open to changing course," offered one struggling auto giant standing in line for a bailout. "We're hoping to hang onto the corpo-

rate jet, so if it looks good for rowboats, we'll have some excuse to use the shiny paper in our annual report."

Critics agreed that Paulson's frequent changing of course and backtracking on earlier declarations has a depressing effect on consumer and investor confidence, but tried gamely to look on the bright side.

"I wouldn't have wanted to buy up the worthless mortgage assets either," stated one investor. "I'm feeling much less embarrassed about investing in soup kitchens."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Reality tv.

I'm shocked, shocked to discover there's gambling going on in here!



Greenspan takes refuge in the classics.

C. Demmey

Post-election Fifth Grade Essay Assignments from "Red" States

Collected by Henrietta Sandwich

While "blue" states celebrate the change to a Democratic administration, elementary classrooms in "red" states are having a far different experience.

"We always prayed for the President in our classroom every morning," commented one elementary school teacher, "but now we're starting to see the point of separating church and state."

Staff writer Henrietta Sandwich visited several Republican strongholds across the nation to find out how public school teachers were assisting their young students in adjusting to the expected political changes by encouraging them to write expressive essays on a variety of topics.

"We have an obligation to help them put their disappointment in perspective, and assist them in planning for the next four years," explained one teacher. "We play a large role in their lives, and we want to make sure they're prepared."

Sample essay topics include:

"Why Obama's Election Is the End of the World"

"What to Wear for the End of Days"

"Why the Democrats Are in League with the Devil"

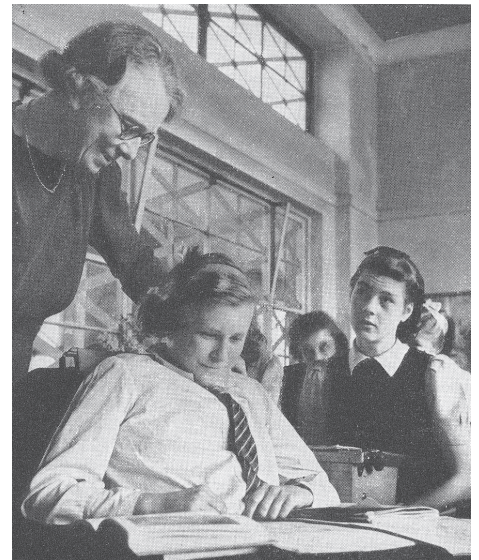
"How to Shop for Armageddon and Save"

"God's Electoral Plan for 2012"

"Why George Bush Was the Best President We've Ever Had"

"Why Obama Can Never Truly Represent Me"

Weapons of Choice for Your Bomb Shelter"



TEACHERS ARE WORKING hard to help young students come to terms with the historic election results.

"How Signs in the Bible Predicted the Election"

"Why Our State Did the Right Thing"

Prizewinning essay writers will win an opportunity to design the next Sarah Palin doll outfit.

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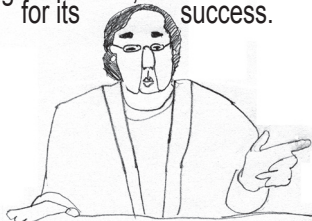
Next Issue: Spitting Olive Pits with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

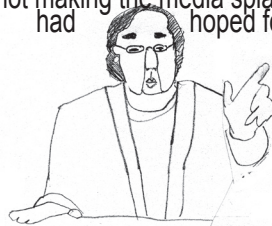
by Nathan Undergod

ZENOPHOBIA CONFRONTS DIFFICULTY AT THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY..

We consulted astrological charts about our new word, 'greenotious', and lit incense for its success.

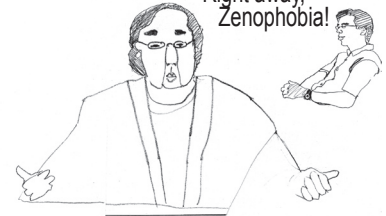


We chose a numerologically auspicious date for its launch, but we're not making the media splash we had hoped for.



Find me somebody to fire.

Right away, Zenophobia!



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



Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenny@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Staff.....Athena Light, Bridget Highwater,
Lena Deeter, Axel Fall, Burton d. Hand, Franz
Toast, Henrietta Sandwich, Nathan Undergod



Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants, best exemplified by...

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

*Henry VI Part 2