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Pepper Spray

...or P.S.T...

Times

November 2006



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

"...This world to me is as a lasting storm"*

Vol. VIII No. 11

ARCTIC ICE MELTING; POLAR BEARS MARCH ON WASHINGTON

By Frasier Bunnzoff

Polar bears by the hundreds marched on Washington last week to highlight opposition to what they consider to be political inaction on the issue of global warming, which is still considered a liberal myth by the Bush administration, which enjoys a balmy day.

"We would have been here sooner," stated the spokesperson for the polar bears, "but we rarely travel, and lots of our group couldn't bear the idea of traveling without shampoo."

Critics argued that the bear have waited too long, and have run the risk that the current rate of global warming is scientifically unstoppable at the present rate of thawing.

"We know," responded the spokesperson. "We've been building boats."



GRIZZLY BEARS refused to accompany the polar bears on the march in a partisan show of pique.

The spokesperson for the polar bears added that they had spent considerable time trying to encourage other species to join them on the journey, but had had little success.

"It was very discouraging, but most of them feel the political situation is hopeless," stated the bears' spokesperson. "The phytoplankton were especially selfish about it, and fussed a lot about the airline ticket prices."

The polar bears finally decided to go to Washington, D.C., on their own because recent reports from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., indicate that arctic ice is now melting during winter as well as sum-



POLAR BEARS ARE REALLY just a bunch of whiners since hardly any of them bother to actually vote in municipal or national elections.

mer, which will have "profound effects on all life in the Arctic and other consequences around the world," according to Josefino Comiso, a research scientist at the Center.

"Marine mammals wanted to be here, too," stated the polar bears' spokesperson, "but it's hard to arrange childcare, and some of them had tickets to the baseball playoffs."

"Global warming is really at a crisis point," added the spokesperson, "but so is baseball."

In related news, biologists and researchers are noticing that more polar bears are showing up in Inuit communities in the Arctic looking for food.

"They're probably hungrier and afraid of being stranded on a retreating floe, said NASA researcher Claire Parkinson, noting that the weight of adult females has dropped, as has the 18 other populations in the Arctic.

"We do work out," stated the polar bears' spokesperson proudly. "But it is getting tougher to get the choice cuts we used to get. On the other hand, we never have had good, fresh produce. We hope we can stop the ice melting, but our fallback plan involves some Mediterranean coastal real estate."

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SECURITY FISH point out that they were drafted into the war on terror, and prefer blowing bubbles.

BLUEGILL SECURITY FISH REJECT MILITARY MISSION

By Warren Shoes

Bluegill fish drafted against their will into the local war on terror held a rally recently objecting to their military assignment, which they considered at odds with their essentially sensitive, peaceful nature.

"The world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism," stated one of the fish. "And then there's the obvious privacy intrusion, the questionable nature of the current foreign and domestic security policy, and, of course, the extremely ill-fitting uniforms."

The fish are being monitored 24 hours a day by the Public Utilities Commission, which is listening for phenomena such as fish coughs in order to determine if the fish are upset, something the bluegill consider a ludicrous measurement of any potential security threat.

"We're upset alright," stated one of the bluegill. "Of course we're upset. They're assuming it's because there's a toxin in our water. But, come on, we're upset by the efforts to redefine Article Three of the Geneva Convention, not to mention the Constitution. We are very sensitive bunch of fish. We pay attention to national issues. And darn it, we're not cut out for army life."

"We're also upset about tv's fall lineup," added another fish. "Really, really upset."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, do I have to vote? I mean really? Does voting actually do any good? Can't I just sit on the sidelines and grouse?

A: Dear reader, nobody *has* to vote. But the majority of people who vote, oddly, are rabidly in favor of the status quo. So if *you* are wildly in favor of the status quo, by all means leave that big group that actually does vote completely undiluted by your arguably puny little vote. May I suggest voting at home with some excellent Scotch. You will still be free to sit around and grouse.

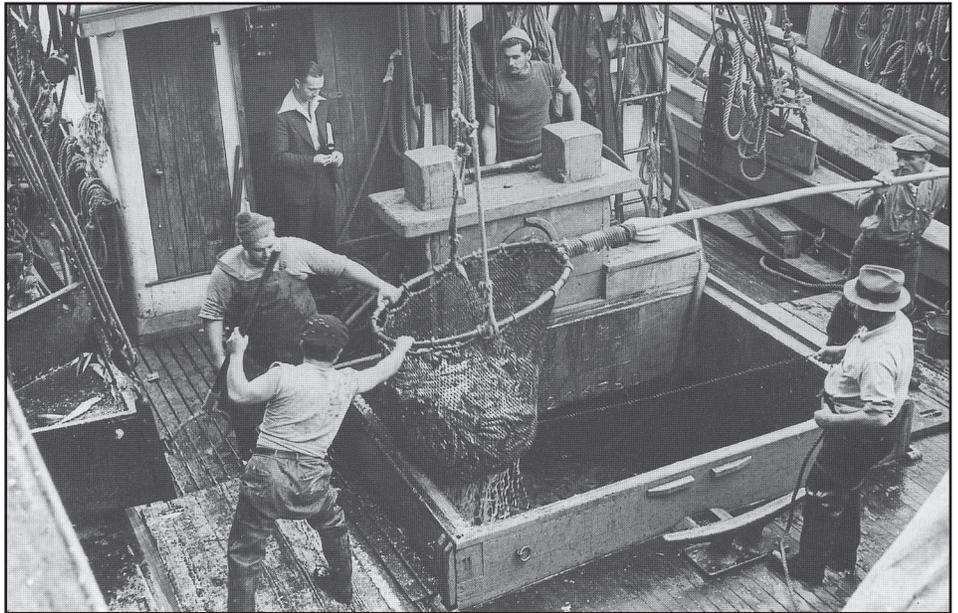
Q: Dear Lena, the Berkeley City Council voted again to let the rich people in the hills avoid street sweeping, with all the tickets and the moving your car hassles. What is the deal here?

A: Dear reader, rich people are just too busy, as the Berkeley City Council knows. Poor people sit around scratching themselves, and have plenty of time to move their cars from one side of the road to the other. Rich people, on the other hand, are attentively watching the stock market and making important decisions.

Q: Dear Lena, how does Jerry Brown have the nerve to run for state attorney general when the homicide rate in Oakland is skyrocketing? Has he gone mental or what?

A: Dear reader, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown's most obvious attribute is his ability to be oblivious to whatever is right under his feet. Try your best to be kind.

Ask Lena anything! She is an expert. Write or mail her, and she will give you actual expert advice.



MUTILATED, DYING STARFISH littered the Hyde Street Pier recently causing such a serious threat to public safety that the Department of Homeland Security may take over the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park for good.

STARFISH RACE CALLED UNSAFE

By Jonah Vark

The organizers of the Festival of the Sea at the Hyde Street Pier were strongly criticized by regulatory agencies overwhelmed by complaints about the Starfish Grand Prix, one of the Festival's newest events.

"There was some kind of disturbance," acknowledged Police Chief Heather Fong. "It took several officers to restore calm."

The Festival of the Sea, which features boat-building, historical tours, music, and food all celebrating the waterfront and its history has enlisted as much volunteer assistance as possible in an effort to counter budget cutbacks.

"The starfish offered to help," stated one park service staff member, "and we accepted. They organized the whole thing, so we're not sure what their original concept was."

"It wasn't pretty," observed another park service staff member grimly. "Starfish were all over the place, some of them horribly disfigured. People were skidding on starfish, falling into each other, and a couple of them almost went off the pier. We have a responsibility to keep people safe. We had no idea the starfish had such a wild, reckless streak."

"Starfish are slow," pointed out a spokesperson for the starfish's racing organization, "but they are adventurous. The boundary lines on the inside lanes were poorly marked, and some of them were headed for the museum. We

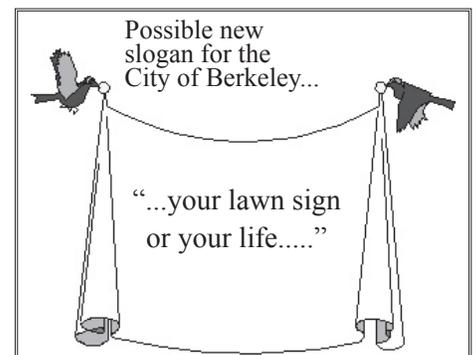
had a couple dozen participants who strayed off the course and had unfortunate accidents. We're in the process of notifying their families."

"We thought at first they were trying to spell out something," commented one tourist from Kansas City, standing in line for a cable car souvenir. "We didn't realize it was a race until we noticed the stripes on the side with the little numbers. We enjoyed it. We would love to know who won."

"It was difficult to determine the winner," stated one of the San Francisco National Maritime Historical Park staff members. "It wasn't exactly a photo finish, but there were a lot of procedural irregularities. We ruled it a draw between all participants."

"We're glad it's over," added another staff member, picking up wayward starfish from behind the displays. "Now we're just trying to get them to go home."

* * * * *





POPE BENEDICT XVI can't seem to get anything right, despite being infallible.

APOLOGY PROVES POPE'S FALLIBILITY; *Catholic Church in Chaos*

*Catholics Don Muslim
Attire to Avoid
Persecution, Death*

By Guinevere Rightoff-Deroad

VATICAN CITY -- Religious leaders worldwide continue to fumble for a solution to the crisis over remarks made by Pope Benedict XVI, which implied that the Islamic religion was violent in nature.

An al Qaeda group in Egypt, insulted by the implication that they are in any way violent, promptly declared war on "worshippers of the cross."

The pope declared himself to be "deeply sorry" for the reaction his remarks caused -- but stopped short of apologizing for his specific words, pointing out that any actual apology would imply his own fallibility, and send the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics into a crisis of faith.

"It's awkward," he stated. "I know it sounds a little over-the-top, but I'm technically perfect."

Critics pointed out that the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics were at serious risk as a consequence of the pope's remarks, which have left a wake of burned churches and at least one death, that of a Catholic nun who was murdered in Somalia, but the pope insisted that death for a Catholic nun was actually a piece of cake.

"Nuns get the best seats in heaven," he stated. "Nuns end up doing God's laundry. It's one of the cushiest jobs there."

* * * * *



BEFORE: CABRINI-GREEN development, built in 1942 by the Chicago Housing Authority, has become synonymous with crime, blight, poverty, and egregiously bad planning.



AFTER: BERKELEY'S VAST improvement on the mistakes of Cabrini-Green are obvious in this celebrated downtown building designed by Patrick Kennedy, now full of rich rather than poor people.

EXPERTS ON DOWNTOWN PLANNING DISCUSS YET ANOTHER NEW PLAN

By Nona D. Above

"It happens every seven to ten years," yawned one of a street-based panel of experts on actual downtown dynamics



One of our panel of experts and his emission-free vehicle.

asked to comment on the Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee's findings for re-designing downtown Berkeley. "The politicians hemorrhage money toward some planning group they can blame later, and then do whatever they or the developers want to do anyway."

"They probably mean well," stated another of the panel hesitantly. "But it's hard for them to know what's really happening downtown, since they don't live here. People who live here can assure you that parking gas-powered vehicles is difficult, but not nearly as difficult as parking carts, bikes, or other emission-free vehicles, which get hauled away and trash-compacted."



"They're just satisfying some legal requirement," commented another downtown resident wryly. "Almost none of them could afford what's about to be built down here. The whole downtown is being planning around a population

that hasn't gotten here yet."



Another expert counseled patience, since fads in planning pass quickly.

"They sound pretty funny whining about not being able to find a 'sense of place'," laughed another. "Our sense of place doesn't happen until around 11:00 pm. But they're always welcome to come and share it with us."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics

by Roger Dondis and Grace Underpressure





by Peter Kasin

The first annual Blitherscrum traditional Music festival will be held December 18th through the 22nd in the old barn at Avon On Calling, Blitherscrum County. The lineup promises one of the world's premiere folk festivals. Camping available: Contact Yosemite National Park. No camping at this festival, though. Appearing:

PEAT MOSSER: One of the original Alcatraz singers, later of The Wheathins, still playing his patented 5-string triangle.

VELVEETA: Soulful, heartfelt, sincere songs, with a powerful voice, great stage presence, and an unostentatious, unfettered, superfluous, unmitigated, muti-rendered, many-textured circumferensive, emulsitative, emonizingly unsaturated pelsifier.

LA DERRIERE SOURIANT: High energy kick-ass music from Quebec.

THE BRACKISH FAMILY: Dublin's famed siblings.

THE CHEFTAINS: Irish music cooked to order.

THE MISKAYT SHIKERS, with guest NIBEKH PUPIK, Clarinet: Old-world Klezmer music from Iceland.

GRAVLAX: Loose quartet of regular

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Liar For Hire

The public relations industry gives deadly corporations a clean green image, good press, never mind the mess. They turn environmentalists into factory closers, bicyclists into traffic problems, and toxic sludge into fertilizer for food crops. **They should be prosecuted and sentenced in proportion to the harm they conceal.**

singers from Oslo, Norway's Uff Da Folk Club.

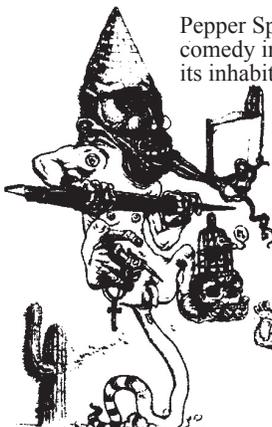
THE ROYAL PAYNES: The Duke of Numbchester Nigel Payne's family band, featuring accordion, bagpipes, spoons and bombarde.

THE INCREDIBLE STRING CHEESE: Reunion of this sixties icon band.

Tickets available through speeding and parking violations, or by contacting the festival office at www.wwwdot.com/org.gov.

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Next issue, Frailing with Celebrities



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.

* Pericles