

All hail the...

...the bail out issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

October 2008



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

"..the bug which you would fright me with I seek...."*

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Republican Negotiations with God Collapse; Wall Street Crumbles

More Women Than Ever Think Motherhood Sucks, Census Finds

By Eve Hoe



REGULATORS ARE BAFFLED at the destruction of Wall Street, and can't find any clues as to who ran off with all the money.

By Eugene Yuss

Beachcombers wandered through Wall Street's shattered storefronts this week, picking over collapsed pieces of buildings that once commanded the world's economy.

"Privatize profits and nationalize losses," mumbled one disheveled stockbroker stumbling out of the broken remains of a boarded-up bank.

"Spare change?" asked a panhandler, attracted to the area upon hearing about the large government bailouts to the billion dollar economic losers, only to be firmly told that unless they were part of the banking or insurance system they were out of luck.

"No problem," responded the panhandler. "And if you need a hand, let me know."

Republicans met in intense negotia-

tions with God hoping to postpone the economic debacle until after the election, but exited the board room in disappointment.

"It's not like the public's paying attention," pointed out the Almighty. "I'm guessing the election will be more likely to turn on the lipstick thing."

Financial experts shrugged when asked where all the money went.

"I don't have it, Joe - do you?" responded one expert, turning out his pockets. "We can't figure it out."

"It's probably like the weapons of mass destruction thing," offered another expert. "Wall Street was a shell game, too. It just costs a little more than the war."

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A new census bureau report confirms that more woman than ever are avoiding having children.

"Especially smart women," said Jane Lawler Dye, a census bureau researcher who compiled the report.

The report notes that women with advanced degrees are less likely to have children than women with high school educations, and for some inexplicable reason, much more likely to read books.

Critics scoffed at the report, which did not take into account that the men women encounter in higher education were on the whole much less attractive than high school males, and were probably too full of themselves to notice there was a woman in the room in the first place.

"They have a point," commented Ms. Dye. "I went to college and it's really true."

Ms. Dye added, however, that other factors were contributing to the increasing childlessness of the American female, such as children being such an incredible pain in the butt.

"Just try keeping them quiet at the theater, or trying to stop them from grabbing at the candy in the check-out line," stated Dye. "I'd like to strangle most of them."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I just watched the Republican convention, and I'm questioning all my values right now. Where can I pick up a pregnant daughter? I could use some support.

Dear reader, the Republican administration plans to offer everyone a pregnant Republican daughter along with a hefty tax cut.

Dear Lena, I'm not sure I want Sarah Palin as a vice president, with her shooting moose and all. Should I write a letter?

Dear reader, go ahead and write it, but don't mail it. Sarah Palin is kind of touchy, and while having a vice president who likes guns is traditional, she's a much better shot than Cheney.

Dear Lena, should I insist on a paper ballot? I don't want to seem fussy.

Dear reader, you *are* fussy. Most people waltz out of the voting booth and don't care whether their vote takes or not. They could have voted for Miss Congeniality for all they know. Insist on a paper ballot if you like, but you need to take yoga before you start to annoy your neighbors.

Dear Lena, I want to sell my soul. I don't think it's doing me any good, and I cry too much at movies. How much should I charge?

Dear reader, try to keep it just under some big, round number, like \$299.99 or \$34.99. The market is saturated right now, so you might want to make it a package, and sell your mother, too.

Ask Lena for advice about elections, recipes, snow tires, and blueprints at cdenney@igc.org.

BEE DISAPPEARANCE EXPLAINED

"We're Just Sick of the Election"

By Bea Fuddled

A tedious, litigious environmental group filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for refusing to divulge private corporate information about bees' exposure to pesticides.

The bees, meanwhile, issued a press release from an undisclosed location.



THIS BEE insists that the election stories, including the arrest of Amy Goodman, are just not as interesting as the networks seem to think.

"We couldn't take it," state one spokesbee. "The pesticides were hard on us, but the election coverage was too much."

"Our cell phones wouldn't stop ringing and we kept getting ads," com-

plained another spokesbee. "We finally got a huge stack of videos and DVDs, and we're here for the duration."

The bees refused to disclose their location, revealing only that bees nationwide had convened in a place where no polling agency or political action committee could find them.

Millions of honeybees have disappeared in recent years, and the annoying people at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) want to see the studies required of Bayer CropScience by the EPA when it approved the use of the pesticide.

Clothianidin, which is used to coat corn, sugar beet and sorghum seeds and is part of a new class of pesticides called neonicotinoids.

The suit by the NRDC asks for studies on chronic exposure to honeybees, including a complete worker bee life-cycle study as well as an evaluation of exposure and effects to the queen.

"That's nice," commented the spokesbee. "Good luck with that. We'll see you in late November."

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NOTICE OF IMMEDIATE EXCLUSION ISSUED TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA *Mother Nature Kind of Ticked Off*

By Jonah DeCrowd

The University of California was issued a "stay-away" order excluding it from any natural landscape for a period of up to a year on pain of fine, imprisonment, or serious satirical assault.

Mother Nature, the source of the injunction, explained that her patience was exhausted.

"They had all kinds of options besides clear-cutting the grove near the stadium," she explained. "Passing on paying their staff honestly or on providing a quality undergraduate education has meant they have plenty of money to buy up land. Don't look at the map of the long range development plan without a stiff drink in one hand."

UC's legal department acknowledged

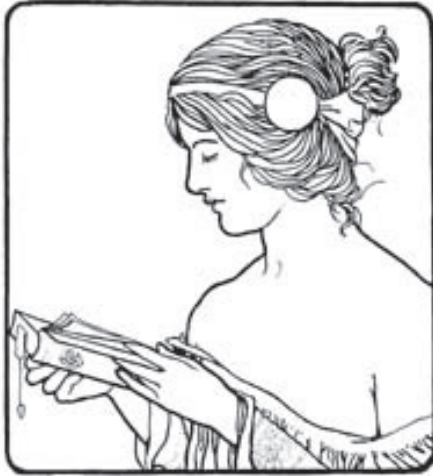
that they had quite a few options for the placement of the proposed athletic high performance center, but that the tree-sitters had pissed them off, and working cooperatively with the neighborhood would have set a bad precedent.

"Strawberry Canyon comes next," stated one UC attorney. "Mother Nature's injunction doesn't worry us much. She always looks kind of wacky in court with her flowers in the hair and all. We usually win."

"But not always," observed local professor Ignacio Chapela.

"I know I look foolish in court," mused Mother Nature. "But I do have a way with that Hayward Fault."

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Ten Easy Ways for Your Candidate to Snuggle Up to the Religious Right

1. Between the beanie and the boater be sure to tell your candidate to wear the crown of thorns from time to time, and you'll get nods of appreciation both from Christian fundamentalists and sado-masochists, who often vote alike.
2. Have your candidate learn to make the sign of the cross. Even non-religious people are moved by this gesture, and it will reassure the deeply religious that you are ridden with ridiculous ritual superstitions.
3. Have your candidate sit around and trade jokes with the pope. The pope has a tight schedule, so this will impress people who think the pope is almost like god and also impress really busy people all over the planet.
4. Try to get your candidate to walk on water. This is not easy to do, but you'll notice the special effects departments of lots of movie productions have done it, and for a price they can help you out. You can really snare some votes with a trick like this.
5. Try to iron an image of Jesus's face into some toast and slip it onto your candidate's plate in some rural diner on the campaign trail. Cue your candidate to cross himself or herself (see 2. above) and to go into a brief moment of photogenic devotion, then get out quickly before the place becomes a shrine.
6. Get your candidate to go to church. Tell your candidate it's okay to sleep, play cards in the choir loft, or have a tryst in the crying room, but just make sure they're awake for the coffee and pie after the sermon and be sure to get a good picture of the handshake with the pastor.
7. Teach your candidate to sing "Washed in the Blood of the Lamb" without rolling his or her eyes. Truly religious people are immune from the ridiculous lyrics of religious hymns, and sing this stuff without blinking. Work on "Washed in the Blood" and if he or she can get through that, start on "Though In The Outward Church Below."
8. Get your candidate to walk around with a copy of the Bible, the Koran, or the Kabbalah under his or her arm. Have these books sitting casually on the edge of his or her desk, or in a stack of reading as your candidate boards a plane. Be sure to round out the stack with something by Darwin or Dawkins.
9. Try to get your candidate's lighting to suggest a halo just over his or her head. Lighting really does matter, and your special effects department which was so good at the walking on water stuff (see 4. above) is also good at this useful technique, which the religious find very inspiring.
10. Try to get your candidate to pray. No audible words are necessary, just a pious look, downcast eyes, and a slight smile afterwards as though god just slipped them the lottery numbers.

Inquiring Minds Ask:

How should Russia be punished for invading Georgia?

By Lisa Small-Flatt

1. Threaten to send Oprah next time in stead of Condoleezza.
2. Write "I will not capitalize on U.S. stupidity" 100 times on blackboard.
3. Paint their tanks pink.
4. More ruthless ethnic caricatures in Disney films.
5. No more pirated DVDs of Baywatch reruns.
6. Threaten to have Lin Miaoke lip-sync all official Russian announcements.
7. Send Putin on a hunting trip with Cheney.
8. Force them to watch the new fall television line-up.
9. Threaten Putin with an Angela Merkel-style neck massage.
10. Election coverage – more, and then still more election coverage.

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We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Local and Federal Police Clean Up Long Haul For Free

By Ling Guerraround

Local activists marveled at the sparkling condition of the Long Haul, a decades-old center for volunteer community projects, after local and federal police agencies gave it a thorough scrubbing purely out of the goodness of

their hearts. "I haven't seen this countertop in a long time," admitted one local organizer. "I'll miss the computer, but the feng shui is perfect without all the clutter." Critics of the computer removal ac-

knowledged that the police had reduced the Long Haul's carbon footprint.

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Next Issue: Speed Dialing with Celebrities



CELL PHONE companies are betting consumers want some spiritual guidance at Christmas time, as well as spiritually inspired gift suggestions for Uncle Larry and Aunt Lulu.

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



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best exemplified by...



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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

*Venus and Adonis