

...the
berry pie
issue ...



All hail the powerful...

Pepper Spray Times

October 2012



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

"talk thy tongue weary; speak..."*

Vol. XIV No. 10

Arctic's Sea Ice Not Trying Hard Enough

by Plato Radishes

The arctic sea's new record low is due to severe depression, according to British Antarctic Survey (BAS) researchers' published findings.

"We're recommending medication, which has proved valuable in extreme circumstances such as these," commented BAS Director Professor Ed Hill. "It's risky, of course, but we plan to monitor the sea ice's mental health closely and play soothing music during the course of treatment."

The University of Colorado National Snow and Ice Data Center states that depressed or not, arctic sea ice is on track to decline even further in the next two weeks as an inevitable consequence of the relentless amount of verbiage generated by the November election unless somebody gets busy and takes it to the



GENETICALLY MODIFIED ICE CUBES will be much better adapted for a changing climate and the challenges of a warmer, more modern world.

"We'll get used to it," stated one science writer with resignation. "We'll all get those shoes that they wear on raft trips. We can do that."

not sure hitting the circus is going to do the trick."

The last minimum sea-ice record of 1.61 million square miles was set in September 2007,

but climate change deniers point out that the weather changes all the time, and that's no reason to get all panicky and let your voice go all high.

"It was really hot last week," pointed out Sammy Wilson, Northern Ireland's environment minister. "I just took off my sweater. What is the big deal."

Most science leaders agree that they couldn't stop global warming if they tried unless everybody just blew up all the planes and cars and farting cows.

"We'll get used to it," stated one science writer with resignation. "We'll all get those shoes that they wear on raft trips. We can do that."

"It's just weird times," stated BAS Science Leader Alistair Crame. "Weirder and weirder. But nothing a snow-cone or a bunch of dancing girls can't fix."

"Thinner ice has its upside," added Science Program Coordinator Adrian Jenkins. "It's a lot easier to get off your windshield in the morning."

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Arrested Pumpkin Claims Inability to Stand Up; Leads Thousands in Pumpkin Protest



THESE ANGRY PUMPKINS converged on helpless city and Downtown Berkeley Association officials to protest the anti-sitting law on the fall ballot, claiming that the law discriminates against pumpkins.

by Mason DeFace

Rolling mobs of angry pumpkins smashed through downtown recently expressing anger over the proposed anti-sitting law which they claim discriminates against pumpkins, who can neither sit nor stand.

"We can't stand it," explained one pumpkin whom police described as the "key leader" of the pumpkin protest. "We can't stand at all. We can't sit either. We're just incensed that nobody bothered to take the plight of the pumpkin



THIS PUMPKIN is apparently the ring-leader and is known for making trouble.

into account."

Policymakers hurried to explain. "We didn't take anybody into account," comforted one city hall insider. "We skipped the commissions, the public -- we pretty much dumped it on the ballot without discussion with anybody to avoid having a referendum."

"That's right," nodded another city hall staff member. "People in this town hate it when you cramp their civil rights and they get mad and then there goes your summer vacation. It's better this way. The pumpkins will get used to it eventually."

* * * * *



YOU CAN TELL this iceberg isn't really trying very hard by its slumped shoulders and expressionless pose, which probably depresses all the other icebergs around it.

local circus or hires it some dancing girls.

"It needs help, that's for sure," stated Professor Mark Serreze. "It has been melting at an unprecedented 38,600 square miles per day, and it is likely to decline even further before the ice begins to re-form. I'm really

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I love the political conventions. I love the funny hats and all the buttons. Where can I go where it's like that all the time? I want to live there!

Dear reader, come to Berkeley. There is no end to the funny buttons. Put them all over your hat and your car. No one will care.

Dear Lena, I'm trying to prepare for the election, but it's the local stuff that throws me. I fully expect to get the traditional fake mailers and door hangers at the last minute and they look so real! I really get mixed up about who endorses what and what's going on. What should I do? Do you happen to know?

Dear reader, vote absentee. You'll get your ballot weeks before the election, and you can fill it out in the bathtub with a glass of chardonnay. Then when the fake endorsements come along your vote is safely tucked away and you can have a bonfire with the stuff they hang on your door.

Dear Lena, won't I need a permit for a bonfire that big?

Dear reader, excellent idea. Invite the neighbors, grab some hotdogs, and start a tradition. It's not like doorhangers are going away. Last-minute efforts to mislead voters are the second most respected tradition left in Berkeley, right after vomiting on the lawn on game day.

Ask Lena about genetically modified toothbrushes at cdenney@jgc.org.



Dufty Points at UC Frat Houses As Model for Drunks' "Wet" House

By Heather N. Yon

Bevan Dufty, the San Francisco mayor's point person on homelessness, says that UC Berkeley's fraternities and sororities are a successful model of "wet houses" in which chronic inebriates can count on plenty of available potables and supportive staff to keep them off the street and out of expensive emergency rooms.

"It stands the test of time," Dufty pointed out after a recent tour of Berkeley's lovely old fraternities and sororities which are lavishly decorated with beer cans, kegs, and expensive wine bottles. "These drunken kids would otherwise be all over the streets tossing their cookies in people's yards."

Critics objected that the streets near frat row are in fact full of drunken kids tossing their cookies in people's yards, but conceded that having a warm bed in which to sleep it off beats huddling under the bushes around city hall.

"We support wet houses," stated one neighbor collecting beer cans out of his garden. "Circling these idiots through emergency rooms costs hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Some observers objected that police officers wouldn't have much to do if they

couldn't roust drunks and haul them off to celebrate in jail on regular occasion.

"Rouosting drunks has stood the test of time, too," commented one observer. "We should seriously consider training our police in doing crossword puzzles or teaching kids to read if we take this primary activity away."

Others agreed. "The turkey bike ride is only once a year," nodded one. But wet house supporters pointed out that the project might free up the police for going on even more turkey bike rides or perhaps an opportunity to play the oboe.

"We're thankful the fraternities and sororities of UC Berkeley have demonstrated that one can slide through life in a puddle of vomit and still maintain a "C" average," stated Dufty. "It's something we all can shoot for."

* * * * *



FRAT BOYS are a great model for permanent "wet" houses for drunks up on frat row at UC Berkeley.

Rembrandt: Annoying Beggar seated on a bank, 1630. Etching; 116 x 70; An Art Review

I'm sure this guy Rembrandt thinks he can draw. It's obvious by the worked quality of the lines, the keen folds of the fabric, the play of light on the subject's flesh, a beggar seated on a bank. But the effect overall is to draw one's eye inordinately toward the frontal pose and unadorned garb of someone who should not be seen or seated in public, forcing the viewer to be confronted by virtue of the sheer dexterity of the strokes crafting the etching. This is simply unfair.

While blessedly free of compositional complexities found in other examples of his work, the monolithic form presented here, albeit with clarity, obscures the hostile, threatening nature of simply making visible the detail of lives of the poor, a challenge thrown down before beauty, inspiration, and all that we reviewers search for. Surely there are some rich people around he could draw.

--- Luz DeKeys

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IT'S OFFENSIVE to have to see this kind of stuff with poor people in it on museum walls when we could be looking at rich people fashions or faces or nice paintings of their houses or something like that. Not to mention he looks annoyed and whatever it is it's not my fault I wrote a check to some charity once.

My Opinion, by Mathilda Wagon

Okay, I don't know the law or anything. But I have thought a lot about this anti-sitting law, and I just think it doesn't go far enough, in my opinion.

People who are sitting down can just get up, after all, and still annoy us with their holes in their jeans and weird hair. I am just sick of those people who are not really trying very hard to be well-groomed, in my opinion.

So we should make it against the law to stand up, too. Then they can't sit down and they can't stand up, either. That way the sidewalks are for moving on the way they were supposed to be in the first place, for heaven's sake. I am just sick of trying to get into a store and somebody is standing there talking away to their neighbor and I am trying to get in and get something done.

I don't like this thing where they keep talking about "services", either. What is that. People don't need services they just need to get out of the way when the rest of us need to get our errands done and get to the



WE LOVE TO HEAR from our readers whether they are well-informed or not, because after all who is? Mathilda Wagon has had a lot of opinions in her time and here is another one! And she's got a lot more, too!

The long awaited dawn of the public toilet was celebrated city-wide recently when facilities sprang up at the corner of Virginia Street and 10th without much fanfare but with welcoming arms and attitudes from city residents and local migrant workers.

"We really needed some common sense facilities down here," stated a construction worker looking for day work at the corner of Hearst and 10th. "We

store before it closes and get home and walk the dog.

Does anybody understand me? Is there anybody left around here who is normal and doesn't stand right next to the mailbox yacking their head off to some neighbor when I am trying to get things done for a change around here?

If you would just stop them from sitting down and also stop them from just standing there where they're in the way it would help a lot. I don't know about help business or anything but it would help me. And that's my opinion!

* * * * *

Public Toilet Finally Unveiled

City Council "pleased as punch!"

By Ronnie Nose

would have to walk about sixth blocks for a restroom and some people find that just too far to go," stated one day worker.

"We can't understand what the problem is," shrugged city workers who put up lots of signs signifying public toilets inside locked facilities near downtown. "Most people seem able to manage."

"Most people have homes," noted one west Berkeley resident sweeping his porch. "The leadership in this city is completely bankrupt save a handful of city councilmembers. It's a good thing the rest of us are so resilient and have mighty bladders."

* * * * *



IT TOOK YEARS to finally get a public toilet, but now that we have one we can all really feel proud.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Mayor Tom Bates likes to give everyone a fair shake, but look at this lineup of candidates all running for mayor -- isn't this a little taxing for the voters? Maybe there should be some kind of streamlining done with this system kind of like the public comment period.



After all, aren't most people on the same page about what the city needs and the stuff the city council should do? It isn't like there's anything important going on besides making sure the local developers are happy, is there? Aren't most things moving along alright?



And could everybody please remember that he apologized for stealing the newspapers that endorsed his electoral opponent last election, so could everybody get clear on that? He *apologized*, so enough already about stealing the newspapers which is, uh, old news.

Mars? Didn't We Just Do That?

By Alicia Flatt

Rob Manning, chief engineer at NASA, dug his toe into the dirt at NASA's Mars Yard in a recent interview in Pasadena and acknowledged that going back to Mars was getting kind of repetitive for the American public.

"Not to mention expensive," he nodded with some embarrassment.

The \$2.5 billion price tag, \$1 billion over its original budget, looks a little pricey to the average citizen who is out of work or underemployed and can't help but notice the effects of global warming are making it hard to buy food.

"We do think it fits into the global warming issue," stated Manning. "As we wreck this planet it will be nice to know how many weeks we might be able to sustain the lives of a half a dozen people on Mars."

The public remains somewhat dubious. "A couple weeks of life on Mars might be okay," offered one taxpayer after picking himself up off the floor at hearing the cost of the latest Mars mission. "It can't be worse than Fullerton."

The mission will feature a new robot rover named Curiosity, which spent eight and a half months flying through space to get there and now is sitting around playing



IF YOU SPENT 2.5 BILLION on something like this you'd fall in love with it and assume that everyone else would, too.

with a rock-zapping laser, a mobile organic chemistry lab, a long robotic jackhammer arm that can hammer things and stuff.

"The real challenge is keeping the public engaged," acknowledged Manning. "They've pretty much figured out that they can't live there, and they don't really want to go there. It makes it tough to scrounge up that extra billion."

Critics pointed out that schools might be the better investment before American kids forget the world is round and stuff, but Manning pointed out that science programs in schools weren't accomplishing much before the Mars mission anyway.

"At least this way they can read about it," he reasoned. "We're going to make it sound really, really exciting. That is, assuming any of them can still read."

* * * * *



PHOEBE SORGEN found herself drafted to run in District Six by, well, everybody.

Sorgen Accepts District 6 Write-in Campaign

By Laura Rope

District Six voters have an electoral choice this year thanks to Phoebe Sorgen, who, despite her commission work, volunteer work, community activism and family obligations, found she had a lot more extra time in her day if she would just agree to run for City Council.

"People keep asking me," she confessed. "I can't get through the farmers' market unless I just say yes. It's easier to just run."

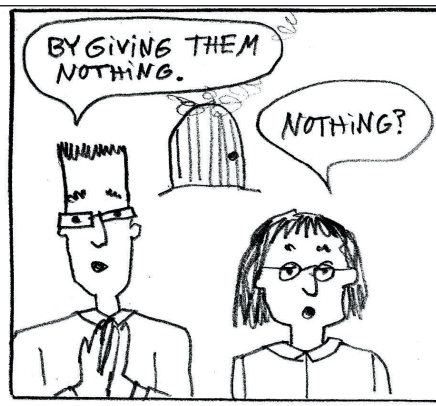
"We just want a choice," explained one voter. "The 1% is pretty well represented. We just need someone for the rest of us."

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Next Issue: Choosing Candidates with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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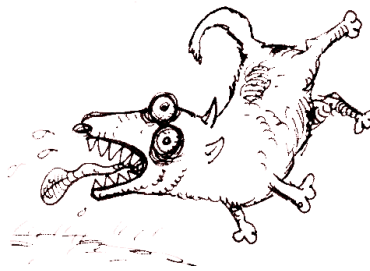


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