

All hail the...
...the cineritious issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

August 2009



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

"...There's a dish of leather-coats for you."*

Vol. XI No. 8

NASA Blows Up the Moon

By Kate Touchthat

The National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) sent up its first moon rockets in ten years in a creative effort to recapture the early glory days of space exploration and make up for the less than stellar results of its recent space projects.

"The moon is so not over," stated project manager Dan Andrews, affirming that NASA hopes to return humans to the roon by 2020. "The moon is still quite popular, as proven by its recurrence as a theme in popular songs and the part it continues to play in romance as well as the tides."



EXTRA TERRESTRIALS are entitled to wonder why we decided to blow up the moon, but NASA is figuring it will just make them want to get to know us better.

"We're new in the neighborhood," commented one critic of NASA's plan. "It's been ages since we dropped by last time, and this is no way to make ourselves welcome in the neighborhood."

"What's the point of mapping it carefully and then blowing it all up?" asked

"First we'll map the moon with great precision," added Richard Vondrak, the probes' project scientist for the orbiter. "Then we'll crash stuff into it sending up a six mile high plume of soil and rock. Little kids may not dream of being astronauts anymore, but you can bet they're going to want to watch this."

Critics argued that crashing into the moon with 5,000 pounds of dead weight at 5,600 miles per hour was, well, kind of rude.



THE MOON LOOKS A LOT LIKE TEXAS but scientists hope to find some really interesting distinctions by blowing it up.

another critic of the plan. "What if it takes a long time for the dust to settle and we can't see anything at all for a long time?"



KIDS USED TO want to be astronauts, but now they want to be hedge fund managers.

moon, which most people would agree had seemed to be a relatively peaceful neighbor for billions of years, but claimed that the opportunity to see the plume of debris was worth it.

"We're just taking precautions," stated Andrews. "Usually when stuff blows up we look bad. This time we can honestly say we planned it that way."

Critics mused that the scientific mis-

sion of finding water on the moon would seem to be compromised by the explosion, which would evaporate any water displaced by the explosion and collapse any reservoirs of water in the crater, but were dismissed by NASA's experts, who wore swimfins and snorkels in honor of the launch.

"It's important not to over think this," explained Andrews. "What really matters is that in this seemingly difficult economy, we still managed to get \$583 million to blow up the moon. My wife can finally go get that patio furniture."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, what if the moon surrenders? What if it agrees to be a colony- then can we put the explosives away and leave it the way we found it? I kind of liked it the way it was.

Dear reader, it's too late for the moon. It would be prudent for the entire planetary system to begin saying nicer things about us if they want to remain intact.

Dear Lena, the Republican Party can't keep its pants on - why don't they make the most of it? They could be the party of passion, the party of honest humility in the face of life's moments of surrender to human emotion, the party that acknowledges human frailty and embraces life and love. I would vote for that.

Dear reader, I can see that you would. Let's see how well it works for Mark Sanford.

Dear Lena, if California is printing up IOU's, then can't I print up up some of my own for my landlord? And what if my bank refuses to cash the state's IOU's?

Dear reader, I don't see why we all can't print our own IOU's at this point. And if your bank won't cash your check, what's new? Most banks stopped cashing checks even from their own branches a long time ago. On the other hand, they often offer you a cookie.

Dear Lena, what happens if we recall Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his failure to keep the state out of fiscal emergency?

Dear reader, I will check the rules, but I think we get Gray Davis back. Ask Lena for advice about make-up tips for fiscal emergencies at cdenney@igc.org.

Selfish Consumers Refuse to Spend Money; Economic Turnaround Depends on Crucial Shopping Spree

By Mona Roll

American consumers may have bought stocks this year, but really didn't spend enough on stuff like clothes, cars, and computers according to market watchers who are getting really worried that this selfish streak may threaten the fragile economy.

"They lost their jobs, but so what?" stated Josephe Battipaglia, a market strategist at Stifel Nicolaus & Co. "Who do they think is going to buy all these cars, some poor schmuck in Laos? If the car dealers can't get them off the lot, the consumers have only themselves to blame for America going straight down the tubes."

"I do blame myself," commented one consumer sheepishly. "I'm trying to find work, but both my wife and I lost our jobs and our savings went up in smoke. We feel terrible about all the cars sitting on the dealers' lots. Really, we do."

Experts agree that although consumer confidence is climbing, consumer



THIS LONELY SHOPPER is demonstrating consumer confidence, but cannot shoulder the national economic burden all by herself. Please help.

spending is pathetic despite sales all over the place like three-for-one on kitchen sponges.

"I guess you could call it saving," mused one fellow sitting by the freeway onramp. "I haven't bought much since I lost my job. But it's true I'm feeling really confident. It isn't raining and I'm not on fire."

* * * * *

Local Man Lands Job

By Turner Light-Zohn

Charles C. Miller acknowledged recently that the far-fetched rumor racing across the internet implying that he had found employment was true - he had found a job.

"We thought it was just one of those internet hoaxes," exclaimed local in Miller's hometown of San Jose. "We love the guy and all, but we figured he'd be warming up the barstool in the afternoons down at Joe's for the next three years."

"I didn't believe it at first," stated Miller. "I was walking to the Post Office and saw this sign in a window and just walked on in. I am lucky I needed stamps."

Hundreds gathered near Miller's home to see him leave for work in the morning and come home in the late afternoon, proclaiming it to be "a miracle."

"We had to see it for ourselves," said Teresa Salvado. "Sometimes we lose



THIS MAN SAYS working is bringing in more money than panhandling, contrary to popular reports in most newspapers.

hope, and this gives us something to lift our spirits."

Miller says his first paycheck will be cause for great celebration in the neighborhood.

"We plan to throw a party," he said. "We plan to put gas in the car."

* * * * *



LT. DAN CHOI and actress Cloris Leachman just can't seem to grasp that keeping qualified Arabic translators out of the military will keep us all much safer.

Gays Admit Destroying Traditional Marriage Slipping Way Down Agenda

By Yolanda Bigfish

Gays used the occasion of Gay Pride weekend to announce that their collective attack on traditional marriage had taken a back seat to other concerns.

"Getting the kids to school, to soccer, to the dentist, that sort of thing" confessed a shamefaced parent putting sunscreen on his daughter at the park. "We have lots of national goals, but destroying traditional marriage actually slipped entirely off our radar."

"We've just been so busy," agreed another parent chasing a toddler across the grass. "We meant to pay more attention to politics, but this year it was piano lessons and school plays and such. We barely have time for our friends anymore."

Critics of gay rights contend that the gay rights movement by its simple existence alone has the capacity to destabilize traditional heterosexual marriage

without any particular effort on the part of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender members of the community, news which seemed to perk up the spirits of members of those communities.

"If they're saying we don't have to lift a finger, well, that's a relief in a way," explained one lesbian juggling grocery bags while settling kids in car seats. "I don't have a minute left to take on one more thing."

"I think it was something I wanted to do when I was younger," mused one young man walking with his partner down Castro Street during one of the pride celebrations. "But mostly it was to save them from those horrendous leisure suits."

"And that hair," added his partner. "But I guess it's true that we've gotten more tolerant over the years."

* * * * *

Hiking on the Appalachian Trail Suddenly Gets Really Popular

By Shelley Getsome

Traffic is reported to be up on the Appalachian Trail, baffling experts who had predicted more "stay-cations" in this financially challenging year.

"We're pleased, of course," commented one local ranger, "but it does strain our resources a hair."



THIS TENT may seem rustic, but apparently has a lot in common with accommodations in Las Vegas.

Rangers, whose responsibility it is to keep trails and amenities in working order are having difficulty

keeping up with the demands of what appear to be a new crop of hikers interested in the great outdoors.

"They seem especially eager to experience fully everything the Appalachian Trail has to offer," observed one veteran ranger of the new enthusiasts. "We're told the Governor of South Carolina recommended the experience, and we're grateful he thought to make the suggestion."

* * * * *

Next Issue: Choosing Nail Polish with Celebrities

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



Did we run over something?

Just some more customers.

I'll break out the beer.

WELLS FARGO STRUGGLES to improve its customer service, but can't seem to ditch the habit of squeezing them for their last little dimes while pumping amplified sound into their windows hoping they'll end up too deaf to hear the roar of complaints about their fees, false advertising, and of course the amazing stories of their mortgage loans.

Rich Guy Fails In Bid to Wreck Landmark

By Elena Firetrucks

Donald and Doris Fisher have given up trying to put their expensive art collection in the Presidio, marking one of the first times a really rich guy didn't get to ruin an historic landmark just because he felt like it.

"The Presidio was perfect," stated Gap founder Fisher wistfully. "It had history, gravitas, permanence, and we wouldn't have to spend our own dough for the land. We could just take public land *and* a tax break under the guise of generosity."

Critics had objected that ruining the historic setting of the Presidio parade grounds was unacceptable, but seemed ready to re-think the deal when confronted with the Fishers' withdrawal of an offer to contribute \$10 million toward the 100,000 square-foot proposed museum full of really expensive works of art, the kind of stuff that makes rich people drool.

"We're not saying we can't be bought," quickly asserted local critics of the proposal. "We just want to be bought a little higher than the current offer."

Fisher was noncommittal about his art collection's future with the city in which he made his fortune off cheap clothing.

"I spent eight years gladhanding the stupid board of the Presidio Trust," he grouched. "If they don't want it I'm going to talk to Cleveland."

Observers noted that the only other time a rich guy didn't get what he wanted was when Berkeley citizens refused to situate the nutty blue Eino ball sculpture with David Brower crawling up the side, which finally found a home in Georgia and then self-destructed. * * * * *

The 75th Anniversary 1934-2009

West Coast Maritime Strike

San Francisco General Strike



The West Coast Maritime Strike and San Francisco General Strike helped cement the power of working people and organized labor on the West Coast. The conditions that led to this great strike are with us again today—mass unemployment, attacks on workers and flagrant union-busting. Only we, the working class, can solve these problems as the strikers did in the 1930's.

www.transportworkers.org

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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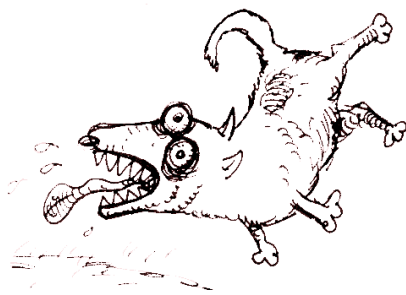


Pepper Spray Times
1970 San Pablo Ave. #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
cdenney@igc.org
www.caroldenney.com

Pepper Spray Times Staff

Editor.....Grace Underpressure
Art Director.....Egon Schiele
Comics.....Don D. Ferrera
Staff.....Kate Touchthat, Lena Deeter,
Mona Roll, Turner Light-Zohn, Yoland
Bigfish, Shelley Getsome, Franz Toast, Elena
Firetrucks, 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...



Hardly available anywhere; mailed or emailed to your door for a modest bribe. Plagiarize wildly; donations gladly accepted.

* Henry IV, Part 2

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.