

All hail the...
...the cirsoid issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

July 2009



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

"...as gentle as zephyrs blowing below the violet..*"

Vol. XI No. 7

Chevron Stockholder Meeting Finally Achieves Diversity

By Carlotta Lemons

This year's Chevron shareholders' meeting finally achieved the diversity the company had been hoping for.

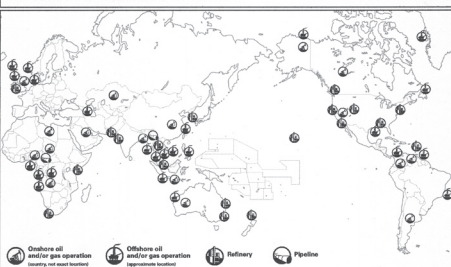
Community leaders from Kazakhstan, Ecuador, Nigeria, Burma, the Phillipines, and many more countries gathered both inside the meeting and also outside the gates in San Ramon, California, to assist Chevron's well-publicized efforts in improving its environmental record.

"We're proud to report that thanks to Chevron's work, people from all over the world have come together to share their perspectives with us," stated Chevron's CEO David O'Reilly. "We even went to the green extreme of recycling their alternative report."

"We really want to join in Chevron's effort to improve their carbon footprint", stated Mayor Gayle McLaughlin of Richmond, California. "I will try to avoid breathing the toxic air which emanates from their refinery."

"I will try not to care about Chevron's hiring of William J. Haynes as chief corporate counsel given his deep involvement in the Bush administration's torture memos," offered another protes-

CHEVRON GLOBAL OPERATIONS



CHEVRON'S REALLY BIG footprint is the subject of a huge new campaign, where earnest people lean into the camera and sincerely vow to watch their energy diet by driving less and using less and being less critical about their favorite oil company.



Chevron's toxic dumping in Ecuador causes miscarriages, birth defects and cancer. Learn more at TrueCostofChevron.com



CHEVRON'S SHAREHOLDER meeting this year finally began to reflect the global reach of its corporate interests, which made the meeting much more lively.

tor brightly. "I will try not to notice that Chevron neglected to send out a press release when they hired him."

"I will try not to remember the nearly \$70 million Chevron spent on federal lobbying," added another protestor. "I will try to forget that they spent the last decade lobbying against the idea that emissions of heat-trapping gases could lead to global warming."

"I will try to ignore the \$6.2 million Chevron spent on the recent election," noted another protestor. "I will try to imagine that the legislators who got the money were completely unaffected by the generosity of Chevron's largesse."

Critics argue that Chevron only spent at best less than three percent of its capital and exploratory budget on green energy in 2008, so that its pose as

working on alternative energy sources was a public relations scam, but were quickly dismissed by shareholders.

"\$24 billion in profits," commented one shareholder breathlessly. "This is said to be a tough economy in which to make money, right? \$24 billion in profits says something's going right for me around here."

"Me, too," chimed in another shareholder. "My General Electric returns were pretty impressive, but Chevron's 2008 report makes it the most profitable corporation in the United States. And we're just really lucky that neither of us live in Richmond."

* * * * *



CHEVRON'S meetings usually have a lot of entertainment value, but this year's meeting was the very best..



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I've just been told that my fruit trees need a permit. Are they kidding?

Dear reader, it's scofflaws like you who are bankrupting the economy. Imagine what the tax base would look like if all these fruit trees would pony up, not to mention the manque tomatoes, which could be taxed on the basis of weight, or given more or less restrictive permits depending on the season, kind of like permits for ducks or deer. Don't think for a minute you'll get away with it - the city of Berkeley is definitely watching.

Dear Lena, isn't it time to tax the rich? I'm not sure there's going to be much future in taxing the unemployed, and almost everybody but the rich is already in jail. It was a good plan at one point, but isn't it time for a new plan?

Dear reader, the rich are happy to step off the yacht from time to time to double as prison guards, so the classic California plan, like Classic Coke, still has legs. Policymakers have yet to really put the best spin on the next twenty years, where a majority of the population will in fact be in jail, but also becomes available as a workforce for politically cooperative industries. That voice at the other end of the technical support line may someday be closer than you think.

Dear Lena, so what comes after the newspapers are gone?

Dear reader, look forward to the resurgence of classic cave painting.

Ask Lena for advice about techniques for taming vicious garden produce at cdenney@igc.org.

Fed Survey Sees Signs Recession Is Easing



ECONOMIC ANALYSTS are really stoked that the economy is moving at all.

By Denice B. Knocking

The Federal Reserve has announced that it sees specific signs that instead of the economic freefall of the last few months, the economy is now tumbling downhill while smashing into things, which is really "moderating" its fall.

"It's a good thing," stated one Federal Reserve officer. "Before it was like watching a rock go down a hole. Now it's like watching a car careen off a cliff where it crashes over and over and over again. It loses wheels and explodes in flames and stuff but it is actually technically going slower."

The survey is consistent with observations made by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke that instead of looking like a cat crossing the freeway at rush hour, the economy now looks like a guy swimming through shark-infested waters who has only lost two limbs and is still sort of technically conscious.

The recession, which started in December of 2007 and is now the longest since World War II, is marked by little signs of recovery as precious as tiny spring bulbs on a green hillside, such as the relatively small number of suicides considering the amount of people who have lost jobs and fortunes in the last couple of years and have torn out their hair.

Many economists predict that rather than sinking at the pace of a steel anchor in a calm sea, the economy is now sinking at a pace of between one and three percent in the current quarter, which is more like the way a coin sinks the way it flips around a little as it goes

inevitably further and further down.

If analysts are correct, that would mean that rather than plummeting like a dead duck, the economy is now spiraling more like a dying seagull with just enough flap left to slightly alter its trajectory before it finally falls in the dust and lies there like a phone book.

"It's a good thing," stated one analyst looking up hopefully from his statistical analysis of beachcombers after the latest high tide. "It may not look like a good thing, but that's only because things are so bad right now that a really bad thing is kind of looking like a good thing if it just doesn't look like the worst thing and only looks like the next to the worst thing."

The nation's unemployment rate jumped to 9.4 percent in May, even as job losses slowed considerably, the government reported last week, which is actually a good thing if you've been bailed out and your job is just to report this stuff about other people and point out in a tepid tone that stuff like this keeps inflation from soaring. Even if the recession ends this year, the recovery will be so moribund that people will kick its shoes as it lies in the doorway and ask it if it could please just move along. Analysts are predicting the jobless rate could top ten percent next year but remind everybody that if you're an analyst, you'll still probably have health coverage and have to go to the stupid retreat because unlike everybody else, you will still have a job.

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BERKELEY DEDICATES ITSELF TO STAMPING OUT GARDENING AND OFFENSIVE FRUIT TREES

By Amal Overitt

Nobody works harder than the City of Berkeley to make sure offensive fruit trees and garden conspiracies are kept in their place and hopefully, someday, stamped out entirely.

Gregory Daniel, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Berkeley, was proud to acknowledge the recent report that he had threatened local resident Asa Dodsworth with a \$500 a day fine for flagrantly nurturing unpermitted fruit trees and vegetable gardens in locations which require permits to harbor other than nice, quiet, conventional green lawns.



TINY GARDENS like this one would grow into monstrous farms if the City of Berkeley didn't use a firm hand and a draconian system of permits to keep them in their place.

tal experts working with BP, the new corporate entity controlling a portion of the proprietary research on the University of California (UC) at Berkeley campus.

City staff affirmed the potential danger, pointing out that without proper

pruning, water, and maintenance, fruit trees can safely be predicted to grow and grow and possibly take over and even run for office.

"Try to imagine one of our typical councilmembers having to run against



IF YOU SEE these creepy things anywhere near you or your family you should run for the hills.

a lot of support in the current climate."

Daniel admitted that code enforcement is difficult, since fruit trees, when arrested, rarely give up their sources.

"We've even tried the enhanced techniques," stated Daniel. "They won't even give up their genus."

Dodsworth and his supporters vow to start gardens and plant fruit trees all across the East Bay, apparently unwilling to acknowledge the extreme danger to the community and great expense of having to pick, peel, pickle, can, dice, slice, and deal with the avalanche of fruits and vegetables they create in their wake.

"It's irresponsible," stated one city staff code enforcement officer. "You ticket and ticket these fruit trees, and

a tree," sighed Daniel.

"Trees tend to be much more discreet

about their conflicts of interest, and have



THIS PHOTO PROVES that food farming is a destructive practice which needs to be replaced with fuel farming, preferably situated either in Strawberry Canyon or in some third world country without good press coverage.

they never show up in court and there they are the next week standing around dropping sticky fruit all over cars and streets like they just don't care."



BENIGN depictions of fruit pickers disguise the serious damage fruit can do without serious supervision.

Fruit tree and vegetable supporters admit the vegetation is uncommunicative and tend to be unwilling to attend public meetings or respond to ordinances targeting their behavior.

"It's just like fliers and posters," state Daniel disgustedly. "The more you try to outlaw them the more they keep coming back like a bad seed."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



EVERYBODY IS ON BOARD the trouble free conversion to HDTV, which has gone so smoothly that 5/8 ⊕ 5/8 F-R R s 2/5 1 3/6 R s Pt.

The Brighter Side of Potholes

By Boris A. Glass

Potholes may be gaining the upper hand due to economic constraints on street maintenance, but policymakers are beginning to recognize that as potholes proliferate, they bring with them their own unique set of advantages.

"They slow traffic," stated one East Bay traffic engineer. "The traffic circles don't slow traffic, the posted signs don't slow traffic, but those potholes really do the trick."

"They sell tires," affirmed one local tire dealer. "People know they need to replace their tires at certain stages of a tire's life, but they just don't get around to it what with losing their homes on their minds and all. The potholes tend to make the situation clear."

"They save fuel," contributed one economist watching cars thread carefully through the potholes on one local roadway. "People learn the hard way that if they want to get to their destina-



POTHOLES have their charms, as people with the closest relationships to them in West Berkeley can affirm.

tion with their tires intact they have to take it slowly, and slower speeds save a lot of fuel in both new and old engines."

"They keep drivers alert," noted one local police officer. "Most drivers have every amenity, including the cupholder with their breakfast drink, their favorite music, and their communication devices distracting them. The potholes bring

them back to a sense of actually being on the road."

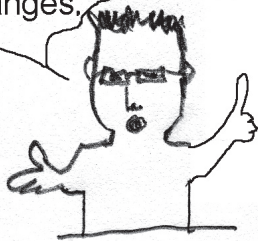
Spokespersons for the potholes acknowledged the general benefits, but stated their purpose more simply, saying only that they were saving lives.

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Next Issue: Jousting with the Children of Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod

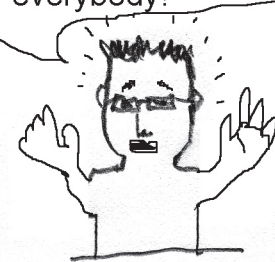
The economy is forcing us to tighten our belts. We have to make some changes.



You...you mean we don't get the new iPhones?



Of course we do! I didn't mean to scare everybody!



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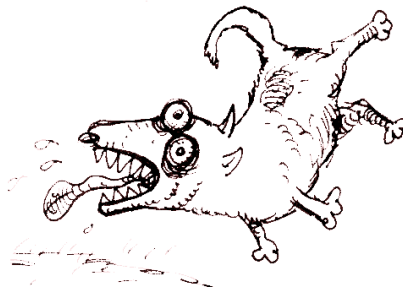


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Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants,
best exemplified by...



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

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.