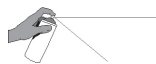


All hail the...
...the hearty, filling issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

March 2009



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

"...how some men creep in skittish Fortune's hall"*

Vol. XI No. 3

People Embrace Chevron's Plaintive Call to "Use Less"

By Sacha Deal

Chevron's heart-wrenching campaign to get the American public to "use less" has had a major impact nationwide, as thousands abandon their low-mileage SUVs and sport about town on skateboards and spartan, zero emission shopping carts.

"I couldn't afford to put gas in my old car anyway," explained one enthusiastic campaign participant of her old Forrester, now a combination strawberry planter and storage facility moored in her back yard. "The shopping cart took a little getting used to, but I'm saving a lot of money."

"I mostly miss the radio," mused another commuter waiting for the light to change at the corner of Ashby and San Pablo. "But I'm getting more fresh air and saving some money on expensive gym membership."

Chevron, whose 2008 profit hit a new record of nearly \$24 billion despite the rest of the world's economic crisis, is heartened by the national response to its "use less" campaign, pointing out that people who have been evicted from foreclosed homes customarily use much less energy than homeowners.

"Our campaign seems to really resonate with consumers," stated Dave O'Reilly, Chevron's CEO, as he stepped out of his corporate jet, which recently switched to recycled paper products. "People like the idea that they can drive and save the environment, and we like making people happy."

Critics charge that the campaign is a cynical ploy to make the company look more environmentally responsible, when in fact its human rights and environmental abuses span three continents and several decades.

"Oh, pooh," responded O'Reilly in



THE LATEST IN EMISSION-FREE vehicles, this streamlined model is becoming more and more common on city streets and offers an even more eco-friendly alternative than the Prius.

response to the accusation that Chevron has played a pivotal role in the near extinction of four indigenous groups in Ecuador, snuggled up to the brutal military junta in Burma, and played a part in the massacre of Nigerian villagers.

"It's easy to attack oil companies," commented O'Reilly. "But we're really a good bunch. We may not personally feel the economic pinch, but we know our neighbors are hurting, and we feel their pain."

* * * * *



Hookers Offer to Stimulate Economy

By Gloria Stay

The nation's hookers offered to help stimulate the ailing national economy as the economic downturn took a turn for the worse and lawmakers admitted that more banks would need to be nationalized to avoid an even more disastrous credit crisis.

"We're frankly out of tricks ourselves," confessed one nervous Wall Street banker. "We've tried everything we know and nothing's working, so it's time to think creatively, and I know a gal down by the river who can get a rise out of anything."

"We just care about our neighbors," stated one local hooker speaking for the group. "Our businesses are doing fine, our business models are recession-proof, and if we can provide some relief to people who are hurting we feel an obligation to help out."

Most observers had no objection to the hookers' offer, pointing out that the oldest profession in the world probably had a few useful things to teach Wall Street and that matters could hardly get much worse.

"They're a very effective group," admitted one banker who acknowledged being familiar with their services. "Some things are better left to the skilled professionals."

* * * * *



CHI CHI KABOODLE is one of thousands of entrepreneurs offering her services to stimulate the depressed economy.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, so now the Planning Commission is scrapping the Downtown Area Planning Advisory Committee's plan-- why did they bother getting all that input if they're just going to dropkick it?

Dear reader, there's elegant logic to doing things this way. Eventually the pesky public quits sacrificing their evenings and weekends, catching on that without a developer's point of view they don't have a prayer of being heard, at which point the plans are switched and there aren't any pesky public comments to worry about. This really saves on paper, which is very green.

Dear Lena, is it true that all the open space requirements are gone?

Dear reader, gone with the buffalo. But you'll find plenty of compensatory open space in Nevada.

Dear Lena, when developers yank the public benefits out of a project, why can't the public use a couple floors for bake sales and community dog washes?

Dear reader, because it would displace too much carefully planned and chap-eroned gunfire.

Dear Lena, why can't burrowing owls and off-leash dogs just get along?

Dear reader, burrowing owls are a grumpy lot, having flown all the way from Canada, and they're touchy about their personal space and their accents. Burrowing owls in the near future will be scientifically engineered to enjoy life in our transit-corridor condos.

Ask Lena for advice about noodle dishes at cdenney@igc.org.

TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION GETS RAVE REVIEWS



BERKELEY'S REPUTATION FOR RADICAL innovation is well represented by the latest proposal for transportation reform, which uses absolutely no fossil fuel and produces nothing but high-grade fertilizer.

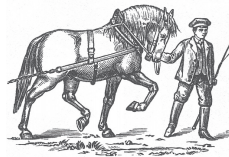
By Noah Wayback

Transportation planners, in anticipation of the fact that all of west Berkeley's roads will be gridlocked within a couple of years, have finally recommended a radical transportation alternative in an effort to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

"We'll start with replacing the city's fleet of Public Works vehicles," stated one planner. "The Corporation Yard started as a stable, so it's well designed for the purpose and centrally located."

Critics agreed that the toughest aspect of the new livestock-based transportation plan would probably be the cost of hay, which has skyrocketed since the move to biofuels changed the face of the agricultural market, leading to the wholesale slaughter of horses too expensive to feed.

"We're confident in UC's research on this point," offered one planner. "We calculate that a replacement product for hay is only a few years off."



"Digital or cyber hay is another

possibility," commented another planner. "Once we have the best minds in the country up at the new biofuels offices in Strawberry Canyon they'll be able to concentrate better on meeting these elemental needs."

The local horse population seemed to share the planners' enthusiasm.

"Work has been tough to find," commented one equine resident. "I'm not Golden Gate Fields material, and I like getting out and about. I think I could cover the 51 bus route pretty easily."

* * * * *



MEASURING STUFF has a really big future in case you need a job.

The Embarrassing Struggle to Measure Cosmic Expansion

By Jonah Longline

The universe is expanding like the waistband of a couch potato watching late-night reruns with a jumbo box of cheese-covered popcorn.

No scientists object to this premise, despite the fact that it presumes an absolute beginning to something which physics demonstrates only changes form. It has become one of the oldest, most entertaining, and best-financed quests in cosmology, to measure how fast the universe is growing, where the hell it is headed, where it thinks it will find a parking space big enough for it, and how much change it will require for the meter.

"It is the most fundamental number in cosmology," said Adam Riess, 38, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute and Johns Hopkins University, who claims that some kind of "dark energy" is speeding up the expansion of the universe without motor oil or photoshop software.

Dr. Riess announced recently that he and Lucas Macri of Texas A&M University had used the Hubble Space Telescope to measure the Hubble constant, which Riess reported is 74 kilometers per second per megaparsec, which is really fast, faster than you can throw a dead cat, or maybe about that fast.

Wendy Freedman, the director of Carnegie Observatories, agreed that it was really fast, and the news was hopeful because cosmologists are often the laughing stock of the science world, right after Wall Street bankers.

"We need to measure something," she stated. "Otherwise we sit around stargazing, and you can imagine what other scientists say."

* * * * *

Economic Crisis Spoils Plans to End Annoying Community Art Project

Artists Keep Painting; Show No Mercy

By Viola Hurry

Developers and planners had difficulty holding back tears while acknowledging recently that severe budget cut-backs had probably shelved ambitious plans to upgrade and renovate the Bulb, an area just north of the Albany race-track, which for years has been an art playground for the gallery-free.

"We had such high hopes," stated one planner folding up his blueprints. "We wanted a more cultured crowd down there, people with Weber grills and kids on Skidoos."

"People without sleeping bags," added another planner. "Creativity is all right in its place, but it's obvious that without limits and standardized juried shows uninhibited creativity can really get out of hand."

The Bulb was once a dump for old construction materials, so the likelihood of finding the money to address all the rusty rebar was limited even before Wall Street went bankrupt, and now it looks like the dream of eliminating the bizarre sculptures and fanciful paintings may be postponed for decades.



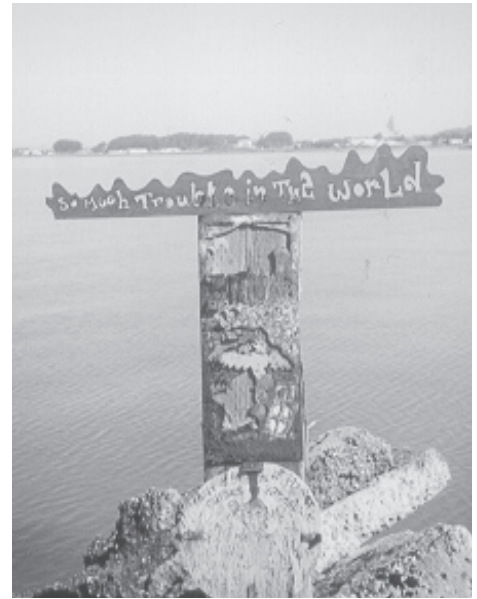
DEVELOPERS AND PLANNERS ARE HEARTBROKEN that enigmatic sculptures such as this one will continue to pop up without permits instead of the more suitable art created by lengthy public processes such as the freeway pedestrian bridge's much more palatable rutting dogs.

"We wanted shopping malls or organized soccer ball fields," acknowledged one developer, "but we were ready to settle for bike paths for the lycra crowd. Then all you need is a celebrity bike race or two and you can really sell some Gatorade."

The artists' collective called SNIFF which works at the Bulb didn't seem particularly exercised over the non-development development on a recent sunny Sunday by the bay.

"We can live with the lycra crowd," one sculptor commented. "We can live with the Weber grillers, too. We've had some awesome barbecues out here."

"We don't need much," chimed in another Bulb resident making an odd garment out of seaweed. "The less you have, the less you lose when the cops come and drag your stuff away."



THE UNKNOWN ARTIST who created this work was probably really depressed about not finding a job on Wall Street.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast

I used to think exercise, a good diet, and a healthy amount of sleep would keep me healthy.



But I got osteoporosis anyway.



So I shot my doctor.



I feel better!



DEVELOPER GETS AWARD; DISCOVERS OPEN SPACE IN DRAWERS, CLOSETS

By Soledad N. A. Bagochips

A local developer thrilled the real estate and design community recently by discovering under-counted open space in the interior of his condominiums' cabinets and drawers.

"Drawer by drawer it didn't seem like much," stated William Ismee, whose firm has contributed over 35 high-end condominium units to the local housing stock. "But when you add up all the cabinet space in the bathrooms and the kitchenettes, it started to look like real numbers."

Design experts agreed that if it is fair to count the little fake balconies and rooftops as open space in a project's design, then it seems fair to count the interior of drawers and cabinets, too.

"Developers can't help it if this kind of open space makes it hard to put up a swing-set," stated one design expert. "They should still be able to count up the open space they create in their design, especially considering the way density critics criticize them for having no safe place for kids to play tetherball. Kids can still play jacks."

Ismee's ground-breaking discovery has put him in line for the prestigious Design Corps award, the prestigious 2008 EnergyValue Award, a Seaside Award, the Emerald Award, the Green Award, and NESEA's Quality Building Award.

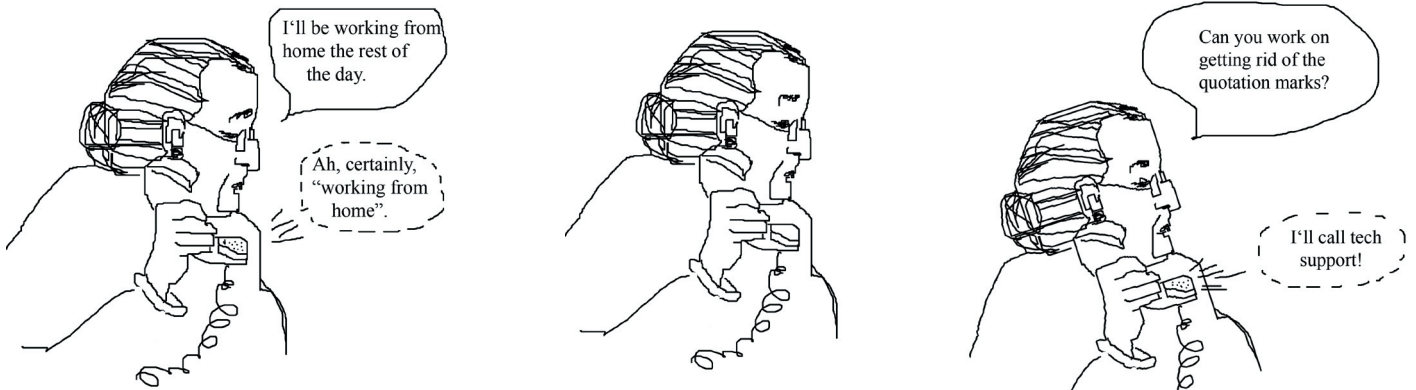
"It's not about the glory," said Ismee. "I'm doing this for the kids."

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THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



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



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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 to your door for a modest bribe. Plagiarize wildly and send money.
* Troilus and Cressida

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.