

All hail the...

...the clawhammer issue ...

Hepper Spray Times

May 2008



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

"...a whispering tale in a fair lady's ear..."*

Vol. X No. 5

BIG OIL ACTUALLY PATHETICALLY SMALL

And Really Hurting for Dough, Say Oil Executives

By Joe Kzonyoo

Top oil company executives argued that soaring oil costs and their effect on staples like rice and bread are the best way to convince consumers to cut back on their driving and trim their waistslines, and that they, rather than Al Gore, deserved the Nobel Prize.

"Not only are our profits and subsidies in line with other industries," stated John Hofmeister, president of Shell Oil Co., "but our subsidies ought to increase. We're getting hit with high gas prices, too, and you can bet none of us drives a Prius."

"\$123 billion in profits and \$18 billion in subsidies might seem like a lot of money to you given your current congressional compensation package," Hofmeister stated before Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.'s congressional committee recently, "but frankly it's peanuts to us. You'll see what we mean when you leave office and begin consulting. You won't be driving a Honda anymore."

Lawmakers were searching for an explanation on behalf of consumers and small businesses straining under the weight of spiraling gas and heating prices, which seem to skyrocket despite supplies of both gasoline and oil remaining adequate.

Hofmeister assured Markey that he felt consumers' pain.

"Especially when I see the bill for my private jet," he sighed. But profits in the billions are not extreme, he insisted, and generous subsidies are just the American way.

Calls to direct the \$18 billion in subsidies toward alternative energy were met with sobbing and wailing by oil company executives, who insisted that their own efforts to unearth energy alternatives were already in place, and would cost the American economy far less than funding pesky little start-ups in solar and wind power.

"He may be right," offered one local resident working on converting his neighbors' engine to run on used restaurant cooking oil. "This is costing me a little more than I thought, and it's true the savings are long term."

"And imagine how much more profit we would be making if people hadn't cut back on their summer driving vacations and trips to the beach," summed up Hofmeister. "When you look at it that way, we're really hurting."

* * * * *



OIL DERRICKS like this one are really quite friendly and make a lovely addition to the lawn.



SECURITY FOR the Olympic torch gets more sophisticated over the course of its journey, including the realization that the more torches there are, the more possibility exists that at least one torch will make it through crowds of protesters.

BAIT AND SWITCH TORCH RUN DELIGHTS TOURISTS, POLICE AND PROTESTERS

By Allie Scottsgone

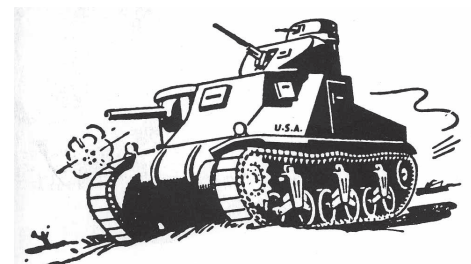
San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to secretly switch the course for the Olympic torch run through town is getting rave reviews from everyone.

"The deaths of Tibetan monks is a real downer," admitted one local Tibetan protestor folding up his native country's snow leopard flag. "We would love to save some lives and restore Tibet's cultural integrity, but pink-cheeked athletes really do sell a lot more detergent."

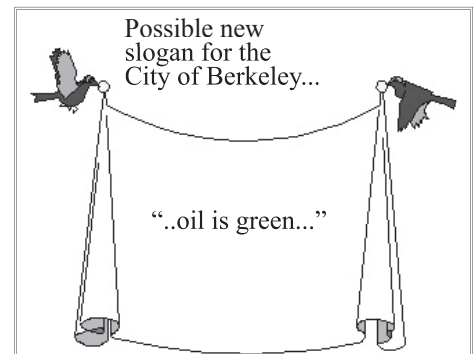
"It was a tough decision," said one law enforcement officer. "But it worked out really well. The officers who wanted to see the torch got that detail, and the officers who wanted to kick around some hippies got the other detail."

"The tourists were disappointed, but that's also a tradition in San Francisco," pointed out Mayor Newsom.

* * * * *



OLYMPIC OFFICIALS feel certain that the use of this vehicle will assure the safe passage of the Olympic torch as it nears its destination in Beijing.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think I am misunderstood. What should I do?

Dear reader, you should consider calling a press conference. Wear your best suit and shoes, keep your focus, and hand out doughnuts. Keep your speech short and full of warm anecdotes about puppies and swingsets. If this is not helpful, it will at least be entertaining.

Dear Lena, must I be judged by my ringtone? Everywhere I go people make remarks about it. If it's classical, they say I'm too stuffy, if it's little chirping frogs they accuse me of being a treehugger, and if I use the "old phone" ringtone they accuse me of being a Luddite. I miss calls if I use the vibrate function, and I'm not sure what's appropriate anymore. I'm so tired of reprogramming the stupid thing I could throw it in the sea.

Dear reader, there's no need to be hasty. Think carefully about your options. Throwing your cell phone in the sea may seem satisfying in the moment, but you may get more satisfaction out of throwing it in a handy electronic waste bucket, where you'll have the satisfaction of knowing not only that you'll never be embarrassed by your ringtone again, but also that you are not burdening some unsuspecting fish or lobster with a possibly inappropriate or offensive ringtone. The undersea world is poorly understood by most cellphone consumers, and the likelihood of any ringtone fitting in well with undersea surroundings is small. You might also consider putting your cellphone in a blender.

Ask Lena for expert tailoring at cdenney@jgc.org.

NORTH SHATTUCK PLAZA COMPROMISE

PLAN DELIGHTS WEST BERKELEY

Intersection at 6th & University to be Transformed into Garden Playground for Children

By Carlotta Tendant

A controversial North Berkeley pedestrian plaza plan firmly rejected by its North Berkeley neighborhood inexplicably surfaced in a recent Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan.

"It's clearly the work of terrorists," commented Principal Transportation Planner Matthew Nichols. "But it's worth noting that they were terrorists with the patience to take a lot of notes on retired UC Berkeley planner David Stoloff's plan from several years ago."

North Berkeley neighbors rejected that plan, calling it a perfect recipe for traffic congestion, reduced parking, increased burden on emergency services, and trash.

"We also couldn't find anyone in our neighborhood who could say 'pedestrian plaza plan' three times quickly, and we're a bunch of Ph.D.s up here," noted a neighbor.

A compromise plan was quickly offered by the city which appears to please all parties; keeping the pedestrian plaza, but relocating it to the intersection of 6th Street and University Avenue in Berkeley.

"Most of Berkeley is very safe for a city of its size," stated Nichols. "But 6th Street and University has had numerous injuries and fatalities, and we owe West Berkeley some serious traffic-calming."



A SKETCH OF THE PROPOSAL for the intersection of 6th and University is based on aerial shots of the actual intersection, which has such long waits for cross-lights that people often bring a picnic.

Neighbors in West Berkeley agreed that so many people are backed up at the intersection of 6th Street and University waiting to cross the street that it is practically a park already.

"We have to stand there so long anyway we might as well have some benches," stated one neighbor pushing futilely at a cross-light button.

"And some grass and trees," added another. "These people in their cars need to drive less, anyway, and find places to work near their homes."

Drivers argued with the plan, pointing out that they would have to go to Albany or Oakland to access the freeway, but city officials agreed that this was a benefit, not a problem.

"It's a pedestrian safety plan, after all," responded Nichols. "If the cars want less congestion, they will find it out in Nevada somewhere, where the planners exported all the open space."

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AERIAL SPRAYING will not only get the bugs out of your apple trees, but also your car, your mailbox, and even your lawn furniture.

CONVERSATIONS WITH A MOTH

Editor Grace Underpressure interviews the light brown apple spokesmoth.

A spokesmoth for the light brown apple moths agreed to speak with us on condition of anonymity, and was willing to shed some light on the issue of the proposed aerial spraying of pesticides.

Grace Underpressure: "So, you're originally from Australia. What brought you here?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: "The usual. I was in a grunge band that toured Seattle. I hooked up with a lady moth in San Francisco. She was hot. I never went home."

Grace Underpressure: "So you're not a citizen?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: "What's it to you- you want this interview or not? This is home now, no matter what they spray on me. Call me Frank, by the



MOST OF THE GANG that "Frank" used to hang with is dead, having run afoul of cats, birds, and entomologists.

way."

(Frank is not his real name. Although he is small, he's wearing a thick protective vest under his black anorak. It's hard to see, but he's packing a very small handgun.)

Grace Underpressure: "You're the subject of a lot of discussion lately."

Light Brown Apple Moth: (laughter) (unprintable).

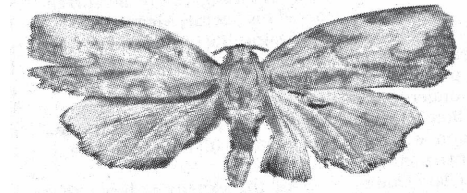
Grace Underpressure: "They say you're poised to devastate California's agriculture. How do you respond to those accusations?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: (laughter) "They (unprintable)."

Grace Underpressure: "Isn't it true that you belong to a gang? Why did you join?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: "You wouldn't know. The pressure to join is unbelievable. Especially if you're an immigrant. You have to prove yourself all the time, and after awhile it's just easier. Your mates get squashed, eaten, you start getting shot at, and what can you do. This aerial spray thing, they can just (unprintable)."

Grace Underpressure: "So you claim you have natural predators?"



THIS SPOKESMOTH for the light brown apple moth spoke of a short, hard life in which gang affiliation is a necessary protection on the street.

Light Brown Apple Moth: "It's mostly spiders and earwigs; we've never gotten along. But there's also Trichogramma funiculatum. They hated our band, and wrote a review that got shot all over the internet, so our fans roughed a few of them up when we toured last time. It's blown out of proportion a lot."

Grace Underpressure: "Do you think aerial spraying would have an effect?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: "Maybe. Maybe for awhile. They don't play fair. USDA officials got themselves an emergency exemption from registration from the Environmental Protection Agency that allowed them to bypass all of the state rules for the use of pesticides. But they can't keep me down, baby. I'm fired up. You should hear me play."

Grace Underpressure: "Do you still play?"

Light Brown Apple Moth: "We'll be at Gilman next month. You should come."

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We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker spoke to Congress.

They told congressional representatives and the nation that everything is fine.

Really, really fine.

Environmentalists Smear Bewildered Oil Company

Goldman Prize Awarded to Ecuadoran Activists Who Fail to Appreciate Health Benefits of Petrochemical Waste

By Hobart D. Groceries

"We believe they were misled," stated Chevron spokesperson David Samson about decisionmakers who awarded the Goldman Prize to Ecuadoran activists fighting Chevron Corporation to clean up toxic contamination the size



PABLO FAJARDO MENDOZA can't seem to appreciate that someday when babies eat oil, this toxic pool will become a nutritious natural resource.

of Rhode Island in the Amazon rain forest.

"We tried to reach out to the Goldman Foundation," stated Samson, sobbing into a handkerchief made of pure, organic cotton, "but we were stiff-armed. No one ever cared to hear our side of the story."

Chevron Corporation bought Texaco

in 2001, which had dumped 18 billion gallons of crude oil-tainted water in 1,000 unlined toxic waste pits in the rain forest.



EVERYONE KNOWS that oil companies have your best interests at heart and are the best source for nutrition tips.

"We put \$40 million into cleaning the place up," stated Samson. "We feel the indigenous people whining about miscarriages and stillbirths should pony up, too."

Experts agree that the clean-up costs for the toxic pits are somewhere between \$7 billion to \$16 billion.

Chevron supporters were seen nearby the Goldman Foundation awards ceremony handing out little half-sheet fliers, waving picket signs, and chanting.

"It's so humiliating," whispered Samson. "We're usually on the inside receiving awards. This flier is 100% post-consumer paper."

* * * * *

TEACHING BABIES TO EAT OIL



New Program Will Save Lives in Egypt, Haiti

By Myrtle Mostfoul

Biofuels supporters hailed a new program designed to address a growing food crisis exacerbated by market moves to biofuel by unveiling a program designed to help new parents supplement their babies' diets with oil.

"Not just any oil," explained a chemist working for British Petroleum, which has scrambled for cover since arranging to acquire a sizeable amount of UC Berkeley's physical and research campus for biofuel research. "We're focusing specifically on the use of regional oils so that the next generation can develop specific tastes for Iraqi oil, for instance, Alaska oil."

Calling Americans' current taste for oil "consistent but immature," researchers for the new program hope the next generation will be connoisseurs, shoring up the oil-based economy with their craving for comfort food as well as addressing world hunger.

"We can do this," nodded one researcher enthusiastically. "After this, we'll work on cardboard."

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Next Issue: Sheetrocking with Celebrities

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



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best exemplified by...

Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

*Romeo and Juliet