

All hail the...

...the fussy, incomprehensible issue...

Hepper Spray Times

April 2007



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

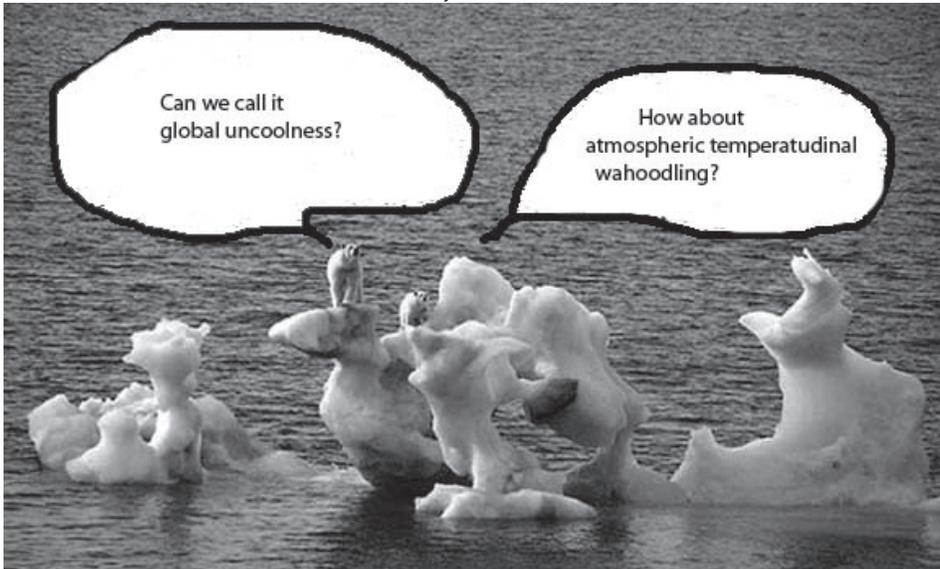
"...This would drink deep..."*

Vol. IX No. 4

SCIENTISTS RESTRICTED FROM MENTIONING...UM, "ORBICULAR THAW"

New Warhead Design "Fabulous", say Fashion Experts

By Scott Style



STRANDED POLAR BEARS were the first to eagerly embrace alternative terms for global warming in an effort to work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is deeply concerned about the future of potential semantic misunderstandings regarding...um, "world-wide temperatudinal enhancement".

By Chester Reminder

A former Interior Department official released documents recently restricting scientists attending upcoming international meetings in Russia and Norway from "speaking on or responding to" issues of climate change, polar bears, and sea ice.

"This is not censorship," stated Tina Kreisher, communications director of the Interior Department which oversees the wildlife agency. "We just want scientists to make sure they don't misrepresent the Bush administration's policy on global warming."

Fish and Wildlife Director H. Dale Hall offered to clarify the Bush policy on, uh, extensive amospheric weirdness.

"The Earth is warming, and we have to understand how to deal with that and to slow down greenhouse gases and manage the changes that will occur."

"We agree," stated two polar bear clinging desperately to a melting piece

of ice floating in the arctic sea. "We don't care what you call it. We're just not sure which direction to swim, and we left a really good poker game back home."

Kieran Suckling, who represents one of the groups petitioning to list the polar bear as an endangered species, insists that scientists need to be able to speak freely and exchange information regarding climate change.

"Why is the ice melting? How many polar bears are there? It's completely inappropriate to ban scientists from talking about science."

"They can still talk about science," scoffed Hall. "They can talk, for instance, about astronomy. They can talk about the aurora borealis. They can talk about meteorology, all kinds of stuff. We just want them to quit whining about, uh, expansive atmospheric alterations."

* * * * *

The Bush administration selected Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's "fabulous" new design for atomic warheads, disarming anti-nuclear critics with a bold new look.

"It's hot," said Thomas P. D'Agostino, the acting administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration. "It's new, but closely tied to earlier designs, evoking the smooth but sassy quality of the cold war."

The Nuclear Weapons Council decided the design submitted by Lawrence Livermore could be built with greater confidence without underground testing, and could be taken "straight to the runway."

Many of the warheads in the nation's aging stockpile were designed and built 40 years ago, and their plutonium, their components, and the scientists who worked on them are deteriorating in ways researchers do not fully understand.

One scientist who worked on the forty year-old warheads is pretty spry, still watches "American Idol" and occasionally plays croquet, although it is unclear whether or not he actually understands the game.

"Just because we haven't built a warhead since 1991 doesn't mean we're

rusty," stated D'Agostino of the NNSA. "This is just the design work, and we feel these spring designs are eye-popping but sophisticated enough to evoke 50's nostalgia in our congressional bankrollers. If we don't blow up in the meantime, we're expecting a cool \$119 million for redesigning these sleek new updated warheads, which we feel really have 'the look'."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

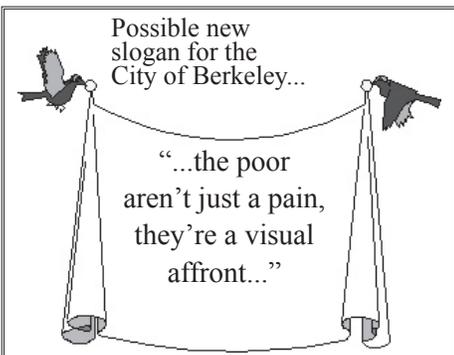
Dear Lena, what's with Bates and his poor laws? Didn't we just do this?
Dear reader, it was his *wife* that technically did it last time, so you know how men are.

Dear Lena, so how much do you tip the beat officer? I realize now that we have no police review, I need to make my peace with corruption. Is \$20 enough?
Dear reader, one more zero is considered standard.

Dear Lena, so now that highrises full of well-intended non-profits are green, what should I do with this retro organic garden? I'm just so embarrassed.
A: You won't have enough light to grow anything shortly; replace it with "infill development" and you'll probably get some kind of local award.

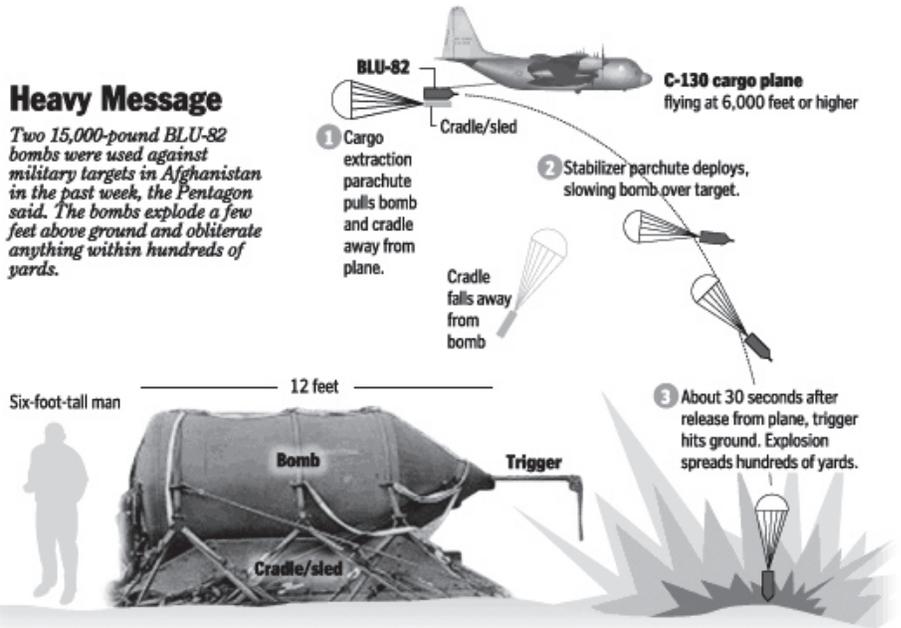
Dear Lena, I could use a little censorship. Could I arrange for the police to redact my email, and some of my letters? It would save me a lot of embarrassment.
A: The police look forward to this work long-term, but right now the FBI is taking care of it.

Ask Lena anything! Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice. Contact her at cdenney@igc.org.



Heavy Message

Two 15,000-pound BLU-82 bombs were used against military targets in Afghanistan in the past week, the Pentagon said. The bombs explode a few feet above ground and obliterate anything within hundreds of yards.



SOURCES: Federation of American Scientists, Defense Department

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S "Daisy-cutter" is Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates' best bet for clearing the streets of bums and winos, who get underfoot and might trip and seriously hurt somebody.

Bates Launches "Operation Upscale" on Behalf of Grateful, Constitutionally-impaired Business Constituency

By Gloria Round

Mayor Tom Bates' "Public Commons for Everyone Initiative," is acknowledged by experts as squarely addressing the core difficulty affecting public life across the nation: how do the rich boot the poor?

"It's truly worthy of an enormous amount of staff time," stated Mayor Bates. "I know, or rather I'm told it's tough living on the streets, but the problems of finding a safe alley to sleep in are nothing compared to the problems of rich people who have difficulty engaging in the conspicuous consumption necessary to keep the local economy pumping when they have to suffer the emotional impact of the sight of a poor person, which can ruin any appetite."

"Thank heavens Mayor Bates is tackling this difficult issue," stated Deborah Bahdia of the Downtown Berkeley Association. "It may take hundreds of thousands of dollars and buckets of expensive consultants, but this should be our city's top priority for years on end, even if it takes another several years of expensive lawsuits."

Critics argued that the city's obsession with driving out the poor was too costly, given the pesky issue of civil rights and free speech, which will sure-

ly land the issue back in court.

"Rich people just need more courage," insisted one local resident, who offered to give motivational empowerment seminars for the mink-clad. "They need to gather their courage and their credit cards, and muster the inner strength to look the poor directly in the eye and just say no."

"It's true," agreed one merchant. "Eliminating the poor's habitat has been very effective, but the rich need some special tools or their shopping will suffer."

"It's not that simple," said one city staffer, sighing in anticipation of years of fine-tuning problematic legal behavior. "Rich people need a certain frame of mind to spend \$300 to \$400 on shoes. It isn't a question of strength, it's a sense of entitlement and deserving. That's very hard to summon when you're walking around next to someone who clearly can't afford the minimum bid on a condo and wants your shoes."

"We don't want all their shoes," corrected one poor person sitting in a highly threatening manner near Peet's Coffee. "Just the Masai walking shoes, and maybe some dress pumps."

* * * * *



IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT to get any serious shopping done when people like these two cause such obvious interference with the deft handling of credit cards, for which truly gifted shoppers need a minimum of disturbance.

Substitute Terms for Global Warming:

“global other-than-warming”

“terrestrial ebullition”

“worldwide outdoor temperature touchiness”

“extensive general nonspecific melting”

“globular heating annoyance”

“obvious inexplicable orbicular thaw”

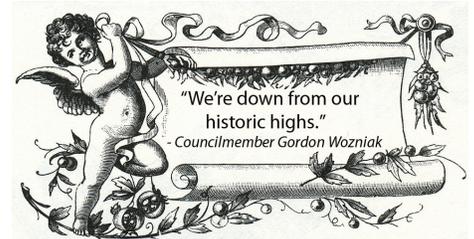
“planetary calefacient whoopsitude”

“spheric weather wackiness”

“spherical atmospheric bogosity”

“inclusive temperatudinal schizopenia”

PST's Favorite Quote from the Tuesday, March 13th, 2007 City Council Meeting...



Suggestions for Curbing the Visual Impact of Poverty on Poor, Beleaguered Shoppers and Merchants

 Egg timers for the poor, so they can adjust their sitting positions every three minutes, thus creating a more lively aspect for the streetscape.

 Plush armchairs and period costumes with top hats for the poor, so they could seem like re-enactors of an historic period where beggars seemed much more quaint and appealing.

 Rolling platforms for the poor, similar to skateboards, so business owners could gently move them down the block from time to time

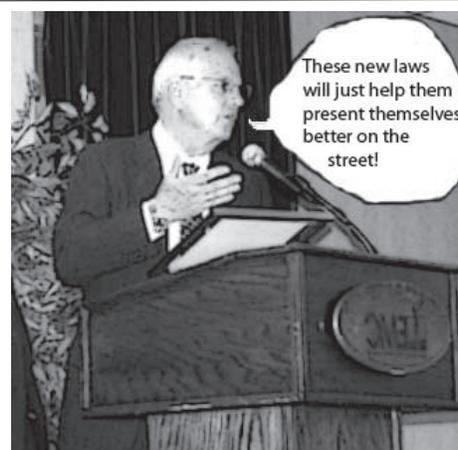
 without tiring them unduly.

 Restricted income zones set off by velvet ropes, so that only people above a certain income level, who can be counted on to dress appropriately and temper their language, can populate outdoor cafes and public places

 Gates around commercial areas, to help encourage the poor to congregate under the overpasses or near the city limits rather than wherever dedicated shoppers are trying to work.

 Bow ties for the homeless.

We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast



UC-BP Join Hands, Skip Through Tulips

By Lotte Moneydown

The revelation that two faculty advocates for the \$500 million proposed partnership between British Petroleum and the University of California stand to make a lot of money from the deal will in no way affect the integrity of the research, state experts.

Proposal advocate and UC faculty member Jay Keasling, who recently co-founded Amyris Biotechnologies which then hired John Melo, BP's former president of U.S. fuels operations, as its CEO in December, sees no conflict of interest in the connection.

"We're just really good friends," he stated. "Besides, any money I make off the deal you know I will spend wisely because I am an expert. When you wear blue and gold, nobody questions your integrity."

The specifics of the contract are still being ironed out, especially who gets the court-side seats and the skyboxes,

affectionately dubbed the "restricted proprietary section."



RE-BRANDING IS EASY if you have the stature of University of California helping you along, as Chris Somerville can tell you. Note how the presense of flowers around his mighty brain eases public fears about genetically modified organisms and "synthetic biology".

claimed one audience member after the Hillside Club forum. "Biofuels are just the best! They may be carboniferous, but scientists will fix all that."

Another cheerleader for the British Petroleum partnership with corporate connections to the project is Chris Somerville, who remains connected to Hayward-based Mendel Biotechnology and agro-chemical transnational giant Monsanto.

Somerville dismissed concerns about the environmental perils of "synthetic biology" raised at a recent forum at the Hillside Club in Berkeley, suggesting that genetically modified organisms were no more dangerous than cheese.

"Well golly, I'm not afraid of cheese," ex-

WELLS FARGO BEGINS BOOT CAMP TRAINING FOR NEIGHBORS OF "INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL"



THE SEVEN O'CLOCK in the morning jackhammer wake-up call right under low-income tenants' windows is actually a kindness since it will help train them for the 90 decibel noise, the stench from the sun-baked port-o-johns, and the clouds of cooking booth smoke these tenants will have to endure once the "International Food Festival" gets in gear.

"I can't imagine why all those environmentalists are worried about something as innocent as cheese," agreed another. "And if a few faculty members make a buck or two on the side, we trust them to invest it wisely in stuff like miscanthus."

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



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.....Roger Dondis
Staff.....Scott Style, Chester Reminder, Lena Deeter, Gloria Round, Franz Toast, Lotte Moneydown, Gordon Wozniak, Wells Fargo Bank



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

best exemplified by...

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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

* King Henry V