

All hail the...

...the light-headed issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

August 2010



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

"...What could the Belly answer?..."*

Vol. XII No. 8

"Dead Zone" on UC Campus Linked to Ethanol, BP Subsidies

By Bridget Highwater

Months into the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, another growing environmental disaster has been identified on the University of California (UC) Berkeley campus, which scientists predict will come to threaten both the city of Berkeley and additional campuses statewide.

"We estimate the dead zone to be spreading slowly throughout the campus," stated one expert measuring the serious rate of hypoxia, or oxygen depletion. "It's smaller than the dead zone in the gulf, but has the capacity to take a lot of other campuses with it."

Experts acknowledged that the dead zone is directly linked to the corn grown for ethanol.

"The trouble is these vast monocultures of thinking on campus," stated one campus worker sidling carefully around the dead zone holding his backpack high. "The unwillingness to refuse corporate money is having a stifling effect, much like the federal subsidies in the farm bill. The subsidies for corn and soybeans have made diversified farms and grasslands a thing of the past, and the excess nitrogen feeds algae blooms,



British Petroleum's oil rig explosion in the gulf has a parallel catastrophe on the University of California campus which may necessitate the use of oxygen masks at some point -- that is, if the oil company allows their use.

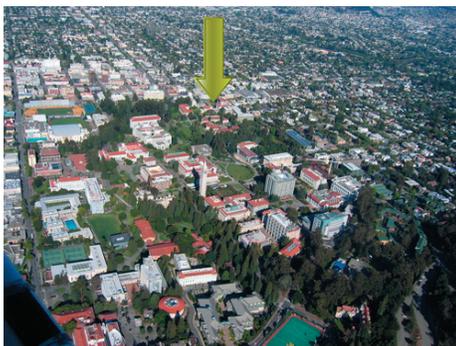
consumes oxygen, and suffocates everything in its path."

One campus expert nodded soberly when asked about the campus rate of oxygen depletion.

"It's true," he stated. "The oxygen depletion is the simplest way to measure the hypoxia, but there are other signs. The graffiti in the men's rooms used to be very high quality, but the wit and originality is slowly leaching away."

UC officials hurried to assure alumni donors that the quality of education on UC campus, at least for bioengineering students and athletes, is top notch."

* * * * *



THE DEAD ZONE over the University of California (UC) campus explains why some of the scientists hang onto the idea that biofuels and grants from BP will make them famous and save the world.



UC OFFICIALS LOVED to have their pictures taken with British Petroleum bigwigs not long ago, and are still hoping someday they can put pictures like this one with BP's American representative Robert Malone back on their walls.

* * * * *

Plan to Plan to Have a Plan to Plan Being Planned

By Len Tillsoup

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates and councilmembers Capitelli, Maio, Wozniak, Moore, and Wengraf stepped bravely forward out of a hip-deep mire of downtown plans recently and voted to put a plan to plan to have a plan to plan on the November ballot, so that some truly green high-rises can begin to finally take shape in the city's center.

"The citizen's downtown plan lacked courage and vision," stated Mayor Bates. "Not only does the plan to plan to have a plan to plan have courage and vision, it comes with a lot of developers' blessings, which can be very handy around election time."

Critics objected that the plan to plan to have a plan to plan (PTPTHAPTP) is ambiguous at best, and that there is nothing green about tearing down old buildings to build new ones, but were dismissed as cranks with no courage, no vision, and clearly no election to win in November.

"These new buildings will be green," insisted Bates. "We will replace the trees with better trees, and attach little plaques in memory of anything historic. And don't forget the developer money. There is nothing greener than that."



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...swimming pools are so yesterday..."

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, should I still shop at the Berkeley Bowl? It is so creepy now that they voted out the union. I feel like I'm crossing a picket line. What should I do?

Dear reader, there is no outright boycott of the Berkeley Bowl as yet, but it never hurts to engage people in discussions about union protections whether they are holding a head of lettuce or not. I recommend humming "If It Winae fer the Union" while shopping.

Dear Lena, does the dead spot on campus run the risk of affecting my neighborhood? We're already swamped with student and campus employee cars and the noise and traffic is horrendous. Is the hypoxia from the dead spot headed our way?

Dear reader, here at the Pepper Spray Times we're keeping a watchful eye on the campus dead spot while roasting organic marshmallows. It is hovering around city hall right now, and we'll alert you if it begins to move.

Dear Lena, if everybody can get a look at classified Afghan war plans, why can't I see my own stupid police report? We used to be able to get these things back in the day, but now you have to have all day to fill out forms and wait in line and then get told that it's top secret even if it's about you. What's the story?

Dear reader, you're really ruining the mood. The difference between the old Police Department and the new "Public Safety Building" is precisely this kind of exciting, creative approach to what was once a simple request. Feel the burn. Go with it and enjoy the rush. Ask Lena about tidying your closet at cdenney@jgc.org.



OLD UNION RALLIES in Berkeley failed to capture the hearts of some of the Berkeley Bowl's workers, because those who died for union rights are so yesterday.

Berkeley Bowl Workers Decertified

"Unions are just, like, so annoying."

By Horace Trader



BOSSSES admit that workers' rights may not be their top priority, but if you just trust them they'll get around to it.

Berkeley Bowl workers voted to decertify their union representation, claiming that unions and the benefits that have historically come with them are just pointless and annoying.

"I have always hated weekends," stated one worker.

"They really interrupt the work flow. I get back to work

and I really have to think for a moment to figure out where I left off. Plus, when I'm home on the weekends I have to clean up the house and do the laundry, which sucks."

"I hate raises in pay," added another worker. "I'll get my budget all figured out and then some union-inspired raise will come along and the numbers go haywire."

"It's the work breaks that annoy me," offered another worker. "It isn't really enough time to accomplish anything, and it breaks my rhythm."

"The worse thing is the grievance procedures," insisted another. "I really miss whining about job-related problems that get solved."

Critics argued that management interfered with the vote, manipulating and intimidating workers and engaging in unfair labor practices as they were ruled as doing in 2003 by the National Labor Relations Board.

"Just sour grapes," responded a pro-decertification worker named Adrian. "I voted for what I wanted. I just can't wait to get rid of the eight-hour day."

* * * * *



UNION-FREE WORKPLACES are the edgy new fashion according to Adrian, who hates the oppressive eight hour day.

Edgy New Building Design Gets Approval

Design Signals End of Fake Bricks, Fake Clock Towers, and Fake Wood Shingles

By Hank O'Hair

Berkeley citizens tired of the usual bait-and-switch building projects leveraged on artificial or non-existent cultural amenities are finally getting some bang for their planning department buck in the emerging shape of the redesigned Helios building.

The secretive, BP-controlled half-billion-dollar grant program is set to house the Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI), assuming BP can ever get the oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico under control and go back to mesmerizing University of California officials with futuristic bio-remedies for carefully selected hypothetical problems.

"We're much better at hypothetical problems," stated one enthusiastic BP spokesperson.

The latest architectural design is edgy, intertwining playful, asymmetric lines with abrupt twists and turns, ragged edges, and explosive elements evocative of a riotous G-20 protest. Gone are the faux-wood shingles and fake brick facades that decorate nearby construction projects, testimony to east bay citizens' willingness to embrace fresh, bold architectural concepts.

"This is smart growth that merits the title," stated the architecture writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, John King, "unlike the New Californian building at the corner of Martin Luther King and University Avenue, which is like



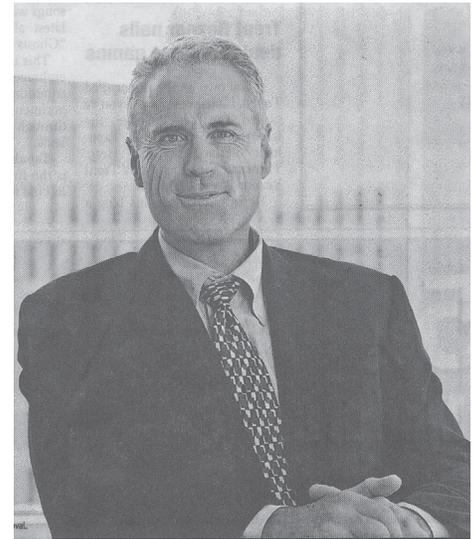
LOCAL ARCHITECT Kirk Peterson, who specializes in fake brick facades and faux-wood shingles, is awestruck at the brutal honesty of the new BP building taking shape downtown.

too many similar efforts in too many other locales, a box dropped onto the landscape. This building looks right at home in Berkeley, where broken glass, charred interiors, and coy references to anarchist protest destruction fit in quite naturally with the oeuvre."

Critics objected that the building looks like something being torn down.

"You're going to get people camping in there," warned one neighborhood homeowner, who expressed concern

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that the resemblance to a construction project stopped in mid-funding, like the building now standing half-built and shrouded in plastic at the corner of Hearst and San Pablo Avenue, would depress property values.

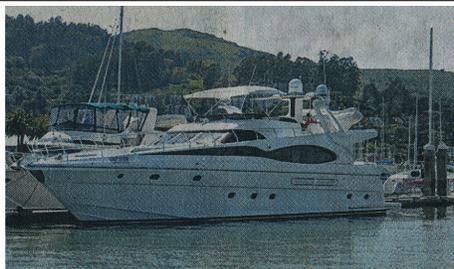
"They'll get campers if they're lucky," chuckled another nearby resident. "If they're unlucky they'll get People's Park II."

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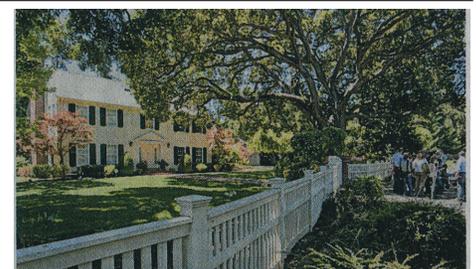
We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast



NON-MILLIONAIRES CAN run for governor; it's just a coincidence our candidates have lots of dough. Here's Jerry Brown's 1.8 million dollar five-story house, described as *spare*.



CARLY FIORINA'S 70-foot yacht, which is docked in Sausalito, is pretty impressive proof that she doesn't have much in common with the unemployed, but then, she only has *two*.



MEG WHITMAN is a billionaire, so she has the other guys pretty well beat. She didn't vote at all for years, and she sure is hoping that *you won't, either*.

Tons of Classified Documents Leaked Everywhere - White House says "Not a problem"

By Bodie N. DaDrink

The recent release of thousands of classified Afghan war documents was dismissed by the Obama administration as offering little by way of surprise.

"We know everything sucks over there," stated White House secretary Robert Gibbs. "We know we're basically hemorrhaging money down a hell-hole. We've all adjusted to that here at the White House."

The Pentagon, on the other hand, expressed great interest in the unauthorized release's documents, explaining that they had no idea what was going on in Pakistan and that the classified documents might help shed some light on the matter.

Critics pointed out that intelligence materials had clearly been compromised, and insisted that changes in how classified documents are handled were necessary.

The Pentagon agreed, and said that for the first time, they were looking into upgrading their systems to radically change their susceptibility to hackers, spies, and whistleblowers.

"We envision someday going off-line," stated one Pentagon official on condition of anonymity. "We're considering retiring all the computers and copies, and getting back into semaphore."

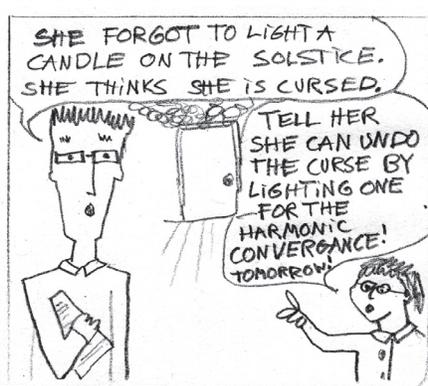
"Or hollowed-out logs," agreed another Pentagon official. "They send a clear, language-free message of warning that cannot be hacked."

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Next Issue: Choosing Pool Toys with Celebrities



THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY by Nathan Undergod



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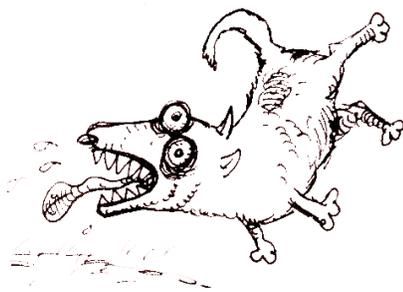


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* Coriolanus

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.