

These are truly the...

Enron is our business model...



Pepper Spray Times

...or P.S.T...

February 2002



It's neoteric... it's free

"Our house is hell, and thou, a merry devil, didst rob it of some taste of tediousness."*

Vol. IV No. 5

OSAMA BIN LADEN'S NEW LOOK



BEFORE



AFTER

THE NEW LOOK favored by arch-terrorist Osama Bin Laden is sure to prove a favorite.

By Kenneth Cape

Recent developments in Afghanistan have confirmed the strong probability that Osama Bin Laden, the United States' prime suspect in the September 11th attack on America, has undergone cosmetic surgery to alter his appearance.

"We have concrete reports that cosmetic surgeons have been spotted recently on local Afghan golf courses," stated an unnamed Northern Alliance official. "It's about the only actual concrete left in Afghanistan."

The rumors imply that not only has a team of plastic surgeons crossed into the war zone to alter Bin Laden's appearance, but that the arch-terrorist is most probably masquerading as a woman.

"The beard would be a problem, of course," offered one Pentagon spokesperson. "But the burqa generally worn by Afghani women offers a complete head-to-toe opportunity for disguise."

Experts agree that a burka-clad Bin Laden could have escaped with a party of refugees and easily masked a face swollen from cosmetic alteration.

"He could look like Cindy Crawford by now," commented one.

Observers of the Afghanistan campaign against terrorism noted that the search through the network of caves in the hills had yielded clues which support the theory that Bin Laden may be attempting to disguise himself as a woman.

"There's a strange perfume in some of these caves," confirmed one al Qaeda expert at the Pentagon. "We think it's Obsession."

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PRETZEL SALES SKYROCKET

By Omar Goodness

Retailers admitted to being mystified recently when the public's inexplicable taste for pretzels skyrocketed, leading to empty shelves, pretzel bags as deep as snow drifts littering the landscape, and a powerful public thirst.

"It just came over me," shrugged Hank O'Hare, knocking back his fourth beer at the neighborhood bar's happy hour after buying the last four bags of pretzels at a local 7-11. "The President's recent unfortunate episode with a pretzel had nothing to do with it. I'm not suicidal in the least. Of course, I

might feed a few of these to my neighbor's noisy dog."

Attorney General John Ashcroft advised the American public to "remain alert" during the pretzel shortage. "We'll, get through this crisis. After all, this is war."

* * * * *

Fax freely, plagiarize wildly, in other words, enjoy.



THE PENTAGON insists that the pretzel is not a weapon.



TAKE THE MONEY ENRON

By Heidi Evidence



ENRON fannypacks are emblazoned with the slogan "ask why".

Thousands of Enron employees whose retirement savings were destroyed when the company's stock plummeted put their heads together and shared creative ideas recently

about what to do with their nearly worthless shares of Enron, or "crooked E" stock.

"We wish we'd had the foresight that senior Enron executives and directors had when they sold more than \$1 billion in company stock in the last three years," lamented Hugo Yourway. "But we've discovered that our shares make a great doorstep."

"We wish we had four houses in Aspen to sell like Enron's chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay," commented laid-off Enron worker Trudy Mill. "But we know he meant well when he told us that the company's third-quarter financial results were 'looking great'."

Other creative suggestions for Enron stock were; paperdolls, packing material, wallpaper for the guest room, kindling, and baby wipes.

* * * * *

COMEDY DISGRACES ITSELF AT IRONY'S FUNERAL



By Ann Thensome

Comedy disgraced itself recently at a funeral for Irony to the horror of Irony's grief-stricken family and friends. When the tear gas cleared, the funeral parlor was in a shambles and police estimated the damage at several hundred thousand dollars.

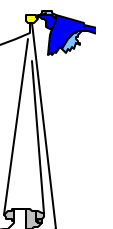
"We may never get the vomit out of the carpet," said a spokesperson for the funeral parlor. "There's cream pie all over the chancel and the conga line tracked it everywhere. It was an insult to an attempt at a beautiful, dignified ceremony."

* * * * *

Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...



A "treatability study" is a jobs program.



PANHANDLING REDUX

By Russell N. Underbrush



San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom surprised everyone by proposing a law against panhandling on median strips and city-owned

parking garages punishable by a \$500 fine or jail time. **GAVIN NEWSOM** tries kicking the homeless.

"No, I'm not suicidal," countered Newsom to critics who pointed out that anti-homeless policies were the downfall of several earlier political figures. "You have to admit I look better than these bums do on TV."

One of the more intriguing ideas being considered is a "quality of life" hotline where citizens could make "quality of life" complaints to City Hall.

"I would certainly like to complain about those GAP windows," offered 54 year old Donald Smith, panhandling tourists downtown. "Who would wear that shit? It's a dual assault on human sensibilities and labor consciousness."

Another suggestion is a homeless summit, which Smith also supports.

"I just hope it's at the Fairmont, that I get to go, and that it lasts all winter."

* * * * *

WHINY ACTIVISTS CAN'T PARTY



By Rob Banks

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory officials had hoped that local Berkeley activists would party hearty upon hearing that the Tritium Labeling Facility was closing down. Local activists had claimed for years that the periodic tritium emissions, both intentional and accidental, endangered the public's health.

"We thought they'd party for weeks," confessed LBNL Radiological Control Manager Gary Zeman at a recent presentation of a three-phase work plan for dismantling the tritium lab. "We thought they'd be too drunk to notice our treatability study."

Critics argued that the facility's new focus on an experimental process known as catalytic chemical oxidation was the same process being used during an accidental release of approximately 35 to 50 curies of tritium into the atmosphere in July of 1998, a release which was not made public until weeks later.

"What a bunch of whiners," commented Zeman. "Only scientists really understand this stuff, and it's only a study. People who live in a college town have to get used to these things."

* * * * *



NEW UC PROJECT'S GOAL REVEALED

By Abigail Blew

The UC Regents approved a huge new project which absorbs even more of the picturesque northeast side of the campus despite objections from the community.

"What we are doing in relation to biogenetics is important for the university and for society as a whole," stated Regent Jeff Seymour. "But even more important than that is the fact that we're slowly closing in on Jim Sharp's house. A couple more decades and we'll have it."

* * * * *

CHAVEZ DOGS DEMAND LICENSES FOR WILDLIFE

By Silas S. Golden

The Cesar Chavez Park dogs which successfully organized an "off leash" area near the Berkeley Marina are poised to enlarge the scope of their victory by demanding a resolution requiring any remaining wildlife to be tagged and licensed.

"What makes them so special?" sniffed one Llasa Apso. "These birds ought to have to suffer the same humiliations and regulations we do."

"The City Council rolls over and plays dead when it comes to dog lovers," barked one Dalmation happily. "It's effectively an off-leash park anywhere west of Sixth Street right now, anyway."

"Oh, well," sighed one mallard waddling out of the way of a curious poodle. "I only come here at all anymore when I get blown off-course. I guess I'm partially to blame; that'll teach me not to register to vote."

* * * * *

BEST UNINTENTIONAL COMEDY AWARD

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- The ADA: How to sidestep it and STILL keep whining about what a burden it is!
- Spreading Hatred: How to enlist your community's help!

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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.



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

Available at all the finest Berkeley City Council meetings.
 * Macbeth