

All hail the...

...the piggable issue ...



Pepper Spray Times

January 2011



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

"...the herdsmen of the beastly plebians..."*

Vol. XIII No. 1

Solstice Eclipse Show Panned

*"It should have been tweeted."
- disappointed viewer*

by Minerva Somepeople

Critics shrugged. Skywatchers squinted alternately at the night sky and their watches. And everyone agreed that the eclipse on this year's winter solstice was a nice idea, but was too long, too cold, and rather badly planned.

"Where's Stanley Gatti when you need him?" commented one Bay Area resident who felt underwhelmed by the occasion. "I was assuming they would have a really good sound track together for this thing by now, but there was nothing."

"It should have been tweeted," scoffed another potential viewer who passed on the show. "They've known this thing was coming for years, but they really didn't bother with the build-up we're used to. No celebrity endorsements, no product placement, no theme song, nothing."

Media experts agreed that the prime product of the solstice/eclipse combi-



THE ABSENCE OF A SOUNDTRACK dampened enthusiasm for the recent combination solar eclipse and solstice, the classic nature of which was too subtle and too slow for the fast-paced nature of today's modern viewer.

nation, the visual effect, fell somewhat flat compared to the stunning effects in typical movie or video game fare.

"Was that 3-D?" asked one viewer later. "It was really hard to tell."

"We have some good tie-ins in the works for next time," stated one media consultant. "Just think of the possibilities for cheese."

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THE NEXT SOLSTICE/LUNAR ECLIPSE COMBINATION will be produced by the combined efforts of Disney, Industrial Light and Magic, and WETA Digital in addition to being woven into a national advertising campaign for better buzz.

PG&E Defends Inspection Plan

"Pigs are not all that smart." - PG&E

by Sienna Fog

PG&E is vigorously defending the role it played in a lobbying campaign which persuaded federal regulators to allow "direct assessment" of its pipes, a technique which saved them oodles of money if you don't count loss of life.

"I think all the direct assessment techniques work very well," stated Kirk Johnson, PG&E vice president in charge of transmission pipelines, "except for in San Bruno."

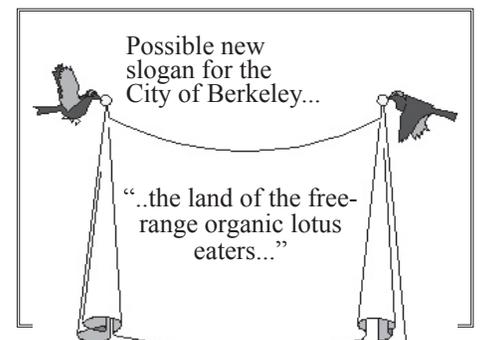
Johnson acknowledged that direct assessment techniques saved PG&E millions in system upgrades that would have been necessary to accommodate hydrostatic or ultrasonic assessments, but asserted that "smart pig" ultrasonic testing has its own, unknown costs.

"Smart pigs are hard to come by," stated Johnson. "We're not entirely sure that even very smart pigs would be welcome in some of the communities we serve."

Ratepayers wary of replicating San Bruno's explosion, which killed eight people and destroyed 37 homes, expressed enthusiasm for pigs.

"We're piggable," nodded one ratepayer with enthusiasm. "We've put up with dumb pigs for a long time. The smart ones should be no problem."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, the solstice eclipse event was so pretty to see. But why do they have it so late at night? Couldn't they reschedule it so it isn't so tough on our schedules? I have to get up in the morning.

Dear reader, yes, and apparently they're doing exactly that in an upcoming year for several reasons. They'd like to put it at halftime during the Superbowl. With the right publicity and a good soundtrack it would draw better than the typical wardrobe malfunction.

Dear Lena, I gave all the wrong gifts. And I wrapped them wrong, I know that. What should I do?

Dear reader, you have the true spirit of Christmas. Just sit tight, and know that God smiles.

Dear Lena, the big news seems to be that it is raining. Can I safely cancel my newspaper, sign up for cable, and just watch old movies for the rest of my life? It doesn't seem like I would be missing much.

Dear reader, there is nothing irresponsible in keeping your focus on old movies, which are arguably as informative as anything else. Just keep in mind that it really is raining from time to time.

Dear Lena, can I get in the America's cup race? It really looks like fun.

Dear reader, of course you can. This is a democracy, after all. Start practicing now with a small boat and hang around the docks a lot in a sailor suit so you can get in on all the fun.

Ask Lena about the things that matter most and how to slice them into cunning little flowers at cdenney@igc.org.

Holiday Terror Suggestions from Homeland Security

By Carolyn N. DeSnow

The Office of Homeland Security spent the holiday season sorting through a blizzard of potential threats.

"You better watch out," stated one Homeland Security memo.

Officials admit they have nothing specific or credible, but hope holiday revelers will take simple precautions to avoid danger:

*** Don't open any presents.**

Gifts are lovely around the holidays, but could be bombs in disguise. Ask your friends not to give you any presents and do not give any yourself. If someone gives you a colorfully wrapped present, toss it into an empty field and take immediate cover.

*** Don't attend any large celebratory gatherings such as holiday parades.**

Terrorists love stuff like that. Avoid any Christmas tree or menorah lighting ceremonies or parades, and be sure to report suspicious activities or abnormalities, such as people who know *all* the verses of holiday songs.

*** Avoid the eggnog.**

Terrorists love to spike the eggnog thinking it is a beloved holiday drink, not realizing it is inherently revolting. Even if terrorists have not gotten to the eggnog, it is best avoided.

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HOMELAND SECURITY suggests that you avoid suspicious packages.



HOMELAND SECURITY HOPES that you will report anything suspicious, such as this peculiar instrument, which might credibly disrupt otherwise credible holiday activities.

Holiday Terror Plots Ruled Out By Homeland Security

The vague nature of recent terrorist threats makes it difficult to assess the exact date and time of an potential terrorist event, but the Office of Homeland Security has *ruled out* some threats in the hope of narrowing the possibilities:

- * Exploding Christmas ornaments.
- * Holiday garlands that strangle you in the night.
- * Murderous fruitcake.
- * Deafening 95 decibel carolers.
- * Three wise men who follow you.
- * Repetitive Christmas music that slowly drives you mad.
- * Baggage claim workers who light your undies on fire.
- * Stalker snowmen.
- * Biological threat chia pets.
- * Shepherds who beat you up with their staves.
- * Too much snow.

* * * * *

Holiday Funding Application to BIGCORP Foundation

By Celia Lipps

From Lighthouse of Hope Counseling Center Attachment B: Publicity Plan

If funding from the BIGCORP Foundation for the GetReal program is granted, Lighthouse of Hope will acknowledge this generosity through:

1. **Television:** Lighthouse of Hope hosts a weekly half-hour television program on Public Access Channel 15 in partnership with CreaTV in San Jose, focusing on organizations working to help at-risk children and families throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Throughout the year, Lighthouse of Hope will send press releases to appropriate television and news shows, focusing on the program's success, and noting the generosity of the BIGCORP Foundation in any resulting TV interviews.

2. **Facebook:** Lighthouse of hope will list the BIGCORP Foundation at the top of its list of corporate supporters on the GetReal Facebook page, and encourage participants and interested community members to participate in an interactive online discussion on program successes and ways to optimize the GetReal program.

3. **Print Media:** BIGCORP will be acknowledged and thanked regularly through the Lighthouse of Hope quarterly newsletter and in its annual report,



THE LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE has really good luck with its holiday fundraising campaigns.

and initially with a press release announcing the grant sent to local media covering Bay Area philanthropy, and to publications within the philanthropic and faith communities.

4. **Special events:** Lighthouse of Hope holds a popular fundraising luncheon in the fall, attracting political, academic, general nonprofit and individual supporters. BIGCORP will be thanked in the Luncheon program, and at the event itself. Additionally, BIGCORP's generosity will be noted in the graduation ceremony of program participants, and in the press releases generated before and after the luncheon and graduation ceremonies.

5. Lighthouse of Hope executive director will personally speak to God about the generosity of BIGCORP, and recommend that all BIGCORP Founda-

SF Hosts America's Cup - "Rich People Have Needs, Too"

By Louisa Consciousness

"Our rich people are bored," explained Lt. Governor-elect Gavin Newsom when asked to explain why a city with hundreds of people dying in its streets would agree to spend \$270 million on a yacht race for millionaires.

"There's really only so long you can shop, and only so much you can buy," added Newsom. "There comes a point when you need some refreshing salt air and the reassuring embrace of a shiny silver trophy."

"I think it's a good thing," stated one enthusiastic tenderloin resident selling used books on a blanket by Laundreland. "Rich people have had a really tough time in the market the last few years. They're used to really raking in the dough, and although Wall Street has struggled back from tough times, it's just not as quick a buck as it was. Rich people need this."

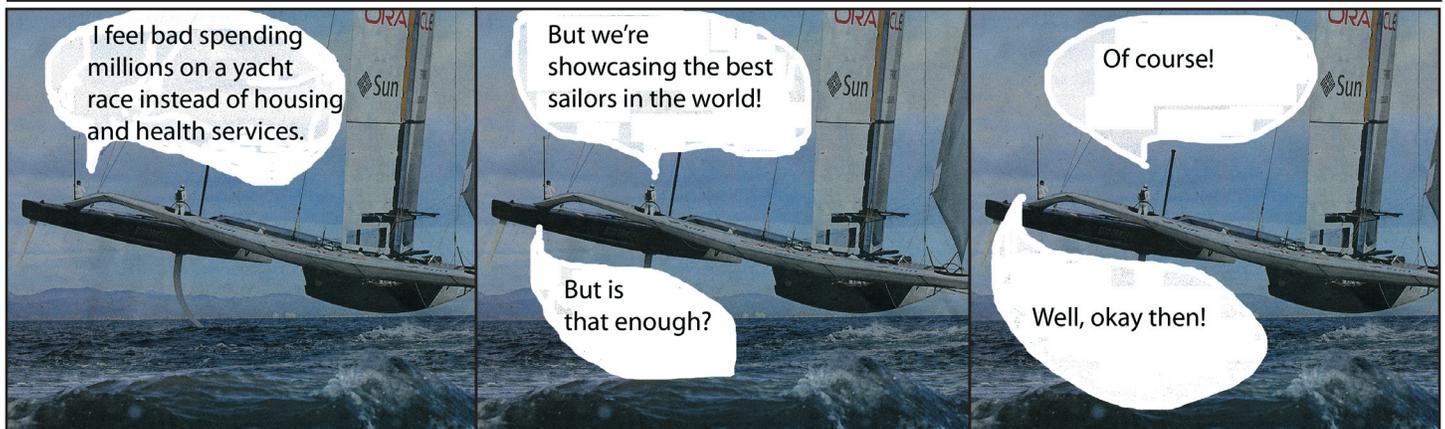
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tion staff who have approved funding for the GetReal program will get a first-class seat on the heavenly chariot, a personal interview with the heavenly Father himself, and a five-pound box of See's Candies, as everyone knows that no one gets fat in heaven.

Lighthouse of Hope deeply appreciates the opportunity and invitation to apply for this funding to the BIGCORP Foundation.

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast





Bodies on the Hill Deemed Safety Risk

by Lida Mylife

The University of California and the City of Berkeley agreed recently to postpone revising the zoning of Panoramic Hill until the spring, when they hope to have more support for the issue of the grave danger posed by the proliferation of bodies.

“We know it’s bisected by an earthquake fault, in the path of potential firestorms, and larded with toxic waste, but with proper education we know we can get the residents to realize the proliferation of bodies on the hill is the biggest safety threat they face.”

City and university staff hope to quell the threat by, among other things, re-defining entirely the current inadequate definition of bedroom.

“It’s like the wild west right now,” admitted one Panoramic Hill resident. “Come the holidays we have relatives hanging from the chandeliers.”



EXPANSIVE DEFINITIONS of what constitutes a bedroom can lead to serious safety threats, much more serious than tritium exposure, if left unaddressed.

Rooms with bookshelves or home offices are often exempted from being defined as bedrooms, problematic for a town where people often have books on and in every available square inch of space except the interior of the toaster.

“The phrase ‘primarily used for sleeping’ is useful until, again, the holidays,” conceded another Panoramic Hill resi-

dent. “Uncle George conked out on the dining room floor the other night, and we didn’t have the heart to move him.”

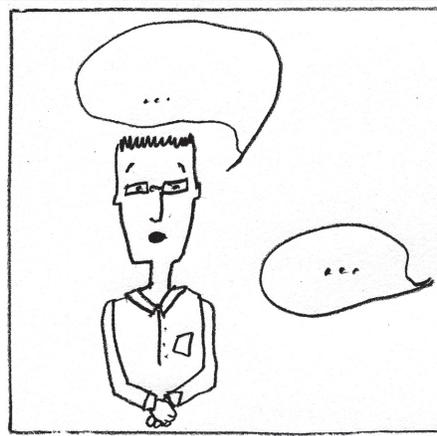
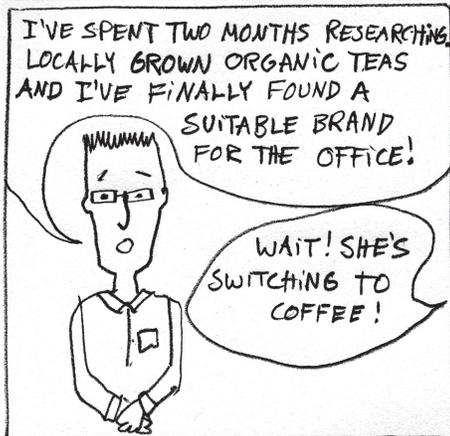
Citizens are encouraged to submit creative definitions of bedroom by spring.

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Next Issue: Creative Tax Returns with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Nathan Undergod



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

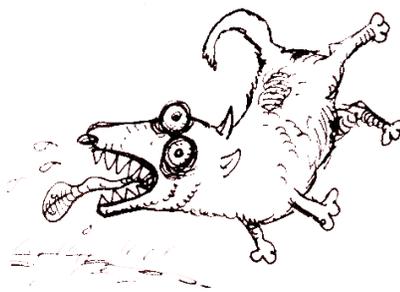


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* Coriolanus

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.