

*...the
rhubarb
issue ...*



All hail the powerful...

Pepper Swan Times

November 2012

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

..thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold...**

Vol. XIV No. 11

TEDFORD SWAN SONG CLUB DEBUTS *Thousands Sign Up Overnight*



THIS UC BERKELEY FOOTBALL PLAYER does his best to estimate the size of the...er,... competition he faces in a generous effort to avoid blaming Coach Jeff Tedford, the highest paid employee in the state of California, for another terrible football game.

by Saul Overnow and Gladys Overnow

University of California football's head coach and highest paid public employee in the state of California Jeff Tedford attributed the Cal Bears' 49-27 loss to the

recent hurricane in New York and New Jersey, a view soundly supported by the UC Berkeley administration.

"Also the homeless," added Tedford. "After Measure S passes we'll win every game."

In a related development, the "Tedford Swan Song Club" debuted collecting several thousand fans overnight and nearly \$500,000 in t-

shirt sales.

"Everybody wants one," acknowledged one student. "It's bigger than the pet rock."

Tedford admitted that the most recent game was the worst one ever, but pointed out that you can only get better after a game with a four yard second quarter.

Critics responded that blaming the homeless was getting old, and that the hurricane was pretty far away and didn't affect local weather patterns enough to be a factor, but were dismissed by both Tedford and the UC Berkeley administration.

"We're not blaming just one factor," added Tedford. "It's complicated. It's a combination of not being able to coach and not being able to play."

Tedford acknowledged that the homeless kids on Telegraph were not entirely to blame.

"There were additional elements," he stated. "I think the cheerleaders were just phoning it in."

* * * * *



THE UC BERKELEY administration agreed that if it weren't for the homeless kids on Telegraph Avenue the Bears would have won the game.

Millionaires Say Oh Yes, They Are Better Off Now Than They Were Four Years Ago

by I. Gottmein

CEO of McKesson, John H. Hambergren, can answer the oft-posed election query "Are you better off now than you were four years ago" with a resounding "yes!"

Hambergren's salary is the most lavish of all CEO's, a whopping \$131 million in total pay. Hambergren drew \$6.3 million in salary and bonus, but also realized \$112 million from the exercise of vested stock options.

"I'm doing alright," stated Hambergren. "I don't tend to worry about stretching out the pennies for my golden years."

Hambergren's not alone. According to a recent report, the executives of the 500 biggest companies in the U.S. got a collective pay raise last year of 16%, as opposed to the average 3% pay raise for those American workers lucky enough to have jobs.

"We're really thankful for the shareholders' generosity," stated Ralph Lauren of Ralph Lauren, whose \$67 million dollar salary puts him right behind Hambergren in the pantheon of highly paid top executives. "I am definitely better off than I was four years ago."

Michael D. Fascatelli of Vornado Realty is the next best paid executive with a hefty \$64 million, followed by Richard Kinder of Kinder Morgan with \$61 million and David M. Cote of Honeywell International with a more modest \$56 million.

The highest paid female top executive is Irene Rosenfeld of Kraft Foods with \$25.4 million in total pay last year, less than half what the top male executives are getting, as is traditional and ladylike.

"I am still better off today than I was four years ago," stated Ms. Rosenfeld. "And getting half what the male executives make helps me keep my feminine charm."



CEO JOHN HAMMERGREN says hell, yeah, he's better off than he was four years ago.

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I would like to be a woman in a binder. What should I do?

Dear reader, go to your nearest stationary store and buy the biggest binder you can find. Punch three large holes in your body; one behind your neck, one at your waist, and one behind your knees. Be sure to smile, and step into the binder. Then wait. Wait a really, really long time.

Dear Lena, so Jesus was married. How can they tell?

Dear reader, his socks were carefully darned, and he had an impressive collection of tupperware.

Dear Lena, I can never remember - do I move the clocks forward or backward or what?

Dear reader, either way. If you arrive anywhere early, see if you can help with the dishes. If you're late, make sure to bring a lovely plate of cookies.

Dear Lena, I really want to vote, but I hate to look like a tool of the corporate state. What should I do?

Dear reader, not a problem. Go ahead and vote. *Not voting* is also a tool of the corporate state.

Ask Lena about getting cozy with the corporate state at cdenney@igc.org.



Jesus Had a Wife - and She Was Hot

by Jimmy DeLocke

An old piece of papyrus appears to prove that not only did Jesus have a wife, but that she was hot, according to a renowned expert from Harvard Divinity School.

"Really, really hot," stated professor Karen King, who said the 4th Century script proved that Jesus wanted women included and respected as disciples for a wide variety of reasons, such as mending socks and asking directions when traveling.

Most theologians prefer to think of Jesus as an ascetic teacher, but in fact the canonical New Testament sources do not comment on his marital status or his favorite hobbies, which some scraps of paper indicate might have included betting on the ponies.

Jim West, a professor and Baptist pastor in Tennessee, said: "A statement on a papyrus fragment isn't proof of anything. It's nothing more than a statement 'in thin air', without substantial context, kind of like the Bible. The difference is that the Bible is true, and this other stuff just messes with your mind."

Wolf-Peter Funk, a noted Coptic linguist who saw the fragment of papyrus at the conference, said there were "thousands of scraps of papyrus where you find crazy things like horoscopes and shopping lists," and suggested that if Jesus was married he probably would have mentioned his wife more often, especially if she were really hot.

Others disagreed.



JESUS'S WIFE prefers couture and settled on lotus blossoms with roses and the traditional meal of loaves and fishes.

"Even guys with hot wives like to hang out with the boys, and Jesus sure did a lot of that," pointed out Bible scholar Ben Witherington III, a professor in Kentucky.

Both King and Witherington had no idea if the fragment might influence the role of women in the Christian church.

"It depends on whether they need help in the kitchen," offered Witherington. "It never hurts to have somebody watching the soup."

* * * *

UC Police Officer Tries to Shoot Himself and Misses

"He needs more practice," states Lt. Tejada

By Anna May F. D. State



A veteran officer of the University of California Police Department tried and failed to shoot himself recently, managing only to wound his leg in the middle of a crowded police locker room.

Lt. Eric Tejada of the university Police Department said the officer had apologized to the other officers in the locker room, who were understandably concerned.

"He needs a lot more target practice," stated a nervous officer who was there at the time. "I have trouble getting started myself some mornings, but the day I intend to shoot myself is a day I'll make sure I get enough sleep."

Insiders suggested it might be an accident, an equipment malfunction, or a cover-up of some larger conspiracy against legs, but

were dismissed by those who know the officer well.

"He's been pretty depressed lately," admitted one anonymous officer. "Chasing homeless kids up and down the avenue isn't what he signed up for. And now with this anti-sitting law, well, we're all starting to scan Craigslist for something else to do."

Tejada declined to release the officer's name, saying the man was only beginning to realize how embarrassing his situation is, and the department was worried about both the officer's safety and their own.

"We're not sure whether or not to take his gun away," acknowledged Tejada. "We're discussing replacing it with a squirt-gun for awhile."

* * * *

New Study Shows Monsanto's Genetically Modified Corn Produces Seriously Depressed Rats

by Donovan Age

"The study is nonsense," stated Monsanto at an official press conference after a bunch of French scientists gave up trying to cheer up their study's seriously depressed and tumor-ridden rats by taking them to Disneyland, hiring clowns, and giving them free pizzas at Chuck-E-Cheese.

"These rats are undercover Green Party operatives trying to stop progress," stated a Monsanto spokesperson. "I personally put Roundup directly on my breakfast cereal." The French study is the latest in a series of papers reporting abnormalities linked to genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, which Monsanto dismissed as having been conducted by a bunch of people in white coats impersonating scientists who don't like progress.

"We're the real scientists," stated Monsanto's spokesperson. "We built a ride at Disneyland."

The French scientists, led by Gilles-Eric Seralini, a professor at the University of Caen in France, admitted that Monsanto scientists are paid much more than their group, but protested that they like progress a lot.

"These rats have no political agenda," stated Seralini. "They've never ever heard of Proposition 37. Most of them aren't even registered to vote."

A spokesperson for the rats agreed.

"Most rats just think about sex and food," he acknowledged. "They like baseball but they don't really follow the game. They end up snacking under the seats."



THIS DEPRESSED RAT just hangs around the lab watching soap operas.

Monsanto's spokesperson insisted that French scientists had used special, tumor-prone rats in order to cast doubts on the safety of genetically modified foods and stop progress.

"It's true. I hate those stupid sticky things. It wrecks my day when I find one in my salad."
-Gary Ruskin, Yes on Prop. 37

"They hate progress," stated the spokesperson. "And Proposition 37 is just going to make food more expensive by forcing us to put even more and

much bigger sticky labels on food when we explain about what's in there. The labels will have to be so big that you won't even be able to find the food and you'll hate that."

Gary Ruskin, campaign manager of the Yes on Proposition 37 effort to ensure that genetically modified food is labeled, agreed that those sticky labels on your apple are really annoying.

"I hate those stupid sticky things. It wrecks my day when I find one in my salad."

Monsanto's spokesperson ended their press conference by suggesting that however depressing it might be to have tumors

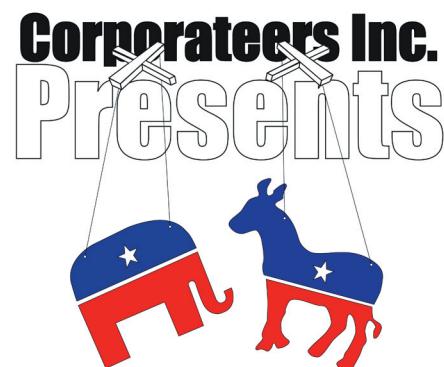
linked to genetically modified food, that was nothing compared to how depressed people are going to be when the big labels of what's in our food get stuck all over their cornflakes, let alone how depressed they'll be after having to read the labels standing around in the market and ending up late for dinner.

"Labeling is directly linked to depression," stated the Monsanto spokesperson. "If those French rats had had to read the labels of what they were being fed, they probably would have shot themselves."



THIS CUTE LITTLE RAT was found hoarding automatic weapons and filling notebooks with ominous drawings and suspicious stories.

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We Can't Draw Comics



Romney helped donate canned goods to victims of hurricane Sandy.



He just didn't realize that cash is much more useful.



So he addressed the matter right away.

by Franz Toast

Public Input on West Berkeley Discovered in Black Hole

"So that's where it is!" exclaims Mayor

by staff writer Holly Sheet

The volumes of public input squarely opposed to changing the citizen-inspired West Berkeley Plan by adding more "developer flexibility" was discovered recently in a black hole.

"It's been confirmed," stated a scientist standing by a shiny telescope. "It entered the black hole right after each community meeting and each public hearing. It's all there somewhere inside the black hole."

"It's such a relief," stated one West Berkeley resident. "We went to so many meetings, wrote so many letters, and seemed to be a united community against the Mayor's proposal for making changes to the West Berkeley Plan now represented by Measure T. It's good to at least know where all our letters and speeches ended up."

"That's right," added another West Berkeley neighbor. "I'm really relieved that our public input was finally tracked down."

Critics argued that the community's public input on changing the West Berkeley Plan could hardly have been used to guide a plan designed to destroy it, and that keeping public input in a black hole was not the

best way to enhance community participation.

"Well, duh," snapped one Berkeley city official. "Imagine if we had to keep our plans consonant with the neighborhood wishes. We would have to read all this nonsense and we couldn't do whatever we wanted."

"That's right," added a staff member from the Planning Department. "The black hole is a really good place for public input."



THERE'S NO POINT in wasting good cardboard. If you see a Yes on Measure T sign in your neighborhood, consider it a creative opportunity to get out the paints.



Anti-sitting Haiku, by Anonymous

standing up is good
so what if you are tired
your back will thank you

consider standing
soothe the DBA's feelings
less wrinkled clothing

stand up for the rich
they hate it when people sit
nobody knows why

sit! and sadden me
I hate it when you do it
stand all day for me

Next Issue: Watching Debates with Celebrities

by Juan Nathan Undergod

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECIDIOTY



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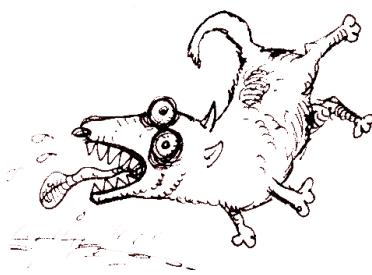


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