

All hail the...

...the sphacelate issue ...



Hepper Spray Times

September 2008



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

"..of bristly pikes that ever threat his foes..."*

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GOLFERS' SUPPORT GROUPS are forming to combat the psychological effects of water shortages on golf courses nationwide, which may reduce the soothing effects of traditional greens which, in turn, play an enormous role in the mental health of people who direct multinational corporations.

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS GOLF

Game Considered Crucial to Human Survival

By Yolanda DeWash

The United Nations Security Council has officially acknowledged that climate change will fuel violent conflict around the world, conflict that may threaten to end the peaceful, universally beloved game of golf.

The council will meet later this month to discuss potential additional recreational threats, but agreed to focus on golf as the most prominent threat to world leaders, whose ability to function in a world of climactic change is dependent upon access to golf.

"We think jet-skiing will survive," stated one member of the Council. "Snow-boarding, however, is in jeopardy, and we're hoping for a massive retraining project to assist snow-boarders experiencing sudden withdrawal."

Experts state that snow-boarders in particular may have difficulty adapting to other sports, such as clogging or canasta. But all experts agree that the potential threat to golf is the most obvious global disaster threatening civilization and the potential for civilization in developing nations.

"World leaders just won't go where

they can't play golf," stated Britain's U.N. Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry. "The traditional triggers for conflict which exist out there are likely to be exacerbated by the effect of climate change. Golfers in particular may become unruly, especially if their traditional greens become parched."

The council will look at the impact of climate change on water hazards, noting that the rules for dropping a ball behind a water hazard may need to be revisited, along with efforts to focus on threats to agricultural production and the potential for famine and crop surpluses, Parry said. Rising temperatures, for example, will increase water levels and can swallow up island nations or force massive relocation of people living in low-lying areas.

"Massive population relocation can strain golf course resources," stated Parry. "Our efforts need to focus strategically on stocking and re-supplying golf supply shops in case of disruption."

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WTO TALK COLLAPSE TRAGEDY INSPIRES WORLD-WIDE COMPASSION, BENEFIT CONCERTS

By Eudora Bullbaby

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha Development Agenda, supposed to prioritize the needs of poor countries, was inexplicably rejected recently by two of the poorest, most populated countries on earth, leaving WTO leaders baffled and distraught.

"We were doing it all for them" wept Peter Mandelson, European Commissioner for Trade. "We wanted nothing for ourselves."

Experts agreed that India had caved in to pressure from suicidal farmers who could no longer feed their families.

"They stopped thinking long-term," they nodded. "Suicide is so selfish. Hunger is important, but profits require a long-term perspective."

* * * * *



THIS IS HOW RICH poor countries would have been if they were more trusting and stuck with the WTO.



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I can't afford to eat anymore. What should I do?

Dear reader, it's a good time to take up other hobbies, such as knitting.

Dear Lena, I'm not sure I like the looks of either candidate for president. Should I vote, or should I do my nails?

Dear reader, some people manage to do both, but you might want to hire an assistant.

Dear Lena, if the Bible is wrong, where should I turn for guidance?

Dear reader, try the phone book.

Dear Lena, is there something I should do about global warming?

Dear reader, I believe we have enough people recycling and riding around in Priuses. If you don't mind, could you start following bees, so we can figure out that colony collapse thing.

Dear Lena, should I sell my house?

Dear reader, yes, but don't get taken. Insist on getting at least a dozen eggs and two pair of shoes in return.

Dear Lena, I am so mixed up about cell phone plans. Which one should I be using?

Dear reader, use them all. Otherwise you run the risk of hurting some of their feelings, and they and their networks will triangulate your location and destroy you and everything you love.

Ask Lena for advice about religious and financial rituals at cdenney@igc.org.

EXPERTS AGREE: THE POOR DESERVE TO STARVE

Stubborn Low-income People Simply Refuse Valuable Investment Opportunities in Genetically Modified Seeds and Products

By Dudley Squat

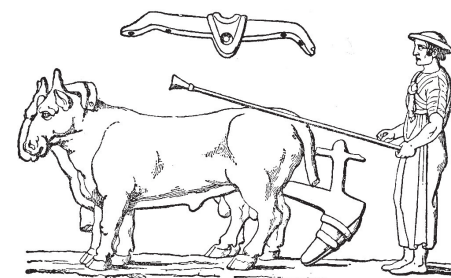
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) presented definitive proof recently that food riots over skyrocketing food prices and worldwide shortages are only happening to people who deserve to starve anyway.



THE POOR have really bad habits, such as refusing to invest in Cargill.

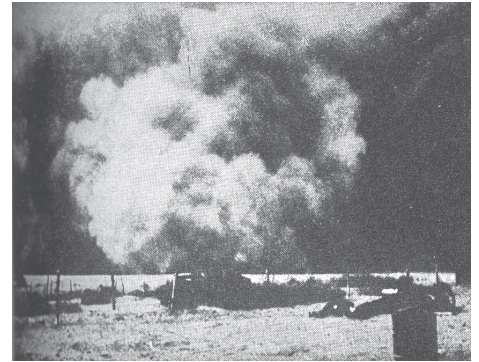
"It's true that some people are unable to feed their children. On the other hand, Monsanto is doing quite well."

Food riots in 37 countries have not shaken Monsanto's confidence in genetically modified plants and energy crops, despite a hail of criticism from activists and authors who place the blame for world starvation squarely at the feet of the United States Department of Agriculture and the transnational agribusinesses which benefit most from its policies.



ETRUSCAN PLOWMAN (FIRST CENTURY B.C.)

IF ETRUSCAN FARMERS from first century B.C. could figure out how to farm, then modern people ought to be able to figure it out.



THE NEXT DUST BOWL will be better, since science has better descriptive terms for it like "desertification" and stuff.

ment of Agriculture and the transnational agribusinesses which benefit most from its policies.

Critics argue that today most of the three major grain crop varieties, corn, wheat, and rice, are controlled by a handful of private companies, potentially threatening the global food supply and artificially increasing the price of Kellogg's Krispy treats throughout the world.

"Nonsense," responded scientists at Cargill. "Genetic modifications may be unable to predict emergent behavior of some species, but I think we can count on the popularity of Kellogg's Krispy treats for many years to come."

The current United States (US) administration confirmed to reporters that no matter which political party wins in November, the farm policies born in the depression era and currently reshaped to subsidize corporate farming interests will remain undisturbed.

"Recent studies clearly show that people who starve are not even bothering to shop around online for the best prices," stated one Cargill scientist. "These people deserve our compassion, but the truth is they're better off out of the gene pool."

USDA officials agreed, pointing out that the poor have an obvious opportunity to learn to eat corn husks and miscanthus to keep down food bills.

"Energy crops for biofuels are at the beginning of what we hope will be a long and happy set of discoveries for alternative human uses," stated one official. "We figure if irrigation water has become scarce, it will just inspire new uses for more readily available fluids, such as urine, or Napa Valley merlot."

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God Supports Court Decision; States Bible is All Wrong

By Diana Meecha

God recently declared support for a federal judge's decision saying the University of California is free to deny course credit to applicants from Christian high schools whose school textbooks reject evolution.

"I know they mean well," God stated, "and I appreciate their support. But the Bible is actually really poorly written. I've wanted to distance myself from it for quite some time."

God's comments baffled some religious experts, who have claimed for years that the Bible was written by God, but God explained that between the original poor translations, the wild additions and subtractions, and the centuries of politically-based censorship and distortion, the current popular editions of the Bible bear almost no relation to his original work, which he said was a few minor instructions he once left for a neighbor while he was vacationing.

"How to open the garage, what to feed the cat, just things like that," he explained. "Someone got ahold of my explanations for the washer and dryer and now it reads like I'm taking credit for all of creation."

Judge James Otero of Los Angeles said UC's review committees rejected the texts not because they contained religious viewpoints, but because they were a pile of utter nonsense.

"I'm actually amazed these UC committees still have the guts to reject the powerful religious lobby behind the effort to discredit evolution," Otero stated. "A few years from now, religion will have the same sway over academic content at the university level that BP and Novartis have had."

Exxon Mobil Has Really Good Day

By Zena Nuff

Exxon Mobil, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, recently reported its best quarterly profit in history, and put colorful streamers and balloons in its corporate windows in joyous celebration.

Company executives explained that the record-breaking profits were due to their extremely hard and dedicated work this particular quarter.

"We always were hard-working people," stated Rex W. Tillerson, Exxon's chairman. "But this last quarter we really broke some sweat."

Record earnings for the second quarter income rose 14 percent, to \$11.68

billion, the highest quarterly profit ever for any American company, approximately \$90,000 a minute.

"I hardly ever get to see my kids," sighed Tillerson, "but we know the American people, especially those who hold Exxon shares, are depending on us; we have to make sacrifices."

Such profits have made Exxon Mobil an unfair target in recent years, producing the usual tedious calls for windfall profits taxes to finance research for renewable fuels.

"No good deed goes unpunished," acknowledged Tillerson ruefully. "The more back-breaking labor I manage to accomplish in a quarter, the more jealous rage we seem to provoke in people who are not as successful."

The principal reason for the company's banquet of riches is not rising fuel prices, as many claim, but a work ethic among the company's executives which goes beyond arriving at work on time and being nicely dressed.

"I sometimes bring the doughnuts," says Tillerson proudly. "I see myself as just one of the gang."

Crude oil prices in the second quarter averaged more than \$124 a barrel, 91 percent higher than the same quarter in 2007. Natural gas prices were up 43 percent from the quarter a year ago.

"If it weren't for labor strife in Nigeria, I'd be skipping around in circles," stated Tillerson.

Critics pointed out that an expropriation of Exxon assets by the Venezuelan government had also affected the company's earnings adversely, and that oil might run out someday.

"We're not worried," responded Tillerson. "We're tucking a little aside for that rainy day."

* * * * *



GOD SAYS THE BIBLE was just a short grocery list when it left his desk, and is now pretty much unrecognizable.

God agreed that commercial interests and multinational corporations will be joined by religious interests in swaying academic content down the road.

"I can't control it anymore," he sighed. "I'm sticking to trying to control my golf game."

* * * * *

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast





Protestors Rail Against Democratic National Convention Lockup

Mass Detention Facility Has No Wireless Internet Connection

By Fenster Auff

Angry activists are still ticked off about the detention center for mass arrests used at the Democratic National Convention. The detention facility is a city-owned warehouse that used to be the headquarters of the now-defunct Denver Election Commission, and includes cages, barbed wire, signs warning of stun-gun use, and an astonishing lack of DVD players and internet connections.

State and Federal officials apologized for the age of the facility, noting that their Guantanamo facility had been in the path of a hurricane during the time of the convention.

“We know these people love the green aspect of re-use and preservation of old buildings,” stated Sue Cobb, who works with the mayor’s office. “We thought they would be thrilled at the relatively untouched 1940s structure.”

Authorities promised that the next national convention will have state-of-the-art mass detention facilities.



The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, most of them imaginary.

H.L. Mencken (Journalist) 1880-1956

Arborists Assure UC Berkeley: Cutting Down Trees Will Not Hurt Them

By Tess D. Monial

University of California (UC) police standing in a basket suspended from a crane were unable to convince the unruly tree-sitters in Memorial Stadium’s oak grove to come down like civilized people, and were forced to cut branches and take their food and sleeping gear.

“We hated to, but we had to do it,” stated UC Chief of Police Victoria Harrison. “Otherwise they might eat or sleep, which would constitute aiding and abetting this ongoing crime of being in a tree.”

“That’s right,” affirmed Dan Mogolof, UC’s official spokesperson. “We really hate to cut tree branches, but if we don’t we would be complicit in this continuing threat to public safety.”

Mogolof affirmed that the university consulted with a horticulturalist who said that pruning branches and even cutting down trees would not hurt them.

“This guy is an expert,” stated Mogolof. “If you cut down a tree, according to him, it goes right to its happy place and doesn’t mind at all.”

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Next Issue: Counting Sheep with Celebrities

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



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

Mailed to your door for a hefty bribe.
Plagiarize wildly and send money.

*Venus and Adonis

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.