



Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

There Goes the Neighborhood?

City Councilman Advises Caution in Dealings with Übercenters

The (Todd) Glorix?

ON A TINY PLATFORM MARKED "UNLESS" IN DR. SEUSS'S DREAMLAND — Over the course of his term as city councilman, Todd Gloria has witnessed (and aided) the continued resurgence of urban neighborhoods such as Hillcrest, North Park, and maybe City Heights. Now, he fears, all that could be lost, ground back into the dust under the discounted boot-heel of a Walmart Supercenter.

"The city has invested millions of taxpayer dollars to revitalize business districts throughout the city," Gloria told KPBS earlier this month. "Permitting supercenters that have the potential of decimating those very same business districts — we're really working at cross purposes." To prevent such decimation, Gloria is proposing an ordinance that would require prospec-



Walmart Counsel Once-ler: "What?"

tive supercenters to pay for environmental impact reports and allow them to build only if the reports find no potential adverse effects on neighborhood character and/or dog bakeries.

Walmart general counsel Voldemort C. Once-ler was quick to respond to the proposal. "I don't know if Councilman Gloria has been reading the papers lately, but we're in a nationwide recession, the worst since the Great Depression. California in particular is on the brink of financial col-

lapse. Why he would choose this particular moment to seek to curb genuine economic growth fueled by the expansion of a successful American business with a huge presence in California is mystifying and possibly indicative of a political death wish. And since maybe he slept through Econ 101 at Podunk U. or wherever, I will remind him that if your business isn't growing, it's shrinking. Here at Walmart, we're figgering on biggering."

Reached for comment, Gloria stood on a tree stump in an

open field and declared,

My name is Todd Gloria, I speak for the shops!

If Walmart's expanding, I'm calling the cops!

Unless we can stop it, or at least give it pause

They'll all disappear up in Sam Walton's jaws.

Once-ler, who has spies everywhere, immediately texted a reply to "SD on the QT": "Lame and derivative. 'Pause' and 'jaws' — was that the best he could do? This is gonna be easier than I thought."

"Super" Good News!



The scene at Osetra: wine angel, meet wall-crawler. Mr. and Mrs. Superman, table for two!

Upscale Gaslamp eateries breathe sigh of relief over Comic-Con's decision to remain in San Diego through 2015. "Great Caesar's ghost, but we were nervous," admits Osetra chef/owner Vincenzo Lo Verso. "Over the years, we've learned that nothing sharpens a fellow's appetite for Alverta white sturgeon

caviar like clawing your way through the crowds at the Joss Whedon panel inside Hall H, and nothing works up a thirst for Salon 1985 Tete de Cuvee champagne like dressing up in full *Ghostbuster* regalia and posing for 1800 photographs while trying to scout out this year's best Slave Leia. Thank heavens they decided to stay!"

LA Gets Cancer From SD



ASTRO-CON? Good for you, L.A. Good for you.

After failing to lure Comic-Con away from San Diego, Los Angeles makes successful bid to move the annual meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology from here to there. "Comic-Con may attract around ten times as many attendees and the attention of the world's entertainment media," gloated Los Angeles Convention Center president Christina Noonan, "but ASTRO is a gathering of doctors. Cancer doctors. As in, people who actually do something worthwhile with their lives. The Los Angeles Convention Center: the choice of professionals, the professional choice.™"

Alas, Poor Precious!



I knew him, Captain Kittywhiskers.

Citing declining ticket sales, decreased interest in cultural markers such as Shakespeare, and the overwhelming popularity of cat videos on You-

Tube, Balboa Park's Old Globe Theatre announces plans to stage an all-cat *Hamlet* in Summer of 2011. Details forthcoming!

Another Mystery "Cleared" Up!

Brand This!

Details continue to "break out" regarding Comic-Con's decision to remain in San Diego. On November 3, Booths Healthcare International announced its 45-million-dollar sponsorship deal with the convention, which has become "the nation's largest annual gathering of nerds, geeks, dweebs, dorks, fanboys,



and the entertainment companies that exploit their social awkwardness for profit." Beginning in 2011, the convention will be known as the Clearasil Comic-Con by the Bay™.

