

"Exactly what is this Hamas they keep talking about?"  
**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH**  
 QUESTIONING VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY  
 IN THEIR WEEKLY BRIEFING



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## CARBOLIC SMOKE BALL HEADLINES

**Oil companies no longer price gouging — task falls to Congress as it considers added gas tax**

**Obama names Arthur Fonzarelli Secretary of Cool**

**Denny's refuses to seat Blagojevich pick Roland Burris for lunch**

**Caroline Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what Gov. Paterson can do for me"**

**Senate refuses to seat Burrell because he shot self in New York nightclub**

READERS RESPOND:  
**What Should Allegheny County Do With the Extra Drink Tax Money?**



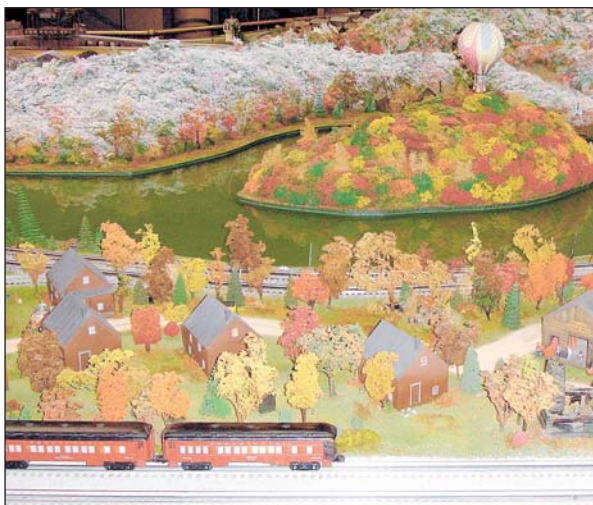
- Free beer on Fridays
- Free beer on Saturdays
- Give it to the Steelers
- Give it to Kevin Joyce, so he'll quiet down

# Peduto: Expand Rail Service at Miniature Railroad and Village

Pittsburgh City Councilman William Peduto wants the city to spend \$9 to study a plan to expand commuter rail service to the remote areas of the Carnegie Science Center's Miniature Railroad and Village.

"Areas of the platform that have seen no growth in years could begin to see the rewards of a new economy," Peduto explained.

Julius Small, the two-inch tall plastic mayor in the Miniature Village, thinks a commuter line would ruin the Village's turn-of-the-century ambience. "What we really need is a casino and a few adult book stores," Small explained. "The other thing we should do is give each of our public officials a miniature car to drive around at taxpayers' expense."



## Consumer tip: Wait for meters to run out before leaving space

Commuters are being urged to get their money's worth out of parking meters by waiting until the meter completely runs out before leaving the parking space.

"I see drivers leaving parking spaces with 15, sometimes 20 minutes

remaining on the meter," said incredulous consumer advocate Carol J. Murray. "In these tough economic times people can't afford to waste those minutes, so we're urging everyone to just sit in their car until the meter runs out."



## Revolutionary Discovery

Newspapers find secret to profitability publishing on the Internet: Keyboards tinged with newspaper ink.



## Hear da JUDGE

By the Hon. Rufus Peckham  
 Editor of Carbolic Smoke Ball

**Dear Judge:** My boss always takes credit for my ideas. He's a superstar in the office because he copies from me. Might I suggest you do a column condemning people who steal other people's ideas?

— *The Employee, Pleasant Hills*

**Dear Employee:** You're too late. I've already given credit for your suggestion to the next letter writer.

**Dear Judge:** I have an employee who accuses me of stealing his ideas. Might I suggest you do a column condemning people who steal other people's ideas?

— *The Boss, Whitehall*

**Dear Boss:** Even though someone else came up with that suggestion first, I'm giving you the credit for it.

**Dear Judge:** What's up with restaurant servers nowadays? I ordered a Diet Coke, but the waitress didn't write it down and brought me a regular Coke instead. What to do?

— *Chad in Pittsburgh*

**Dear Chad:** That happened to me one time — I pretended to have a diabetic seizure and I blamed it on the regular Coke. Try it — I promise you'll get a free meal out of it.

# Federal Reserve calls for another Christmas

In an effort to jumpstart the economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is calling for another Christmas to be celebrated Feb. 25.

"The past Christmas season did not produce the economic results we were expecting," said Bernanke.

"We're urging people to put the decorations back up, and let's get it right this time!"