

Special Report: Les Pétomanes Scandal Rocks Nation!

MAMMOTH LAKES (AP) — Some call them the Scourge of the Sierra. Some suspect they bear sole responsibility for an increase in greenhouse gases. And just about everyone wants to get as far away from them as possible.

But in the face of the latest and most inflammatory allegations to date, Les Pétomanes closed ranks and issued a series of implausible denials at a hastily-arranged Mammoth press conference.

Speaking first to reporters, Jim Murphy sniffed, “I categorically deny being the source of any improper emanations which may have occurred!”

“Besides,” John Selling added, “*everyone* does it!” Jon Ball then inserted stridently: “and I resent those who are simply seeking to fan the flames on this matter!”

Karl Edwards then told the assembled press corps, «*Mon Dieu! Vous avez des truffes à la place de cerveau! Vous me rendez malade!*» [“Golly! I’m really looking forward to having the opportunity to clear the air about this once and for all!”]

At the same time, his generally more circumspect brother Bill electrified the press with the fruits of his extensive legal research: “There is simply no controlling equine authority on this matter,” he opined.

Rich Cotter, speaking by satellite link from his new home in Toronto, emphasized that “even up here these allegations just don’t pass the ‘smell’ test...”

Gary Hester declined to comment, still stubbornly refusing to admit personal responsibility for El Niño. But, struggling to find some consolation in recent events, Jay Helms said,

“boy, I sure am glad I didn’t inhale!”

With clearly apparent frustration, John Grant expressed concern that “We planned on seeing lots of ‘Starrs’ up here, but this is absurd!” At his side and in complete agreement was Dave Kenagy, who defiantly pounded the podium, adding: “This whole thing is just a fishing expedition!”

At the conclusion of the press conference, Scott Cook was measured in his response to the far less serious Clinton scandals: “Oh, no ... whom do I make my checks out to *now*?” he worried aloud.

A spokesman, edging away from the notorious group, would only add that a full statement would be released in late July somewhere in the vast Ansel Adams Wilderness. But will that be enough to satisfy a skeptical nation?

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