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Science briefs - Feb. 1

Science briefs

From the editor **EarthWatch on hiatus**

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The EarthWatch graphic that typically graces space on this, the Camera's weekly science page, has been displaced as a result of some recent changes we've made in an effort to use our precious space more efficiently.

We had to make choices between EarthWatch and our local columnists and local news items.

In reviewing the information provided in EarthWatch, we determined much of it largely was a recap in highlight form of natural events about which the Camera typically already had published in more timely fashion elsewhere in our pages.

We'll keep looking for ways to try to return this feature to the Camera, but until then EarthWatch is on hiatus.

-- Kevin Kaufman, editor

Gender Disney women adjusted to present-day norms

The profile of women who are the main characters in cartoons from the Walt Disney Corp. has noticeably changed in the last few decades, according to researchers at the University of Granada.

The study concludes that today's cartoons are less male-chauvinist than those in the past.

Pilar Casares Garcia, who teaches in the Department of Pedagogy, analyzed 11 female characters belonging to the most successful films of Disney.

"Although we have found that the main characters in the films, which are a combination of a hero and an anti-hero, are still male, it is true that the role of women has evolved," Casares said.

With regard to physical features, most of the women who star in Disney films are beautiful or have some kind of physical appeal, but there are less "anorexic bodies," and most of the women are also portrayed with agility and strength.

Environment Democrats and Republicans are equally 'green'

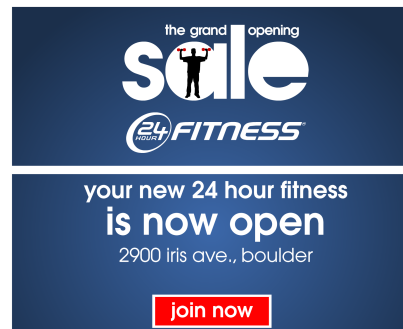
Political party affiliation has little bearing on the number of "green" actions people take, according to a new study at George Mason University.

According to the survey of more than 11,000 American adults, Democrats and Republicans differ only slightly when it comes to taking actions to protect the environment, despite great differences in their perceptions of danger related to global warming.

For example, 65 percent of Republicans and 71 percent of Democrats said they are actively reducing energy use in their homes.

"These data tell us that in some important ways, climate change is not the partisan issue we see every single day in the media," said Ed Mailbach, of George Mason University.

-- Compiled by Camera Staff Writer Laura Snider


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