

INTERNATIONAL

World's Hottest Chili: Potential Weapon against Terrorism

Krishna Chagarlamudi, Staff Writer

Bhut Jolokia took the spot of the world's hottest chili as of 2007 in the Guinness Book of World Records. In his article from Ezinearticles Ryan Frank, mentioned that it was practically unknown to the western world up to September 2000. Today, it is a common knowledge that this chili is approximately twice as hot as Red Savina Habanero, which was initially thought to be the hottest chili. Frank describes a system called the Scoville Scale, which assigns units to the amount of heat in chiles. This article reports that the Red Savina Habanero is about 350,000-580,000 SHUs whereas the Jolokia is 855,000-1,050,000 SHUs. It also reports that bell peppers have 0 SHU.

This particular chili is native to Assam, India. It has made its way to various parts of the world, but its name is of Indian origin. The word "Bhut" means ghost and "Jolokia" means chili. This led to the creation of its western name "Ghost chili," says Wasbir Hussain from the Associated Press. Traditionally, the ghost chili has been used by locals because they believe it helps protect them against things such as the "crippling summer heat." In his article, Hussain reports that the Indian military is going to use this chili as a "new weapon against terrorism." Hand grenades with tear-gas qualities will be manufactured with Ghost chili. As the chili is non-toxic, it will serve to "immobilize suspects" without causing permanent damage.

After many experiments by the Defense Research and Development Organization in India, ghost chili has been approved for such use. According to Hussain R. B. Srivastava, the director of the Life Sciences Department at the New Delhi headquarters of the DRDO, the ghost chili's "pungent smell" will be sufficient to choke terrorists.



Photo courtesy of Indiamarks

Future developments, such as aerosol sprays in the form of advanced pepper sprays, are also a possibility as further research is conducted.

News at a Glance

gathered by Mengjie Zhang

- A mine blast in West Virginia on Monday, April 5th left 7 people dead, 19 unaccounted for, and another 21 injured.
- More than one week after coal mine flood happened on March 28th in Shanxi, China, 115 miners have been rescued, and another 38 are believed to be alive but trapped inside.
- Gordon Brown, the prime minister of U.K., plans to ask the Queen to disband Parliament and confirm the date to have general election.
- Explosions attacked U.S. consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan on Monday (Apr 5th) resulting in three security officers and four militants dead. An hour later, another raid in rally nearby caused more than 50 deaths.
- A South Korean oil tanker was hijacked by pirates around 700 miles north of Somali coast on Sunday (Apr 4th), and the South Korean navy is chasing this oil tanker now.

Opinion: Potholes Around Raleigh – And Meredith

Lyndsey Childers, Contributing Writer

It might seem ridiculous that something as minor as a pothole can truly aggravate someone, but it's possible. It seems that no matter where you are in Raleigh, the amount of potholes have greatly increased. If driving down Hillsborough Street was not already annoying enough, now you have to dodge giant holes in the road to prevent a possible flat tire. I recently had my alignment fixed on my car due to the constant jarring of potholes, which cost me \$70. College students – and everyone else – already have enough money troubles without having to worry about repairs from poorly

maintained roads.

At Meredith College there are an increasing number of potholes, especially during and after snowfall. Potholes cannot be fixed by simply filling them with rocks, as is often done on Meredith's campus, since after about ten cars drive through, almost all of the rocks have been thrown out. Is it too much to ask that some form of asphalt put in the holes? Students are paying \$32,000 to attend Meredith, and I do not see the money being used beneficially anywhere else.

While there is not much we can do to fix the increasing

number of potholes elsewhere in Raleigh, something can be done on Meredith's campus. The problem might seem small and irrelevant... until your car hits a hole and you have to spend \$70 to fix the resulting problems. Several \$70 bills later, you too might think potholes are an important issue.

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