

...the
surging
issue... All
hail
the...

Hepper Spray Times

...or P.S.T...

January 2007



It's pythogenic... it's free... if you can find it

"...the rest the paper tells..."*

Vol. IX No. 1



AN FBI INVESTIGATION of these possibly Al-Qaeda-connected trees reveals that they are working undercover as personal fitness training coaches without licenses.

PERMIT-FREE FITNESS CENTER DISCOVERED IN TREETOPS

By Leif M. Guessing

Neighbors near the UC Memorial Stadium discovered that a controversial fitness center they hoped to oppose in court has suddenly been established without proper permits in the treetops of the oak trees nearby.

"Look at them up there," cried out one neighbor in distress. "They're clambering around like monkeys up there."

"I know for a fact this never went to the planning commission," agreed another neighbor, watching while treetop fitness center supporters laughed, sang, and tossed each other oranges. "The University of California has no right to establish a fitness center over the objections of the neighborhood unless they go through some kind of phony process first."

"It's not our fault," responded Marie Felde, spokesperson for the university. "We had nothing to do with this fitness center. Ours was going to first go through the phony planning and permit process and then it was going to be on the ground and all shiny with lots of glass and concrete with a cushy office and Jacuzzi for the winning coach. We were going to clear-cut all those oaks and replace them with more cooperative trees who are Cal Bears fans and appreciate the need for progress."

Treetop fitness center participants confirmed that the university had nothing to do with the treetop fitness center, which sprang into being after the threatened clear-cut.

"We like these trees," stated tree-sitter Zachary Running Wolf. "The university owns land all over the city and has plenty of space on and off-campus to put its fitness center. The football players who need conditioning are welcome to come up here and join us. Riding out a December winter's storm is definitely a good work-out."

"Check out my abs," agreed one of the ground crew. "When you live and work out in 22 degree weather you can pretty much eat constantly and still lose a lot of weight."

The trees themselves offered no explanation for the fitness center, pointing out they had been there for years.

"We enjoy sports," stated one oak thoughtfully. "We especially enjoy frisbee and country line dancing. We're not sure what the fuss is all about."

"We probably should have gone to the regents meeting," commented another tree. "We meant to, but you know how the holidays are. It's a little hard to get away."

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University Requests Applications from Progressive Trees for New Project

By Teresa Blowing

The university's new fitness center, fast-tracked for completion before the next football season, will require three trees for every tree removed for construction, setting off a mad search for complicit species which won't inhibit sports, hold up construction, or inspire too much sympathy from nature-lovers.

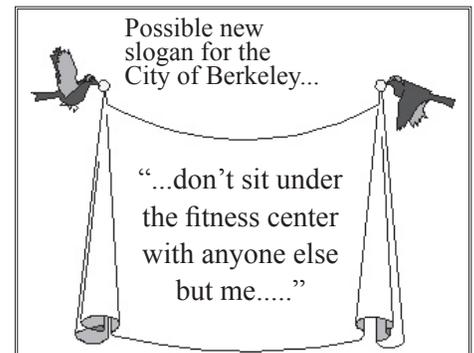
"It's not easy," commented one local botanist whose recommendations were rejected by the university's planners. "Trees are very sympathetic. The university can't afford to make a mistake which might inhibit further construction."

"That's true," mused a university planner. "What if the next football coach wants an even bigger football fitness center? What if he hates trees altogether? It's a very delicate moment."

The planning division of the university admitted they were considering portable trees, which could be wheeled to and from different areas of campus as construction projects developed.

"Or robot trees," enthused one planner. "This next generation of students is very gadget-oriented. We're thinking of a combination tree-latte' dispenser. this could be really big."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Q: Dear Lena, why is the Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless asking people for money? Didn't Frances Townes' husband get a 1.5 million dollar prize for mixing science and religion? Wouldn't it resemble some modest restitution if the Townes spent it on the homeless, considering the embarrassing role the Chaplaincy played in the Measure N & O campaign several years ago?

Dear reader, a very good question. They probably spent it already on little projects around the house. The Templeton Prize might require that all the money be spent on oneself, and this might prove challenging to do, even for a Nobel prizewinner. Poor people would probably just waste the money on stuff like shoes.

Dear Lena, what will the university do if people don't get out of those trees and quite holding up the construction of the new fitness center? I really need to work off some of these Christmas cookies.

Dear reader, don't you worry, the UC Police have pepper spray, choke holds, and can borrow the Oakland Police canine unit or those helicopters anytime they want. On the other hand, if you really want a post Christmas cookie work-out, go up the tree; there's no way you're getting into the fitness center, which is designed for the already fit.

Dear Lena, what are your resolutions?

Dear reader, I resolve to be more gracious when people put me in their will. *Ask Lena anything! She is an expert. Write or email her, and she will give you actual expert advice at cdenney@igc.org.*



Ways to Make Rich People More Comfortable in People's Park

1. **Serve caviar.** Food Not Bombs as well as the other groups who serve food in People's Park serve primarily vegetarian meals or simple sandwiches, which can really cramp the style of rich people, who haven't figured out a way to attach inordinate amounts of status to a steaming plateful of beans or peanut butter and jelly. A simple addition of caviar, champagne, or specialty foods will make rich people feel much more at home.

2. **Institute a formal dress code.** Nothing deflates rich people faster than finding themselves overdressed in a crowd which can't distinguish Versace from Vera Wang. Instituting a dress code will ensure that your local rich people feel as if they are among people who appreciate fully not just the financial but also the cultural worth of their apparel, thus making them much happier and more comfortable.

3. **Prioritize the issues of rich, not poor people.** People's Park has spent years tending to poor people's needs, and needs to balance its priorities so that rich people feel their concerns are being heard. Instead of a free-box with warm, clean clothes, People's Park could provide financial counselors for tips about hedge funds and retirement planning.

4. **Institute some artificial exclusivity.** People's Park has always prided itself on being open to anyone, a policy insensitive to the needs of rich people to feel special. People's Park could address this fundamental need by having one of the park's entrances governed by an officious, well-dressed bouncer requiring that prospective entrants wait behind velvet ropes before being admitted. This "VIP" entrance area will make your local rich people feel as if they and they alone are the beneficiaries of special admittance, and put smiles on their faces.

5. **Add cosmetic surgery as a Free Clinic option.** Most rich people have

medical coverage, but would love to save some money on routine cosmetic surgery, such as face-lifts, liposuction, or breast and buttock enhancement.

6. **Have opera and classical music concerts.** While it is true that rich people may be seen at rock and roll and folk concerts, they are often a much larger ratio of the audience at the opera or the symphony. The University of California would probably be interested in underwriting any extra cost of having People's Park host such an event, since it would be very likely to greatly enhance the presence of a wealthy, well-dressed, and well-behaved crowd.

7. **Offer empowerment classes for the wealthy.** Rich people are not used to sharing space with often poorly-dressed, stressed-out poor people who show little knowledge of or respect for designer clothing and jewelry. Empowerment classes can help wealthy people strengthen their sense of entitlement, which can falter in the face of obvious poverty.

8. **Teach poor people to treat rich people differently.** People's Park is so steeped in its custom of egalitarianism that it forgets the difficulty this poses for wealthy people who are accustomed to being treated more gently and receiving special favors. The park could address this problem by counseling non-wealthy park users to lower their voices and tone down their use of profanity near the wealthy when they venture into the park, perhaps even allowing wealthy people to step ahead of them in lines for the bathroom or the free meal. Wealthy people will feel encouraged by this, and perhaps offer some free tax advice in return.

9. **Enhance the bathrooms.** People's Park's bathrooms currently offer none of the perks generally available in the bathrooms of wealthy people, such as hot, warm towels, talking scales, and soft, warm vinyl toilet seats. These simple enhancements will help
(continued on page three)



RECRUITING FOR THE IRAQ WAR is very difficult for the Bush administration, but the military has discovered that recently unemployed young dancers from holiday stage shows are often well-trained, have their own colorful uniforms, and are capable of precise military maneuvers.

DANCERS DRAFTED

By Doris Stuck

Military experts sighed in relief when logistical experts agreed that the American presence in Iraq could un-
(Ways to Make Rich People..., continued)

your local rich people see themselves as the priority population they are.

10. *Offer polo as a recreation option.* Rich people can, of course, enjoy basketball and frisbee games, but are more comfortable playing polo, where their years of familiarity with horses and upper class concerns such as proper saddles and equipment are given a chance at proper display. Poor people could help by standing on the sidelines and cheering lustily.

* * * * *

dergo a "surge" without resorting to a draft of college students.

"College students hate getting killed," stated one general on condition of anonymity. "We're so lucky that dancers from holiday stage shows have no particular illusions about having a future."

Dancers and ice skaters signing up for unemployment in droves after the holidays were dubious about their new assignments, but agreed that having colorful, tailored outfits ahead of time might make the transition easier.

"We've worked together and we know each other pretty well," stated one toy soldier recently. "And if we die, the front office already has our bios."

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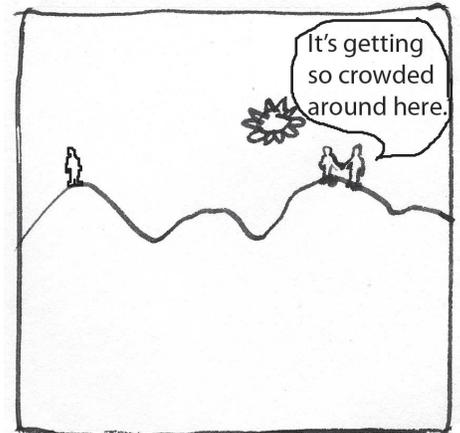
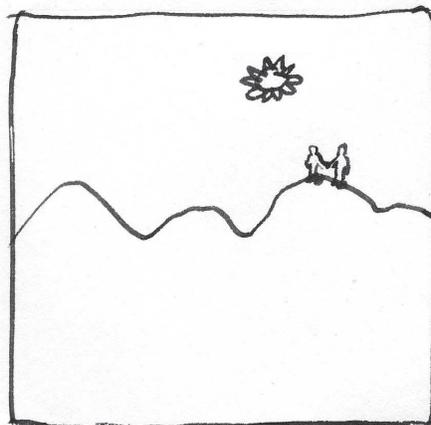
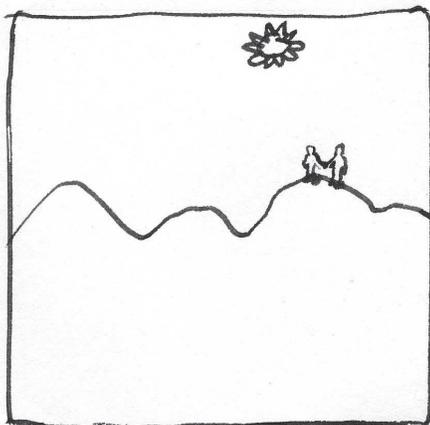
UC regents, make us see
a nose guard lovely as a tree,
a tight end, such a pumped hormonal hunk,
lookin' like a coastal live oak trunk.
great ticket plans shall come from these woods;
yes, do recycle, we knew you could.
Rich alumz grand stand as the stand goes down,
Real folks stand their ground and clown.
Shall we be dragged away by cops or jocks?
As you dig down, finding satan's locks.
By 2020, Cal will be in just 10 Holiday Bowls,
And just one pigskin will hold all Cal souls.

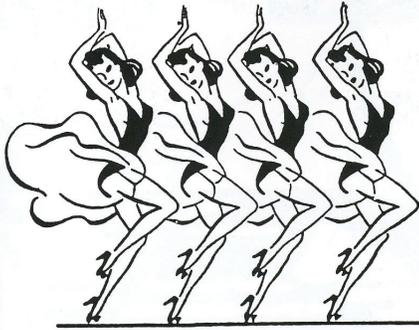
jeremisaiah



THE DETAILS OF THE COURT CASES between annoyed neighbors, tree sitters, city council members, and the University of California are so tedious and would take up so many precious column inches that a thoughtful community member has provided this handy scoreboard to help us all keep track of the controversy, for which we are deeply grateful..

We Can't Draw Comics by guest artist Franz Toast





HANDY RESOLUTION SOLUTIONS

By Lottie Daw

People resolving to change their ways for the new year have expert help available thanks to a local company called Resolution Enterprises.

"People don't realize the options," says founder Loretta Blinds. "You can resolve to improve your diet and exercise more by choosing traditional resolutions, but there's no reason you can't add some resolutions which distinguish you as a unique individual with highly distinctive choices in personal change."

Blinds suggests that people start small by experimenting with simple but unusual resolutions which reflect their personal individuality and direction.

"I resolve to let the water buffalo sing the opening act of Rigoletto", for instance, says to the world that you are not only at home in the rarified world of classical music, but that you also have the generosity of soul to permit the water buffalo to sing the most famous aria of the opera, La donna e mobile, explaining the infidelity and fickle nature of women, a musical treat he hasn't enjoyed for centuries," explained Blinds to a mesmerized group

The Pepper Spray Times gratefully accepts donations, death threats, mailing list additions, etc., at:



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"A-Bombs not A-Corns"

www.trivalleycares.org

at a recent seminar.

"The world will see you as the creative and compassionate spirit you are, and probably send you so many large bouquets of gracious thanks that your place will smell like a funeral home."

Resolution Enterprises hopes the enthusiastic Bay Area response is reflective of a national need for personal resolution counseling, which is much

easier that dispute resolution counseling, according to Blinds.

"People are much less hostile," she commented. "The liability is minimal and I haven't had to clean up any broken glass in an age."

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Next issue, Planting Chia
Pets with Celebrities

Pepper Spray Times is made possible by the natural comedy inherent in the local political landscape and all its inhabitants,

best exemplified by...



Available at some of the finest public meetings, or mailed to your door for a hefty bribe. Plagiarize wildly.

We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.

* Henry IV Part 2