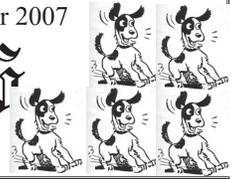


All hail the...  
...the subprime issue ...

# Pepper Spray Times

September 2007



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

"..Yet more quarreling with occasion!..."\*

Vol. IX No. 9

## PARK DESIGNERS READY TO RUMBLE

By Staff Writer F. I. Dideneau

Southside UC campus residents reacted with bewilderment to the most recent consultant group's motives for a complete redesign of People's Park.

"They want some action," stated one southside resident, shaking his head as he boarded up his windows.



WHEELCHAIR TERRORISTS are gearing up for the next park battle.

Experts agreed that the momentum to renovate the park sprang less from any honest allegiance to a particular plan, and more from a midlife crisis-related urge to "mix it up" in the streets.

"These are mostly people from the sixties," explained one expert. "Their sense of youth was a kind of collage of peace signs and dancing around in bell-bottoms. They have a pathetic need to recover their childhood."

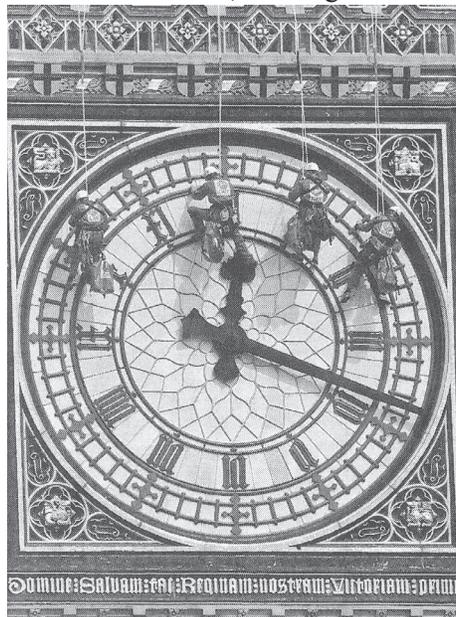
"We may be over-the-hill baby boomers, but we still have some spark left in us," chuckled Director of Community Affairs Irene Hegarty in response to community members quizzical about the upcoming People's Park riots. "These police riots are never easy to schedule, but there's something so right about rioting in the fall in a bright new school sweater."

The new park plans include an ultra-modern museum with actual People's



M.K.THINK AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA admitted recently that they just miss the old street fights and really felt like the spice had gone out of Telegraph Avenue, which finally explains their peculiar insistence on constantly re-designing People's Park. The latest design plan includes lovely deco wall sconces and shag carpet.

Park memorabilia, plus a live display of user development re-enactors who will pose with tourists while singing favorite sixties tunes, dancing in circles,



**DIRECT ACTION ACTIVISTS** argue that turning back the clock doesn't require police riots, just some sturdy ropes and a couple of monkey wrenches.

and flashing the peace sign.

"We know the neighbors and the southside merchants are concerned," added Hegarty, searching through the sale rack at Buffalo Exchange for vintage tie-dye. "Justifiably so. But we have an obligation to the park to make sure it doesn't lose its special flavor. We have to let the world know we're not Walnut Creek."

"Or Moraga," added a local police officer. "Plus, we get rusty with the pepper spray and the wooden bullets. Now and then there's just no substitute for a little practice."

\* \* \* \* \*



Possible new slogan for the City of Berkeley...

"...no one gets out of this planning meeting alive..."

# ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

**Dear Lena, human beings have always crossed plant species and stuff. Aren't the people making a big fuss over genetically modified organisms and food just a bunch of whiners?**

Dear reader, yes, don't you just want to slap them? All that's really new is this combination of artificial plant and animal species, and Disney got most of us friendly with the idea of mechanical life a long time ago. It might be harder to forecast how this will affect the natural world, but people who worry about this have no real sense of adventure.

**Dear Lena, so can't organic food and genetically modified food just get along? Can't they work it out somehow so the rest of us can think about something important, like the Oscars?**

Dear reader, of course they can. This claim that genetically modified food will somehow contaminate the organic food is paranoid. It's true that pollen floats around in the air, but nobody has really studied the idea of forcing it to sit down and think about working more exclusively with its own group, or paying a fine for co-mingling without a permit. This is exactly why British Petroleum really needs a big, shiny facility in Strawberry Canyon to find some real answers.

**Dear Lena, I had no idea the Federal Reserve could be so generous until this sub-prime loan stuff. Should I hit them up for money?**

Dear reader, by all means. All they want is for you to be happy.

*Ask Lena! She is consistently generous with her expert advice. Contact her at [cdenney@igc.org](mailto:cdenney@igc.org).*

# UC FENCES IN OWN POLICE FORCE, ARRANGES TREE-SIT COVERAGE

By Philippa Bucket

University of California police fenced themselves behind chicken wire recently in an effort to protect tree-sitters and protesters from officers who have a tendency to use excessive force.

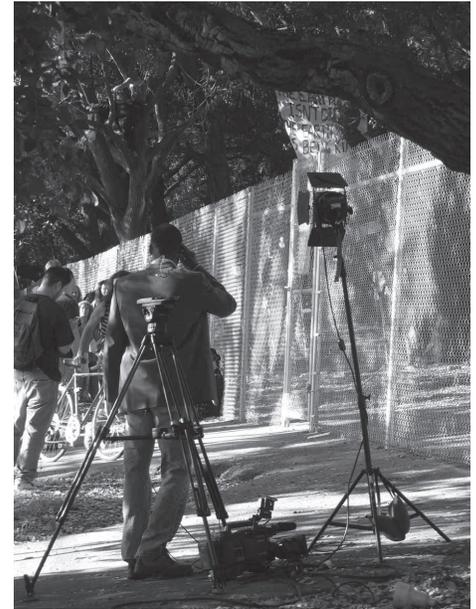
"We worry that they might be misunderstood and perhaps abused by football fans," stated UC spokesperson Dan Mogulof, "but the Tennessee football fans don't have weapons they way the police do. Our primary concern is the UC police, who get really wound up from time to time, and we want to make sure there's a 'safety zone' between them and the protesters, especially after a few days of depriving the protesters of food and water, when they'll be somewhat weaker."

Mogulof acknowledged also that fencing off the police puts the tree-sitters and the stadium issue back in the news, which the university felt was not giving the issue the spotlight it deserved.

"We thought they needed a boost," he conceded. "We always win in court, whether we're right or not, but despite the probability of our legal victory, we want the public to appropriately honor the people who have been sitting up in the trees all this time. It's very impressive, no matter what side of the stadium project you're on. Depriving them of food and water will really help them gain some public sympathy."

Reporters acknowledged that they appreciated getting the story handed to them on labor day, which usually has little to cover except picnics and weather.

"Tennessee tourists meet hippie tree-huggers," smiled one reporter. "Great soft news. We love covering the tree-sit, don't



**REPORTERS DUTIFULLY** showed up to cover the University of California's willingness to fence in its police force and highlight the live oak tree sit, which everyone agreed needed a jumpstart in fall coverage.

get me wrong. But it's hard to keep it fresh after nearly a year. The university chose the perfect moment to turn the humdrum back-to-school stories into something much more exciting.

"We really want to thank UC," stated one tree-sitter. "We're hungry, but we know they're really helping us out."

\* \* \* \* \*



**UC POLICE** have trouble figuring out simple things, like extension cords, and are no match for wiley tree-sitters and protesters.



**UC POLICE** proved their caring tenderness and restraint by declining to arrest this small dog, which clearly had had terrorist training and immediately set about enthusiastically trying to dig up the newly installed fence.

# SUBPRIME LOAN MORTGAGE CRISIS HITS RICH; HOMELESS TRY TO HELP

By Ivan Tacookie

The Federal Reserve cut its discount rate by half a percentage point after Wall Street spent the week bouncing around like a superball, affecting rich people even more than people who had actually lost their homes.

"We are sad to lose our first home," admitted one sub-prime loan recipient packing her belongings into a Ryder truck. "But we keep it in perspective, considering that we weren't really used to having much at all. Some people are losing much more."

"The stress is unbelievable," stated one broker mopping his brow. "Mortgage-backed securities have severely dropped. It's as though all the color has gone out of my world."

"I feel so old," commented another broker watching the stock exchange reel like a drunken sailor. "Higher borrowing costs are squeezing my earnings, and nothing really matters anymore."

Groups of homeless people are organizing support for the newly homeless and the depressed investors, trying to give them tips on new ways to reorganize their thinking about their sudden misfortune.

"We've started distributing sandwiches in front of the stock exchange building," stated one panhandler. "These people don't need the food, but the human kindness that comes with it

is priceless."

"You can do this," coached another panhandler helping a hyperventilating stockbroker back to his feet. "Cash in the bank and no debt might mean you're not vulnerable to a breakdown in the credit markets, but you knew that wouldn't necessarily give you strong earnings."

"You're right," wheezed the broker. "You're right. There's always Google."

"And Apple," reminded the panhandler, slapping the broker on the back. "Now you've got the spirit. Go in there and buy something."

"They'll be alright," stated a homeless woman watching nearby as the broker stumbled back indoors. "They just need some love and encouragement. All of us out here went through some hard times. It takes some adjustment, and it never hurts to have someone to stand by you when you're low."

"These guys have us to count on," stated her partner, stuffing newspaper in his shoes. "Not only are we a strong inspiration to hang on, but some of us are experienced in market analysis, and can remind them to avoid small-cap stocks in a market this treacherous. Some of us used to be on the inside."

\* \* \* \* \*

# LOWEST-PAID WORKERS DO THEIR PART FOR STATE BUDGET

By Carlene Iron

Experts agree that the income gap between California's richest versus California's poorest residents is growing primarily because of the generosity of those in the lowest income bracket, who appreciate that Governor Schwarzenegger's latest budget requires sacrifices from ordinary people.

"We lost 7.2 percent in actual earnings when inflation is taken into account," stated one low-income worker. "We know how much the Governor hates to raise taxes, and we want to do our share."

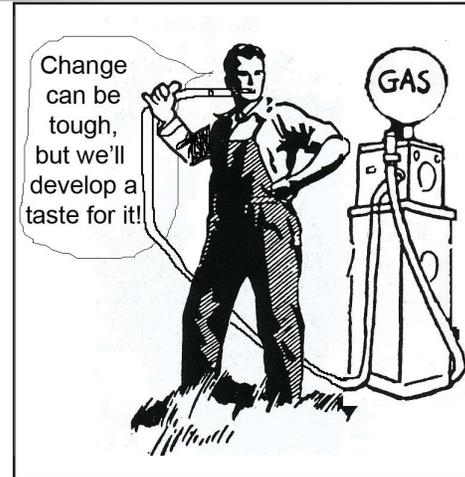
"It isn't easy to plan when you earn less and less as the years go by," added another full-time worker who makes less than poverty level in a year. "But knowing the state can pay off the bond debt early means my hungry kids go to bed with smiles on their faces."

New jobs tend to be at the top or bottom of the income spectrum, leaving no room for advancement, but experts agree that this is a golden opportunity for faith-based middle income start-ups to court investment.

\* \* \* \* \*

Next issue,  
Watching Paint Dry  
with Celebrities

We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast





**American Psychological Association**  
**115th Annual Torture Convention**  
**San Francisco Aug. 17-20 2007**

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**FRI. 7:00-9:00 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**APA's Public Image as Mercenaries:**  
 Should the APA advertise the services of our experienced interrogators in foreign countries?

**SAT. 1:00-3:00 PM**  
**Testicular Electrification:**  
 Liability considerations for APA members.

**SAT. 3:00-4:00 PM**  
**Acceptable APA Standards for Sensory Deprivation, Water-boarding, Stress Positions and Identity Decomposition.**

**SAT. EVENING PANEL 7:00-9:00 PM**  
**New Fee Schedule for Torture Experts, Interrogators, Military Advisors and Their Therapists.**

**SUN. 10:00-12:00 Noon**  
**Behavior Management:**  
 Taser International will introduce it's new less lethal product line.

**SUN. 1:00-3:00 PM**  
**Canine Units:**  
 Should they be APA members?

**Sunday Night Emergency Forum : 7:00-Midnight** Members of the APA Ethical Cell are threatening National Security by undermining U.S. intelligence-gathering efforts. Under the cover of the Nuremberg Principles and the Geneva Convention, they are jeopardizing our livelihood. Cell members and other sympathizers must be identified immediately. Please come prepared with your (anonymous) list of names.

**We Can't Draw Comics by Franz Toast**



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



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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.

\* King Henry V