

...the historically and anatomically correct issue ...



All hail the twentieth year* of the powerful...

Pepper Spray Times

January 2012



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

"quenched in the chaste beams of the wat'ry moon..."*

Vol. XIV No. 1

Chancellor Claims Plants Refused to Respond to Pepper Spray

by Hannah DeLord

University of California (UC) Berkeley non-union contract workers showed up at 4:30 am just after Christmas to bulldoze the decades-old community garden in the west end of People's Park as their holiday gift to the gardening community.

"Bulldozers can get so much more done so quickly," stated Janet Gilmore of the Public Affairs office. "We were able to destroy fruit trees that would have taken days to saw up by hand."

Bystanders to the break-of-dawn project acknowledged that the speed and secrecy of the project to destroy the community garden had its utility, since easily a community of thousands of people had over the years put their backs into its creation.

"If everyone who had ever planted a tree or bush or who worked on weeding or building a bench had been contacted about the destruction of their work it would have been tough to find a room big enough to listen to all their objections," commented one observer watching as a giant rototiller destroyed a seven-foot maguey plant.

Another observer agreed, pointing out that most California students had seen films as schoolchildren regarding the thousand uses of the maguey plant, and would be expected to insist that the plants be turned into the traditional tools, building materials, textiles, and foodstuffs one can make from the



UC ADMINISTRATORS CLAIM that the students who will someday live in this unfinished dorm currently under construction insisted on improving their views by cutting down trees in People's Park.

UC Teaches "Gardening with Bulldozers" Class Over the Holiday Break



LARGE GASOLINE-DRIVEN MACHINERY is much more efficient than gardening by collective community hands over decades because one non-union contract worker can get so much more done and has less emotional connection to the plants, fruit trees, arbors, and benches which really get in the way of large machinery in the first place.

maguey instead of hauling almost a dozen of the spikey plants to the woodchipper.

"It's much more efficient this way," acknowledged one of the dozens of Berkeley police officers guarding the fences.

"It sure does explain the timing," offered one People's Park gardener as she watched the Council Grove, a circle of trees traditionally used for meetings, destroyed. "Choosing the Christmas holidays, when people often travel out of town, and the middle of the night, when gardening projects might be considered unconventional, ensures a measure of privacy that often suits UC Berkeley, especially in regards to People's Park."

Members of the Community Advisory Board for People's Park agreed.

"Our board was specifically created to

make sure issues related to People's Park would have a broad community forum for discussion," stated one board member. "But we rarely meet at 4:30 am."

"It took me by surprise," agreed another board member. "I would at least have insisted that the historical elements in the west end, such as the Council Grove, the berms of original asphalt, and the structures collectively built with UC permission from the recycled volleyball courts be maintained as part of its historical city landmark status."

Gilmore agreed that UC fell short of giving the community any notice regarding its landmark.

"Yes, it's true," she stated. "That's how we roll."

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**PST's volume numbering didn't begin until after six years of publication.*

ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I got some pepper spray for Christmas. Is this an appropriate gift? And can I use it on the neighbor's dog?

Dear reader, yes, it is. You have a very thoughtful friend. And its popularity is such that the neighbor's dog needs to become familiar with it. It's also useful for spicing up your breakfast.

Dear Lena, is it true that People's Park was so full of rats that they had to bulldoze the community garden?

Dear reader, I adore that theory. If one could bulldoze anyplace that had a lot of rats in order of volume, the bulldozers would have started with Sproul Plaza and taken out all the shrubs and bushes there and probably campus-wide. As young, carefree students, my companions and I used to make a game of counting the rats among the hedges while we ate lunch on the Sproul Hall lawn. This doesn't even count the well-paid rats inside the place.

Dear Lena, did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

Dear reader, yes. I wanted the Arab Spring. And a pepper spray comeback. I got both.

Dear Lena, the Berkeley City Council was all over refusing mutual aid to Oakland and UC Berkeley/Davis after those groups made it clear they were willing to have big, weapon-heavy battles over a bunch of tents. Why won't they put a moratorium on the use of pepper spray?

Dear reader, that's easy. Not enough poets got beaten up. There is a poet to baton ratio which still needs some adjustment before the policymakers feel lubricated enough to actually move.

Dear Lena, what if a poet got killed next time? Would that help?

Dear reader, yes, I believe that would be very useful.

Ask Lena about gentle tropical breezes at cdenny@igc.org.

The Truth About Rats:

an Interview with Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services at UC Berkeley
Edward J. Denton



EDWARD DENTON may not know much about rats, but he sure knows how to whistle up the non-union bulldozers.

Grace Underpressure: "So. Rats?"

Edward J. Denton: "Uh, yeah, sure, rats."

Grace Underpressure: "You're sure you want to go there?"

Edward J. Denton: "Uh, yeah, sure. Rats are, like, bad."

Grace Underpressure: "Just checking. Because it looks a little peculiar to some of us to take a rat population fed by unemptied fast food containers all over campus and the surrounding neighborhoods and claim to address it by *only* attacking the community garden in People's Park."

Edward J. Denton: "Well, you gotta start somewhere."

Grace Underpressure: "Excellent point."

Edward J. Denton: "Thanks. I wasn't sure I would get a fair hearing in the Pepper Spray Times."

Grace Underpressure: "We strive for a rarified form of honesty."

Edward J. Denton: "The truth is that I have an operating budget in excess of \$64 million and a capital construction program totaling approximately \$1.5 billion which I stand to lose if I don't use it up on stuff."

Grace Underpressure: "That's most impressive."

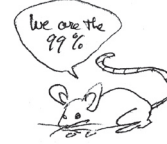
Edward J. Denton: "No kidding. When I ask someone to lunch boy do they show up. And boy do I write it off my taxes as a business expense."

Grace Underpressure: "We'll pick up the check for this one."

Edward J. Denton: "That's really nice of you."

Grace Underpressure: "So I just have a couple of questions. Why the secret middle-of-the-night mission? Why not get the community on board for any necessary maintenance issues?"

Edward J. Denton: "Well, yeah. That would have looked good."



Grace Underpressure: "We also can't help but wonder why UC wouldn't use the technique vineyards tend to use of harboring nesting owls in owl boxes to deal with any alleged rats. One nesting pair of owls ingests 3,000 rats in a breeding season, and they're not territorial, so you can have several boxes throughout campuses and parks. People's Park's owl box has no owls."

Edward J. Denton: "That's not our fault. We offered the owl community special scholarships but they never got their paperwork in, and we have to insist on owls taking some responsibility for their issues, such as the language barrier. If they refuse to learn English, well, there's only so much we can do."

Grace Underpressure: "Another excellent point."

Edward J. Denton: "We are trying to be fair."

Grace Underpressure: "I can see that."

Edward J. Denton: "My staff of nearly 500 people seems to think so. I got a lot of Christmas cards."

Grace Underpressure: "I can imagine."

Edward J. Denton: "People really like me."

Grace Underpressure: "Thus the lunches."

Edward J. Denton: "Yes."

Grace Underpressure: "So how much did you spend?"

Edward J. Denton: "On lunches?"

Grace Underpressure: "No, on bulldozing the community garden."

Edward J. Denton: "I'll have to get back to you on that."

* * * * *

The Maguey's Thousand Uses

by Menachem Over

The destruction of the community garden in People's Park which mashed up around eight healthy Maguey or Century plants reminded those who grew up seeing Ralph Adams' 1952 film "Maguey: Plant of a Thousand Uses" in school how many ways there are to use the maguey.

"The fifteen foot pile of mulch reminded me that one of the things you can do is spell out "UC sucks" in mulch across almost any surface," commented one gardener.

"Or Birgeneau sucks," added another.

"You can also mix in a little dirt and clay

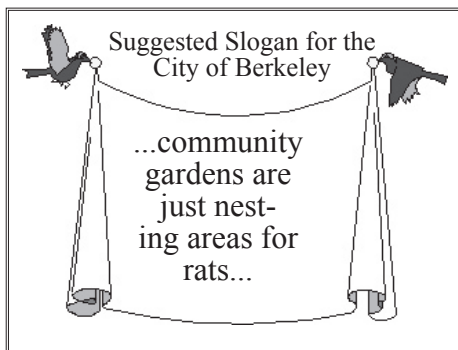


THE MAGUEY IS SACRED to the Aztec culture, but doesn't mean much to Edward J. Denton, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services at UC Berkeley.

Your Wisest Bets for 2012 New Year Resolutions

1. Resolve to get your shoes on the right feet.
2. Resolve to occasionally eat breakfast.
3. Resolve to answer the phone.
4. Resolve to get dressed from time to time.
5. Resolve to read more highway signs.
6. Resolve to ignore calls from celebrities.
7. Resolve to improve your ability to flip raisins out of a spoon at your sister.
8. Resolve not to practice the bassoon.
9. Resolve to get worse at answering thank-you notes.
10. Resolve to wear matching socks.

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ALL CALIFORNIA SCHOOLCHILDREN know there are at least a thousand uses for the maguey plant, including spelling out "UC Sucks" with destroyed plant mulch.

and make a dirt snowman holding a sign that says "UC Really Knows How to Waste Public Money", nodded a park neighbor whose access was blocked all day by the twenty-foot bulldozers brought in by flat-bed trucks.

"Or a sign that says "What Did UC Do With the Old Growth Redwood" agreed another neighbor.

Another local citizen who paid attention in class to the 1952 film pointed out that the Maguey's little needles can be pulled from its leaves and have a long, sturdy thread attached with which one can sew.

"You could repair clothing or shoes, or make a big banner," she observed, "a banner that says, 'don't get fooled again.'"

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History Books for Politicians Movement Picks Up Steam

"The need is so real," experts say.

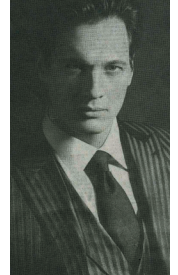
by Sol Sombra

Politicians with no sense of history can look forward to help with their short-sighted perspective thanks to the "History Books for Politicians" movement started by a local Bay Area woman concerned about policymakers' extreme shortsightedness.

"We can help," she stated firmly. "Just box up old history books and send them to Congress. Old, new, it doesn't matter. All subjects, all authors would be welcome."

Critics argued that current politicians are too far gone and not worth the trouble, but the anonymous movement founder disagreed. "They may seem hopeless," she affirmed, "but we really need to recycle."

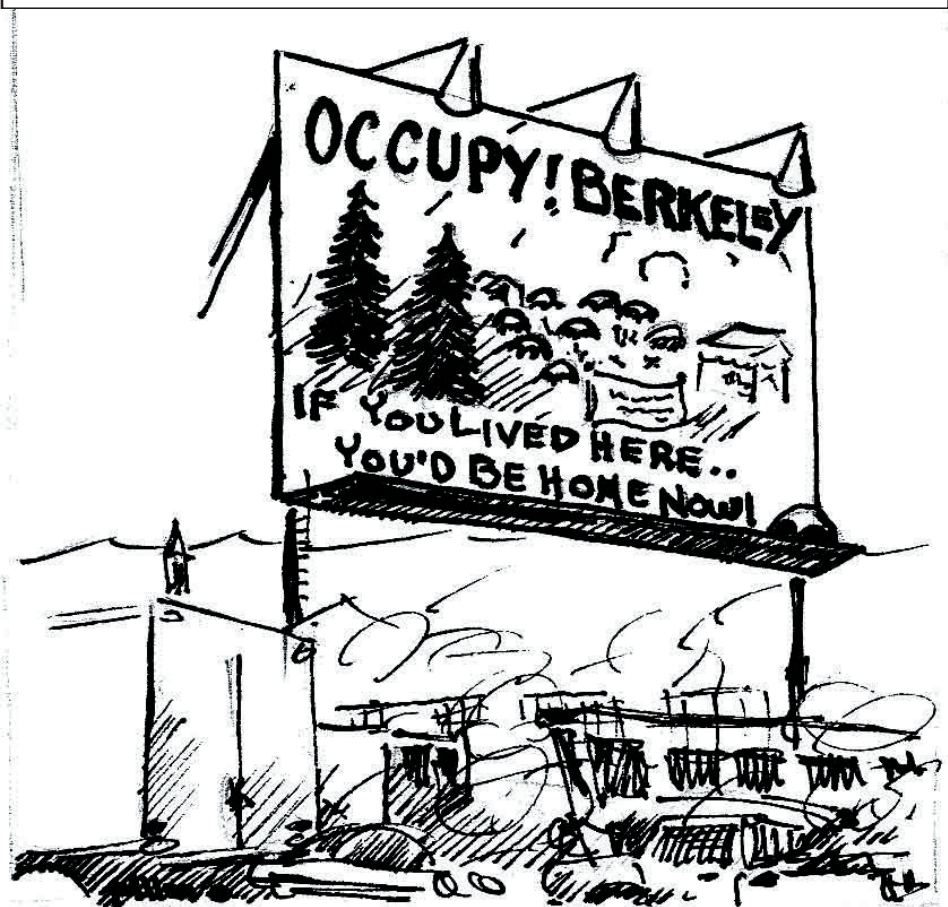
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THIS GUY looks credible enough, but is actually a politician who thinks everything happened yesterday.

We Can't Draw Comics (with some exceptions)

by Phil Allen



Corzine's "I Simply Do Not Know Where the Money Is" Considered a Reasonable Response by Sleeping Congress

by Albert D. Kitchensink

"Sounds reasonable to me," was the general response to Jon Corzine's congressional testimony that he had no idea what happened to over a billion dollars of his former company's client funds.

Corzine apologized repeatedly and said he didn't know about the rules or the exact operational procedures of his firm, now bankrupt MF Global, which had had really impressive stationary.

Corzine noted that none of the securities had actually defaulted, said markets just lost confidence, and that the money was probably just temporarily placed in some department's New Year's Eve party fund which happens all the time.

Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry expressed shock at the disappearance of \$1.2 billion but had to admit that the tale of the disappearance of billions under the noses of both regulators and CEOs had a familiar ring.

"We're trying to listen to all sides of the story," stated Chairwoman Debbie Stabe-



"I SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS" did the trick for Congress, which seemed to understand how people might lose a billion dollars in client money.

now (D-Mich) as the hearings continued. "We just heard news that the money might be buried in the west end of People's Park, and we're trying to keep an open mind."

Ranking U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) agreed, noting that customer funds were accounted for on Wednesday October 26 and believed to be accounted for on Friday, October 28. Yet by Monday October 31, they were gone.

"People's Park is obviously implicated," he commented. "Things always get rowdy



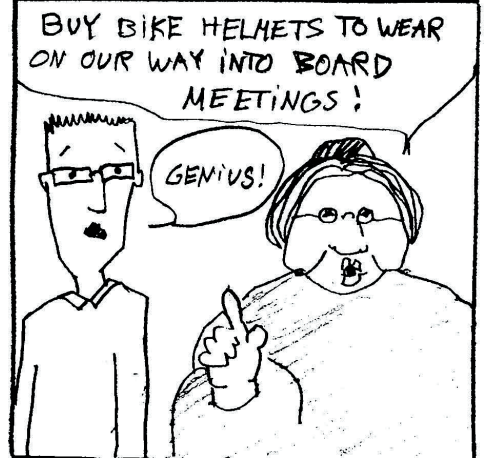
in the park around Halloween. We're going to keep digging up there until we can prove it."

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Next Issue: Counterfeiting Money with Celebrities

THE ADVENTURES OF THE CENTER FOR ECOIDIOCY

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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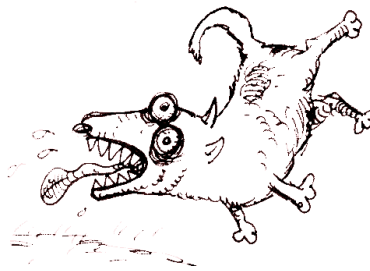


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