

Random thoughts: psyches, rights, and property

Some Pacificans could do a better job of safeguarding their rights. For example, the longtime property owners of the proposed Verbum Dei development should have cut all the eucalyptus on the property. Then they should have put up a 6-foot board fence all around.

Doing so would have established that this private land, formerly Pedro Mountain road, is not yours or mine to hike and bike. Screening from public view might seem extreme, but only this will remind some folks *it's not theirs*.. It's not open space. It's simply not-yet-developed land, with full rights of access from public streets including Higgins Way and Adobe Drive. Those streets were created partly to give access to such developments as Verbum Dei. Why are trespassers so oblivious to the rights of those who pay the taxes on the property? Why are prospective neighbors so intolerant of the rights of this religious community?

I too have enjoyed the privilege of hiking through this private land a few times. I too was rather oblivious, because its private ownership was not called to my attention. My consciousness was not raised. It seemed harmless enough. I plan to reform. It's not my property either. I hope the Verbum Dei folks fight this thing through. I hope they win. They deserve to prevail on the

merits. The Planning Commission is flat-out wrong.

On another matter, I would like to thank Jef Raskin, whose genius I have long admired, for taking on the so-called occult practitioners locally. I have stayed away from the subject for the past 22 years, mainly out of distaste for such foolishness. I have a full file folder marked "Fraud." In it, I preserve examples of gullibility exploited by those willing to take advantage of their neighbors. In any given case, of course, a "psychic" might actually believe in what he or she is doing. And just as someone might win the lottery, so someone might really be a psychic. Since I myself am not a psychic, I have no way of knowing. However, a man who can invent the Macintosh computer has as much chance of really being a psychic as anyone else, so if Jef should claim psychic powers, I would have to believe him.

The Reactor

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My thanks to Deborah Alpi, who questioned the authenticity of the letter from "Dr. A. Barrons of U.C." I reviewed the original letter when I read Ms. Alpi's note. I have to agree with her. It appears phony on its face. Whoever wrote the original letter, however, is to be congratulated. I was so put off by the letter the first time I read it I just brushed by. I didn't think to question its source. It's so pompous and pretentious it might have come from a real academic. I hope the real source shows up.

If the good doctor turns out to be a college student pulling our legs, let's all enjoy a good laugh. If he is really a Ph.D from UC, I can only reiterate what I have often said: will wonders never cease? Perhaps one of the local psychics can help us sort out the facts.

Even the Reactor can be reached by email these days. His address is reactor@wenet.net