

PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Jeremy's movie is a hit on YouTube

JEREMY released his 17-minute movie about Palo Alto on YouTube. It was called "Showdown at San Francisquito Creek."

In this movie, a group of over-the-hill tech people, fired from their jobs when they aged into their 40s, stole some gear and went down to live by San Francisquito Creek.

There they formed a renegade band to fight the system, and bring Palo Alto back to a time when it had a kinder economy for the average person, and was a more stable place to live.

"Like when boys could live with their mothers after college?" asked Jeremy's mom.

"That wasn't a very nice thing to say," thought Jeremy. Here he had made his film, and done his best to have some kind of job while doing it, even though he was living at home with his mother--and now here his mom was making fun of him.

"If your mom's not on your side," thought Jeremy, "Then who is?"

But he couldn't stay angry for long,

This is part 54 of a 72-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

because his film got three million hits on YouTube in its first month.

Eddie, the street person from University Avenue, whom Jeremy had cast in the film as an Obi-Wan Kenobi ancient-wisdom character, had achieved his own celebrity through the movie.

Eddie was invited to improvise at a poetry slam on the Stanford campus, where he had been a student decades earlier, before his 50 simultaneous hits of acid had sent him reeling into a nether world.

An arts reporter from a local television station interviewed Eddie and asked how he got by.

"It's easy, man," said Eddie, "During football season." Eddie went on a rant about how he could feed himself for a week off of game-day tailgate scavenging on the Stanford campus.

"Do you steal food?" asked the reporter.

"Not really," said Eddie. "You just walk through the tailgating area with your backpack and scavenge. The trash cans are full of food."

"Have you ever stolen food?" the reporter asked.

"Not really," said Eddie again. "The trick is to look like a normal person. Dress like a student, look like a student, carry the backpack. Then when no one is looking, make your move."

"And what is your move?" asked the reporter.

"Load the backpack quickly," said Eddie. "And don't run after you grab your loot. Walk slowly. Act normal. That's the trick. Head for the exit, but do it casually, without giving off any purpose that you are heading for the exit."

With survival wisdom like this, there was a reason that Jeremy had cast Eddie as the Obi-Wan of "Showdown at San Francisquito Creek."

More tomorrow.



JEREMY, the director of "Showdown at San Francisquito Creek."