

Westside Safeway Story

On August 10, 1995 about 4:00 PM I was gathering signatures for the '95 Danner Recall in front of the Westside Safeway on Mission Street in Santa Cruz. I was positioned in the parking lot about 20 feet out from the innermost entrance (the other entrance being closer to Mission Street).

I was talking with a middle-aged woman who had recently moved, so along with D.A. recall information I handed her a voter registration form. As this was happening, out from the entrance to Safeway in front of which we were walks District Attorney Art Danner. As points of reference, she was behind a shopping cart, I was in front of the cart. Mr. Danner went over to her left side. He apparently knew who she was. He says (more or less) "Don't listen to anything he says. These are total distortions and fabrications."

Both the woman and I were somewhat disoriented, the situation being awkward and unexpected. At the moment Mr. Danner is finished speaking, I walk behind the woman from her right side and then got between Mr. Danner and her. I shook his hand, looked directly in his eyes, and said these exact words: "Occasionally, the power of truth overcomes the inertia to suppress." Mr. Danner jerks his hand away from me, turns around and walks away!

As he is about 15 feet away I say loudly enough so I know he can hear "You're going to remember that for the rest of your life." He joins two suited associates who were positioned nearer to Mission Street in the parking lot. They walk towards Mission Street where I lose sight of them.

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