

Fw_ Childrens pool rally.txt

----- Original Message -----

From: Don Perry

To: ljuven@sdnews.com

Sent: Monday, October 04, 2004 12:02 PM

Subject: Childrens pool rally

Yesterday, Sunday was to be a quiet picnic at Childrens Pool to commemorate a birthday of a deceased mother, meet a few friends and take a swim. What we encountered defies description. La Jolla Friends of The Seals, it appears, sponsored and staged a "rally" to do what for the seals, I am not sure. What I do know is that there was a man with an electrically amplified bull horn and almost 100 people screaming at the few people, my friends, the last remaining people who had not been harassed and intimidated off Childrens Pool beach by this rowdy gathering. News reporters and cameras swarmed the sand and protesters with large poster board signs lined up and chanted "seal killers", taunted, screamed obscenities at us, picked up our umbrella and hurled it against the cliff, then circled us and threatened to bodily remove us from the beach. Another protester threatened to kill my husband and an hysterical sounding young woman ran toward us screaming that a seal who had been wounded in the neck was dying and we were responsible for killing it, then pounded her fists on the lifeguard paddle board, knocking it to the sand. Protesters called the police to report that we had "stabbed three seals.

Police did indeed come - 6 separate times by my count, the last being for a protester who exposed himself to our group while his wife goaded him on. He apparently was attempting to urinate on my husband. This occurred on the beach at Childrens Pool, in front of not only his own small child, but the children and families who ventured back onto the beach after repeated police presence had dispersed the more boisterous protesters. Our 2 on-duty lifeguards were besieged with this and yet remained even and calm. I am very thankful they were there and give thanks to all our lifeguard staff and police who responded to this nightmarish example of "protest".

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Jean Perry

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