

FREE

THE ALARM!

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 18TH-OCTOBER 31, 2002

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Felton fights privatized water

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FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper

The issues in Santa Cruz county surrounding water use and conservation range from protection of the San Lorenzo River to battles against privatized water use in Felton. Please see the map on page 12 for more information.

Residents, activists and decision-makers battle German conglomerate RWE-AG over acquisition of Felton's water rights

By FHAR MIESS
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

What does our own town of Felton have in common with Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lexington, Kentucky and Peoria, Illinois? All these cities, among many others, have engaged in struggles to reclaim their municipal water systems from private corporations and conglomerates. Felton is the latest to join the fight. Santa Cruz County Supervisor Jeff Almquist, whose district encompasses Felton and much of the rest of San Lorenzo Valley, recently discovered that a German multi-utility named Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk Aktiengesellschaft (say that ten times fast), or RWE-AG, has laid plans to purchase California-American Water Company (Cal-Am), which owns water rights and facilities that serve the Felton community. Unfortunately, notice of the acquisition and Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hearings to approve it went to the Santa Cruz County district attorney and county clerk, rather than the county counsel. According to Almquist, this mixup resulted in a delay that excluded Santa Cruz County from participation in the review of PUC proceedings.

Almquist and his staff have been vocal in their opposition to this corporate merger, as well as rate hikes proposed

by Cal-Am of 57% over the next three years, despite earlier company promises that rate hikes would be on hold until 2005 after the company acquired Citizens Utilities Company in 1999.

It was first owned by a small, local company before being acquired by Citizens Utilities, based in Connecticut. Citizens bought a number of municipal water systems through the 90s and diversified into telecommunications with the deregulation of that industry. They subsequently sold their water utilities operations and management across the US to the various regional subsidiaries of American Water Works Company. In Felton, that meant the California-American Water Co. Throughout that time, Ginger recalls the same few people staffing the local office. While they were never particularly responsive to service requests, she claims that the various mergers have only served to add consecutive layers of bureaucracy to insulate them from their customers.

RWE-AG

RWE, founded in Germany at the end of the 19th century, is a multi-utility conglomerate of 848 wholly-owned companies. It is Germany's second largest publicly-held corporation and the world's third largest for-profit water provider, behind French companies

Suez and Vivendi. After its acquisition of American Water Works through its Thames subsidiaries, RWE will be the largest investor-owned water utility company in the United States.

For most of its history, RWE focussed on electricity production and delivery. It grew substantially during Hitler's reign and even more so in the post-WWII period with the help of Allied powers and the Marshall Plan. It surpassed its peak war-time production levels within only a few years, despite the widespread destruction of its infrastructure near the end of the war.

More recently, the company has focussed on acquisition of smaller utilities companies in electricity, waste management and water, using their existing customer base to expand profits from the sale of other services to those same customers. They have drawn upon the leverage given to large corporations by economic liberalization to expand this model globally.

The company has come under fire from environmental groups for its practices of illegal dumping and storage of nuclear waste in Europe.

Thames Water, Britain's largest water utility, was recently acquired by RWE. US water systems will be organized under the control of this new

Go see **FELTON** on **Page 18**

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.

Letter from an Editor

With the paper coming out every two weeks, it is becoming increasingly difficult to address all of the key issues or stories that have transpired since our last printing. These last few weeks have been especially trying considering the continually changing political landscape. For example two weeks ago there wasn't a sniper serial killer loose on the east coast, there wasn't yet a bombing in Bali and we didn't have a final say on an Iraq invasion.

These are the types of incidents that change the way we read and interpret the news. Before the sniper, the country was fixated on al Qaida as the only terrorism to fear—in the past week there has been an increased discussion of domestic terrorism. Of course after Bali, international focus on terror went back to “Muslim extremism” and our thoughts of domestic terrorism lessened as we returned to discussions of bin Laden and, eventually, Saddam Hussein.

The last issue of *The Alarm!* was printed when we were still in an economic recession, however, it seems

that all this talk of war might be re-igniting the economy? Because as the old saying goes, war is good for the economy, and it seems then that war is good for politics since all of these factors are coming together just in time for people to cast their vote in the coming weeks.

And that is how the landscape changes. Week-to-week, we fluctuate from the extremes, and in the middle of the extremes we put out this little paper called *The Alarm!* In our attempt to bring in different perspectives on these various issues, we realize that sometimes the commentary might seem dated. For instance, this issue we have a piece on the sniper killings in which the author refers to the eighth victim killed—as we go to print, we realize that, unfortunately, that number has climbed since the piece was written.

What I am getting at is that when we come out every two weeks remember just how much has taken place. Even the articles that seem dated serve a purpose, because they allow us to

reflect upon the previous weeks of events. Considering the pace of the world and our daily lives, it might be good to sit back and remember what happened last week since, in many ways, it informs how we interpret tomorrow.

—Michelle Stewart

A NOTE ON SPANISH CONTENT:

Once again, we have had a series of incidents that led to a lack of Spanish content that was ready for print in this issue. We wish to stress that it is our goal to increase Spanish content as we work towards a bilingual publication, however, until we have more individuals involved we are unable to meet that goal each publication. That means that we need you: *The Alarm!* is constantly looking for native Spanish speakers who are interested in writing, editing and/or translating. We have a small, core staff and we need your assistance. Please contact *The Alarm!* for more information on how you can get involved.

Local Opinion

Silence is betrayal

By CONN HALLINAN

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Dan Handelman is haunted by two images of Iraq that most Americans never see on television.

One is a frail two-year old slowing dying of dehydration in a Basra hospital while his mother sits next to him, helpless to stop the ravages of diarrhea and infection. He is, according to the World Health Agency, one of the 5,000 Iraqi children who die of water-borne diseases and malnutrition each month.

The other is a group of children begging in the streets. “There were no beggars in Baghdad before the Gulf War, and now many of them have to beg rather than be in school,” he says. Indeed, Iraq used to have the highest literacy rate in the Arab world—95%—but according to UNICEF, 30% of its children no longer attend school.

Handleman, a member of Friends of Voices in the Wilderness, is from Portland, Oregon, and along with a handful of other Americans has traveled to Iraq to witness firsthand the ravages of war and sanctions and to record what is being done in our name.

The young boy in Basra is dying because the US systematically targeted water purification plants and electrical generators in the 1991 Gulf War. We certainly didn't bomb those targets by accident. According to Col. John Warden, the deputy director of strategy, doctrine and plans for the US Air Force, the purpose of the attacks was “to accelerate the effects of [economic] sanctions” and increase “long-term leverage.”

The bombing knocked out almost 97% of the country's electrical capacity, a disaster in a highly mechanized and electricity-dependent society like Iraq. In the first eight months following the war, 47,000 children died of diseases like cholera, typhoid, and gastroenteritis. More than a half million have followed them in the last decade,

and infant mortality has tripled.

Much of the responsibility for this rests on the shoulders of the Clinton Administration, which knew what was happening to Iraq's children. In 1996, Leslie Stahl of CBS asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright: “We have heard that half a million children have died. I mean, that's more than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?” Albright replied: “I think this is a very hard choice, but price, we think the price is worth it.”

Such bombing is in direct violation of the Geneva Convention, which explicitly states that “It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove, or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as food-stuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works.”

There is a cruelty in all this that most Americans would recoil from. “The sanctions let in water pumps in,” says Handleman (which are essential for combating water borne diseases), “but not the ball bearings that they need to function.” He adds the sanctions let in syringes, “but not needles. You can get IV (intravenous) bags for combating dehydration, but not the needles that allow you to put the fluids into a child.”

The so-called “Food for Oil” program has been a flat-out failure, and not, according to the UN, because of the Hussein government. “The magnitude of the humanitarian needs is such,” states a 1999 UN report, “that they cannot be met within the parameters set forth in Resolution 986,” (the Security Council resolution that set up Food for Oil).

Malnutrition is spreading, in large part according to the UN, because of the “massive deterioration of the basic infrastructure, particularly in the water supply and disposal system.”

Besides the deliberate destruction of the civilian infrastructure, the backwash of war also continues to take a steady

toll on Iraqi civilians. Southern Iraq was saturated with almost a million rounds of Depleted Uranium Ammunition, which has raised radioactive levels 150 to 200 times over background levels.

Basra Hospital Director Akram Abed Hassan says, “Our cancer incidence has increased ten times during the past few years. Before, we had very few patients under 30, now we're operating on ten-year old girls with breast cancer.” Leukemia and kidney failure rates have also risen sharply.

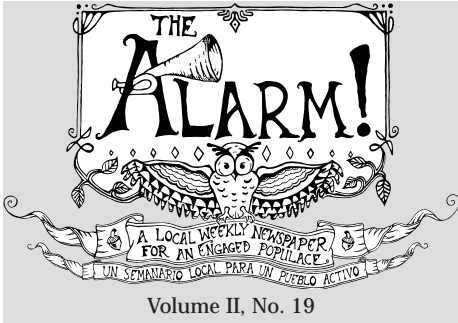
The Bush Administration says we are after Saddam Hussein, but for the past ten years, as Handelman points out, the victims have been “the 23 million people of Iraq.” A new war, he argues, will immeasurably worsen an already terrible situation.

Iraq lost several thousand civilians in Gulf War I, and the Pentagon projects Gulf War II will kill another 10,000, not counting those who will die from the consequences of bombing. Of course, in a sense, we are already at war with Iraq. The US and Britain have dropped more bombs on Iraq since 1999 than were dropped on Serbia in the Kosovo War, and have sharply stepped up the air campaign over the past two weeks.

That bombing has taken a steady toll on civilians, as it has in Afghanistan. For all the hype about “smart bombs” and “surgical strikes,” more than 3,000 Afghan civilians have died from US bombs, and it is scary to contemplate what an aerial assault on Baghdad, a city of five million, will do.

All of this will be carried out in our name unless Americans do something to stop it. “A time has come when silence is betrayal,” Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said about Vietnam, another war that targeted civilians, “that time is now.”

Conn Hallihan is the provost of Kresge College at UCSC and is a lecturer for the journalism department.



Volume II, No. 19

Through the use of strategic investigation and innovative analysis, we aspire to provide quality reporting on the news of Santa Cruz County as a means to inspire and engage individuals and the community at large. We strive to cover news that matters directly in peoples' lives. We are not interested strictly in local news, but wish to connect the local to regional, national and global issues.

The Alarm! Newspaper is distributed free of charge locally through newspaper racks and can also be found at select businesses and organizations throughout Santa Cruz county. Our print run for this issue is 10,000 copies. Home delivery and postal subscriptions are also available (see back page for rates and instructions for subscribing).

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If you are interested in contributing an article to *The Alarm!*, please see the guidelines for submissions on our website.

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Write to Us!



All letters to the editor will be published, with the following guidelines:

- 1) No letters over 350 words
- 2) No commercial solicitation ("plugs")
- 3) No event announcements or personal ads
- 4) Letters to the editors must be sent "attn: Letters" via post or to letters@the-alarm.com via e-mail (we will assume that if you send letters to these addresses, you want them published—if you have general questions or comments, send them to info@the-alarm.com). We prefer e-mail.
- 5) Letters received on paper by Tuesday at 5pm or via email by Wednesday at noon will be published the same week.
- 6) We reserve the right to reply to any letters in print in the same issue.
- 7) Play nice.

To the Alarm!:

Bush is Out of Control," "War is Terrorism," "The US Needs a Regime Change," "No War in Iraq," "Peace Now," "Military Spending is Killing Us," "No Iraq Attack," "Drop Bush, Not Bombs," "Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz Can Be Stopped!," "Honk for Peace," "Big Oil = Big War," "USA Terrorist Cells: CIA, US Prison System, The Rumsfeld Pentagon, US Army School of the Americas," "1.5 million Iraqi Dead from US Genocidal Sanctions."

These are some messages motorists are exposed to every Friday, 5-6 pm at Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. I ask you to join this growing protest; together we can stop this insane war against Iraq. We stopped the Vietnam War and we can stop this one, too.

GARY HARROLD
Aptos

Dear Alarm!:

I was pleased to see your coverage on domestic violence in Santa Cruz County. I was especially impressed that you included articles from different local sources involved in helping those touched by domestic violence.

After reading several articles, I was offended by Blaize Wilkinson's story on Family Violence in Santa Cruz. Several times his article equated domestic violence as a "troubled relationship." As a survivor of domestic violence I would like to remind Mr. Wilkinson and the Santa Cruz community that domestic violence is not about "relationship troubles" or "a marital problem."

Domestic violence is about power and control. One person thrives off of controlling or oppressing another human being(s). It is estimated 95% of these people are men. Regardless of the sex of the perpetrator, their victims are partners, spouses, step-children, biological children, babies, pets and elder parents. Often the violent crimes committed against family members are as heinous as the crimes committed by many convicted felons residing in our state's prison systems.

In our society there is a discerning line drawn between family abuse crimes and stranger crimes of similar severity.

Perpetrators who are caught committing stranger crimes tend to have a significantly higher rate of charges brought against them. After all, who wants to believe a wife who seeks shelter with our legal system from a violent husband who allegedly beats his wife and children? This is especially true when often the same perpetrator is a model citizen in public. Santa Cruz is not unique: it is easier and more comfortable for our neighbors and community to believe the wife must surely have some sort of ax to

grind... regardless of evidence. It is far less comfortable to become involved in the solution.

Perpetrators of violent crimes against a stranger have a far higher rate of felony charges and convictions than perpetrators of the same crime against a "domestic" relation.

Does this mean it is NOT ok for a stranger to grab me off the street and beat me? But, if my husband beats me daily it's ok? After all, he only received a misdemeanor conviction with the standard Santa Cruz County 30 day SUSPENDED SENTENCE (this means there's a misdemeanor sentence, but no real jail time). He pays a fine and comes back to my home. I may be confused, but watching it in court reminded me of when I appeared in traffic court for that speeding ticket...

I would like our community to stand up and pay attention to two items:

1) Domestic violence is NOT a relationship problem. It is a social problem. If our community continues to turn the other way justifying their lack of horror citing trite sayings as "she must have deserved it"...I can only pray that those same individuals do not find themselves, their children or grandchildren's innocence torn by this violence of unheard screams.

2) As long as our community continues to treat stranger violence as an abhorration of society while condoning "domestic" violence through minimalizing penal consequences, we will continue to raise children in violence AND perpetuate this social problem.

Do you turn up the TV when hearing the yelling before the fist hits the flesh at the neighbors'? Do you show up in protest against violence in Iraq? Are you willing to show up for the children in our community and say "NO" to violence? Are you willing to teach our community and our community's children that hands are not for hitting?

As for myself, I ignored a few red flags as my prince swept me off my feet while riding his white horse. I thought the imperfect behavior indicated humanness. Then came the quick marriage... baby already on the way. I am here to stand witness that I NEVER raised my hand and said "I want to be beaten," "I want to worry about food for my babies," "I want my pets abused." And I certainly NEVER raised my hand and volunteered to have children whose lives continue to be haunted by nightmares of "what daddy did"—night after night after night.

Information varies somewhat, but it is estimated that at least one in five children are physically, emotionally or sexually abused in our country. A very small percentage of these children are abused by strangers.

All I ask is for some social awareness and community responsibility. I do not wish this on another man,

woman, grandparent or child.

MOLLY JOHNSON
Santa Cruz

Note: Blaize Wilkinson is female. -Ed.

To Patrick,

I so loved your articles in the Alarm!. The one about the ban on banners and the one on your domestic violence experience. They touched me so. I love your writing too. Such quality. Dense, rich...the ban article was prose. Both stories had me on the edge of my seat.

I work in violence prevention and we are very lack on resources re: male victims/survivors of domestic violence. I will add your article and book to my small folder of information for the men who call.

Thank you so much for all.
Sincerely,
LAURIE MCWHORTER
Santa Cruz

Dear Editors,

On Monday, November 14th, the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) held a public meeting on police selective enforcement aimed at activists, people of color, street musicians, the poor and the Merry Monday events protesting the new downtown ordinances.

Eye-witness testimony was strong and compelling.

Yet the CPRB meeting was a disappointment in that it raised no recommendations for combating the selective enforcement of the Santa Cruz Police. Nor did the CPRB make a formal decision that selective enforcement is indeed a problem, despite over two hours of testimony from the public on the issue.

A decision, any kind of decision, based on the testimony would have given the meeting, and the CPRB, some relevancy. Instead the meeting was just another futile attempt by the public to find redress for our grievances from a government that is not on our side.

The meeting showed once again the need for new leadership in the City government that is willing to address the very real problem of selective enforcement and other police misconduct. City Council candidate Thomas Leavitt and myself both propose dealing directly with the problem by: 1. Ending the sleeping ban, 2. Repealing the downtown ordinances, & 3. By firing Police Chief Belcher who encourages the inappropriate and illegal behavior exhibited by many of his officers.

Sincerely,
STEVE ARGUE
Santa Cruz

Dear Robin A. Kopit and Alarm! readers,

I am writing in response to the letter

Robin wrote in the last issue of The Alarm! attacking my article on the Middle East.

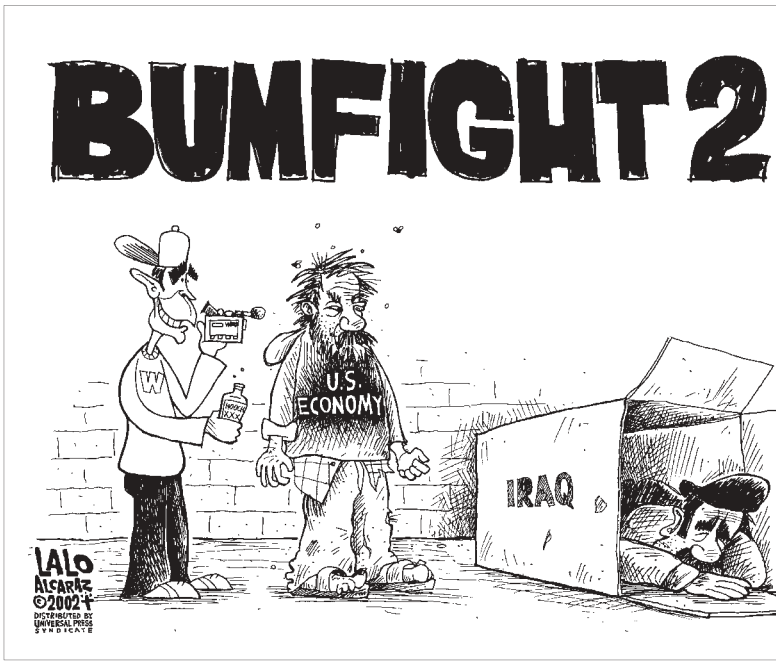
1)I do not consider Israel a "demon nation." As a matter of fact, I do not believe in demons, devils or god; as such, I do not use them as descriptions or metaphors when criticizing the domestic or foreign policies of a nation-state. I also have not only criticized Israel; the last article I wrote for The Alarm! criticized the domestic policies of both Israel and Egypt. But my criticism do not end there, I have attacked the domestic policies of the US in The Alarm!. I don't know if you see a trend, but I am critical of nation-states, their leaders and their policies of repression. I have no desire to ignore the policies of Israel any more than those of the US, Egypt, Sudan, Britain, etc.

2) Robin did not address any of the actual issues in my article because all of the laws I discussed are on the books in Israel and the fallout of these laws are well documented by human rights groups from Israel, the US, Europe and Arab countries as well as the UN. I do not see where presenting actual laws in Israel and showing their fall out is "immature and adolescent."

3) There is an assumption in the letter that I do not recognize the significance of the Holocaust. I recognize the significance of the Holocaust and just like US policies towards the indigenous peoples of this country and African Americans I understand that these events have a strong bearing on the present, but this does not create and atmosphere where any nation-state's policies are above attack.

4) Last I would like to address the ultimate message of the letter. Because I attack policies of the Israeli nation-state, I am anti-Semitic. First, as a person who does not believe that any nation-state represents the needs and will of its subjects, I do not equate Israel with the Jewish people. Second, the nation-state of Israel doesn't equal the entire Jewish diaspora as can be seen by the anti-conscription movement in Israel and the Jewish populations in the US, Europe and Israel that are extremely critical of both the domestic and foreign policies of the nation-state. Quoting Martin Luther King Jr. does not change the fact that there is an extreme difference between a people and a nation-state. Quoting King's interpretation of "God's own truth" does not make the argument stronger because God did not create the nation-state. I also find it highly suspect that King would support the policies of the Israeli nation-state, but I may be wrong.

Your Letters



Controversy Over Funding for Hwy 1 Widening

□ RTC considers funding options for environmental review.

By **RACHEL SHOWSTACK**
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Now that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has refused to set aside extra State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for the controversial Highway 1 Widening Project, Santa Cruz County must look elsewhere for the \$7 million needed for the project's environmental review. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) expects to decide where that money will come from after a public hearing at its November 7 meeting.

Several transportation commissioners have expressed interest in reprogramming funds from previously approved projects, including the \$10 million set aside for the acquisition of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Santa Cruz to Watsonville, where the RTC plans to develop the Santa Cruz County Coastal Rail Trail. But on October 10 the RTC staff made a recommendation for the commission to consider programming new federal transportation money—Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds—toward the environmental review, as an alternative to reprogramming already promised funds.

"Taking money away from projects you've already promised money to sets a really bad precedent," said Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi. Reprogramming the funds set aside for the rail right-of-way would definitely stall acquisition, which would in turn postpone the project, she added. The RTC is currently in closed negotiations with Union Pacific to settle on a price for the purchase of the right-of-way.

Let the voters decide

Regardless of how the RTC decides to fund the Highway 1 Widening Project's environmental review, it has yet to face the question of funding for the project, itself. The latest "cost-escalated" budget estimate for widening the highway to six lanes from Morrissey to State Park Drive is \$328 million. Some transportation commissioners have recently begun to express interest in widening the highway to eight lanes and extending the project to Larkin Valley Road, which would greatly increase the project cost.

But the RTC has only committed to spending \$46 million of its projected available funds. The remaining funds would have to come from other sources.

The commission recently voted to place a sales tax measure to acquire funding for the project on the November 2004 ballot. For a sales tax measure to pass in Santa Cruz County, it must be approved by two thirds of the voters. According to County Supervisor and Transportation Commissioner Mardi Wormhoudt, it would be impossible to fund the project without a sales tax. Santa Cruz County will have to wait another two years to know whether it can afford to widen the highway.

According to Micah Posner of People Power! and the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, programming any kind of funding toward the environmental review without voter approval of the sales tax would be undemocratic. "They are trying to widen the highway before they know if the public will support it being widened," he said.

But Wormhoudt argued that the RTC should go through with the environmental review because she wants Santa Cruz residents to be able to make an informed decision on whether the Highway 1 Widening Project should happen. "It's important that people know what the costs are, both economically and environmentally," she explained.

Where has all the money gone?

Santa Cruz Mayor Christopher Krohn asked the CTC not to provide additional STIP funds for the highway-widening project because he was concerned that the development of other important transportation infrastructure could fall by the wayside. Instead of widening the highway, Krohn said the RTC should focus its resources on metering lights for highway on-ramps, a "parking cash-out" program, which would encourage commuters to leave their cars outside of the city, additional funding for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and the implementation of the county bike plan.

Using new state or federal transportation funds or reprogramming existing funds toward the Highway 1 Widening Project's environmental review would undoubtedly make less money available for other projects, according to Moriconi.

In anticipation of the need for extra funds for the environmental review, the



Photo by Marty Herrmann

With a typical commute looking like this, the widening project seeks to alleviate traffic congestion and thereby have drivers off the city streets and back onto the highway to get from one side of the county to the other.

tion under very specific conditions. "You have to have at least ten percent HOV vehicles," he explained. "Otherwise, you don't get optimum help adding

But Wormhoudt argued that when the freeway reaches capacity people are likely to use alternative modes of transportation rather than taking local streets. "People have decided it's not worth it to make that commute at commute hours. They've arranged carpools, chosen to take the bus, or decided not to work so far from home," Wormhoudt said. "But once you've added lanes people go back to that mode."

An informed debate

Last spring, the RTC considered placing a sales tax measure for the highway-widening project on this November's ballot. But after conducting an extensive poll through Gene Bregman & Associates on voters' willingness to approve the sales tax, the commission decided to postpone the measure until 2004.

Sixty-one percent of voters polled said there was a "great need" to widen Highway 1 with carpool lanes in order to reduce traffic. However, only 43% of those polled said they would vote in favor of a ballot measure to provide funds for the project by instituting a one half cent sales tax throughout Santa Cruz County for a period of twenty years. A 20-year half-cent sales tax would raise about \$400 million over the next twenty years, which would provide the funding needed for the project.

The poll results did not indicate a high likelihood that two-thirds of Santa Cruz County voters would approve the measure. According to Posner, "The reason the RTC did not put the measure on this cycle is because they're not sure it's going to pass," he said. "To pass a sales tax, you really have to get consensus among the public."

The public hearing on funding for the environmental review will be held at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers (FC) on November 7. Those interested in learning more about transportation issues in Santa Cruz County are welcome to visit People Power! at the Santa Cruz Hub for Sustainable Transportation, 224 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or call 425-0665.

“It indicates the absurdity of the never-ending battle of trying to solve traffic congestion problems by adding freeway lanes”

RTC voted in June to shift funding for three regional projects, including the \$10 million it set aside for the acquisition of the railroad right-of-way, from fiscal year '02-'03 to fiscal year '03-'04. Acquiring the right-of-way is the first step in developing the Coastal Rail Trail, a twenty-mile bike lane along the railroad corridor.

Wormhoudt, who voted against setting aside the rail funds, sees the acquisition of the right-of-way as a key element in creating a balanced county-wide transportation system. "The money earmarked for the purchase of the rail line is a really modest sum, and it's all we've got toward providing some sort of alternative," she said. "I really hope there would not be an attempt to use that money." If the RTC were to decide to use the rail money for a different purpose, it would have to get approval from the CTC.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Act, a potential source of new federal money for the environmental review, is dedicated to funding projects that improve air quality through mitigating traffic congestion. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, the favored option for the added lane, qualify for CMAQ because they are designed to reduce traffic.

But Campaign for Sensible Transportation member Peter Scott argued that HOV lanes only work to relieve conges-

tion under very specific conditions. "You have to have at least ten percent HOV vehicles," he explained. "Otherwise, you don't get optimum help adding

High costs for what?

At the October 10 RTC meeting, when Transportation Commissioner and County Supervisor Jan Beautz insisted that the environmental review should address the possibility of widening the highway to eight lanes instead of six, Wormhoudt questioned the project's value as a cure-all solution to Santa Cruz's transportation problems. "This escalation of discussion of lanes is exactly why we can't talk of using one transportation alternative to solve all of our transportation problems," she said. "It indicates the absurdity of the never-ending battle of trying to solve traffic congestion problems by adding freeway lanes."

According to Beautz, widening Highway 1 is more important than bicycle infrastructure because it would reduce congestion on neighborhood streets. "The congestion on Highway 1 causes local residents to use surface streets to drive across the county," she said. "We need to keep our cross-country traffic on the highway and not put it off on local streets where people live."

Here on the docks, it's back to work and back to basics

BY HARRY STAMPER,
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: A longtime longshoreman returning to work in a small Oregon port reflects on a tradition of solidarity and difficult, sometimes deadly work far from Washington D.C. and Wall Street. PNS contributor Harry Stamper (stamper@harborside.com) is a longshoreman in North Bend, Oregon.

NORTH BEND, OR—The dock is empty of cargo, and the pigeon nesting under the planks pokes his head out, hoping I will feed him. My memory is reeling like a videotape.

I am a longshoreman living and working in North Bend, Oregon. My boss is the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), an association of ship owners and stevedoring companies brought together in the late 1930s to deal with the success of Harry Bridges and his upstart International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU).

The wind blows a piece of newspaper across the dock in front of me. It's dated Sept. 7, 2002, the last time a ship was here. Days ago, the PMA locked us out of the docks, claiming we had waged a work slowdown. Now, by order of the President of the United States, we're back on the job.

We've labored here for years. Forest after forest has been shoved across the dock to be hoisted aboard freighters bound for China, Australia, Korea and Japan. The ships came and went with monotonous regularity, trusting that teams of longshoremen would fill their yawning cavities and send them on their way.

The long wail of a ship's whistle startles the pigeon. He doesn't know how far away the ship is, but I do. It has passed over the bar and is turning up the bay toward the chip facility. It is coming to load chips of alder and Douglas fir bound for Japan. It's large and empty, and will

take four days to load. It will hire two longshoremen per shift from our union hall. Eighty members are waiting for it.

It is the first ship to come here since President Bush evoked the Taft-Hartley Act and ended the 11-day lockout. All around us the newspapers are shouting about ships lined up to the sun. Wall Street is plummeting like a gut-shot bowling ball. Investors seem unconvinced that consumers will jump-start a tottering economy with vibrating tickle-me dolls and Christmas tree lights from China. Retailers say profits are down. They want longshoremen to risk their lives to prop them up.

A big "Safety First" sign hangs on the side of the empty warehouse, bruised and faded as if worn away by the gaze of countless eyes. In my 33 years on the waterfront, my employers have yet to tell me I was working too fast. I have been told that safety is Number 1. I have been told that profit is not worth the loss of even one life. I have been told the ILWU-PMA Marine Safety Code document is the bible of the industry. I believe all these things.

I was 26 when I saw my first longshoreman die—I've seen two deaths in person. His name was Cy and he was a foreman trying to speed up the operation. I heard him give the order that killed him. We were discharging ten-foot sheets of thick glass, boxed in upright wooden crates. The two-foot wide units were landed on the dock, then tacked together to stand upright. The driver of the forklift was waiting with his machine against the load so it wouldn't fall over. Cy angrily ordered him to pull out. Cy was going to try to tack the load and balance it at the same time. The driver hesitated and Cy demanded he do his job and pull out. As the glass fell, Cy's screams rose. The crate weighed a thousand pounds.

Go see **DOCKS** on **Page 19**

Why the waterfront war will spread

BY DAVID BACON
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the docks, manufacturers have so far succeeded in a bold new strategy to weaken the longshore union, writes PNS Associate Editor David Bacon. With the help of the Bush administration, which seems prepared to call strikes a threat to national security, employers are tipping labor-relation scales in their favor. Unions across the country should take note. Bacon (dbacon@igc.org) writes widely on labor issues.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The men and women of the docks are back at work. But during the coming 80 days of labor guaranteed by the Taft-Hartley Act, the basic disagreement at the root of the longshore conflict will only grow sharper and more bitter. Moreover, if federal intervention succeeds in breaking the union's back on the West Coast docks, employers will probably use the same strategy in industry after industry.

On the surface, it makes no sense that the shipping and stevedoring companies would need a federal order to open the gates of the closed terminals. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), after all, had shut the ports, and could have opened them at any time during the 12 days it had locked out its own employees. PMA Director Joe Miniace had even declared that the lockout would end if the workers were willing to resume labor under their old contract, and indeed the workers had accepted a Department of Labor proposal that they go back to work for 30 days under the old labor agreement.

But resumption of work was never the issue.

Instead, the PMA wanted two things. First, a guarantee that workers would be forced to continue unloading ships for the next two months, the peak of the shipping season, when goods traveling from the sweatshops of the eastern Pacific rim are en route to stores for the Christmas rush. And second, a weakened union made so vulnerable it would be forced to accept a settlement on the association's terms.

For the PMA, the Taft-Hartley injunction was a step in a well-ordered scenario that has unfolded since last spring. Its success in using the power of the federal government to tilt the collective bargaining process completely in employers' favor should be a wakeup call to every union in the country.

Before negotiations began last June, the PMA and some of its biggest customers, including the Gap, Target, Mattel and Home Depot organized the West Coast Waterfront Coalition. Together, they met with a Bush administration task force headed by Carlos Bonilla, a White House economic advisor. Once negotiations with the dockworkers began, Homeland Secretary Tom Ridge and representatives of the Department of Labor phoned James Spinosa, president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. They warned him that the administration would view any strike or interruption of work on the docks as a threat to national security. They threatened to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act, to use the military to replace striking workers, to remove the union's ability to negotiate a single labor agreement covering all ports on the coast and to propose legislation placing the waterfront under the Railway Labor Act (making a waterfront strike virtually illegal).

Although negotiations resolved only

a few issues from June to September, the ILWU nimbly avoided being provoked into a strike. Finally, with the peak shipping season staring employers in the face, the PMA locked out their own workers.

As a pretext, the PMA accused the union of organizing an alleged work slowdown. But according to the Journal of Commerce, 30% more cargo was crossing the docks than last year—the greatest volume in history. In fact, the speedup on the docks caused the accident rate to shoot up—five longshoremen had died on the job since January. When the union told its members to work at a safe speed, the PMA called it a slowdown.

If the union continues to resist the demand for speed, the federally emboldened PMA will likely again cry "slowdown." And this time, Bush administration help will likely come in the form of the threats made earlier by Ridge.

At the root of the dispute is the decision by the PMA to end an arrangement that has successfully allowed the introduction of advanced technology onto the docks for the last 40 years.

Today, the companies want to automate shipping, at first using automated scanners and tracking devices to replace waterfront clerks. Eventually, the cranes and dockside machines will be operated by remote control, perhaps by people miles away from the wharves. Again the union has said it won't oppose these moves, so long as its members get to do the new jobs technology creates.

But this time, the PMA wants the union confined to the jobs that will disappear, and non-unionized workers employed in the new jobs.

It's no wonder the PMA put together its elaborate battle plan last spring. And no wonder that simply opening the gates and letting workers go back to their jobs wasn't good enough. What the association needed to win this dispute was the backing of the federal government. And they got it.

The Bush administration, which has already used back-to-work orders against employees at Northwest and United airlines last year, has established a new precedent. Interruptions of economic activity, it says, are a threat to national security. Unionized workers can expect to see the federal government intervene forcefully on their employer's side in the future.

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Regional: Labor Issues

National Labor Briefs

Boston janitors

In a new development in a three-week-old strike of Boston-area janitors, Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift cancelled the state's custodial contract with Unico Service Company after the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) threatened to expand their strike to four state buildings. The workers are striking for better wages, full employment (only 1,900 of Boston's 10,700 janitors are employed full time) and health benefits.

Oakland screeners work stoppage thwarted

On October 4, Oakland airport security screeners had planned a walkout protesting the discriminatory layoffs and re-hiring process of the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The government agency countered by threatening to bring in replacement screeners from Sacramento and Reno, Nevada. Officials with the TSA also suggested that participation in the ten-minute walkout would "have an impact on their applications and their future eligibility for employment." Many of the present security screeners accuse the TSA, formed as part of post-September 11 federal security measures, of discriminating against them because they are naturalized citizens born in other countries, especially the Philippines.

ILWU—Breaking News

The Local 13 of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), representing longshore workers at the sprawling port complexes of Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA, filed a formal complaint October 15 against shipping companies represented by the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). They charge shippers with sabotaging efforts to get work on the docks back to normal after a ten-day lockout was ended by Bush's invocation of the Taft-Hartley Act the previous week. Union officials say that the shippers are refusing to hire and train enough new workers to get the job done. The complaint was filed with the Labor Relations Committee, formed after Taft-Hartley went into effect. The PMA in turn accuses the union workers with engaging in slowdowns by mixing up paperwork, showing up late and not making enough workers available. The union has countered that workers have done remarkably well, considering the "logistical nightmare" produced by the PMA lockout. They also accuse the shippers of refusing to hire and train more workers to get the job done because it would give the ILWU more power on the waterfront.—F.M.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR BRIEFS
on **Page 19**



Fhar Miess/The Alarm! Newspaper

Graffiti as social resistance/reclaiming public space

By DURT
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Possibly the first time I ever went out spraypainting was when I was in high school in San Francisco when I was 15. A few friends and I went out to Ocean Beach at three in the morning or some such crazy hour. This was before the huge wall separating the street and the sand got painted over and there still was artwork and scrawlings from the 80s—and even some from the 70s—all up and down the beach. I don’t even remember what kind of paint or even what color it was, but I do remember the excitement and rush I got when I painted the first durt monster on the concrete wall. As far as graffiti art pieces go, it was messy and simplistic. It was a very clear moment for me, when I felt like a part of the long history of graffiti as an artform, and felt happy to be doing something a little bit different as a white queer gurl from the city. At the time, I had also just self-published my first zine called *durt* that had a lot of poetry and art from my friends. Graffiti became a way for me to advertise for it. This was the beginning of my participation in The Lost Tribe and Super Froot as a crew of kids (mostly punks), and the beginning of my passion for street art and graffiti as an artistic and political movement.

In San Francisco, I spent quite a bit of time running around the city making art wherever and whenever I could. Today, I spend less time at it, but that’s mostly because I don’t have my crew down here with me. I know of a few graffiti writers in Santa Cruz (like Ideal and gerl), but other than that, I’ve been pretty cut off from other artists. I think this isolation has to do with the stigma around graffiti. No one really wants to speak out as graffiti artists because of the law. Ever since Proposition 21—California legislation that targeted youth by incarcerating them earlier and more often, and by allowing cops to do more surveillance on anyone suspected of being in a “gang”—was passed there have been increasing crackdowns on graffiti. In Santa Cruz there has been a fuss over strengthening the Graffiti Enforcement Team that investigates graffiti cases and teaches TAG (Talking About

Graffiti) classes for cited “vandals” and their parents. There have been suggestions that Santa Cruz should model its enforcement on San Jose’s method: first time offenders do 66 hours for a Weekend Paint Program, second time offenders do 132, third time is a felony, with additional penalties: fines, suspension of licenses and house arrest with an ankle monitor somewhere along the way. Somehow I’ve managed to skirt the cops, and whenever I get a chance I like drawing on the sidewalks of this town.

Graffiti art is like most other art forms in terms of its messages, both personal and political. However, there is an element to graffiti wherein it is ultimately political *because* it is illegal. Graffiti has gotten a bad name. Many people think of it as defacement of property. Even more people probably object to graffiti on private property.



Fhar Miess/The Alarm! Newspaper

Graffiti has gotten a bad name for other reasons as well, mostly because of territorial disputes and mopetition between crews and individual artists. The general public sees graffiti and thinks “gangs.” I know that there is violence surrounding graffiti in some situations. But for me, graffiti is not about violence. It is about freedom of expression, and, if anything, is a release of emotion, truth and reality. I’m not interested in competing with anyone. I’m all about appreciating the beauty of other people’s art and writing as much as possible myself.

Inspiration and Beautification

I like to paint with spray cans, but I also like making stickers, stencils, using pens and shoe polish. In San Francisco, I pretty much like all the stuff my friends do: icide, special, eyesoar, disease. I also really like Superstar and Heart 101’s artwork. A lot of great art is in the Mission in San Francisco, including in the Pond Gallery and Mission Badlands/Balazo Gallery on 24th and Mission Streets.

For me, guerrilla art/graffiti art has been an essential part of my life. When I see graffiti art that is beautiful and has a distinctive political/personal message, then my creative energy is restored. Mostly I think graffiti needs to encourage positive action and connection to community. I love seeing statements that keep me going and keep me excited about humanity. Like when you see a sticker and realize that someone else in the world/community actually cares! I think graffiti is a way for me to express feelings about humanity and political issues, and be able to reach a large audience. I hope to be able to reach people I wouldn’t usually get to talk to about issues of war, sexism or fatphobia.

Being a gurl artist seems to complicate matters. Most of the graffiti artists I know are guys. I know there are a ton of women street artists out there. Let’s

form a crew. Going out by yourself is a great way to prove you’re tough, but I’m more interested in having a good time with artists and friends. For me, there’s no need to prove myself as an artist. My style comes from a place of not really caring what other folks think of me. I don’t know sometimes if I can really call myself a graffiti artist because my style is pretty sloppy and unskilled. I just like drawing messy monsters and happy creatures all over the place. I also like drawing hearts with anarchy signs in them and writing things like “no f**king war” and “riots not diets.” I’m not really trying to be skilled at it, I’m just putting my own form of kind of simplistic expression into the world to try and make some people smile.

I might even want to organize doing a mural somewhere in Santa Cruz legitimately (legally), like the artwork at the Teen Center and Motion Pacific by Elijah. A long term goal I have is to get as many gurls, trans folk and feminists as possible to get together and take over the boring grey freeway underpasses, telephone polls—anywhere there is public, blank, sterile concrete—and transform them into artistic expressions of resistance and revolutionary joy.

“Why do you do graffiti?”

Its fun. I meet interesting people. It’s pretty liberating to be able to make a statement and beautify the place where you live. I always try to encourage people to express themselves artistically and some people don’t have access to art school. So why not paint beautiful murals and add some color to the concrete streets? I’m very much a fan of the Do It Yourself (DIY) ethic. That’s why I think you don’t need a lot of fancy art supplies or canvases to do art. That’s why I make zines and encourage any form of public/free art, spoken word and art that reaches out into the community where you live and inspires those around you. Graffiti, billboard modification and wheat-pasting are all great ways to get messages across. I hope more people will realize that it’s a form of art and expression that shouldn’t be criminalized but rather encouraged. Take a hint from groups like Precita Eyes in SF, where the art of youth is validated and taken seriously. Provide spaces for youth to display their talents and know that we’re not going to stop beautifying the world we live in.

For more info on other organizations and groups see: www.artcrimes.com (HUGE source of graffiti art and links online), www.culturecache.com (net gallery for emerging artists), www.mucketymuck.org (Pond Gallery in SF), www.precitaeyes.org

This space is set aside each for youth voice and perspective. Entries written in English or Spanish accepted.

Send your query to: queries@the-alarm.com.

For more info call Halie at 429-NEWS.

Or email youth@the-alarm.com.

- Don’t tag personal property. It’s just mean, and can make people feel bad.
- If you’re tagging public property, keep in mind some buildings are better left alone, i.e. historical, pretty buildings. Blank concrete like freeway underpasses are a great canvas.
- Don’t paint on other people’s murals. It’s rude, and marks you as a toy (a novice artist).
- “The best art I’ve seen is on the backs of things,” said Spatz, a local graffiti connoisseur. The underbellies of cities are the places that often need beautification, especially the kind of hard-edge, urban beautification that graffiti offers.



Fhar Miess/The Alarm! Newspaper

Chuck D takes on MTV

By SHAWN GAYNOR
Asheville Global Report

Chuck D, front man of the Hip-Hop group Public Enemy, is once again at odds with the mainstream music world, this time over song lyrics that MTV finds objectionable. So what is the word in question? Is it “booty,” “b**ch,” “ho?” No, the word is “free,” as in “free Mumia and H. Rap Brown.”

The standards board at MTV found the reference to these political prisoners objectionable, and threatened not to air the video “Gotta give the peeps what they need,” off Public Enemy’s new album *Revolverlution*, unless the word “free” was removed from the song. Chuck D, no fan of censorship, said no.

According to the Public Enemy web site, Chuck D claims that MTV originally asked that all references to Mumia be dropped, but said that after he refused to make the change MTV asked that the word “free” be removed.

In a commentary written by Chuck D in September, Chuck said “I refused to edit out the Mumia audio and visual. That’s crazy and they must be out of their f**king mind,” he said.

“The thing that has myself going to war is they [MTV] want to vanish all audio and visual references to Mumia Abu Jamal,” Chuck D said in the commentary. “This is serious in a climate where they’re playing the hell out of Nelly and Khia dumbing American kids down to ‘it’s so hot I’mma take my clothes off’ down from ‘my neck

to the crack of my ass’ with a ‘shot of Courvosier.’”

“If they think having a political viewpoint in music is irrelevant, it’s because they’ve taken the Nazi approach in censoring it themselves,” he said.

The song, which is the first track on the new *Revolverlution* album also contains political lyrics like “COIN-TELPRO again, here we go again,” referring to the Bush administration’s embracement of “counter-intelligence” against political dissent.

Chuck D has been at odds with the music industry before, over his support of Napster, an internet music file sharing web site. When asked recently if young people are still buying Public Enemy albums he replied that young people are not buying albums, they’re burning their own.

An MTV spokesperson said that the station had barred videos because of their content in the past, but went on to admit that this may be the first time that political speech is the reason.

After two weeks of wrangling, MTV and Public Enemy reached a compromise. The video itself will air in its entirety on MTV2’s Hip-Hop show, premiering on September 30, but not on the normal MTV station. Firsthand accounts on the worldwide web have stated that the video aired unedited on the MTV Europe station in early September, before the controversy started.

Trannies and friends strut their stuff on Pacific

By ANITA O’SHEA
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

On Friday, October 11 (Coming Out Day) there was a Transgender March in downtown Santa Cruz. The second annual march started off at the Metro Center and marched down Pacific Avenue to a rally at the Town Clock. There were approximately 50 people there strutting their stuff and showing their pride as transgender individuals, accompanied by several supporters and allies. There were some speakers, some poetry and music by the Little Giants. Overall it was a positive march denouncing violence against trans folk and celebrating the beauty of



Anita O’Shea

Jay, an accordion player and Noah provide lively entertainment on Pacific Avenue on Coming Out Day.



Anita O’Shea

Showing some pride at the Transgender March.

people moving beyond strict gender definitions. One sign read: “Don’t Trip, Don’t Hate. Take a Tranny on a Date.” Organized by STRANGE (a high-school aged group for queer youth and their allies) and sponsored by the Diversity Center, the march was complete with a marching band and signs asking “Pronouns, why not use them all?” The march displayed the power of trans people as united against hate.

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War Notes

□ A column following the developments of our new permanent war, the war on terrorism

By **SASHA K**

The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

An argument for everyone

The Bush administration's two pronged approach for selling an attack on Iraq underscores the fact that they want to attack Iraq and remove Saddam Hussein—no matter the objection of critics and allies alike—and that its statements are pure rhetoric for public relations. In front of the UN, the United States is seeking a resolution calling for a tough inspection regime backed up by the threat of military force. At the same time, to a home audience, the administration has openly stated that inspections are not enough and that only a regime change will satisfy the US government. For other countries on the UN Security Council to go along with such a resolution, of course, demands that they willfully deny the blatantly cynical nature of this double talk. That the Bush administration can utilize such an obviously duplicitous maneuver is a sad comment on the state of our critical abilities.

President Bush has already received a blank check from the US Congress to proceed with any military venture in Iraq that he sees fit. The Security Council is less likely to give the president a similar rubber stamp. The French proposal keeps the Security Council in control by first setting up a tough inspection regime and only later, if Iraq does not comply with it, authorizing military action. The question remains, however, whether the inspection regime set up by the UN will both allow Iraq a way to disarm without a regime change and satisfy the US government. When one looks at the actual conditions that the US wants to impose on Iraq, it is quite clear that the US is not interested in disarmament alone.

Military hegemony

Critics of the administration's policy on Iraq all attempt to name the "real" objective behind its machinations, and I have mentioned several in this column: control of oil; distraction from the very real economic problems the country is facing before the upcoming elections; hegemonic control over the Mideast region, especially Saudi Arabia; and world-wide military hegemony. Of course, none of these goals contradict; in fact, they reinforce each other. It is crises such as Iraq and Yugoslavia that offer the US an opportunity to reproduce its hegemonic position in the world. And we do well to remember that that position is produced in two ways: both in the actual military operations themselves and through the transformation of international norms and institutions governing such actions. Thus President Bush continually stresses that the fight to pass a UN resolution on Iraq is a fight for the true identity of the UN.

In this week's *Al-Ahram*, Mohamed Sid-Ahmed offers an interesting analysis of America's drive to war with Iraq. Sid-Ahmed suggests that Iraq provides the US with a site to link its war on terrorism with its attempt to limit membership to the nuclear club. Terrorism has been a weapon of the world's weak, and nuclear weapons have been a weapon of the world's dominant powers. Yet, with the "progress" of technology, nuclear weapons are becoming easier to pro-

duce or procure. This means, at the very moment the US has lost its traditional enemy—the Soviet Union—the US has to worry more and more about the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Iraq is a test site for US military hegemony. The Bush Doctrine, a document on national security published a couple of weeks ago, states that it is US policy to never again allow another state or group of states military parity with America. The US hopes to demand and produce its hegemony. Thus the Bush administration has given itself the right to preemptively intervene in countries that might be producing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In other words, the US has given itself a unilateral right to be the world's policeman, and its enemies are now termed "rogue states." Under the Clinton administration, US hegemony as the world's policeman was built through projects defined as humanitarian; the Bush administration's argument for military hegemony is national security.

But this is also an awkward moment for the US. Its attempts to change international norms allowing for preemptive strikes—its attempt to institutionalize itself as the world's sole policeman—has collided with the multilateral world that many nations believed was coming into existence after the fall of the Soviet Union. The US has to sell its unilateralist policy under the guise of international respectability by strong-arming the UN Security Council into passing a resolution giving the US the pretext for attacking Iraq.

Ironically, the US has had to argue that the doctrine of preemptive strike should be a new international norm. Other states have already threatened used this doctrine. I mentioned Russia's attacks on Chechen rebels in Georgia in a previous column. And, thus, the doctrine has the potential to spread further, increasing the insecurity of states around the world, and increasing their desire to procure nuclear weapons.

Moreover, US military hegemony has as its primary project the maintenance of US economic hegemony. Under the US-driven capitalist system, rich nations have continued to get richer, and poor nations poorer. This disparity creates the very precarious conditions—in which people resort to desperate attacks on Americans—that the Bush Doctrine purports to defend us against.

Israel and war preparations

Unlike the first Gulf War, when most Arab nations supported the coalition forces, Arab support is almost nonexistent this time around. Yet a few of the smaller states, including Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and even Kuwait, are offering their territory to the US war effort. So recent revelations in the Israeli newspaper Maariv that the US has been stockpiling weapons in Israel for the coming war comes as a surprise. Israel has also been an active participant in the US and British mission to persuade Russia to vote for the US resolution to the UN, with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon even travelling to Moscow.

According to Amr Moussa, the secre-



Made in America? Sniper killings and homegrown terrorism

By **EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON**

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: As billions of dollars are earmarked to protect Americans from attack by cells of foreign-born terrorists, a sniper in Maryland remains at large. Terror alerts and crackdowns on visa violators won't protect us from our fellow Americans, writes PNS contributor Earl Ofari Hutchinson. Yet, President Bush could take concrete steps to protect Americans from homegrown terror. Hutchinson (EHutchi344@aol.com) is the author of The Crisis in Black and Black (Middle Passage Press).

The day after the FBI issued yet another terror alert, Kenneth H. Bridges, co-founder of a national Black self-help group, Matah, was gunned down at an Exxon gas station in northern Virginia. Even if Congress had given President Bush the billions of dollars and free-wheeling authority he demands for homeland security, it would likely not have made a difference for Bridges or the eight others murdered to date by a Maryland sniper.

Homegrown terrorism is a different animal.

In the past, those who shot up schools, shopping malls and neighborhood streets in serial or mass killings were likely to be white males who kill for thrills, personal revenge, to settle real or imagined grudges or for fringe political causes. Though the Maryland sniper's race or nationality is not yet known, the case casts light on the terror of American violence from within.

The serial sniper is likely the latest in an American Rogues Gallery of homegrown terrorists who acted out their deadly personal or political hatreds and claimed hundreds of lives. In 1966, Charles Whitman climbed a tower at the University of Texas and gunned down 16 persons. In 1977, David Berkowitz killed six and wounded seven women in New York City. In the 1990s, there was Thomas Lee Dillon, who sniper-killed five in Ohio, "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, the Columbine High School shooters and right-wing bio-terrorists. Today, the anthrax killer remains unidentified.

Their victims were all also seemingly chosen at random.

Though these backyard terrorists usually act alone, there are countless others in local communities who nurse private or political hatreds and are fully able and willing to launch their own mass-killing sprees. Authorities fear copycat murders and implore TV stations to tone down their frequently sensationalist coverage of mass killers and appeal to Hollywood to stop making or delay release of films that glorify mass murder.

In a *Newsweek* poll, women, Blacks and Latinos expressed more fear of the

tary General of the Arab League, such participation would "open the Gates of Hell." The first Bush administration was careful to avoid any involvement by Israel in order to hold the coalition together. This time the administration seems much less interested in maintaining good relations with Arab nations, and Arab nations are taking note.

In the Arab world, the US drive to war is increasingly being seen as a regional strategy and not simply a policy on Iraq. This perception has many of

sniper than white males did. There's a reason for their greater fear. They have been the prime victims of hate violence from individuals who kill from deranged rage or who belong to organized hate groups. In the 1990s, the Southern Poverty Law Center estimated that there were thousands of racist skinheads and members of the Order, Aryan Nation, the White Patriots Party, Nazi factions and the Klan. Borrowing generously from the terror methods of the old Klan, their members committed dozens of bombings, murders and bank robberies to bring about their apocalyptic vision of a white, Christian America.

In 2001, according to the FBI, hate crimes leaped from the year before. As always, women, gays and minorities were the main victims, and they were almost always, as apparently is the case with the victims of the serial sniper, chosen at random. Their different sexual orientation, gender, religion or race was enough to put them in harm's way.

President Bush has said that he is sickened by the killings, and has labeled them "terrorizing." Yet he and the FBI still obsessively fixate on the terror threat to America coming exclusively from Muslim, Arab or other foreign al Qaeda operatives. They refuse to admit that Americans can and do routinely maim and kill other Americans out of rage and hatred, paralyze entire cities with fear and panic and force federal and state agencies to cough up millions of dollars to hunt them down. This continuing blind spot toward our made-in-America terrorists feeds the public delusion that pulverizing towns in Afghanistan to stamp out the Taliban or occupying Iraq to dump Saddam Hussein will wipe away terror.

In the daily FBI updates the president receives on the case, the FBI should tell him that the killer is far more likely to be an ordinary citizen than a foreign-born terrorist. They should say that lax gun laws—Bush still adamantly rejects gun "fingerprinting" that might make it easier to trace the killer's gun—and the widespread accessibility of high-powered weapons enable a homegrown terrorist to create his own arsenal of mass destruction. And, that police and local officials refuse to track and monitor—let alone racially profile—those who are prone to hate violence.

The sniper's bullet that snuffed out the life of Bridges and eight other innocents is deadly proof that many Americans remain at grave risk from other Americans. FBI terror alerts and billions ear-marked to protect them from foreign terrorists won't change that.

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them, especially traditional allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, worried. The participation of Israel in the war effort and the one-sided US support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians is being taken as a sign by many of a new US strategy for the region: to build US and Israeli hegemony over the region and to let Arab regimes disintegrate, opening a new period of imperialism and occupation.

Eye on the INS

A forum addressing the INS and immigration policy

■ This is where we can start

By **MICHELLE STEWART**
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Each week I sit down with a list of story ideas and decide which one I should profile in the column. Occasionally, I will write a smaller sidebar about an incident that I didn't cover in my column. However, whether it is a column and a sidebar or just the column, there is never enough space to cover everything. There is always another horrible situation left unmentioned. Such is the nature of immigration policy both in the US and across the globe. We, as a global society, just can't seem to deal with migration.

This week I was all prepared to compare and contrast US and Canadian immigration policies. I was going to look at the fact that Canada is essentially begging for immigrants right now, while the US is reinforcing its border. As I was teasing out my angles and finding snippets of information about population stats and economic trends, I came across these two passages: In the first, Canada's Federal Immigration Minister Denis Coderre stated, "We have problems of either concentration or retention and that's why we need to focus on these issues." In the second, US-Mexico ambassador nominee Tony Garza said, "[O]rderly, secured and legal [migration is needed that is] tied to our labor needs. It cannot be an amnesty program. It must be some sort of earned legalization."

Coderre's references to retention and concentration sound as if he is discussing water levels, not human beings. For Garza, it is clear that first and foremost those who enter the US are only to be here when the US wants them to satisfy US needs. Never have I found two passages that sit side-by-side so comfortably to illustrate what is at the core of immigration policy.

For whether you are examining immigration policy in the US or the EU, you will find that these nations share

one common thought: migration is not people moving, but rather labor moving. The question is who will open their doors to this mobile labor pool.

At this historic moment, Canada is one of the only major economies opening its doors to labor. Not that Canada is displaying its altruistic side with its "open door" labor policy. Rather, Canada flings its doors wide open, because it hopes that, out of the thousands, perhaps just hundreds will suit its needs. Canada will be looking to bring in a target of 300,000 immigrants next year, not because it likes immigrants and craves diversity, but rather because it is desperate for skilled laborers. In fact, Canada is so desperate for skilled laborers that it is hoping to bring in even more people than last year, despite the fact that its three major urban centers are nearly buckling under pressure. Toronto alone assumes the burden of over 50% of the immigrants that arrive. After Toronto come Montreal and Vancouver.

What is missing in Canada's bid to gather up foreign, "skilled" laborers and insert them into the Canadian economy is that once people arrive in Canada their professional credentials are often worthless. Flocking to urban centers, trained individuals find themselves employed with the unskilled because Canada has no system to "honor" credentials from other countries. And instead of doing something, directly, to address this matter, Canada has turned its attention to the notion of concentration and retention.

In response to the impacts felt in the major urban centers, Canada is contemplating a new program for immigrants whereby they must work for 3-5 years in remote locations in the country in order to gain permanent residency. Coupled with this policy would be the understanding that if an immigrant broke the "contract" and left for the city, they would be subject to deportation.

The combination of lack of respect for credentials, strange ideas in the immigration policy and other factors has led many immigrants to leave Canada just as quickly as they arrive. Canada identifies this problem as "retention." Yet with no concrete solutions or innovative ideas, it plows forward with the intent to draw in the equivalent of one percent of its population (in immigrants) next year.

But what does this have to do with Garza's comment?

Well, in Garza's comment we see the common theme of labor. Garza speaks loudly to what many Americans seem preoccupied with, which is the notion of secure borders and legal migration. However, he points to the fact that the US is reliant on outside labor sources. This discussion is fairly well known, so I won't elaborate as I did with the Canadian situation.

So, here we sit with two countries' policies in front of us, and we find we have the classic case of wanting to have your cake and eat it too. Both of these nations are the first to admit they need outside labor—both skilled and unskilled whether each nation will admit it or not. However, they wish to dictate all of the parameters of how this outside labor force is allowed to operate.

In Canada, it may seem like an open door policy, but it has as many complications and series of manipulations as US policy. Indeed, both these nations treat migrating people as nothing more than components of a mega-machine (the economy). As such, they are interchangeable and without individuality and/or needs for consideration.

Which takes me back to the opening of this column, where I discussed the complicated matter of dealing with such a large subject in such a short space and deciding who to give attention to. In this case, I swayed towards the matter of US and Canadian immigration policy. However, this is just scraping snippets of information. The matter needs more space and consideration, as do all of the stories I do (or don't) cover in this column. The stories need more space, the people involved

need to be recognized as individuals not components and the overarching issues need to be fully considered.

For right now, the federal government is drafting and implementing a knee-jerk, reactionary policy and as a public we are responding (for those of us who respond) accordingly: we have knee-jerk reactions to individual situations and forget that the "individual situation" is not actually isolated but rather a symptom of the many flaws within the system.

We need to become more unified and try to understand the undertones and nuances of the matters at hand. It is no longer enough to say "that is unfair" or "that is a violation of human rights," because the situation with which we are confronted with is actually global, not isolated. It has patterns and we must begin to recognize them as such.

The ways in which economy, labor and xenophobia intersect with immigration are tangible and we need to acquire a trained eye to recognize the trends. One way to do so is to become part of the growing movement of people who are training their eyes and using their voices.

I am often asked, "what do you want people to do?" I get put off by the question and often flip the discussion to avoid an answer. But today, I think I can say with certainty, that I want people to begin to mind these matters, to consider them with patience and start talking to other people, start becoming familiar with those who are working on these issues. For you might believe that immigration has nothing to do with you if you are not an immigrant. I disagree. For each person who dies entering the US, because of programs like Operation Gatekeeper, you are implicated. You are implicated because the economy in which you participate in is one of the chief culprits. You may not be a policy maker, but as a participant in capitalism you rely on migration, and though you may wish to turn a blind eye to the effects of this system on various people, your hands are soiled.

This is where we can start.

In Brief

“Other” Policy Hits Targets

Beginning last month, on the anniversary of 9/11, the US established a third line for people to stand in at ports of entry: "other." Where once the lines were simply "citizen" or "non-citizen," there is now this new line for travelers to ponder: Who is the "other?"

At the "other" line, visitors must be photographed and fingerprinted before entering the US. This "other" line was established for Muslim men ages 16-45 who are from a list of 26 countries. These "other" men are deemed "security risks" by the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System and are deemed target aliens to be monitored.

The new policy to target Muslim men requires that visas not be issued to these men until their application is approved by officials in Washington, DC. Though the visa process is supposed to take 30 days, this new process of individually handling each application drags on much longer.

Recently, Iowa State University reported that its physics department lost one third of it incoming graduate students because of related visa matters. Many other campuses have reported a similar situation.

Bodies from Train Unidentifiable

DENISON, NE, October 14, 2002—Eleven bodies were discovered in a sealed grain hopper 60 miles northwest of Omaha. Investigators believe the people found were likely the victims of a smuggling operation that went wrong.

According to authorities, the grain hopper left Matamoros, Mexico in June bound for the US. When discovered in Nebraska, four months later, the vehicle's door were sealed from the outside with no evidence of food or water inside.

The severe state of decomposition made it impossible for the medical examiner to determine either age or gender on any of the individuals. It is believed that the victims succumbed to any combination of heat, exhaustion, suffocation, dehydration and/or asphyxiation. Attempts to identify the bodies and cause of death are underway—the grain hopper has been transported to Omaha for the investigation.


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Rubén Martínez

Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migration Trail.
(Picador)



The US-Mexican border is one of the most permeable boundaries in the world. Even as the US deploys billions of dollars to "hold the line," the border is breached daily by Mexicans in search of work. Thousands die crossing the border, and those who reach "the other side" are branded illegals, undocumented and unprotected. In *Crossing Over*, the award-winning journalist Rubén Martínez puts a human face on the phenomenon. He charts the Chávez clan's exodus from their small South Mexican town of Cherán through the harrowing underground railroad to the tomatoe farms in Missouri, the strawberry fields of California, and the slaughterhouses of Wisconsin. He reveals the effects emmigration on the family members left behind and creates a powerful portrait of the migrant culture, one that illustrates the conjoining of once separate lands and cultures.

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Hetch Hetchy, restore the valley or rebuild the dam

SPOTLIGHT: Water Issues

By **HALIE JOHNSON**
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

In 1913 John Muir, the famed Sierra conservationist, lost a lengthy legal battle to save the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park from being dammed. The City and County of San Francisco wanted the valley for a municipal water supply.

The project to build the Hetch Hetchy reservoir on the Tuolumne River began in 1914 and took 20 years to complete. Today, water from Hetch Hetchy travels more than 160 miles to serve 2.4 million customers in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

On May 5, 2002, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) approved a \$3.6 billion plan to rebuild the Hetch Hetchy water system. The plan includes 77 projects, of which 40 are local to San Francisco and 37 are regional. The projects are designed to repair and replace aging facilities, implement hydropower projects, provide safe water quality, seismically upgrade facilities and provide for additional water supply.

The SFPUC voted to request that

the Board of Supervisors place a project-funding measure (Proposition A) on the November 2002 San Francisco ballot. If Proposition A passes in November, it will allot over \$1.6 billion to the plan, which is scheduled to begin in 2003 and be complete by 2016.

SFPUC General Manager, Patricia Martel, has been instrumental in formulating the plan to rebuild Hetch Hetchy. To better insure that funds are available for the plan, Martel recommended that the SFPUC delay a proposal to upgrade San Francisco's sewer system. This proposal included projects to enhance the facilities reliability and reduce odors. Instead of the \$900 million sewage upgrade plan, Martel recommended the development of a citywide sewer master plan that includes the reduction of sewage sent to the Southeast treatment plant.

According to the SFPUC "The adoption of a long-term capitol plan for the rebuild of Hetch Hetchy and the local water system has been Martel's number one priority since her appointment to the SFPUC in September."

Environmental groups see Proposition A as an opportunity to interject the option of restoring Hetch Hetchy to the valley John Muir lead the fight to preserve. Organizations including



Courtesy of Taber Photo

"Looking up Hetch Hetchy Valley from Sunrise Point," 1908 before O'Shaugnessy dam was built.

Restore Hetch Hetchy, Environmental Defense and the Planning and Conservation League are urging voters to vote no on Proposition A, saying: "[Proposition A] would cause a large expansion of the water system without an unbiased feasibility study to demonstrate environmentally sound ways of restoring Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley." San Francisco supervisors claim they were pressed for time and could not conduct such a study.

The environmental activists, attorneys and businesspeople who make up Restore Hetch Hetchy, have posed as a counter-option the expansion of

the Calavares Reservoir (near Palo Alto). They said it would "provide an opportunity to replace lost water storage capacity when the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is drained and would increase the reliability of the current water delivery system for San Francisco Bay Area water users."

Restore Hetch Hetchy has set its goal for dam deconstruction as 2013 and say that it could take a century, more or less, to restore Hetch Hetchy to its pre-reservoir condition. "Think of our children's children. In the meantime, you will be witness to one of the the greatest wild lands restoration projects ever undertaken."

Water conflict in the Mideast

By **SASHA K**
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

For the first time in a decade the Palestinian leadership has said that they may be forced to "re-evaluate" the two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. According to a document given last week to US officials by Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayad, "Israel's ultimate goal is to permit a Palestinian 'state' which would be in effect the Middle Eastern equivalent of a Native American Indian reservation."

Since the 1967 Mideast War, Israel has continually expanded the settlement of lands expropriated from Palestinians. But it is not just the seizure of land that is derailing Mideast peace: the document also stressed that Israeli control of water resources necessary for a viable Palestinian economy was a serious source of conflict.

Conflicts over water have been around for centuries, yet because of the combination of a growing world population, increasing pollution and the technological ability to drill deep wells the world is rapidly incurring what Lester Brown calls "a vast water deficit." Worldwide water demand has tripled over the last 50 years, and water tables are dropping fast.

In Yemen, for example, the water table is falling by around two meters a year. The water table at the capital, Sana'a, is falling even faster—six meters a year—and is likely to run dry within a decade. According to the UN, at our present rate of water consumption more than 2.7 billion people will be severely short of water by the year 2025, and another 2.5 billion people will live in regions where the water supply will not meet human needs. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan stated on World

Water Day (March 22), "Fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict."

The Mideast and Africa, already unstable regions, are seen as the most likely sites for water wars in the coming century. According to a report of the UN Development Programme, the main conflicts in Africa in the next 25 years will likely be over water. Within 25 years, one in two Africans will be living in regions with not enough water for daily needs. The Nile River, which now arrives at the Mediterranean as a trickle, is one site of conflict. Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan all take their cut of the Nile's finite resource, and with the population explosion in the region set to add another 100 million people by the year 2025, conflict over Nile water is highly possible.

The Southeast Anatolia Project, in which Turkey is diverting huge amounts of water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, is already causing conflict between Turkey and downstream countries Syria and Iraq. Turkey hopes the project will bring 1.7 million hectares of new land under cultivation and double the country's electricity production. When the Ataturk Dam over the Euphrates was flooded in 1990, Turkey cut off the flow of the river completely for three weeks, causing blackouts in Syria. Syria has also dammed the Euphrates further down the river. In 1975, when the two countries began building their dams, Syria, Turkey and Iraq almost went to war.

The highest current level of water conflict, however, is occurring around Israel. Ever since the Israeli state came into existence, the unilateral expropriation of water sources has been a central defense strategy. Since the 1967 oc-

cupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, Israel has commanded control over much of the water resources in the region.

In 1965, Syria attempted to build dams in the Golan Heights, threatening to divert 35% of the water Israel could take from the Upper Jordan. Israel reacted by bombing the building sites. In 1967, Israel invaded and occupied the Golan Heights, and control over the region's water is still a key issue blocking peace between Israel and Syria.

The Jordan River, which flows between Jordan and Israel and the West Bank then into the Dead Sea, has been another source of conflict. Very little water from the Jordan ever reaches the Dead Sea, the height of which is falling by one meter a year. Recently, however, Jordan agreed to an Israeli plan to pipe water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. Yet the Palestinians see this as a rewriting of their border with Jordan. Many other Arab countries have criticized Jordan for the plan.

After the 1967 war, water resources in the Palestinian occupied territories were no longer considered property of the inhabitants of the region, and instead were transferred to the Israeli Civil Administration. Israeli military commanders became responsible for existing and new water installations. Meters were placed on Palestinian wells and water usage was limited. In 1982, control over water was shifted to the Israeli water company, Mekorot. New Palestinian water installations were almost always refused, while Israeli settlers were given the right to dig deep wells, causing older Palestinian wells to dry up.

In effect, Israel has been shifting its water shortage onto the Palestinians, crippling their agricultural economy and

making daily life harsh. The two main aquifers under Gaza and the West Bank have been dropping fast, and the Gaza aquifer—the only source for drinking water for Gaza Palestinians—is becoming saline, with 80% of its water now unsuitable for human consumption.

In recent weeks, Lebanon and Israel have come into conflict over water from the Hasbani and Wazzani rivers, which flow into the Jordan. Lebanon has begun work on diverting a small amount of water from the Wazzani to agricultural villages in Southern Lebanon. Yet the Israeli defense minister, Binyamin Ben Eliezer, said his country would not allow Lebanon to divert any water from the river, which provides ten percent of Israeli water. And Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Lebanon's planned diversion a cause for war.

The militant group Hezbollah stated it would resist the Israeli military with force if they tried to stop the project. Many Lebanese find it ironic that Israel is so adamant about the dispute; during its 22-year occupation of Southern Lebanon, which ended in 2000, Israel exploited the river's water to irrigate its own land, leaving many Lebanese villages parched. The US has jumped to mediate the dispute, fearing that an Arab-Israeli war over water could jeopardize its planned war in Iraq.

Southern Lebanon is one of the few places Israeli water strategy has not worked out. Yet, with the US entering to mediate, it is quite possible Israel will be able to minimize the water lost to Lebanon. However, water conflicts will surely increase in the future, and Israel's unilateral military solution to the problem of scarce water resources is unlikely to go unchallenged.

Toxic Water Woes

By **BRUCE DANIELS**

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Maintaining pure, clean, fresh drinking water is a matter of life or death. World water experts say that water-borne diseases cause an average of about 25,000 deaths a day. This means about one water-related death every three seconds. While the majority of these deaths occur in the third world, it is still estimated that in the United States there are 4,000 water related deaths each year or eleven every day. Here in Santa Cruz County, we have many toxic threats to our own local water supplies.

MTBE is a toxic gasoline additive that is a recognized potential human carcinogen in drinking water. The allowable limit of MTBE in drinking water is a very low five parts per billion (ppb). So even one gallon of spilled MTBE could pollute 200 million gallons of drinking water, enough to supply 600 families for a year. Santa Cruz County contains 55 documented MTBE spill sites. The mid-County area has some very significant MTBE threats. Although the City of Capitola is only about two square miles, it contains four identified MTBE leak sites. The immediately adjoining small town of Soquel contains three known MTBE leak sites. One of these Soquel leaks had MTBE concentrations of over 200,000 ppb in groundwater (40,000 times higher than the safe clean-up level). This site also leaked over 250 ppb of MTBE into Nobel Creek stream water, which drains



is also blamed for heart disease, skin problems, reproductive and development effects, neurological issues, respiratory effects, liver function, hematologic effects and diabetes.

Locally, arsenic has been found in Soquel Creek Water District wells in Aptos. There is considerable management confusion over the amounts of arsenic actually in these Aptos wells. Initially the Water District reported levels of eight parts per billion (ppb). But after a local newspaper article was published, the District then decided to lower their report to five ppb. The year before they had reported six ppb.

But even much lower levels of arsenic are still quite dangerous. As a recent *US News & World Report* said "as little as three ppb of arsenic carries a far higher bladder and lung cancer risk than do other substances EPA regulates." The EPA tries to set limits so there is no more than one

“ Maintaining fresh drinking water demands constant vigilance ”

into Soquel Creek and the Soquel Creek Lagoon. Clearly the potential for MTBE impact to our drinking water supplies is very clear and immediate.

Chromium (VI) is a compound that can occur in drinking water and was the subject of the movie *Erin Brockovich*. The US EPA says that "ingesting large amounts of Chromium (VI) can cause stomach upsets and ulcers, convulsions, kidney and liver damage and even death". The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that certain chromium(VI) compounds are known to cause cancer in humans.

Locally, Chromium (VI) has been found in drinking water wells from Aptos and La Selva Beach south into the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville. Detections of Chromium (VI) within the Soquel Creek Water District range from 6-38 ppb and Watsonville has reported concentrations up to 21 ppb. Since there is yet no official maximum contaminant level defined for Chromium (VI), neither agency has seen fit to abandon affected wells or even install treatment facilities.

Arsenic is another toxic compound in water and is recognized as an extremely potent killer. The recent 2001 National Academy of Sciences "Arsenic in Drinking Water" report presents some chilling statistics. According to their expert estimates, arsenic in drinking water will cause at least 200,000 deaths from lung, bladder, skin and kidney cancer in Bangladesh alone. Arsenic

death per million people, but for arsenic the expectation is several cancer cases per thousand people! In fact, even with the lowest Soquel Creek Water District arsenic level of five ppb, we would still expect 29 cancer cases here.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has recently lowered the maximum allowable level of arsenic to ten ppb effective 2006. As a Director of the Water District, I requested at a Board meeting that we inform our customers of this change so they could make their own decisions about possible health threats. Surprisingly, the other Directors voted to keep this information secret. I also requested that budget funds be explicitly allocated to investigate possible treatments to reduce or eliminate arsenic from our drinking water, but this was also not done.

Maintaining fresh drinking water demands constant vigilance. It is not a job for the lazy or complacent. It is not acceptable to relax even when drinking water is below the legal maximum contaminant levels, as there may still be considerable risk. The public needs to be kept informed and should demand leaders who understand their concerns and are willing to perform the difficult task of delivering on their promises.

Bruce Daniels is the Director of the Soquel Creek Water District and Vice Chair of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.



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Santa Cruz County


#1: Majors Creek

 Residents at the end of the creek on Coast Road were faced a couple years ago with deteriorating water quality due to run-off from Santa Cruz Biotechnology's goat farm. The company raised the goats to eventually extract antibodies used for biotech research. Contrary to popular myth, the goats did not glow. However, after repeated violations of County and State requests to stop building more facilities and breeding more goats (into the thousands), the California Coastal Commission issued a "cease and desist" order. While the couple who own the company still have a ranch up on Back Ranch Road, and the company still maintains its headquarters on Delaware Ave., its goat-farming operation has moved to the hills outside Santa Barbara.


#2: Newell Creek


 For many years, the City of Santa Cruz had been in the practice of logging in the Newell Creek watershed, which feeds into Loch Lomond Reservoir. The reservoir accounts for about a quarter of the city's fresh water supply. Concerns about the effects of this practice on both wildlife and the capacity of the reservoir due to siltation led the city to halt logging and set up a task force to examine its advisability.

#3: Ben Lomond


 The Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service have expressed concern to Santa Cruz County about a seasonal dam on the San Lorenzo that provides a summertime recreational swimming hole and emergency reservoir for fighting fires. A State permit for the dam, usually erected between Labor Day and Memorial Day, will expire in 2003 and will require an environmental review on its impact to fish migrations in order to be renewed.

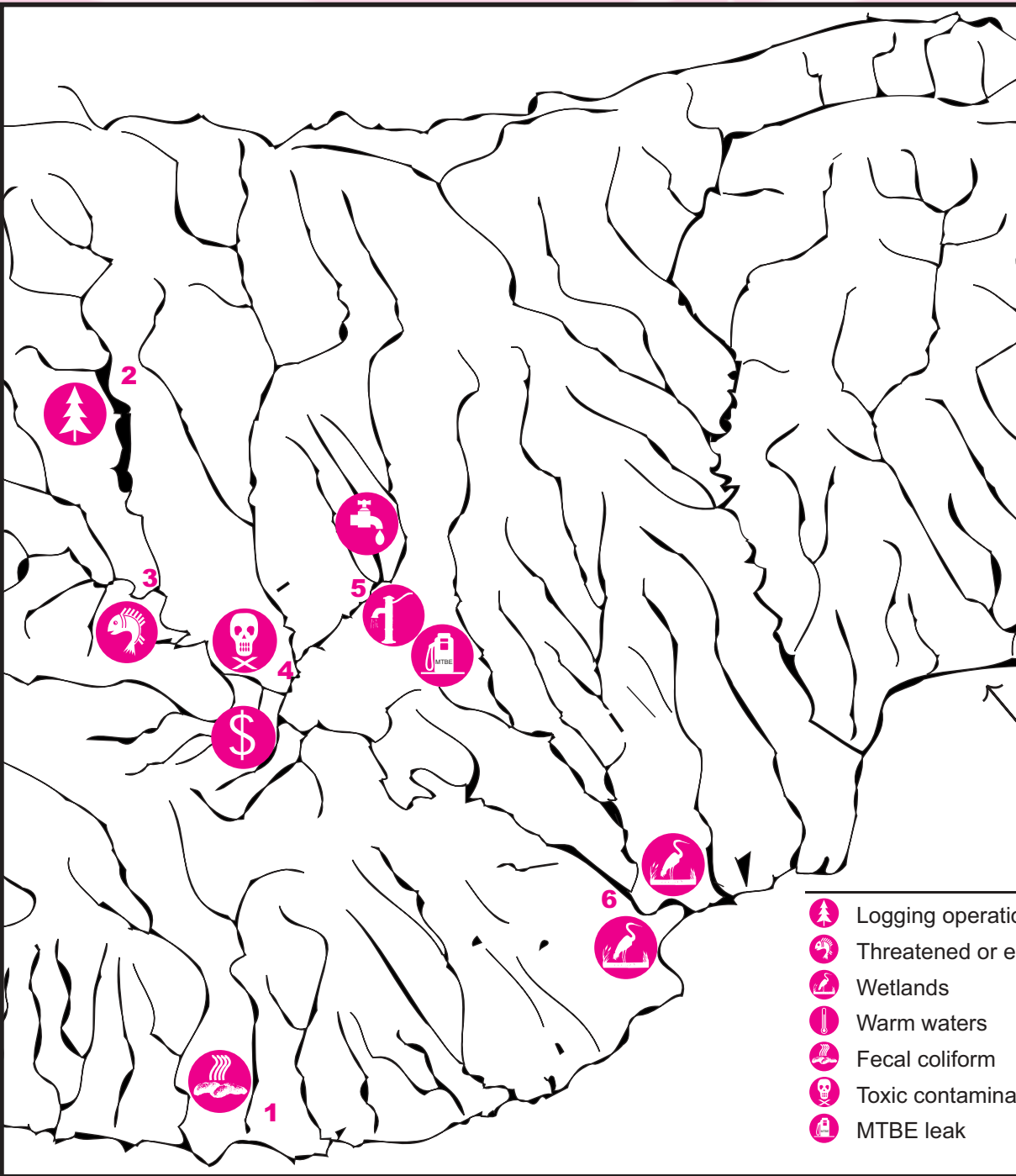
#4: Felton

 An EPA Superfund site is perched above the San Lorenzo river in Felton. The cleanup site is the result of soil contaminated with a dry cleaning solvent, PCE, and was discovered in 1985 by the Santa Cruz Water Department. The federal EPA came to town earlier this year, at a price of around \$1 million. The contamination was the by product of a self-service dry cleaner, which closed up shop in 1962.


 California-American Water Company has applied with the State Public Utilities Commission to sell all of its assets to RWE-AG, a German multi-utility conglomerate, through its renowned polluting subsidiary, Thames Water. The company has also applied for a 57% rate hike over the next three years, which some accuse the company of using to pay for premium dividends distributed to shareholders through the sale to RWE-AG. See full story page 1.

#5: Scotts Valley


 While there are some 60 sites across Santa Cruz county where MTBE has leaked into the soil, there is only one location where the gasoline additive, used to combat smog but a carcinogen in its own right, is known to be contaminating drinking water supplies. There are three gas stations at the location on Mount Herman Drive and they are paying the tab to pump the contaminated water out of the Santa Margarita groundwater basin (Scotts Valley's sole source of water) and treat it. The companies initially applied with the city to hook into its wastewater treatment facilities, but the fees were too high, so they are going through the permitting process of the State Regional Water Quality Control Board instead. This arrangement would pump the contaminated water out of the aquifer and discharge the treated water into Carbonera Creek, which eventually flows to the Monterey Bay. Scott Millar, aide to County Supervisor




Jeff Almquist, says that Shell Oil consultants are monitoring the treatment, but Almquist would prefer to have the State monitor the treatment to insure residual MTBE and treatment chemicals do not enter the surface water.

 Experts estimate that the Santa Margarita and Lompico Sandstone aquifers, which together comprise the Santa Margarita groundwater basin, are being over-pumped. The Scotts Valley Water District recently put a moratorium on new water connections to the system to rest the aquifer until new water recycling and storage facilities can be built. The District is also requiring replenishment projects to be in place, as well as contingency for four days of water if two wells are out of service.


#6: Santa Cruz


 At the end of the 1950s, a catastrophic flood that struck downtown Santa Cruz compelled the Army Corps of Engineers to build a levy along the river. The construction denuded the river of its riparian canopy (riverside trees and bushes). At the same time, it also added a significant chunk of dry land to the property of the Seaside Company, which owns the Boardwalk. This public land had been sold to the company in the 30s by local industrialist, Mayor Fred Swanton, who had built the Boardwalk decades before and bankrupted it in 1915 before selling it to the Seaside Company. Present-day activists contend that this land was legally held in trust by the State of California as "tidelands:" property below the mean high tide level in the 1850s, when California became a state. The State Lands Commission informed the City that they had a good case if they chose to reclaim the land, and that the State would back them up. In closed-door negotiations, the Seaside Company ceded a small portion of the land to the city, but the City Council has chosen not to take further action on the subject. This back-down helped cost councilmember Tim Fitzmaurice his endorsement from the local Green Party chapter in upcoming elections.

Activists and bureaucrats have expressed an interest in having the city reclaim the land as part of a broader San Lorenzo River restoration plan that would return the stream to a more natural state suitable for endangered coho and steelhead, as well as myriad birds and other wildlife. The restoration plan is still in effect, but its progress is impeded by the artificially narrow watercourse created by the decades-old levy and in-fill on the tidelands where the Boardwalk parking lot and some of its rides now sit. The narrow watercourse has also been partly responsible for the flooding in the Lower Ocean neighborhood which we reported in the last issue of *The Alarm!*

 Across the river from the downtown area is the San Lorenzo Street Marsh, which activists scoff at as a "marsh" in the middle of a dense urban area. Some say the "marsh" could better be used for recreation. Restoration efforts are in progress, but they will require a wholesale retooling of urban planning, which is probably a radical reorganization of the city.

#7: Aptos, Seaside, La Se

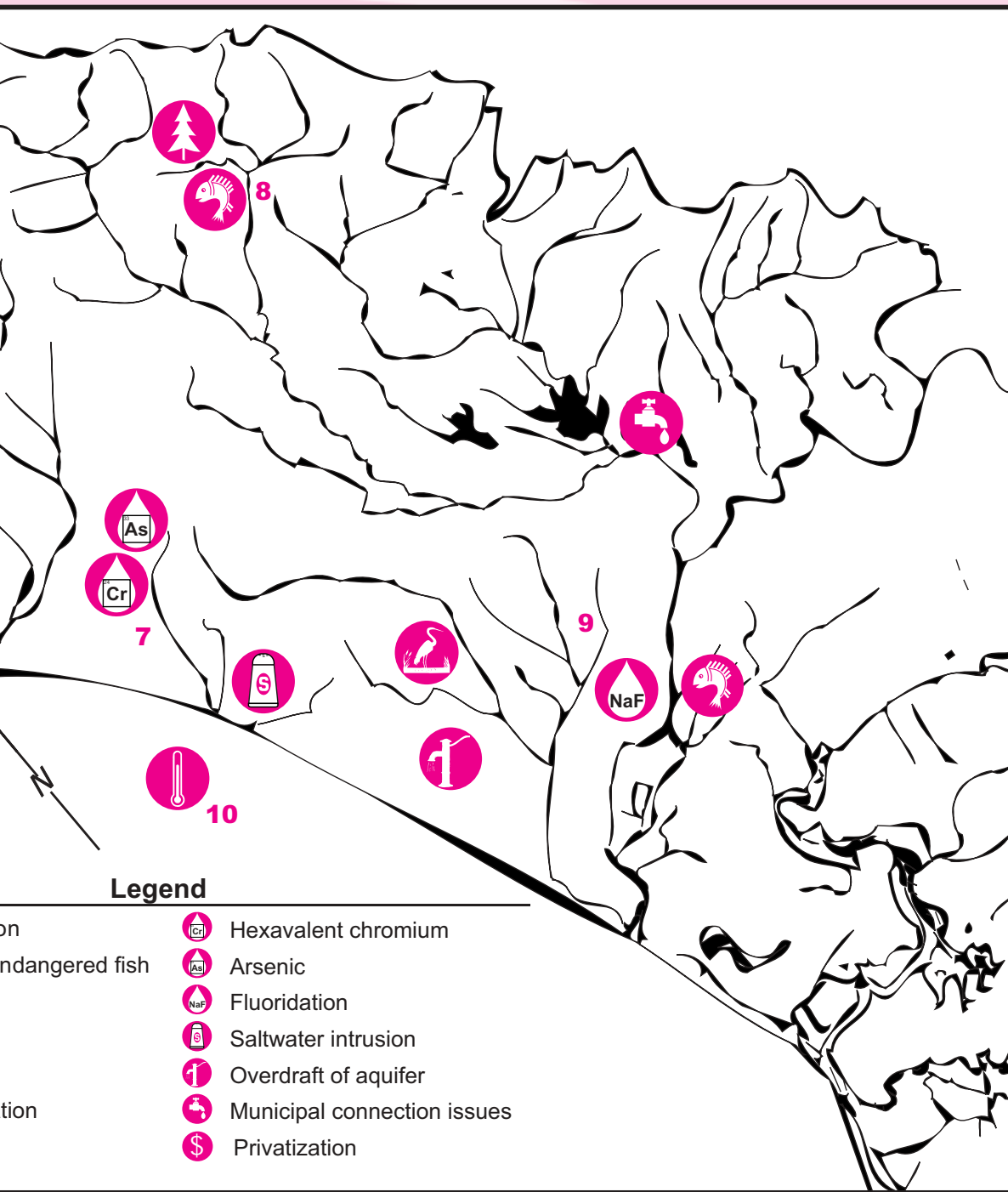
 Six wells in the Aromas Reservoir area have been found with alarming levels of Chromium. Chromium, or simply Hexachromium, is a naturally occurring nutrient. Chromium was only recently discovered, so standards for safe levels in drinking water are the result of thorough research. The recent findings are the result of a woman's efforts to hold PG&E accountable for its proximity with the industrial by-product. The findings led to the conclusion that the Chromium (a toxic nutrient) is naturally occurring and not a by-product. Experts indicate that Hexavalent Chromium is a carcinogen through lightning strikes against the ground. The scarcity of both Chromium ores and the high cost of extraction are opponents to the local agency. Chromium has most often been used in the production of electricity production (a Santa Cruz water contaminated with the sulfur dioxide from the Willits, California). According to the findings, it was used as an ingredient in concrete. The dumping of concrete after the 1992 earthquake may account for contamination in Aptos.

 A small amount of arsenic has been found in the water supplies. While, at a peak of 8 ppb, it is significantly below the present standard, it is very close to the 10 ppb minimum standard enforced by 2006 (after President Clinton's executive order to make the new standard effective). The World Health Organization recommends a maximum of 10 ppb as 1992. (See article, page 11 for more on arsenic contamination in Aptos water.)



A Great Blue Heron rests on a log in the San Lorenzo river with a Boardwalk ride occupying the tidelands in the background.

City Water Issues



disputed tidelands lies the Jesse
f is more like an elaborate plumb-
sely-populated neighborhood. To
e described as a cesspool, con-
d condoms and other urban runoff.
ss, but to succeed they will likely
urban development strategies and
of human society, generally.

Alva Beach

d Sands aquifer have turned up
um (VI), also called Hexavalent
um. This particular manifestation
discovered to be extremely toxic,
inking water are not yet based on
ilm *Erin Brokovich* was based on
accountable for poisoning a com-
duct. Local agencies have come
um (which in other forms is a vital
d is nothing to worry about. Ex-
chromium can only occur naturally
Chromium ores. Considering the
and lightning storms in the area,
s are incredulous. Hexavalent
considered a by-product of elec-
boy was killed by ingesting river
bstance near a PG&E facility in
activists, the substance was also
e and some suggest that massive
89 Loma Prieta earthquake may
s water wells.

as also been found in Aptos water
ppb (parts per billion), the amount
minimum of 50 ppb, it is danger-
n which the EPA has said must be
t Bush reversed a Clinton direc-
ffective immediately). The World
ed the 10 ppb standard as early
for more on Chromium (VI) and
ells).

#8: Browns Creek

This stream has been embattled by several consecutive
Timber Harvest Plans of Redwood Empire, a logging company that
moved to the Santa Cruz mountains after deforesting many acres
in Mendocino County. Redwood Empire managed to rack up 37
Forestry Act violations in its Gamecock Canyon operation and was
accused of committing many more in its first Ramsey Gulch THP.
The company is currently logging in another part of Ramsey Gulch.
Many of its Forestry Act violations have related to provisions meant
to protect the watershed for endangered and threatened habitat in
nearby streams. The company has logged too close to streams,
removing the canopy vital to keeping the waters cool for steelhead
and coho. It has also left felled hardwood logs in the streams,
which contaminates the water with an excess of tannins. Logging
operations on extremely steep slopes have resulted in severe ero-
sion. The resulting siltation has made conditions difficult for fish
and adversely affected water quality and flood control efforts down-
stream in Corralitos Creek and the Pajaro River.

Activists with Earth First! have confronted each of the logging
operations in this area. Last week, one of them died after falling
from his perch over 50 feet up in a Redwood tree, where he was
attempting to thwart loggers' activities.

#9: Pajaro Valley

Endangered steelhead travel up and down the river at various
points during their lives, and they depend on the shade of vegetation
on the shores of the river and its tributaries for protection against
predators and to cool the water. They also need meandering river
courses in order to find resting places while swimming upstream.
Unfortunately, these riparian conditions are fairly scarce. In 1995,
Governor Wilson declared a state of emergency along the Pajaro's
banks after a person died in a flood. The Governor exempted
Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties from the Endangered Species
Act. The result was the deforestation of seven-and-a-half miles of
the Pajaro River's riparian forest, which in turn netted a significant
decrease in the number of wildlife species in that area, particularly
birds. Upstream development in the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill,
Hollister and Watsonville, especially in the flood plains of those cit-
ies, results in further problems with runoff, which swells the river's
banks with both water that would otherwise enter the aquifers
and with pollutants. Erosion from logging projects such as that in
Ramsey Gulch and other tributaries of Corralitos Creek exacerbate
this problem.

From the Watsonville Wetlands Watch: "At the start of the new
millennium, the strongest pressures acting on the valley's environ-
ment are related to the urban expansion that is rapidly transforming
the area. Eighty five percent of the valley's former wetlands have
already succumbed to development, resulting in a loss of both
numbers and diversity of plant and animal species." The wetlands
of the Watsonville Sloughs, fed by the Pajaro River watershed,
support an enormous diversity of flora and fauna, but are under
constant threat of encroachment from urban housing and industrial
development. The waters are contaminated by petrochemicals
from agricultural and other industry runoff.

While the Pajaro Valley formerly supported abundant apple
and artichoke crops, the area is now best known for its lettuce and
strawberries, two of the most water-dependent crops that could
be grown. Agricultural users account for around 80% of the wa-
ter used in the valley, and the majority of that is pumped from the
groundwater aquifers. There is little consensus about what a sus-
tainable level of pumping is, but most agree that the area is using
water at a rate above that at which the aquifers can be recharged.
This overuse results in a scenario in which brackish seawater takes
the place of the fresh groundwater, resulting in what is called salt-
water intrusion. Ironically, strawberries, in addition to being thirsty,
are also particularly to sensitive to saltwater. The quick-fix solution
most often pointed to is to import water from the San Luis Reservoir
in Merced County via an enormous, \$134 million pipeline. Oppo-
nents to this project, which has occupied much of the attention of
the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, contend that water
needs can and should be met locally. Some also suggest that
while this project will most immediately benefit farmers close to the
ocean, it will eventually spearhead and encourage urban develop-
ment that could tap into the same resources.

Measure S will be on the November ballot in Watsonville. This
measure would ban the use of any chemical not approved by the
Food and Drug Administration from municipal water supplies, with
the exception of chlorine or any chemical used to make the water
safe to drink. While fluoride is not specifically mentioned in the
measure, it is clearly meant to address that issue most immedi-
ately, although some suggest that while fluoride is not of particular
concern to them, mass medication by the government through the
water supply is.

Residents on large parcels of land in unincorporated areas
outside of Watsonville are unable to connect to the city's water sys-
tem. The City of Watsonville has put restrictions in place that allow
hookups only to affordable units or projects in county-designated
urban areas with a minimum density of 12 units per acre, of which
25% must be affordable.

#10: Monterey Bay

Waters on the West Coast of the United States have warmed
substantially over the last decade, likely as a result of greenhouse
gas emissions. The effects of this warming on marine life have
been well-documented in the Monterey Bay. Tropical fish species,
which are generally more common in warmer waters far south of
here, have been showing up in increasing numbers while marine
animals accustomed to cooler waters are becoming less common.
Unfortunately, populations of many of the latter are not increasing
farther north as much as one would expect, indicating that certain
species that require cool water may be heading for extinction.



FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper

Earlier in the year, dolphins like this one swam near the shore
as the water temperature rose.

In Retrospect

Water Notes from the Past

By **BLAIZE WILKINSON**

The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

Due to time pressures, this issue I don't have a cohesive narrative for you. But, in keeping to this issue's theme of water, I present a few notes on water in Santa Cruz's past. These are mostly culled, as usual, from the old newspapers.

Recreation

The San Lorenzo River was, at one time, a site of leisure activities (other than the present ones of bicycling on the levees, occasional fishing and shooting smack). On June 24, 1882, the *Sentinel* reported that "The many boats propelled by fair rowers presents a pretty sight in the river every afternoon. The river is the primary school, as it were, for the beginners in the natatorial art. The raft [in the center of the river] is the goal to which every lady is anxious to reach through her own efforts. When she can swim there her natatorial education is finished and she is ready to graduate." The idea of anyone nowadays swimming in the Santa Cruz portion of the San Lorenzo makes me a bit woozy.

The river was also the scene of the Venetian Water Carnival, an event inaugurated in 1895 and continued on and off into the 1920s. The carnival included decorated boats, music, water sports competitions, a carnival queen, shore decorations and bleachers for observers. It must have been beautiful, as witnessed by a description of preparations in the *Surf* on August 18, 1899: "At the Laurel street entrance is to be erected an arch which will be festooned. At night this arch will be illuminated with Japanese lanterns. [There will be] strung a hundred lanterns on each side of the street." On September 12, the *Surf* described the closing festivities of the 1899 Carnival, estimating the crowd of spectators at 5,000, there to see the two hours of fireworks. "The small boats used by private parties were all very pretty. The Hihn float was a lovely creation. It was of pure white, gondola shape. A canopy framework was trimmed with vines and among the vines were numerous Venetian fairy lamps. The ladies in the float were in white and the *gondaliere* in white with yellow sashes."

From what I am given to understand, they had to dam the river near the Cut-Bias Bridge (about where the Riverside Bridge is today) to make the lagoon for the Carnival. Perhaps we could use the current sandbar-created lagoon for our own carnival. I just asked Fhar why I never see anyone kayaking on the river. "Because it's gross," he replied. Oh, well.

Pollution

There was some concern about water quality even in the olden days of yore. In 1888, the *Surf* reported on a legal case indicting Peter C. Brown for "fouling Corralitos creek by waste from his paper mill." During the trial, Dr. Watson "testified that he had made a post mortem examination, of horses and cattle that died after drinking water below the mill and in every case found large quantities of the sediment from the mill in their stomachs and great inflammation of stomach and bowels. The witnesses all agreed that there were fish in the stream before the mill was built and that there are

none there now" (May 29).

Yet the interest in water quality was a bit uneven. On June 2, the *Surf* reported Brown's acquittal, and noted "There is a manifest feeling upon the part of those who have watched the case from the beginning, that the indictment was procured by some party or parties who have a personal grievance, real or imagined, against the Browns." Since fish, cows and horses can't really procure indictments, it was evidently not *their* personal grievance the paper referred to.

Floods

According to some sources, the first buildings of the Santa Cruz Mission were erected in 1791, but, because of San Lorenzo river flooding the Mission was moved to the higher ground where its remnants stand today. The villa of Branciforte was also established on a bluff, above Branciforte Creek, a waterway that was also subject to periodic floods. During the Mission and Californio periods, the bottom lands, enriched by silting that comes with floods, were mostly used for crops and grazing.

During the early American period, the flood plain that is now downtown Santa Cruz, began to contend with the Upper Plaza (where the Mission was) for position as the core of the town. The downtown was referred to as the Lower Plaza even into the early 20th century, a fact that showed a recognition of downtown's relationship to the earlier settlement on the bluff. Sandy Lydon has suggested to me that many reasons influenced the development of the Lower Plaza as an alternate town center; perhaps the main reason was the desire of Protestant settlers to disassociate themselves from the earlier Roman Catholic settlement.

The decision to develop a town center on the flood plain resulted in many problems associated with flood-

ing. According to Daniel McMahon's article on San Lorenzo floods, "There were more than 18 incidents described as 'floods' between 1862 and 1958, though these recorded floods have varied in severity from minor inconveniences to major disasters for the city." (For comprehensive information on this flooding, please see McMahon's excellent article at www.santacruzpl.org/history/disaster/scflood1.shtml.)

On December 23, 1955, a major flood had water three to over eight feet deep coursing through downtown. This disaster led to the building of the San Lorenzo levee by the Army Corps of Engineers, though plans for a levee had been in the works even before the flood. Recently, the levee was deemed too low to protect the downtown from a "100-year flood" and a major project was planned to raise the levee all along the downtown stretch of the river.

The recent levee project was also designed to mitigate some of the problems caused by the original levee. The original levee project removed most trees and bushes from the banks of the river, making the river into what McMahon called "a sterile drainage ditch." The subsequent impact on fish and other wildlife will, it is hoped, be somewhat reversed by the current levee project, which includes planting trees and bushes along the river.

Beauty

An April 11, 1914 letter to the editor in the *Surf* is interesting enough to be reproduced in its entirety. Under the headline "In Tones of Tears" and the subheading "Why? Oh Why? Should Our River Beauty Be Wrecked," Seabright resident W.P. Belote writes:

The article of April 4, "Looking Toward the San Lorenzo," is not only tersely expressed, but it is a signal of "breakers ahead" to our careless citizens, for with our modern ideas of

money—money first, last, and all the time—do we not neglect entirely too much the aesthetic in life?

It would seem that if Nature had not intended all the things beautiful to be necessary to man's happiness and spiritual welfare, she would never have lavished with such bounteous hand the beautiful ferns, the grand old trees, wild flowers, and vines that grow in our canyons and on our mountains.

Mother Nature is wise indeed, and if we, her foolish children, but wise in our own conceit, would only harken to her voice and laws, we would be far happier and healthier in every way.

It will do any one good, both physically and morally, to go into any of our canyons or along the sea shore for a few hours once a week and admire the handiwork of the Creator. How wonderful, how sublime, how exquisite the coloring of the most insignificant little flower, how marvelously grouped in the color scheme of the whole!

It will make us better in spite of ourselves if we will only enter into the spirit of our beautiful surroundings when we look at our mountains, streams, forests, and bay. It is positively painful to see the way that the trees and vines on the banks of the San Lorenzo have been ruthlessly destroyed.

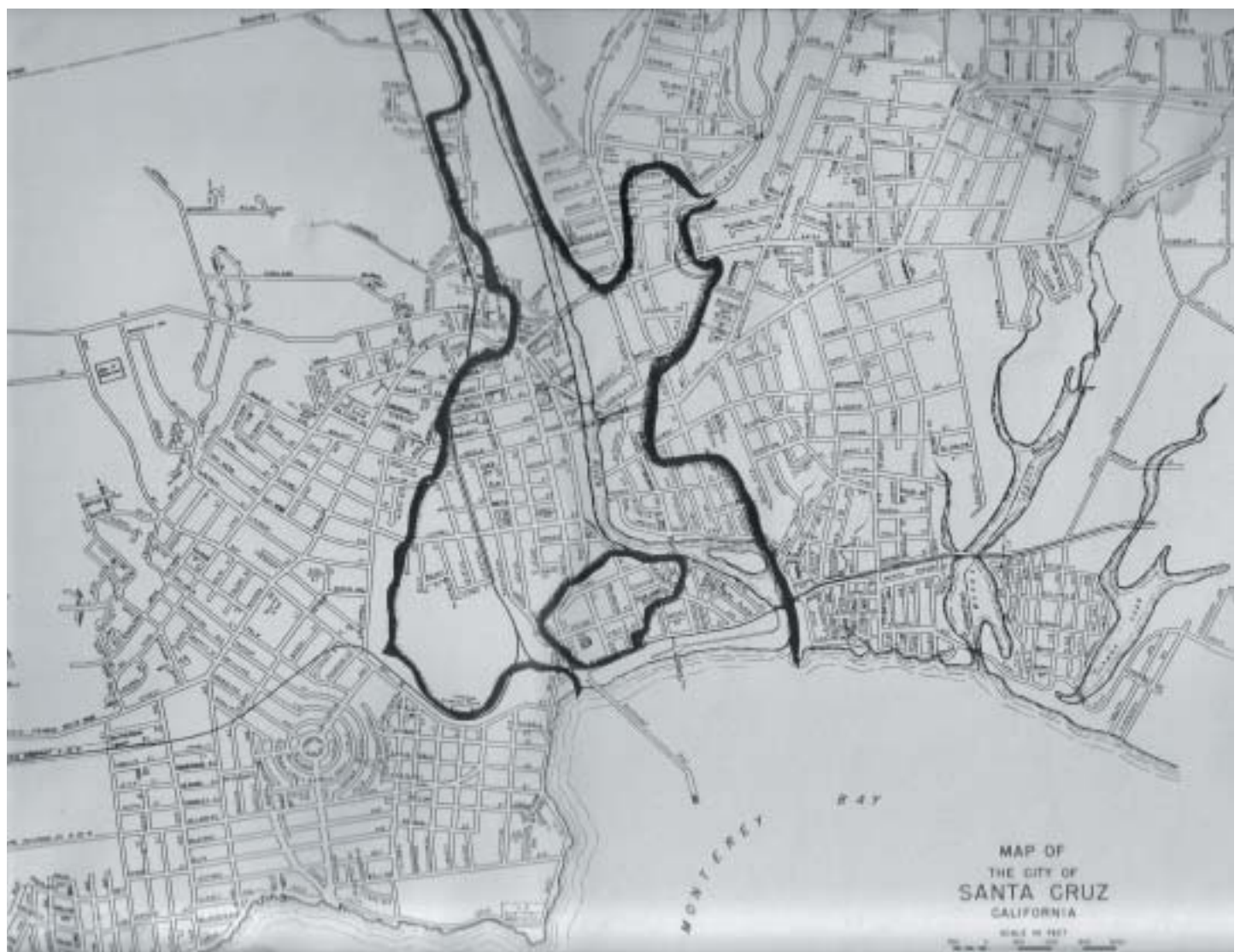
In the short space of five years what changes for the worse from the aesthetic view have taken place—trees destroyed, vines uprooted.

Are our people asleep to the marvelous beauties of this town, that they will tolerate such things?

A few more years, at the present rate of slaughter, and the San Lorenzo will be without a native tree or vine from the beach to the city limits.

What a pity that these acts of desecration can not be legally stopped."

What pity, indeed.



Map showing the area of Santa Cruz inundated by the 1955 flood.

Buckets, Blacks and Latinos—watch for cops around the 1st and 30th

By RIGGS

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Racial profiling remains an issue across the nation, and may become more controversial as security measures in the wake of September 11 increase. For young Blacks and Latinos like PNS contributor Riggs, that means even a simple drive to a friend's house in a run-down "bucket" can turn into unjust harassment and jail time. Riggs is 20 and is an associate with the Beat Within, a PNS weekly writing workshop and publication for incarcerated youth in Northern California.

SAN FRANCISCO—It was one of those cruise-the-bucket nights out here on the Bay, and me and my homie Tase were getting our roll on. We drove through Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco.

I'm Latino and I drive a bucket—an old car that runs fine but looks bad. I read in the paper the other day that racial profiling in San Francisco is being called a “significant problem” by the American Civil Liberties Union. No kidding.

It was about 12 a.m. and nothing to eat but a burrito on 24th and Mission. We got the grub and started up the hill to Tase's house. On the way I noticed that we had a tail: the police.

We're gonna get out of here in like 15 minutes."

“But we ain’t done nothing,” Tase replied. Just as he finished his sentence, about five other police cars including a narc car rolled up all crazy.

Two cops hopped out of their car and got right into mine! While me and Tase looked on, shocked, they started the engine and smobbed off and even added a little SKERRRRRT! I had just been car-jacked by the police.

I was thinking, this is about "The Quota."

After the whole incident I spoke to a family friend who is a police officer and asked him a couple of questions. I wanted to know from a real cop what the deal was. I'll call him Officer James because he didn't want his name used.

So how do quotas work?

“Quotas are numbers that represent the amount of arrests at a precinct,” Officer James said. “It isn’t considered a goal—it’s a number that we have to reach or we’re not doing our job.”

Do San Francisco cops target Blacks and Latinos?

“No, because we’re not supposed to say ‘yeah.’ Really, most of my fellow officers think that most gang members

are Latinos and most drug dealers are Black due to statistics."

Do police
target buck-
ets?

“Yeah, be-
cause they’re

old they usually don't have any insurance and people buy them when they are stolen for real cheap. Plus, those are the kinds of cars drug dealers, kidnappers and killers use the most. They're the easiest cars to just leave or run into the ocean after a crime. They usually don't have license plates and look run-down and rusty. So we pull them over and nine out of ten times they aren't legit."

The police use this system to make more arrests. The more arrests, the more court fines and the more prisoners, and the system has a constant cash flow. Quotas keep things rollin' and organized.

I was released that night at about 1:30 a.m. and found Tase in the dressing room. They didn't give us back our coats or our shoes. I had to wear the county shoes, and without a jacket it was cold outside.

Someone had been driving around breaking into cars, and they said they thought it was us. They took my car to the city tow. It was going to cost more money to get the car out than what I paid for it. This incident was real greezy, and really got me not trusting the police at all.

I went to court. No charges. When I went to get my belongings back they told me they had no record of the stuff being confiscated!

The way I look at it is, don't go out late at night at the beginning or end of the month if you like the things that I lost—shoes, a jacket and some dignity.

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CPRB met with public to discuss selective enforcement and police harassment

By **HALIE JOHNSON**

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

On Monday, October 14, the Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) met with the public to address the problem of police harassment and selective enforcement in the City of Santa Cruz. During the two hour meeting members of the public spoke about their concerns and experiences with Santa Cruz Police Department and public policies.

Of those who stepped up to the microphone, a common complaint was the amount of harassment and surveillance people were suffering for free speech activities and some forms of political expression. Many also spoke of witnessing and experiencing police discrimination based on physical appearance.

Among some of the constructive feedback the CPRB received, Sherri Conable spoke on behalf of "People for a Free and Equal Downtown," presenting a draft resolution and urging the CPRB to recommend that City Council vote the draft into public policy. The resolution called for an abolition of discrimination in the City "in any form, against any group of people, based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, age, economic status, appearance, lifestyle choices or any other class based category." The resolution went on to say "The City of Santa Cruz resolves that selective enforcement of the law (whether local, state or federal) against any such group of people will not be tolerated, nor will any city funds be spent to support such enforcement." Mark Halfmoon, Chairperson of the CPRB, intends to bring the resolution to the table, as is, at the CPRB's December meeting (Halfmoon and Vice Chairperson, Brent Fouse, will be at a convention for the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, in Cambridge Massachusetts during the CPRB's November 4 meeting).

Halfmoon was pleased with the meeting's turnout of up to 50 participants, comparing it to prior meetings where the City Chambers were visited by only two or three members of the public, on average. City Council Members Ed Porter and Emily Reilly even made appearances at the meeting. In the past Porter has expressed the desire to abolish the CPRB. Halfmoon explained that he had received pressure to postpone this meeting because of concerns about it affecting voters' support for Measure P on the November 2002 ballot. He disagreed, and said "I believe that if Measure P passes, it'll be the fault of City Council for not making it clear to the public that it won't just be homeless service agencies, for example, that are affected negatively, but everybody is going to hurt from it. The police department and the fire department will be on the cutting block."

The CPRB will meet again on November 4 at Santa Cruz City Council Chambers. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and express their opinions on the agenda. To file a complaint about police misconduct contact the CPRB at 420-6295, or visit their office from Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., at 915 Cedar St., SC.

Oliver Brown

Compact discs
available at
Kingturtle.com

...all i need is
rock and roll...

photo by amy weiss

A black and white photograph of a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a cardigan over a collared shirt, sitting and holding a fan of playing cards.

[illegible]

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A tale of two sisters

By MARY JO MCCONAHAY

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Behind the landmark conviction of a Guatemalan officer for ordering the murder of anthropologist Myrna Mack Chang is the valiant work of her sister Helen. PNS Editor Mary Jo McConahay watched the self-effacing office manager emerge to battle death threats and confront a paralyzed judiciary in her struggle for justice for her sister. McConahay (mconahay@pacificnews.org) is a writer and filmmaker who lived in Guatemala for over a decade.

On September 11, 1990, Myrna Mack Chang, anthropologist and mother, was killed by 27 knife blows to her slight body as she left a research institute in downtown Guatemala City. Since then I have watched Myrna's bespectacled sister Helen go after the murderers.

World supporters joined the cause, but in Guatemala the buck always stopped with Helen. I would see her slip away from friends at lunch to sit alone with her laptop, intent on learning the law. Overcoming shyness, she spoke into television cameras. Once Helen told me she relied for strength on her religious faith—she is a devout Catholic—but she often looked ragged and pale, frequenting one bare hearing room after another as frightened judges procrastinated, resigned or bounced the case around as if it were on fire.

"I asked Helen what country she thought she was living in," a colleague of Myrna's said, amazed, when he first told me that the self-effacing older sister was pursuing a police investigation. She was a middle-class business office manager uninvolved in politics. The hit men of a brutal military still operated at will. When a police inspector filed a report that called Myrna's murder political, committed by a member of the presidential security department, he was assassinated in broad daylight. The message was clear: the case should go no further. But it did, because of Helen.

One witness was assassinated, another fled into exile. Peace accords ending the 36-year civil war in 1996 made little difference. This June, Helen and ten others received faxed death threats calling them "enemies of the state." They would taste "the steel of bullets."

Since September 3, however, when the trial began of Gen. Edgar Augusto Godoy Gaitan, Col. Juan Valencia Osorio and Col. Guillermo Oliva Carrera for plotting and ordering Myrna's murder, I have been able to go to my computer in San Francisco and pull up a photo of Helen in a large and somber Guatemala court, sitting across from the officers. "Face To Face At Last" reads the caption.

Myrna Mack's crime was using professional social research methods, interviewing subjects in the field, to document the harrowing lives of thousands of displaced families crowded into refugee camps, or hiding in mountains and reduced to eating grass, fleeing the army's scorched earth juggernaut. They were not guerrillas. Myrna gave them a human face. Two hundred thousand died in the war, most of them unarmed Maya Indians. The army did not want the truth out.

Selective assassination is effective

in the short term. Like a rock thrown into a pond, its ripples disturb a wide circle. Months after Myrna's death, in the northern jungles, a Guatemalan archaeologist became nervous as I asked what I considered innocuous questions about the government's role in preserving ancient Maya ruins. Wordlessly, he pulled from his back pocket a frayed clipping about Myrna's murder. The gesture said, "Let's not talk about anything that might get me noticed."

Beyond politics, Myrna's murder was a crime against a family—immigrants from China in her father's generation. One night in the early 1990s, the judge, police, lawyers, the accused knifeman and others gathered at the crime scene for a legally required "reconstruction of events." A new witness appeared, a neighborhood man who said he could no longer hold back what he had seen. Lawyers grilled him about point of view and precise times, but Myrna's young daughter Lucrecia finally asked about her mother's end with an intensity that hushed all others, "What words did my mother say?"

Americans should know this is not a drama far away and unconnected to us. Myrna's murder was planned and executed by a military unit called the "Archivo," an intelligence-gathering and command center dedicated to political repression. The Archivo (it means "the file") is a direct descendant of the US intelligence system set up in Guatemala when the CIA overthrew the country's democratically elected President Jacobo Arbenz in 1954 and installed a military dictatorship.

The CIA never left. In a Cold War where dissenters and communists were considered terrorist threats, the CIA helped create a list of some 70,000 "suspects." Some were assassinated. In 1964, the US Office of Public Safety provided money and technical support for an executive civil-military intelligence unit that became a death squad coordination center.

Two of the three officers in the Mack docket—Godoy Gaitan and Oliva Carrera—graduated from the US School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. Another officer who trained there, Col. Julio Roberto Alpirez, once headed the Archivo and participated in the murders of Michael Devine, a US innkeeper, and Efrain Bamaca, a captured combatant and husband of US activist-lawyer Jennifer Harbury. In 1995, Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) revealed Alpirez had been a paid CIA operative at the time. Helen's work has forced testimony about the secret Archivo into the public arena.

On October 3, the Internet pictures changed. Valencia Osorio: guilty, the first time in Guatemala a military leader has been found criminally culpable for murder carried out by underlings. The other two: acquitted for "insufficient evidence." It is a partial victory.

When I first met Helen people used to say she and Myrna looked alike. Myrna's smiling face graces posters, forever young. Helen's face has grown older.

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Four more out of California

By JUDITH SCHERR

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Even in tough economic times, housing costs in the San Francisco Bay Area and other cities are astronomical. That's driving away all but the wealthiest families, writes PNS contributor Judith Scherr, who muses on the departure of beloved neighbors Philip and Kelley and wonders if she'll be next. Scherr (Jescherr99@aol.com) is a former editor at the Berkeley Daily Planet. She is writing a book on Berkeley.

BERKELEY, Calif.—It was on a Tuesday, a couple of weeks ago, when Philip and Kelly left for Portland. They packed up the old red couch, a Raggedy Ann, the hated TV, the dump truck that talks, the fish that sings and everything else they couldn't bear to live without, and stuffed it all into the largest U-Haul they could rent.

Late in the afternoon, an exhausted Philip picked up the screaming 4-year-old Isaac, found the keys to the truck, got Cocoa the cat, boxed up like take-out Chinese food, and walked down the steps one last time—steps the landlord had painted a few days before for the new tenant. Red-eyed, Kelly unlatched the car door and maneuvered the kicking 2-year-old Iris into her car seat. With one last, muffled bark, Gracie leapt in back.

A four-bedroom, two-bath house on Hillcrest Avenue in Berkeley is offered at \$800,000.

Neighbors gathered outside the rented craftsman-style house that had been their first refuge and which, over the past decade, they had remodeled with love, adding a deck and tending the jasmine and bougainvillea. The small crowd watched the mini-caravan pull out onto Bonita Avenue, turn left and disappear into the late afternoon sun. Some wept.

These are the kind of neighbors who feed your cat and get your mail when you've snuck out of town for a weekend. Whose teenagers come by to play with your toddlers, just when you think you're at the end of your rope. Who leave apples or lemons or plums at your doorstep.

A three-bedroom, two-bath house on Dwight Way in Berkeley is for sale at \$1,296,000.

I'm not recounting this cautionary tale just because Philip, Kelly, Isaac, Iris, Cocoa and Gracie are dear to me—and they are—but because so many in our area these days have a Philip or a Kelly in their lives, or a son or a daughter who can't pay local rents or buy a house in the town they love.

Irony, isn't it, that Philip worked for 14 years for a San Francisco af-

fordable housing developer. And that, despite his 60- to 80-hour work week, combined with Kelly's part-time gig at Berkeley's health department, the couple could not purchase a home here for their expanding family. Not, at least, without each working full-time plus, turning over their lives to the singular goal of paying the mortgage and childcare each month. A three-plus-bedroom, two-bath house is available for \$1,295,000 on Gypsy Way in Berkeley.

The couple's not alone making tracks out of California. There's the cashier at REI who's heading to Seattle to move in with his mom. A friend of a friend is on her way to Maine.

And it's not just families who are leaving. There are the day-care providers who close their doors when they can't make the rent, and the independent booksellers and produce vendors who close up shop.

Still, there will always be students in this college town ready to move four, six or more into a "single-family" home. And I'm not down on students. They bring vitality—and purchasing power—to Berkeley. But the drama behind recent headlines that made so much of the ease with which students found housing this year—in past years many were forced to sleep on friends' couches or even in their cars—was that our stable population, our Philips and Kellys, have packed up and left.

A three-bedroom, two-and-one-half bath home with an office and den is offered in Northwest Portland: \$319,698.

They're carrying their dreams with them—of hanging out with their kids, walking the dog, scratching the cat, maybe raising a couple of chickens. Or taking time to explore the beauty of the north.

Just taking time.

I wish them well—and all those heading for other towns. But even more, I wish us well, we who are staying behind. I wish us the wisdom to look around and figure out how we can keep our neighbors from slipping away one by one, family by family, how we can people our town with waiters and store clerks, non-profit workers and city staffers, as well as Nobel Laureates and CEOs.

Yet, again, perhaps it is I who must face the reality that movement and change are just the way of the world. The Oregonian describes an affordable four-bedroom house on a private cul-de-sac with hardwood floors and high ceilings in West Portland. Perhaps I'll see you there.

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Reviewing the Reviews: Finkelstein and *The Holocaust Industry*

By GRAHAM PARSONS

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

When Norman Finkelstein's latest book *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering* was first published two years ago, the major American and Israeli press took notice only to resoundingly condemn and dismiss it. Three examples are illustrative: Omer Bartov in *The New York Times Book Review*, Adam Bresnick in *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*, and Yair Sheleg in *Haaretz Magazine*. Each of these reviews offers at least one of the following two types of responses:

The first type is personal attack of the author, Norman Finkelstein. Bartov calls Finkelstein "sad," "smug," "paranoid," "indecent," "juvenile," "self-righteous," "arrogant," "stupid," "fanatic" and "ruthless and reckless." Sheleg describes him as a "lone wolf," and suggests that Finkelstein's childhood in, as he describes it, "...a bitter and distrustful home" is the "root cause" of some of the assertions in his book.

Taking this attack further, both Bartov and Sheleg agree that Finkelstein lacks integrity because, while chastising those who use the Holocaust as a tool for personal and political gains, he is himself exploiting it in similar ways. "As ironic and paradoxical as it may seem, Finkelstein is also sustained today by the Holocaust," writes Sheleg. And Bartov adds that "...his sensational 'revelations' and outrageous accusations draw a great deal of public and media attention..." which "...serve[s] his own ends." In fact, Finkelstein was released from his position at Hunter College of the City University of New York—where he taught political theory—not long after the publication of *The Holocaust Industry*.

The second type of response in the reviews is an association of the book with anti-Semitism. Bresnick opines that Finkelstein's tone is "...often redolent of that used by virulent anti-Semites." Bartov compares *The Holocaust Industry* with the standard anti-Semitic work—*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*—and claims that the book will "...serve anti-Semites around the world." Similarly, Sheleg remarks that, in Germany, Finkelstein is "...a darling of the extreme right (which only by dint of strict German law does not call itself by the more explicit term of 'neo-Nazis')." Sheleg also quotes an array of intellectuals including journalist David Witztum ("The most conspicuous fact in the book is the hatred"), Professor Israel Guttman ("We should consider it nothing more than an anti-Semitic lampoon") and Professor Hans Mommsen ("a most trivial book, which appeals to easily aroused anti-Semitic prejudices") to help make the attack against Finkelstein's alleged anti-Semitism. One wonders how these authors find no noteworthy conflict in branding a Jewish scholar, himself the son of holocaust survivors, an anti-Semite.

Aside from occasionally attacking statements peripheral to Finkelstein's central arguments and questioning things like the book's novelty, these reviewers do not take their criticisms much further. In fact, in the case of Bartov's review, it is basically

limited to the above accusations. Without knowing anything about Finkelstein's book, except that it actually contains a central thesis and argument, what we should note after observing these responses is that the basic question, "What do you think of the book?"—as opposed to the insignificant question "What do you think of Finkelstein?"—remains not only unanswered, but unaddressed. The fact that these reviewers chose to express their fear and anger about Finkelstein suggests their inability to think critically about the matters presented in his book, and the fact that these hysterical reviews were the only comments published in these major resources of the American and Israeli print media suggests more ominous trends.

So, allow me to respond to the standing question, "What do you think of the book?"

In my view, *The Holocaust Industry* is an intelligent, extraordinarily provocative, bitterly passionate critique of Jewish elites and organizations in the United States. Like Finkelstein's previous three books—*The Rise and Fall of Palestine*, *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, and *A Nation on Trial*—it is erudite and delightfully iconoclastic literature.

One of Finkelstein's central contentions in *The Holocaust Industry* is that the Nazi holocaust—the actual historical event—is, for many, no longer an object of rational historical inquiry. It is now an ideological construction; it has become The Holocaust. For Finkelstein, The Holocaust can be identified by two claims: "The Holocaust marks a categorically unique historical event," and "The Holocaust marks the climax of an irrational, eternal Gentile hatred of Jews." With his typical combination of wryness and reason, Finkelstein convincingly argues that both of these dogmas are untenable, and therefore, The Holocaust is a bankrupt concept. A quick look at existing commentary demonstrates that The Holocaust is indeed regularly discussed as Finkelstein describes it, and, for serious scholars of the Nazi holocaust, his critique should be welcomed and relatively uncontroversial.

The real debate ought to surround Finkelstein's explanation for the existence of The Holocaust. Finkelstein claims that The Holocaust was created and persists today because of its utility. He notes that the above two tenets of The Holocaust are each crucial justifications of the Zionist enterprise, and that The Holocaust was not politically prominent in American Jewish life until after the 1967 Israel-Arab war, when Israel demonstrated its vast military superiority in the region, and hence became the recipient of wholehearted US support. It was at this time, Finkelstein argues, that American Jewish elites seized the opportunity to advance their project of assimilation by inventing and wielding The Holocaust. Thus they began to curry favor with American power by identifying themselves with Israel, the new US ally, and to deflect all criticism of the Jewish state with their "indispensable ideological weapon," The Holocaust.

This is all certainly ambitious, but

still fascinating and cogently presented. And there's more. More recently, Finkelstein continues, Jewish elites have used The Holocaust as a weapon for extorting reparations from Switzerland, Germany and Poland. He alleges that with vicious spoken and published attacks, and threats of economic sanctions, the Jewish Claims Conference has extorted billions of dollars from these European countries. In the process, Finkelstein asserts, they distorted the number of living holocaust survivors in order to inflate the reparations sums, and later insisted on earmarking portions for their own agencies instead of providing for actual holocaust survivors. He also thoroughly demonstrates the glaring contradictions in the rhetoric employed by these organizations and the US government over the issue of reparations. Specifically, their simultaneous lack of concern over the American record of compensation for seized holocaust-era assets, and their expressed disregard for African-American claims to slave labor compensation. Finkelstein proposes, "The Holocaust may yet turn out to be the 'greatest robbery in the history of mankind.'"

At this point, we can begin to see the real reason why Finkelstein might be so disliked. He is merciless in his attacks of specific organizations and individuals. For example, he unrelentingly lambasts the sanctimonious figure of holo-

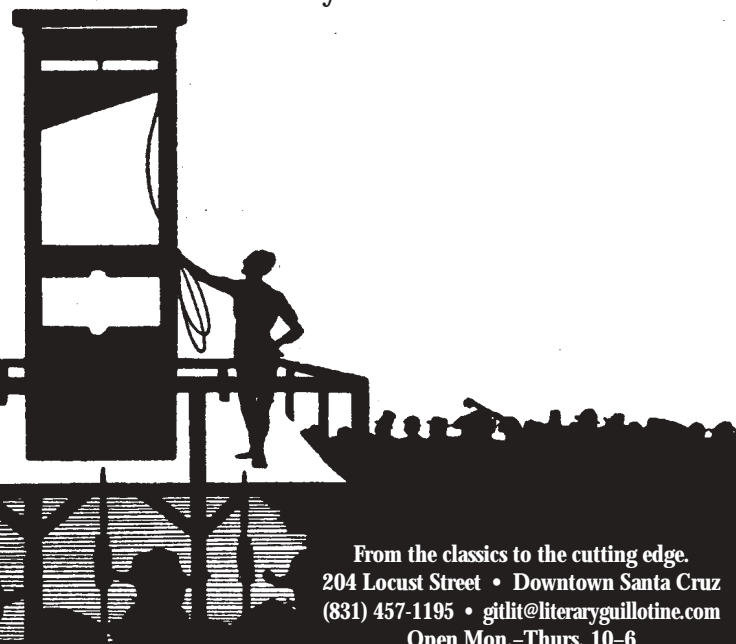
caust survivor and author Elie Wiesel. "Elie Wiesel is The Holocaust," he writes, and, like it, his "...prominence is a function of his ideological utility."

Ultimately, I agree with historian Raul Hilberg, who has expressed his sympathy to central claims in *The Holocaust Industry*, but adds, "I wish it were longer." Indeed, some of Finkelstein's judgments seem facile. For instance, in accounting for the existence of The Holocaust, he ignores the emergence of robust identity politics in American political discourse in recent decades. We have seen numerous minority groups, including women and homosexuals, view themselves as distinct social groups, identified by their shared victimization, and with their own "unique" interests. Although Finkelstein pays it no attention, it is sensible to think that the persistence of The Holocaust within some circles of the American Jewish community ought to be viewed, at least partly, in the context of this broader sociopolitical development.

Still, *The Holocaust Industry* is a wonderful polemic. If we treat it honestly, it should consolidate Finkelstein's career as an astute critic of US-Israel relations. If, prior to reading this review, you had not yet heard the name Norman Finkelstein, I trust you will again soon.

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RWE subsidiary pending regulatory approval. According to the Environment Agency of England and Wales, Thames Water was Britain's worst offender of anti-pollution regulations two years running (in 1999 and 2000).

RWE also recently acquired Azurix, the former water services division of Enron, in addition to hiring a number of mid-level power traders and structurers from the scandal-stricken energy giant.

The poor safety record of RWE's US coal-mining operations has likewise opened the corporation up to public criticism.

American Water Works

While many local communities, Felton included, have fought privatization of their most basic resource on the basis of wanting protection from the interests of a foreign conglomerate, American Water Works (AWW) is not much better. Executives at AWW have been thoroughly behind the acquisition by RWE/Thames. There is nothing hostile about this takeover. While J. James Barr, CEO of AWW, will be retiring after the acquisition is completed, Marilyn Ware, Chairperson of the company's Board of Directors will be taking a high-level consulting position in RWE-AG. The economic model that led AWW to be the leading private water service provider in the US through mergers and acquisitions is perfectly in line with the profit-driven and expansionist model of RWE.

AWW was bought by John H. Ware, Jr. in 1947 and has largely been in the control of the Ware family since then. Four of the company's directors are members of the Ware family (according to Securities and Exchange Commission files, the occupation of one of those Ware family members is "homemaker," revealing some fairly serious nepotism). All-American family though they may be, they are by no means protectionist.

Marilyn Ware is Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Eisenhower Fellowships, an organization committed to promoting "international understanding and productivity through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders throughout the world." The Chairman of this organization is Henry Kissinger. The two men listed as "Honorary Chairmen" are former presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford. Donald Rumsfeld is identified as "Chairman Emeritus" of the Eisenhower Fellowships.

Last month, President Bush appointed Marilyn Ware to the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee, charged with safeguarding the security of US banking and finance, transportation, energy, information technology and manufacturing infrastructures.

Ms. Ware's ties to the Bush family go deeper than this, though. She and other members of the Ware fam-

ily have given over \$100,000 to Bush election campaigns in addition to organizational support. The Bessemer Group, which manages investments for rich folks with at least \$10 million to spare, invests millions of shares in American Water Works Company, giving it a 6.2% stake in the company in 2001. The Bessemer Group also manages the not-insignificant investment finances of George Bush, Sr. If the RWE acquisition survives regulatory scrutiny (as it likely will), the massive proceeds of the sale will not go primarily to faceless and feared German bureaucrats and investors, but to an all-American plutocrat whose mug we are all too familiar with.

In our own back yard

RWE executives, however, seem to have underestimated the anti-German sentiment that still lurks in American society. Communities across the country, already irked by rate hikes and poor service from American Water Works, are drawing the line at having their water rights owned and controlled by what they perceive as a foreign power hostile to us just decades ago and becoming increasingly antagonistic to our present federal administration on the question of Iraq. Through referenda, bond measures and eminent domain proceedings, communities as far flung as Chattanooga, Tennessee and as nearby as Montara, California (just north of Half Moon Bay) are kicking American Water Works and RWE out, often urged on by a fear of German economic invasion, shrouded in the language of "security."

Of course, not all of the critiques of for-profit water service fall into the protectionist, nationalist (or regionalist) categories so often and so easily derided by "liberal" economists. For instance, some of County Supervisor Jeff Almquist's constituents have expressed frustration that he remained silent on continuing problems with the operation and management of Felton's water system until a foreign conglomerate came into the picture. Residents of Felton and local activists are now calling for the seizure of the utility's facilities in the area so that it can be merged with the neighboring San Lorenzo Valley Water District, a local, publicly-controlled utility. Aside from RWE's poor environmental record in Europe, residents note the years of poor service under both Citizens Utility and California-American Water Company, which is only likely to get worse as management is taken over by RWE's subsidiaries.

Felton residents also point to exploitive rate hikes, which could be avoided by capitalizing and managing the water system locally. Adding insult to injury, according to residents, RWE is in negotiations with Arrowhead Water Company, now owned by Perrier Corporation of France, to export water from Felton. Arrowhead was caught

“ RWE is Germany's second largest publicly-held corporation and the world's third largest for-profit water provider, behind Suez and Vivendi, based in France. After its acquisition of American Water Works under its Thames subsidiaries, it will be the largest investor-owned water utility company in the United States ”

stealing water from the area in 1989 and was fined \$100,000 in what was at the time the largest land-use fine ever collected in the State of California.

As municipal water systems have changed hands and for-profit providers have been unable to consistently deliver customer service or clean water, many communities became antsy but were often unable to develop the political will to reclaim their water systems in the face of mammoth public relations campaigns (American Water Works subsidiaries spent \$6 million in the Peoria and Chattanooga fights alone, much of it going to the PR firm of Burson-Marsteller). But as French and German firms attempt to take over, the combination of a nationalism mirroring the unilateralism of the Bush administration and a still-burgeoning anti-globalization movement has begun to mount resistance to the expansion of privatization.

A global struggle

But all too often, the struggle in US communities against investor-owned water utilities remains isolated from the struggle of communities around the world facing similar threats. Water giants such as Suez, Vivendi, Perrier and RWE (that many of the largest companies are French is no accident—France was the first to privatize water on a large scale under Napoleon III), in combination with US firms such as Bechtel and Monsanto, are systematically divvying up the entirety of the planet's fresh water resources. Much of this splitting of the spoils has been facilitated and encouraged by governments and international bodies such as the United Nations, which recently declared fresh water to be a "need" rather than a "right", thereby sanctioning its commodification.

The Water Investment Act of 2002, passed earlier this year by the US Congress, makes federal funding for municipal water projects contingent on the local government "considering" selling its water systems to for-profit corporations. Most local jurisdictions lack the capital resources to fund improvements for water treatment and distribution facilities. These facilities are increasingly taxed by develop-

ment pressures, more stringent quality standards and dwindling fresh water resources. The 2002 Water Investment Act puts considerable pressure on local communities in the US to privatize their water systems to fund these projects.

The International Monetary Fund has several times made funding for debt relief contingent on a country's privatization of its water supply in a similar way. In Bolivia, this stipulation led to massive revolt in the streets after San Francisco-based Bechtel Corporation raised water rates to levels that would impoverish many Bolivians. Street-level resistance eventually obliged power brokers to cancel the selling of the nation's water.

At the turn of the century, Fortune Magazine declared that water "will be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th." In some cases, the comparison is directly evident. The Village Voice reports noises coming out of the Bush Administration of converting the existing oil-pipeline infrastructure in Canada's Northern Provinces to pump water to the American Midwest. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canada would have little recourse to prevent this expropriation, as attempts to do so would likely be considered "barriers to trade".

As more of the world's water is taken out of the public commons to be drilled, piped, bottled and delivered as corporate property, the environment will become degraded (as RWE/Thames has shown us in Britain), conservation will be deprioritized (when companies' revenues are tied to the amount of water sold, why conserve?), rates will be raised to pay shareholders' dividends and control over one of our most vital natural resources will be taken farther and farther from the source and from us. As decision-makers at all levels of government compete to deprive themselves and each other of recourse to thwart the profiteering of corporate entities, it falls upon the rest of us to develop viable alternatives and effective movements that will ensure that power flows from all of us and water flows to all of us.

“ If the RWE acquisition survives regulatory scrutiny, the massive proceeds of the sale will not go primarily to faceless and feared German bureaucrats and investors, but to an all-American plutocrat whose mug we are all too familiar with ”

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From DOCKS on Page 5

I watched in horror and decided: No one would ever force me to work faster than I felt was safe. No one. Ever.

As this is being written, some of my friends are in their cars, streaming to the larger ports where the union is working around the clock to unclog the docks. The congestion is a result of a PMA lockout. The backup on the docks aptly demonstrates how efficiently the ILWU normally keeps cargo moving. If the PMA can lock its doors for 11 days and threaten the world economy, the government should appreciate what the ILWU has been going through for the last 70 years.

I hope my friends stay safe. Some are driving 400 miles to work, late at night. I hope their night vision is better than mine. As they drive, some are thinking about wages, pensions or how important it is that a daughter gets those braces for her teeth. We are all kinds of people, thinking all kinds of things. The PMA has used the media to portray longshoremen as one-eyed, blue-collar piggy-banks intent on bankrupting the industry. Please.

We want to work. It's what we do, and we do it better here than anyone else. We love the new technology. In the early '70s we unloaded coffee, sack by sack by back injury. We certainly don't mind having a huge crane do the job for us.

We want to assimilate the new technology. Our entire history is one of change and modernization. Of social and ethnic equality. Of solidarity so tight it will hold water.

The pigeon and I wait together for the ship. When it comes in the bird will investigate, hoping for scraps of food from a sympathetic sailor. But he won't fly into the side of a ship to show how eager he is to live. Neither will I.

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International Labor Briefs

60,000 teachers march for union rights in Taiwan

Some 50–60,000 state-employed teachers with the National Teachers Association in Taiwan marched on Saturday for the right to union representation. While various arms of the Taiwan government have paid public lip service to the teachers and their right to associate, the government remains firm in stressing that any association the teachers form will not have the right to strike.

Ukrainian miners

Coal miners at dozens of mines across eastern Ukraine began a three-day strike on October 16. The workers are calling for better working conditions and more state funding to help the industry acquire better safety equipment and facilities. Six workers had died in mining accidents in the Ukraine over the previous two days.

French public sector workers protest privatization

Public sector gas and electricity workers all across France struck October 3 over the plans of the new center-right administration of Jean-Pierre Raffarin partially privatize the nation's state-owned utility services. Utilities workers were joined by workers at Air France and railway workers who have faced or are facing similar privatization schemes. Workers at France Telecom and other opponents of privatization were also present at the Paris rally in numbers. Attendance estimates ranged from 40,000 by police to 80,000 by organizers.—F.M.

After Bali—as travel becomes a radical act, I will continue to commit it

By ANDREW LAM
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Beyond regret for the dead and injured, the horrific bombing of a tourist spot in Bali brought terrorism home for millions of global citizens who regard travel as a precious right. Human movement across borders, writes PNS editor Andrew Lam, is greater than ever in history, and he for one will not live without it. Lam is a short story writer and journalist who has traveled to Bali three times in the last decade.

I am old enough to remember the days when traveling across international borders was only for the privileged few. When I was five or six years old in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, I listened to my father's stories of snow. Snow on the gilded bridges across the Seine, in Central Park where lovers held hands as they strolled, and snow on barren trees and moss-strewn rock gardens and temple roof tops of Kyoto.

I remember standing tiptoe on a chair next to the opened refrigerator then, my hands in the freezer compartment, scraping at the frost until my fingers turned numb. In the tropical sunlight, with eyes closed and a modest snow ball in my palm, land-bound and full of yearning, I had already begun to travel.

The world has changed. Since the Cold War ended, travel has become increasingly possible for the many, including myself. Refugees move. Immigrants move. Middle class tourists go to see famed and fabled palaces and ruins they had only dreamed about.

Indeed, such mass movement is unprecedented in human history, and freedom of movement is increasingly recognized as a basic human right. The increase in tourism and world migration flows naturally from the fading of geopolitical problems associated with the Cold War. Old enemies shake hands and trade moves swiftly back and forth across now-porous international borders.

Meanwhile, the business of travel and travelers—hotels, transportation, tours, cruises, restaurants, conferences—has evolved to become the world's largest single industry.

Nations depend upon it. Some heavily touristed cities—San Francisco for instance, and New York—might unravel without it. In some poorer places, Thai cities and Indonesian Bali, the tourist dollar is the prime source of income. One out of nine adults in the world—over 200 million people—is employed by the tourism and related industries, according to the World Travel Organization.

I have no doubt that those who killed the young backpackers and other tourists in Bali are hoping to reverse this trend of globalization. They see the tourist as the embodiment of decadent and materialist culture.

While I mourn the deaths of those killed in Bali, I remain optimistic that human movement will continue. The world is too interconnected, too integrated, after all, for that trend to be reversed by fear. There is a practical side to it as well: When El-Gamaa El-Islamiya, a militant fundamentalist organization, attacks on tourists in Luxor, Egypt, in 1997, local vendors turned on the terrorists to protect their livelihood. Lives are interdependent more than the terrorists would want to acknowledge.

As a perennial backpacker who left his own homeland as a refugee, I see travel itself as a radical act: Travel, to really lose oneself in a new setting, to absorb new horizons and ways of looking at the

world, challenges orthodoxy.

In that C-130 full of refugees, I was moving not only across the ocean, but also from one set of psychological understandings to another. Before, my inheritance was simple—the sacred rice fields and rivers that once owned me, defining who I was. Today, as an American journalist, Paris and Hanoi and New York are no longer fantasies but places where I have relatives and friends, where I am intricately connected and in which I feel at home. My imagination, once bound by a narrower sense of geography, expanded its reference points.

These days, with the world under threat from individual and ideological terrorists, those who cross borders to descend upon another culture and set up a temporary home there are carrying an important message as well: They are say-

ing to terrorists that fear shall not deter movement and exchange.

"Travel," writes *Time* magazine essayist Lance Morrow, "equals transformation over time." In its relentless way, human movement shapes and reshapes the world.

And recently in human understanding, travel has become a precious right. It is one that fundamentalists would love to take away from us all in their hopes to rebuild and fortify artificial demarcations out of resentment and hate.

I will continue to travel. The idea of a static world immobilized by fear is one where the imagination dies. That is far more terrifying to me than any terrorist bomb.

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Photo courtesy of Anita O'Shea

Clerical workers and lecturers went back to work on Wednesday, October 16, after a two-day strike on five University of California campuses Monday and Tuesday. Around 1,000 classes were cancelled Monday and Tuesday, union officials estimated. Still, negotiations showed little sign of agreement on Tuesday for the American Federation of Teachers – University Council as UC Administration and union negotiators came to the table.

The strike was due to two years of negotiations without what the UC-AFT deems an acceptable proposal from UC. Clerical workers, represented by the Coalition of University Employees (CUE), have also been bargaining with UC for around a year and a half. The lecturers and clerical workers were met with strong support from students and some tenured professors who refused to cross picket lines. However, Gayle Cieszkiewicz, executive director of UC Labor relations said, "strikes will only aggravate contract talks and delay the settlement."

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Calendar of Events

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Please include the date, time, title of event, description and contact number. Submissions are due on Tuesday by 5PM for that Friday's edition.

SATURDAY 10/19

9 AM-5 PM Apple Butter Festival. Apple butter canning, antique engines, crafts, hayrides, BBQ, fresh apples, juice pressing, bakery, antiques, pumpkin patch, farm park, deli and more. Call 722-1056 for info. At Gizdich Ranch, 55 Peckham Rd., Wats.

12-6 PM (show) **6-8 PM** "The Creators:" Young adults becoming Entrepreneurs, Media Makers & Community Leaders. A day-long event hosted by Silicon Valley Debug with booths, interactive workshops, group discussions & food. Free (\$5 if you only come to the evening show), all ages welcome. Call Shana White (408)295-4424 for info. At De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino.

1-3:30 PM Solar Flares at Seacliff State Beach. Come to the visitor center deck & join the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club to observe the many wonders of our biggest star – the sun. See sun spots and solar flares with a special telescopes. (Expect a \$3 parking fee). Call 685-6444 for info. At the Seacliff State Beach.

All Day Harvest Festival and Draft Horse Day. Old-fashioned activities, draft horse demonstrations and live music for the whole family. At Wilder Ranch State Park, HWY 9, Felton.

SUNDAY 10/20

10 AM-4 PM Free Nonviolence Training for civil disobedience. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

10 AM-6 PM 8th Annual Massage-a-Thon. All money raised goes to scholarships for rural Guatemalan girls, ages 6-16. The rate for a one-hour massage is \$45-65, scheduling in advance is recommended. Sponsored by the SC Guatemalan Committee call 423-1369. At Twin Lakes College of the Healing Arts, 1210 Brommer St. (between 7th & 17th Ave.s), SC.

2 PM Super-Secret Staircase Tour. Staircase enthusiast Blaize Wilkinson leads approx. two-hour tour of historic stairs of Mission Hill. \$2/person. Call 458-0908 or email blaize@stblaize.net for info. Meet at Town Clock, SC.

7 PM Santa Cruz Indymedia (SC-IMC) meets every other Sunday. At Cafe Pergolesi, 418 Cedar St., SC.

MONDAY 10/21

7 PM "Get to Know Your School Board Members," all board candidates have been invited to be panelists. "SC City School District faces declining enrollment, inadequate funding from the state, and exorbitant housing prices that make it difficult to hire and retain new teachers. The four people who fill the openings on the SCCS School Board this year will tackle these and other problems." A free public event sponsored by School Voices, a local group of parents, teachers and students working toward reform in education. For more info call 469-4280 or visit www.schoolvoices.org or join the School Voices egroup at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schoolvoices>. At Louden Nelson Community Center, on the corner of Laurel St. & Center St., SC.



7:30 PM Author and journalist Ruben Martinez discusses his new book *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

7:30 PM Photographers Caol Beckwith & Angela Fisher present their work in *African Ceremonies*. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

WEDNESDAY 10/23

5-7 PM Speaker Dean Wlad Godzich discusses "The Modern Subject Meets Globalization." Second part in a two-part talk. The discussion will turn to the concern of globalization and its significance for scholars in the human sciences. Contact Stephanie Casher (831)-459-1274 for info. At Kresge College, Rm. 259, UCSC.

5:30-6:30 PM Women In Transition support groups. For info and rides, contact Emily at 429-9489 or email emily@needleexchange.com. At the Ugly Mug Café, Soquel Village.

3 PM Reclaim the Streets party. Needed: drummers, bands, D.J.s, performers of all kinds, food, pillows, art to display, political tablers, etc. At Cooper St. & Pacific Ave., SC.

3 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Scratch." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$5.50. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

5 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Word." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

6 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "The Freshest Kids," directed by Israel makes its premier. Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)998-2783. Tickets are \$8.75. At Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, 510 South First St., San Jose.

7 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Black Picket Fences." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

7:30 PM Student Speak-Out Against the War. At the Porter Fireside Lounge, UCSC.

9 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Poetic License," followed by a poetry performance by Mark Pinate, Melissa Lazona, Sons of Rebellion & more. Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

THURSDAY 10/24

3 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Graffiti Verte." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. Tickets are \$5.50. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.



5 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Scratch." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

7 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "The Freshest Kid." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

7:30 PM Author Daniel Masor discusses his book *The Piano Tuner*. Set in the fall of 1886 when a piano tuner receives a strange request to travel to the jungles of Burma. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

9 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Straight Outta Hunters Point." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

FRIDAY 10/25

2:30 PM Author Sandra Cisneros discusses her new novel *Caramelo*. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

3 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Word." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$5.50. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

5 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Black Picket Fences." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

9 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Straight Outta Hunters Point." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

11 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Freestyle." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

SATURDAY 10/26

11 AM Children's Halloween Party. Sponsored by Citizens for Service Workers with the Western Service Workers Association Safe and Sane Halloween. Call 429-6016 for info. *All children must be accompanied by an adult. At the First Methodist Church, 259 California St., SC.

11 AM-5 PM The Santa Cruz Mask Festival. Offers everything from dance & theater to storytelling. Enjoy masks and stories from around the world. Call 420-6177 for info. At Louden Nelson, SC.

2:30 PM Chef Sara Moulton presents her new cook book *Sara Moulton Cooks at Home*. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

3 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Nobody Knows My Name," a film about women in Hip Hop. Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$5.50. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

5 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Breath Control," the art of human beatboxing. Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

7 PM 4th Annual Zapatista Benefit Concert. Featuring *Firme* (SJ's finest Latin ska/punk/reggae), *Dubwise* (Salinas dub/reggae), *Orixa* (East Bay rock en español), *San Jo Avengas/162* (the next level of local Hip Hop), *Parralz & Emcee Lynx* (local conscious Hip Hop); also featuring local artists, AK Press & political literature tables & speakers. All ages, \$7/person, call (408)293-1360 for info or email zapatistaevent@yahoo.com. At 160 E. Virginia St. at 5th near the 280, San Jose.

7 PM The Hip Hop Film Fest presents: "Freestyle." Call (888)418-3549 or email info@hiphopfilmfest.com and visit www.hiphopfilmfest.com for more info. For directions call (408)298-1433. Tickets are \$8.75. At Towne 3 Theatre, 1433 The Alameda, San Jose.

7-9 PM Public workshop: Integrated Water Plan. Sponsored by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, will address 1) seawater desalination or wastewater reclamation? Comparative advantages and tradeoffs, 2) Potential sites and sizes for new water supply facilities & 3) Joining with Soquel Creek Water District to develop a region-wide water supply project: Evaluation of opportunities & issues. Call 420-5200 for info. At the Community Rm, Santa Cruz Police Building, 155 Cedar St., SC.

SUNDAY 10/27

8 AM Santa Cruz Five-Miler. This new course winds through downtown, West Cliff Drive & the San Lorenzo River Levee. Features 10 age group divisions. Call 420-5273 for info, or visit www.santacruzwharf.com. Race starts in Downtown, SC.

1:30 PM Halloween Parade. Join ghosts, goblins and fairy princesses at the annual Halloween Parade. Following the 1:30 parade, enjoy trick or treat bags, face painting & pumpkin carving. Call 475-6522 for info, or visit www.capitolachamber.com. In Capitola Village, Cap.

5:30 PM Halloween on the Wharf. Little witches, goblins, and ghosts and their parents can enjoy a safe and sane trick-or-treating at the Parks and Recreation Department's Halloween celebration. Call 420-5273 for info, or visit www.santacruzwharf.com. On the Municipal Wharf, SC.

4-5:30 PM Speaker Guari Viswanathan discusses “Colonialism, Hinduism & the Problem of Historiography.” Viswanathan’s fields of interest are intellectual history; education, religion and culture; 19th century British and colonial cultural studies; and the history of disciplines. At Oakes College, Oakes Mural Rm., UCSC.

WEDNESDAY 10/30

7:30 PM Author Victoria Nelson discusses *The Secret Life of Puppets*, a book discribing the curious reversal in the roles of art & religion. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

Oh yes, Halloween has arrived. Let the festivities begin! Time to visit the pumpkin patch, dust off your costume chest and dredge up your favorite halloween character for this year. See listings for Safe and Sane halloween gatherings, festivals and parades.



THURSDAY 10/31

5:30-7:30 PM Halloween in the Park. Venture off the beaten path and talk with an “animal” of the park. A non-scary, fun event appropriate for all ages. At Henry Cowell State Park, HWY 9, Fel.

FRIDAY 11/1

6-9 PM An Evening of Wine & Roses. A gala fund raising event for the Watsonville Community Hospital. Auction of one-of-a-kind double magnum bottles, spectacular roses, fabulous food & exclusive tastes of local area wines. \$40/ticket, reservation in advance is suggested. Call 728-6183 for more info. At the Watsonville Fairgrounds, Wats.

WEEKLY EVENTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS

SATURDAYS SABADO

11:30-12:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12:30-1 PM Redwood Grove Hike. Guided & informative tour through the redwoods. Call to confirm 335-7077. At Henry Cowell Redwood State Park, HWY 9, Felton.

6-6:30 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

10 PM-Midnight One-For-One Needle Exchange Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

SUNDAYS DOMINGO

9 AM-1 PM Live Oak Farmers’ Market. At the East Cliff Shopping Center, 1515 East Cliff Dr., Live Oak.

10 AM-3 PM Food Shares: Free Food Exchange & Barter Stand. Share your harvest with your community. Call Rebecca for info 429-5557. At the Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Live Oak.

10 AM-3 PM Compartiendo Comida: Intercambio de Frutas y Verduras Gratis. Comparte su cosecha con su comunidad. Para mas información, llame a Rebecca a 429-5557. A la Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Live Oak.

11:30-12:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

6-6:30 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6-8 PM The Needle Exchange’s Harm Reduction & Drug Policy radio show, 96.3 FRSC.

MONDAYS LUNES

9-10:30 AM Creative Writing for Fun. Adults 55+ learn to make creative writing easy and enjoyable in this friendly and supportive class. Register by calling 420-6180 or visiting the Downtown Senior’s Office, SC.

12-4 PM Cook with Food Not Bombs Santa Cruz. Call 425-2667 for location.

12-4 PM Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3-5 PM Free HIV testing, educational videos, information and safer sex supplies. Call 761-8595 for info. At Casa Bienestar, 90 Mariposa Ave., Wats.

4 PM Food Not Bombs, free vegan food served in front of Cinema 9. On Cooper St. & Pacific Ave., SC.

4:30 PM “Merrymaking Monday.” Join Food Not Bombs and Downtown for All in a celebration that is all-inclusive. Hackeysackers, skateboarders, jugglers, merchants, tourists, etc. invited. At the corner of Pacific Ave. & Cooper St., SC.

5:30-8:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

6-7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7-8:30 PM Closet Free Radio. GLBT affairs show, longest running queer show. 88.1 FM KZSC.

TUESDAYS MARTES

12 PM-2 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12-6 PM Organic fruits, vegetables and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St. & High St., SC.

2:30-3:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. On the corner of Coral St. & Limekiln, down the street from the River St. Shelter, SC.

2:30-6:30 PM Felton Farmers’ Market. 6090 HWY 9, Felton.

5 PM Youth Coalition SC. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

6-7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7-8:30 PM Green Voice, poetic explorations of ecopolitics and social justice. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6:30-7:30 PM Grupo de apoyo para madres y niños sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica. En español. Defensa de Mujeres, 406 Main St., Wats.

6:30-9 PM Parent’s Support Group. For parents who need more information to understand or help a loved one during and after use of drugs and alcohol. Call Casa Bi-estar 761-8595, 90 Mariposa Ave., Wats.

6-7:30 PM Sud-den Death Support Group. Call 688-7684 for info. At the Hospice Caring Project, 6851 Soquel Dr., Aptos.

7 PM Earth First! Meeting. At 509 Broadway Ave. (next door to the Resource Center for Nonviolence), SC.

7 PM Downtown for All meeting. At the Wired Wash Cafe on Laurel St., SC.

7 PM Santa Cruz Peace Coalition meeting. Call 841-9139 x1917 for info. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

10 PM-Midnight One-For-One Needle Exchange Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

WEDNESDAYS MIERCOLES

12 PM-1 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12-4 PM Cook with Food Not Bombs Santa Cruz, call 426-2667 for location.

2:30-6:30 PM Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market. Lincoln & Cedar St., SC.

4 PM Food Not Bombs serves free, hot, vegan food, at the Farmer’s Market, Lincoln & Cedar St., SC.

5:30-6 PM KZSC Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

5:30 PM Gay Men’s Volleyball. All levels welcome. Call 459-7506 for more info. At the Main Beach, SC.

6-7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7-8 PM Santa Cruz One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

7-8:30 PM Drop-in domestic violence support group/grupo de apoyo para sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica. In English y en español. Child-care available. Hay cuidado di niños. Women’s Crisis Support, 1658 Soquel Dr. Suite A., Santa Cruz.

7-8:30 PM Talkabout. A call-in talk show with interesting guests. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7:30 PM “Lets talk about the movies,” a free dis- cussion group open to all who enjoy talking about movies. Each week a local movie critic, or member of LTATM leads a discussion about a film currently playing in the area. Go to www.ltatm.org to find out which film is next. At the Del Mar Theater, mezza- nine level on Pacific Ave., SC.

THURSDAYS JUEVES

12-6 PM Organic fruits, vegetables and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St. & High St., SC.

12:30-4 PM Youth hours. Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

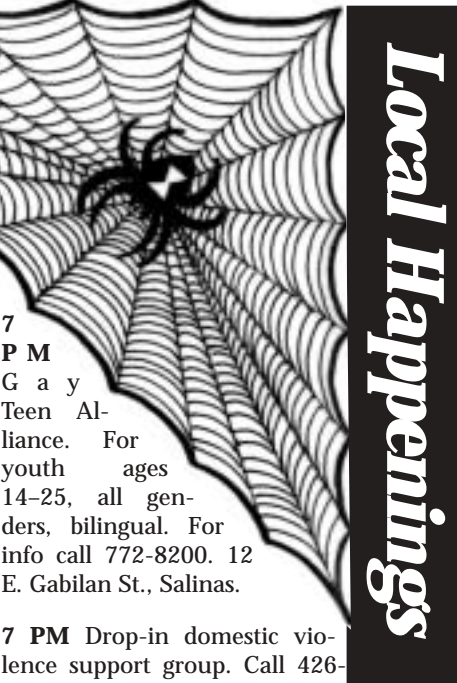
3 PM-4:30 PM One-For-One Needle Ex- change. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the New Leaf Market Parking Lot (look for the white HIV testing van), Fel.

5 PM-6 PM One-For-One Needle Ex- change. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the New Leaf Market Parking Lot (look for the white HIV testing van), Boulder Creek.

6-7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6:30 PM-8:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

7:30-9 PM Anxiety and Panic Support Group, for individuals seeking support for general anxiety, panic, social phobias and OCD. At the Twin Lakes Church, 2701 Ca- brillo College Dr., Aptos.



7 PM Gay Teen Al- liance. For youth ages 14-25, all gen- ders, bilingual. For info call 772-8200. 12 E. Gabilan St., Salinas.

7 PM Drop-in domestic vio- lence support group. Call 426-3062 for info. At the Walnut Avenue Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

7-8 PM (beginning) **8-9 PM** (intermediate/ advanced) Free salsa dance class. At the Wired Wash Cafe on Laurel St., SC.

7-8:30 PM Young Warriors. Young wom- en’s leadership program. Drop-in support also for survivors of violence. Call 426-3062 for info. At the Walnut Ave. Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

7-8:30 PM Wise Guys. Drop-in support group for teenage survivors of violence. At the Walnut Ave. Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

9 PM Dance Church, free-form dance en- vironment, bring an item for the altar. All ages. Call 466-9770 for more info. At the 418 Project, 418 Front St., SC.

FRIDAYS VEIRNES

1:30-5 PM Women’s hours. Condoms, coffee and conversation. At the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3-5 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Parking lot of the Laundromat at Barson St. & Bixby St. (look for white HIV testing van), SC.

4-5 PM Women Only One-For-One Needle Ex- change. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3-7 PM Watsonville Farmers’ Market. Main & Park St. around the Plaza, Wats.

5 PM Peace Vigil and human billboards protest- ing war. Call the Santa Cruz Peace Coalition 427-2676 for more info. At the intersection of Ocean St. & Water St., SC.

5-6 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

5-6 PM Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC. Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

6-7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

10 PM-Midnight One-For-One Needle Ex- change Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the vicinity of down- town, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

MONDAY - FRI - DAY LUNES-VEIRNES

1 PM Democracy Now! with Amy Good- man. 96.3 FM, FRSC.

5:00 PM Free Speech Radio News. 96.3 FM, FRSC.

5:30 PM Earth First! Radio. FRSC 96.3 FM.

Wholly Cross-Words

By Oliver Brown

- Across

1

Heaven-kissing

5

Nightclub opened by Boz Scaggs

10

Better than kings

14

Approaching the Ber-
ing Straits

15

Famous Natalie Wood
role

16

Life ____

17

Lolls

18

Betwixt

19

Cut down to size

20

1944 Oscar-winner for
Best Picture

22

Grayish-white with
age

23

Stiffen

24

Place of many visitors

26

Gordon Sumner

29

DeVille and Eldorado

33

Edge

34

The Isle of ____

35

Make a monkey of

36

And the rest

37

Genuflect

38

Tint

39

Be

40

Shook off

42

Certainly

43

Chairman of the Avai-
tion Subcommittee

44

Edge

46

Destroy

47

Tracey Gold role in
"Growing Pains"

48

Michael Eisner

49

Operate

52

Famous gift given to
Clara Stahlbaum

57

Ointment

58

Progeny

59

Turtle foe

60

Fish tank denizen

61

70s female punk band

62

Great lake

63

Whippersnappers

64

Article of faith

65

Seesaw
- Down

1

Paper ingredient

2

Home to Sumer and
Media civilizations

3

Harper and Tommy

4

Pasta dish

5

Wee

6

Monk

7

4th track on Black
Sabbath's *Paranoid* LP
(1971)

8

Chopped up

9

Not unwise

10

Tarmac

11

Hello in Genoa

12

Pound poet

13

Oracle

21

Implore

25

Hint

26

4th track on Jawbreak-
er's *Bivouac* LP (1991)

27

Deed

28

Become liable

29

Bird sound

30

Anticipate

31

About

32

Pocket

34

T.S. Eliot

37

Synagogue platform

38

Not him

41

"Don't quote _____
in my apartment!"-Joe
Young in *Orgazmo*
(1997)

42

Post-Cold War Presi-
dent

43

Minnie

45

Muss his hair

46

Second most popular
beverage in the world

48

Toothpaste brand

49

Have the hots for

50

Butter substitute

51

Winner of the 1912
Nobel Peace Prize,
Elihu ____

53

"You're step-mom's
_____."-Ted in *Bill &
Ted's Excellent Adventure*
(1989)

54

Syrup

55

Will Friedle role in
"Boy Meets World"

56

Stink

For comments, questions or hints, email: xword@kingturtle.com

G	M	T		C	R	I	M	E	A		T	U	F	T
L	I	E		R	I	D	I	N	G		O	R	E	O
I	N	N		A	D	O	R	E	R		U	G	L	Y
B	I	T	I	N	G	L	Y		E	G	R	E	T	S
			N	N	E			R	E	N				
R	A	T	T	Y		C	H	E	A	P	E	N	E	D
A	C	R	E		O	R	A	L	B		F	A	M	E
B	O	A	R		N	A	V	E	L		R	I	C	A
B	R	I	M		S	T	O	N	Y		A	V	E	R
I	N	T	E	L	L	E	C	T		K	N	E	E	S
			D	E	A	R			T	I	C			
M	I	L	I	E	U		B	R	U	N	E	T	T	E
A	R	I	A		G	R	O	U	N	D		R	I	D
M	O	O	T		H	A	N	D	E	L		I	R	E
A	N	N	E		T	W	E	E	D	Y		P	E	N

Answers from last puzzle (# 014)



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
			23				24			25				
26	27	28				29						30	31	32
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49	50	51			52			53				54	55	56
57					58						59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

Puzzle #015



Classifieds

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95061

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Address:

Phone:

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Text:

Section listings:

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☐ services offered

☐ work opportunities

☐ musicians and artists

☐ lost and found

☐ pets

☐ housing

☐ garage sales

☐ seeking...

☐ personally

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\$20/inch Display classifieds
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one-time fee of 35% for ads
that require design work).

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or Thursday. Ads received
after the classified section
is full will be held for the
next issue.

Users' guide for
personal ads

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p e r s o n a l s @ t h e -
alarm.com
or send the form on the
left completed to:
P.O. Box 1205
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

To reply to a personal
ad, email:
p e r s o n a l s @ t h e -
alarm.com. Specify
which listing you are
responding to by includ-
ing the number you see
at the beginning of
the ad and placing it in
subject heading of
your message. All
responses will be
forwarded.

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Cruz, CA 95061.

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Personals

You asked for it...so here
they are—real personals for
real people. See the previous
column for info on how to re-
spond and place an ad. YOU
WON'T NECESSARILY FIND
A DATE, BUT YOU WILL HAVE
A LAUGH!

LOOKING FOR LOVE

10040201 I am a 30 yr old
grass roots, permaculture,
pirate radio, worker-owned
revolution on 2 wheels. I like
riding bikes, eating out, cooking
nice vegetarian meals, read-
ing, watching movies, listening
to punk and folk music and
smoking lots of pot. I have a
vasectomy, because I believe
in MY right to choose. I'm
the knight of cups offering the
emotional fulfillment of your
heart's dreams, and desires.
I'm looking for a hippie-punk
woman 24-35, who is emotion-
ally stable, down to earth, and
desires monogamous relation-
ship. No polyandrous, bipolar
drama queens please. Sex
fiend scores bonus points! Lets
make criminal mischief, as we
lock down together!

10040202 Like puzzles? If so,
I've got a challenge for you. I'm
29, usually male-identified, shy
but outspoken, goofy but seri-
ous, sloppy but anal, ambitious
but lazy, moody but stable,
brusque but cordial, mag-
nanimous but petty (mostly the
former), suave but a total dork
(mostly the latter), and gener-
ally just a hard nut to crack, but
worth it. In search of someone
active and engaged—physi-
cally, emotionally, intellectually
and politically—patient and inci-
sive enough to get to know me,
unafraid of intimacy, unseduced
by shiny things, undeterred by
complexity and unaccepting of
cowardice. Lets fit our pieces
together and see what hap-
pens.

LOOKING?

10040203 Remember the 80s,
yeah! Well, let's hook up if you
want to get together and com-
pare notes on tube socks, head-
bands, LA Gear, velcro, shoulder
pads and the Culture Club.

10040204 Oral Fixation! I am
21, red-headed with no gag
reflex. I love to eat popsicles,
carrot sticks, churros and large
cucumbers. Light relationship
only—I've been told that as a
girlfriend I suck.

10040207 I fell from the wagon
to the night train. I kissed the
bottle. I should've been kissing
you. You wake up to an empty
night with tears for two.

08230201 I never want to grow
up! I'm Peter Pan! Be my Wen-
dy! Must be into juggling, Japa-
nese punk rock, Kali Mocho.

08230204 Elvis lips! Hot wax!
Crayola Fetish! I'm a sassy
newsie looking for a companion
to pour my cider while I sit on
the stoop.

08230206 Jack-guzzling, cam-
el-smoking, sensitive Emo man-
child seeks similarly-wounded
stylish, cute girl for leftist poli-
tics, debauchery and discus-
sions of Hot Water music lyrics.
Black hoodie a must, fishnet
stockings a plus. Does your
soul cry out in the dark? Mine
does too. Let's bleed together
and make it a double.

I SAW YOU...

10180201 You were a rainfall
of laughter. No real Usher
look alike, but your moves did
remind me of a boy that I once
knew. I like creme brûlé too...
And your smile was cute... can I
be your friend too?

10180202 You: the vet who
kindly removed the tick from my
dog's behind. Me: the panicky
man who was afraid of a bug.
Oscar's doing great, but what
he really likes is romantic walks
on the beach.... care to join us?

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An aerial photograph of a city street, likely San Lorenzo River, showing a large area of flooding. The water is a light brown color, covering the street and surrounding areas. The buildings are mostly multi-story structures with flat roofs. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent pink color.

San Lorenzo River Flood

San Lorenzo River Flood