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Depot site plans in the works

Neighbors, recreationalists, environmentalists, transportation planners and politicians weigh in

By RACHEL SHOWSTACK  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

Back in the late 1800s and early 1900s when visitors came to Santa Cruz by train, the Union Depot, just north of the boardwalk, was a multi-modal transit hub. Established in 1892, the depot united several different rail companies, according to local historian Ross Gibson. Different modes of transit also converged at the bustling hub, including the local trolley line and carriage shuttles that took local travelers from the depot directly to their hotels.

Now, the depot site is just a patch of undeveloped land next to the train tracks, and the tracks are so old that

trains can't travel any faster than fifteen miles per hour, Gibson said. But the City is taking a step toward recreating the area's historic feel. The City plans to develop a park and a new "multi-modal transit center" on 8.5 acres of land at the old depot site. The development plan includes a replica depot building, which, according to Gibson, will be designed to mimic the building constructed in 1892.

When the Santa Cruz City Council proposed the project in 1999, it emphasized the site's potential to eventually become a rail transit center. The County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) gave the City \$3.4 million to include multi-modal transit facilities in the project, including rail facilities, according to RTC Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi.

As part of the Major Transportation

Investment Study (MTIS), an examination of different ways to improve transit in the Watsonville-to-Santa Cruz-to-UC Santa Cruz corridor, the RTC looked into the possibility of investing in rail transit. But in 1999, the commission decided not to allocate any funding for rail transit over the next twenty years and instead made highway widening its highest priority. After the RTC made its funding commitments, the scope of the depot site plan shifted away from rail facilities and toward providing other transit options and a community park area.

The park would provide a soccer field, a "tot lot" and a picnic area. It could also include the "fun spot" skate park in its current location. The Depot Site Master Plan does not clearly identify the uses for the replica depot building, but according to Recreation

Go see **DEPOT** on **Page 5**

Local activists gather at  
Vandenberg Air Force Base

By VINCENT A. LOMBARDO  
*The Alarm! Newspaper contributor*

The third Saturday of May is celebrated as Armed Forces Day to commemorate the creation of the US Department of Defense. On May 18 this year, close to one-hundred people took the opportunity to voice their concerns about nuclear weapons and the corporatization of the military budget. The activists gathered at the gates of Vandenberg Air Force Base on California's central coast.

Two people were taken into custody after entering the base to deliver a message to its colonel. "We are here to say that we do not want bombs in space, we don't want the Space Command, we don't want space militarized...There's enough weapons on the planet to kill everyone several times over, so please stop," declared Eddy MacGregor of Salinas, as she prepared to hop over the 30 inch orange plastic barrier that separated her from the confines of the base.

"The message is peace," added Santa Cruz activist Liz Rondell. "There is war happening all over the world and it's time to stand up and [be a] witness for peace."

With those words, the two infiltrated the base perimeter and were quickly surrounded by military police. After a few warnings bellowed from a loud speaker, military officers rounded up the two women and hauled them off to jail.

Located some 200 miles south of

Santa Cruz, on more than 98,000 acres of open land, Vandenberg is the third largest Air Force Base in the continental United States. For more than thirteen thousand years, this land sat undeveloped and cared for by the Chumash Indian tribe, who were driven out of their traditional ocean-front villages and onto reservations by the Spanish conquistadores.

In 1941, at the height of World War II, the United States Army took control of the land and used the site to train tank-gunners and other military personnel. Camp Cooke, as it was originally called, also took in more than 8,000 POW's during the war, with 16 branch camps under its jurisdiction. The base was renamed Vandenberg in 1958, a year after the US Air Force was designated caretaker and transformed it into the nation's first space and ballistic missile test facility. At present, Vandenberg is operated by the US Air Force Space Command's 30th Space Wing.

Established in 1985 and currently operating under a budget of \$66.8 million, the U.S. Space Command of the Department of Defense coordinates the Army, Navy and the Air Force for space warfare—under military jargon, to perform missions of "space control," "force application," and "computer attack network." The Space Command's 1996 document *Vision for 2020* reads on page four, "During the early portion of the 21st century, space power will also evolve into a separate and equal medium of warfare. Likewise, space forces will emerge to protect military

and commercial national interests and investments."

Vandenberg is also the only site in the world where the Pentagon tests intercontinental ballistic missiles and long-range nuclear missiles. The missiles are often aimed at Kwajalein Atoll, the planet's largest coral atoll, where six or seven thousand indigenous people have been forced off their land by the US Space Command. "It is not just a paranoid speculation," said Founding Member of the Vandenberg Action Coalition Peter Lumsdaine, "it is actually a circumstantially and directly documented fact of US strategic doctrine and policy that we have always reserved the right to strike first with nuclear weapons."

On May 14, the US and Russia announced an agreement to cut existing nuclear stockpiles by almost three quarters over the next 10 years. Dave "Woody" Wood, who traveled from Santa Cruz with his mother and son to attend Saturday's protest, calls the agreement "a great first step." But Wood said he was skeptical since the plan allows the weapons to essentially be on-call. "If we could take about 95% of [the weapons] off, that would be a really great second step," he said.

Sabiha Basrai, a student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo said she was at the demonstration because her school receives a lot of funding from corporations like Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon. "Those companies also highly recruit from our campus and we're very much a part of the war machine in that way," she said.

But not everyone was there to voice opposition. Seven people, who said they live near the military installation,

Go see **PROTEST** on **Page 8**



A counter-demonstrator issues his geography lesson for the day.



# Letter from the Editors



MICHELLE STEWART/The Alarm! Newspaper

Rachel Showstack, Alarm! collective member, edits pages into the wee hours.

So long as men consider fustian and manual labor a mark of inferiority, it will appear amazing to them to see an author setting up his own book in type, for has he not a gymnasium or games by way of diversion? But when the opprobrium connected with manual labor has disappeared, when all will have to work with their hands, there being no one to do it for them, then the authors as well as their admirers will soon learn the art of handling composing sticks and type; they will know the pleasure of coming together—all admirer of the work to be printed—to set up the type, to shape it into pages, to take in its virginal purity from the press.

—Peter Kropotkin, *The Conquest of Brea*

## Subjecting ourselves to objectivity

By MANUEL SCHWAB  
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

The non-neutrality of the media should not come as a revelation in an age in which virtually every new medium is credited with ushering in a new world. Whether it is by virtue of the rapidity of data transmission (the lynchpin of the utopian dreams of the silicon valley) or a spectacular capacity for impressing messages onto its target audience (the seduction of the moving picture), media always exert their influence. The dream of a magic tunnel through which the world can pass unaltered is as unrealizable as it is desired.

In this desire lies, among other things, a recognition of the threat that ideology poses to our autonomy. We fear that our capacity for judgement will be hijacked by the selective vision of the messengers who are the mediators of our world. And this fear is, let us make no mistake here, a well founded anxiety, issuing forth from deep within the infrastructure of liberal democracies, in which opinion-building is the acceptable mode of the modern tyranny. It is, however, misdirected to look for purified information (“the facts”) to solve this dilemma.

What would this objectivity look like? A neutral presentation of facts? Hardly. Facts themselves are the products of non-neutral systems of knowledge, and presented by themselves they are at best alibis for ideological biases which get passed off not as opinions but as common sense. To report, for example, a theft, without reporting the systematic production of the poverty that compelled it, is to frame the thief for the crimes of a larger conspiracy of powerful actors. Is this analysis itself an ideologically informed interpretation? Evidently. But it is not those opinions in which committed interests are apparent that threaten our

capacity to make judgements of our world. It is rather those who postulate their opinions as fact, unleashing all the technologies of veracity at their disposal to effect a pretense of neutrality, that we should fear.

The distance between facts (which are rendered rigid, isolated, and robbed of potential) and truths (which must be the outcome of collective negotiations, situated in that collective, and therefore susceptible to the potentialities of the collective imagination) is vast. The systems of knowledge which are currently dominant perform a dual operation. They work first to rigidify and isolate facts, next to pass them off as though they are the products of our collective ingenuity. They have thereby effectively erased the distinction between truth and fact, and in doing so have made their interests look like the products of our agency.

Consequently, the world which we see as a constellation of the actual is itself a manifestation of intricate mediations: fantasies passed off as non-negotiable despite being the product of subjective interests that demand contestation. It is this world that we internalize when we ask to be handed reality as it appears on the most general level (in other words, when we demand “just the facts”). This internalization quickly makes us complicit in the reproduction of the reality which we have been handed.

It is perplexing that we desire this kind of complicity. More precisely, it is a terrible inversion of our relationship to reality that we should believe it to precede our interventions, that we must first understand it in all its mute actuality before we can concern ourselves with its possibilities—possibilities that will always be relegated to the ghetto of marginalized opinion until conviction lifts them from that squalor. Reality is not a stable entity

that is simply observed and responded to. It has always been constructed, and it is our job to reclaim it for our own making.

Often, to pose a question is to imply its answer, and this is a frequently overlooked component of the ideological intonation of news. For the case at hand, to pose the question in terms of the relative objectivity of news is to entirely miss the point. The question is rather one of the responsible disclosure of conviction. It should be made eminently clear that an attack on the pretenses of objectivity is not a defense of the right to discard considerations of accuracy. The irrefutable destructive power of a politics based in the fabrication of facts and narratives has been demonstrated to us (whether you take the disinformation campaigns around Vietnam or the current double-speak about Sharon—the “man of peace” with an occupying army—as your point of departure, the lesson is the same).

But rather than ask for objectivity, we should ask whether the objective conditions that are the substance of news reporting are being exposed as the result of argument, engineering, and fabrication. In short, we should ask if the news we are reading is reporting the truth of how prevalently un-objective the objective fabric of our world really is. The reporting of “pure fact” leaves dominant opinions potentially invisible. Responsibility, on the other hand, demands a reporting that lays its subjective convictions unabashedly alongside the facts that are its motivation, and alongside the subjective fantasies made visible that are the foundation for these facts in the first place. The question should not be how to construct the magic tunnel through which reality can pass unaltered, but rather why we are so eager not to alter a world ripe for intervention.



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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 locally through coin-operated newspaper racks and can also be found at select vendors. Our print run for this issue is 5,000 copies. Home delivery and postal subscriptions are also available (see back page for rates and instructions for subscribing).

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# Letters to the Editors

**Estimados Miembros de la colectiva ¡Alarma!**

Con gran gusto, leí su periódico nuevo, “*The Alarm!*” Estoy muy emocionado de que ustedes quieran ofrecer a la comunidad una voz de la acción con el propósito de involucrar a todo el pueblo. Quiero agradecerles por su gran esfuerzo y su visión.

Me gusta mucho que ustedes hayan pedido ideas y opiniones del público acerca de la cuestión de bilingüismo en los artículos de *¡La Alarma!* Les estoy escribiendo porque quisiera que *¡La Alarma!* sea un periódico bilingüe. No se si es posible entre ustedes de traducir todo que fuera escrito en inglés hasta el español, pero seguro que así, alcanzaría un publico más extenso.

Por lo menos dos de los artículos en su primera edición se tratan de situaciones donde mucha gente hispanohablante está muy involucrados. Sería un gesto generoso y amable de ustedes, traducir *por lo menos* estos artículos en español para que la gente hispanohablante que no lee inglés pueda participar en la comunidad de lectores que están desarrollando ustedes. Hablar y escribir en español no quiere decir que estén presumiendo nada, como dicho en su página web, ustedes no pueden decir que representen a nadie (“*No somos ‘la voz del pueblo’—no podemos suponer que podamos representar los puntos de vista y opiniones de todo Santa Cruz, ni siquiera un segmento particular de su población.*”).

¡Imprimir en español solamente quiere decir que están abiertos a la participación de una comunidad más grande!

Con el propósito de alcanzar e involucrar a toda la comunidad, nosotros apoyamos totalmente la iniciativa que *¡La Alarma!* debe de ser un periódico bilingüe. Entonces, ¡sugerimos que abre paso y sigue adelante con esta meta, traduciendo lo más que sea posible, en cuanto antes!

Con respecto y solidaridad,  
**MICHAEL MACIOCE**  
*Santa Cruz*

**Collective Members of *The Alarm!***

With great pleasure, I read your new newspaper, “*The Alarm!*” I am very excited that you all wish to offer the community a voice of action with the goal of involving all the *pueblo*. I want to thank you all for your great effort and vision.

I am happy that you all have asked for ideas and opinions from the public with regard to the question of bilingualism in the articles of *The Alarm!* I am writing because I would like The Alarm to be a bilingual periodical. I don’t know if it is posible among you all to translate all that is written in English into Spanish, but surely in this way it would reach a broader public.

At the least, two of the articles in your first edition deal with situations where many Spanish-speakers are very involved. It would be a generous and friendly gesture to translate at least these articles into Spanish, so that Spanish-speakers who don’t read English could also participate in the community of readers that you are developing. To speak and read in Spanish doesn’t mean that you are being presumptuous... As you say in your web page, “*We are not ‘the voice of the people’—we cannot suppose that we can represent the views and opinions of all of Santa Cruz, or even a particular segment of its population...*”

(Printing in Spanish) only means

that you are open to the participation of a broader community.

With the object of reaching and involving of all of the community, we fully support the initiative that *The Alarm!* should be a bilingual paper. Therefore, we suggest that it breaks trail and continues forward with this goal, translating as much as possible, as soon as possible!


With respect and solidarity,  
**MICHAEL MACIOCE et al.**

**Dear Editors at *the Alarm!*,**

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.



I am writing you to show my interest in topics to be covered in your soon-to-be released publication. I assume, by the name, “*The Alarm!*” its self, that there will be a social-awareness-raising content. One such topic that I find important and that will affect people in the city and county of Santa Cruz, as well as the state of California as a whole, is the proposed Medi-Cal cut backs. The current proposition will cut back Medi-Cal’s current Chiropractic, Psychological, Dental and Acupuncture coverage. This is very unfortunate on multiple fronts.

Firstly, I find it morally reprehensible to make cuts in this field when it will be by far the poorest members of our society that will be affected. Medi-Cal’s eligibility requirements are already very strict and the coverage not as complete as it could be. By proposing cuts to Medi-Cal coverage we are also proposing adding further hardship and strain on people who often are already at their financial and medical rope’s end.

Also, such cuts will further prevent equal access to alternative and complimentary medicine. As it is, Medi-Cal coverage of such services is not extensive, but it does provide an essential gateway for many patients to treatments that are otherwise often a luxury reserved for those with easy cash flow or insurance coverage.

Cutting coverage of alternative and complementary medicine is a further problem in that these healing modalities focus more on prevention than conventional western medicine and offer a more cost efficient mode of healing in the long run.

The reasons why such proposed cut-backs to the last vestiges of socialized health care are extensive and could go on and on. I will not detail them any further, but it should be obvious that this is a very pertinent issue. I hope that “*The Alarm!*” will see its role as essential to the fight to protect Medi-Cal through the dissemination of information and consciousness-raising..

**ERIN STANFIELD**  
*Santa Cruz*

**To the Editor,**

I was very pleased today to discover the first issue of *The Alarm!* outside my local convenience store on Graham Hill Road. We need more grassroots journalism, and *The Alarm!* should fit the bill. You can expect to receive my check for a subscription this week.

One thing that bugged me, though, was the announcement that letters will be restricted to 250 words. Why is that? Even the *Mercury News* prints letters up to 300 words, but besides being a very low maximum, I question the need to have any maximum length at all. I believe *The Alarm!* will live or die based on the vibrancy of its letters page, and it should look to the *Ander-*

victim(s), offender, and community).”

Is this how you run your collective, too? If you get out of line is there a boss somewhere who will force you to toe the line under threat of coercion based on their own definition of “cooperativeness”? “Neighborhood Accountability” and “restorative justice” sound nice, but they are simply euphemisms for the kinder, gentler arm of a corrupt and ultimately coercive “criminal justice” apparatus.

In and of itself, the notion of restorative justice is a progressive movement toward an egalitarian society, but placed as it is in the context of a coercive criminal justice system, it is utterly reprehensible and an offense to the values of the editors of the real *Alarm*.

**ALBERT PARSONS**  
*Zayante*

Dearest Alarm,

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Depot Site “Park” development in downtown Santa Cruz was recently published and the City is accepting comments on it through June 6th (that’s really soon). It is a major development. Some of the last derelict and unkept areas of our city are about to get paved, landscaped, organized and lighted—modern development. There are a number of interesting and important issues in the master plan and the DEIR, each with competing viewpoints. I strongly encourage folks to have a look at it (There’s a copy at the Hub and the Santa Cruz Parks and Rec Department has more).

In reviewing the DEIR, one of the most interesting issues that I came across is the consultant’s handling of traffic and parking analysis. The “Project Trip Generation” data (an analysis of how much new traffic will be generated by the development) (Table 4, page 6-11) concludes that traffic will be generated by individuals driving to the soccer field, the natural history museum, and public meeting rooms. The document states: “No additional vehicle trips are expected to be generated by the [214 space] parking areas”. This claim is absolutely false and has severe planning ramifications. The parking area is the one design element that will bring traffic to the project site. If no parking were designed into the project, people would quickly realize that there is no point in driving to the Depot Site Park. If they wanted to visit, they would have to walk, cycle, or transit. This is not to say that the design should not include any parking, but that the analysis of the impacts of the plan should be more carefully and honestly appraised.

With similarly evasive tactics, the document continually states that “there are no available mitigation measures [for traffic impacts]” and that traffic impacts are “significant and unavoidable.” Traffic impacts are indeed significant, but not unavoidable. One way to mitigate for traffic impacts is to stop designing an auto-centric infrastructure. The only projects that will improve congestion and traffic problems in the long term are those that limit the automobiles access and mobility, and those that provide for other transit options. This plan does very little of either.

Direct and honest evaluation of our transportation situation will lead us to solid, comprehensive plans that will serve us well into the future.

**JOSHUA MUIR**  
*Santa Cruz*

*son Valley Advertiser* as a model for its anarchic but highly participatory letters page, which often runs to 3 or 4 pages. The only rule they have there (and of course people can announce events on the letters page!) is that the letters must be originally written for that newspaper. Sure, many people take advantage of that and go on for thousands of words, but it doesn’t hurt anybody, and it helps the editor fill up some space (not always easy when your next deadline is less than 7 days away). Moreover, it provides a unique and dependable space for community dialogue, and it is often the most interesting section of the paper.

Congratulations on a solid first issue, just keep in mind I’ve gone over 250 words just explaining my position.

**BOB DOWNING**  
*Santa Cruz*

*The 250-word limit printed in the last issue was actually an editing error. We had already decided to change the limit to 350 words before going to press, but the change didn’t make it to the layout. Thanks for calling us to task on it! —ed.*

***The Alarm!* editors,**

What is this for crap? When I first heard about this new paper coming out in town called *The Alarm!*, I thought, “finally, a decent radical paper in Santa Cruz!” The original *Alarm* was an anarchist labor paper with a healthy and well-reasoned hatred of law enforcement. What’s with this fluff piece on the “Neighborhood Accountability Board” and its accompanying sidebar by a spokesman for “restorative justice”? This sort of thing has absolutely no place in a vision for a truly egalitarian social framework.

As the sidebar indicates, “Restorative Justice recognizes that not all offenders will choose to be cooperative. Therefore there is a need for outside authority to make decisions for the offender who is not cooperative. The actions of the authorities and the consequences imposed should be tested by whether they are reasonable, restorative, and respectful (for

# Local News

## Clip it & Learn More

### UC nurses expected to strike May 29

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

Registered Nurses (RNs) working for the University of California (UC) decided by a ninety-five percent vote to go on strike this Wednesday, May 29. According to the California Nurses Association (CNA, the Union representing approximately 7,800 registered nurses), “At the heart of the dispute are UC’s improper violations of the negotiations process, a discriminatory compensation system, safe staffing, and mandatory overtime.”

CNA spokesperson Carl Bloice said that the UC has its feet in the mud when it comes to negotiating. Bloice also feels that one of the Nurses’ strongest concerns is merit based pay increases. The problem is “whether or not you get a raise is determined subjectively by your supervisor. It should be determined by how many years you’ve been there, and how well you do your job”, Bloice said. According to Bloice, Nurses are expected to work mandatory overtime, an environment

that “plays havoc on people’s bodies and minds.” The CNA is attempting to get restrictions on mandatory overtime. Bloice said that the UC is known to under-staff, giving Nurses no option but to work.

The strike will be held at UC Medical Centers throughout the State of California. UC Santa Cruz employs four RNs and three nurse practitioners in the Student Health Center. Whether or not nurses at UCSC will take action on May 29 is yet to be determined.

What will happen to patients in hospitals at UCLA, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Davis, and UC Irvine on May 29? UC spokesman Paul Schwartz told the Mercury News that each UC hospital and clinic has contingency plans that could include transferring and diverting patients to other hospital systems. Non-emergency surgeries and other patient services could also be rescheduled.

The CNA said it also has plans for patients’ care on May 29. “CNA will be in contact with county health

directors to discuss cooperative arrangements for assuring UC patients are provided care as needed during a strike. UC nurses on the picket line will also be available to assist with patients in the event of a patient emergency.”

According to the CAN, “UC has contracted with a professional strikebreaking agency to provide scab RNs to work during the one-day strike.” The CNA argued that the UC should invest in its own nurses, not waste money fighting them.

But the UC is willing to bargain in good faith only with pressure from the State.

Many State officials support the RN’s in their strike and their demand for a fair contract. A letter signed by 22 State legislators and delivered to the UC President Richard Atkinson read, “Now more than ever, Californians need to be able to trust UC Medical Centers and Student Health Centers to provide quality care.”

## Red Road Pow Wow

☐ Memorial Day weekend means time for the 17th Annual Red Road Pow Wow

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

This year’s Red Road Pow Wow will bring together over 400 families, and will be held in Hollister at the Casa de Fruta Orchard Resort, thirteen miles east of Gilroy. The Pow Wow is scheduled for this Memorial Day weekend and will last three days, from Saturday, May 25 through Monday, May 27.

Organizers are asking for a donation of two dollars or more to prepare two dinners for the event. The meals would feed the 1,000 elders, drummers, dancers, volunteers, and registered participants who will contribute their time and skills to the Pow Wow.

The event not exclusive to native peoples will bring together many of the Northern, Central Coast and Central California youth and adult Native American Lodges, with families expected to attend.

The event will host Native American artisans who will sell their arts and crafts, and vendors who will give the general public the opportunity to taste Native American foods.

The Pow Wow is also a

way for native people to work together on issues such as cultural preservation, family unity, veteran and sobriety support, and improvements in health and education.

“It is especially known to be a family oriented gathering. Graduating students from High School and College, Veterans of all wars, and members on the difficult pathway to Sobriety are formally honored during this event”, said Lorie Balidoy, Secretary of the Santa Cruz Indian Council.

The event will also hold a special Golden Age Contest, an opportunity for dancers of fifty years and older to compete for cash prizes.

This year’s Pow Wow is unique, as it will host the White Bison Society, a sobriety organization working to accomplish recovery work

with native peoples throughout the United States. There will also be a Sobriety Walk, Sobriety 5K Run, a Sobriety Roll Call and daily Talking Circles, meetings that give individuals an opportunity to speak to the group without being interrupted.

Event planners and members of the Santa Cruz Indian Council, Barbara Mike and Jane Anglin said, “Each of these activities supports the health building and courage of people in recovery by encouraging the Red Road (Indian Way).”

*Pow Wows are scheduled for twelve noon to midnight on Saturday and Sunday and noon until 6 p.m. on Monday. Arts and crafts vendors will open shop at 11 a.m. daily. For more information or directions to the Pow Wow call (831) 425-4404, or email [santacruzic@yahoo.com](mailto:santacruzic@yahoo.com)*

## Increase for county’s living wage

By **MARTY HERRMANN**  
*Guest Writer*

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 21 to index the living wage for County Employees--modify it based on the local cost of living--effectively increasing the current living wage from \$11 to \$11.50 per hour. The increase will be implemented on August 1, 2002. From then on, the wage will be indexed annually in order to keep pace with the County’s increasing costs of living.

Santa Cruz County’s Living Wage ordinance, adopted in December 2001, applies to those working for private, for-profit businesses that are contracted by the County to do work. The ordinance, enacted at \$11 per hour requires an annual adjustment of the wage rate.

Prior to Tuesday’s decision, the County had recommended a delay in the first wage adjustment until July 2003. County officials felt the increase would cause administrative burdens and costs to the County in a time of fiscal crisis.

Advocates of the wage increase argued that the County and its taxpayers would incur little to no costs. “Fifty cents is unlikely to cause any significant impact,” said Sandy Brown, Staff Coordinator for the Santa Cruz County Coalition for a Living Wage. “But fifty cents will mean a lot to a low-wage worker.”

According to the Coalition, studies have shown that adopting a living wage law for private, for-profit contractors has not led to a significant increase in spending for counties or cities. The primary costs would come from monitoring contractors’ compliance with the living wage laws.

The City of Santa Cruz plans to raise its workers’ living wage to \$11.50 per hour in July 2002. If the County had not voted to increase its living wage, certain workers could have faced the possibility of being paid less money to do the same work for the County as they did for the City. “There needs to be equity and fairness for the workers,” said Amy Knoll, a county resident who spoke at the meeting.

The lone dissenting voice at the May 21 Board of Supervisors Meeting came from a person in the audience who questioned the Board of Supervisors’ role in controlling free enterprise, labeling their actions as “disgusting” and “Marxist.”

Several workers and activists spoke out in support of a Living Wage index. Nora Hochman, Co-Chair of the Coalition for a Living Wage, pointed out that no business that would have to pay the increased wage has spoken out against it. “Their profit margin can absorb it,” she said.

A contracted county worker named Gloria expressed a dire need for the living wage increase. She said she has a \$9,000 debt from her disabled husband’s hospital expenses and was unable to pay for a funeral for her son who recently passed away.

Following the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors, apparently convinced by members of the audience, quickly moved through a motion to implement the indexing and wage increase. Supervisor Jeff Almquist (District 5) amended the original motion made by Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt (District 3), to designate a commission to address any complications in future indexing. The Board voted in favor (4-0), with Supervisor Ellen Pirie (District 2) absent from the day’s meetings.

The Coalition for a Living Wage is currently advocating for a living wage ordinance in the City of Watsonville, with the goal of setting the wage for Watsonville City workers at \$11.50 per hour, the same wage as that of Santa Cruz City and County workers.

*If you have any questions or would like to get involved with living wage campaigns, contact: Santa Cruz County Coalition for a Living Wage, 501 Soquel Ave. Suite E, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 (831) 457-1741, (831) 457-0617 (fax).*

# Write Us a Letter!





# Depot site development

DEPOT from Page 1

Superintendent Carol Scurich of Parks and Recreation, the site could include a bike station, bike rentals and repairs and perhaps, eventually, a rail station.

The Depot Site Task Force, made up of neighbors, soccer players, environmentalists, transportation planners and City Council members, helped create the Depot Site Master Plan, which was recently approved by the RTC. For the next two weeks, members of the public have the opportunity to respond to the plan.

According to Depot Site Task Force Member Josh Muir, the public comment period will be important to the planning process. Muir, a neighbor of the depot site area, said he is concerned that the currently proposed plan will over-develop the depot site. “Its one of the last derelict underdeveloped areas in downtown, especially near the coast,” he said. “Now it’s a wasteland, but I don’t want to see it looking like a theme park.”

Muir pointed out that too much lighting and pavement could actually take away

up and integrated into the plan. The City currently uses the area as a storage space. Mayberg said the wye would provide a connection between the depot site and Neary lagoon.

But Scurich explained that the City doesn’t actually own the triangle. Instead, Scurich said, they lease it from UP, and UP does not allow the City to use the property as anything other than a storage area. “The City Staff would be exceedingly happy to make that connection, but it doesn’t look like in the near future we’re going to buy that property,” she said.

The RTC, on the other hand, is likely to purchase the land eventually. The commission is currently in negotiations with UP to settle on a price for the purchase of the railroad right-of-way from Santa Cruz to Watsonville. The right-of-way purchase combined with the revived depot site could eventually facilitate the possibility of local passenger rail transit, according to Muir. “They should at least be able to include [the connection to Neary Lagoon] in the plans,” he said.

some of the parks’ potential uses. “Many informal uses of undeveloped areas can’t be recovered once the area is developed,” he said. “In addition, the mainstream planning process doesn’t address the way development pushes transient communities around.”

Mayberg, also a neighbor of the area, argued that the depot site could become an important tourist attraction if it covered a larger area. “It would be a tremendous asset to Santa Cruz,” he said. “It would provide the greening of brown.” He said the current plan is a watered-down version of the dream of those who originally proposed the project.

Mayberg argued that one of the most important aspects of the depot site project is its potential to connect with Neary Lagoon, a natural reserve between California Street and the proposed depot site area. “It’s an environmental and cultural resource that is really under-utilized,” he said. “Integrating Neary Lagoon into the plan would provide people from the west side with regular walking access to the beach area.”

According to Mayberg, the “Union Pacific (UP) triangle,” a connection between three rail lines also known as “the wye,” should be cleaned

Gibson pointed out that once the RTC purchases the railroad right-of-way, it could be leased out to rail companies like the local Roaring Camp Railroad. According to Gibson, Roaring Camp is interested in increasing its rail service, though with the fifteen mile per hour maximum speed of travel on the tracks as they are, commuter rail is not an option, and Roaring Camp would be limited to what Gibson called “scenic excursion rail.”

While rail is not on its list of priorities, the RTC is funding park and ride shuttles, links for bus services, bicycle facilities and parking. According to Muir, the latter won’t solve any traffic problems. “Providing parking is just a temporary relief to an ongoing epidemic,” he said. “In the City’s planning process the only projects that will improve congestion in the long term are those that limit the automobiles’ access and mobility, and those that provide for other transit options.”

*The EIR is available for study at the Santa Cruz Hub for Sustainable Transportation at 224 Walnut Ave. Comments can be submitted to Stephanie Sterlow at Sterlow Consulting 8042D Soquel Dr., 95003.*



FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper

Above: Davey D, a hip-hop DJ at KPFA in Berkeley, speaks to an audience at the Kuumbwa at an event called “Resurrecting Dissent: Confrontational Culture Since Sept. 11” on May 18. Below: Yaotl from the hip-hop band “Aztlán Underground” performs some spoken word at the same event. The free event, which was focused around issues of censorship, self-censorship and the possibility of dissidence since September 11, drew over 200 participants.



FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper



# Commentary

## Unraveling September 11

By **JESSE NASON**

*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

It took more than eight months for them to get around to it, but the major news media have finally started to look into how much the Bush administration knew about the al Qaeda terrorist plot in the weeks and months leading up to Sept. 11. The information that has come out thus far is jarring and nearly impossible to reconcile. It simply doesn't add up. Difficult as it may be, the time has come for each and every one of us to start paying really close attention. We need to review what scant facts we do have carefully and with a critical eye, bring up the many questions that continue to go unasked, demand answers using whatever means are at our disposal, and, once a clearer picture develops, take action. We should be posting flyers, organizing teach-ins and community dialogues, putting pressure on our elected officials to launch a real investigation, and taking to the streets in massive numbers. Use your imagination. Get involved. I never thought I would quote Dan Rather approvingly, but these are strange times.

"Limiting access, limiting information to cover the backsides of those who are in charge of the war, is extremely dangerous and cannot and should not be accepted," Rather told the Guardian of London on May 17. "And I am sorry to say that, up to and including the moment of this interview, that overwhelmingly it has been accepted by the American people. And the current administration revels in that, they relish that, and they take refuge in that."

If you haven't been following the mainstream news in the last couple of weeks here's a quick recap:

- President Bush was told

on Aug. 6 that Osama bin Laden might attempt to hijack an aircraft.

- The FBI had suspected since 1996 that al Qaeda operatives were receiving pilot training in the US and abroad for use in a possible terrorist plot, but for some reason discounted the information. And in July, an FBI agent in Phoenix filed a memorandum suggesting bin Laden followers might be enrolled in flight schools.
- In August, another FBI agent speculated that Zacarias Moussaoui, arrested on immigration charges while attending a Minnesota flight school, might be planning to fly a plane into the World Trade Center. Authorities believe he was to have been the 20th hijacker.
- The CIA made a half-hearted attempt in August to locate two men suspected of bombing the USS Cole in Yemen and believed to be in the country. The two turned out to be among the Sept. 11 hijackers.
- Several counter-terrorism reports in recent years warned that terrorists might someday hijack planes and crash them into high profile buildings.
- Throughout July of 2001, at home and abroad, U.S. agencies were anticipating a terrorist attack and were on high alert.

And yet the phrase "We never could have guessed..." continues to roll from the tongue of Bush and his handlers. The failure to avert the most catastrophic terrorist attack in the nation's history happened because our "intelligence" agencies couldn't "connect the dots." The information we received was vague and non-specific. There was too much "chatter in the system" to figure out which

threats were legitimate. The FBI doesn't like to talk to the CIA and it has old computers besides. I'm sorry, but with eight months lead-time, you'd think they would be able to come up with a more convincing story.

So far, the media has been focusing on who knew what in the weeks and months leading up to Sept. 11. Yet perhaps the most intriguing questions pertain to the morning of Sept. 11 itself. For instance, how is it possible that the military agencies charged with defending our airspace were not capable of scrambling up a single fighter jet to intercept the hijacked aircraft? On the rare occasions this question has been asked, the official response has been less than illuminating. On Sept. 13, Senator Carl Levin (D-Mi) questioned General Richard Myers who is facing Senate confirmation hearings for the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Levin: Was the Defense Department contacted by the FAA or the FBI or any other agency after the first two hijacked aircraft crashed into the World Trade Center, prior to the time that the Pentagon was hit?

Myers: Sir, I don't know the answer to that question. I can get that for you, for the record.

Levin: Thank you. Did the Defense Department take—or was the Defense Department asked to take action against any specific aircraft?

Myers: Sir, we were...

Levin: And did you take action against...for instance, there have been statements that the aircraft that crashed in Pennsylvania was shot down. Those stories continue to exist.

Myers: Mr. Chairman, the armed forces did not shoot down any aircraft. When it became clear what the threat

was, we did scramble fighter aircraft, AWACS, radar aircraft and tanker aircraft to begin to establish orbits in case other aircraft showed up in the FAA system that were hijacked. But we never actually had to use force.

Levin: Was that order that you just described given before or after the Pentagon was struck? Do you know?

Myers: That order, to the best of my knowledge, was after the Pentagon was struck. As the commander-in-chief of North American Aerospace Defense Command, as well as U.S. Space Command, we had plans to deploy our fighters to defend from external threats. I never thought we'd see what we saw the last few days, where we had fighters over our cities, defending against a threat that originated inside the United States of America.

A quick review of the events of the morning of the 11th shows that between the time the first plane struck the World Trade Center and the

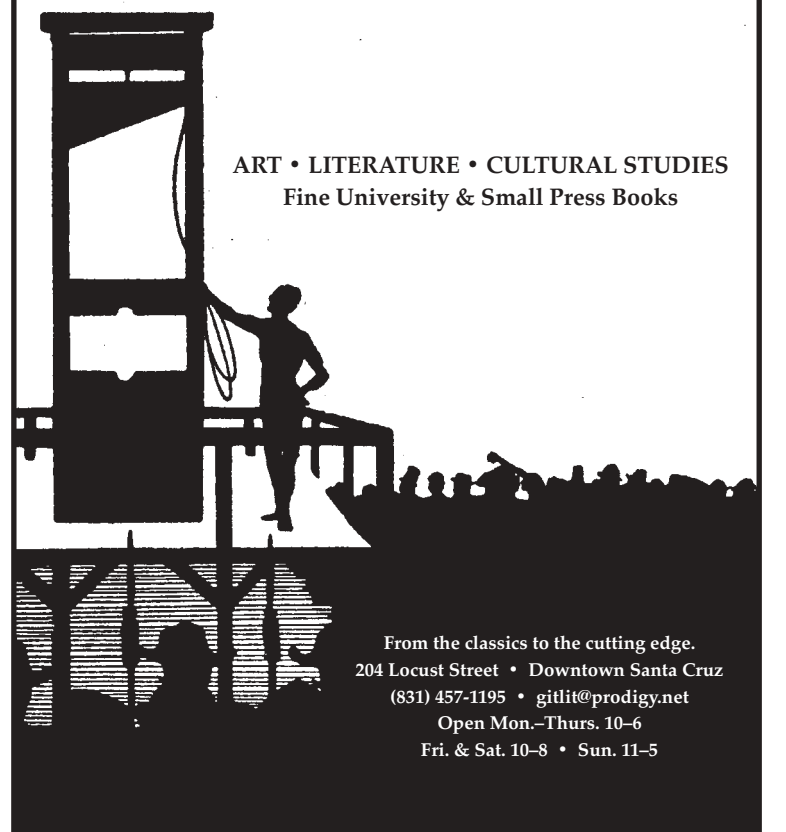
third plane struck the Pentagon, 58 minutes had elapsed. Clearly, we need a full account of the communication that took place between all the different agencies so that the military response (or rather, lack thereof) can be meaningfully understood. We also need to see what the standard military protocol is when planes are far off course, and what a reasonable response time would be in such situations.

I'm not convinced that elements within the government made a decision to allow the attacks to happen. But I'm also not convinced that such a brutal calculation is outside the realm of possibility. After all, we don't need to look very far to see who has benefited the most since Sept. 11. The Bush administration's culture of ultra-secrecy and its bullying of any and all critical voices has made such questions fair game, as far as I'm concerned. —

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# Commentary

## The Bush Doctrine in Venezuela

BY SASHA K  
Guest Writer

If the implicit Clinton Doctrine was “we’ll bomb your country if you don’t stay in line and then we’ll blame you for your people’s misery,” then the explicit Bush Doctrine is surely “you’re either with us or against us.” As doctrines go, this is pretty straightforward—I hope they didn’t spend too much on the market research. And let’s make no mistake, this doesn’t only refer to “the War on Terror.” If we pay a little more attention than our “news” media, we might realize that last month’s failed Venezuelan coup fits under this bill.

The Bush administration has made it no secret that it considers Hugo Chavez, the populist president of Venezuela, “against us.” Chavez was the first foreign leader to visit Iraq after the Gulf War—Dad didn’t like that; he has refused to allow the US to use Venezuelan airspace for its war in Colombia; worse still, Chavez, a close ally of Libya, was a driving force behind resurrecting OPEC (OPEC=against us) and was beginning to sell oil to Cuba. The combination of having a lot of oil (Venezuela is the fifth largest producer in the world) and being “against us” keeps Bush up at night. So in April Venezuela had a coup, although it didn’t last long.

In the weeks leading up to the coup, Fedecamaras, the Venezuelan big business lobby—backed by CTV (a trade union linked to Accion Democracia, the former ruling party, and partially funded by the US National Endowment for Democracy), and the media—pushed for a general strike. On April 11th, bosses sent their workers home for a holiday and the opposition called for demonstrations.

That day, snipers shot into the anti-Chavez demonstration as they clashed with a pro-Chavez demonstration that had come out of the poor section of town. People were killed on both sides. But the anti-Chavez media blamed the pro-Chavez demonstrators and called for Chavez’s resignation.

The next day, Rear Admiral Carlos Molina, who had recently met with Bush-administration insiders from the Republican Party’s International Republican Institute, put the coup into action: Chavez was arrested and Pedro Carmona, head of Fedecamaras,

took power. The Bush administration was quick to state that Chavez had resigned—no evidence of his resignation has ever been offered—and that “a transitional civilian government [had] been installed.”

Carmona was clearly “with us”; the Bush administration had made sure of that. So what finally pushed Chavez over the line—what made him so clearly “against us”? One reason the coup received so little attention in the press, of course, is the Palestinian crisis. And now it seems there was a connection. Just before the coup, Libya—Venezuela’s closest ally in OPEC—and Iraq began making noises about an oil embargo on the US because of its support for Israel. The US was plainly afraid of this embargo spreading, especially to Venezuela, which is not only one of the biggest of US oil suppliers but also was the key player in breaking the 1973 OPEC oil embargo. Now under Chavez, Venezuela was not to be trusted.

Many wondered why the US-backed coup failed so quickly, and now we are beginning to find out. This week, a BBC investigation revealed that Chavez was likely warned in advance of the coup by the head of OPEC, Ali Rodriguez. Rodriguez, a Venezuelan, had known about the impending oil embargo and feared the US would overthrow Chavez to maintain its oil supply.

To forestall this coup, Chavez immediately told the US that Venezuela would not join the embargo—too late for the black-and-white Bush Doctrine—but also put several hundred troops in the basement of the presidential palace. After Chavez was taken away and Carmona was “installed,” the chief of the paratroop division in the basement gave Carmona a startling call, informing him of their position—literally under his feet—and telling him he had 24 hours to return Chavez to power. Sunday morning the coup fell apart and Chavez was returned.

So why doesn’t the US media report any of this? They know who they’re “with”—they understand the Bush Doctrine very clearly. This president isn’t Teflon, but he doesn’t have to be, since nothing is being thrown at him. Keep an eye on Venezuela—it’s not quite yet part of the Axis of Evil, though it isn’t exactly “with us” either. ☹

## Work harder, don’t have sex

BY LEILA BINDER  
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

*It so happens that I get tired of my feet and my fingernails and my hair and my shadow.  
It so happens that I get tired of being a man...*

*That’s why Monday burns like petroleum  
when it sees me arrive with my jail face...*

—Pablo Neruda, *Walking Around*


Last week, the House approved a welfare reform bill that would require welfare recipients to work more, and if they’re unmarried, encourage them to attend sexual abstinence education, in other words, discourage them from having sex. The bill—which has yet to be approved by the Senate—would require 70% of welfare recipients to work 40 hours a week. The catch is that this program is more expensive to run than the old one, but they’re not giving it more funding. And some Democrats are concerned that states will invent useless work to fill quotas. Along similar lines, the Millennial Housing Commission’s final report will soon recommend to Congress that people who get federally subsidized housing be required to work to keep their homes. In the name of family values, the government is willing to pay more to force the poor to work more—though there might not always be something useful for them to do—and spend less time with their families. At the same time, they’re not increasing funds for child care. Instead of child care, they’re proposing marriage and sexual abstinence programs.

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, under the 1996 welfare reform law, abstinence education “has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity.” The proposed law is based on the 1996 law, which did not define sexual activity. This leaves the possibility open for “educators” to define sexual activity in the broadest way, including everything from sexual intercourse to masturbation and kissing? If these programs were successful, and they had access to unlimited funding, what would society look like? I picture being a woman in such a society like never being able to leave the back of the women’s section of Pakistani bus, where you’re segregated—physically distant, but close enough to hear the incessant lewd chatter of the men’s section. I can understand why most of those promoting this bill are men. No woman in her right mind wants to endure living in a nation full of men even more sexually frustrated than they already are.

According to the logic of proposed Welfare Reform bill, unmarried poor people simply shouldn’t be having sex; instead, they should be out working. Even stranger, there are those who think having a monthly period is simply too much of a bother for the busy working woman. According to the former logic, work is more important than sex; according to the latter, work is more important than natural biological cycles, or avoiding cancer. Seasonale, a drug which reduces menstrual periods to four times a year, could go on the US market by 2003. In a July 27, 2001 article in *Wired.com*, Dr. Anthony Dobson, a reproductive endocrinologist at UCSF said, “Many women believe that having a monthly period is necessary for their well being. This belief dates back to the Dark Ages when people were bled for just about any ailment, and it should remain there. Women have a period to prepare themselves for pregnancy, nothing more.” I’m not particularly fond of cramps and PMS but something doesn’t sound right here. This pill contains the same hormones as the birth control pill, and “the pill” causes cancer. Higher levels of estrogen increase one’s risk of having a blood clot, stroke, or breast cancer.

Apparently, the pharmaceutical companies are willing to do anything to increase our capacity to work. This is not surprising since many of the ailments that pharmaceutical companies try to cure are caused by work-related stress in the first place. Now, they are developing a “career pill” that prevents a woman’s ovaries from putting out eggs for decades at a time. What they do not know is what shape the eggs would be in decades later. Remember Dolly the sheep? They cloned the sheep but the clone quickly became Dolly’s age. What would these babies come out like?

This week, a new study by Management Recruiters International told us what we already know: people are working longer hours. Sometimes there simply isn’t enough time in the day to finish all of this work. It seems that some people have responded to this time compression by trying to stop time itself. An ad for Bo-tox—Botcholism toxin injected into one’s face so that wrinkles disappear—said, “No surgery, No downtime.” This is an odd attempt to reverse time without taking up any time. When will they find a pill that stops aging and death? Sex, menstruation, childbirth...the body itself has become too much of an inconvenience, we are simply too busy. ☹



5/20/02

The Alarm! Newspaper is a new week county that blends news, analysis and create a new format for a weekly publication. Our premiere issue is currently being read across the county, with a distribution of 10,000 copies. Our first edition ran with limited advertising, however, we are now ready to accept advertisers.

You are being contacted as a preferred business in the county, we are offering a 50% discount rate for all advertising in the second issue of *The Alarm!*. The second issue of the paper will hit the stands on Friday, May 24, 2002 and will have a run of 5,000 copies. We are beginning to go into publication for this next issue of the paper, we can hold space if you are interested in running an ad.

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# Vandenberg Air Force Base

## Interview

□ Excerpt from April interview with Peter Lumsdaine

By **ARMANDO ALCARAZ**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

*Peter Lumsdaine is a founder and coordinator of the Vandenberg Action Coalition. In 1992, Lumsdane took part in a Ploughshare Action, destroying a NAVSTAR satellite, a satellite equipped for space-to-earth military surveillance and precursor of the civilian Global Positioning System (GPS), an action that created millions of dollars in damages. He spent 18 months in prison.*

**A:** What is the mission of the Vandenberg Action Coalition and what are you trying to accomplish with the protests?

**P:** Just like the WTO was identified by people all over as the place where all of these different threads of oppressive economic power—the clear-cuts, the strip mines, the sweatshops—came together at this pivotal meeting, on the brink of a new century in Seattle. Under that same perspective, we are trying to raise the awareness of what Vandenberg does, how crucial it is to many different conflicts and oppressive situations of the world.

From indigenous land rights to the military enforcement of economic and corporate globalization through counterinsurgency wars, up to these regional bombing campaigns and the continuing threat of global nuclear conflict, all cross paths at Vandenberg.

What we are really looking at now, and what I am very much focused on, is working to establish a long term vision and an organizing plan to really build this into a significant lasting statewide regional campaign, somewhat similar to the campaign that has developed in recent years around the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. One of the things that I say to people is that Vandenberg really is and it really needs to be seen as the high tech 21st century School of the Americas of the West Coast.

**A:** What is the history of resistance at Vandenberg?

**P:** Vandenberg has a fairly deep and wide history of organizing efforts in California that go back for 20 years now, in fact it is pretty much the twentieth anniversary of nonviolent direct action at Vandenberg Airforce Base. There was a large wave of arrests that occurred in the 1980's. There were a couple of Ploughshares disarmament actions either at Vandenberg or related to Vandenberg's military satellite technology in the last of the 80's and early 90's. But in the last couple of years we have kinda revived this direct action campaign at Vandenberg. There have been around 65 arrests that have occurred among folks in the Vandenberg Action Coalition and other 25 or 30 among Greenpeace groups. We are now close to 100 arrests there.

**A:** Why choose Vandenberg Airforce Base to do nonviolent direct actions?

**P:** Vandenberg is right at the center of operational control systems for fighting regional wars and counterinsurgency campaigns throughout the world, primarily in what is called the Third World. Then you also have to look at the fact that Vandenberg itself is built on Indigenous Chumash land and the opposite end of the zone is Kwajalein Atoll, the largest coral atoll of the planet and where thousands of indigenous people have been forcibly relocated out of their homeland and fishing grounds to create a target zone for Vandenberg missiles and a launch zone for its Star Wars space weapons experiments.

And then, the site itself, somewhat like Vieques in Puerto Rico is very susceptible to nonviolent direct action, to people having a dramatic impact. It is very vulnerable to nonviolent disruption because they have to keep people out to do their business, and it is very very difficult. They have said themselves

it is extremely disruptive for people to hike into off limits security zones and it is very hard to seal the bases' boundaries because there are 55 miles of entry points.

So in terms of that convergence of issues, in terms of that pivotal role of the base and in terms of the incredible opportunity for people to experience that land to re-inhabit that land and to really get in the way in a very concrete way a nonviolent way of this war global mechanism that is being carried out there, it is an amazing opportunity. And an amazing responsibility I think, for people that live in this part of the continent.

**A:** How was the organization of the Vandenberg Action Coalition's campaign affected by 9/11?

**P:** I think that people within the Vandenberg Action Coalition have tried to grapple like everybody else with the implications of 9/11 and the present situation that we are in. There is no doubt that the organizing has been slowed down or set back in a major way. What is important is that the recognition of how crucial that base is, the history of nonviolent resistance, the history of the last couple of years and of the last couple of decades, and the potential and need for the future, those are the factors that are really going to drive the campaign forward.

Now, whether it will swing back this spring to the level we had in the spring before 9/11, when there were 300 people, and 36 people got arrested, and the base was significantly hampered in many operations because of the back country affinity group actions, if we will swing back, I don't know, but I think that there are a lot of people with a very strong vision and will to build this on a sustained basis. We are trying to bring it back as fast as we can. I think that the nature of the actions needs to continue, I think that these twin dimensions of commitment to nonviolence and commitment to nonviolent civil resistance will have to remain as the guiding principles of the work.

I don't know what the consequences will be. The sentences might go up, the security reaction may differ now. I think that if people are willing to risk their lives—whether they are US soldiers, or firefighters for that matter, or rebel movements, whoever it is throughout history (and in the case of soldiers or rebel movements are willing to risk their lives in armed conflict)—then how can we, who are trying to represent peace and nonviolence, possibly have anything significant to say to society and to say to those people, if we are not willing to shoulder some comparable risks in nonviolent action and nonviolent resistance? I think it is not easy—I get as scared and nervous as the next person—but I think we just have to go forward.

## Protest at VAFB

**VANDENBERG from Page 1**

were positioned on the opposite side of the base entrance. Adorned in red, white, & blue, they held hand-made signs bearing the words "We Support Our Military," and similar slogans. "We're here because the protesters are here," one man explained. "It's Armed Forces Day, they should be giving thanks to our military, they shouldn't be protesting against them."

According to Lumsdaine, however, the demonstrators did not intend to denounce the soldiers in the armed forces. "We are gathering to call ourselves and our nation to task for the level of violence and the level of injustice that this government and the high command are choosing to inflict," he explained.

A pair of deputies from the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office and a handful of CHP officers assisted the dozens of military officers on duty. The deputies distributed flyers to the assembled demonstrators, emblazoned with the letterhead of the Defense Department. The handbill was a memo issued by Air Force Colonel Robert M Worley II, declaring the base closed to non-military personnel. Attached was information explaining the effects of pepper spray and instructions on arrest procedures.

Meanwhile, in the adjacent field of Vandenberg Middle School, a crowd of demonstrators gathered into a circle. Mary Rider, the director of the Seamless Garment Network in North Carolina, pointed out that the United States government spends approximately \$600,000 per minute on its military. "Think what that money could do if we used it to start peace academies, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless around the world, [provide] healthcare, food and basic human necessities for everyone," she said.

Meg Lumsdaine, a Lutheran minister, read from a card sent to her by a friend whose son is stationed in Afghanistan, "I spoke by phone, Thursday, to my son in Bagram. I told him of your plans next week. His reply was, Mom, if you had seen what I've seen, and done what I've had to do over here, you would do anything you could for peace. You tell her to do whatever she needs to do if she thinks it can help give us peace."

MacGregor and Rondell were released within an hour. Both are restricted from entering the base for the next three years.

For more information contact: Vandenberg Action Coalition, [MPGturningpoint@aol.com](mailto:MPGturningpoint@aol.com) or Vandenberg Air Force Base [www.vandenberg.af.mil/](http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/).

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-The Alarm! Collective



# Eye on the INS



A weekly focus on the INS and immigration policy

## Paranoia puts a stranglehold on the border

By MICHELLE STEWART  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

Amid a clamor of patriotic applause, George Bush signed the Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 (BSVERA) last week. This piece of immigration legislation is the latest manifestation of 9/11 hysteria. Once implemented, it will increase border personnel, improve communication between all forms of local, state and federal government and demand stricter documentation for each person entering the US. “We’re adding manpower, obviously. It makes it easier for the INS and other federal agencies to get better information about people and products that come into America,” President George Bush said at a recent press event. The act will serve to consolidate all law enforcement and further shut down border traffic. The US government is reinforcing its borders and expanding its powers both inside its borders and abroad.

In the past few weeks, the White House has focused its attention on the flow of “traffic” at the borders. The Bush Administration garnered public participation and defacto support for the bill through media images of trucks passing from Canada into the US with little regulation. The media spin began to generate backlash and criticism against Canada for having loose border security. As the US demanded that Canada beef up its border security, the Bush Administration was quietly drafting legislation to allow itself to do the same. It was with the image of “thousands of trucks” crossing the border each day that the BSVERA was presented to the general public. The discussion of “traffic” paved the way for truck traffic to become synonymous with people traffic. The bill,

as written, actually addresses ways to best regulate people, not just trucks.

It is curious, then, if this legislation is to focus on border traffic, that the end result would be to heighten the border personnel and information distribution rather than give more money to US Customs. Indeed, if the bill is presented as a response to the flow of traffic then it should logically target truck traffic through US Customs -- not through the INS. Perhaps it is not so strange when one takes a closer look at the intention of the bill. The primary focus is human traffic, not trucks; the objective is to monitor the flow of all people coming into the US, not trucks passing the Canadian border.

The act calls for an additional 400 personnel at the border in the coming five years. It also mandates that each visitor entering the US provide some form of biometric identification such as fingerprints or retinal scans as well as her/his traveling documents. The legislation includes a great amount of detail regarding passenger vessels; it demands that each vessel clear its passenger manifesto (passenger list) with a national database (created by the CIA, FBI, INS and other agencies) before any passengers are allowed to disembark. This new database will have “suspicious” people red-flagged.

The final part of the legislation relates to the ability of the INS to receive and disseminate information in a timely fashion. Bush prides himself on the current ability of the FBI and CIA to share information and aspires to improve their communication on the local level. This new bill will provide further infrastructure to facilitate cross-agency communication.

All of the above goals of the bill are disturbing on various levels. However,

it is necessary to place special consideration on the language regarding cross-agency collaboration. Although it is not an official policy, many local agencies in California currently do not collaborate directly with the INS. This new bill demands that all agencies come together in the interest of creating a mega-database; this mandate will require local agencies to be more accountable to the INS since the local must concede to the mandate of the federal.

With that in mind, this legislation is highly suspect. The Bush Administration admits to adding 400 agents; but what else is it doing? This is critical. In the post 9/11 paranoia, the general public has been accepting major changes to the INS. There is a misconception that if the INS is structured like an iron fortress then future terrorism will be foiled. Take for example the recent idea of merging the INS with the US Customs Agency, a proposal introduced as a way to unite all border agencies. The idea was floated by the government in March and has not been formally addressed since. It is probable that in this silence, the merger is slowly progressing towards the legislative stage; don’t be surprised when the President signs this bill into law.

It is imperative that the general public become radically aware of the policies and changes proposed and implemented by the Bush Administration. The recent INS and immigration changes are substantial. To date, the INS has stripped all visitors of their right to enjoy a longer stay in the US (without a lot of paperwork and/or preparation); it has stripped foreign students of their rights, leaving their schools as their keepers; it is splitting into two divisions (Administration and

Enforcement); it is considering being linked with US Customs. This list of changes is constantly evolving and growing. It will continue to grow as the US turns its War on Terrorism into a paranoid fetish.

The Bush Administration is constantly feeding the US population veiled threats of “possible terrorist attacks” which serve to bolster their demand for heightened security; a demand which in turn compels us to visit the border and make sure the door is locked properly.

I believe that in the coming months we are going to be greeted by a totally revamped INS—an agency funneling all of its resources towards strengthening the border. The INS recently reduced the wait time for processing paperwork. Inflated by a sense of accomplishment, the agency can now garner more funding. With the split between administration and enforcement, I speculate that much of their “reward” money for a job well done will end up at the border rather than in the offices that handle the average immigrant’s paperwork. The INS will sacrifice wait times for increased border security, that is one thing we can all be certain of.

Most alarming in these recent changes is the pace at which they are occurring. What is just a passing rumor one week is signed legislation the following week. I would encourage people to become familiar with the US Federal Register and listen to the weekly addresses by the White House—take note, and then take action. These pieces of legislation are being passed with little to no response from the general public. As a result of our complacency, the Bush Administration has a choke hold on the borders.

We need to be mindful of the path the INS is currently on. As an engaged populace, we can not wait until we, individually, are subject to these laws before we act.

Your comments are welcome:  
michelle@the-alarm.com

## More than a game—soccer reflects, shapes world events

BY MATT MELAMED  
*Pacific News Service*

As Americans find themselves re-engaged in international affairs, metaphors can help us understand the chaos of the world stage. Take soccer.

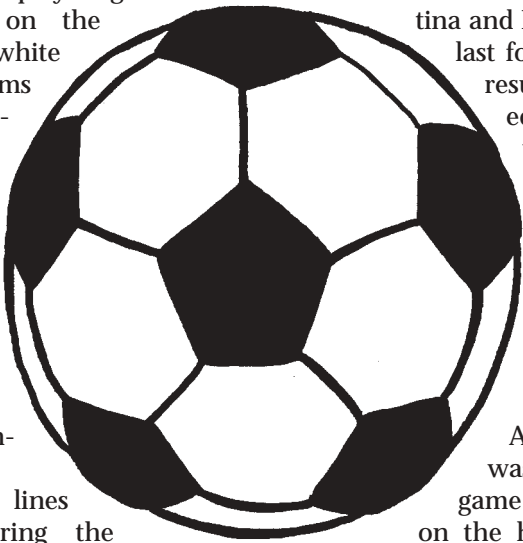
The World Cup is more than a sports tournament—it is an international event in its own right. The final game of the last World Cup, won by host nation France, drew about 2 billion viewers. This year’s Cup will be held in Korea and Japan, the first time that two countries have co-hosted the tournament.

Imagine one in three people on Earth focused on the same event, their blood pressure rising and falling with the ebb and flow of a game played on a pitch about 100 meters long by 70 meters wide. The world’s most popular sport is connected to the deepest levels of individual, neighborhood and national identity around the globe. Soccer has been the spark that ignited conflicts or reinvigorated diplomacy. In 1969, tensions flared between Honduras and El Salvador after Honduran landowners deported a few thousand Salvadorans. In the aftermath of a Salvadoran victory over Honduras in a soccer match, Salvadoran fans celebrated by burning Honduran flags and beating up Honduran fans. When the Honduran government did not receive the official apology it requested, war

broke out. About 5,000 people died in the “Football War.”

When Iran and the United States were, by chance, placed in the same group at the 1998 World Cup, the world watched closely. In the weeks preceding the match, the pace of the diplomatic thaw between the two countries intensified. Prior to kickoff, each Iranian player gave his counterpart on the American team a white flower and the teams joined for an uncustomary group photo. Presidents Clinton and Khatami used the goodwill generated by the game as a catalyst to resume relations between the countries.

Multiple story lines will emerge during the month-long, 32-team event, but one that has already established itself is the first round match between England and Argentina. England, which invented the game, has won the World Cup once, in 1966. While they have struggled in recent years, this year’s team is considered a dark horse to win the tournament. Argentina is a two-time Cup winner, and enters the



tournament as co-favorite with defending champion France. Argentina’s players are among the most talented in the world, and the team plays with flowing, offense-minded flair. Argentines, mired in an economic and political meltdown, are looking to the Cup as a way to reassert a positive national identity.

The matches between Argentina and England over the last four decades have resulted in tales equal to boxing in their corruption, brutality and athletic glory.

The first blow was landed in the 1966 World Cup quarterfinal, when Argentine Antonio Rattin was ejected from a game against England on the hallowed ground of Wembley Stadium in London. When shown the red card, Rattin stubbornly refused to leave the pitch. After order was restored, England used its advantage to win the match and advance toward the title.

In the 1986 World Cup semifinal—against the backdrop of enmity cemented by the Falklands War—Argentina gained dramatic revenge,

defeating England 2-1 on a goal by Diego Maradona. The English side protested that the goal was scored off Maradona’s hand, and television replays showed him purposely punching the ball into the goal. When asked about it after the match, Maradona said “the hand of God” had scored. Led by Maradona’s otherwise brilliant play, Argentina captured its second Cup title.

In the buildup to this year’s World Cup, events have again transpired to focus attention on the Argentina-England match. During club play earlier this year, David Beckham, captain of the English team, broke a bone in his foot after being tackled by Pedro Duscher, an Argentine playing professional ball in Spain. Beckham had been ejected from the England-Argentina match during the 1998 World Cup in France, which Argentina went on to win.

Beckham’s recovery has become a source of national concern. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has commented on the state of Beckham’s injury. Queen Elizabeth invited Beckham to Buckingham Palace, where she blessed both his foot and England’s chances.

Even the makeup of a country’s soccer team can become a battleground. Right-wing French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen’s surprise first-round electoral win drew comments

Go see **SOCCER** on **Page 15**



Analysis

Symptoms of Empire

By GABRIEL BRAHM  
Guest Writer

What’s with all the flag stickers? Has the U.S. government done something recently to stir legions of formerly apathetic citizens into feeling a deep sense of pride in their political belonging? Have we been moved in surprising numbers to express an abiding identification with the nation and the principles of freedom and equality that gave substance to the revolution on which it was founded? I doubt it. As usual in our virtual democracy, media representations of traumatic events and dime-a-dozen images like flag stickers, associated with the events, cover over the real contradictions the society fears to face yet can’t completely avoid either. Under conditions of repression, in which the truth is ideologically censored, representations can be seen as compromises between what we know or sense deep-down is really going on, and what we can admit.

When a person represses stress, anxiety, memories or conflicts too painful to deal with consciously, and instead somatizes or embodies their anxiety by manifesting physical symptoms with no organic cause, psychoanalysis designates that person a “hysteric.” Perhaps we might think of those annoying stickers in an analogous way, as symptoms on the body politic, signs of felt distress that can’t be talked about more directly because the feelings themselves, along with the facts associated with them, can’t be fully acknowledged. This might be because the sources of those feelings—the real reasons Americans are upset—are too threatening to the preferred self-image of the nation. In this light, the mainstream media response to 9-11 has been shameful, and the wave of sentiment that has seen flag stickers popping up everywhere is not truly patriotic (if by patriotism we mean a sincere regard for what’s good about a people) but pathetically jingoistic. There’s a big difference.

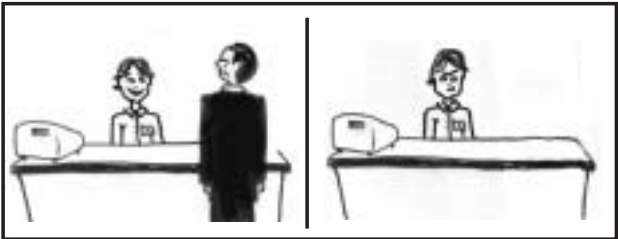
Media coverage is partly to blame for this latest hysterical outburst, which should be seen as the relatively benign counterpart to the more brutal display of male hysteria on parade in the bombing of Afghanistan. Corporate news and entertainment has played directly into Americans’ long-standing narcissistic fantasies of innocence and purity. The Forrest Gump mentality, you might call it, though it goes back much further than either that film or Hollywood, both of which reflect a view of America and Americans as idealistic and bound to triumph in the end, perhaps a bit slow but above all “nice.” But think about it. What kind of fool believes his or her government is always well-intentioned and generally in the right no matter what’s going on or how many civilians are being killed? Yet that’s the image when it comes to foreign policy in times of conflict, especially lately, with the backlash against the 1960s pretty much accomplished.

Perhaps sometimes it’s people a little too wedded to images of themselves as “nice” who occasionally explode in violent reaction to circumstances that question their image? What then can we expect from a nation, indeed an empire, that wants to see itself as “nice”? “How can they not like us?,” we whine. “Mean people suck.” “Have a nice day.” Flag stickers. But of course politics in the real world is never like that. So a hysterical nation represses the conflict of the structural injustices on which the privileges of its consumer society is based.

They say there’s a problem in this country with disadvantaged groups that seek justice having a “victim mentality,” however what recent events have shown is that it’s the white middle class in America that perversely enjoys seeing itself as the ultimate victim, with the guiltless injured party’s “right” to take revenge. But what can it mean for the richest and most militarily powerful nation on earth to see it self as a victim? Power mixed with resentful fantasies of helplessness is a dangerous combination. The fear of impotence that is so prevalent in our phallocratic polis is overcompensated for by dreams of omnipotence, while the media play an important role in giving panicked credence to such ludicrous scenarios.

Meanwhile, it isn’t even war anymore that people are being bamboozled into supporting; it’s just a technological operation, a new kind of massacre not all that dissimilar to the unconscionable acts of terror that are being responded to. Since the Gulf War and the bombing of the former Yugoslavia it’s been clear that we’re in a new phase of hypertechnological aggression in which those with power are willing to kill over things they aren’t willing to risk dying for. In other words, when there’s essentially no risk to one side in a conflict and the outcome is assured, that’s not “war.” And when it’s directed against civilians, well, what would you call it? It looks like another symptom of a sick empire. 🗑️

Don’t Forget to Subscribe!



From Behind the Counter

Doin’ Donuts

By LEILA BINDER  
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Past Millinocket the road began to curve into the horizon. As we drove through townships too unpopulated to have names—R34 T273, R64 T746—my sister and I began to fear that if we followed the earth’s bend for much longer, we’d fall off the edge. Much to our surprise, the end of the world wasn’t waiting for us at the top of the curve, only Presque Isle, Maine.

Our parents had dragged us all the way from Davis, California to the north-eastern most corner of the country: Aroostook County. We were sixteen and twelve and we were not amused. The woods finally turned into potato fields, and the potato fields into the town. Main Street was also the highway, so trucks barreled down the street along with drunk teenagers *tooling* back and forth between the Shop and Save and Mc Donald’s. The main stop in town for both truckers and drunk teenagers was also the only place open 24 hours: Dunkin’ Donuts. That was where I’d get my first job.

Barbara La Croix, my boss, was an enormous and domineering woman married to a skinny man so passive that I can’t remember his name. His wife’s name, on the other hand, remains engraved in my memory.

They forced me to wear a beige apron with a pink collar and sent me to the counter with no training. The old timer regulars—middle aged truckers and locals with attitudes,—dominated the end of the beat-up polyurethane counter, where it turned to make a U. I never once saw a high school kid cross the line and go over to their side.

The old cronies would sit on those orange diner stools for hours. They’d drink their coffee faster so they could call me back to their end of the counter for a refill and torment me.

“Where’re ‘ya from? ” they’d ask.  
“California.”  
“Well, Jeez’em crow, out there with them fruits and nuts, ayep”  
“How’d ya get yer hair like that?” I had partially bleached, partially shaven hair. I’d just keep on pouring coffee and ignore them.

One day, a red nosed one said “Look at that dark skin. I’ll bet that if you took off that apron your nipples would show through that white shirt.”

Then he turned to his friend, and proceeded to talk about me in franglais. Before leaving, he switched to English for my benefit and said, “That one’s a breeder.” (Fifteen years have passed and I still have no children, thank you very much.) He left me his penny change from a 49 cent bottomless cup of coffee as a tip.

The other waitress put her hand on my shoulder and said, “Don’t worry honey, everyone knows Canadians are bad tippers.”

At the other end of the counter was the cash register and the donuts. It was also where the younger men, the kids, and all women who drank less than six drinks a day would hang out. Once, a family came up and the husband ordered a dozen donuts, Boston cream, powdered blueberry jelly, vanilla cream and so on. Then the wife picked out her dozen. Then I told them how much it cost.

“Wait a minute,” she said, “Little Timmy hasn’t chosen *his* donuts yet.” A boy around twelve peeked out from behind his mother and proceeded to order. After that they chose their free dozen donut holes. If you ordered two dozen donuts or more you’d get a third dozen of donut holes for free. They came in the next day for more. I got to take free donuts home every night, but I couldn’t eat them after enduring the grease smell that floated in from that filthy back room. I still can’t manage to stomach a donut.

My sister’s friend Julie used to walk down Main St. swinging her hips, teaching her friends how to walk like a woman, on her way to buy powdered lemon jelly donuts. Her posse would sit in chairs facing the window, showing off their new purple platform shoes or black cowboy boot mules (bought downstate of course) and watch people pass by. Dunkin’ Donuts served the purpose that a cell phone does now; it was the easiest way to find people. This led to video rentals, cheap beer, and half gallons of ice cream.

Late at night, it was the place the vampire loving kids would go to drink coffee, smoke cigarettes, sketch caricatures of truckers, and talk about Dungeons and Dragons, after having watched “Army of Darkness”, or “the Rocky Horror Picture Show” on video. My friend Bill, who looked exactly like Robert Smith, would go there at three a.m. expressly to make faces at truckers and feel alienated. It was the place you went to get a donut after doin’ donuts (spinning your car in circles, often on a frozen lake). And during the warmer months, kids would sneak out of the house to have sex and get a donut. Don’t underestimate the importance of donuts. Donuts were invented in Maine. Don’t let anyone tell you different.

Barbara always cut my breaks short and fired me for merely trying to get time off to escape the county. But I have to say, now that Dunkin’ Donuts is gone, Presque Isle’s not quite the same. Because Dunkin’ Donuts is a franchise, the La Croix family lost their business when the mall opened and Walmart came to town. To make matters worse, Barbara refused to remodel according to corporate standards. They wanted different colors and different standards of hygiene. This was a family tragedy and they all had to leave the county. A lot of people in town were upset and tried to fight it, but they were powerless against the mighty forces of Walmart and the Dunkin’ Donuts corporation.

Now all the freak kids look the same ‘cause you can buy the fashion you want at the mall, the same clothes that are sold in every other town in America, whereas we had to invent ‘freak’ for ourselves. And kids no longer have to get “alternative” music tapes sent from pen pals in other places. Alternative became mainstream anyhow, and tapes turned into CDs, which turned into MP3s. Dunkin’ Donuts was a small place, everyone was crammed in there together; there was no where to hide, especially during the winter months. People who hated each other formed strange alliances. These days everyone goes to the mall and does laps up and down the long walkway, looking for people. 🗑️



# Dinner & A Movie (?)

## A two-pan dinner for four

**Ingredients:**

- 1 small can of tomato paste
- 1 can of garbanzo beans (or 1/2 cup cooked beans)
- 1 can diced pickled jalapeños
- 6 leaves of mint or basil
- cumin to taste
- coriander (whole seeds) to taste
- yellow and black mustard (whole seeds)
- turmeric powder
- chili powder (mild or spicy) to taste
- pepper and salt
- olive oil
- tofu (cut into 1/2 in cubes)
- potatoes (1 cup cooked)
- 2 heads of broccoli (cut into small flowerettes) and 1/2 head of spinach (cut coarsely)
- AND/OR
- 1/2 head of cauliflower (cut into small flowerettes) and 3 carrots (cut into 1/4 inch pieces)
- 3 green onions (cut thinly)
- 1/2 lemon (juiced)
- garlic to taste
- Rice cooked for four (Jasmine preferred)

**Instructions:**

Heat a large pan at medium-high temperature. Pour 1/4 cup of olive oil into the heated pan. As the oil heats, toss the tofu with a dash of turmeric and cumin, and then place the tofu in the heated pan. Allow for the tofu to get a crust, which requires about 2-3 minutes per side. But keep an eye on your pan so that it doesn't burn. Remove from heat when done. Empty tofu into another dish and reheat the pan (unwashed).

Add enough oil into the pan to cover the base, and heat the oil. When the oil is heated, sprinkle in 1/4 teaspoon of mustard, coriander and cumin. Be sure to have a splash screen over the pan or be careful of the seeds as they pop (don't have children around for this part, the small seeds spit occasionally when they heat and can hurt if they make contact with skin). Once a few seeds have popped, put in a dash of pepper and pinch of salt. Add another few drops of oil directly into this roasting paste. Keep these spices on the heat, and then add in the tomato paste. Stir the paste, which will remain in globs, around in the pan mingling it with the spices. This will allow the tomato paste to take on the flavors of the spices directly, while also further seasoning the pan. Be attentive in this process or it will caramelize and burn in the pan. After about a minute or two add in 2 cups of water and stir until the tomato paste dissolves into the water, then toss in the jalapeños. Simmer on lower heat for 20 minutes. If you can put the pan on a

higher heat it will boil down dramatically and quickly—be sure to continue to add water. This dish is meant to look “soupy” at this point, not thickened. Add another dash of cumin, (if you are a cumin type), turmeric (if you like the color) and then add in the garbanzo beans, 2 tablespoons of tamari, 2 teaspoons of rice vinegar or cider vinegar and half of the lemon juice. Stir and let simmer for a half hour. If you have a tight time schedule this “simmer” time can be reduced by about ten minutes if you increase the heat. However, be aware that this sauce thickens very quickly and can be burning before you smell it in the air.

**If you are worried about your timing:**

With the garbanzo beans in, you have adequate time to prep all of your vegetables and get the rice ready. Be mindful that if you are prepping other items while you are cooking, there is an increased risk of burning. To be safe, keep the sauce soupy with extra water. Extra water can always be cooked off if it does not boil down in a timely matter.

**A word on the rice:**

Prepare your rice per the instructions with one exception: when the rice is done and ready to sit, add two large basil leaves (they will steam and flavor the rice mildly).

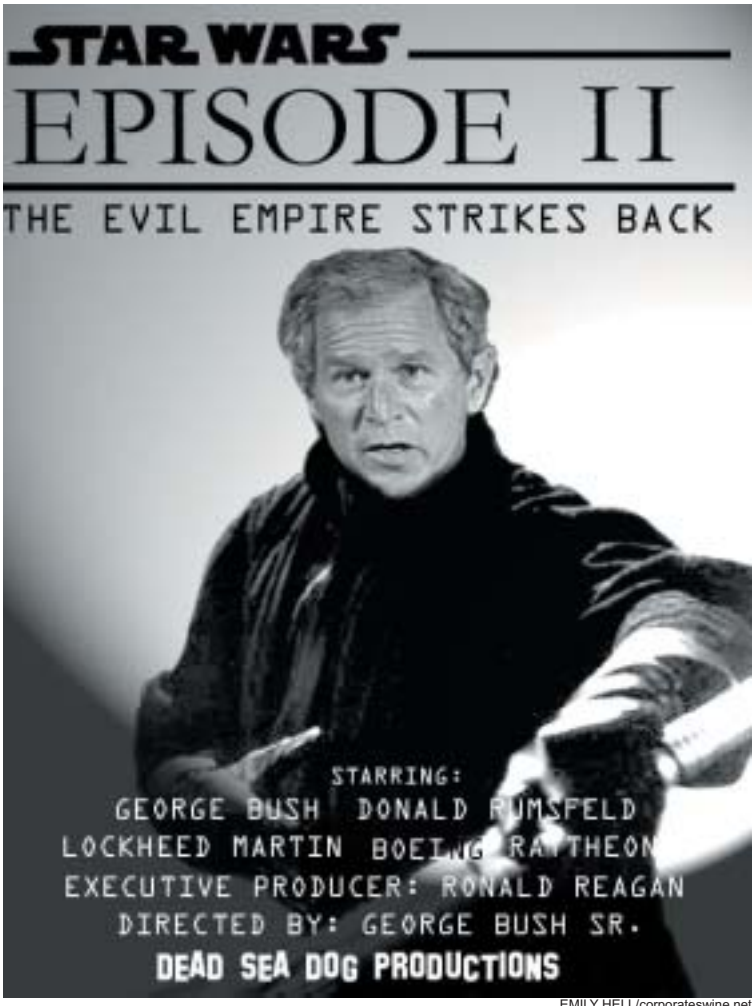
**Back to the Sauce:**

After the garbanzo beans have simmered, taste your sauce. Now is the time to balance some flavors. None of the flavors should be apparent on their own; the cumin and other spices should be blended into the sauce. The lemon should not be obvious; commonly this would be a time to add a little more salt or tamari. I prefer to add more tamari over salt, but ultimately be careful with “salty” flavors, they can taint the dish irreparably. If the flavors in the sauce are not quite right, simmer for another 5 minutes and taste again (continue until the sauce flavors are fully blended). Once the sauce tastes right, put in the potatoes and bring the heat up to medium high. Put in a little bit more water (no more than 1/4 cup at a time). As this simmers, add more turmeric if you are looking for a distinct color. After the sauce simmers for about a half hour add the broccoli/carrots/cauliflower for five minutes and the spinach/tofu for five minutes. This additional ten minutes will allow you to gage the thickness of the sauce; if it is too soupy make sure you turn up the heat as you add in the veggies. If the veggies are too firm for your liking, continue to simmer until they are to your liking and then remove the pan from heat. Let stand two minutes.

**Now it becomes the one pan dish:**

Add half of the prepared rice into the sauce, and gently stir. Continue to add more rice in proportion to how “wet” you want your dish to be. Then add the diced onion and one clove of garlic diced with the remaining lemon juice. Stir and let stand two minutes. Serve the dish with slivered basil leaves and sliced lemon as garnish. Be creative, and add other garnishes as you desire.

A nice accompaniment can be water chilled with 1 leaf of basil per liter and lemon slices. By adding lemon and basil into the garnish and water you are continuing to blend the flavors of the dish. A simple salad that (again) has lemon or basil at the base of the dressing will work well to complete this meal. Enjoy! 🍴





# In Memorium

## Stephen Jay Gould



If there is a paleontologist whose name you know, it's likely to be Stephen Jay Gould, who died of cancer on Monday, May 20 at his home in New York City. To those of us who knew him only through his work, this comes as a surprise; he was only sixty. In a country whose intellectual life has been seriously degraded by a fatuous alliance of economic and military power, corporate media, and the religious right, Gould stood out as someone who acted to counter the embarrassing persistence of creationism in our culture, while exposing the follies of scientific thinking in his

own discipline (see *The Mismeasure of Man*, his book about the heroic attempts of 19<sup>th</sup> century scientists to "prove" that some races were superior to others).

Scientifically, Gould was most best known for the theory of "punctuated equilibrium," a modification to Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection that he developed with Niles Eldredge. Gould argued that species in the fossil record demonstrate that evolution develops by long periods of stability, punctuated by shorter periods of change. This idea altered the Darwinian assumption that species steadily changed over time, a concept known as gradualism.

Gould was fascinated by the contingency of evolutionary history. In addition to challenging creationists, Gould also argued against those theorists who propose a human-centered or teleological evolutionary process, one that says that mankind is the necessary end product of history, the acme of creation. For Gould, the accidents of natural history were more important in shaping the world's animals and plants than any apparent "fitness." Had a few meteors and mudslides occurred in different times and places, the species composition of earth would be very strange indeed, one in which we would not exist.

Towards the end of his life, much of Gould's research and writing was directed toward the history of science. He focused on the early modern and enlightenment thinkers who developed science as we know it. He examined their encounters with minerals, fossils, living things, and explained the pre-scientific religious and quasi-magical thinking that makes much of early science seem bizarrely alien to the modern reader.

Gould will be missed for his wonderfully pompous writing, his unabashedly scientific viewpoint, and what amounts to a biocentric vision of life that put humans back in the animal kingdom as highly improbable creatures fascinating for their behavior and astounding natural history.



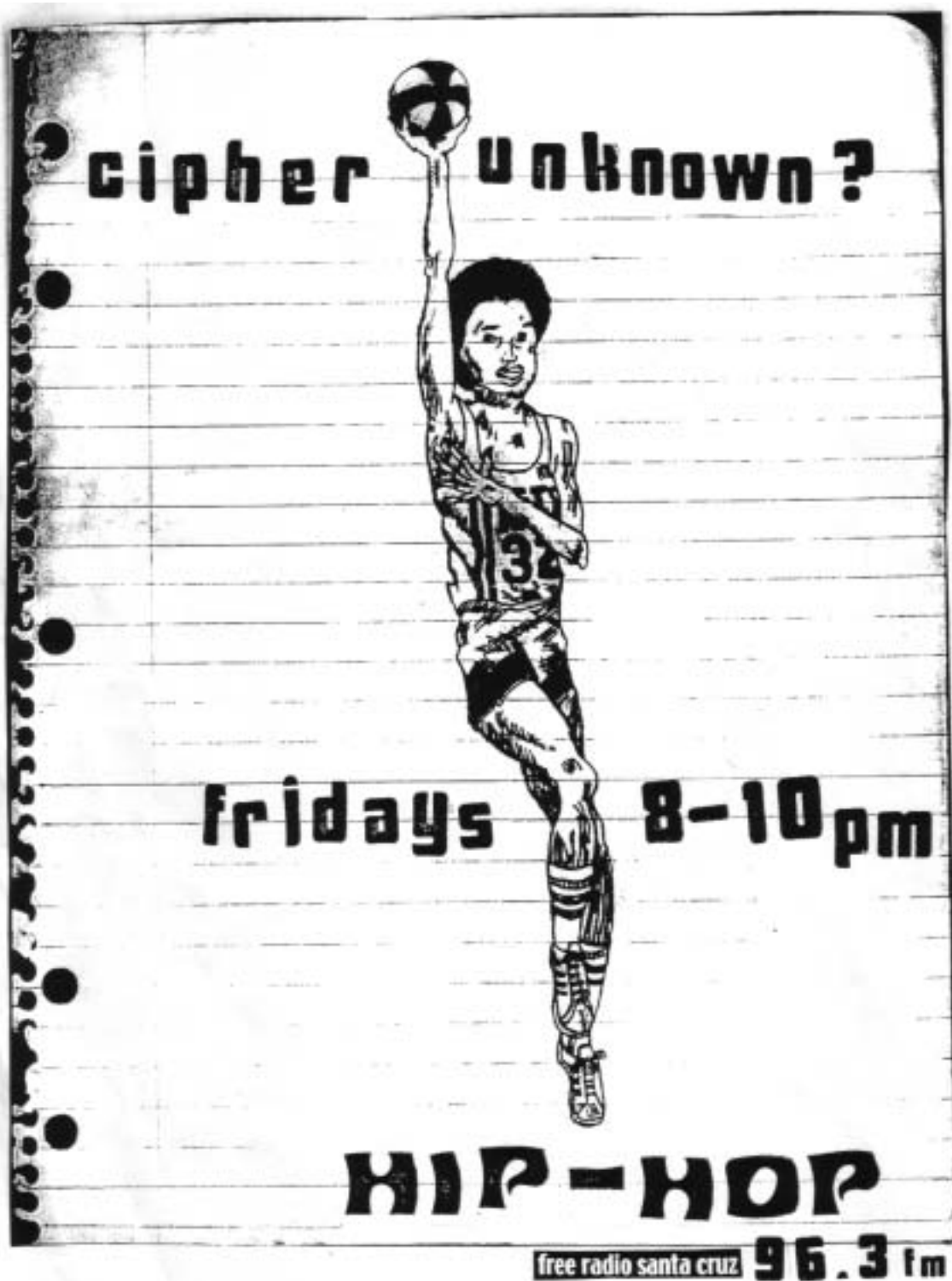
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# Community Calendar of Events

Send calendar submissions to [calendar@the-alarm.com](mailto:calendar@the-alarm.com) or send hard copies to:  
The Alarm! Newspaper  
ATTN: Community Calendar  
P.O. Box 1205  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
Please include the date, time, title of event, description, and contact number.  
Submissions are due Tuesday at 5pm for that Friday's edition.

## WEEKLY Events

**Monday - Friday 1:00 pm** Democracy Now! w/ Amy Goodman. FRSC 96.3 FM

**Monday - Friday 5:00 PM** Free Speech Radio News. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Monday - Friday 5:30 PM** Earth First! Radio. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays 2:30 PM** Drop-in women's support group. At Mtn. Community Resource Cntr. 23 Main St. Ben Lomond.

**Tuesdays 5:00 PM** Youth Coalition SC, RCNV, 515 Broadway

**Tuesdays 7:00 PM** Santa Cruz Peace Coalition, RCNV, 515 Broadway

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

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM** - Earth First! - 509 Broadway

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3-6:15 PM** Free HIV testing at the Drop-in Center. 412 Front St.

**Tuesdays 9:00 AM and Wednesdays 8:30 PM** Making Contact. FRSC 96.3 FM

**Tuesdays and Fridays 12-1:00 PM** Domestic Violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Miercoles/Wednesday 7-8:30 PM** Drop-in domestic violence support group, grupo de apoyo sobrevivientes de la violencia domestica. In English y en español. Childcare available. Hay cuidado de niños. Women's Crisis Support 1658 Soquel Dr. Suite A.

**Wednesdays 9:00 AM and Fridays 6:05 PM** Counterspin by Media Watch and FAIR. FRSC 96.3

**Wednesdays 9:30 AM** Between the Lines. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Wednesdays 12-1:00 PM** Brown Bag Lunch. Women professionals, writing group, speakers. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Wednesdays 7:30-9:30** Creative writing circle. Contact Karen for location and info 469-0360

**Thursdays 7:30 PM** - Free Mumia & All Political Prisoners at Oakes 101, UCSC

**Thursdays 7-8:30 PM** Young Warriors. Young women's leadership program. Drop-in support also for survivors of violence. 303 Walnut Ave. Call 426-3062 for info.

**Thursdays 7-8:30 PM** Wise Guys. Drop-in support group for young male survivors of violence. 303 Walnut Ave. Call 429-3062 for info.

**Thursdays 7:00 PM** Drop-in domestic violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Fridays 5:00 PM** - Peace Vigil at Watsonville Plaza facing Main Street.

**Fridays 5:00 PM** - Peace Rally at the intersection of Ocean and Water Streets

**FRIDAY 5/24/02**

**7:00 PM** A Midsummer Night's Dream. Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St.

**SATURDAY 5/25/02**

**9:00 AM** Santa Cruz Friends Meeting Rummage Sale Benefit Fundraiser for Landmine Disposal in Afghanistan, at Quaker Meetinghouse, 225 Rooney Street

**10-11:30 AM** Home Composting Workshops. Aptos Farmers' Market, at the top of the new Cabrillo College Parking structure. 1600 Soquel Dr. Aptos. Collette Streight at 426-5925 x 19.

**11:30 AM** Ad-Nauseum protest against Corporate advertising, bring your most hated ads and join in the speak-out. Saturn Cafe parking lot, up Pacific Avenue, then rally at Town Clock

**12:00 PM** Take The Bridge! No Business As Usual - Anti-War Protest at the Golden Gate Bridge, Gather on the San Francisco side. <http://www.takeittothebridge.org/>

**11:00 AM** Red Road 17th Annual Pow Wow in Hollister at Casa de Fruta Orchard Resort. \$2. Dancing, arts, crafts, food, celebration of sobriety, family gathering, everyone invited. For information and directions, call Santa Cruz Indian Council at 425-4404.

**7:00 PM** A Midsummer Night's Dream. Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St.

**TUESDAY 5/28/02**

**3:00 PM** City Council meeting - Santa Cruz, at Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street

**4:15 PM** City Council meeting - Watsonville, at Watsonville City Council Chambers, 215 Union

**7:00 PM** "Hidden Wars of Desert Storm" video screening, at Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway, by Santa Cruz Peace Coalition

**WEDNESDAY 5/29/02**

**12:00 PM** Colloquium Series - Eric Porter, "Losing Face: Walter White, Hydroquinone, and the 'Color Line,'" Oakes College UCSC , Mural Room

**3:00 PM** Colloquium Series: Globalization In Crisis? Hegemony, Islam And Governance with Mel Goodman, at Stevenson College UCSC, Fireside Lounge

**7:30 PM** Author: Barbara Ehrenreich - Nickel and Dimed, at Capitola Book Cafe, 1475 41st Ave.

**7:30-9:30 PM** "Ideas in Action" community forum and discussion. Featured topics: "Overcoming the inordinate disparity between rich and poor," "The oneness of humankind and the Baha'i Faith." Louden Nelson Center Room 7.

**THURSDAY 5/30/02**

**8:30 PM** S.O.U.L., Open Mic, the new Student Center (Old Bay Tree Bookstore), UCSC

**FRIDAY 5/31/02**

**7:00 PM** Grupo Folklorico Los Mejicas, Folk Dance Performance, Theater Arts Mainstage, UCSC

**7-9:00 PM** The Lets-Have-Fun-With-Collage-Workshop-Party. The Big Yellow House 742 Branciforte. Contact Lee at 515-4483 x 1217 or visit [www.bigyellowhouse.org/events](http://www.bigyellowhouse.org/events)

**SATURDAY 6/1/02**

**10:00 AM - Evening** Tree Climbing Class. There will be a carpool rendezvous in Santa Cruz to go to the site. Contact Wind for more info (866) 841-9139 x 2892, or email [wind\\_LV@hotmail.com](mailto:wind_LV@hotmail.com). Please RSVP by May 25th.

**11:00-5:00** Strawberry Festival. Food, raffle prizes, magicians, music by Good Medicine Band, Rick Edny Band, Ben Laney, Dancenter performers. Proceeds will benefit the Walnut Avenue Women's Center. 303 Walnut Avenue.

**7:00 PM** Grupo Folklorico Los Mejicas, Folk Dance Performance, Theater Arts Mainstage, UCSC

**SUNDAY 6/2/02**

**11:00 AM** Santa Cruz Pride 2002 Parade and Celebration, at Pacific Avenue and 12:00 - 5:00 at San Lorenzo Park

**2-4:00 PM** Writer's Workshop. Wats. Public Library. 310 Union St. For info contact Jessica Lloyd-Rogers 454-1669 or email [mavericklearner@yahoo.com](mailto:mavericklearner@yahoo.com)

*Check out the Santa Cruz Peace & Justice Calendar ([www.peacejusticenews.org](http://www.peacejusticenews.org)) and Free School Santa Cruz ([www.dobius.com/freeschool](http://www.dobius.com/freeschool)) for more events. Also, see the Free Radio Santa Cruz schedule at [members.cruzio.com/~frsc](http://members.cruzio.com/~frsc)*



# Soccer Politics

SOCCKER from Page 9

from French player Robert Pires, who called on his teammates to refuse to play if the National Front leader was elected president. The multicultural French squad is the spectral opposite of Le Pen’s vision of France. Central defender Marcel Desailly was born in Ghana. Zinidine Zidane, world player of the year in 1998, is of Algerian heritage. Midfielder Patrick Viera’s parents are Senegalese, and defender Lilian Thuram was born in Senegal.

As Desailly stated in support of Pires, “The players in the French team, from diverse origins...are unanimous in condemning resurgent ideas of racism and exclusion.”

It is easy to dismiss the passion the World Cup generates as a diversion from social, economic, and political realities. But that underestimates the role soccer plays in the manifestation of national identity and aspirations. The world pauses during matches. People will return to work elated or heartbroken, but also changed by the worldwide context of the game. For most of the billions who watch the matches, the World Cup represents their most active engagement with international events, sport or otherwise.

Those who watch the games are more than fans—they are participants in an international conversation.

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MICHELLE STEWART/The Alarm! Newspaper

Dr. sasha, Leila and Manuel burn the midnight oil and argue over the use of the word “deployment”.

People.. IT'S AS CLEAR TO ME AS THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE...

PROFESSIONAL PLAYOFF HOCKEY IS THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING SPECTATOR SPORT!! BAR NONE!!

GO AHEAD..TURN BASEBALL ON RIGHT NOW...YOU'LL FIND SOME LAZY, OVER-PAID SLOB JUST STANDING THERE WITH HIS HAND DOWN HIS PANTS...

SKITCH SKITCH

© K. KNIGHT 2002

Now TURN THE CHANNEL & YOU'LL FIND THE LAKERS SLEEP-WALKING TOWARDS ANOTHER NBA CHAMPIONSHIP...

Yawn

Now SWITCH TO THE N.H.L. PLAYOFFS & YOU'LL FIND DOMINIK HASEK SNATCHING 100MPH SLAPSHOTS OUT OF THE AIR WITH ASSES IN HIS FACE...

KEEFIX@HOTMAIL.COM

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, CANADIANS HAVE GOT THEIR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.. HOCKEY'S ON EVERYWHERE...

Can you please put the Stanley Cup Playoffs on?

Stan who?

Here in CALIFORNIA, I've GOT TO GIVE THE BARKEEP A HANDJOB JUST TO SWITCH IT ON...

BUT IT'S WORTH IT.. A HOCKEY GAME IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU'LL FIND ME CHEERING A BUNCH OF WHITE GUYS SHOOTING & WHACKING SOMETHING BLACK WITH STICKS....

Whoa Ho!!

STOP

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# SURVEY SAYS

*In order for The Alarm! to be a quality community paper we need your input. We are in the process of outlining our intent, but we want to know your thoughts. The results of these questions, your input, will assist us in further decisions and allow us to reflect on the pros and cons of this issue. Please feel free to attach additional thoughts, or perhaps send us a letter for publication. We appreciate the time you take to complete this and look forward to hearing from you.*

Where in SC county do you live?

Where did you pickup this copy of the Alarm!?

Why did you pick up the paper?

Have you seen any of The Alarm! newspaper coin boxes? If yes, where?

Do you read the other local weeklies?

Do you buy or subscribe to any dailies?

How often do you buy a paper out of a coin box?

What was the best aspect of the paper, for you? Why?

What was the worst aspect? Why?

Are you familiar with bilingual publications or monolingual (in Spanish) publications? What are your thoughts on these publications?

Do you think that The Alarm! should be a bilingual paper? Please explain.

Additional Comments:

*The Alarm! Newspaper*  
P.O. Box 1205  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061