



Casa Bienestar

By/Por HALIE JOHNSON

Translated By/Traducido Por ARMANDO ALCARAZ

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective / Colectivo del Periódico ¡La Alarma!

The last school bell rings, and you decide to join some friends who are walking to a nearby youth center. You imagine a large room with fluorescent lights and too many rules. You and your friends walk up to a building with teens playing basketball in the parking lot. When you see a sign in front that reads “Casa Bienestar” (House of Wellbeing), you realize one would be in for something different than what you expected

Inside the building, more people your age are playing pool, and you recognize your favorite radio station in the background. You overhear someone explaining safe condom use to a group of teens. A woman with a warm smile takes a break from helping someone else with her homework to welcome you and offer you some chips and salsa.

When Casa Bienestar, “An HIV Prevention, Harm Reduction and Community Health Resource Center,” opened its doors in December 2000, it Go see **BIENESTAR** on **Page 4**

□ The Center solidifies the relationship between three organizations that provide similar services in Watsonville

□ El Centro solidifica la relación existente entre tres organizaciones que provéen servicios similares en Watsonville.



HALIE JOHNSON/The Alarm! Newspaper

Suena la campana de salida de la escuela y decides acompañar a algunos amigos que se encaminan a un centro juvenil cercano. Te imaginas un cuarto grande con luces fluorescentes y con demasiadas reglas. Tú y tus amigos llegan a un edificio donde hay adolescentes jugando baloncesto en el estacionamiento. Cuando ves el letrero de enfrente que dice “Casa Bienestar,” te das cuenta que esto puede ser muy distinto a cualquier cosa que te hubieras imaginado.

Dentro del edificio hay otros de tu edad jugando billar, y reconoces a tu estación de radio favorita tocando música en el fondo. Alcanzas a escuchar a alguien que explica a un grupo de adolescentes sobre el uso seguro del condón. Una mujer con una sonrisa cálida deja de ayudar a alguien mas con su tarea para darte la bienvenida ofreciendote chips y salsa.

Cuando la Casa Bienestar, “Un Centro de Recursos para Prevención del VIH, Reducción de Daño, y Salud Comunitaria,” abrió sus Ve a **BIENESTAR** en la **Página 5**

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Transience in Santa Cruz

Last week, I examined the role of transience in the local economy of Santa Cruz. In this installment of “Transience in Santa Cruz,” I’ll be drawing attention to the political apparatus that both encourages, and is determined by, that transience. Readers may remember from the last installment that I conceive of transience not primarily as the homeless and the transient poor; but as tourists and students.

□ Part 2—The Politics of Transience

By FHAR MIESS

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

In the late 1920’s, as Ku Klux Klan chapters grew around Santa Cruz, Fred Swanton, Santa Cruz Mayor, industrialist and town booster, lead caravans promoting the area’s tourist attractions, most of which he had built himself (or, more accurately, paid others to build for him).

In 1933, during the last year of Swanton’s five-year mayoral term, he transferred title on a few acres of public land at the current location of the Boardwalk parking lot and some of its rides from the City to the Santa Cruz Seaside Company. The Seaside Company has owned and operated the Boardwalk since Swanton himself bankrupted the operation in 1915.

Santa Cruz politics has changed a lot since then. Certainly, one would hope that a KKK rally would not last long here these days.

But, in other ways, the old guard is still very much in power. According to maps from the 1850s, the land that Swanton sold to the Seaside Company was below the “mean high tide” level, in what are called “tidelands”, properties owned by the State of California and held in trust by the City of Santa Cruz. According to the State Constitution, those tidelands should never have been transferred to any private party.

In 1998, activists challenged the City Council to file suit against the Seaside Company to reclaim the land and restore the tidelands to natural habitat for Coho and Steelhead. The San Lorenzo Estuary, which was largely filled in after the construction of the river levee, is deemed essential for the ability of the fish to survive upon entering the briny waters

of the Monterey Bay. Apparently, the State Lands Commission found the evidence compelling enough to offer to back up the City if it were to take the case to court.

The City Council ceded eighty percent of the land to the Seaside Company in October of 1998 rather than suing for the entire property. But a few months later, a new council—populated by councilmembers such as Kristopher Krohn and Ed Porter who had been elected partly on their pledge to advocate for the return of the land to the City—reversed the decision. Unfortunately, according to Beach Flats resident Phil Baer, the weight of the tourism industry giant leaned hard upon the professional city staff (City Manager Richard Wilson and City

Attorney John Barisone) who advise the council. The city staff in turn leaned on the City Council. “My observation is that the City Council rarely, if ever, does anything other than what the staff suggests and advises that they do,” he says.

Metro Santa Cruz reported on July 4, 2001 that the council held private negotiations that summer with the Seaside Company. Despite vigilant protests from activists and claims of violations of the Brown Act, which mandates open access to public meetings, the council eventually dropped the case.

Tourist transience is big money in Santa Cruz. Former Santa Cruz Mayor Mike Rotkin estimates that between one-third and two-thirds of Santa Cruz tax revenues come from the tourism industry. The City Admission Tax, which comes primarily from the tourism industry and the Boardwalk in particular, accounts for about \$1.5 million of city tax revenues annually. The City also levies a Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) on hotel patrons, which accounts for over

Go see **TRANSCIENCE** on **Page 7**

LOCAL ANALYSIS

Letter from an Editor

Do we live in a world of exceptions?

Last week when Donovan Jackson and his father were pulled over for expired tags on their vehicle neither expected to find themselves in the national headlines. Had it not been for the impulse of an amateur cameraman they wouldn't have.

What was captured on camera shocked viewers: a 16-year-old being flung onto a police car and then brutally assaulted by an officer. According to reports, the footage comes after the bulk of the Inglewood incident had occurred. Of course, there has been an outcry, as citizens of Inglewood and others demand the immediate termination of the officer in question. What does not come to the forefront in this incident is the need to examine our overall surroundings and institutions.

This week George W. Bush gave a speech addressing the recent wrongdoings of a number of corporations. He called the behavior of corporations, such as Enron and Worldcom, deplorable, and he outlined a need for stiffer penalties for those "caught" doing misdeeds. The markets did not respond favorably, and the general public changed the news station.

Two weeks ago a young mother was convicted of a hate-crime against an man of Arab descent. She faces three years in jail for running her vehicle into his, and then assaulting him on a San Jose street. Locally, there was minimal response.

All three of these incidents are treated as relatively isolated situations. When Donovan Jackson was assaulted by the officer in southern California,

he was immediately compared to Rodney King. When Worldcom was found to be cooking their books, they were in the same company as Enron. When this woman in San Jose was convicted there were not immediate comparisons, and the response was simply a stern sigh. These are presented to us, the public, as isolated situations, as exceptions to our average expectations. But are they?

The fact of the matter is police aggression is a constant reality; corporations constantly fudge their books or act in ways that are less than ethical; and hate crimes are occurring everyday that are related to or independent of 9/11. Yet, these three events are said to be exceptions.

People often comment that if the "corrupt" exceptions within our society are rooted out, we will live in a "just and civil society." What we need to recognize is that all of these "exceptions" are not isolated events; they are all a part of systematic issues within our society. As a matter of fact, when we identify these events as isolated, it distracts us from looking at systemic problems. These events are actually necessary to maintain the power of both capitalism and state over personal or community relationships, because they reinforce the ideology that the system works by rooting out such exceptions. This ideology creates an atmosphere where exploration into systemic issues does not occur; indeed, it creates safe harbor for these incidents to occur.

When people do not take notice of

the police and their activities, some cops will act cavalier. When people invest their money and hope for the best, never checking up on their investments, corporations will give the bosses raises and inflate their actual earnings reports. When the general public allows for people to say and act as they wish towards anyone who is "not a true American," we become a xenophobic society.

We have to awaken our senses and sensibilities. We need to recognize our role as members of a community, and become accountable to one another. Let corporate America pretend to be accountable to itself; it is our job to recognize that corporations are NOT a part of our communities. We need to look at what we *invest* in—corporations or communities.

Is there a tangible link between these three incidents I have mentioned above? There is the obvious link; these are our headlines. Then there is the implicit link; all of these incidents happen in an environment ripe with apathy. Once we recognize that each of these events are not exceptions to the status quo, but rather a result of the status quo, we can respond accordingly. It should not take the beating of a developmentally disabled young man to make us take notice—or maybe it does. Can the beating of Donovan Jackson bring about something better in our communities? Can we begin to look closely and become more accountable to one another; if not, we will never be members of a community.

—Michelle Stewart

Op-Ed

Deadly Illusions

By CONN HALLINAN
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

The Middle East has always been a place where illusion paves the road to disaster. In 1095, Pope Urban's religious mania launched the crusades. In 1915, Winston Churchill's arrogance led to the WWI bloodbath at Gallipoli. Illusion tends to be a deadly business in those parts.

And once again, illusions are about to plunge the Middle East into catastrophe.

The first of these is George W. Bush's "vision" for peace between Israeli's and Palestinians, a "vision" consistent with the President's uncomplicated "See Spot Run" world of good guys and bad guys.

Since the Palestinians are "bad guys" the message is simple: Develop democracy (but only elect people we approve of), create free market capitalism, halt resisting the thirty-five year occupation, and stop causing trouble. If the Palestinians somehow manage all this while under occupation, then in three years they might get an "interim" state with "provisional" borders and sovereignty—if Israel agrees. The Sharon government, on the other hand, are the "good guys," so it gets to keep building settlements,

occupying territory, and besieging West Bank cities until the Palestinians complete all the above tasks. Does anyone really take this seriously?

Ariel Sharon is a man obsessed with illusions. He has always fantasized that combining violence with appointing leaders he can manipulate will get him his way. He was a supporter of the secret Israeli operation that, according to Tony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic Studies, funneled funds to Hamas in the late '70s as a way to undermine the secular Palestine Liberation Organization. We know how that one turned out.

Then he invaded Lebanon in 1982 to destroy "terrorism," killed 17,500 Lebanese and Palestinians, and appointed Bashir Jumayil President. Jumayil was promptly assassinated, and Israel found itself in the middle of an 18-year war, which it ended up losing. And once again he is using massive force in the West Bank and Gaza and trying to pick who leads the Palestinians.

Sharon's latest illusion is to fill the occupied territories with Jewish immigrants from France, Argentina, the

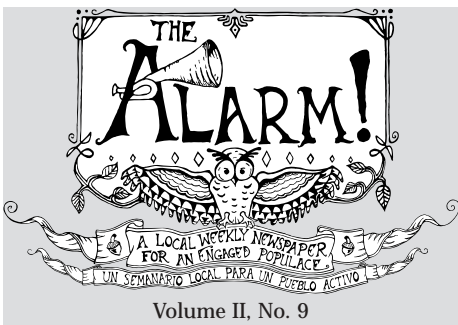


U.S. and Russia, so that he will not have to remove a single settlement. According to Sharon, "Netzarim in Gaza is the same as Tel Aviv." Netzarim is a tiny settlement of fifty families in the Occupied Territories that takes up as much land as the Jebalya refugee camp, which holds 100,000 people. Tel Avid is the largest city in Israel.

A recent study by the human rights organization B'Tselem, shows that while the settlements only occupy about two percent of the West Bank, through strategic placement and a network of roads restricted to settlers, they control forty-two percent of the Territories. Under Sharon, existing settlements have been expanded, and thirty-four new ones established.

That millions of Jews will immigrate

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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.

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

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Letters to the Editors

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.



Dear Alarm:

Congratulations on presenting a concise, intelligible review of trends occurring in downtown Santa Cruz. In the "Local Analysis" section of the Alarm's last issue, co-editor Fhar Miess put forward a reasoned, compassionate, and cogent account of some of the forces at work behind the campaign to "clean up Pacific Avenue". This attempt, which to some smells of privatization of public space utilizing a publicly funded police force, seems to be yet another punitive measure against those least likely to have the resources to fight back. I would like to propose another facet of the situation. Right now, we are all facing a depression. This depression is extremely likely to deepen and worsen. The lessons of The Great Depression served to curb the greatest excesses of corporate profligacy. However, with the new focus towards globalization, those concerns have been muffled. Here in Santa Cruz, we have seen soaring rents and plummeting standard of living for the bulk of the population. At least part of the backlash against the homeless has to do with the fear of being forced to join their ranks. Those who invoke the deepest fear, even on a subconscious level must be obliterated.

A caution must be rung. What should be brought to the forefront of the collective consciousness is that to allow the rights of "those people"—whoever they may be—is to give license to the revocation of those same rights for all of us.

JEAN CADWELL
Santa Cruz

Dear Alarm:

Thanks to Caroline Nicola ("Sleep Walkers in Santa Cruz") and Fhar Miess ("Violence over Bread Crumbs") for their front-page stories in the June 28th Alarm.

Dismiss my writing about homeless and police issues as "hyperbolic and sanitized rants" if you'd like; please cover these important topics yourselves..

It's too bad (by Fhar's own assertion of The Alarm's policy) that we still have no "muckrakers" in town willing to name names. While you're certainly right that institutional corruption, violence, and apathy run deep, hold the major players accountable! Whether it's Dick Wilson, City-Manager-For-Life, or John (no other attorneys need apply) Barisone, or any of the other real rulers of the City (Belcher, Cirillo, Lang, etc.), if you want to get to the bottom of things, you've got to examine the conduct of the folks at the top.

Santa Cruz's "progressive" politicians, who you are apparently reluctant to criticize by name, continue to win election year-after-year by claiming concern for shelter and civil rights issues. Whether it's Wormhoudt, Laird, Matthews, Rotkin and Beiers ("the old guard"), or Fitzmaurice, Krohn, and Sugar ("the new old guard"), they all (as you so aptly put it) "shovel money at law enforcement" and systematically suppress key issues (rent

control, the Sleeping Ban, community control of police, the downtown crackdown on the young, the war on marijuana).

We need a public hearing, which the Citizens Police Review Board has always been empowered to do, but has never done, on the Norman Friedbreg case (the man beaten for Breadcrumb Littering on June 24th downtown). I and others have filed formal complaints with the CPRB. CPRB complaints always need the following written and signed additions: "I want this complaint put in a public file"; "I want an early independent investigation;" and "I want a public hearing."

Since the reports of those I interviewed are sharply at odds with the official police and Sentinel story, it's past time for the CPRB to work up the nerve for the first time to summon police officers to a reckoning in front of the community. Witnesses with different accounts could speak out. Those of us watching could form our own conclusions.

ROBERT NORSE
Santa Cruz

Dear Alarm:

Have you heard the din of the bigots lately? They screech about the "bums" and "layabouts" who "sponge off the good citizens", and "aggressively panhandle" while "using abusive language." No, they aren't talking about telemarketers!

Despite all statistics which show that crime in Santa Cruz is down, the City Council is planning on passing ordinances which would outlaw bubble-blowing, leaning on a building, holding a sign after dark, and further restrict sitting on Pacific Ave. The proposed ordinance changes would eliminate sitting or political tabling on the entire west side of Pacific Ave. and only allow a few areas on the east side of the street.

The council voted on July 9, 2002 to openly collude with Judges to enforce all of their petty, non-crime, ordinances in an effort to "clean up" Pacific Ave. of the type of people merchants don't like.

Councilmembers Emily Reilly and Ed Porter are leading this effort to placate bigots who blame homeless

people for the dot.com financial disaster, the high rents merchants must pay, shoplifting, vandalism, and the lack of bathrooms downtown.

Instead of injecting reason and facts into the argument, Ed Porter actually argued that hacky-sacking presented "a life-threatening danger" for older people. So how many people have been killed by hacky-sack players?

These sweeping ordinance changes, which constitute banishment and are ripe for selective enforcement, Reilly described as "clarifications." These are being rushed through in a series of special meetings while the University, Cabrillo College, and the high schools are out for the summer, and many of the locals are out of town on vacations.

In previous years, the shoulder-tap law and the youth curfew were passed in just this manner.

Contact City Council at (831) 420-5017 and urge them to dump these proposed ordinances which will do nothing to put in bathrooms, stop vandalism, curb shop-lifting, or to help people end their alcohol or drug addiction problems. At the same time, they are completely ignoring the two issues more people brought to the council than any others: police harassment of homeless people and the need for a pedestrian-only mall.

BECKY JOHNSON
Santa Cruz

Dear Alarm:

I am writing to thank-you for being a great new voice in Santa Cruz. I also have a few comments and suggestions. First, I want to encourage you to see beyond the obvious issues to cover in Santa Cruz. I appreciate your new take on issues surrounding downtown etc, however, it is a little bit predictable to cover downtown issues and Food Not Bombs, all you are missing is a feature story on Free Radio Santa Cruz and the sleeping ban and you would have covered all of the generic issues at hand in this town.

I don't want to sound negative, I did like the last week's issue on transience, and am looking forward to the coming installments, however, I want to read about other things in your paper.

Also, you seem to miss covering the City Council etc. I think that it would be good if you did a brief overview of the meetings. Some people can not make it to those long meetings, and they want to know the outcome from a new perspective. The Sentinel does cover the Council meetings, but your paper would have a new spin that would be great.. what about a bi-monthly commentary on these proceedings.

Another suggestion. I want to see The Alarm! at events in town. I don't see your paper at events. You need to be seen at events so people can get a chance to know you. Not everyone is going to write a long letter or send an email. Some people might want to just talk to you. Being at local events and making your presence known will make you seem very personable.

I like your paper, it has been improving each week both in content and in its design. You are doing good work—just push it one more step and give me more of the news in Santa Cruz County... that means covering issues south and north of Santa Cruz.

Thanks for all your hard work!
PAT WINCHELL
Aptos

From ILLUSIONS on Page 2

to Israel and live on the West Bank is sheer fantasy. Indeed, according to surveys by Peace Now, some sixty percent of the Jewish settlers would move back to Israel proper if the government would offer the same incentives it does for them to live in the West Bank: reduction in income taxes, low mortgage rates, and subsidized education. Peace Now projects that this "re-transplant" would cost \$700 million. It now costs \$1.4 billion a year to subsidize the settlers and occupy the West Bank.

There are illusions on the Palestinian side as well, the most glaring being that suicide bombers will drive the Israelis out of the Occupied Territories. In fact, the bombers only yield the moral high ground to Sharon and strengthen the annexationists in Tel Aviv. These illusion are ruining both Palestinians and Israelis. The former live in what is a virtually a national prison, with tens of thousands of their young men incarcerated, their economy destroyed, and a death toll approaching 2,000 since Sept.

2000. The Israelis may not be imprisoned, but they live in fear. The burden of empire has drained their treasury, forcing huge social service cutbacks, driving inflation to eight percent, and filling the jobless rolls. More than 550 have died.

But sometimes illusion produces clarity. While Americans tend to think of Israel as Sharon and the Palestinians as suicide bombers, the reality is far more complex. Sharon has called up the reserves, but he will have to do without the 466 reservists who refuse to serve in the Occupied Territories. Hamas has pledged a new round of suicide bombers, but it will have to do so in the face of call by fifty-five leading Palestinians to stop the bombings in Israel. The call has already had an effect, according to the Financial Times, which reports that Palestinian support for suicide bombings is declining.

There are people of goodwill on both sides, people not blinded

by the illusion that violence solves everything. For the moment they are marginal, but their numbers are greater than they were last month, and they will be greater yet next month. They grow in numbers because their "vision" is the only way out illusion.



Jerusalem

Local News

From BIENESTAR on Page 1

sealed the working relationship between three local organizations. The Santa Cruz Needle Exchange Project (SCNEP), the Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) and the Homeless Persons Health Project (HHPH) had been collaborating in various ways for nearly a decade, creating and staffing the Santa Cruz Drop-In Center and providing street-level services in Watsonville and Santa Cruz. All three organizations work to prevent the spread of HIV, through meeting at-risk community members at their own level to provide assistance and education.

For several years, SCAP, SCNEP and HPHP volunteers have been setting up weekly needle-exchange and HIV prevention sites in the parking lot of Watsonville's Del Sol Market. HPHP provides health services while SCAP help provide free HIV testing. SCNEP provides a one-for-one syringe exchange, where injection drug users can trade one dirty syringe for a clean one. Needle exchange programs are based on the idea that lowering the number of contaminated syringes on the streets lowers the risk of new HIV infections. SCNEP also conducts regular outreach on foot, exchanging needles and giving out free condoms

the collaborating organizations. Their goals include providing "a home-like environment for youth to drop-in, hang out and access health services, which are all free of cost."

Martha Zabale of SCAP was born and raised in Watsonville. "There are a lot of people who come here and basically need someone to talk to, so I get a chance with them before they decide to run away or something like that," she said. "I feel that they are comfortable here because we know Watsonville."

Ronaldo of SCNEP has lived in Watsonville for thirteen years and has volunteered with other local organizations. "I'm still able to reach the people who I grew up with and help them," he said.

A Space for Many Purposes

Casa Bienestar, much larger than the Drop-In Center in Santa Cruz, offers a "hang out" room equipped with a pool table, TV/VCR, a stereo, a computer with scanner and internet access, a full kitchen and a conference room. "We've had a lot of students who come in here, and we help them out with their homework or résumés," Zabale said, pointing out the computer station.



HALIE JOHNSON/The Alarm! Newspaper

A client exchanges needles at Casa Bienestar

“If there’s a bunch of kids playing pool out front, they can come in through the side and go, without being seen by family members or having to go through the embarrassment of seeing non-injectors.”

in areas where drugs are bought and sold.

But according to SCAP Director of Education and Prevention Timothy Maroni, all three organizations needed a more permanent site in order to be as effective as possible. "It was sort of hectic because we didn't have a site for the services that we wanted to offer," he said. In an effort to provide such a site, members of the three organizations founded Casa Bienestar. In addition to providing HIV prevention and services to injection drug users, the center was developed to serve as a recreational space for Watsonville residents, with a focus on at-risk youth, ages twelve to twenty-four.

"Kids come in, they hang out, they check us out before they say 'okay, I need help,'" said Linda Valdez of HPHP. The Center offers free condoms, birth control, food, entertainment, advice, encouragement, clean syringes and a safe place to rest. "Basically whatever their need is we try to meet it for them," Valdez added. "If we can't, we do referrals."

HIV testing and needle exchange sites still show up behind Watsonville's Del Sol Market every Wednesday afternoon. Now volunteers often refer participants to Casa Bienestar where they can access the same services with more comfort and privacy. "I think [the center has] been able to expand the scope and quality and quantity of the services that we offer [in South County]," Maroni added.

The line-staff at Casa Bienestar, who oversee the day-to-day operation of the center, represent all three of

Casa Bienestar also provides plenty of lounging areas where staff and volunteers can sit with youth and spark up conversation about school, sex, family or whatever is on a participant's mind.

There are two bulletin boards listing jobs, events, activities and other resources that might be of interest to young people. A health care office provides health and medical services from pregnancy tests to Hepatitis B vaccines.

The Needle Exchange room has a separate entrance from the main reception area to facilitate the anonymity of clients. "If there's a bunch of kids playing pool out front, they can come in through the side and go, without being seen by family members or having to go through the embarrassment of seeing non-injectors," explained Heather Edney, Executive Director of SCNEP.

There are three offices for private meetings to help people feel more comfortable talking about difficult subjects. Edney feels that the awareness of young people in HIV prevention is crucial. A lot of what SCNEP, HPHP and SCAP do is geared towards youth. "Almost all of the literature we produce is by youth and for youth. 'Fuck safe, shoot clean' speaks to youth," Edney said.

The Drop-In Center as a State-wide model for effectiveness

The success of the Drop-In Center in Santa Cruz is what made Casa Bienestar possible, according to Maroni. The State Office of AIDS in California agreed that the Santa Cruz Drop-In Center, which opened in 1988, met an important need in North County. In fact, the State Office of AIDS used it as a model for the establishment of twenty similar centers throughout the State of California.

The Drop-In Center in downtown Santa Cruz is not specifically youth-targeted, but approximately fifty percent of the participants who utilize it are below the age of twenty-four, according to Maroni.

Harm Reduction

In contrast to other drug counseling centers in Watsonville which generally work from an abstinence-based model, Casa Bienestar is set up to be a place where participants can obtain support even when they are not ready to kick

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HIV Surveillance

Part 2: The Soundex Code

By CAROLINE NICOLA

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

On July 1, California joined seven other states in reporting people who test positive for HIV using codes in lieu of names. Most other states that track HIV use a name-based system. This article is the second of two parts on the new HIV surveillance system in California.

Advocates and people living with AIDS have waged a tough battle for the right to be tested anonymously, a battle lost in many states. People's health can not be protected if their civil rights are compromised, said Anna Forbes, an AIDS policy consultant, writer and teacher. That dilemma is fundamental to concerns about the new HIV surveillance system in California.

Unlike other conditions, funding for AIDS has been based on a numbers count since its beginning. Because State and Federal agencies want the funding to be based on the number of people who test positive for HIV rather than the number of full-blown AIDS cases, some case reporting system is needed.

To get an accurate epidemiological account of how many people are HIV

positive and in what populations, an HIV case reporting system needs to have a low duplication rate, meaning that people testing positive for HIV are not listed more than once. In order to do that, unique identifiers (UI) are needed. UI consists of a combination of public or private data elements used to distinguish people.

The non-name codes used in California's HIV case reporting system consist of an individual's Soundex Code (a code based on the way a person's name sounds phonetically), complete date of birth, gender and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

In an effort to prevent duplications, people's privacy erodes in the process, said cryptographer Philip Zimmermann, creator and founder of Pretty Good Privacy, Inc. He said there are two pressures working in opposite directions: one is to create a unique identifier, the other is trying to make it anonymous. "Those two are working at cross purposes. The more unique you make a code, the easier it is to break its anonymity," he said.

Zimmermann has received numerous technical and humanitarian awards for his pioneering work in cryptography. He said there may be people who believe the non-name system using

Soundex is anonymous, but those people are probably not software engineers or data security professionals. "It is possible to break an anonymity scheme as flimsy as one based on Soundex, especially if it has other information in it like date of birth," he said.

All that would be needed to crack the non-name code would be a computer, a secondary data base that has all the necessary data elements in it and a copy of the algorithm used to produce the Soundex codes.

So why use the Soundex code if it can be cracked? It is easy, cheap and States have been using it to report AIDS cases to the Center for Disease Control since the beginning of the AIDS outbreak, according to Forbes. She said if a State develops a different UI system, it would be harder to cross-match HIV data against other relevant databases such as the AIDS registry and the national death registry. "It is a question between do you give your State a really good UI system that protects people's privacy, or do you go with another system like Soundex that is easier and cheaper to use, but doesn't protect privacy as well," she said. Forbes argues that any UI system is still more secure than name-based systems because they are harder to crack.

Noticias Locales

BIENESTAR de la Página 1

puertas en diciembre de 2000, se solidificó la relación de trabajo de tres organizaciones locales. El Proyecto de Intercambio de Jeringas de Santa Cruz (SCNEP), El Proyecto SIDA de Santa Cruz (SCAP), y el Proyecto de Salud para Personas Desamparadas (HPHP), habían trabajado en colaboración durante casi una década, creando el Santa Cruz Drop-In Center y proveyendo servicios en las calles de Watsonville y Santa Cruz. Las tres organizaciones trabajan para prevenir el contagio del VIH reuniéndose con miembros de la comunidad de alto riesgo en su propio nivel para proporcionar asistencia y educacion.

Los voluntarios de SCAP, SCNEP y HPHP han estado colocando sitios temporales para prevención del VIH por varios años en los estacionamientos del Mercado Del Sol en Watsonville. HPHP provee servicios de salud y SCAP ayuda a proporcionar pruebas gratis de detección del VIH. SCNEP ofrece un intercambio de uno a uno de jeringas, donde quienes usan drogas inyectadas pu-

añadió Valdez. “Si no podemos, les proporcionamos referencias.”

Los lugares de pruebas de VIH e intercambio de jeringas aún aparecen detrás del Mercado Del Sol en Watsonville cada miércoles por la tarde. Ahora los voluntarios refieren a los participantes a la Casa Bienestar donde pueden tener acceso a los mismos servicios pero con más comodidad y privacidad. “Creo que [el Centro] ha sido capaz de expandir el enfoque, calidad y la cantidad de los servicios que ofrecemos [en el Condado Sur],” añadió Maroni.

El personal “de línea” de la Casa Bienestar, que se encarga de las operaciones diarias del centro, representa a las tres organizaciones colaborantes. Sus objetivos incluyen el proveer “a los jóvenes con un ambiente hogareño donde puedan venir, disfrutar, y tener acceso a servicios de salud, los cuales son libres de cargo.”

Martha Zabale, de SCAP, nació y creció en Watsonville. “Hay mucha gente que viene aquí que básicamente necesita de alguien con quien hablar, entonces tengo una oportunidad con ellos antes que decidan escapar de sus casas o algo



Literatura y equipo para inyecciones de prevención del VIH

eden intercambiar sus jeringas sucias por nuevas sin usar. Los programas de intercambio de jeringas operan bajo la premisa que al disminuir el número de jeringas contaminadas en las calles también se disminuye el riesgo de nuevas infecciones de VIH. SCNEP también conduce campañas de alcance a pie, intercambiando jeringas y distribuyendo condones gratis en areas donde hay compra y venta de drogas.

Pero según Timothy Maroni, Director de Educación y Prevención de SCAP, las tres organizaciones necesitaban un lugar mas permanente para poder ser lo mas efectivas posible. “Era muy difcil porque no teniamos un lugar para los servicios que queríamos ofrecer,” el dijo. En un esfuerzo conjunto para proporcionar tal lugar, los miembros de las tres organizaciones fundaron la Casa Bienestar. Además de proveer prevención de VIH y servicios a usuarios de drogas inyectadas, el centro fue desarrollado con el objetivo de servir como un espacio recreacional para los residentes de Watsonville, enfocándose en jóvenes de entre los doce y veinticuatro años de edad considerados como alto riesgo.

“Los muchachos y muchachas vienen, y están aquí un rato viendo el lugar y echándonos un ojo antes de decir ‘necesito ayuda,’” dijo Linda Valdez de HPHP. El Centro ofrece condones gratis, métodos anticonceptivos, comida, entretenimiento, consejos, apoyo, jeringas limpias y un lugar seguro para descansar. “Básicamente, cualquiera que sea su necesidad tratamos de atenderla,”

así,” ella dijo. “Siento que están cómodos aquí porque conocemos Watsonville.”

Ronaldo de SCNEP ha vivido en Watsonville por trece anos y ha trabajado como voluntario para otras organizaciones locales. “Aún puedo alcanzar la gente con quien crecí y ayudarlas,” el dijo.

Un Espacio de UsosMúltiples

La Casa Bienestar, mucho mas grande que el Drop-In Center en Santa Cruz, ofrece un cuarto de estancia equipado con una mesa de billar, televisión, videocasetera, estéreo, y una computadora con “scanner” y acceso al internet, así como una cocina completa, y un cuarto de conferencias. “Hemos tenido a muchos estudiantes que vienen aquí, y nosotros los ayudamos con su tarea o con sus resúmenes,” dijo Zabale, señalando la estación de la computadora.

La Casa Bienestar también provee suficientes lugares donde el personal y los voluntarios pueden sentarse a conversar con los jóvenes y adolescentes sobre la escuela, el sexo, la familia, o cualquier otra cosa que tengan en mente.

Hay dos pizarrones con enlistados de trabajos, eventos, actividades y otros recursos que pueden ser de interés para los jóvenes. Una oficina de salud provee servicios médicos y de salud, desde pruebas de embarázo hasta vacunas contra la hepatitis B.

El cuarto del Proyecto de Intercambio de Jeringas tiene una entrada separada del área de recepción principal, para así facilitar el anonimato de los clientes. “Si hay un montón de muchachos jugando billar enfrente, pueden entrar y salir por el costado, sin ser vistos por familiares o sin tener que pasar por la incomodidad



HALIE JOHNSON/The Alarm! Newspaper

La sala de recreación en la Casa Bienestar

de ver a personas que no se inyectan,” explicó Heather Edney, la Directora Ejecutiva de SCNEP.

Hay tres oficinas para entrevistas privadas para ayudar a las personas sentirse mas cómodas al hablar sobre temas que encuentren difciles. Edney cree que es crucial la conciencia de los jóvenes sobre la prevención de VIH. Mucho de lo que hacen SCNEP, HPHP, y SCAP está encaminado hacia la juventud. “Casi toda la literatura que producimos está escrita por jóvenes para los jóvenes. El *fuck safe, shoot clean* le habla a la juventud,” explicó Edney.

El Centro Drop-In como un modelo estatal para la efectividad.

Según Maroni, el éxito de el Drop-In Center en Santa Cruz fue lo que hizo posible que se hiciera la Casa Bienestar. La Oficina Estatal del SIDA en California (SOA) decidió que el Drop-In Center en Santa Cruz, abierto en 1988, atendía una necesidad importante en el Condado Norte. Incluso, el SOA lo usó como modelo para el establecimiento de veinte centros similares a lo largo del Estado de California.

El Drop-In Center en el centro de Santa Cruz no está exclusivamente orientado a los jóvenes, pero aproxi-

madamente cincuenta por ciento de los participantes que lo utilizan están por debajo de los veinticuatro años de edad, según Maroni.

Reducción de Daño

A diferencia de otros centros de apoyo para drogas en Watsonville que generalmente trabajan con un modelo basado en la abstinencia, la Casa Bienestar está diseñada para ser un lugar donde los participantes pueden obtener apoyo aún cuando no están listos para dejar el hábito del consumo de drogas.

“Mucha gente no quiere cambiar hoy,” añadió Maroni. “Podrán querer cambiar en un par de meses, o en un par de años de ahora, pero saben que no pueden hacerlo en media hora, así que están viviendo sus vidas, y nosotros solo estamos aquí para vivir con ellos sus vidas, más o menos de la manera en que ellos nos dicen querer vivirlas.”

“No hay un si o un no, y no hay un bien y un mal,” dijo Edney. “Le damos a la gente tanta información como podemos y ellos hacen lo que quieran con ella... Sólomente estamos tratando de intervenir antes que las cosas se pongan peor.”

Casa Bienestar

Horario de Consulta

Lunes & Martes 2–6 PM, Miércoles 12–2 PM (2:30–4:30 Mercado Del Sol) y 5:30–8:30 PM: Jueves–Sábado 2–6 PM

Planned Parenthood

Lunes 3–5: Pruebas de Embarazo, Chlamydia y Gonorrea, control de natalidad, vacunas contra hepatitis B, anticonceptivos de emergencia, y citas concertadas.

Pruebas de Detección del VIH

Lunes 3–5: En este horario estarán disponibles videos educativos, información, accesorios para sexo seguro e inyecciones seguras.

Visitas de Enfermeros de Salud Publica del Homeless Health Services

1er y 3er miércoles de cada mes, 6–7:30 2º. y 4º martes de cada mes 2–3: Revisiones médicas, ayuda con auto cuidado en caso de enfermedad o lesiones, dudas acerca de la salud, reducción de daño, establecimiento de elegibilidad para cobertura médica y referencias para el abuso de alcohol y drogas, manejo de casos.

Proyecto Chupa Higados

Miércoles 5:30–8:30: Cualquiera que haya sido inyectado dentro del año puede obtener pruebas gratis de hepatitis B, C, y VIH. Para más información llame al 831–425–3033

Needle Exchange en el Mercado Del Sol

Miércoles 2:30–4:30

Grupo de Apoyo para Padres

Martes 6:30–9: Para padres y madres que necesiten mas información para entender o ayudar a un ser amado durante o después del uso de drogas o alcohol.

Santa Cruz AIDS Project Proyecto SIDA de Santa Cruz

Lunes a Viernes solo cuando esté abierto
Proporciona prevención por manejo de caso, un grupo de apoyo para hombres dos veces por semana, y defensa de la comunidad VIH positiva.

Casa Bienestar, 90 Mariposa Ave Watsonville (831) 761–8595

Commentary

Pacific Agoraphobia

By MANUEL SCHWAB

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Agoraphobia, which is the clinical term for the fear of open spaces, is derived from the Greek words “agora” and “phobia.” The Agora was a large public square at the center of Athens. It was open to the Athenian citizen class, although only about 5 to 10 percent of the population of Athens could afford to live a leisurely life that included hours spent debating and talking in the Agora. As opposed to the theater—in which the distinction between spectators and orators was clearly marked—the Agora was the center of participatory political discussion in Athens, a place in which discourse was fragmentary rather than dominated by a single citizen.

In modern Greek, the meaning of “agora” has been altered. “Agora” now refers not to a public forum but to a marketplace. Nevertheless, “agoraphobia” still carries the connotation of a fear of public engagement: a phobia of putting oneself at stake in front of one’s fellow citizens.

If the public documents about the current debate on the use of downtown space are any indication, it would serve us at this time to reflect on the shifting definition of “agora.” In response to a series of “incidents” that are perceived as threats to the placid face of our beloved Pacific Avenue—a shooting, a stabbing and aggressive panhandling—the Santa Cruz City Council has held public forums and formed a special committee on downtown issues. Close on the heels of this chorus of concern, the July 3–10 edition of *Metro Santa Cruz* treated Santa Cruzians to “The Reality Check Issue,” in which it attempted to “put some overdue perspective on the controversy over safety in downtown Santa Cruz.”

The institutional and media responses from the community demonstrated the heartening fact that Santa Cruz is actually concerned about its public space. But the terms of the debate led to the unavoidable observation that we cannot, at least as far as the dominant perspectives of our community are concerned, imagine the difference between civic spaces and commercial districts. What becomes clear in both the framing of the Council Committee’s recommendations, and the response of the *Metro* article—which relies heavily on community testimony—is that the Santa Cruz community works from extremely narrow assumptions about what a downtown should be, about whom it serves, and what constitutes the good health of a public space. What was once the politically heated public space, perfectly suited for the exchange of debate, has become marketplace, suited only for the exchange of goods and services. Yet even with this devolution of public space into the relative safety of rule—bound economics, we in Santa Cruz still retreat from any trace of the old political friction once associated with the Agora.

The Downtown Issues Committee, for its part, is so split in its recommendations that it is difficult to understand where they would have us go with downtown. One minute they want the City Council to take a clear position regarding “anti-social behavior.” But in the same statement they re-affirm their commitment to “protecting public space.” These commitments may not at first seem at odds, until we realize that “anti-social behavior” has come to include any form of friction, encompassing many activities that were once an integral part of “public space.” “Public space,” in turn, has become emaciated, left with nothing to flourish around but money transactions, so that merchant interests are the only ones that count. Not recognizing that these developments have transformed the defense of the space now considered public into an attack on the social sphere in all of its fertile messiness, the council is proposing to take measures that work in the exact opposite direction they intend.

Sarah Phelan’s article in the *Metro* illustrates the tension between the desire to regulate downtown and to still allow the space to be genuinely public. In the article we find the County Supervisor telling us in no uncertain terms that fears about downtown safety are generated and defined by the commercial interests in downtown. “Usually the merchants plan a campaign [to crack down on downtown problems] just before Thanksgiving,” Mardi Wormhoudt tells

Phelan, “but this year it’s earlier, maybe because of the economic downturn...”

Perhaps, but if so the economic downturn clearly has the business sector peculiarly worried. Phelan claims she sees “no signs of Armageddon,” and while I agree, it seems clear that signs of a new brink in the battle between private and public space is at hand. On the one side, we have the usual fare of self-indulgent overstatements by those who frequent downtown and clearly have a lot to gain by painting themselves as the targets of excessive oppression. Most glaring among these is Estéban Fox, who seems to think that getting a ticket for sitting on a planter (yeah, we all know how ridiculous that is) puts us one step closer to building a “20-foot-high wall around downtown...and a military takeover of downtown.” This claim seems excessive, especially in light of developments in Palestine and Israel, where citizens have every tangible reason to fear draconian governments.

On the other hand, there are legitimate reasons to suspect the merchants’ new campaign. New-Corp-on-the-block Borders has the audacity to publicly admit “we’re considering installing an ATM that would limit loitering [around the Borders store] to 50 feet.” Reality check: with laws on the books like the one that would provide Borders with a 50



foot buffer for its ATM, town ordinances already fall clearly on the side of the merchants. No matter how self-indulgent the “gypsy kids” on the streets may get, there is a higher power indulging the commercial interests.

This indulgence becomes even more clear when we look at the remaining recommendations of the Downtown Issues Committee. While they include a few more gestures like the promise to protect public space (the hiring of a Downtown Social Worker, for instance), the committee’s recommendations, aimed ostensibly at restoring a downtown “out of balance,” bend over backwards to accommodate the merchants who feel so deeply threatened.

Take a close look and you will recognize that the committee’s recommendations for Ordinance Modifications—made under the guise of simplifying the understanding and enforcement of the present ordinances on soliciting and sitting down on sidewalks—and you see that they are actually engineered to clear the mall of any such activity by “undesirables.” “The proposed adjustment is to make the distance for all of the above situations 14 feet.” Apparently, Borders will not have to bother with the 50 foot buffer around their store—by my estimation, a 14 foot distance from storefronts puts panhandling “gypsy kids” in the street for almost the entire length of the Mall.

The threat that these “gypsy kids” pose, as Glenn Rogers informs us in Phelan’s collection of interviews, is not that they are dangerous. Rather, Rogers informs us that he tends to avoid “walking along

Pacific Avenue because I don’t want to get hit up for money all the time.” The irony, of course, is that extracting money from customers is precisely what every mall is engineered to do. The entire shopping district is a place where people go to be solicited for their money in exchange for one commodity or another.

The fact that this economic exchange is an acceptable replacement for the democratic confrontations of the past is symptomatic of the time in which we seem no longer to have a social sphere, but an economy instead. In fact, as Greg Kindig rightly points out later on in the “Nuz” section of the *Metro* the entire list of downtown issues “reads like a list of symptoms.” But nobody seems to be understanding the disease. Focusing only on symptoms—from the disruptive presence of panhandlers to hacky-sack projectiles—amounts to establishing scapegoat issues to avoid the fact that our public engagement is bankrupt. Downtown’s status as a shopping/public district in which it seems that the stores themselves are the only citizens who ultimately have a right to occupy downtown—with prospective consumers as their temporary guests—is testimony to this.

As is the repeated reference to the Beach Flats as the source of the dangerous elements in downtown—references that seem acceptable across the board, as they are made by residents, merchants, and homeless citizens alike. We are afraid of confrontations with difference, of heterogeneity, of any form of friction—we are agoraphobic, scared of others, afraid of precisely that which we need to make us strong. Of course this superstitious disposition is neither the fault of Sarah Phelan, nor of the *Metro* Editorial Staff, nor for that matter of the City Council. What all three entities should be taken to task for, however, is that they present this superstition without challenging it systematically.

After glossing over the myth of the “dangerous” Beach Flats and the victimized chain store—or rather allowing these myths to speak for themselves—it is downright aggravating to see Phelan take on the quite evident process of gentrification and dismiss it as mythical. One almost gets the impression that Phelan is bent on ignoring the facts. Has she forgotten that the fear that the Cinema 9 would drive out the Del Mar cannot be so quickly dismissed, as the theater actually did go under, and the “beautiful renovation” touted by one of her interviewees was made possible only by a city government bailout. And while the Dotcom bomb may have made a serious dent in the office rentals downtown, it has not made a dent in the rent prices that the previous Dotcom boom helped drive skyward.

Luckily, it seems that there are still plenty of us left who realize that the replacement of the social considerations with economic transactions is an unacceptable compromise. For now, even the Committee Forums and Reality checks that offered such a startling illustration of the problem also offered us a good picture of those people left in resistance. The biggest danger, then, is that we will slowly be taught to underestimate the import of this struggle to maintain our spaces for civic confrontation. When that happens, we will have lost a monumental battle in the fight for self determination. In the final analysis, what must become more and more clear to all of us is that ironically, the capacity for self determination depends on our willingness to be confronted, often uncomfortably, by others.

Killing King Abacus

••for relations without measure••
an insurrectionary anarchist zine

http://www.geocities.com/kk_abacus

PO Box 6404,
Eureka, Ca 95502
kk_abacus@yahoo.com

Local Analysis

From **TRANSCIENCE** on Page 1



The cross-hatched area on this map, provided by Phil Baer, indicate the tidelands from an 1850 survey.

\$3 million annually, and sales taxes from money spent by tourists amount to millions more. When it comes to local politics, that big money talks, and—as the tidelands case illustrates—often behind closed doors. Baer notes that the Seaside Company exerts “this quiet, behind-the-scenes pressure that you can never seem to trace exactly, but things always seem to go their way.”

The City spends big money to keep tourism in Santa Cruz as well. Upwards of \$400,000 per year is allocated from the City’s General Fund to support the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CVB) which promotes tourism in Santa Cruz. The primary benefactor of this subsidized advertising is the Seaside Company with its various tourist attractions.

But city subsidies for the tourism industry are not always so direct. The City also contributes significant funds for public works (which go toward cleaning up sidewalks and beaches, etc.) and police protection. “A lot of our police efforts are directed towards tourism,” says Rotkin. “When you put police officers on Pacific Avenue or in the beach area, that’s pretty much tourist-related.”

Several people I spoke with would like to see some hard numbers detailing the amount of money that tourism actually brings to the Santa Cruz community as well as the social, environmental and economic costs of accommodating tourists. Those numbers are hard to come by. In the course of conducting interviews for this series, I have found politicians and bureaucrats alike reluctant to offer solid figures on either the costs or the benefits. I was lucky to get approximations.

Fred Geiger, an activist who follows the Seaside Company and the local tourism industry, had a few things to say about it. “I don’t think the business community wants to have that kind of information out there because people might decide that it’s simply not worth it,” he says. “Many other towns have condemned these types of operations [like the Boardwalk]—Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Venice, Long Beach—because they bring blight to the community.”

Of particular concern to activists is the sort of vehicle-intensive “day-tripper” tourism attracted to the Boardwalk which contributes little to the local community except reduced air quality, increased noise and traffic, and drunken rowdiness. Folks like Baer and Geiger claim that much of this day-tripper tourism precludes lower-impact, “conceivably beneficial” tourism, not to mention the health and sanity of locals.

Student transience

There is, however, a dearth of political will to move away from tourism as a local tax base. “I don’t think anybody is thinking that there’s some other industry that’s going to replace tourism in Santa Cruz,” says Rotkin. But he does note the way in which Santa Cruz’s economic and political establishment of the 1950’s dealt with the lack of any off-season industry by pushing for the location of a UC in town.

In some ways, though, they ended up shooting themselves in the foot. “I don’t think they understood the political impact of bringing a major university here,” says Rotkin. After all, the voting age was still 21, and students were not allowed to vote outside of their home districts for some time. Vietnam-era state and federal legislative changes reversed those conditions. This, in combination with the student body that was attracted to one of the

most radical experiments in higher education at the time, led to a strong progressive shift which gave the town the nickname “The People’s Republic of Santa Cruz”.

Santa Cruz still carries that reputation across the country—undeservedly so, according to many. Contrary to the high ideals which originally put people like John Laird, Mike Rotkin, Ed Porter and others into local government, Baer now describes the City Council as a “dynasty”. “The local politics are so entrenched that you’re basically choosing between incumbents and former council members, selecting from this handful of people who can get elected any time they want and just sort of pass it back and forth between each other because we have some regulation on the books that no council member can sit on the council for more than eight years,” he says. “They then have to take a two-year break, and then they can go for another eight years, on and on until they’re senile and attending council meetings from the retirement home.”

To a large degree, this state of affairs can be attributed to the transience of the political powerhouse that is the student body. Eight-year term limits do little good in a population with at best a four-year attention span. “As much as I like the students and the university and higher education,” says Baer, “in general, I don’t think of the average UCSC student as being particularly cognizant of what’s going on in city politics or what the impacts are of the votes that they somewhat casually cast.

“I think they get played by the people who are influential up there [on campus], notably Mike Rotkin,” he says. “Their vote is being used by people to do some things I’m not sure students would really

“When you put police officers on Pacific Avenue or in the beach area, that’s pretty much tourist-related.”

want done if they understood how it was really playing out.”

What Baer is referring to is the myriad controversies that Rotkin, who teaches a class on Marxism at UCSC, has gotten himself embroiled within. Rotkin, along with councilmembers Scott Kennedy, Cynthia Mathews and Mike Hernandez consistently found himself in hot water with local activists over issues such as the Beach Area and South of Laurel Plan, which included converting La Bahia apartments into a convention center, an expansion of the Boardwalk and the razing of affordable housing in the Beach Flats, among other things. The plan was meant to “revitalize” (many would say “gentrify”) the area and bolster tourism.

The Rotkin-Kennedy-Mathews-Hernandez council majority also came under fire for supporting the Gateway Plaza and Costco developments. Rotkin, who is running for a fifth term in November, cites this as an attempt to take advantage of a potential non-tourist tax base and stem the flow of capital out of the community into big-box havens such as Fremont and Sand City. Community activists countered that these developments would only support low-wage jobs and the profits of huge corporate chains.

Those other transients

When asked what the city had done to mitigate the tourism industry’s tendencies to draw down wages in the area with the proliferation of low-skill, poorly-paid jobs, Rotkin responded, “It’s led to people thinking that we need to help try and support organizing so that people in those industries can organize and provide an economic defense for themselves.” As evidence, he cited a case in 1981 in which, as Mayor, he supported a strike at a local hotel. He was hard-pressed to cite more recent examples, but noted that the City requires that contractors pay prevailing wages in the building of city developments and that, had the La Bahia Conference Center idea gone through, the City would have required the employer to pay prevailing wages.

The City’s recent passage of the Living Wage Ordinance, which requires the city and its contractors to pay their employees an annually-indexed “living

wage”, indicates that—at least ideally—the City Council is in support of decent wages and workers’ rights to organize on the job. While this may tend to exert an upward pressure on regional wages, it will likely be limited to workers specifically identified in the ordinance. There are some notable exceptions, such as the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union, which this spring voted to tie their lowest wages to the city’s annually-indexed “living wage”. Unfortunately, those workers in the largely tourism-driven retail sector are least likely to share in the ancillary benefits.

When it comes to material, systemic support for decent wages and working conditions, the City’s record is not so impressive. Continuing no-strings subsidies for the exploitive tourism industry are a notable example. “Police protection”, which, according to Rotkin, comprises a large portion of public subsidies for tourism, is particularly problematic. When asked who it was that was being policed in this case, Rotkin answered “everyone.” However, the casual observer will note that, at least when it comes to Pacific Avenue, the scruffier transients are targeted overwhelmingly over the more well-to-do tourist transients who visit the area. Again, hard numbers are hard to come by on this issue, as law enforcement officials are reluctant to keep records to track it.

Even stricter downtown ordinances and more rigorous enforcement of existing downtown and anti-homeless ordinances can only compound this problem. As tempers flared around the time of the police-instigated riots of 1994, members of the Santa Cruz General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (the IWW, or “Wobblies”) put it succinctly: “All low-paid waged laborers...are essentially being warned by anti-homeless legislation to ‘play it safe’ on the job so as not to end up on the street.

“The effort to stigmatize and outright vilify an economic circumstance that all waged workers must constantly struggle to avoid is a very useful strategy for keeping labor in line. In Santa Cruz, a worker’s existence is primarily defined by the constant struggle to maintain legal housing where over half of one’s monthly wages may go towards rent. The criminalization of the condition of being unable to pay rent functions as a very real demand that workers remain ever-grateful for current employment, regardless of conditions or pay.

“By securing access to a subdued and fearful service-industry workforce, supporters of anti-homeless legislation (almost entirely bosses) seek to simultaneously sweep the streets of the homeless while assuring that there will always be a willing employee to hold the broom.”

Where to now?

This piece began in 1920’s Santa Cruz, when the Wobblies were as active here as they were in 1994, then struggling against the timber barons in the

Go see **TRANSCIENCE** on Page 13



FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper

“Supporters of anti-homeless legislation...seek to simultaneously sweep the streets of the homeless while assuring that there will always be a willing employee to hold the broom.”

Eye on the INS

A weekly focus on the INS and immigration policy

Was it really news on July 4, 2002?

By MICHELLE STEWART
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Case Study: Mohammad Nour al-Din Saffi

On Wednesday, July 3, 2002, federal agents stormed a hotel suite across the street from the Miami International Airport. Their target was Mohammad Nour al-Din Saffi.

Saffi, a naturalized New Zealander and employee of Tiger Lines Cargo (a New Zealand-based airline company), entered the US last Wednesday via LAX where he was detained and questioned about his visit. Saffi stated he was going to Miami to take a recertification course for flight engineers; he was entering on a tourist visa. He had the appropriate documentation from his employer and the flight school had confirmed his immigration status with the Department of Justice. Despite his long interrogation by a battalion of INS and FBI agents, he was eventually allowed to continue on his trip.

As Saffi boarded the plane for Miami, the agents at LAX called the Florida INS authorities to inform them that he was on his way. A surveillance operation was officially underway. INS agents then called the flight school, Aeroservice Aviation Center, to ask Saffi's intent. They were informed he was scheduled to take a course to recertify his license to fly Boeing 747s. The INS identified this as a different act than was reported by Saffi, and declared that he had lied to an INS official upon entry into the US, and that he entered without the correct visa. Saffi was picked up at his hotel room that same evening and the news broke on July 4, 2002.

Who is Mohammad Nour Al-Din Saffi? Why was this news?

To an outsider, Saffi is a 36-year-old man of Arab descent who works as a flight engineer for Tiger Lines Cargo, and has been a naturalized New Zea-

lander for the past six years. To the FBI and INS, Saffi is a man of Arab descent who was last in the United States just days before 9/11, and this latest visit would have been to go to a flight school on the July 4th weekend... oh, and his stepfather is Saddam Hussein.

"The circumstances are somewhat disturbing," said Jim Goldman, INS chief of investigations. "It's an awful long way to come to take a refresher course. Post 9-11, an individual such as this definitely comes onto our radar screen." But are the circumstances really so disturbing? Not really, once the facts become evident.

According to Saffi's employer and the flight school, they followed all of the immigration rules related to entering the US and taking the flight engineering class. The school ran all of Saffi's immigration information per the instructions on the new Department of Justice webpage to ensure that he

best flight school in the nation as well as one of the schools to train an alleged 9/11 hijacker.

It is only under recent immigration reform that Saffi is required to get a student visa for this type of course, and, according to INS, he is being detained and deported for failing to get the student visa, not for "lying" to an INS officer about his intentions at the flight school. Saffi has admitted to misunderstanding the need for a student visa to attend the class, and the school has broadcast that they were misinformed. Yet Saffi sits in detention, waiting to be deported, and will be barred from entering the US for five years. A rather steep penalty for a simple mistake.

Well, there are a few inflammatory details that need to be addressed. First, Saddam Hussein, many years ago, married Saffi's mother. There is much gossip surrounding the affair that pre-dated the marriage, and the

“ I know airplanes but I don't know INS. — Statement from Beron Beach, VP of Aeroservice Aviation. ”

was cleared to attend the class. Both the school and employer are stumped, and contend that the incident is just a simple mistake of failing to acquire a student visa.

Berton Beach, Vice President of operations at the flight school outlines the confusing immigration policies regarding student visas and flight school, "There is no requirement on any information we have from the Department of Justice or from the FBI or from INS that a [student] visa is required," (CNN, 7/6/02). Indeed, the Aeroservice Aviation Center is likely one of the best-informed flight schools because it holds the dual distinction to be the

incidents of violence surrounding the marriage. Suffice it to say, that I will not be further engaging this gossip, but feel free to visit CNN's webpage for the whole soap opera. At the end of the day, Saffi has no relevant ties to Saddam Hussein since the connection is only through his mother and he lives a totally autonomous life. The second factor is his presence in the US days before 9/11. The Department of Justice claimed this was suspicious. The simple fact was that he was here on a flight (he is a flight technician) en route to London. Finally, there is the question of why he came to the US on the 4th of July weekend to go to flight school. According to his employer, it is the best school for the training he needed and it seems obvious that the school would have had openings and smaller classes on the Independence weekend.

What do we do with all of this then? Do we chalk it up to an under-handed deed by Saffi—as did the federal authorities? Do we recognize that immigration law is changing so rapidly

that no one really knows what type of paperwork to file and when—as is the contention of all of the affected parties in this case? Or do we admit to the larger issues?

Mohammad Nour al-Din Saffi made the mistake of entering into the US as a man of Arab descent looking to go to a flight school. This is the baseline fact, all that comes before and after are secondary. His link to Saddam Hussein is simply the icing on the cake; first and foremost, Saffi was seen as an Arab looking to fly. If it were anything less, the feds would not have stormed the hotel room, made a big splash on Independence Day, and then deported him for something as silly as a visa mistake.

Saffi entered the US and declared his intention, and when he made a mistake he admitted fault. Yet, he sits in detention. And there are dozens more stories like this; stories where immigrants are not aware of the varied nuances of immigration policy and paperwork. Immigration law changes at such a rapid pace, little time or attention is devoted to disseminating the facts. Post 1996 immigration law was changing at this same speed; again there was no effort to really explain to immigrants and visitors the policy changes, and it has extreme effects on many people. In many cases, small mistakes then resulted in people being barred from the US for five to ten years. This recent mistake for Saffi will result in a five year bar from the US. We are in ridiculous times, measured easily by this ridiculous hysteria and penalties.

The only reason we heard about this case was because the headline could read that Saddam's stepson was in jail, that he wanted to fly a plane, and that he was caught just before the 4th of July. Many in the country read the first paragraph of this story last week and breathed a collective sigh of relief. We need to read past these shock-value headlines and see what is happening to people in this country. One close read of any of the details of this story should have instigated a collective outcry. And yet, these stories are only on the increase.

Since detention is still a secretive process there is limited information available, and there are currently over 1,000 people being held in INS detention with infractions that range from the mundane to the extreme. Until we bring all of these cases out into the open we will continue to hear about stories such as that of Mohammad Nour al-Din Saffi.

Your comments are welcomed and encouraged at michelle@the-alarm.com

In Brief

Border crossers using water stations

By ANDREW REDING

La Opinión and Pacific News Service

Undocumented Mexicans who cross into the United States through the desert are consuming 200 gallons of water at "water stations" along the border, according to *La Opinión*. The water is deposited by groups of volunteers belonging to an organization known as Alto a Guardian ("Stop Guardian"), in reference to the Border Patrol's Operation Guardian, which is intended to seal off the border in California and Yuma County, Arizona.

Each water station consists of plastic water bottles set in a big white box with a blue flag set atop a flexible flagpole to attract notice from

afar. Last year eighty-five would-be undocumented border crossers died from dehydration in the hot desert. It is impossible to know how many lives have been saved, but volunteers report that many of the persons who drink the water leave thank-you notes and Mexican pesos, often writing that the water saved their lives.

The Border Patrol is permitting Alto a Guardian to operate freely and has pledged not to use the water stations as traps to catch undocumented Mexicans.

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Kiva's
New Management Specials
(offers expire 7/20/02)

Monthly Membership
\$80 (reg. \$105)
(w/ this ad)
Yoga Schedule starting July 1st (check for times)

Local Special Day Pass
\$12 (reg. \$16)
(w/ this ad • Mon – Thurs Only)

Communal Gardens
Sauna – Hot Tubs – Cold Plunge
Private Redwood Hot Tubs – Professional Massage
Spa Room Coming Soon!

KIVA
Retreat House Since 1981
Mon-Thur 12pm - 11pm • Fri-Sat 12pm - 12am
Sun 9am - 1:30pm Women's Morning • 1:30pm - 11pm Co-ed
702 Water Street – Santa Cruz – 429-1142
Check out our new website • www.kivaretreat.com

Commentary

Thirty years later, it's time to deliver Appalachia from 'Deliverance'

By JEFF BIGGERS
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the thirty-year anniversary of the Hollywood blockbuster "Deliverance," PNS contributor Jeff Biggers visits the hollows and dells of Southern mountain country to find the real Appalachia, one celebrated in the verse of a native son. Biggers (biggersitaly@hotmail.com) is a freelance writer based in Illinois and Italy.

HELEN, GA—It's turnout time in the north Georgia mountains. The hollows are humming with outdoor enthusiasts. Families picnic in the forests, listening to the honks of wood ducks and watching belted kingfishers swoop over the lakes. Hikers tighten their boots and tackle the Appalachian Trail.

Thirty years ago this month, Warner Brothers released "Deliverance," based on poet James Dickey's novel of the same name. In all its brilliance, its fleet-picking banjo tunes, its blood-curdling reminder of man's inhumanity to man and nature, the film branded an image of the Appalachian mountaineer into our national minds.

I'm here to find another Appalachia, a more realistic and inspiring one portrayed in the verse of a different, native poet.

I heard some hikers from Atlanta talking about "Deliverance" recently at a state park in Helen. They joked about gun-toting inbred hillbillies. Most non-Appalachians would be hard pressed to name an Appalachian that rivaled the household name status of Lil Abner or the albino banjo picker in "Deliverance."

The emergence of "Deliverance" as a code word for violent and sexually deviant miscreants, however, followed more than one hundred years of literary caricatures about Appalachia. Dating back to Mary Murfree's popular novels in the late nineteenth century, which meted out portraits of uncouth backwoodsmen, mountaineers have been treated to a cavalcade of characters, including Lil Abner, Snuffy Smith, and Ma and Pa Kettle. Television shows such as "Hee-Haw," "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "The Dukes of Hazzard" continued the tradition.

"The Waltons" added a sentimental touch.

The "deliverancization" of Appalachia has become more benign these days. Despite the Atlantans' quips, you generally don't hear cracks about hillbillies, ridge-runners or gully jumpers from the politically correct

or from tourist operators in Helen. In fact, sometimes you'd hardly even know you're in Appalachia.

In Helen, a self-described "Alpine Village," faux Bavarian trim, red roofs and white stucco abound. The town has turned Appalachia into Alps for passing travelers or affluent Atlantans looking for a summer cottage in the highlands. The town went through its remarkable remake thirty years ago, in an attempt to attract business and put on a novel face for outsiders. Oktoberfest is now Helen's major celebration.

But just a few miles up the road from the Coosawatee River, where Dickey based his novel, another poet was born in 1906 near Ellijay. Few people have ever heard of Don West, the poet errant of Appalachia. West's family raised corn and dug ginseng on the steep slopes. His mother was a great banjo picker. Members of his family were anti-slavery supporters who fought on the side of the Union.

In 1946, West's collection of poetry, "Clods of Southern Earth," became a literary phenomenon. The volume sold nearly 100,000 copies. The poet praised the role of mill workers, miners, and tenant farmers and called for racial unity.

West wrote defiantly about the progressive history of Appalachia. He crafted poems about what some consider America's first declaration of independence, drafted by mountain people in Watauga, Tennessee. He told of the mountaineers' role in the Underground Railroad and their publication of one of the first abolitionist newspapers.

In 1934, West had to escape from Atlanta under a sack in a car, wanted dead or alive, for defending an African American activist on trial for leading a hunger march in Atlanta. Blazing his own Appalachian trail on an Indian Chief motorcycle, West was imprisoned and beaten untold times, reviled by newspaper editors across the South and burned out by the Klan. He organized textile workers in North Carolina and Georgia, and coal miners in bloody Harlan County, Kentucky. He helped co-found the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee—a critical base for the civil rights movement, which trained Rosa Parks among many others—and gave voice to the vibrant folk revival movement in West Virginia in the late 1960s.

West's Appalachia shattered the quaint folksiness promoted in the tourist brochures. Instead of Bavarian Alpines, a journey through his Appalachia today



Could the anniversary of "Deliverance" instigate an end to the stereotypes of Southerners in the US?

winds around mountaintops flattened by coal companies, and views the resulting flood devastation. A West-inspired tour probes working conditions at the poultry plants and carpet mills that dot the region like ginseng. It might even question how tourist operators depict the region as a sort of alpine retreat.

West died in obscurity in 1992. That same year, Robert Schenkkan's "The Kentucky Cycle," a controversial play that recycled many Appalachian stereotypes of violence and ignorance, won the Pulitzer Prize.

Back in Helen at the state park, about two miles and a hundred years away from the Alpine Village, I heard a young woman play the banjo. She wasn't picking "Dueling Banjos," though. She claw-hammered a breath-taking tune she had learned from her grandma in the coal fields. At the end of the song, she looked up and smiled.

"I call that 'The Other Side of Deliverance,'" she said.

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Jungle Geopolitics

□ High-tech surveillance system may threaten Amazon

By MARCELO BALLVE
Pacific News Service

Editor's Note: Brazil has long sought to tame its immense rain forest, where mercenaries and drug smugglers still roam. Now a massive satellite and ground-based surveillance system may bring order to the Amazon—or become the latest tool to aid in its destruction. PNS contributor Marcelo Ballve (ballve@hotmail.com) is a former Associated Press reporter in Brazil and the Caribbean. He is working on a magazine article about Sivam, jungle security and Brazil's relationship to the Amazon.

BELEM, Brazil—A new rainforest surveillance system promises to transform Brazil's relationship with its vast Amazon region. Though designed to secure territory against drug traffickers' planes and incursions by Colombian rebels, the renewed focus on jungle security could accelerate the Amazon's destruction.

At the heart of the \$1.5 billion network are four massive intelligence installations linked by satellite, all now in final stages of construction at strategic points, including Belem, a gritty

port city of 1 million near the Amazon River delta.

At the construction site, some 300 workers in orange overalls put finishing touches on the ultramodern main building. Soon, rows of analysts in cavernous rooms will pour over data gathered by truck and jet-borne radar. Ultraviolet and infrared photographs taken by low-flying jets will stream into powerful computers for real-time imaging.

Standing on the roof, chief engineer Ismael Pereira surveys the site, mostly still an expanse of bare, red earth carved from surrounding forest. Even here, near the Amazon's largest city, the jungle had to be hacked away before construction. Now, three years after the first trees were uprooted, the job is almost done.

"I feel proud," Pereira said. "I think it's about time that the Amazon became incorporated into the rest of Brazil."

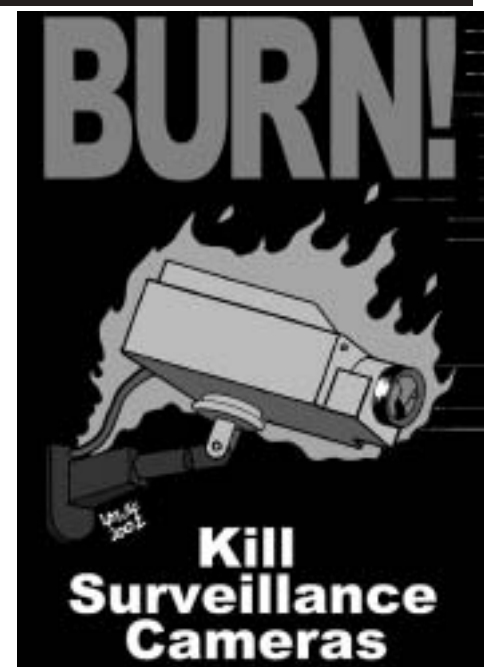
So does Brazil's government. It touts the System to Guard the Amazon, known by its Portuguese acronym, Sivam, as the solution to the most stubborn geopolitical problem of Bra-

zil's history. No Brazilian government has exerted effective sovereignty over the Amazon, which covers two-thirds of national territory. Mercenaries and smugglers still wander the jungle in an unregulated, destructive pursuit of wealth. Drug flights crisscross borders.

Technology, much of it provided by U.S. military contractor Raytheon, will now be used to combat these threats. Sivam will also allow planners to create a valuable inventory of Amazon resources. The system, complemented by a regional military buildup—including ships, planes and helicopters—will watch porous borders, alerting security forces of any incursions by drug traffickers or guerrillas.

Sivam has enjoyed wide support among politicians, newspaper editors and even many ordinary Brazilians as a tool that will finally illuminate and secure the empty quarters of Brazil's maps. But for one prominent critic, it represents the latest phase of the Amazon's militarization, increasing the likelihood that Indians and peasants will be victims of repression.

With the military, rather than



scientists, in control, says Belem investigative journalist Lucio Flavio Pinto, the sole object of Amazon policy becomes occupation.

"This program was completely defined by the military," said Pinto, who recently blasted the plan in his Amazon Agenda column for the prestigious Agencia Estado news service. "It is bent on increasing the coercive power of troops in the region to increase sovereignty. The price we'll pay

Go see **AMAZON** on **Page 13**

Community Calendar

Send calendar submissions to calendar@the-alarm.com or mail 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.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

1:00 PM Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman. FRSC 96.3 FM.

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

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

6:00-7:00 PM KPFA Evening News. On 88.1 KZSC.

8:00 AM-8:00 PM "A Luta Continua: African Liberation Movement Posters from the Collection of David H. Anthony." Professor David H. Anthony's personal collection of politically engaged poster art from the African Revolution. It particularly focuses on Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and South Africa, also featured is archival material from Special Collections on the anti-apartheid/divestment movement at UCSC, and related books from the University Library's collection. Contact Irene Reti Phone: (831) 459-2847. Email: iherti@cats.ucsc.edu. At the McHenry Library, 2nd floor, UCSC., SC, Exhibit open through Sept. 23.

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

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

Tuesdays & Fridays 12-1:00 PM Domestic Violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave, SC For info call (831) 426-3062.

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

FRI-SUN (7/12-7/14)

Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival. 100% California Bluegrass. Bolado Park, San Benito County Fairgrounds Hollister, CA. Visit www.bluegrassociety.org.

SATURDAY 7/13

7:00 PM S.M.A.R.T. Recovery (Self-Management and Recovery Training). A self-help program for recovery from addictive behavior. Non-denominational. Based on cognitive/behavioral methods. Page Smith Community House 111 Coral St (at River St and Hwy 1.), SC.

1:00-2:00 PM Flamenco Dance Classes with La Romera. Introduction to Flamenco—Beginners level 1. \$10 w/ card or \$12 drop-in. Louden Nelson, SC.

2:00-3:00 PM Flamenco Dance Classes with La Romera. Beginners level 2 & intermediates.\$10 w/card or \$12/drop-in. Louden Nelson Center, SC.

2:00-4:30 PM The Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45. Call the ticket office at 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info. At the UCSC Theater Center.

SUNDAY 7/14

9:00-1:00 PM Live Oak Farmers Market. 1515 East Cliff Dr, at the East Cliff Shopping Center, SC. Now open every Sunday through November.

MONDAY 7/15

9:00-10:30 AM Creative Writing for Fun. For older adults 55+. Register in advance by visiting the Downtown Seniors Office (SC), or calling (831) 420-6180.

10:00 AM Support San Francisco day laborers protest/rally. After the recent worker-led speak-out about police ticketing day laborers, La Raza was informed that the money they were given to administer the program was put up for public bid. On the steps of City Hall in San Francisco.

12:00-4:00 PM Condoms, coffee, and conversation at the Drop-in Center. 412 Front St, SC.

6:00-7:30 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Women's meeting Survivor's Healing Center. 2301 Mission St, SC. For more info call (831) 477-4165.

6:30-7:30 PM Nicotine Anonymous to stay stopped. Louden Nelson Rm. 2, SC.

TUESDAY 7/16

12:00-6:00 PM Organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St and High St, SC.

2:30-6:30 PM Felton Farmer's Market. 6090 Hwy 9, Felton. Ongoing through November.

5:00 PM Youth Coalition SC, RCNV, 515 Broadway, SC.

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

7:30 PM S.M.A.R.T. Recovery (Self-Management and Recovery Training). A self-help program for recovery from addictive behavior. Non-denominational. Based on cognitive/behavioral methods. At the Little Red Church (Calvary Episcopal Church) 532 Center St, SC.

7:30-9:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Men's meeting. Survivor's Healing Center. 2301 Mission St Call (831) 477-4165.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM Earth First! meeting. 509 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY 7/17

12-1:00 PM Brown Bag Lunch. Women professionals, writing group, with speakers. For info call (831) 426-3062. 303 Walnut Ave, SC.

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

5:00-6:00 PM Beginning Hip Hop Summer Session. Drop in dance classes with Eva and Carmela. \$10-\$15 teens and adults. Louden Nelson Rm 4/5, SC.

6:00-7:00 PM Intermediate/Advanced Hip Hop Summer Session. Drop in dance classes with Eva and Carmela. \$10-\$15 teens and adults. Louden Nelson Rm 4/5, SC.

Miercoles/Wednesday 7:00-8:30 PM Drop-in domestic violence support group/grupo de apoyo para 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., SC.

7:00-9:00 PM Botanical Diversity in Zambia. Dan Harden, Director of the UCSC Arboredum, will give an illutrated talk on the plants and ecology of Zambia, where he traveled and worked extensively, followed by a pot-luck supper. Free. At the UCSC Arboretum. Call 427-2998.

7:30-9:00 PM English Morris Dancing. High-energy centuries old, comes from the Cotswold Region of Central England. Dancers wear bells on their legs and clash big sticks together or wave hankies. Louden Nelson RM 4/5, SC. Call (831) 426-3437.

7:30-9:30 PM Creative writing circle. Contact Karen for location and info (831) 469-0360.

8:30 AM Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom. Baker's Square on Ocean St, SC.

THURSDAY 7/18

12:00-6:00 PM Organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St and High St, SC.

12:30-4:00 PM Youth hours. Condoms, coffee, and conversation at the Drop-In Center. 412 Front St, SC.

7:00 PM Santa Cruz Peace Coalition meeting, RCNV, 515 Broadway, SC.

7:00 PM Gay Teen Alliance. For youth ages 14-25, all genders, bilingual. 12 E. Gabilan St, Salinas. For info call (831) 772-8200.

7:00-8:30 PM Young Warriors. Young women's leadership program. Drop-in support also for survivors of violence. Call (831) 426-3062 for info. 303 Walnut Ave, SC.

7:00-8:30 PM Wise Guys. Drop-in support group for teenage survivors of violence. 303 Walnut Ave, SC. Call (831) 429-3062 for info.

7:00 PM Drop-in domestic violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave, SC. For info call (831) 426-3062.

FRIDAY 7/19

1:30-5:00 PM Women's hours. Condoms, coffee, and conversation at the Drop-In Center. 412 Front St, SC.

5:00 PM Peace Vigil at Watsonville Plaza facing Main St, Wats.

5:00 PM Peace Rally at the intersection of Ocean and Water St, SC.

5:00-6:00 PM Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center. 412 Front St, SC.

6:30-7:30 PM Nicotine Anonymous to stay stopped. Trinity Church, 420 Melrose Ave (off Water St), SC.

SATURDAY 7/20

1:00-2:00 PM Flamenco Dance Classes with La Romera. Introduction to Flamenco—Beginners level 1. \$10 w/ card or \$12 drop-in. Louden Nelson, SC.

2:00-3:00 PM Flamenco Dance Classes with La Romera. Beginners level 2 & intermediates. \$10 w/ card or \$12 drop-in. Louden Nelson, SC.

2:00-4:30 PM Coriolanus. Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45. Call the ticket office at 459-2159 or go to ww.w.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.At the UCSC Theater Center.

7:00 PM S.M.A.R.T. Recovery (Self-Management and Recovery Training). A self-help program for recovery from addictive behavior. Non-denominational. Based on cognitive/behavioral methods. Page Smith Community House 111 Coral St (at River St and Hwy 1.), SC.

SUNDAY 7/21

2:00-4:30 PM The Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45. call ticket office at 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.At the UCSC Theater Center.

2:00-4:30 PM Coriolanus. Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45. Call the ticket office at 459-2159 or go to ww.w.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.At the UCSC Theater Center.

2:00-7:00 PM Bluegrass & Old Time Jam, Boulder Creek Methodist Church. Mountain & Boulder Streets off Hwy 9 in Boulder Creek. Call Mark Varner at (831) 338-0618 or Leslie Abbott at (831) 423-5214 for info.

7:30-9:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Coed Meeting. Call (831) 477-4165 for info. Walnut Women's Center, SC.

Youth

I am automation man

By SIMON HANUKAI
Silicon Valley Debug

Last Saturday, I decided to do an experiment by becoming "Automation Man." For one day, I would try to get through my busy day without talking to a single human being. This idea came to me when I realized that most public things such as getting groceries, banking, and eating lunch have become very private things in our automated world. I can even meet that special someone online, without ever actually "meeting" her. But as my private life is becoming more convenient through ATM cards and the web, I feel we are giving up the most important aspect of public life: random social interactions.

So with this mission in mind, I threw on my gear, took a deep breath, and hit the streets of San Jose. As I got into my ride I noticed

ally encouraged not to bank inside, and get charged any time I do so. With some cash in my pocket I then stopped by Super K-mart on the East Side. I picked up a couple pairs of chonies, some socks and some other necessities. In a few minutes I had all that was essential to me and was ready to get checked out. I got in line and came face to face with a new kind of creature, a "Self-Serve Check Out Stand." After an eternity of absolute confusion that felt more like a test than a convenience, I finally figured it out, paid, and was on my way.

Still trippin' over dealing with a computerized store clerk, I headed off to the South Side. I was starving and the Arby's nearby was looking better by the second. I strolled in and headed towards the counter. But, of course instead of someone asking



Fernando Amaral/Silicon Valley Debug

like I had no other choice but to do what I was told. So I reached out and carefully pressed on the small box. I was then taken through a step-by-step process of ordering just what I wanted and was then instructed to pay with my ATM card, and to wait for my food.

After chowing down, I just couldn't take it anymore. I was now half way through my day without having exchanged one word with another live being, without having heard someone's voice, or felt the touch of a hand. Automation is re-defining life in ways that challenge how we interact with each other.

But we are still social animals. We need to talk with the guy at the gas station. We need the random conversation we get at the counter of the Super K-Mart, even if sometimes the words seem empty.

As I was leaving Arby's I saw a middle aged man slowly walking in my direction. I knew what had to be done. I went straight for him and with a big smile as I looked into his widening eyes said, "Hello, how are you?" I couldn't help but notice his utter shock. His face turned orange-red and then he slowly mumbled "Ahm, Hi." I was saved.

Reprinted from the Silicon Valley Debug, a publication by and for youth. For more info visit: www.siliconvalleydebug.com.

The Alarm! Newspaper is seeking youth writers. This space is set aside each week for a youth voice and perspective. We welcome and encourage you to write on a wide range of topics. We want to know your take on things, your experiences and stories.

We accept entries written in English or Spanish, whichever language you are most comfortable with. Entries should be approximately 750 words. We prefer that you contact us in advance if you are planning to write an article.

For more info call Halie Johnson at 429-NEWS. Or email youth@the-alarm.com with your name, phone number or some other way we can get in touch with you. Please include the topic you are interested in covering.

“I can even meet that special someone online, without ever actually “meeting” her..”

the yellow gaslight and headed off to the nearest Rotten Robbie's gas station. Instead of asking Johnny to pump me up, I simply ran my card through the slot by my car. I was off within two minutes.

Next stop, the bank. Instead of heading inside to speak to a teller, I quickly veered off to the ATM machine. As a customer I am actu-

me, "How can I help you?" there was a computerized menu built into the counter, which asked me to: "Press This Box When You Are Ready To Order." Like the machine at the Super K-Mart, this automated teller was new to me, but I was surprised how quickly I got used to it. After years of being lectured about following orders at school and work, it felt

THE LITERARY GUILLOTINE

ART • LITERATURE • CULTURAL STUDIES
Fine University & Small Press Books

The Alarm! Newspaper

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The local politics of transience



The statue of Tom Scribner playing musical saw in front of the St. George Hotel.

From **AMAZON** on **Page 9**

for that is the continued destruction of the region.”

He fears the system will facilitate encroachment on vulnerable indigenous areas that shelter valuable gold and lumber. The military counters that Sivam will be a cost-effective way to protect the integrity of Indian lands.

Pinto said a conventional fixed radar network, Radam, was trumpeted as the rainforest’s savior in the 1970s, only to coincide with road-building schemes that brought all-consuming fires deep into the jungle. Likewise, the government’s current “Advance Brazil” development blueprint calls for paving thousands of kilometers of jungle roads.

Even Jarbas Passarinho, ex-military brass and former governor of the jungle state of Para and a firm Sivam supporter, has warned against transforming the Amazon into a “militarized laboratory.”

Sivam was unveiled at Rio’s 1992 Earth Summit as a tool to control deforestation. Security objectives have now eclipsed those goals. Neighboring Colombia’s conflict has become a full-fledged war against narco-guerrillas and paramilitaries. In 2000, the United States launched its \$1.3 billion Plan Colombia, intensifying the conflict and increasing the risk of spillover into Brazil.

Then Sept. 11 shifted the whole world’s focus to security. Brazil finds itself bordering countries that are home to four organizations on the U.S. list of terror groups, including Peru’s Shining

Path and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. In May, Brazilian soldiers exchanged gunfire with suspected FARC guerrillas near the border.

Most worrisome to Brazil’s military is a chunk of territory known as the Dog’s Head, a remote area wedged between Peru and Colombia.

The plan for the Dog’s Head “is to increase the area under surveillance so as to not permit use of Brazilian territory by any of Colombia’s forces,” said Airforce Col. Francisco Leite Albuquerque Neto, vice-president of the Sivam commission. “On that point, there is no doubt (Sivam) will be very useful.”

But rather than lead to repression, Sivam will generate objective data for resolving property disputes underlying social conflict, said Albuquerque. Corruption will decrease; aerial surveillance will discourage officials from taking bribes from poachers, illegal loggers and wildcat miners.

Sivam’s data will aid in the mapping and monitoring “ecological-economic zoning” for rainforest use, Albuquerque said. “The Brazilian government has never had the intention or the policy of allowing the Amazon to remain isolated.” Defense Minister Geraldo Quintao recently repeated the old mantra that the Amazon’s population density is too low.

In this age of security, visions of a sparsely populated and pristine future for the Amazon seem increasingly far-fetched.

From **TRANSCIENCE** on **Page 8**

Santa Cruz Mountains. Tom Scribner, whose bronze statue perches on the Pacific Avenue sidewalk facing the St. George Hotel and whose portrait graces the wall of the Poet & Patriot, was a Wobbly during those times. He devoted most of his life to organizing with the unemployed and downtrodden against the financial system that kept them down. He was later known for his skill in playing the musical saw, which he often did in public spaces. If only our eclectic street musicians were treated with such respect nowadays.

Still, it is positive that we have a statue of an old-time radical and no such visible monument to the racial and class bigotry which ran rampant in the ‘20s in Santa Cruz (at least until Louis Rittenhouse erects—as Bruce Bratton claims he plans to—a commemorative plaque to his grandfather, a major proponent of the “Keep California White” movement). But, we cannot rely on a transient and unrooted student radicalism to maintain the pseudo-progressive majority in Santa Cruz.

For one thing, the political power of the student body is likely to become increasingly fragmented as a new student demographic is brought to

UCSC by bolstered Economics and Engineering departments and a waning commitment among faculty to non-traditional education. For another, it is clear that the student body has enormous political power, but that political power will be easily mobilized, as it always has been, to serve the interests of the political elite who have in turn enslaved themselves to the economic interests of the tourism industry.

The solution does not lie in City Government. As Phil Baer notes about his experience in City Council meetings, “It just seems like a predetermined process. You go there, you say your spiel, but you get the sense the decision has already been made.” How we vote matters far less than how we relate to our bosses, our landlords or those who would presume to police us. It also matters far less than how we all relate to each other—the community ties and the alternative institutions we build together.

My next installment of “Transience in Santa Cruz” will focus on how transience affects these interpersonal relationships. It will not appear in the next issue, but rather in the following one, to give all of you time to relate your stories and register your opinions on this topic. Please send us your thoughts to our P.O. Box or e-mail me at fhar@the-alarm.com.

From **BIENESTAR** on **Page 4**

the habit.

“A lot of people don’t want to be fixed today,” Maroni added. “They might want to be in a couple of months from now, or a couple of years from now, but they know they can’t do it in a half an hour. So they’re living their lives, and we’re just there to live their lives with them, more or less how they

tell us they want to live them.”

“There’s no yes or no, there’s no right or wrong,” said Edney. “We give people as much information as we can and then they do what they want with it.... We’re just kind of trying to step in before things get worse.”

Casa Bienestar

Drop-In General Hours

Monday & Tuesday 2–6 PM, Wednesday 12–2 PM, (2:30–4:30 PM Del Sol), and 5:30–8:30 PM, Thursday–Saturday 2–6 PM.

Planned Parenthood

Mondays 3–5 PM: Pregnancy, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea tests, birth control, Hepatitis B vaccinations, emergency contraception & scheduled appointment.

HIV Testing

Mondays 3–5 PM: Educational videos, information, safer sex supplies and safer injection supplies.

Public Health Nurse Visits

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 6–7:30 and 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 2–3 PM: Health services available, assistance to establish medical coverage, case management and referrals for alcohol and drug use.

Proyecto Chupa Hígados

Wednesdays 5:30–8:30 PM: Anyone who has injected within the past year can get a free Hep B, C & HIV test. For more info call the hotline at (831) 425-3033.

Needle Exchange

One for one syringe exchange as well as safer injection supplies.

Needle Exchange at Del Sol Market

Wednesdays 2:30–4:30 PM

Parents Support Group

Tuesdays 6:30–9 PM: For parents who need more information to understand or help a loved one during and after the use of drugs and alcohol.

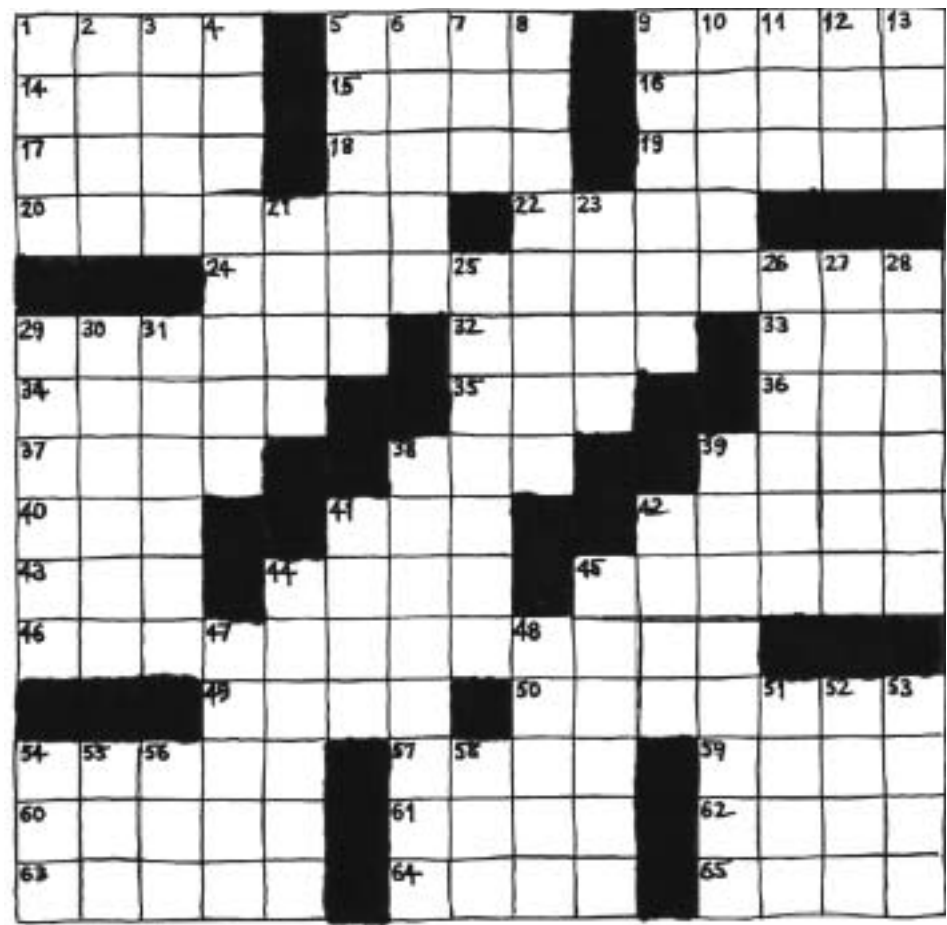
Santa Cruz AIDS Project

Monday–Friday: Open hours for the bi-weekly men’s support group and advocacy for the HIV positive community.

Casa Bienestar is located at 90 Mariposa Ave Watsonville, CA (831) 761-8595

Wholly Cross-Words

By Oliver Brown



Puzzle #006

ACROSS

- 1 Trim a photograph
- 5 1978 Kidder role
- 9 Material forming cells (suffix)
- 14 Bee digs
- 15 "____ and Andy"
- 16 Beck stoner rap
- 17 Chilled
- 18 Admin. of laws
- 19 Dull pains
- 20 Opening track on the Pixies' *Come on Pilgrim* EP (1987)
- 22 Italian volcano
- 24 Prescott Sheldon progeny
- 29 Post-JFK Commission
- 32 Ruler
- 33 Hubbub
- 34 Inhalation anesthetic
- 35 Jason Kidd
- 36 Disencumber
- 37 Comic strip by Casatt & Brookins
- 38 Accomplished
- 39 Satisfy
- 40 Guided
- 41 "____ has truth in it; wisecracking is simply calisthenics with words." —Dorothy Parker
- 42 Donned (two words)
- 43 Direction from Binghampton, New York to Albany, New York
- 44 El _____, Texas
- 45 Camus or Brooks
- 46 September 1988 Playboy interviewee
- 49 Cold War foe
- 50 Fertilizer ingredient
- 54 Fix the time on a clock again
- 57 Lion hair
- 59 Characterized by vigorous pursuit
- 60 Run away
- 61 "____ is maybe lying to God. Or better, lying to love." —Anne Sexton
- 62 Speedball ingredient
- 63 Not as many
- 64 "Pale Blue Eyes" composer
- 65 Kirby Puckett

DOWN

- 1 "Good Times" band
- 2 Wealthy in Barcelona
- 3 Across
- 4 Lineage
- 5 *The Blue _____* (1980)
- 6 Love in Genoa
- 7 National Novel Writing Month (abbr.)
- 8 Respected
- 9 Two-dimensional
- 10 Union branch
- 11 _____ Wednesday
- 12 View
- 13 "____ Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter" by Herman's Hermits
- 21 Samuel Adams
- 23 "Upper Class _____ of the Year" (Monty Python skit)
- 25 Biological father (anthropology term)
- 26 Self-defense art
- 27 Receiver of pointed letters
- 28 Beaver or rabbit
- 29 Son of Beverly Crusher
- 30 Goddess of wisdom and war
- 31 One time home to wonderous bronze statue
- 38 Pacifist
- 39 Take away
- 41 Crimeon and Boer
- 42 Portion of level ground
- 44 Drive bananas
- 45 Astray
- 47 Band started by Brett Anderson and Bernard Butler
- 48 Orphan musical
- 51 State openly
- 52 Retro decorative motif
- 53 "I Dream of Jeanni" actress
- 54 Game official
- 55 Eden resident
- 56 Dated casually
- 58 Blvd.



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Answers from last week's puzzle (# 005)

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For sale/trade: Canon Hi-8 video camera. Great condition w/ tapes. Price negotiable. Call 457-2553.

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Seeking

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Personals

06210201 Friendly female journalist seeks female jogging partner. I like running in the woods and on the beach.

To reply to a personal listing, please email: personals@the-alarm.com and specify which listing you are responding to by including the number you see with the personal in the subject heading of your message. All responses will be forwarded.

Work Opportunities



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 - ☐ work opportunities
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 - ☐ personally

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Liquor Store
Felton Post Office
Felton New Leaf
Brookdale Lodge
Grocery Outlet in Felton
Boulder Creek Brewery
Boulder Creek New Leaf
Johnnie’s Super Market, Boulder Creek
Mill St. at Boulder Creek Market
Scotts Valley Post Office
Long’s on Mt. Herman
Taco Bell on Mt. Herman
Chubby’s Diner
Nob Hill Foods Scotts Valley

UCSC
East Remote Lot Bus Stop
Social Sciences 2
McHenry Library

WESTSIDE
Mission St. near McDonalds
Food Bin/Herb Rm. on Mission St.
Mission St. near Westside Video
Mission & Bay bus stop
Mercado Santa Cuz on Mission St.

Mission St. near Coffeetopia
Mission St. near Long’s
Ferrel’s Donuts on Mission St.
ARCO on Mission St.
Circle Market on Errett Circle
Santa Cruz High School
Highland bus stop

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Caffe Pergolessi, Cedar & Elm
Cedar & Lincoln
Saturn Cafe, Laurel & Pacific
Cedar & Locust
Cedar & Union
Greyhound Station
Asian Rose Courtyard
Central Library
China Szechwan

HARVEY WEST
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Homeless Services, Coral St.

UPPER OCEAN
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Emeline Center
Denny’s on Ocean St.
Santa Cruz Diner on Ocean St.
Jack in the Box on Ocean St.

LOWER OCEAN
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Crepe Place
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Day’s Market on Seabright
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Staff of Life
Post Office (Soquel Ave. & Morrissey)

TWIN LAKES
Kind Grind (Yacht Harbor)
Tacqueria Michoacan (East Cliff)
Dynasty Restraurant (East Cliff)

LIVE OAK
Soquel Ave. & 7th Ave.
Live Oak Super (17th Ave.)
Coffee House (Commercial Dr.)
Bus stop near El Chino and Cafe X on Soquel Dr.

CAPITOLA
Chill Out (41st Ave.)
New Leaf Market (41st Ave.)
La Esperanza loop road at Capitola Village Beach
Capitola Ave. & Bay Ave. (Gayle’s)

SOQUEL
Ugly Mug on Soquel
Sunrise Café

APTOS
Cabrillo College bus stop
Straw Hat Pizza (Soquel frontage Rd.)

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Freedom Blvd. in Ralph’s Shopping Center
Net Cafe on Union St.
Union and Trafton at the Library & Cabrillo College
Main and East Beach St.
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