

HIV surveillance threatens anonymity

By CAROLINE NICOLA

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

California implemented new regulations Monday to enhance the State's existing system of HIV reporting. The legislation requires health care clinics and laboratories to provide local health officers with information on persons infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, using "non-name codes." HIV tests done anonymously will not be reported. However, in order to get access to medical services, a confidential test is required and the results will be reported using the non-name codes.

State officials claim the codes will ensure individual privacy, but some health care workers worry that the new reporting requirements will scare people away from being tested. "One of my biggest fears is that it will decrease the number of people tested," said Saji Seven, African American HIV Prevention Coordinator at the Equinox, an HIV prevention center in Santa Cruz.

Seven pointed out that the HIV case reporting system could be intimidating for those concerned with privacy.

Roy Jimenez, Health Program Director of Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, said just walking through the door of a clinic to be tested is a major decision for many people, and includes an understandable level of anxiety and fear. People may back off from being tested due to the new reporting requirements, he said.

Sally Cantrell, HIV Prevention Services Coordinator of the Berkeley Free Clinic shares his concern. "People at the highest risk for being HIV positive are the most reluctant to take a HIV test if they have to divulge personal information," she said.

The non-name codes will consist of an individual's Soundex code (a phonetic, alphanumeric formula which is used to convert the last name into an algorithm), complete date of birth, gender and the

last four digits of the patient's Social Security number.

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) will use the reporting system to track the number of individuals in the state with HIV in order to provide access to prevention and treatment programs and to apply for federal funds, according to the State Department.

"The confidential reporting of HIV will allow more accurate epidemiological surveillance to better monitor the HIV/AIDS epidemic," said State Health Director Diana Bonita. "It will also provide for targeted planning, resource allocation and evaluation of HIV prevention programs."

Prior to the new regulations, Santa Cruz County already tracked communicable diseases and reported their findings to CDHS and the Center for Disease Control, a federal agency. The problem with that system is it didn't

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HALIE JOHNSON/The Alarm! Newspaper

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Transience in Santa Cruz

In this series, I address the role of transience in Santa Cruz—how it affects our community economically, politically and psychologically. To accomplish this analysis, however, requires a redefinition of transience which includes more than the narrow colloquial version of "the transient" limited to homeless vagabonds. Without this redefinition, it becomes far too easy to scapegoat the homeless for the problems stemming from a much broader and more systemic transience.

Part One: The economy

By FHAR MIESS

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Transience, in a very literal sense, is a perennial phenomenon in Santa Cruz, and it is by no means a new one. The Ohlone tribes, who were likely the first people to settle here, are said to have migrated between the mountains and the low wetlands seasonally, as the weather and availability of food changed.

As broad-leaved plantain (which some call "White Man's Foot" because of the way it tended to spring up wherever settlers tread) began to populate the area, seasonal migrations took on a slightly different character, but they were still determined, to a large degree, by shifting weather and availability of natural resources.

As those resources—mostly forests—became denuded at the end of the 19th Century, tourism began replacing the resource-intensive manufacturing base that had come to define the Santa Cruz area. It was still a very transient set of communities, but that transience was driven less and less by seasonal weather changes and more and more by market fluctuations.

It's interesting to examine what we mean by "transient" in this historical context. Most people in Santa Cruz, when asked to point out a transient, will look about for the nearest person they can identify as being homeless. In a sense, they are right. In one—somewhat superficial—respect, the homeless in Santa Cruz are transient much as the native Ohlone were: their need for shelter and the shelter options they choose are largely determined by what the climate dictates.

This climate, however, is very different from the climate known to the Ohlone before missionaries and settlers arrived. Contrary to the local natural climate, which was (and is) ideal for human habitation and cohabitation, our present climate is marked economically by inflated housing costs and deflated wages, with the availability of both being determined to a large extent by a much more significant transient population than the homeless: namely, the student and tourist populations.

For those who are homeless, it is also a social climate marked by violence. The Homeless 2000 Needs Assessment survey for Santa Cruz County, conducted by Applied Survey Research, indicated that seventy-six out of 811 people said they had

been physically beaten, sixty-five said they had been robbed and thirteen had been sexually assaulted. The Santa Cruz Police Department noted in a memo that homeless people are more likely to be victims of crime than the housed.

The survey also noted that more than three quarters of respondents had lived in Santa Cruz County for over five years. Almost thirty percent grew up here. Respondents' biggest daily problem, after lack of work or income, was transportation, which indicates that their transience is more of an unpleasant necessity than a choice.

But this is only one sliver of the transience that characterizes our region. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the agricultural sector accounted for some 12,940 documented workers in the county in the peak growing season of 2000, with only 4,469 employed that winter. Many of those displaced are forced to relocate after the growing

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LOCAL ANALYSIS

Letter from an Editor

I celebrated Fourth of July 2000 by getting tipsy at a backyard barbecue and then biking over to Seabright Beach to watch the firework show. This year, thousands of Santa Cruzans are disappointed in local law enforcement's plans to crack down on the illegal use of fireworks on county beaches. This morning I saw a man decked out in stars and stripes, with a painted face and an Uncle Sam hat, standing as a statue on the corner of Pacific and Cathcart in downtown Santa Cruz. The young children who walked by, holding their parents' hands, watched the statue in awe. With more enthusiasm than ever this year, Santa Cruz celebrates the US's ability to triumph against foreign powers, in commemoration of its declaration of independence from the British Empire 226 years ago.

What Uncle Sam on Pacific Avenue and the drunken jocks at barbecues across the county don't seem to realize is that the US has become a mirror to reflect the very imperialist power that the authors of the Declaration of Independence condemned. Governments are instituted to secure the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, they proclaimed. Maybe they meant that white Republican men should be allowed to live while immigrants crossing the US-Mexico border should be left to die in the desert and the US army should murder families

in Afghanistan. Perhaps by hailing the right to liberty, they were referring to patriots' liberty to hang American flags from highway over-passes, but not the right of activists to do the same with anti-war banners. As for happiness, if drinking Coca-Cola is all one needs to be happy, most US residents stand a chance in the pursuit; I guess we aren't counting on always being able to breathe fresh air.

Here at *The Alarm!*, we aren't planning to take the day off this Fourth of July. But since our printer is, this Wednesday night is turning out to be quite a scramble. Remember the glaring question mark in front of Officer Gray's name on the front page of last week's issue? (Our reporter—who is also the layout man—didn't have a chance to look over his story one last time before we sent the paper off to press.) I can't wait to see what kinds of typos we'll have this week! As I hide in a local bar to write this editorial, everyone back at the office is finishing their articles in hope that we can get the paper in on time, fifteen hours earlier than our regular deadline. We assumed the printer wasn't planning to celebrate the imperialism of our nation. After all, they print primarily Vietnamese-, Spanish-, and Arabic-language newspapers for some of the groups of people who have recently been the most affected by the government's anti-terrorist legislation.

But we forgive them of course. Boy have they been flexible with our inability to meet deadlines. We've called them repeatedly on many Thursday nights to request extensions. If they are drinking beer at barbecues and watching fireworks this year, they deserve a day off. In fact, perhaps they are celebrating not US independence from Great Britain but rather our potential for a new revolution. Deprived of our abilities to secure the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, according to the Declaration of Independence, it might be time for another round of government abolishment.

When the *Alarm!* Collective sat down to list the goals of our newspaper last March, the first item on the list was to "instigate revolution." Perhaps it's time that we fess up to these intentions. Many of our readers have promptly called us to task in the past weeks, reminding us of what we need to do to reach this goal. I hope that many more of you will take this opportunity to insist that we cover the stuff we're missing. But while you're helping your local lefty newspaper in its quest to help you get engaged, think what you can do in your everyday life to subvert the power of the US Empire. I won't tell you how to do it. You can figure it out.

—Rachel Showstack

Opinion Editorial

The snake-oil salesmen of Silicon Valley

By **RAJ JAYADEV**
Pacific News Service

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The second I entered the back room of the downtown San Jose restaurant, I knew what I was getting into. The language was all too familiar.

"The chance of a lifetime."
"Financial freedom."
"A way to make your dreams a reality."

It was a pyramid scheme. In the past month, I've been invited to an "opportunity meeting" by two separate guides—the guys at the Chinese restaurant, and an Indian tech worker. I'm not surprised, because despite the rhetoric, Silicon Valley at its core has never really been about technology or innovation. It's about finding a way to be your own boss and get rich while doing it.

So in the aftermath of the high-tech meltdown, folks in Silicon Valley—including the newer immigrant communities—are going back to basics. That's why my "once in a lifetime opportunity" hit twice in a month.

Pyramid schemes, officially called Multilevel Marketing Plans, are as traditionally American as apple pie. You sell a product whose explosive marketability is just about to emerge. But the real money is made by recruiting others to sell for you. They are your "down-line." They sell for themselves and you, and recruit others to do the same for them.

Every man becomes his own empire-builder. It taps the Bill Gates within us all.

The Federal Trade Commission says most of the schemes are mathematically destined to fail. So why does it seem like everyone I know has an

auntie who got at least a car out of it? At the restaurant, the members of the business enterprise were Chinese and Taiwanese. The products we would hawk were health-related and had names like "Hydro-Glutomax 23." They could do anything. One product restored eyesight to diabetics while removing unsightly moles and cleansing



the lungs of smokers. I don't think many of the dozen or so audience members believed the product presenter. Everyone knew the opportunity lay not in the product's effectiveness, but in whether you could make others believe in it. At one point a presenter disintegrated a penny with acid, then coated his hand with an insect repellent the company was selling and splashed his hand with the acid. "See, the repellent can protect against metal-dissolving acid," he said. "And it's great for the kids when you go camping." The presenters all claimed that

joining the company had changed their lives. Many of their stories were adaptations of the classic immigrant American dream. The common thread—and what clearly resonated with the audience—was the idea that the traditional jobs we work cannot bring about the dream. If you want to own a home, retire in comfort and take care of your loved ones, you have to create your own path, outside of the daily grind.

The best presenter was a woman who seemed the least rehearsed. She had no down-lines yet, but burst with hope. She had been a dancer in Asia and was struggling in San Jose, trying to provide for her son while doing temporary jobs. She joined the marketing plan because she was tired of layoffs and not knowing where her next check might come from.

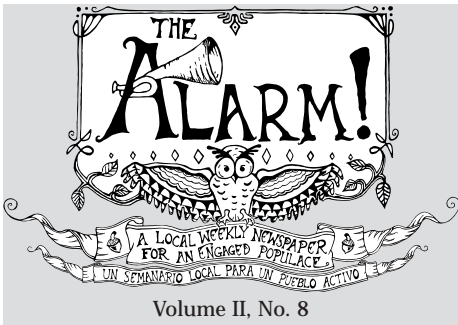
People nodded their heads knowingly.

Our evening ended in celebration—of the company, our futures and the sense that we were about to join something larger than ourselves.

The following week I got a call from an Indian tech worker to whom I hadn't spoken in a year. He insisted I meet him to discuss something urgent. The first thing he asked was, "If I said I would buy you any car you want, what would you be driving tomorrow?" He sounded like the presenters at the restaurant.

As the conversation went on, I realized the pitch was honed to my more Indian sensibilities. "I don't know about you, but if I could make it so my parents don't have to work anymore by just twenty minutes a day of selling, I would do it." He peppered the

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

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

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Commentary

“Smile, I’m Shooting You”

By **MANUEL SCHWAB**
The Alarm! Newspaper contributor

The picture of the girl here was taken on July 4, 1976. Her hair was cut that year by her mother, as was the fabric of her shirt. The hand to the left of her head is her father’s. It was the 200th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence. The girl holds a US Army canteen strap in her left hand, and a paper cup from the local McDonald’s in her right. Firmly planted between her fists and her chest are two American flags.

The flags don’t tell us, just as they didn’t tell her, where they were made. Likewise, the strap of the Army surplus canteen is obscured in the black and white field of the photograph. The composition is structurally similar to the rhetoric of nations: both are black and white. At least in the photograph, the camera registers shades of grey. It is not the Army strap, however, that attracts our attention first, nor the more sinister considerations about the production of the flags: were they made in a prison, or produced by some girl across the Pacific whose age is roughly that of the American in our picture.

It is, rather, these flags, which are planted, like the one planted on the first lunar landing by the US eight years earlier (the year the little girl was born), to assert dominion. America tells us, with these banners, to whom the elements of this picture really belong. The imaginary America with which we are presented here draws its strength from the associations that this picture lends to it, but does so only by forcing the images in it into submission so that they will serve its purposes.

One can almost imagine a caption dreamed up by some unrepentant editor who stared too long at this photograph and gasped what’s really going on “On July, 4, 1976 patriotism takes eight-year old girl and father hostage.”

But as much as this image itself has been conquered, like an outlying future colony of a great empire, certain things begin to emerge that disrupt the tight control exerted by the nation. One begins to wonder, for instance, knowing a bit about the history of that period, whether it was easier for America to plant a flag on the surface of the moon, or to claim the vast emotional expanse it claims in this photograph. Or one could wonder, for that matter, what is more absurd: to colonize the moon, or the lives of a people.

Who, or what, really has authority here? Is it really this flag that holds power in our encounter with this scene. Here it is the question of authority that seems to control the miniature worldview to which we will be treated.

Not alone, because something disrupts the serenity of the scene, with the canteen strap so comfortably cradled in the hands of an eight-year old—a piece of the American fabric intended for active duty. A piece that, in contradistinction to the flag, attempts

to camouflage itself so that it may be used more effectively in attack. Is there some way in which responsibility for American military killings extends to this girl, in the same way as these killings are the logical extension of the flag which silently presides here? Is the life of the civilian population the surplus that a government can afford after conquest and militarism? Or are we the host providing sustenance to this parasitic fantasy?

The state that is so proud to celebrate this nation’s independence from the British empire two centuries ago has never, it seems, been able to declare independence from its own military imperialism. And, jealous of any remaining independence, it tries to make its people dependant on that military by association. It will have us believe that we are being protected by this military. It will make us believe that the operations of the military are inseparable from the “wellbeing” ensured by the nation.

War is the health of the state, and the technological surpluses of a war industry, we are told, will inevitably benefit civilians. The surplus weapons of this millennium’s first war are a peculiar extension of this rule, as the government’s task force on “bioterrorism” will, according to our president, help generate medical innovations for the population (read: biotech companies). He claims further that the development of a missile defense shield will precipitate progress in nonmilitary space exploration (read the increasing commercialization of near space, with cellular and GPS networks). But a corollary to these benefits is that this picture could now be taken from space—with any increase in the state’s involvement in our “welfare,” they become more capable of surveillance and regulation of our day-to day activities.

But is this militarism, in its turn, really the heavy artillery of the scene, the one that will break the resistance of even the most recalcitrant opponents? Is it not the empire of Golden arches that really holds the foundational strength in this arrangement? It is, after all, the right hand of the trinity in this picture, more ubiquitous across the globe than all the planted flags and the military installations of America combined? Is it not this economic

sprawl for which the rest of this arrangement actually exists?

Unfortunately, none of these answers is terribly satisfying. There is some inextricable unity here, some collection of things that should never have been brought into association to begin with, which now occupy our imagination as a logical unit. It is as though we can hear the photographer whisper gently to the little girl in the picture “smile, I’m shooting you,” unaware of the terrible pun he has just let slip, and unaware of how much the warning holds for us, his intended audience.

He believes he is simply taking a picture. But he is shooting blindly in a country and an era in which



everything is potential fuel for the perpetual low scale war (whichever of the three fronts embraced in the arms of this little girl it happens to be taking place on). What we are witness to here is reality in all its submission, in which who has power is not so much a question any more as under what banner such power is exercised. It is the violence in the seams that connect the fabric of this particular image that seems to be what we celebrate on July 4, and indeed, the connection between the elements of this union are becoming stronger.

What becomes clear, after taking stock of the way that power (indeed, violence) seems to ricochet through

this photograph, is that authority resides in the American fantasy that makes the seamless transition between children and military nationalism seem natural. In the last analysis, it is not just the girl that has been colonized, but some part of our psyche. How often have we stared down the barrel of an ideological weapon like this one without firing back to protect ourselves. How often have we seen ourselves and our people impaled by the flags of an ever expanding empire without declaring our independence, finally, from the state that in the course of human affairs has surely become an odious power. 🇺🇸

“ On July, 4,
 1976
 patriotism
 takes eight-
 year old girl
 and father
 hostage ”

Noticias Locales/Local News

Santa Cruz tiene su mundialito

Por **VÍCTOR ALMAZÁN**
Colaborador del Periódico ¡La Alarma!

En el parque Jade de Capitola, dos equipos se disputan un partido más del “Mundialito” en Santa Cruz. Los Tigres van ganando por un gol de diferencia. El Inter va perdiendo y desde las líneas su entrenador Juan Jurado los dirige, los anima, le reclama al árbitro, en fin, deja su alma en el juego como los jugadores. El árbitro marca el final del partido, y la derrota de su equipo.

“Ni modo, deben saber perder,” les dice Jurado, muy filosóficamente.

Los chiquillos se molestan, no quieren hablar. No aceptan consolación, aunque ganaron el partido anterior y les hayan ganado a Los Tigres en partidos anteriores.

“Se desesperaron, se enojaron”, dice Jurado, a manera de disculpa. Para aprovechar la fiebre del Campeonato Mundial de Fútbol Japón—Corea, se lleva a cabo “El Mundialito,” torneo jugado entre niños latinoamericanos de entre 8 y 10 años de edad.

“Participan 5 equipos de 16-18 miembros cada uno, entre titulares y suplentes, alrededor de 100 niños” explicó Marciano Cruz, organizador del torneo. El Mundialito es la variante infantil del torneo que cada año—de abril a noviembre—organiza Cruz. Dada la euforia por el Campeonato Mundial, ahora Cruz bautizó el torneo de ese modo y tendrá para el ganador un trofeo tipo copa similar al del Mundial.

Cruz—ex integrante de pandillas—comentó que organizar torneos de fútbol es un valioso recurso para mantener alejados a los niños y jóvenes de las drogas y evitar la formación de pandillas callejeras.

Esta idea es compartida por los familiares de los niños quienes los estimulan a participar en esta clase de eventos “mas que nada porque [el fútbol] es un deporte muy sano, muy completo, les permite alejarse de las calles,” comentaron Roberto y Valentina Sánchez, tíos de Juan Pablo Juárez, de 9 años, integrante del equipo Los Tigres, quien el sábado 15 de junio ganó al equipo Inter con un marcador de 7 goles a 5. Además de estos dos, participan en el torneo los

equipos denominados Irapuato, Avante y Esparta.

Una característica del torneo es que los niños no pagan nada para participar en él, la actividad se sostiene gracias a donativos privados y al apoyo de organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Cruz resalta el apoyo que recibe de organizaciones como el Centro de Recursos para la No-violencia (Resource Center for Nonviolence), organización sin fines de lucro de Santa Cruz que proporciona el pago de los arbitrajes, pero pide también el apoyo de la comunidad “se necesitan más entrenadores, más niños jugando, gente que lleve al campo a los niños que no tienen transporte, patrocinadores que proporcionen uniformes a los equipos.”

Los juegos se llevan a cabo los días sábados, de 12 a 5 de la tarde en el campo del Jade St. Park de Capitola, la final será jugada el sábado 20 de julio, para entonces habrá ya campeón del mundo y campeón del mundialito. 📷

Si requiere más información puede dirigirse al Centro de Recursos para la No-violencia (Resource Center for Nonviolence) 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, (831) 423-1626 rcnv@rcnv.org; www.rcnv.org



VICTOR ALMAZÁN

Santa Cruz has its own world cup

By **VICTOR ALMAZÁN**
Translated by RACHEL SHOWSTACK
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Two teams are playing another game of the “Mundialito” in Capitola’s Jade St. Park. The Tigres are winning by one goal. The Inters are losing, and from the sidelines their coach argues with the referee. He also directs and encourages the players, putting his heart into the game just like them. The referee signals the end of the game and the loss of the Inters.

“Too bad; they must learn to lose,” Juado says to them very philosophically.

The kids are annoyed, and they do not want to talk. They do not accept consolation, even though they won their last game and defeated the Tigres in previous matches.

“They got frustrated and angry,” Juado says, forgiving them.

“El Mundialito,” a soccer tournament for Latin American children between ages eight and ten, was organized to take advantage of the Japan-Korea World Cup fever.

“Five teams of sixteen to eighteen players each participate in the league, between the starters and substitutes, about one hundred kids,” explained

Marciano Cruz, who organized the tournament.

The Mundialito is a kid’s version of the World Cup that Cruz organizes every year from April to November. Given the euphoria that exists for the World Championship, Cruz christened the tournament this way and offers the winning team a cup trophy similar to that of the World Cup.

Cruz, a former gang member, commented that organizing soccer tournaments is a great way to steer youth away from drugs and forming street gangs.

The families of the kids in the league agree. “Mostly because [soccer] is a very healthy, wholesome sport; it allows them to stay out of the streets,” said Roberto and Valentina Sánchez, the parents of nine-year-old Juan Pablo Juárez. Juan Pablo is a member of the Tigres, who defeated the Inters seven goals to five on Saturday June 15. In addition to these two teams, the Irapuatos, Avantes and Espartas also participate in the tournament.

One characteristic of the tournament is that the kids do not pay anything to participate; the activity sustains itself with private donations and the support of nongovernmental organizations.

Cruz highlights the support he receives from organizations like the Resource Center for Nonviolence, a nonprofit organization in Santa Cruz, that provides the pay for the coaches. “We need more trainers, more kids playing, people to give rides to kids who don’t have transportation, and patrons that donate uniforms to the teams,” Cruz said.

The games happen on Saturdays, from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the soccer field in the Jade St. Park in Capitola. The final game will be played on Saturday July 20 so that there will be a champion of the world and a little champion of the Mundialito. 📷

For more information, contact the Resource Center for Nonviolence 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, (831) 423-1626. rcnv@rcnv.org; www.rcnv.org

HIV Surveillance codes

HIV from Page 1

give exact numbers, according to Cantrell. When people with positive results were tested more than once, the data did not indicate that the multiple positives were from one person, she said.

Even though the State claims the new regulations ensure individual privacy, Cantrell argues the new HIV case reporting system compromises people’s anonymity. “People can be clearly identified with that information,” she said. Cantrell said the health care system is not being up front with its clients.

However, Leslie Goodfriend, Health Services Manager at the Santa Cruz Health Agency said the new tracking system is a very positive and necessary step in dealing with AIDS. She says it would be difficult, if not impossible to link people to their

codes.

The State has been interested in tracking HIV more effectively because of an increase in concern about HIV transmission, particularly among immigrant populations, according to Jimenez. He said the new reporting requirements will track where the disease emanates from and look at patterns, clusters and analyze how it affects local populations.

Jimenez is concerned that the data might be misused to blame immigrants for the spread of the disease. “Many of us in the health care movement will monitor that very closely,” he said. “We want the data to be used to identify and treat diseases when they are noted, not to make accusations that might target any number of populations, whether they are Latinos, Asians or other folks who

have immigrated here.”

Currently, seven states (Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont) have established HIV surveillance systems using codes in lieu of names. Five states (Delaware, Maine, Montana, Oregon and Washington) use a hybrid reporting system in which names of HIV-positive individuals are initially reported, but later replaced with codes.

By the beginning of the fiscal year 2004, the distribution of federal funds to States will be based on the number of HIV cases reported through the HIV tracking system. 📷

Next week will explore the Soundex code and other “Unique Identifiers” options used by health care agencies.

Clinics that provide Free and Anonymous Testing:

The Drop-In Center

412 Front Street, Santa Cruz, 457-1163
3:30p.m–6p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Bilingual, first come, first serve

Health Services Agency Clinic

1080 Emeline Agency Clinic
1080 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, 454-4100
1p.m–3p.m. Tuesdays
Bilingual, appointments made at noon on Tuesdays

Equinox

755 Cedar Street, Santa Cruz, 457-1441
6p.m–8p.m. Thursdays
Tests for gay/bisexual men

Salud Para La Gente

204 E. Beach Street, Watsonville, 728-0222
1p.m–6:30p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Bilingual

Casa Bienestar

90 Mariposa Avenue, Watsonville, 761-8595
3–6p.m. Mondays
Bilingual.

Local Analysis

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season.

UCSC students account for some 13,000 people during the school year, but only 2,900 during the summer vacation.

The tourism industry offsets this to an extent. On its own, the Seaside Company and its concessionaires employ over 1,200 people to keep the Boardwalk running during the summer. Many of these are travelers from outside the country, participating in Seaside Company's "Work & Travel Program" which houses seasonal travelers and employees in La Bahia apartments, displacing the largely student population which resides there the rest of the year. Students planning to stay in Santa Cruz over the summer must vacate to make room.

The UCSC community accounts for a large part of the transient nature of our community. In early summer, while the departure of the students allows locals to breathe a sigh of relief for a week or so until the tourists show up in droves, it also strains the region economically. The housing market goes totally out of whack as students who live in town try to find subletters before they leave town for the summer, and students who live on campus or in seasonal housing such as La Bahia try to find off-campus housing, and often for longer than just a summer sublet will allow. The job market goes through similar spasms.

Graduation marks another period of transience, where many will venture over the hill to find decent-paying jobs. Many of these graduates will stay to live on this side of the hill. When they do find high-paying jobs, particularly in high-tech fields, this exerts an enormous amount of pressure on housing costs and availability in Santa Cruz County, as well as other counties to the south and east.

This climate is what prompted the National Association of Homebuilders in January to label the Santa Cruz/Watsonville housing market the least affordable in the nation (we have since dropped back down to third place, after San Francisco and Salinas).

UCSC Chancellor MRC Greenwood's overhaul of the institution to make it a "Gateway to Silicon Valley" can only exacerbate this situation. It is evident,



HALIE JOHNSON/The Alarm! Newspaper

Liliya moved from Bulgaria for the summer to work at the Beach Boardwalk

between increased funding priorities for applied sciences and engineering and the gutting of the Narrative Evaluation System (NES), that the UCSC administration is bent on turning the University into a well-oiled machine to churn out skilled workers and bases of knowledge for the Silicon Valley.

Manuel Schwab, who advocated the retention of NES during the 1999-2000 school year, described the battle this way: "One of the issues that gave the NES fight much broader significance beyond the desire for a certain intellectual atmosphere was that many of us realized that quantifiable evaluation was one way to facilitate the transition of students

from the intellectual laboratory to the 'real-world' workforce.

"It was yet another method to make it difficult for us to think of ourselves outside of the career track," he said.

Still, the University administration boasts of its contribution to the community through money students, faculty, staff and visitors to the campus spend in Santa Cruz County. From July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 it valued this contribution at \$413.8 million. While a portion of that money goes toward well-paid workers, particularly in the construction trades, members of the campus community spend nearly the majority of it to support low-wage positions in the retail sector.

Those same retail workers are the ones to serve travelers when the transient demographic of Santa Cruz changes from students to tourists. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics records from the year 2000, the retail sector is the second largest employer in Santa Cruz, after services, with the lowest average weekly wage of any sector at \$374. The largest portion of employers in the retail sector is eating and drinking establishments, with an average wage of \$232 per week (of course, these are statistics for documented labor)—hardly a living wage in Santa Cruz. Even I make more than that (barely).

Merchants all over Santa Cruz County depend on revenues from tourism, but their particular brand of transience is even more insecure than that of the campus community. If it's a bad year, whether due to recession or fears of terrorism, merchants become neurotic at the prospect of lost revenues. This neurosis surfaces in the form of proposals for draconian ordinances in shopping districts, where that other population of transients—the homeless—already complains of constant harassment by law enforcement. Results from the Homeless Needs Assessment Survey of 2000 indicate that over 15 percent of respondents listed "problems with police" among their most troublesome daily problems.

It seems ironic for merchants to blame problems caused by the capriciousness of Santa Cruz's tourist transients on some of Santa Cruz's most stable transients—the homeless. It is particularly ironic when one considers that those same merchant's wages and hiring policies (transient student and youth populations are favored over more stable residents who are less likely to accept such low wages) encourage—more than any other sector—the sort of economic climate that forces people out into the weather. 🏠



HEIDE NICOLA

'Round and 'round they go—the Seaside Company takes locals for a ride

SNAKE OIL from Page 2

presentation with talk about the Internet and technology, perhaps to make it seem more legitimate than acid-repelling insect cream.

I did not commit to either plan. In each, I'm supposed to come to a follow-up meeting where I can meet the higher-ups on the pyramid. I don't think I'll go, but honestly, I'm tempted.

I used to think pyramid schemes were an old-school white thing, a sneaky way for snake-oil salesmen to shake money out of people like my immigrant parents. But if there's one thing we have learned here, it's that our "post dot-com economy" is deeper than race. It is Darwinian. In Silicon Valley, for immigrants, natives, programmers and restaurant workers, the American dream is not about team. It's about being on top of others.

It's a pyramid, as it has always been. 🐍

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In Part Two of "Transience in Santa Cruz", I will focus on the political apparatus that solidifies much of what happens on the economic level into policy and bureaucratic practice.

Internacional/International

Reprimen a Campesinos en Guanajuato

Por **ARMANDO ALCARAZ**

Colectivo del Periódico ¡La Alarma!

El estado de Guanajuato es gobernado por el PAN (Partido Acción Nacional), el partido político de derecha al cual pertenece Vicente Fox, actual presidente de México. La clase política de Guanajuato está conformada por las familias de los empresarios ricos que, como Fox, son grandes admiradores de los Estados Unidos. El conflicto por agua entre dos municipios de Guanajuato que se explica a continuación, es uno entre muchos conflictos sociales que han llevado a varios municipios de Guanajuato a desconocer las autoridades locales e inaugurar gobiernos populares. En subsecuentes ediciones se reportará sobre otros conflictos.

En el estado de Guanajuato, México, se juntaron los ingredientes necesarios para una receta de desastre social. Un gobierno local controlado por las adineradas fábricas curtidoras de piel, una policía local sumamente represiva, y un estado semi-árido, con agua insuficiente para cubrir las necesidades de su gente.

Los resultados de la combinación de estos elementos se están haciendo notar en los últimos dos meses, después de que un escalamiento en la violencia oficial dejara un muerto y varios heridos. Las fuerzas policiacas patrullan tensamente los edificios de la presidencia del municipio de Romita, mientras campesinos del lugar, quienes se dicen dispuestos a tomar las armas, se organizan para defender su derécho al agua que riega sus tierras.

El conflicto entre el gobierno y los campesinos de Romita dió inicio cuando las autoridades del estado de Guanajuato, sin pedir permiso a la comunidad, decidieron comenzar los trabajos de construcción de una red de pozos para sustraer agua del municipio y llevarla a la ciudad de León, Guanajuato.

La razón de esto es que León, la ciudad famosa por sus zapatos y otros productos de cuero, se está quedando rápidamente sin agua. Mientras las fábricas curtidoras de piel usan y contaminan grandes cantidades del líquido, 192 mil habitantes carecen de él y otros 273 mil lo reciben de manera irregular. Según estudios del gobierno mexicano, para el año 2003 un millón 300 mil de los habitantes de León no tendrán suficiente agua para atender sus necesidades básicas.

Pero los campesinos de Romita también temen quedarse sin agua, ya que de por sí están secos 400 de los 1600 pozos que hay en el lugar, y el acuífero del municipio está descendiendo de dos a tres metros por año. El municipio de Romita, situado a 40km de León, cuenta con 59 mil habitantes, de los cuales 80

por ciento se dedica a la agricultura.

El enojo de los campesinos desembocó en una ola de protestas convocadas por el Consejo Ecológico de Romita, una organización no gubernamental, y la formación de un gobierno local popular, en desconocimiento de las autoridades municipales.

“Nadie se quejaría si el nivel [del acuífero] no estaría descendiendo, si se mantuviera un nivel de explotación racional,” dijo en entrevista telefónica Jaime Gonzales, secretario de la Liga de Unidad Socialista (LUS), organización que apoya al Consejo Ecológico de Romita, “El problema es que el acuífero está descendiendo demasiado rápido y lo van a secar, León se va a quedar sin agua, Romita se va a quedar sin tierra de cultivo y va a ser un desastre para todos.”



La Represión

Este 18 de junio, unas 3 mil personas asistieron a una manifestación convocada por el Consejo Ecológico de Romita. El contingente arribó a la presidencia municipal de Romita para demandar la destitución de las autoridades locales, a quienes acusaban de corrupción y de no proteger los intereses de la comunidad al dar concesiones para uso del agua al gobierno del estado.

Cerca de 300 elementos de las fuerzas de seguridad pública del estado, acompañados por un helicóptero, lanzaron gas lacrimógeno y golpearon con tololètes a los manifestantes. Los policías incluso allanaron viviendas buscando a aquellos que hubieran conseguido escapar.

Al final del día, más de 200 personas quedaron bajo arresto, y decenas quedaron lesionadas—seis de las cuales tuvieron que ser hospitalizadas. Además, los policías lanzaron una lata de gases lacrimógenos dentro de un comedor y cerraron las puertas. A consecuencia de esto, murió Adela Guerrero de 60 años, quien en ese momento se encontraba comiendo dentro del lugar.

Aunque casi todos los detenidos salieron con una fianza

de 400 pesos, los fiscales del estado han levantado cargos contra cinco de los dirigentes del Consejo Ecológico de Romita por los delitos de terrorismo, sedición, rebelión y motín. De los cinco, cuatro han salido bajo fianza, y el quinto está fuera del estado por temor a ser aprehendido.

Los campesinos de Romita han organizado marchas y foros de información y presentaron denuncias ante diversos organismos de derechos humanos. El 30 de junio, la Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos —organismo que sólo tiene poder para hacer recomendaciones—citó a comparecer al director de seguridad pública y al comandante de la policía para que expliquen los hechos del 18 de junio.

Intereses y Soluciones

La solución al conflicto podría ser muy simple. El Consejo Ecológico de Romita está pidiendo que se haga un

acuerdo para que el gobierno pueda llevarse el agua a León, a condición que las fábricas curtidoras se comprometan a tratar el agua para que quede libre de sal y metales pesados, y después regresársela a los campesinos.

El agua que no es tratada, aparte de ser inservible para usarse en el campo, está ocasionando daños a la ecología de Guanajuato. “El drenaje sin tratar actualmente sale a la presa Silva en donde patos migrantes de Canadá se mueren,” dijo Gonzales de LUS.

Sin embargo, los industriales de León, entre los cuáles se encuentra la familia del Presidente Vicente Fox, no están dispuestos a pagar para tratar el agua que contaminan y tienen una fuerte influencia sobre el Gobierno del Estado. “Los [funcionarios del estado] no están escuchando ninguna razón,” dijo Gonzales.

Mientras esperan a que otro proyecto hidráulico de la presa del Río Verde se termine para traerles agua del estado de Jalisco, a los industriales de curtido no parece importarles que León y el municipio de Romita se queden sin agua. ☹

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Repression against farmers in Guanajuato

Written and Translated By **ARMANDO ALCARAZ**

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

The State of Guanajuato in Central Mexico is governed by the PAN (Partido de Accion Nacional), the right-wing political party to which the current Mexican President Vicente Fox belongs. Guanajuato's political class is made up of the families of entrepreneurs, who, like Fox, are great admirers of the United States. The conflict over water described below is one of the many social conflicts that have led to the inauguration of popular governments in lieu of the official Municipal Authorities. Other news of the region will be explored in subsequent issues.

The ingredients of a recipe for social disaster came together in the Mexican State of Guanajuato: a local government controlled by rich leather factories, an exceedingly repressive local police, and a semi-arid state, with not enough water to provide for its inhabitants.

The result of the combination of these factors has become apparent during the last two months with a violent escalation of conflict that has caused one death and several injuries. The police tersely patrol the government buildings of the Municipio of Romita, while the local farmers, who say they are ready to take up arms, organize to defend their right to the water that runs through their lands.

The conflict between the government and the farmers of Romita began when the local authorities, without asking the community for permission, started to construct a web of wells to extract water from the Municipality to take to the city of León, Guanajuato.

The reason behind these actions is that the city of León, well known for its production of shoes and other leather products, is rapidly running out of water. While the leather factories use and pollute large quantities of water, 195,000 people in the city do not have any, and 237,000 have infrequent access to it. According to studies carried out by the Mexican Government, 1.3 million inhabitants of León will not have enough water to provide for their basic needs by the year 2003.

But the farmers of Romita are also afraid of running out of water as 400 of their 1,600 wells are already dry, and the water level of the aquifer that runs under the Municipio decreases by 9 to 12 feet a year. The Municipality of Romita, at 64 miles from León, has a population of 59,000, of which 80 percent are small farmers.

The incensed farmers staged a wave of protests, responding

to the calls to organize by the Environmental Council of Romita, a non-government organization. They formed an independent popular government refusing to acknowledge the Municipal Authorities.

“No one would complain if the [aquifer] level was not being lowered, if it maintained itself at a rational level of use,” said Jaime Gonzales, Secretary of the League of Socialist Union (LUS), organization supporting the farmers. “The problem is that the aquifer will soon dry out. León will run out of water, Romita will run out of arable land, and it will be a disaster for everyone.”

The Repression

This June 18, about 3,000 people went to a protest organized by the Environmental Council of Romita. The demonstrators arrived at the building of the Municipal Presidency to demand the local authorities be removed from office. They accused the authorities of corruption and failing to protect the interests of the community by giving the State Government permits to use their water.

About 300 local police, accompanied by a helicopter, threw tear gas canisters and beat the protesters with batons. The police even searched private homes looking for those who escaped.

By the end of the day, more than 200 people were under arrest, and there were dozens more hurt—six of whom needed to be hospitalized. In addition, police threw a tear gas canister inside a diner and closed all its exits, killing sixty-year-old Adela Guerrero, who had been eating lunch inside.

Even though most of those detained went out on a 400 peso bail, the State Attorneys are pressing the charges of terrorism, sedition, rebellion and mutiny, against five leaders of the Environmental Council of Romita. Of the five, four have been released from prison and remain active in exile, and the fifth is in hiding outside his home state.

The farmers of Romita have since organized marches and information forums, and presented complaints to several human rights organizations. This June 30, the Human Rights State Commission, a state body that only has power to make recommendations, called the director of public security and the police commander, to testify about the events of July 18.

Go see **FARMERS** on Page 7

In Retrospect

Newspaper rivalry, or flesh-eating ghouls

By **BLAIZE WILKINSON**

The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

Anyone researching old newspapers in Santa Cruz County will soon be forcefully confronted with the rivalry between the Santa Cruz Daily Surf and the Santa Cruz Sentinel. The Surf, throughout its tenure, made many references to “our ‘unesteemed,’” which meant its unesteemed colleague, the Sentinel. From the very inception of the Surf in 1883, the two papers took a view of each other that was unsympathetic, often vicious, and at times bordering on paranoid. Or perhaps paranoia is not the right word, since the difference between the Sentinel and Surf’s opinions on the Chinese immigration question led to a lawsuit in the mid 1880s.

Santa Cruz has seen its fair share of newspapers come and go. At one time, from 1907 to 1919, the town

even had three daily papers: the *Santa Cruz Evening News*, the *Santa Cruz Daily Surf* and the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. There were also smaller and shorter-lived ventures like the *Weekly Courier*, the *Local Item*, and the *Mountain Echo*. The *Sentinel*, which began its run as a daily paper in 1884, is the longest lasting of the bunch, but faced stiff competition at a time when the population of Santa Cruz was less than half of what it is today.

The bad blood between the *Surf* and *Sentinel* was deep and long abiding. However, newspaper rivalries did not begin with the 1883 introduction of the daily *Surf*. In 1865, the *Sentinel* called the *Pajaro Times*, a “cuttlefish” (December 2). And in 1869, the *Sentinel* critiqued the “twaddle” presented in this fellow paper (February 20). The newspaper business was evidently not easy, as witnessed in an 1871 *Sentinel* article on the paper’s

history. Here, the writer referenced the Republican cause of the paper, and claimed that “Under the garb of friendship we have had to contend with secret foes, who have done all in their power to destroy our usefulness, undermine character and ruin our business” (February 4).

In an 1880 article on rival newspapers, the *Sentinel* promised to “extend the full hand of fellowship” to the *Courier*, which was then under the new editorship and ownership of staunch Democrat A.A. Taylor (March 6). The *Sentinel* referred to the *Courier* as “one of the finest in point of press and type in the State,” but then went on to complain of two former *Sentinel* employees who founded the *Courier* and transferred “to their paper good will and patronage we supposed we were to receive.”

The *Sentinel* described the merging of the Republican *Courier* and the Democrat *Item* under the new leadership of A.A. Taylor as “a more complete miracle than...Siamese twins,” showing “how adversity can make Democratic proclivities shake hands with Republican tendencies over bloody political chasms.” The *Sentinel* detailed the loss of advertising revenue brought on by its competition, but, in the end, wished success to Taylor’s venture, and described Taylor himself as “intelligent and courteous and prompt.”

The *Sentinel* must have come to repent its apparent good wishes, especially after Taylor founded the *Santa Cruz Daily Surf* in the summer of 1883. While the *Surf* was started as a seasonal venture for the summer tourist months, the paper ended up publishing continually for the next thirty-six years, except for a five-month hiatus from December 1884 to April 1885. The competition between the *Surf* and *Sentinel* was sordid and often personal, with A.A. Taylor attacking and being attacked by the *Sentinel*’s editor, Duncan McPherson.

In the first issue of the *Surf* (June 4, 1883), an anonymous writer (most likely Editor Taylor) presented to the public “A journal without politics or opinions, but one that promises, if sustained, to be newsy, from a social and local standpoint.” The *Surf*, despite its ostensibly neutral stance, was clearly a bee in the *Sentinel*’s bonnet from the very outset. In August 1883, the *Sentinel* derided Taylor, saying “that no one but a desperate man has attempted the publication of a daily in Santa Cruz,” and adding that the *Surf* was editorially “beneath criticism” (August 18). But evidently not far enough beneath criticism, since the very next column offered up a direct critique of the contemptuous rival. When a *Surf* editorial urged impersonal and anonymous writing as “the rule with all first class newspapers,” the *Sentinel* replied: “Impersonal journalism is resorted to by all men the publication of whose names would disgrace their papers, by all editors who let the writing of their editorials out by contract, and by all men who are too crafty to face the responsibility of their own utterances.” The irony of this stab is that it, too, is anonymous, though no doubt issued from Duncan McPherson’s pen.

Some of the direct exchanges between *Surf* and *Sentinel* are rather nitpicky lists of errors made by the

other paper in reporting the news. However, these dry recitations of mistakes are livened up by truly eviscerating blows against the other’s integrity. In one particularly vivid article, the *Surf* described the columns of the *Sentinel* as coming “from the lowest round of the editorial hen-roost,” and added the query: “though it seems intoxicated on the fumes of the sewers, why should its editorial columns run a-muck against all decency?” (July 30, 1884). The problem, according to the *Surf*, was the *Sentinel*’s question: “Is Grover Cleveland a seducer and libertine?” Critiquing this attack on Cleveland’s person rather than his politics, the *Surf* announced: “It is only some ignorant or foolish editor of some scurrilous or obscure sheet that descends like a flesh-eating ghoul into the graveyard of moldering carcasses to glut his disgusting taste and revolting hunger.” Clearly, the *Surf* would not live up to its stated purpose of being “newsy” but not political or opinionated.

The biggest problem between these two papers in the 1880s would end up being played on the field of local politics. The *Sentinel*’s editor, Duncan McPherson, was vehemently against Chinese immigration to California. McPherson wrote rabid anti-Chinese editorials and, as a town leader and major real estate owner, had the weight to back up his ideas with actions. Riding on the wave of anti-Chinese sentiment that was sweeping the state, the Santa Cruz City Council enacted legislation against Chinese individuals and businesses. McPherson, along with prominent citizen Elihu Anthony, spearheaded the local anti-Chinese movement, which culminated in an 1886 boycott against all businesses that were owned by or even employed the Chinese. When the *Surf* came out against the boycott, McPherson urged that the boycott be extended to include that paper. Taylor sued the *Sentinel* for damages, and won. Writing at the time of the final legal judgment in 1888, Taylor announced that “Locally speaking, the ‘facts of the matter’ are that the *SURF* still dashes against the doorsteps every morning of the intelligent citizens of Santa Cruz, and neither McPherson nor Anthony are in Congress—not quite” (February 1).

Geoffrey Dunn, in *Climbing Golden Mountain*, points out that “In one of the great ironies of local history, it turned out that McPherson himself was the landlord of a Chinese laundry and that he had been collecting rent from the ‘entrail-sucking Celestials’ [a quote from a McPherson editorial] for quite some time.” But, before we champion A.A. Taylor as the perfect antidote to such hypocritical racism, we should remember that his argument against the boycott was that it would end up dividing the white community.

Taylor, while entertaining and fiery, was not the perfect liberal hero. The war carried on between the *Surf* and *Sentinel* makes for entertaining reading and interesting history. But, even though Taylor saw himself as a champion for liberal causes, the *Surf*, with its back-stabbing and self-righteous style, is not the best model for alternative journalism.

Special thanks to Dean Reynolds of the Santa Cruz Genealogical Society.



From **FARMERS** on Page 6

Interests and Solutions

The solution to the conflict could be very simple. The Environmental Council of Romita is asking for an agreement in which the government could take the water to León under the condition that the leather factories treat the water to make it free of salt and heavy metals, and return it to the farmers.

When the water is untreated, apart from being unusable for growing crops, it causes harm to Guanajuatos’ environment. “The drainage of water without treatment is going into the Silva Dam, killing migratory ducks from Canada,” said Gonzales from LUS.

However, the León factory owners, which include the family of current Mexican President Vicente Fox, do not want to pay to treat the polluted water, and have strong influence within the State Government. “The Government Officials are just not listening to any reason,” Gonzales said.

While they wait for another project to be completed that would bring them water from the State of Jalisco, the factory owners do not seem to care if León and Romita run out of water for good.

For more information contact Armando Alcaraz at armando@the-alarm.com

Eye on the INS

A weekly focus on the INS and immigration policy

☐ Strange Bedfellows in the Desert

By MICHELLE STEWART
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Last week the a House subcommittee approved a “clean up” campaign for southeast Arizona in response to a document drafted by the Department of the Interior, the US Forest Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, INS and the Border Patrol. Don’t these agencies seem like strange bedfellows? They are; however, their target is shared as the following title reveals: “The Report to the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations on Impacts Caused By Undocumented Aliens Crossing Federal Lands in Southeast Arizona.” This 200-page document systematically assessed various means in which traveling immigrants impact the “cultural and natural” landscape in Arizona.

Citing problems ranging from high concentrations of human waste to increased erosion along trails and in riparian areas, the report goes so far as to state that, “[T]he quality of the wilderness experience for many visitors is reduced because of encounters with large groups of undocumented immigrants,” according to Billy House of the *Arizona Republic* newspaper. The Executive Summary also states, “[L]iterally hundreds, if not thousands of new trails and roads have been created on Federal lands in southeastern Arizona by undocumented alien crossings. This proliferation of trails and roads damages and destroys cactus and other sensitive vegetation, disrupts or prohibits revegetation, disturbs wildlife and their cover and travel routes, causes soil compaction and erosion, impacts stream bank stability, and often times confuses legitimate users of trails and roads on Federal lands.” What do we make of this report, the tone, and these bedfellows?

Apparently, the INS and Border Patrol have convinced the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior that the right to view, or destroy, any and all Federal lands is an exclusive right held only by US citizens, US Federal agencies and “legitimate users” of said land. In successfully drawing in these land management agencies, the Border Patrol and INS have reified the sanctity of US soil to the degree that the mere presence of immigrants is enough to soil the landscape—thus redefining the immigrant as a scapegoat in a totally new arena. With this document comes the era of the immigrant as ecological scapegoat.

This is a document drafted to indict immigrants for all the calamities of the desert; it works to obscure the culpability of each of the agencies; and ultimately, it relies on a ludicrous pretense—that these agencies are working in a joint effort to preserve the desert. The tone of the report reads as if these management agencies are beyond reproach in their efforts to be stellar stewards of the desert terrain. Of course, in many cases, that is as far from the truth as is possible.

Across Arizona, and entire US, the USFS and Department of the Interior are under heavy fire for mismanagement of public lands. Taking a close look at the management of desert public lands we find widescale public lands grazing, the use of ATVs, the fact that RVs can drive on the desert floor,

oil wells that speckle the landscape and tree harvesting wherever there is forested land. All of these factors contribute to the widescale destruction of public lands; the immigrants crossing today are traveling on an already degraded landscape. One must remember that the management of US Federal lands is executed under the multiple-use mantra, meaning that it is the job of agencies to use the land in as many ways as possible to generate revenue.

If we are speaking about the integrity of the desert, then we can’t help but look at the practices of the INS and Border Patrol. They plow through the landscape constructing new roads and designing trails; they clear land for monitoring platforms or speed across the sand chasing immigrants. What effect does all of that activity have on the ecological integrity and the scenic quality for “legitimate” visitors? Considering all of these factors, it is clear that immigrants aren’t the biggest threat to the desert. Therefore, if this report was ultimately concerned with vegetation and the integrity of the desert, the drafting agencies would have to admit to being co-conspirators in this assault on public lands.

Whether it is the land-management agencies working in cahoots with local land developers or the INS blazing trails through succulent landscapes, there is blame to be placed on many shoulders before it finds itself on those of the immigrants. Undoubtedly there is an ecological effect when thousands of people migrate through the desert. But no one thought of these secondary effects when Operation Gatekeeper and other policies were put in place that forced immigrants to cross in areas that are away from urban centers. When the INS decided its strategy was to push immigrants into the desert, it did not care about erosion or other environmental factors. If it cared that much now, it could change its own policy that mandates these affects.

However, as people contemplate how much human waste is baking in the sun, or if the USFS should be discussing the impacts of immigrants when it has poor land use practices, we lose sight of the real matter at hand. We lose sight of the fact that it is very convenient for these agencies to spend all of their time and resources drafting a 200 page document on the effects of immigration. The environment serves as a convenient distraction, and these agencies are not forced to address the affect of immigration policy on immigrants. And then we are all drawn in, talking about whether or not vegetation is getting trampled, or who has the right to see the cacti instead of the fact that people are dying in the desert. It is not a coincidence that this report comes out in July. As the temperatures soar in Arizona, it is a convenient distraction for local, state and federal politicians and agencies to discuss how to clean up the border rather than address border policies.

When these agencies come to the table to draft a plan, it is not a shock that they generate a report that outlines a convenient scapegoat for their varying misdeeds. The reason the desert is so dirty is because Federal policy and ideology has made it so. 🐉

A hard hand falls in Argentina

By LISA GARRIGUES
Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: “Mano dura,” or hard hand—a forceful government and police response to social unrest—may be on the upswing in Argentina. Police recently killed two fleeing protestors, and many other incidents have the country on edge, fearful of a return to the repression of the 1970s based in Buenos Aires.

BUENOS AIRES—Dario Santillan was 21. He was building a house of his own, with a group of others who had taken over some abandoned land. Maximiliano Kosteki was 25. He was an artist who was learning how to grow food in the community garden in his neighborhood.

Both were “piqueteros,” unemployed workers who have been blocking roads in Argentina for the past five years to protest the country’s unemployment rate, which began to climb during the privatization of public companies during the 1990s and has soared to 25 percent.

Both were shot dead last week in a railway station 10 blocks from a piquetero demonstration. At first, government officials said that the piqueteros killed each other. Then the evidence appeared: a photograph of the smiling policeman as he crouched over the body of Maximiliano Kosteki. Witnesses said they watched as police entered the train station in pursuit of fleeing demonstrators and saw the officer pull out his gun and fire point blank at Dario Santillan’s back.

“He was shot like a dog,” said one witness.

Ninety injuries were reported during the demonstration. Some people were shot with lead bullets. Others were peppered in the back by rubber bullets as they ran from police. Some, like the



Plaza de Mayo, site of the 12,000 person protest

politicians become too loud, when the chaos of a collapsing system becomes unbearable. It’s also what happened in Argentina in 1976, when military forces took control of the country and during the next seven years 30,000 disappeared.

“Well, at least there was order,” some say of that period. Order, security, hard hand: these words are once again being heard in Argentine government and media circles, and on the streets. The powers of the national intelligence agency have been strengthened, police presence has been increased and more activist beatings by police are being reported.

Police recently destroyed a street-corner soup kitchen in the provinces. Food was thrown on the ground and women and children hauled off in paddy wagons.

Violence and terrorism by right-wing political groups is also on the rise. Recently, protesters at a demonstration against former president Carlos Menem were beaten by Menem supporters. A student campaigning for a low-cost student bus ticket was abducted by two men who carved the initials “AAA” (Anti-Communist Alliance of Argentina) into his chest, a chilling reminder of the ‘70s.

Government versions of the demonstration and police reaction changed from “a conspiracy of violent piqueteros” and “leftist revolutionary strategies”—phrases similar to ones

“ Then the evidence appeared: a photograph of the smiling policeman as he crouched over the body ”

woman lying on her back whose face was caught by television cameras in a frozen gasp, had swallowed too much tear gas. Witnesses who watched police storming into the headquarters of a left-wing political organization in pursuit of fleeing demonstrators said they hadn’t seen anything like it since the military dictatorship, which ended in the 1980s.

As news of the deaths began to break last week, President Duhalde remained silent. He and his ministers have been busy for months trying to come to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which has asked for additional cutbacks that many economists believe will lead to more loss of jobs. Buenos Aires police commissioner Alfredo Franchiotti, one of the three police who chased the slain demonstrators into the railway station, was shown on television saying that the police had nothing to do with the deaths.

Blood dripped down Franchiotti’s face from a punch in the eye by an irate bystander. It was the piqueteros, he said, who cause the violence.

In Spanish this is called “mano dura”—hard hand. It’s what happens after too many people with not enough to eat begin to make too much noise in the streets, when the shouts against

used by the dictatorship to justify the oppression of the ‘70s—to “police who hunted demonstrators down like animals” once the evidence appeared.

Now, newspapers like Pagina 12 are asking how much Duhalde himself had to do with the hunt. Some political commentators have suggested that Menem, in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund and the United States, is trying to destabilize the Duhalde government so that he can return to power. Given Menem’s recent visit with the Bush family in the United States and Washington’s history of destabilizing Latin American governments, few in Argentina find the theory too far-fetched.

When activists called for a march in support of the slain piqueteros the following day, media commentators suggested that fear of violence would keep people inside their houses. For some, it did. “This has brought back too many memories,” said a woman named Andrea.

But despite their fears, 12,000 people marched peacefully and successfully to the Plaza de Mayo one recent evening, chanting, “Tonight, we are all piqueteros.” 🐉

Mega ports & spectacular portholes

By LEILA BINDER
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

The Aleph was probably two or three inches in diameter, but universal space was contained inside it, with no diminution of size. Each thing (the glass surface of a mirror, let us say) was infinite things, because I could clearly see it from every point in the cosmos. I saw... endless eyes, all very close, studying themselves in me as though in a mirror; saw all the mirrors on the planet (and none of them reflecting me)...

—Jorge Luis Borges, *The Aleph*

In 1347, the Bubonic plague reached Genoese held Crimea when Mongolian invaders dumped infected corpses into the city to contaminate its inhabitants; it is likely that the plague then spread from this port city into Europe with the fleeing Genoese. Biological warfare, in other words, is as old as war itself, and continent-wide epidemics are as old as horseback invasions and caravans. But long-range missiles are a lot faster than horses. What is different from past centuries of empires and warfare is the extent of the present super-empire’s capacity for global bio-war induced epidemics, for global simultaneous warfare.

The Netherlands, France and Belgium are the first European governments to have joined the US Customs Service Container Security Initiative (CSI). Under this initiative, US customs officers will soon coordinate with their Dutch, French and Belgian counterparts to screen container ships for weapons of mass destruction in Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre. Customs officials hope to eventually extend the system to 20 of the world’s ports that send the largest amount of cargo to the US.

US military and customs officials claim that terrorists are targeting the global trade system. One wonders what kind of high-level military intelligence this conclusion took (think, World Trade Center). They say the global trade system is also a vehicle for terrorists and that, therefore, US Customs should be involved in security efforts in these mega ports abroad for the sake of US national security. This is quite a breach of the sovereignty of these European nations; the US will now be involved in policing their ports, regulating the goods that pass through their countries. US hegemony is becoming all the more total.

The control of ports has long meant the control of empires. In Brazil and Africa, the Portuguese centered their colonies around port-factory towns; cane would be brought to the port, processed and shipped out. They didn’t bother to venture inland to the same extent as the Spanish did, for instance. In Brazil, colonial governors would be granted strips of land that extended from the coast to the line of Tordesillas, the line of demarcation between Portuguese and Spanish colonial domination. This was often merely a line on the map; land was granted that had never been explored. What the Colonial administration most wanted was to transport sugar and other goods, and all they needed to achieve this was control of slave labor and the port cities. The Dutch also created a worldwide colonial empire that was mostly based in port cities. Many of the ships that conquered these cities originated in the port of Rotterdam, now the largest port in the world, which the US will soon be policing. The glory of the Portuguese and Dutch empires has long faded, and European governments are happily cooperating with the new empire by allowing it into its ports.

Today, shipments that pass through

West coast ports make up seventy percent of the US gross domestic product. Last Thursday, June 27, longshoremen rallied in Oakland, threatening to strike if the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) did not compromise in negotiations over a new labor contract. The 10,500 West Coast Longshoremen contracted by the PMA control the traffic of goods into 29 Pacific ports amounting to \$260 billion in cargo last year. If there remains any doubt about the centrality of ports to colonial projects both past and present consider that Tom Ridge, director of the office for Homeland Security, asked them not to strike because it would affect national security. Jack Heyman, the business agent for the San Francisco Longshore Union, said of Ridge, “He said that he didn’t think it would be a good idea if there was a disruption in trade.” Of course, the government doesn’t want the longshoremen to strike, and national security is the stock excuse of the day.

The global trade system and the nation that currently tries to dominate it incite anger in everyone from French cheese lovers, to window-breaking Seattle protestors, to Christian right wingers who believe that global trade will soon create a mark-of-the-beast that everyone will need to buy anything, to Islamic fundamentalists. The WTC and Pentagon were obvious potential targets. Yet, the global trade system and its accompanying high-speed transport and communications technologies are ironically also a means through which terrorist attacks can be launched at a distance or extended over great distances.

The present global system of trade is only possible due to the development of fast long distance transport and communications systems. As the writer Paul Virilio has noted, the limit speed of this system has been reached, that of electromagnetic waves. The instantaneity of television created the global spectacular event, such as the first landing of humans on the moon, or 9/11.

A friend of mine spent last fall in northwestern Colombia as an international human rights observer. When the planes hit the towers of the World Trade Center, the priests in the town turned on the generator so that she could see what had happened in New York. They turned on the old TV and she saw three planes hitting six WTCs. Nevertheless, in the middle of a war-torn jungle, she was part of the global event. Capitalism as a global system has expanded from ports with ships that carry silk, silver, pepper and casks of wine, to encompass the universal spectacular porthole, the windows through which nearly everything can be seen at once, like Borges’ Aleph but much less romantic.

Just as the speed of the airplane made 9/11 possible, the Internet creates the possibility for a widespread instantaneous attack, at least in our imaginations. But, for now, “cyberterrorism” is more hype than a real threat to the global trade-power nexus. Dorothy Denning of Georgetown University, “Those types of actions are a lot more difficult to engineer with a computer than they would be with a bomb—and whether they would work or not would be a lot less certain.” While such a threat may be far off, the internet already provides the means for a universal simul-cast assault on our senses and minds, for now everywhere is a port. Which terrorize us more: the old fashioned bombs of the publicly recognized terrorists or the constant bombardment of corporate-managed images and data? Unlike the Genoese, we have nowhere to escape to. 🏴‍☠️

War Notes

By SASHA K
The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

Coercive and short-term: The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) recently put out a report criticizing the US “war on terrorism” as being “coercive and short-term” due to its stress on military and police solutions instead of the prevention of conflict. The world’s 15 most deadly conflicts in 2001 were all primarily internal political or ethnic struggles. According to the report, preventive strategies are the most effective in dealing with such conflicts, but the “war on terrorism” is undermining “the entire notion of conflict prevention.” The report also notes that the US war has brought about cooperation between Washington and several repressive governments, strengthening the military, police and intelligence services of those countries, the very agencies that maintain that repression. “The extent to which states such as Pakistan, Sudan or Tajikistan are called upon to assist in the fight against terrorism may constrain the international community’s willingness to engage them on such sensitive questions as governance and human rights,” stated SIPRI. This is only a short-term strategy, according to the report, because repressive governments tend to be less stable over the long run. In addition, the report suggests that, because of increasing US military and economic dominance, the US is tempted to use its preponderance of force unilaterally, but this is likely to decrease worldwide security in the long term. (Check out the report on SIPRI’s website: www.sipri.com.)

Are we winning?: A recent USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll suggests that public confidence in the “war on terrorism” is slipping; only a third of Americans believe the US is winning the war. In January two-thirds said the US was winning. Now, half believe the war is at a stalemate. Of course, polls often hide more than they illuminate, and this one is no exception. The poll begs the question, how do we measure winning “the war on terrorism”? A stand-in word for all evil, the category “terrorism” is being pushed on us in an attempt to organize how we imagine relations between peoples and nations. But, unlike the “Communism” of the Cold War, terrorism is a lot more vague, and this makes it even more politically dangerous and more useful for those in power. It was pretty clear that when the Soviet Union fell, the Cold War came to an end, but how will we ever know that we won “the war on terrorism”? An endless war engenders unbounded powers.

War on who?: Not everyone, however, is secure with the term “war on terrorism.” Soon after the attacks of September 11, a debate among conservatives in the US ensued over who would be targeted in our coming war. At first it seemed as if a war between “civilizations”—Christian versus Muslim—was the winning conception; but, soon the more moderate (if we dare even use that term anymore) voices in the Bush administration, realizing that they needed to keep certain Muslim nations as allies, reshaped the debate and the more vague “war on terrorism” came to the fore. Some conservatives were not happy with this, and thus Lou Dobbs, anchor of CNN’s Moneyline (now foreign policy expert?), recently tried to again redefine the war as a “war on Islamism,” on radical Islam. Chief among Dobbs’ radical Islamist nations is Iraq, which, unfortunately for Dobbs,

is headed by the secularist Baath Party, itself keen on keeping Iraqi Islamists at bay. But as Gary Leupp, writing in Counter Punch, argues, Dobbs isn’t likely to get too far as the “war on terrorism” seems to be overflowing its original bounds and is set to take up some of our more traditional enemies.

The department of potential targets I: The original mandate of US troops in the Philippines was to train troops and help with construction projects for a period of six months; nearing its end, it looks as if the period will be extended and US troops may take more combative roles. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, an Asian expert, is pushing for greater US involvement in the Philippines. This last week, the Pentagon announced that US troops will now go on patrol with Philippine troops in order to combat the Abu Sayyaf, a rebel group fighting for an independent Muslim state in the Southern Philippines, and that US military construction projects—of roads, wells and airports for the Philippine military—will continue as well. These construction projects are being billed as development projects to help the poor military of the Philippines along with the people on Basilan Island, where the rebellion is taking place. The US government claims the Abu Sayyaf is a terrorist organization with links to Al Qaeda; in reality, the Abu Sayyaf is a bandit group (with only 100 to 200 fighters) that is more of a kidnapping extortion organization than a terrorist group. Yet the real US target might be elsewhere in the Philippines. The Maoist New People’s Army (NPA), which has more than 12,000 troops and controls up to 20% of the countryside, is also named by the US State Department as a “terrorist organization.” And recently—using Bush’s with-us-or-against-us rhetoric—Philippine President Gloria Arroyo has been blurring the line between the NPA and the Abu Sayyaf. Many in the Philippine military also seem hungry to go to war with the NPA. The Bush administration has pledged to send \$100 million in military assistance to the Philippines for its war on terrorism, which includes 30,000 M16 assault rifles. That makes a half-a-million to a million dollars per Abu Sayyaf fighter; with that amount of money, if the Abu Sayyaf is the real target, perhaps we could just send them all to live in the French Riveara instead of fighting the war.

The department of potential targets II: With the left-wing Worker’s Party candidate Luis Ignacio da Silva (aka “Lula”) likely to win the Brazilian elections in October, Bush’s friends on Wall Street have started economic warfare against the Brazilian Real and stock market in order to put pressure on Lula and the Brazilian electorate. This flexing of US muscle has caused the Real and market to plummet. As Chris Floyd writes in Counter Punch, “This economic terrorism by the Bush Regime is just the opening salvo in a dirty war that will doubtless continue until the October election. The Regime may have fumbled its first attempt at a foreign coup—the ham-handed farce in Venezuela—but Brazilians should take little comfort in that. As we saw in November 2000, when these boys set their minds to it they know how to gut a democracy.” 🏴‍☠️

War Notes is bi-monthly column following the developments of our new permanent war, the war on terrorism.

K Chronicles

THE
U.
CHRONICLES
ON
Vacation! BY KEITH KNIGHT

EVERYBODY KEPT ON TELL-
ME THAT THE KEY TO BEAT-
ING JETLAG WAS TO STAY
AWAKE WHEN I FINALLY
GOT TO LONDON, NO MATTER
HOW TIRED I WAS... AND TO
GO TO SLEEP AT THE SAME
TIME AS THE LOCALS DID...

San Francisco 12 HOUR
Flight from HELL London

SO AFTER I SETTLED IN
AT THE YOUTH HOSTEL I
WAS STAYING AT, I HIT
THE NEAREST PUB...

Ye Olde Puke & Vomit

WHERE I IMMEDIATELY ENGAGED
IN SPARKLING CONVERSATION WITH
THE LOCALS... I'll tell ya how to
get the guns out of
the hands of all the
American kids
mate...

This is
me, feeling
kinda sluggish
and howz-
at?

Teach The
bloody sprogs
how to STAB!!

No, No... ear me out, mate!!
A gun is a coward's weapon
it is... BUT it's Takes a
REAL man to poke a bloke
in the kidneys!!

Ya see... THAT'S The
difference between
there & ere, mate...
Call us old-fashioned,
but lemme ask
you this...

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...When was the last
time you've ever heard of an
8 year old kid accidentally
killed in a drive-by STABBING?

In your very own
bizarre & twisted
way, you have a
point...

-- and a bloody
sharp one
at that, mate!!

STOP IT!!

more "TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO
COMIX" COURTESY OF
THE KCHRONICLES BY KEITH KNIGHT

STOP PICKING YOUR NOSE
AT EVERY FREAKIN' STOP LIGHT!!

we see it you
know... we
ALL see it!!

STOP TALKING SO G.D.
LOUD WHEN YOU'VE GOT
HEADPHONES ON!!

BLAH BLAH
NO ONE
CAN HEAR
THE MUSIC
CEPT YOU.

STOP ASKING QUESTIONS
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
MOVIE!!

Psst... Why is that
guy Blah, Blah, Blah?

MOVIES ARE
GENERALLY
MADE FOR
STUPID
PEOPLE. YOU'LL
GET IT BY
THE END...

MAN!! STOP URINATING
ALL OVER THE TOILET
SEATS IN PUBLIC
RESTROOMS!!

LIFT THE
SEAT WITH
YOUR FOOT
IF YOU
HAVE TO...

STOP TELLING HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS THAT THEIR PROM
IS GOING TO BE ONE OF
THE GREATEST NIGHTS OF
THEIR LIVES...

THIS SUCKS

STOP PUTTING KETCHUP
ON HOTDOGS!!

THIS IS
WRONG!!
WRONG!!
WRONG!!
& GROSS.

STOP PRETENDING WE'RE NOT
UP SHIT'S CREEK WITHOUT
A PADDLE WHEN IT COMES
TO THIS TERRORIST THING...

Bombing
weddings.
Friendly
Fire...

Axis of
EVIL!!

Our govt's
doing a
GREAT
JOB!!

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rock and roll...

photo by amy weiss

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Youth Special Ed

By **EDWARD NIETO**
The Silicon Valley Debug

When I began school, I thought I was extra smart because I was put in "special" education. Even more so because my name is Ed. (Get it? Special Ed!) But no one wanted to hang with me at recess.

I was not alone for long. I became friends with He-Man. Actually, I studied the cartoon to learn the ropes of life. I watched on TV how He-Man would fight someone and afterwards they always became friends. Soon, I began looking around campus for the cool kids and start fights with them. I fought to make friends all the way to middle school.

In junior high, I learned what being in special education really meant. I remember sitting on the bus and glancing over at some elementary school kid's homework. Since I was obviously older, he asked me for help with his assignment. I couldn't believe it. This kid was on timetables, and I was still on pluses and minuses. He had spelling words like "forbidden;" I was still on "cow."

Before this, I thought the other kids would tease me because they were jealous. After the bus ride, I knew otherwise. At parent-teacher meetings, my teachers would say as nicely as they could, "Your son gets along with other classmates pretty well... but he is not very bright."

By eighth grade, my Special Ed classmates had it with being teased and we got together during breaks

to back each other up. We walked around school like a gang and the rejection was temporarily replaced with unity. We felt as if we ruled the campus until high school, when we went to different schools.

The high school education system had given up on me before I even got there. While mainstream classes were having discussions and learning, Special Ed students were stuck watching "The Little Mermaid" for the umpteenth time and doing crossword puzzles for homework. My senior year math teacher told me all I had to do was show up and I would pass. I spent that year reading comic books.

Toward the end of high school, I had a lot I wanted to learn, but counselors recommended that I just take vocational training. I tried to plead my case. I wanted to know what others my age knew. But they said I had two choices: take the classes they offered or drop out.

I took the class and it was cool. We got stoned every day and still passed. At the end of the year, the teacher told my mother, "Edward is very well known, but he is still at a sixth-grade learning level." He said I was particularly bad at math, so I should not get a job as a cashier. He said that she should not expect much from me. At the end, the teacher offered hope. "He is doing well at his welding class, so maybe he should be a welder."

My mom was mad at the teacher and I hated welding, but by this time I was scared. Here I was wanting to go out there and rule the world and everyone was shoving sticks in my wheels. I chose not to listen to

them and enrolled in junior college. In college, it was called the disabled program. Once I got used to being labeled "disabled," it wasn't so bad. If I wanted to milk it, I could have gotten a parking pass, even though I had no physical disability.

At De Anza Community College I was doing great in all my classes. Hell, I was doing better in the mainstream classes than any of the ones I had been forced into because of my learning disability. I was really looking forward to taking computer classes. Because of being labeled disabled, I could not take classes until I completed tests. At the end of a two-week testing spree, they had a meeting with me and said, "Look, we know it's nice to go around saying you go to college, but college is not for everyone and you're not De Anza material."

So once again I was faced with a tough choice. I could try sticking it out at De Anza until the teachers black-listed me, or, like many other college dropouts, move on on my own and tell all those people to shove it.

That's where I am today. Just like everyone else my age, I'm doing temp work in Silicon Valley. I have done at least ten different temp jobs in the last few years. I have built computer monitors, made boxes for printers, and shipped computers. I never really wanted to do manufacturing and assembly work—it's really boring—but I ended up settling to pay the bills. I thought I might learn computer skills at some of these places, but none of these jobs offer any training on how to actually use the technology we work on. I've been reporting and organizing for Silicon Valley Youth Outlook! (YO!) for the past five months and I'm learning web design to put up our new web site. I'm also picking up some technological skills by using my brother's computer. Like most things, the only way to really learn something is by teaching yourself. ☹

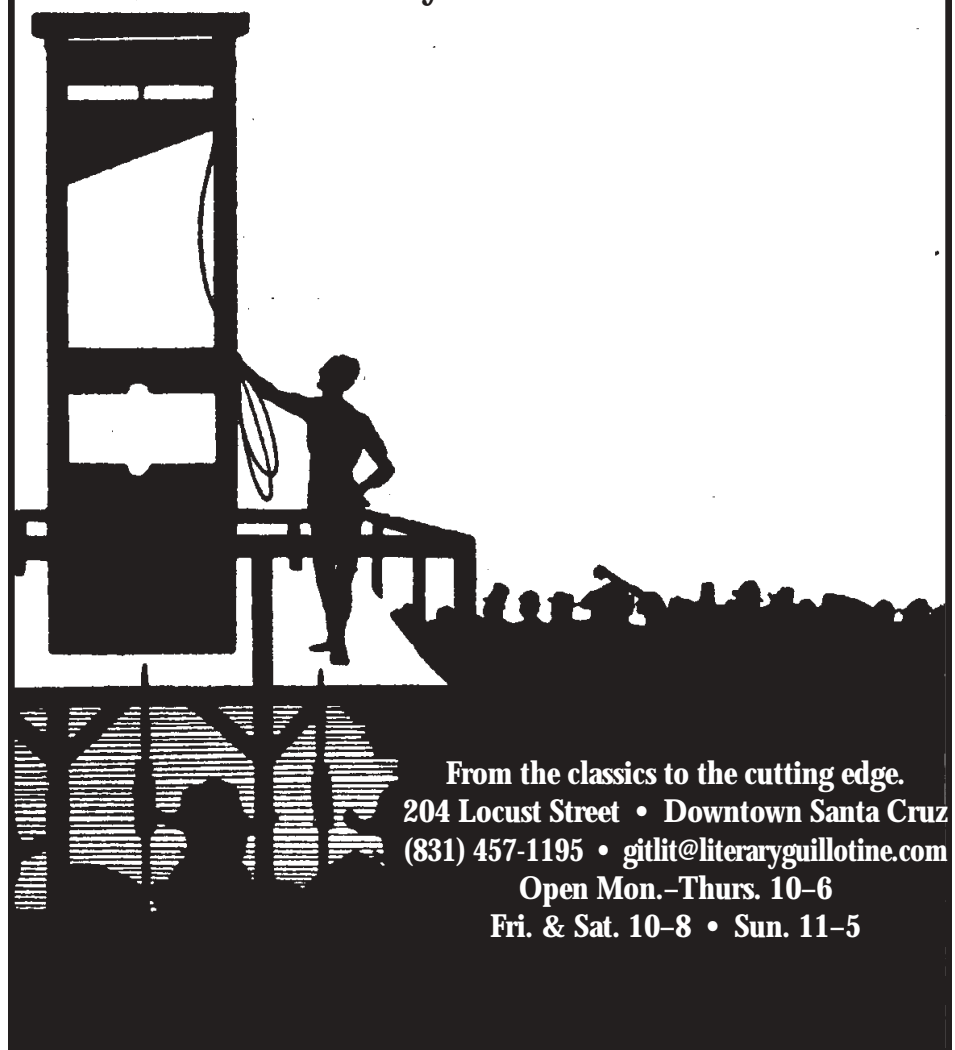
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From Behind the Counter



The Interview

By **CHRIS KORTRIGHT**
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

What is worse than working at a mundane job? Personally, I find the “interview” process more painful than working even the worst retail job where every interaction is with an arrogant condescending customer. On these wonderful occasions between jobs, we force ourselves into clothes we wouldn’t even wear to our own wedding. Then we need to play nice and pretend that we have no other aspiration in life than to start a career selling donuts, records or coffee to disrespectful individuals who think that we were placed on earth only to serve them. But in the thirteen years I have had to suck-up to get jobs, I have had one interview that disrupted this ritual of humiliation.

It was 1992 and time to find a new job. I had an interview at a video store where a buddy worked. On went the clothes: I put on a button down shirt and a pair of slacks. With resume in hand, I jumped on a bus to find the little store. I got off the bus and walked into the small store which was claustrophobically crammed with the best selection of independent and foreign films I had ever seen. I politely asked the clerk to see Bob. “Go upstairs. He’s in the office.” As I walked upstairs into the cluttered office, there was a large guy splicing a video tape. “He’s in there,” the guy pointed to the door without even looking up. Before walking in, I got myself in the mindset to answer the useless questions that were about to be hurled at me. I opened the door to meet Bob.

I walked in not knowing that my understanding of “hiring” would never be the same again. There was Bob sitting at his desk. Well, he wasn’t really sitting at his desk. He was sitting in a chair wearing an undershirt and ratty jeans with his bare feet resting on his desk. Politely I asked, “Are you Bob?” He put down the copy of *The New Yorker* he was reading, “Yeah, you must be Chris.” I handed him my resume. He glanced at it, “Oh, I definitely need to read this.” He proceeded to throw the resume into the trash and grab my shoulder. “Let’s go downstairs and I’ll ask you a few questions.” I was trying to process this unusual experience without blowing the interview.

We walked back into the other room where the guy was fixing tapes. “This is Chris, he works here now.” What! I work here now? The guy looks up, “Hey, I’m Miles.” As we walked down the stairs, Bob started to give me the run down. “So if you work here, your job is to help customers. We aren’t Blockbuster. That means I didn’t hire you because of your looks alone; you are paid to have an opinion. If a customer asks if a crappy movie is any good, you tell them it sucks.” What? At Tower I was told to always say a movie was good. How am I supposed to rent out the movie if I tell people it sucks? He must have seen the confusion on my face because he continued, “Most people won’t care what you think and will rent it anyway, but we have a reputation for be-

ing honest. We expect to keep that reputation!” He continued with his talk. “We are a family store, you need to play appropriate movies while you’re working.” I nodded and looked up at the TV screen. The clerk working was playing “Scarface” with Al Pacino. “Well, at least play classics,” he smiled. “Hey Tom, this is Chris. He works here now.” The clerk looked up. “Hey, I thought you were the guy who came to complain that I was rude yesterday.” As he lit a cigarette in the middle of the store, Bob looked at me very seriously and said, “As I said, you are paid to help the customers. That means you need to be nice and polite, and if people are having a bad day just deal with it. Don’t get mad.” I was used to that; take whatever the customers dishes out because the customer is always right. “But,” he continued, “we don’t deal with abusive customers. If someone is abusive, tell them to go to Blockbuster; we don’t want that kind of business.”

“So, you want to start now or tomorrow?” he asked me. “What?” I asked. This was the strangest interview I had ever experienced. “Yeah, you can start right now or tomorrow. Your call, but change out of those monkey-clothes. You look like you belong downtown.” Since that day it’s hard to take an interview seriously. I have, also, never found a boss who was such a wing-nut, yet such a cool person. He taught me that work shouldn’t be taken seriously, if it’s not fun, it’s not worth doing. Because of rent, I haven’t always been able to live up to those standards, but even now I just laugh at any customer who talks down to me. 🍌

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By **THE ALARM! COOK**
The Alarm! Newspaper's Wildly Eccentric Food Renderer

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- 1 red bell pepper (cubed)
- 2 cloves of garlic (crushed)
- 1/2 red onion (diced)
- 1 cup of raw spinach (chopped)
- 2 garden tomatoes (cubed)
- 1 avocado (diced)
- 6 leaves of fresh basil (chopped)
- 5 large leaves of fresh basil (whole)
- 5 sprigs of parsley (chopped)
- 2 limes
- olive oil
- salt and pepper (to taste)

Directions:

Place all of the cherry tomatoes and the whole basil leaves onto a small baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with a dash of salt and pepper, and place in the oven at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, gently stir the tomato/basil combination and place back in the oven for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, remove from oven and transfer all of the tomatoes and juices into a blender. Let stand for 10 minutes in the blender, then puree with 1/4 of your cubed avocado, 3 tablespoons of olive oil and the juice from one lime. Place in fridge while you prepare the rest of your salad.

In a large bowl combine all of the vegetables (except the remaining avocado and tomato), with 2 tablespoons of olive oil, the juice of 1/2 of a lime, a dash of salt and pepper and 1/2 of the chopped basil and parsley. Stir well and begin to slowly fold the rice into the vegetables. Be sure to mix very gently to avoid bruising the vegetables or mashing the rice. Once all of the rice is mixed in, drizzle a little bit of the chilled dressing on the top of the mixture and place in the freezer for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, remove from the freezer and stir to be sure the rice is totally cooled off, drizzle a little more dressing on the top and place in the freezer for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, your rice dish should be slightly chilled. Stir in the remaining dressing. Garnish the top with the chopped tomatoes and remaining herbs and avocado. Squeeze the remaining lime juice over these garnishes, chill for an additional 15 minutes and serve.



Accompanying dramatic graphic



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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.

SATURDAY 7/6

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.

SUNDAY 7/7

9:00-1:00 PM Grand Opening of the Live Oak Farmers Market. Music, food giveaways, and prizes. 1515 East Cliff Dr, at the East Cliff Shopping Center., SC. Now open every Sunday through November.

MONDAY 7/8

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.

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. Call(831) 477-4165.

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

TUESDAY 7/9

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.

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

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

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.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 8:00 PM Starts Tues. July 9 Bluegrass Slow Jam, Lupin Naturist Resort, Los Gatos. Contact Buck Bouker, buck@lupin.com.

WEDNESDAY 7/10

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

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

2:00-4:30 PM Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45 call ticket office at (831) 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.

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.

7:30-9:00 PM English Morris Dancing. High-energy centuries old, comes from the Cotsworld 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.

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.

7:30-9:30 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 7/11

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.

2:15-3:30 PM Marine Mammal Research Tour; Behind the scenes at Long Marine Lab. Learn about the work of Long Marine Lab scientists and their studies. Tour is best suited for children over 7 years of age. \$5 Adults; \$3 Seniors (60+), Students, Children (6-16); Members & Children (5 & under) are free. Call (831) 459-3799 or visit seymourcenter.ucsc.edu. Seymour Center at Long Marine Laboratory, 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.

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

7:30-10:00 PM Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45 call ticket office at (831) 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.

FRIDAY 7/12

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

8:30-10:30 PM Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45. call ticket office at 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.

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

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

SATURDAY 7/13

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 Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare Santa Cruz. \$10-\$45 call ticket office at (831) 459-2159 or go to www.shakespearesantacruz.org for more info.

SUNDAY 7/14

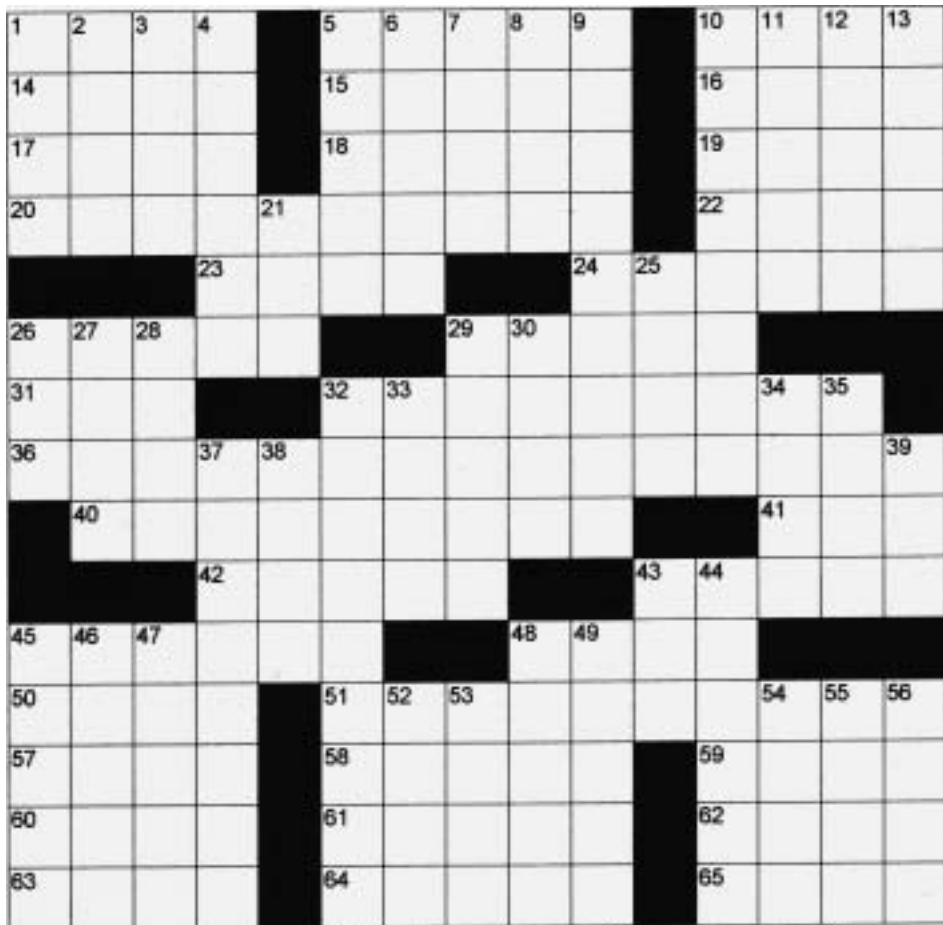
2:00-6 or 7:00 PM Bluegrass & Old Time Jam, Boulder Creek Methodist Church. Mountain & Boulder Streets off Hwy 9 in Boulder Creek. Call Mark Varner at (831) 338-0618 or Leslie Abbott at (831) 423-5214 for info.

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

Check out the Santa Cruz Peace & Justice Calendar (www.peacejusticenews.org) and Free School Santa Cruz (www.dobius.com/freeschool). Special thanks to Paul Franklin of the Peace and Justice Calendar for assistance.

Wholly Cross-Words

By Oliver Brown



Puzzle #005

Across

- 1 Tide recedes
- 5 Cut a tree
- 10 ____ of Defense (abbr.)
- 14 Atmosphere (comb. form)
- 15 Reduce
- 16 Type of chat
- 17 Son of Eve
- 18 Short skirts, for ballet
- 19 Dark and Middle
- 20 Psychology school developed by Carl Rogers
- 22 Moss
- 23 Quality of sound
- 24 Gives recognition
- 26 One condemned to Tartarus
- 29 Triple dog and double dog
- 31 Hoopla
- 32 Red cards
- 36 Chris Sarandon's second film (1975)
- 40 Magnitude
- 41 Failed 1970s Consitutional adaptation
- 42 Swiss Mathematician
- 43 Lascivious
- 45 Sartre novel featuring the character Roquentin
- 48 Existed
- 50 Landing site in *Concorde: Airport '79*
- 51 Vault
- 57 First battle site of World War I
- 58 Old hangout
- 59 Aretha Franklin's older sister
- 60 Contend
- 61 Piece of coal
- 62 Coral and Red
- 63 Allows
- 64 Run down
- 65 "Sixteen ____" by Merle Travis

Down

- 1 Every
- 2 Judy's little brother in *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955)
- 3 Composer of "Ice Cream Man" (featured on Van Halen's first LP)
- 4 Musical composition
- 5 Shiny cloth
- 6 "We don't pay you to ____ the copy machine," the boss in *Fight Club* (1999)
- 7 Minutemen founding member
- 8 Decorative needle case
- 9 Methodical doubter
- 10 Harmonious sound
- 11 Straight-____ (a hardcore non-drinker, non-user)
- 12 Beg
- 13 Alpha and beta
- 21 Persona ____ grata
- 25 *The Truman Show* director
- 26 Little bit
- 27 One who is blindly adored
- 28 Roman garment
- 29 Suspend
- 30 Patriot and Homestead
- 32 Meibomian glands lubricate them
- 33 Shae D'Lyn role in "Dharma & Greg"
- 34 Negative votes
- 35 Arrange
- 37 Wardrobe assistants
- 38 Fever
- 39 Kind of sayer
- 43 Either side of a right triangle that is not the hypotenuse
- 44 80s indie band named after a 70s Henry Cow LP
- 45 Nautical
- 46 Teeming
- 47 Tip over
- 48 Filleted
- 49 Section of a diary
- 52 Gentle as a lamb
- 53 Bumpkin
- 54 Nabisco cookie
- 55 Sultanate bordering Yemen
- 56 Bay State (abbr.)



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Answers from last week's puzzle (# 004)

Classifieds

For sale/grabs/trade

Looking for decent turntable w/ needle. Will trade new 14" guitar amp. Call 457-2553.

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

Black and Decker Panel saw. \$75.00 obo. Call 425-2727

Housing

Available 7/7. 1 bdrm apt. quiet St, private yard. Newly renovated. \$1200 incl. util. Call Micah 425-4123

Seeking

Wanted! Used moped, prefer vespa. Must be in running condition! But not mint condition. Will pay cash. email michelle@the-alarm.com

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.



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P.O. Box 1205
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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.

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Boulder Creek Brewery
Boulder Creek New Leaf
Johnnie's Super Market, Boulder Creek
Mill St. at Boulder Creek Market
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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
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Costco Harvey West Blvd.
Homeless Services, Coral St.

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Emeline Street Market
Emeline Center
Denny's on Ocean St.
Santa Cruz Diner on Ocean St.
Jack in the Box on Ocean St.

LOWER OCEAN
Resrouce Center for Nonviolence on Broadway

BEACH FLATS
Quality Market on Riverside
Beach Flats Community Center
Beach Street, across from Boardwalk
Beach Street, near Pacific Ave.

SEABRIGHT
Buttery (Soquel Ave. & Branciforte)
Joe on the Go (near Albertson's)
Sacred Grove
Crepe Place
Pearl Restaurant on Seabright
Day's Market on Seabright
Soquel Ave. & Seabright
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.)

FREEDOM/WATSONVILLE
Tropicana Foods on Freedom Blvd.
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.
Main St. near Theater

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