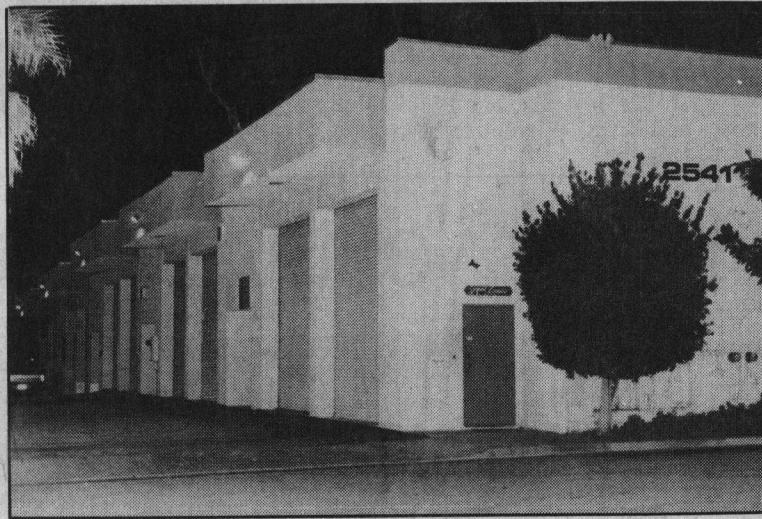


**HOUSE ARREST:**  
After raiding Soquel Lomée, located on South Rodeo Gulch Drive, undercover deputies posed as prostitutes and arrested 15 men on suspicion of soliciting prostitution.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel



# Deputies say brothel catered to 'upscale'

BY JOHN ROBINSON  
Sentinel staff writer

*Crime & Criminals - KRIC - 12-96*  
SOQUEL — A reputed house of prostitution that deputies say was run by an attorney and retired firefighter was closed Wednesday and 17 people arrested, including a San Jose police officer.

The business, Soquel Lomée, is located on South Rodeo Gulch Drive, in an industrial area near the end of Research Park Road. Detectives raided the business

Wednesday morning, arresting William Edward Grace, a 73-year-old retired fireman, on charges of pimping, and two women on suspicion of prostitution.

An arrest warrant is also being sought for a second owner of the business, Valerie Ann Knight, 50, whom deputies identified as a Santa Cruz attorney, on charges of pimping and pandering.

After raiding the business,  
*Please see BROTHEL — BACK PAGE*

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## Brothel closed

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women deputies posed as prostitutes and arrested 15 men on suspicion of soliciting prostitution. The men were cited and released. Their names were not released by the Sheriff's Office Thursday.

Deputies said the men arrested include an active-duty San Jose Police officer, a doctor and other professionals.

"It was an upscale clientele," said Sheriff's Lt. Steve Robbins. "It has been in business for quite a few years as a massage parlor under different names."

Deputies said no pretense of massage was offered at the

Soquel Lomée and the woman directly offered sex acts for money. Deputies investigated the business over a three-month period.

"It was very busy," Robbins said. "Surveillance showed people lined up in their cars, waiting for the business to open in the morning. There were a lot of Mercedes."

Deputies obtained a civil court injunction, to ensure that the business remained closed, as well as a search warrant.

The business was in a nondescript, two-story cinderblock building at 2541 S. Rodeo Gulch Drive, which is shared by several other businesses.

A weathered wood sign marked its location, reading Soquel Lomée, above a steel door with two locks, a large peephole and doorbell. A light was on in the business Wednesday night, but no one answered the bell.

The business is listed in the telephone book. A recording Wednesday night stated only, "You have reached Soquel Lomée. We will be closed for an undetermined period of time. Please keep this number until further notice."

Robbins said that the investigation into the business is continuing.