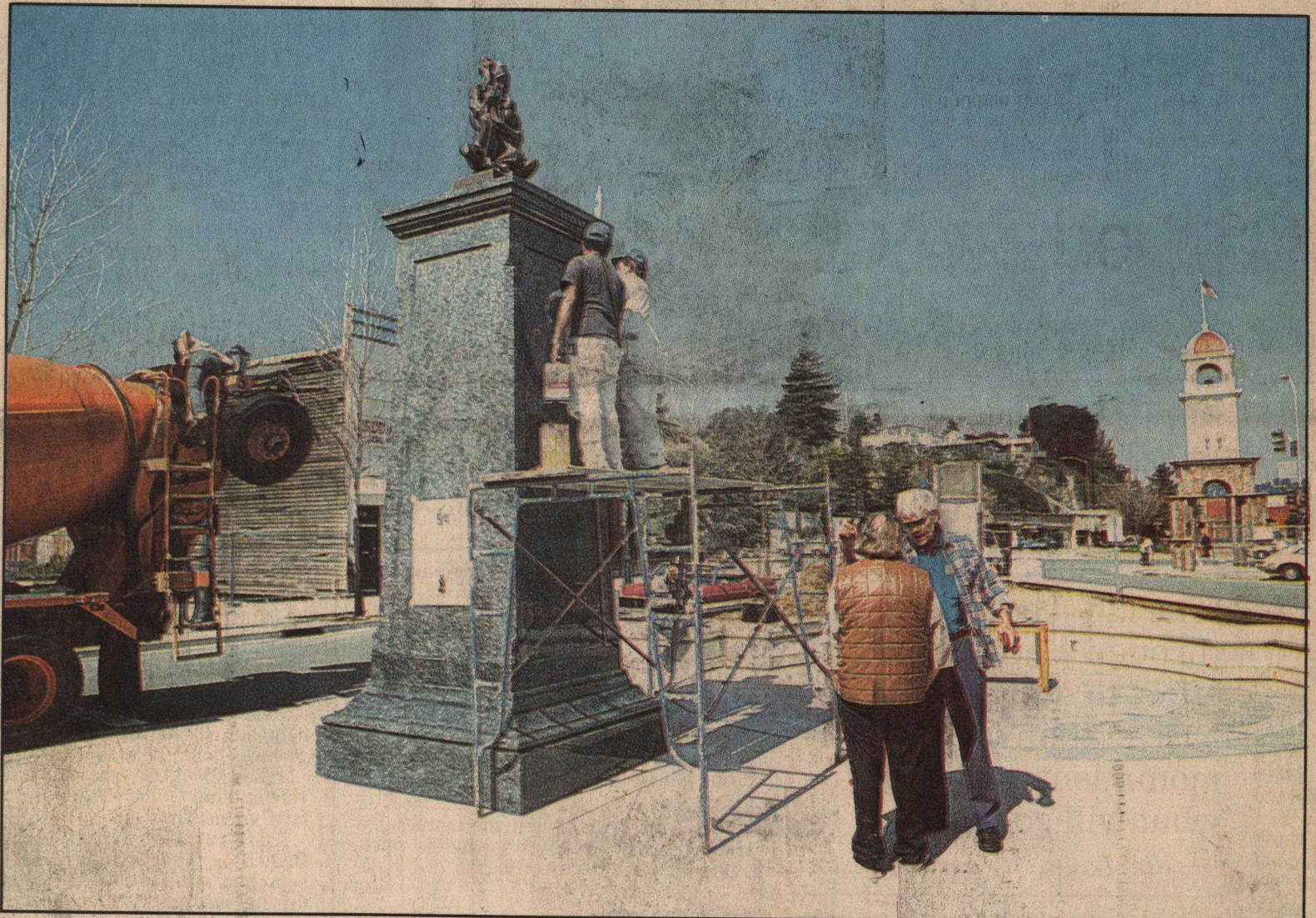


Art and artist 1990 -

# Statue controversy



Dan Coyro/Sentinel photos

As workers clean the base, Veterans George Waldron and James Wainscoat, lower right, hold a vigorous discussion Monday on Pacific Avenue at the pedestal supporting the Bill Motto statue.

## Vets post slips statue onto city pedestal

By MARTHA MENDOZA  
Sentinel staff writer

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SANTA CRUZ — Artistic scandal has struck Pacific Avenue, where a group of veterans have erected their own sculpture atop a vacant pedestal.

That new, granite pedestal is slated to base the city's historic World War I nesting eagle memorial, which was placed in storage two years ago while earthquake repairs were completed on Pacific Avenue.

The eagle was expected to return to the north end of Pacific Avenue later this week, after a thorough cleaning and polishing.

But last weekend some veterans jumped the gun, and hoisted their own fiberglass and epoxy model of a nude, shrouded family onto the stand.

"I think it's a very nice statue, but it's just not the statue that should be on that pedestal," said Mayor Neal Coonerty on Monday of the shrouded family.

But some members of the Bill Motto Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars argue that local veteran E.A. Chase's sculpture — called "Collateral Damage: A Reality of War" — is more appropriate for the new base than the old nesting eagle monument.

"We're not looking for a confrontation on this, we're just making a proposal," said veteran James Wainscoat.

City Parks Director Jim Lang said the veterans have no prerogative to put anything atop the pedestal, and that only the eagle will



The nesting eagle statue has remained in storage for two years.

be allowed to go there.

"The city has gone through a great deal of effort to design that base of the World War I monument, and that's what will go there," he said.

Monday, the alternative statue drew mixed reviews from community members, some of

whom wrote their comments into a journal Wainscoat provided for opinions.

According to the Bill Motto Post's resolution in support of the statue, the work depicts a man, woman and child "frozen in that final embrace before utter destruction." All three figures are nude, and have shrouds on their heads.

If mounted, Wainscoat said the statue would be three times the model size on display Monday.

Landscape architect Joni Janecki said she liked the new statue more than the old eagle monument, because it was less "official and war-like."

"I think this is more universal," she said. Her husband, Andrew, said the model of the huddled family looked scary.

"It's fear-invoking," he said. "I can sense the fear of the people looking up."

Others were less inspired.

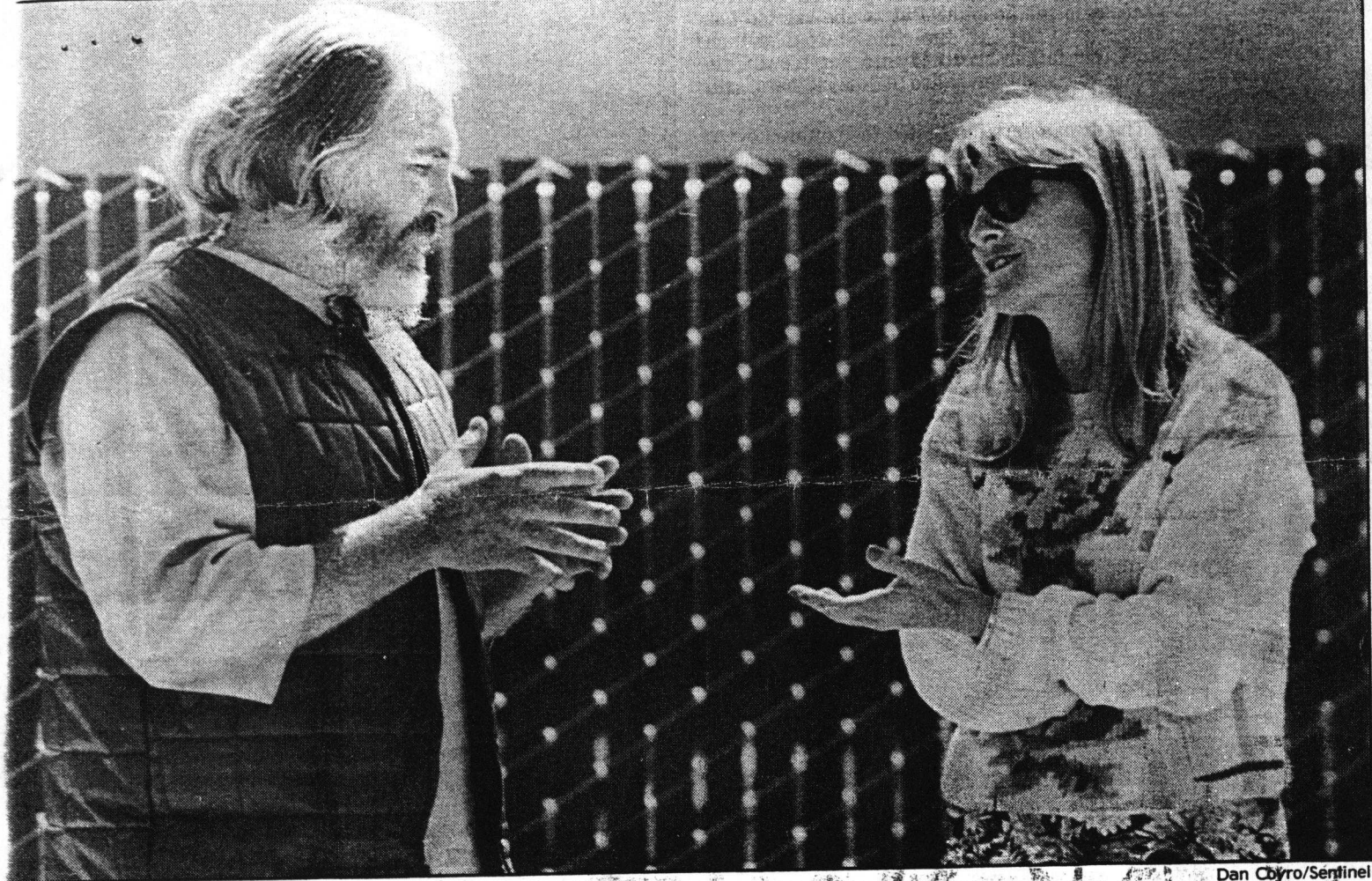
One passer-by said it looked like "a meltdown from a nuclear thing." Another suggested blowing the statue up with a bazooka.

Sandra Dimauro, who works in a building across the street from the site, said she was "surprised and disappointed" to see the piece.

"They've put up a statue of a naked woman with a shroud on her," she said. "It's really ugly."

Dimauro noted that the windows of her office give her a particularly unattractive view of the piece.





Dan Cbyro/Sentinel

Carol Scurich of the city parks department tells Bill Motto Post's James Wainscoat the statue must come down.

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"From this viewpoint, all I can see is a rear end."

Monday, city officials and statue proponents met several times in front of the granite pedestal to discuss its future.

At times the talks became quite heated, as orders were given to take it down.

"By continuing to allow that piece to be left up there, we feel the city is taking a side," said Carol Scurich, of the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Scurich warned Wainscoat that city workers would take it down if the veterans don't do it themselves, although no deadlines were set.

Mayor Coonerty, whose Bookshop Santa Cruz is just down the street from the statue, says he sees this as a "war between two vet-

**'The city has gone through a great deal of effort to design that base of the World War I monument, and that's what will go there.'**

— *Jim Lang, city parks director*

eran's groups," and that he has no intention of getting in the middle of things.

"All we're going to do is get the eagle mon-

ument restored," he said. "That monument is really a memorial to the boys from Santa Cruz who lost their lives in the wars."

Coonerty said the veterans who want the "Collateral Damage" statue put up downtown should enter a downtown sculpture contest going on this month.

Coonerty said the veterans could also display the statue on the ground, next to the pedestal where they have set up a table.

Bill Hollett, who is a previous member of the Bill Motto Post, agreed the statues are sparking "internal conflict" among the veterans and argued Monday on behalf of the eagle.

"It's not right to desecrate something already dedicated to World War I veterans," he said. "It should go back on its pedestal."