

The Mercury

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Councilwoman Gives Assist As Viet Cong Flag Burned

By BOB LIGON
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SANTA CRUZ — A Viet Cong flag and a "flag of anarchy" were burned on a sidewalk early Thursday evening during a demonstration by about 100 American flag-waving persons headed by Santa Cruz City Councilwoman Anne Garni.

The burning occurred in front of a Westside home whose occupants displayed a Viet Cong flag on Veterans Day and Wednesday to "remind people other than Amer-

icans veterans are being killed in Vietnam."

"This is a gesture of support for Mayor (Richard J.) Werner," said Mrs. Garni as she waved the flaming Viet Cong flag.

The mayor has been charged with malicious mischief for removing a Viet Cong flag from the Westside home and with the help of neighbors ripping it apart.

The flag was displayed by Larry Eugene Bell, 27, a substitute school teacher, and Rob Newman, 20, a student at Cabrillo College. Both men live in the home at 1520 Escalona Dr.

Werner will answer the malicious mischief charge in Santa Cruz Municipal Court today.

His attorney, Raymond Goodrich, a former Santa

Cruz City Councilman, said the Viet Cong flag was still on display.

The crowd yelled "Take it down . . . or we will come up and do it."

Newman and two other young men who refused to identify themselves were inside the home. Bell reportedly has been out of town since Monday's incident when the mayor removed the flag.

One of the youths went out

on the porch and removed the flag, as the crowd on the sidewalk cheered. A short time later the three men entered an auto parked in the driveway and tried to leave.

The flag-waving demonstrators stood in front of the car and refused to let them pass. After about five minutes a Santa Cruz police officer ordered the demonstrators to step aside, and they did.

After the youths left, the demonstrators went to City

Hall where a City Council meeting was in progress.

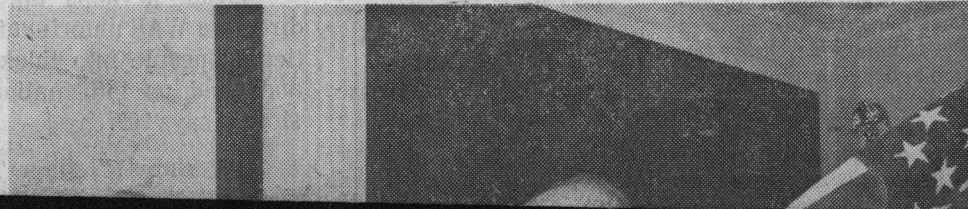
"We just wanted you to know you have supporters," one man said to Werner, who was conducting the meeting.

"Thank you, my friends," said Werner.

Thursday Goodrich said it is a felony to display the flag of a foreign country that seeks the overthrow of the United States government. He cited a section of the military and veterans code.

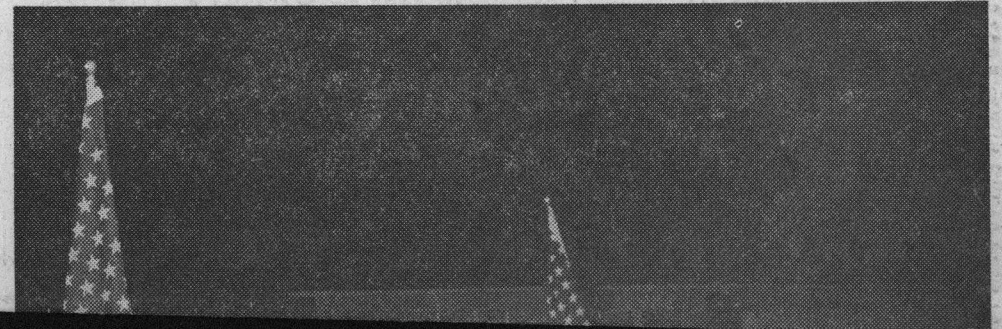


FLAG BURNING—Santa Cruz City Councilwoman Anne Garni drops burning Viet Cong flag and pro-Viet Cong posters during demonstration Thursday night. Standing by with a "flag of anarchy" that was burned minutes later is Charles Grimshaw, who organized the demonstration.



Jet Falls Into Bay; Pilot Saved

MONTEREY — An Army helicopter rescued a Navy pilot Thursday after he para-



Into Bay; Pilot Saved

MONTEREY — An Army helicopter rescued a Navy pilot, Thursday after he parachuted into Monterey Bay when his A7 Corsair fighter plane had a "flame out" at 7,000 feet.

Rescued was Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Hill, 35, of Lemoore Naval Air Station. His plane crashed into the sea and sank.

A helicopter piloted by CWO Lyle Miller of Ft. Ord was in the air nearby at the time Hill ejected and picked him up after he was in the water only five minutes.

Hill was not hurt but was taken to the dispensary at the Monterey Naval Auxiliary Landing Field by the helicopter.

He said he radioed a distress signal before he ejected from the plane.

Hill, who is married and has one child, said he was on a test flight at the time of the flameout. He parachuted into the bay about 1½ miles west of Ft. Ord.

Pair Must Face Court In Robbery

MONTEREY — James Lee

was carried... who organized the demonstration.



MAYOR — Charles Grimshaw (with flag) tells Santa Cruz Mayor Richard J. Werner "We're 100 per cent be-

hind you," referring to mayor's act this week of removing a Viet Cong flag displayed at a West Santa Cruz

home. Grimshaw led a band of about 40 demonstrators to Wednesday night's City Council meeting.

mind people other than Amer-

Newman, 20, a student at Cabrillo College. Both men live in the home at 1520 Escalona Dr.

Werner will answer the malicious mischief charge in Santa Cruz Municipal Court today.

His attorney, Raymond Goodrich, a former Santa Cruz mayor, said he will enter a plea of not guilty for Werner and demand a jury trial.

Werner, 72, a retired Army colonel, said he welcomes the chance at a "public forum" to tell why he removed and destroyed the flag.

The flag burning demonstration was sponsored by a citizens' group called Taxpayers for Higher Education (THE).

Charles Grimshaw, spokesman for the group, said it is planning patriotic rallies, probably for this weekend.

"We're kind of playing it by ear right now, but we're getting all kinds of support and we think the time is right to point out the dangers facing our country," said Grimshaw.

The demonstrators started gathering in front of the Bell residence at 4:45 p.m. Thursday. At 5:20 p.m., Grimshaw took from his automobile the two flags to be burned and several posters, similar to ones Bell had pasted on his front door. One poster said "Victory to the NLF" (National Liberation Front).

"Will our honored Councilwoman, Mrs. Garni, do the honors?" he asked.

"It is my pleasure," she said, stepping forward.

The Viet Cong flag was burned first, then the posters and then the flag of anarchy. As Mrs. Garni dropped the burning items to the ground, Grimshaw ground the ashes on the sidewalk.

A crowd of about 50 persons appeared at the Bell residence Wednesday night, when



CAR STOPPED—Flag-waving demonstrators stop Rob Newman, 20, and two unidentified friends Wednesday night as they attempt

to leave house where they had displayed a Viet Cong flag. Demonstrators sang "God Bless America" and
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shouted insults at the occupants. After about five minutes, Santa Cruz police officers ordered demonstrators to let auto pass.

CTA Agrees To Investigate County School Chief's Office

SALINAS — The California Teachers Assn. plans an investigation of the operations of Monterey County Superintendent of Schools Edwin C. Coffin. Coffin told trustees at a secret meeting recently he will not resign and they cannot force him to resign from his elective office. That was after

administrative assistant a panel of the California School Administrators Assn. recommended he quit following a study the association made in September. Coffin said, however, he did not plan to run for re-election in 1971.

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John Peshkoff, president of the CTA chapter in Coffin's office, said the Personnel Stand-