

# Mass murderer Mullin denied parole

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Mass murderer Herbert Mullin "continues to be unpredictable and a threat to others," the state Board of Prison Terms announced Tuesday as it denied him parole for the seventh time.

Mullin, who was convicted in 1973 of killing 11 people in the Santa Cruz area — including a priest in a confessional — appeared before the board at California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, where he is serving a life sentence.

His next parole hearing will be in five

years, board spokeswoman Phyllis Scott said in a phone interview.

The board denied parole to the 43-year-old Mullin for several reasons, including an unfavorable psychological report and unstable social history, Scott said.

It also took into account that he had multiple victims, including the priest and two children, she said.

In June, Mullin told the three-member board he is ready to be released from state prison and asked it to consider testimony from a witch or wizard to better understand his mental state.

According to reports, he claimed at

the time of the killings he was offering human sacrifices to prevent a catastrophic earthquake on the San Andreas Fault.

His first known victim was a Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Henry Tomei, who was stabbed to death in the confessional of his Los Gatos church.

His later victims included four teenagers from Southern California who were shot to death at their campsite near Felton at a spot called the "Garden of Eden."

Mullin was arrested Feb. 13, 1973, minutes after shooting Fred Perez, a 72-year-old retired fisherman, who was

standing in front of his home on Lighthouse Avenue.

Mullin quickly was charged with five other murders, including Kathy Francis, a 29-year-old mother and her sons, age 4 and 9, who were killed at their home near the Mystery Spot. His other victims included a Western Drive couple and a young woman.

Mullin is a former honor student at San Lorenzo Valley High School. In prison, he has completed two vocational trade programs, Scott said.

He has been involved in numerous therapy programs since 1982, she said.