

# The Mercury

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## Supervisors Want To Calm Hippie-Straight Relations

**SANTA CRUZ** — Two Santa Cruz County Supervisors today will urge that the county step in to avert what they fear appears to be shaping up as a direct confrontation between hippies and straights.

They contend the situation has reached the "vigilante" stage.

Supervisors Ralph Sanson and Dan Forbus will recommend that a special committee, with the help of a paid consultant, set to work immediately to "identify" the problem and solve it.

The problem arises from the increasing number of young transients attracted here by the mountains and beaches.

Most of the complaints against the young people center on such things as nudity, communal-style living, use of narcotics, hitchhiking, and hippie-like appearance of many of the youths.

Forbus and Sanson say the county is under heavy pressure to "do something" about the problem. They say it has "reached the point where some residents are saying that unless the county takes steps to correct the situation, they (residents) will form vigilante groups to take the matter into their own hands."

The two supervisors, in a joint letter to the board say:

"The difficulty is, of course, that the problem is

extremely complex and those who urge simple solutions to complex problems fail to recognize that all too often the proposed solution is worse than the situation they set out to correct."

Meanwhile, Supervisor George Cress met Monday with Sheriff Doug James and other local officials to explore ways of solving the problem.

It was decided that a letter will be sent out to chambers of commerce and other civic groups in the county to ask the cooperation of citizens in solving the problem with young transients.

Cress said, "Our effort to clean up hippie-type problems is not being done from

the standpoint of harassing them, but with the hope of getting them back on the right track."

Cress noted the spiraling venereal disease rate in the county, which has jumped from relatively few cases 10 years ago to 244 cases that have been reported since the first five months of this year.

Cress and Sheriff James stressed there would be no "select" law enforcement aimed at young transients.

Several recent incidents have brought the matter to a head.

Law enforcement officers, receiving complaints from residents, have made several sweeps of San Lorenzo Valley parks to stop

groups of young people from sunbathing in the nude. One sweep resulted in the arrest of 11 persons.

A near riot developed at a Santa Cruz restaurant when police attempted to arrest a girl there.

The Santa Cruz City Council since has taken steps to close the restaurant as a "public nuisance."

The state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board today will hold a hearing here on charges against the establishment stemming from the incident involving the young woman.

Several weeks ago a Ben Lomond mother, using a .22 caliber rifle loaded with birdshot, wounded a young man at a private riverside beach.

The young man had been there with about 12 other young persons.

No formal charges were brought against the woman because she acted in what she thought was self defense, according to the district attorney's office.

The district attorney's office said the woman shot the young man thinking that he and others were attempting to harm her. The youths said they merely wanted to explain they were getting ready to leave.

Sanson and Forbus are recommending the hiring of a systems analyst to work with a special committee, which would consist of representatives from the district attorney's office, sheriff's office, welfare department, health department, and two members of the Board of Supervisors.

## FREMONT COUNCIL TO GET WORD

## Report Due On Fire Pay Talks

**FREMONT** — City Mgr. Don Driggs tonight will report to the city council on the status of negotiations with firemen who have threatened to strike over a new contract.

Also tonight, the council will consider a proposal to work with Newark and Union City to prepare a joint franchise for refuse collection by the Oakland Scavenger Co., the largest contract refuse collector in the United States.

Firemen and city officials are scheduled to meet today to discuss compromise positions taken by

60-hour work week (now 63 hours) in 1971-72.

In a marathon meeting last week in Oakland, the city and firemen modified their positions somewhat, but details have not been disclosed.

If the council decides tonight that the two offers are still too far apart for settlement, it may ask for mediation, after declaring talks at an impasse.

If mediation failed a strike could be imminent.

The city is worried lest firemen receive net wages greater than the 5 to 7.5 per

cent hikes granted earlier to other city employees.

A greater than 7.5 per cent settlement could strain the city's \$9 million plus budget and lead to more intensive "collective bargaining" efforts by the mass of city employees not in unions.

Daniel Lydon, Fremont fire lieutenant and president of Local 1689, has said that the work week issue is the most important for firemen.

Driggs feels that "the most efficient way" to proceed with renegotiation of the garbage collection franchise would be to act jointly with

Newark and Union City.

Utilization of an outside consulting firm at a cost of up to \$19,000 is suggested. The firm would develop a method to determine the amount and necessity of future rate increases.

The new franchise fee and rates for single and multi family dwellings, commercial, industrial and compacted refuse must all be decided upon.

The city's contract with Oakland Scavenger (East Bay Disposal, its subsidiary) was extended to April 30,