

'Sunfall' pelts area; residents panic Sentinel 3/31/82

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SANTA CRUZ — Hit the trenches, earth worms. Crawl for cover, banana slugs. Roll out of sight, sow bugs. Retreat, mildew. Take five, dry rot.

Goodbye rain. Hello beach traffic.

Weather watchers today reported 12½ hours of sunlight fell on Santa Cruz in the 24-hour period ending at daybreak.

Sun was still shining at press time, wreaking havoc with the fungus-infested psychologies of residents accustomed to rain.

Sun poured into windows at 5:56 a.m. and disaster struck.

An epidemic of squinting broke out.

The solar catastrophe triggered a massive search for sunglasses. Confidential sources said thousands of residents rummaged through drawers, glove compartments and purses in pursuit of sunglasses. There were scattered reports of broken hinges.

"I'll never wear my boots again," said a Santa Cruz woman who wanted to remain anonymous. She sported an Hawaiian shirt for the first time since last summer.

The Easter message today from above was clear: "Take up thy sandals and walk." To the beach, presumably.

Beachgoers rifled through cupboards and closets for shorts, halter tops, bikinis, suntan lotion and visors. Tennis rackets emerged from a six-month hibernation. Frisbees resurrected. Beach chairs — chained all winter to the walls by cobwebs — were released and unfolded.

Depression due to rain lost momentum. The rain had been a perfect excuse for doing nothing. All season long residents have been going to bed by 9 p.m. due to the depression. If it weren't for "The Thorn

Birds" this week, the pattern would have continued. And now the sun has given citizens a new reason for living — and doing.

Rainy-day excuses have gone out the window. The sun today wrecked the best excuse for not pulling weeds, washing windows, waxing cars, painting rooms and mowing lawns.

Walt Trinidad of Santa Cruz was caught getting out of bed unusually early today.

What did he do this morning, a reporter asked Trinidad.

"I got up," was Trinidad's answer.

"Usually when it's raining, I stay in bed."

Trinidad was busy at the Boardwalk beach this morning, running his metal detector over the drying sand, looking for coins.

He said business has been particularly lousy this year. Not alot of people at the beach this year to drop money, said Trinidad.

Trinidad reached deep inside his pockets. "This is what I found this morning," he said, holding eight cents in his

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hand. "But I got \$20 worth of exercise and sunshine.

"I read a magazine that says you can make \$100,000 from doing this, but I made eight cents," added Trinidad.

Michael Rogers, who runs a boat charter business, was out jogging on the beach today and hoping the weather will hold. Today marked the first charter trip of the season for Rogers and he was smiling. "Today, it'll be fine," he predicted.

For those who rather enjoyed the depression, there was a bright spot on the

horizon, or, rather, a wet one.

Traces of rain were reported in the past 24-hours in Rio del Mar, Pine Flat, Bonny Doon and the usual wetter spots of the county.

The brightest glimmer of hope for those who like to wallow in the rain depression was offered by Friday's weather forecast.

The National Weather Service says there is a chance of rain again on Friday.

So maybe you really don't have time to wash the car or mow the lawn.

Happy trails, garden snails.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Young beachgoers shed their wraps at Main Beach this morning.