

# Two held in killing

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SANTA CRUZ — Raul, the sun starrer, is dead.

The familiar, bearded street person, who spent his days on the Pacific Mall staring into the sky and waving his arms as if directing some solar traffic, was killed when he was thrown off the San Lorenzo River footbridge Friday, said police. Two men have been arrested in connection with the murder.

Although known as "Raul-the-sun-starrer" and "Raul-the-birdman," his real name is Raul Lopez, 58.

In custody and being held on \$500,000 bail for suspicion of murder are Gary Randolph Gray, 34, also known as Gary Lee Anabonn, and Michael Bradley Perrin, 25.

Police say that Lopez was thrown over the railing and landed on a sand bar during an attempted robbery at about 8:30 p.m. He was pronounced dead at Community Hospital at 10 p.m. Police released no other details.

A person saying he was an eyewitness related, "Two guys cold-bloodedly threw him off the bridge. They tore the groceries out of his hands and then got on each side of him and like a garbage can just dumped him over."

The drop is estimated at about 20 feet.

Lopez was born in Texas and had been around Santa Cruz since 1958, according to a spokesman from the county Coroner's Office. He had no permanent address here and street people say he "lived in the cemetery."

They say he caused no one any harm and there was an atmosphere of sadness in the park Saturday as the word spread, "Hey, it was Raul. It was Raul."



Photo by Bill Lovejoy

Detective Keith Duel, Officer Andy Crain and Detective Sean Upton (with camera) on footbridge

Visitors and workers on the Mall daily would see "Raul-the-sun-gazer" standing by the kiosk across from Cooper House, staring at the sun and gesturing as though

he were directing solar traffic.

He was deeply tanned and had a full salt-and-pepper beard. He munched on nuts and seeds and spent the day peace-

fully waiting out life on the streets and gazing skyward.

Police officer Nick Marinos remembers  
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