

used to bring up many piles of Douglas fir found float-

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Teen-Agers Attempt To Find Solution To Area's Theater Rowdyism Problem

By Ron Miller

Several teen-agers are buckling down to the job of whipping the rowdyism problem in local theaters all by themselves. They know it won't be easy.

The youngsters are members of the Santa Cruz County Coordinating Council of Youth, a state-promoted organization concerned with the problems of youth in relation to the community.

When newspaper reports began to appear last week on the problem of adolescent and teen-age rowdyism at the Del Mar and Rio theaters, the students decided to take action themselves.

A special committee of five youngsters was formed to make a spot check of the Del Mar theater last Friday night, the night of the week generally considered the worst for rowdyism.

Scheduled by the group for April 7 is a special public forum on the theater rowdyism problem at the parish hall of Calvary Episcopal church on Center street.

The special committee turned up at the theater Friday night about 7:30 o'clock. Involved were Paul Dunn Ruiz Jr., a Cabrillo college student and president of the group; Donna Lake, Cabrillo student body president; Kathy Neef and John Hall, Santa Cruz High school students; and Corrine Anderson, a student at a local business school.

They were met at the door by George Atton, district manager of the Golden State theaters chain, which includes the Del Mar and Rio houses. Following some discussion of the problem with the theater official, the committee members stationed themselves at various places around the theater and observed the situation.

"We found it fairly quiet," Ruiz said. "Most of the noise came from conversation of youngsters meeting each other in the theater."

But Ruiz observed there was a general attitude of antagonism toward the ushers and considerable attention-getting comments. He said the committee found the lower left corner of the downstairs section to be the noisiest.

Ruiz said he got the impression the crowd was smaller last weekend than it usually is. He said the committee felt much of this was due to the film playing — a "comedy" involving rape and murder — which they felt appealed to adults rather than juveniles.

The group leader said the troublesome element seemed to be composed almost exclusively of junior high school age youngsters. He said the theater personnel were quite helpful to the group.

A full report on the observa-

tion will be made at the April 7 meeting.

Ruiz said the group of teen-agers is now engaged in mailing out invitations to local service clubs and youth groups to send official representatives to the meeting. It will be open to the general public, too.

"There will be an open floor discussion of theater rowdyism and other related problems after we make our report," Ruiz said.

Initial task of the meeting will be determination of the causes of the behavior problem in the theaters and ways it can be controlled most effectively.

County, State Confer On Freeway Cost Maintenance

A special meeting of supervisors and state highway officials was conducted this morning to work out an agreement for maintenance of freeway interchange crossings.

Supervisors Vincent Locatelli and Lewis Nelson met with officials of the state division of highways late this morning. A decision on the agreement is expected at Monday's board meeting.

Supervisors balked at approving the freeway agreement last Monday when they became dissatisfied with state demands for

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