

DeLaveaga Is Beautiful, But....

By TOM HONIG

Sentinel Staff Writer

Visitors to DeLaveaga Park might react a little differently to the park than does its caretaker, Dick Fassio, who says it's "disgusting as hell."

Fassio, actually, wasn't describing the park itself; he feels the beauty of the park, with its oaks and redwoods, picnic tables and surrounding hills, is unmatched in the area. But what park visitors do to it is disgusting, to his view.

In the past few weeks, vandalism has been an almost nightly occurrence, although it has decreased since the arrest at the park a week ago of three juveniles on charges of malicious mischief, Fassio said.

Fassio said most of the damage to the park comes from "teenagers who

come out here to drink booze." He said he doesn't mind them doing that, but what grates on him is the vandalism. "You just wouldn't believe the things they do. They've got to be sick."

The metal sections of barbecue pits have been cut and bent out of place. Redwood picnic tables have been broken apart and used as firewood. Fixtures in the toilets are missing and new ones are stolen as fast as they are replaced.

"I call the cops so often I get sick of doing it. Some vandalism I don't even bother to report."

Fassio is paid only for an eight-hour day, but he took it upon himself to drive out to the park one night to see who was doing the damage. He said that groups of teenagers come to the park well stocked with beer to drink.

"We get vandalism at all the parks,

you know, but here they are destructive as hell," Fassio said.

Fassio's concern for the park has met with only frustration: the vandalism continues. "Now, I just don't worry about it. I come in and clean up the park in the morning."

"I just wish parents could see what their kids are doing. They would faint, believe me."

Park authorities began to lock the gates to the main parking area at night, but the gates will have to stay open now that city softball leagues are under way.

Vandalism, unfortunately, is not the only problem Fassio must face. "There is an awful problem with dogs," he said.

He said visitors to the parks, especially on weekends, let their dogs run wild. "I talked to one woman who was

afraid to let her children come out here because of the dog fights."

The dogs also have been chasing the few remaining deer from the area, and have also dug up hillsides surrounding the parks to such an extent that Fassio thinks some of the footpaths are no longer safe.

The dogs also defecate all over the park, "even in the grass where the kids are playing."

"There are signs all over for people to keep their dogs out of certain areas. It's unhealthy for the dogs to dirty where the kids are playing," Fassio said.

And the litter. "The litter here is unbelievable. People throw bottles into the creek, and there is glass all over the rocks where people walk barefooted."

(Continued On Page 2)

2—Santa Cruz Sentinel

Tuesday, April 27, 1976

DeLaveaga Beautiful, But... NY

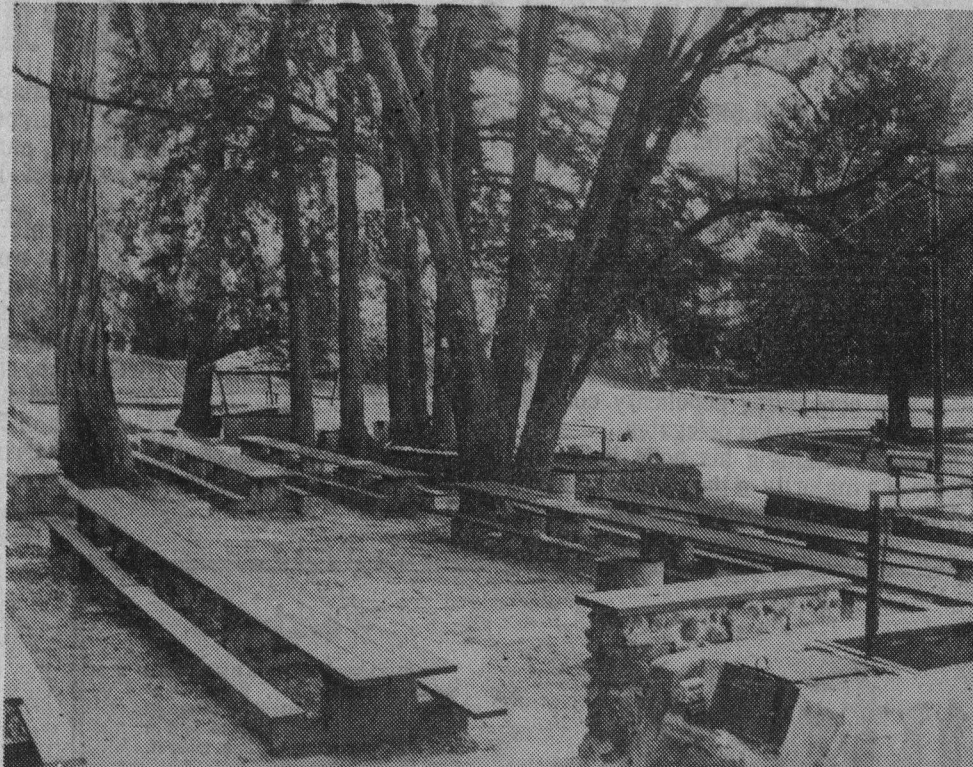
(Continued From Page 1)

Fassio said plans are under way to improve the park by removing rocks from the main infield area of the park and perhaps planting seeds. Other improvements are in the planning stages. "But how can they develop anything when they can't control what they have?"

He said he has secured a couple of old tennis nets for use as volleyball nets at the park. "They didn't stay up for more than a couple of days before they were ripped down."

Fassio said the park, located just off Branciforte Drive, is the prettiest of all the city's parks he has worked in. He said during the week many people come out to the park to enjoy the sunshine or take long, solitary walks.

"I've been here eight months now. So far, it's been kind of a long battle to keep it looking nice."



During the week, the barbecues at DeLaveaga Park are quiet, as a handful of people enjoy the quiet beauty of the park. But come nighttime and weekends, the beauty of the

park is no longer quiet, and the area's caretaker, Dick Fassio, has been fighting "kind of a long battle to keep it looking nice." (Photo by The Sentinel's Pete Amos)

NY Chi Qu

(Continued from Page 1)

ly be conducted exchanges by a term that has come to be known as the "black market."

Needham has been consistent speaking what he feels is the capital crisis. He has called for a new system which would make the public bonds more attractive.

Needham says that the fits would generate a new energy for corporations, thus providing new jobs.

Needham's campaign for the Street began as a securities mess.

Batten has been on the Board of the 1972 and is the man and chief executive officer.