

Art + Artists 1990

# Anti-war statue stays homeless

## Council rejects site on Pacific Avenue

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SANTA CRUZ — A controversial anti-war statue is still looking for a home after the City Council voted Tuesday not to allow it in the center of a granite compass built near the downtown post office in memory of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

The statue, "Collateral Damage," depicts a naked couple and child embracing as they look toward the sky in horror. For nine months, a vocal group of advocates have tried without success to have the statue permanently placed at the north end of Pacific Avenue.

"A statue like this, which shows anguish, people in agony, needs a park setting, with nature around it so people can sit and meditate about what it means," said Councilwoman Jane Yokoyama, who voted against the site. "The compass is not a park setting. It sits out in traffic and I have a concern about covering a piece of art we commissioned."

The council split 4-3 against placing the statue in the compass, but agreed to consider putting it in a grove of trees next to the Town Clock. The statue would be cast larger than life size and placed on a pedestal.

Voting against it were Yokoyama, Vice Mayor Katherine Beiers, Cynthia Mathews and Louis Rittenhouse. Mayor Scott Kennedy, Mike Rotkin and Neal Coonerty voted in support of putting the statue in the compass.

Vocal supporters of the compass site were upset with the decision, and said they were unsure whether they would want it next to the clock.

"We looked at that location earlier," said James Wainscoat, a member of the Bill Motto Post No. 5888 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "We couldn't find support for it from any of the people who paid \$50 for a memorial on the Town Clock."

The statue, created by artist E.A. Chase in 1959, came to public attention in March when a

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group of veterans placed it, without permission, atop a vacant pedestal built to hold the city's historic World War I eagle memorial, in storage for earthquake repairs.

The city ordered the anti-war statue removed. A group calling itself the Veterans and Friends of Collateral Damage quickly formed and took it around to different sites to build support. They next proposed it be placed in the city's new Sister City Friendship Garden, a triangular flower bed across from the Town Clock at Water Street and North Pacific Avenue. That location was turned down, even after Wainscoat flew to sister city Shingu, Japan, and gathered signatures asking the statue be placed in the garden.

The group then settled up on the center of the compass, which was turned down by the city Arts Commission and by the council Tuesday night.

Kennedy, in a resolution to place the statue in the compass, wrote "Collateral Damage is not strictly art or even public art. It is rather a

statement of community values and a public memorial to victims of war."

That thought was echoed by April Burns, a member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence who spoke to the council Tuesday night.

"The city should have the courage to put the statue in a prominent place to show our conscience and the hard work of our community (against war)," Burns said. "It is a difficult piece to look at but it is important that we look at it."

Case, who created the art, told the council he thought that the compass was a good spot, but that other places could be found.

Statue advocates said they will meet to decide what to do next.

"We put a lot of effort into this for the past nine months," said Doug Rand, a staff member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence. "If this has to be in a park setting, then why doesn't the eagle statue have to be in a contemplative area? This piece needs to be near (the eagle)."