

School Dress Code Hassle

Students 'Tricked' By School Board

Petitions are being circulated demanding the "immediate revocation" of the controversial Santa Cruz High School District dress code.

The petitions were distributed at Friday night's meeting at the SCHS auditorium. An estimated 200 persons, largely youths, were in the audience.

The meeting was sponsored by the Peace and Freedom Party.

The petitions declare that "an individual's mode of attire is a legitimate expression of

personality," that "America has been based in the past on diversity and freedom of expression," and that the code should be "vehemently" opposed as "an abridgement of such freedom and an attack on the very basis of a free society."

A surprise development of the session was a charge by Charles Natanson, former SCHS student body president, that students were, in effect, "double-crossed" and "tricked" by Superintendent Denzil Morrissey and the Santa Cruz City Board of Education in the

studies that preceded the code's adoption.

Now a student at Pomona College, Natanson declared, in a letter to students, that he and other students who served on the advisory committee were promised by Morrissey that the board of trustees wanted "students to write the code" and that adults would serve only as "advisers."

Natanson accused the board of "going back on its pledge," and stated that students were ignored, their proposals were rejected as unacceptable, and that the board surrendered to "frightened and reactionary adults."

He called the code "repressive and unreasonable," and said it was the result of a year of "trickery and deceit."

Natanson's letter also urged students of Santa Cruz High not to "blame" either Aaron Nelson, SCHS principal, or Howard Rhine, vice principal, for the code. Said he, "They don't like it either. The board is the culprit."

Mrs. Eleanor Foster, a parent, said many other parents support the students in their fight "for democracy and self-determination." She urged them, "Stand up for yourselves and your own integrity." She also suggested that it is time to "elect a school board that understands democracy."

Jeff Kline, Peace and Freedom Party candidate for the State Assembly, called the code an "arbitrary set of rules that attempts to suppress a system of values." He also read a statement by Bob Lowman of the party, who said the code is unconstitutional, ambiguous, self-righteous, racist, and "stupidly written."

Robert Bennet, Watsonville attorney, one of the announced speakers for the meeting, did not appear.

Reyes Sanity Trial To Open

By Ron Reeves
Sentinel Staff Writer

Antonio Reyes, who was found guilty of first degree murder late Friday night, is to begin another round of court proceedings tomorrow morning.

The jury of six men and six women, who ruled that Reyes murdered 78-year-old Edward Patten, is to convene again at 10 a.m. It is expected that they will begin to hear evidence to determine whether or not Reyes is sane.

Reyes, 21, pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity. His sanity has not been determined, and the next step is to determine the sanity issue. Some officials close to the case have said the sanity plea might be withdrawn.

If so, the jury will begin its work to determine Reyes' punishment, which could be death.

The jury returned the verdict after nine hours of deliberation.

Public Defender Gary Britton, who represented Reyes, held that the admissions and confessions were improperly obtained through threats and promises.

His contentions were considered by Judge Charles Franich during an extensive pre-trial hearing. Judge Franich ruled that the evidence was obtained legally. Fresno County Judge Ralph Moradian, who handled the case in absence of Judge Gilbert Perry, also ruled that the statements were made voluntarily and could be considered by the jury.

The last first degree murder conviction in Santa Cruz County came on April 30, 1955. A jury found Henry Herman Webb of Texas to be guilty of the 1954 Christmas morning death of Steve Kirkendoll, his former wife's husband. The shooting took place in Watsonville.