

unavoidable

OHTA 10/29/70 R-P

Case puts focus on SC county

More worldwide attention was focused on Santa Cruz County last week than at any other time in its history.

The Ohta murder case, with the suspense element of the bizarre note left at the scene, attracted news coverage and commentary from a wide area.

The Vatican's weekly magazine L'Osservatore della Domenica, commenting on the killings, said too many "stuffed shirts" look on hippies as "modern witches on whom to cast the blame and collective hatred."

The internationally-circulated Christian Science Monitor, which seldom speaks of crime, published an editorial titled "No grounds for panic." It said even among revolutionaries "one does not see the makings of sustainable revolutionary force." And it added that news media should handle such events with restraint because "Playing to the fears.....only magnifies the fears. It distorts judgment. And it diverts attention from the continuing preponderance of good in American life."

News coverage of the event was everywhere. The story was regularly begun on page one of the New York Times, which is conservative in its "play" of crime news. It was on all television networks and in virtually all newspapers, including the Wall Street Journal, and in Time and Newsweek.