

and transport equipment. Imports in motor vehicles and parts rose by \$118.2 million.

were in effect policy decisions only the council has the right to

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said. Adams questioned sharply a Tuesday statement by Morris

Cruz, sustained a mild concussion and was set to be interviewed by UCSC police today, said Stone.

tion just as the bus rolled through, but was not hit by it.

Welfare A Necessity For Many People

By TOM HONIG
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(Fourth of 5 parts)

For most people, talk of welfare and its abuses is a nebulous sort of thing that is about as real as a troll under the bridge in an almost-forgotten fairy tale.

The situation is different for those who receive welfare aid. Their lives are geared to the welfare system, and it's a major part of their lives.

On a recent sunny afternoon, three women — all mothers and all recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (known as AFDC to those behind the "Employees Only" sign at the County Social Services Department) — gathered in the stuffy offices of the Welfare Education and Legal Assistance Center on Ocean Street to discuss the system.

None were ashamed of being on welfare, yet the social stigma regarding those receiving such aid is powerful enough that all of them requested anonymity. All three names have

been changed to comply with their request.

"Those of us on welfare live way below the poverty level," Ellen Karwin began.

"That's right," said another, Terri Welch. "In Santa Cruz, the rent cost is likely to be close to \$200. A single mother with one child receives \$273 a month (plus food stamps and Medi-Cal medical care), so you can see that it doesn't leave much. That's why there is fraud."

"Sure, I've cheated to get a little more money," commented Ellen. "I try not to make a habit of it, but sometimes it becomes a survival issue."

The third woman, Joan Simmons, had been silent, but now she joined the conversation: "The only way you can get by on welfare money is to live in a drop-out lifestyle. That means no car, no social life and very probably communal living."

Ironically, communal living has been a solace for Joan Simmons. Welfare became her way of life 10 years ago when

her husband left her. "I had four small children, and I spent many years experiencing frustration and anger of being in a system that could leave me in such a situation."

Her situation was this: raising four young children by herself on \$380 a month.

After years of raising her family by herself, she has finally established a household with several other single mothers and their children. The group is known as Welfare Mothers' Support Group, and it offers temporary and permanent housing for women such as herself. It's not a governmental or even quasi-governmental group; it's simply a confederation of women and their families who, in Simmons' words, "give emotional and practical support" to each other.

Ellen Karwin cast an approving glance toward her companion. "You have to band together to get by," she commented.

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