

# County wants a 'think' to help solve drug problem

By MARY BARNETT

You've heard people talk about their "shrink"?

Well, Santa Cruz County, to solve its drug problems, is turning to a "think".

County supervisors have voted to contribute \$3000 toward the salary of a systems analyst to be hired by the County Office of Education under a state grant.

Supervisor Ralph Sanson of Aptos, who has been pushing for county action on the drug

problem, doesn't care for the term "systems analyst".

He prefers to call the kind of a person who will be employed a "hired thinker".

This hired thinker's job will merely be to: 1) figure out what the Santa Cruz County drug problem is, and 2) recommend what to do about it.

Sanson has attracted considerable notice in the public prints with his effort to get some sort of action on the county's drug

problem.

This effort fits in with his philosophy of government.

"This problem (drugs) causes more concern for more people than any other," Sanson said. "If government exists to meet people's needs, here's a crying need we haven't done anything about."

The efforts of the supervisors, prodded by Sanson, to do something about drugs first took the form of a contract with the University of California at Santa Cruz to conduct a survey of drug abuse in Santa Cruz County.

The university's idea of how to do this was to distribute a questionnaire to all seventh grade students asking them questions about drug use.

That blew it, as far as a lot of school officials in the county were concerned.

They protested such a survey was illegal, immoral, unfeasible, and generally a bad idea. They said it wouldn't do any good just to get this data even if it were legal, moral, etc.

One high educational official went so far as to suggest that the university ought to be on the other end of any drug investigation.

Sanson's initial reaction, in a letter written for him by a courthouse functionary, was to accuse school people of wanting to cover up the facts because they might reflect adversely on the schools.

The mid-county supervisor later apologized for this reflection on the motivations of schoolmen.

Dr. Richard Fickel of the County Office of Education recommended a study of the problem by a "systems analyst."

Initially skeptical, Sanson eventually came around to seeing it that way, too.

As a starter, the county hired John Dawson, a professor of systems analysis at the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, for \$250. He spent three sessions with 26 county and school officials concerned in one way or another with the drug problem.

These sessions with Dawson converted a dubious Sanson into a staunch supporter of systems analysis.

Dawson started off by asking each of the various officials (including Sanson) to write down on a piece of paper his concept of the drug problem.

Sifting over the unsigned papers, Dawson announced, "I can tell the occupation of every person here simply by his reply to this question."

In other words, Dawson was saying that each individual saw the drug problem differently, and in terms of his own specialty — be it law enforcement, the law, education, social work, psychiatry, medicine, or whatever.

Dawson's job as a hired thinker is to take the overall view.

"This guy didn't take any notes," said the impressed Sanson. "He just listened to people talk, and went back to his hotel room to mull it over. Then he got up at 3 a.m. or something and wrote out about six pages of stuff, with flow charts and box diagrams and everything."

"He came back with it at the next meeting and said, 'Is this what's going on?' Nobody had ever done this."

Sanson feels that in these three sessions with Dawson, the con-

cerned officials got farther than they would have in months of meetings without him.

"There's all kinds of mutual suspicion between these various officials and departments," Sanson said. "Everybody has his own drug problem. Dawson puts them all together, like a puzzle."

The converted Sanson now sees systems analysis as a way to save money for the county, rather than a way of paying some guy with a fancy business card a big salary.

"It's more expensive to have 10 county officials spending time on this problem than to pay one guy to sort the thing out," he said.

Even Dawson, however, was not able to solve the entire drug problem in three sessions and for \$250. But his performance did convince Sanson and others that systems analysis is the proper approach.

Ceres was the first of the asteroids to be discovered in our solar system.

## Transient problem discussed

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the committee itself was not going to investigate the problem and that its only function would be to hire the analyst.

The two board members also said that if representatives of the young "counter culture" were seated on the committee that their critics would also demand to be seated.

Mrs. H. R. Lans, who said she has had conversations "with hundreds of these hippies, speaking Russian without American accents," backed up the supervisors' prediction by asking to join the committee. She was also turned down, despite her plea to have "representatives of the good children, the 4-H children," sitting on the body.

Friend Stone, Scotts Valley city manager, said he was opposed to formation of another committee. Rather, he said, more judges and prosecutors were needed to see that laws were enforced equally against all segments of society.

"A few people shouldn't be able to get away with disturbing all the rest of the people, violating their rights, causing problems," he said.

Cress, who says he has a real problem with "undesirable transients" in the San Lorenzo Valley, opposed the plan and said he has formed a committee consisting of county law enforcement agents and F.B.I. representatives to try to solve the problem in his district.

Cress gave an emotional description of a long-time Brookdale resident whose peace and quiet has been shattered by young people playing loud music in nearby houses.

Several of the young people in the audience asked the board to investigate the Mafia which, they said, brought heroin and other "hard" drugs into the county. Some supervisors said they thought such an investigation might prove interesting.

Saying that an investigation of organized crime should probably be attempted, Sanson said the board "is trying to take one small step at a time."

Supervisor Russ McCallie said he suspected that organized crime might be involved behind the scenes in the drug trade and suggested that the district attorney could investigate.

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