

Vandalism--It's Always With Us

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Vandals are always at work but even considering periodic outbreaks, park and law officials see an improvement over the past.

A substantial improvement, they say.

Vandals last week smashed tombstones in the Evergreen Cemetery, a historical plot of ancient graves in the Harvey West Park complex.

Periodically the stones are overturned and broken. This serves no purpose other than irresponsible impulsive pleasure of a rather sick nature; who can possibly have a grudge against the dead?

A vandal is a person who, out of malice or ignorance, destroys or spoils, especially that which is beautiful or artistic.

The aesthetic taste of many youthful vandals runs to toilets and public restroom walls.

Although thievery is often associated with this type of crime, vandalism per se involves breaking windows, smashing lightbulbs, stopping up parking meters, knocking over mail boxes, shooting at signs, destroying trees and public gardens.

Paul Griffith, area manager of the state park beach system in the county, says the traditional modes of vandalism he finds is breaking of toilets, mirrors, paper dispensers and washbowls in restrooms, burning of wooden signs for beach fires, filling sewer vents with sand, carving names on picnic tables and breaking bottles on the beach.

He said charging of a fee to use beach facilities has tended to minimize vandalism this past year.

It tends to keep out the type of people who do this sort of thing.

Still some of it goes on, especially by day-users.

"It all ends up in the taxpayers' bill," he said. "It's pay-as-you-go on behalf of the vandals."

Although there seems to be an unexplained improvement, it still goes on at the DeLaveaga Park rifle range — people want to steal rifles and ammunition, where none is kept. There have been problems at the old Grant Elementary School, the grounds of which are used as a recreation area.

Service station restrooms are often the victims of vandals.

Ernest Marengi, Santa Cruz assistant police chief, said perhaps parents are cracking down on kids because of high taxes.

Maybe it's finally getting to the parents, and it might be that keeping youth busy through the Boys' Club and other summer programs is paying off.

Larry Parrish, assistant county probation officer, put it this way:

"You do have your really bad or emotionally mixed up kinds, but I am convinced that the majority are average kids reacting to group psychology.

"It's hard to defend against



Historical tombstones are tumbled and broken again in

the Evergreen Cemetery at the Harvey West Park complex, a regular act by van-

dals. Authorities say these kinds of acts point to idleness and a lack of learned

responsibility on the part of the youths.

this sort of thing. Vandalism is not a planned thing, it's impulsive.

"Most of the kids who do these things wouldn't participate in other anti-social acts such as stealing.

"It boils down to responsibility. The more responsible kid doesn't do this sort of thing, those who are taught in the home to be responsible for their own acts.

"Some destroy because things have come too easily to them and material objects have little relevance. Or some because they have nothing.

"Some don't have chores at home, are given an allowance without having to do anything for it.

"I think it's kids together, thinking, 'Wouldn't it be fun or funny if . . . ' or a kid wants

to be noticed among his peers. "It is harder for kids to spend free time nowadays and they have a lot of it.

"We get parents, nice parents, kids, nice kids in here, sit down and look them in the eye and they can't explain why the act was done."

But Parrish said that he has noticed an improvement.

He mentioned the Boys' Club

as a factor and the many programs for youths in this area as the reasons.

There are more special patrols, public and private, keeping an eye out for vandals. This may be a factor.

Authorities agree that the problem will always be with us in the foreseeable future and it will cost the taxpayer dearly.

It is up to him to solve the problem.

Five Names Submitted For Trustee

Today at 5 p.m. is the deadline for citizens of the Santa Cruz High School District to submit names for appointment of a successor to Keith Shaffer on the Santa Cruz City Board of Education.

Shaffer's resignation was effective July 31.

Dr. Carl E. Wilsey, superintendent of the city schools, said today that five names have been submitted thus far. He declined

to identify the five candidates.

However, The Sentinel learned that among the names that are under consideration for appointment are Larry Parrish, an official with the county probation department; Dr. Eugene Johnson, a Soquel veterinarian and former member of the Soquel Elementary School District governing board; Donald C. Burklo, a Soquel real estate man; the Rev. Herbert Schmidt, Lutheran

campus pastor at UCSC and Cabrillo College; and Bruce Blecker, an executive with Watkins-Johnson Company.

Dr. Wilsey said the board will meet in closed session Monday at 4 p.m. to review the names that have been submitted and to evaluate their qualifications. If agreement is reached, the board then will convene in open session to make the appointment, he said.

The appointee will serve the remaining portion of Shaffer's term which expires June 30, 1971. The new trustee would be eligible to seek election to a full four-year term at the regular trustees election next April.

San Jose Man Held In Rape Case

Jerry Daniel Gifford, 22, of San Jose, was booked Wednesday on charges of forcible rape and assault with a deadly weapon, according to Sheriff's deputies.

Gifford allegedly assaulted a 21-year-old hitchhiker Wednesday on a dirt road near Highway 17 and the summit, deputies said.

Assistant District Attorney Dale Dawson, investigating the case, said no charges will be filed today.

SEXTUPLET DIES

ROME (AP) — Fernando, one of the two surviving sextuplets born prematurely Tuesday to a 35-year-old plumber's wife, died today.

Live Oak Apartment Zone Denied

County supervisors Tuesday rejected apartment zoning but granted a mobile home park enlargement permit in Live Oak.

James Wylie's request for RM-1000 apartment zoning was turned down by supervisors on the question of larger sewage flows from apartment use and what planning officials said would be a precedent to open the area on the south side of Capitola Road, west of Thompson Avenue, for further apartment or heavy residential development.

However, the board said Walt Eller's request to add four mobile home spaces homes actually would generate a lower density of people than regular housing. Persons in the park supported the enlargement.

Rabbit Cages Stolen In Soquel

Arlen Dell Hulsey, of Watsonville, Tuesday reported the theft of \$705 in rabbit cages and accessories from an open storage area at his Soquel vacation residence, according to Sheriff's deputies.

Renee A. Malpas, Capitola, Tuesday reported the burglary of her Pasatiempo summer home, deputies said. An estimated \$215 in household items was taken, deputies reported.

Tougher Regulations Adopted For Sewer And Septic Tanks

Subdividers must meet some tougher sewer and septic system regulations adopted by county supervisors Tuesday.

The county, under pressure from the Regional Water Quality Control Board like other counties in the Central Coast, adopted regulations which require sewer system hook-ups for most new tracts, and allows septic tanks only for lots of 9000 square feet or more.

Subdivisions with any lots of 6000 square feet or less will have to install community sewer systems or hook up to existing sewer trunk lines. Between 6000 and 9000 square feet, subdividers may propose septic tanks, but must install a "dry" sewer

system for later hook-up.

If a sewer line of large capacity is within 500 feet, the subdivision must hook up anyway.

The new regulations were called "too lenient" by Ed Hanna, executive officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFC). The LAFC controls creation of special sewer districts and other legal boundaries.

Hanna said even large 9000-square-foot lots "would permit urbanization at the rate of 2,500 septic tanks per square mile, and can only aggravate what is already approaching an intolerable condition."

Hanna said there should be a hook-up requirement for subdivisions within a mile of a large enough sewer line. Dry sewers deteriorate within five years if not used, he said. The ordinance also should cover lot splits of a half-acre or less, he added.

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