## Anti-nuclear statue finally gets a home

Naked, wailing trio to go up at Town Clock tonight

BY JOHN WOOLFOLK Mercury News Staff Writer

After more than a year of debate, one of the most controverplace in the sun.

of War" - a 6-foot bronze depic- Lorenzo Park. tion of a naked man, woman and tonight. The statue, by local art-public home for it. ist E.A. Chase, takes its name

ians killed in war.

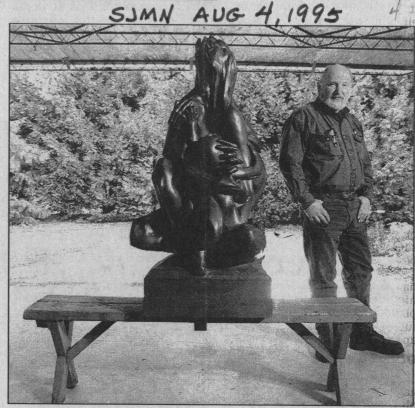
A formal dedication is planned for 11:30 a.m. Saturday - the sial and disturbing pieces of art in day before the 50th anniversary Santa Cruz will finally get its of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima — to be followed by a "No "Collateral Damage: A Reality Nukes" rally at 1 p.m. in San

For Chase, 62, an anti-nuclear child wailing skyward before nu- activist who created the statue in clear annihilation - will be 1959 as "Last Event," it is the erected at the Town Clock at 6 end of a long struggle to find a

"I feel righteous gratification."

from the military term for civil- Chase said earlier this week as the concrete pedestal, embedded with sawed up guns, was poured. "A lot of people who were close to me at the time felt I was putting my career in jeopardy because it was un-American to oppose nuclear war."

Chase trucked the original, fiberglass statue around the country, hoping to have it placed at the United Nations Plaza in New York City. But the U.S. State Department blocked the move, sav-



See STATUE, Page 2B E.A. Chase with his "Reality of War," which will go on public display

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## Controversial piece of art finds a home in Santa Cruz

**STATUE** 

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ing it "doesn't represent the best interests" of the country.

For the next 30 years, the statue collected dust in Chase's garage and in friends' homes, he personal level."

ject," Chase said. "The beauty resides in the truthfulness of the statement."

Many, however, have had trouble seeing that beauty. When Santa Cruz peace activists in March 1993 proposed erecting the statue in place of a 75-year-old World said, acknowledging that the War I monument downtown, they piece "is hard to live with on a drew howls from outraged veter-

"It's such an anguished sub- That led to a months-long

search for another location. The the statue, most respondents said activists, from the Resource Center for Nonviolence and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bill Motto Post 5888, suggested putting the statue over a granite compass set in the sidewalk across from the post office after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. That idea was ans. shot down.

"somewhere else."

Critics argued the statue's message — essentially attacking the U.S. decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II — is inappropriate for downtown and insulting to veter-

But supporters said civilians Asked in a local newspaper poll killed in war deserve to be rewhere they would prefer to see membered as much as soldiers.

The sculpture will make Santa Cruz one of few U.S. cities to commemorate civilian war dead. Rand said.

"I think it's a very important expression for the community that there's another side to war and another price to be paid in war," Rand said. "It's a very striking piece."

In December 1993, the city council voted to place the statue finally get a public setting."

near the Town Clock. Activists then set out to raise the \$30,000 needed to cast the statue in bronze. They have collected half that much so far, and hope to collect \$20,000 more for a second statue to be placed in Hiroshima.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people who would rather see it back in my garage," Chase said. "But it's a pleasure to me to see it