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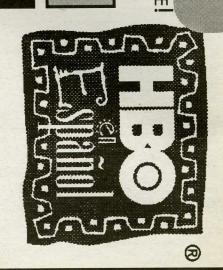
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JANUARY 1996 ENERO

"Caminante no hay camino, se hace camino al andar" -Antonio Machado

De pistolas y arañazos

Que poca...Algunos sucesos extraños (y algunos no tanto



Miami Dreams In Cuban

Albita Rodríguez's rapid rise to fame.





Is Smaller Better?

Aptos residents seek to regain control of their children's education.

SECCIONES

7 Preguntas

4 Ask Isadora

Andares/Cartas

5 Salud

12 CalAndar

18 Horóscopo

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Qué poca...



Over the wire services, Associated Press:

Immigration Officials on Lookout for Salinas

By GEORGE GEDDA WASHINGTON (AP) Former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made it to the INS list of most undesirables. It's an official list usually reserved for alien criminals and other undesirables the U.S. government does not want on American soil. Normally, friendly former heads of state do not appear on it, so it was something of a surprise when the list started carrying the name of former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

A U.S. Customs attache in Mexico City placed Salinas' name on the "lookout list" last week, but officials in Washington said Tuesday the attache's motives were unclear. They speculated it was nothing more than curiosity about Salinas, given the personal turmoil and the allegations of secret bank accounts that have dogged him since he left office a year ago. He fled Mexico earlier this year and has not been seen in public for months.

U.Ś. officials said Salinas, after spending much of the year in Canada, has been residing lately in Cuba where, they pointed out, he would be safe from any U.S. efforts to extradite him.

The memo on Salinas gave his name and date of birth. Left blank was the space for Salinas's hair color; he is bald.

Only on the Internet

Pedro Martori gives us this list of useful phrases when in Cuba:

rusiania	really means show-off, hot-dog, etc.			
Plástico/Plástica	Falso/a, creído/a, Fake; used often in conjunction with Postalita.			
Timbalúo! Tiene los timbales de Maceo!	Big testicles; really means lazy.			
Cubanismos machistas pero lamentablemente duraderos				
Mamita, Mamasita, mamaita, jeva/ita, pollo	Female			
Estás entera	You're entirely beautiful.			
Mi media naranjita	Mi amorcito.			
Tremendo monumento, tremendo monstruo, tremenda bestía	Referring to the physical attributes of the jeva.			

James Bond, move over

HONDURAS BLAMES 8 WOUNDS ON 1 BULLET

SAN PEDRO SULA,
Honduras - Gunfire has
wounded at least eight protesters as they marched to a
meeting of Central American
presidents, and the army blamed
the bloodshed on a single bullet
ricocheting off a police officer's
shield.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Napoleon Santos Aguilar said a peasant protester had fired a .22-caliber pistol equipped with a silencer at the crowd and police.

"The bullet hit the metal shield of a riot policeman who was stopping the demonstrators from continuing ... and, in an unusual occurrence, it wounded all the peasants," he said.

Thurs, Dec. 14, 1995. From the San Francisco Chronicle www page, http://sfgate.com

Dale, dale, dale

El pasatiempo popular de los mexicanos durante las posadas: darle de palos a Salinas. Las piñatas en forma del ex-presidente, junto con máscaras de su pelona cabeza y muñequitos que lo simulaban encarcelado se volvieron artículos de rigor durante la pasada temporada decembrina en México. Por supuesto, la canción más popular resultó ser "Dale, dale, dale/ no pierdas el tino/rómpele la cara/ al pelón handido."

No más "New York, New York"

Rafael Ruiz, del dueto Los Del Rio, duda que vuelvan a tener un éxito tan grande como "Macarena", el ritmo que tiene a la mitad del mundo brincando de la silla cuando lo escuchan. "Anda y preguntale a Frank Sinatra si se le ha ocurrido otro 'New York, New York'," declaró para el New York Times.



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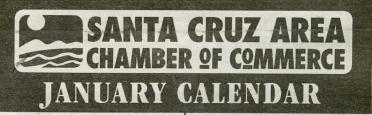
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Ambassadors Meeting 8 am Chamber Office

5:30 - 7 pm Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center

Board of Directors 4 pm McPherson Center

Legislative Committee 7:30 pm Chamber Office

> Marketing / Membership Committee 4 pm Chamber Office

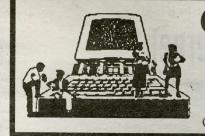
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PREGUNTAS

¿Cuáles son tus propósitos para 1996? What are your New Year's resolutions?

Asked at the Pasatiempo Club in Watsonville

Photos by Reynaldo Barrioz Asked by Claudia Meléndez



Tony Reyes Cortador de lechuga, Hollister

Quiero entrar al año nuevo sin tomar y pasar el año que viene bien.

I want to start the New Year by not drinking, and have a good time in the coming year.



Yolanda Meza Housekeeper, Salinas

Be happy with my kids and without a husband because he doesn't work for me.

Ser feliz con mis hijos y sin esposo porque él no me funciona.



Gaby Macias Housewife, Salinas

Get my own place and try to make a good living.

Tener un lugar sólo mío para vivir, y tratar de ganar una vida cómoda.



Juana Ruiz Housekeeper, Watsonville

Que no sea la última vez que nos juntamos en Año Nuevo para andar de putas fichando.

That this not be the last time we all get together on New Year's to whore around.



José Sandoval Reciclaje, Watsonville

Mensaje para todos los volubles: lo que me proponga este año, lo voy a cumplir, porque en el pasado he sido muy voluble— o muy huevón para cumplir con mis propósitos.

A message to all flaky people: I'm going to go through with each one of my resolutions. In the past I have been very flaky—or very lazy— in accomplishing my resolutions.



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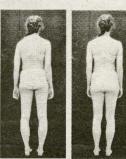
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Albita's

Miami

Julie Reynolds

Sixteen years ago, in Cuba. At age 16, Albita Rodríguez was studying aviation mechanics. Her mother gave her a guitar for her birthday. The guitar was "slightly more attractive" than mechanics, and Albita formed a band.

Her group became a success, touring Cuba and abroad.
During a trip to Colombia, the band arranged visas to
Mexico, supposedly for a recording session there.
Instead they all defected, abruptly leaving their birth land—possibly forever.

Like so many others, Albita and her group climbed a U.S. border fence at El Paso. Unlike so many others, Albita fell in with the right crowd at the right time and became an instant star in the United States. That's because she went to Miami.

LAST ULY, Albita's first CD came out, on Emilio and Gloria Estefan's Crescent Moon label. No se parece a nada hit number ten on Billboard's Latin charts, the most popular debut recording ever on the list. Her song Qué manera de quererte was part of the soundtrack in Sylvester Stallone's film The Specialist, and Albita's MTV video was produced by Madonna's brother, Chris Ciccone. "It's all like a happy dream," Albita said, "And I'll take happiness over drama any time."

Albita's deep, smoky voice is immediately striking.
Though her style is polished and she rarely improvises, she still has

an old-fashioned torch singer aura that many find refreshing in an era when recording artists rarely perform in nightclubs. Even so, after her CD release some critics were not swayed. The New York Times liked Albita's "fireplug of a voice," but along with other reviewers found her similarity to Cuban singer Celina Gonzales unnerving. "Slick mediocre product," "media hype," and "sterile, bland and overproduced" were some of the unpleasant descriptions published. "We'll check back with Albita after she leaves the Estefans," said one music journal.

But none of this seemed to matter last summer. The glossiest magazines and the entertainment industry immediately loved Albita, and when part-time Florida resident Madonna told the world, "If I





die, I want to be reincarnated as Albita," the singer's road to total market coverage was paved.

MIAMI is a city that, economically speaking, has been born again more than once in the last decade or two. An art deco Miami Vice-inspired popularity made it appealing as a 1980s travel spot, but interest faded again in the early 90s. Now, experienced business people have moved in, relocating restaurants from New York and making the swanky Delano Hotel the place to be. The latest boom is all about Cuba: Cuban cigars, Cuban food at hip

restaurants like the popular Yuca, and Cuban music at Little Havana's Centro Vasco. And, according to the Miami Herald, the boom is also about "major law firms, banks and corporations" paying close attention to Cuba and getting positioned for the inevitable land rush, should Castro fall. But the entertainment industry is in Miami making deals, and stars, right now.

This prosperous scene has Albita, Emilio and Gloria Estefan, Madonna, Sylvester Stallone, Jon Secada, Jellybean Benítez and others crossing paths in all kinds of joint ventures expertly produced and

promoted. MTV Latino is located in Miami, as is Sony Records' Latino division. Cuban clout is muscling into the entertainment industry, and Estefan and Stallone are negotiating to build a major film studio near Miami. "Emilio has his fingers in everthing," according to Efrain Veiga, who owns Yuca restaurant. The Miami Herald recently declared that "a hierarchy has emerged, with not Madonna, but singer Gloria Estefan and her husband, Emilio, at the top." (Madonna, not one to be left out, does, however, have a buff Cuban boyfriend, Carlos Manuel León.)



La Cuba que se nos fue:

Under the Estefans, the
Miami entertainment
scene is experiencing
Cuban clout, while ads
sell us the image of
a misty old Cuba
before Fidel.

So naturally, when Albita y Su Grupo played at the Centro Vasco, and Gloria and Emilio Estefan liked her and wanted to talk after the show, things happened. Albita was groomed in a stylish crossdressed cabaret singer tradition by Madonna's imagemaking friend Ingrid Casares, and her fashion shots graced Elle and Newsweek. Even before her album was released, the Estefan machine had stirred up enough media humming about Albita to ensure coverage in Mirabella, Spin, Rolling Stone, Vogue and The New Yorker. According to one expert on the Miami music scene, cited by Buzz writer Paul Young, "Estefan has a lot of friends in Hollywood and he invites all of them to Miami and takes them to see Albita. And then he convinces Madonna that Albita should play at her party. So of course every newspaper, magazine, and TV crew is going to be scrambling to find out who this Albita is."

The Albita-Estefan connection could be looked at as part of a trend that has celebrities taking Latin American musicians under their wings to

help with their struggles to stardom in this country. Former Talking Head David Byrne did this with his A Luaka Bop and Black Soul of Peru albums, and Cuban-American actor Andy García recently helped make the 76 year-old Cuban bassist Cachao into a requisite for the really hip: Jimmy Smits and Ben Kingsley had to catch Cachao at L.A.'s House of Blues last year. But in these cases the musicans were already seasoned artists who had spent a lifetime developing thier work. Regardless of her talent, at age 32, Albita's sudden rise from obscurity has to be seen as something of a marketing masterpeice.

According to Liz Balmeseda of the Miami Herald, "There is always someone major at one of her shows. Anjelica Huston, Liza Minnelli, Bob Rafelson, Jack Nicholson, Madonna, Marisa Tomei, Gianni Versace, Richard Avedon, sports celebrities—everybody. I've never seen anything like it."

OF COURSE, after the press starts yawning and the stars fade into the Miami night, there still has to be a question of talent. Now,

all of the Albita sound and fury can't be just a case of hypermarketing, can it?

Yes, the woman does have style. She claims that her way of dressing is not a symptom of fashion slavery, but a reference to Cuban poet José Martí's admonition to "dress simply and modestly." Hispanic magazine could only bashfully describe her image as "well, mannish." while another columnist called her "the Cuban k.d. lang," leaving you and me to figure out what that might mean.

In the end, as far as Albita's music goes, hers is really a voice to be reckoned with. It's reminiscent of Cuba's India de Oriente in depth and force, and Mexico's Chavela Vargas in wistfulness. While some wish she would just loosen up a little and ditch that Gloria Estefan kind of polish, Albita's voice is so bold that no one doubts why it made Madonna jealous. It should.

LAST YEAR showed a significant number of news stories declaring that the country was in the throes of a big Cuba fad

(in case we didn't know it), especially in Hollywood, Chicago, New York and Miami. "Hollywood Gets the Hots for Salsa" blasted one story on "Cuban Chic," citing even more movie stars who are suddenly into Celia Cruz and Cachao. Aramis released a cologne called Havana, its ad showing a forties-style gentleman relaxing on a colonial balcony in the old city.

The Cuba that the marketers are in love with is a misty old Cuba before Fidel, and it's also the post-socialism Cuba the bankers and realtors are waiting for. It's the Cuba that expatriates in Miami could not bring back during the last four decades, despite their passionate desire. But now, through the fuzzy memory of our culture, the nation will soon believe Castro never existed. The country is gearing up to invest, preparing to merchandise the place that has been forbidden for so long, ready to make it beautiful again.

This explains the Cuba of the movie stars and the Cuba of the Miami deal makers. But the actual Cuba, the one Albita so recently left behind, is one of

which she does not sing. There is no regret in that powerful voice. "It seems very difficult and far, but America is the market every artist dreams about," she says. Albita's lyrics only show a resignation to her inevitable pull northward, the force that drew her to Miami. And so she sings, "¿Qué culpa tengo yo de este calor? ¿Qué culpa tengo yo de que mi sangre suba? Qué culpa tengo yo de haber nacido en Cuba?"

"WHAT FAULT is it of mine to have been born in Cuba?"



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Doctor Magdalena TOS Publications

When the Fifth Sun arrived, the gods dissolved our unity as a tribe. The new gods feared the ancient gods, however, and they did not kill us. Instead, they made us the vendors of magic in the mercados of Tenochtitlan. We became the greatest of all curanderos.

Doctor Magdalena is a skilled technician, a scientist and a physician whose body is trapped in a world of stainless steel and glass and whose soul needs to forget to be able to forgive. In her search for olvido, Doctor Magdalena arrives in Mexico City where her soul is kidnapped by La Doña and Manuela, two brujas curanderas dwelling in one of the city's markets. These vendors of magic can give Magdalena Ibarra what she wants, olvido, and with it, Magdalena will be able to forgive her parents.

Doctor Magdalena, Rosa Martha Villarreal's first book, is a story of conquest and survival, of remembrance and forgiveness, of dreams and desires. Poetically told, the story is at first hard to follow. Magdalena Ibarra commences with the story of the death of her parents and the nightmares that haunt her ever since they burned to death, but it is not clear if she is dreaming, analyzing her dream, or simply confiding to a friend what her fears are. Magdalena jumps from Houston to Mexico City to Los Angeles and you never know where she really is. However, once you delve into the story, the evocative images and the beauty of Villarreal's poetic prose will challenge your ideas about ancestral Mexico against those of the author's. Just drink two cups of coffee and make sure you're wide awake to take advantage of this trip into a dream.

—Miranda Red

CARTAS

No chance to reconsider

Regarding the Aptos secession: Now that the county has passed the matter to the state, there's not much that can be said or done locally anyway. We'll just have to spend the next few months pacing the waiting room floor while the state considers the matter.

Though Trustee Doug Kaplan was quoted in the December 15 Sentinel as initially stating "I'm very happy" with the board's action, I think his true feelings are better indicated by the December 15 evening Pajaronian. It stated that after his initial jubilation he had asked the school board to reconsider the motion and give secession proponents an opportunity to address the board again on the proposal. Request denied. Most curious.

I've discussed that puzzling behavior with a trustee who's been very active in this issue. The trustee's take on the situation was this: Some secession proponents and a supportive member on the board didn't realize the motion's full ramifications until after approval had been voted. They then tried, and failed, to reopen the question. Basically, they were caught napping.

What I appreciate most about the board's action is that it binds the secession's odds of approval directly to its degree of fairness. And if the secession's only real chance of passage depends on removing the unfair advantages it sought, it may well collapse from lack of support.

If the unfair aspirations of secessionists prove to be their undoing, hoisting them on their own petard, it would leave them with no one to blame but themselves. And with all the metaphors tossed around in this debate, that would aptly be called poetic justice.

STEPHEN BANKHEAD Watsonville



At the Bookcafé in January:



Russell Means with Marvin Wolf authors of WHERE WHITE MEN FEAR TO TREAD Friday, January 19, 7:30pm

Russell Means has been synonymous with the American Indian Movement since he led the takeover of Wounded Knee in 1973. He has worked tirelessly for the improvement of Indians' lives on and off the reservation, ran for President in 1988 on the Libertarian ticket, and has become a star in movies like **The Last of the Mohicans**. "He is the brave voice of a revolutionary out of the great wilderness, a man who must be heard by every caring citizen," Gerry Spence.



BRIAN ALEXANDER author of GREEN CATHEDRALS Friday, January 26, 7:30pm

Alexander is a freelance journalist who has written for *The L.A. Times*, *Outside* and *Science*. He presents a startling look at the world's rain forests, from Alaska to the Amazon to Malaysia. "Smart, funny and takes few prisoners. . . He not only engagingly tells us immense amounts about the world's vanishing rain forests, he also holds a bright mirror up to our souls," Doug Stanton, contributing editor, *Esquire*.



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ASK ISADORA

Forewarned still hurts

Isadora Alman

: Eight months ago I met my boyfriend through a personal ad. We hit it off beautifully and are very compatible both in and out of bed. He can didly told me he was a "commitment-phobe," but I didn't really under stand what that meant. As we've gotten closer, he has withdrawn in a number of ways: He won't say "I love you," he never phones, he doesn't kiss me. I have adjusted. But a couple of weeks ago he suddenly lost all sexual interest in me. He says he doesn't know if this is temporary or permanent. Is there anything I can do to keep from losing an otherwise fulfilling relationship? He says there isn't, that he has to work it out in his own head. He "doesn't believe in therapy." Apparently this is a pattern of many years' duration. Should I stick around?

You don't want to lose a "fulfilling" relationship in which there are no declarations of love, or precious little evidence of its existence? I wonder why not. He's correct in that a neurotic pattern of turning off the closer you draw to someone is something he himself has to resolve or continue to repeat. Unless you can motivate this guy to suspend his "disbelief" and agree to some counseling, or in some way inspire him to do some heavy self-exploration in some other manner, it seems like you get to decide how long you're willing to hang around receiving less and less until it becomes evident that there is no longer a relationship to salvage.

: The commentary in your column indicates to me that you have an extensive knowledge of sexual practices. I have engaged in one that I have found no mention of in more than 60 years of perusal of sex literature, nor have I met anyone who would admit doing it. Starting at the age of my early erections I have masturbated by bending my erect penis back between my legs and sitting on it on a hard surface such as a toilet seat cover, rocking back and forth until I experience orgasm. It is extremely painful in the early part of the process, but the orgasm achieved seems much more intense than that arrived at by more conventional masturbatory or intercourse practices.

: I'm reminded of the kid who banged his head against the wall because it felt so good when he stopped. I'm amazed you continued with the practice once you first discovered it, rather than searching out a less painful method. The comparative intensity of your orgasm may have to do both with the pleasure compared to the preceding pain and to long habituation to the practice. Most people continue to masturbate in the manner in which they first accidentally started. You are fortunate you caused no permanent damage. I'm sure that somewhere in the world there are others who share your preference.

: I have been In a loving relationship with a guy for three years and plan to marry him. In that time my boyfriend has asked me to include another woman in our sex life and I've always said no. Recently I have been fantasizing about women and getting very aroused. I'm ashamed to say I have been stealing my boyfriend's magazines and porno tapes while he's asleep. I am curious about this and have a friend who is just as curious as me. I'm nervous about It, too. Am I tuming into a lesbian? I don't want to change. I am very happy with a man, but I am confused. Help!

Most people would agree that a grown woman in any culture who is under 4 feet in height is short, and one over 6 1/2 feet is tall. But what about 5 feet 6 inches? For a Chinese woman? Or a Watusi? Sexual orientation, that is, straight/gay, is often as relative as tall/short. If you thought only of men, had sex only with men, had only men friends, we could probably agree that you were heterosexual. If exclusively women occupied your sexual thoughts and activities, we'd probably agree on lesbian. But the same way most women are between 4 feet and 6 1/2 feet tall, most people are between exclusively heterosexual and exclusively homosexual. They might call themselves bisexual or not; might be lesbians who occasionally have sex with men or heterosexuals who have fantasies about women, or they might occupy any other spot along the continuum from exclusively one or the other in word and deed. And people sometimes move along that range, having new fantasies, trying different behaviors. Whether having first-time sex with a friend or opening up a relationship that was previously exclusive, it's best to discuss beforehand the concerns of the parties involved. What if it's fabulous? What if it's embarrassingly bad? Once each has expressed her fears and agreed as much as possible on what is wanted and what is not, proceed with cautious delight. A threesome or a same-sex encounter, anything that is new and scary, may seem less so if you think of it as an experiment rather than the first step on a journey from which there can be no turning back.

Two collections of Isadora Alman's previous columns are available in bookstores: Ask Isadora (Masquerade Books) and Let's Talk Sex (The Crossing Press). You may write to her c/o El Andar, PO Box 7745, Santa Cruz, CA 95063.

Prevenido pero dolido

: Hace ocho meses conocí a mi novio a través de un anuncio personal. De inmediato nos llevamos de maravilla y somos muy compatibles dentro y fuera de la cama. Él me dijo que le tiene fobia a las relaciones serias, pero en realidad no entendí lo que quería decir. Al volverse más seria nuestra relación, él se ha distanciado de diferentes maneras: No me dice "Te quiero", nunca me telefonea ni me besa. Ya me acostumbré. Pero hace como dos semanas de repente perdió su interés sexual en mí. Dice que no sabe si es temporal o permanente. ¿Hay algo que pueda hacer para rescatar esta relación, que por lo demás me llena? Él dice que no, que tiene que resolverlo en su cabeza. Él no cree en la terapia. Aparentemente, este patrón de conducta es algo que ha durado durante muchos años. ¿Me quedo?

: ¿No quieres perder una relación "que te llena", en la que no hay declaraciones de amor, o una mínima evidencia de su existencia? Me pregunto por qué no. Tu novio tiene razón en cuanto al aspecto del patrón neurótico —cerrar se en cuanto alguien se vuelve más cercano. Eso es algo que él debe resolver o lo repetirá. A menos que puedas motivar a este chico a suspender su incredulidad y acceda a acudir a un consejero, o de alguna manera inspirarlo a iniciar una profunda auto-exploración a través de cualquier método, parece que tú eres quien debe decidir cuánto tiempo puedes quedarte esperando, recibiendo cada vez menos y menos hasta que se vuelva evidente que ya no hay una relación que salvar.

: Los comentarios en tu columna me indican que tienes amplia experiencia en prácticas sexuales. Yo he participado en una que no he escuchado mencionar en más de 60 años de husmeo en la literatura sexual, ni he encontrado a nadie que admita hacerlo. Comenzando a la edad de mis erecciones tempranas, me he masturbado al doblar hacia atrás, entre las piernas, mi pene erecto y sentándome en él en una superficie dura, como la cubierta de la taza del baño, meciéndome hacia adelante y hacia atrás hasta que alcanzo un orgasmo. La primera parte del proceso es demasiado doloroso, pero el orgasmo alcanzado parece ser mucho más intenso que aquellos a los que se llega por métodos masturbatorios o de intercurso más convencionales.

: Esto me recuerda al niño que se golpeaba la cabeza contra la pared porque se sentía tan bien cuando dejaba de hacerlo. Me asombra que hayas continuado con la práctica después de descubrirla en lugar de buscar un método menos doloroso. La intensidad comparativa de tu orgasmo puede relacionarse con el placer comparado con el dolor que lo precede y con la costumbre de practicarlo. La mayoría de la gente continúa masturbándose de la forma en que comenzaron por accidente. Tienes suerte de no haberte causado un daño permanente. Estoy segura que, en algún lugar del mundo, hay otras personas que comparten tu preferencia.

: He mantenido una relación amorosa con un tipo durante tres años y estoy planeando casarme con él. En ese tiempo mi novio me ha pedido que incluyamos a otra mujer en nuestras relaciones sexuales y yo siempre he dicho que no. Últimamente he tenido fantasías con mujeres, lo cual me excita bastante. Me da pena admitir que he estado robando los cassettes y las revistas pornográficas de mi novio cuando se duerme. Tengo curiosidad acerca del asunto, y tengo una amiga que tiene tanta curiosidad como yo. El asunto me da nevios también. ¿Me estaré volviendo lesbiana? No quiero cambiar. Me siento muy feliz con un hombre, pero estoy confundida. ¡Ayúdame!

La mayoría de las personas estarían de acuerdo en decir que una mujer adulta que mide menos de 4 pies es baja de estatura y una de más de 6 1/2 pies es alta. ¿Pero una que mide 5 pies 6 pulgadas? ¿Si es china? ¿Si es watusi? La orientación sexual, es decir, heterosexual o gay, es algo muchas veces tan relativo como alto o bajo. Si sólo piensas en hombres, tienes relaciones sexuales sólo con hombres, sólo tienes amigos varones, creo que podemos estar de acuerdo en que eres heterosexual. Si son mujeres las que ocupan exclusivamente tus pensamientos y actividades sexuales, podemos decir que eres lesbiana. Pero de la misma forma en que la mayoría de las mujeres miden entre 4 pies y 6 1/2 pies, la mayoría de la gente se encuentra entre las categorías exclusivamente homosexual o exclusivamente heterosexual. Pueden llamarse a sí mismos bisexuales o no, pueden ser lesbianas que tienen relaciones sexuales con hombres de vez en cuando o heterosexuales que tienen fantasías con mujeres, o pueden ocupar algún otro lugar a lo largo del camino que va desde "exclusivamente esto" a "exclusivamente otro", tanto en denominación como en los hechos. Y las personas a veces se mueven a lo largo del camino con nuevas fantasías o intentando nuevas prácticas. De cualquier forma, si buscas mantener relaciones sexuales por primera vez con un amigo/a o abrir una relación que antes era monógama. lo meior es discutir de antemano las preguntas que los involucrados puedan tener. ¿Qué pasará si resulta fabuloso? ¿O si es penosamente malo? Una vez que cada uno ha expresado sus temores y se ha llegado a un acuerdo en cuanto a lo que se quiere y lo que no, procedan con un deleite precavido. Un ménage-a-trois o relación con otra persona del mismo sexo, o cualquier cosa que sea nueva y temible puede serlo menos si se le considera un experimento en lugar del primer paso en un viaje sin retorno.

Traducción: Claudia S. Meléndez

Dos colecciones de las columnas de Isadora Alman se encuentran a la venta en las librerías: Ask Isadora (Masquerade Books) y Let's Talk Sex (The Crossing Press). Puede enviarle sus preguntas a El Andar, PO Box 7745, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Now is the Best Time to Talk About Sexuality

Hector Campos

Q: Where do babies come from?

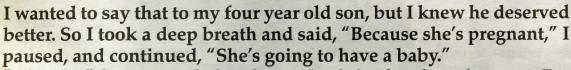
A: The stork delivers them

Q: What is sex?

A: Don't ask, you're too young to know!

Q: Dad, why does that lady have such a big belly?

A: She swallowed a watermelon!



"Oh, OK," he responded as he sat back in the shopping cart. For now, he was satisfied with my answer.

arents can be shocked, surprised or embarrassed when their children ask questions dealing with such sensitive issues. They respond with evasive answers, or overreact because they are caught off guard and are not prepared to discuss sexuality with their children. Most parents agree that children need to be informed. However, they are not sure at what age to begin or how much information to provide. Some parents are also concerned that too much information will lead to further questions they may not be prepared to answer.

The best time to start talking about sexuality is now, even if your child has not asked questions. A child as young as four years old is curious about his/her own body and about the difference between boys and girls. The child may want to clarify information obtained from friends, or check out his own perception regarding intercourse, reproduction or childbirth. It is possible you may not have answers to some questions. If you don't know the answer, say so and find out the answer together. How much information you provide is dependent on your own child. But, you want to be as brief and as simple as possible. When you provide a long and complicated answer your child will get bored and tune you out. So don't put it off any longer. Now is the best time to start talking about sexuality.

Here are some helpful hints:

Find opportunities to discuss sexuality issues For example, when you see a pregnant woman, sex in a T.V. show, displays of affection in public and especially when your child asks questions.

Listen carefully to your child's question. This shows that the question is important. How does your child know if you are listening? You are looking at her, you do not interrupt, your mouth is closed and you are able to repeat what she said.

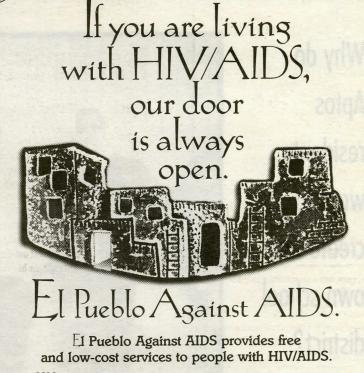
Provide honest, simple and brief explanations. Wait for a response to your answer. Further clarification may be needed. "Babies grow inside their mothers." Pause and observe your child's reaction. Has your child moved on to other activities or is she waiting for more information? If she is still attentive, continue, "The baby grows in a special place called the uterus."

Don't be overly concerned if you make mistakes. Maintain a sense of humor. Laughing at a situation (not at your child's question) will help ease some of the tension and embarrassment. When trying to provide your child with positive messages about sexuality, what you say isn't as important as how you say it. Be aware of your own feelings and opinions because you will convey them both verbally and non-verbally.

By conveying positive messages, your child will feel comfortable with his/her curiosity, understand that sexuality is a natural and positive aspect of being human, and that sex is a topic that can be discussed with you. Ultimately, you are opening doors for communicating with your child during adolescence. Your teenagers will want to know how to deal with their sexual feelings, how to express love towards others and what is appropriate behavior in romantic relationships. I will provide tips for dealing with these complex issues next month.

Hector J. Campos teaches Family Life Education and HIV Prevention workshops on a national level. He has been educating students, parents, teachers, and health care professionals for 11 years. He was born in Monterrey, México.





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The Secession of the Successful

Why do
Aptos
residents
want to
create their
own school
district?



Unwelcome?
A group of young
Latinos at Aptos High

Claudia S. Meléndez Photographs by janjaap

Watsonville

and Aptos, approximately one hundred miles south of San Francisco, California, are two diverse microcosms which exemplify the dichotomies that are becoming more common in the United States. The population of Watsonville, a largely Latino farming community, is primarily concentrated within the city limits. Aptos, an upper and middle-class Anglo community, together with the communities of La Selva Beach and Pajaro Dunes, occupy lands stretching from the ocean up into the mountains. The children of these communities all attend the same school district, but some parents in the Aptos community have decided to create their own district and secede from the Pajaro Valley School Unified District (PVUSD).

The secession movement seeks the creation of a new school district, independent from PVUSD, by dividing the current district in two. The issue has deeply divided the South Santa Cruz County community into those who claim secessionists are racists and those who claim they just want to regain

control of their children's edu-

According to the feasibility study commissioned by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, the creation of the new Aptos Unified School District would have an estimated enrollment of 3,621 students. 74.3 percent of the students would be white, 20.1 percent Latino and 5.6 percent other minorities. By contrast, the enrollment in the Pajaro Valley would consist of 13,764. An estimated 14.9 percent would be white students and 85.1 percent would be Latinos and other mi-

"What the Aptos parents really want," said a migrant education teacher who asked not to be identified, "is a private public school, isolated from what is really going on. Perhaps the parents are not racially motivated, but the outcome [of their actions] would be racist."

Race, however, seems to be the last thing on the proponents' minds. Nancy Bensen and Barbara Palmer, the main organizers of the proposed Aptos Unified School District, met in January 1995 through mutual friends who knew of their independent efforts to create a separate, locally-controlled school district. Together, they have organized volunteers and gathered more than 6,000 signatures that support the creation of a new district. Both of these white women are ready to talk about facts and to back them up with figures. Sitting together at a café, they reassure each other and corroborate each other's memories of what they have done since they met. Bensen has two children, a son who recently graduated from Aptos High and a daughter currently attending Valencia Elementary School in Aptos. "I noticed a lot of kids that had graduated from Aptos High and gone to four-year schools having real problems academically, and they would be put on probation the first semester at the colleges. I felt education for my son was lacking. It was too easy to go to Aptos High, it was easy to get an "A", but the scores were low," said Bensen.

Indeed, the test scores for both high schools in the PVUSD are the lowest in the county. But in 1992, the SAT average for Aptos High was 926, higher than the 900 California average. The SAT average for Watsonville High was 817. Palmer, who has two sons in the Aptos schools, had concerns similar to Bensen's when she started organizing the Aptos Unified School District movement. She decided to check her son's scores and compare them with those in the school. She concluded that the scores in the PVUSD were quite low. "In fact, they are so low that it becomes incredibly obvious that we are not preparing children for society," said Palmer. "This school district is failing all the children of Pajaro Valley School District, not just Aptos children. We are not preparing children for the real world."

The problems that the PVUSD is having and has had for more than 10 years surprise no one. Celia Organista, outspoken community organizer and long-time Watsonville resident acknowledges that, "The school district has problems. But they have these problems and so, the thing to do is get out, instead of trying to solve the problems? You can't isolate yourself and at the same time leave others stranded. It's the same idea: it's not my responsibility."

Surrounded by the frogs

she loves to collect and the posters she treasures, Organista forgets about her sore throat when she speaks about this controversial issue. "The concerns that I've heard are legitimate," she said. "But I think there is more of a trend throughout this country to be separatist. 'I've got it, I want to preserve it, and I want to keep anybody who doesn't look, act, or think like I do as far away from me as possible.' Whether you call it classism, separatism, racism, whatever you want to call it, basically it's an attitude that's becoming prevalent in this country."

Aptos can be considered a well-off community. By contrast, Watsonville, the area that would be most affected by the district's division, has a 20 percent unemployment rate, compared to 9 percent countywide. The median family income in Watsonville is 28 percent lower than in the rest of the county. Latinos, who make up 61 percent of the population in Watsonville, according to the 1990 census, earn an average of \$8,263 per capita.

John Borrego, community



"One you start mixing the Anglo and Chicano kids, you start losing control." -John Borrego, **UCSC** professor

Nancy Bensen, co-organizer of the Aptos secession movement



studies professor at the Univer- program from Watsonville High sity of California, Santa Cruz, and a Watsonville resident, explains that these economic differences in both communities play a major part in the desire for Aptos residents to secede. "When you start mixing the Anglo and the Chicano kids, one of the things that you start doing is realizing that you lose control," said Borrego, referring to Aptos parents. "You lose control over the kind of environment that you want your kids to be in. You want them to be socialized in a certain way, politically and culturally. You want to train them so they go on into the universities and post-high school education."

Jan Denney, resident of La Selva Beach and the mother of four kids in the school system, corroborated Borrego's comment. "We have different goals. Currently the goal of Valencia School is to make sure the kids function in American society, perhaps get a job in the county. But I want my kids to go to college."

So do many Watsonville youngsters. A group of students of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (A.V.I.D.)

visited A.V.I.D. students in E. A. Hall Middle School to encourage them to continue with their studies. Their voices, drowned out by the sound of the air conditioner used to keep the portable classroom cool; still the students try to motivate their younger peers. "I used to play lots of sports when I came to E. A. Hall," said Tony W., "but now I know that I need to concentrate on my studies to continue on to college."

With the notes of a child practicing "Chopsticks" on the piano in the background, Denney commented on the phone, "In life, not everybody has the same goals. Making it fair for everybody is not making it fair for those who have different goals," she said.

However, one of the main differences between these communities is not the goals, but the means they have to achieve them. Describing the Aptos-Watsonville split, Borrego says, "This group [Aptos] affords this kind of housing, this group is made up of managerial and technical people, [so] you have a different economic base.'

But the concerns of AUSD

advocate Palmer do not seem to be related to the economic base of the community. "What we are trying to do is save education in California, and we are not an isolated case. Smaller districts really produce these better students," she said.

'The argument is being laid that you want to have your own neighborhood schools, you want to have a smaller district," says Borrego. "But in order to do that, you have to take the district itself and sort of pull it apart in terms of ethnicity and you resegregate back into class differences." This, according to Borrego, recreates a culture of upwardly mobile, successful people who have the economic base to continue moving up, leaving behind a low-income community with a reduced tax base. "That's why I call it the 'secession of the successful," he said.

Successful or

not, the Aptos community and the areas that would be included in the new Aptos Unified School District are composed of mostly white people. Not surprisingly,

Continued on ▶22

HORÓSCOPO

El mes de Capricornio



POR ASTRAL

CAPRICORNIO (22 DE DICIEMBRE - 19 DE ENERO)

Este año podría resultar en uno de los mejores de tu vida si te decides a cambiar todos esos malos hábitos que has cultivado durante tanto tiempo. Relájate un poco y disfruta de la vida, la diversión es tan buena como el trabajo para tu vida. La Luna en Sagitario el 16 y el 17 te incitará un poco a la aventura. Déjate llevar por tu espíritu.

Acuario (20 de enero - 18 de febrero)

Si en verdad has decidido comenzar una dieta, no lo hagas el 24, ya que la Luna opuesta a Júpiter te conducirá a los excesos, incluso a los gastronómicos. Pero haz un esfuerzo, ya que esas llantitas no van a desaparecer por obra del Espíritu Santo.

Piscis (19 de febrero - 20 de marzo)

Tarde o temprano te darás cuenta que los secretos con tu amante no te conducen a nada bueno. La confianza con tu pareja debe existir a todo nivel para que tu relación sea duradera, así que ya déjate de secretitos y cuchicheos y practica la honestidad que tanto te gusta promulgar.

ARIES (21 DE MARZO - 20 DE ABRIL)

El comienzo del año sólo ha traído desasosiego a tu corazón. Pero recuerda que Roma no se hizo en un día, y de esa misma forma no vas a poder fundar tu futuro en unos locos momentos de desesperación. Ten paciencia, el 16 de enero la Luna en Mercurio te brindará la calma que necesitas para tomar la decisión adecuada.

TAURO (21 DE ABRIL- 20 DE MAYO)

¡Año nuevo, vida nueva! Deja de procrastinar y continúa con los proyectos que has pospuesto durante tanto tiempo. La Luna en conjunción con Saturno el 23 te brindará una oportunidad para reorganizar tu horario y atar todos esos cabos sueltos que has arrastrado por tanto tiempo.

GÉMINIS (21 DE MAYO - 20 DE JUNIO)

Deja de ser tan escurridiza/o. Tu pareja de verdad se muere por ti, pero debes darle la oportunidad para demostrartelo. A ver si este año la tratas mejor que el año pasado, ya sabes que la mula no era arisca. La Luna comienza a entrar en la casa de Leo el sábado seis, trayendo consigo la sensualidad del signo. Aprovéchala para romancear a tu ser amado.

CANCER (21 DE JUNIO - 22 DE JULIO)

Ya se sabe que la generosidad es una de tus mayores cualidades, pero no dejes que las personas a tu alrededor abusen de ella, especialmente al comienzo del año cuando todo el mundo necesita una manita. El 18, la Luna en conjunción con Júpiter te hará más suceptible a las necesidades del prójimo. No salgas ni a la esquina.

Leo (23 de julio - 22 de agosto)

1995 no fue un año fácil, pero tampoco lo será 1996 si sigues moliendo a tus pobres empleados. ¿Qué culpa tienen ellos de que las cosas no salgan como tú las has planeado? Bastante te han ayudado durante las malas rachas, ya es hora de que reconozcas sus esfuerzos y los dejes un ratito en paz. No tomes decisiones el 26, la Luna opuesta a Neptuno te vuelve voluble e indeciso.

VIRGO (23 DE AGOSTO - 22 DE SEPTIEMBRE)

Es bueno criticar a nuestros seres queridos ¿pero no se te hace que te pasaste de rosca esta vez? Has dejado muy ofendida a una persona que te respeta en verdad y estás en peligro de perder su amistad. La conección mental positiva que te brinda la Luna trina en Mercurio el 16 y el 28 te darán la oportunidad para pedir disculpas.

LIBRA (23 DE SEPTIEMBRE - 22 DE OCTUBRE)

La Luna en tu signo el 12 hará que tu sensibilidad recupere la energía que tanto desgastaste al final del 95. Aprovecha y comienza un nuevo-proyecto creativo que te hará brillar durante el 96. Recuerda que en este día tus riñones se vuelven más vulnerables, así que evita comer piedritas.

Escorpión (23 de octubre - 21 de noviembre)

No importa qué tan obstinado seas, es bueno ceder de vez en cuando. Muchas veces se pierden grandes oportunidades cuando no se escuchan las opiniones de los demás. El 16 y el 28 de enero la Luna trina en Mercurio te predispone a escuchar con la mente abierta. Serán buenos días para las reuniones de negocios o para resolver conflictos en el ámbito profesional.

SAGITARIO (22 DE NOVIEMBRE - 21 DE DICIEMBRE)

No te desespere. Ya has esperado bastante para alcanzar tus propósitos y ya te encuentras muy cerca de tu meta para que te des por vencido ahora. Este mes un cambio radical se presentará en tu vida: de casa, de amante, o de profesión. Tómalo con calma, toda tu energía jupiteriana deberá concentrarse en lograr este cambio lo mejor posible.



Invitación a participar en los . CUERPOS DE CONSULTIVOS de la CIUDAD DE SANTA CRUZ



La Ciudad de Santa Cruz alienta la participación pública en el gobierno local por medio de sus cuerpos consultivos. Estos son juntas, comisiones, comités y equipos de trabajo que se encargan de una variedad de asuntos y hacen recomendaciones al Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad. Los solicitantes deben ser residentes y/o votantes de la ciudad.

LA INFORMACION acerca de los cuerpos consultivos y las solicitudes se encuentra disponible en el Departamento de Administración de la Ciudad, 809 Center Street, Salón 9, 429-3784

LA FECHA LIMITE para solicitudes es el miércoles 10 de enero de 1996, al mediodía.

LOS SOLICITANTES serán invitados a reunirse con los miembros del Ayuntamiento en las Cámaras del Ayuntamiento el martes 16 de enero de 1996, de las 3:00 a las 6:00 pm.

LAS CITAS se harán el martes 23 de enero de 1996.

APERTURAS ACTUALES

En algunos casos hay posiciones vacantes. En otros casos, existen términos expirados o miembros de la junta consultiva que pueden ser elegibles para renombramiento; sin embargo, los renombramientos no son automáticos. Las solicitudes se conservan archivadas y sirven como una fuente para aperturas futuras durante el año, por lo que todos los partidos interesados están invitados a hacer solititud en este momento.

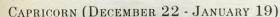
Comisión de Artes: 2 renombramientos y 1 vacante • Comité de Centro Comunitario: 1 vacante
Comisión del Centro: 1 renombramiento • Comisión de Preservación Histórica: 1 renombramiento y 1 vacante
Comisión de Parques y Recreación: 2 vacantes • Comisión de Planeación: 1 renombramiento y 1 vacante
Comisión de Obras Públicas: 1 renombramiento y 1 vacante • Comisión de Transporte de la Ciudad de S.C.: 1 renombramiento y 1 vacante
Comité de Ciudades Hermanas: 4 renombramientos y 2 vacantes • Comisión de Agua: 1 renombramiento • Junta de zonas: 1 vacante

Nominación Individual de Miembro del Ayuntamiento: Comisión para la Prevención de la Violencia Contra Las Mujeres- Miembro del Ayuntamiento Yokoyama: 1 vacante

HOROSCOPE

The Month of Capricorn





This year may be one of the best in your life if you decide to change those bad habits that you have been a litivating for so long. Relax a little and enjoy life; relaxation is as good for you as work. The moon will be in Sagitarius on the 16th and 17th and will bring you a little adventure. Let your spirit guide you.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) If you have really decided to start a diet, don't begin on the 24th, because the moon will be opposite Jupiter and will cause excesses including gastronomical ones. But you should definitely make an effort to lose weight; the Holy Spirit isn't going to make your love handles disappear.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)

Sooner or later, you'll realize that the secrets you keep from your lover won't bring you anything good. The trust you need to have should be on all levels for your relationship to survive. You should give up your secrets and whispering and practice the honesty

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The beginning of the year has only brought worry to your heart. But remember that Rome wasn't built in a day, and by the same token you won't be able to begin a new future for yourself in some fit of desperation. Be patient, the moon will be in Mercury on the 16th and will bring you the calm that you need to make sound decisions.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 20)

aspectos de su vida.

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New year, new life! Stop procrastinating and finish the projects you have been postponing for so long. The moon will be in conjunction with Saturn on the 23rd and will give you the opportunity to reorganize your schedule and tie all those loose ends you have left undone for so long.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Quit your sneaking around. Your soulmate would die for you, only you have to give him/her the opportunity to show you. Let's see whether you treat him/her better this year. The moon begins to enter the house of Leo on Saturday the 6th, bringing with it the sensuality of that sign. Take advantage of this to bring some romance into your love life.

CANCER (JUNE 21 TO JULY 22)

You know that generosity is one of your best characteristics, but don't let those who surround you take advantage of you, especially at the beginning of the year when everyone needs a little help. On the 18th, the moon will be in conjunction with Jupiter and will make you more susceptible to the needs of your fellow humans. Don't even leave your house.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUGUST 22)

1995 was not an easy year, and 1996 won't be either if you continue to be annoyed with your poor employees. What fault is it of theirs if things don't turn out like you planned them? They have helped you a lot during the bad times and now it's time to recognize their efforts and leave them in peace. Don't make any decisions on the 26th, the moon will be opposite Neptune and will make you flaky

VIRGO (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22)

It's a good idea to criticize our loved ones, but don't you think you've gone too far this time? You have left a person who truly respects you very offended and you are in danger of losing his/her friendship. The positive mental connection you will have when the moon is trine in Mercury will give you the opportunity to ask for forgiveness.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)

The moon will be in your sign on the 12th and will give your sensibility the opportunity to recuperate the energy that you expended at the end of the year. Take advantage of this and begin a new creative project that will make you sparkle during 1996. Remember that during this time your kidneys will be more vulnerable, so don't eat stones.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

No matter how obstinate you want to be, it's good to give in once in a while. Many times you have lost great opportunities when you didn't listen to the opinions of others. On the 16th and 28th of January the moon will be trine in Mercury and will help you listen with an open mind. These will be good days for business meetings or for resolving conflicts at work.

SAGITARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 TO DECEMBER 21)

Don't despair. You have waited a long time to reach your goals and you are too close to realizing them to give up now. This month there will be a radical change in you life: in your home, love life or at work. Be calm, all of your Jupiterian energy will be concentrated in order to make this change the best it can be.

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La secesión de los prósperos

Los residentes de la comunidad de Aptos buscan separarse de su distrito escolar



La escuela Aptos High no tendrá los fondos suficientes para ofrecer algunas clases si la secesión se lleva a cabo.

Cerca de 160 kilómetros al sur de San Francisco en California se encuentran Watsonville y Aptos, dos divermicrocosmos ejemplifican las dicotomías cada vez más comunes en los Estados Unidos. La población de Watsonville, comunidad compuesta en su mayoría por trabajadores del campo latinos, se concentra principalmente dentro de los límites de la ciudad. Aptos, comunidad anglosajona de clase media-alta, junto con las colonias de La Selva Beach y Pájaro Dunes se sitúan en vastas extensiones de tierra que se extienden desde las playas hasta las montañas. Los muchachos de éstas comunidades asisten al mismo distrito escolar, pero algunos padres de familia en la comunidad de Aptos han decidido crear su propio distrito escolar y separarse de Distrito Escolar Unificado del Valle del Pájaro (DEUVP).

El movimiento secesionista busca, con la división del actual distrito en dos, la creación de un distrito escolar nuevo, independiente de DEUVP. Este movimiento ha dividido profundamente a las comunidades del

Claudia S. Meléndez Photographs by janjaap

sur del Condado de Santa Cruz entre aquellos que proclaman que los secesionistas son racistas, y los que dicen que sólo quieren retomar el control de la educación de sus hijos.

De acuerdo con el estudio de posibilidad comisionado por la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Santa Cruz, la creación del nuevo Distrito Escolar Unificado de Aptos (DEUA) tendría una participación de 3,621 estudiantes. Un 74.3 por ciento de los alumnos serían blancos, 20.1 por ciento serían latinos y 5.6 miembros de otros grupos minoritarios. Por otro lado, la participación de alumnos en el Valle del Pájaro sería de 13,764. Aproximadamente 14.9 por ciento de los alumnos serían anglosajones y 85.1 por ciento serían latinos y miembros de otros grupos minoritarios.

"Lo que los padres de familia de Aptos quieren en realidad," dijo un maestro de educación migrante quien prefirió no ser identificado, "es una escuela pública privada, aislada de lo que en realidad está pasando. Tal vez el motivo de esas personas no es racial, pero el resultado de sus actos sería racista."

Aparentemente, la raza parece ser una de las cosas en la que los proponentes de la secesión menos piensan. Nancy Bensen y Barbara Palmer, las principales organizadoras del DEUA, se conocieron en enero de 1995 a través de amigos mutuos quienes sabían de sus esfuerzos independientes para la creación de un distrito aparte y controlado localmente. Juntas han organizado voluntarios y recolectado más de 6 mil firmas que apoyan la creación de un distrito nuevo. Ambas mujeres se aprestan a hablar de hechos apoyados por estadísticas. Juntas en un café corroboran sus historias acerca de lo que han logrado en su búsqueda por el distrito y se aseguran la una a

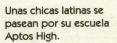
Bensen tiene dos hijos, uno que apenas se graduó de la escuela media superior Aptos High School y ur 1 que se encuentra en la escuela primaria Valencia Elementary School en Aptos. "Me di cuenta de que muchos muchachos que habían terminado sus estudios en Aptos High y habían entrado a la universidad estaban teniendo muchos problemas en el terreno académico, y que estaban siendo condicionados en el primer semestre de sus carreras. Sentía que la educación de mi hijo era muy deficiente. Era muy fácil tomar clases en Aptos High, era muy fácil que te dieran un "10", pero el nivel se encontraba bajo," dijo Bensen.

Es cierto, el nivel de calificaciones en ambas escuelas del DEUVP es el más bajo del condado. Pero en 1992, el promedio del Nivel de Aptitud Escolástica (NAE, SAT por sus siglas en inglés) en Aptos High fue de 926, más alto que el promedio del estado de California de 900. El promedio del NAE de Watsonville fue de 817. Palmer, quien tiene dos hijos en las escuelas de Aptos, tenía unas preocupaciones similares a las de Bensen cuando comenzó a organizar el movimiento de DEUA. Decidió revisar el nivel de su hijo y compararlo con el de la escuela en general. Concluyó que el nivel del DEUVP era bastante bajo. "Es tan bajo que se convierte en algo obvio que no estamos preparando a nuestros hijos para vivir en esta sociedad," dijo Palmer. "El distrito escolar está defraudando a todos los niños del distrito de Pájaro, no solamente a los niños de Aptos. No estamos preparando a los muchachos para enfrentarse al mundo.'

Los problemas que el DEUVP tiene y ha tenido por más de diez años no sorprenden a nadie. Celia Organista, activista comunitaria quien ha residido por largo tiempo en Watsonville accede que "El distrito escolar tiene problemas. Pero hay problemas ¿y lo que se debe hacer es salirse en lugar de resolverlos? No puedes aislarte y al mismo tiempo dejar a los demás en un atolladero. Su idea en este caso se reduce a: 'la responsabilidad no es mía'."

Rodeada de las

ranitas que adora coleccionar y los posters que atesora, Organista se olvida de su garganta irritada cuando habla acerca del controvertido problema. "Los problemas que he escuchado que los padres tienen son válidos," concede. "Pero existe una tendencia en todo el país a ser separatista. 'Lo tengo, quiero conservarlo, y quiero que la gente que no se parezca a mí, ni actúe o piense como yo, se mantenga lo más alejada posible.' Llámesele clasismo, separatis-





mo, racismo, o lo que quieras llamarle, es escencialmente una actitud que ahora prevalece en este país."

Aptos puede considerarse una comunidad económicamente bien. Por otro lado, Watsonville, el área que sería más afectada por la división del distrito, sufre de un índice de desempleo del 20 por ciento, comparado con un 9 por ciento en el resto del condado. El ingreso medio por familia en Watsonville es 28 por ciento más bajo que en el resto del condado. Los latinos, que de acuerdo al censo de 1990 constituyen el 61 por ciento de la población de Watsonville ganan un promedio de \$8,263 per capita.

John Borrego, profesor de estudios comunitarios en la Universidad de California en Santa Cruz y residente de Watsonville explica que las diferencias económicas de estas comunidades juegan un papel crucial en el deseo de los residentes de Aptos en separarse del distrito. "Cuando se comienza a mezclar a los muchachos anglos y chicanos, una de las cosas que comienza a pasar es que se pierde control", dijo Borrego, refiriéndose a los padres de familia de Aptos. "Se pierde el control en cuanto a la clase de ambiente en la que se quiere que los hijos crezcan. Uno quiere que su socialización sea de cierta forma, política y culturalmente. Que sean preparados para que continúen su educación en las universidades en carreras profesionales."

Jan Denney, madre de cuatro niños en el sistema escolar y residente de La Selva Beach corroboró las afirmaciones de Borrego. "Tenemos metas diferentes. La meta de la escuela Valencia es lograr que los niños funcionen en la sociedad norteaméricana, tal vez hasta que obtengan un trabajo en el condado. Pero yo quiero que mis hijos vayan a la universi-

Y muchos muchachos de Watsonville también. Un grupo de estudiantes del programa Avance Vía Determinación Individual (AVDI) en Watsonville High visitaron a estudiantes de AVDI en la escuela E.A. Hall Middle School para alentarlos a continuar con sus estudios. Sus voces, a veces sofocadas por el sonido del aire acondicionado que mantiene templado el salón

portátil, trataban de motivar a sus jóvenes compañeros. "Antes jugaba muchos deportes cuando venía aquí," dijo Tony W., "pero ahora sé que necesito concentrarme en mis estudios para poder asistir a la universidad."

Con las notas de un niño practicando "Los changuitos" escuchándose en el piano, Denney comentó en el teléfono que "en la vida no toda la gente tiene las mismas metas. Tratar de hacer justicia para todos no hace las cosas necesariamente justas para aquellos que no tienen las mismas metas," dijo.

No obstante, una de las principales diferencias entre estas comunidades no es las metas, sino los medios con los que cuentan para alcanzarlas. Al describir la separación de Aptos y Watsonville, Borrego dijo que, "Este grupo [Aptos] puede pagar este tipo de vivienda, este grupo está compuesto por personas en posiciones a nivel técnico y gerencia, así que tienes una base económica diferente."

El interés de Palmer, proponente del DEUA, no parece estar fundado en la base económica de la comunidad. "Lo que estamos tratando de hacer es salvar la educación en California, y no somos un caso único. Distritos más pequeños verdaderamente producen mejores estudiantes," dijo.

"El argumento que los residentes de Aptos proponen es que quieren tener sus propias escuelas y un distrito más pequeño," dijo Borrego. "Pero para que esto se logre, se tiene que tomar el distrito y separarlo en términos de etnicidad y resegregarlo en base a las diferencias de clases." De acuerdo a Borrego, esto recrea una cultura de gente exitosa y ascendente con la capacidad económica de seguir subiendo, dejando atrás a una comunidad de personas de bajos ingresos con una base reducida de impuestos. "Por eso llamo a este movimiento 'La secesión de los prósperos'," dijo.

 $\begin{array}{c} Pr\acute{o}speros \\ \text{no, la comunidad de Aptos y las} \end{array}$

áreas que estarían incluidas en el nuevo distrito escolar de Aptos están compuestas en su mayoría por gente blanca. No sorprende que se haya acusado a los secesionistas de ser racistas.

Fuimos a mostrar a la mesa directiva lo que estábamos haciendo," dijo Palmer, "[para explicarles] que tanto habíamos avanzado y preguntarles si podrían comenzar el proceso iniciando un estudio de posibilidades." Al recontar la historia, Palmer se ríe nerviosamente y una mirada de perplejidad puede observarse a través de sus gafas. "Me acuerdo de una señora que se paró y nos señalo: 'Estas señoras son racistas, y puedo probarlo.""

Palmer hace una breve pausa y después prosigue. "Estábamos aturdidas, yo no supe qué hacer. En una situación como esa tienes que quedarte sentada y escuchar. Y la señora dijo 'Puedo probar que son racistas, y déjeme decirle cómo. Cuando fui a comprar a Longs y estaban sentadas con su petición, no me detuvieron para pedir mi firma. No me preguntaron porque mi piel es morena.' Es la primera vez que Nancy [Bensen] y yo hemos hecho algo así en la vida, créeme que no éramos muy sociables." Palmer describió cómo puso una mesita con el anuncio "Petición para el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Aptos" junto a una tienda para recolectar fir-

"I remember the lady that got up and pointed to us:

SECESSION, from▶17

the secessionists have been accused of being racist.

"We went to show the board of trustees what we were doing," recounts Palmer, "[to explain to them] how far along we were and ask them if they would start the process by asking for a feasibility study." As she remembers the story, Palmer laughs nervously, and a look of bewilderment can be seen through her sunglasses. "I remember the lady that got up and pointed to us: 'These ladies are racists, and I can prove it.'"

Palmer pauses for a second, and then continues. "We were startled; I didn't know what to do. In that situation you have to sit there and listen. And the lady said 'I can prove they're racists, and let me tell you how. When I went to shop at the Longs and they were sitting there with their petition, they didn't stop me and ask me for my signature. They didn't ask me because my skin was brown.' This is the first time that Nancy [Bensen] and I have ever done anything like this in our lives, and we were not outgoing people, believe me." Palmer describes that she put a card table with a sign that read "Aptos Unified School District Petition" by the side of a grocery store to collect signatures. "People would come up and sign, but we never asked anybody because it's just not our style," she said.

There are people, however, who do believe the proposal is racially motivated. Tonya H., a white Aptos resident said, "They want to have their little, elitist, white school back. The same reasons they are giving now for wanting to secede, the Aptos parents gave when they started busing children from Watsonville: that the classrooms would be overcrowded, all the OK-to-say reasons. But I know it is because they don't want Mexican kids in the school."

"I've seen that racism has become a hell of a lot more acceptable," says Community Organizer Organista. "Everybody is doing it, from the governor down. He's giving the example of how to be a racist, separatist, how to be a classist. If he is a role model—he's certainly not mine. If you're living in a Republican state, all of a sudden they [secessionists] get the message, they get the permission to do this kind of stuff—and they can get away with it."

Stephen Bankhead, long-time Watsonville resident and member of the Watsonville High School Site Council, says that he knows the Aptos commu-

Barabara Palmer, proponent of Aptos Unified School District

nity well and that, "I don't think you can find enough racism in Aptos to organize a Tupperware party, much less a secession. Also I don't know why we focus on that because it's really hard to identify motives; what really hurts people is actions and results. We should have stayed more focused on what the secession would do."

Depending on whose study you read, PVUSD's or County Office of Education's, the secession would displace 1,490 or 940 students from the newly formed AUSD that would have to be housed in the already overcrowded Pajaro schools. Elena Moya, organizer of United for PVUSD, says that the Parents of the Aptos area are asking to eliminate one of the two high schools from the district, something that will have a great impact on the children. "Let's be fair to all of this district's children and try to give them all the equal opportunity to have the same education," said Moya. "Let's do whatever it takes, but as the district stands now. You cannot jeopardize a set of children [Watsonville's] for another set of children [Aptos']," continued Moya. "It's unfair. We need to look at it as a group effort to try to help all of our children."

On December 14, the Santa Cruz Committee on School District Organization approved the recommendation to allow the creation of a new Aptos Unified School District. The issue will now go to the State Board of Education, where it will be decided whether the decision will be put to vote before the residents and if only Aptos or the entire Pajaro Valley Unified School District will be allowed to vote.

LA SECESIÓN, viene de>21

mas. "La gente venía y firmaba, pero nunca le pedimos a nadie que firmara, no es nuestro estilo," recuerda.

Sin embargo, hay personas que creen que la propuesta tiene motivaciones raciales. Tonya H., una residente anglosajona de Aptos dijo que "Lo que quieren es tener su escuelita blanca y elitista igual que antes. Las razones que están dando para separarse son las mismas razones que dieron cuando comenzaron a transportar a los muchachos de Watsonville en camión: que los salones estarían abarrotados, todas las razones que está bien decir. Pero yo sé que la razón es que no quieren tener niños mexicanos en las escuelas."

"He visto cómo el racismo se ha vuelto muchísimo más aceptable," dice la organizadora Organista. "Todos lo están siendo, desde el propio gobernador. Él mismo está poniendo el ejemplo de cómo ser un racista, un separatista, cómo ser clasista. Si él es el modelo a seguir—ciertamente no es el mío— si estamos viviendo en un estado controlado por el partido republicano, de pronto los secesionistas reciben el mensaje, el permiso para hacer este tipo de cosas—y pueden hacerlo impunemente."

Stephen Bankhead, miembro del Consejo Local de la escuela Watsonville High quien ha residido en Watsonville durante muchos años, comentó que él conoce la comunidad de Aptos bastante bien y que "No creo que se pueda encontrar en Aptos suficiente racismo para organizar una demostración de Tupperware, mucho menos una secesión. Y tampoco sé por qué nos enfocamos en

eso, porque es muy difícil identificar las razones. Lo que causa daño son las acciones y los resultados. Deberíamos habernos enfoçado en lo que la secesión causaría"

'These ladies are

racists, and I can

prove it. We were

what to do"

Barbara Palmer,

AUSD organizer

startled; I didn't know

Dependiendo en el estudio que se lea, el del DEUPV o el de la Oficina de Educación del Condado, la secesión desplazaría entre 1,490 y 940 alumnos del nuevo distrito de Aptos. Estos estudiantes tendrían que ser alocados en las escuelas de Pájaro, siendo que ya están abarrotadas. Elena Moya, organizadora del grupo Unidos por DEUPV, comenta que los padres del área de Aptos están pidiendo eliminar una de las dos escuelas de educación media superior del distrito, lo que tendrá un impacto negativo en los muchachos. "Hay que ser justos con todos los niños del distrito y tratar de darles una oportunidad igualitaria para obtener la misma educación," acertó Moya. "Hay que hacer todo lo que se requiera, pero así como el distrito es ahora. No puedes poner en peligro a un grupo de alumnos [los de Watsonville] por otro grupo [los de Aptos]," continuó. "No es justo. Necesitamos contemplar el problema como un esfuerzo de grupo para tratar de ayudar a todos nuestros

El 14 de diciembre, 1995, el comité de organización del distrito escolar de Santa Cruz aprobó la recomendación para la creación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Aptos. Ahora el asunto será referido al Departamento Estatal de Educación, en donde se decidirá si la decisión se pondrá a voto para los residentes y si solo las personas que quieren formar su propio distrito o si todos los habitantes dentro del DEUPV podrán votar en el asunto.

What keeps Ruining Your Relationships?

Find out. Take this test now.						
I Wichis yes of mostly yes						
Means maybe or uncertain	TAXABLE CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF	Do you sometimes give away articles which strictly speaking	SECRETARIA SECURIOR S	Are you sometimes completely unable to enter the spirit of		
☐ ☐ ☑ Means no or mostly no		do not belong to you? Do you greet people effusively?		things? 2. Do you rarely express your grievances?		
Follow these instructions	78.	Do you often ponder on previous misfortunes? Are you sometimes considered forceful in your actions or		Do you work in "spurts" being relatively inactive and then furiously active for a day or two?		
Answer each question as to how you feel RIGHT NOW		opinions?	15	4. Does the number of uncompleted jobs you have or had bother		
CTA DT UEDE.	80. 81.	Are you usually undisturbed by "noises off" when you are try	15	you? 5. Do people enjoy being in your company?		
+ IVI -	82.	to rest? Are you likely to be jealous?		6. Could you allow someone to finish "those final two words" in a crossword puzzle without interfering?		
Do you make thoughtless remarks or accusations which later you regret?	83.	Do you tend to put off doing things and then discover it is too late?		77. Do you consider the best points of most people and only rarely speak slightingly of them?		
2. When others are getting rattled, do you remain fairly composed?	84.	seek to have your own way?	15	Do you laugh or smile quite readily? Are you definite or emphatic in voice and manner?		
3. Do you browse through railway timetables, directories, or dictionaries just for pleasure?	85. 86.		8 8 8 16	Are you effusive only to close friends if at all? Are your interests and fields of knowledge so important as to		
4. When asked to make a decision, would you be swayed by your like or dislike of the personality involved?	87.			give little time for anything else? 2. Would you like to "start a new activity" in the area in which you		
5. Do you intend two or less children in your family even though your health and income will permit more?	88.			live? 3. Would you make the necessary actions to kill an animal in orde		
6. Do you get occasional twitches of your muscles, when there is no logical reason for it?	89.	Are there some things about yourself on which you are	6	to put it out of pain?		
7. Would you prefer to be in a position where you did not have	90.		16	Is it easy for you to relax? Do you have little regret of past misfortunes and failures?		
the responsibilities of making decisions? 8. Are your actions considered unpredictable by other people? Do you consider more money should be spent on social	91.	choice? Do you ever get a single thought which hangs around for		66. Does the idea of fear or apprehension give you a physical reaction?		
security?		days? Are you a slow eater?		67. Can you trust the decision of your judgement in an emotional situation in which you are involved?		
10. Do other people interest you very much? 11. Is your voice monotonous, rather than varied in pitch? 12. Do you normally let the other person start the conversation?	93. 94.	Would you stop and find out whether a person needed help	16	68. Could someone else consider that you were really active? 69. Do you find it hard to get started on a task that needs to be		
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	95.	even though they had not directly asked you for it? Are you prejudiced in favor of your own school, college, club	B B B 17	done? 70. Are you opposed to the "probation system" for criminals?		
14. Would the idea of inflicting pain on game, small animals or fish prevent you from hunting or fishing?	96.	or team, etc.? Do you pay your debts and keep your promises when it is	17	71. Do you spend much time on needless worries? 72. In a disagreement do you find it hard to understand how the		
15. Are you often impulsive in your behavior? 16. Do you speak slowly?	97.	possible? Do you sleep well?	BEE 17	other person fails to see your side, and thus agree with you? 73. Do you cope with everyday problems of living quite well?		
17. Are you usually concerned about the need to protect your health?	98.	Would you use corporal punishment on a child aged ten if it refused to obey you?	B B B 17	74. Are you usually truthful to others? 75. Would you rather "wait for something to happen" as opposed to		
18. Does an unexpected action cause your muscles to twitch? 19. Are you normally considerate in your demands on your	99.	Do you prefer to take a passive role in any club or organization to which you belong?		your causing it? 76. Do you spend too freely in relation to your income?		
employees, relatives, or pupils? 20. Do you consider that your could give a valid "snap	100	Are you logical and scientific in your thinking? Does the youth of today have more opportunity than that of a	B B B 1 7	77. Can you take a "calculated risk" without too much worry? 78. If you were involved in a slight car accident, would you really		
judgement"?		generation ago?	15	take the trouble to see that any damage you did was made		
21. Do your past failures still worry you? 22. Do you find yourself being extra-active for periods lasting		2. Do you throw things away only to discover that you need them later?		good. 9. Do others push you around?		
several days? 23. Do you resent the efforts of others to tell you what to do?		Would you give up easily on a given course if it were causing you a considerable amount of inconvenience?	5	80. Do you make allowances for your friends where with others you might judge more severely?		
24. Is it normally hard for you to "own up and take the blame"? 25. Do you have a small circle of close friends, rather than a large	# 10F	Do you "wax enthusiastic" about only a few subjects? Do you rarely suspect the actions of others?	18	Do you often ponder over your own inferiority? Do people criticize you to others?		
number of friends, speaking acquaintances? 26. Is your life like a constant struggle to survive?	106	5. Do you sometimes wonder if anyone really cares about you? 7. Do you turn down responsibility because you doubt your	18	33. Are you embarrassed by a hearty greeting such as a kiss, hug, or pat on the back, if done in public?		
27. Do you often sing or whistle just for the fun of it? 28. Are you considered warmhearted by your friends? 29. Would you rather give orders than take them?	108	fitness to cope? 3. Do you sometimes feel compelled to repeat some interesting		84. Do you frequently not do something you want to do because of other people's desires?		
29. Would you rather give orders than take them? 30. Do you enjoy telling people the latest scandal about your	109	item or tidbit? Do you tend to exaggerate a justifiable grievance?	2.10	35. Are you sometimes convinced of the correctness of your opinions about a subject even though you are not an expert?		
associates? 31. Could you agree to "strict discipline"?	110	Is your facial expression varied rather than set? Do you usually need to justify or back up an opinion once		 Do you often find yourself "going off in all directions at once"? Do your acquaintances seem to think more of your abilities than 		
32. Would the idea of making a complete new start cause you much concern?		stated? 2. Do you openly and sincerely admire beauty in other people?	450	you do? 38. Is the idea of death or even reminders of death abhorrent to		
33. Do you make efforts to get others to laugh and smile? 34. Do you find it easy to express your emotions?		Would it take a definite effort on your part to consider the subject of suicide?		you? 89. Having settled an argument out do you continue to feel		
35. Do you refrain from complaining when the other person is late for an appointment?	114	Would you consider yourself energetic in your attitude toward Would you consider yourself energetic in your attitude toward		disgruntled for a while? O. Are you friendly in voice, attitude, and expression?		
36. Are you sometimes considered by others a "spoil sport"?	115	5. Would a disagreement affect your general relationship with	19	21 Does life seem rather vague and unreal to you?		
37. Do you consider there are other people who are definitely unfriendly toward you and work against you?	116	another person? 5. Does a minor failure on your part rarely trouble you? 7. Do you sometimes feel that you talk too much?		Do you often feel upset about the fate of war victims and political refugees?		
38. Would you admit you were wrong just to "keep the peace"? 39. Do you have only a few people of whom you are really fond?	118	3. Do you smile much?	The state of the s	93. Do "mere acquaintances" appeal to you for aid or advice in their personal difficulties?		
40. Are you rarely happy, unless you have a special reason? 41. Do you "circulate around" at a social gathering?	119	Are you easily pleased? When met with direct opposition would you still seek to have		94. If you lose an article, do you get the idea that "someone must have stolen or mislaid it"?		
42. Do you take reasonable precaution to prevent accidents? 43. Does the idea of talking in front of people make you nervous?	121	your own way rather than give in? Provided the distance were not too great, would you still	19	95. If you thought that someone was suspicious of you and your actions, would you tackle them on the subject rather than		
44. If you saw an article in a shop obviously mistakenly marked lower than its correct price, would you try to get it at that	122	prefer to ride rather than walk? 2. Do you ever get disturbed by the noise of the wind or a	19	leaving them to work it out? 6. Do you sometimes feel that your age is against you (too young		
price? 45. Do you often feel that people are looking at you or talking		"housesettling down"? 3. Is your opinion influenced by looking at things from the		or too old)? 77. Do you have spells of being sad and depressed for no apparent		
about you behind your back? 46. Are you "always getting into trouble"?		standpoint of your experiences, occupation or training? Do you often make tactless blunders?		reason? 98. Do you do much grumbling about conditions you have to face in		
47. Have you any particular hate or fear? 48. Do you prefer to be an onlooker rather than participate in any		5. Are you suspicious of people who ask to borrow money from you?		life? 99. Do you tend to hide your feelings?		
active sport? 49. Do you find it easy to be impartial?	126	5. Are your decisions swayed by personal interests? 7. Can you get quite enthusiastic over "some simple little thing"?		00. Do you consider you have many warm friends?		
50. Have you a definitely set standard of courteous behavior in front of other members of your family?		Do you frequently take action even though you know your own good judgement would indicate otherwise?	T. V	When you're done with this questionaire please fold and		
51. Can you "start the ball rolling" at a social gathering" 52. Would you "buy on credit" with the hope that you can keep up	129	Are you in favor of color bar and class distinction? Are you aware of any habitual physical mannerisms such as	p	lace in a stamped envelope and mail to this address:		
the payments?		pulling your hair, nose, ears, or such like?				
53. Do you get an after-reaction when something unexpected such as an accident or other disturbing incident takes place?		Can you quickly adapt and make use of new conditions and situations even though they may be difficult?		DIANFICS 475 Alberto Way #110 Los Gatos, CA 95032		
54. Do you consider the good of all concerned rather than your own personal advantages?	133	Do some noises "set your teeth on edge"? Can you see the other fellow's point of view when you wish		Los Gatos, CA 95032		
55. When hearing a lecturer, do you sometimes experience the idea that the speaker is referring entirely to you?	134	to? 4. Do you go to bed when you want to, rather than "by the		Los Catos (408) 354-1201		
56. Does "external noise" rarely interfere with your concentration? 57. Are you usually "up-to-date" on everyday affairs?	135	clock"? 5. Do the "petty foibles" of others make you impatient?				
event in six months time?	136	Do children irritate you? Are you less talkative than your associates?	20			
59. Do you consider the modern "prison without bars" system doomed to failure?	138	Do you usually carry out assignments promptly and systematically?	3	TO OBTAIN YOUR RESULTS PLEASE FILL THIS IN:		
60. Do you tend to be careless? 61. Do you ever get a "dreamlike" feeling toward life when it all	139	Would you assist a fellow traveller rather than leave it to the officials?	3			
seems unreal? 62. Do you speedily recover from the effects of bad news?	140	When voting, do you vote the same party ticket straight rather than studying the candidates and issues?	The N	lame		
63. When you criticize—do you at the same time try to	S CEE 14	Do you frequently dwell on your past illnesses or painful				
encourage? 6. Are your opinions insufficiently important to tell other people?	DEL 142	experiences? 2. Do you get very ill at ease in disordered surroundings?	P	honeBus. Phone		
65. Are your opinions insufficiently important to tell other people? 66. Are you so self-assured that it sometimes annoys others?		Do you usually criticize a film or show that you see or a book that you read?		ddress		
67. Do you keep "close contact" on articles of yours which you have loaned to friends?		When recounting some amusing incident can you easily imitate the mannerisms or the dialect in the original incident?				
68. Do you enjoy activities of your own choosing? 69. Does emotional music have quite an effect on you?	- 1	5. In subjects about which you are not expert, are your own ideas of sufficient importance as to tell others?		ity		
70. Do you completely condemn a person because he is a rival or	50	5. Do you have a tendency to tidy up a disorder of somebody else's household?				
opponent in some aspect of your relations with him? 71. Do you often "sit and think" about death, sickness, pain and sorrow?	147	7. Can you accept defeat easily without the necessity of "swallowing your disappointment"?	A	geOccupation		
72. Are you perturbed at the idea of loss of dignity?	148	B. Do you often feel depressed?				

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