

2001.14

Sonoma West Times & News  
November 22, 2001

## OPINION

### First it was ducks

**EDITOR:** I find the bias and prejudice displayed by the Laguna Implementation Committee deplorable. They may be good-hearted and well-intentioned, but their comments regarding a skatepark near the Community Center are cloddish and insensitive. Rather than working with the community to resolve a problem, rather than examining the possibilities of co-existence or compromise, they simply dismissed it as "not in their master plan."

Most of the arguments expressed by Ms. Cordell, Mr. Nichols, and Ms. Shane sound desperate, defiant and debatable. Granted, asbestos in the soil, if true, would be a legitimate concern, but dirt fill compacted over 40 to 50 years isn't going anywhere. "Replanted native vegetation" translates as "weeds." Parking is ample in the Community Center parking lot and on both sides of Morris Street from Highway 12 to the high school. Bathrooms? The teen center bathrooms can certainly accommodate more kids than presently use the facility. The "cement bowl" would draw teens away from a congested downtown to an under-utilized youth facility. It would also provide a safe, convenient alternative for families with siblings watching little league games at Clahan.

Finally, to state that skateboarding would be detrimental, that it would "pol-

lute the laguna with built things" is laughable. I would argue that constructing trails into the laguna to encourage access is far more intrusive, and ultimately more harmful than 40 or 50 kids on skateboards in a pen a hundred yards from the water's edge.

In closing, the City Council can and should ignore the recommendation of this spiteful group. I mean who are these people? Who appointed them? Do they accurately reflect the true demographic of the town? First, it was the wrong kind of ducks, then it was the wrong kind of cats, now it's the wrong kind of kids. Maybe these are the wrong kind of people to influence decision-making in Sebastopol.

SONOMA WEST NOV. 22, 2001

Pat Corcoran, Occidental