Goleta's Schools Face Big Changes

Discipline — How It Works

by Katherine Foster,
Isla Vista FREE PRESS Reporter

Most thirteen-year-olds are bursting with energy. They want to discover the world, test themselves. But just at this wonderful point in their eagerness, school enters the picture.

Kids have to go to the same place everyday, sit in the same rooms and even in the same seats. Everyday from morning until afternoon. And then there’s homework to do in the spare time remaining to them.

Fine. Kids have got to learn how to work, to study, to prepare themselves for adulthood in society. Adults understand this, and in many ways, that’s what they see DISCIPLINE, page 10

SCHOOLS FACING BIG BUDGET DEFICITS

The Santa Barbara School Board is considering closing down Dos Pueblos High School and combining the students of their three high schools into two (San Marcos and Santa Barbara High).

As an alternative, they are also considering closing all of their junior high schools and making the three high school campus grades 7 through 12.

None of these alternatives are very good, but a look at the figures gives adequate justification for the very drastic actions they are considering. Just 10 years ago, the high schools and junior highs had a total of 11,806 students, down from the 1973-74 total of 15,007 thought to be near the physical capacity of the school system.

Today find only 7,595 students enrolled — a drop of more than 40% over 15 years.

Since schools receive most of their revenue from the state based on the number of students enrolled, funding has dropped drastically in real terms as en...
STYROFOAM, from front page

that there is a direct correlation between the presence of CFCs and the reduction of ozone in the stratosphere. The ozone layer protects us from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. An increase of ultraviolet radiation due to ozone depletion, due in part to CFCs, will result in an increase in skin cancer, a decrease in our body's ability to fight diseases, food chain disruption, and global warming resulting in the "greenhouse" effect.

Additional horror stories are distinct possibilities if we continue to manufacture CFCs. Environmental catastrophes occur over time, but no one knows if the consequences will appear tomorrow, six months from now, or in five years. What we do know is that the changes that are occurring are serious. The effects thus far are only a small fraction of the possible global scenario, we need to take heed.

CFC's & Styrofoam

During the styrofoam manufacturing process, about ninety percent of the CFCs are emitted into the air. The remaining CFCs are degraded in landfills. Thus, the space they consume is never reduced. Landfill space is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity. Santa Barbara County, for example, has a capacity of only 18 more years of use even after the completion of the current expansion plans. And such land is expensive. For these reasons, Wilson Hubbell, the superintendent of the solid waste division for the County, describes styrofoam as a major problem.

When styrofoam is incinerated, toxic by-products are emitted into the atmosphere, and there is some evidence that toxic leach from the food products that are contained in styrofoam.

Our fast-paced, convenience permeated lifestyles have created many styrofoam products that we use in our homes and throw away. Out of sight, out of mind...for now anyway. Besides the unsightly litter this creates, there have been numerous incidents of death and see STYROFOAM, page 3

From International to Community
Efforts to Curtail Styrofoam Use

Responding to the obvious need for an international agreement on the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) threat, thirty-seven nations that use and produce CFCs have agreed to a schedule of cutbacks in CFC production. This achievement was the result of an international meeting in Montreal, Canada in 1987. The international protocol states that by 1999 CFC production will be decreased 50% per year, and by 1999 to about one-fifth of that. The protocol however, does allow developing countries to increase their use of CFCs if it will help their economic development.

Environmentalists, including Carl Sagan, feel that while the protocol is a step in the right direction, it does not offer enough protection. In a recent article, Sagan writes, "What is needed is a worldwide ban on CFCs as rapidly as possible; then wait a century for the atmosphere to heal itself. The longer we dawdle, the greater the danger."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has responded as it typically does to environmental problems. They are conducting two major studies: one, examining policy trends and two, setting down policy options that would help stabilize the atmosphere.

In the private sector, as a result of the international protocol and public pressure, several U.S. companies will have to alter their current operations. Du Pont, the world's largest producer of CFCs, and other large chemical companies will be compelled to place more money into the research and development of safe alternatives. Some fast food restaurants have banned (Subway, Burger King), or are in the process of banning (Carl's Jr.) styrofoam. While others (McDonald's) are still researching the alternatives.

The states of California, Michigan, Oregon, Vermont and New York have either introduced legislation or developed a plan for manufacturers concerning the prohibition of manufacturing and/or selling styrofoam made with CFCs.

Local Responses

Several communities have taken this issue into their own hands. Berkeley has not only addressed the CFC issue, but ALL the environmental factors associated with styrofoam. In September 1987, the Berkeley City Council unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of styrofoam food containers made with CFCs. Presently Berkeley is working on a proposal to ban all styrofoam products sold in Berkeley targeting the associated landfill and litter problems.

The Los Angeles City Council also recently passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale, manufacture and distribution of styrofoam products made with CFC and/or hydrocarbon-based chemicals effective as of July 1, 1989.

The City of Santa Monica has banned the use of styrofoam packaging materials at two beaches and McDonald's restaurants due to the incessant litter problem. These McDonald's are now only allowed to use recycled paper products.

Individual concern continues to be pivotal in the struggle to save life on this planet from environmental pollution. International agreement is a step in the right direction, but industry's loopholes decrease the possibility of significant change. National change occurs slowly because it tends to concentrate on complicated legislation providing economic incentives to producers. Local change appears to be easier as foresighted individuals develop community support.
Wait! Don't do it!

Small Turnout for Federation

Although less than twenty people showed up at the December 5th Federation meeting, several good suggestions were made. The best one was to invite the 600 block of Del Playa to become a member of the Federation, since so much time is spent talking about that area of I.V. County Supervisor (far right) told the meeting that he was taking the Redevelopment Agency to the Board of Supervisors Dec. 12.

Styrofoam, from page 2

injury to marine animals who mistake styrofoam litter for food.

- Styrofoam remains in the environment for hundreds of years, but it in the stratosphere eating ozone, in landfills as "solid waste" or on sand beaches, in the sea as "litter."

- Styrofoam is made of non-renewable resources: natural gas and petroleum. Oil can only be obtained by increasingly hazardous methods such as off-shore drilling, which itself poses significant dangers to the environment.

- Pintane, the common substitute for CFC's in the manufacturing process of styrofoam, is highly flammable and oxidizes very quickly in sunlight, contributing to smog and posing health hazards to workers.

- Styrofoam is usually made with 50 to 70 percent of chlorinated and fluorinated hydrocarbons, and substitutes are readily available. The social cost of continuing to use "to-go" containers and packaging material made of styrofoam clearly outweighs the benefits. Styrofoam is not the only cause of ozone depletion, and it isn't the only reason our landfills are filling up so quickly. It is just part of a whole mountain of problems compelling us toward that point of no return in environmental pollution. But styrofoam has the one distinct advantage that we can do something about it.

- With styrofoam, we don't have to wait for international treaties — we can act as individuals and as communities. Start carrying a glass coffee cup in your backpack or briefcase. Ask for paper products when you get food "to go." Call your County Supervisor and tell him we want a local ordinance banning styrofoam uses as soon as possible.

This personal action may be a small part of the whole problem, but we've got to start somewhere and most importantly, we have to start now.

Curtailing Styrofoam Use

UCSB Students Make Good Start

For all you skeptics, it is possible to create change if you speak out. Over one thousand UCSB students signed a petition last year calling for a ban on styrofoam containers on campus.

Due to the work of individuals comprising Earth First!, CalPIRG, and Scientists and Engineers for Responsible Technology, a petition was presented to the Associated Students Legislative Council, which represents UCSB students, that the use of styrofoam on campus should be discontinued in light of its trivial usage compared to its social cost, and the introduction of less harmful, biodegradable materials as alternatives be pursued.

As a result, from student pressure and education, the UCen Dining Board has agreed with the students and already phased out styrofoam products and switched over to biodegradable paper products.

Logistically, the transition from styrofoam to paper seems to have occurred with little difficulty. The main customer complaint concerns the paper cups for hot beverages. The cups do not provide substantial insulation, thus beverages do not stay hot as long, and the cups are sometimes too hot to hold. Further increasing this problem, the 8-ounce cups are not made with handles. The solution thus far has been to use two cups, or use napkins to prevent burning. One hand. The only item without a suitable substitute is a bowl for soup. The paper soup bowls are problematic due to lacking.

Financially, there is a significant difference between styrofoam and paper products. Surprisingly, each paper cup costs approximately five cents more than its styrofoam counterpart. The switch from styrofoam to paper products will increase the four million dollar budget anywhere from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars.

Kenji Matuoka, director of the UCen dining services believes the social benefits of using paper are definitely worth the minor logistical problems he and his customers are working to overcome.

Due to the foresight, knowledge and concern of a few people, more people have been educated on the styrofoam problem and a change implemented. This will further promote education, foresight and change on this critical issue.

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Jane's Addiction, Nothing's Shocking
Sugarbabies, Life's Too Good
Public Enemy, It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back
Cocteau Twins, Blue Bell Knoll
Ziggy Marley, Conscious Party
Keith Richards, Talk is Cheap
Tracy Chapman, Tracy Chapman
Toots Hibbert, Toots in Memphis
Midnight Oil, Diesel and Dust
Michelle Shocked, Short, Sharp, Shocked

Jason Fiber
The Back of Beyond, Wednesdays Midnight-2 AM, KCSB 91.9

Ministry, The Land of Rape and Honey
Not Drowning, Waving, Another Pond
Colin Newman, It Seems
Wire, A Bell Is a Cup Until It is Struck
The Sun & The Moon, The Sun & the Moon
Neon Judgement, Horny as Hell
Wolfgang Press, Birdseed Cage
Parade Ground, Cut Up
Attrition, At the 5th Late
Cocteau Twins, Blue Bell Knoll

Michael Gershberg
Manager, Morninglight Music, 910 Embarcadero Del Norte, I.V.

Public Enemy, It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back
John Coltrane, Love Supreme Live
Charles Mingus, Live in Paris 1964 Vol. 2
Charles Mingus, Meditations
Ornette Coleman, The Art of the Improvisers
Willie Dixon, The Chess Box
Golden Eagles, Lightning & Thunder
Mzwakhe, Change Is Pain
Eric B & Rakim, Follow the Leader
Israel Vibration, Strength of My Life

Jim St. John
Music Director, 99.9 KTVD
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Billy Bragg, Workers' Playtime
Jon Astley, The Complete Angler
Bob Dylan, Flowers, People
John Hiatt, Slow Turning
Tommy Conwell, Rumble
Ashan, Feel No Shame
Edie Brickell, Shooting Rubber Bands at the Stars
Dream So Real, Rough Night in Jerico
Travelin' Wilburys, Volume One

Robert Antonini
Owner & Manager, The Rock House, 900 Embarcadero Del Mar, I.V.

Quinsenryche, Operation Mindcrime
The Mission, Children
Fields of the Nephilim, The Nephilim
Danzig, Danzig
Ministry, The Land of Rape and Honey
Dead Can Dance, Serpent's Egg
King Diamond, Them!!!
All About Eve, All About Eve
Joe Satriani, Surfing with the Alien
Christian Death, Scriptures

Dave Dunham
Radio Free Lunch, Thursdays Noon-2 PM, KCSB 91.9

Obed Ngobeni, My Wife Bought a Taxi
Sonic Youth, Daydream Nation
Pixies, Surfer rosa
Althea & The Sugar Minott, Rocksteady
Divine Horsemen, Devil's River
Throwing Muses, House Tornado
Social Distortion, La Prison Brancard
Primitives, Lively
Ziggy Marley, Conscious Party
John Zorn, The Big Bagul

Joe Mock
Dee Jay, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, Alex's Cantina, 5918 Hollister Ave., Goleta

U2, Rattle & Hum
Paul Kelly & The Messengers, Under the Sun
Cocteau Twins, Blue Bell Knoll
Big Country, Peace in Our Time
Travelin' Wilburys, Volume One
John Hiatt, Slow Turning
Bob James, Ivory Coast
Erasure, The Innocents
Bobby Brown, Don't Be Cruel
DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, He's the D.J. I'm the Rapper

Ziggy Marley, Conscious Party
Santa Barbara Poets Publish New Books

Even in a literary community like Santa Barbara, it is a cause for celebration when local writers publish new poetry collections at the same time. Santa Barbara's Lauren Mesa and Barry Spacks, both award-winning poets, each published new poetry collections recently, and will read their works on Sunday, December 11 at 8 PM in the Unitarian Society's Parrish Hall, located at 1535 Santa Barbara Street. The reading will be free to the public.

Barry Spacks is the author of Spacks Street: New and Selected Poems (1982), which won the Poetry Medal of the Commonwealth Club of California, as well as two novels and five other poetry collections. His most recent book is Brief Sparrow (Illuminati, 1988). Among other honors and recognitions are the St. Botolphi's Arts Award and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. A professor emeritus from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a “persistently visiting” professor at UCSB, Spacks is also an actor and singer-songwriter who lent heart, soul and body to the musical ensemble Three Hands Clapping.

John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers will perform at the Graduate in Isla Vista this Saturday night. Born in Manchester, England, Mayall is considered the "Godfather of the British Blues." Opening up for Mayall will be Danny Phillips on the acoustic guitar.

"Barry Spacks' poems have always been exceptionally readable because, even when the subjects are poignant or distressing, the words are at play, replacing in their adequacy to life," wrote America's poet laureate Richard Wilbur. "Clear, energetic, prodigal, effulgent, human, these poems are good company."

Lauren Mesa won second place in the National Writers' Union Competition in 1986, and this year earned first place in the Southern California Poetry Journal's Competition. A painter and calligrapher, Mesa illustrated Middle Ground (Silverfish, 1987), her first poetry collection, and has also published poems in numerous literary magazines, including the Cumberland Poetry Review, and the Laurel Review. The Bridge and Poetry, Mesa counts among her artistic influences Gerard Manley Hopkins, Rilke, and the writers of the Bible.

Brief Sparrow and Middle Ground are available at Earthling Bookstore in Santa Barbara.

For more information about this event, call 887-7673. [ ]

PUBLIC HEARINGS
Thursday, Jan. 5

8:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING
on Recommendations to Santa Barbara County Park Commission for uses of Platform Holly (PRC 6817) monies in L.V.

8:45 PM PRESENTATION
of Potential impacts of proposed Redevelopment Agency on the operations of the L.V. Park District and discussion of strategies to mitigate any negative impacts.

9:15 PM ANNUAL REVIEW
of L.V. Park District Master Plan

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Movie Review
Tequila Sunrise
written and directed by Robert Towne (Warner Bros.)

How's this for a plot: boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl?
Tequila Sunrise tries to be unpredictable, but isn't. While good
doesn't exactly triumph over evil, the
people who the audience are supposed to
like come out on top, and everybody the
audience isn't supposed to like gets shot.
But that's okay. The actors are
gorgeous, the photography beautiful, the
setting marvelous, the editing crisp, and
the script, for the most part, pretty good.
Sure, the audience saw the film with
mashed up when detective Kurt Russell
naively spills his guts to restaurateur
Michelle Pfeiffer, apologizing for having
seduced her in order to get information
about his drug-dealing buddy Mel
gibson. And Pfeiffer seems like a woman
from another planet trying to
simultaneously depict an iron-like
toughness about running her business
and a flimsy vapidity when it comes to
her sex life. And Mel Gibson is supposed
to be a warm sensitive guy who is also the
biggest cocaine dealer in South L.A.
But it's an awful superficial movie,
with gasoline explosions and a running
climax. Get yourself a date and go.

--Far Hepple

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BURNING DOWN SCHOOLS

Recently, the Isla Vista FREE PRESS interviewed some of the five teenage boys involved in setting a fire in the offices of the Goleta Valley Junior High School last June. Also present during the discussion were some of their friends. The interview is intentionally written in such a way to disguise the identity of the person speaking. No one from this group has been interviewed by the media before this.

Free Press: The article about the school burning in the Santa Barbara Independent portrayed you as "Skinheads". Is that accurate?

A: It's not true. Two of us did have shaved heads, but that doesn't mean anything. It's not like we are neo-Nazis or punks setting out to burn down the Court House.

Free Press: The Independent also said that you were all "runaways" and that you hung out with "the group of Goleta youths who attacked the Junior High's vice principal" the week before.

B: That's not true either. We weren't all runaways, and while we knew the kid who had a fight with the vice principal, we never hung out with him. They're just trying to make us look like real weirdos, outcasts. In fact, people treat us like gods now. People ask what happened in awe. They wished they could have been there. The newspapers even said that we weren't students at GVJH, but four out of five of us had been before we got kicked out.

Free Press: So you were trying to get revenge when you burned the office building?

C: No, it wasn't anything like that. We were just drunk. We had been drinking out on the basketball courts about midnight. We usually party there on the weekend. Four of us split two twelve packs of beer and one drank a pint of tequila. We didn't have any marijuana.

About 1 AM we decided to start moving. We walked over to the school and one of us kicked in a ground level window. Another one kicked at it, too, trying to show it was reinforced and wouldn't break. But it did. Another one reached in and unlatched the door. It was all open to us. We walked in.

We started throwing things around. We broke up some trophies, we broke all of the computers, (unintended into the P.A. system — that was great. We tried to get into the vice-principal's offices — he was real mad — but it was locked. Then we started throwing papers around, until the floor was probably four inches deep in paper. Pretty soon we left.

Then one of us went back inside — he said he forgot something. After a few minutes, we went looking for him, and there he was lighting little fires in the papers on the floor — one here, one there. We tried to put them out, but there were too many. So we had to leave.

We could smell the smoke from the fire while we were going home.

Free Press: One psychologist quoted in the newspaper accounts said that you lit the fire because "a match represents awesome power to a teenage boy. It's a way to exercise power in a world you feel powerless in."

D: That's bs, too. Sure, it's everyone's dream to burn down your school... To just get rid of it. Whenever a fire alarm goes off or you hear fire sirens, everybody hopes it's their school. But, that's not why we did it. The fire thing was just one guy's act. Besides, I'm sure we caused a lot more damage before the fire was set than the fire did.

Don't get me wrong. We did hate the school. Especially the vice-principal because he went out of his way to get some of us kicked out of GVJH. But everybody hates him. The guy he replaced had been at GVJH since it was built and he only ever expelled two kids in all of those years. But this new guy thinks he's some kind of stud — he's trying to change the whole school. I mean, he kicked out one of us for just having a pack of cigarettes on him.

But still, we didn't go into the school intending to start a fire. If we had, we wouldn't have left our fingerprints all over everything.

It was just too much alcohol.

Free Press: How did you get caught?

E: The neighbors had heard us drinking on the playground before we went into the school. They saw us, recognized a couple of us. It wasn't tough to follow it from there.

Free Press: What did you learn from this?

F: When someone asks me if I was the one who burned down the school, I say yes. I did it. But, we didn't do it for revenge or anything like that. We'd been drinking too much and it got out of hand. When someone is drunk and gets into a car accident, they don't start calling them "weirdos", "skinheads", and all that other stuff. It just happened.

It was a mistake.

As a result of the incident, most of the boys are in some kind of probation school, but one is in a youth camp down South. The school district has not yet made the parents of the boys pay the $25,000 deductible on its $50,000 insurance claim. One of the boys thinks that this is because the school office had no burglary alarm and no fire alarm, making it difficult to pursue the matter legally. Although the school had announced that the office would re-open in September, it is still boarded up.
SCHOOLS from front page
rollment has declined. The year, the Dis-
trict expects a revenue shortfall of close to
$1,000,000, and the coming years are ex-
pected to be even worse. See the chart on
page one of this story.

"We've cut district personnel to the
bare bone already," says Marilyn Gross,
president of the Dos Pueblos PTA.
"Where can we make any more cuts that
won't have even more devastating
impacts on the education system," she
said in a recent interview.
The District has said that it has had to
cut back on several course offerings, es-
specially in foreign languages, business,
education, and the visual and performing
arts. Some teachers are already traveling
from campus to campus to make some
courses available systemwide.
And as the teaching staff is cut back,
feWER and fewer younger teachers sur-
vive, thus depriving students access to
recent college graduates.

"I really don't think that Dos Pueblos
has been targeted for closing," says Kai
Zonana, a 12th grader at Dos Pueblos who
is a student representative to the school
board and involved in this discussion
since it began. "On thing is certain
though, they're not going to close Santa
Barbara High. There's just too much pre-
sige involved."

"But it is just as likely that they will
close the junior highs at this point," she
concluded.
Things do not look much better in the
coming years. While enrollment is ex-
pected to begin increasing about 1991, it
will never get back to the number of fif-
teen years ago. The school administration
gave up its office building on Santa Bar-
bara Street six years ago, having rented it
out. Already, some classrooms at existing
schools have been rented out as it comes
available.
Things are not likely to be the same
again.

DISCIPLINE from front page
expect most from the school system. But
do kids? Often times the result of these
different expectations result in "discipline"
problems.

Dealing with "Discipline"
If kids give into their natural sense of
rebellion at all of the control mechanisms
schools use, who gets the brunt of their
ergetic disagreements? It's teachers.
Would parents want to teach 150 kids a
day as they try to stretch their wings?
Only the most dedicated would.
"To teach in Junior High you have to be
a good, good teacher," says Coleta Valley
Junior High School principal Linton
Roberts.
"Youngsters are good," he stresses, but
"they are going through the most
emotional and physical changes since
babyhood. They are trying to be indem-
ependent and are not totally able to do
that. We have to understand this
metamorphosis is going on."
"Most kids with discipline problems in
school are just bored," says Margaret
Connell, a twelve year member of the
Santa Barbara School District Board which
includes both the high schools and the
junior highs, but not the elementary
schools in Coleta and Isla Vista.
"These are really the easiest to deal
with," she went on.
But what about kids with more serious
problems?

More Serious Problems
"Some students feel situations since
the second grade. They are not getting
many rewards in school where, by federal
law, they have to spend a lot of their time,"
Connell said.
"In parts, we've tended to categorize
kids in different reading groups for
example," she went on. This can influence
a teacher's expectations of what students
can do and how he or she treats them in
subtle, unintentional ways. Teachers
sometimes give more time to answer a
question to a student they expect has the
right answer and less to students they
expect don't, Connell explained.

But feeling left out is just one aspect of
a child's frustrations in school. Some suffer
from tragic home situations.
"Youngsters bring the complexities of
their lives to school and they are not always
Isla Vista FREE PRESS, December 8, 1988, page 11
**From the Publisher's Desk**

A REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY — a new chance?

It always alarms me whenever I see a news story that Davis or Berkeley or Santa Cruz has introduced some new recycling project or an innovative social service or a solar energy project. Or one of their police departments has been awarded by a citizens group for having successfully introduced a new rape prevention program. Or one of their road departments adds some new bike lanes to cut down on accidents.

It's not that I resent their successes. What I resent is Santa Barbara County government — both because it has not let us become a city so that we could join those other cities in dealing imaginatively with the problems of urban life, and that the County won't do it itself in Isla Vista. In other words, I'm jealous of the opportunities that residents of Davis, Berkeley, and Santa Cruz have had and that Isla Vista residents have been denied. Back in the 1970s, L.V. was often featured in newspapers and magazines for our new programs — but those days are long gone.

Maybe we can make up for some lost time with the proposed Redevelopment Agency. That we won't be able to control it completely means that we will have to trust the County to follow the community's direction on the projects to be implemented. It's a little like your parents letting you drive their car, but only while they are with you. But, at least we will have the chance to do some driving.

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**Guilt**

Guilt is an insidious emotion. The slightest feeling of guilt can reduce the most Butkus-like man or Thatcher-like woman to a beaten, slouching, crying, corner-shadow dog.

Not owning up to guilt can make us do things that are diametrically opposite of what is not only the best for us but also the very things that can alleviate the guilt feeling itself.

I am a perfect example of this. I'm afraid to say, I'm riddled with guilt. I know what to do to rid myself of the problem, but I just can't bring myself to take the necessary steps.

You see, I've had this pain in one of my front lower teeth for over a year now. I'm fairly sure that the pain is the direct result of the build up of plaque. In fact, I think I've got enough plaque to build a small town.

The reason I can be so sure of the cause of my pain is because it's happened before. And there's the root of my guilty feelings. The last time I had this problem, my dentist lectured me that I wasn't taking proper care of my teeth, that I wasn't flossing correctly. Further, he said that if I came to him again with this same problem, he wouldn't help me. He lectured me so much that I was wishing I could turn on his drill so I wouldn't have to listen to him carry on. I mean, I'm a grown man, a pillar in my community, with a responsible job, and this guy is showing me the up and down stroking of the brush and the proper way to floss like I was in the third grade.

I just can't go back to the dentist and confess my guilt. I brushed like he said and flossed like he said but my pain tells me that I must have sinned against the ADA, god, and country. And, I know the dentist's retribution will be swift and certain.

I'm not concerned with the sometimes eye-popping pain in my teeth; with the high-pitched, piercing mosquito whine of the drill that can drive me to my knees; with the millet long needle that I'm afraid will come out of the bottom of my chin; with the scraping to be done with his Marquis de Sade tool set. No, those are petty concerns and could not forestall keep me from visiting the dentist. I just can't go because of what I know I would get — The Lecture.

As I see it, there are only three possibilities open to me: endure the pain forever, do good deeds and hope my Karma cures the pain; utilize the old string and doorknob school of dentistry. Any of these are better than facing the dentist.

OUCH!!!

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