

# Occupy Activists Return to Courthouse Steps

## Deputies & Cops Attack with “Cold Water” Curfew

For the last 11 days, **Arrest-Me-Not Anthony**--sometimes alone, sometimes with others-- tabled and picketed at the “Occuplaza”. This was the area in front of the courthouse on Ocean St. previously used by **Occupy Santa Cruz [OSC]** activists until driven away by deputy harassment and SCPD threats. In response **Sheriff Wowak's Deputies** and **SCPD Chief Vogel's** police resumed arrest threats. Early Saturday morning on 2-25, deputies assaulted Anthony with cold water as he slept at 2 AM, presumably to discourage his protest. Two days later, seven deputies seized the literature table enforcing **Chief Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello's** extraordinary 12-hour-a-day “No Trespassing” curfew.

Deputies used this pattern of repeated arrests and property confiscations to drive away OSC in December. This was followed by SCPD's wholesale destruction of homeless survival gear, creating 100-200 homeless refugees on December 8<sup>th</sup> with no legal place to go. On December 20<sup>th</sup> after an earlier speech bemoaning cruelty to the homeless, **Mayor Don Lane** attended the Homeless Death Memorial, which noted their 20-year reduced life expectancy. Lane has refused to ask **City Manager Martin Bernal** if Vogel specifically requested prosecution.

On Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, sheriffs deputies and D.A.'s went to homes of three activists and took them away in handcuffs on arrest warrants for false charges of “conspiracy”, “vandalism”, and “trespass” in retaliation for reporting on and supporting the brief peaceful occupation of a 3 ½ year vacant bank building downtown, held by Wells Fargo Bank, a major predatory lender, as speculative investment.

Five of the eleven charged are reporters for alternative media. Total charges: 44; Total Felony charges: 22 Our District Attorney's Office may now lead the country as the False Felony Fabricating Capital of the Country, with Santa Cruz's **D.A. Bob Lee** charging more felonies against OSC activists than any other city, including Oakland and New York. Estimated cost: \$100,000 and rising.

## Rainyday Arraignments

**Robert Norse, Gabriella Ripleyhelpps & Alex Darocy**

701 Ocean St. 8 AM Wednesday February 29<sup>th</sup> Dept. 7

Criminal Coffee and Conspiracy Cookies

Near the Coffee Cart in the Breezeway Between the Courthouse & the County Building

### Other Court Dates

- Arraignment: **Desiree Foster** 8:15 AM Dept. 7 Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Preliminary Hearing for **Becky Johnson** 8:30 AM Dept. 7 Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Jury Trial for **Gary Johnson** 9 AM Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> Dept. 2

### Other Local Protest and Solidarity & Events Actions:

- Occupy Education: Strike at UCSC, Tent University at Base of Campus March 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30 AM
- Protests and Workshops Throughout the Day: Possible Homeless Encampment March 1<sup>st</sup>
- March Against Foreclosure Fraud March 11<sup>th</sup> 1 PM Courthouse steps on Water St.
- April 1 National Day of Action for the Homeless Right to Exist: Housekeys not Handcuffs TBA

*OSC* meets Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6 PM, Saturdays 2 PM on the steps of the County courthouse; Sundays at Main Post Office

More on *OSC* at <http://occupysantacruz.org/> & <http://www.facebook.com/groups/occupysantacruz/>

*HUFF* meets Wednesdays 10 AM to noon at the Sub Rosa Cafe at 703 Pacific Ave.

*Free Radio Santa Cruz* Updates Sundays 9:30 AM to 1 PM, 6 PM- 8 PM, Tuesdays 6-9 PM, Thursdays 6-8 PM 427-3772

Flier by Norse of *HUFF* (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 [www.huffsantacruz.org](http://www.huffsantacruz.org) 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 2-28-12