



Activist David Silva (left) and Ken Cole address the memorial service.



Billy Godwin plays guitar at the gathering.

In Memory of Those Outside Who Died This Year

by Alene Smith

A foggy day in Santa Cruz added to the solemn seriousness and tinge of sadness on this annual day of attention to the socially pathological reality of fellow humans dying because they had no shelter. The question on everyone's lips was: "Why so many?"

Article 25.1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself (herself) and of his (her) family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

Including... **HOUSING? YES! HOUSING, HOUSING, HOUSING, HOUSING! Hello?**

It was bittersweet, halfway through the memorial ceremony

honoring the 41 homeless people who died on the streets of Santa Cruz this past year, to see and feel the blessed sun shine through, warming our spirits a bit. A number of people at our Santa Cruz County day of mourning and remembering spoke eloquently, passionately, heartfully, to the issues surrounding this grim reality, and paid verbal homage to those they knew who had died on the streets last year. Ken Cole, director of the Homeless Services Center, facilitated the gathering and introduced the speakers. Several community leaders paid attendance in silent respect at the event, which was held at the Homeless Shelter and Community Center.

Billy Godwin closed the ceremony honoring and remembering the needless deaths of too many homeless people in Santa Cruz County. Billy is homeless himself, yet struggles on with a loving spirit, extending friendship with his guitar and songs.