

1984-Style Laws Hit Vulnerable Homeless Women

- **Don't read 1984 on the Pacific Avenue sidewalk or its side streets if seated on the sidewalk...**

If you're outside the small "Performance Pens" that "allow Free Speech" on less than 2% of the Pacific Avenue sidewalk, while merchants get 100% access to display their (illegal) advertising signs.

- **Don't read 1984 in any of the City's "public" parking lots or garages seated in your car...**

Just being there is a crime—other than to "park or retrieve a vehicle" or walk directly through. The 2007 **Ryan Coonerty** law makes it illegal for a mother to sit with her children, read a book or wait for a friend.

- **Don't try reading 1984 aloud on City Council grounds or at the downtown library after closing...**

Where female Freedom Sleepers were cited for exercising the right to peaceably assemble there.

- **Don't try reading 1984 while standing on the levee path along the San Lorenzo riverbank...**

Because the Parks and Recreation Rangers may tell you to "move along" or be cited—if you look homeless.

- **Don't try reading 1984 near the library, in the parks, or in the Pogonip if you look poor...**

Because "security thugs" make poor women feel unwelcome and may confiscate survival gear.

- **Don't try reading 1984 in a tent during the day in San Lorenzo Park, even if the weather is cold...**

Helpful Rangers will press you to take down your survival gear and expose yourself to the elements...

- **Don't try reading 1984 under the bridges while trying to get out of the rain...**

Because the 'homeless removal' "mosquito" sonic devices will make you ill to evict you.

- **Don't bother to try to read 1984 outdoors at Westside Safeway or a Mission St. café...**

They've removed or restricted outside seating to drive away homeless "loiterers".

- **Don't try to read 1984 in one of the Westside laundromats...**

Homeless women trying to wash and dry your clothes after a deluge are apparently not welcome.

- **Don't dare to read 1984 in the Public Library during the day or outside at night...**

Councilmember Terazzas and Mathews' rules and laws may ban you from there without trial.

- **Don't try to read 1984 to your children in your vehicle at night...**

Sleeping with your family in a vehicle is a crime on any public street or parking lot in Santa Cruz.

- **Don't try reading 1984 in a public bathroom after midnight...**

No public restrooms open at night in Santa Cruz, and the portapotties aren't disabled-accessible.

- **Don't leave your copy of 1984 in a tent during the day if you're outside San Lorenzo Park...**

City disposal crews may haul it and your tent away unless you're one of the lucky 10% allowed in the park.

- **Don't try entering the Bookstore Santa Cruz to read 1984 in the city-funded bathroom...**

Owners Casey Coonerty Protti, Ryan Coonerty, and Neal Coonerty banned female activists for protesting Coonerty's repressive laws, & stopped "the banned" from using publicly funded restroom facilities there.

Anti-homeless laws & policies impact women, children, the aged, & the disabled most severely.

Last year **Bookshop Santa Cruz** sponsored a public reading of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* while banning disfavored activists. **Casey Coonerty** previously prosecuted a low-income woman, **Susan Worth**, for trespass for using the publicly-funded bathroom there costing her hundreds in fines.

Coonerty continues to wring fines from Worth for daring to use the supposedly public facility.

Isn't it time to end our local 1984 policies?