PRUPERT   HALL

; COMMISSION MEETING

LATION BOOTH" FOR SMOKERS
HAMBER WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL
VO SMOKING LAW FOR PUBLIC
VOLUNTEERED TO SEE HOW IT WORKS.

he Editor

Appreciation

Again this year we would like to thank the employees of Denny's restaurant for a wonderful Christmas party with Santa, refreshments and gifts.

And most of all we would like to thank our more than 0 volunteers who come all year long to play bingo, go on utings, help with arts and crafts, help with parties and nake sure we're not forgotton....Thank you.

Thank you to Los Pacificans, Fifty Plus, Church of lighlands, Betta Sigma Phi, St. Peter's Church, Lutheran hurch, Baptist Church, Lions and Lioness, Seniors In Ac-on, Hazel Velez, Grace Schlevie, Rita Baca, Annette fuller and to everyone who just gives us a thought now nd then.

Flow Dickow
Activities Director
Linda Mar Convalescent Hospital

Protecting

ct this beauty so that future generations may also en-y this magnificent, unique natural setting.

We hope that Pacificans will help each other unders-nd that tearing up the hills with off-road vehicles is a ry harmful type of recreation. We thank the Tribune r reporting this situation and hope the paper will con-

Paul Azevedo

The Reactor

Rights—Ours' and Society's

A man named Goetz got famous and jailed, in that order, for having a gun with him in the New York sub-way. He used it to shoot four teen-agers who allegedly threatened him with sharpened screwdrivers. Goetz is be-ing cheered by a lot of people, criticized by some others

I hope that Goetz is punished, not for the shooting, which was well-justified, but for carrying a gun, which was not. The teen-agers ought to be punished as well, because they too, were carrying deadly weapons, and evidently they planned to use them for wrong purposes.

The person who aggressively tries to threaten or in-timidate another person with a deadly weapon, by that action has forfeited his own right to life. Simple as that. The minute the teen-agers threatened to use their sharpen-ed screwdrivers, which are deadly weapons, their rights went down the drain.

On the other hand, Mr. Goetz had no right to carry a gun on the subway. Carrying a gun in such an environ-ment threatens everyone, even if only by accident. Far more people are hurt by gun accidents in such a situation than are protected by the weapons being there.

Ernest Joiner, who makes his living as the publisher of the *Sebastopol Times* and his fame as the writer of outrageous opinions, objects to mandatory seatbelt laws as an unwarranted infringement on his rights. "I choose not to wear seatbelts while driving my car", he says. Smoking, drinking to excess, and driving without seatbelts are all part of an attitude that says "society has no right to control what I choose to do to myself." I would agree with that attitude except that when the seatbelt wearer is squashed all over his windshield, or thrown from and crushed by his own car, who pays for the ambulance, the police investigation, the hospital equipment? With taxes or by higher medical insurance, we all do. Have you notic-ed the cost of medical insurance these days. It's astronomical. And a large part of it is devoted to paying the price of unbelted drivers, overbelted drinkers, and smokers who should have quit years ago, the better to serve as good examples to their children, who smoke far more often that the children of nonsmokers.

Ask not by whom the seatbelt is unused. If it is unus-ed by thee, that lack of use is costly to a whole society.

When you don't buckle, you add to my problems, and vice versa.

Joiner's newspaper reports some familiar problems. Evidently life in Sebastopol has similarities to Pacifica. A crumbling length of old sewer line under Bodega Avenue is "a keg of dynamite" according to the head of Sebastopol public works.

The Odd Fellows have installed an electric chair, which turns out to be an elevator substitute. And Sebastopol merchants are kicking off their Apple Blossom Moonlight Sale in April, at about the same time that the Apple Blossom Queen is being chosen. Perhaps Pacifica merchants should put on a Dream Time Moonlight Sale to go along with the Rotary Dream Girl Pageant.

Hey, that's not a bad idea.

Grace McCarthy

Space for