

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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Column #128

Hear Our Voice – Part 8



### THE BATHROOM BATTLE VS. FECES ON THE FOOTPATH

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**PRACTICING** intersectional feminism is the Pink Pussyhat Movement's recommended 5<sup>th</sup> Action.

If you've been participating in this series that's greening America's grassroots during the Trump administration's first 100 days (the Honeymoon Period) in office, you'll find this action entitled "Reflect and Resist" challenging.

It means seeing sexuality from other-than-one perspective, starting with the multi-faceted LGBTQI+ issue that includes questions about bathrooms non-traditional-gender persons should and can legally use.

My perspective on this national bathroom battle is confined to the Monterey Peninsula.

#### Bathrooms For All Or None

On a February afternoon at Scholze Park Community Center in New Monterey, Sunny Fawcett asked, "How do you think a homeless person feels when he or she needs to use a bathroom and there is none?"

"I cannot imagine!"

"It's not pleasant," said the veteran survivalist redhead who sleeps in her car, wears a signature flower in her hair, and carries a legal pad everywhere. "When people have to go, they have to go."

"I can imagine it's not pleasant."

"It is a crime against humanity. You should write about it."

"I will, if you tell me what to write."

Sunny advised, "Say that every city on the peninsula should have public toilets that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

I promised to write about the need for accessible toilet facilities, looked up the topic online, and discovered some wealthy businesspersons actually carry private toilets in briefcases known as "Portable Water Closets."

Then I forgot about it until an e-mail came last week.

## **News From Next Door**

Next Door is an online neighborhood watch program in which residents swap local news, share for-sale ads, and place lost-pet alerts or warnings to others in the area.

About three weeks ago, the subject of homeless persons' belongings being dumped in and near Laguna Grande Park led to a dialogue among neighbors. It came to a "jail'em or spoil 'em" politically charged argument that climaxed with a post last week from a young woman who shock-started my memory.

I'd forgotten my promise to Sunny to write about the desperate need for public toilets for the homeless. Simple genderless one-seaters would do!

Basically, the young mother said she was out walking on the rec trail near the beach "when I came across human feces on the footpath. I know it was human because shreds of toilet paper were with it. It was disgusting and that sort of thing can ruin the tourism industry in Monterey."

A small firestorm of comments followed, ranging from "people who desecrate public property should be arrested" to more sympathetic responses like "toilets and shower facilities should be made available."

I thought, "Sunny Fawcett could have written that."

Perhaps she did!

## **Equal Bathroom Rights For All**

Just a week ago, at the Monterey Planning Commission meeting where the yet-to-be-resolved issue of overlaying locations on the city map for potential Emergency Homeless Shelters was debated, a representative of the hospitality industry said the homeless (who urinate and defecate) on the streets of Monterey are causing tourists to leave.

He did not say whether they carry their own portable water closets.

To which I think I heard someone say, "Public toilet facilities are needed."

Was it the voice of Sunny Fawcett echoing in my mind?

This brings me back to Action 5 and intersectional feminism: Despite our differences, we all have one thing in common, whether we're straights, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, queers or simply in between or beyond such descriptions.

We are all humans, and we need to use restrooms.

If you want to continue participating in the 10 Actions of the First 100 Days, I suggest you study Action 5 at [www.womensmarch.com](http://www.womensmarch.com) and then decide whether to join me in voicing your opinion on the public bathroom issue in Monterey. Do it now, before the next overlay is recommended by the planning commission in the near future.

Address a postcard to: Mayor Clyde Roberson, Monterey City Hall, 580 Pacific St., Monterey, CA 93940.

Copy the intersectional (transgender, meaning male and female) picture shown here and/or write: "Support public toilets. Genderless one-seaters OK."

You don't need to be female or live in Monterey to participate.

## **After The Ides Of Trump?**

So, what happened as a result of last week's "Ides of Trump" POTUS postcard protest party?

Rumors have it that some peninsula post offices sold out of postcards and 34-cent stamps as people fired the new president during his seventh week in office.

Check it out for yourself at <http://elisabethparker.com/ides-of-trump-postcards/> or the Ides of Trump website of your choice.

What's coming after the Trump honeymoon ends April 30? Will divorce follow? Stay tuned.

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