

Find Common Ground (Letter to Santa Cruz Sentinel 7/9/05)

Splitting this county is a terrible idea, but thanks to Dale Skillicorn for the shock effect of putting it out there. The challenges to communication and cooperation we face here are a microcosm of those that face our whole country- ever- poorer vs. ever- richer, rural vs. urban, immigrant vs. native- born, Christian vs. secular, NASCAR v. NPR, red vs. blue. These difference don't slice us conveniently down the middle; they slice us every which way. Learning to communicate and cooperate across barriers of difference is a principal challenge we Americans face today. If we can't meet that challenge here in beautiful Santa Cruz County, the prospects for our country are grim beyond imagining. So thanks, but no thanks to Skillicorn. Lets start looking for the common ground and make darn sure we find it.