

Budget Cuts Dealt With Humanely (Letter to Santa Cruz Sentinel 7/9/08)

Thanks to the supervisors and hard-working county staffers whose commitment to community well-being produced a humane and creative response to the threatened draconian budget cuts. They found ways to preserve most of our county's impressive array of services to the neediest. In doing so, they struck a blow for fundamental human rights and did us proud.

Seldom mentioned during the state's latest "fiscal crisis," however, has been the gorilla in the room. Budget cuts for essential public services result, not from the laws of nature, but from four decades of wildly irresponsible government. Since 1968 our public revenues, like our reputation in the world, have been recklessly squandered on the insane projects of world domination by military force, massive incarceration of the citizenry and the "privitization" of practically everything. If we don't stand up, speak out and oblige our state and federal legislators to change all three of those directions, we will never again see peace, prosperity or genuine security in this country.