

## **BOARDWALK PASSES ALSO GOOD AT BORDER**

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### **Body**

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Ken and Joan Cole didn't expect problems when they took a vacation trip to Victoria, B.C. How hard could it be to drive across the **border** into friendly Canada?

In their case, hard.

It was a busy Friday afternoon, recalls Ken, who directs Santa Cruz's Homeless Services Center. In a long line of cars, they inched their way to the **border**. There, a guard checked the Coles' IDs, and then pointed to their 10-and 6-year-old children in the back seat. "May I see their passports or birth certificates?" the guard inquired. Oops. "I didn't know they needed any," Ken confessed. "We didn't bring birth certificates or anything." The guard directed them to an immigration officer in a nearby building. "Our vacation began to sink at that point," Ken says. Familiar Canada suddenly seemed like a much more foreign country, and they were across the line.

In the office, they were met by a stone-faced immigration official. "If our children's services officers were to take your children into custody, how are you going to prove they're yours?" he asked the Coles. Pawing frantically through wallet and purse, the Coles looked for documentation. The children's HMO cards? No photos; no **good**.

"But then at the back of my wallet I found the Endless Summer **passes** to the Santa Cruz Beach **Boardwalk** that we'd bought for the family," Ken says. "They had digital photos on them." The official looked them over and, after checking some data on a computer, relented and finally let the Coles continue on their way.

"It was pretty awful to live through," says Ken, embarrassed, "but it's seeming more humorous with the passage of time. My wife isn't much for publicity, but she thought if we shared our experience it might save other travelers some trouble."

Canada enforces its **border** policies strictly, and although U.S. passports aren't required, some form of photo ID is - even for children, especially if there's suspicion parental custody issues might be involved in the **border** crossing. I hadn't thought of that. The Coles think of it now.

And about that surprise ID: "We're heading back to the **boardwalk** shortly," Ken concludes, "to renew our **passes**."

AROUND AND ABOUT: Talk about a meaningful location for Friday's visit by Yolanda King, the eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She will participate in a 4 to 6 p.m. book-signing at the new main San Jose library named in honor of her dad.

The California Alliance of African American Educators, meanwhile, has something special set for Saturday at the San Jose Airport Hyatt: what's billed as the state's only all African-American science fair. Seventy students will be competing for Dr. Frank S. Greene Scholars Program awards and shots at scientific careers.

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QUESTION MAN: Speaking of careers, Ron Schwartz wonders if it's true that when ex-Gov. Gray Davis came here for the Democratic convention "he looked over San Jose the same way another ex-governor looked over Oakland?" Scary thought, but all it takes is a moving van. It worked for former Sunnyvale guy Ron Gonzales.

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