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### All About Marin: Film explores clash between hikers and bikers

Staff Report  
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FOR NEARLY 30 years, the narrow trails up and down Marin's hillsides have been a battleground over which mountain bikers and hikers have gone toe to toe, or tire to boot.

Most of the political battles have been won by hikers, but many mountain bikers shrug off prohibitions and ride the trails anyway. Or, bikers create their own rogue trails on public lands, such as the course near Fairfax that was recently discovered and closed down.

"Singletrack Minds," a new documentary by a San Rafael couple, tries to make sense of this clash over paradise. Jason Watkins and Wendy Todd spent two years filming activity along the trails, interviewing bikers and hikers and leaders on both sides of the issue.

A preview of their film can be seen on their Web site: [www.poisonoakproductions.com](http://www.poisonoakproductions.com).

Watkins, who worked in Lucasfilm's documentary division and now works at Pixar Animation Studios, and Todd are both hikers and bikers. The film, their first, doesn't take sides. It is designed to foster "conversation" toward resolving the conflict, she said.

She noted that in many other areas, such as Bend, Ore., there don't seem to be the same clashes between hikers and bikers.

"They are

sharing trails. There doesn't seem to be an issue," Todd said.

But in the Marin, the

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birthplace of the mountain bike, it has become a dog fight.

And it's going to take more than their film to settle the conflict, said Larry Minikes, a leader of the Tamalpais Conservation Club who was interviewed for the film. He credits Watkins and Todd with providing a balanced view.

Mountain bike legends Gary Fisher, Charlie Kelly and Wende Cragg are also interviewed.

The couple has entered its film in several film festivals.

The shiny white Lexus SUV with "SUPRVZR" on its license plates is being driven by Marin Supervisor Judy Arnold, who got the appropriate plates from her kids.

North Bay officials are taking a second look at the \$82.4 million in state cash won in a hard-fought battle over state highway funds.

The California Transportation Commission earmarked the millions for extending the 101 carpool lanes from Highway 37 north to Atherton Avenue.

Now, there's serious talk of asking the state to use some of that money for safety improvements along the Novato Narrows. For instance, that work could include closing crossings and planning for overpasses and frontage roads.

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