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## Argus, The (Fremont-Newark, CA)

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**Section:** Local News

### Argus: Local newspaper or 100-eyed creature?

*Staff Writer: Robert Airoidi*

FREMONT -- The Argus. It's the name of dozens of newspapers across the county, but few people know what the name means.

"I have no idea," said Rachel Madany, when asked what an Argus is and where the name comes from.

"I thought it was just the name of our local newspaper," Audra Garcia said.

But the name has ancient origins.

Argus -- also known as Panoptes, which means "all-seeing" -- was a giant monster in Greek mythology.

The creature had 100 eyes --

only two of which could be closed at a time -- and was known as a "watchful guardian," an apt name for a newspaper, said Alexander Kozak, graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley.

"It tells the reader you're keeping an eye on everything," Kozak said. "It's a good name for a news organization."

According to The Random House College Dictionary, Argus is "an observant, vigilant person."

As the mythological story goes, Zeus was having an affair with the beautiful princess Io. To keep the affair a secret from his wife and to avoid her wrath, Zeus turned Io into a cow. But Hera, Zeus' wife, discovered the identity of the cow, and assigned Argus to guard her hated rival so Zeus could not turn her back into the beautiful princess.

But Zeus became enraged and ordered Hermes, also known as Mercury, to kill Argus.

Mercury, disguising himself as a shepherd, bored Argus with long-winded stories without a beginning or an end. He beguiled him with song and eventually lulled him to sleep by playing tunes on a shepherd's pipe, before killing him.

Hera honored Argus by placing his 100 eyes on the tail of a peacock, her favorite animal.

The Argus newspaper was founded in 1960 by a Newark woman and delivered every Wednesday to Newark's 5,000 homes. In 1966, it became a daily and expanded to include Fremont and Union City.

Are there sites or issues you are curious about? Contact Robert Airoidi at (510) 353-7011 or [rairoidi@angnewspapers.com](mailto:rairoidi@angnewspapers.com), or send your story idea to "Ever Wonder?" at The Argus, 39737 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, 94538.

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