

Fairs to 1989

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Merchants' Pros And Cons About Fair

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Some strong feelings on the pros and cons of last weekend's Spring Fair on the mall were aired this morning at a well-attended meeting of the Downtown Association.

In the end, there was a general feeling that the event is a good one and should be tried again next year, but that more supervision is needed.

Major complaints were that there was too much selling by

artists and craftsmen, a lack of environmental displays, and a large number of "hippie types" attended.

However, merchant Peter Schipper said the whole philosophy of the fair is "to bring people together" and it should be recongized there are some so-called hippies here and they "are part of our community."

He said as an organizer of the event he "realizes there were a lot of mistakes made." However, Schipper added, such

things as damage to plants on the mall are being rectified through groups like the UCSC Garden Project, which is replacing injured plants.

Many of the merchants felt their colleagues must share some of the blame for any negative results from the fair because few attended planning meetings.

President Frank Trowbridge asked merchants to mail their criticisms and compliments about the fair to P.O. Box 1384,

Santa Cruz, so the association can take a positive approach to next year's fair, if one is held.

Hal Morris, a merchant who termed the fair a "great event," said merchants should not look upon the fair in terms of how much business a store did. "What is done in the spring often leads to summer results," he said but added that a better policing job should be done in planning next year's event.

Barry Hutchison, owner of a restaurant in the downtown area, said he heard "good comments" about the fair and added it drew persons from San Francisco, San Jose and Monterey, including elderly, to Santa Cruz.

Burke Pease, of the Santa Cruz County Convention and Visitors Bureau, noted that a travel writer from the San Gabriel Valley was "overly enthusiastic" about the fair and added that two television presentations on it "were well done and presented a good image for Santa Cruz."

Chuck Abbott, who was instrumental in having the mall built, said that effort was made to bring people downtown. "But it took a 22-year-old young man to get them down here and I think he should be commended for it."

Abbott was referring to Chuck Kent, coordinator of the fair, who said it's up to downtown merchants whether to have the fair again. He said more community and merchant participation in planning a future event would be "very welcome."

Despite some other criticisms that the fair was a "flea market," that there was an over-emphasis on "pure nature" in some of the displays and bare-chested men were selling food on the mall, some of the 40 merchants present indicated they would go for the fair again. But they want a stronger voice in its supervision.

Chamber Board Backs High School Tax Hike

Passage of the Santa Cruz High School District's proposed 45-cent override June 1 was unanimously endorsed Monday by directors of the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce.

The board, however, didn't indicate whether it plans to have its staff organize support for the issue, as was done in the successful passage of a 1968 override. But it did say \$314 held in trust since that election could be used to help get the new override passed.

Superintendent Carl Wilsey told directors progress has been made since the 1968 override, but added that the two previous years the district had a tax rate of 85 cents is being felt.

Dr. Wilsey said the district has been "closely watching" its budget, but noted dollars spent per pupil in the high school district are below the state average.

Dr. Wilsey continued that business and industrial firms often look at the quality of local education before deciding where to locate.

Dr. Wilsey said the override would strengthen vocational-technical training as well as

books, supplies; employ teachers to meet increases in student population; better maintain buildings, grounds and transportation facilities, and provide for needed new programs.

In other business, directors, with few reservations, approved an 11-point U.S. Chamber of Commerce policy on health care. The policy calls for the patient to continue bearing some of the responsibility in paying for medical bills, in opposition to a bill being presented by Sen. Ted Kennedy that generally asks for a nationalized health care program.

Widow Of Famed Irish Tenor Dies

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—Lily Countess McCormack, widow of Ireland's most famous tenor, John McCormack, died Monday in a Dublin nursing home. She was 84.

Supervisors Freeze Aptos Rezonings

A freeze of any new rezonings which might add to sewage loads in the Aptos area was ordered this morning by county supervisors.

The action was taken at the request of the Local Agency Formation Commission because the Aptos Sanitation District's treatment plant is nearing capacity. The LAFC has already slapped a freeze on any annexations to the district.

County supervisors' action is similar to that taken in the East Cliff Sanitation District, which covers the Capitola-Live Oak area. The East Cliff plant also must be enlarged.

The county plans to enlarge the Aptos treatment plant if it can get state approval.

Eventually the sewage would be taken to Santa Cruz and dumped through the Santa Cruz outfall line into the ocean.

The zoning freeze would last until actual construction begins on enlarging the treatment plant. There have been rezonings in the Live Oak area since the freeze was imposed there.