

MAYORS

Rotkin named mayor after Weed declines

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SANTA CRUZ — UC Santa Cruz lecturer Michael Rotkin, also known as the city's first socialist mayor, was again selected mayor Tuesday by a 4-3 vote of the City Council.

Rotkin was selected as the city's 64th mayor after Councilwoman Jane Weed declined a nomination by Rotkin for her to take the post.

Weed said afterwards she was "sad" and "disappointed" to have to turn down the nomination. But, the mother of two young sons said her family and other city council projects have to take priority.

Weed was selected vice-mayor for another term on a 4-3 vote. Dissenting were Arnold Levine, Katy Sears-Williams and Joe Ghio.

"I really did want to be mayor," Weed told a reporter. But, besides tending to her children, aged 4 and eight months, she plans to work on issues such as criminal justice, toxic

materials and energy management. She is also the chairwoman of the Community Action Board.

Also "disappointed" was Councilman Arnold Levine, a candidate for the position of mayor and vice-mayor.

Levine was supported by Sears-Williams and Ghio. His supporters felt he should be selected partly because he was the top vote-getter by a handsome margin in the 1983 election, and has not served as mayor since then.

Supporters also felt Levine would de-politicize the position of mayor.

"I was disappointed, but it (the 4-3 vote) was what I expected," Levine commented.

After listening to opening remarks as mayor by Rotkin, Levine said he had the impression council majority members felt "I couldn't honestly and fairly represent all the thinking on the council."



Michael Rotkin

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Rotkin

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Levine took issue with the remarks. Rotkin seems "off-base," said Levine.

Levine added: "When it comes to fairness, being honest, and playing the role of devil's advocate, I place myself at the head of the line."

"Of course," said Levine, he will support Rotkin now that Rotkin has been chosen.

Levine said he hoped council majority members will be as open to opposite viewpoints "as they say they will."

In his opening remarks, Rotkin said he would have supported Levine as mayor if it were "simply" a matter of "trust" or "personality."

But, Rotkin said "5 percent" of council decisions are controversial and marked by "significant philosophical differences."

Rotkin said Levine may have difficulty "explaining to the public why the council has taken a particular course," particularly on divisive issues.

Rotkin did not espouse a political agenda. He pledged a term of cooperation.

He said his main duty will be to chair meetings of the council and to make it as easy as possible for the public to go through the bureaucracy.

"I will hold regular office hours. People can call me at home," said Rotkin.

His phone number is 423-4209.

Also, the new mayor promised, "We're not just going to sit here and debate things, but actually get some things done."

Rotkin sported a neatly-trimmed beard and haircut, sport coat and sport shirt with no tie. Weed wore a

black suit with a fuschia blouse.

In her farewell address, Wormhoudt called on the council and public to capitalize on the diversity in the community, rather than viewing diverse viewpoints as a drawback.

"Let's enjoy our diversity. Let's embrace the fact we are constituted of many special-interest groups and realize that makes us a much stronger, healthier city," said Wormhoudt.

She characterized her year as mayor as "wonderful."

Wormhoudt praised council members for treating each other "with respect."

She praised the work of all city department heads. She gave special thanks to City Manager Richard Wilson and to mayor's office staff, Emma Solden and Judith Hillman and to council aide Marilyn Hanson.

Wormhoudt cited city accomplishments this year: progress on water and street projects; Economic Development Task Force; San Lorenzo River Task Force; Civic Auditorium renovation study; and remodeling project for old Front Street jail.

She noted on her first day as mayor agents from the Immigration and Naturalization Service "raided" the Hispanic Beach Flats neighborhood, "chasing people down the street and into their houses...the rights of many people were abused."

She noted the incident helped trigger establishment of a "historic" task force on immigration problems chaired by U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Monterey, and including representatives from the city and county.

"I'm proud to be associated with (the task force). I'm proud there hasn't been another raid, although I can't prove the task force has had anything to do with it," said Wormhoudt.