

Beiers picked for council ³⁻²⁹⁻⁸⁹

By DONALD MILLER
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Katherine Beiers, a 56-year-old marathon runner and UC Santa Cruz library administrator, was appointed to the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday night.

Beiers won a majority vote on a second ballot, when Councilman Don Lane, who had voted for John Mills on the first tally, changed his vote.

Beiers replaces Mo Reich on the council. Reich resigned last month, three months after being elected, after admitting he lied about sending an obscene valentine card to Scotts Valley Mayor Glennon Culwell.

Beiers was supported on both ballots by Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt, Councilman John Laird and Councilwoman Jane Yokoyama.

Councilmen Joe Ghio and John Mahaney voted for Susan Groff, who finished fifth in the council election for four seats last November.

After Beiers had won the majority vote, many in the Civic Auditorium crowd of 250 or so applauded. The applause soon was mixed, however, with chants of "recall" by others in the crowd, many of whom were dressed in shades of red and orange, a pre-arranged show of support for Groff.

Wormhoudt, Lane and Yokoyama are targets of a recall organized by defeated council candidate Steve Hartman, who had helped put together the show of support for Groff Tuesday night.

Despite the chants, the session went smoothly and quickly, with no debate by council members about the candidates or the voting.

Afterward, Beiers — currently chairwoman of the city Planning Commission, a post she will resign

before being sworn onto the council April 11 — said she had been nervous. "I am the world's worst predictor," she said.

Beiers, who first got involved in local politics in the 1974 drive to block a convention center at Lighthouse Field, said she didn't think her appointment would lead to any further divisions in the city's political climate. She also said she will vote independently, although critics have been saying she will only replace Reich as the council's fifth progressive.

"I don't think I'm predictable," Beiers said. "I don't think anyone can tell what side I'll be on."

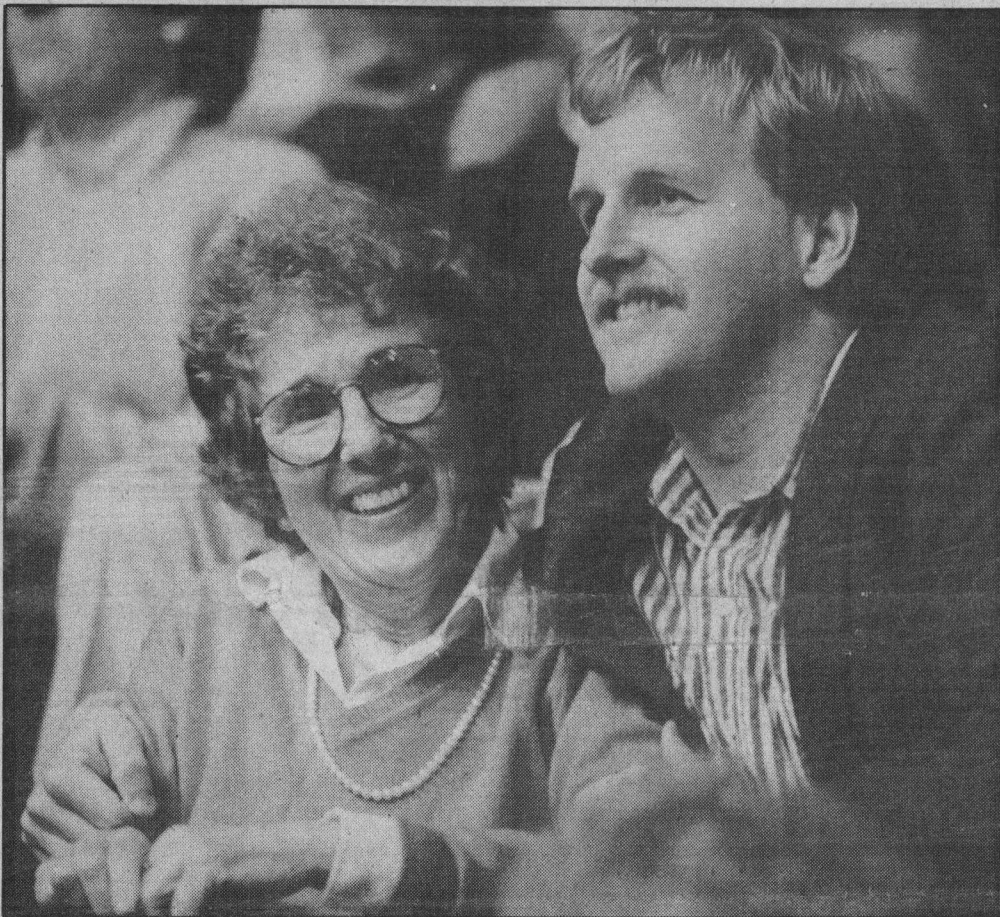
Wormhoudt said, "We appointed her because she's the best person to do the job." The mayor said that Beiers' experience on the Planning Commission, as well as the county Civil Service Commission, will allow her to "jump in" to council business immediately.

Although last week Beiers had said she had no ideas about economic development in the city, by Tuesday night she was saying the council has to work to "revitalize the (Pacific Garden) Mall ... it has to happen. It's the key to our community. We have to get (more) people on the mall."

Asked about UCSC growth, Beiers said, "I believe it's going to grow." She said she is looking forward to working with UCSC officials on growth-related issues. The council has worked hard to slow enrollment and other growth at UCSC.

She also said she had not read and could not comment on a recent list of requests by Wormhoudt that the university pay for 19 additional city police officers and a new fire engine company.

Beiers has three grown children and lives on the west side, up from



Photos By Dan Coyro/Sentinel

New council member Katherine Beiers and her son share a moment of triumph.

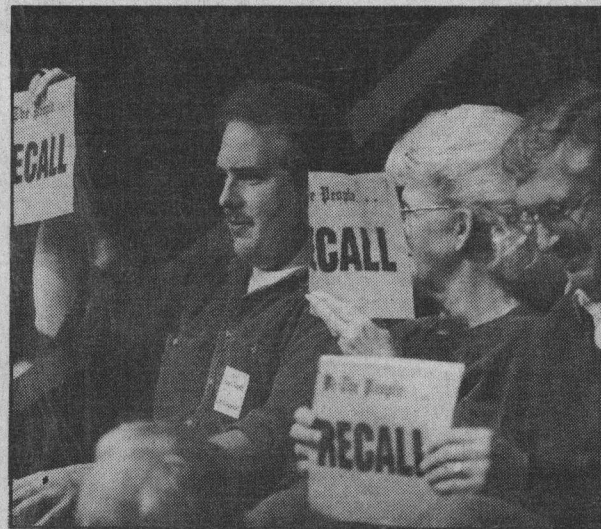
Lighthouse Field.

She said she will not, "absolutely not," state she is going to run for election in November 1990, when an election will be held to fill out the remainder of Reich's term. "I don't know," she said, adding "I have a full-time job."

Beiers was dressed in an orange sweater, which put her in the sartorial company of Groff's supporters. She laughed as she told how Groff had come up to her before the vote and thanked her for wearing the color.

Groff, for her part, said she was "thrilled" by the supporters who showed up. Asked if she expected to get the appointment, the outspoken downtown luggage store owner replied, "For heaven's sake, no. I

Please see **BEIERS** — A12



Sue Groff's supporters chanted 'Recall.'

Beiers/ Recall backers chant their displeasure

Continued from Page A1

knew it was fixed ahead of time."

Groff said Beier's appointment will not derail the recall effort, since she will be viewed as having done the "unforgiveable. She lied about her connection to SCAN." Beiers, asked last week by Mahaney to name the organizations she belonged to, omitted the Santa Cruz Action Network, the progressive political organization conservatives have tried to make controversial.

Beiers said Tuesday night she hadn't understood Mahaney's question and would have said yes, if asked directly about SCAN. "I was naive," she commented.

Councilman Ghio said that Beier's appointment was "just another divisive episode" in city politics and predicted it will give the recall more "momentum." Ghio said that recall petition bearers had been in his westside neighborhood recently and garnered more than 200 signatures on a weekday. "I was astonished," Ghio said.

He repeated earlier assertions that the only liberal or progressive candidate he could have supported was UCSC employee Robert Jor-

gensen, who, after being mentioned last week by several council members as a top candidate, was not even nominated for the appointment Tuesday night.

Asked if he had been pressured by the progressive majority to join in on a unanimous vote, Ghio replied, "Just peripherally. There may have been talk about, 'What if there could have been a unanimous vote?' It was not to be."

Councilman Lane, whose vote for Mills prolonged Beier's nomination to a second ballot, said he did not regret his support for the downtown delicatessen employee. "It was really important for me to say who I thought was the best choice."

On the second ballot, Lane said, it became "clear" Beiers was the only candidate who had the votes.

While some were pleased and others displeased about Beiers' selection, one losing candidate, Don Webber, offered a wry aside. Noting that he had lost in the election last fall and then applied for Reich's seat and been rejected, although he was nominated Tuesday by Mahaney, Webber observed, "I just figured out I'm a twice-failed politico — and I've only been in politics for six months."