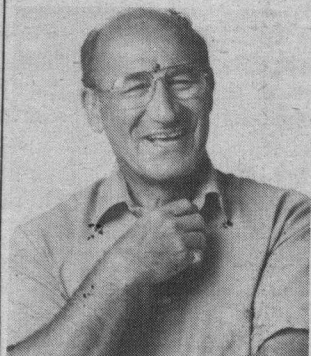


City Elections

# No Change in Council Make-Up



The winners: (from left) Arnold Levine, Katy Sears-Williams, Mike Rotkin and Jane Weed

THE environment and controlled growth won big in the Santa Cruz city election Tuesday as almost 57 percent of the voters — nearly twice the average in the county and many other municipalities — cast ballots evenly split between conservatives and progressives. In the city council race the decisive votes may have come from absentee ballots, which favored conservatives six to one (see related story).

In one of the largest turnouts in a city race during a non-general election year, voters maintained the four to three progressive city council majority, electing incumbent Mike Rotkin and Jane Weed while conservative candidates Arnold Levine and Katy Sears-Williams took first and second place in overall balloting.

Besides the university pre-

cincts, which showed heavy leanings toward progressives, and West Cliff precincts, whose majority support went to conservatives, other neighborhoods were generally split. Santa Cruzans bucked ideological lines frequently with progressive neighborhoods showing strong support for some conservative candidates and traditionally conservative enclaves splitting its votes as well.

City voters also dropped political differences by voting 71 to 28 percent in favor of Measure A, which requires

the city council to ask the UC regents and state lawmakers to withhold funding of UCSC's proposed high-tech park if it doesn't adhere to local planning laws. The proposition, whose backers were outspent four to one by opposing big business and out-of-town interests, was supported by all four progressives and opposed by the four conservatives.

The second progressive measure, a law that would prohibit the city from investing municipal funds in South Africa, won by a 20 percent

margin, surprising in light of how the progressives fared generally. This election marked the first time winning progressives have placed lower than first and second since their initial victories in 1979.

Progressive mayor Bruce Van Allen, by placing fifth, missed re-election by 34 votes. In total voting, the four conservative candidates received an aggregate 33,298 votes with the progressives a scant 745 votes behind.

Voter support for both Measure A and B and denial of the progressive slate may be indicative of the electorate's lack of confidence for candidates carrying the socialist moniker. Both Rotkin and Van Allen are socialists, and their progressive colleagues may have been viewed as socialists, too.

As elections in Santa Cruz continue to attract the attention of voters, so too do they attract an increase in money and mudslinging. Total spending for this election will likely top \$150,000 and the single campaign spending record has already been broken by top finisher Arnold Levine. He collected more than \$21,000 to gain the seat which pays \$50 per month.

Late "dirty" tactics this year included non-candidates slinging considerable mud for campaigning comrades. Conservative councilmember Spiro Mellis, at the behest of the All Santa Cruz Coalition, said progressives, if elected, would "(suspend) representative government in the city of Santa Cruz."

On the other side, progressive Jane Weed financed a mailer in which Sierra Club member Stephanie Harlan promised the destruction of the greenbelt and the imminent metamorphosis of Santa Cruz into "the next Silicon Valley," complete with polluted air and poisoned groundwater, if conservatives were elected. •

## Six Plays to Open

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