

Santa Cruz city election challenged

The results of the Nov. 8 election in the city of Santa Cruz were formally contested in Superior Court this morning.

Spurred by a Grand Jury assertion that at least 472 votes cast on the UC-Santa Cruz campus in the election were cast "illegally," a group of conservatives specifically challenged the election of Jane Weed to the City Council.

Ms. Weed received the fewest votes of the four candidates who were declared the winners of the four council seats up for election Nov. 8, she also was one of two so-called "progressives" — the other being Michael Rotkin — who won seats, which kept the progressives in control of the council by a 4-3 margin.

Santa Cruz attorney Tim Morgan, who filed the action today in the name of 22 Santa Cruz citizens, most of whom are prominent on the conservative side of city politics, noted that Ms. Weed received 1,484 of her total of 8,288 votes in the election from UCSC precincts. The suit adds that W.J. "Bill" Feiberling, a member of the conservative slate, received a total of 8,140 votes, only 155 of that from campus precincts.

Morgan is requesting the court to deduct the 472 "illegal" votes from the candidates shown to have received them and to declare as winner of the fourth

council seat, now held by Weed, the candidate who would then have the highest remaining number of legal votes cast in the election."

Morgan contends that such an action by the court would result in Weed being ousted and Feiberling being declared a winner, which would give the conservatives a 4-3 majority on the City Council.

"This would completely change the council majority that has existed for the last two years and would signal an end to the 'progressive' hold on city hall," he said.

In addition to Weed and Rotkin, "moderates" Arnold Levine and Katy Sears-Williams won council seats at last month's election.