

After the bike was fixed, the four met at a bar for a few VCF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RP 5/12/88

# Other candidates gang up on incumbent office-holder

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About 70 people turned out last night to listen to five challengers lambaste the record of Live Oak-Soquel Supervisor Dan Forbus, who has held the office, with one interruption, for 20 years.

Forbus was called ineffective, a poor representative of neighborhood concerns, incompetent, responsible for Live Oak blight, and lacking in foresight.

He was also charged with failing to solve traffic and parking problems in Soquel and with not supporting purchasing the O'Neill Ranch for a county park 10 years ago.

The forum, held at the Soquel Grange, focused on Live Oak and Soquel issues.

"My major goal this year is to retire Dan Forbus," said candidate Bob Taren, to loud applause. "We need new blood. We can no longer afford a supervisor who permits Live Oak to be a dumping ground."

While Forbus maintained that recently approved redevelopment monies "are the best thing that ever happened to Live Oak and Soquel," Taren said if Forbus took credit for redevelopment, he also had to take credit for the blight that qualified the area for redevelopment.

Taren said redevelopment, which will cost about \$20 million over 20 years, was a costly way to correct problems "that should have been fixed years ago at lower cost."

Jan Beautz, who refrained from direct criticism of Forbus for the most part, said, "Mr. Forbus has a lot of nerve to take credit for redevelopment." She claimed she had driven around with county officials, pointing out the blight so they could apply for funding.

She accused the Board of

Supervisors as a whole of lack of comprehensive planning for the area. "Everything has become a hodgepodge. It's (Live Oak) unlivable," Beautz said.

Forbus spent the evening defending his record and explaining that problems he had not solved were more complicated than his opponents thought.

He said Live Oak had been rezoned for higher density during 1977-78, the two years in the last 20 that he did not serve as supervisor. He said parking and traffic were serious problems in Soquel in part because Soquel residents were resisting the available solutions.

Traffic jams in downtown Soquel could be relieved with an extension of 41st Avenue through the O'Neill Ranch to Old San Jose Road, an option strongly opposed by Save Soquel, among others, or by widening Porter Street, an option opposed by some of the businesses lining that street, he said.

He said he had tried repeatedly to get the county to buy the O'Neill Ranch as a park, but had never been able to get the votes on the Board of Supervisors to appropriate the funds.

Candidates George Rentschler, Laurence Frommhagen and Gerald Larrabee also joined the blast-Forbus movement.

"How can we re-elect a supervisor who has failed to solve high-priority needs in 15 years?" demanded Rentschler, adding that Forbus should not hide behind the excuse that he was always outvoted on the

board. Rentschler said a more skilled supervisor would negotiate solutions to 1st District problems.

Rentschler also blasted Taren, saying he would "quickly fall into line with the board majority" led by Gary Patton.

Frommhagen said under Forbus' leadership Santa Cruz County risked becoming another Silicon Valley, and that the county needed to "hold the line" against major developments such as Wingspread and the housing tract proposed for the O'Neill Ranch.

Larrabee said he wanted to see a supervisor who took more care to inform constituents what was going on, and who would conduct more neighborhood meetings.

He also accused county residents of being "open-space paranoid."