

THE NEW SUPERVISORS

The county's governing body, the Board of Supervisors, has three fresh faces on it since last November's election. The three new members have diverse outlooks, but together they have given a new look to the board. Here, in three separate profiles, Sentinel Reporter Paul Beatty takes a look at the new supervisors.

Joe Cucchiara, The Detail Man

Joe Cucchiara is a stickler for detail. Exacting to a degree that in a short two months has nudged Chairman Gary Patton aside as the board's most intense overseer of county legislation and administration.

Patton comments, "He surprises me. I thought I did a thorough job of going over the agenda, but it never fails that before each meeting Joe comes up to me saying 'what about this and this and this?'"

Cucchiara explains it, "I focus on a professional and policy decision-making process rather than on a sheer political one: I view myself as a professional policy maker."

Cucchiara is surprising a lot of other people by getting to the office at eight o'clock in the morning — just like a normal working person.

It should be noted that his colleague, newly-elected Supervisor Robley Levy also gets to work at unpolitically early hours.

Cucchiara says, "I've had several people tell me they've never had an eight o'clock appointment with a board member before. With me, I either have an eight o'clock appointment outside the office, or I'm in there at about that time.

"I really see the need for board members to roll up their sleeves and take responsibility for managing the corporation of government. I certainly am making an attempt to do that — I feel it's important that I'm available."

He says he is aware that an individual supervisor shouldn't and can't take over management of county government. If nothing else, the rest of the board won't sit still for it.

"But, I think there should be a board member around to provide a link between the board and the public, at least for his or her own district.

"I see my responsibility is to be knowledgeable about the difficulties that either staff or department heads are experienc-

who is sweeping the floor and the condition of the broom."

Cucchiara wants to bring about a high level of harmony among the board, staff and department heads to work out problems and make solutions work.

His eager approach ruffles some feathers as planners and county analysts await each new recommendation and idea.

Workers are quick to say that each new concept can mean a lot of work in evaluation and that each new idea that gains a majority board approval can be a backbreaker.

It's been observed that the "surprise" element of Cucchiara's detailed analyses and new approaches makes him less effective than he could be. He's not yet learned to fold his ideas into the main course of county government in a way that will leave everyone thinking it was all part of the original directions.

His surprises bring resistance.

Other than that, Cucchiara has been a successful politician from the day he got active in election reform in this county in 1978.

Trained as an architect, the 33-year old man from Brookdale received commendations from the state elections office and the local Grand Jury for his investigation after a number of ballot boxes came partly unglued on their way to elections central.

On a few occasions, it appeared that Cucchiara himself was coming unglued as his banged his way through the maze of government. He came away with a reputation for tenacity and having a tendency to fly off the handle.

He dispelled the negative reputation in his 1980 campaign to unseat incumbent Supervisor Pat Liberty for the Fifth (San Lorenzo-Scotts Valley) District office.

Other than one argument with Watsonville Supervisor Wayne Moore that occurred last week in the executive suite, Cucchiara has been calm in deliberation,

...a profile

fessional approach, it drives the policy decision to a point beyond politics.

This is true, he says, even in those areas such as land use and water resources "where science is lagging behind the need for information.

"When the representative is faced with less than the ideal amount of scientific information, the community has to have faith in the person they have elected: faith that person will make a professional decision," Cucchiara said.

"In such cases," he states, "I will err on the side of conservatism because that

allows the necessary time for the science to develop to where you can make use of it to come to a more specific decision. If you don't take that time, you're making a mistake."

In speaking of this year's board of supervisors — a board that is trying to prove that politicians can respect each other and earn the respect of the community — Cucchiara says:

"I think the kind of harmony that goes on is based on our agreement to respectfully disagree and allow every board member to conduct his or her business in a way that person sees fit.

"That was the missing element of the old board and it allowed character assassination to take precedence over the content of issues."

He says, "The sheer quantity of the number of issues we've been able to deal with in one board meeting is a key example of the difference between the new board and the old. They would have gone on endlessly to cover the substantial material that we complete by 4:30 in the afternoon."

Cucchiara readily commends Chairman Patton for his administration of the board's business, saying, "It will be a tough act to follow, but I would certainly want to exercise that type of effectiveness when it comes my time to be chairman."

The financial monkey wrench that state and federal is throwing into local governments does not necessarily have to clog the wheels, Cucchiara believes.

"I think the spending limitation will curtail certain advanced planning that I would like to see done, but I don't see it as a crippling effect.

"I see it as an opportunity to re-evaluate what we now know as a service-oriented government and to take a shot at seeing if there are ways of doing our business differently.

"We're going to have to do things in ways we don't understand yet; ways involving more management efficiency, the integration of data processing into more areas and we're going to have to phase in new solutions to do more with



Wayne Moore talks from the right at board meetings

Wayne Moore:

Politics Without The Beanball

If universities gave degrees in conservatism, Supervisor Wayne Moore would have a Ph.D in that discipline.

He studies it as a science and embraces it as a political religion.

"The essence of the conservative mind," Moore expounds, "is that it accepts the fact that evil exists and that it has to be dealt with.

"I think it stems back to the religious concept that there is evil on this earth and because conservatives understand that, they believe they are best equipped to deal with it."

Moore says conservatives are not less compassionate and certainly not as guilt-ridden as liberals.

"Conservatives are equally open-hearted to the plight of the underprivileged and the poor, but we are probably more hard-hearted toward the plight of people who have gotten themselves into an underprivileged or poverty situation because of their own deeds.

"We don't feel the obligation to feed every mouth or care for every human when these people are capable of caring

"It's those who are incapable that the conservative feels for and is willing to help out. That is the point that President Reagan is trying to make in his budget cuts, to cut out those people who could help themselves, but simply won't," Moore says.

Concerning guilt:

"Conservatives don't feel guilt either individually or collectively when they know they personally were not responsible. I do not feel guilt for past wrongs that our country has supposedly committed. I feel that only the people who were living at that time had the right or opportunity to decide what course of action to take.

"For me, two to three generations later, to feel guilt is sheer lunacy," Moore states.

He strongly supports President Reagan's position in El Salvador, saying, "Because I am a reserve Army officer and a historian, it's clear to me that very few lands taken over by communism have ever returned to the Democratic fold.

"I believe the president sees us as

democracy in El Salvador to resist outside interference from the forces of oppression."

In his performance at board meetings, Moore generally has not assumed the fighting stance of former conservatives and treats his liberal opposition in a gentlemanly way.

"I just don't find any thrill in calling anyone any names. It's unprofessional and as a student of British politics, it's unheard of to attack an opponent personally. To rip him on the issue is all right, but not to attack his personality.

"People like hardball politics, but when you go for the beanball, they don't like that," Moore says.

Of the board, "The basic fault I'm finding with the board, and it is a left-over fault, is that we continue to run our business from a majority-minority approach. And, it's too bad because county government should be conducted on an issue-by-issue basis.

"It's a foregone conclusion on 90 percent of the votes what the outcome is

her own district.
"I see my responsibility is to be knowledgeable about the difficulties that either staff or department heads are experiencing. And, as a policy maker for the function of government, I should know

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Robley Levy Remains True To Her Principles

County Supervisor Robley Levy is a feminist lady in a world where the two personae are incompatible.

She is reserved, even unemotional, in her public demeanor, a personal approach that stands in marked contrast to the emotional outspokenness of the woman who immediately preceded her as representative of the Aptos-Capitola district.

Where former Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat was in the midst of frequent board battles, Levy on the few occasions the new board has gotten excited, waits patiently until the ruffled feathers are smoothed and then makes her point.

Often the point carries a subtle barb to remind her colleagues that they were endangering issue with rhetoric.

From her two months' performance on the board, it is clear that Levy casts her own vote. On land use issues, her vote makes up the majority power for the environmentalists, but there have been exceptions.

She appears unyielding on principle. Recently she abstained from approving travel allowance for a revered local chaplain because the seminar "is primarily of a religious nature and I don't feel that's a proper spending of public funds," Levy explains.

She remains a quiet person for a Santa Cruz politician and views herself as "unquotable," ending her interviews with apologies and statements as "Maybe next time I'll have snappier answers."

During her campaign last fall she lamented that it "lacked drama."

While undramatic, her campaign blandly forced former Sheriff Doug James to defend his record as chief law enforcement officer a few years back and Levy swept into office on his explanations.

As all county supervisors seem to discover on taking office, she finds the job is bigger and more demanding than it appeared from the outside.

"It's the complexity. The degree of complexity is beyond what you anticipate, both in quantity and quality; you have to move from subject to subject before you have all the time you want to delve into the issues completely," Levy says.

The qualitative complexity comes with the extended duties of a supervisor.

In Levy's instance it involves appointments to the Central Coast Commission, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the Health Services Agency Board, the Mental Health Advisory Board, the Transportation Commission, the Sanitation Commission and the Area Council on Aging.

"That is a nice fat package," she quips, then adds, "but maybe you shouldn't put it exactly that way when you write it."

A large part of her office's work is responding to concerns and problems of people in her district.

"You can't know until you get here of the number of constituent calls, but it is one of the immediate pleasures when you solve those problems for people," she says.

The problems include getting a stop sign installed to stopping traffic from traveling into people's yards and putting sandbags up so that erosion from someone else's yard doesn't flow next door, she says.

In her constituent and legislative work, Levy has the help of two aides, her former campaign manager Nicki Pecchinino and Stephanie Hauk, former aide to then-Assemblyman Henry Mello and what many call the best legislative aide in the county.

Levy says that even with the "excellent" help she gets, the workload would have prevented her from taking office when her three children were smaller.

Two are grown "and out there in the world" and her youngest, a daughter, is in her last year in high school "and very involved in school activities."

She adds, "My husband gives me a lot of support, or I probably couldn't do the job."

Levy, along with millions of her sisters, has lived the circumstance of a woman with talent and ability and the primary demand of raising a family.

Among the millions, she points out, are about half the wives and mothers in the nation who need incomes to keep the homes and families together.

"I have the deepest respect for those women who manage to do their jobs well out here when they have younger families," Levy states.

She believes that flexible hours and other workplace adjustments would be advantageous to industry and women workers.

Of women in politics and high position, she says, "It's not an oddity for women to be in high position of influence in local government."

She recognizes that there were few women in the last election seeking office (three of over 20 candidates) "but that's a matter of women being encouraged."

Of government's obligation, Levy's priorities are "you have to provide protective services, fulfill the state mandated programs and serve the local community needs."

Funds are tight, and she says that programs for the elderly and child care must come first.

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CUCCHIARA

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what we have, to strike a more efficient balance."

But he says that while planning new directions to compensate the shortage of money, he is working to have the state return a fair share to local governments.

"Right now the state is planning to balance its budget on the backs of local governments and that must be resisted," Cucchiara.

Of his constituent work, handling the hundreds of calls that come into each supervisor, Cucchiara says he is better able each day he understands county government better to find more solutions for more people.

Does he like what he's doing?
"It's everything I expected and more. It's intensely wonderful."

WAYNE MOORE

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going to be and on planning and water issues you know it's going to be three to two.

Moore was asked if the liberal majority was being tyrannical and answered, "Not yet.

"I feel at this point that the majority of the board has been fair in its approach to Supervisors (Dan) Forbus and myself and fair in letting everybody say his piece.

"I must compliment Chairman (Gary) Patton and I believe he has been fair in handing out assignments. I believe it is his fairness in the procedural matters that has led to this board being perceived, correctly I must say, as not being concerned with personalities and petty squabbles; that the new board is more intent on debating the greater issues of the day."

As a minority member of the board, Moore sees his purpose as twofold:

"I must represent the interest of everyone in the Fourth District (Watsonville-Pajaro Valley) and also represent that philosophy of the conservative — the belief in the free enterprise system."

If nothing else, Moore sees the purpose of the minority in politics to follow Benjamin Disraeli's admonition "it is the duty of the opposition to oppose."

Moore served on the old conservative board for a couple of months of his two-year term before the liberals took control and he was asked if the new board is better.

"That's a very sensitive question," he answers, "in terms of procedures I would say the new board is better, but in terms of philosophy, it's too early to tell.

"However, you can sense I don't think the new board is conservative enough."

Moore believes the board majority has the need of all liberal governors to over-regulate.

"I truly believe we are over-governing in Santa Cruz County. I believe there are times when the board is asked to deal with items the county could safely ignore and no one would be worse off."

He claims that growth management, authored by Patton in Measure J on the 1978 ballot, is a prime instance of over-regulation.

"Measure J will be repealed and there will be a flood of building because we're not being more flexible now (and) my friend Gary (Patton) will be around to witness that day.

"The dam will burst," Moore said, "and there will be a flood of building; you can only hold back the water so long; people are not going to stop having children."

Moore says he is quickly learning the strings of county government and can get more done. He rates his performance as good, but with some more work to be done on quicker responses to constituents and getting a better grasp of north county issues.

Of his four months on the board, he says, "I love it, it's everything I thought it would be and more.

Moore says that before the year is up he will announce that he is a candidate for a full four-year term in the 1982 election.

In 1986, however, he will leave local county politics, take a year or two sabbatical and then probably make a run for a state or federal office.

300 Persons Visit Education Office

More than 300 people attended an open house Friday at the new facilities of the County Office of Education at 809 Bay Ave., Suite H, in Capitola.

The move in recent months to the new facilities marks the end to a long search for a building where all the functions and services of the County Office of Education could be housed.

The functions and services which go on at the new headquarters include administration, business and personnel, special education, general education, educational media and technology, special education service region, maintenance / operations / transportation and the braille library.

In addition, the new office offers small meeting rooms and a permanent location for meetings of the County Board of Education.

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