

1700 student registrations at UCSC suspect

By BUD O'BRIEN

An already bitter election campaign in the city of Santa Cruz was not softened by accusations Friday that as many as 1,700 registered voters on the UC-Santa Cruz campus may be registered illegally.

County Clerk Richard Bedal said that three members of the county Grand Jury, including Jury Foreman Julius H. DeFosset, handed his office a list of approximately 1,700 persons on the voter registration rolls that may not be legal residents of the city. All of the challenged voters are listed as residing in student housing on the UCSC campus.

Bedal said, in consultation with the county counsel's office, he had decided that the information provided by the Grand Jury members did not constitute "probable cause" of a sufficient nature for him to move to exclude the named voters from casting ballots in Tuesday's election.

But Bedal said such challenges under the law could be made at the polls by elected officials if they are provided with information that would constitute "probable cause" for such challenges. County Counsel Clair Carlson pointed out that the law is heavily weighted in favor of the potential voters in such challenges and that it forbids continuous challenges at the polls that would tend to discourage voters from casting their ballots because of inordinate delays or harassment by the challenging process.

Jury Foreman DeFosset was unavailable for comment this morning, but it is believed his information came from documents subpoenaed from the university. Where the impetus for a Grand Jury investigation originated is also unknown, but it is assumed that the overwhelming majority of votes on the campus will be cast on behalf of "progressive" candidates and causes.

At stake in the election is the 4-3 dominance on the City Coun-

cil now held by the "progressive" political faction in the increasingly polarized county seat. The seats of the two socialist councilmen, Mayor Bruce Van Allen and Michael Rotkin, are up for grabs, as are those of two "conservative" or "moderate" councilmen, John Mahaney and Joe Ghio, neither of whom can run for reelection because of the two-term statutory limit in the city.

Van Allen and Rotkin are candidates for reelection. If they win it would assure the continuation of a progressive majority, because the terms of both Mardi Wormhoudt and John Laird do not expire for two more years. But there are also two other progressive candidates, Jane Weed and Ed Porter, who by winning could give their political faction a hammerlock on city government.

Arrayed against the progressives is a moderate slate consisting of Katy Sears-Williams, Arnold Levine, Jim Pelich and Bill Fieberling. If at least three of them win seats, the dominance of the progressives would be at an end.

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