

# ... While City Finds \$ for Programs

**A**n increase of nearly 20 percent in support for community programs was approved with little fanfare or controversy by the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday night.

The new progressive City Council majority increased support for seniors, child-care, women's and youth programs to \$280,000 during last year's budget sessions. The old Council had allocated around \$100,000 to those programs.

After their first year in office, observers as different as the Santa Cruz *Sentinel* editor and outgoing Mayor Mike Rotkin agreed that the increased funding for community programs was the most tangible difference

between the new and the old majorities.

At last year's budget sessions, the more conservative minority on the Council repeatedly grew hot and bothered as funds were allocated to the programs. Most of the decisions were made on 4-3 votes and the discussion showed few traces of a sense of humor.

This year, however, the Council increased monies to community programs to \$328,000 and there was fairly little controversy over the move. Many of the motions passed by 6-1 or 7-0 votes and even those that were approved on political lines did not generate the angry comments of a year ago. □

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