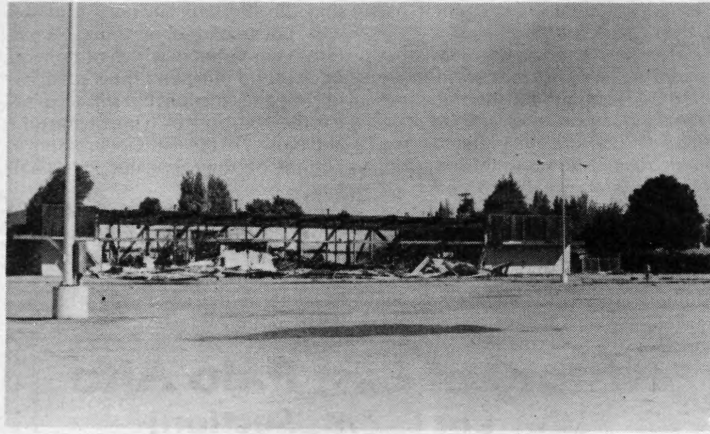


THE EAST PALO ALTO PROGRESS

November 1984

Volume 2, Number 7



The Nairobi Shopping Center was gutted by fire Friday, October 19th. Although there was no damage to the surrounding residential area, the intense heat was felt blocks away.

New Board For Water District

By Carlos Romero

After more than eight months of organizing by stockholders, two elections, and seven stockholder meetings, the issue of who controls the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company board of directors was decided on October 13. Elected to the board was the slate of Francis Grady, superintendent of the water district, Ken Hahn, Barry Norman, Travis Duncan, and Malcolm Hall.

At press time, a preliminary count had Grady's slate ahead 550 votes to 180 votes cast for the opposing slate.

The Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company is a privately owned company whose stockholders are the approximately 625 property owners within the company's boundaries.

In an earlier election held on June 13, Leroy Guillory, Francis Grady, Loyci Stockey, Joyce Lamb and Carlos Romero were elected to the board of

directors. Grady contested the results one month later. He claimed that since the by laws required the presence of at least 50 percent of all stockholders at the annual meeting where the board is elected, the June 13 election was invalid.

Grady hired Paul McCloskey, the attorney suing the city on behalf of the anti-incorporation advocates. McCloskey recommended that Grady not recognize the new board and that new elections be held as prescribed by the by laws on the last Saturday in July.

In response to Grady's challenge to the validity of the June 13 elected board, Guillory hired attorney Jack Robertson. Robertson's advice was that neither the present board nor Mr. Grady had any legal standing since neither of them had been elected or appointed according to

Continued on page 6

Ballot Initiatives and Analysis

By Leah Halper

Voters will make critical choices on November 6, and among the most relevant to East Palo Alto residents are those involving state issues. While many of the proposed California ballot initiatives will directly affect state residents, three could dramatically worsen the quality of life for ourselves and our children. Propositions 36, 38 and 41 are examined in detail below.

Proposition 36: Jarvis IV.

Vote NO. If you disliked the cutbacks and fiscal pandemonium created since 1978 by Proposition 13, you'll shudder at Howard Jarvis' 1984 version, California ballot initiative Prop. 36. This proposition was created to "save" Prop. 13 by plugging loop-

holes and getting around court interpretations that have softened Prop. 13's bite. In reality, however, Prop. 36 goes far beyond bolstering Prop. 13. If passed, Prop. 36 will cut huge amounts of city revenues and force local governments to beg for limited state "bail-out" money. Destructive as this would be in general, the impact on a new city such as East Palo Alto would be especially devastating as the city searches for sufficient financing.

Because of Prop. 13, \$50 billion less in property taxes have been paid by homeowners and business property owners since 1978. To make up for lost revenues, the state legislature has earmarked emergency funds for cities. New taxes, fees, and assessments have been imposed by coun-

Continued on page 8

City Council Beat

By Jane Maxwell

Murmurs of disapproval from community members present at its October 1st meeting greeted the city council's decision to renovate the Bell Street gymnasium into a gymnasium that will accommodate a full-size basketball court to be used for other activities at various times during the day. Although the vote was unanimous for the councilmembers present

(Omwale Satterwhite was absent), it came after almost two hours of spirited public debate during which the idea of including a sauna and jacuzzi was loudly denounced.

Brad Stamper and Richard Craven, Chair and Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Department, said the controversial items were included in the original plans to make sure that the facilities could be used by the whole community. Both Stamper and Craven expressed concern that the city might have to return some of the almost \$300,000 block grant it received for the renovation project if it was not all used. The council assured them both it had no intention of letting any monies go unused.

Citizen disapproval over the council's vote centered around concerns that the facility might become nothing but a basketball court.

Richard Tatum of Glen Way said that school gyms should be opened in the evenings for youths to use. "I think the young people in our community need recreation facilities," said Tatum. "But I have to go outside the community for exercise and recreation. Adults need something too. Our tax dollars will support the facilities."

Carmaleit Oakes of Euclid Avenue said she often listens to young people and they tell her they want lots of indoor space. "Kids watch T.V. and they know what a good gym looks like," said Oakes. "Ours is a depressed community and we can't provide everything. But we can give them something. They're entitled to it."

Councilmember Ruben Abrica criticized a recent *Peninsula Times Tribune* article for playing up the sauna and jacuzzi idea. He expressed concern, though, that if the facility was

Continued on page 7

SUPREME COURT TO CONSIDER

The State District Court of Appeals has denied a request from the City of East Palo Alto for a rehearing of its 2-1 decision overturning the June 1983 incorporation, so the City is turning to the California Supreme Court.

The district court ruled last August that, although there was no evidence of voter fraud in the incorporation election, there were sufficient irregularities to void the election. The City has argued, and one of the three judges agreed, that any irregularities arose from the vague nature of the State's law on absentee balloting, and that any remedy should be sought through the legislative process. The City hopes to argue before the Supreme Court that, in attempting to remedy what is essentially a legislative problem through a judicial decision, the district court has caused a greater evil by disenfranchising the majority of legitimate voters who created the City.

The current court battle does not affect the day-to-day business of the City, which continues to plan ahead and press for the immediate creation of a local police force and other community-based programs.

VOTE
NOVEMBER 6TH.
POLLS OPEN 7AM
CLOSE 8PM

COMMENTARY: Property Owners Initiative.

On January 8, 1985, East Palo Alto voters will go to the polls to decide on the Property Owners' Initiative. Widely seen as the latest maneuver put forward by opponents of East Palo Alto cityhood, this initiative requires the City Government to pass no law that would affect property owners' ability to set their own prices for the sale, rental, lease, transfer, or exchange of their property.

Proponents of the initiative claim they are trying to protect the value of their property against unfair legislation. But opponents say it is a thinly disguised rerun of efforts to fight the popular rent-control initiative which was passed by the Council, overturned by petition, and then overwhelmingly

reinstated by the voters last April.

The City at first refused to accept the petition for a referendum, ruling it was not substantially different from the decision already made by voters in April. But it was ruled in court that the initiative must be put to a referendum. In the October 1 Council meeting, annoyed councilmembers at first considered appealing the court's decision, as the January referendum will cost the City an estimated \$20,000. But on advice from City Attorney Bob Johnson, the Council decided it would be even more costly to lose a court battle and still have to spend the \$20,000, so the January 8 date was set.

Councilmember Ruben Abrica said that the title of the initiative was

EDITORIAL:

By Barbara Mouton

WALTER MONDALE quoted Will Rogers during his first debate with Reagan, "It's not what he doesn't know that bothers me, it's what he knows for sure that just ain't so." With a little substitution, we can make this quote appropriate to the machinations of the United Homeowners.

This group is once again perpetrating deception on citizens of this community by posing as something they are not. They have convincingly demonstrated that they are against the existence of the City and have fought incorporation tooth and nail. They have worked in tandem or as a shield for CAIN and PAPA. They have caused thousands of dollars in city funds to be diverted to fighting spurious and/or malicious lawsuits instead of being used to do just what its members are now raising CAIN about: maximizing protection of community residents by local law enforcement authorities.

the community that people would lose their homes if incorporation became a reality; that allegation turned out to be totally false. They told people that if the rent referendum was defeated, business would come to a standstill and whatever economic base the City had would go down the drain; not so, economically speaking, the community is in the best situation it has been in many a moon. Now they're saying, "Follow us . . . to get the kind of community we want and deserve." This is not false from their viewpoint, but the community they want and deserve would not be the kind of community the majority of our East Palo Altans would want nor deserve.

Listen closely to what they are really saying to you. Do your research and make up your own mind. Above all else, please do not put the fox in charge of the henhouse.

This editorial is in response to a letter printed Oct. 9 in the Peninsula Times Tribune intimating that we should all join the United Homeowners to "Develop the power to make this into the kind of community we want and deserve."

misleading. Instead of an initiative sponsored by concerned local homeowners, Abrica said that the initiative is yet another part of a concerted move by the Tri-County Apartment Owners to fight any city council that tries to regulate them.

"They have gone on the record that this bill is being sponsored in three different communities at the same time: Los Gatos, Cotati, and East Palo Alto," said Abrica. He added that the three cities—one wealthy, one rural, and one poor—are "test areas" for landlord groups to find out where they most successfully can fend off regulation.

Mayor Barbara Mouton said she is confident the voters will turn away this initiative just as they had upheld

the council's rent-control law. Still, she resented having to prove this in another expensive election. Councilmember James Blakey agreed. "Let's put an end to this thing once and for all," said Blakey as he cast his vote for the election.

Nonetheless, it is hard to imagine that the Property Owners' Initiative will "put an end to this thing." A pattern is emerging in which opponents of cityhood outspend their adversaries, lose the election, but still accomplish their purpose by tying up the time and money of the City Government in fighting off their repeated legal challenges (see box).

Clearly, the January vote will not end the possibility of more legal battles, but we can be confident that the shape and forces of East Palo Alto will be determined by those who live here—not outsiders.

History of East Palo Alto (Current Events Section)

| DATE | ELECTION/LAW | EXPLANATION | RESULT |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| April 7, 1982 | First incorporation election since 1958 | Pro-cityhood workers were defeated almost from the beginning when they were required to split the vote into 4 separate initiatives all of which had to pass. | Propositions A,B, and D passed easily, but the sanitary-district law, Prop. C was DEFEATED narrowly because some non-East Palo Altans were allowed to vote on it. |
| June 7, 1983 | Second incorporation Election | Simpler initiative allowed a single vote cast for cityhood | PASSED, now being contested in courts |
| Nov. 23, 1983 | Rent Control Ordinance | One of the first major laws of the new East Palo Alto City Council | RECALLED by petition signatures gathered by landlord groups |
| April 10, 1984 | Rent Control Referendum | Voters asked to uphold or strike down the Council's November 23 ordinance | UPHELD overwhelmingly, despite only \$500 spent in favor of referendum |
| Jan. 8, 1984 | Property Owners' Initiative | States only property owners can place a value on their property, including rental value | TO BE DECIDED January 8, 1985 |
| ??? | What next? | Paid petition gatherers can always gather enough signatures to force a referendum | THE RESULT IS UNIMPORTANT as long as the city is forced to spend money on frivolous elections, instead of real government |

Prize Winning Actors in EPA

By Jane Maxwell

An enthusiastic crowd greeted members of the internationally renowned Negro Ensemble Company

The East Palo Alto Progress

A non-profit monthly community newspaper serving East Palo Alto, California. Persons interested in contributing articles, photography, or poetry may do so by submitting them to The East Palo Alto Progress.

Editors: Elena Becks, Glenda Jones, Barbara Mouton, Carmaleit Oakes, Carlos Romero

Contributors: Ron Drake, Lon Otterby, Jane Maxwell, Michael Blake, Leah Halper
P.O. Box 51203
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

(NEC) when they arrived at City Hall on Friday, October 5 for a reception hosted by the city of East Palo Alto. Mayor Barbara A. Mouton presented the award-winning company with a proclamation honoring its many contributions to the American stage.

The company, now on national tour, gave a sellout, two-week performance at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto of Charles Fuller's 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "A Soldier's Play." The production received outstanding reviews.

Douglas Turner Ward, who directed and starred in the Stanford production, has been involved with the NEC since its inception 17 years ago. He is considered one of today's leaders in

Black theater.

"I would not feel right if we were appearing in an area where there was a large Black community like East Palo Alto without including it," said Ward at the City Hall reception. "This is our city. It's an extension of our own home."

The Negro Ensemble Company is the foremost professional Black theater in the U.S. Over the years its productions have won two Tony Award nominations, four Drama Desk Awards, and more than a dozen Obie Awards. Outstanding graduates of the NEC include Robert Hooks, Esther Rolle, Richard Roundtree, Rosalind Cash, Denise Nicholas, and Roxie "The Jeffersons" Roker.

"A Soldier's Play," a murder mystery, takes place on an army base in Louisiana in 1944. As the mystery unfolds, the play probes a man's search for dignity amid the tangle of old hatred and new hopes that confronted Blacks during World War II.

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, Fuller's play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the Theatre Club Award. The NEC has presented other Fuller plays including "The Brownsville Raid," "In the Deepest Part of Sleep," and "Zooman and the Sign." For anyone who missed the recent Stanford theater production, a film based on Fuller's play, "A Soldier's Story," starring Howard Rollins, Jr., is currently playing in several Bay Area movie houses. It has also received glowing reviews.

Congressman Tom Lantos

Democrat



**He works for us
in East Palo Alto**

PAID POLITICAL AD

Say What?

By Ron Drake

"Hello?"
"Hi! I'm canvassing your neighborhood for the Reagan for President campaign and I'd like to ask you to vote for our candidate on November 6th."

"Say what?"
"I'm asking your support for four more years of peace, prosperity and strong leadership. . . Reagan-Bush in '84, ma'am."

"Wait just a minute. Let me tell you one thing. That peace and prosperity line is a bunch of hogwash. My Henry and I have been here going on sixty years and things have never been this bad for poor people. . . never."

"And peace? Folks in South Africa got no peace. Folks in Grenada and El Salvador got no peace. Folks in the Philippines got no peace. People all over the world are catchin' hell because of that man!"

"But. . ."
"The man just doesn't know the meaning of the word 'justice.' Folks out of work. Folks sleeping in cars and on the street. Children supposed to get big and healthy on ketchup."

"But the economy is moving again, ma'am. The recession is over. There are more people working now than ever before. I'd say that's prosperity."

"Recession? Boy, this is a full-blown Depression. I know a Depression

when I see one. That fool Reagan spending money he doesn't have on things I pray to the Lord he doesn't use. And all those places where we got a foot on somebody's neck, he's lettin' companies send our jobs. Lord, I wish Jesse were still in it. He tells people just how. . ."

"Jackson's a dead issue, ma'am. The question is: will you and your husband—older people on fixed incomes—be better off under the exemplary leadership of Ronald Reagan or that big-spending, tax-raising wimp Mondale?"

"HMPH! Jackson a dead issue!? You ain't heard the last of him or the Rainbow Coalition. He told the truth when Mondale and that other fella wouldn't tell it. He made everybody sit up and take notice. . . even that hard-headed fool in the White House. And where did you get that "fixed-income" mess? Reagan tried to cut our Social Security, Medicare—he's trying to cut everything we need. My income is in a fix, all right."

"So you're not voting for Mondale. . .?"

"Honey, Walter Mondale isn't perfect. In some ways, he's the same old thing with a different coat of paint. But at least he's got the people to contend with. He's got to respond to the Rainbow Coalition. He's got to

respond to freezing nuclear bombs and saving American jobs. That's because the people put the heat on him. Jesse Jackson put the heat on him. Reagan only cares for rich folks. I'll take Mondale every time when it comes to that."

"Well, I see that you've got your mind made up. I won't take up any more of your time. But I wish you'd think about it. America is strong and proud, right now. We're beginning to put God back where he belongs in this country. You're obviously a Christian lady and you should reflect on that."

"I appreciate that but I think there's something you should know. I taught history for over twenty years of my life. I've lived through a lot more. And history's no good unless you learn something. Now. . . I have five children of my own and I love them dearly. I love them and I love this country. But as hard as things are now what with all the racism and poison in the atmosphere and the chance that we all could be gone from here in the blink of an eye. . . well. . . I'd just think twice about bringing my babies into it. I know I'd do that. That's a duty any parent's got. And if I chose not to have them, that's an account God and I would have to settle. Not Jerry Falwell, nor Ronald Reagan nor Jesse

Jackson nor Geraldine Ferraro nor Walter Mondale. Me.

"I was born when there were more horses than cars and I praise the Lord for some of the things I've seen. I'm thankful for every day God gives me. But when you know history like I do, you get a feel for things. This feels like the late Twenties. Like before the Great Depression. People trying to wish away our problems. Bible-thumping hypocrites meddling in people's personal lives. Big countries harming little ones. Dictators. . . empires. . . false prophets. And we had a president who slept through it all. Mr. Coolidge slept through it all. Just like Mr. Reagan's doing now."

"And what I learned from all the horrible things that happened after that is that we have to do what we can. We've got to do it however we can because there are more chances now than ever that there'll be no next time. Nuclear war and financial disaster aren't inevitable. The worst thing I can do is to do nothing. I've got to vote. The best I can do is vote for Walter Mondale. My children can do more. . . they will do more. That's why they're here."

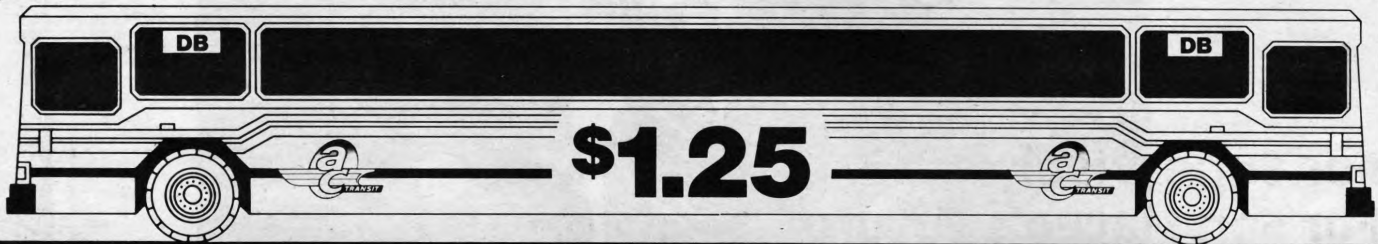
"I'm glad we're not debating. Thank you for your time."

"Goodbye, young man."
"Goodbye to you."

YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE.

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SEPTEMBER 10th

AC Transit announces Union City BART/Palo Alto Transbay service



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Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

PAID POLITICAL AD

TOM NOLAN

In the next four years, our Board of Supervisors will make critical decisions on the issues that affect our lives, public safety, transportation, housing, development, taxes, the quality of life.

Tom Nolan is just what we need in a Supervisor.

An experienced, effective leader.

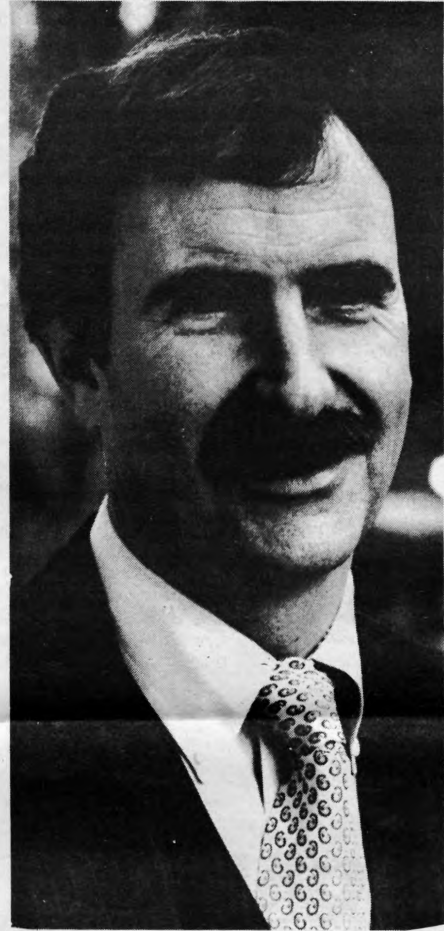
For many years, Tom Nolan has staffed an organization that has worked for planning transportation and growth policy for our county's future. He serves on the San Mateo County Housing Task Force, working to obtain affordable housing for all of San Mateo County. He has worked on a U.S. Senate staff in Washington.

As head of several social service agencies, he has learned the managerial skills necessary to make government work on tight budgets.

A concerned, committed citizen.

Tom Nolan has devoted years of his energy to community service. He has done important volunteer work for San Mateo's Easter Seals Society, the Center for the Independence of the Disabled, church groups, and other community organizations.

Tom Nolan knows our county, our communities, and our needs from government. He's committed and energetic enough to get things done for us.



Tom Nolan for Supervisor, Treasurer Joseph Bergerson
520 El Camino #300, San Mateo, California 94402

**For Supervisor.
For San Mateo's future.**

Supported by:
Mayor Barbara A. Mouton, Vice-Mayor James E. Blakey, Jr., and Councilman Ruben Abrica

WATER

Continued from page 1
the procedures set forth in the by laws.

In the interim, the annual July stockholders' meeting was held but failed to produce a 50% quorum. A new date was set for September 13.

A court order obtained by both attorneys representing the parties in dispute continued the September 15 meeting to October 13.

Nonetheless, Ken Hahn and Barry Norman, members of Grady's slate, proceeded to hold the September meeting despite the agreement between both sides. Both Hahn and Norman had been actively collecting proxy votes for that meeting.

The proxy vote issue was an important one since it was the only feasible way that the 50 percent quorum required by the by laws could be obtained. However, the confusion behind the collection of these proxies obscured the process.

The same court order that set the October 13 election date also approved a form for gathering proxies. Grady, Hahn and Norman distributed a different proxy form, despite the insistence by McCloskey that they wait until the court-ordered form was ready.

Jose Villota, a shareholder in the

company who attended the October 13 meeting, said, "It was hard to understand what was happening over here in the water district. I received two different proxy sheets, and a return envelope to send them both back to Grady."

Glenda Jones, who was not present at the meeting but voted by proxy, felt that the tactics used by people collecting proxies for Grady were both deceptive and bordering on racist.

"This one guy was trying to tell me that incorporation supporters were attempting to take over the water company for the sole purpose of giving any surplus funds held by the company to the City," said Jones.

Guillory insists that even though his slate lost, they were still successful.

"We wanted a duly elected board," he said. "We wanted to inform the people that they have a say in their water company, and I think we accomplished that."

Loyci Stockey, a member of Guillory's slate, was the only female member running for the board.

"We have put the water company, Mr. Grady, Hahn, and Barry on notice," said Stockey. "The people of this community will be keeping a close watch on the company and on how they allow participation within



Palo Alto Mutual Water Park, a privately owned company, serves approximately 625 households in East Palo Alto.

it," Stockey also said that the board should reflect the ethnic as well as gender constitution of the district.

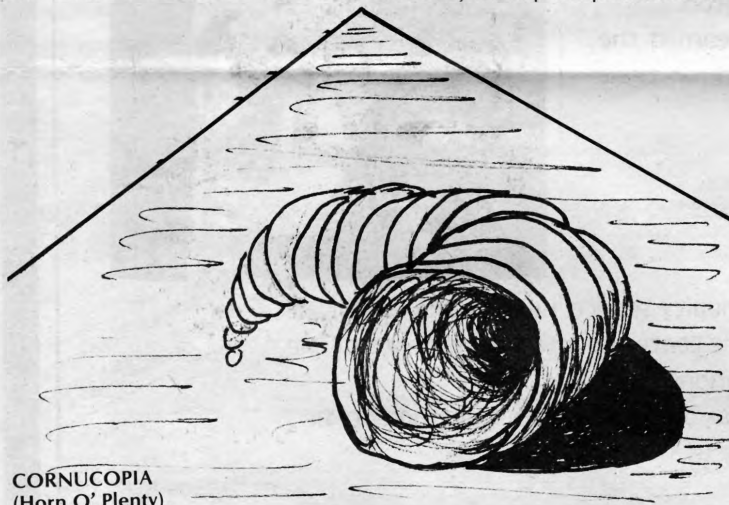
Asked how he felt about this idea, newly elected board member Hahn, a white homeowner who lives in the water district, responded, "Sure, it would be nice, but that's ridiculous and racist. I prefer that people be chosen by merit. I believe our board does represent the community."

The newly elected board is all male: three white and two black. Travis

Duncan, the second black member of the slate was never asked if he wanted to be on the Grady ticket. His name was added without his permission. Duncan campaigned for the Guillory slate, of which he was a member.

What does the future hold for the water company?

"I won't be able to retire for some time until I can find a replacement," says Grady. "For now the company will continue on the same basis. I don't envision any changes."



CORNUCOPIA
(Horn O' Plenty)

Thank you for this holiday
Praising the Pilgrims' token way
Of giving thanks with Indians who
Were wiped out when the year
was through

Thank you for the tribal lands
Stolen by your bloody hands
Thank you for historic lies
As American as pumpkin pies
For frozen turkeys stuffed with nuts
Forget about the flaming huts
In Vietnam, El Salvador,
Grenada, or the one next door
Thank you for the Puritan creed
Of Christianity laced with greed
Of human bondage, slavery,
Wars and murder—
I thank thee—

For Thanksgiving day
For those who stuff their face to say
The cranberry sauce was good,
was sweet
As dreams that die with starving
young
For food that never touch their
tongue

Thank you for the tax you take
From our fair wages that we make
Thank you for the legal fights
When you turn off the gas and lights
Thank you for the money spent
Everytime you raise the rent
And thank you for the price of gas
Horn of Plenty: Kiss my ass!

©Abena 11/23/83

Quit For One Day?

The Drew Medical Center will participate in the Great American Smoke-out on Thursday, November 15. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, this nationwide event is designed to encourage smokers to quit smoking for 24 hours. Both smokers and non-smokers are invited to participate.

This year's theme, "Adopt a Smoker," allows individuals to adopt their smoking friends, family members and co-workers, offering moral support and encouragement throughout the day.

For more information contact the Drew Medical Center (328-5060).

LOCAL TOXIC DUMP SITE

The Zoecon dump recently became a local concern when 600 users of the East Palo Alto Mutual Water Company learned of sea-water contamination in its wells (East Palo Alto Progress, June 1984). This contamination did not come from the Zoecon site, although a chemist argued that the same process that introduced sea water into the wells could have allowed toxic wastes from the Zoecon dump into the drinking water supply.

CORRECTIONS

Requests for corrections in news stories should be directed to editors Elena Becks or Jane Maxwell, East Palo Alto Progress, P.O. Box 51203, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

In the October issue of the Progress, Roosevelt Cox, President of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board



The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on October 1 announced plans to add East Palo Alto's Zoecon dump to its list of properties eligible for toxic-waste cleanup money through its Superfund program. The Zoecon dump was one of 244 new sites on the EPA list, making a total of 786 sites nationwide that the EPA has given the highest priority as most dangerous to the public health.

of Directors, was incorrectly quoted at the City Council meeting on August 20 as agreeing with Mayor Mouton that local residents should be given a chance to bid on the city's refuse collection contract. The statement was instead made by Benjamin Ahmed of Emmett Way. The Progress extends its apology to Mr. Cox for this mistake.

Council Beat

Continued from page 1

renovated primarily as a basketball court, because that game is so popular among young people, other activities such as weight lifting, card playing and gymnastics might never occur if permanent space is not provided for them.

"We should concentrate on a multi-purpose facility that includes permanent half-court basketball and permanent space for other activities," Abrica argued.

But other councilmembers voted for the gymnasium concept and Abrica reluctantly voted with them, making the decision unanimous.

Throughout the evening, citizen complaints were heard about the dying grass and trees around the city, and accusations were leveled at City Manager, Fred Howell, for not doing enough to prevent this.

"Public buildings and grounds are deteriorating," said Myrtle Walker of Donohoe Street. "This is how we are judged. It's a reflection on us as a community." Councilmember Abrica called on Howell to have the parks watered by the end of the week stating that the city didn't need revenue-sharing funds to do this.

During the community forum, Peter Evans complained to the council that people being interviewed for several city positions were poorly qualified. "One of the finalists for the recreation commission has no experience at all," Evans said.

The council expressed concern over the way a \$2,500 consultant's fee has been used to assess the environmental impact of the Dumbarton Bridge connection along University Avenue. The consultant's report has not clearly stated its evaluation process or preliminary findings.

"From now on we should make sure consultants are clear on what they are doing," said councilmember Abrica.

Lola Phillips of Jasmine Way said she would prefer to see the city's money spent cleaning up things that can be seen. The crowd murmured in agreement when Phillips told the council, "East Palo Alto needs more than finding out about the air. We need to clean the city up. The corner of Bay and University is an eyesore. You don't get cooperation from the citizens of East Palo Alto because we don't see anything being done."

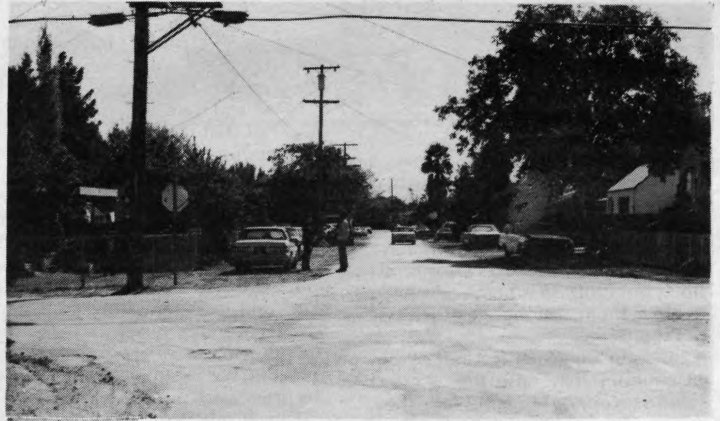
The council tabled until an unspecified date a meeting with Caltrans to discuss the agency's proposed improvements for University Avenue from 101 to the Dumbarton Bridge. The council felt it did not have enough back-up information available to meet with Caltrans at this time.

"This is a very important issue," said Mayor Mouton. "It should be scheduled so that as many citizens and councilmembers as possible can be there."

The council voted 3-1, with Gertrude Wilks against, that until the Arts and Culture Commission is organized, the city should encourage artists performing in the area to visit East Palo Alto. Four hundred dollars was appropriated for receptions at the City Council Chambers honoring such artists. Councilmember Gertrude Wilks voted against the measure stating money should be spent on "things the community needs" such as crime prevention.

The first reception on October 5 honored the Negro Ensemble Company, which appeared recently at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto. (See page 2.)

January 8, 1985 was the date set by the council for a city-wide election on the Property Owner's Initiative. Mayor Mouton expressed concern about the \$20,000 the election will cost the city. "But I'm not afraid of the initiative," the Mayor said. "We beat them once and will again. Let's wash this group out of our hair and go ahead." (See page 2.)



Precinct workers canvassing the community for November 6th election.



Discrimination Problems?

contact

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Ballot Initiatives

Continued from page 1

ties, cities, and special service districts (such as water and sanitation) while in many places already existing fees have been raised. California courts have ruled that such measures are permissible, but Prop. 36 is being advanced to block them. Among the provisions of Prop. 36:

- **Inflation adjustments.** Under Prop. 13 counties may raise the assessed value of property (and thus raise their revenues) by as much as 2% yearly to allow for inflation. Courts have ruled the inflation factor is applicable to the three year period between "base year" for Prop. 13, 1975, and the year the proposition took effect, 1978. Prop. 36 would sidestep this ruling, requiring counties to rebate taxpayers for the three years—with 13% interest to boot. These costly rebates would go to a minority of property owners who already have low tax assessments. Anyone who built or bought a home after 1978 will get no tax breaks; more probably their taxes will increase.

- **Taxes.** Under Prop. 36, two-thirds of the local electorate would need to approve changes in local taxes that would increase any tax paid by any taxpayer. Thus, even a measure that cuts most peoples' taxes but raises the taxes of a few would be subject to a bothersome, costly local election. State tax changes would also require two-thirds approval—of the California legislature. The result at local and state levels would be a cumbersome, difficult and expensive process for levying taxes.

- **Fees and assessments.** To raise funds

in Prop. 13's wake, many local governments have started to increase fees and assessments for various services. These services include sewage, water, hospital, and transportation. Prop. 36 would restrict the imposition of fees and require that two-thirds of the voters in a local area approve fee increases if the increases amount to more than an adjustment for inflation. Thus, any city wishing to provide its own sanitation, water, utilities, recreation, or other services will find its hand tied in determining costs and raising revenues. A new city like East Palo Alto, in urgent need of adequate revenues, will be especially limited by this provision.

Prop. 36 must not pass. At least \$2.8 billion in revenues will be lost to local government over the next two years if this proposition is approved, and about a billion dollars will be lost each year thereafter. Analysts worry that the losses will discourage growth and investments in our state, and it is questionable whether the state can continue to provide bail-out funding. School districts will also lose money which the state is legally bound to replace. Thus the legislature will somehow have to find \$750 million over the next two years, and \$150 million thereafter to make up for losses to the schools.

Proposition 38: English-only ballots.

Vote NO. If this Proposition passes, Governor Deukmejian will send letters to the President of the United States and to federal election officials urging that federal law be changed to allow voting materials in English only.

This vicious attack on the language rights of minority populations would undoubtedly give the Deukmejian and Reagan Administrations much pleasure, though the letter would be advisory and would carry no official

weight. The supporters of Proposition 38 are not concerned, as some argue, with the cost of producing bilingual election materials—this cost is quite low. The racist intent of Prop. 38 is hardly disguised. It serves yet another warning to Third World people that their rights are negligible. This measure is comparable to a poll tax or literacy test for prospective voters. It is therefore an insult not only to ourselves and our sisters and brothers but also an insult to those who struggled before us for access to the ballot box. Prop. 38 is another expression of racism from the Reagan and Deukmejian administrations as they continue to deny human rights to Third World people.

Proposition 41: Ross Johnson Initiative.

Vote NO. Proposition 41 would hit California like a bomb, virtually wrecking its public assistance and medical programs. If this proposition passes the governor will appoint a commission to study social service expenditures in other states. The commission, which is not accountable to voters or legislators, would set a ceiling for California's expenditures so that the legislature would be forced to cut spending to 110% of the national average for specific social service programs. Among programs that would be slashed by as much as half would be Medi-Cal, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), foster care for abused and neglected children, and the infrastructure for social services.

California's higher cost of living justifies greater expenses in social services. And California provides many necessary services to the aged, blind, and disabled which other, less responsible, states forego.

Cuts in Medi-Cal alone would be alarming. Prescription drugs, dentistry, eyeglasses, foot care, physical

therapy, medical transportation, and hearing aides would no longer be covered. About 700,000 aged, blind and disabled Californians—many of whom worked for years to contribute to the system—will be denied needed services or will have their Medi-Cal benefits cut so low they will have to choose between paying for food and rent and paying for medical care. About a million children and a half million mothers getting AFDC will have their grants slashed. A mother of two who now gets a scant \$550 monthly would see her check shrink by as much as half. AFDC support for two-parent families and for poor women who are pregnant for the first time would probably be eliminated altogether. Support for family planning programs will be cut drastically, as will support for the 27,000 children in foster care homes.

The very structure for social service program administration would be attacked as well. Prop. 41 would require lay-offs of social workers. Those who manage to keep their jobs will see their already heavy caseloads increase, perhaps doubling. Under the guise of getting "welfare cheats" off the government rolls, Prop. 41 will deal a cruel blow to already underserved poor and needy people.

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City Council—First and third Monday evenings at 8:00 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, 2415 University Avenue.
Planning Commission—Second and fourth Monday evenings at 8:00 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, 2415 University Avenue.
Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees—Second and fourth Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the district office annex, 2160 Euclid Avenue.