

THE STANFORD DAILY

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 183, NUMBER 35

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1983

Tapping off the weekend



Artie Streiber/Daily

Students kick off a festivity-filled weekend at the Beta Nooner Friday. Next on the partygoer's schedule was the Alpha Delt Laker the same afternoon, followed by the Alpha Sigma Phi Exotic-Erotic

Ball and Theta Delta Chi party on Saturday night and finally Aqua Follies at Lake Lagunita yesterday. For more pictures of the weekend's festivities, please see page 2.

Court ruling halts East Palo Alto incorporation vote

By JEFF BIDDULPH

Senior staff writer

The increasingly bitter East Palo Alto cityhood election, which is planned for June 7, was halted by a San Mateo Superior Court judge Thursday because he said county officials did not follow state law in setting up the incorporation vote.

Judge Melvin Cohn said petition gatherers in East Palo Alto should have gathered 25 percent of the signatures of the registered voters in the community instead of the 5 percent they obtained.

He also said state law prohibits the community from having an election for two years after its first election, which took place last year, unless San Mateo County's Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) documents that the election is in the public interest. LAFCO had not properly shown that the election was in the public interest, Cohn said.

East Palo Alto Municipal Council member Ruben Abrica, a proponent of cityhood, said he would appeal the decision. He also said he expects the appeals judge to rule in favor of maintaining the June 7 election date.

Abrica said unless the appeals judge rules against the election before June 7, the vote will still take place. If the judge rules against the election after June 7, its results will

be invalidated, according to Abrica.

Proponents and opponents of incorporation hailed the decision as a victory—though proponents admitted their victory was somewhat less direct.

"The opposition is doing more damage to themselves by trying to stop election," Abrica said. "I feel the court of appeals will rule in our favor and when they do people will see the opposition's hypocritical attitude."

Abrica said opponents of incorporation claim they want a vote on cityhood but that they are being "contradictory" by filing the lawsuit against the vote.

"People wonder what the opposition is working for," Abrica said. "This is just a momentary obstacle. We have already won in terms of debating the issues. We will succeed in the end."

Henry Anthony, chairman of the Municipal Council, called Abrica's claims "childish," however.

"This is politics. I wish those guys (proponents of incorporation) would just quit the bullshit. We've won this round and it's not over yet. They should stop calling people hypocritical. It's just so stupid. I play by the rules and I don't pull the childish stuff they are pulling," Anthony said.

Please see ELECTION, back page

Election

Continued from front page

Anthony said the community needs to obtain 25 percent of its voters' signatures on petitions and that he would help get the signatures if necessary.

"We're not saying we don't want it (the vote). We're just saying we don't have the money to incorporate now," he said.

Abrica said the petitioners thought they only needed signatures of 5 percent of the voters because they thought the District Reorganization Act, filed in 1969, was germane. Cohn ruled that a 1977 law, the Municipal Organization Act, which requires 25 percent, had precedence.

L.A. Breckinridge, an East Palo Alto

resident who was one of four people to bring the suit, said he would like to see the vote take place. He said, however, that East Palo Alto residents will oppose incorporation if the vote does not happen.

"The older people who are homeowners will vote against it. They know this community doesn't have a tax base," Breckinridge said.

He said cityhood would bring about a complete overhaul of the city and that these homeowners will bear the brunt of the overhaul. He said he brought the suit because he wants to prevent changes in the community.

East Palo Alto barely rejected incorporation last year in a controversial election that included many Menlo Park voters. Supporters claimed the June 7 election, which would only involve East Palo Alto voters, would reverse last year's results.