

Demonstrations

# Car rams UCSC blockade; two hit

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## Councilman joins 100 in arrest

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SANTA CRUZ — An older man driving a student to UCSC crashed through a line of apartheid protesters blocking the main entrance to the campus this morning.

The car knocked one man down and carried a second on its hood at a high speed while police and demonstrators chased on foot. Neither of those hit was seriously hurt. The unidentified driver was handcuffed and led away by police.

More than 100 persons, including City Councilman Michael Rotkin, had been arrested by mid-morning for blocking the roadway in a protest over UC investments in corporations doing business in South Africa.

It was after the first wave of protesters had been taken to jail by bus that the car came in the east entrance in the wrong lane and was confronted by protesters who were marching in a circle in the roadway.

Suddenly, the engine roared and the car blasted through the protesters. Steve Goodman, 34, was knocked to the ground, suffering minor scrapes to his legs. He was treated at the scene by UCSC fire-fighters.

John Pepper, 25, was knocked onto the hood of the car, which then sped up the hill.

Stunned police and demonstrators raced after the car on foot. The car stopped about an eighth of a mile away, near the cookhouse.

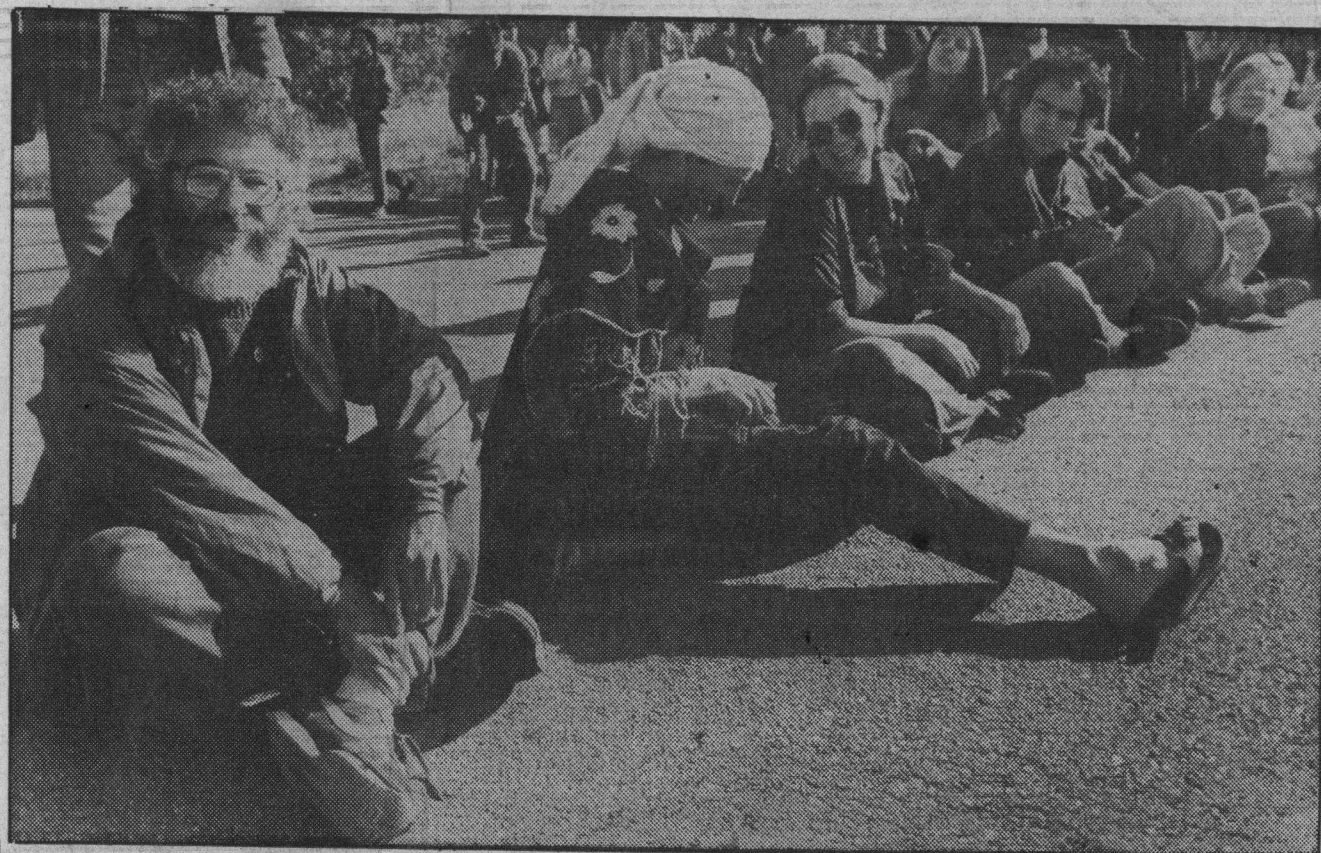
Protesters shouted "racist" at the man as he was put in a squad car and driven up the hill to the police station. The unidentified student in the car got out and traded accusations with the protesters.

Goodman described the accident this way: "I was just walking across the street when that man came in driving up the wrong way. He hit me and knocked someone else onto the hood and then he just drove away."

Pepper, who said he has been active in the sit-in at the campus library, gave this version: "I saw that he (the driver) was trying to push his way through. Some people were in front of the car and I joined them. Then, he just floored it."

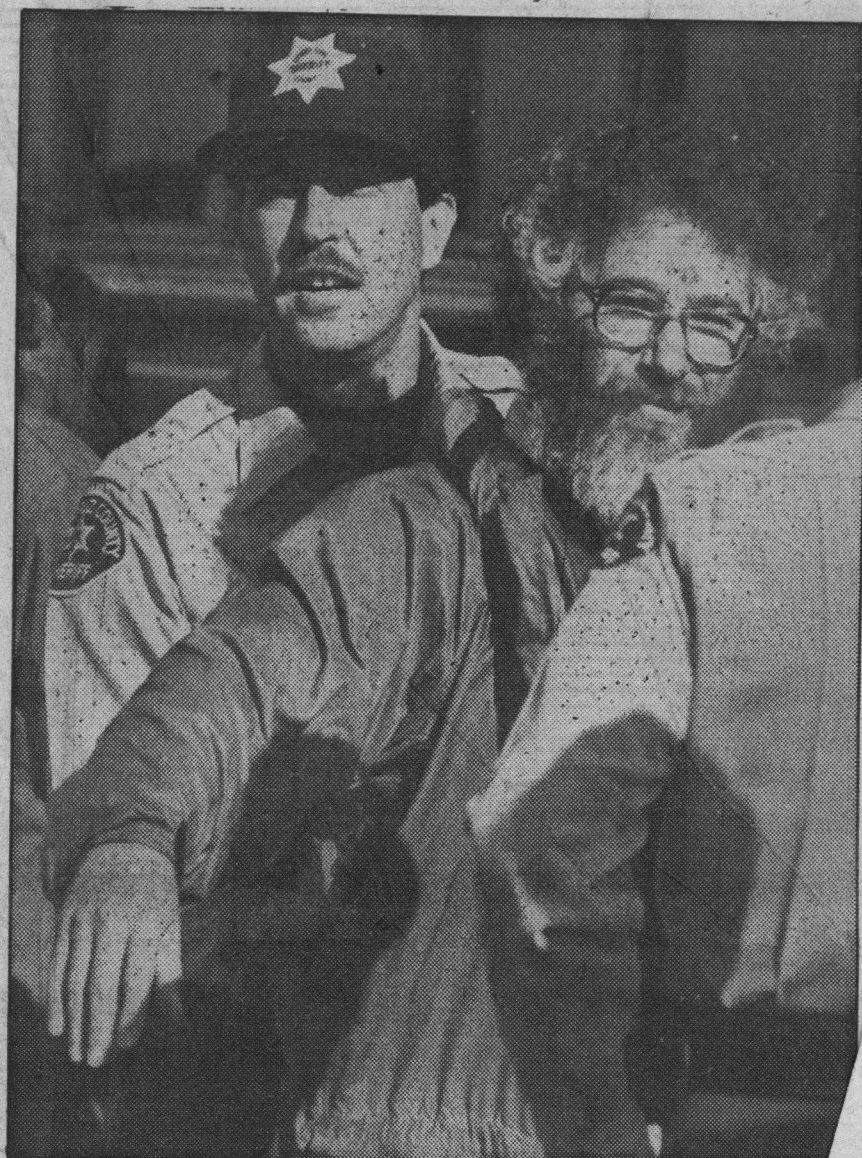
Pepper refused treatment and rejoined the protest.

The driver was being held at the campus



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Santa Cruz City council member Mike Rotkin, left, sits in blockade at UCSC this morning.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Deputy John Strimaitis leads Mike Rotkin from protest.



police station late this morning while officers questioned witnesses, trying to determine whether the driver deliberately drove through the blockade or panicked when the crowd surrounded his car. At least one witness told police the demonstrators grabbed the car.

Assistant District Attorney Tom Kelly, who was at the demonstration to observe this morning, assured demonstrators that a full investigation was under way.

UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer was on hand when the students and others began sitting, arms linked, across the road. He remained throughout the morning.

Sinsheimer urged the demonstrators not to block the entrance, saying, "You have an honorable cause but what you're doing is discrediting that cause by taking actions that infringe on the rights of others."

He then was drowned out by chants from the demonstrators. "You're in good voice," Sinsheimer said when they allowed him to continue.

"You have every right to protest, to try to educate and to try to persuade. But you don't have the right to impose your will on others," he said.

"Tell that to South Africa," the demonstrators shot back.

At 8:15, UCSC Police Officer Jack Churchill approached the crowd and gave the protesters five minutes to clear the road. He explained that those who refused would be arrested and taken to jail. Those with identification, he said, would be released. Those refusing to provide identification would be held in jail, he said.

At that point, Rotkin, who is a teaching assistant at UCSC, stepped forward and stood in front of those blocking the road. "If you feel the only way to effect change is through civil disobedience, then I join you," he said.

He then sat down and linked arms with the others. Churchill stepped up and made the first arrest. The crowd cheered as he led Rotkin toward the waiting bus.

By 10:30, UCSC police at County Jail had cited 85 protesters. All reportedly had



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

## UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer speaks to protesters.

given identification and were released.

Rotkin returned to campus just after 10 and, speaking to those still being arrested, praised the campus police for their handling of the blockade.

The blockade created a giant traffic jam at the intersection of Bay Drive and High Street. University officials opened an access road just east of Bay Drive so staff could get to work. Other cars were diverted to the west entrance off Empire Grade, where demonstrators handed out leaflets to those entering the campus.

Santa Cruz Metro rerouted its buses through that entrance.

Organizers said the main gate blockade was to show there can be no business as

usual on the UCSC campus as long as Regents continue to invest UC funds in corporations doing business in South Africa. "It is necessary at this point to escalate the situation so they (Regents) understand we are totally serious about the demands we set," organizer Charles Woods said Tuesday.

Regents are scheduled to hear testimony on divestment when they meet Thursday and Friday in Berkeley.

At an 11 a.m. press conference, Sinsheimer said he doubted he would have a chance to address the Regents. He is an advocate of what he calls selective divestment. Rather than a total pullout, he said, U.S. corporations in South Africa could be

used to try to pressure for change in South Africa.

Asked to compare today's demonstration with those of the '60s, Sinsheimer said there were real differences of opinion in the Vietnam War era. With apartheid, he said, there are no differences of opinion. Nobody is saying apartheid is right, Sinsheimer said.

Regarding the arrests, he said that is an "incoherent form of expression." University students, he said, should be able to better express themselves.

**Staff Writer Steve Shender contributed to this report.**