

UCSC - Growth
 'Now I've seen come true what the folklore told me would happen — that any and every project at UCSC creates controversy.'

— Karl Pister, UCSC chancellor

A dose of reality

College construction introduces chancellor to Santa Cruz politics

By JOHN ROBINSON
 Sentinel staff writer

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 SANTA CRUZ — The uproar over Elf Land and development of UC Santa Cruz has left Chancellor Karl Pister wondering what happened to the brief honeymoon in town/gown relationships he enjoyed upon his arrival.

"Now I've seen come true what the folklore told me would happen," Pister said. "That any and every project at UCSC creates controversy. It seems endemic to the place. ... I just don't understand it."

Pister arrived on campus in August amid plenty of good will. After meeting with local

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 a high priority —
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politicians and faculty, Pister was moved to say the town/gown and interfaculty strife he had been warned about was probably exaggerated.

He is rethinking his position.

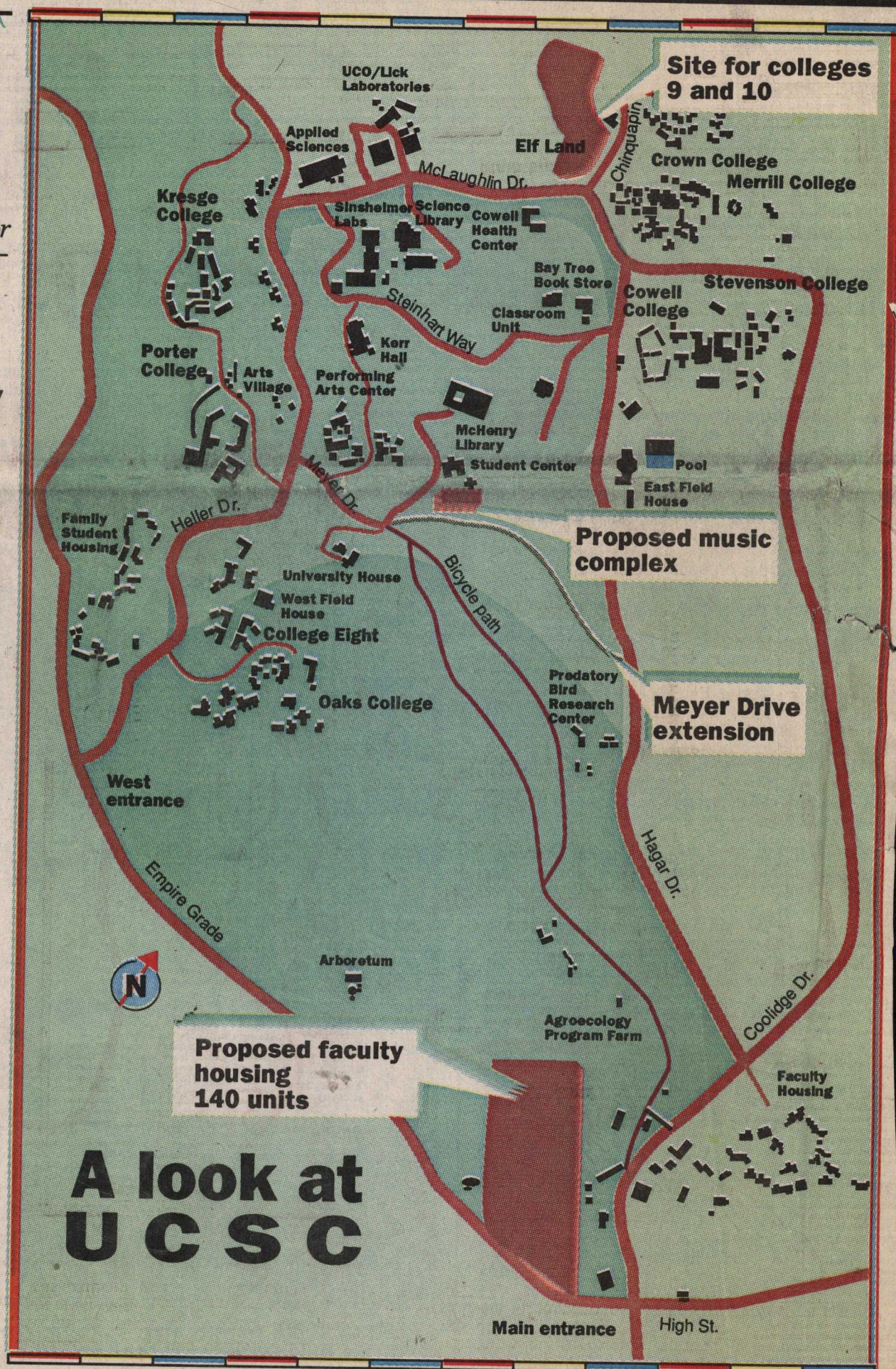
In the past month, students have begun protesting, demanding the construction of colleges Nine and Ten in an area students call Elf Land be stopped and the colleges moved. Some students have threatened to chain themselves to bulldozers and "do whatever it takes" to stop construction on the site.

Local activists, many of them against any further campus development, also have vowed to fight the university on colleges Nine and Ten and a number of other development plans.

The latest shot was fired Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors, which voted to appeal a timber harvest plan on the construction site, should one be granted by the state. The appeal will slow down construction on the site.

"What honeymoon?" Supervisor Gary Patton said of relations with the chancellor. "If he thinks because he walked in here and because

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A look at UCSC

A debate at every turn

As UCSC prepares for growth, critics take aim at projects

By JOHN ROBINSON
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — To the list of death and taxes you can add controversy over development at UC Santa Cruz as something certain in life.

As UCSC undergoes a massive building campaign to accommodate an additional 5,000 students by the year 2005, it faces controversy at nearly every turn.

Some activists are anti-growth, while others want to protect favorite areas of the campus and the views of Monterey Bay.

"It's tough not to go to any site on campus and say it shouldn't be built on," said Frank Zwart, assistant vice-chancellor in charge of construction. "But our development on campus has been extraordinarily successful. We're cursed by the skill of the architects who built the first colleges. Students think that no trees were cut for those buildings."

Building new colleges, academic buildings and roads on campus is a high priority with

the University of California. Some of the projects, ranked in their order of priority in the UC 1992-93 budget, are:

● **COLLEGES NINE AND TEN** — Rated first priority. The colleges will serve about 2,000 students. College Nine will be built first and house the anthropology and economics departments. College Ten will house the psychology department.

Total estimated cost is \$24 million, with College Nine's academic buildings to be finished by the fall of 1993.

The projects are controversial because of their location near Ohlone Indian sites and on the edge of "Elf Land," a wooded retreat popular with students.

● **MUSIC FACILITY** — Rated eighth, the project will house performing-arts theaters and classrooms. A two-stage project with a total cost of \$12.3 million.

This project is controversial because of its design and its location on the edge of the Great Meadow.

● **MEYER DRIVE EXTENSION** — A three-stage project to connect Myer Drive to Hagar Drive through the Great Meadow to increase traffic flow and accommodate increased traffic as the campus grows. Total cost of all three stages is about \$5 million.

The placement of the road through the meadow has stirred strong public and student opposition.

Beginning with the 1993-94 budget, the university will also start planning colleges Eleven and Twelve at a tentative site north of Kresge College. In the next two years, planning for new a chemistry building, an addition to the McHenry Library, an astronomy building and other construction is set to begin.

Funding for many of the projects is not yet decided and construction dates are uncertain.

Campus officials said they expect some opposition to nearly all of the construction, especially those in the Great Meadow areas.

Chancellor introduced to local politics

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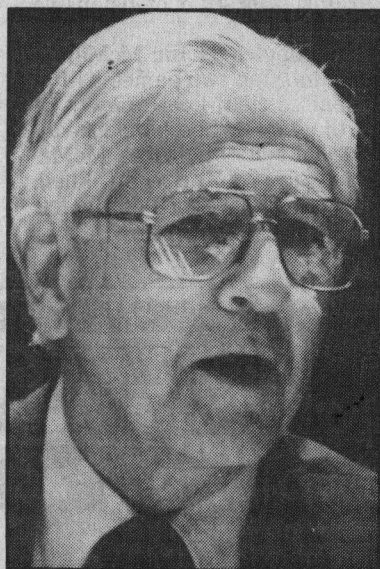
there was a plan (for development) that the students, faculty and other interested people aren't going to object, he's wrong. It's just like any other developer."

What irks Pister is that plans for the two colleges were completed before he assumed his position as a two-year interim chancellor. The university has already gone through its legally required public hearings and reviews and spent about \$2 million on plans for the colleges.

Construction is set to begin in January, once a timber harvest plan for the site, now under review, is approved by the California Department of Forestry.

The county is vowing to fight the permit, as are students and activists to stop the construction. Several times last week Pister met with groups opposed to the location of the colleges.

"They tell me they have been organized for two weeks," Pister said. "Well, that's two weeks a couple of years too late. It's hard to understand why this is so misunderstood in the community. There is a time for constructive (complaints on design). Unless



Karl Pister

"Every project creates controversy you believe in anarchy, there is no point in doing this."

Unless major new flaws are found in studies of the college site, or funding is not allocated, construction of College Nine will begin as soon as the trees are cut down, Pister said.

"It's highly improbable that any information will be brought

to bear on the issue that would require the (University of California) Regents to reverse their decision," Pister said.

Edda Ehrke, a UCSC student with the Coalition to Move Nine and Ten, said students feel the fight can still be won.

"I don't think it is too late," Ehrke said. "It was a big victory for us when the county decided to appeal the timber harvest plan. It means we have more time to stop it. The first thing to do is stop the area from being logged. If they can't log it, they can't start construction."

Edda said that her group is not altogether opposed to growth on campus, just to the planned location of the colleges.

The rallying cause for students is the preservation of Elf Land, a dark gulch of towering redwood trees that is seen as a sort of mystical fairyland by students who have adorned it since the '60s with totems, altars and symbols. It has long served as a place of refuge for students, some of whom claim it is a vortex of spiritual power.

Elf Land is on the edge of the 32-acre site across from the Student Health Center where colleg-

es Nine and Ten are to be built.

Patton said the county's decision to appeal the timber harvest is due the "hundreds of people" who feel the ecological sensitivity of the area has not been fully addressed by the timber harvest plan.

Campus officials defend the planned location of the colleges, saying that it will help bridge the gap between the east and west sides of the campus, and is vital if UCSC is to meet state educational goals.

Pister said the growth of the campus is mandated by the UC Regents and the state of California, and not the product of the UCSC administration. He said that he will continue to follow the guidelines of the Regents and recommend that development continue as directed — with full public input.

"We are certainly not going to give up our plans because of what the Board of Supervisors said," Pister said.

The fight is not over yet, however.

"It's never over until it's over," Patton said. "Once the trees are cut down and the buildings built, then it's a done deal."