

2/13/69
Off-campus
community

told: cool it

Student strikes

The chancellor and a senior faculty member of the University of California, Santa Cruz, had some advice for the off-campus community:

"Cool it," they said, in not precisely those words.

Chancellor Dean McHenry and Professor W. J. Lillyman, faculty chairman at Crown College, were reporting last week to directors of the UCSC Affiliates, a widespread group of citizens organized to support the Santa Cruz Institution.

Speaking informally and answering questions from a concerned audience after Monday night's student meeting and Tuesday's announced "boycott" of classes at the campus, McHenry and Lillyman agreed on these things:

—Santa Cruz, unlike San Jose State, San Francisco State or U.C. at Berkeley, has had no violence, no threats of destruction, no strike, and no ultimatum from students.

— A small minority of students (and some outsiders) has been involved in disruptive activities, but their actions have been disapproved by their fellows. When five persons (two of them non-students) lay down in front of a bus carrying members of the U.C. Regents last fall—an event widely publicized—some 400 students gathered around shouting for police to remove the activists.

— Santa Cruz students who seek establishment of a "College of Malcolm X" for black studies are deeply concerned, but "a rational dialogue is possible here," in Lillyman's words. McHenry concurred, saying that what's been going on at Santa Cruz is "a dialogue, not a confrontation." Added Lillyman: "These people are concerned, intellectually and rationally."

There's real danger in public misunderstanding of attitudes by UCSC students, McHenry and Lillyman agreed.

For example, last week a rumor spread through Santa Cruz that students, after their own meeting, planned to march on McHenry's home to "harass and intimidate" him. "Good people" were urged in a front-page banner headline in the Santa Cruz Sentinel to swarm to the campus for a counter-confrontation. An advertisement in that paper said the chancellor's home would be marched on by Red-oriented Third World Liberation Front students.

In fact, there was no march planned on the chancellor's home by any students.

— And in the caravan of "good people" which went to the campus (Charles Grimshaw, Aptos, who issued the appeal for the caravan, said there were 100 cars with an average of four persons each), there were at least some people who may not have had "rational dialogue" in mind.

Campus police, McHenry reported, confiscated clubs carried by at least four persons in the motorcade.

The extent of activist discontent at Santa Cruz has been exaggerated, Lillyman said. He reported he was teaching a class Monday night when the students gathered for their discussion about the black studies college, and 28 of the 30 students registered were in the classroom. On Tuesday, the day the Third World Liberation Movement called for a class boycott, Lillyman said 95 percent of the faculty was working and a similar percentage of students was in classes.

There's room for concern and interest on the part of the community, the university people agreed; but they urged that this not be extended to confrontations, vigilantism, confusion with more militant campuses, or panic.

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