

# SC protesters demand police review

## Watsonville mayor joins in calls for social justice

By BOB SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

A thousand demonstrators rallied in front of the Santa Cruz County Courthouse yesterday evening, demanding formation of a civilian police review commission in Santa Cruz and protesting the Rodney King verdict in Los Angeles.

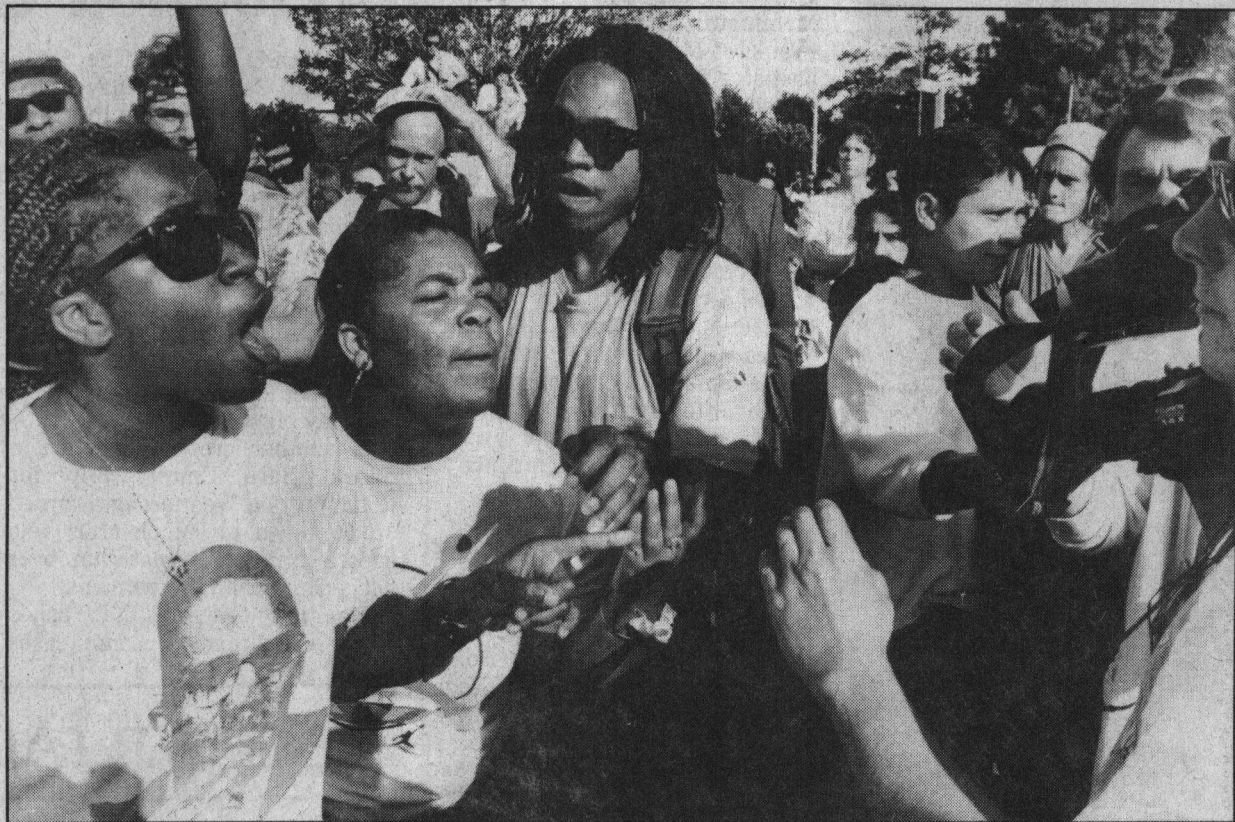
The demonstration was addressed by Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios, who called for ethnic and social justice for the nation's minorities, and by Santa Cruz Mayor Don Lane.

Lane, under severe pressure from the crowd, signed with apparent reluctance a petition supporting a city police review board. The Santa Cruz City Council is scheduled to vote on formation of a commission in the next couple of weeks.

Angela Davis, famous for her anti-war and Black Power advocacy in the 1960s and now a tenured professor at UC-Santa Cruz, spoke to the students at the UCSC rally before the march to Santa Cruz.

Last evening's demonstration was the climax of a rally and march by approximately 200 students from the UCSC campus through Santa Cruz to the county complex where they were joined by another 800 of all ages and colors. The crowd filled the lawn and the driveway in front of the courts building.

The courts building was the scene of a violent demonstration



Mike McCollum

### KCBA-TV cameraman Mark Jeanette is confronted by protesters in Santa Cruz.

early Thursday morning in which several plate-glass doors and windows in the courts building were shattered and obscene slogans were painted on the concrete walks and steps outside the building.

Last night's demonstration broke up without violence and there were no arrests last night by

either Santa Cruz city police or sheriff's deputies.

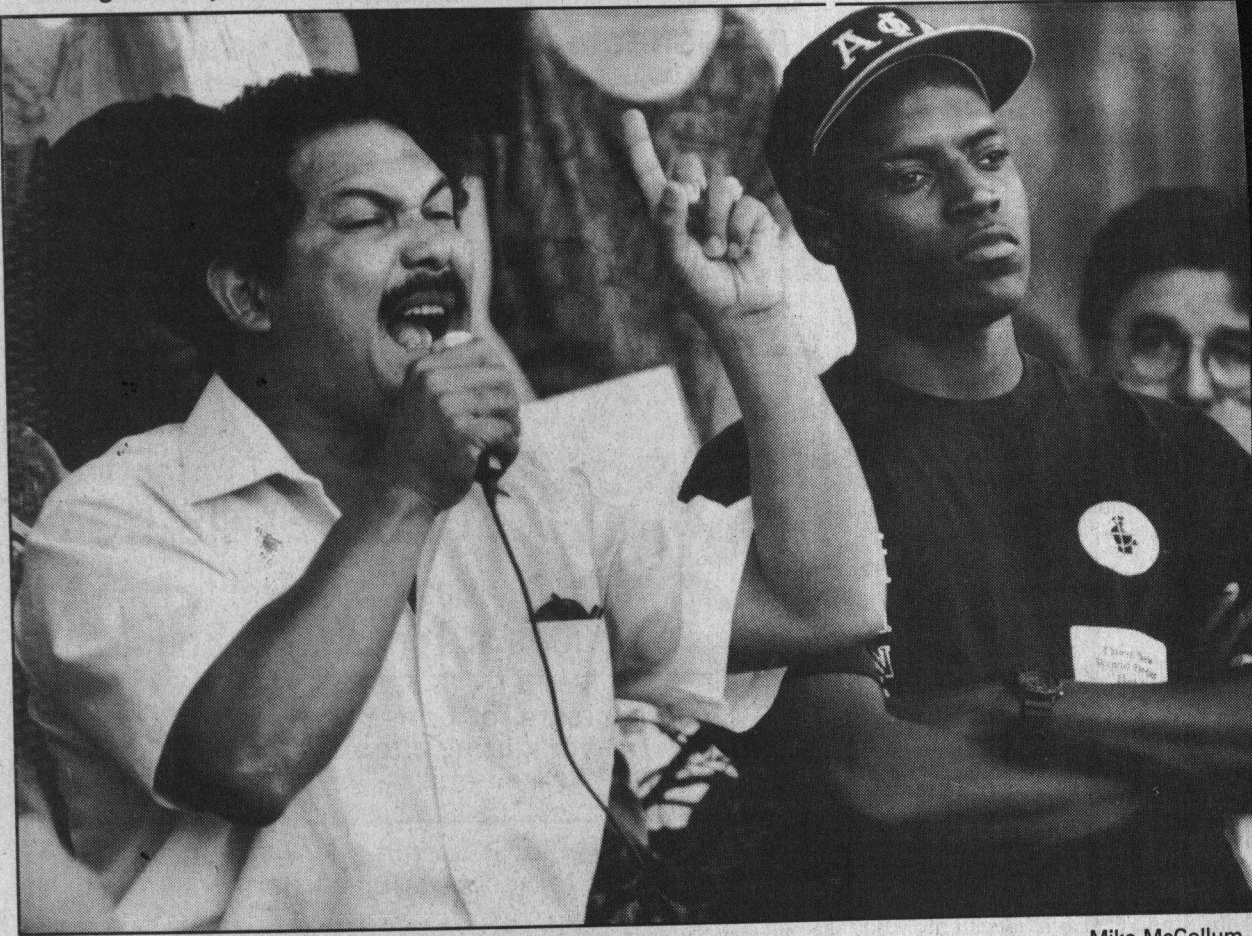
The Sheriff's Tactical Squad was stationed out of sight inside the courts building where County Administrative Office Susan Mauriello and several senior sheriff's deputies monitored the demonstration.

Other deputies photographed

the crowd from the rooftop and third-floor windows of the next-door Government Center.

At least one television cameraman found himself physically threatened by several blacks who objected to being photographed during the courthouse demonstration.

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Mike McCollum

### Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios addresses the crowd in Santa Cruz.

# PROTESTS

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Some people — white, black and Latinos — in the crowd last night called for physical violence but were shouted down and sometimes restrained by others.

Several student monitors demanded that reporters and photographers prove they worked for the media and were not police infiltrating the demonstration. Reporters had to show press cards, but some of the demonstrators didn't like the fact that those identity cards were issued by law-enforcement agencies.

Rios told the courthouse crowd, "What we are seeing is the result of 200 years of conquest in America. I think we have to change society. America is sick. We have to change it. Unless we organize, we will continue to fall into spontaneity and fight ourselves."

"It is no coincidence what happened yesterday," Rios said, referring to the not-guilty verdict in the Rodney King case. Rios said he felt the verdict was predictable when deliberations dragged on past the first few hours.

Rios called for the nation's minorities to organize. "I live in a

town where we are the majority but we are not organized. We are the silent majority," Rios said of Watsonville.

The force for change in America, he added, is the Afro-American. It always has been, he said.

Davis, who is teaching the "History of Consciousness" this spring at UCSC, told the students, "The people rioting in Los Angeles are expressing their rage that way because there are no organized channels to deal with it.

"I understand where they are coming from; I can understand their feelings," Davis added. "But it makes me angry to be speaking here on the same thing as 20 years ago."

"I won't ask you to value property more than human life," Davis told the students.

Like others, she called for formation of a civilian police review commission in Santa Cruz. "The people (in Los Angeles) who masqueraded as the prosecution were really part of the system, she said."

Without an independent commission, Davis said, "you can find yourself right where Rodney King found himself a year ago. Everyone should take a vow that we are

going to be there for each other — that we are going to watch each other's backs."