

# Going up

Towering construction, 50 tree stumps await returning UC Santa Cruz students

UCSC - Growth

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SANTA CRUZ — Guess what UC Santa Cruz did on its summer vacation?

It put up a 40,000-square-foot steel and concrete complex across from the funky old Bay Tree bookstore center.

It took down about 50 redwoods at Heller and McLaughlin drives to clear the way for a six-story parking structure, approved by the UC Regents this summer.

UCSC also put up most of a student-financed fitness complex near the East Fieldhouse.

Undergraduates returning from summer break are certain to notice several major changes — some not terribly attractive, at least for now — on a wooded campus where long-term expansion plans often chafe the sensibilities of a slow- to no-growth minded student body.

Saturday and Sunday were the traditional “move-in weekend” when students flocked into dorms. Classes start Thursday.

One of the more obvious changes is at the bookstore site, where construction is scheduled for completion in the spring. Work started while school was in session last spring, but students may be surprised now to see how the new work towers

■ 36 percent enrollment hike expected in California colleges by 2010  
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over the redwood complex that has been there for decades.

“The reason it looks so remarkable now is they just got to that stage in construction where it really makes a difference,” said campus spokeswoman Elizabeth Irwin.

It certainly is making a difference in opinions.

“Myself and my friends, every time we go by that (Bay Tree) site, we try not to look at it,” said Kenneth Burch, the campus’ University of California Student Association representative. “It’s so ugly.”

Doug Kaplan, a UC Santa Cruz graduate who served on the early campus planning committee, said it is too early to pass judgment on the various projects.

“The jury is out as to whether the current crop of campus projects will rise to Ansel Adams’ challenge,” he said. “I pray that they will.”

He was referring to the legendary photographer’s address to the campus. Adams expressed hope that UCSC “will be one of the most beautiful and effective campuses anywhere in the world.”

In the midst of all the new construction, Bay Tree and the 30-year-old Whole Earth Restaurant are still open. They will be moved gradually into two new buildings in a \$13 million center that also will house a student affairs center and a \$2 million student-financed graduate com-



Going up: Construction in front of the Bay Tree bookstore at UC Santa Cruz is scheduled to be completed in spring.

Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

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Freshly sawn redwood stumps at the site of a future parking structure will greet students as they return to UCSC in the coming days.

## UCSC

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mons area.

Bay Tree's old parking lot is being turned into a pedestrian walkway.

The administration does not have definite plans for the buildings that now house the bookstore and cafe.

Bob Pallares, a co-owner of Whole Earth, said he was glad his restaurant is moving, but he feels a tinge of nostalgia about the old "homey" building.

"There is a lot of history here," he said. "(But) when you work here and

700 people are coming in a day and you have a small staff, you can't be bumping into each other in the kitchen."

Aside from the high-profile Bay Tree construction, the most obvious change is the thinned-out redwood grove near McLaughlin and Heller.

The trees were cleared from that site during a period of negotiations between the city and university officials over the planned parking garage. The City Council has threatened to sue UCSC to stop construction of the garage, but so far has tak-

en no legal action.

Burch, the student representative, said students should have been given a larger role in the parking garage decision-making process. He said that nearly 90 percent of 3,000 students polled opposed the garage.

Undergraduate criticism of construction is nothing new at UCSC, but its intensity seems to have lessened considerably since 1991, when students chained themselves to trees to protest the building of College Nine in a sector of campus called "Elfland."