

Elfland

# Chancellor wants DA to investigate Elfland arrests

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SANTA CRUZ — UC Santa Cruz Chancellor Karl Pister has asked the District Attorney's Office to investigate a number of controversial arrests made by university police during a protest over logging.

Pister said he believes police did what was necessary and acted properly, but added that any formal complaints would be investigated completely.

"There have been a lot of rumors of rudeness and excessive force," Pister said. "But no formal complaints have yet been filed. Anyone who feels mistreated should file a complaint at the DA's Office."

Pister said he considered the controversies primarily a public relations problem between the university and the press.

Among the arrests proving controversial is the arrest of a television cameraman that resulted in the destruction of a \$15,000 camera, and the arrest of an attorney trying to enter the site to obtain information for an emergency court order to stop the logging.

Most complaints center on the actions of UC Berkeley police officers brought to UCSC to control demonstrations. Two days of demonstrations resulted in 42 arrests, most for trespassing, as protesters tried to stop logging on the site of College Nine, which is adjacent to an area known as Elfland.

UCSC Police Chief Jan Tepper said the aggressiveness of the UC Berkeley police officers was justified.

"I am not pleased by the complaints of rudeness," Tepper said. "But this operation called for the officers to be aggressive. We couldn't afford to let people through the perimeter. If a protester had been hit by a tree we would have had a real tragedy."

A force of UCSC police was bolstered by 20 UC Berkeley police, as part of mutual aid agreement between the university campuses, Tepper said.

The cut areas extend into the Elfland gulch area about 100 yards past a totem pole carved by students in the '60s. The area has shelters and "altars" built in the trees by students, many who claimed the area enchanted.

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The university has claimed the cutting was not in Elfland proper, but on the adjacent ridges and hillsides.

"Elfland grew over time to (contain) the entire site of Colleges Nine and 10," Pister said. "In my opinion the site is adjacent to, but not in Elfland."

The uproar and fight to save the trees and force the university to move the college site was a lost battle before it began, according to Pister.

"These student groups formed in the recent weeks or months and seemed to ignore the fact that it wasn't an option for us, or the regents to reconsider that site," Pister said. "It is the appropriate place for the expansion of the campus."

Pister said that the protesters apparently don't believe in due process, as the plans for the colleges had been approved years ago with the support of the city and county.

Pister would not admit wrongdoing on the part of officers in the arrest of the cameraman or attorney, saying it was under investigation. He did, however, say a similar situation might be handled differently.

"We learned things and we will do better next time, if I should be so unfortunate to go through another logging operation," Pister said.

Pister also said that despite the controversy over the police handling of the protests he doesn't feel the university was seen in a negative light by the community.