

UCSC students press top officials

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■ Top story:
Rallying around
arrestees, hundreds
demand a voice.

BY LEE QUARNSTROM
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The day after a dozen students were arrested by club-wielding officers for blocking the entrance to executive offices at UC-Santa Cruz, more than 500 young people crammed the lobby outside those offices Tuesday to demand a voice in university decisions.

A group calling itself Concerned Students issued fliers complaining that UC regents "have assaulted ethnic and racial diversity" and "are denying us a quality education" with cuts to the university budget.

Some of the concerns

"They are attacking affordable education," read one broadsheet that demanded "no more racist policies by the university" as well as "no more fee increases, no more cuts to student services" and "responsible campus growth."

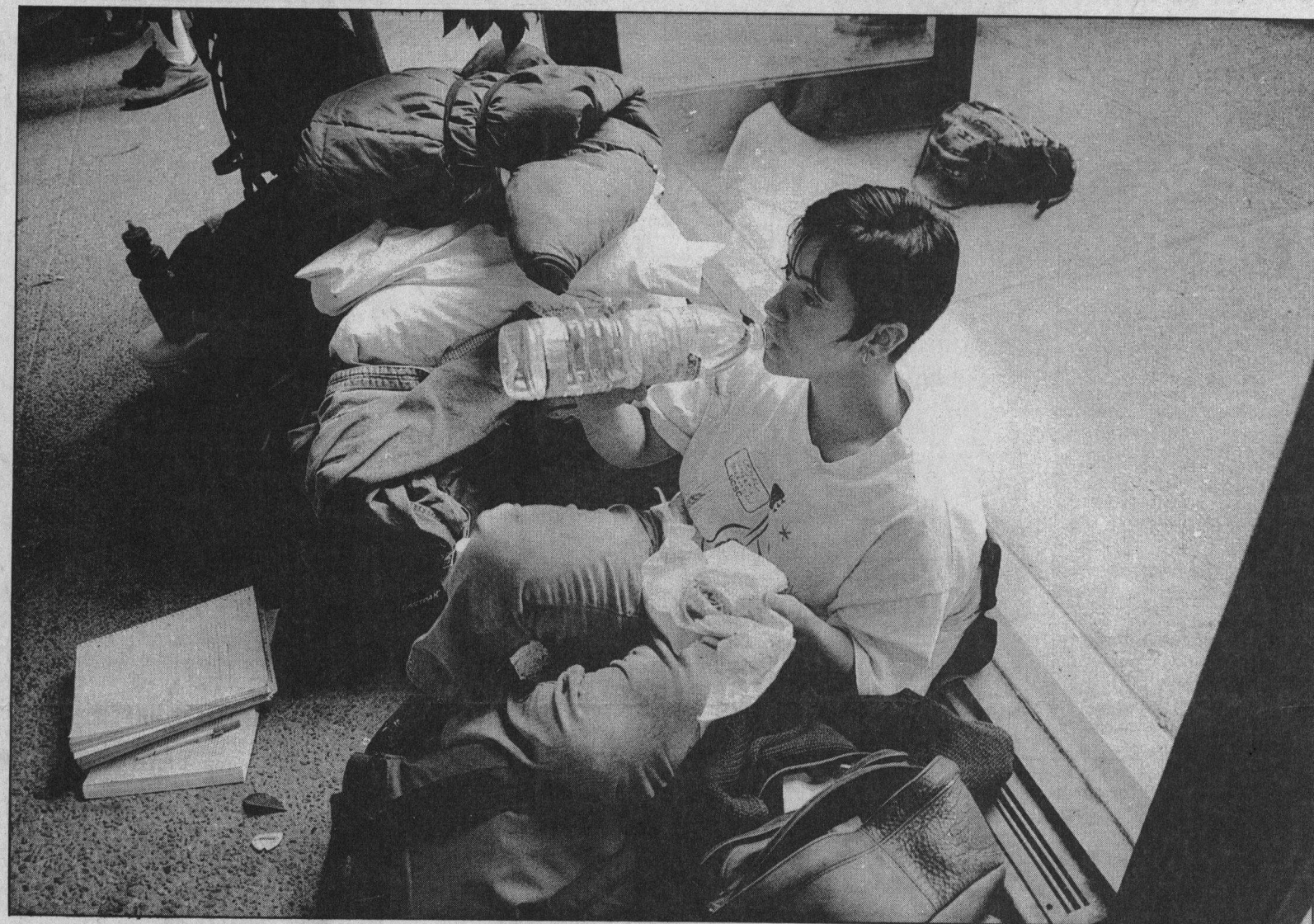
Speakers at a noontime rally Tuesday at the Santa Cruz campus also demanded re-evaluation of what they called "the disproportionately high UC administrators' salaries" and said they want members of the student body included "in all decisions that affect students."

Want charges dropped

They also demanded that charges be dropped against the students arrested Monday.

Those students were booked into Santa Cruz County jail, mostly on trespassing charges, then released on their own recognizance. They were picked up by a combined squad of university and city police and county sheriff's deputies.

Monday's demonstration was aimed at a confrontation with Michael Tanner, executive vice chancellor of the UC-Santa Cruz



Adriana Rocha fortifies herself for an overnight stay in front of the chancellor's office at UC-Santa Cruz.

ANGELA PANCRAZIO — MERCURY NEWS

campus. Students wanted Tanner to respond to a list of demands concerning university plans to deal with budget cuts. Some students spent the night camped out in front of the offices.

A delegation of students met with Tanner and another top school official Tuesday. Student delegates were to discuss their meeting at a gathering in the library foyer later Tuesday night.

During the rally Tuesday, videotapes of the arrests were shown — including footage of helmeted officers using billy

clubs when students refused to leave their spots in McHenry Library. Students also said Mace was sprayed on those who refused to move.

Sheriff's officers at the scene said police were pelted with apples before the arrests.

Students whistled and cheered when Santa Cruz Councilman-elect Mike Rotkin, a UC-Santa Cruz instructor, took the microphone.

Telling the crowd that police could have arrested protesters non-violently, Rotkin drew applause when he said:

"The police should be bound

by the same rules as the rest of us."

He noted that in the past, police have made many arrests of student demonstrators without resorting to clubs or Mace.

UC spokesman Jim Burns said that during the Monday demonstration he saw one officer spray a student but saw other officers merely hold their batons in two hands as a buffer to keep students away from the building.

"After negotiating with the students, informing them and after making repeated statements to them that if they didn't

clear the doorway they would be arrested, a decision was made to commence with the arrests," Burns said.

Off-campus police were called in at the request of campus Police Chief Jan Tepper, said a campus spokesman.

Three sheriff's officers went to the campus as backups after the call, said sheriff's Sgt. Craig Little. He said the trio did not use any force during the arrests.

Santa Cruz city police also sent officers to the library.

Mercury News Staff Writer Jim Dickey contributed to this report.