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# Campus response to logging protest probed

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The Santa Cruz County District Attorney's office opened an investigation Thursday into charges that campus police used excessive force during anti-logging demonstrations this week at the University of California, Santa Cruz.



Pister

The outside investigation came at the request of UC-Santa Cruz interim Chancellor Karl Pister, who provided an unwavering defense of the logging operation and university police during an afternoon news conference.

"I am sorry there were incidents," Pister said. "But this is not an admission of apology. I had hoped those incidents

wouldn't have occurred."

Steady charges of excessive force have hit the university in the wake of protests surrounding the logging of a popular wooded area, known as "Elfland," on Monday and Tuesday.

Crews logged 14 acres of redwood to make room for Colleges Nine and Ten — a complex of new classrooms and dormitories that by 1995 will accommodate 2,000 students.

During demonstrations, police arrested 43 people, including a television cameraman and a Sierra Club lawyer attempting to inspect the site on the orders of a Superior Court judge.

Pister described the clashes as the fault of irresponsible demonstrators, stressing that the construction is part of the campus's long-range development plan. The work was approved three years ago after

dozens of public meetings, he said, and had all the required government permits.

University officials' headaches began Monday when KSBW (Ch. 8) cameraman John Torigoe was arrested on trespassing charges by a UC-Berkeley officer called in for backup support.

Witnesses said Torigoe had not entered the restricted logging area.

The arresting officer, John Lechmanik, tackled Torigoe, breaking his \$15,000 camera. While he was filming his own arrest, Torigoe suffered cuts and bruises.

"It was never our intention to deny access to the media per se," UC-Santa Cruz Police Chief Jan Tepper said Thursday. "The intent was to keep the area safe."

Tepper said the officer "made a judgment call," adding that she will cooperate with district attorney's investigator Dennis Clark. If Lechmanik is found to have vio-

lated campus police policy or criminal law, Tepper has no authority to discipline him; that decision would rest with UC-Berkeley Police Chief Victoria Harrison.

Both Tepper and Pister were asked why a police officer would arrest a reporter easily identifiable by his bulky video equipment.

Pister speculated that the officer might have thought the cameraman was a student protester in disguise.

"There are all sorts of strange things that can happen," he said.

When asked if he viewed the negative fallout from the mass arrests as a problem in public relations rather than police misconduct, Pister replied: "I think that's a fair assessment."

As for the other controversial arrest, of Sierra Club attorney Deborah Malkin, Pister said Malkin's account of the facts "is

based on a false hypothesis" and, as a result, he would not apologize.

Malkin, representing a student group, was arrested Monday as she attempted to access the site as part of a court challenge. She said university attorney David Birnbaum and Assistant Chancellor Stephanie Hauk watched the incident but ignored her screams for help.

Hauk, the ranking administrator at the protest, said Thursday she has no authority to tell campus police whom they can arrest. She also said she would have let Malkin into the logging area soon enough.

"If she had waited another 30 seconds I gladly would have taken her on site," Hauk said. "I think it was really bad judgment on her part. She was highly emotional."

Neither Malkin nor student leaders, home on holiday break, were available for comment.