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Elfland

5 more arrests as crews bulldoze 'Elfland'

By Paul Rogers
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Logging crews with bulldozers and other heavy equipment spent Tuesday dragging freshly cut redwoods from the controversial "Elfland" site at the University of California, Santa Cruz campus amid more arrests and allegations of police brutality.

Five protesters were arrested in the morning, all accused of trespassing on the site. The arrests, handled without injury, bring to 43 the number of people arrested this week in connection with the logging operation.

University officials said the job is largely completed. Construction of College Nine and College Ten — a new complex of three-story dormitories and lecture halls for 2,000 students on a 14-acre site — will begin next year, with 1995 set as the com-

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pletion date.

Many UCSC officials clearly were relieved that the size of student protests Tuesday had dwindled significantly from a day earlier. But they encountered new headaches as a lawyer for the Sierra Club and a television cameraman, both arrested Monday, charged campus police with us-

ing excessive force.

The cameraman, John Torigoe of KSBW-TV (Ch. 8), suffered cuts and bruises when an officer brought in from UC-Berkeley grabbed his camera and threw him to the ground while he was filming, even though Torigoe and other reporters covering Monday's protest had not crossed

lines into restricted territory.

Torigoe was arrested, but later released at the request of top campus administrators without being booked.

KSBW station managers were outraged. They demanded the university pay \$15,000 to replace Torigoe's Sony 300 camera, which was irreparably broken, and said

they were considering filing a lawsuit. "John was doing his job and he had every legal right to be there," station manager Maria Barrs said.

Because of "overzealous" police presence, Barrs said, "the public was denied the right to see what was going on."

Also Monday, conservation attorney Deborah Malkin was arrested as she attempted to tour the site as part of a court challenge. Malkin is a member of the Sierra Club's Santa Cruz executive committee.

Representing a student group, she filed for a temporary restraining order and was ordered by Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Samuel Stevens to inspect Elfland for violations of timber laws.

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Five more arrests made at 'Elfland' logging site

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When she tried, police arrested Malkin on suspicion of trespassing and resisting arrest. She complained that university attorney David Birnbaum and Assistant Chancellor Stephanie Hauk watched the incident but ignored her screams for help.

"They all knew I was an attorney," Malkin said. "They had seen me in court an hour before, but didn't do anything when the police began pushing me and my client around."

UCSC Police Chief Jan Tepper spent the day interviewing people who saw confrontations.

Tepper denied that any of the several dozen police present from three UC campuses and the city of Santa Cruz had done anything wrong.

"My officers did an excellent job under stressful conditions," she said. "If there were any mistakes made, we'll look into them, but I'm not going to jump to conclusions."

Elfland sits on the north edge of the bucolic UCSC campus, above McLaughlin Drive. Named for its mystical character, the popular forest had been rich in wildlife and frequented by hikers, mountain bikers and community members seeking solitude.

College Nine and College Ten are key parts of the campus plan to expand from the current 10,000 students to 15,000 by the year 2005.

Many students and some Santa Cruz County politicians fought the choice of sites, but lost two weeks ago when the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection granted a timber harvesting permit.