

Elfland protesters concede defeat

By JOHN ROBINSON
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SANTA CRUZ — The era of Elfland ended as the last police and logging trucks left the embattled site Tuesday night, leaving open spaces where College Nine will soon be built.

Only a few protesters showed at UC Santa Cruz Tuesday and four arrests made. Protesters conceded defeat in their fight to save trees in the way of College Nine and Ten, located above a gulch known as Elfland, which some claim is an enchanted area.

"I guess it's pretty much all over," said Edda Ehrke, of the Coalition to Move College Nine and Ten. "The site is destroyed. But I think a lot of Elfland will always be in the heart of students. There will be other Elflands."

The two-day operation led to the arrests of 42 people and complaints over how university police handled the situation. A force of about 36 officers, in-

cluding police from UC Berkeley and UC Davis, were used to keep protesters out of the area.

Some officers were accused of being overly aggressive, including a UC Berkeley officer who arrested a KSBW cameraman and threw him to the ground, ruining a \$15,000 video camera.

KSBW officials said they are considering filing a lawsuit against the university for the arrest and will be seeking reimbursement for the cost of their equipment.

The cameraman, John Torigoe, was with other media, walking into the woods to investigate reports of police beating demonstrators. The group was outside the harvest area and police perimeter when confronted by an officer who ordered them to leave or face immediate arrest.

After a very brief conversation, Torigoe started walking away when the officer ran up from behind him and threw

him to the ground, sending his camera equipment flying.

"Never did he ask who I was or where I was from," Torigoe said. "There was no conversation at all. He threw me down with the camera and (video tape) deck on my shoulder. What was I supposed to do? ... I don't think he had any provocation to come at us the way he did. He was hostile physically and verbally from the outset."

Torigoe was taken away and was not released until senior UCSC officials ordered him freed.

UCSC Police Chief Jan Tepper said the incident with Torigoe was under investigation, and that she had no other official complaints from demonstrators over police actions.

"Some students talked about a stance taken by the police that might be more aggressive than they are used to," Tepper said. "They did what was required for safety, both for the (demonstrators)

and police officers."

A number of demonstrators, however, said they were outraged, both by the roughness of some arrests and the lack of warning that preceded them. Police typically told demonstrators to leave an area, and if they hesitated at all they were immediately placed in handcuffs.

All but a handful of those arrested were taken to County Jail where they were cited and released, most on suspicion of trespassing. Several of those arrested initially refused to give their names and were booked into jail.

Ehrke said that the students have given up on Elfland and the College Nine site, but that they learned how the university process works, so they will be better able to fight such projects in the future.

"I do not feel defeated," Ehrke said. "And I do not feel the fight is over. I hope the whole thing is a catalyst for a large student movement."

Judge denies bid for restraining order

SANTA CRUZ — A last-ditch effort to stop the logging of an area known as Elfland at UC Santa Cruz failed Tuesday morning.

Superior Court Judge Samuel Stevens denied a request for a temporary restraining order against the timber harvest.

He met privately in his chambers with representatives from the university and the Coalition to Move College Nine and Ten, which sought the restraining order.

Close to 200 trees were to be cut to make way for the development.

Most of the large redwood trees had been cut Monday, and more trees were being cut Tuesday as the two groups met in court.

"In his judgment, there was not sufficient evidence to stop the project at this juncture," said University Counsel David Birnbaum.

In the court halls, coalition members voiced disappointment that their request was denied, but vowed to keep watch over the project.

Goodbye Elfland



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ — Brett Lambert rests near the end of a day of work on the site of College Nine at UC Santa Cruz Tuesday after-

noon. Only a handful of protesters showed up to oppose the felling of trees on the site. There were four arrests. See story, Page A2.