

Students Protest Evictions of Local Families

by PRABHJOT SINGH

On Friday, Jan. 25, University of California, Santa Barbara students protested and picketed outside of 781 Embarcadero del Norte in Isla Vista in response to the recent evictions of IV families from the apartment building by the manager, Matthew Platler. The protest, entitled "Picketing to Protect" and organized by Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU), lasted about three hours and caught the attention of many passersby and drivers, who honked their support for the protesters.

The protesters, holding signs that read, "People over Profit," "Mi Casa es Su Casa," "Families and Students Unite," and "Protect the People," chanted, "These are families, not commodities!"

Since the past summer, 16 families have been evicted from the apartment building without receiving adequate notice, in order to make the units available to rent out to students at higher prices.

Holding a picket sign with the words "Right To Live" painted on it, third-year global studies major Norma Orozco, protested at the event.

"I want to get out the word and let the landowner, as well as the students, know that we are not going to be silenced. It's an unjust eviction of families who live here and who are a part of this community," said Orozco.

Platler Capital Management purchased the apartment complex in April, and soon after, eviction notices were sent out. The company also began construction in the building, which upset many residents due to the lack of notice and the unlivable conditions they were subject to. Tenants then approached IVTU for assistance. IVTU started working with the tenants and advocating on their behalf.

IVTU and IV Community Advisor Hilary Kleger are currently working to help get the ten-

ants compensation through Ordinance 4444, which increases rights for renters who are evicted through no fault of their own and may allow them to receive compensation.

"Technically, the landlord has a right to evict them and do remodeling but we want the county to understand that it's not just or fair and it's not good for the community to evict families," said Kleger. "It's a real detriment to our society."

Lorena Garcia, one of the people who were evicted from the building, also showed up at the protest and shared her experience.

"My husband and I had been living there since 1995, almost 17 years," said Garcia, translated from Spanish to English. "When we were evicted, we were not given enough time to find another place to live and we ended up living out of a garage, where we are still staying. They would come to my home while I was at work and harass my husband, who has Alzheimer's. They would ask when we would give them the key and leave, even though we still had time left before we had to leave. I was always worried and sometimes I wouldn't eat or sleep because I was so worried. It was a horrible situation, very inhumane."

IVTU and other protesters stressed the fact that they believe this is happening due to the likelihood that the landlord could get students to pay higher rent. Therefore, IVTU wants students to be more aware of what is happening in their own neighborhood so that they can make informed decisions.

"Evictions of families are becoming a large part of IV because of the demand for student rent because students pay higher rent," said second-year political science major Linda Gonzalez. "I think it's ridiculous that they're trying to exploit us. They're not only hurting families, they're also hurting students."

Currently, IVTU is working on a complaint to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing in regard to the evictions.

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- Hilary Kleger, IVTU and IV Community Advisor

photo by PRABHJOT SINGH | *The Bottom Line*

Students protesting the eviction of Isla Vista families on Embarcadero del Norte.

Early Morning Del Playa Burglar Apprehended

by THOMAS ALEXANDER
Isla Vista Beat Reporter

Isla Vista Foot Patrol took Santa Barbara City College student Oliver Lim into custody early Sunday morning as he left the scene of a residential burglary.

Lim, 18, was caught in the possession of a slew of stolen items including a GPS unit, a Samsung TV monitor, credit cards, various electronic devices, cell phones, U.S. currency, prescription medication, and checks. He faces charges of residential burglary, possession of stolen property, possession of a controlled substance, petty theft, and resisting arrest, and his bail is set at \$50,000.

Police responded to the 6500 block of Del Playa around 1:15 a.m. on Sunday morning after residents reported that Lim was burglarizing their home. Upon arriving at the scene, police

found a suspect leaving the area who fit the victim's description of the perpetrator. The suspect, later identified as Lim, fled the scene on foot with officers and deputies in hot pursuit. Officers eventually managed to chase Lim down and he was taken into custody accordingly.

Lim will be held in Santa Barbara County Jail pending bail, and he is to be tried on felony charges.

In response to recent burglaries, the IV Foot Patrol is working with University of California, Santa Barbara Associated Students along with local businesses and residents in an anti-crime regime known as the "Stop the Burgs" program. The initiative aims to promote crime-deterrent practices by reminding students and residents to lock their doors and windows and to keep their valuables out of view. Police have urged Isla Vista residents to report any suspicious activity to 911.

It Takes a Village to Raise an Urban Forest

Community Discusses Preserving Natural Landscape



Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation asks community members to share their visions for the future of our area's natural environment.

photo by JULIAN MOORE | *The Bottom Line*

by CHEYENNE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation gave a presentation on local trees and their future in Santa Barbara last Thursday, Jan. 24. Speaking to a small group in the Faulkner Room of the Santa Barbara Public Library, SB Parks and Recreation offered the public information on the "Urban Forest" in the local community. "Urban Forest" refers to the collection of trees, shrubbery, and other forms of plant life that grow throughout SB and help ensure the aesthetic and environmental value of the area.

"Santa Barbara is defined in many aspects by the trees that were planted a hundred years ago, by the trees we continue to plant today, by the trees we protect," said Jill Zachary, Assistant

Parks and Recreation Director. "When you picture Santa Barbara, there's always a tree in the picture. When you see anything of Santa Barbara, there's something about the landscape that defines our place."

Fred Sweeney, a local architect, agreed that trees play a key role in perception and feeling of the SB area.

"One of the things that makes us unique," said Sweeney, "is how our landscape interplays with our architecture. The light and shadow that's thrown onto those white washed walls and red tile roofs are part of our signature, who we are as a city."

While Parks and Recreation did occupy a portion of the meeting giving information, a key goal of the event was to hear from community members their concerns and questions regarding

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UCSB Undergrad Applications Pile Up, Break Record

by ALLYSON WERNER

A press release sent out on Jan. 18 revealed that the University of California, Santa Barbara has just received a record high number of applicants for Fall 2013.

UCSB has received 76,026 applications for undergraduate admission, a drastic increase from the 68,818 received the previous year. Of those 76,026, 62,402 are from prospective first-year students and 13,637 are from prospective transfer students. Both temporary and full time staff members are working around the clock reading application after application.

Fall 2012 also experienced a surge in applicants, followed by a surge in enrollment. The UCSB admissions office had a target enrollment of 4,375 first-year students for fall 2012. Instead, 4,741 freshmen are working to establish a presence on campus. Freshmen residence halls saw the transformation of singles to doubles and doubles to triples in order to accommodate the high numbers and the fight for classes, especially those lower division GE's, seems to be getting tougher and tougher every quarter.

According to Christine Van Gieson, the Director of Admissions, UCSB aims to enroll 4,300 students in the fall of 2013, although she admits, as demonstrated by fall 2012 statistics, hitting a target is nearly impossible with such a large number of applicants.

"Enrollment targets are set following consultation with an campus enrollment planning committee comprised of deans, faculty, and administrators, analysis of projected attendance and graduation, and assessment of campus resources," said Van Gieson. Furthermore, target enrollment figures are subject to change throughout the year as new data and analysis appears.

As an admissions counselor, incentive to meet the target enrollment is high.

"The campus receives funding based upon the number of California resident students it expects to enroll. If we are way over the projection, then there is insufficient funding per student; if we are under the projection, there is the possibility of having to return funding to UC," said Van Gieson.

The number of undergraduate applicants increases every year; however, according to admissions counselor Lisa Caruso, "the admit rate usually hovers around 40 percent." As a result, UCSB is admitting more and more students each year. It is unclear whether the admit rate will drop in order to avoid insufficient funding per student.

The surge in applicants has also increased activity on campus. According to Sabrina Buchcik, a fourth year transfer student and visitor center intern, the center experienced a rush before the UC application due date on Nov. 1 and expects another rush of prospective students eager to tour the campus after decisions are released in mid-March. "The visitor center is hiring new tour guides for spring," said Buchcik.

Caruso said in her admissions presentation to prospective students that UCSB is "becoming more visible." Both Van Gieson and Caruso feel the surge in applications is a positive reflection of UCSB's growing prominence both nationally and internationally.

UCSB Cop Assists in Drug Smugglers' Arrest
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5 Questions with SB Foodbank CEO
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Mormon Polygamy and Hugh Hefner
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National Blood Donation Month
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Student reactions to U-mail/Outlook Switch
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