

Updates on the Santa Cruz Eleven*

- *City on a Hill Press* denounces prosecutions in on-line and in-print editorial: Referring to the eleven as “community activists”, “spokespeople”, and “journalists”, *CHP* editors called for their acquittal. “Without equality in reporting,” continues the editorial, referring to photojournalists Bradley Allen and Alex Darocy, “their rights as journalists were moot.” Noting that a Santa Cruz Sentinel photographer was selectively ignored by the prosecution, “Photographers and reporters from all news outlets should be treated equally and have the same freedoms to gather the news.”
- “This crackdown on journalist efforts surrounding the Occupy movement is not an isolated one” warns *CHP*. “In fact, around 70 journalists have been arrested in 12 cities around the United States as a result of Occupy:.. **So far prosecutors and police have failed, in spite of repeated requests, to hand over video and communications with other police agencies to the defendants or their lawyers.** Citing *Reporters Without Borders*, the *Huffington Post*, & Josh Stearns of *Free Press*, *CHP* notes “a significant drop in press freedom in the U.S.” and a policy of “targeting journalists with repeated crackdowns on journalists covering Occupy movements.”
- In response, **D.A. Bob Lee** hotly denied saying Darocy and Allen “effectively serv[ed] as the media arm of the organization; the group’s propagandists.” However, this was how his employee and representative **Rebekah Young** characterized the two at their March Preliminary Hearing. After contacting **Free Radio broadcaster Robert Norse** by phone to deny the quotes, Lee refused to be interviewed on his office’s policy regarding the First Amendment.
- **Judge Paul Burdick** postponed a Motion to Dismiss, a Motion Alleging Selective Prosecution, and an ACLU Friend-of-the-Court brief until **8:15 AM Monday May 14th**. He did deny D.A. Young’s last-minute motion to remove him from the case as “untimely.” “Much as I would like to grant it,” Burdick sighed, “we’re stuck with each other.” **Young filed the motion only three days before—apparently at least a week late.** Young’s slipshod last-minute move seemed the latest in a series of delays and blunders, making many wonder whether Lee had left her hanging out to dry—a relatively inexperienced D.A. Faced with 11 defense lawyers in a complex and unsound case..
- **Young filed no opposition** to a motion by David Beauvais, Robert Norse’s attorney, **to require her to provide 20 or more hours of police video.** Still more video is apparently not yet downloaded from police storage, according to Detective Gunter at an earlier Preliminary Hearing. Young has repeatedly **promised at least four times to turn over this video**, and then not done so. Her latest claim is that the video has “been corrupted.” The Motion to Compel will be heard **Friday May 18th at 8:15 AM.**
- **The San Francisco Coalition on Homeless** according to Jennifer Freidenbach has added its denunciation of these prosecutions: “[We]...reject the repression of activists, reporters, and homeless advocates showcased in the prosecution of eleven people who served the community by reporting on and being present during the attempt to create a community center last winter in Santa Cruz at a Wells Fargo Bank building vacant for 3 1/2 years at that time. We urge that all these charges be rejected, that the defendants be recompensed for the damages incurred, and that authorities abandon any plans to prosecute others for this peacefully resolved event.”

**The opinions throughout are those of Robert Norse. They don't necessarily speak for anyone else.*

Go to www.santacruzeleven.org to support the Santa Cruz Eleven !

Flier by HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 5-11-12