

# THE WILDCAT IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE WILDCAT! A COMMUNIQUE FROM “SANTA CRUZ”

The end of this past week brought with it the clear message that the students of UCSC, especially undergraduate students, are done fucking around with the current “soft-picket” tactics, that since Monday have allowed the UC to go on producing profit at the cost of student and workers lives. On Friday, the undergraduate energy, which started with a march from Quarry plaza, brought the East entrance of the university to a halt and gave those present a taste of the rage that people expressed in 2019-20 and that ignited the spark of revolt across all UC campuses. **Undergraduates are bringing the energy and have the desire to fight for more. Their labor gets exploited by the union leadership. They are the ones keeping the space alive.** They led the occupation of the main entrance, and their expressed rage proves that they will continue disruptions.

As the march neared the campus entrance and picket lawn, it was clear that the union leadership intended to dampen the spirit of the wildcat that animated the march. They tried to force people onto the lawn for another day of business as usual. Nonetheless, the energy stayed strong and students continued inching from the entrance of the campus onto the main road, eager to demonstrate the truth of the chant: “whose streets? Our Streets!”

It was clear that many of the union leadership had planned for the march to stay behind the intersection lines, which calls back to Cynthia Larive’s warning in 2019-20 that “students would only be protected if they remained within the bounds of the university.” Protected from whom? From the over \$300K a day worth of KKKops that the university brought onto the campus picket line three years ago. As the march on Friday slowly but surely moved into the intersection, **people were excited to once again say “Fuck the UC,” to an institution that everyday continues profiting from the exploitation and suffering of the students and workers who run it.**

The Union and the UC will continue working together to discredit and repress the rage and action of students who are sick of the same old bullshit, who are tired of watching UC admin and UC Regents fill their pockets with the debt that students and workers must then carry, and **done with the entire settler colonial and capitalist system that sustains the UC.** Friday was a clear indication that the pandemic has only heightened the need for these kind of militant actions that put fear into the hearts of the UC and

call attention to the fucked up tactics employed by unions like the UAW. **They care more about their “image” and their whack ass singular demand than they do about actually causing disruption—saying “fuck the UC”. They would rather maintain their rapport with the police than act upon the hollow chant “cops off campus” we have heard at the picket line.**

Yet, **the spirit of the wildcat** is active in sites such as UC Davis, where comrades have continued to uphold a barricade that not only physically creates a barrier in the free flow of capital but also marks a stark line in the sand. On the one hand, it exposes the cowardly counterinsurgent tactics of UAW Strike Captains. On the other, it demonstrates the principled actions that can expand the struggle beyond a raise for graduate students. The counter-insurgency tactics of the Strike Captains to prevent the spirit of the wildcat to spread by discouraging participation of upholding the barricade and promoting the merry-go-round of monotonous baseless chants underscores the importance to stay organized and committed to staying dangerous.

**The spirit of the wildcat** is also present in UC Santa Barbara where comrades have continued dropping banners that read “Long Live the Wildcat!”, “Land Back”, “Fuck Cops”, and have extended solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against white settler colonial violence. Transterritorial solidarity networks are critical for those of us committed to communities in struggle. Those of us who are concerned with the violences that racial-patriarchal capitalism imposes on a day-to-day basis on racialized and criminalized communities salute the militancy of comrades at UCSB.

Comrades, if you find yourselves feeling isolated and disappointed in what is occurring in your site of struggle due to the counterinsurgent tactics of UAW strike captains, **remember that you are not alone.** They will tell us that we can only express our desire for crumbs and only hold an official UAW “Unfair Labor Practice” sign, **but we remain ungovernable as anti-capitalists, anti-racist, anti-colonial, anti-sexists, and committed to communities in struggle.** We know that the university bureaucrats will work with UCPD and Student Conduct/Judicial officers to target “leaders” and prosecute them with asinine charges. We have to remember to stay dangerous by moving smart and to stay two steps ahead of the repressive machine that works to divide us. **Let’s find ourselves among the faces in the crowd and continue to expand this beyond merely asking for crumbs.**

**Long Live the Wildcat!**

**Link up: [abolishtheUC@protonmail](mailto:abolishtheUC@protonmail) | [@abolishtheUC](https://twitter.com/abolishtheUC)**

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