

Students not budging in protest of budget cuts at San Diego State

They have stood in protest on the San Diego State U. campus for almost six months now. Their presence, once stark, is a simple reminder — the financial crisis strangling universities in California is far from over.

And the students who take turns standing watch around the clock say as long as universities like San Diego State face the fear of layoffs and cuts to academic programs, they will stay.

"We've sacrificed personal relationships, jobs," says graduate student David Boyns. "We're barely keeping up with our classes, but it's absolutely worth it. Next year we might not have any classes."

A few days after President Thomas B. Day unveiled plans in May to eliminate nine academic departments and nearly 150 tenured or tenure-track faculty positions at San Diego State, a handful of students, armed with sleeping bags, took to the steps of the administration building.

They stayed, quietly protesting the financial demise of their institution, until early August, when campus security forced them to set up camp in front of the library.

Two weeks later, the university took action against the protesters, arresting three of them for illegal lodging, a form of disorderly conduct, after they fell asleep at the vigil site. The charges since have been dropped, and the student protesters, who now number about two dozen, say they are undeterred, despite warnings the law still will be enforced.

"They're trying to present their case and we're trying not to hassle them," says John Carpenter, director of public safety. "We'll allow a certain amount of freedom of speech but just try to keep it within a manageable framework."

But protester Matt Holck, a graduate student, says he and others will keep this issue alive. "Everybody has to think about the budget cuts because we're out here," he says. "You can't miss us." ■ Paul Ybarrondo, *The Daily Aztec*, San Diego State U.



KAREN CLAPP / THE DAILY AZTEC, SAN DIEGO STATE U.

'You can't miss us' — protester Matt Holck on a six-month vigil against education cuts.

► You should see the really old books at Ole Miss

When Lisa Lay found out her economics class at the U. of Mississippi would use a popular financial magazine for research this fall, she bought a subscription.

It seemed easier, she says, than fighting with her classmates for a few ratty copies at the university's library.



CHRIS GOODWIN / DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN, U. OF MISSISSIPPI

"There have been times when I haven't been able to find a journal either," says Lay, a senior. "And if your books and all are not updated or not there, we're of course going to be behind the rest of the world."

The U. of Mississippi lost its membership in a library research association last spring because it hadn't spent enough on resources during the past three years, leaving students like Lay with fewer library services.

And Mississippi is not alone.

Campus libraries across the country are cutting hours and staff to combat decreasing state and federal funds and rising costs of library materials.

Those cuts have started to hit home for Shaun Stauffer, a senior at Southern Illinois U.

"I've found fewer and fewer articles available — especially with periodicals in the undergraduate floor," he says. "Students pay a lot of money for their education, and it's sad that the facilities may not be ample enough to provide that education."

To survive the last three years of budget cuts, the SIU library has been forced to cut more than 1,000 titles and

cope with a smaller staff.

Although all students may be aware of the cuts in libraries, generally only faculty, graduate students and undergraduates in specialized upper classes have felt the pinch, says Glenn Ricketts, research director for the National Association of Scholars.

Libraries are cutting items geared for those doing research, Ricketts says. More specialized periodicals and academic books go first because they are the most expensive and most obscure.

"Legislators are looking for anything to cut," he says. "They say nobody is reading [the specialized works]. That's true, unfortunately, but libraries need to buy those in hopes they will be there [when researchers need them]."

Stan Carpenter, executive director of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, says if a university is research-oriented it will cut library services instead of purchases.

But more universities are undergraduate-based and choose to decrease periodicals and books, which hurts faculty most, says Carpenter, an associate professor at Texas A&M U.

"Either way, something has to go," he says. "If you don't buy materials, what the hell is the point of having a library? But by the same token, if you're cutting other services, what's the point of having a library?" ■ Tony Mancuso, *Daily Egyptian*, Southern Illinois U.

► Bye, bye birdie — 'Tiger' flies ratty coop

Auburn U. has sent its mascot packing for a while.

The school's golden eagle mascot, Tiger, has been living in substandard conditions outside the stadium, where she fell ill to a disease that causes lesions to form on her feet. Tiger's surgery left her with ball splints, similar in shape and size to tennis balls, on her feet.

Now recovering from the ailment, Tiger is homeless.

against the elements. Tiger has no protection

And it seems nobody wants to leave the bird outside in rough weather while her feet heal.



Homeless mascot

PAUL HUGHES / AUBURN PLAINSMAN, AUBURN U.

But Brian Helms, the eagle's head trainer, who took the bird in for a while, doesn't want Tiger shacking up with him anymore. "It kinda sucks when you lose your bedroom to a bird," says Helms, a graduate student.

To keep Helms from sleeping on the couch the next time the 12-year-old bird needs shelter from rough weather, the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and Auburn officials are working to build Tiger a shelter and storage area adjacent to the eagle's aviary.

The proposed 10-by-20-foot structure will provide Tiger with a temporary home whenever she needs to be kept inside and will serve as a storage facility for the eagle's food and other necessities.

In the meantime, Tiger is staying in a shelter on campus, where she will live until Alpha Phi Omega raises enough funds to begin construction on the mascot's new abode. And though the mascot will saddle Alpha Phi Omega and Auburn with a \$20,000 bill to keep her high and dry, Mike "T.J." Hooker, a fraternity member, says nobody will kick Tiger out of bed for eating crackers.

"She's a human imprint. I'm not kidding you. She thinks she's a person," Hooker says. "If she were out in the wild she would probably do OK for a while, but as soon as she saw a person, she would fly right up to it, expect to be fed, expect attention, and that person would probably hurt her out of fear." ■ Sean Selman, *Auburn Plainsman*, Auburn U.