

CABRILLO COLLEGE THREATS HEARING

Software engineer says he wrote list found in defendant's car

Paper containing words including dynamite recovered from Self's car

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SANTA CRUZ — Nigel Self's preliminary hearing continued Friday morning with testimony from a software engineer with whom Self had contact through the online group Santa Cruz Freecycle.

The 45-year-old Santa Cruz man is charged with making threats toward students and employees at Cabrillo College back in March, leading the campus to go into temporary lockdown. Before the incident, Self had been having problems with officials at the college, where he was enrolled as a student.

Self's attorney, Howard Van Elgort, called David Heintz to the witness stand Friday. Heintz, a retired software engineer, testified that he had never met Self in person but that Self had received some office supplies from him back in January. Along with an assortment of folders and notebooks was a list of words



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Nigel Self appears at his preliminary hearing in front of Judge Paul Marigonda on Friday.

that Heintz acknowledged was in his handwriting but he said he did not remember why he'd written it. That list, which included the word dynamite, was later recovered from Self's car, according to authorities.

Van Elgort has said that statements Self made to a

therapy group about shooting students were just thoughts that he'd had, and that he had no intention of carrying out those thoughts. Self was not armed at the time of his arrest, and law enforcement officials say he doesn't have a gun permit on file.

A preliminary hearing is

held to determine whether or not there's enough evidence to take a case to trial. Self never fired a shot on campus, but he was charged with making attempted criminal threats. If convicted, he faces up to 18 months in prison, according to Assistant District Attorney Rafael Vazquez. The hearing will continue with witness testimony Tuesday afternoon.

Self, who is not in custody, refers to himself in the first-person plural and wears his long gray hair in a pony tail. He changed his name to Nigel Self after meeting a man named Nigel Self in Santa Cruz in the early 1980s and deciding he liked the name.

The other man — profiled in the Sentinel in March — is now married and known as Nigel Sanders-Self. Sanders-Self, a documentary filmmaker and former Shakespeare Santa Cruz board member, is no relation to Self. He has said he's suffered the consequences of having the same name.