



Erik Chalhoub/For the Register-Pajaronian

Students gather at Cabrillo College Thursday as part of the Occupy Cabrillo movement.

Occupy Cabrillo organizers discuss direction for movement

By ERIK CHALHOUB

FOR THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

The Occupy Cabrillo College movement is gaining momentum and a course of action. The first general assembly meeting was held Thursday at the Aptos campus to decide which direction the movement should take.

"We're coming together to speak about corruption in our society," said Cynthia "Summer" Maiorino, an organizer of Occupy Cabrillo. "We also want to create a more stable society."

The group decided that the Occupy movement will have a 24/7 presence on the Cabrillo campus, which organizers assured is in complete cooperation with Cabrillo's administration and the law, citing a "friendly relationship" with campus police.

It is unknown where the group will camp out, but organizers are planning to host entertainment opportunities, such as performances from local protest bands.

The meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, was attended by less-than-expected numbers. During the first half hour, greeters tried to attract passers-by to join the audience. About 25 students were present at the meeting's start at 12:30 p.m.; however, the numbers doubled as the meeting progressed, with groups of students slowly trickling in after getting out of class. Despite the relatively low turnout, Maiorino was not discouraged.

"I'm not disappointed at

all," she said, noting that many students interested in the movement were currently attending classes at the time. She added that the number of people present at Thursday's meeting was more than double that of another Occupy Cabrillo gathering held last week.

The group made up for its numbers with enthusiasm for the movement. Frequent chants of "Occu-what? Occupy!" and "We are the 99 percent," along with cheering, could be heard ringing throughout the campus.

Amid the mass of protest signs, some reading "Thanks Egypt!" and "Switch to Local Banks and Credit Unions," was Cabrillo student Sean Carroll, who voiced his support for the movement.

"I'm here to bring consciousness to the masses of the issues that control our daily lives," said Carroll, a business major. "Corporations have manipulated with our currency to support their imperial endeavors."

In response to Bank Transfer Day, which will take place Nov. 5, the organizers plan to bring in representatives from local credit unions to speak to students about transferring their funds out of national banks and into local institutions.

Occupy Cabrillo plans to work together with the ongoing Occupy Santa Cruz movement. Carpooling was discussed at the meeting to transport students to and from downtown Santa Cruz, and possibly the larger protest in San Francisco.