

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

More than 50 demonstrators, some swinging clubs, caused an estimated \$100,000 property damage to an administrative office area at the Stanford University Hospital late Friday, April 9, when Palo Alto police broke through barricades to end a 30-hour sit-in.

There were 23 arrests, including three juveniles, and at least 22 injuries, including 13 to police and at least seven to those arrested. Six officers and two arrestees were among 10 persons treated at the hospital emergency room. The only one admitted was an officer who required surgery for an injured hand.

The demonstrators, who were protesting the dismissal of a black employee, barricaded themselves between two large glass partitions in the second floor before the police came.

They were warned they were subject to arrest and given five minutes notice to leave. None did.

Palo Alto Police Chief James Zurcher told the demonstrators, "We'd like to do this as peacefully as possible." A voice inside replied, "There's a lot of expensive stuff in here and we're going to get it. People out there are going to get hurt."

When police used a wooden battering ram on heavy glass doors, the demonstrators turned on a fire hose and poured water on them. Officers squirted a chemical through the broken door and demonstrators threw ashtrays and other objects at officers.

At 6:37 p.m., when police pulled down the doors at one end of the corridor and climbed over the barricade, many demonstrators using clubs, overwhelmed a nine-man squad blocking the other end of the corridor. Many protesters escaped out office windows, climbing down walls from the second floor.

The offices were a scene of devastation. Desks, chairs, and metal file cabinets were turned over or piled on top of each other. Files and books covered the floor, as did shredded furniture. Phone wires were hung out the windows and the firehose was cut.

Campus police reported there were 11 false alarms, five bomb threats, and two trash fires following the hospital incident.

Chief Zurcher said 65 Palo Alto police were deployed, with an additional 110 officers coming to the hospital under a mutual aid agreement.

Commenting on the issue which led to the sit-in, Acting President William F. Miller said that "before the sit-in began, the community was informed that the hospital agreed with five of the six demands made on it.

"On one, the rehiring of Sam Bridges, the answer on Thursday morning was the grievance procedures are available to him if he wishes to use them. That answer still stands. If Mr. Bridges wants to file a grievance, he can be assured of a full and fair airing of the facts of his case."

The demonstration began early Thursday afternoon, when about 70 demonstrators occupied the hallway, unfurling a Viet Cong flag and a Venceremos banner. Soon after, they were asked to leave, but did not do so. At 12:15 a.m. Friday, Acting Dean John L. Wilson of the Medical School, executive administrative officer of the Medical Center, warned the demonstrators they were disrupting and said he would seek legal counsel. Police were not called, and 50 demonstrators remained there.

Friday morning the *Stanford Daily* published a statement from the Black Advisory Committee, a hospital employee group, stating that Bridges "was terminated because he was not doing the job he was hired to do, and therefore putting an added burden on his co-workers." The BAC said it would insure Bridges "fair and impartial treatment" if he initiated a grievance hearing.

Dr. Thomas Gonda, hospital director, met for three hours with the demonstrators at his occupied office late Friday morning and early afternoon, reiterating similar assurances. He did not agree to reinstate Bridges.

Following a joint meeting with the Black United Front, which led the demonstration, and a review of the case, the BAC recommended that Bridges be rehired and retroactively reimbursed for total time loss.

Dr. Gonda held further discussions with Medical Center officials and William F. Miller, acting president of the University during the absence from campus of Richard W. Lyman. In a statement delivered to the demonstrators at 4:30 p.m. Miller said that he and Dr. Gonda agreed there could be no conclusion reached on the composition and dates for a grievance procedure while the occupation continued.

Shortly thereafter, the demonstrators voted to remain in the building until Bridges was rehired, indicating they were aware of the possibility that Palo Alto police would soon arrive. They then sealed both entrances to the hallway and erected barricades.

In making his decision, Acting President Miller said his prime concern was "how to end the occupation with the least possible danger to patient care services and least possible risk to patients."

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