

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Using a search warrant, four Palo Alto police examined photographic files, desks, wastebaskets, and stacks of old newspapers at The Stanford Daily's offices early Monday evening, April 12, seeking evidence related to Friday's sit-in at the hospital.

They left empty handed 45 minutes later. Professional newsmen were astonished at the rare and possibly unprecedented action.

Stanford President Richard W. Lyman called the search "deplorable and threatening to full freedom of the press." He said the University had no advance notice of the search and he was having "any possible constitutional questions investigated."

In an editorial published Tuesday, The Daily said all its photographic and editorial files were examined in "this fishing expedition."

"The use of searches, subpoenas, and all other forms of governmental harrassment obviously have a chilling effect on the freedom of the media to exercise the rights guaranteed them by the First Amendment," the editorial added. "If the government of this country, both at the national and local level, continues to employ intimidating tactics, it must be challenged at every step of the way."

It has been The Daily's standing policy to destroy all potentially incriminating unpublished photographic material. News accounts published earlier Tuesday indicated that Palo Alto Police Chief James Zurcher was moving rapidly to collect evidence and identify demonstrators at the hospital sit-in, which ended with what Zurcher called "the most vicious and unprovoked attack on police I have ever witnessed."

In a separate editorial published Tuesday, The Daily called the University's decision to summon police "disastrous...unwise and unwarranted."

Two members of the Black Advisory Committee, a hospital employee group, and the director of the Latin Alliance said demonstrators were making plans to end the sit-in when police were called. They said many hospital employees were trapped in the demonstration, and some injured as they tried to escape. (Only one hospital employee was among those arrested.)

Late Tuesday, the BAC issued a set of eight "absolute and non-negotiable" demands to be resolved by Wednesday, April 14. Developed in conjunction with black students at the Medical School, the demands include:

1. Dropping all charges related to those arrested, and reimbursing legal fees;
2. Paying all medical expenses for those injured directly or indirectly in the demonstration;
3. Reinstating Sam Bridges, with reimbursement retroactive from ~~xxx~~date of termination;
4. Asking Acting Dean John L. Wilson of the Medical School to resign;
5. Asking Warren Thorpe, assistant chief engineer at the hospital, to resign;
6. Separating the University and Medical Center, "with each having its own autonomy."
7. "The BAC cannot function in an advisory capacity without having power to represent the total Medical Center," including both the hospital and Medical School;
8. "The decision making apparatus must exist ~~wxxx~~ only with horizontal authority."

About 300 persons, mainly hospital employees, attended a rally organized by the BAC Monday. Several speakers there criticized the Administration's calling of police. A letter from Prof. St. Clair Drake, resigning from the Committee of 15, a joint student-faculty-administration group, also was read to the crowd.