

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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STANFORD - The seizure of the Stanford Computation Center for nearly three hours by anti-war protesters and the shooting of a professor's 16-year-old son climaxed nearly 12 hours of confrontation and violence on the Stanford campus Wednesday, Feb. 10. There were 12 arrests and 10 injuries.

The most seriously injured was John Dawson, who was admitted to Stanford Hospital and reported in satisfactory condition after being shot in the right thigh while standing near the headquarters of the Free Campus Movement, a conservative-libertarian group, shortly before 11 p.m. He is the son of Prof. Phil Dawson, history.

Witnesses said young Dawson was standing outside talking with personal friends who are FCM members when several shots were fired. One assailant was chased on foot, but not caught. No immediate description was available.

Earlier in the evening, a group of about eight FCM members who had watched a radical rally were assaulted by 15 to 30 persons as they walked across White Plaza. Engulfed for several moments in a crowd of about 100 protesters, three were later treated and released at Stanford Hospital.

Six students were treated at Cowell Health Center and released, doctors there reported. Two were hit with rocks thrown during an afternoon demonstration outside the Computation Center and four were injured at night. These included one person who was clubbed, two struck by unknown assailants, and one who had a superficial leg wound, probably resulting from a gun shot, sustained near the FCM headquarters. No names were disclosed.

The tumult began at a noon-hour rally in White Plaza, where a crowd of 750 clearly divided between those who wanted to close down the University and those who felt students should move out into the community to change government policy in Southeast Asia. This came to a quick, shouting climax, when Chris Katzenbach, a senior running the rally, tried to rule Bob Grant of the Associated Students Council of Presidents out of order.

After cries of "let him speak" came from the crowd, Grant urged students to mobilize support for the McGovern-Hatfield amendment. (150 later attended an evening talk by Congressman Pete McCloskey on this topic.) Katzenbach apologized for his "heavy handed" approach.

Janet Weiss charged Congress merely serves as a buffer for the corporate elite, while closing down Stanford "hurts the people who actually run the country." Associate Prof. H. Bruce Franklin said protesters should "begin to shut down the most obvious machinery of the war, such as the computer center."

Carrying out objectives stated Tuesday night, an estimated 150 demonstrators milled through the Computation Center, closing down the \$5 million installation at 1:25 p.m., when an electrical supply line was shorted out.

Photographers were banned from the building, and a small Viet Cong flag was posted overhead. The center costs about \$600 an hour to operate, doing between 1,000 and 1,500 undergraduate computer jobs per day, in addition to a wide variety of graduate research work for most schools and departments of the University.

Only two uniformed campus police guarded the main entrance to the building, which was posted with notices that it was temporarily closed. The doors had been locked, and three plainclothes campus police officers were at the site.

(more)

After the protesters entered, they posted numerous strike slogans. One said simply "no war research," while another read, "It is better to light one molotov than to curse the darkness." One student who normally worked at the center asked: "why should they close it down when I paid \$800 a quarter to come here to work? I don't want anyone to say it's morally wrong to work here."

At 3:15 p.m., Bruce Wiggins, University director of public safety, declared the building was closed, but most people stayed. Half an hour later Santa Clara County Undersheriff Thomas Rosa, accompanied by a few other officers, entered the building and said he was concerned about the equipment and didn't want anyone in the hospital suffering. Geraldine Foote, a demonstrator, said: "One word from (University Presidentx Richard) Lyman that there won't be any SRI or defense-related programs run here and we're out. That's all we want." When Rosa ~~walk~~ warned that they might be forcibly removed, she replied "We'll return if we're busted." (See separate stories for statements on computer use.)

Shortly after 4 p.m., the demonstrators voted to stay in the building until the police came, then leave voluntarily. When 80 to 100 deputies arrived a few minutes later, the facility was vacated without incident.

Shortly afterwards, following repeated warnings that the crowd should disperse, a quick police sweep resulted in four arrests. A heated verbal exchange between Professor Franklin and Sgt. Donald Tamm of the Sheriff's Department immediately preceded the incident. Charged with illegal assembly and failure to disperse were James Little, acting assistant professor of statistics, and three women students---Sharon Winslow, Theresa Ramirez, and Toni Gray. Many of the demonstrators bitterly resented the sweep. Most proceeded to the President's Office, then dispersed to the dormitories.

After a preliminary check, Provost William Miller reported at 6:20 p.m. that physical damage to the computer appeared to be slight, amounting to about \$1,000 in damage to memory drums, tape, and wiring. He expected it would be back in operation some time Thursday.

In a taped interview with radio station KZSU, President Lyman said students should be "properly skeptical" of the motives of those who call for keeping police off campus. "Occupying a building with \$5 million worth of computers is about the easiest way to know...you're going to bring police on campus," he observed.

About 350 of the demonstrators attended an 8 p.m. rally in the Old Union court yard, listening to a variety of speakers debate demands and tactics. At its conclusion, Professor Franklin called for a "people's war" in the face of an "occupation army" of police. Small affinity groups "can do their things, whatever they feel they ought to do...as late at night as possible," he suggested.

Following the beating, shooting, and several false fire alarms, the Associated Students Council of Presidents issued a statement early Thursday, Feb. 11, saying "This destructive violence on the Stanford campus is criminal and inexcusable. As Stanford students, we repudiate these acts and call for the arrest and vigorous prosecution of those responsible. The actions of a malicious few, many of them non-students or high school students, have hurt not only Stanford but also the legitimate, non-violent anti-war movement."

The protest group plans another rally in White Plaza at noon Thursday, Feb. 11

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