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THE COURIER, Champaign-Urbana

Cease-fire sought at Centennial

Thursday morning's melee became a Friday morning of meetings as officials gathered to work out plans for re-opening Centennial High School as well as measures for future confrontation prevention.

Centennial high faculty administrators, Champaign School District central office administrators, school board members and city and police representatives met all morning today at Centennial to develop both short- and long-range plans.

The school remains closed at least until Monday following the racial riot involving about 200 students there Thursday morning. No further arrests have been made as a result of the bat-hitting, chain falling fracas. All four students taken to hospital were released.

Present at this morning's meeting were all Centennial teachers and administrators, district superintendent Marshall Berner, assistant superintendent for instruction Arthur Turner, board members Mrs. Kathryn Humphrey, Bud Barker and President Richard Foley, Champaign Mayor Virgil Wikoff and Lt. Dean Dawkins, police juvenile officer.

Midway through the meeting Centennial assistant principal Stu Jenkins reported they have established that "some definite action must be taken to open communication lines with parents and students so we can re-open school as soon as possible."

Jenkins said meeting with parents and students were to begin this afternoon.

"We've had a lot of different ideas brought out in this morning's meeting," he added. "In the short-term, we will certainly meet with parents and students and do whatever we can to get school open by Monday. In the long range, human relations must be improved by establishing dialogues between groups of people who otherwise might not have them."

When asked about the charge that police officers were lax in

responding to calls for help from the school, Champaign Police Chief Harvey Shirley sighed.

"They have to have a scapegoat. When the board and the administration are not going to do anything, who's better to blame than the police?" Shirley said that as soon as the police were told of trouble at the school all available units were sent there and he personally drove over. He added that the first call came in at 8:15 a.m.

He again stressed the need for school administrators to "straighten things out there. In my opinion, there's a lot more wrong with the school system than just calling the police."

Champaign police chief said he was patrolling at all local schools today and were to be present when schools let out at noon.

Jenkins, when told Champaign police denied reports that school authorities alerted them to imminent trouble at the school earlier in the week, responded, "It's a goddam lie."

"I know of at least two occasions... Wednesday afternoon when police were informed of impending trouble," Jenkins explained, "and of more than once Thursday morning before the confrontation began. I arrived at school at 7:50 a.m. Thursday morning and expected to see at least one police car there, but there was none. I believe they arrived about 8:25 a.m."

Jenkins declined comment to Shirley's remark that the school system should be able to control its own students.

After the incidents Thursday many blamed school authorities, teachers, and parents of the students as well as police and the

students themselves.

Jenkins did not note that "At some point in time one must assume responsibility for his own actions; however, everyone has all sorts of influences, be it parents, peers, church or school. Who's to say which will dominate? I see kids who are the product of their environment and those who are reactions to it."

The assistant principal added that he feels what has been called the "white, hardhat, vigilante type group reaction" as well as the "hard-core militant black racist group" are both in a definite minority in the school.

"I hasten to add that of a school of 1,200 only 200 were involved and that several blacks and white students were instrumental in minimizing what might have been an even worse incident," he said.

As to parent criticisms that Centennial has no order, Jenkins said it is a "matter of degree and what you are accustomed to. I'm sure some would be horrified to see what can be seen in any school today in the nation. We have had our periods of tension, but they aren't constant."

Returning to the chain of events prior to and during the confrontation, Jenkins said the administration will release a statement later today.

"Tensions apparently stemmed from an incident involving a white girl Monday who called her boyfriend for help when teased near a washroom. Her boyfriend and a black boy were both suspended following the ensuing fight. Tuesday Jenkins said, saw another minor confrontation in which the same girl said she was "chased from the building" in the early afternoon. Jenkins said Champaign juvenile officer Ken Griffin was at the school to investigate Monday and Tuesday. After reports from students and at least one parent that trouble was coming, Jenkins said, they notified police Wednesday.

When he arrived at school Thursday morning, Jenkins said he and two other school administrators disbanded the group of white students about 8 a.m., but the students re-grouped and apparently went to wait for the bus bringing black students at the east side of the school. The bus arrived at the Crescent Drive entrance and discharged the black students there about 8:15 a.m., Jenkins said, as it always does at this time and entrance.

The white group then ran to meet the discharging black students, he said, armed with clubs, bells and whistles.

"I know there are claims the black students getting off the bus were armed," Jenkins said, "but I saw none, other than the bells which all boys wear. The white students were armed and obviously had planned the confrontation. It is claimed the blacks had planned also, but I personally don't think so."

As to criticism leveled at the school administration for not being able to handle students, Jenkins noted:

"The whole time I was outside during the disturbance, one thing kept going through my mind. No matter how I tried, also reported that schools were planning well today. Jefferson Junior High principal Paul Sparks, when asked whether the disturbance at the school next door to his had affected Jefferson, responded with "no comment."

students trying to crack their classrooms' skulls with baseball bats and bicycle chains.

'Citizens council has 'rumor service center'

The Champaign Citizens Education Council (CEC) to the Champaign school board today reminded parents and citizens of their "rumor center service."

"The rumor center is an ongoing service of the CEC," chairman Brant Moore said, "but hasn't been used much lately. With the confrontation at Centennial Thursday, we would like to remind Champaign Residents of it."

Anyone wanting to check out a rumor should call Mrs. Glen Walker, 356-9403 or Mrs. Bert Leach, 352-2363. They will then check out the rumor with school, police or other authorities of those involved and report back to the caller.

Other local schools reported quiet

Business as usual was the tone early today in all Champaign schools but Centennial High, following Thursday morning's racial melee there.

Centennial remains closed until Monday to students. Faculty and administrators, however, were deep in meetings this morning.

No specific step-ups of security measures apparently have been made in the other schools except for increased staff alert, which usually follows such incident.

District superintendent Marshall Berner said also, as school police will patrol the school areas in cars.

All other Champaign secondary schools and Urbana High School remained quiet today. Champaign students were dismissed shortly before noon today for the previously planned teachers inservice meeting.

Central High principal Bernard Fleener said he had no repercussions at his school though there were some rumors of walkouts Thursday and today.

"At the students' request we are having no police in the school," he added. "Five or six students, I believe, tried to stage a walk-out Thursday, but got no support and I don't think they will today."

Edison Junior High principal Odell Mosely and Franklin Junior High principal John DeBoson also reported that schools were planning well today. Jefferson Junior High principal Paul Sparks, when asked whether the disturbance at the school next door to his had affected Jefferson, responded with "no comment."



HEARTY WELCOME
Donald Bresnan, left, who was re-elected president of the Champaign Park District Board Thursday, welcomes Richard "Dickie" Davis Jr. to the board. Davis was elected to his first term on the board April 20. Mrs. Patricia Leonhard was re-elected vice president Thursday and Frank Fricker and James Welch were reappointed attorney and treasurer, respectively.

Attitudes of white students Racial bias part of 'why' behind fight

By D. G. Schumacher
Editor, The Courier

Some of the whys behind the racial fight which brought about the closing of Centennial High School may be revealed in a conversation with four Centennial students.

The four white youths—three sophomores and a senior—came to The Courier newsroom Thursday afternoon to "straighten out" the published report of the clash resulting in the closing of the school until Monday.

"They said the published and aired reports of the fight "made us look bad" because, they said, the blacks, not the whites, started the fight.

Their story was that several whites were gathered to witness a fight between a single white and a single black. They said they wanted to make sure 20 of the blacks didn't gang up on the white.

The four said that blacks arriving by bus had started toward an entrance but then came toward the whites, using belts, chains and boards. "It was planned," said one of the four white youths.

The four related their account of how the fight started and one said he could not understand why the Courier reporter was told it was none of his business when he attempted to talk to youths about the fight.

The four spoke of incidents at the school and said "we're tired of these black dudes hanging up on whites and then maybe one or two blacks getting kicked out."

One was talking about the bus-loading of students to achieve racial balance and said "this will never straighten out," completely and that there should be separate schools for blacks and whites.

And the racial bias that still lingers in the minds of many was hinted at when one of the four referred to "the niggers."

The boy was asked why he used the term.

"That's what they are, aren't they?"

Another asked: "Why do they call us white trash?"

Comment to the boys: That's no better than a white saying "nigger," and a question to the tough-looking kid:

Do you folks call that "niggers"?

Answer: "I was told that anything that's black and walks like a nigger." He went on to add: "I like some of them."

Question: Do you call those you like "nigger," too?

The question went unanswered, because the second boy broke in with: "They call themselves nigger sometimes, when they're fighting among themselves..."

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Law planner gets home

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission voted Thursday to house a planner for the Champaign County Law Enforcement Planning Commission.

Somewhat reluctantly, the commission approved office space for Robert Custra until Dec. 1, at which time the arrangement will be re-evaluated. The time limit was suggested by Commissioner Henry I. Green.

The RPC-directed Executive Director Robert L. Pinkerton to coordinate with Urbana Mayor Charles Zippord, CCLEPC chairman, concerning financial compensation for Custra's use of RPC facilities and services.

The commission had seemed split on the CCLEPC request, but Thursday's vote was unanimous. Custra has been working in the Urbana City Building.

The commission also received official notification of approval of a \$40,000 federal planning grant.

The first of three new planners to be hired with the federal aid is John Dimit, University of Illinois urban planning senior from Indianapolis. Dimit has worked at the RPC for some months and will become an associate planner upon graduation in June.

The commission went into executive session following the meeting to discuss applications for the other two positions. Pinkerton has said more than 10 persons have applied for the three jobs.

About town

Approximately 10 per cent of the total newspaper used in the month in the twin cities—54 to end up at the recycling plant after Earth Week's paper drive. Edward C. Olson, Sierra Club, which sponsors the drive with SECS, says most drives of this sort are anti-pated in the near future.

SECS' Recycling Committee reports that 16 tons of glass were taken to a recycling plant in Sreator after Earth Week glass drive.

Champaign's Central High School will hold orientation incoming sophomores as scheduled Saturday afternoon. Students will also have their year book pictures taken at the time.

Ninth graders were to have orientation at Centennial Saturday morning, but the session is being postponed as the school remains closed until Monday following a disturbance Thursday morning.

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With landslide vote Hammer's people take UGSA

By Marcia Kramer
Of The Courier

In a landslide vote, Charles R. (Pete) Hammer and his slate swept into leadership positions in the Undergraduate Student Association at the University of Illinois for the 1971-72 academic year.

Vote totals announced today gave Hammer 3,339 ballots to 797 for Don Weber, his nearest competitor for chairman. Donna Marie Donile received 294 votes.

In a referendum on the ballot, voters overwhelmingly called for the orderly withdrawal of all American forces from Vietnam by the end of the year. An amendment to UGSA bylaws regarding steering committee members to remain students throughout their term of office was also approved.

Al Oberstrom, candidate for treasurer on Hammer's "Unified Slate," narrowly defeated independent Bill Blair, 1,446 to 1,116. Gary Morris of the "Illini Slate," received 715 votes.

Elected to the steering committee were Scott Z. Bernman, Augustine Colon, Dorris J. Ellis, Gregson Faulstich, Jill Hartman, Richard Janikowski, William Nelson, Stephen C. Schmidt and Valerie Witzkowski.

They will take office next week when the present steering committee verifies the election results. Election coordinator Robert Brown, associate dean of student programs and services, said he does not anticipate any complaints of irregularities. Complaints may be filed until 5 p.m. Monday.

Hammer said today he was surprised at the margin of victory but was disappointed more students did not vote.

The 3,430 who voted represent 15 per cent of the eligible undergraduates.

Hammer, a junior in communications, said the apparent lack of interest in UGSA among voters "will make it more difficult for us to work with the administration."

During the campaign, Hammer declined to classify himself as a radical, as his opponents referred to him, but said, "I agree philosophically with a lot of the things they do."

The slate backed the People's Peace Treaty and called for a confrontation with the university and community over "their complicity in the sexism, racism and imperialism which oppress us all."

The referendum calling for the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam by Dec. 31 was approved by a margin of 2,856 to 626.

The bylaws change passed, 2,837 to 656. Under the present bylaws, a steering committee member must only be a student at the time of his election.

Voted down was the proposed amendment requiring the nine steering committee members to be elected from geographical districts. Through the proposal received 60 per cent of the votes cast, it had to be approved by two-thirds of the voters for passage.

Exemption cited at U of I Tuition policy lauded

University of Illinois administrators and students who had been concerned over changes in tuition waiver policies are content with a new waiver policy that would be established for graduate students who approved this week by the House Education Committee.

The legislation provides for a 2 per cent limit on the number of tuition waivers each institution can grant undergraduate students. Graduate students who are exempt from the percentage limit.

Robert Winter, a Graduate Student Association member who has been involved in studies of tuition and tuition waivers, said the legislation would eliminate a "major problem" for graduate students who in earlier proposals would not have been exempt from the limit.

He indicated the 2 per cent limit will have some effect on the undergraduate student body though he could not assess how great the impact would be.

And, he pointed, inclusion of Civil Service personnel in the total from which the 2 per cent figure will be computed could lead to "competition" for the waivers among students and University personnel hired under the new system.

One U of I official expressed pleasure at the exemption provided for teaching and research assistants under the bill.

The tuition waiver limit was proposed earlier by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Cyclist runs red light; passenger ticketed, too

A motorcycle operator who ran a red light got himself and his passenger into trouble today.

Neal J. Burness, of 136 Newman Hall, was stopped by U of I police when he failed to stop for a light at the intersection of Sixth and Geogry streets in Champaign at 3:31 a.m.

When police stopped the vehicle, they noticed that Burness' companion, Donald M. Novonty, 64 E. Army St., was carrying an open bottle of whiskey—illegal transportation of alcohol.

Both were ticketed.

Fund drive nets \$1,472

A Courier fund drive has raised \$1,472 since Sunday for Gemini House, Champaign-Urbana's drug abuse center.

With this and other efforts, the center had raised little more than \$3,000 of its \$50,000 budget before the drive began and had been perilously close to financial collapse.

The Gemini House open house this weekend will be held on both Saturday and Sunday, instead of Saturday alone, Gemini officials have announced.

The house, 1210 W. Main St., Urbana, will be open from noon to 4 p.m. each day. Previously, the plan had been to open the house to visitors on Sunday alone.

Volunteers for the May 3 door-to-door fund-raising drive may call Sally Harty, 384-5307, or Gemini House, 344-000, for their block assignments and full information.

Lanier deplors faculty role in social action

Faculty members who initiate or intervene in "social action" designed to produce what is believed to be desirable "social change" were criticized in a speech prepared for delivery today by a high ranking University of Illinois administrator.

Lyle H. Lanier, executive vice president and provost, who was to speak at the university's Honors Day ceremony, contended that the analogy between social and natural scientists' role in experiments "will not withstand close scrutiny."

"A major difference is that the personal involvement of a natural scientist in his experiment will have only minimal effect on its outcome once the scientist has been set," Lanier stated, "whereas the social scientist who becomes 'part of the action,' so to speak, also becomes in a very important way a part of the problem."

"Both he and his institution lose their positions of detachment and objectivity as independent investigators and impartial evaluators of the dynamics of social change."

Instead, Lanier suggested, social scientists and other specialists concerned with society's problems "as well as their counterpart professionals in public or private organizations should adhere to 'an appropriate ethical code' similar to that of the medical profession."

Under that code, the physician-scientist may not conduct an experiment upon a human subject without the subject's full understanding and consent.

Lanier also discussed new trends in university education, envisioning far-reaching change in the structure of undergraduate education as well as the expansion of off-campus opportunities for the pursuit of degrees.

Lanier expressed a fear science and technology—made with higher education—"may be relegated so completely to a 'back burner' that our society's future capability for solving acute problems will be perceptibly undermined."

A more rational alternative, he said, would be "to attempt to reorient the educational scientific enterprises—achieve a better balance among their components—so as to them into closer alignment with long-term national needs and goals."

The Honors Day ceremony was part of the Mothers' weekend at the U of I.

FRIDAY
Malters Association Christmas...
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Auditorium
"Ode Last Glimpse of Allerton"
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Auditorium
"Ode Last Glimpse of Allerton"
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Former police officer, chief, city named