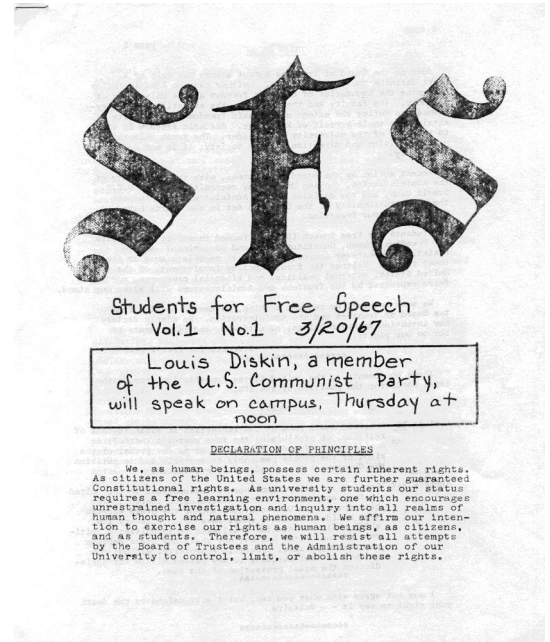


# Campus Demonstrations – A Protester's Perspective

**SOUTH UNION PATIO, FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT, COMMUNIST SPEAKER:** These events should be attributed to Vic Berkey, who was at Berkeley when Mario Savio ignited the Free Speech Movement and sparked that kind of concern and action across the country. Vic provided the knowledge and tools to orchestrate the movement here. The Clabaugh Act was significant, as it was a similar issue of not allowing a Communist speaker on campus.

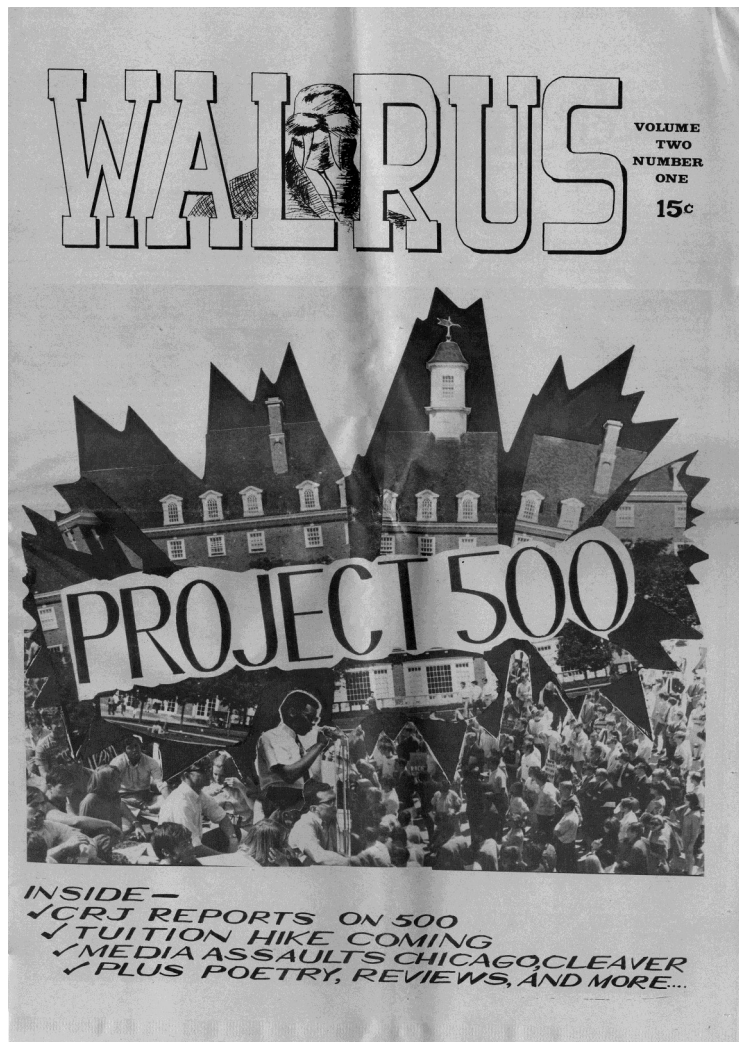
U of I president David Dodds Henry refused to attend the rallies we set up, and thus began the Empty Chair symbol on the Union back patio. Students were relentless, confronting Henry and the administration and putting thousands of promotional newsletters under dorm and Greek doors early in the morning.

Finally, we decided to bring in Louis Diskin, a Communist Party member from Chicago, to speak on the south Union patio. The university denied permission. We rented a generator for our microphone and Diskin spoke to about 2000 students, spending most of his time establishing that he was a normal guy who drank beer and loved the Cubs. The Movement was born, and it quickly grew and became more radical as the war and other issues shouldered their way to the front.



---

**SOUTH LOUNGE FORUMS:** This may seem inconsequential, but one day I and Mike Warren (a radical TA and the owner of the Turk's Head Coffee Shop, one of our regular hangouts) decided to commandeer the south lounge area for discussions about the war and other topics. We had no microphone so we just went in and told the assembled students that we were taking over for a bit to discuss relevant matters and they were welcome to stay or go. There were surely some disgruntled students, but we continued doing it weekly and then almost daily for quite a while, and the crowds grew. At first the university would not let us have a mic, but later relented. Day after day we ran our version of Bughouse Square and it had a big influence on building the Movement. Eventually, PBS was to do a special on student activism in that space, and 50 years later the same was re-enacted.



**PROJECT 500:** It was a noble attempt. The Civil Rights Movement was in full swing and the U of I campus was fully involved. Dr. King had just been assassinated in April. One of the campus issues was the great discrepancy between the number of white students and people of color, particularly African-Americans. Perhaps too hastily, the administration put together a plan that would eventually admit 565 of these students from low-income areas, primarily in the Midwest, in the fall of 1969. Communication problems and major housing and financial issues (due to a lack of available rooms, some students were put on cots in dorm lounges and hallways) led new students to believe they were being discriminated against. That was not the intention, but easy to believe in those volatile times, and so a corps of that new student leadership marched to the Illini Union and began a sit-in inside the building, joined by a number of radical white students. I was there and was one of many who spoke, asking for redress, but it was not to come in any form for a while.

Instead, a day or two after the sit-in, the university responded by having their police send buses for all of the black students—but none of the white students who had joined them—and took them to the football stadium for fingerprinting and criminal processing. This was a sore point in the movement, and the event was recently commemorated.

**GE DEMONSTRATION AT THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING BUILDING:** This occurred on March 2, 1970, a day that was as warm as you will ever see in March in Illinois, hitting the high 70s. Perhaps that contributed to the high turnout against GE, a key weapons producer coming to recruit engineering students. Perhaps, too, the recently shown *Battle of Algiers* film contributed to the fervor. We gathered in the Auditorium around noon that first day and after some impassioned speeches, one of the female leaders on the stage threw her fist in the air and shouted, "To the streets."

Immediately about 200 of us marched across the Quad, across Green St. to Electrical Engineering. The campus police had sealed off the entrance but one enterprising protestor ran to the side of the building and pulled down the fire escape so quite a few students were able to get in and look for the interview rooms, which were on the third floor. There were non-protesting students in the building. The police came, more protestors got in, it was a melee. I had my dog with me and he got in. I recovered him and made it to the third floor, where another student blasted me with a fire extinguisher. I began choking and retreated from the building, which may be why I wasn't arrested. Quite a few were arrested, or hurt by police clubs. They finally cleared the area.

Later some of us were ordered to come before the last protest tribunal. I refused, figuring it was a done deal, but I was not suspended or expelled, while others were. I have no idea why. That was the last big disruption in a university building over a weapons-producing company.



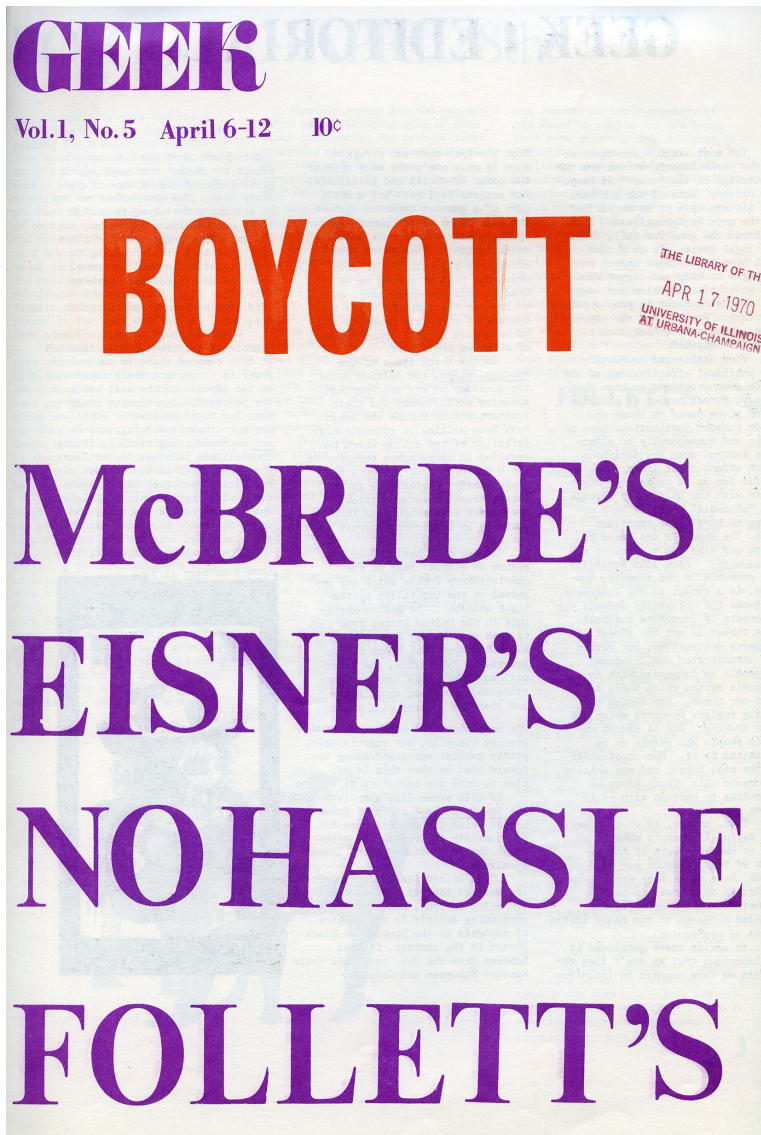
**BRING THE WAR HOME:**

Campus Town, AT&T, Student Services, English Building, Gregory Hall

After the radical Weathermen faction took over SDS (Students for Democratic Society) in late 1969 and the end of the Moratorium, which was the last gasp of the Peace Movement, they promoted the slogan, "Bring the War Home." They reasoned that because Nixon's response to the peaceful outpouring of anti-war sentiment in the Moratorium was to invade Cambodia and bomb Hanoi at Christmas, peace had been given a chance and had failed to impact the continued war effort by the U.S. Therefore, if the military was inflicting terrible destruction on that small country—in the end nearly 4 million Vietnamese were killed and one-third of the arable land rendered useless for generations—the least the anti-war movement could do was cause physical damage in our own country.

This manifested in more severe demonstrations on campus (and across the country), such as night raids where windows were smashed and crowds invaded the Campustown area. This happened night after night and the National Guard was brought in several times. We played with the Guard, intending to create more costs and headaches by intentionally stopping our protests until they packed up and left, then demonstrating until the authorities called them back. This was also when we put flowers in some of their guns.





#### **BOYCOTT AND EDGAR HOULTS' SHOOTING DEATH:**

At one point we decided that businesses in Campustown were gouging students with high prices. We called for a boycott against four of them: Follett's Bookstore, because when you returned new books, the blue book price was ridiculously low; McBride's Drugstore because of its high prices; I can't remember the third, but the fourth was a store aimed at hippie culture such as pot pipes and all kinds of drug paraphernalia and outlandish clothing. T-shirts with slogans, which were original then, like, "Make Love, Not War." It was run by a hip capitalist named Irving Azoff who would move to California and become one of the biggest rock promoters in history. Most of this was frivolous, but it was effective for about a month before we moved on, as we were faddish and could only get student's attention for so long. Meetings were held with the owners of the places, who were peeved that we had singled them out. The meeting with Follett's interrupted the owner's vacation in Tunisia, which he complained to us about and got about as much sympathy as Nixon would.

But the Follett's boycott had a tragic result. The store had hired police to watch the place at night. A young black student, Edgar Hoult, worked there. One late night, he realized he had forgotten his backpack, so, having a key to get in, returned and retrieved the pack. When he got back in his car, police lights came on and he panicked. Who knows why, though some said he had a small quantity of marijuana in his car. A police chase ensued to the black north end of town. At some point, Hoult abandoned his car and tried to race to the safety of his house. Police officers followed and one shot a dum-dum bullet into his back, killing him instantly as his young, pregnant wife watched from their back door, horrified. The officer said the gun had accidentally gone off. He was prosecuted, but bitterness remained for a long time.

# Violence flares after police kill young Urbana black man

By G. ROBERT HILLMAN  
Daily Illini Staff Writer

Five persons were shot and a number of businesses were hit by firebombs last spring when two nights of violence flared in the Twin-Cities following the April 29 shooting death of a young Urbana black man by a Champaign policeman.

Edgar Hoult, 23, an employe of Follett's Campus Book Store, was shot in an open field near his Urbana home about 5:30 a.m. April 29, following a high speed auto chase which began on the University campus. City officials refused any comment on the shooting until a prepared statement on the incident was released a day later by Warren Browning, Champaign city manager.

Fred Eastman, a Champaign police officer, according to Browning's statement, said he slipped and lost his balance as he pulled his revolver from his holster, causing the gun to discharge. A .38 caliber high velocity hollow point bullet struck Hoult in the back, killing him almost instantly.

## Warning shot

Eastman said he had intended to fire only a warning shot because Hoult continued to flee on

Browning said the officers had been advised to be on the alert for any unusual activity in the campus area due to a number of recent arson attempts.

Eastman was relieved of police duty on April 30 and charged with voluntary manslaughter in the Hoult's death on May 1. The Champaign County grand jury indicted Eastman for voluntary manslaughter on May 19. He is currently free on \$5,000 bond, awaiting trial on the charge.

## Local reaction

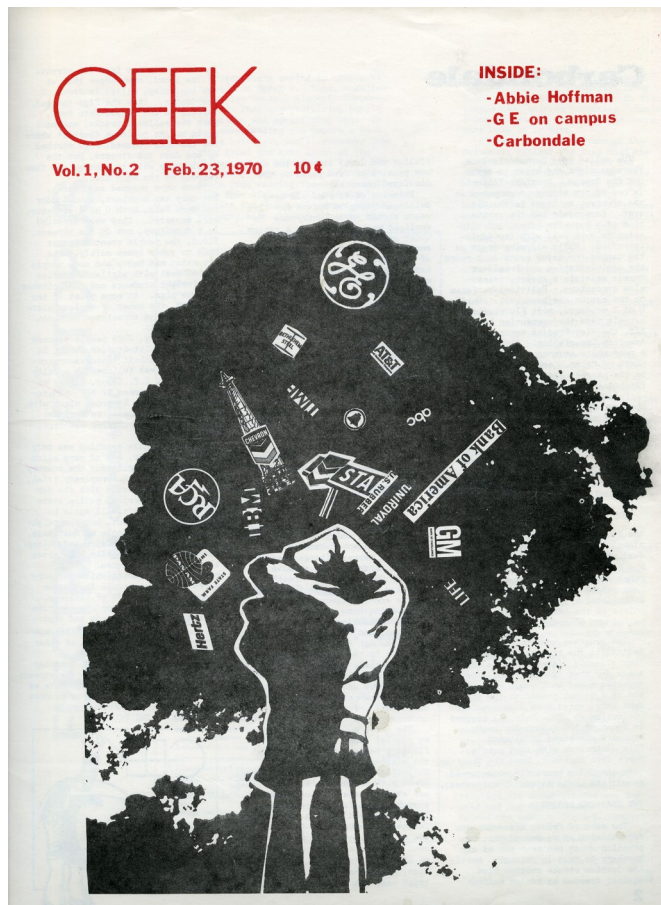
Community reaction to the killing quickly materialized. About 125 University students marched to the Champaign Police Station on the same day Hoult was shot, demanding to know the circumstances surrounding his death. Most of the students returned to campus when Browning told them a complete report would be released the following day.

The North End Ministers' Alliance met with the Champaign City Council in a special unannounced session on April 30 to ask for the resignation of Harvey Shirley, Champaign police chief. A spokesman for the 10-member group said the alliance felt Shirley had been "negligent in informing police how



## TRASHING:

Now we move on through Campustown, down Fourth Street past the AT&T building, showing some of the more violent incidents of the mob actions that took place after Kent State and the Weathermen call to “bring the war home.” We moved down Green St. and on through Campustown, destroying businesses we felt were exploitative, leaving “friendly” buildings alone (such as The Deluxe, with its awesome fish sandwiches, and the Turk’s Head Coffee Shop, which was another hangout), but sometimes we were just wanton. The trashing of Austin’s became just a way to steal a lot of bikes from the window display.



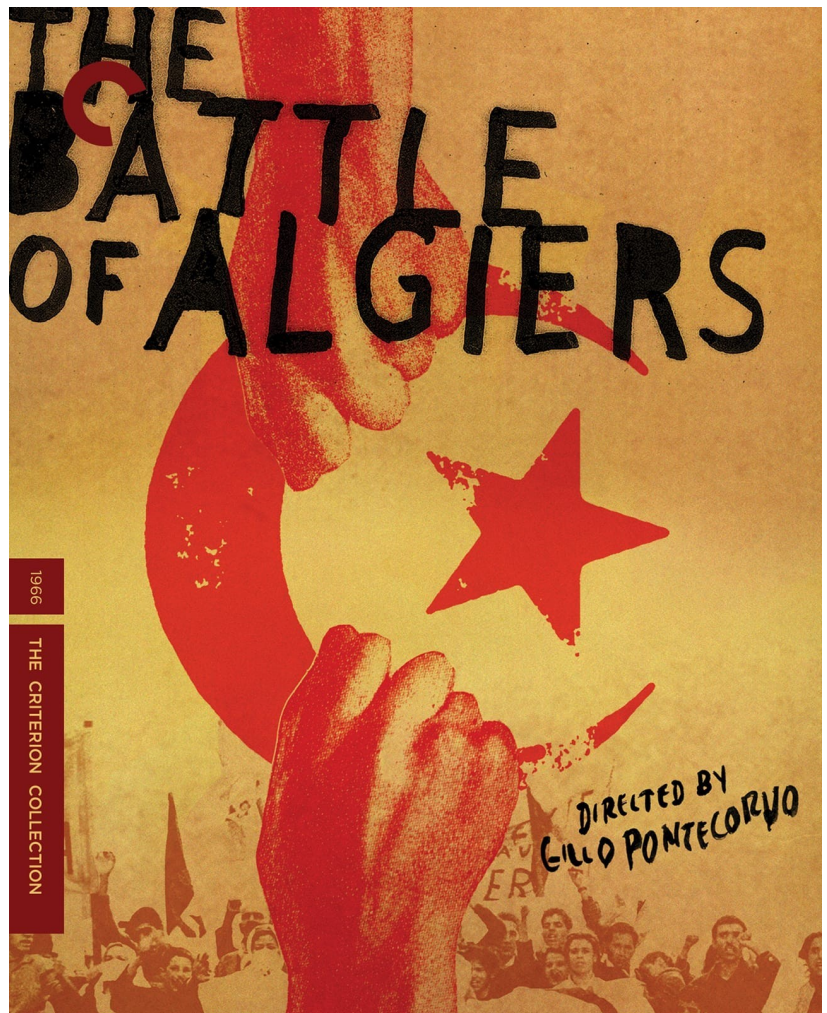
## AT&T BUILDING:

As we proceeded down Fourth Street, we came upon the glass-fronted AT&T office—that company certainly a symbol of corporate America. There was an unattached trailer parked in front, the kind you might use to transport a bass boat. Quickly, a protestor and a few of his buddies began to use it as a battering ram, smashing it again and again into the glass front, which, of course, came crashing down. The battering continued with a vengeance until most of it was destroyed. Several of the side windows were broken as well, and an attempt was made to light the curtains, but they were asbestos and would not catch fire. Otherwise the entire interior might have burned.

### **STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING:** (610 E. John) Security Chief Tom Morgan's office

In one of the crazier events, suggested by education reform guru Michael Rossman, we decided to tie down the Student Services office where the chief of security, Tom Morgan, held court. Lots of students began calling for appointments over a two-day period, booking him every hour and then going to the office area and waiting for him to meet. It was silly, with a party-like atmosphere, and mostly was a pain for the poor secretaries who had to put up with us even though we were respectful to them. Effectively, it did shut down that office for two days, but when the fun of it waned, it just ended. Don't even know what we were protesting, and this was a far cry from the seriousness of the Dow sit-in, etc, but it shows the spectrum of what was occurring.

**BATTLE OF ALGIERS:** The night of March 1, the powerful film *Battle of Algiers* was shown at the Auditorium and the place was packed. It is an extremely emotional film, humanizing the Algerian resistance against the French occupiers, and justifying the very acts of terror that are so heinous in the Middle East. The film graphically presents the horrific treatment of the common Algerian people as a rationale for even blowing up children. The director was able to pull the audience to the side of the guerillas. The women in the film make a whistle before they attack that is as chilling as the siren on a Nazi police car. It was easily imitated and many of the women in the audience ran into the night after the film, filling the air with this eerie sound, announcing in our own way the revolutionary thoughts we had. The GE demonstration at the Electrical Engineering Building the next day was an acting out of some of the sentiment in the film.



### **GREGORY HALL AND THE ENGLISH BUILDING:**

These two buildings received the brunt of broken windows and trashing on campus.



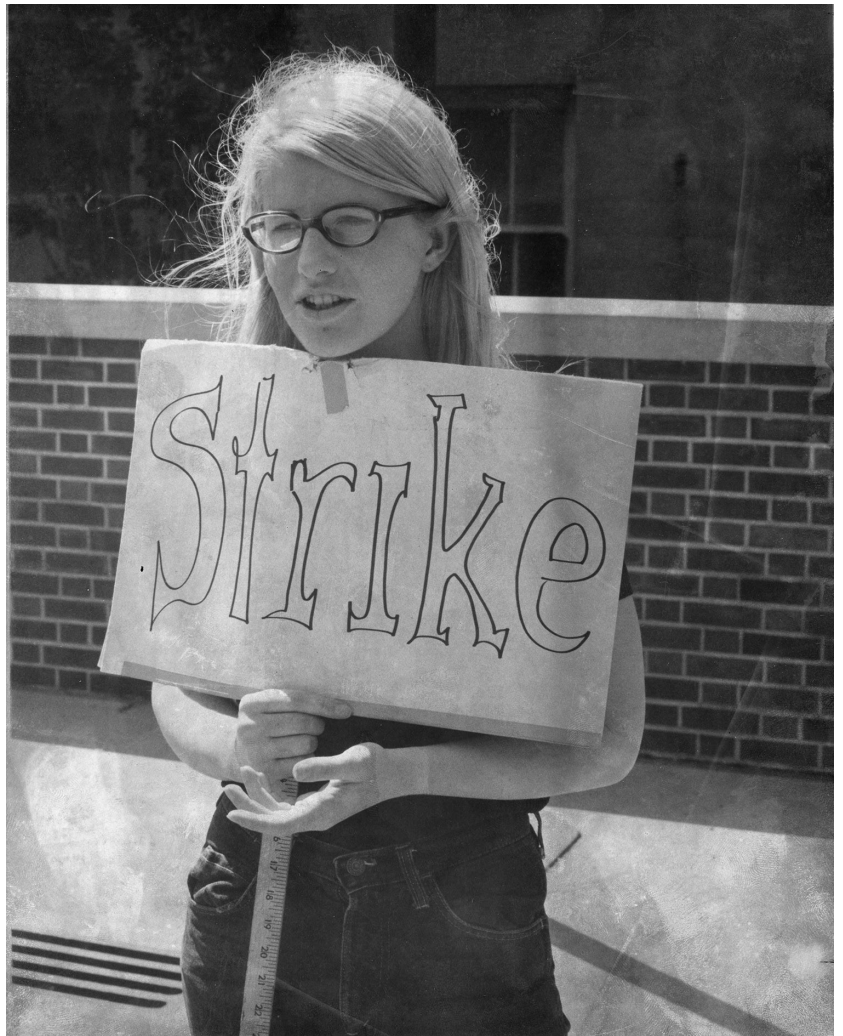


## **PEACE MORATORIUM:**

For a long time, "Give Peace a Chance" was the main slogan of the anti-war movement. So many thought that if you just pointed out the ills of racism, people would gladly repent and change their ways; that if you cited the horrors of the Vietnam War, people would capitulate and be against the war. Most protestors eschewed violent protest and Dr. King was the hero who stood in the gap for non-violent protest as if it were a religion. This peaceful sentiment lasted until October 15, 1969, when the largest anti-war demonstration in U.S. history occurred. All were asked to cease business as usual to show President Nixon that the nation wanted him to end the war and bring the troops home. Millions either marched peacefully or closed their businesses and the response was massive. In CU, 9000 people circled the Quad, abreast across the wide sidewalk, and marched into the community, reflecting the huge turnout virtually everywhere in this country. Nixon responded by ordering blanket bombing of Hanoi for two weeks over Christmas and the Peace Movement died a painful death, with the more radical elements of the anti-war movement coming to the front of the line.

## QUAD STRIKE:

In the spring of 1970, after the fractious sit-in against GE at the Engineering building, and with news of strikes happening on many campuses across the nation, local SDS decided to call one, also. First, we met with Chancellor Peltason, encouraging him to endorse the strike and speak out against the war because, we argued, a majority of Americans and the Congress now embraced the anti-war movement. He would not budge. I had the privilege of speaking from the steps of the Auditorium before a Quad that was two-thirds filled with supporters—without a doubt the largest gathering of that nature ever—in declaring the strike. That was in early April, and the strike occurred throughout most of that month, carrying through until May 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Kent State students were shot and all hell broke loose. Although most students by far did not strike, there were hundreds who did, and quite a few



professors took their classes out on the Quad during their class meetings to teach on subjects like racism, military collusion with the university, women's rights, gay rights, Cuba (which was my focus), and a variety of other topics. It was a regular event on the Quad and was peacefully conducted. The university would not endorse it, but neither did they condemn it and the Daily Illini supported it wholeheartedly.

---

**RED HERRING WAR ROOM AND COFFEE HOUSE:** When the university would not grant space to the Free Speech Movement group, Channing-Murray, the Unitarian Church facility on campus in Urbana, let us fix up the basement into a coffee house. There, we could not only speak and have functions but it also became a very popular hang-out for the new wave of students who were beginning to connect to the counter-culture. The side room to the north of that space became known as the War Room, which, ironically, was the space to print material for the free-speech activities and the nascent peace movement. With a mimeograph machine, which does not exist anymore, literally hundreds of students copied thousands of weekly newsletters, which were distributed under the doors of all dorm rooms and in some Greek houses so early that janitors had not yet arrived to interfere. This publicity was the reason the student movement grew so rapidly from SFS (Students for Free Speech) to anti-war. Last year, the Red Herring celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now houses a vegan restaurant and hosts events promoting liberal political causes and the arts.



## DOW DEMONSTRATION:

Perhaps the demonstration that most solidified the rise and dominance of the anti-war movement over the years was the sit-in against the Dow Chemical company in October 1967. Dow was the producer of many popular home products and had a benign reputation, but it began producing napalm, a deadly weapon that could only hurt humans when its fiery liquid stuck to the skin. This, and the horrific guava bombs, which shot metal pellets (later plastic, which couldn't be seen in x-rays, making them almost impossible to remove), were revealed as products of American companies, and anger among the protestors skyrocketed. Virtually every room and apartment occupied by Movement people had the iconic poster of the young, naked Vietnamese girl running, screaming, down the street with napalm burning her skin.

When the Movement found out that Dow was coming to recruit students, we decided to stop the interviews by entering Noyes Lab and sitting in the hallway, blocking the interview room. About 200 students participated for three days and would not leave despite regular university warnings. A week prior, an anti-Dow demonstration had occurred at the Wisconsin-Madison campus and police attacked, arrested, and beat quite a few students. It was a full-blown riot. Evidently, the U of I administration decided not to blow things up, so they only issued warnings and hoped it would end peacefully. It did, and to our knowledge, the Dow interviews did not take place, at least in that location. But despite what may or may not have happened, the Movement was enlivened and counted this as a huge victory for spreading the anti-war message. Later, some of the leaders were subpoenaed before a university court, which happened again after the GE demonstration.

# THE DAILY ILLINI

A Student Newspaper Serving Illini for Nearly a Century

2.10

NINETY-SEVENTH YEAR

TWENTY PAGES

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1967

SEVEN CENTS

NUMBER 33

## Protesters End Dow Visit

### Hint Secrecy In Recruiting

By DAN BALZ  
Daily Illini Editor

Representatives of Dow Chemical Co. apparently conducted secret interviews on the campus which began Monday and ended Wednesday morning, before demonstrators were able to disrupt recruitment activities.

Several sources indicated after the sit-in had ended that the demonstrators "hadn't won the victory" they thought they had because the interviews had been held earlier. Herbert Gutowsky, head of the chemistry department, refused to confirm or deny the reports.

The information about the interviews was a well-kept secret within the chemistry department, and most sources who said the interviews had taken place did not want their names used.

Gutowsky, on two occasions, would not comment on the reports, but referred to a statement he had posted on doors throughout the East Chemistry Building.

One of the paragraphs in his statement read: "In any event, I have arranged so that the rights of the 24 persons wishing to meet with Dow Chemical will not be infringed this week, or at least, so that the interference will be minimal."



FINDING SEATS IN A crowded corridor, approximately 200 demonstrators refused to move as a protest against the recruiting on campus by Dow Chemical Co., manufacturer of napalm. (Daily Illini staff photo)

### Company Cancels Recruiting After Massive Demonstration

By ROGER SIMON  
Daily Illini Staff Writer

Campus recruitment by Dow Chemical Co., producer of napalm, was canceled for today and tomorrow by the University after more than 200 demonstrators staged a 5-hour sit-in in the East Chemistry Building Wednesday.

Interviews were halted from 10:30 a.m. when the demonstrators jammed into the doorway and corridor outside room 216 until 3:30 p.m. when Herbert Gutowsky, head of the Chemistry Department, read a statement saying that the planned interviews had been canceled.

A statement issued by Chancellor Jack W. Peltason said:

"Appropriate disciplinary action, including preparation for the filing of formal charges, has been initiated against all those persons who have participated in this interference with the educational processes of the University."

When asked how the names of the demonstrators would be obtained Peltason said "The security office is responsible for gathering such information."

**Demonstrators Face Discipline**  
Peltason further said the demonstrators would appear before the Faculty Senate Committee on Student Discipline.

A complicity statement stating

the signers took responsibility for the actions at the sit-in reportedly was signed by 175 persons. Four to five hundred more are hoped for. The names of the signers reportedly are to be published.

Mark Whitney, a sophomore, burned his draft card in front of Russel Van Dyke, the Dow interviewer, early in the demonstration.

Van Dyke said he had held interviews earlier in the day but declined comment on how many he had held. Van Dyke received his doctoral degree from the University in 1960.

**Recruiter in Room**

Throughout the sit-in Van Dyke was kept hostage in room 216 and the demonstrators refused to allow him to leave unless he promised he would not begin recruitment in another spot.

Gutowsky addressed the demonstrators and said "As long as you put up any conditions as to whether or not he can leave you are