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Suffolk Police Arrest 21 In Library Occupation

President Toll Agrees To Most Of Demands



Handcuffed students are taken into custody by Suffolk County Police.



Mitchel Cohen, whose arrest sparked the sit-in.



Police form wall as their colleagues arrest 21 students.

An eighteen hour sit-in ended in the library this morning as twenty-one students were arrested by Suffolk County Police. The students, the last of 400 to leave the building, had refused to leave repeatedly and did not resist arrest.

The sit-in, for which those arrested will be charged with original trespassing, was held to protest the conditions surrounding the Tuesday night arrests of Mitchel Cohen and Glenn Kissack as well as University complicity with military-related research and recruitment.

A list of six demands had been presented to President Toll last night; by 8:00 this morning Toll had virtually agreed to all of them. His answers were satisfactory to all the demonstrators except the 21 arrested.

As a result of the confrontation and demands the following decisions have been made:

1. The University will attempt to have the charges against Mitchel Cohen dropped.
2. The classification 'persona non grata' will be abolished.
3. The Council for Student Affairs will establish a committee to investigate the possibilities of a student-faculty review body for Security.
4. Research files will be reopened to public inspection for the next two weeks until the Graduate Council can take permanent action. Certain financial information may be withheld.
5. It was declared that no war-related research exists on campus. Any students believing otherwise will be given a chance

to present their evidence before a special committee.

The decision to have Suffolk County Police clear the remaining dissenters was made by President Toll as a "last resort" after the president had met with the Council for Student Affairs throughout the night. Toll and other administrators had been in contact with the demonstrators directly and indirectly during much of the night. Toll had telephoned Police Commissioner Barry at 6:00 a.m. and said, "We appreciate your assistance and hope that your men will use the least possible violence." At the time of the phone call approximately 200 students were occupying the library. The majority of these left shortly after 8:00, the expected time of arrival for the police, when they felt Dr. Toll had responded satisfactorily to their demands.



Pond, Rickard and Walsh confer.

From Rally To Arrests: A Chronology

It all began with a rally scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday by SDS, in order to demand the abolishment of the status of persona non grata, recruitment, and war research. It ended with the police being called in early Thursday morning.

At the rally, a tape was played where Mitchel Cohen, who was arrested Tuesday night, stated that he was employed by the University; therefore his arrest, which was ordered by Acting VPSA Scott Rickard, was unjustified. He contended that the priorities of the University must be altered so that students were the top priority and not research.

At the conclusion of the rally, which drew about 500 students, SDS leaders announced that the rally would move to the administrative offices in the library until their demands were met. Security tried to block the students from entering the corridor leading to Dr. Toll's office, but were unsuccessful. In the process a wall was damaged and offices messed up.

Dr. Toll was unable to leave the library via his private elevator, since some 25 students were blocking it. The president then went outside to address the growing audience. The leaders of the rally found his explanations unsatisfactory and decided to return to the second floor.

As Dr. Toll walked down the hill, a rowdy group of students chanting "Down with Toll" followed him and physically blocked him from entering the elevator in the basement of the library. The University president, pushed and shoved around, was visibly shaken as he worked his way past students into the street.

He then walked around the campus, ending up at the railroad station, followed by an entourage of about 100 students shouting, laughing, and carrying an American flag, flanked by two security cars. When asked what he was doing the smiling president remarked, "It's a sunny day, and this will give me a chance to talk with some of the students."

Having reached the station, Dr. Toll fled in one of the patrol cars to Security headquarters in the service building. His whereabouts remained undisclosed until later in the evening, when he returned to the library.

When the rally moved into the library shortly before 3 p.m., with at least 250 students in the library, leader Spencer Black began a discussion of the six demands that had been written. After debating each demand individually, the group agreed that the list be sent to Dr. Toll.

The demands were as follows:

1. That all administrative charges brought against individuals for political actions be retracted.
2. That the status of persona non grata be abolished.
3. That the university drop all charges being brought in the courts against individuals classified as persona non grata and against those arrested because of and in connection with this classification.
4. That the use of the security force be limited to the protection of students and that it not be used by the administration as an instrument of repression against student dissent. The commission will be responsible for defining to whom Security is responsible.
5. That the university reopen all research files including such information as the amount of the grant, the name of the principle investigator and the complete research description as originally proposed.
6. That the university put an end to all war-related research and recruitment.

Having completed this action, the demonstrators spent several hours discussing tactics. The consequences of moving into the administrative offices was considered; some felt that this would give Dr. Toll a legitimate reason for calling in the Suffolk County police and forcing a confrontation. Jerry Weiss, a student instrumental in the writing of the Curriculum Proposal, urged the demonstrators to "set up a few priorities" and decide exactly what they wanted to do.

Amid the discussion, Acting Vice-President for Student Affairs Scott Rickard called the attention of the group with a bullhorn. He announced, "Your presence is disrupting the administrative offices," whereupon the students cheered. They refused to vacate the building, and discussion groups sprang up.

Dr. Rickard later announced that the students of the right wing [sic] had left their names and vacated the premises; he requested that the demonstrators do the same. Some left for dinner around 5 p.m.

Security Chief Richard Walsh was able to maintain a dialog with many of the students. He informed them of their legal status and promised the demonstrators that if police action was deemed necessary, "I will do all in my power to make that confrontation non-violent."

Shortly after 6 p.m. Dr. Toll re-entered his office. He agreed to meet with two representatives privately, but Spencer Black said, "We want everyone to hear us," and the group backed him up in a vote.

Following this decision the protesters again gathered together to discuss their goals and tactics. Black said, "Getting busted now is not a very good idea," reminding the students that they were obligated to gather information from the research files they had xeroxed Monday, and time consuming legal hassles would be unwelcome in the light of that.

Throughout the discussions, demonstrators were carrying in food for the evening. Most agreed with Black when he said, "It's going to be a long fight" and that it was necessary to get the "best position possible." One student pointed out, "We can't back out now. We have Toll against the wall."

Around 7 p.m. many students moved into the offices of Vice-Presidents Bentley Glass and T.A. Pond. Dr. Pond addressed the group and directed them to leave. He told them, "This office is closed," and asked them to "move into the corridor to avoid charges of trespassing." Dr. Pond was cursed and shouted down; with a final warning of "I order you to withdraw," he left.

Positions on both sides hardened as the night went on. Dr. Toll met with the Council for Student Affairs. Students were firm in their desire to stay, and Security Chief Walsh was waiting for word from Dr. Toll. He pointed out that the demonstrators had violated University regulations and State law. Walsh expressed his hope that the sit-in would end quickly and said his men would be able to handle the task of removing students as long as there were not too many resisting arrest.

Dr. Peter Dollard told the group occupying the offices that the CSA would be in a better position to bargain with Dr. Toll if the students withdrew to the corridors. He told the group that "alternatives are open now - they weren't four hours ago." He was turned down.

While the students were sitting-in, administrators were having hurried conferences among themselves. The CSA, while attempting to answer the six student demands, realized it existed only to serve as an advisory board to the President.

While the situation with the demonstrators was stable, behind-the-scenes negotiations were being carried on by nearly every administrative officer. The diplomatic situation was chaotic; John De Francesco said, "Everybody and his brother is meeting with everyone else and his brother." De Francesco observed that the only progress being made was "toward polarization."

Continued



From Rally To Arrests

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Polity Vice-President Peter Adams was busy contacting Dr. Toll in an apparently unsuccessful attempt to have the President contact an Albany official to have the situation cooled down. Hanging over the negotiations was the supposed midnight deadline. As the time passed one key administrator admitted, "I'm not worried; I'm scared to death."

Back in the occupied offices, students were again considering the possibility of withdrawing into the corridor. Eventually a split appeared evident. The group that remained in the office settled back for a long evening, and relaxed with music. Several students, including Lenny Mell, Lonnie Wolfe, and Stu Eber were serving as liaisons between the protesters and the Administration.

Facts were hard to come by. Everyone was meeting to discuss tactics and exchange rumors. A confrontation between the demonstrators and some engineering students on the first floor was averted. The library was due to close at midnight, and tensions rose steadily. At 11:55 Chief Walsh instructed one of his men "to let nobody in." A huge crowd outside the library had gathered in support of those inside. At least 500 were reported to be on the Mall. The CSA sent its recommendations to Dr. Toll. The president did not then order the police on campus; however, he maintained he had the right to do so at any moment.

Shortly before 1 a.m. it was reported that black students had taken over the Social Sciences building. At various times in the next few hours it was reported that students were occupying several different buildings. All the reports were unfounded, as the action contained itself within the library.

For the next few hours tense negotiations were carried on by Dr. Toll, John Nopper (Chairman of CSA), Dean Weisinger, Harris Kagan, and Glenn Kissack. They were also in telephone contact with Mitchel Cohen. About 3:30 a.m., the students held a general meeting, where they voted on Dr. Toll's responses to their demands; half were accepted. At 4:45 Mitch returned to campus and spoke to Dr. Rickard in Toll's office. The CSA, in agreement with other concerned parties, had decided Mitch was not persona non grata. Cohen said he believed in all that had been said by Rickard.

During this time Dr. Toll had returned from the Student Affairs office in the gym to meet with the CSA in the library. He said they were doing all they could, but that the University would not give in to demands. He asked students to clear the building and said he would use anything necessary to insure such action. He also indicated he had been in touch with the Suffolk County Police Department.

There was still disagreement over the response to the demands. Dr. Rickard said the charges had been dropped against Cohen and Kissack. Kissack then questioned the response to the sixth demand; Dr. Toll said he had no authority to answer that demand, since the Graduate Council handles all research contracts. However, he said that there was no classified research or war-related research. He later said he considered defense research as classified research.

Shortly before 6 a.m. Dr. Toll stood on a table in the library and asked students to leave. He said the building was officially closed and they were considered trespassing. He gave them 15 minutes to leave. Dr. Toll reportedly was under a great deal of pressure from Albany to end the sit-in. About 200 students were still in the library at this point.

How It All Started . . . Arrest Of Cohen and Kissack

At approximately 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, three Security officers entered G cafeteria for the purpose of removing Mitchel Cohen, a former student, from the campus, persona non grata.

Cohen had been made persona non grata because of his political beliefs and actions by Scott Rickard, acting vice-president for student affairs, who acted on behalf of the Administration. According to Cohen, he had been hired by the Commission and had worked at least one week prior to Rickard's declaration, so that the charge "could not be applied."

The patrolmen, who had received a phone call from a student, proceeded to fan out until they spotted Mitch, at which point they converged upon him and asked him to leave. Cohen asked why, and was told that he was persona non grata and was seized by the shoulders.

Glenn Kissack, a student who had been eating with Mitchel, rose, placed his hand on the arm of one of the officers, and demanded to know what the charges were. The officer

raised his club, and Glenn was grabbed from behind by two other patrolmen. At this time, Cohen was being choked by a Security officer and Glenn lunged forward and attempted to aid him. He was seized, and told that he was under arrest.

Both were led out, handcuffed, and driven to the Sixth Precinct station in Coram, where Mitchel was charged with loitering, trespassing, and resisting arrest, and Glenn with harassment and interfering with an officer in the process of making an arrest. Security pressed charges against Kissack, and Dr. Rickard, acting for the Administration, pressed charges against Cohen. They were freed on their own recognizance; no bail money was needed.

After the two students were removed, a group of students stormed over to the guardhouse, and finding no one there, broke a few windows and tore off a sign, after which they dispersed.

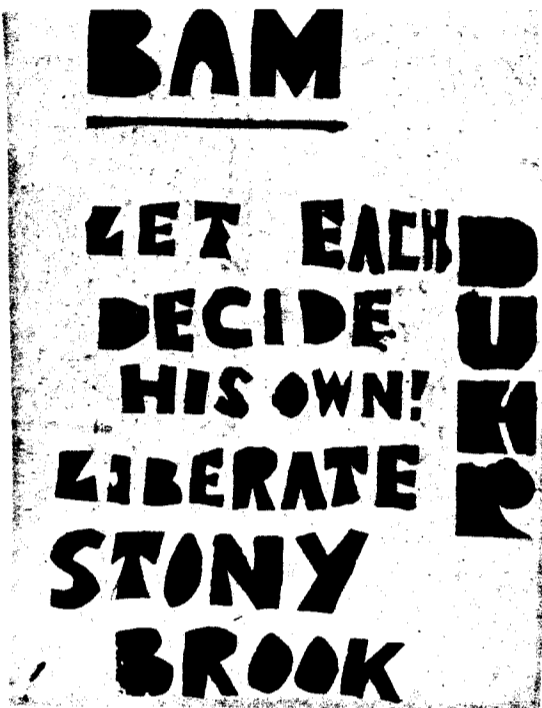
On Wednesday night, President Toll announced that he had spoken to Kissack, and they had reached an agreement, and that the University was going to try to have the charges against Cohen dropped.

Shortly thereafter John DeFrancesco spoke with Dr. Toll, begging him to let security handle the students and not let the police on campus. The Administration was ready to consider this, but it was too late. The police were already congregated on Nicolls Road, waiting for Security to meet them. Dr. Toll, amid rankled cries, suggested they move to continue talks.

Last minute appeals were issued, with Professors Rosenthal, Zeig, and Weinberg acting as intermediaries. Spence Black said, "We do not plan to resist arrest." Zeig addressed students, asking them to look over their demands and the responses. They agreed on demands # 1, 3, and 5. Students asked Dr. Toll to come back to clarify the others. This was shortly before 8 a.m. Dr. Toll said he didn't want to waste time discussing them, but indicated further talks would occur later in Langaur lounge.

Spence told the others, "We're fools to stay here." He wanted to leave, but the others didn't. Lawyers Lippe and Ruskin explained the legal situation to those remaining, and told them, "Right now you have made an enormous impact nationwide. Being arrested won't make any more of an impact."

They had gained a political victory, but not a moral one. When County Executive Dennison appeared at 8:30, most students were no longer inside the library. At 8:45 21 were arrested: 15 male undergrads, 5 female undergrads, and one grad. The crowd outside was screaming, demanding a student strike until Dr. Toll resigned. No one could find Dr. Toll.



President Toll speaks to students during confrontation.

Security Kept Control

Throughout the day, Chief Walsh and his Security force held a tight grip on the situation at the library. Security seemed to be fairly lenient during the day, but as the time came for the library to close, tighter regulations were instituted. It was hoped that students would clear the building by midnight, but amid reports of the Suffolk County Police invading the building, the stamina of the students remained strong, many of them feeling that they "finally had a cause to fight for."

Soon after midnight, a crowd gathered outside the building in support of those inside. The job for Security became doubled as the students inside the building became incensed with their outside support.

At about 1:00 a.m., the Security force found itself faced with a problem as students began to take over the Social Science building. About 100 students entered the building, soon followed by others. As students in the library saw what was going on and heard rumors of a take-over of the Humanities building, they began to filter to the roof and upper stories of the building. The Security force found itself unable to "spread," in order to cover all of the students' moves. As Chief Walsh put it, "I don't have any people left." Security, therefore, decided to keep themselves contained within the library.

No direct comments were available from any of the Security men. However, caught off-guard, several of them were heard to say that they "were disgusted with the situation." They went on further to express the hope that the Suffolk County Police would not have to be called.

Reflections On The Sit-in

by Richard Puz

Last night appeared to be a culmination of the frustration of futile protest and demands that fell on deaf ears. The participants in the library sit-in were not primarily SDS members or other campus radicals. They were concerned students who objected to what they felt were arbitrary and immoral acts of the University Administration.

What differentiated this from previous demonstrations like last spring's sit-in in the Business Office was not only the student support, but also the fact that the list of demands was known and at least partially supported by all those present.

However, for most students the action against Mitchel Cohen and Glenn Kissack, the questions about open research files, and military recruitment were a rail-

lying point and not the sum total of grievances. These issues are of importance to all universities. Perhaps the primary reason for the student turnout is a dissatisfaction with the way this University is run.

Despite the orderliness of the demonstrators (there were no clashes with the campus security forces), they showed an inability to compromise. After four of the six demands had been met, and the other two were being negotiated, Dr. Toll decided to close the library (6 a.m.). Had he kept the building open it is possible a final agreement could have been quickly reached. Nevertheless, those demonstrators who remained and risked arrest should have realized that they had achieved the major portion of their goals; pushing Dr. Toll "up against the

wall" might be detrimental. A significant factor in the negotiations with the demonstrators was that the Council for Student Affairs, and not Dr. Toll per se, worked on the demands.

However, Dr. Toll made the decision to close the building at 6 a.m. and call in the Suffolk County police.

A final observation concerns the role of assistant dean of students, John DeFrancesco. Mr. De, along with Professors Goodman and Kalkstein, acted as liaisons between the CSA and the demonstrators, trying to achieve reforms palatable to both groups. He tried to bring about continuing dialogue among all those present, once again demonstrating his dedication to the University which has not rehired him.

Impressions

by Marcia Milstein

They wandered in the halls, huddled against the walls, and explored the forbidden offices. The library was there, and a spirit of community festivity prevailed. Sandwiches were served at the main desk. Signs were put up saying, "Dare to struggle, dare to win," "Let each decide his own" and "Up against the Van de Graaff, Toll."

The majority gathered in Bentley Glass' office. They clustered around a record player, talked in small groups and browsed through books from Bentley's library. Someone left a note thanking him for the use of his office but added, "Next time leave the place a little cleaner." Students were sarcastic, curious, but not destructive. The only destructive sign came from without-- a tossed rock that broke a window and shattered glass on the floor.

Fear mixed with hostility was focused at the engineering students outside that threatened to raid and "bust open their heads." The opposing students had called the Suffolk County Police but they failed to respond. From the window of the planning office you were able to see faces in the Social Science building. Although they were there to keep warm, their forms in the windows gave the campus the air of an occupation.

A cheer was heard. Students outside took over the registrar's office. Confident of support from most of the student body, the kids inside resumed their exploration. They gazed with amazement at files and blueprints of the master plan. Having studied photographs and information that is ordinarily withheld from them, the students inside were granted educational enlightenment as well as the satisfaction of expressing their disgust. Last night was the culmination of frustration caused by futile protests and anger built up at a deaf Administration.



Commissioner Barry

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Dr. Toll: "It's a sunny day, and this walk will give me a chance to talk to students."