Police Make Mass Arrests At West High

Forty-two persons, including members of the Rockford Black Panther organization, were arrested at West High School today as the school opened in opposition to Negro students who have been protesting school regulations and policies.

The 42 were charged with disorderly conduct and were informed by police the charge stems from Negro students' refusal to answer questions regarding picketing within 150 feet of school grounds while the school is in session or 30 minutes prior to the start of classes.

The incident occurred about 12:30 p.m. Negro students boycotted morning sessions at the school but were given permission by their principal to return at noon. Protests stemmed from dissatisfaction with the school's disciplinary standards for cheerleaders. Three eligible Negro girls did not meet school standards for cheerleaders and were not permitted when the team was selected. All the cheerleaders selected are Negro.

Additional demands were discussed at a 1:45 p.m. meeting with school officials and at a second meeting Principal James Rose said West High will attempt to hire more Negro teachers, more Negro counselors and next year will improve the number of books on Negro culture in the school library.

Among those arrested were Charles Powell and Harold Bell, who identified themselves as members of the Black Panther organization. Bell was led handcuffed and shouting into a police wagon. Earlier, school authorities read city ordinances banning picketing and other disturbances over the school public address system.

When picketing resumed, at noon, police first arrested two students who were picketing and then arrested another Negro student who had declined to return classes when the noon bell rang.

Police also disturbed a large group of bystanders and were forced to cut off traffic along Rockton Avenue from Auburn Street.

Police initially arrested only males on the picket line. Most were Negroes. Later, police also took away girls who came to join the picket line as the males were arrested.

Inside the school, there was little disturbance and classes went on as scheduled. Some white students inside the school expressed a desire to join the picket line.

Absentees at the school today numbered about 650 of 1,794 students.

White students who met during the boycott in the morning were met by school board members Robert E. Spangler, John Fleen, and Monte Addison. Also present was 5th Ward alderman Frank (Punzy) Faller.

Cheerleaders touched off a series of disturbances at the school last Tuesday and it was the main topic at Thursday's meeting.

Minnie Neal, head of the girls' physical education department, spent nearly 30 minutes reviewing how cheerleaders are selected. She said of girls, tried out for next year's varsity cheerleading squad, six of them were Negroes.

But, she said, only three of the six were eligible for the final try-outs. The other three, she said, do not meet school averages high enough to make the squad.

In answering the demands, Police referred the students to the school board on two other items. He said the demand for a black curriculum and a separate Afro-American history course are decisions for the board to make.

"I have made a rather extensive study of these demands, and I assure you we are doing the best we can, " the principal said.

He said he is eager to bring Negro teachers to West, but it is difficult to find persons interested in teaching. Answering another demand, he said, "If the money is available to have another counselor, We'll have a black counselor next year also."

Later, he told the students "We'll buy every one of the books on a list compiled by Charles Hawkins, the principal of West's Afro-American Club, and faculty members will include projects that have been done by authors in English courses next fall."

By JUULIEN SNYVELY

Register-Republican Staff Writer

Not everyone needs a lifetime of fear eating kids, enjoying kids.

And Rockford has one. It's not the normal kind of lifetime—the type that people grab with their hands to save their lives.

It's a club, an organization affiliated with Youth For Christ which holds out an arm to help the young boy who is in trouble get back on the right path and help boys who are straight stay straight.

"We're concerned about helping kids to lead a happy, useful life," said Al Elliott, director of the local Lifetime program. "We're not only concerned about the spiritual side, but also the physical and mental side."

Lifetime got started in Rockford in 1966 when Elliott, originally from Chicago, arrived in Rockford to set up the program. Other such programs are operated in 60 cities in the country.

To do his work right, Elliott had to get to know the youth he works with. And form many of the youths he works with have been referred to him by the juvenile court system.

Some have lived with him and his wife and two young daughters for a whole year. And he protects them. He is publicity shy and doesn't want to ruin his rapport with the kids by what he calls "exploiting" them in newspaper stories.

He'd rather do his work out of the limelight.

He sees the hope of a happy life for all of the youths he works with. And for many of these this will be a change, because for many their lives have been anything but happy so far.

Many of the youths he works with have been referred to him by the juvenile court system. Others come on referrals from welfare agencies.

Some just drop in off the street. Elliott is trying to concentrate the main thrust of his program toward kids in junior high, because he feels that is the level where problems in later life can be avoided by good guidance.

He said he feels that this is the level where many kids get in trouble for the first time.

Today's Good News

Hussey Wins Role

ROME (AP) — Olivia Hussey, the British teenager who was starstruck in "Romeo and Juliet," has been chosen for a leading part in a forthcoming film about U.S. drug addiction titled "Fiddler."
Mass Arrests Made At West Protest

About 50 persons, including members of the Rockford Black Panther organization, were arrested at West High School today when they picked in sympathy with Negro students who have been protesting school regulations and policies.

The 50 were charged with disorderly conduct and were informed by police the charges stem from a 1968 city ordinance prohibiting picketing within 150 feet of school grounds while the school is in session or 30 minutes prior to the start of classes.

The incident occurred about 12:30 p.m. Negro students boycotted morning sessions at the school but were given permission to return to classes noon. Protests stemmed from dissatisfaction with the school's scholastic standards for cheerleaders. Two eligible Negro girls did not meet scholastic standards for cheerleaders and were not included when the team was selected. All the cheerleaders selected are white.

Additional demands were discussed Thursday at a meeting with school officials and at that meeting Principal James Rose said West High will attempt to hire more Negro teachers, more Negro counselors, and next year will improve the number of books on Negro culture in the school library.

Among those arrested were Charles Powell and Harold Bell, who identified themselves as members of the Black Panther organization. Bell was led handcuffed and shouting into a police wagon.

Earlier, school authorities read city ordinances banning picketing and other disturbances over the school public address system.

When picketing resumed at noon, police first arrested nonstudents who were picketing and then arrested some Negro students who had declined to return to classes when the noon hour bell rang.

Police also dispersed a large group of bystanders and were forced to cut off traffic along Rockton Avenue from Auburn Street.

Police initially arrested only males on the picket line. Most were Negroes. Later, police also took away girls who came to man the picket lines as the consternation to make a noise.

Inside the school, there was little disruption and classes went on as scheduled. Some white students inside the school expressed a desire to join the picketers.

Absentee at the school today numbered about 650 of 1,704 students.

While students who met during the boycott in the morning conferred with school board members Robert H. Spengler, John Flanden, and Montie Atkinson. Also present was 5th Ward alderman Frank (Fuzzy) Fallon.

The cheerleading issue touched off a series of disturbances at the school last Tuesday and it was the main topic at Thursday's meeting.

Minnie Neal, head of the girls' physical education department, spent nearly 20 minutes reviewing how cheerleaders are selected. She said 46 girls tried out for next year's varsity cheerleading quad, and six of them were Negroes.

But, she said, only three of the six were eligible for the final try-outs. The other three, she said, do not have scholastic averages high enough to make the squad.

In answering the demands, Rose referred the students to the school board on two other items. He said the demand for a black curriculum and a separate Afro-American history course are decisions for the board.

"I have made a rather extensive study of these demands, and I assure you we are doing the best we can," the principal said.

He said he is eager to bring more Negro teachers to West, but it is difficult to find persons interested in teaching.

Answering another demand, he said, "If the money is available to have another counselor. We'll have a black counselor here next year."

5 Convicted In Counterfeit Operation

Special to Register - Republic CHICAGO—Five men, including two reputed loan sharks, were convicted Thursday by a U.S. District Court jury for conspiring to make and sell $1 million in counterfeit treasury notes printed in Rockford.

Clarence E. Davison, 49, 3904 Warren Blvd., a Rockford printer, was a government witness in the trial. He said he was promised $7,500 to print the treasury notes.

He pleaded guilty earlier to printing the notes. He had pleaded guilty to selling the notes.

Convicted Thursday were Nimrod T. Solomon, 37, and William Aloisi, 61, alleged loan sharks, Charles Bartoli and Stanley Jasinski, 50, of Chicago, and Edward M. Murray, Rockford.

Norman D. Carter, 44, a former plumbing inspector for the city of Chicago, was acquitted.

Mrs. Grace Cosentino, 49, suburban Lincolnwood, will be the 50 were charged with disorderly conduct for the 1956 city ordinance prohibiting picketing within 150 feet of school grounds while the school is in session or 30 minutes prior to the start of classes.

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SANTA ANA, Calif. (UPI) — Th police chief began serving four mon- tary confinement in today's protection.

He pleaded guilty to transport juana.

Steven Murray, 21, son of San Police Chief Clifford Murray, wa: by his father in February after a p tigation.

In sentencing Murray Thursday Court Judge Robert Gardner said had cooperated with authorities.

"He came clean, something you do in the drug culture. So I am as I am ordering — that he be kept That way he will be able to walk it's over."

When the elder Murray ordered of his son, he said he had to carry o without favoritism and "treat it as any other case. I can't enforce the doesn't apply to everyone."

Son of Chief Gets Solita

by JERRY BEAN

register-Republican Staff Writer

The big business and industri Springfield is "the most active an powerful fat-cat organization" see from members of the Illinois Gene bly, according to Robert R. Canfield book "Fat-Cat Lobbyists Make You Canfield, a Rockford attorney at ber of the General Assembly for charges in his 60-page book that n bers of the Illinois legislature — and its leaders — allow themselves to be named by "fat-cat lobbyists" in ex money, women, liquor, entertainment

HOLD POSITIONS OF IMPORTANT

Canfield concedes that "not all live and breathe with the fat cats," shocking thing is that those who d many positions of importance and control of policy in the law-maki dures."

The business and industrial lobby all others look small," Canfield as organization has a dozen highly ski fully selected and able lobbyists o there all the time."

"Illinois is one of the very f without an income tax," Canfield say

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