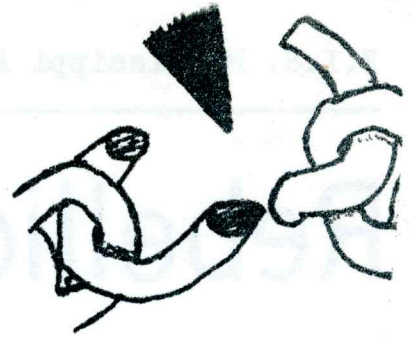




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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Cops Murder Youth in Jackson Rebellion

Students and other Black youth joined forces in Jackson Thursday night to rebel against police, who had blocked off the Jackson State College area since Wednesday. They grabbed and burned the wooden road blocks and threw bricks and bottles at police.

City police responded by killing one young man, Benjamin Brown, and shooting at least four others. One student, Cephus Jackson, was hit in the face by shotgun pellets as he sat in his dormitory window talking to friends.

POLICE NEVER USED TEAR GAS, but GUNS instead, to push the men back. About 400 white National Guardsmen were called in and moved down Lynch Street in tanks, cars, and on foot to "keep the peace."

Ben Brown, 22, was shot twice in the back of the head and the back as he ran from police when the shooting started. He died about 4:30 A.M. Friday morning in the hospital. He had been a full-time civil rights worker and only a few hours before his shooting was talking to others about his work in the Delta. He was then part of the Freedom Corps of the Delta Ministry and has recently driven a delivery car for a Jackson drug store. The Delta Ministry has asked the Justice Department to investigate the murder, done by a high-powered rifle.

THE FIRST STUDENT PROTEST

Demonstrations began Wednesday night, as hundreds of Jackson State College men ran city police off the campus when they tried to arrest a student in his dormitory. More police were sent in and several blocks of Lynch Street were blocked off. Mayor Allen Thompson

Rebellion

tried to talk to the students but they refused to listen.

On Thursday, the Student Action Committee wrote out their grievances and about 9 leaders went to see the college president and the mayor. The three main problems were to get Lynch Street closed to traffic through the campus; to get a Negro city policeman fired because of brutality; and to make outside police stay off the campus and deal with campus security police when a student is accused of a crime.

New Student Government Association president Rev. W.L. Jenkins said that the mayor agreed there would be no more interference by city police on campus unless they are called by the college president or by "students who want to get rid of outside agitators."

Jenkins said that the "idiot who calls himself a police officer" will not be back in the college area and his activities will be investigated by the police department.

He said that the mayor agreed to a 15 mile per hour speed limit on Lynch Street between Prentiss and Dalton. A student committee is to work on planning with the city for a bridge to walk on over the street.

Jenkins said the students were "not out for vandalism but to get something done. This is being done." He asked JSC students to return to their dorms until a later announcement. Non-students could stay if invited by a student. He said the mayor had asked students to call the National Guard if there were any difficulties, but that students would not do that. He said they didn't want any "irrational radicalism" and that he hadn't decided whether or not the boycott of classes would be extended through Friday.

Jenkins then talked to smaller groups around the campus and made announcements over dormitory loud speakers. He never did talk to a group of Jackson residents who were upset that the whole thing was over so easily, with only promises being made by white officials who have broken many promises in the past.

Mainly, the student issues were not related, in the talks with the mayor and other officials, to the problems of the young men who had dropped out of school and couldn't get jobs. It was these men who have been most kicked around in their lives. And it was they who did most of the property damage in the rebellions.

So the revolt continued Thursday evening. Fire plugs were opened and people gathered along the sidewalks. Groups of young men marched toward three separate police barricades in turn, chanting "Hell, No, We Ain't Going," Stokeley Carmichael's answer to the military draft.

A highway patrolman hit by a brick fired the first shot toward the demonstrators. A little later many more shots were fired when a group again marched toward police.

Friday, two leaders of SNCC were in town, along with Charles Evers of the NAACP and Lawrence Guyot of the FDP. They were urging that a meeting be held to discuss the issues and future plans. Student leader

(continued on page 5)

He says NO to the Army

On Wednesday, John Sumrall of Clarke County, Mississippi, said NO to the United States Army and refused to take the "step forward" to be drafted.

Before that, he had been questioned by military authorities and filled out many information forms. He was all by himself when the official ceremony took place. All the other men finished earlier. It is reported that at least one other man who was going into the army told Sumrall that he'd stay out if he could, too, but that his family would never allow it.

When he refused to step forward, Sumrall was told he could be put in jail for five years and get a fine of \$10,000. They gave him a second chance to agree to go. He refused, and he was told he was then on his own to get home.

Sumrall's lawyers are taking his case through the courts to keep him out of the Army until there are Negroes on draft boards in Mississippi. The case is now in federal district court.

John Sumrall has been active in civil rights activities in his home town of Quitman for several years. He feels he was called up for the army earlier than he would have been if he was not fighting for his rights here in Mississippi.

He said he is totally against the war in Vietnam and does not believe in the reasons the federal government gives for the U.S. to be fighting there.

His message to the people in Mississippi is to say "HELL, NO" to the draft.

Charles Evers of the NAACP says he might ask Negroes to refuse to be drafted after June 1 unless Negroes are appointed to Mississippi draft boards.

Cleve Sellers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has also refused to go into the army recently.

madison co.

Beat Three of Madison County has chosen its candidates for the fall elections. They are:

Mr. Bennie L. Thompson for supervisor

Mr. Floyd Moore for J.P.

Mr. H.L. Gray, Sr. for constable

Mr. Hubert McDonald for constable

Rev. Ellis Saddler for J.P.

They will all run as independents in the general election in November.

NEW VOTERS

In the past four months, 1339 more Negroes have gotten registered with Federal registrars in Mississippi. Many counties don't seem to be working at all. But 415 registered in Hinds, 349 in Rankin, 144 in Holmes, 120 in Jones, 154 in Amite. The state total is now 50,318 who have signed up with Federal registrars.

millsaps

HOW LONG...

will people be murdered in Mississippi? Philadelphia, Hattiesburg, Natchez, and now Jackson.

We must condemn the Jackson Police Department and the Mississippi Highway Patrol for provoking and aggravating the situation at Jackson State College.

The police and patrolmen are guilty of irresponsible law enforcement and are directly responsible for the needless murder of an unarmed man, Benjamin Brown.

We as white Mississippi students demand that the murderer be immediately dismissed from his duties and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

-- Ad Hoc Committee of Millsaps Students to Protest the Murder of Ben Brown

May 12, 1967

black unity

AMERICA IS THE BLACK MAN'S BATTLEGROUND

BEN BROWN, A 22 YEAR OLD, COURAGEOUS, BLACK SOLDIER WAS SHOT IN THE BACK AND LEFT THERE IN THE STREET TO DIE LIKE A DOG.

HIS MURDERERS ARE THE SAME PIGS WE'VE BEEN DYING FOR IN VIET NAM, THE SAME PIGS WE DIED FOR IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, THE CIVIL WAR, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, AND THE KOREAN WAR; THE SAME PIGS THAT WE WORK FOR, AND THE SAME PIGS THAT SOME OF US ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LOVE. FOR THEM WE WILL DIE NO MORE.

HONORABLE MALCOLM X SAID, "WE MUST DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR OWN BLACK WOMEN, BLACK BABIES, AND BLACK MEN RIGHT HERE IN THIS COUNTRY." UNITE OR PERISH.

BLACK PEOPLE'S UNITY MOVEMENT

<Services for Ben Brown will be in Jackson next weekend>

Rebellion

Jenkins (who has been called a "super Uncle Tom, junior), feels students should go home for the weekend and not return until the situation is back to normal.

About three o'clock Friday afternoon, 21 students from mostly-white Millsaps College marched from their campus to the Jackson City Hall, around the building several times, and back to campus. They were part of the Ad Hoc Committee of Millsaps Students to Protest the Murder of Ben Brown. Their statement is printed on page four of this Newsletter.

Members of the Black People's Unity Movement passed out two different leaflets during the day, calling for a rally at sunset at a community center near Jackson State College. Their statement is also on page four.

A march was scheduled for Friday night, probably to try to go into downtown Jackson.

Tougaloo College student leader Howard Spencer was on the Jackson State College campus Thursday and Friday. He pointed out that college students were brain-washed into thinking they were better than the guy on the block, but that it IS NOT SO. He said that "our people in Vietnam are fighting together, deciding what they're going to do. We must do the same."

The attitude of many students and others seems to be the same as the words on the traffic lights on the campus crosswalk: Wait, Caution, Walk.

Still, the issues are very clearly there: whites control Negro education and keep most of the money for themselves. Police are used by whites to keep "law and order", when in fact basic change is needed. Young men and women have no place in Mississippi society the way it works now: they are bored in the bad schools, untrained for modern jobs, unable to get decent wages because of anti-union laws, unable to get enough to live on from welfare. They are impatient because older people have got used to living this way and find it hard to change.

And, unfortunately for those who like "peace", it is almost impossible to do much to change the system by way of meetings and good will. Those who now make bad decisions about the future of the state will apparently have to be forced to make better decisions and to turn over a good share of the choice to the people themselves.

It is hard to say where protest will go from here. But it looks pretty clear that it will not stop. There is too much feeling inside the thousands of people who are Black or poor in Mississippi. As even Rev. Jenkins says, "Anybody who's neglected as long as you've been" is justified in rebelling.

Send news to FIS
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