

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cambridge

NEGROES PICKET RESTAURANT, BATTLE AFTER ARRESTS

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND, JULY 11 -- "Dizzyland," a food spot here became a hot spot for the second time in twelve hours today as a group of 18 Negroes, members of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Group (an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) picketed while a crowd of Negro and white on-lookers battled.

The demonstration followed sporadic violence last night about 250 Negro marchers had protested the arrest of four sit-inners at the restaurant. During today's picketing at Dizzyland, four whites and three Negroes entered the dining place and were attacked and thrown out by whites inside. The Negro crowd then moved on the restaurant calling for its owner. Whites and Negroes fought until State police broke up the crowd as city police stood by, making no attempt to end the melee.

Yesterday's demonstrators -- Carol Rogoff, James Lewis, Johnny Weeks, and Dwight Campbell -- tried to sit-in at the restaurant and were charged with "disorderly conduct" and "trespassing." All but James Lewis were subsequently released but a police officer, Harry Hansen, pressed charges against him of "assault and battery," and claimed Lewis had attacked him.

Later that evening, after a protest marched downtown by 250 persons -- when State Police protected demonstrators from whites throwing eggs and rocks -- Negroes gathered at the Bethel AME Church for a mass meeting. Carloads of whites drove through the Negro section, throwing rocks and bottles at the Negroes on the street. Negroes began to move into the white section, but were turned back by CNAC leaders.

At this time, officer Hansen appeared. Infuriated by his arrival, the crowd would not move until he left. Negroes in the crowd began to throw bricks and bottles at him. Police standing by drew their pistols, but the crowd dispersed when Hansen left.

Reginald Robinson, a SNCC field secretary, reported two fires last night in the outlying areas of the Second Ward, a predominantly Negro section of the city. Robinson said demonstrations would continue, and that a march would be held tonight after a mass meeting.