

# Computer Center Occupied by Students for Collective Action

## Police Move Despite Threats to Destroy \$14 Million Computer

By Mark Forster

A tense three-hour occupation of the North Hall Computer Center by members of the Students for Collective Action ended at 12:40 this morning when police cut through chained doors and arrested 17 protestors inside. The computers were undamaged and the protestors

This report was compiled by: Nancy Brucker, Becky Morrow, and Jim Tang.

submitted peacefully. Over 25 persons were arrested.

Almost immediately after the building was taken over at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Santa Barbara City Police, County Sheriffs, and campus police assembled at the Administration Building while the protestors threatened to destroy \$14 million worth of computers if they were arrested.

### COMPUTER THREAT

"If we go, the machines go," approximately 35 protestors chanted while sitting in front of the main entrance to the computer center.

Benches, metal posts and bike racks barricaded the doors



A.S. Off-Campus representative Louis Quindlen after arrest.

outside. Inside, the doors were chained with a bike lock and blocked by filing cabinets and chairs.

During the stand-off, campus administrators refused to negotiate the three demands made by the group. One informed source claimed Chancellor Vernon Cheadle and Vice Chancellor Stephen Goodspeed took an immediate hard-nosed stance and decided to forcibly evict the protestors when told of the occupation.

Goodspeed arrived at North Hall an hour after the occupation and entered the computer center behind police.

### NO SOLUTIONS

"It wasn't possible to arrive at an amicable solution. The demands were impossible to meet," Goodspeed said. "There is no way of telling if the meeting scheduled for today will go on."

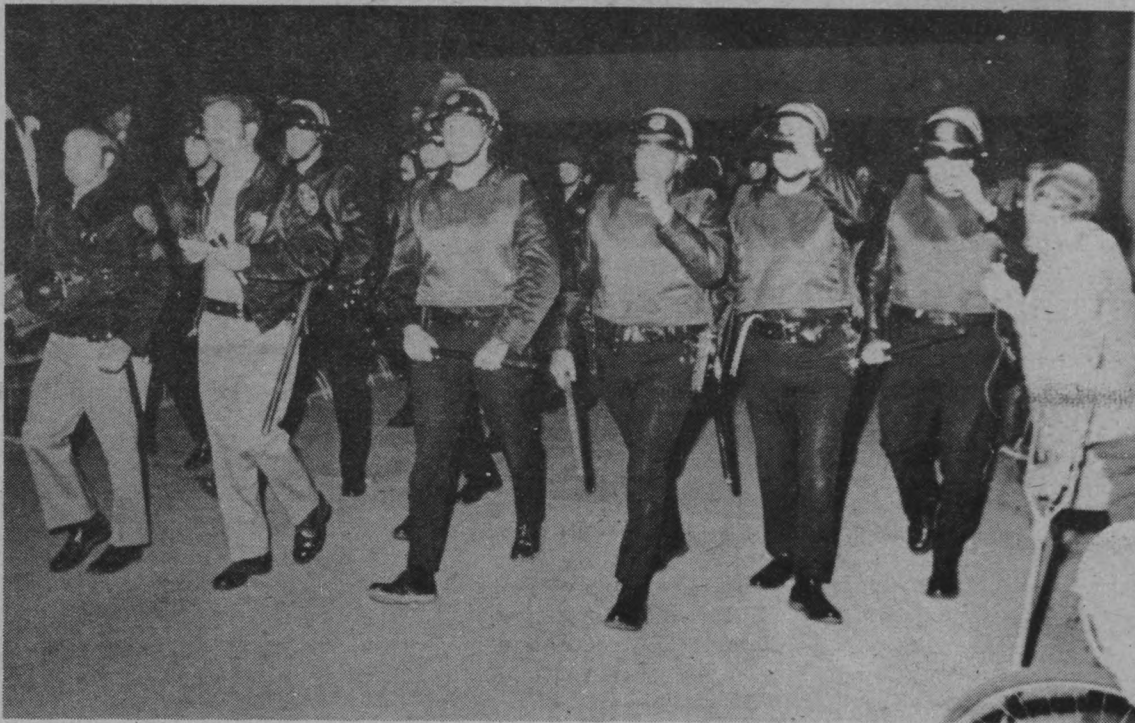
The take-over began at 9:15 when the group moved through North Hall clearing out students and employees working in the computer room. The protestors inside were equipped with food supplies for two weeks and gas masks. Outside, the crowd grew from approximately 25 people to 250 by the time the police organized and prepared to move toward the barricaded door.

Shortly before midnight, Chief Derry Bowles warned the crowd they would be arrested and was met with jeers and more chanting.

### QUICK RETREAT

Ten minutes later about 30 police began moving to the doors. Most of the protestors drew back quickly and only 25 remained seated in front of the door. Bullet-proof vested Santa Barbara police pushed the crowd from under the overhang while other police began escorting the remaining protestors away from the door. Only four protestors refused to voluntarily move from the door and were arrested.

The police then began to work on the chained door and opened it after 25 minutes. Inside, the protest group had all moved to the main computer room. The protestors were then quietly escorted out individually or in



Police converged on a group of protestors who had lodged themselves in front of the Computer Center doors. After several announcements, the police finally managed to push back the crowd and gain entrance to the building.

photos: Al Pena and Bob Kilinger



pairs to a police bus parked by the Administration Building and surrounded by cheering supporters.

From the beginning, the protestors on the inside refused to talk to anyone concerning their situation. Sporadic conversations were carried on through a slightly opened window on the first floor between the protestors inside and supporters outside.

"They are absolutely not going to come out," a spokesman said early in the occupation. "They wanted to see the Chancellor's reaction and felt the most effective way to get anything done was to occupy a building."

### THREE DEMANDS

The protestors inside represented the Black Students Union, El Congreso and the Isla

Vista Tenants' Union. The original three demands sent to the Chancellor were: amnesty for all people involved in the protest; reinstatement of the Black Research Unit; and an impartial third party from Governor Brown's office to investigate minority problems.

The take-over culminates a week of protest and marches against minority cutbacks and alleged racism in the Administration and the Nexus. Last week saw two Storke Plaza rallies and marches on the Administration building. Supposedly, Administration officials had heard rumors of some type of action but that it was scheduled to take place today. Vice-Chancellor Goodspeed denied that the Administration had any previous knowledge of an organized

take-over of a building.

"There has been a watch on the Administration building," Goodspeed added.

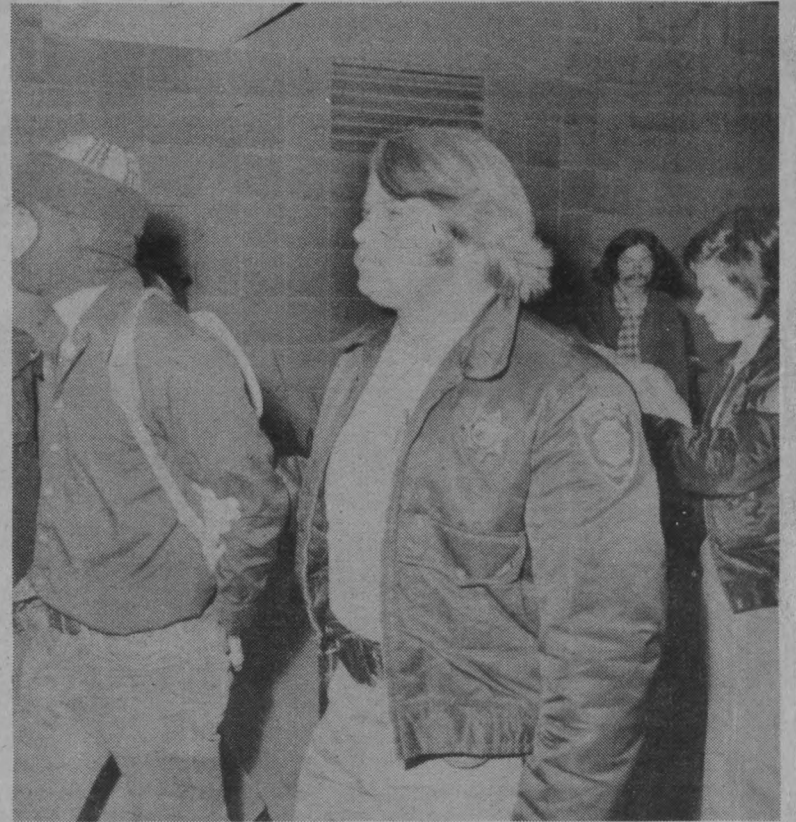
### INCREASED SECURITY

One source said security in the computer center had been increased through this past week and added that the take-over had been well planned, possibly as early as Friday. He claimed that publicity for a rally scheduled today served as a diversionary tactic for the take-over last night.

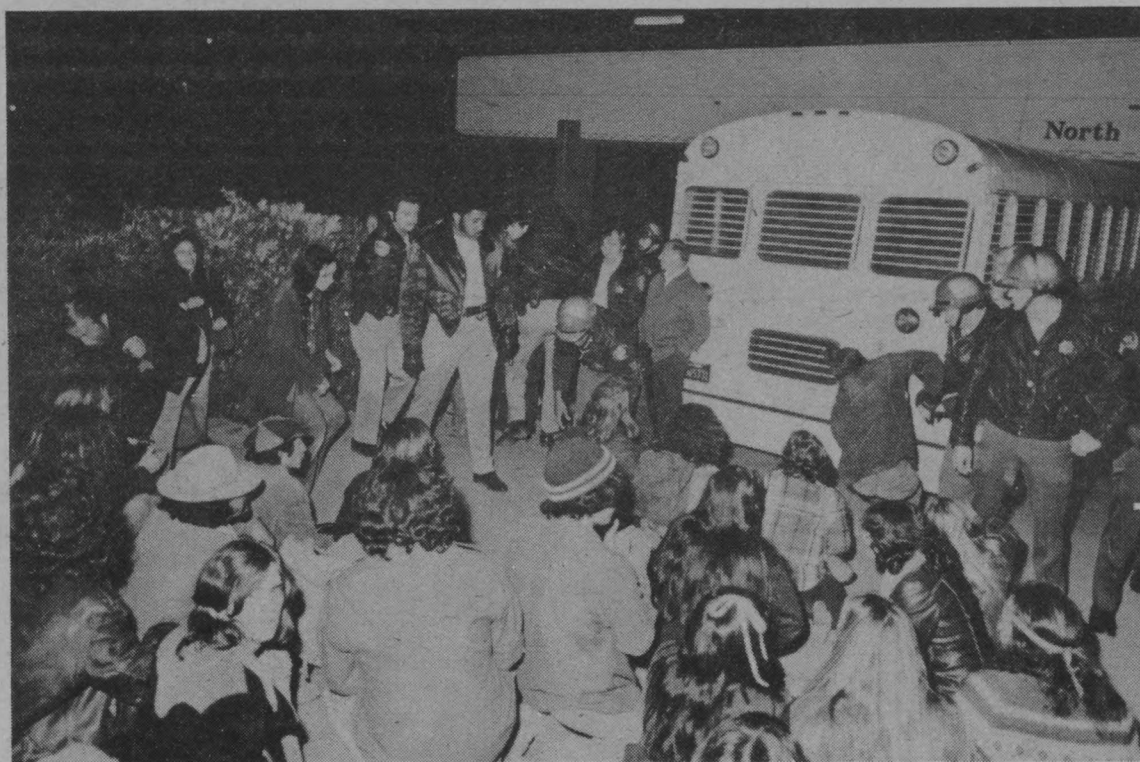
The occupation was reminiscent of a 1968 take-over of North Hall Computer Center by 16 black students alleging racism and demanding hiring of minorities. The students gave up the building when A.S. Judicial Council recommended suspensions and Chancellor Cheadle accepted the recommendation.

# Computer Center Occupation...

## Protestors Ousted After 3½ Hour North Hall Barricade



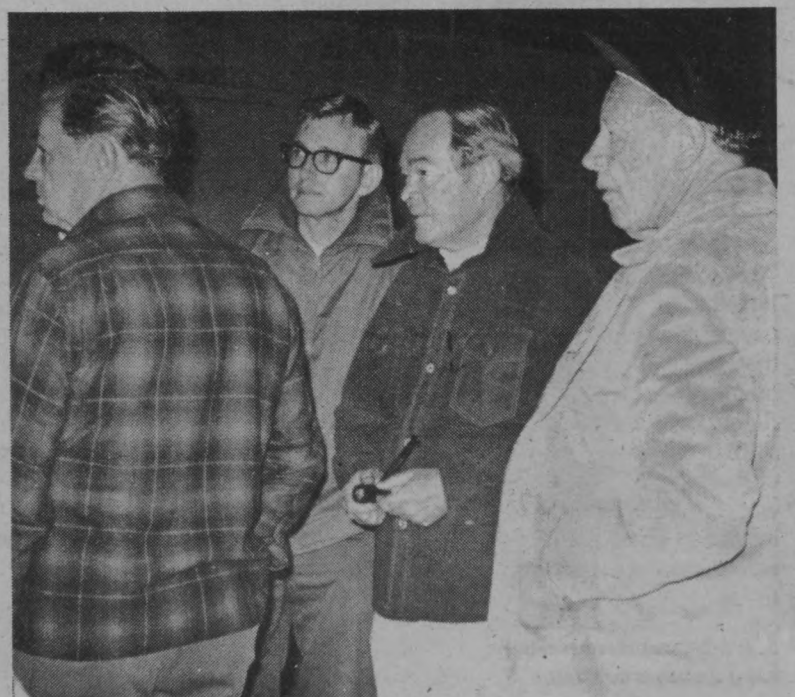
*"If we go, the machines go," approximately 35 protestors chanted while sitting in front of the main entrance to the computer center.*



Police physically ejected protestors who sought to stop the Sheriff's bus leaving with those arrested.

Vice Chancellor Stephen Goodspeed (below) conferring with Santa Barbara police.

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