

'Over-Zealous'

100 Complaints Against Police At Santa Barbara

From Our Correspondent

Santa Barbara

There were mounting complaints yesterday of police brutality and harassment in embattled Isla Vista, the University of California at a Santa Barbara residential community that has been governed by virtual martial law since Sunday.

More than 100 complaints have been received and checked by official faculty and church observers.

They charge, among other things, that law enforcement officers have been dealing out their own summary punishment to suspected violators of the curfew and have been kicking in front doors to forcibly take residents from their own homes to jail.

Yesterday's police action was described, even by some law enforcement officials, as over-zealous. This followed a night during which 142 more arrests were made.

ARRESTS

Altogether 292 persons have been arrested since the disturbances began. Most of those arrested had to spend a night and a day in jail before paying a bail bondsman 10 per cent of the \$1250 bail imposed on charges of curfew violation.

The 7:30 p.m. to 10 a.m. curfew went into effect Sunday after a major disturbance erupted Saturday night at the Bank of America's Isla Vista branch, long the focus of unrest.

In February, the bank structure was burned to the ground and on Thursday the County Grand Jury returned indictments against 15 persons and two John Does, charging arson and burglary to commit arson.

FLAREUP

The indictments fanned student rebellion that manifested itself in rock throwing sprees and fire bombings. Law officers, many of them from the Los Angeles Sheriff's department, moved in and, according to residents, "began inflicting their own punishment."

Economics professor Andrew Winnick, spokesman for an official body of 20 observers, commented: "It's unbelievable what has been

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ing on. Now I know what it is like to have lived in Nazi Germany."

The Rev. Dan Kennedy, pastor of the University Methodist Church and a member of the Isla Vista Community Council, said: "We're getting documentation and I can tell you we've got plenty of lulus . . ."

CHARGE

One of the specific charges came from 22-year-old Norman Shaskey, a UCSB graduate, last year's senior class president, a Phi Beta Kappa and now employed by a Santa Barbara investment management firm.

Shaskey, whose father Eugene Shaskey is a Los Altos electrical engineer and a retired Air Force Colonel, was visiting Monday night with friends in an Isla Vista apartment.

Suddenly, he said, the front door was broken down by two Los Angeles sheriff's deputies who then smashed a bedroom door and the bathroom door and grabbed him while he was sitting on the toilet.

He said they beat him over the head, shoulders and legs while he sat there, then pulled him off and, with his trousers still dangling around his ankles, dragged him out side where they arrested him for "violating the curfew."

DOCTORS

When he was released from jail, after his employer had posted \$1250 bail, Shaskey said he went to two Santa Barbara doctors for treatment of serious cuts and bruises and both refused to care for him.

"They said they didn't want to get involved," Shaskey said. He added he finally got treatment at the UCSB Student Health Center.

Official observers reported seeing girls being dragged out of their apartments by the hair, youths being kicked repeatedly in the groin and of repeated incursions into single family homes on the outskirts of Isla Vista.

One elderly man was seized on his lawn and carried off while his wife screamed for officers to halt, they said.

Shortly after the curfew hour, a 42-year-old businessman came out to the porch of his home with a 15-year-old baby sitter, intending to drive her home, when both were arrested and thrown into jail.

DEPUTY

Santa Barbara District Attorney David D. Minier confirmed that his deputy, Patrick McKinley, was arrested Monday night on the lawn of his home, taken to jail and held incommunicado for 11 hours before being recognized by one officer and finally released.

McKinley told friends that the Los Angeles deputies "were in no mood to listen" when he tried to identify himself.

The sweeps also caught up two Los Angeles plainclothes officers who could not convince Sheriff's deputies who they were. The episode proved so embarrassing no one would say how long they were held in jail.

One deputy district attorney who asked that his name be withheld said: "This may be turning into a police riot and that's the worst thing we could have happen here."

COMMENTS

Members of the community who surveyed the lists of names of those arrested spoke repeatedly of "over-zealousness" and said that few of those jailed were the street-wise militants who burned and stoned.

They cited the case of Doug McMeen — "the most studious fellow on the block" — arrested Tuesday evening as he was walking home carrying papers he was preparing for final examinations; Steve Byrd, arrested on the sixth floor of the UCSB library where he had been studying, and truck driver, Edward Guerrero, who was coming down the stairs of the apartment he shares with his wife and four children.

Two newsmen, reporter Ken Leshner and photographer Tom Owens, were arrested "for interference" Wednesday night as they were covering the disturbances and released only at the intervention of Santa Barbara Police Chief Alfred Trembly.