

'Up Against the Wall'

Isla Vista Night of Fear

Isla Vista

"I have never been intimidated like that before," the captain of the football team at University of California in Santa Barbara said yesterday. "I was scared."

The 6-foot-3 athlete, Paul G. Thatcher, 22, had been packing in his room in the House of Lords, a "jock dorm" whose occupants include members of the university football and baseball teams.

The time was 10:45 p.m. Wednesday.

"The door was busted open and about ten policemen came running in," recalled Thatcher.

"One of them yelled: 'You like to throw bottles? Up against the wall, mother F-----!' They began hitting us on the legs and stomach with their sticks. One of them knocked the radio off the table. We didn't know what was going on."

ANSWER

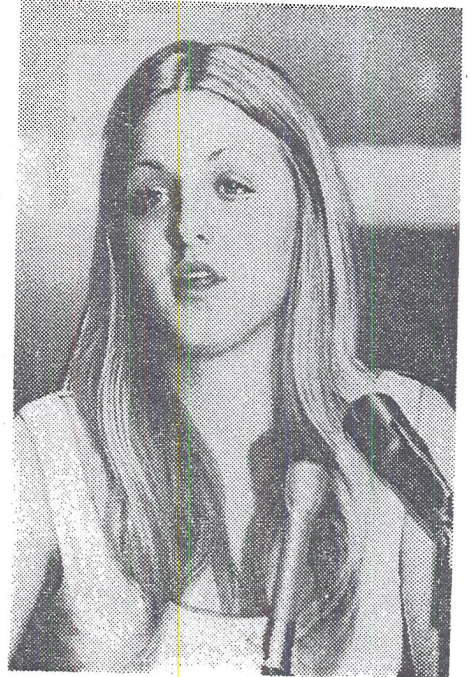
What was going on was apparently implementation of a "get tough" policy with dissident students here. It left residents of the college community bruised, bewildered and angered at what many felt was the brutality and unfairness of the police tactics.

A parade of students, some with heads bandaged, some with arms in slings, appeared at a news conference to tell their versions of what happened.

Dennis Reilly, 23, a student who was a member of a National Guard unit which saw duty here in the February disturbances, was another who told of the scene at the House of Lords. It apparently followed a bottle throwing incident.



PAUL G. THATCHER



AP Wirephoto

COED JANET HEALEY

'We didn't know what was going on'

Reilly said that after the door was kicked in, "I was clubbed in the back of the head and knocked out. When I regained consciousness, I started to lift my head. One officer stomped on my head with his boot."

STICKS

The officers, said to be members of the Los Angeles county sheriff's department, then herded several of the students into the courtyard.

"They hit us with their sticks and told us to yell," according to Reilly.

Alice Mauro, 21, whose forehead was wrapped in a bandage, said she had been beaten while attending a sit-in at a local park.

"I noticed a policeman coming at me and he had a club," she said. "I raised my hand and said 'please don't beat me.'" The officer clubbed her on the head and another yanked her by the hair, she added.

Harry Ainsleigh, 23, whose

head also was bandaged, said he was struck on the skull four times while in the park.

"I didn't really believe one person would hit another person who wasn't threatening him," said Ainsleigh. "I kept thinking that after this one they'll quit. I thought they wouldn't keep beating a person on the ground—but they did."

Janet Healey, 19, said she was handcuffed and put into a squad car alongside an officer.

"He kept putting his arm

around me and on my blouse and said 'You don't have a bra on,'" she recalled. "He said, 'After you get out of jail, why don't you come over to my place.'"

She said her boyfriend had been jailed for having fire-bomb material on his porch. It turned out to be turpentine, used by many beachgoers here to remove oil from their feet.

HOLE

One student apartment had a hole about 8 inches in diameter in the plasterboard wall.

Hutch Looney, 19, said a trio of L.A. county sheriff's deputies had burst into the building, complaining that a rock had been hurled at them. As John Hernandez, 20, was following the deputies' instructions and preparing to lean against the wall, one of the officers took his head and shoved it through the plasterboard, according to Looney.

A spokesman for the Santa Barbara county sheriff's department said that all complaints would be investigated.

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