

# Frustrated protestors end occupation violently

MONTREAL (CUP) — The occupation at Sir George Williams University ended violently Tuesday and left in its death throes over a million dollars worth of damages to computers alone, a fire-and-water gutted, ninth floor of the school's hall building, 95 arrested a numerous injuries to police, students and by-standers.

Monday night, the whole affair seemed calm and approaching satisfactory settlement. Tuesday morning, it exploded wildly out of control.

The spark to explosion, ironically, was a week-end round of negotiations between occupying students and the administration. By Sunday afternoon, the negotiations had hammered out a working proposal — and that's where the confusion began.

The student's lawyer said he had been told by his administration counterpart that the terms of the agreement-acceptance by the administration of the five demands set by the occupiers in return for an end to the occupation — would be ratified by his superiors.

But the faculty, after a stormy seven-hour session, rejected the proposal and replaced it with another one unacceptable to the students. The faculty was incensed over

Clark's morning suspension of Professor Perry Anderson, ostensibly for his own protection.

When the faculty rejection was relayed to the students, they greeted it with stunned resentment. Two weeks of frustration and wearying occupation sharpened into focus. Some occupiers cried, others hardened and called for a close-down of the school.

At that point, the principle of non-destructiveness still held.

The occupiers decided to seize the entire building.

To get into the cafeteria, they took axes to the locks a move that brought the police in.

About four am, 50 uniformed police marched into the school. As they tried to mount the barricades, they were washed away by powerful streams from fire hoses trained on them by the students.

That was the breaking point. Once they had watered down the police, they were there to win or lose, win or lose big.

The police followed them up. They broke through the barricaded glass doors of the computer centre and were again met by jets of water from within.

The policemen were cut —

it is unclear whether they were injured by window glass or flying bottles, it is probable that both were involved.

Realizing they hadn't the strength to get in, the police settled down to a seige. Forty of them stood outside the centre in ankle deep water singing "Michael row the boat ashore."

The students then started to smash up the center.

They tossed IBM cards, print-outs, papers, research documents — anything they could find — out the windows. These were followed by typewriters, portable computers, adding machines. Nine floors down, the city streets, now cordoned off by police, for three blocks, were thick with paper. By-standers, at least 1,000 strong in early morning, waded through reams of it.

The students then announced they would destroy the computers, one by one, until the police left. This was at 8 a.m. and Clarke had had enough. He told the police he wanted "them out of there, and I don't care how you do it."

By 1 p.m., it was clear that the computers were being destroyed, the riot squad was given orders to move in and

started breaking down the barricades.

At that point, the occupiers smashed the remaining computers and set fire to the barricades.

Flames shot out 15 feet and the police drew back. The blaze was visible for three city blocks. Thick black smoke filled the corridors and at least five policemen and firemen were overcome with smoke and rushed to hospital.

The police seized 96 and kept them lined up against a wall for two hours as they put out fires and awaited instructions.

The students have been charged with conspiracy, arson and public mischief. Arson alone carries a maximum sentence of life, a minimum of seven years.

At least 20 of the 96 arrested were women. The group is almost equally mixed, black and white.

The damage: at least a million dollars worth of computers. The centre itself won't be functional again until next October.

The whole ninth floor of the Hall building is gutted. Walls are down, floorboards torn up, windows smashed.

Water damage has wrecked at least five other floors.

Valuable research projects were destroyed.

Animals in psychology experiments on the 11th floor all died.

Some academic records and exam marks are forever lost.

Total damage is estimated at 8 million.

96 students now face severe criminal charges and lengthy sentences.

The university will be shut down at least until Monday and may take months to get back to normal operation. And of course, the Anderson case may never be properly handled.

It's a sad story of frustration, rigidity, weakness, absurdity and betrayal. An administration roundly scorned by students for mishandling the affair finally came to grips with the situation and lost out to the faculty.

The students, who had taken such delicate care of the computers for two weeks, finally destroyed them and lost any chance they may have had of legitimacy.

The faculty, never militant throughout and at no time the leaders in the affair, raised its hackles at the worst possible time.

And everybody loses — over a dispute about the composition of a committee.

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