Protesters, police clash in Old Main occupation

By Terry Moore
Daily Reporter Campus Editor and
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What started off to be an orderly and quiet march to downtown Mankato, turned into a battle for Old Main when a group of approximately 40-50 demonstrators broke from the main body and took over the main administration building yesterday afternoon.

After the demonstrators barricaded one exit and escorted all uninvolved students, faculty, and administrators from the building, they then settled down to wait. The wait was not long for about 15 minutes later, 25 riot equipped police broke into Old Main despite jeers and some shoving from about 15 students and cleared the building.

ABOUT 150 students marched on sidewalks in the business district for about 20 minutes handing out peace literature to shoppers and businessmen.

On their way downtown police talked with marchers and one marcher reported that the police said any illegality would be met with police action.

The march continued peacefully until a group of marchers suggested the group leave downtown and take over Old Main.

AFTER DISCUSSION both pro and con whether to occupy Old Main, the small group started up Jackson Street and a large portion of the peace marchers followed.

Marchers entered Old Main at 2:45 p.m.

PROTESTERS were stationed at every entrance and on the roof of the building. Doors were barricaded with furniture and chained. Possibly anticipating tear gas, some windows were opened and screens were slit to permit an exit. A fire hose was taken from the storage closet and drug out on the floor.

AFTER SECURING the building the group met in the main foyer and escorted Minneapolis Tribune photographer Kent Robertson out the door. Protesters told a Daily Reporter photographer, "We don't want any pictures taken, put your camera in the case or you may get it broken."

Those with two-way radios were also told to leave. "Maybe Nickerson will bring us milk and cookies," a protester said at the foyer gathering.

"WE'RE REALLY doing something about the war," another said, "we're not just blocking traffic."

Presidential assistant John Hodowan said who was in the foyer with the protesters said, "Let's buy it cool."

He told protesters to sit down and decide what they planned to do and their reasons for it. "No one is going to come in here without telling you," Hodowan said.

SEVERAL PROTESTERS in the building were armed with riot batons and one girl had a serrated table knife.

Police started removing the building at 3 p.m. and a crowd of about 700 was gathering outside also.

In full riot gear, the police entered at the north entrance at 3:10 p.m. Some mace was used to evacuate the building and protesters were told to clear the building.

PROTESTERS turned a water hose on and shot it at officers when they took the hose and turned it on students. A protester threw a tear gas canister at the police.

Around 3:20 the building had been cleared.

Several protesters felt there were more students in the building and demanded that they be let go. At that time police were lined up inside the front entrance.

IN RESPONSE to the charge that there were still demonstrators in the building, MSC Presiden James Nickerson said "the

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College, community gather for rally

By Doug DeBecker and
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Approximately 4,000 students, faculty, and townspople held an outdoor rally last night on the main assembly.

Mankato city councilman Herb Mocel, one of the backers of the rally said it was an attempt to show the students that the community was concerned about Nixon's policies. The rally received backing from both Mankato and North Mankato businessmen and city officials.

During the course of the rally, President James F. Nickerson explained that he did not order the police into Old Main yesterday afternoon. A person in the building phoned in for police assistance.

REFERRING to the incident, Mankato City Manager Bill Basset, said the police department only act on the college community when someone's life is in danger. "I stand on the two year record of police-college relations," Basset added.

Nickerson also said that the college would not close for the remainder of the quarter as it is a public institution and responsible to the public it serves.

Instead, a list of options will be released this morning whereby a student can continue with his classes or work within the Peace Coalition.

ROTH THE Faculty and Student Senators have met and reviewed different options to follow. Nickerson met with the school deans and department chairmen for his official policy which will be released this morning.

Paul Caflrey said that the students had been trying to have a rally of students and townspople for the three years he had been at Mankato.

Caflrey felt one thing that the people of the Mankato area could do is sign a petition of proxy of the Mondale, Gravel, Dinkham bill, a bill that would cut off funds to South Vietnam.

STARTING the petitions off, Caflrey called on all of the city officials and college administrators to sign them.

Scott Shrewsbury, one of the faculty members who went to Washington to lobby with the Minnesota legislative delegation, said that the people of Mankato should send petitions and letters to Congressman Archer Nelsen, but Shrewsbury added the letters should be in a polite tone.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Chuck Lofy, said that to end the violence of Vietnam, the American people first had to stamp out the violence within themselves.

STUDENT RICH Egertson said that the reason the students seized control of U.S. 10 highway was to create pressure and make themselves known. "When we were there talking to people, some of them expressed concern that their babies would

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