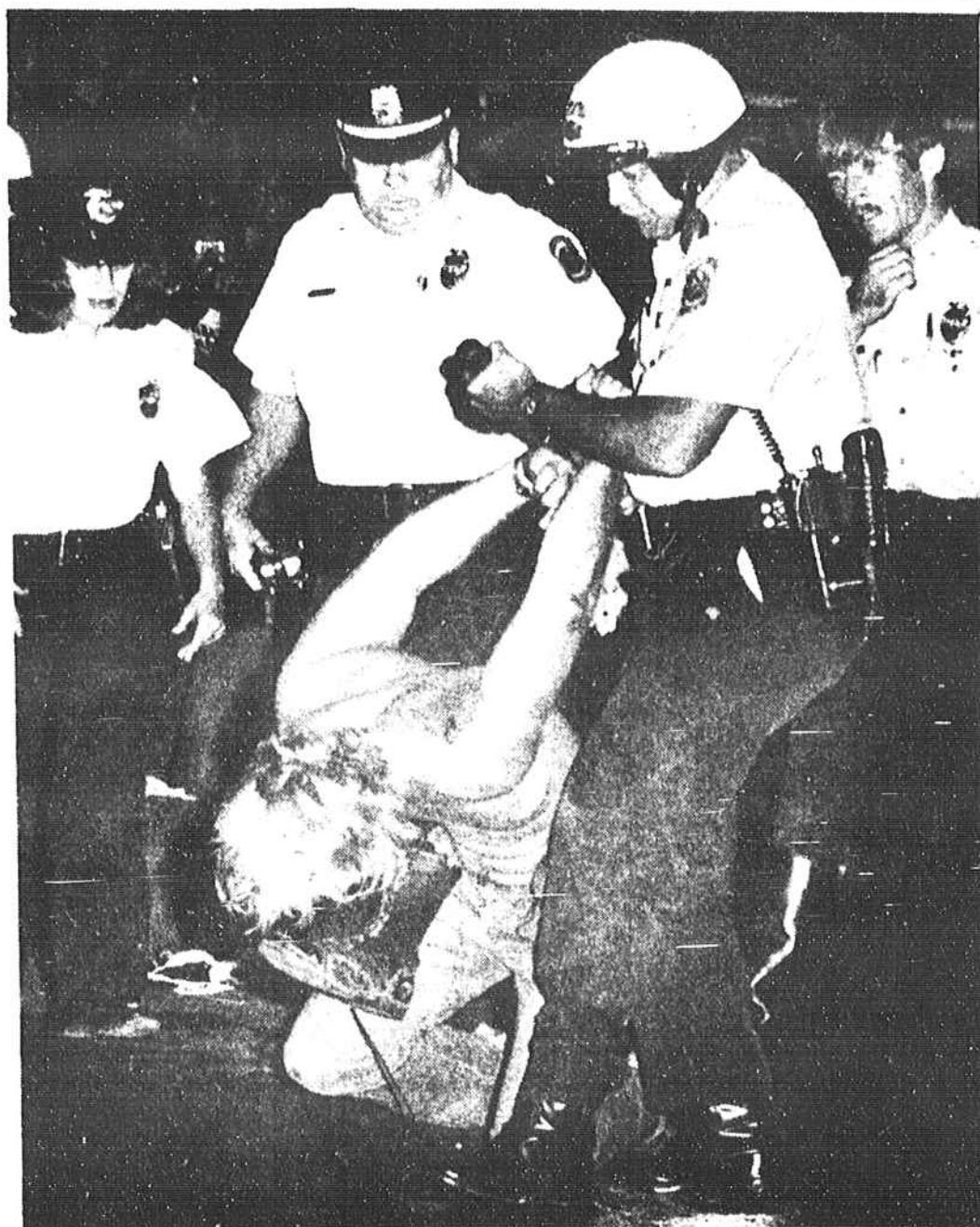


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Richard Plowden is wrestled to the ground, handcuffed and finally loaded into the paddy wagon by Columbia and Campus police during Monday night's demonstration on Green Street. Eighteen persons were arrested during the ten hour protest.

Photos by Mark Alexander

Students' protest: 'Close Green Street'

From Staff Reports

A 10-hour demonstration to show student concern about the Green Street issue led to the arrest of 18 persons Monday night by University and Columbia City Police. A similar demonstration was staged Tuesday without incident.

According to Student Sen. Danny Sansbury, Monday's demonstration was planned as a "peaceful protest" on the issues surrounding the Green Street controversy.

"The whole thing was initiated by concerned students who wanted to have a peaceful protest," Sansbury said. "It's just that the crowd got out of hand."

Eighteen persons, 17 of whom are USC students, were arrested on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to public drunkenness in incidents stemming from Monday's demonstration. No arrests were made Tuesday night.

Monday's demonstrations began at 4:30 p.m. when Sansbury and about 30 others began walking back and forth across the Green Street pedestrian crosswalk to "create as much difficulty for cars as they do for the students." Fifty other students gathered to watch the protest from both sides of Green Street and in dormitory windows.

Campus police, anticipating trouble, blocked off Green Street traffic from Sumter to Pickens Street at 4:55 p.m., according to George A. Key, USC director of Public Safety, Security and Communications.

Key said that Marvin D. Harrelson, chief of USC's police, made the decision to divert traffic from Green Street.

While the street was still open to traffic, according to Dr. James B. Campbell, vice president for Student Affairs, one woman became frightened when confronted by the protesting students. She called the Columbia City Police, who decided to clear the street.

"There is no way to peacefully demonstrate and block a public thoroughfare at the same time," said Columbia Police Chief William R. Cauthen. "The street does not belong to the student body of the University of South Carolina. It belongs to the city and state. That's the basic fact we have to keep in the back of our minds."

Before Columbia police officially reopened Green Street, the size of the crowd grew to about 200 persons, some of whom were throwing footballs and Frisbees about.

Around 5:20 p.m. campus and city police arrived to clear the street. Campus police lined the pedestrian crosswalk in an attempt to hold the crowd back. Meanwhile, city and campus police guided traffic through about 100 demonstrators. Officers were heard saying, "Open the road, or go to jail."

At this time Sansbury, who sensed the possibility of trouble, said to the crowd, "We proved our point. This is not worth anybody getting arrested."

However, 15 minutes later, at 5:45 p.m., the first arrest was made. Robert A. Dobson, a USC sophomore, was arrested for allegedly obstructing traffic as he bent down to tie his shoes. He was charged with disorderly conduct and taken to Columbia City Jail.

Please See Green St. Page 10

