

Trouble Erupts At Herndon High

by Joseph Gatins

"The scene was a bad scene and anyone who wants to minimize the gravity is fooling themselves," said Fairfax County Police Captain Dan W. Kriss in describing the fighting between black and white students which erupted at Herndon High School on Tuesday.

No arrests were made and only one student was reported injured, but classes were dismissed early on Tuesday and cancelled on Wednesday.

According to Herndon Herndon High principal James H. McFarland, fighting broke out near the cafeteria between a black and white youth around 11:30 a.m., with the situation developing to where "sides were being taken" along racial lines.

Eventually, according to school spokesmen and police on the scene, 50 to 60 black and a like number of white students — boys and girls — confronted each other on the school grounds, pushing, shoving, and taunting each other with hostile epithets.

Police arriving on the scene — no more than 25 officers — used mace to quiet the troublemakers and then withdrew beyond the parking lot as two Roving Leaders negotiated an uneasy truce.

One student, Robert Rogers, 19, of Poener Place in Herndon was struck in the left shoulder around 1 p.m. by a flying bottle, transported by ambulance to Fairfax Hospital and released later in the day.

"There were confrontations all over the school — people were out looking for trouble," said student body president Michael Friedlander, who blamed the disorders on a rumor initiated on Monday. Other students agreed.

on Wednesday, McFarland told a group of about 1000 parents who met at the school Tuesday night for a previously scheduled "back to school" gathering.

"We won't have school until it is safe," McFarland said.

The parents meeting turned into an open forum where both faculty and Herndon High administrators listened to parental fears and suggestions for returning the calm.

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According to Friedlander and others, a black girl and a white girl had fought in a gym class on Monday — and both had gone home. But the rumor mill had it that the white girl was pregnant, had miscarried, and was suing the county for \$7,000. Yes, the two girls had fought, McFarland said, but none of the ensuing rumors were true.

A Roving Leader at the school, Gail Ellerbreake, blamed the fighting on a tense mood of suspicion ex-

"The county has put the largest percentage of subsidized housing of the county in Herndon," one parent said, adding that "these kids are getting antsy." Citing a lack of recreational facilities,



caution in streets, especially at intersections on use crosswalks or safety must be practiced. Pedestrian and vehicle should be avoided. use candles; and flow reflective materials; never include light colors; rather than masks, which impair vision, should be flameproofed; make-up should preclude danger of tripping; materials should attention — length of out Safe costume require a reasonable deadline. Hours of collection should be set, with 9 p.m. Competent adult supervision must be provided. following suggestions include the UNICEF Trick or Treat Night, Oct. 31. The Safety Council designed to prevent accidents of the National Safety Council endorsed safety. Schools and Police Department have endorsed safety. The Fairfax County Public Schools and Police Department have endorsed safety.

Halloween Safety

shopping center. ing up debris behind the shopping center and cleaning up debris behind the fence behind the Dulles Park. Downer asked the council to look into repairing the fence behind the Dulles Park. Gary Lopp estimated 100 policemen were involved in controlling the riot. resolution states, Mayor R. Gary Lopp estimated 100 policemen were involved in controlling the riot. own initiative would render this kind of support, the resolution states, Mayor R. Gary Lopp estimated 100 policemen were involved in controlling the riot.

isting in the school. "There have been a lot of rip-offs lately, a lot of tape decks are being stolen from the cars in the lot," she said. "There was a great response by the police," Ellerbreake added, "they were very low-key." Of the 2650 students



JAMES McFARLAND
Principal

the parent asked "who the hell can afford \$2.50 to get to the movies."

More discipline at the school was needed, another parent said, while another urged parents to instill discipline at home.

Another Roving Leader, Lee Young, advised the parents that the Herndon High incident was "happening all over the county."

"It's a serious situation and some students could have gotten killed this afternoon, I repeat, some students could have gotten



DAN W. KRISS
Police Captain

attending Herndon High, approximately 150 are black.

The school disruption broke out two months to the day after the town of Herndon experienced a night of racial disorder, and three weeks after fighting broke out at James Madison High School in Vienna. The Herndon rioting in August was caused after a white county policeman shot and killed a black man in the town. The policeman was later cleared of any wrongdoing when a Fairfax County grand jury ruled the shooting justifiable homicide. The Madison incident was reportedly sparked by an argument between students over drugs.

A decision whether to reopen the school today — Thursday — was to be made



LEE YOUNG
Roving Leader

killed this afternoon." Young urged the formation of a bi-racial student group to discuss and handle future incidents at Herndon.



HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL Tuesday afternoon.

Clara Watkins — The GLOBE