

# 42 Jailed at West High

Story in Column 1

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### Police Make Mass Arrests At West High

Forty-two persons, including members of the Rockford Black Panther organization, were arrested at West High School today as they picketed in sympathy with Negro students who have been protesting school regulations and policies.

The 42 were charged with disorderly conduct and were informed by police the charge stems from a 1956 city ordinance prohibiting picketing within 150 feet of school grounds while the school is in session or 30 minutes prior to the start of classes.

The incident occurred about 12:30 p.m. Negro students boycotted morning sessions at the school but were given permission — at their request — to return at noon. Protests stemmed from dissatisfaction with the school's scholastic standards for cheerleaders. Three eligible Negro girls did not meet scholastic standards for cheerleaders and were not included when the team was selected. All the cheerleaders selected are white.

Additional demands were discussed Thursday at a meeting with school officials and at that meeting Principal James Rose said West High will attempt to hire more Negro teachers, more Negro counselors, and next year will improve the number of books on Negro culture in the school library.

Among those arrested were Charles Powell and Harold Bell, who identified themselves as members of the Black Panther organization. Bell was led handcuffed and shouting into a police wagon.

Earlier, school authorities read city ordinances banning picketing and other disturbances over the school public address system.

When picketing resumed at noon, police first arrested non-students who were picketing and then arrested some Negro students who had declined to return to classes when the noon hour bell rang.

Police also disbursed a large group of bystanders and were forced to cut off traffic along

Rockton Avenue from Auburn Street.

Police initially arrested only males on the picket line. Most were Negroes. Later, police also took away girls who came to man the picket lines as the males were arrested.

Inside the school, there was little disruption and classes went on as scheduled. Some white students inside the school expressed a desire to join the pickets.

Absentees at the school today numbered about 650 of 1,704 students.

White students who met during the boycott in the morning conferred with school board members Robert H. Spengler, John Floden, and Montie Atkinson. Also present was 5th Ward alderman Frank (Fuzzy) Falzone.

The cheerleading issue touched off a series of disturbances at the school last Tuesday and it was the main topic at Thursday's meeting.

Minnie Neal, head of the girl's physical education department spent nearly 20 minutes reviewing how cheerleaders are selected. She said 46 girls tried out for next year's varsity cheerleading squad, and six of them were Negroes.

But, she said, only three of the six were eligible for the final try-outs. The other three, she said, do not have scholastic averages high enough to make the squad.

In answering the demands, she referred the students to the school board on two other items. He said the demand for a black curriculum and a separate Afro-American history course are decisions for the board.

"I have made a rather extensive study of these demands, and I assure you we are doing the best we can," the principal said.

He said he is eager to bring more Negro teachers to West, but it is difficult to find persons interested in teaching.

Answering another demand, he said, "If the money is available to have another counselor, we'll have a black counselor here next year."

Later, he told the students "we'll buy every one" of the books on a list compiled by Charles Hawkins, the president of West's Afro-American Club, and faculty members will include more books by Negro authors in English courses next fall.

# 4 COUNTERFEIT GET PRISON

## Intangible Lifeline Rescuing You

By JULIE SNIVELY  
Register-Republic Staff Writer

Not everyone needs a lifeline. But some kids do.

And Rockford has one. It's not the normal kind of lifeline—the type that people grab with their hands to save their lives.

It's a club, a group—an organization affiliated with Youth for Christ which holds out an intangible line to help young boys who are in trouble get back on the right path and help boys who are straight stay straight.

"We're concerned about helping kids to lead a balanced life," said Al Elliott, director of the local Lifeline program. "We're not only concerned about the spiritual side, but also the physical and mental and social sides."

Lifeline got started in Rockford in 1966 when Elliott, originally from Chicago, came to Rockford to set up the program. Other such programs are operated in 80 cities in the country.

To do his work right, Elliott had to get himself established with the youth he was trying to reach.

He had to let them know that he was there to help, not just to preach; that he wanted to be a friend.

To establish this rapport, he started a basketball team. He met with youth groups—kids in the 11-18 year age bracket—anytime, anywhere.

His success is seen in the fact that Lifeline, through its ever-expanding program—now has contact with about 200 boys each week.

Although Elliott works mainly through recreational and social programs, one of his main goals is spiritual.

He tries to present Christ to youths in a relevant manner, in a way which will get to



Elliott

### Today's Good News

them and make Christ come alive for them. Many of his programs are unstructured—with no planned format. In frequent bull sessions the youths discuss among themselves questions which lead to a better understanding of why they are living and what they are living for.

"We talk about how they can help each other keep out of trouble; about what life is all about."

It's easy to see why Elliott's approach attracts kids: he is young—31. He is friendly, outgoing, likes to play a good game of basketball—and he obviously likes them.

Some have lived with him and his wife and two young daughters—two for a whole year.

And he protects them. He is publicly shy and doesn't want to ruin his rapport with the kids by what he calls "exploiting" them in newspaper stories.

He'd rather do his work out of the limelight.

He sees the hope of a happy life for all of the youths he works with. And for many this will be a change, because for many their lives have been anything but happy so far.

Many of the youths he works with have been referred to him by the juvenile court after some skirmish with the law. Others come on referrals from welfare agencies.

Some just drop in off the street.

Elliott is trying to concentrate the main thrust of his program toward kids in junior high, because he feels that this is the level where problems in later life can be avoided by good guidance.

He said he feels that this is the level where many kids get in trouble for the first

Turn to LIFELINE—A3, Col. 1.



During a friendly chat, Al Elliott, right, youngster at the Farm School for Boys, a program sponsored by Youth for Christ school. (Staff photo by Wally Turnbull)

### Hussey Wins Role

ROME (AP) — Olivia Hussey, the British teen-ager who won stardom in "Romeo and Juliet," has been chosen for a leading part in a forthcoming film about U.S. drug addiction titled "Hot Shot."

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### Crime Commission May Probe Charges

Sen Everett E. Laughlin, R- State Rep. Frank (Pat) M

### The Campus in Turmoil

Part five of a series which ex-

Today's Obviable

4/25/69

# Mass Arrests Made At West Protest

About 50 persons, including members of the Rockford Black Panther organization, were arrested at West High School today as they picketed in sympathy with Negro students who have been protesting school regulations and policies.

The 50 were charged with disorderly conduct and were informed by police the charge stems from a 1956 city ordinance prohibiting picketing within 150 feet of school grounds while the school is in session or 30 minutes prior to the start of classes.

The incident occurred about 12:30 p.m. Negro students boycotted morning sessions at the school but were given permission — at their request — to return at noon. Protests stemmed from dissatisfaction with the school's scholastic standards for cheerleaders. Two eligible Negro girls did not meet scholastic standards for cheerleaders and were not included when the team was selected. All the cheerleaders selected are white.

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# 5 Convicted In Counterfeit Operation

Special to Register - Republic CHICAGO—Five men, including two reputed loan sharks, were convicted Thursday by a U. S. District Court jury for conspiring to make and sell \$10 million in counterfeit treasury notes printed in Rockford.

Clinton E. Davison, 49, 3904 Warren Blvd., a Rockford printer, was a government witness in the trial. He said he was promised \$7,500 to print the treasury notes. He had pleaded guilty earlier to printing the notes.

Convicted Thursday were Nimrod T. Solomon, 37, and William Aloisio, 61, alleged loan sharks, Charles Bartoli and Stanley Jasinski, 50, all of Chicago, and Edward M. Murray, Antioch.

Norman D. Carter, 44, a former plumbing inspector for the city of Chicago, was acquitted.

Mrs. Grace Cosentino, 49, suburban Lincolnwood, will be The six men were arrested Jan. 22, 1968, after they sold \$1 million worth of the counterfeit notes to a Secret Service agent.

Authorities said Solomon and Aloisio are listed in the Chicago Crime Commission's list of known syndicate hoodlums. Solomon is serving a 10-year prison term for interstate transportation of a counterfeit check.

Napoli Thursday set June 6 for sentencing Jasinski and ordered the other four to appear today for a ruling on a motion to revoke their bonds. They tried separately.

# Son of Chief Gets Solitary

SANTA ANA, Calif. (UPI) — The police chief began serving four months of solitary confinement in jail today for protection.

He pleaded guilty to transporting a woman.

Steven Murray, 21, son of Santa Ana Police Chief Clifford Murray, was by his father in February after a prosecution.

In sentencing Murray Thursday Court Judge Robert Gardner said he had cooperated with authorities.

"He came clean, something you do in the drug culture. So I am asking I am ordering — that he be kept in solitary. That way he will be able to walk it's over."

When the elder Murray ordered of his son, he said he had to carry out without favoritism and "treat it as any other case. I can't enforce the doesn't apply to everyone."

# Canfie

By JERRY BEAN  
Register-Republic Staff Writer

The big business and industrial Springfield is "the most active and powerful fat-cat organization" seen from members of the Illinois Genealogy, according to Robert R. Canfield book "Fat-Cat Lobbyists Make You

Canfield, a Rockford attorney and member of the General Assembly for charges in his 60-page book that members of the Illinois legislature — and its leaders — allow themselves to be lobbied by "fat-cat lobbyists" in exchange for money, women, liquor, entertainment favors.

**HOLD POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE**  
Canfield concedes that "not all live and breathe with the fat cats," but the shocking thing is that those (who do) many positions of importance and control of policy in the law-making process.

The business and industrial lobby all others look small," Canfield says. "The organization has a dozen highly skillfully selected and able lobbyists on their side all the time."

"Illinois is one of the very few states without an income tax," Canfield says

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