

After Chicago's Confrontation, Feelings Mixed

By DON HOENSELL

CHICAGO -- Two young men helped a long-haired girl into the raised fountain in Grant Park across embattled Michigan Avenue from the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

She stood under the spray of water and smiled. It was the end of the rioting and the beatings and the blood on the pavement.

Mayor Richard J. Daley's blue-helmeted policemen have gotten a black eye across the nation. They were belligerent and surly, ready to swing clubs. They did.

THE POLICE department's Public Affairs officer called the young people Communist-inspired, adding that some officers probably over-reacted, but they did so to preserve law and order.

"I think Mayor Daley has done a terrific job," said one delegate.

On the last night of the national convention, a well-organized demonstration for Daley developed on the floor, and the galleries were packed with his supporters with credentials which some critics said were phony.

Daley, the last of the powerful local political bosses whose strength has stretched into the state and national scenes, gambled and won on the streets but lost in the national stature.

CHICAGO PEOPLE charged that the young—the hippies and yuppies -- spat on the police, hurled bricks and stones and in other ways violated state and local laws before the clubbing began.

After the violence Wednesday night, there was an uneasy calm. A news photographer plummeted, bleeding, to the street at Michigan and Eighth. Another young man was chased and beaten on the sidewalk.

Speakers harangued the crowd to sit down on the grass in Grant Park across from the hotel. There was professional music, speakers who calmed the crowd.

The Illinois National Guard moved in at 2:30 a.m., Thursday taking up shoulder-to-shoulder positions on the sidewalk facing the park. Their gun clips were in their pockets.

"Come join us in singing 'America the Beautiful,'" chanted one speaker. "Show your faith in America by putting down your rifles."

LATER A speaker said, "We have word that 500 delegates are going to march down Michigan Ave. to see what we are doing and to join with us." Nobody believed him, outside the park. At 3:30 a.m., there appeared, marching north on the avenue, a parade of delegates. They walked slowly carrying candles, most protected from the breeze off the lake by Pepsi cups.

They moved slowly into the crowd in the park, their lights flickering their positions. It was a demonstration of faith in the kids, a march of delegates plus Senator Eugene McCarthy.

It was as spontaneous as anything planned for weeks could be. The day-to-day history of violence in Chicago was a sorry one.

AFTER AN OPENING night of restrained confrontation Sunday, war erupted between police and the anti-war demonstrators.

Scores of persons were injured and hundreds arrested during the week-long melees, including 21 newsmen.

Chicago police, who had earlier shown restraint, unloaded a terrifying force against the youthful protesters.

Assisted by National Guardsmen they used clubs, rifle butts, tear gas and Mace trying to preserve order. But these tactics caused more disturbances than they prevented.

Some youths threw rocks and firecrackers at the police. The majority marched peacefully and tried to avoid clashes.

Continually outnumbered and outclassed by the heavily armed security forces, demonstrators maintained an air of defiance and a semblance of organization.

MOST OF THE skirmishes occurred in Grant Park. The violence climaxed Wednesday night while delegates were meeting to nominate Hubert H. Humphrey as the Democratic presidential candidate.

The trouble started with a rally in Grant Park sponsored by the Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

The rally was intended both as a mass expression of anger at the proceedings across town at the convention, and as a

home base for a smaller, more militant march toward the amphitheatre.

Violence broke out before the rally was an hour old when three demonstrators began hauling down an American flag from a pole in the park.

Four riot-helmeted policemen moved into the crowd.

men moved in quickly to stop them but were stopped and pushed back by angry demonstrators shouting "Pls, pls." The demonstrators then began pelting policemen with rocks.

IMMEDIATELY, squads of police moved into the crowd.

firing tear gas grenades and swinging billy clubs. The demonstrators replied with more stones before they were pushed back and trapped against a row of benches.

The worst of the fighting lasted 10 minutes before police

once again established a troubled peace.

Literary heroes of the New Left, including bearded poet Allen Ginsberg, and novelist Norman Mailer, addressed the youthful throng and managed to settle its hysteria.

After a renewed tear gas attack had forced the demonstrators into the streets, squads of police rampaged through the herds of demonstrators and dispersed them through the side streets.

The police dragnet left a trail of bleeding victims, as it spread

from Michigan Ave. and the area around the Hilton throughout downtown Chicago, without apparent provocation. Squads of police would suddenly attack demonstrators and begin clubbing them.

Emergency medical treatment rooms were set up in McCarthy's staff suite. Other casualties -- including 51 policemen -- were sent to hospitals. The demonstrators had their own corps of medics.

It was a confrontation in which the winners lost.



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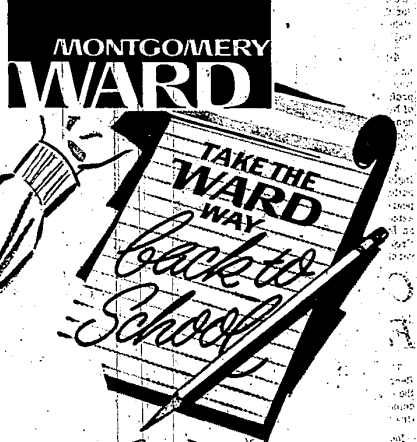
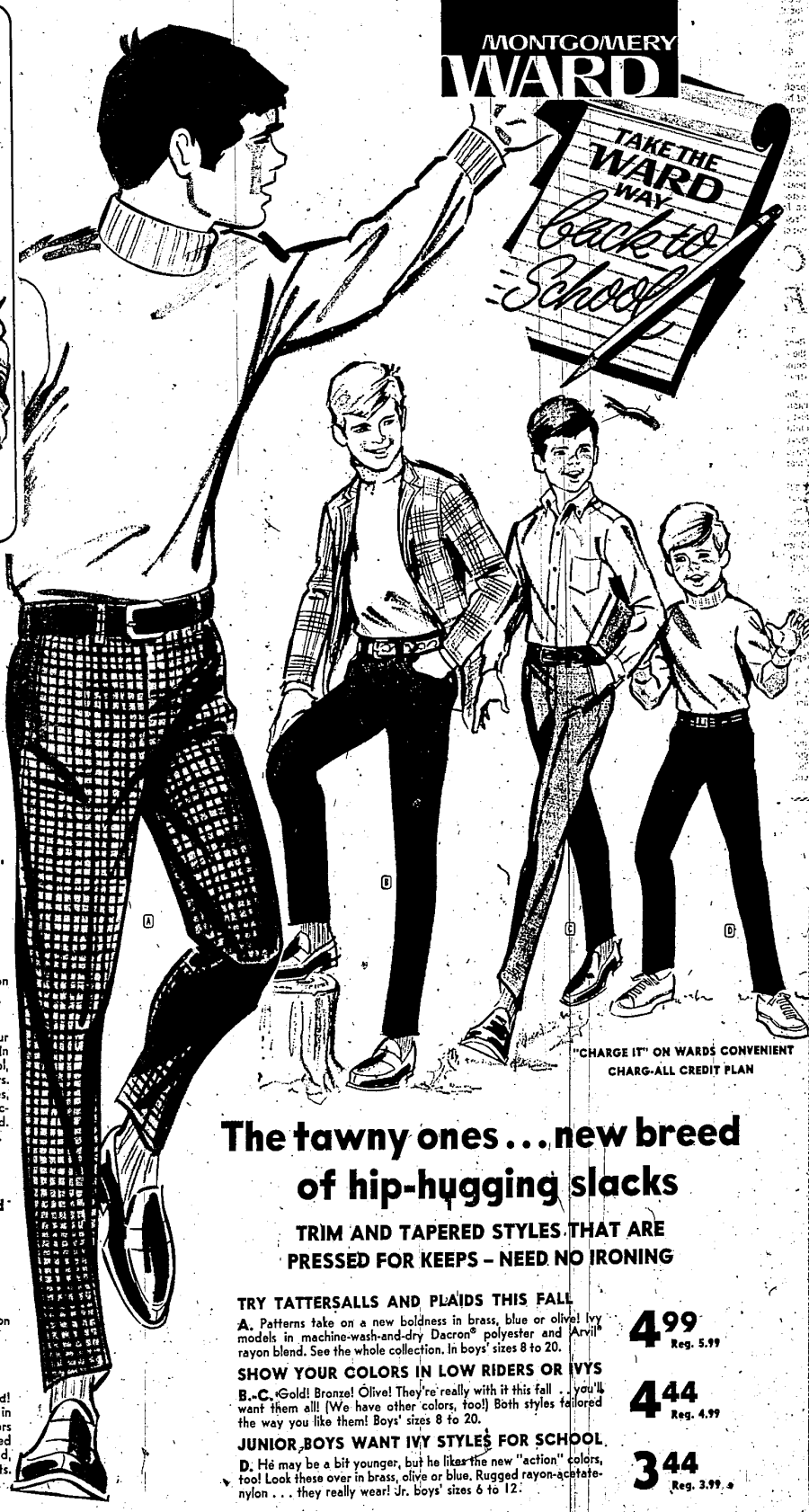


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