

# 200 ROTC protesters damage halls, windows

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Violence flared Friday night when about 200 protesters left an anti-ROTC rally at the International Center and set fire to curtains in Demonstration Hall.

Police used tear gas to scatter the protesters into smaller groups and sought to contain windowbreaking for three hours.

MSU police arrested two students, Michael Vourgoin, sophomore and John B. Pence, Tecumseh freshman. Pence was charged with creating a disturbance in a public place; Vourgoin was charged with attempted arson in the firing of curtains in Demonstration Hall. Both students were released on bail.

Window damage to the Administration Bldg., Demonstration Hall, Olin Health Center, the Home Economics Bldg., Linton Hall, the Library, South Kedzie Hall and Olds Hall was estimated from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

In an early Saturday morning statement President Wharton said:

"The University totally condemns these acts of violence and calls upon all students to join in constructive efforts to build a finer University and to isolate the destructive few who have no goal but the ruin of a great institution.

"The damage to the University buildings can be repaired. The greater damage is that which is done to the good name of the more than 37,000 students at MSU who did not participate in these events, yet who unfortunately cannot be distinguished by the public from the small minority."

Wharton termed the anti-ROTC campaign as a "superficial excuse" for "wanton destruction."

In a statement released Friday in response to student demands for a change in ROTC, Wharton said "the present relationship between MSU and ROTC is favored by a majority of the students and the faculty."

He based his statement on an ASMSU survey and investigations by the Educational Policies and University Curriculum committees.

The students demanded that ROTC

have no access to University facilities, that there be no contractual relations between the University and military and that student ROTC scholarships be equivalent to MSU scholarships.

The Committee to Abolish ROTC issued a statement Sunday:

"We wish to stress the importance of not centering all reaction on broken windows and tactics, but remembering that the wars in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the main concern. In other words, ROTC is the issue."

The committee will meet at 8 tonight in

the second floor lounge of the Union to discuss further activities.

The students at the non-violent sit-in, following the Friday afternoon anti-ROTC rally and Administration Bldg. march, were divided over the proper tactics, according to a student fact sheet distributed on campus.

About half of the 400 students left the International Center sit-in to demonstrate in the streets. The remaining students dwindled in numbers until police arrived

around 10:30 p.m., then walked out peacefully.

Approximately 300 campus, East Lansing, Lansing, Ingham County, State and Meridian Township police officers were used or held in reserve. Five policemen were reported injured.



## *Apprehended*

MSU police escort a student from Demonstration Hall during violence that flared Friday. Two students were arrested and released on bail.

State News photo by Dick Warren