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Annotated article by Joe Moore sent to Clarion Ledger, 25 Septmeber 1962

Joe Moore

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Clarion-Ledger
Jackson Miss
NPR Collect

University.... Last night pressmen gathered in groups to talk of pass assignments. One story of a recent South American revolt was told by an AP man. ~~He spun an exciting tale~~ ^{Telling} of infiltrating enemy lines to gather material for his story ^{he spun an exciting tale.}

Today ~~in Oxford~~ this story became a reality in Oxford, as this writer and Van Savell, AP staffer from Jackson, actually walked some two miles and crawled more than one hundred yards thru ~~the~~ sage to gain entrance to the campus.

Leaving the campus at 1:30 we were told by the Highway Patrol that we could return but some twenty minutes later as we arrived back the Patrol turned us away. After checking every entrance to the University, with the same results, we drove north and using a back road circled to within several miles of Vet Village.

At ~~3:30~~ ^{3:30} ~~lock~~, wet with sweat and covered with burs, we were once again on the campus; swearing to camp there until the story broke.

~~The entire UPI staff is still in the area after our departure and they were still speaking this~~

Andy Reese, United Press-International bureau chief, along with Jerry Huff, UPI photographer, left and were not able to return. They asked fello newsmen to keep them posted.

An inquiry was made by the newsmen on the sudden ban. The only comment by Dave Gayden, Chief of Operations for the Highway Patrol, was "orders".

The University officials had been given no reason for the roadblocks tonight. One officer said the ban came from "No. 1" but did not comment ~~whether~~ ~~whether~~ if the No. 1 was the Governor or Col. T.B. Birdsong.

Later in the evening Van Savell sent two Dekes to see about his car which we had parked on a deserted ~~road~~ road during our earlier plight. The car was found with all of the tires flat, two of which had been slashed with a knife. Only the Patrol and a ~~sheriff's~~ sheriff's car had been seen in the area.

Many of the press have vowed to sleep on the campus if officials do not protest. There has been no word as to when the ban may be lifted. It was still ineffect late Tuesday night.

Highway Patrolmen ^{were} ordered during the evening to remove their guns and store them in the trunks of their cars until further notice from their chief.

~~The main subject of~~

The main topic of conversation about the University is ~~whether~~ "Will they really close the school", ~~and~~ and "No use to study tonight"

Most of the student body seemed to be ignoring the days events as only a few questioned newsmen. Many of the students were seen in the Grove with their dates, their minds apparently on different matters.

~~A student related an interesting story~~

Taking the lighter side a student told of her English Prof. who had given them the choice of reading Shakespeare's Richard II., or Henry V., or ~~the~~ Othello.

~~This would pose a problem in Mississippi~~

"Reading Othello might possibly pose a problem in Mississippi" the Professor admitted with a grin.

"In the play, Othello, a Moor, is a Negro, and his wife, is white. But it want be any serious conflict", ~~he said~~ he said, "as they were just married and not trying to go to school.

The class, ~~with a burst~~ with a burst of laughter then voted to read Othello.

With all roads leading to the campus blocked it seems that the four telephones in the Lycium building will for the remaining hours of the drama be the only outlet for the press.

One pressman remarked "this is virtually a concentration camp", and from this writers view it definitely is.

Joe Moore