



staylor431@aol.com

12:22 PM (1 minute ago)

to me

Here was the original response. As I read over the first line or two you can see it was unedited also. I meant Separation of sexes. That is as far as I got on my editing.

-----Original Message-----

From: staylor431 <staylor431@aol.com>

To: david_oyer <david_oyer@brown.edu>

Sent: Thu, May 8, 2014 8:35 am

Subject: Re: 1963 riot

David, We are going back now approximately 50 years so my memory of this event is a little sketchy. You have to remember it was a different world in those days. Virtually no television and just a little radio and kids did not have cars while students. Parietal rules and separation of the sexes - Pembroke was a different school. One warm spring evening there was a congregation in the Wriston quadrangle. I do not know what caused it, but it could have been anything. It was probably a week day because, kids leaving campus or party activity dominated by the fraternity system would have taken precedent on a weekend. At any rate, I suspect that there was an element of boredom. At any rate, a rumor circulated that there was going to be a "panty raid" at Pembroke. No one really knew what a panty raid was except that it sounded exciting to repressed student 99% of whom were most likely virgins and thought this would be more exciting and provided some unknown opportunity not experienced at the "mixers", when girls from nearby colleges were bussed in and dumped in a room.

I can say I had never experienced such an event. Before you knew it the congregation turned into a mob which marched toward Pembroke. The mob was noisy, exciting a took on a life of its own which I have never seen before. It was broken up by local police and campus police in the early evening, while students were chanting, probably egged on by Pembroke student from windows and balconies. It was never ugly or menacing just electrifying.

After it broke up, it reassembled returning to Brown and grew larger. The mob probably of at least 500 to 1000 people move to downtown. Some people went through the bus tunnel. I recall going past RISD where we hoped to roused some of the strange people we heard went to school there, but had never seen. It ended after it moved through downtown and was broken up by the Providence police who took a different attitude. They were less than happy and were pushing students around, threatening with their batons and arresting people caught it the wrong place. The crowd was never violent and I do not recall anything along the order of trash set on fire or storefronts broken. I personally was detained. I guess arrested would be a stretch. I learned three lessons from the experience and that was that mobs take on a life of their own, if you have any rights they can be easily taken away by being just part of a group and lastly if we expected anything positive to come of the panty raid it was just a fantasy.

By the way I ended up marrying a girl from Pembroke (my daughter teaches there now in Biology area - Sarah Taylor). And I got my own experience REAL VIOLENCE a few years later as a Marine helicopter pilot in Vietnam. 1968-1969. I also experience real mobs some with sinister purposes and some with good purposes while in Washington DC during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Including the one where they arrested enough people to fill the football stadium and the

government feared a civil insurrection. Remember how the National Guard reacted against the demonstration at Kent State? 4 Dead in Ohio - as the song goes?

If you want to call me, do so today at [561-746-9201](tel:561-746-9201). I am going to Italy tomorrow for 10 days.

don't know if any of this helps or not. Different times.

David Taylor

-----Original Message-----

From: Oyer, David <david_oyer@brown.edu>

To: staylor431 <staylor431@aol.com>

Sent: Wed, May 7, 2014 10:22 pm

Subject: 1963 riot

Hi Mr. Taylor,

I was referred to you by my professor, Beth Taylor, who passed on your contact information a couple months ago. I for some reason was sure I emailed you then, but looking through my email it seems I never did. In any case, I'm writing in regards to a riot that happened here on campus in May 1963, about which I'm writing a paper. Professor Taylor said you might be able to help me understand what happened better, so I was wondering (assuming that's the case) if you might be able to briefly speak with me some time this week. You can email me back here or call me at [\(650\) 644-6463](tel:650-644-6463). Thanks!

Best,

David Oyer

Brown '16

[\(650\) 644-6463](tel:650-644-6463)