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Annotated article by Coffey to Chicago Daily News, 30 September 1962

Raymond R. Coffey

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npr collect to chicago daily news chicago, ill.
coffey filing
note to desk: impossible get phone line out of here;
 hence using this. following material is to finish up
what i told sullivan for first person story; he was
writing.

student mob got progressively meaner, as if trying to
eat each other. began tossing cigarette butts at
feet of marshals, then three students showed up in
confederate uniforms. confederate flags
began showing up.

less than half the mob was taking part in the
shouting, cursing and shoving. but in all the time I was in the crowd, I heard only
one voice of reason.

one student said to another: "Let's go eat and
listen to this on the radio and not get shot at."

the mob of 2,500 is about half the enrollment
here.

one young married couple, apparently
students, was in the crowd with the husband holding
in his arms a very young baby.
Each time a state highway police car rolled up to the building, the students would cheer. They shouted at the marshalls such things as "how would you like to have a nigger son-in-law?" and "how do you like working for a nigger?"

The marshals were extremely well-disciplined, they made no move toward the students, some on the back side of the building where the mob was thinner even chatted with students.

Mostly they reacted to the abuse with grim smiles.

Finally, after I had been in the crowd for about an hour and a half, the state police permitted the reporters and photographers at the main entrance to enter the campus.

It was then the violence began. A Dallas, Tex. TV cameraman, Gordon Yoder, moved into the crowd with his camera and immediately shouts went up to "send the yankee out of here". Students began closing in on Yoder, jostling him. The state police surrounded him and pushed him out.

And shoved their way through the crowd to Yoder's car about 50 yards away. As the students yelled "get a rope, they shoved him in the back seat, his wife was at the steering wheel. The state police then made almost no attempt to restrain the students as they kicked in the headlights and every window in the car. Then they kicked and pounded in its roof and sides.
and ripped off the radio antenna.

The police finally removed yeďer and his wife from the car and hustled them to safety as the students continued to wreck the car.

from that point on, the mob got more and more out of hand.

one student set fire to the canvas top of an army truck, another pitched a coke bottle at a marshall.

and finally, the marshals put on their gas masks and fired their short-barrel tear gas guns in a long, loud volley.

The fight was on and it went far into the night.

several reporters and photographers were mauled and shoved around but the khaki trousers and open neck shirt I wore on to the campus saved me from any of this.

however, as the marshals fired volley after volley of tear gas into the crowd, I had to run with the students to escape the gas, jump over bushes at least eight times in the first hour of the rioting, the gas was fired in the direction of where I was standing.

the first volley was fired at 8 p.m. oxford time, exactly at the time kennedy began his speech on tv.

many of the students were affected by the gas, two girls, probably more hysterical than hurt, ran past me once crying they had been hit and couldn't see or breath. other students would flop down on the grass coughing and wiping their eyes.

end this and hope you can make something of it.