OXFORD, MISS., Sept. 30 -- It was just an ordinary Sunday here on the sprawling campus at the University of Mississippi.

Crew cut, clean appearing college men were strolling hand in hand with drab coeds, pausing now and then to exchange pleasantries with other students.

The sun filtered through the trees and reflected off the sturdy brick buildings that cover the campus. It was humid, but not too hot.

That was before 3 p.m.

The change came with dramatic suddenness. Helicopters appeared in the sky overhead followed by military transport planes.

The students look up apprehensively. So did the citizens of Oxford. They knew what was happening and words spread through the state rapidly. A detachment of U.S. Marshals in battle dress climbed off.

But by the time a sufficient number of them had been flown in from nearby Memphis, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, which doubles as a State Police force, had sealed off the campus.

Police cars roared into town from every road.

By the time darkness arrived, Oxford was jammed with spectators. They clustered around all five entrances to Ole Miss and set up a vigil.

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