

# THE SHORTHORN

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## Group wants action

# Cooper protest prompts meeting

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A meeting between the administration and a student group headed by SC President Royce West has been called for 11 a.m. today to determine what the school plans to do about the Cooper Street problem.

The meeting follows a Thursday morning demonstration by 15-20 sign-carrying students who stopped traffic between University and Davis halls for about 10 minutes.

The protest began when two student-driven cars pulled side-by-side at 8 a.m. blocking the north-bound lanes and causing traffic to back up to the south parking lot.

As the cars stopped, the demonstrators stepped into the street to the sound of auto horns and a few four-letter words. There were no roadblocks in the southbound lanes, however, and within minutes late-to-work motorists began pushing their way through the human barricade.

One woman was seen squatting in front of a car in the southbound lane. When it was obvious the vehicle was not stopping, she stood up and was deposited on the car's hood where she rode for a short distance before

rolling off as the car accelerated.

West described the demonstration as a "group of interested students who want to see the Cooper Street situation rectified before someone is killed.

"This time it was only 15 to 20 people," said West, "but by next fall, if something isn't done to correct the situation, maybe it'll be 100."

West, whose affiliation with the demonstrators is not officially known, said the protest was not the failure it appeared to be. Rather, he described it as a "kindled fire" designed to get more student input into the situation.

Cooper Street negotiations have gone on for nearly two years, with the university wanting to reroute the thoroughfare to the eastern boundary of the campus at Center Street. The city is attempting to follow its 1990 master plan which calls for a six-lane highway where Cooper Street is presently located. They continue to hold out for a depressed street with footbridges connecting the two sides of the campus.

At one time, university officials turned the matter over to the UT System Board of Regents. It is not known what affect the regents had,

but a short time later, Cooper Street was again in the laps of optimistic administrators here.

However, recent negotiations find the city and the university again taking up uncompromising positions.

A highway department source says the city has offered a compromise reroute to Pecan Street but the university maintains the problem would merely be moved over, leaving the campus still divided. The source said both sides seem to be leaning toward a depressed street with the argument coming over its width.

A narrowed depression, says the source, would be more acceptable to the school than a Pecan Street reroute. The city wants a full six-lane depression that would move the street's outer boundaries to within a few feet of University and Davis halls.

Thursday's protest seemingly had little effect on the negotiations. Capt. Sidney Cheek of the university police said he still doesn't know what it was all about.

"They weren't out there long enough for me to find out what they wanted," said Cheek.

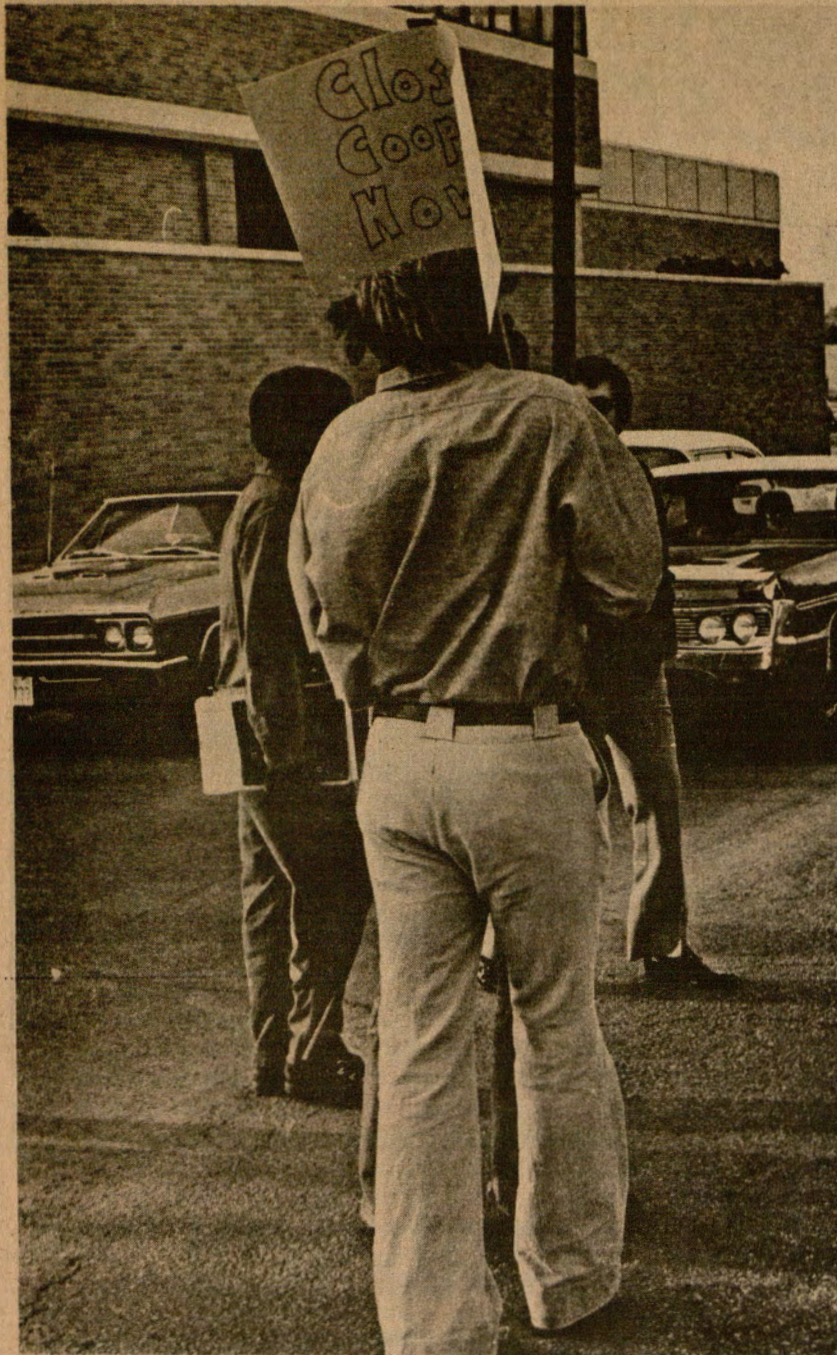
Asked what steps the campus police planned to take if another such pro-

test occurred, Cheek replied: "We would probably talk to them but that's all we could do.

"Cooper Street is a state highway. It's a misdemeanor to block the street and would come under the jurisdiction of the Arlington Police Department."

West said he didn't expect any more such demonstrations this semester and indicated that a wait-and-see attitude would be adopted until September.

He did not, however, leave out the possibility of further meetings with the administration.



Shorthorn: Charles Davis

## Cooper Street protest

A group of "concerned students" attempt to block traffic on Cooper Street during the Thursday morning early rush. Student Congress President Royce West described the demonstration as a "group of interested students who want to see the Cooper Street situation rectified before someone is killed. About 20 students participated in the protest on Cooper Street between University and Davis halls.