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Shoot out a dark chapter for local Black Panther Party.



Daily Egyptian File Art

Two men - one of them wounded by police gunfire - lay on the porch roof of the house at 401 N. Washington while police crouch behind a squad car for safety and neighbors, who came forward at the request of the house residents, call for them to surrender.

half a dozen squad cars surrounded the house at 401 N. Washington St., where members affiliated with the Black Panther Party resided. The nearly three-hour standoff between Carbondale and SIU Police forces and three house occupants would result in five people suffering serious gunshot wounds, five more with minor injuries, and damage to houses and cars parked along the bullet-riddled street. The shootout between police and members of the Black Panther Party is remembered by some who were here at the time. Though not a positive aspect of Carbondale's history, it's a reminder that black activism and empowerment is sometimes unfortunately linked to violence. Recent incidents involving the Carbondale Police Department and black residents - namely the macing of black SIUC students at a party in April 2001 - forced local residents to the Carbondale streets in protest. The 1970 shootout would also leave an indelible mark on the student-led organization that had been a positive force in the community up to that point.

The National Black Panther Party began in 1966 as a self-defense group. Young men would patrol



The first gun shot blasts were heard just before daylight.

By 6 a.m. on a brisk Thursday November morning in 1970, residents of the 400 block of North Washington Street in Carbondale would awaken to an ongoing stream of gunfire. More than