

UW Blast Heard 30 Miles Away

While many sound-sleeping Madison residents weren't awakened by the explosion which destroyed much of the Army Mathematics Research Center early Monday, persons as far away as 30 miles reported hearing the blast.

Ken Heding, police chief at Belleville, about 25 miles from Madison on the Green County line, said, "I heard it. My wife heard it, and several other people here heard it, too."

HEDING SAID A MAN LIVING 7 miles south of Belleville also reported hearing the blast.

Some Belleville residents awakened by the boom thought something had exploded in the village, Heding said. One man thought his water heater had exploded.

In McFarland, a worried resident called the Fire Department to report the explosion, which he thought was at the McFarland High School.

Firemen rushed to the school but found nothing there.

A MONONA COUPLE AWAKENED by the sound at about 3:45 a.m. argued over whether it was thunder or an explosion. They decided it probably was "those radical students raising hell again."

Several Middleton residents were roused by the blast, while the Verona, Sun Prairie, Deerfield, Stoughton, and Cottage Grove Police Departments said they received no reports from residents roused by the sound of the explosion.