

Riot rocks Poly neighborhood

Police use gas, fire hoses to control crowd

By Jill Duman
Telegram-Tribune

Police in riot gear used water spray, tear gas and megaphones early Saturday morning to disperse a crowd of several thousand young people rioting in a student neighborhood just south of Cal Poly.

The mayhem broke out on the streets of San Luis Obispo late Friday night as thousands of young people — many of whom had been celebrating Poly Royal earlier in the day — clogged California Boulevard, Hathway Avenue and Fredericks Street tossing bottles, rocking cars and ripping up street signs.

Spontaneous fights broke out and the windows of the Campus Bottle Shoppe at the corner of Hathway Avenue and California Boulevard were broken by the crowd who chanted "free beer" as they smashed the store.

San Luis Obispo Police called in reinforcements from Santa Barbara County, and shortly after 1 a.m., the police were also joined by other reinforcements from the California Highway Patrol and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department — including County Sheriff Ed Williams.

The northbound California Boulevard exit of Highway 101 was closed to traffic while police tried to quell the riot.

Although numerous injuries were observed, no figures on arrests or injuries were available early Saturday from the beleaguered San Luis Obispo Police, who were running in all directions to stop the fights and rioting.

In a separate incident that took place shortly after 9 p.m. Friday, two men and a woman were treated for injuries and released from Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center after they were attacked at a residence on nearby Murray Street by a gang of about 15 men carrying baseball bats.

Police said the attack appeared to be in retaliation for an altercation between the residents and some of the attackers that took place on Thursday night. The attackers fled the scene before police arrived.

The unruly crowds along California Boulevard were a source of amazement to many on hand.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said Mike McCurry, a visitor to San Luis Obispo from Visalia. "It's out of control."

McCurry's words were echoed by various members of the crowd, and they became the understatement of the evening as crowds of students and a hail of beer bottles made Hathway and parts of Fredericks and California impassable to traffic.

Police — with San Luis Obispo Mayor Ron Dunin in tow — had made a brief appearance in the student neighborhood around 10:45 p.m., but had to leave the milling crowd to take



A group of youths gathers Friday at Campus Bottle Shoppe, where police were called after violence erupted on the first night of Poly Royal.



A man injured during a melee near Campus Bottle Shoppe late Friday lies unconscious as spectators attempt to help him.

care of problems in other parts of the city.

In their absence, the situation on and around Hathway Street worsened. Private cars and passers-by trying to proceed through the neighborhood were subjected to a rain of bottles and were pelted without rhyme or reason.

One car trying to proceed down Hathway Street was set upon by people bouncing up and down on the car. The driver threw the vehicle into reverse and headed south down Fredericks Street.

A KSBY van was showered with

bottles and its windshield broken by pelting bottles. Another man driving a Datsun 280Z attempted to get out of his car to challenge the rioters who were tossing beer bottles, only to have the crowd converge on him. The man was able to escape the mob, apparently without injury.

By 1 a.m., police re-entered the student neighborhood, using a foot patrol in a line formation to clear the crowd. Water hoses and tear gas were also used along with megaphones ordering the crowd to disperse.

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A man is subdued Friday night by San Luis Obispo police and a state Highway Patrol officer on California Boulevard near Foothill.

Feds take reins at SB S&L

By Jill Duman
Telegram-Tribune

The federal Office of Thrift Supervision stepped in Friday and placed Santa Barbara Savings and Loan Association under a federal conservatorship.

The conservatorship means the 44-branch thrift is now being managed by the federal Resolution Trust Corp., which was formed by Congress in 1989 to take charge of failing thrifts.

The federal intervention prompted the resignation of Philip Brinkerhoff, the thrift's president and chief executive officer. Brinkerhoff, who has been with the thrift since 1985, turned over management of Santa Barbara Savings to Michael Berry, a management agent for the Resolution Trust Corp.

A woman who answered the phone at the former thrift president's home Friday night said Brinkerhoff had no comment on his resignation.

David Heaberlin, chief financial officer and Michael Schley, chief administrative officer and general counsel for Santa Barbara Savings, also resigned on Friday.

Nancy Schertzing, a spokeswoman for the Resolution Trust Corp., said resignations of top officials aren't uncommon when management control is taken over by the federal government.

"When we come into an institution, the federal regulators take control," said Schertzing.

The federal conservatorship will not mean a change in hours, Schertzing said, and all deposits under \$100,000 will remain federally insured.

The takeover of Santa Barbara Savings comes just a little more than a week after the thrift announced its second consecutive year of losses.

The thrift declared losses of \$60.3 million in 1989 and \$7 million in 1988.

Officials at the Office of Thrift Supervision, which monitors thrifts, said the federal takeover was initiated to protect federally insured deposits.

A statement issued from Thrift

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Cal Poly turning away top students

Crowding in many departments makes it tough to get in

By Tara Giambalvo
Special to the Telegram-Tribune

The first question Erica Kirkpatrick asked her mom every day after school was, "Has it come yet?" She just knew the acceptance letter from Cal Poly would come. She was already making plans for the move to San Luis Obispo from her Morgan Hill home.

At the end of February, Kirkpatrick got her letter.

It wasn't the one she expected. The Morgan Hill teen-ager — near the top of her class at Live Oak High School and active in her community — was turned down by Poly's School of Business.

"I was really counting on Cal Poly," she said in a phone interview earlier this week. "I didn't really look around (at other colleges) because I was so focused on Cal Poly."

Her 3.58 grade-point average and score of 27 out of 36 points on the American College Testing entrance exams were good enough, however, for San Jose State — the only other university to which she applied.

Kirkpatrick hasn't been the only one to get unexpected rejection letters from Poly this spring. Counselors at local high schools said students with high GPAs — some higher than the so-called perfect 4.0 — were turned away by many of the overcrowded departments at the university.

Judy Leonard, a counselor at Arroyo Grande High School, said she knew one student with higher than a 4.0 GPA and better than 1,300 on the SAT college entrance exam who also was rejected by the university's School of Business.

Leonard said she tries to dissuade students from counting on acceptance to Poly. The students listen.

"I see them being a lot more realistic," Leonard said. "They're not putting all their eggs into one basket."

The enrollment crunch may be because fewer students are being accepted into the university, accord-

Students get in on 2nd try

Persistence has paid off for two top Coast Union High School students in pursuit of their admission to Cal Poly.

But their high school guidance counselor, Dick Cate, wonders why there was any question about their acceptance in the first place.

Devon Hill, student body president and class valedictorian, has a 4.0 grade-point average but was originally turned down by Cal Poly.

Cate called the university Admissions Office for an explanation and was not satisfied with the answers he was given.

He asked for Hill's application to be reconsidered. She received notice of acceptance about two months later.

Ryan Kuykendall was also denied

admission on his first try. Kuykendall has a 4.0 and scored over 1,300 out of a possible 1,600 on the scholastic achievement test. He was also reconsidered and admitted later.

Things did not work out as well for Erin Hamilton.

With a 3.98 and a 1,250 SAT score, Hamilton was not admitted and was asked to send supplemental information to the admissions office. He sent it in, his mother said, but Cal Poly said they never got it.

Accepted at UCLA with an undeclared major, Hamilton decided not to pursue Cal Poly. Besides the hassle of getting in, he was discouraged by the requirement to declare a major and stick with it until graduation.

— Susan McDonald

— both freshmen and transfers from

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Chernobyl worse than earlier feared

WASHINGTON (Scripps) — "Dozens of millions of people" may develop radiation-related diseases because of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, members of a high-level Soviet delegation said Friday.

The scientists and physicians said casualties of the 1986 accident in the Soviet Ukraine already have far exceeded official figures.

Death rates among workers at the plant, for instance, have increased to 10 times the normal rate. About 1.5 million people received dangerous doses of radiation to the thyroid gland, and face an increased risk of thyroid cancer.

About 4,000 children have been diagnosed with radiation-associated thyroid disease and another 12,000 children are under close medical observation.

The first of what officials fear may be a large number of cases of childhood leukemia have been diagnosed. Leukemia rates around Kiev, the major city closest to Chernobyl, now are almost 4 times higher than expected.

One physician on the delegation

said that numerous cases of a mysterious immune system disorder also are occurring in the area surrounding Chernobyl. The condition is being called "Chernobyl AIDS," he noted.

The delegation revealed that data about Chernobyl's health effects was kept secret despite the policy of openness instituted by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The delegation appealed for donations from the American public.

A report on the Chernobyl cleanup, issued by the Soviet Embassy, said industry in the Ukraine cannot produce enough baby food, dairy products or processed meat and vegetable products to feed people in the contaminated area.

The appeal for aid was led by Soviet Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin, who appeared with the delegation at a briefing held to mark the fourth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Speaking in somber tones, Dubinin said that almost 4 million people, including 800,000 children, still live on territory contaminated with radiation released in the accident.

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China quake kills 115; area ravaged

BEIJING (AP) — A strong earthquake battered the remote highlands of central China, killing 115 people and leaving thousands homeless, the State Seismology Bureau said Friday.

A bureau official said 160 people were injured in Thursday's tremor, which measured 6.9 on the Richter scale.

China Central Television reported that the quake, centered in the Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai province, left 5,000 people homeless. Hundreds of people were sleeping on the ground, wrapped in heavy blankets to ward off the cold of the Qinghai high plateau.

The news program said 500 soldiers and workers from army and provincial hospitals were rushed to the scene. Soldiers dug through the rubble of demolished packed-earth homes and dragged away corpses.

The earthquake's epicenter, about 70 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Xining, is believed populated mainly by Tibetan herdsmen and miners.

Qinghai, one of China's largest and least populous provinces, is also home to Moslem Huis, Kazakhs and Mongolians, and contains many prisons and

labor camps.

The temblor was felt as far away as the city of Lanzhou, 186 miles to the east.

The powerful tremor dug large cracks in roads and often left nothing standing but wooden doors. The only house shown in the TV tape that was not destroyed was a concrete structure with half its wall collapsed.

A Seismology Bureau official, who gave his name only as Zhai, said more than 1,000 homes collapsed in the initial quake and during more than 600 aftershocks. Some aftershocks were as strong as 6.0 on the Richter scale.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake measuring 6 can cause extensive damage.

The far western Chinese province of Xinjiang was hit by a quake measuring 6.4 on April 19. Some 1,300 homes were damaged and two people were injured.

Thursday's quake was the deadliest in China since November 1988 when a temblor measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale killed 730 people in the southwest province of Sichuan.

Riot

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Dave Hopkins, a Camarillo resident who was visiting for Poly Royal, was trying to help an injured man lying in the street when the police marched through.

"Police just walked up on me and started hitting on me," Hopkins said. "I could feel this guy's head was broken. I asked for an ambulance and they started beating on me."

But a police officer, who declined to give his name, had another perspective on the riot.

"I have a wife and kids and this is dangerous to me," the officer said.

Reports of how the melee began were mixed, but the focal point of the free-for-all appeared to be the Campus Bottle Shoppe.

Earlier that night, owner John

Martin had hailed the burgeoning crowd as the best business he ever had. "I have the right to sell," Martin told a reporter.

But around 12:30 a.m. — a full hour-and-a-half after Martin closed his shop — students smashed the windows of the shop with beer bottles demanding "free beer, free beer," while others in the crowd chanted "Save Campus Bottle."

People inside the shop threw champagne bottles back in retaliation for the beer bottles tossed into the shop.

There appeared to be no underlying reason for the riot and an unreal air of levity prevailed much of the action in the neighborhood.

Steve Trebowski of Chico said he remembered that town's Pioneer Days — a student celebration that was eventually terminated because of

rioting. "It's turning into that kind of a thing," said Trebowski of the scene unfolding before him.

"There's never been a Poly Royal like this," added another observer sagely. "This is the last Poly Royal ever."

— Telegram-Tribune reporters David Eddy, Tony Hazarian, Dan Parker and Dave Wilcox contributed to this report.

S&L

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Supervision's San Francisco office Friday afternoon stated that Santa Barbara Savings and Loan "has suffered continued losses over the past two years that nearly depleted its capital, with no prospect of replenishment without federal assistance."

The federal office attributed the savings and loan's losses to "extremely thin interest margins and low-yielding assets" and also stated that the thrift had "high general and administrative expenses that were not supported by earnings."

Santa Barbara Savings and Loan was "operating in an unsafe and

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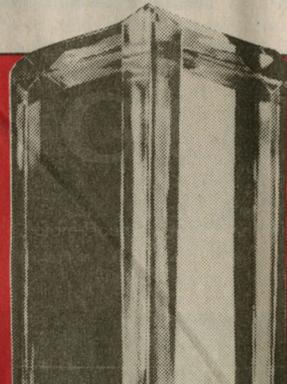

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