

# Crowd gets out of hand at Virginia Beach

By Julie Barton  
The Pendulum

Early last Friday college students from along the East Coast began flocking into Virginia Beach for the annual "Greckfest." An estimated 100,000 students, the vast majority of them black, from schools like the University of Maryland, Seton Hall, Howard University and Hampton University streamed into town for what has become an annual fall rite.

Early Sunday morning, for reasons that remain obscure, Saturday night parties overflowed into a congestion that led to disruption. Young people blocked the streets, looted more than 100 stores along Atlantic Avenue and set fires, according to Beach papers.

According to a Norfolk policeman -- Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach police were activated -- who was there and visited Elon College Tuesday, the trouble began about 2:00 a.m. Sunday.

Some students, he said, started throwing beer bottles and firing shots into the air. Two people were wounded and at least two others injured during the rampage.

One of those injured fell from the fourth story of the Kona Kai Motel. According to press reports, he is listed in critical condition at a local hospital.

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