

# UCLA Students: Police Overreacted After Win

BY SHARON COLE  
STAFF WRITER

Monday night April 3, most UNC students were still mourning Saturday night's loss. Across the country, 5,000 UCLA basketball fans took to the streets of Los Angeles and stormed their version of Franklin Street after winning the national championship.

After the game, students rushed down to Westwood Village, an area of restaurants and stores, and filled an intersection while screaming, cheering and chanting.

However, their celebration was interrupted abruptly by the Los Angeles Police Department in riot gear.

Police officers attempting to break up the crowd fired tear gas and rubber bullets into the crowd.

The police officers met the crowd head-on and tried to push the students out of the intersection by force.

John Dunkin, lieutenant in charge of press relations for the LAPD, said 247 police officers had been in Westwood Village to control and disperse the students.

He said the crowd had posed a threat to public safety and was considered an unlawful assembly.

Dunkin said that the officers also had been concerned because most members of the crowd had been drinking alcohol and that bottles and cans had been thrown at police officers.

A local radio van that had been parked in the intersection by one of the station's disc jockeys was overturned by the crowd.

"It became clear to us we had to prevent a repeat of vandalism," Dunkin said, referring to the L.A. riots in April 1992.

No other vandalism was reported by area businesses.

Several UCLA students who were at Westwood Village on Monday night said they thought students had been provoked into violent behavior by the police presence.

"With the police there, people expected violence and destruction, which is what happened," said Cyndi Chin, a 19-year-old sophomore at UCLA. "It looked like people were standing around waiting for something to happen."

Warren Kaino, another sophomore at UCLA, said he agreed.

"Due to the fact that the police were there, it was a hostile environment," he said. "It ruined the whole evening."

Kaino said he thought the crowd would have been calmer if the police had not been so aggressive.

"I think everyone would've gone out to Westwood and had a good time. That's what I was there to do," he said.

Harpreet Takhar, a UCLA sophomore, said he thought the police had been more of a threat to the crowd.

"I think a lot of people were frightened by the police," with their rubber bullets and batons, he said.

Chin said that when she went down to Westwood Village after the game, she was shocked to see all the police officers.

"I didn't expect that at all. You see that on TV, but that's not what you (usually) see here," she said.

Chin said the large police presence for such a small crowd could be blamed on Los Angeles' past problems with safety.

"It could be as simple as: It's L.A., and people are afraid of what happened before," she said, referring to the 1992 riots.

When UNC won the national title in 1993, approximately 20,000 Tar Heel fans packed Franklin Street. But only 130 police officers from the University, Chapel Hill and Carrboro forces patrolled the crowds.

Jane Cousins, Chapel Hill police spokeswoman, said the police took many precautions prior to a big event, like the Duke basketball game or the national championship, to prevent dangerous situations.

For example, a few days before UNC played Arkansas in the Final Four this year, Chapel Hill Mayor Ken Broun declared a state of emergency for that night.

Despite the ominous sound of this phrase, the announcement gave Chapel Hill police the authority to close Franklin Street to traffic, Cousins said.

It also gave police the authority to check for and confiscate weapons and alcohol.

The mayor does not always announce a state of emergency prior to a popular game against a big rival like N.C. State University, Cousins said.

"In the past, we have closed the street without a state of emergency because it's a safety issue," she said.

Cousins said "state of emergency" was a legal phrase and did not reflect expectations of any violence by a crowd after the game.

She said Chapel Hill police tried to plan ahead for large events or celebrations if given the opportunity.

# Hostels Provide Cheap Way to Travel the World

BY JENNIFER FULLER  
STAFF WRITER

Champagne wishes and caviar dreams aren't reserved only for celebrities shown on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." Although most people are neither wealthy nor world-renowned, they can still travel to the same faraway places, but for a lot less money.

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In the United States, HI-AYH provides hostel lodging in 36 of the 50 states. Affiliated with the International Youth Hostel Federation, HI-AYH also has more than 5,000 hostels internationally, including ones in Beijing, China, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

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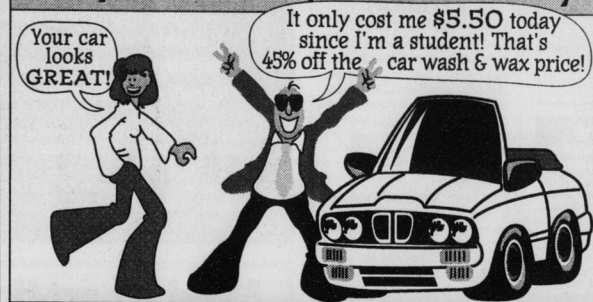
"Last year, we almost reached a million overnighters in the United States," Pyle

said. While hostels are popular in Europe, Pyle said the organization was trying to increase the American public's awareness of the accommodations.

Some UNC students have already made use of the economical lodgings. During Spring Break, sophomores Dana Nall of Sanford and Christine Sutton of Charlotte and several friends went on a road trip to Georgia and Louisiana. They spent seven days at hostels in New Orleans, Atlanta and Savannah, Ga.

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