

Gay stereotypes prompt protests

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dozens of whistling and chanting demonstrators protested what they consider negative gay stereotyping by Hollywood in a noisy confrontation with police Monday outside the Academy Awards ceremony.

At least 11 people were arrested, including two protesters who threw objects at the red-carpeted entrance to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion where the Oscars ceremony was to be held, said Lt. John Dunkin.

"We see ourselves (in movies) as freaks, killers, psychopaths and perverts. We see ourselves as lonely victims. We see ourselves made to reflect straight anxieties about sexuality and gender," said Kate Sorensen, spokeswoman for the activist group Queer Nation.

The booking counts weren't immediately known, Dunkin said. But five protesters were arrested after sitting in a street intersection and refusing police orders to move.

More than 100 police officers in riot gear and on horseback formed a shield between the pavilion and the demonstrators,

some of whom held banners that read, "Stop Hollywood Homophobia" and "Make Queer Film."

The protesters objected to portrayals in three Oscar-nominated films: a gay serial killer in "The Silence of the Lambs"; a gay accused of conspiracy in the President Kennedy assassination in "JFK"; the "de-lebianizing" from the original novel of two companions in "Fried Green Tomatoes."

On Monday, some demonstrators called on a prominent actress to acknowledge that she is gay.

Protesters also saw a plastic Oscar in half and handed out maps to the homes of stars they said haven't promoted "queer visibility" in film.

"JFK" star Kevin Costner said he had mixed emotions about the protest.

"It's hard. People are genuinely upset," he said. "You have to be sympathetic to them. They feel very strongly about it. But we're out here for a night that we've worked very hard for."

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Although many of their concerns, like campus safety, are often the subjects of campus political rhetoric, King and Ferguson said they have concrete ideas about how to address them.

The candidates proposed working with the administration to bring night classes into a well lit central location.

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said, "the executive should be going around to groups and saying, 'Is there anything you need? Is there anything we can help you with?'"

King and Ferguson also said they want to strengthen ASUO relationships with the University administration and the me-

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