

Youths, police conflict

PORTLAND (AP) — An angry crowd of about 150 youths threw rocks and bottles at police Sunday night after officers responding to reports of vandalism showed up at a downtown rock concert, officers said.

About 150 police in riot gear blocked off several streets and Burnside Bridge over the Willamette River as demonstrators yelled obscenities and accused them of inciting more violence.

Police made about 25 or 30 arrests on various charges, said police Sgt. Derrick Foxworth.

No injuries were immediately reported. The area began to return to calm about 9:30 p.m. as darkness fell.

The incident began at Pioneer Courthouse Square, a brick-covered park, where about 30 or 40 people who called themselves anarchists were gathered, Foxworth said.

The group later walked to the X-Ray Cafe and joined several more people who were gathered for a punk rock concert, Foxworth said.

Police began making arrests when the group spread out through the downtown area, throwing objects at police.

Foxworth said officers were dispatched to the area when police received reports of people vandalizing cars, throwing rocks and blocking streets. The confrontation outside of the X-Ray Cafe began about 6:30 p.m., police said.

Witnesses said the scene at the concert was controlled before police arrived.

UFO convention visits beyond

BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — Many people feel they'll be branded as flakes if others know about their interest or experience with UFOs.

Not Marilyn Childs. Childs says she has had continuing contact with UFOs ever since she was a young girl growing up on her family's farm in Denver. Her parents dismissed curious flying discs as part of a Russian spy mission.

"I believe certain people in certain families are tracked," Childs said.

John Carpenter, a psychiatric social worker from Springfield, Mo., said cases like Childs' aren't uncommon. He said he has treated more than 80 people who, under hypnosis, have revealed details of alien abductions. Carpenter said the people react much the same way they would to a movie.

"They each have different reactions to the experience," he said. "That's natural human behavior."

Carpenter and Childs, co-director of the Washington state branch of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., were two of the participants at the weekend UFO research conference in Bellevue.

The two-day conference — organized by TRIAD, a Missouri-based research group — presented UFO enthusiasts and skeptics with a chance to learn more about a subject that goes far beyond the outer limits.

An architect offered theories about possible life on Mars. A psychiatrist talked about his case studies of people who, under hypnosis, revealed details of alien abductions. Two journalists accused the U.S. government of hiding information about hidden alien spacecraft.

Denise Carpenter, one of TRIAD's three partners, said 10 to 12 more UFO conferences are planned within the next year. She said group would like to overcome common stereotypes associated with unexplained phenomena.

"We think it's important to bring the scientific community together with the public," she said. "This is not a Trekkie convention. These are intelligent people asking intelligent questions."

Conference organizers expected about 300 participants. They said about 200 had registered by about mid-day Saturday.

Some who attended the first

day were impressed. Others remained unconvinced that extraterrestrial beings visit earth.

"I think it's all open to debate," said one Seattle woman. "If anybody really knows, we wouldn't be having these conferences."

The woman wished to remain unidentified. "I'm an educator, and if anyone knew I was here ..." she said with a roll of the eyes.

Ocean Shore residents Ruth and Dave Sharp were happy to be at the conference.

"I think it's just the most exciting thing," Ruth said. "Most people look at people who have an interest in UFOs as kooky, but I think it's one of the most important scientific issues facing us."

John Carpenter said he has documented studies of multiple abductions, where more than one person is involved. Under hypnosis, the people relate the same story, detail for detail.

These aren't people looking to gain attention, he said.

"They don't show up saying they were abducted by aliens. They just want to know why they can't sleep and why they continue to have panic attacks."

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Abortion protest bill may be big

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The bill for Operation Rescue's 10-day "Cities of Refuge" campaign could come to as high as \$2.5 million, San Jose officials said.

A detailed tally of the cost of all of the overtime for police, traffic control and emergency services personnel as well as jail and processing costs for the 110 people arrested won't be available until later this week. But it will probably run between \$500,000 to \$2.5 million, police spokesman Bruce Toney said Sunday.

San Jose police had been prepared for as many as 500 arrests a day, though the numbers turned out to be far lower than that, Toney said. Police based their estimates on events in Wichita, Kan., where Operation Rescue had a 46-day campaign last year. "We had intelligence on what to expect when they came to San Jose, but it fell far short of what we were anticipating. I think even Operation Rescue was disappointed in how things turned out," Toney said.

Operation Rescue leaders had a closing prayer rally Sunday at Evangel Christian Fellowship church in San Jose, vowing that their anti-abortion campaign was not over.

"We will fight the forces that are anti-Christ, anti-American and anti-morality," preached Pastor David Cannistraci. "We're going to fight this battle in San Jose and Santa Clara county until we abolish abortion clinics once and for all."

Outside of the church, about 80 abortion rights advocates chanted "Three, five, seven, 10, why are all your leaders men?" They held aloft signs reading "Goodbye, Good Riddance" and "Don't Call Us, We'll Call You."

Across the street Georgia Baltier and her two daughters stood on their porch, watching the stream of cars entering the church parking lot. Thirteen-year-old Michael had just come back from a week of helping out after her godmother had a baby when the first Operation Rescue rally was at the church.

Baltier made signs reading "Free Your Mind" and "It's not YOUR Womb" and put them up in the family's living room window. A "Pro-Choice Victory" banner hung from the eaves. "We're a pro-choice family. We believe in keeping our rights," her mother said.

Of the 110 arrests during the course of the week, 90 were Operation Rescue volunteers, spokeswoman Susan Finn said. Seventeen of those were still in jail Sunday night because they were arrested more than once.

Sunday's rally marked the end of the Operation Rescue's 10-day, seven-city "Cities of Refuge" campaign. San Jose police said no clinics were closed because of the protests.

Operation Rescue leader Chet Gallegher said his group plans a march on the mayor of San Jose's house next Saturday, "to let her know how we feel about not being able to speak freely."

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