

Student Rioting on Florida Beach Blamed On Compound of Idle Boredom, Liquor

Editor's note: For the first time in the years-long history of the spring-vacation trek of college students to their romantic mecca, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., rioting broke out this week when mobs of youngsters defied police authority. UPI Correspondent H. D. Quigg arrived during a riot Monday night to study the troubled situation on the beach which is the setting of the book and the recent motion picture "Where the Boys Are." Here is his report.

By H. D. QUIGG

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—UPI—The sign at the outskirts of town reads: "Welcome to Fort Lauderdale." And underneath in small letters that almost seem an afterthought, it says: "Have Fun."

As the Easter week end approaches, the small word "fun" has worked itself from a tickle of pleasure to a throb of migraine headaches for this lovely, palm-fringed, town-in-the-sun.

At mid-week some were stuck a sign up at the city jail entrance saying: "Where the Boys Are." It was entirely correct. The girls who were arrested were sent to another jail. About 400 students have been arrested. More than 200 male students were in jail Wednesday.

The trouble is a compound of idle boredom and liquor—but it has been catalyzed by a mixture of local punks and pug-uglies and callow, beer-sour high school youths. The police allowed them to take over a state highway paralleling the beach in bottle-throwing, firecracker-popping, melons for two nights and then, weary of trying to be nice, slapped them down.

Crowds Discouraged

Police barricaded the roads leading to the beach area and screened out the carloads of local sight-seers and high-schoolers. They let no knots of persons congregate except at a roped-off section of highway set aside for college dancing—a mile and a half north of the spot of the riots. And so, comparative—but tense—quiet was brought to the night in the strip "where the boys are," from the place called the Elbow Room (beer and whisky) to the apartments named—so help me—Casa Lolita.

By day, the scene has been good. Thousands of college students on the brown-yellow sand and sidewalks. A pale moon riding high over the Atlantic. Sunbathers and garish attire—sweaters, blazers, jackets with names of a myriad of colleges and student societies. One little brunette with a sweat-shirt lettered "U.S.A. Drinking Team." Students singing in groups.

And most of these kids are not rioters, although many of them have got themselves worked up in the bars on beer and spirits during the long afternoons. Most of them just "went along with the mob" to watch.

Town Troubled

This town is sorely troubled at the problem. But it is not a town engulfed by trouble or taken over by young fry on the loose. Fort Lauderdale and environs comprise about 80 square miles. There are 500 miles of streets. The student trouble has been in one

beach area of only about six blocks.

A gentle southeast breeze wafted over the breakers Monday at 11 p.m. as this observer walked south down the beach toward the corner where a riot the night before had been quelled with the aid of fire hoses.

The street along the beach is Atlantic blvd., which is also Highway A1A. The police had blocked it off a few blocks from the corner of Las Olas blvd. because now for the second night a mob—or maybe "unruly crowd" is a better word—had formed and blocked it at the corner. The crowd grew from 3,000 to 5,000. The number of students in town has been estimated variously by authorities from 15,000 to 35,000. Las Olas runs at right angles westward, over the inland waterway and into the city. The unruly corner always has been a sort of "drugstore corner" for local youth even in the off-season. Mayor Edward H. Johns has said "for them it's Times Square, and there's no getting away from it."

Acrobats Cheered

The crowd was surging around, cheering, chanting amid firecracker reports, giving the police a hard time when suddenly, at 11:15 a boy in white shorts and a checked sports shirt shinnied up a 25-foot pole and started doing stunts on a long arm that angles over the street to hold a traffic light. The crowd booed the police who told him to come down. The mayor, agitated, asked for order and got booed. He was on a balcony with a loudspeaker.

Most of the crowd was just watching good naturedly. This eruption of violence will not stir memories of Fort Lauderdale from their college days. The annual heira from the campus to this beach is popularly stated to have started 16 years ago. But old timers say they can remember that in the 1930s, this was a spring vacation center for collegians.

Fort Lauderdale has an 85,000 permanent population, which swells to around 150,000 at the peak of the winter season. It is used to influxes, but as editor and publisher Jack W. Gore of the Fort Lauderdale News says: "You cannot stick 15,000 kids in a six-block area and not have trouble."

A Lot of Phonies

"There are a lot of phonies in there, and a lot of high school punks looking for trouble. Ninety per cent of these college kids are good kids. They live on the beach, taking a rest from exams. Most of them come by car. They leave a lot of money here, when you figure they come and go over a period of four to five weeks and stay five days per kid."

Police Chief J. Lester Holt, 45, a square-jawed infantryman and professional welterweight boxer, said emphatically that the police patience "is wearing a little thin."

Holt said 40 per cent of the people in the Monday night mob were "residents of this county," that someone "could well have been killed." He said he was against giving the students a beach where they could drink. "If someone gets drowned, who will have condoned it?"

Majority Disapproves

On the beach, a carload of girls from Michigan State pulled to a curb. "It's a shame, like Newport," said straw-skimmer Sheila Silmon, 19, of Grosse Pointe, Mich. "It's too bad, the majority disapprove it," said Leigh Campbell, 20, of Fowlerville, Mich.

Asked what caused the mob, Doris Anderson, 20, of Chicago, said: "Too much drinking, they want to let off steam. We were here last week and it wasn't bad at all—very nice."

The girls drove down in 35 hours in the convertible of blonde Diana Bob, 21, of Detroit, who said seven girls were living in one apartment a mile and a half inland: "We've been living for 50 cents a day apiece for food—been buying all our food and cooking it. We spend the afternoon at the beach and go back and cook again. Usually we find someone to take us to breakfast. How? They find us."

Too Many at Once

Carl (Butch) MacCartee, 20, (he has a butch haircut), a Duke university sophomore, said this was his third trip here and that "this year too many came at once—also, you only got so much money and you don't want to take a girl to the bar at night, you want to take 'em on the beach."

That nothing-to-do theme is the alleged cause of the trouble. The students in previous years have had night blanket and bonfire and beer parties on Jade beach, a privately owned beach seven miles to the north, and on the municipal beach at Dania, the next town to the south. But Jade beach was closed this year,

and Dania prohibited the students.

Fort Lauderdale does not allow parties at night on its public beach, and there can be no beer drinking on it at any time. Drinking is in the bars. They, too, began closing when the Sunday riot started. In the city commission room, four commissioners and Mayor Johns heard suggestions on what to do. The mayor said: "Monday night we cut off Atlantic blvd. and let them in there and what did they do? Stood and posed for television. There were a lot of local hangers-on. They're not all bad. I counted 70 Sunday in church. But when we tried to talk to them out there, they booed. I tell you, the language they used was disgraceful."

"If some of them can't act like ladies and gentlemen, let

them get out. We were very lucky there was not somebody killed."

A white-haired former professor, Earl Fleischman, proposed a five-point program including special Good Friday services, a dance, and a field meet to help rid congestion on the beaches.

William Weir, past president of the Apartment House association, said the students do not want planned entertainment.

Fleischman started to interject what they wanted and Weir snapped: "I'll tell you what they want, sir." The mayor ordered the remark stricken from the record. Weir said he thought, in view of the students' arrogance, "we need some adverse publicity—'Where the Boys Are,' but 'Where the Boys Shouldn't Be.'"

Mill Operators Get Pay Demands

Portland—UPI—Contract improvement demands for timber and sawmill workers in two unions have been handed to mill operators in Western Oregon and Washington, an industry spokesman said today.

The hikes would cost employers 23 cents hourly for members of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union and 10 cents an hour for members of the International Woodworkers of America, according to management sources.

Karl Glos, vice-president of the newly formed Timber Operators Council, Inc., said the demands were expected to spread industry-wide. The council was organized last October.

Glos said that anything that adds to the cost of producing lumber or wood products means "we are pricing ourselves more and more out of the market."

MERGER RULING NEAR

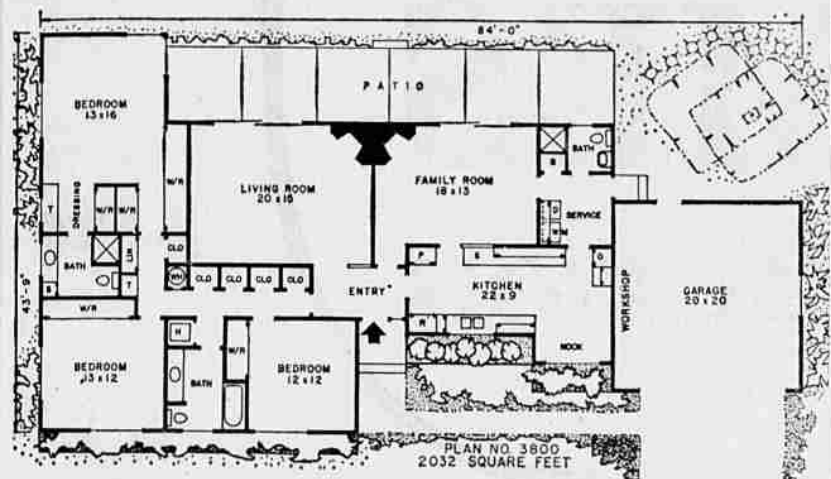
Washington—UPI—The Civil Aeronautics Board is expected to make a final decision on the merger of Capital and United airlines within 10 days, it was disclosed Wednesday.

CHEAPER, TOO

London—UPI—John and Petra Green tried to make a success of their 1959 divorce, but it just didn't work out. They remarried Wednesday because "it was so lonely being apart."

REPORTS \$20,000 THEFT

New York—UPI—Burglars stole \$20,000 in furs and jewels from singer Eartha Kitt's room at the Hotel Plaza Wednesday. Miss Kitt, who has been burglarized many times in the last few years, discovered that \$13,000 in furs and \$7,000 in jewelry were missing when she returned to her room Wednesday night.



Ranch and Modern Homes

By HIAWATHA ESTES

Basic materials have been used with both simplicity and honesty in this design to produce an extremely livable home. The design offers numerous imaginative ideas and details to stimulate one's thinking.

Simple board-on-board siding is used on the front elevation plus a special exterior grooved plywood on the garage door and again in the areas formed by the framing around the bedroom and bath windows. Note the dramatic use of three long, low planters and especially how the roof extends past the kitchen roof and over the planter at its front wall so as to line up with the eaves of the garage roof. This portion of the roof has exposed rafters so as to not block the flow of sunlight through the wide nook window.

From the covered porch, a door opens to the entry from which access is available to every room of the house. A stationary obscure window next to the entry door floods the entry with sunlight.

Best of all, for the housewife who longs for more than ample storage for EVERYTHING, there are numerous closets. Five wide storage closets, an extra long linen, a water heater closet, a forced air furnace closet plus a telephone table with drawers below, all open to the bedroom hall. In addition, the two front bedrooms have generous wardrobes while the master bedroom can boast of three wardrobes with a total length in excess of twenty feet. A long impressive dressing table in the master bedroom has drawers below as does the pullman lavatories located in each of the baths

in the bedroom wing. Another storage closet is in the master bath.

A wide expanse of glass extends both the living and family rooms visually to encompass the spacious patio and sliding doors open wide for easy accessibility.

The roomy kitchen nook is of sufficient size to easily accommodate the largest of families without crowding. A door can be placed in the wall between the kitchen and the garage.

Complete working drawings for this plan can be purchased at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$5.00 for each additional set when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available at these prices until April 18, 1961. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your approval, a new home plan book, Ranch & Modern Homes can be purchased for \$2.00. Send all orders for either plans or books to: Hiawatha Estes, P. O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

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10 lb. Rib Steak — 4 lb. Stew Cubes — 9 lb. Short Ribs
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8 lbs. Pork Steaks — 5 lbs. Pork Sausage

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Lamb Chops lb. 79c

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SMALL OYSTERS 12-oz. Jar 53c

Rib Steak lb. 69c

Fresh Beef Hearts lb. 29c

Fresh Beef Tongue lb. 25c

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Farm Economy

10 Per Cent Over Early 1960 Level

Washington—UPI—Cash receipts have been flowing into the farm economy at a rate more than 10 per cent above the levels of early 1960.

This pace may not continue through the year for all commodities. Egg prices, for instance, are expected to be lower through most of the rest of 1961. But there are indications that net farm income will go up this year from the 1960 rate.

Increased Support

Net farm income in 1960 was about \$11.6 billion. Administration officials are saying the steps they have taken this year will raise the 1961 total by between \$1.5 and \$2 billion.

The Administration has announced increased 1961 support prices for major crops including cotton, feed grains, oilseeds, and milk. Agriculture Department economists believe that if there are any increases in farm costs this year, they will be moderate.

The department reported Thursday that farm product sales in January and February reached a total of \$5.3 billion, more than 10 per cent above a year ago. February was the 10th straight month in which cash receipts were above the levels of the same month one year earlier.

Livestock Sales Up

Receipts from livestock sales for the two months period were up 9 per cent from the same period in 1960 and receipts from sales of crops jumped 16 per cent.

In both cases, there was a combination this year of heavier marketings and higher prices. Overall, marketings were up 7 per cent, and prices were up 4.5 per cent.

SEARS 75 DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR

GARDEN SALE

20-inch Power Mower with Self Starter

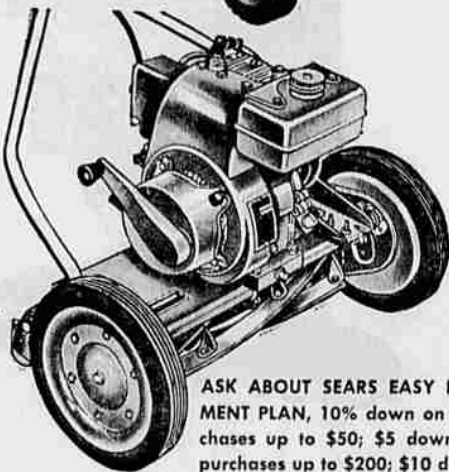


3-HP 4-Cycle Engine With Soft-Tone Muffler

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3 HP, 4 cycle Craftsman engine

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A Craftsman 2 1/2-HP reel power mower. 5 nick-resistant blades give a crisp scissors cut to your lawn. No-pull starting. Clutch and throttle controls on handle.



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