

# Police resort to pepper spray as unruly Penn State students crowd streets



CRAIG HOUTZ/CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Police officers use pepper spray to disperse a crowd in State College Friday. Crowds had gathered and grown rowdy after Penn State lost to Temple in the NCAA Tournament earlier in the night.

by Michael C. Spearing  
and Ryan Dougherty  
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STATE COLLEGE, Pa. -- Several thousand people took to the streets and the balconies early Saturday following Penn State's 12-point loss to Temple in the NCAA tournament.

As cans and bottles rained down, riot gear-clad police tried to disperse the unruly crowd in a scene reminiscent of last summer's arts festival disturbance.

As revelers threw small firecrackers, police used pepper spray in their attempt to keep order. At least four people were visibly sickened after apparently being sprayed in the face. Emergency medical personnel were called around 1 a.m. for a report of a woman who needed stitches.

Police detained at least four people after they failed to disperse when ordered, witnesses said.

"I'd like to think this is to celebrate a great basketball season, but there's so many kids in this little area. I don't think the police understand the use of force will just get them more riled up," said Ryan Devlin, a Penn State marketing major from Irwin, Pa.

"Tonight, all they needed was to have somebody point

pepper spray. It acted like (a) spark and started a big fire," Devlin said.

Several street signs were torn down and at least one unsuccessful attempt was made to topple a light pole.

One sign was thrown into a parked car.

The gathering began as something of a celebration of the men's basketball team making the NCAA's Sweet 16 for the first time since 1955. The Nittany Lions defeated Providence College and the University of North Carolina before losing to Temple Friday by a score of 84-72.

"It's our crazy way to show our pride," said Lena McKelvey of Doylestown, Pa., a kinesiology student. Before the disturbance got out of hand, police were seen leading cheers and posing for photos.

But just as last summer, chants of "We are Penn State" soon deteriorated into blocking traffic and throwing bottles.

"It's crazy. I have no clue why everyone's out here," said Sarah Gkonos, a marketing and international business major from Berwyn.

As far as the police response, Gkonos said, "I don't know if there's any other way. I don't know what I would do in this situation."

She continued: "The cops may actually make things worse, but they have to be here."

# College students go deeper into debt, study says

by Paul Wenske  
March 28, 2001  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

University students are going deeper into debt to pay for their education but don't understand the implication it has for their future, a consumer group said Tuesday in Washington.

The Public Interest Research Group released a national survey in which 78 percent of the 1,012 students who responded admitted they underestimated the cost of their student loans. On average, the students said they would graduate with \$4,846 more in debts than they expected.

The group was joined at a news conference by several congressmen who said the government should increase its student aid program.

The group released a General Ac-

counting Office analysis showing that over the past three years the number of students graduating with a debt of more than \$20,000 had nearly doubled.

Officials at the University of Kansas said students this past year graduated with an average debt of \$17,904. That was slightly higher than the average student debt of \$17,863 the year before.

Officials at the University of Missouri, which is on spring break, said they didn't have figures immediately available.

"In this economy, a college education is the best investment you can make in your future," said Ivan Frishberg, director of the Public Interest Research Group's higher education project.

"But with big loans come big problems. Students are forced to take out

student loans to pay for college, but most will end up with significant sticker shock when it comes time for repayment."

He said nearly eight out of 10 students did not have a clear understanding of the implications of the debt they took on. As a result, many students begin their careers deep in debt.

Rep. George Miller of California, ranking member of the House Education and Work Force Committee, said the government should adopt a \$600 increase in the maximum Pell Grant, provided by the federal government's main financial aid program.

The increase would raise the maximum Pell Grant from \$3,750 to \$4,350. Besides advocating more student aid, the Public Interest Research Group also urged more-flexible repayment options for students.

# Iowa students say pipe bombs intended for fishing

by Matthew McGuire  
TMS Campus  
March 27, 2001

Three University of Iowa students who were caught with homemade pipe bombs in their dorm room told authorities they intended to use them for fishing, not mass destruction.

The students' intent was to drop the bombs in a river to kill or stun fish, said Charles Green, director of the university's public safety office.

University police evacuated the dorm rooms about 90 minutes after students reported seeing the bombs at just after 7 p.m. on March 22. Police and state bomb squads toured the building and removed three pipe

bombs without incident.

Adam Fisher, Nathaniel Krotz and Andrew Ritchie were charged with possession of an explosive device or materials. The police report filed for each student states that each admitted to building the explosives with the help of the other two.

Only Fischer lives in Burge Hall, the residence hall that was evacuated. Krotz and Ritchie live in other residence halls on campus.

It is against university policy to possess explosives in the residence halls, Green said. In addition, dropping a bomb into a body of water to kill fish is also illegal, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources spokesperson said. The IDNR imposes a fine of \$145 and \$15 for each fish collected in such cases.

# Michigan law school can't use race in admissions, judge rules

by Kenneth R. Weiss  
Los Angeles Times  
March 27, 2001

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the University of Michigan's law school to quit using race as a factor in admissions, ruling that its affirmative action policies violate the U.S. Constitution and are not in the state's interest.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman dismissed the school's arguments that affirmative action is needed to "level the playing field" so minorities can compete in a society filled with either past or present discrimination.

"An admissions policy that treats any applicants different from others on account of their race is unfair and unconstitutional," Friedman wrote. He instructed the law school to rework its admissions criteria so they are "race neutral."

The ruling, which could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court, was criticized by University of Michigan President Lee C. Bollinger as conflicting with the high court's 1978 decision in University of California vs. Bakke. That decision allowed schools to use race as one factor among many in selecting students.

"We will appeal this decision and we are confident we will prevail in higher court," he said.

He called promoting racial di-

versity in college and graduate schools "a compelling governmental interest."

Friedman's ruling hands another key victory to the Center for Individual Rights, a conservative Washington D.C.-based firm that has launched or joined lawsuits attacking affirmative action around the country.

The center has been campaigning to find the case that will overturn the Bakke decision and abolish all race-based admission practices.

Five years ago, it succeeded in ending affirmative action at the University of Texas Law School, setting a legal precedent that affects public colleges in several Southwestern states.

More recently, however, the rights center lost a similar case before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals involving three white students who were denied admission to the University of Washington's law school.

Complicating matters, another judge in Friedman's district recently ruled that the University of Michigan's use of race in its undergraduate admissions is legal. So as it stands, the university can consider race in picking undergraduates but not law students.

These kinds of split decisions often attract the attention of U.S. Supreme Court justices. Legal scholars have been betting that one such challenge - in Washing-

ton, Michigan, or possibly in Georgia - is likely to be the case that will lead to a reconsideration of affirmative action in admissions.

None of this would have any impact on California's public universities, which have been forbidden from using affirmative action since the voters banned such practices in 1996 by passing Proposition 209.

But a Supreme Court ruling overturning Bakke could change the admissions practices of private universities, if it were to reach the same conclusion as Friedman. He ruled on Tuesday that the Michigan law school's consideration of race violated not only the Constitution but Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Title VI covers all those entities that receive federal money, which includes virtually every private university in the country.

Curt Levey, legal director of Center for Individual Rights, said Friedman's ruling went even further than he had hoped.

The case, Grutter v. Bollinger, was brought on behalf of Barbara Grutter, a white mother who claimed she was denied admission to Michigan's law school because less-qualified minorities received preferential treatment.

Friedman wrote that the focus must be on the "merit of individual applicants," not "assumed characteristics of racial groups."

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