

EXTRA

EL GAUCHO

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CURFEW TONIGHT, 6 P.M. TO 6 A.M.

Gas, gunfire disperse I.V. crowds

Clouds of tear gas filled Isla Vista for about five hours last night, as 250-300 Sheriff's deputies from Santa Barbara and surrounding counties attempted to disperse crowds who were hurling rocks at windows and setting trashcan fires.

No arrests were made, but at least four persons were injured by buckshot and birdshot fired by police. Janice Greynalt, 21, a sophomore, is still in the hospital under treatment for 25 birdshot wounds in her back. Wondwossen Mesfin, 17, a foreign student from Ethiopia, is also still hospitalized. Lucianne Ranni, a sophomore, and Alexandra vanLoon, a non-student, were released last night. Greynalt and Mesfin are said to be in satisfactory condition.

Although the afternoon's gathering in the park seemed to have dispersed in a peaceful mood, the first disturbances began at about 7:30, when fire hydrants were opened up in front of I.V. Market. Before the water was closed off, it flooded the floor of the market and covered most of the adjacent streets.

Several rocks were hurled at the Bank of America at about 8 p.m., and one window on the ocean side of the building was broken.

A firebomb was thrown into the parking lot, but it did no damage.

At Isla Vista Realty, the front door window was broken by a rock.

Between 8:30 and 10:00 p.m., a crowd of 300-400 people gathered in the loop area, from El Embarcadero to Pardall. The largest crowd gathered at the intersection of Embarcadero del Norte and Madrid. Another crowd was gathered in the area of the Yellow Submarine on the corner of Seville and Embarcadero del Norte.

Many in the crowds attempted to build barricades, to prevent police, they said, from driving at high speeds into large crowds, as they had done in the last I.V. riots. But many onlookers prevented them from building the barricades. A trashbin fire at the intersection of Madrid and Embarcadero del Norte was put out by a smaller group.

More trash bins were set on fire in several parking lots, and two more windows were broken at the Bank of America.

A crowd of about 75 persons moved into the B of A parking lot at about 10:30. Some of the group moved to the back of the building

and said they wanted to turn off the lights. They came back to the side of the building with a ladder.

Within seconds, four large dump trucks and several smaller trucks filled with police sped down the street at 40-50 mph, shooting canister of CS and CN gas at and above the crowd at the bank. Police made no warning or order to disperse.

Split seconds after the tear gas was thrown, two trucks followed a crowd of people who were running into the park; at that time Alexandra van Loon was shot with birdshot. As she describes it, "Somebody screamed 'run!' and I started running. I saw these trucks coming at me. The next thing I knew, I was being shot at. My dog got knocked out of my arms, and I fell down."



Alexandra van Loon, pictured at right, was wounded by birdshot from shotguns used by police in trucks last night. Photos by John Franklin

EDITORIAL

(Editor's Note: please disregard editorial in today's regular edition. Obviously, we blew it by assuming that the crowds in the park yesterday afternoon were not angry enough to go to the streets.)

So it happened again, and this time the breaking of a few windows at I.V. Realty and the B. of A. was seen as serious enough for police to use gunfire on crowds.

Tear gas, okay—that's perhaps understandable. But gunfire? The buckshot which killed James Rector at People's Park last year, which blinded Alan Blanchard—was used in I.V. last night to disperse crowds.

We assume that these practices are part of the new "professionalism" displayed in last night's police maneuvers. Not only did police move quickly and decisively into I.V. but they have graduated from slingshots to shotguns. Having appeared inefficient during last February's rioting, it seems that they are now concentrating on improving their image.

Shotguns kill people. And, as evidenced last night, each sizable incident between police and residents brings about more repression.

Windows broken last night—metaphors of discontent and frustration that the people feel—have lost most of the impact felt as a result of the burning of the bank. But the frustration, and discontent and conditions that led to previous rioting still remain.

We are all still in the process of assessing the total implications of last February's rioting.

However, one implication made clear last night is that those in power are perfectly willing to take human lives in order to protect private property. The Governor is prepared for a bloodbath, because he knows his forces can win, because he knows that the blood flown will be our blood.

And we can't let him, and his forces, do that to us. Social change can never take place if we are all killed off, isolated, and silenced.

So we urge you to stay off the streets.

The tear gas was so heavy that the crowds dispersed immediately. Trucks parked on the Embarcadero loop, and several unmarked VW vans filled with police shot tear gas throughout Isla Vista, especially in the Sabado Tarde and Trigo areas.

Police cars travelling at high speeds shot buckshot and birdshot into small crowds.

A city bus carrying police from the county Sheriff's department and surrounding counties, arrived in the San Rafael parking lot. They then marched down Pardall to the B of A lot.

Raymond Johnson, chief administrative officer for Santa Barbara county, declared a state of extreme emergency in the name of the County Board of Supervisors, and warned that all assemblies of three or more persons were unlawful.

Johnson, in an interview today, said that the emergency proclamation was "necessary to protect life and property." He said that it gave police "the power to use any means necessary to protect life and property."

Johnson also announced that a curfew will be in effect from 6 p.m. tonight to 6 a.m. tomorrow.

A tear gas canister which, according to the Sheriff's department, "went astray", broke through a window and exploded in a room in the dorm.

Campus police cars drove by the dorm asking that its residents return to their rooms because they did not want "University students involved in the riot."

By 2 am, most of the streets were clear, but tear gas continued to be fired. No injuries to police were reported. There were, however, reports of rocks and bottles being thrown at police trucks and cars. Windows in several of the dump trucks were reportedly broken.

Although the state of emergency declared by the county—to effect I.V. and the campus—is not in effect today, it most likely will be tonight, according to the county's administrative officer.

There has been no comment yet from the Administration. The Chancellor is in Berkeley for the Regents meeting. Ray Varley, Vice-Chancellor for Business and Finance, whose new assignment since the bank burning is Isla Vista, said he had no statement to make.