

Punk

Continued from 1/A

cause one function turned out to be bad. I don't think it's fair to the community to shut down dances or concerts just because of one bad function."

Any changes would have to be approved by the county Board of Supervisors, Sorg said.

Deposits and insurance would be one area to be explored. A \$200 cleaning deposit was required for Thursday's concert, Sorg said. Damage to the floor alone is estimated at \$6,800, and \$1,000 worth of windows were broken.

"The roof could easily exceed that," Sorg said. "If it's cracked even, it's finished. All I can say is the total is in the thousands. The exact figures haven't been reached."

Much of the damage was caused by drinking, Sorg said. Although it was supposed to be an alcohol-free event, many concert-goers brought in their own.

"I went through the building this morning and there were empty beer cans, vodka bottles, every bottle imaginable," Sorg said.

Police and concert-goers provided conflicting versions of what happened at the show. Fans felt that police acted too harshly in shutting the concert down. Fans and police agreed that despite that, it was foolish of the concert-goers to afterward attack police with rocks and bottles.

"I don't want to say the cops overreacted; that wasn't totally the case," said Ron Fast, guitarist for Group Sex, which also played at the show. "But they didn't need to come in with such force."

"There wasn't any real slam-dancing going on there," said Jello Biafra, lead singer for the Dead Kennedys. "There were a few stage divers, but nothing on the level of Los Angeles. There were not any brawls going on. It was far less dangerous than a heavy metal show or a rootin' tootin' country-and-

western bar."

"If we didn't get calls or reports, we'd never go there in the first place," said Sgt. Jerry Lenthall, who coordinated police at the show. "The problem we had was the total disregard for personal safety, the violence of the mob. People think they can be anonymous in a mob. It was my decision to close it down."

"People paid good money to dance and have a good time, and the vast majority of the people weren't the reason (for the trouble)," Lenthall said. "I don't want to give the impression that everyone there was violent or hostile."

"It's always that handful of people that really do it," said Ed Sandor, who ran the sound system at the show.

Fast and others at the show said they felt police shut it down too early.

"I don't think there would have been a confrontation if they hadn't made such a big entrance," Fast said. "Nothing happened that night that didn't happen at the other shows. I'm not putting down the cops; it was just a really unfortunate situation."

The crowd wasn't that bad, Sandor said.

"They were all having a good time doing what they normally do," Sandor said. "They have fun in an unorthodox way. The crowd overall was all right, but there were a few people going overboard, ruining it for the rest of us."

Biafra was more vocal. "I want to emphasize that it was a police riot because they took a minor incident and turned it into a riot," he said. "No bottle was thrown until the police bloodied a head or two."

Police took the stage at the hall and tried to announce that the show was shut down after they saw people being hurled at the stage, Lenthall said.

Police feared for the safety of the bands and crew, as people were tossing other fans at the equipment.

Police announced that the show was over, Lenthall said. The crowd didn't leave.

"You can honestly not hear something, that's possible," he said. "The announcement probably wasn't heard as well as it should have been."

"When we were up on stage, the officers became more of a target," Lenthall said. "We saw rocks, pieces of hardware, I don't know what else. It hurt quite a bit. It was my decision that we weren't going to stand on the stage and be targets of this."

Batons drawn, the officers jumped off the stage and pushed the crowd back to the rear doors of the hall.

"They did like a choreographed A-Team leap off the stage," Biafra said. Police used "a slash-and-burn kind of method (with batons) to clear people."

"I don't doubt some people got bruises; I don't doubt some got hit with a baton," Lenthall said.

As the crowd poured outside, some people began pelting the hall with rocks and bottles, smashing windows, Lenthall said. Another group tried to light a fire near a vehicle at the rear of the hall, but it didn't catch, he said.

"All of our police units started

getting rocks and bottles thrown at them," he said. "The front of the Vets Hall received the brunt of the rocks and bottles."

People were jumping in front of passing cars, Lenthall said, so the street was closed off and the fire department called in.

Firefighters and officers continued to receive a barrage of beer bottles and rocks and even road signs. "I think it was a Coors beer bottle that went through the windshield of a fire truck," Lenthall said.

One fireman caught a brick to the chest, knocking him down, Lenthall said. Lenthall then decided to use water.

He tried to spray the water in such a way to stop the flying objects, Lenthall said. "You can't hurl a sign through a stream of water. It historically has been a successful tactic."

"At no point was it our intention to hit anyone in the face," Lenthall said. Police switched to a water cannon to increase the range, he said.

"My concern is that some people who probably had every intention of leaving got caught up in the middle," Lenthall said. "If you're in the middle, unfortunately, you become the victim."

LAS VEGAS

LAUGHLIN! RIVERSIDE HOTEL
OCT 22 (2-NIGHTS)
\$79.00 NO RESTRICTIONS

49

NEW YEAR'S EVE!
LAS VEGAS (3-NIGHTS)
NO RESTRICTIONS
\$95.00
PRICE IS PER PERSON
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

5

4-QUEENS MIDWEEK
BUS, HOTEL (TWO
NIGHTS), LUGGAGE,
CASINO PACKAGE
SOME RESTRICTIONS

79

**4-QUEENS
TURNAROUND**
SOME RESTRICTIONS

GINGERSNAP TOURS

Agent: **SAN LUIS TRAVEL 805/541-4200**
460 Marsh St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

