

Students riot as bars close

ATHENS, Ohio (AP)— Nearly 50 people were arrested after two disturbances in this Ohio University town early Sunday, one of them involving a brawl between two fraternities, police said.

The biggest confrontation involved about 1,000 people, who gathered in the center of the city outside bars that cater to university students, police Chief Richard Mayer said.

When the bars closed at 2 a.m., people in the crowd began throwing bottles, eggs, road flares and bottle rockets. One officer was hit by a bottle.

Police said an earlier closing because of the change to daylight-saving time may have contributed to the problem.

One student said he was struck by police.

"After about an hour and 45 minutes they brought out tear gas and clubs," senior Jay Kulpa told WBNS-TV in Columbus.

Police communications officer James Mann said officers used batons only to push people back and did not use tear gas.

About 70 officers were sent to the scene of the 2½-hour melee. They fired four rounds of stinging wooden pellets, the police department said.

The other disturbance, about an hour before the bars closed, involved up to 30 members of the Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Kappa Tau fraternities fighting outside a bar, police said.

Nation/World

from the Associated Press

Potential explosion forces space shuttle's return

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts will return to Earth on Tuesday, 12 days earlier than planned, because of a deteriorating and potentially explosive power generator.

It is only the third time in space shuttle history that a mission has been cut short by equipment failure.

While NASA considered commander James Halsell Jr. and his crew to be in no immediate danger, shuttle managers did not want to take any chances with the generator and, on Sunday, cut short the 16-day science mission.

The fear was that hydrogen fuel and oxygen in the degraded generator could mix, overheat and blow up if voltage in the unit dropped far enough. Flight controllers had the astronauts turn off the unit Sunday to reduce, if not eliminate, that risk. The crew also shut down all non-critical equipment to conserve power.

U.S. pleads for renewed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials pleaded Sunday for Israeli and Palestinian leaders to shed their hardline stances and renew face-to-face consultations as President Clinton prepared to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat insists building must stop on an Israeli housing project in east Jerusalem before longstanding disagreements can be resolved. Netanyahu pressed his case Sunday with his closest friend among Arab leaders, King Hussein of Jordan, who was recovering from prostate surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The U.S. government, meanwhile, urged the two sides to agree to a face-to-face meeting to salvage a shaky Middle East peace process.

"The United States remains committed to securing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors," said Bill Richardson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "But, in the end, the success of the process depends on the willingness of the Palestinians and the Israelis to work together as negotiating partners."

Daily Nebraskan

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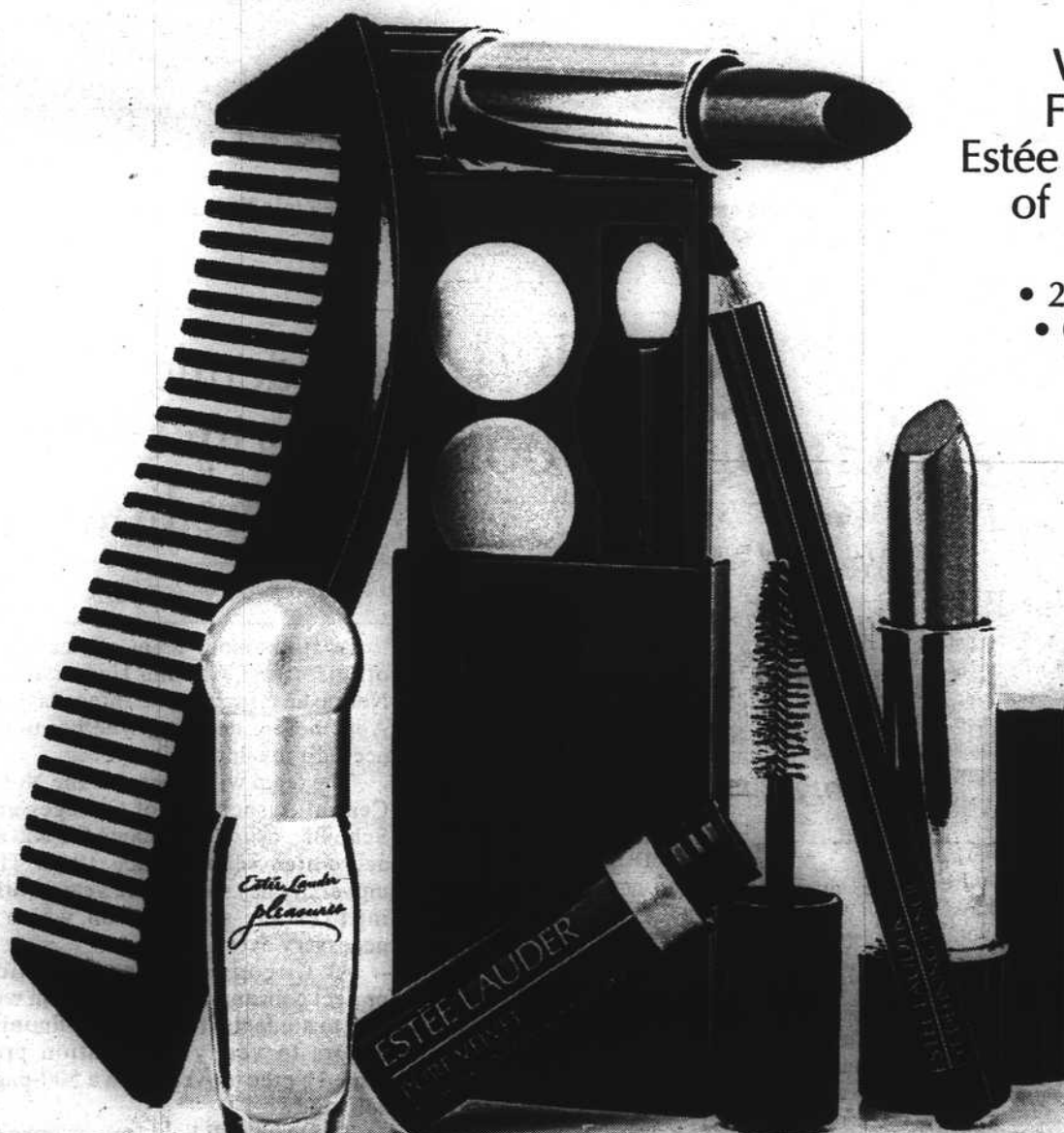
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