

FOUR INJURED IN RIOT OVER TAVERN ARREST - Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - April 30, 1990 - page C08

April 30, 1990 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) | JOHN SNELL - of the Oregonian Staff | Local | Page C08

Three policemen and a bouncer at the Satyricon Tavern, 125 N.W. Sixth Ave., were injured early Sunday morning when a riot broke out at the Northwest Portland nightspot.

It was triggered when police tried to arrest the tavern owner, George Touhouliotis, 41, for assaulting a police officer and for urinating against the side of the building. Touhouliotis' bouncers came to his aid and began pushing and punching at police as a crowd of about 300 onlookers shouted ``stop the pigs" and ``kill the pigs."

Police arrested six persons from the club on charges ranging from assaulting a police officer to riot. All spent some time in the Justice Center jail Sunday in lieu of bail ranging from \$9,000 for one of the bouncers to \$30,000 for Touhouliotis. Three were released by Sunday night, but three remained in jail.

Injured in the melee was John J. Noyola, 32, a nightclub employee who suffered a broken arm and a head injury that required three stitches, according to police reports. He was hit with by a policeman's flashlight after he allegedly resisted arrest and tried to grab the policeman's gun.

According to police reports, the incident unfolded like this:

Portland policeman Rocky Balada was outside the tavern at 1:53 a.m. talking to a group of men about a suspected drug deal. Balada's report said he saw Touhouliotis urinating against the building.

Balada went over to talk to Touhouliotis, who allegedly responded by shouting an obscenity and hitting Balada on the arm to get the policeman out of his way.

Balada told Touhouliotis he was under arrest, but Touhouliotis ignored him and went back into the Satyricon.

Then Balada followed him inside, where the bar was crowded with more than 300 customers. Balada's report said he had grabbed Touhouliotis at one point, but that two bouncers -- Demetrius Kapellakis, 38, and Bruce B. Berger, 41 -- came up from behind and grabbed Balada's arms to make him let go.

Other police arrived and went to the booth where Touhouliotis was sitting to make the arrest.

During the course of the arrest, customers began throwing bottles at police and spitting on officers after it was announced that police were closing the nightclub for the evening.

During the incident, Noyola approached one of the policemen, Sgt. James R. Parks, and shoved him against a wall. Noyola and Parks then got into a scuffle in which Noyola hit Parks in the face,

midsection, knee and groin before grabbing for Parks' gun, according to the report. When he got his hands on the butt end of the gun's grip, Parks pulled out his flashlight and struck Noyola over the head.

Parks suffered cuts about the left side of his face and bruising to his knee. Other police were treated for a cut hand and for a concussion to the inner ear.

Touhouliotis was arrested on accusations of indecent exposure, resisting arrest, riot, harassment and first-degree escape. He was released Sunday afternoon after posting \$3,000 of the \$30,000 bail.

Noyola was held on assaulting a police officer, riot, resisting arrest and menacing and on an outstanding traffic warrant. He was held in lieu of \$9,000 bail. He also was cited for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

Also taken into custody on charges of escape and riot were Lindsey Lee Burdette, 37, who also was charged with harassment and resisting arrest and held in lieu of \$28,000 bail; Berger, charged with assaulting a police officer and interfering with a police officer and held in lieu of \$28,500 bail; and Steven Allen Birch, 25, charged with assaulting a police officer, interfering with a police officer and resisting arrest and held in lieu of \$30,500 bail. Birch was released Sunday night after paying \$3,050 bail.

Kappellakis was arrested on accusations of first-degree escape, riot and interfering with a police officer, according to police reports on the incident. Kapellakis, lodged in jail under the last name Touhouliotis, was released Sunday on \$3,000 bail.

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