

Nightmare

Meanwhile the captured pop fans were taken to Pretoria on a nightmare journey from which they thought there was no escape.

Near a parking area somewhere at The Fountains, the kidnappers halted their convoy and ordered their prisoners out. Then began an orgy of violence, in which students burnt, cut and pulled the pop fans' hair, punched, kicked and swore at them.

After being held in such circumstances for several hours the youths finally released the fans to make their own way home as best they could.

After a student had given a speech from the top of the bus to the battered pop fans, he told the others to leave the fans where they were. The youths then left their captives bewildered in the darkness. Some of them, more sympathetic than the others, gave several of their victims a lift to the station.

Most of the others were left to stumble their way to the nearest road, where they stood, dejected and bruised, hoping to get a lift. Several bleeding pop fans were seen walking along the roadside.

Asked what he thought of the violence the festival, Mr. Billy Forrest, the organiser, said: "It is all a bit of a giggle."

Asked if he knew some pop fans had been badly beaten up and confined to bed, Mr. Forrest said: "Is that so? That's not good. But it is just as well it happened the way it did, and

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that nothing worse took place. Now people will see it is not pop fans who cause trouble."

Mr. Forrest said that since the trouble, the security firm on duty had tightened its control of the situation.

A spokesman for the group said at the University of Pretoria that the raid took place spontaneously and was aimed at registering a protest at the customs of the "hippie cult" and more particularly against the taking of drugs and loose moral behaviour on Kruger Day.

He said this was an insult to what the Afrikaner felt on this day of reaffirmation of his respect for the past.

The spokesman denied the raiders were all students of the university.

"They came from all sections of Pretoria's youth community. Many were English-speaking and there were no ringleaders."

He strongly denied allegations of violent assault on the youths who were abducted.

"They were the only ones who showed any signs of being violent. Most carried flick knives and were under the influence of drugs."

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