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Headline: Students spoiling for fight with police

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Text: Mayhem spilled on to Dunedin's streets for the third consecutive year after the **Undie 500** powered into the city. Fairfax reporter **Michelle Sutton** was at student central in Castle St, in North Dunedin. THE mood of hundreds of students swarming across Castle St seemed ready to take off about midnight on Saturday. Students had been relaxed and friendly earlier, but as they swelled to about 600, the heavy police presence seemed to spur them on. About 11pm there was already a charged atmosphere, with almost an expectation of trouble as dozens of police and hundreds of students covered the street. Tensions reached breaking point just before midnight as students left the Gardens Tavern in Castle St. With an almost mob-like mentality, about 600 students grouped together, chanting "let's start a riot", "f**k the police, " "you f**ked up" and "scarfies on the piss". A few students tried to start small fires from rubbish. Rain and police quickly put these out, but failed to dampen the brewing expectation of trouble. Despite police warnings to disperse or be arrested, the students did not budge. About 40 riot police suddenly appeared. Armed with shields and batons, they charged. However, it failed to break the scarfie line. Each side alternated pushing the other side back for about an hour. About 1am, there was a standoff at the intersection of Howe and Castle streets because neither side was prepared to retreat an inch. Bottles were thrown from rooftops and the riot police stormed a flat, arresting the occupants. By about 2.30am, the crowd had disappeared - becoming bored or cold - with many heading into town to continue partying. Yesterday, it looked as if the hangover had set in. A few sombre students wandered down a considerably cleaner Castle St, while others swept away the mess outside their front doors. Fairfax