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Page 6B

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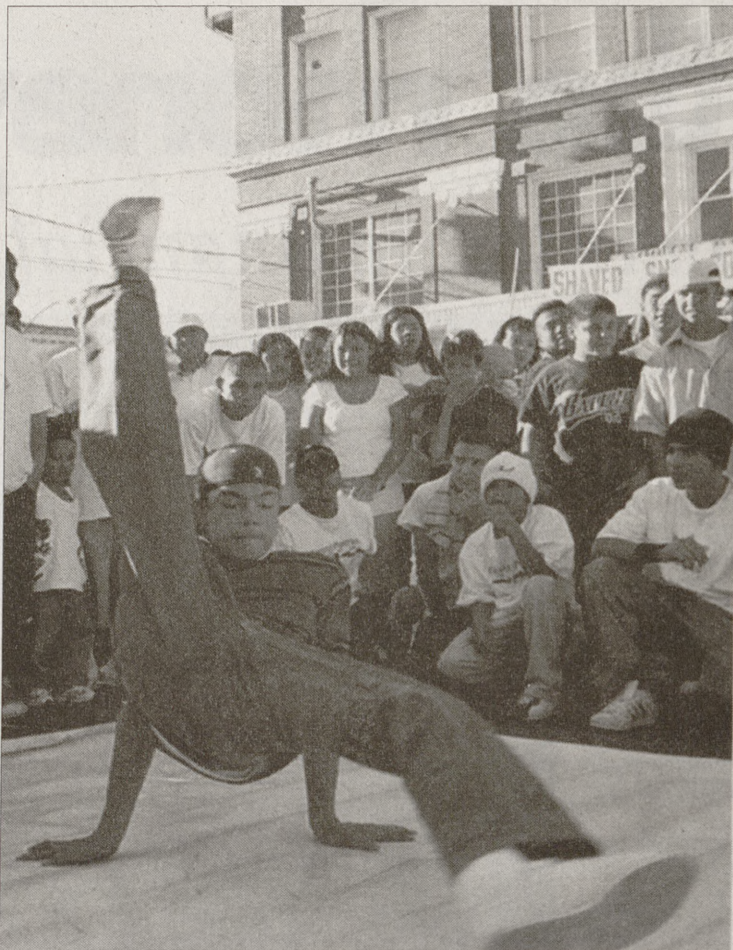
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Fiestas Patrias 2000



Left: Tommy "Chick-n" Longora, a Bryan resident, dances downtown during Fiestas Patrias 2000. The festival brought people together to celebrate the independence of Mexico. Top right: Alfredo Rabago, a violin player with Los Caporales, plays traditional mariachi music at the festival. Bottom right: Elementary school children sing the Mexican anthem.

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CSPD

Continued from Page 6A

The officers' plan of action checking out the disturbance began with an initial drive-by to get a better understanding of the situation. Dressed in plain clothes, Richards was dropped off a block away from the party so party-goers would not see him. He then walked up to the party and tried to get invited inside.

"He is a police officer. He only go inside if he is invited," Leeth said. "If someone has his door open and people are walking out, then there is no problem with an officer walking in as well. We just enforcing the law."

Dressed in a police uniform, Elkins waited out of sight. Richards entered the party. Elkins then approached the residence, saying he had received a disturbance call.

"When I would get in, Elkins knocked on the door," Richards said. "There was commotion and they said, 'man, the cops are here.' I stood and said, 'I am the police.' Richards added that many people scattered through the residence, trying to hide and drink their drinks.

A disturbance of peace cited as a Class-C misdemeanor. The offense is a fine of \$250, and a second offense is \$283. The offense is a Class-B misdemeanor with up to 180 days in jail, and a \$2,000 fine.

"It is our norm to check out disturbance calls," Leeth said. "We will not give someone a citation until we go out there and see if it is going on. If we get a call about an apartment complex and we can't see it outside, then we will take law enforcement."

If party-goers are caught contributing alcohol to minors, Leeth said, police officers will make party-goers pour out the alcohol. There are several kegs, then the kegs will be confiscated.

Many violations also occurred on the side and do not require an officer to enter the residence.

"It is a state law that states alcohol cannot be sold after 12 p.m. from a convenience store, except on Saturdays, and 1 a.m. from a restaurant," Leeth said. "If someone is drinking on public property after those hours, then they will be cited for contributing alcohol during prohibited hours."

Elkins said officers also will cite people on the street if they appear to be walking funny because that could be a public intoxication violation.

"If there was a traffic violation, we would call in another patrol officer to take care of it," he said.

On Friday night, peak hours of the patrol fell between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m., but until 3:30 a.m., when the patrol went back to the station, citations and disturbance calls were being checked.

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