

## Halloween Saturday problematic

### Staff Reports

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CHICO — Heading into Halloween weekend, the big question on law enforcement's mind was "Which night would be bigger?" With Halloween falling on a Sunday this year, the entire weekend was up for grabs as college students and out-of-town visitors started hitting the streets to party as early as Thursday night.

The answer to that question seems to have been Saturday night, as nearly 10,000 people, double the crowds seen on Friday night, were estimated to have passed through the south campus area in the space of a few hours.

"We were completely overwhelmed from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.," Chico Police Lt. Linda Dye said.

"Fortunately we didn't have a crowd control problem, but public safety was overwhelmed and we're just lucky it didn't go bad."

Saturday night drew 49 arrests, 41 of which were alcohol-related, Dye said. Of those arrests, 13 were students at Chico State University, six were students at Butte College and 23 were from out of town, at least 5 from other universities. Two stabbings also occurred in the south of campus area, one victim was too intoxicated to give details of his attacker or attackers. In the other, two victims gave the suspects' description as "two guys who were walking with a girl dressed as Esmerelda," Dye said.