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Party politics: Students and police seek accord

Campuses are rocked nationwide

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Associate Editor

"It was just a party, an innocent party. Yeah, people were drinking and sure, the music was loud ... but nobody was causing any trouble. Some were dancing, some were talking, ... and some had gone outside. There were probably 400 there. Everything was fine until someone complained and the police came in."

Sound familiar? But this is not an account from some party-goer in Eugene who was around for the March 31 tear gas confrontation between students and police.

It is an account related by a student at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Last fall, Cliff Dinwiddie attended an off-campus party sponsored by the Black Student Alliance in Boulder. Campus and city police officers were called in to control the party, and Dinwiddie says the officers reacted with too much force. The police say they took a moderate approach.

A similar scene took place last June at an on-campus pub



Student confrontations with police over party noise and alcohol consumption, such as the incident that took place at 14th Avenue and Mill Street March 31, have sparked controversy at campuses across the country.

used on the nearly 300 students in attendance.

According to Lt. Pat Carroll at Berkeley's campus police

If this new string of police-student confrontation, '90s style, is indeed a trend, the question then becomes how to deal with the inevitable clash over authority, and how to improve university-community relations after a collision occurs.

Here's how Berkeley and Boulder are dealing with their party politics.

The inevitable task force

"The first step in any situation like this is to create the inevitable task force," said Kay Howle, vice-chancellor for academics at Boulder. Howle said the University's community relations task force, which has

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Fraternities won't seek return of keg functions

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

The Interfraternity Council is opposed to bringing back keg parties at greek houses, IC members announced Friday.

Although last week ASUO President Andy Clark suggested allowing greek houses to host keg parties might be one way to provide students with a safe place to drink and socialize, fraternity presidents are not willing to change the no-keg policy they adopted three years ago, said Tom Oberhue, IC president.

"Given the type of environment we are working toward, it is not acceptable to bring back kegs or open up the fraternities to the public," Oberhue said.

Fraternities' legal liability for the behavior of their drinking guests has strengthened their opposition to open keg parties, Oberhue added.

"Liability has become a serious issue," he said. "The chapters are being told by their national organizations, insurance companies and alumni boards not to use kegs and not to use house funds for the purchase of alcohol."

However, Clark said greek-hosted keg parties would be only a small part of any solution to the ongoing strife between students and police following the forcible disbandment of 300 people at an off-campus party March 31.

"It's hardly a solution (in itself)," Clark said. "I would like to see it remain an option... We've legislated out a lot of options that need to be replaced."

Clark said he would like to see greek houses decide for themselves whether they want to have keg parties rather than abide by a policy imposed by the University administration.

"Fraternities should have the right and the responsibility to choose their own policy on parties and on alcohol use," he said.

Though IC doesn't want to change its alcohol policy, it is willing to work with the ASUO, the administration and students to find a way for students to drink responsibly and party without confrontations with the police, Oberhue said.

"We want to be a part of the solution, but we don't want to go back to the way it was," Oberhue said.

The experience greek leaders have gained in the last three years by enforcing and later strengthening their alcohol policy would be helpful in designing a policy for non-greek parties, Oberhue said, although he believes off-campus parties will be much harder to regulate.

Jeff Partridge, IC social policy chair, said that more on-campus events should be avail-

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'You have some community task forces formed, you have some forums, and everybody spouts off. Then it dies down and nothing gets solved.'

— Cliff Dinwiddie

at the University of California, Berkeley. Officers from both the campus police and the city department came in to break up a fight, and from most accounts unnecessary police force was

force, student-police tensions are "a common problem at universities that have a high degree of activity — political and otherwise — and especially (at) state universities."

Haggerty highlights Law Day

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

While it would be nice to have minority law professors, it's not necessary, according to circuit court judge and former University football player Ancer Haggerty, keynote speaker for the law school's Minority Law Day Saturday.

"It is important that you learn," Haggerty said. "Black or white does not matter as long as you learn."

Haggerty addressed questions he had overheard people ask at workshops held throughout the day and then gave advice based on his experiences in law school.

Haggerty began by encouraging minorities torn between entering law school or medical school to enter medical school.

"As much as we need minority attorneys, we need minority doctors more," he said.

"You can get into any law school you want if you have a medical degree."

Haggerty encouraged students worried about the LSAT, a test law students must take before entering law school, to take the test and proceed with their lives.

"Most minority people will generally get a lower score," he said. "Don't sweat it; that's your score. Proceed."

Haggerty also told people with mediocre grades to get on with it. He said people do wake up in their academic careers, as did he during spring term of his senior year at Oregon.

Haggerty served in the Marines for three years and was a decorated soldier in the Vietnam War. While in the Marines, he decided he wanted to be a lawyer and began to look at law schools.

Once a person is admitted to law school, it

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