

MINORS

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tion to more serious crimes instead of citing minors who will just continue drinking.

"I knew a guy who was cited four times for minor in possession and who still continued drinking," said Chris Welch, a 20-year-old student who during fall term received a \$271 citation for a minor in possession and for breaking the open-container law.

Welch was on his way to a friend's house when he was stopped by police who wanted to know what Welch had under his jacket. Welch was carrying a boda bag with some bottles of alcohol and received a citation for open container because the boda bag was not sealed. He also received a citation for minor in possession.

"I can't understand why I wasn't just asked to pour out the contents," he said. "I was just going to my friend's and I wasn't affecting anybody."

Welch said police should concentrate more on bike thefts, arguing that theft is a much more serious crime than underage drinking.

"In one year, I will be old enough to drink and do whatever I want," he said. "It's a waste to have police breaking up parties because of minors drinking. They will just start drinking again after the police leave the premises."

Other students seem to understand why the law exists.

Eric Tisdale, 19, from California, said he believes a law concerning alcohol use is a necessity but not with such a high age at which one can legally drink.

"I believe a 19-year-old is responsible enough to have some drinks and still find the way home again," he said.

Tisdale also believes people should be more relaxed about age and alcohol, claiming that not much difference exists between a 19- and a 21-year-old.

"It all depends on the individual, but in most circumstances, people start drinking in high

school and manage to act responsible," he said.

Tisdale believes it's not a problem getting alcohol in Eugene, either in stores or in bars. Most of his friends carry false identification, and the only thing they are afraid of when they go out drinking is that their parents will find out.

Tisdale does not feel sympathy for minors who get cited for drinking in public, claiming that any law brings with it responsibility.

"You have to face the consequences if you are breaking the law," he said.

Officer Stronach feels the same way, arguing that he wants minors off the street where they continuously start fights after drinking alcohol and make police break-up disagreements that could have been avoided.

Besides the Eugene police department, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission works hard to keep minors away from alcohol.

The commission consists of police officers acting as liquor controllers who concentrate their work on bars, taverns and keg parties, where they have the authority to confiscate alcohol and break up the party. The commission also works on false identification.

"During the weekend, we can confiscate 25 to 40 false IDs, and many of these look almost professional," said Regional Manager Pat O'Rourke, who at present is working with a new program that is designed to help reduce the number of minors in possession of alcohol. "We are starting our own version of cops in shops, and we also want to identify places selling alcohol and educate about fake identification cards."

The commission sends reports to the University Office of Public Safety, where the results of its work are presented. The reports always include a large number of students.

"We can't keep everybody from drinking, but I feel minors should stay away from alcohol and not drink it because everybody else does it," Stronach said. "Personally, I drank too when I was under 21, but I didn't bother anyone. That's where the problems lie. If minors keep off the streets when they are drinking, a lot of problems will be eliminated."

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Handling Harassment: Generating New Ideas

The Committee on the Status of Women is sponsoring Handling Harassment: Generating New Ideas — an open campus meeting — on Monday, April 25, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., in the Pittman Room of the Casanova Center to address a problem that affects all members of the university community: Harassment.

Committee goals include:

- Bringing together, in a professionally facilitated environment, members of the campus community to express concerns about handling issues of harassment.
- Finding common ground among those involved in complaints of discrimination and sexual harassment.

We believe that creating such a forum for dialogue is important to deepen understanding about these issues, which can divide, separate, and alienate members of a community. This meeting will generate humane solutions, including preventative and non-adversarial strategies for guiding individuals through the complaint process and ways of dealing with any emotional aftermath once the complaint is resolved.

The town meeting will be facilitated by Arnold and Amy Mindell of the Process Work Centers of Portland and Zurich. The Mindells are experienced in working in conflict situations in the United States and throughout the world, including such areas as the former Soviet Union, South Africa, and Northern Ireland. They have facilitated similar meetings on race and violence in Oakland and Los Angeles and town meetings in Portland on the issues of racism and sexual orientation discrimination. These town meetings have been hailed as appropriate first steps toward developing mutual respect and understanding.

This is a community effort. Thus, we join the following Endorsers in asking that you attend the meeting and encourage other faculty and staff members and students to attend as well:

- Oregon Public Employees' Union
- Affirmative Action Administrative Council
- Center for the Study of Women in Society
- University Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues
- Black Student Union
- Associated Students of the University of Oregon
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Ombud Office
- Department of Human Resources and Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

Requests for accommodations related to disability need to be made to Jane Gordon at 346-3853 by April 18, 1994.

If transportation is needed, call Jason 346-1157 or Erika 346-0632.

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