

Parties can rock without breaking the legal rules

As a Eugene police officer recently assigned to patrol the greater University area, I've made an interesting discovery: College students like to party and drink beer. OK, so it's not exactly a major revelation, but I've discovered that the people who party and drink in the neighborhoods surrounding the University need to be aware of what happens if I have to come to their party.

Violations of city and state liquor laws are a chronic problem in this area. The laws are very explicit, and I have written them in short form:

1) False swearing on a keg receipt — When buying a keg you sign an official form saying where and when the keg will be consumed. You shouldn't move the keg(s) to a different location without filling out another form with the distributor or tavern where you bought it. Any incorrect information on this paper can mean a citation and seizure of the keg(s).

2) Selling alcohol without a license — Only businesses with liquor licenses may charge for alcohol. If you're serving, don't charge for it. This also means no cover charge, no charge for the band, no charge for the beer cup and no donations. Any time you serve alcohol and take money it's the same as charging for the alcohol.

3) Furnishing alcohol to minors or visibly intoxicated persons — Underage drinking is strictly a bad deal. If the booze is open to whoever wants it and I find a "minor in possession" who says he or she got it from your party, you will be arrested for furnishing. The same goes for people who are already intoxicated.

4) Minor in possession of alcohol (MIP) — For an MIP you don't have to be physically in possession of a beer bottle. If I smell alcohol on your breath, it's an MIP. It's known as "possession by consumption." When I go to a party where alcohol is being served, the first people I zero in on are the ones who look younger than 21 and appear to have been drinking. An MIP citation to one of your party guests means I'll be looking at you for furnishing.

Any violation of the liquor laws can result in the seizure of "all alcoholic liquor and other property that the persons arrested have in their possession or on their premises used to violate that law" (ORS 471.610). That means refrigerators, coolers, bars and just about anything with a beer sitting on it. We have a department pickup truck, and it can be backed up to your house and loaded to the brim.

Next, Eugene has a prohibited noise ordinance. Contrary to popular belief, this ordinance does not go into effect at 10 p.m., nor is there a specific level of noise. You may be in violation if you make a noise that "annoys or disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities." That's pretty wide open territory and can include music, voices, car engines, power tools or whatever.

If I can stand on the street outside your house and clearly hear music and/or voices, and there is someone willing to sign

COMMENTARY

Steve Williams

a complaint, the person responsible for the house will be held liable. The first violation has a \$350 bail. A return trip within six months is \$750. Any time I receive a noise complaint I can arrest the person responsible and seize whatever was making the noise.

I don't like to crash parties. To be honest, I'd rather drive around all night checking out the scenery and the various coffee spots. Have your parties, invite your friends, drink whatever you want to drink. Complying with the law is not hard.

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and the consequences of violating it should not come as a surprise.

I'll make a deal with all you potential party hosts. I know how a small gathering can grow to monstrous proportions. We have roving party-chasers in this town. They show up, drink, start fights and are generally lacking in proper party etiquette. If your party gets out of control, call the police. I will gladly help you clear everyone out with the understanding that the party is over. You won't get any tickets, be arrested, or have any property seized, provided there are no gross violations. If I come to your party because of an outside complaint, anything is fair game.

If you see me at your front door, do yourself a favor and cooperate with me. How I react and what I do is largely determined by the level of cooperation I get from the hosts and guests. Resistance, open hostility, or aggressive behavior will likely result in a higher level of enforcement. I would prefer you turn the music off and tell your guests to go home. Then I'll issue you a ticket and leave.

However, I will arrest you and seize property if that's what is necessary to alleviate the problem. Being handcuffed and placed in a police car can be a humiliating experience. Treat me with respect, and I will do the same for you. Above all, do not lie to me about anything.

Partying, if done properly, should not result in citations, arrests, seizures, fires, bottle-throwing or tear gas. I'd like to see all of us work together to keep the situation low key and in control.

Steve Williams is a police officer with the Eugene Police Department. He invites anyone associated with the University who wants to ride along with him to pick up an application at the front counter of Police Services at City Hall. He will contact interested riders to make appointments.

LETTERS

Generalizations

In response to Keith Cunningham's "Women's Studies: Closed for discussion" (ODE, Nov. 17), me and 18 women from Nomi Pearce's Women's Studies 101 class would like to tell the truth about what happened in her class.

First, we would like to address his attack on Nomi Pearce's character and possible views about abortion. Her views on abortion have never been discussed in class in the form of a lecture to inspire us to "rally" for or against abortion. There never has or never will be a "rally" within her class, because she has stated in the past that she does not and will not include her personal views on any topic in lecture. This is because of her ethics — which we feel Cunningham lacks.

To judge a class or its teacher based on second-hand hearsay knowledge is unethical as the basis of an argument ...

Second, the slide show presentation presented by the All Women's Health Services that he refers to in his article was chosen by Pearce to educate women on their own bodies and health issues. Yes, the abortion procedure was included in the presentation, but it was shown

to empower and educate women with the knowledge of what exactly an abortion entails.

Pearce stated numerous times in the weeks preceding the presentation that attending it was on a voluntary basis and information or opinions expressed would be those of AWHs, and not hers. Pearce reminded the class before the lecture that people could leave at any time if they felt uncomfortable.

When the presentation reached the abortion procedure section, it took a total of 10 minutes out of a full 90 minutes of lecture time. The point of showing the abortion was to "demystify" any women who may have had unfounded knowledge about the medical procedure. Not once, at any time, did a speaker ask for support for a pro-choice group or judge a student on a comment or question they asked the panel.

The picture shown of a woman leaving the office after her abortion (Cunningham referred to her as the "Barbie woman"), is in fact a real woman with real feelings and emotions. If she chose to leave the office smiling, how is Cunningham to know what she really felt? No one knows how she felt except the woman herself.

Her reaction to having an abortion was her own personal reaction, not some representation of women as a whole.

He has no way of knowing how women feel about abortion without talking to a large number of women (which he did not do in his article).

He should not attempt writing about something he hasn't even researched — much less attempt to make generalizations about women, Pearce's students or Nomi Pearce as an individual.

Stuart Goodman
and 18 co-signers from Nomi Pearce's class

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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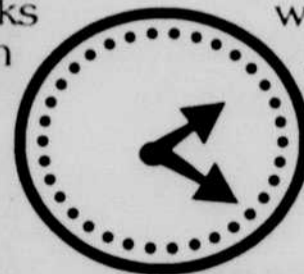
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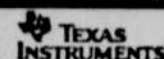
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