

How to throw a stellar party and not end up in handcuffs

Eugene police are encouraging students to keep their parties safe and under control

By Amy Goldhammer and Leanne Nelms
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Throwing a great party does not necessarily mean moving out the furniture, boarding up the windows, strategically placing kegs or making people enter through the back door. There are many ways to throw a fabulous party without dealing with the police, receiving a fine or ending up sitting on the porch the next morning looking at the broken glass from the riot that was initiated on your front lawn.

Party hosts need to be able to keep the party in control, stated a recent publication from the ASUO, University Student Life Office and the Eugene Police Department.

"Underage drinking is sort of a campus tradition," said Sergeant Rick Gilliam of the Eugene Police Department. "The No. 1 problem is minors in possession."

If students are going to drink and party in the campus area, it needs to be done discreetly, Gilliam said.

"We respond to parties when they are out of control, neighbors have complained or a large amount of people are on a front lawn," he said.

The police don't go out and look for parties to bust, Gilliam said.

"We are taking a pro-active approach," he said. "We make pre-party visits to hosts and give verbal advice as well as checking to make sure the kegs match up."

A focus of the zero-tolerance rules is to prevent large parties from escalating into riots, Gilliam said.

"We want to extend the message to the crop of new freshmen to not let their partying get out of hand," he said.

However, when the parties do get busted or regulated, hosts need to remain cooperative, he

Common Fines

- DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: \$5,650
- NOISE VIOLATION: \$350-\$750
- POSSESSING AN INVALID DRIVER'S LICENCE: \$640
- FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO A MINOR: \$350
- INTERFERING WITH A POLICE OFFICER: \$315
- FALSE REPRESENTATION OF AGE: \$265
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT: \$255
- POSSESSION OF AN OPEN CONTAINER: \$115
- CONSUMPTION ON AN UNLICENCED PREMISE: \$115
- MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL: \$150
- URINATING IN PUBLIC: \$40

SOURCE: Eugene Police

said.

"Most people realize they've been caught and are responsible enough to take the consequences," Gilliam said.

"People have to realize that the Eugene Police Department will actively enforce the laws," said Linda Devine, assistant dean of student life.

To avoid interference from the police, hosts need to keep the size of the party in line with the size and capacity of the house.

"Students need to realize they can't get 50-plus people in a small two bedroom apartment," Gilliam said.

Another large problem is that a large amount of random guests end up at house parties.

"They walk the streets until they find a party," he said.

Hosts should figure out a mechanism to control the number of guests at a party.

"Our parties are essentially closed parties," said Mike McRee, Greek Advisor.

Fraternity and sorority partygoers must be on a guest list or invited by a member of the house, he said.

The biggest problems greek houses face is non-invited guests trying to get into closed parties, McRee said.

All party hosts also should designate someone to play the

sober monitor to keep things in tact, a publication from the University recommended.

Not limiting the guests can create a situation of non-control when large amounts of people show up, McRee said.

"We have learned from the past that giving warnings and turning our eyes away doesn't work," Gilliam said. "We want to get as close to zero-tolerance as we can."

Although the police are fairly aggressive, students need to realize officers are not always the enemy. Hosts need to be aware they can call the police if they have lost control of the party, things are out of hand or basically any reason a host may panic, Gilliam said.

"Hosts should be responsible enough to make the call so we can help make sure things don't get out of hand," he said. "We will not always write them tickets."

Party hosts don't need to fear the police, he said.

"I think for the most part, older students will try to be responsible in throwing parties," Gilliam said.

People can't expect to have the police there when they need them, but yet expect to be able to have a party with no limitations, McRee said.

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