

# Frohnmayr expects quiet night

By Felicity Ayles  
Oregon Daily Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmayr wants to make it clear that he does not expect a repeat of last year's riot this Halloween.

"I expect that people will regard this as one more opportunity to exercise personal responsibility in an adult and appropriate way," he said.

A year ago Saturday night, a Halloween night riot took a toll on campus life and prompted the school's administration and the City of Eugene to take action in preparation for this year.

"That includes being in very close contact with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and its enforcement officials, with local police, with our campus public safety people and the Office of Student Life," Frohnmayr said.

"We have been planning quite literally since the events of last fall to do everything we can to prevent it."

University officials said if the University or local authorities become involved, serious consequences will follow.

But Frohnmayr said the events last fall were not caused exclusively by University students.

"There were a significant number of minors and others from surrounding areas who became involved with some of the most significant misbehavior," he said. "We're dealing with a national

epidemic that's really tragic, but we're looking for an Oregon solution to it."

Student group leaders and the Office of Student Life are also working to provide alternative activities for students.

"This is not something that you can solve with directives from the administration, but it is something you can address by a collective sense of responsibility and an active involvement on a wide number of fronts," Frohnmayr said.

ASUO President Geneva Wortman said the problem with last year's riot was not only alcohol but also that students had nothing else to do.

"I don't believe that most of the people in the riot were students," she said. "You have overreacting police officers and then you have riots."

Wortman said the solution to these problems is having more activities on campus.

This year, the University is planning events that will go later in the evening, and the Office of Student Life is encouraging late-night activities on campus.

"The money we get for student groups we will only give if the activity goes past 11, and we give more to a group the later the activity goes," said Laura Blake Jones, associate dean for the Office of Student Life. Adding to the alternative late-night activities this year is the revamped EMU. The Buzz coffee shop and the EMU Recreation

Center are open until 2 a.m. Thursday through Sunday, which Frohnmayr said he hopes will draw students to campus and away from parties.

"That's traditionally a place where you expect there to be a center of student life and activity," he said. "Now it's not only redone, it's redone spectacularly and makes more space available later in the evening for activities that are not personally destructive but in fact are socially reinforcing."

The solution, Frohnmayr said, lies with more enforcement and peer reinforcement.

"The irony is that nothing inappropriate had happened until midnight," he said.

On Halloween night last year, there was a set of student-sponsored events at the EMU that students were at until midnight, he said.

Jones admits University officials do not have a solution and can't prevent students' actions this weekend, but she said the OLCC will out in force.

OLCC officers and police officers will be visiting any residence where a keg is registered early in the evening, usually before the party has even started.

In the aftermath of the riots, policies have also changed in the residence halls. Residents are no longer allowed to possess empty alcohol containers in their rooms, Jones said.



Riot police line up near the Washington State bookstore in Pullman as students continued to riot for five hours on May 3, 1998, despite the tear gas and mace.

# University officials look for solutions

By Felicity Ayles  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Student leaders and administrators want students to stay out of harm's way this weekend.

The University Office of Student Life, in conjunction with the EMU and University Housing, is planning a variety of activities aimed at keeping students busy and preventing a repeat of last Halloween's riot.

The focus of this year's Halloween weekend is more late-night activities, said Laura Blake Jones, associate dean for the Office of Student Life.

"I think we have a more comprehensive array of activities this year," she said.

The University received a \$236,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education this year to fund a program administrators call a misperceptions campaign, Jones said. It's a national campaign aimed at people trying to fit in and find the norms in college life.

Through the program, officials are trying to give accurate information about alcohol use on campus, she said.

The Office of Student Life was able to use a portion of the grant to fund more late-night activities on campus. The University has been allocated up to \$18,000 for evening activities in the next year.

Administrators realized about three years ago that there are few activities open to students late at night that do not include alcohol, Jones said.

For the past few years, the University has had about \$6,000 to plan evening activities, and the Office of Student Life has only been able to fund a few small activities, she said.

This year, there has been a larger planning effort with people on campus. The planning groups included representatives from the ASUO, the residence halls, the greek system and the Alcohol Coalition Task Force, Jones said.

The main activity in the residence halls is a Halloween dance in the Carson Dining Center on Saturday night, Housing program director Katie Bryant said.

"More than anything, we recognize

the need for fun things to do that night," Bryant said.

The dance will feature a costume contest, a disc jockey, prizes and a swing dance contest, she said.

In addition to those events, Housing officials are trying to improve on their usual activities. The EMU will feature the usual Halloween activities, as well as some new ones throughout the weekend, according to Susan Racette, EMU associate director and business manager.

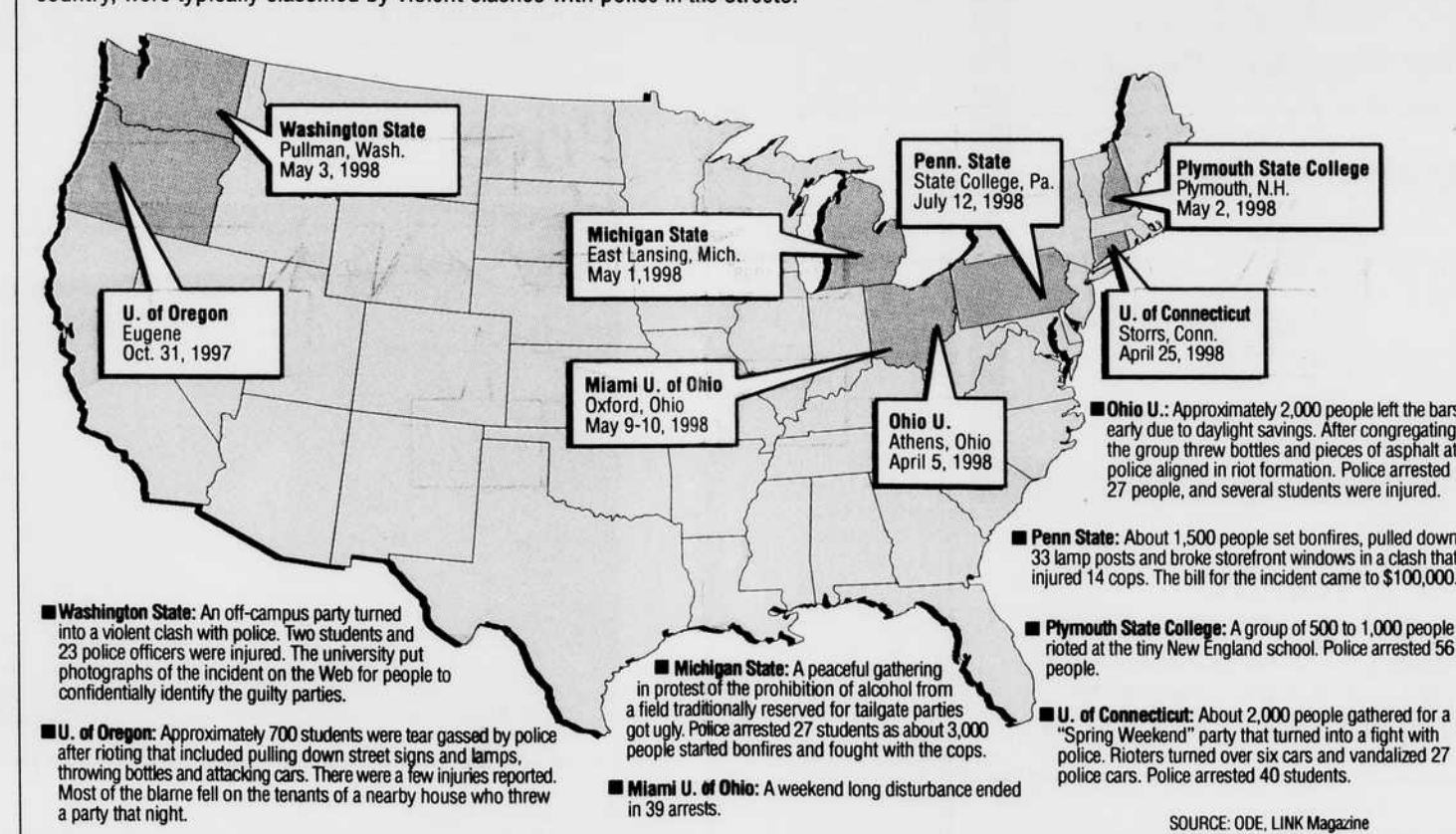
The "Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be performed in the EMU Ballroom and will feature a live cast and the traditional throwing of rice and toast, Racette said.

"The EMU always does 'Rocky Horror Picture Show,' but we haven't promoted it as much in the past," Racette said.

The EMU is planning and promoting more activities because University officials want students to know there are more late-night programs on campus, she said.

# Student riots across the United States

The University of Oregon's Halloween riot was at the front end of a national student trend in rioting. The riots, which were spread around the country, were typically classified by violent clashes with police in the streets.



# Police out in force this year

By David Ryan  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene police Sgt. Rick Gilliam says riot gear is misunderstood. "Riot gear is basically a misnomer," he said. "It's basically designed to protect a police officer."

Does Gilliam expect officers to need their gas masks Saturday night?

"We're not expecting [a riot], but there will be students in costumes out and they will be going to parties," he said.

Last year's riot had a number of causes, Gilliam said.

"A large part had to do with the amount of alcohol at the party," he said. "Plus, Halloween fell on a drinking night. People also don't like to have their parties interrupted by the police. I think last year, the crowd was allowed to grow too large."

The police say they are prepared to deal with a riot this year, no matter what night it may fall on. Many of the strategies Mayor

Jim Torrey said police will be using on Halloween stem from a Sept. 24 memorandum written by Lt. Carolyn McDermed to Eugene police Capt. Roy Brown.

"The number of alcohol-related incidents on campus is always a concern, and the best way to control them is to take a proactive, zero-tolerance approach," McDermed wrote in the memorandum. "Patrol teams will be provided with instruction from the campus team on how to handle incidents so there is consistency in our response."

The memorandum listed strategies to deal with the campus area during the upcoming school year.

One strategy encouraged property owners to remove tenants where police found illegal activity on more than one occasion. McDermed also wanted police to inform the University administration when students were involved in illegal activities.

"We tried to start out with a real

proactive plan this year," McDermed said. "We're striving for consistency so students know what we're going to do when we show up. We're kind of taking a pretty aggressive approach."

A third plan was to have a Rapid Deployment Unit on weekends that works with campus units — especially when there were Oregon football games.

"They're a special unit detached from our patrol division," Gilliam said. "During the week they might be doing drug and prostitution enforcement. On Saturday nights they might be doing alcohol enforcement. They are used when we need more officers to handle a situation."

Despite the strategies described in the memorandum and Torrey's plans, on Tuesday Gilliam said the EPD campus patrol unit still had not finalized its specific policing strategies for this Saturday.

# Students

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Understandably, the fall guys weren't happy about becoming No. 1 on the city's hit list.

"It seemed like everybody was really pointing the finger at us, and none of us really wanted to go out there and be like, 'Hey, you know. That's me! That's me!'" said Matt Bergevin, now a 21-year-old University senior. "I didn't talk to any reporters at the time. We wanted to keep it on the down-low. They had to blame somebody, so they just tried to shift the blame on us. I thought it was a little ridiculous. It seemed to go on for like two weeks."

Bergevin wasn't the only one who didn't like the exposure.

"We weren't really enthusiastic about going on Channel 8," said Bergevin's roommate, 22-year-old Dustin Vifquain.

They were so unenthusiastic, they said, that a few times they sneaked out of the back of their house to avoid reporters and cops who seemed always to be looming in front of the house.

"It was hard to go to class because you didn't want to talk to the media or talk to the police. As soon as you walked out of the house, there was someone there to converge on you," said Brian Bieler, 25. "We pretty much took a stance that we weren't going to talk to the media until we were sure exactly what the charges were going to be."

The charges were stiff, but only for one person. One resident of what the roommates now call "the riot house" registered for all eight of the party's kegs. He initially received \$63,000 in citations and was facing as many as four years in prison. Having started the year as a part-time University student, he dropped out and moved to Portland soon after.

Months later, a judge ordered him to pay \$500 in fines and complete 100 hours of community service. So as it turned out, the repercussions weren't as bad as they had feared. They weren't even evicted. Instead, the landlord let them out of their lease at the end of fall term.

"Our landlord was initially upset with the media attention," Bieler said. "He wasn't mad so much as concerned about the fact that we had thrown the party. We had roommates who had some legal fees and for legal reasons decided to move out, so we were down to four or five roommates. We stayed

through the end of the term and paid off that."

Do they have any regrets?

"There was quite a bit of fallout, but at the same time it was a pretty good party," Bieler said. Bergevin was a little more philosophical.

"It was a good night," he said. "I wish it hadn't of turned out that way. I think a lot of bad things stemmed out of that night — a lot of problems."

"In retrospect, it's one of those things that you just kind of do. It was obviously a real big thing, and sometimes in life the bad and the good are both memorable. And that was really a mixture of both. It was real fun to have a nice kind of college-type party for a bit, and then it just turned into this huge, crazy riot, which was something that we didn't expect or want."

The house party didn't start innocently, and it was never intended to reach the massive proportions it did, the party hosts showed up first were friends who had been invited, but then word of the eight kegs spread, and the crowd started growing, Bergevin recalled.

The kegs were set up in the basement, and people started showing up at about 8 p.m. A couple hundred showed initially, and then the party exploded.

By 10 p.m., the party was out of control. There were 400 to 500 partygoers — mostly University students — in the house and backyard.

"I was worried about things getting really out of hand," Bergevin said. "People just kept coming in. We couldn't do anything with the people. It was hard to move around inside the house."

By 10:45, the kegs were dry. Partygoers started to move to the front of the house, where there were already herds of costumed, wandering students filling time.

"The street was filling up," Bergevin said. "I think we had run out of beer at that point. People started leaving, but there were all these people already out on the street. People started walking out of the house and just hanging out on the street. So about half the people left the house and were sitting on the street. A bunch of us were yelling at them, trying to get them to leave. Nobody moved at all. Everybody just sat in the street

looking at us."

Bergevin and Bieler were nervous and could see the riot coming.

But, as a costumed Bergevin found out, not even Batman could stop the riot, and he took off the mask for the dirty work.

"It was a little silly. I was trying to get people to take off in the street and stuff, and it's a little bit harder to do if you're in costume," he said. "It was hard. People just wouldn't listen. I don't know... you try to be nice about the whole thing — they just sit there and feed you lines."

Bergevin started getting frustrated at the people in the street.

"It just seemed to happen so fast," he said. "It just seemed like all of a sudden there were just all these people there. At that point I was just like, 'It's out of my hands. I can't do anything more.'"

He headed over to a friend's house.

"It was weird. Everybody was just milling about in the street. I think just kind of waiting to see what happened," Bergevin said. "There was just so many people there that I think nobody wanted to leave."

The riot was almost inevitable, Bieler said. The police had arrived, but they were waiting around the corner. Many people didn't even know they were there.

"There were so many people coming from other locations that were just wandering the street," Bieler said. "You've got a bunch of drunk kids together. Everything's out of control anyway. There's always someone looking to start a fight or something."

People were looking, and then people acted. A few jumped on top of a van and started to rock it, riling up the crowd. They weren't going to leave.

Bieler couldn't believe what was happening and wondered why the police weren't doing anything.

"I was thinking, 'They're going to have a tough time breaking that up,'" he said. "I think there was probably a sense that people were out to really party that night. And so once there was a group of people doing it and there was no repercussions..."

"It seemed like just about 10 or 15 individuals got this huge crowd just to go nuts. They were just waiting for somebody to do something. It went nuts after that. Everybody was just doing whatever."

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# City

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responsibility to answer calls from noise-disturbed neighbors, enforce underage drinking laws and maintain control of streets.

"Where the parties run into trouble is when they get loud and boisterous and neighbors complain," Torrey said. "Don't force the police to use suppression tactics. We have a responsibility to enforce the law."

Torrey said the city would submit an article to the Oregon Daily Emerald and The Register-Guard informing students how to host a responsible party. The Oregon Daily Emerald never received the letter. Torrey said the city would also contact fraternities and sororities to advise them about hosting responsible parties.

"Say what you are doing with the kegs and then do what you said you would do with the

kegs," he said.

By late Thursday, the city had not yet contacted the Office of Greek Life, which coordinates all major events for fraternities and sororities, to advise them about holding responsible functions, said Shelley Sutherland, greek advisor.

However, Sutherland said a representative from the Office of Greek Life attended a meeting among campus, city and police officials where they talked about riot issues.

Beyond the mayor's plan of using more police to control student activities Halloween night, Torrey mentioned a way students could avoid a police confrontation.

"My suggestion is that the students solve things themselves," Torrey said. "If someone gets out of control, have another student bring that person

back in line."

Torrey said relations between the city and University administration are in good shape because they have similar goals.

"We are mutually concerned about the impact of underage drinking and out-of-control parties," he said.

**A campus community solution**  
Instead of a police presence to prevent student rioting, West University City Councilman Bobby Lee said he feels on-campus activities will do the same thing Saturday.

"The best thing we can do is line-up as many fun events for students on campus as possible," he said.

But Lee said riots will not occur this Halloween because the mood in the West University Neighborhood is different from last year.

"Last year we were in a different place," Lee said. "The EMU was shut down, the greek system didn't have a lot of [drinking] controls. When you don't have events on campus, people have more parties in their private homes."

According to Lee, student-police relations are healthy this year.

"The police tell me students are more cordial," he said. "People's attitudes are much different this year."

But Lee is worried about the type of attitude expressed in Emerald columnist Vince Medeiros' Oct. 2 column, which called on police to leave student parties alone.

"I don't think police officers became police officers saying, 'Gee, I want to break up a party,'" he said.

Besides some student atti-

tudes and campus activities, Lee said police-student relations in the West University area lack the quality that other neighborhoods have because of the proportion of renters to homeowners.

"Basically, in the West University Neighborhood, 97 percent of people are renters," Lee said.

Lee said without a substantial percentage of homeowners in the West University area, it is difficult to maintain a functioning neighborhood association to deal with problems like police relations.

"It's hard to start talking about community policing when we have that kind of a demographic," Lee said.

Further, Lee said, 30 percent of the students are new each year. Lee said because most students don't own the house or



Bottles, chairs, mattresses, a keg, a lawnmower and a Honey Bucket were thrown on a bonfire during the May 3, 1998, riot at Washington State.

apartment they live in, they don't care as much about it.

"Owners could complain and take part in rebuilding the neighborhood," he said. "If you

owned your fence, if you spent \$100,000 on your home, you wouldn't tear it down. West University is our home and we need to take care of it."