

# Understand your legal rights before you party

## COMMENTARY

**Ilona E. Marian Koleszar Fowler**

A lot has already been written and said about student and police behavior in the campus area. The ASUO Executive, in coordination with ASUO Legal Services, provides the following information to promote your safety and clarify your legal rights and responsibilities.

To protect yourself and avoid unnecessary contact with police, socialize with people you know well. Don't allow people you don't know into your home, avoid large gatherings and comply with the law. Above all, we

urge you to be peaceful.

In response to past disturbances, the police announced they may use new tactics to control crowds and [make] arrests in situations where the safety of an officer or another person is in imminent danger or when serious property damage occurs. Those tactics include so-called "less lethals" such as beanbags shot from shotguns. See The Register-Guard, Oct. 25, and ODE, Oct. 21.

If you are contacted by the police:

Be courteous at all times.

Be cooperative, but remember you don't have to give evidence against yourself.

Don't touch the officer. If a police officer touches you — even if you don't think you're under arrest — don't resist.

Don't lie to police about your name, address or date of birth. Remember you have the option to tell them everything or tell them nothing.

If you choose to refuse to give a police officer your name or ID, be prepared to be detained while the officer tries to determine who you are.

Don't run away from a police officer.

If you don't consent to an officer's search of your pockets, backpack or entry to your residence vocalize your objection. Be clear and civil.

If you feel you've been treated unjustly or wish to commend an officer, you can register your concerns or comments in the following ways:

• File a written complaint or commendation with the Eugene

Police Department. The form can be picked up at ASUO Legal Services or its Web site.

• Attend Eugene Police Department Commission meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the McNutt Room — City Hall 777 Pearl Street. The next meeting will be on a special date, Nov. 18, 1999, in Conference Room #109.

• Attend Eugene Human Rights Commission meetings at 5:45 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the McNutt Room — City Hall 777 Pearl Street.

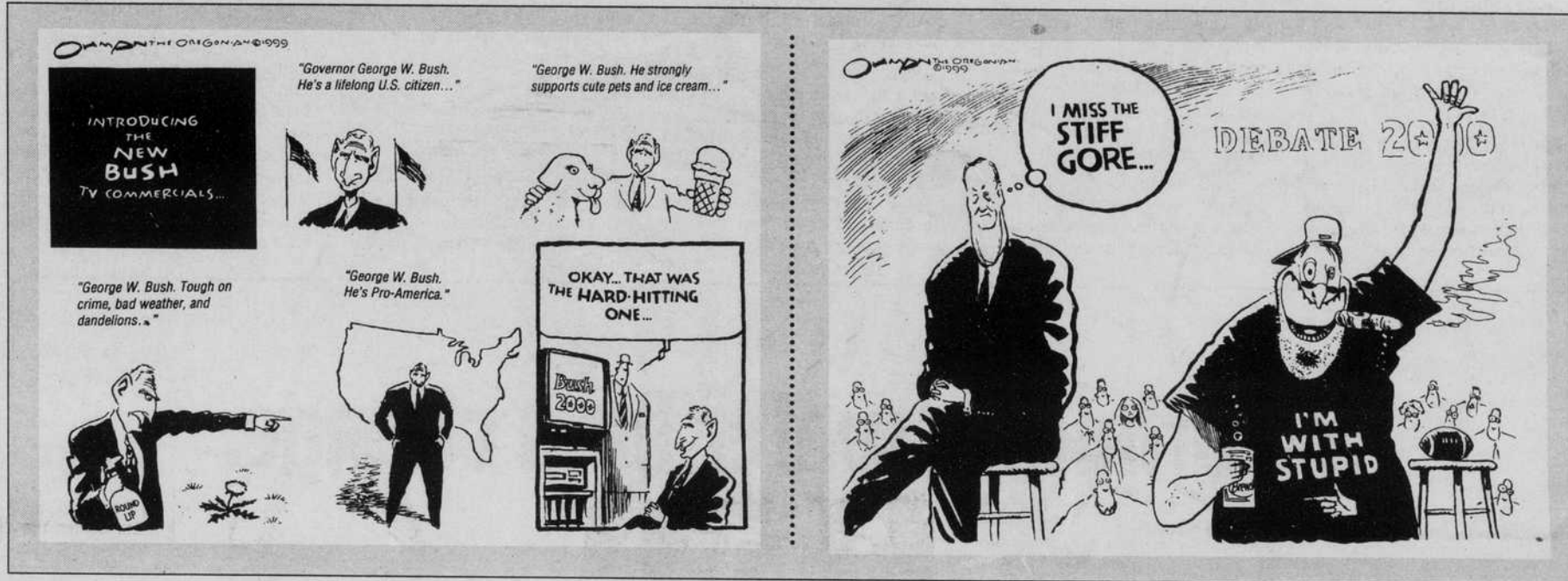
• Attend Eugene City Council meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the City Council Chambers — City Hall 777 Pearl Street.

Finally, we want to alert everyone that the maximum fine for an MIP is now \$250, and the maximum fine for allowing consumption of alcohol by a minor on private property is \$1,000. Other new municipal offenses include false swearing on a keg receipt and allowing alcohol consumption by minors on private premises.

If you're not sure what state and local laws say about alcohol and parties, call ASUO Legal Services for an appointment to discuss your concerns.

We hope you keep this information in mind as you celebrate this weekend and weekends to come.

*Ilona E. Koleszar is an attorney with ASUO Legal Services. Marian Fowler is the ASUO community outreach director. Their views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.*



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