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Drinking

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Koleszar recommended that you not present physical identification, regardless of your age or sobriety.

Gilliam said that police will generally not hassle you on the street unless you give them a reason.

"We try to focus on behavior and not so much the fact that people have been drinking," Gilliam said. "We don't want fights. We don't want people urinating in other people's yards — screaming in the dark and all that other stuff."

"The cops are in the alleys. They're everywhere," Koleszar said, describing police presence in the University neighborhood on a Friday or Saturday night. "They see a group of five people on the street, and they're going to stop them. I see groups or people walking around, maybe they've had something to drink, maybe they're over age, maybe they're underage. I don't know. I see them and I say, pardon the pun, 'Man, you're sitting ducks.'"

One of the most common triggers for citations is an open container.

"We see a lot of young people walking around on Friday and Saturday nights with beer bottles in their hands," Gilliam said.

An open container can be any vessel without a factory seal. Bota bags, flasks, re-corked wine bottles and partial bottles of liquor all qualify, although enforcement of this law is discretionary.

"If you're overage and you get cited for alcohol, you're not paying attention," Beutler said. "There's no reason to walk around with an open beer. Make sure you have a backpack with you. Don't think you can just put beer in your pocket and then put your finger down in the bottle because what's going to happen is when you remove your finger, it's going to spray beer all over you. I speak from experience."

There is absolutely no excuse for driving drunk under any circumstances. If you are a woman, you can take advantage of Saferide. Otherwise, there is the Designated Driver Shuttle available to men and women. Both service are free to students. Take advantage of them. While a drunk swaggering down the sidewalk can be cute, that same drunk behind the wheel is deadly serious.

Be aware that you can also be cited for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) while on a bicycle. This is a Class A misdemeanor that carries a maximum fine of \$565.

When it comes to parties, smaller gatherings are generally safe, but if you host a rager with an open front door, live music and alcohol for sale, you're opening yourself up to a world of hurt.

"I think you're nuts if you have a party in [the University] neighborhood," Koleszar said.

In most instances, a neighbor's complaint initiates the police response.

"Parties that are overflowing beyond the capacity of the house are going to attract attention, and if you're at one of those parties, you can believe that at some point during the night, the cops are going to come," said Sgt. Gilliam.

If a patrol officer spots a large party, but no one has complained, they will actually seek out grumpy neighbors, according to Gilliam. He explained that the police "don't want to be the only people testifying. We want a neighbor to say 'Yeah, I was offended by it.'"

You must keep your neighbors on your side. Contact them ahead of time and notify them of your plans. Give out your phone number and tell them to call you first if there is a problem. If they do call, take it seriously. Most importantly,

invite them. If they feel included, they will be much more amicable and less likely to ring up the fuzz.

In addition to issuing citations, the police have the power to seize "evidence" of noise violations, such as stereos, speakers, instruments, tuners and just about anything else. This property is held in the evidence locker until the case is resolved, which could be months.

"It's not done all that often," said Gilliam. "It's discretionary with the officer and most of the time, it's based on repeated calls back to the same address."

Keep as low of a profile as possible. Keep doors and windows closed to mute the noise. Designate a smoking area such as the backyard or a room to avoid a mob of people hanging out in front of the house. Turn off porch lights. Keep

Drinking trivia

dipsomania *n.* an abnormal craving for alcoholic drink (Greek, *dipsa* thirst + *mania* madness)

Famous quotes about drinking

"A woman drove me to drink and I never had the courtesy to thank her." — W.C. Fields

"I drink to make other people more interesting." — George Jean Nathan

"You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have some kind of a football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer." — Frank Zappa

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut." — Ernest Hemingway

"Work is the curse of the drinking class." — Oscar Wilde

"Time is never wasted when you're wasted all the time." — Catherine Zandonella

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza." — Dave Barry

"I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." — Tom Waits

"All right, brain, I don't like you and you don't like me — so let's just do this and I'll get back to killing you with beer." — Homer Simpson

SOURCE: www.dipsomania.com

the alcohol out of the line of sight of the front door. Beutler suggested that you "put blankets over the windows. If the cops can't see anything, then there's no probable cause."

As much as you might want, do not get a keg.

"It's an engraved invitation to the police," Koleszar said, noting that the location of the party must be given when picking it up from the distributor or bar. "If you do buy a keg, don't be so silly as to lie about where it is going to be or provide false ID to buy it. Bad, bad, bad, bad idea. You might as well jump into quicksand."

An EPD pamphlet, titled "Party-ing in Eugene," suggests that "if your party gets out of control, contact the police. We will come out and assist you in regaining control."

Gilliam said that if the host calls first, "then our policy is that we will not enforce applicable laws against the host of the party."

So, one option is to keep a police scanner in the house where it can be heard, such as in the kitchen. If you hear your address, get on the phone immediately and ask for help from the police. When they arrive, greet them with jubilant relief:

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