

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 51 | Friday, November 5, 2004

Friday night cites

The Eugene Police Department's party patrol sweeps the city weekend nights, focusing on alcohol and drug violations

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

Sounds from parties echoed in the distance, but a two-story house deep in the West University neighborhood was quiet on a Saturday night two weeks ago. From the yard of the house, near the corner of East 14th Avenue and Ferry Street, everything looked relatively still. No one loitered on the porch.

Shortly before midnight a couple partygoers exited the house carrying open cans of beer. It was enough to prompt a visit from the Eugene Police Department Party Patrol.

Students, especially those who frequent parties in the West University neighborhood, are likely to encounter the party patrol, which circulates the area on Friday and Saturday nights. However, many may not know how to respond when they come in contact with these officers.

On that particular Saturday, Oct. 23, several students cited for drinking violations voiced concern about whether their rights were being

violated. Some wanted to know whether police officers could enter their houses. Others were curious about whether officers could deny them a breath analysis, relying instead on a field sobriety test to determine who had been drinking.

On slow nights, EPD officers are more likely to cite every minor drinking at a party, said Sgt. Scott Fellman, one of the party patrol's supervisors. On busier nights, the officers may just disperse partygoers, then head out to respond to other noisecomplaints.

For every five students cited to appear in court for violations, such as underage drinking and DUI, at least one may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time, "erroneously charged or grossly overcharged for deminimis conduct," attorney Laura Fine said in a guest commentary for the Emerald ("How to deal with cops at UO," ODE, Sept. 20, 2004).

Fellman said

breaking up parties and citing underage drinkers are necessary to prevent more serious problems.

"The point is to break up disorderly parties before they become riotous," Fellman said. "The cost for letting parties get out of hand and turn into riots is serious."

The six- to eight-person team typically focuses on alcohol and drug violations, issuing citations for underage drinking

EPD, page 8A

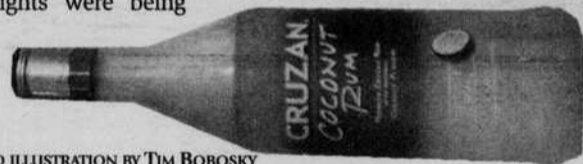


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TIM BOBOSKY



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Cooking food for several students, Deena Wanstall prepares lunch in Hamilton at the Fire 'n Spice Grill Wednesday afternoon.

Dining hall's plastic plates save money, cut garbage

Although many plates have been stolen, Hamilton's dining hall keeps them for ecological bonuses

BY ANTHONY LUCERO
NEWS REPORTER

The University's Food Services department has saved \$2,000 in the last year through the introduction of reusable plastic plates at Hamilton's dining hall in an effort to conserve materials and cut waste costs.

Although students have been taking many of the new plates, the University still saved money by reducing waste, Food Services Director Tom Driscoll said. He said the University has conserved 198 dumpster loads of waste that would otherwise go to a landfill.

By eliminating paper plates and using other conservation methods, Driscoll said dumpster waste is reduced by one-third six days per week for nine months. Before the introduction of the plastic plates, the dining hall had three dumpsters to manage its daily waste, but now it only has two.

However, Driscoll said the University could save more money through cooperation with students who take the plates to their room,

FOOD, page 4A

Study prompts racial profiling concerns in EPD

Officials say the study's 'statistically significant' results merit further examination of racial issues

BY MORIAH BALINGIT
NEWS REPORTER

Results of a study conducted on Eugene Police Department vehicle stops show evidence that Latino, black and Asian drivers are treated differently than white drivers. However, the results remained inconclusive on whether racial profiling is occurring in EPD traffic stops.

Vikas Kumar Gumbhir, a University graduate student in sociology, was commissioned by EPD through the University's Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics to conduct the study. He presented his findings to community members on Wednesday at the Eugene Public Library.

"This (study) is one step the department is using to better understand how to best provide policing services in the community," EPD spokeswoman Pam Olshanski said.

Gumbhir collected data through survey cards filled out

by officers after vehicle stops. Among the information collected was the race, sex and age of the civilian stopped, the reason for the vehicle stop, the time and place the stop occurred, whether a search was conducted, and whether contraband was found in the search.

While officers were instructed to fill out survey cards after every stop, an audit conducted by EPD on vehicle stops revealed that officers only filled out cards in about 70 percent of stops, limiting the study's findings. Additionally, many of the cards were incomplete.

"I think this research gives us a lot of answers and it gives us a lot of clues as to where to go from here," Gumbhir said. "But it's definitely not final."

Gumbhir's study concluded that black drivers were stopped more frequently than white drivers. In 2002, the stop rate, or

PROFILING, page 4A

Mobile mapping teaches students social planning

Using GIS technology, students create maps to analyze the residential quality of neighborhoods

BY ANTHONY LUCERO
NEWS REPORTER

Students in the Planning, Public Policy and Management department are working with the West University neighborhood to compile demographics and other information to improve the neighborhood. Professor Marc Schlossberg said the program, in its first year using mobile mapping technology, is unique in the nation.

"The class doesn't focus just on (Geographic Information Systems) technology or field skills," Schlossberg said. "It's social planning and participation that are the main ideas of the class. How you work with communities is important, not just pointing and clicking on a screen."

Students in the Social Planning with Geographic Information Systems class combine social and technological elements, using GIS programs to map out Eugene

through aerial photographs. They then use those maps to analyze the residential quality of a neighborhood — such as street lights, dumpsters and recycle bins — with detail down to a single street or a specific street light on that block. It may not sound absolutely essential, but neighborhoods can understand how a lack of street lights may lead to less safety for drivers on a street or make women more vulnerable to attack, Schlossberg said.

When they are out in the neighborhoods, students use a PocketPC with ArcPad GIS/GPS mapping software. An attachable camera hooks up to the PocketPC so they can take pictures of the landmarks they survey. Students can use software on the PocketPC to evaluate many aspects of the condition of a house, for example, and then mark that house on the map. Photos can be

WHAT IS GIS?

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems. GIS is an integrated package for the input, storage, analysis and output of spatial information — analysis being the most significant, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

GIS, page 3A