

## IN BRIEF

## Oregon Rep. Wayne Scott projected as majority leader

SALEM — The Oregon House's Republican majority met Thursday to choose leaders for the 2005 Legislature.

House Speaker Karen Minnis of Wood Village was expected to be nominated for a second term. The speaker officially is elected by the entire House after lawmakers convene, but the majority party obviously has the votes to decide who will hold the post.

Rep. Wayne Scott, a Canby businessman who'll be in his second

term, was expected to be elected by the caucus to continue as House majority leader.

Democrats picked up two Republican-held House seats in Tuesday's election, narrowing the GOP advantage to 33-27.

## State Department sets up prayer room for Ramadan

WASHINGTON — In a gesture to Muslims, the State Department on Thursday set up a prayer room for some 150 guests invited to dinner by Secretary of State Colin Powell to end their daylight Ramadan fast.

Rugs were placed in the room off the side of the Ben Franklin dining room

so the Muslims could observe the call to prayer that traditionally precedes the end of fasting.

Afterward, the Muslims, men and women sitting side by side, dined on lamb and chicken and were assured by Powell that "we will move aggressively forward to deal with the Middle East peace process and with terrorism."

He reminded his guests, many of them young Americans with a few visitors from Jordan, Indonesia, Morocco and other Arab countries among them, that President Bush was the first president to promise establishment of a Palestinian state.

— The Associated Press

## EPD: Officers face destructive behavior

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and for drinking in public. At house parties, hosts might incur charges for furnishing, allowing consumption or selling alcohol to minors. If police respond to parties at one address multiple times during a 90-day period, the residents might face a fee for the cost of EPD's response.

The party patrol has been an on-again, off-again presence at EPD. It became a more permanent fixture following a chain of student riots in 2002 and 2003.

In 2002, former EPD Interim Chief Thad Buchanan estimated the patrol cost taxpayers \$6,000 to \$10,000 per weekend, according to Emerald archives. In the same year, city officials estimated that a riot in the West University neighborhood cost EPD upwards of \$20,000.

The party patrol operates at about \$4,400 in overtime costs on a typical weekend, EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said. Weekends with big events, such as Halloween, cost the city about \$17,000 in overtime costs for focused patrols, she said.

The party patrol issued citations to most of the 20 to 25 guests at the house near East 14th Avenue and Ferry Street on Saturday, said University sophomore Adam Caccavano, one of the party's hosts. He said he and his roommates had tried to keep their party quiet but were busted when EPD caught a few guests leaving the party with open cans of beer.

He and a roommate were cited for possessing alcohol and for furnishing it to minors after deliberating for more than 30 minutes about whether to let the officers inside. In the end, they

gave their permission, but he still wonders whether he had to.

"In terms of letting us know our rights, they could have been more forthcoming," Caccavano said, noting the patrol's supervisor later responded to some of his questions. "Regardless, we were still guilty. It is their job."

ASUO Legal Services Director Ilona Koleszar said the officers could enter as long as they had probable cause and a reason to believe evidence would be destroyed within the time it would take to obtain a warrant.

"I think that in past years, the habit of the police has been to cite them all and let the courts sort it out," Koleszar said. "I'm hoping under the new police chief there will be less of that."

Officers busted one more party by 3 a.m. They issued more citations for underage drinking, using a test tracking eye movements, which are affected by the presence of alcohol, to determine who had been drinking.

University student Ryan Sapper said officers denied his request for a breathalyzer, which he felt would be more accurate than the eye test, and didn't feel officers were listening to his concerns.

"It's unbelievable," he said that night. "It's ridiculous. They told me to leave."

Koleszar said officers aren't required to use a breathalyzer to test for violations such as MIPs.

Fellman said officers have limited time to respond to parties; they want to disperse the crowd as quickly as possible, but they also want people to wait for their rides to go home.

"The bottom line is that we want people to be safe and to follow the rules," Fellman said. "Unfortunately, it

takes enforcement action for that to happen in a lot of cases."

Koleszar recommended that minors avoid huge parties with loud music and kegs, but said to err on the side of caution when dealing with police and to be as courteous as possible.

Fellman said it also helps to have a good sense of humor. He spent much of his time at the second party joking with the residents inside the house.

Sometimes partygoers' anger toward police escalates to violence. In the past, people have hurled beer bottles and rocks at the officers. Others have slashed tires and broken windows on their vehicles.

"There's a disturbing number of people out there who think it's OK to hurt a police officer," Fellman said. "But we're just doing our job. Unfortunately, sometimes that is the nature of the business."

Ready to head out to one of four other parties near campus, the officers sauntered away from the second house and toward their vehicles.

The tailpipe of Fellman's unmarked Ford Crown Victoria had been stuffed with damp leaves. The other officers laughed as they checked their own cars.

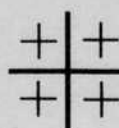
"At least it's not a 20-pound rock through my window like last time," one officer said.

"Look on the bright side — at least it's not fecal matter," another officer joked.

But a few faces fell when the officers noticed their cars, two of which were slumped to the side, sitting on cushions of deflated rubber.

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