



DRUNKEN DEPUTY

One stumbling drunk deputy at the party allegedly became a particular menace, according to investigator accounts of witness interviews. The deputy spilled his beer on the shoulder of the evening gown of another deputy's wife, who had turned her back in an effort to avoid him. Later, the deputy approached the woman again while she was dancing with a female friend. The deputy allegedly came up behind and wrapped both his arms around her shoulders in an embrace. The woman knocked him away, and the drunk deputy fell on the dance floor. In the process, the drunk deputy again spilled his beer all over the front of the woman. The woman told investigators she had, "never felt so violated and humiliated in my life ... I just can't explain how frustrated I felt."

At one point in the party, the drunk deputy had allegedly proposed a wife "swap" for the evening to the woman's deputy husband. "Those are fighting words to me," remarked a guest who overheard the offer. The sheriff's investigator noted that such a swap offer "is likely to provoke a violent response from most husbands/or boyfriends."

Investigators later heard that one deputy was looking for the drunk deputy later at work. He wanted to "kick his ass" for spilling the beer all over his wife. "There were im-



denied violating officer ethics. "I don't think I did anything wrong. I mean, the bartender cut me off, and yeah, I said, you know what's up with this or what the fuck's up with this ... or, something to that effect to the point

where she says you need to leave the bar, so I left the bar. That to me is yeah, good self restraint There was no scene, there was no police called, there was no bouncers that had to throw me out, there was no, nothing that happened that, no criminal acts happened, no nothing happened that was out of line or out of control in anything that I ever did throughout the night except for apparently I spilled beer, which was an accident, on [a deputy's wife]."

The deputy said his wife did take a picture

"The department has created 'victims' where none exist."

Last December, Fenrich's firm reported in its client newsletter that a labor arbitrator had overturned the six-day suspension and replaced it with a written reprimand. The arbitrator reportedly found that the county lacked the formal written complaint required in its labor contract before it began its investigation of the party.

GROPING & STALKING

Another male deputy was accused of groping and stalking a female deputy until she was forced to leave the party.

The female deputy was a reluctant witness, according to an account of an interview with her by a sheriff's lieutenant. She said she was new to her job and "concerned about fu-

alleged the deputy would hold her close and "his hand slid up and down my butt." The lieutenant wrote, "she was extremely uncomfortable with his behavior."

The woman said the deputy followed her around the party making "offensive" pick-up lines for the next hour, leaving her "very apprehensive." The woman alleged she tried to dance with somebody else to get away from him, but the deputy "would follow [the woman] and dance right behind her, bumping his body into the backside of her body."

The woman said the deputy's behavior upset her to the point that she was forced to leave the party. She compared it to being "stalked." As she left, the deputy followed her out. She was concerned, but the deputy stopped to talk to friends coming in and she slipped away.

The woman said she didn't file a complaint because she "would rather avoid confrontations." She told the lieutenant that in the future, "she would be uncomfortable around [the stalker deputy], and if she was put in a position to have to be in a patrol car with [him], she would decline." If he came to another party she was at, the woman said she would leave.

The male deputy also allegedly reached into the breast cleavage of the mother of a female deputy and grabbed a small camera tucked between her breasts. "He scooped right in and grabbed camera and everything," said the mother. The mother told investigators, "I opened up my arms and said 'here you go,' showing where the camera was between my breasts." The mother said at a later hearing that the sheriff's investigation into the incident was unwarranted. "It was no big deal, I

The deputy told an investigator that he ended up vomiting throughout the night to the point of 'dry heaves.'

pacts on the workplace that fortunately did not blow up, but they were very real," county attorney Williams said.

The same drunk deputy also allegedly reached over the back of a female deputy and grabbed her breasts. "She immediately removed his hands by grabbing them and thrusting them outward from her breast area," an investigator found. The deputy said she was left "embarrassed and humiliated" and "angry" from the incident.

A bartender in the hotel lounge refused to serve the drunk deputy more alcohol after he used foul language. The female bartender alleged the deputy then called her an "asshole" and said "fuck you."

Later, the deputy went into the party room and continued to drink and cause problems. The bartender at the beer stand there told deputies who organized the party that the drunk couldn't drink more and they would have to get him under control or he would shut down the beer stand. When nothing happened, the bartender then refused to serve anyone.

Later, party goers allegedly put the "passed out drunk" deputy naked into a hotel room bed with another naked passed out female deputy and took a picture.

The deputy told an investigator that he ended up vomiting throughout the night to the point of "dry heaves." In a transcribed interview, the deputy said he was so intoxicated he didn't remember many things, but he

of him asleep naked in bed with a naked sleeping female deputy. But, contrary to rumors, the deputy said the picture was never circulated throughout the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff managers suspended the deputy for six days as punishment for violating rules against off-duty conduct that embarrasses the department. Union attorney Fenrich appealed the discipline complaining that the investigation was without just cause, ignored exculpatory witnesses, preconceived guilt, lacked due process and violated labor law by investigating an "Association team-building event." Nobody complained before the sheriff launched his investigation, Fenrich wrote.

ture reprisal due to her probationary status." The lieutenant told her no one would be able to harass her because of what she said and ordered her to answer questions.

The woman "began to turn red in the face" when she described what happened, the lieutenant wrote. She was dancing with female friends at the party when the drunk male deputy worked his way between. She alleged, the man "kept bumping and grinding into" her body. When she tried to step away, the male deputy would "would follow and 'grab me again,'" according to the lieutenant's account. She

had a low cut blouse on ... It was whoosh-snatch and it is over with."

Another deputy told investigators that the mother "was visibly intoxicated and characterized as loud, uninhibited and openly hostile toward the [sheriff's department] administration" at the party. Investigators wrote that they remained unclear exactly what happened. "Did [the deputy] simply 'pluck' the camera from the exposed area of [the mother's] dress or did he in fact reach into the actual bra to retrieve it?"

The deputy daughter of the mother told an interviewer that after the camera snatch, her mother "raised her eyebrows at [her] and said, something to the effect of, 'What in the hell just happened here?'" But she said her mother wasn't upset. "Are you kidding? It's not like we see things like that, plus he was really drunk."

The deputy's daughter told investigators she had a "very differing view of inappropriate conduct than the general public." The female deputy described a dance she had performed with others at the party, an investigator wrote. The female deputy "stated she did do a YMCA movement and showed me the movements. For the 'Y' she V'd her fingers around her lips while flicking her tongue in and out of her lips, for the 'M' she outlined her breast with her index fingers, for the 'C' she made a C with her hands around her



COUNCILOR CALLED 'FROGGY'

Eugene City Councilor George Poling allegedly propositioned a female sheriff's deputy at the union Christmas party in 2001.

The female deputy told Sheriff's Office investigators that Poling, himself a retired deputy, "was making 'sideways propositions' to her and that George Poling was in a 'froggy' (slang for sexually stimulated) mood. [The deputy] said she felt 'it was no big deal' and it was nothing that she couldn't have 'handled.'"

Poling denied that he propositioned a deputy at the party. "I didn't do something like that. That's absurd. Somebody's just fishing." Poling said he attended the party with his wife and didn't see any heavy drinking or women being harassed. "I've never been contacted by anybody" about the party, he said.

Investigators found that rumors that Poling had groped the deputy were false. "There is no evidence of any misconduct whatsoever and even if there had been, short of criminal behavior, Mr. Poling is not subject to [Lane County Sheriff's Office] policy, procedure or rules of conduct." — Alan Pittman