

Testimony heard on age lowering bills

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM (Special) — Though the joint committee on alcohol and drugs technically heard testimony on two bills (SB 27 and HB 3167) which lower the age of majority to 18 Thursday night, the question actually debated was whether Oregon should lower the drinking age to 18.

Opponents of lowering the drinking age — a small minority of those who testified — told the committee that traffic fatalities would increase if the age of legal drinking dropped.

Proponents of the measures, including several University students, testified that:

— The current law is not strictly enforced because it is violated "by hundreds of thousands."

— Now, young persons wanting to drink are forced to drive "out in the bushes" because they cannot legally drink at home or in a nearby tavern.

— To prohibit 18-year olds from drinking when they are otherwise considered adults is "discriminating against a certain class in our society."

— Carrying the idea that traffic fatalities will increase with a lower drinking age "to its logical conclusion," prohibition should be reinstated.

— Young persons in Oregon are already planning to travel to Washington to drink when that state's lower drinking age goes into effect.

— Statistics cited in a notorious "Michigan Study" indicating traffic fatalities did rise when that state lowered its drinking age are not consistent with reports of other states that have recently lowered the drinking age.

Ethnic studies requirements announced

The requirements for graduating seniors wishing to receive certificates in ethnic studies were announced Thursday in the Ethnic studies committee meeting.

The general requirements for the certificate include thirty hours credit work, nine lower division and twenty-one upper division including six hours of field experience. Special courses which would fulfill these requirements may be chosen from the following areas: anthropology, 103, 301-3, 417-9, 426-8, 320, 322, 414; geography, 105, 407, 205, 303, 453, 463, 508, 507; CSPA, 221, 407; history, 221-3, 472, 350-2, 464, 507, 476-7; english, 253-5, 310, 417, 419, 407; music, 407; romance languages, 107-9, 432-4, 444-6; political science, 346-7, 490-1, 463-4, 407, 485, 507; psychology, 407, 437, 438, 440; economics, 414-6, 457-9, 444, 445, 446; CI, 340, 407, 341.

Interested students should submit a transcript to Paul Simonds, professor of Anthropology as soon as possible and no later than April 27. The ethnic studies committee will then consider each request and applicants should leave phone numbers so that the committee may contact them.

— And finally, a University senior induced several minutes of laughter during the hearing by presenting tape recordings of his attempts to buy alcohol in Eugene markets which indicated that currently identification is inconsistently checked.

Senator Victor Atiyeh (R-Portland), a committee member, told the committee during his testimony that "just as sure as we are sitting here we are dooming some young persons to death by lowering the drinking age in Oregon."

Atiyeh cited the "Michigan Study" conducted by the Michigan State Police which states that after Michigan lowered its drinking age in 1972 "the percentage of 18-20 year old drivers who had been drinking and who were killed shot up 54 percent."

Atiyeh also reported that the study indicates that "the 18-19-20-year olds who used to get their liquor from their friends who were 21 and older are now buying for their friends who are 15, 16 and 17."

Atiyeh said that though he drank before he was 21, "as

probably most of the people in this room did," there is a difference "between making alcohol readily available and in sneaking it."

Tim Grush, Oregon State University legislative coordinator, told the committee that in corresponding with some of the 28 states which have a lower drinking age he learned in some prosecution of minors in possession of alcohol and minors driving under the influence of alcohol has "significantly decreased."

And he cited another study conducted at the University of Michigan which indicated that though 18-21 year olds comprise eight percent of persons that drive in Michigan, they comprise only 7.2 percent of those persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol.

John Beatty, a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge, testified that the present law "makes criminals the act of hundreds of thousands of people" who drink illegally. He added that police enforce the law

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Role of women's athletics investigated

The University Intercollegiate Athletics Committee is looking for student input in its investigation of the role of women's athletics at the University.

At Wednesday's meeting of the student-faculty committee, chairer Robert Bowlin requested that interested students submit written opinions on the subject of women's intercollegiate athletics to be considered by the committee.

The written student opinions must be submitted before April 20, Bowlin said. At that time, the committee will begin evaluation of all the data it has gathered on the subject of women's athletic competition, he added.

The committee's investigation began January 8 when student committee member Jane Aiken presented a proposal asking the committee to recommend the formation of a co-educational athletic department at the University.

During the past three months the committee has surveyed other colleges and athletic conferences, sought legal advice and surveyed University faculty in relation to the co-ed athletic department concept.

Next week the committee will interview EMU Director Dick Reynolds on the subject of funding women's sports and representatives of the Women's Recreation Association on the current state of women's sports at the University, Bowlin said.

Bowlin said he hopes the committee will have "all this put together by the end of April." He predicts that the first draft of the report will be ready during the first week of May, with the final report to be presented to University President Clark by the end of May.

Students wishing to submit written opinions to the committee may take them to Bowlin's office, 258 Emerald Hall.

BSU elections set

The Black Student Union will be holding elections for the positions of president, vice-president, head secretary and administrative coordinator today.

Gregory Gudger and Karl Stafford will be vying for the position of president. In a campaign letter, Gudger stated, if elected, he would "make the Black Student Union the politically viable organization it is meant to be."

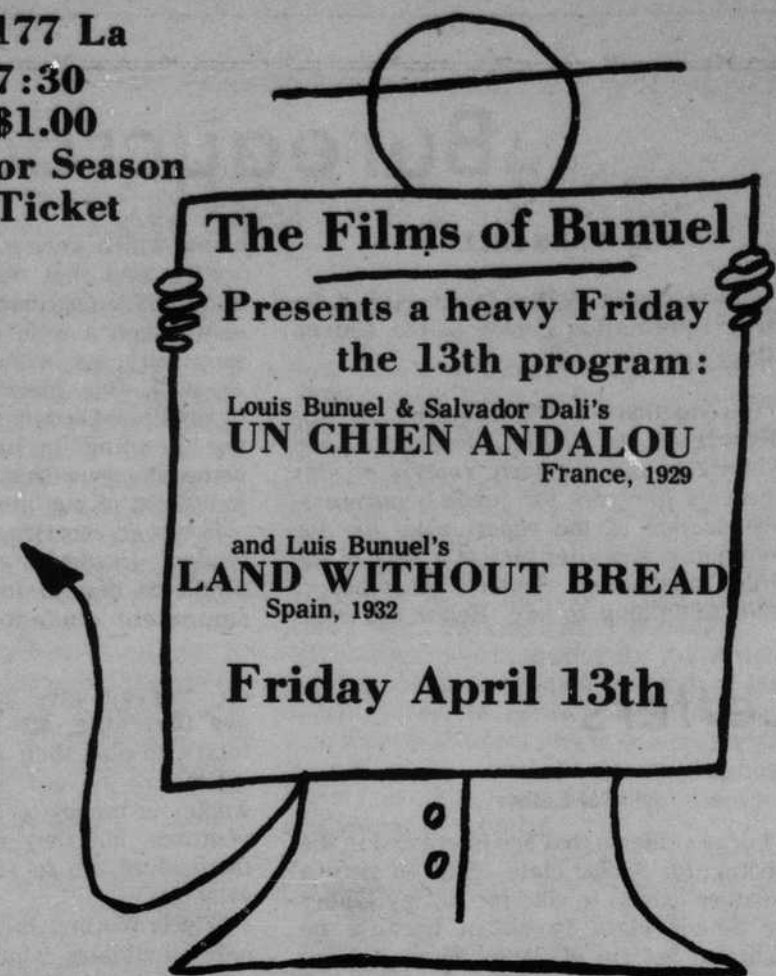
Stafford stated that, "my work in the BSU since this time will prove my competency." He went on to clarify himself as the "People's Choice."

Both candidates have served as vice-president for the BSU this past scholastic year. Gudger held the position up until the end of fall term when personal matters forced him to resign from the position. Once out of office, Stafford stepped in to fill the vacant spot.

Hilda Bennett, Yvonne Orr and Paula Brown will be running for the positions of vice-president, head secretary and administrative coordinator respectively.

Students interested in voting for these candidates are asked to vote between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. in 313 EMU where the voting will take place.

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