

EMU tavern issue resurrected again

The EMU Tavern proposal is rising from the dead again, and ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman believes the proposal could become a thirst-quenching reality.

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

The idea of installing a tavern in the EMU has been floating around campus since 1972. The major push for the tavern came during the administration of Jim Bernau, former ASUO president, during the 1975-76 school year. In fact, Bernau campaigned for the presidency on the promise that he would work to get a tavern.

Bernau had appointed a tavern committee to draw up a proposal that could be submitted to University Pres. William Boyd. The committee did a considerable amount of research and drew up three different scenarios for management of the tavern.

But no proposal was ever submitted to Boyd. When Boyd took over as University president in 1974, he announced publicly that he was "philosophically" opposed to the idea of a tavern on campus.

Bernau and the tavern committee had conferred with Boyd before submitting a proposal. They sensed that Boyd's attitude hadn't changed, so the tavern idea was shelved.

Now, Feldman is ready to take the proposal off the shelf.

Feldman and Boyd discussed the tavern idea last week. Feldman says Boyd indicated that it was unfortunate past statements had "created some lower-level apprehensions" about the tavern.

"He said he would be open to reviewing any proposal that the EMU Board would happen to make in this area," Feldman says. "We are working actively now, both members of my staff and the EMU Board itself, in developing a proposal for a tavern."

"I personally think we have a good chance of seeing a tavern on this campus," he adds.

In past years, the ASUO executive has worked independently on the tavern proposal. Feldman emphasizes that his office will need to work with the EMU Board if the tavern is to become a reality.

Feldman says much of the information Bernau's tavern committee drew up would be used again. He said one of the three scenarios the committee drew up would be used with some alteration.

One scenario would have the University hold the OLCC liquor license and have students run the tavern. Another scenario would create a student corporation to hold the license and manage the tavern.

In the third scenario, the tavern operation would be contracted out to a private, off-campus corporation.

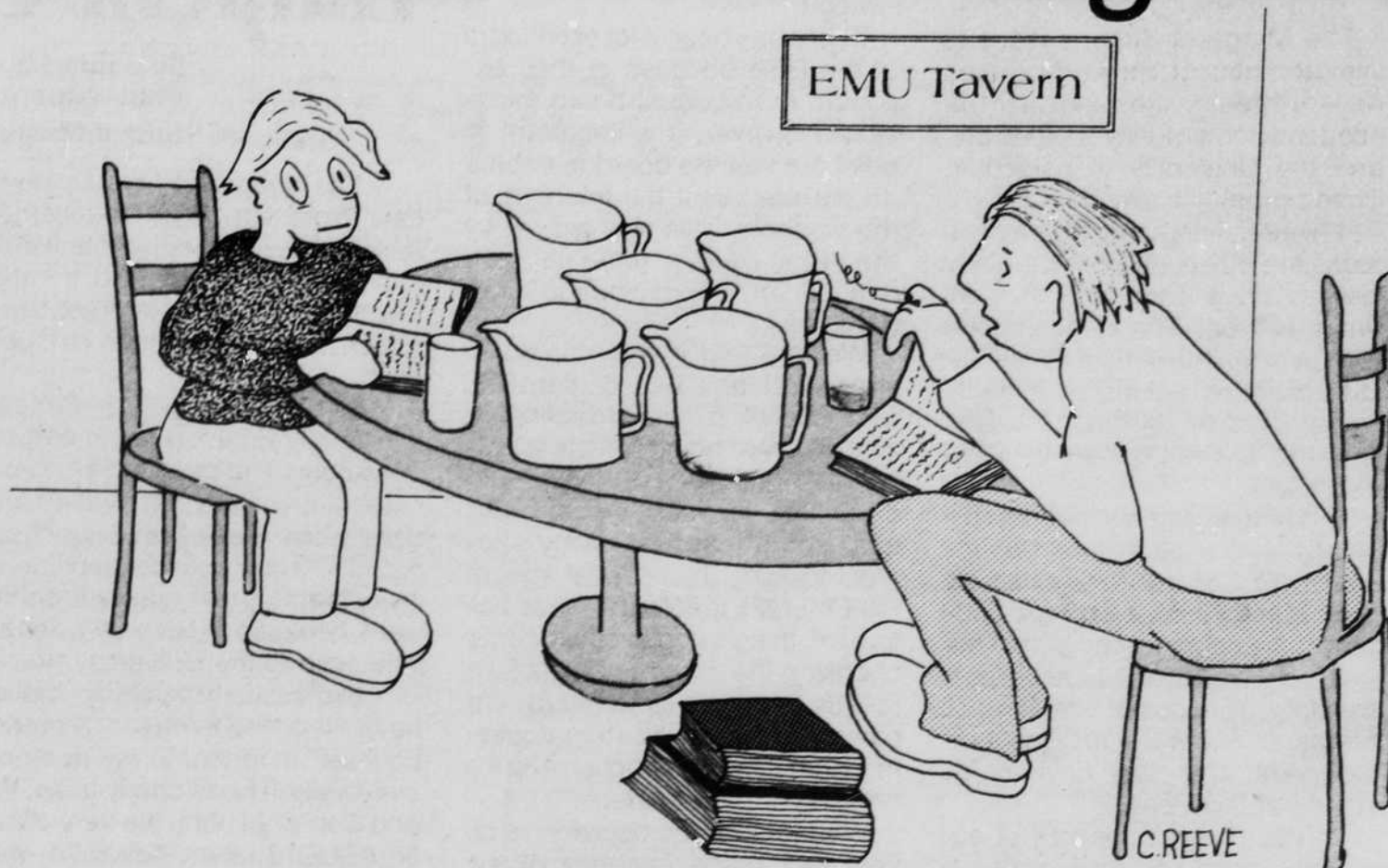
Feldman says only one of the three proposals would be submitted to Boyd for his consideration.

"If the proposal is refused by the president, then we would simply ask why are you refusing it? If it is because of the particular manner that the tavern would be run, then we would submit another scenario, but if it's over whether there should be a tavern or not, then that would be a different story."

Feldman acknowledges that gaining Boyd's approval would not necessarily mean students would soon be drinking alcoholic beverages in the EMU. There is the matter of obtaining a license from the OLCC. Feldman says he has talked with the OLCC representatives about the tavern and was told they would have to inspect the proposed tavern site before any licensing decision could be made.

"I talked to the OLCC, and they seemed to indicate that there wouldn't be too many problems, depending on how it's worked out."

The tavern site that the OLCC



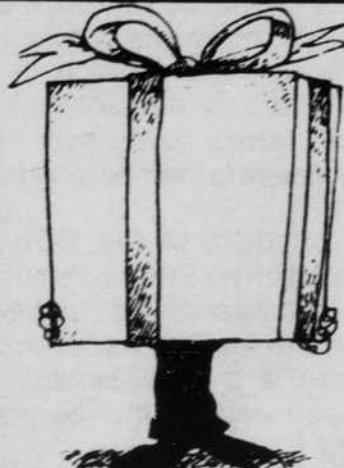
"After we study Let's party"

Graphic by Cicely Reeve

would most likely inspect would be Room 101 of the EMU, which is located west of the post office.

"Room 101 offers night accessibility to the handicapped. It is an area that wouldn't disrupt any other function or area of the EMU," Feldman says. "We think it would be a prime site."

Feldman says no deadline has been set for submitting a proposal to Boyd. For the present, students will have to be content with Friday beer gardens to satisfy their desire for a beer in the EMU.



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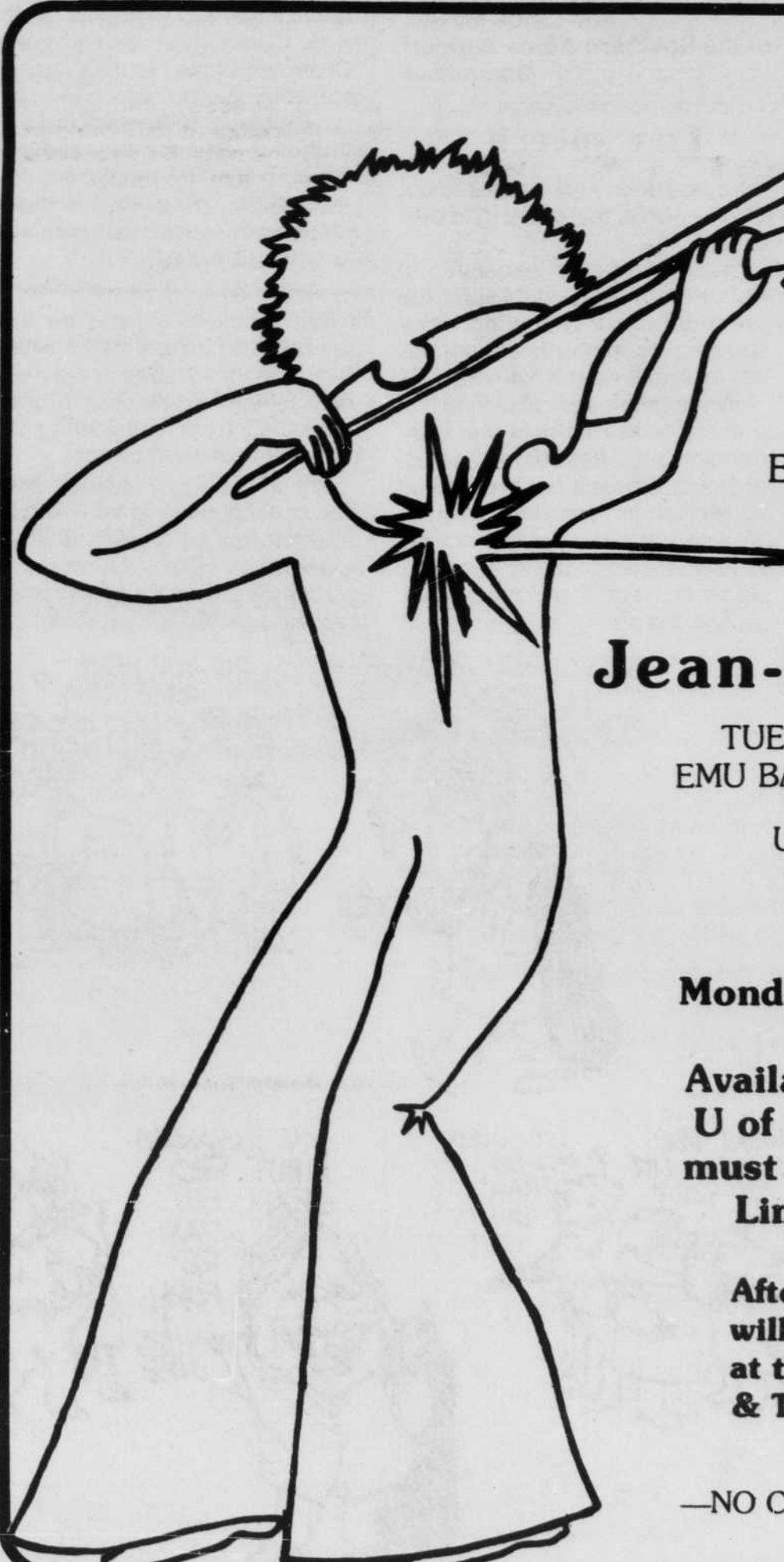
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