

General Election 78 ASUO Ballot Measure Endorsements

People's Utility Districts (PUD's) #4 YES

People's Utility Districts are local units of government set up to provide public utility services including electricity and water. Measure #4 makes it easier to form PUD's, which in turn can buy power from Bonneville Power Administration more cheaply. This will bring lower utility rates to affected customers.

Denturism #5 YES

This measure would authorize the practice of denture technology and establish a program to certify and license denture technicians and denturists. Under present Oregon law, only licensed dentists may take impressions of the human mouth, make, fit or repair dentures. Passing this measure would give the patient a choice and could reduce the cost of dentures. Also, a denturist must meet set standards by the State Division of Health, and a patient's safety is assured by the requirement that a dentist certify the health of a patient's mouth.

Property Taxes #6 NO

The ASUO discourages the California-style Proposition #6 which would reduce Oregon property taxes to 1.5% of their value. This type of across-the-board tax cut would cause a raise in other taxes (state income tax, etc.). Local control would be lost and many valuable programs (such as renter's rebate) would be discontinued.

Abortion #7 NO

The ASUO opposes this measure which, if passed, would cut off all state expenditures for abortions. Needy women would be denied their constitutional right to choose abortion as an alternative to pregnancy. There would be no funding for abortions going to victims of rape or incest. There would be no exceptions, even for a deformed fetus, or to preserve the life of the mother. This measure will not change the legality of abortions. It simply denies poor people the right to have them.

Public Utility Rates #9 YES

Ballot Measure #9 would prohibit utilities to charge consumers for construction costs unless such property is providing service to customers. Rate payers should not have to pay for the economic risk of a new plant; stockholders should bear that burden. This measure will slow the rate of rising utility costs.

Land Use Planning #10 NO

The ASUO is a strong proponent of land-use planning and zoning. This measure, if passed, would nullify the current Land Conservation and Development guidelines. Therefore it would hamper and disrupt all progress made thus far in land-use planning.

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Photo by Doug Williams

Maury Plumlee plays pool twice a week at the EMU Recreation Center. "This is a competitive sport," Plumlee says of pool, "You have to understand the nature of the eight-ball. You rely on the other person's mistakes." The Rec Center also offers pinball machines for all the resident wizards on campus.

Pinball, pool featured in EMU Rec Center

By ANDY BEHREND
Of the Emerald

Every day students scream for an escape from homework. Chem-crammed, trig-riddled minds alike seek refuge and relaxation and many find it playing pinball and shooting pool at the Rec Center in the EMU.

Howie Bierbaum's eyes are riveted to a solid steel ball a bit smaller than a golf ball. They follow the spin and curve of the ball as it bounces from one cushion to another. Bierbaum knows this machine, Eight-Ball, well, and hits the bonus.

Fifty feet away, two pool shooters are playing their version of eight-ball. They each pocket their balls quickly, leaving only the eight ball. The first shooter calls "side-pocket" and misses, leaving his opponent with an easy shot. He forks over two bucks to the victor.

Bierbaum is a junior exchange student from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., where he said "I pumped about \$7 a week" into pinball machines. "Here, it's no more than a couple bucks a week 'cause I'm broke. I'm trying to keep it to a minimum."

Pinball costs 25 cents for one game and 50 cents for three. The player gets three balls instead of the five allotted in years past. Bierbaum claims "these machines are a ripoff but I shake the hell out of 'em. I've never been tilted on any of these."

On Bierbaum's right, Jim Jackson, a former student at the University of Florida struggles with Mata Hari. He fondles the flippers daily at the Rec Center because "I used to be a kid. Anyway," he continues, "it beats goin' to the football games here. I think they should have a class in pinball. Advanced Pinball."

Jackson is not fully joking. "Hell," he says, "they have a football tourney and a pool tourney, why not a pinball tourney? Some guys major in pinball. It's a way of life."

One man thankful for this way of life is Jim Kraus, who, with his father, runs Cigarette Services, Inc., the company that supplies the Rec Center with its 12 pinball machines and five video games.

"Five years ago a machine costed \$995," Kraus says. "Now it's double. We're making about half as much as you think. Here, like in most places we do business, it's a 50-50 split."

Cigarette Services operates about 200 pinball and video machines around the Eugene area. Kraus explains why the video games cannot match the success of the pinball machines. "There's no vari-

able on the video games, so after familiarizing yourself with the game, you'll beat it. But every flipper on a pinball machine acts differently and sends the ball off with unpredictable spins. We'll probably make three times as much from pinball."

Some machines seem easier to tame than others. Lon Hamernik tangles with Wizard, a machine taken from the rock-opera Tommy, complete with a buxom Ann-Margaret look-alike on its marquis.

Hamernik theorizes, "I like to play machines I can beat so it costs me a little less to play. I have 50¢ that I allocate. If I win, great. If I lose, I go back to my research."

A grad student in telecommunications, Hamernik played often when he was stationed in Thailand with the Air Force. In Wisconsin, once his home, he says, "they won't give you a free game because that's considered gambling, so they give you an extra ball."

Action around the pool tables is slower. The cost is 75¢ per half-hour, and there are only a few players throughout the day.

Engaged in a friendly game of eight-ball are Matt Presjak and Maury Plumlee. Both students, they maintain similar attitudes concerning pool. "I take it pretty seriously," says Presjak. "I don't like pool as much as a contact sport like football, but I'll play about twice a week."

Plumlee is more analytical. "This is a competitive sport," he says. "You have to understand the nature of eight-ball. You rely on the other person's mistakes because what he does really affects your game."

Both players shrug off botched shots. They know they're not Minnesota Fats or Willie Mosconi and even as one leaves the other a "gimme", smiles are sincere, not forced.

Tom Baker, a part-time worker at the Rec Center desk says he feels the majority of players are non-serious time-killers. "There are only a handful of regulars, at least now," Baker says. "It gets crowded Friday and Saturday nights, but generally it's pretty casual."

One guy who racks 'em up regularly is Paul ("No last name please"), self-described as "a little better than average. It's such a great game, a game of concentration. What I really like about it is how the possibilities expand as you get better."

That same feeling is experienced by pinball players, one reason why the Rec Center is often a break from a student's day.

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