

opinion

Refill new policy on alcohol sales

Oregon Duck football boosters won't have much to boost their spirits in Autzen Stadium this year if the Ducks make a poor showing — an athletic department policy to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages (specifically beer and wine) was quashed by Pres. Paul Olum.

Not that Olum has done anything unjust. In fact Olum, by reversing the temporary alcohol policy allowing sales in Autzen and "other athletic facilities including Mac Court and Hayward Field," has acted responsibly. But the athletic department also acted responsibly. Herein lies the dilemma.

In August, the athletic department shrugged off its longstanding opposition to selling alcoholic beverages in its facilities and rewrote the policy that has been in effect since 1977. At this time the University asked for statements regarding the proposed rules from any interested parties in the community.

A protest against the policy change was lodged with Olum by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. They successfully persuaded Olum to reverse the alcohol policy. They made a valid protest — drunk driving accidents might perhaps increase if alcohol was sold at University athletic events. Does Olum's bowing to the protest of MADD mean the University and athletic department are accepting responsibility for the actions of individuals?

Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, said the reason the alcohol decision was made because "it's next to impossible to keep Autzen Stadium dry." There is no denying the truth of that statement. Anyone who has sat next to a group of fans passing a thermos of what looked to be just orange juice, or fans who smuggled in a six-pack or two, know that prohibition works as well in Autzen as it did as a constitutional amendment in the twenties.

While true, Williams' reason doesn't hold water as the sole justifiable reason to insititute the alcohol policy. It's logic is skewed. Saying it's impossible to keep Autzen dry and rewriting the policy because of this impossibility is analogous to making a law permitting breaking and entering because of the prevalence of burglars.

The athletic department should really be honest and say the new alcohol policy would be quite lucrative and increased their revenues — much needed revenues. This reason for selling beer and wine in athletic facilities is wholly justifiable.

The Emerald is in favor of the athletic department selling beer and wine at Autzen Stadium and other facilities. This does not mean we sanction the abuse of alcohol, nor the driving of a car while intoxicated. We see the alcohol policy as a means to augment the flagging revenues of the athletic department. The department has had its funding cut time and again and the selling of a one-day-only alcohol license to a concessioner would smooth out the deep dips in the budget graph. The sale of beer and wine at athletic events may generate as much as \$10,000 to \$40,000, according to University officials.

There are already numerous instances of the University and its departments selling beer and wine at dinners and conferences. The beer gardens, while they are not run by the University or any department, are permitted by the University administration.

The sale of beer and wine is permitted at other Pac-10 schools, and quite commonplace at university and college stadiums across the nation. Rick Bay, athletic director, noted the alcohol policies at these schools also improved the crowd control. "The schools where beer is sold in the stadium report they now have better crowd control than when fans brought alcoholic beverages into the stadium," he said.

This would likely be the case as the type of liquor smuggled in and consumed by fans is hard liquor by and large. If beer and wine were sold at the stadium the athletic department could control the type of alcohol consumed and, theoretically, control the amount consumed. The same right a tavern has to refuse service to anyone obviously intoxicated would apply.

What may ease the conscience of MADD members would be extra police at the scene to detect and arrest drunk drivers before they hit the highways.

The new alcohol policy makes good sense — taking into account generating revenue and the fact that wholesale smuggling of alcohol already occurs at athletic events. But, the MADD protest also makes good sense. Still, if wise precautions are taken, the athletic department's alcohol policy will prove an asset and not a liability.



CLAWS

debbie howlett editor's note

This is your basic, Hi-Kiddies-Welcome-Back-to-the-University editorial column, in which the editor is supposed to open her arms wide and say, "Gosh, we're awfully glad to see you, really."

Well, I hate to disappoint anyone, but I'm not "awfully glad" you're back, really. As a matter of fact, I'm not even a tad bit excited, really.

I was having a fine summer. I didn't have to work, I didn't have many responsibilities, and we weren't publishing a paper everyday. Then about 10,000 of you people come back and we at the Emerald feel obligated to start putting out a daily paper. Wham! Responsibility, work, classes, everything starts piling up.

And I'll bet you registration packets to suntan lotion that a great deal of you feel the same way about us. Good, it proves you're normal.

Enough of the niceties. As long as you're here, there are few things you should know about us. You could say we'd make a nice metaphor for laundry detergent. Here are some "things" about our "new, improved" Emerald we'd like you to memorize. There will be a test in our first regular issue.

•Thing one: The Emerald has chosen to use a new "type face" called Omega. Like each person's handwriting, the physical appearance of letters vary according to who is producing the words. One of the reasons we chose to use a new style is that we felt our previous type face wasn't really representative of the Emerald's personality and style.

Omega is a style that we feel lends a more collegiate, less bland personality. The letters, a sort of updated old serif style, mesh well with the Emerald's updated news style. The forward slant of the italicized letters reflects what we feel will be a more aggressive, more in depth approach to the news that affects you.

•Thing two: We have reduced the actual size of the letters in the body copy. Those letters, measured in "points" were moved down from nine points to 8½ points. There are 72 points to an inch for those of you who need a more concrete sense of the size.

The only way to bring the Emerald audience more news was to increase the number of pages, which is not possible because the amount of advertising we sell determines the number of pages we print. The best solution was to slide more news in the same space. Viola! You get more news, we don't lose money and an eight page paper seems a little larger.

•Thing three: We have decided since the Emerald is your paper, we are merely the caretakers of University community's voice, you should have more input. We will hold monthly staff meetings on the first Sunday of each month that are open to the public. Emerald editors and writers will be on hand to meet as a group, as we do each week, answer questions and, we hope, demystify the journalistic process.

Ultimately we feel that we will be a better representation of our audience, even if I'm a little grouchy about your homecoming.

letters

Negative racism

I am writing this in prospective to negative racism. I met a black girl one time; she told me that she didn't respect me because I was black. I wonder how much she knew that was human of me because of my skin color and always trying to compare me to white American accomplishments.

Somehow I believe there is a lot of homosexuality that comes from racism, and I believe this is the work of the devil. I ask the heavenly father — God almighty to help us learn to deal with this type of ugliness.

I think if the black woman cannot compete with the white woman she has no right to try and put down and disrespect the black

man. If the black woman respects the white man's achievements so much this is good, but she has no right to try to destroy the little black boy's manhood.

Maybe God gave white people something good so we shouldn't be jealous. He must have earned it by God.

I want to rejoice for white Americans. I thank white Americans for all they did for me. For instance, they taught me how to be an electrician and an electronic assemblyman.

I would like to warn the beautiful little black boy who wants to be a doctor, lawyer and scientist. Learn ways to protect yourself from this type of ugliness. You also have to protect yourselves from ugly little black boys who also will try to get in your way. There is a possibility of homosexuality involving any race because of this sickness.

There have been some black

people who try to deal with this. Some of them had no way to deal with this but through violence. There have been a number of cases in the last 20 years that the little black boy has been killing them including black women. The welfare department has been dealing with girls who prostitute and have babies and go on welfare such as birth control and trying to get them to work and pay for their own babies.

I would like for anyone to pray for me because I have been under the influence of this sickness also as a small child I came under the influence of this ugliness.

How can we prevent another generation from going through this? I'm a scientist and am studying this. I would like to ask anyone who would like to help me with this immorality. It would be appreciated.

Stanford Brown Eugene

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your Turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the university community. "Your Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

Letters to the editor and "Your Turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

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