

# Ban will leave a dry taste on vodka lovers' palates

By Denise Fuller  
Of the Emerald

Connoisseurs of Stolichnaya, the only Russian vodka sold in Oregon, soon won't find their favorite brand in state liquor stores.

Karen Bjorklund, program director for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, estimates they had 130 vodka cases a few weeks ago, but she is unsure how long that supply will last.

On Sept. 28, Oregon joined Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington and West Virginia in banning the future sales of Russian vodka. The ban is in response to the Soviet Union's downing of a Korean commercial jetliner with 269 people aboard Sept. 1.

## Symbolic act a response to Soviet downing of jetliner

Russian vodka sales were previously prohibited in Oregon after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1980.

Of Oregon's total vodka sales, Stolichnaya, which means "The Capital City" in Russian, accounts for only 1.4 percent or approximately one bottle out of every 100 sold, says Leon Joelson, a Eugene retail liquor agent.

"It's quite possible we're selling more of Finnish vodka and other imports than the Stolichnaya. People who tend to buy a foreign product have switched," Joelson says.

Stolichnaya retails for \$12.45 for a 750 mL bottle and \$8.05 for the 500 mL size.

Oregon and all the other states that have banned vodka sales are "control" states, meaning the state is the sole retailer of liquor.

"The vodka boycott is a symbol of outrage from America's grassroots and as a symbolic gesture it is welcome, but it is not a political measure against the Soviet regime," says Russian Prof. Frum Yurevich. "Practical responses are limited, but in the long run more people become aware of the Soviet regime and its nature. The regime has an outward veneer and doesn't expose what's below that veneer too often."

But the symbolic value of the ban is limited.

Nicaragua." Instead, Hovet suggests that measures should be taken by international aviation authorities.

"It would be wonderful if we could solve the world's problems by refusing to sell a country's product," Hovet says.



Photos by Dave Kao

"It would be wonderful if we could solve the world's problems by refusing to sell a country's product," says Tom Hovet, political science at the University.



These bottles of Stolichnaya Russian vodka soon will become nonexistent due to Oregon's recent decision to ban the product in response to the Soviet downing of a Korean jet and its 269 passengers on Sept. 1.

# Stiffer penalties face Oregon drunk drivers

By Mike Cross  
Of the Emerald

Students indulging in alcoholic beverages may want to know about the tougher penalties involved with drinking and driving.

The State Legislature passed three laws during the 1983 session that are designed to curb drunk driving in Oregon. All were signed into law by Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

"Our major concern was due to the high incidence of deaths on our highways caused by drunk drivers" says House Minority Leader Larry Campbell, R-Eugene.

Campbell says he was pleased with the overwhelming bipartisan support these bills received.

All three laws, which go into effect Saturday, will make it easier to convict those who drink and drive, Campbell says.

The state also will have ample resources to enforce the new laws, he says.

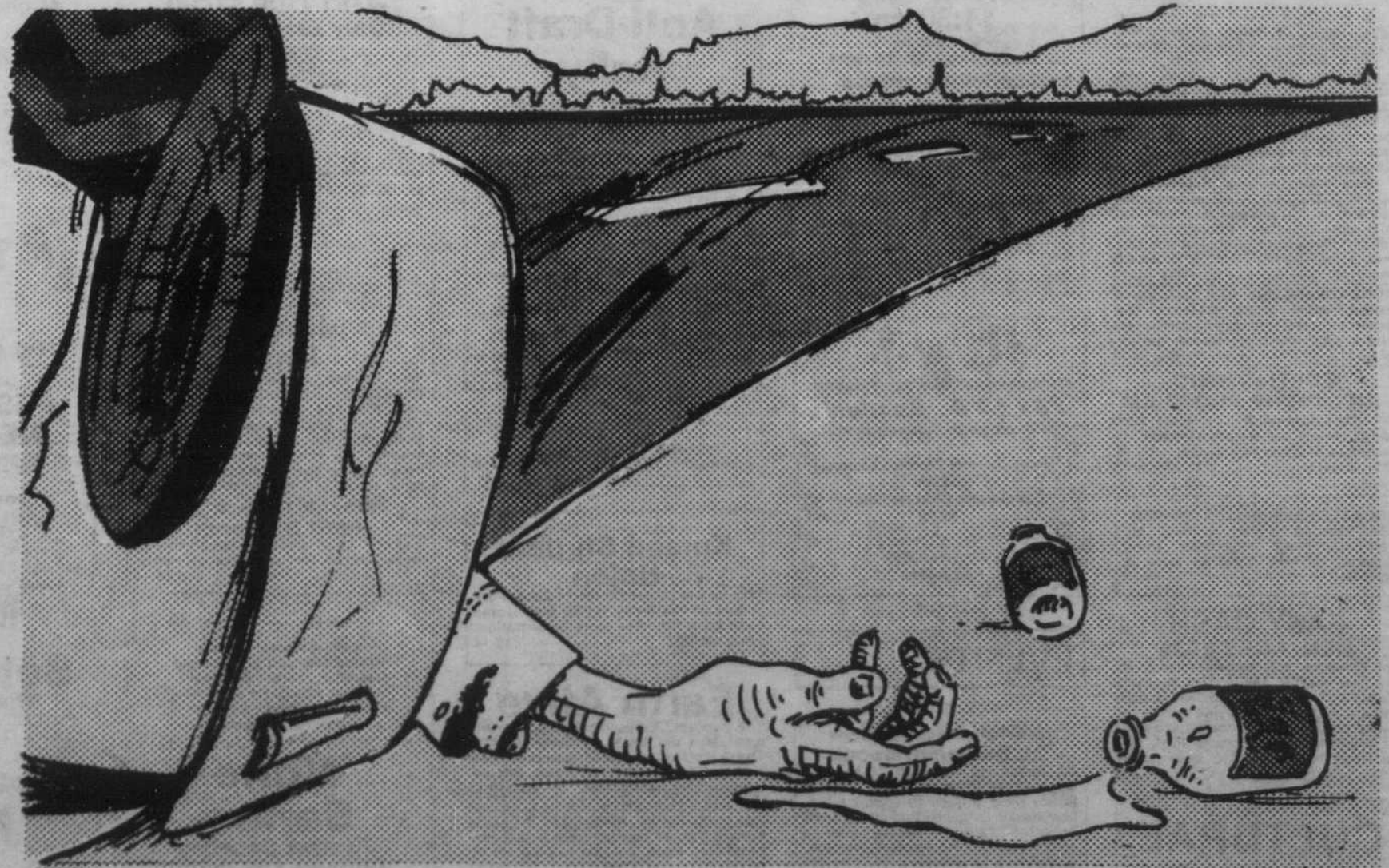
One of the bills, House Bill 2550, makes it a Class A misdemeanor for anyone 21 years of age or over to supply alcoholic beverages to a minor. Anyone over 21 faces a mandatory fine of \$300 for violation of this law — and that's just for a first offense. A judge cannot suspend fines under any circumstances.

HB 2975 affects those under 18 years of age. Specifically, if they're involved in a drug or alcohol offense while driving, they automatically lose their driver's license.

Another law, created by the passage of Senate Bill 710, will automatically suspend drivers' licenses for 12 hours when they are stopped by police officers and refuse to take breath tests. The law will be passed shortly.

If no sober persons are with the drivers, they then will have their cars towed away — at their expense — and must find a means of getting home.

If drivers suspected of intoxication fail to request hearings with the Motor Vehicles Division within 10 days of the citations,



Emerald graphic

their licenses will be suspended for a minimum of 90 days or a maximum of one year. If they request hearings, their refusals of breath tests are admissible in court as evidence against them.

Similar laws been effective in other states, says Barb Stoefler of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. Her organization, along

with the Oregon chapter of the American Medical Association and many individual citizens, were instrumental in getting these laws passed.

Tougher standards also include lowering the legal blood-alcohol driving level from .10 to .08. According to a chart published by Allstate Insurance Agency, a 165-pound per-

son exceeds this level by drinking six or more beers in a three hour period. The body only can process the alcohol content of one beer (or one mixed drink) during a one hour period.

Drunk driving is responsible for 55 percent of the deaths and injuries on Oregon roads, according to MADD.