



## 'Club Autzen' is high, but it's not dry

It's an hour and a half before the California-Oregon kickoff. The tailgaters are congregating in the Autzen parking lot. Few, save some ill-fortuned fraternity pledges, have entered the stadium itself.

High up on the east side, however, above the empty seats and the concession stands, behind the tinted glass of the Don Barker Stadium Club, the festivities are already in full swing. Wealthy alumni mill around in small groups, exchanging pleasantries and clinking glasses.

The club is the only place in Autzen where alcohol is allowed. Guests are entitled to choose from a wide variety of liquor at the temporary bar.

"This is really nice. The way you can look down on the stadium. It really has class," a woman tells her husband.

That class cost the University about \$600,000 in donations to attain, says

Steven McBride, the athletics events manager. And according to him, the facility was really constructed for a less-celebrated purpose.

"The team has meetings there every day during practice," McBride says of the room, which can be partitioned in five different ways. "Before then (the club's construction), it had no place to meet. I'm sure the vast majority of the hours are used by the team during the week."

During the game, however, the team is on the field, and wealthy dignitaries are in the club. And entrance is not easy by any means. Guests must first have donated at least \$1,000 to the athletic department before they can even be considered for an invitation to the \$10-a-plate pre-game buffet.

From there, the requirements become even tougher. To be able to view the game from inside the year-old

facility, one must make an annual \$10,000 donation, which entitles the donor to two fairly nice, enclosed end-zone seats.

While some 200 people attend the buffet, only about 60 are privileged enough to stay there for the game.

Back in the club, the Ducks' chances against the Bears has taken over most of the conversation.

"What do you mean, mental mistakes?"

"Those three plays lost the whole game."

"It's been disappointing the last three or four years."

"Do you think we'll win it?"

"Well, the governor's here and he's a UO graduate. Ask him."

Victor Atiyeh enters the room and is immediately surrounded by smiling alumni. Most in attendance seem accustomed to the governor's presence,

though. Their appearance is generally old, well-dressed and as clean as being well-heeled allows them to be.

But here and there, amid all the conservatism, a certain unusual, almost bizarre flair of fanaticism is noticeable. A woman looking so very normal in her nondescript dress flaunts green and yellow-striped stockings. A man, dressed in bright yellow pants and a green coat, tries to tell me that his kind of attire should be mandatory at football games.

"They oughta all wear green and yellow," he grumbles. "You know, in Nebraska they all wear red. All these people up here can afford to buy green and yellow clothes."

The catered buffet begins. Gray-uniformed, white-gloved waiters stand by as the guests mull over a table of salads and hors d'oeuvres, cold cuts,

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