



Students skeptical of federal legislation

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

Pres. Ronald Reagan's call for legislation withholding federal highway funds from states with minimum legal drinking ages below 21 years has been answered by Congress.

HR 4616 withholds 5 percent of a state's highway construction money if it does not enact a minimum drinking age of 21 by Oct. 1, 1986. This penalty will increase by 5 percent in 1988. The bill is now in the president's hands, awaiting his signature.

And University student Bill Snyder says that when the bill is signed, there will be "some screaming and hollering" from the United States Student Association. Snyder, who is the national

veterans' representative to the USSA, expects the issue to surface at the USSA convention, Aug. 4-9 at the University.

"Eighteen-year-olds can drink anyway, regardless of the law," Snyder says. "All this law will do is create legal hassles and clog our courtrooms."

Snyder also asserts that holding back highway money from states will not hurt the 18-to-20-year-olds of those states as much as it will prove a detriment to commerce and industry through poorly maintained roads.

HR 4616 will have no effect on Oregon, one of 23 states with a minimum legal drinking age of 21. Oregon has forbidden the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons below that age since the repeal of Prohibition in 1933.

However, Snyder says statistics show that Oregonians under the age of 21 suffer most of the state's traffic fatalities, despite the state's higher legal drinking age.

Snyder also sees the bill as an attempt to appease conservative voters. "If you can't get an abortion bill through Congress, you can still keep conservatives and fundamentalists happy by socking it to 18-through-20-year-olds," he explains.

Snyder, who will represent veterans at the USSA convention, says he expects a resolution opposing HR 4616 to be introduced at the meeting.

Katherine Ozer, USSA legislative director, said last week that the association believes that there are better alternatives to dealing with alcohol abuse

than what she calls a "Band-Aid" approach of raising the legal drinking age.

Some of those alternatives include alcohol awareness programs, tougher enforcement of existing laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors, and the elimination of plea bargaining for drunk-driving offenses. Ozer's remarks appeared in the July 5 issue of *The Chronicle for Higher Education*.

ASUO Pres. Julie Davis says that she has no basic objection to a minimum drinking age of 21 — "Alcohol abuse is definitely a problem in our society today."

But Davis says she considers it strange that a person can be drafted into the armed forces and sent to war "at the ripe-old-age of 18," yet cannot buy a glass of beer.

State may repeal tax

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

Gov. Vic Atiyeh announced Tuesday he will call a special legislative session to repeal the state's unitary method of taxing corporations, but no dates for the session have been set.

Both Senate Pres. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, and House Speaker Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, have assured the governor that the votes are there to pass the measure. But the special session will be limited to dealing with the unitary tax and the dispute between Washington and Oregon over taxing of non-residents working in the state.

The governor has proposed changing the tax method to what is called the "federal base approach." A corporation's income for tax purposes would be based on federal income figures, and income of foreign subsidiaries would not be considered in determining tax liability.

"It does not mean that any specific corporation would have higher or lower taxes," says Jim Scherzinger, legislative revenue officer. "But generally it would mean lower taxes for most corporations."

Repeal of the unitary method will encourage both foreign and domestic corporations to invest in Oregon, thus creating jobs for Oregonians, says Denny Miles, the governor's press secretary.

The unitary system "is not a tax at all," says Gil Wright of the state Economic Development Commission, but a complex accounting formula to determine a corporation's tax liability in Oregon.

Essentially, the unitary method takes into account a corporation's worldwide activities, using a formula that considers the company's property, payroll and sales. The method uses these three factors to determine the proportion of the company's activities in Oregon compared to its worldwide activities.

"What it does is even out the whole thing," says Gary Mollgaard, auditor for the state Revenue Department.

The method also considers groups of related companies, such as corporations with an overlapping directorship or a parent company and its subsidiaries, as a single unit.

"It's a very complex tax," says Miles. Though originally designed to prevent corporations from manipulating their bookkeeping to ensure a favorable tax rate, many corporations have said they will not locate in states with such a system.

The change in tax accounting will cause a yet undetermined drop in state revenues in the short run, but in the long run it will increase income and create jobs as more companies locate in Oregon, Miles says.

In the short run, a drop in state revenues may be offset by increased business by companies who may perceive the change in the tax system as an indication that Oregon is taking a more pro-business stance, Miles says.

"There are people making decisions right now for plant locations," he says. "And they are not going to wait until January."

Country Fair has blossomed

This year's Oregon Country Fair will showcase 300 food and crafts booths, continuous entertainment on eight stages, and an exhibition of renewable energy sources called the Energy Park.

Meanwhile, The Community Village, a gathering place for givers and receivers of various services

munity school. In spring of 1970, the fair moved to its current location and attracted a "totally unexpected" 6,000 people, says Barbara Stern, the fair's publicity coordinator.

Attendance at the fair has grown to 20,000 for the three day period. In 1982 the fair organizers purchased



Emerald photo

A juggler is just one type of entertainment fairgoers are sure to spot at the Oregon Country Fair this weekend.

available in the community, debuts this year.

The fair, which starts Friday and will run through Sunday, is located on Highway 126 just west of Elmira.

Free buses to the fair will leave the Eugene Mall every half hour beginning at 10:15 a.m., and return trips will run until about 8 p.m.

Entertainment begins Friday at noon and will run continuously. Featured artists include folk musicians Bryan Bowers and Utah Phillips, the Flying Karamozov Brothers, jazz pianist Scott Cossu, as well as a variety of local acts.

Bowers will perform Saturday at 3 p.m. On Sunday, Cossu will perform at 1 p.m. and Phillips will perform at 2 p.m. The Karamozov Brothers will perform as part of the fair's circus at noon and 3 p.m. each day.

The fair originated in 1969 as the "Renaissance Pleasure Fair," staged as a benefit for a children's com-

the site, allowing the fairgrounds to be improved and used for other entertainment throughout the year.

"When I first started my involvement in the fair, in 1977, we had three stages for entertainment. Now there are eight," says Stern. "Most of the entertainment at that time was just your local folks. Then, we started getting interest from some of the national recording artists."

"Anyone who enjoys spending time outside the city, anyone who enjoys seeing crafts and arts, anyone who likes to taste a variety of exotic foods that are prepared, and anyone who is interested in folk, jazz, rock, blues . . . music" will enjoy the fair, says Stern.

The fair is open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Admission is \$4 on Friday and \$5 on Saturday and Sunday. Children under 14 may enter for free and those 55 or older may enter for half price.

For more information, call 345-1163.