

Alcohol-server law should be improved

Oregon's new alcohol-server education law is a step in the right direction as a means to enlighten alcohol servers and consumers about the dangers of excessive drinking, as well as a good way to reduce insurance liability for owners of drinking establishments. However, there are some flaws to this piece of legislation that should be corrected.

For starters, the exam fee for the mandatory course is too high, ranging from \$25 to \$45, and in some areas the cost may even be higher. Those on fixed incomes, or who only work part-time will find it difficult to figure the cost of the program into their budgets.

Moreover, individuals who serve alcohol should not have to bear any of the cost for taking the course — restaurant and bar owners should. Owners are in a better position to pay for their employees' exams because they can pass the cost on to the consumer by raising drink prices.

While many would criticize this suggestion as being unfair to owners and the drinking public, price increases would be temporary and spread out over a greater segment of society. Essentially, this would be more fair than the current system, for the alcohol-server law was designed to protect everyone — not just those who serve drinks — and so it follows the greater whole should bear the cost.

The law could also be improved if alcohol servers had the option to read the 30-page booklet and then take the exam, rather than being required to attend the five to eight hour course. If one could read the booklet and pass the exam, taking the course would be redundant.

The public would be wise to keep an eye on Bennett

While we applaud City Councilor Rob Bennett's decision to abstain from voting on amendments to the city's condominium-conversion ordinance, there are still questions regarding his participation in the final decision on the proposal that we believe should be addressed.

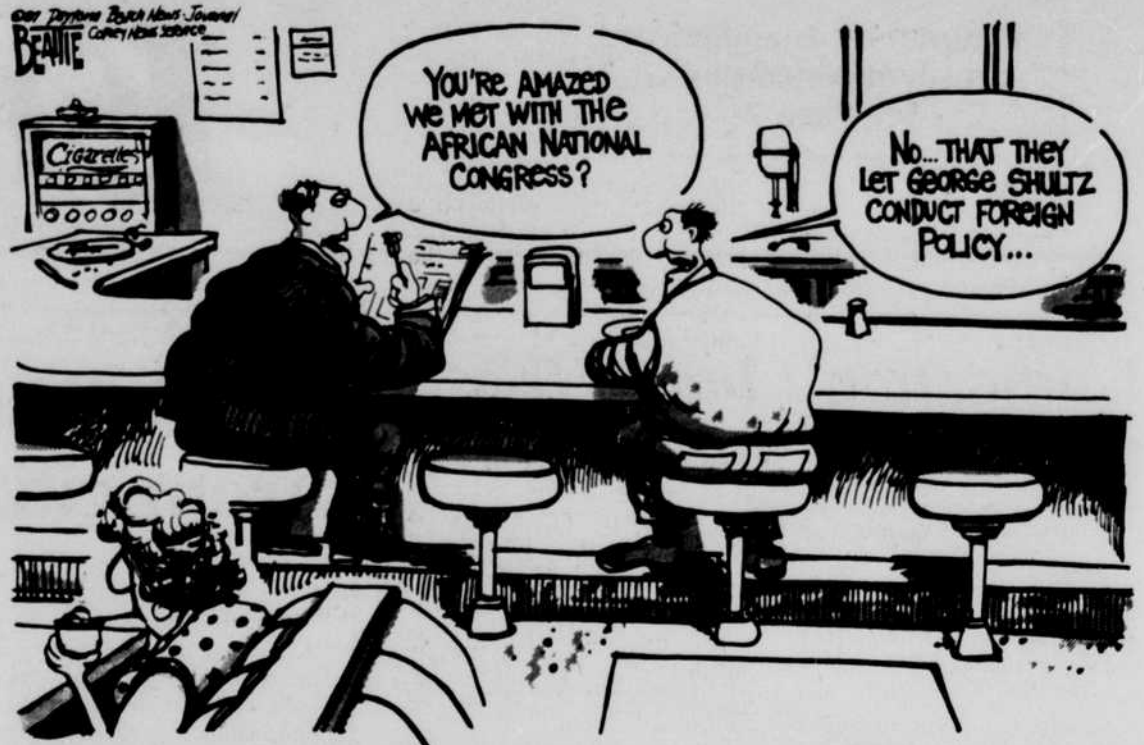
Although the city's attorney decided that Bennett does not have conflict of interest because he has yet to announce his intention to convert his Eugene Manor apartment complex to condos, we have our doubts that will stop him from playing a prominent role in the city's final decision.

Bennett, a real-estate developer, pushed for the change in the condo conversion ordinance when he was on the Eugene Planning Commission last year. The ordinance change would suit Bennett just fine as he would no doubt benefit from converting Eugene Manor into condominiums.

And even though he won't be voting on the ordinance's change per se, he will still have a hand in the decision making process. As City Councilor, he'll have access to the City Council's ear. Herein lies the other conflict of interest not addressed by the city's attorney.

Bennett undoubtedly will lobby strongly for changing the condo conversion ordinance. Although it's not illegal for him to do so, there are ethical considerations at stake here. Bennett has friends in high places, and his word carries a lot of weight.

It would be naive to think that he will not pull some strings to get what is most beneficial for him. For this reason it would behoove those who would be affected by the City Council's decision to keep a close eye on the council, as well as City Councilor Rob Bennett.



Letters

Obscenity

Oregon's Supreme Court rules that "obscenity is protected under the state constitution's guaranteed...right of free expression." From this quote—the entire substance of the story it broached in four obscure column inches of space—I infer that:

[Firstest—the Oregon Supreme Court, like the obscenity its ruling countenances, is itself constitutional.

Secondish—the Court couldn't have touched the anti-obscenity prohibition it struck, if that prohibition was an organic part of the constitution.

Thirdlike—if thus constitutional, its clear interpretation and specific application pursuant to public conscience should be easier than negotiating the ground-fog of ERA shrouding the brow of its precipice.

Lastmost—effectual "censorship," presently affecting only the "free", albeit unscriptural public exercise of religious observances, shall extend to media filth when, to our conscientious recognition and abhorrence thereof, are wedded ACLU's discernment-to-apprehend and wisdom-to-prevent abuses of censorship—for which Ri-danq-ue lots, Dave.

Kenneth L. Paige
Salem

Big Bang

This letter is intended to up the ante on all the letters received.

"Sophomoric," Mr. Kallimanis? (ODE, Jan 29) Your reading ability is half-baked. This is our first letter on the second law of thermodynamics, but don't blame us for the misunderstanding—no one called to inquire of our statement!

We said that the second law "was not always the case (if you hold to your reasoning)," (ODE, Jan. 12). What we are referring to is the Big Bang. On this issue of spontaneous creation, DuNouy says that "the chance formulations of a typical protein molecule made up of 3,000 atoms is of the order of one to 2.02 x 10 to the 231st power, or practically nil. Even if the elements are shaken up at the speed of the vibration of light, it would take 10 to the 234th power billions of years to get the protein molecule (needed) for life, and life on the earth is limited to about two billion years."

Genesis 1, the creation of the world chapter, is certainly not out of harmony with the trend of present scientific information. Think about it!

"Freud", Mr. Tryba? (ODE, Jan. 30) Your reasoning is pathetically basic, and terribly misinformed. Here's to your ante, "My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior Spirit who reveals Himself in the slight minds. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God," Albert Einstein.

Brian Frary
Biology

look to all sources, both sacred and secular, for new wisdom and insight... We also laud, not just tolerance of, but genuine respect for, the ideas and opinions of one another."

I am in a tight spot to PROSELYTIZE too much because our church has a rich history in NOT telling people what to think, when it comes to the LARGER questions of life. However, please feel free to attend the church services, held at 10:30, or the adult class called "Developing your own Theology" which brings people together to explore individual meanings to life.

A personal note to the individuals who particularly identified with JOEL BEATH, amongst the Unitarian religion are a full range from "believers" to "atheists."

Brian D. Lewis
Board of Directors
Unitarian Church of Eugene

Revolution

I must be getting old. Did I read that the University of Oregon received bomb threats because they're building a museum over a parking lot? (Register Guard, Jan. 27) It used to be the other way around. (Has the revolution of the 60's slowed down, sputtered to a stop and shifted into reverse?)

Oh well, I guess I can see the point of view of these new age protesters. There's plenty of silly old museums around already, but how many really neat and convenient parking lots are left? Will they all be sacrificed before future generations even get a chance to park in them? What's after that? High-rise condo demolition to make room for parks? Where will the insanity end?

Bob Saltz
Eugene

Freethinkers

There is one church in the Lane County area that caters to the "free-thinkers" as many people call us. The Unitarian Church of Eugene and Lane County, located at 477 E. 14th Ave.

As we state in our Newcomer's Guide: "We are a community of free religious seekers. We are people who

In Vogue

Josh King remarked, "social activism seems to be in vogue today." Com' on, babe; get a grip on yourself.

N. R. Rant
University of Washington
Class of 1970

Thursday, February 5, 1987

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director Susan Thelen
Production Manager Wayne Michael Lottinville
Classified Advertising Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Spectrum Editor
Editorial Page Editors

Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Assistant Photo Editor
Graphic Editor
Night Editor

Associate Editors
Community
Higher Education / Administration
University Affairs
Student Government
General Assignment

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, Scott Maben, Janet Paulson, B.J. Thomsen.

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angela Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, X. Kang Xie.

Michelle Brenc
Lucinda Dillon
Michael Rivers
Stephen Maher
James Young
Michael Drummond
Capi Lynn
Michael Wilhelm
John Giustina
Lorraine Rath
Jolayne Houtz

Jolayne Houtz
Chris Norred
Stan Nelson
Sarah Kitchen
Dennis Fernandes