

# Editorial

## Bar liability ruling accents responsibility

The Oregon Court of Appeals extended the liability law for bars serving visibly intoxicated customers to include assault last Wednesday. Currently, a bar can be held responsible for drunk driving incidents if it last served the driver.

According to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, a licensee can have its liquor license revoked and be held liable if it serves anyone visibly intoxicated. Until this decision, however, the liability law only was applied to drunk driving cases.

The case decided last Wednesday involved a man who claimed a customer who had been served while intoxicated stabbed him. He also claimed the bar was negligent in serving and should be held liable.

This ruling reinforces a law designed to make bars more responsible in serving customers. Although this case may seem extreme, it is just another aspect of the law. The law says bar operators can be held liable for damage by customers who were served while visibly drunk. To this extent we agree with the decision.

But while this law is sound in theory, it is not always easy to prove what or how many establishments last served an intoxicated customer. Granted, a bar should be responsible for the people it serves and prevent them from drinking and driving. But other actions, such as assault with a deadly weapon, cannot always be predicted.

Other methods exist to keep a bars from serving already intoxicated people. The OLCC has set guidelines to maintain the owner's responsibility and work to enforce their regulations. With these guidelines and the liability law, a bar owner is certain of his responsibility to safety the public. But it should not extend beyond his hands.

The Court of Appeals is forcing bar owners to take responsibility for individual acts of violence — acts of which they have no control. The ambiguity of who last served the belligerent customer detracts and renders ineffective the goal it seeks to accomplish.

## Dylan/Dead campsite benefits fans/University

The University is to be commended for its decision last Wednesday to operate a campground for Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan fans this weekend. Realizing the need to provide concert-goers with a safe, convenient place to stay will benefit the University as well as the campers.

According to University officials, the east end of the Autzen Stadium parking lot will be converted into a campground for five days. The fee for camping in the lot will vary depending on the day a camper enters.

Officials will be able to regulate campers' activities as well as provide food booths, water and sanitary conditions in the confined area. These were some of the main problems with providing a site at Alton Baker Park.

A similar concert in 1978 showed the need for a campground. Thousands of people camped at Alton Baker Park and the city was responsible for the \$15,000 clean-up costs. The idea for a regulated campground at Alton Baker Park was proposed earlier in June but no bids were submitted.

By working with the city to establish a campsite, the University will relieve some of the maintenance and regulation problems. It also will keep the site open until Monday. This will provide drivers with a close place to stay, instead of trying to leave directly after the concert.



## Letters

### Grand slam

Ain't politics grand!  
A self-righteous Senator Ed Kennedy (7-2-87) confidently feels he is "able to reach out from the muck of" Chappaquiddick to indignantly denounce the morals of President Reagan in his choice of a new Supreme Court Justice.

Is this the best national spokesman on morals the liberals can come up with?

Jon Wollander  
Eugene

### Higher being

Inherent in the Supreme Court decision that a 1981 Louisiana law mandating "creation science" instruction violated the legal principle of separation of church and state is its logical corollary: "divine creation," source from which the oxymoron, "creation science," is derived, and the concept of "God," are fiction.

If there was the slightest evidence to the contrary 72 Nobel Laureates and the Academies of Science of 16 states would not have opposed the Louisiana law.

These philosophical issues are important domestically and internationally. They concern the issues by which we are exploited.

Ignorance and fear of rela-

tions with communist nations in political, economic, social and industrial spheres over the past 40 years have been fostered by religious and military/industrial leaders in the United States.

Religious leaders see their control of U.S. society threatened by the prospect of well researched and powerful atheist arguments emanating from communist nations. Communist nations, too, exploit similar fears vis-a-vis the West.

In "The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man" (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago Press, 1977) five eminent scholars examine the development of religious and creation myths in the ancient societies of Egypt, Babylon and Israel, and describe the birth of philosophy and science in Classical Greece.

The orthodox, as always, despised the skeptical as "fools" and attempted to disparage their learning and influence, so, we read: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God' "(Psalm 14:1, 53:1).

This Old Testament passage in English, as in Hebrew, indicates that by 1000 B.C., learned, courageous men and women knew and clearly stated, "God does not exist."

Bert P. Tryba  
Eugene

### We the people

As we listen to the developments in the Iran-Contra scandal, let us all realize that we must bear witness to a investigation carried forth by clandestine governmental appointees, and a factionalized interest perverting the intent of a democratic people.

Let us not forget that sanctions of these policies, and let us not forget that declaration of their legitimacy is contrary to the principles of God, if he exists, and it is contrary to the essence of humanity. These acts

are not in accord with our customs, our mores, our morality, our traditions, and our law.

Our children will see what is sown from these seeds.

The real hidden sin, if there is one, is in the needless slaughter of Iranians, Iraqis, and Nicaraguans: slaughter hastened and instigated by American people.

It is not our form of government. It is not our principles, that these policies represent. It is the self-righteous interest of faction.

We, the people, form this government. A government finds legitimacy only in its people — in all its people — not in faction.

Let us not forget the proclamation of another of our historical documents, one whose 200th birthday has already past, let us not forget that our Declaration of Independence has proclaimed that all men are created equal, that all men are endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Let us not deny these rights to other peoples. Let us live up to our obligations in the Constitution, in our treaties; let us resolve disputes peacefully, and with established, basic law.

Perhaps most importantly, let us not be so blind as to celebrate the Constitution, and denigrate its democratic principle. Let us be aware that openly debated policy is superior to that of the policy of a few. Let us know and believe that our public policy is indeed public.

Factionalized action of this sort is contrary to the spirit of a democratic people, it is insult to we, the American people. It is hardship on our children. It is burden on our reputation. It is history, slander to our very soul.

Brad Paulson  
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Tuesday, July 14, 1987

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