

## Fans need to be aware of new Autzen policies

There are a few new policy changes for Autzen Stadium that fans should take notice of.

Smoking and umbrellas have been banned from the stadium and there have been several measures taken to try and reduce the amount of alcohol consumption by fans.

The Athletic Department has said it is relying on the honor system to make sure that the smoking and umbrella bans work.

With no threat of being removed from the stadium or facing the humiliation of being told, like a child, to "knock it off" the smoking and umbrella changes might go unnoticed.

However, extra security guards have been hired to police the stadium, and it will be interesting to see how nicotine addicts respond to requests to extinguish their butts.

The Athletic Department might find that they were better off before the policies were in place.

Everyone has the right to watch a game without having to inhale the by-products of someone else's addiction, but non-enforced rules will do little to guarantee that right.

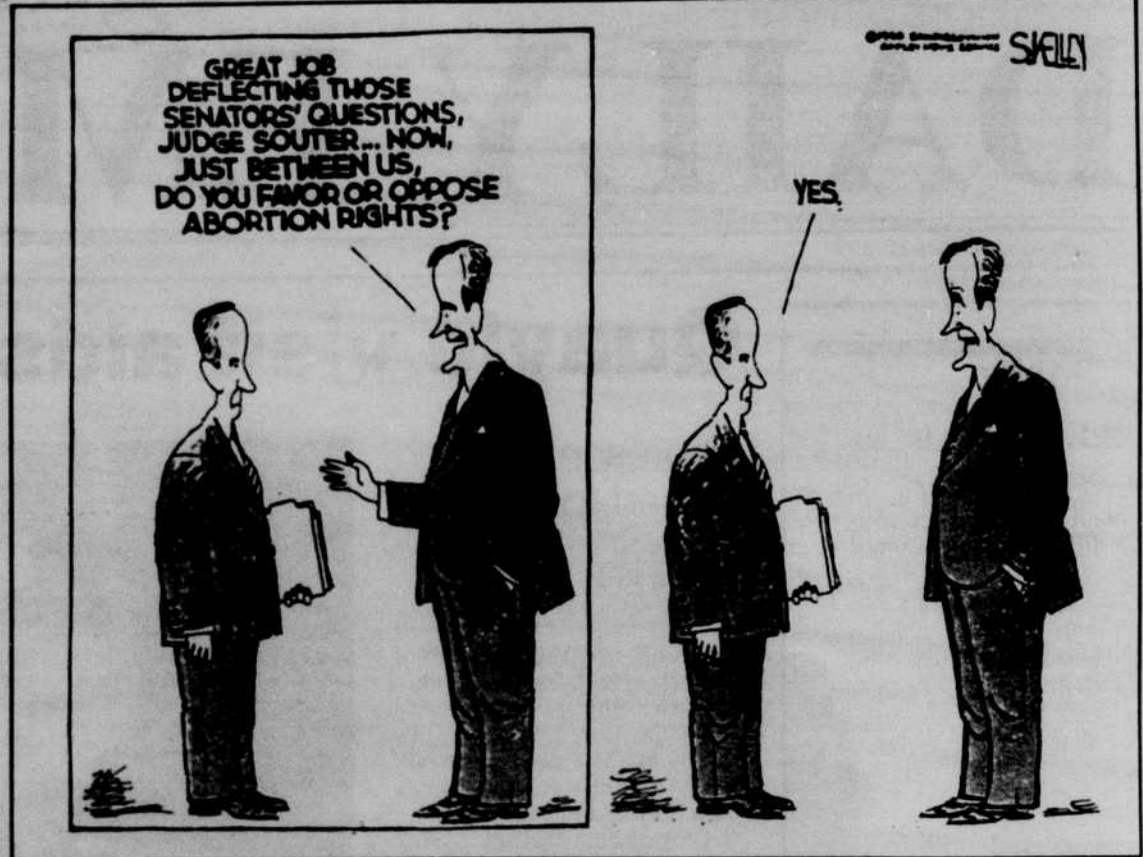
Peer pressure is a strong force, but let's face it, people who don't think it is inconsiderate to open an umbrella in front of rows of other fans probably won't be stopped by a harsh word or two from those fellow fans.

The reasons behind the tougher drinking laws are honorable. There have been many instances of people being stopped and ticketed for drunk driving while returning from games at the stadium.

The Athletic Department has said it wants to encourage fans to act more responsibly. So they have cut the amount of time allowed for tailgate parties from five hours to four. The amount of time that beer will be sold in the Alumni Tent has also been reduced.

Is one less hour of drinking going to make people drink more responsibly? It is doubtful.

One aspect of the Autzen alcohol policy screams of hypocrisy. No fans are allowed to drink inside the stadium, except inside the skyboxes. Don't people in skyboxes have to drive home like everyone else? If students or general admission ticket holders are not allowed to drink in the stadium, why are some people allowed to buy that right when they pay for their elite seating?



## Charities deserve use of payroll deductions

A recent editorial in *The Register-Guard* claims the United Way is under challenge from groups that want to "horn in on payroll deductions."

Why should the United Way be the only charitable organization that county workers can use payroll deductions for?

Several environmental groups challenged this policy earlier in the year, causing Lane County commissioners to eliminate all charitable payroll deductions, including those for the United Way. However, the Lane County commissioners restored United Way payroll deductions while outlining regulations that exclude most other organizations.

Other charities have gained access to state and local government offices, and according to *The Register-Guard* editorial, this

is not good.

To be fair, there is nothing wrong with United Way. The fact that 84 cents out of every dollar goes to services is a goal all charity groups should reach for. But getting contributions from payroll deductions eliminates the need for a lot of administrative costs such as fundraising.

The money raised by United Way stays in Lane County which is also another positive aspect.

But workers can decide for themselves which charities they want to donate to through payroll deductions. Just because Tony Baker, editor and publisher of *The Register-Guard*, is assistant chairperson of this year's county drive, is no reason for exclusion of other worthy groups.

## LETTERS

### Shade trees

In your Aug. 7 issue, I read about the work being done to realign Agate Street between 13th Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. The one question I had as I was reading the article was, are the trees on the median strip going to be cut?

The article told me everything else — a new pumping station is being constructed, a parking lot is being closed, traffic signals will be upgraded and the islands and turn lanes will be reconfigured.

It did not occur to me that "reconfiguring islands" meant cutting down the beautiful trees which so often had shaded me against a hot sun as I stood waiting for the signal at Franklin to turn. I saw these trees for the last time on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 9, the day before they were cut.

Given the concern that Eugene residents have about trees, I find it interesting that your article did not mention outright what the fate of those trees would be. The omission almost appears intentional. If it was, then your publication is a self-serving propaganda sheet that

has no business being financed by the tax payers of Oregon.

Robert B. Lofft  
Eugene

### Taxing

Five years research in Eugene suggests religious influences in our public universities, too long unchallenged, extend to adversely affect all aspects of our society, including Supreme Court justice, evidenced by the recent "Equal Access" decision that allows student organized and led religious clubs on public high school campuses exacerbating danger to satisfactory achievement in mathematics and science in American educational systems. Theist religions are inherently tyrannical and anti-intellectual.

For three generations, universities in Oregon and some other states have allowed theist religious encroachment onto public campuses prejudicially miseducating students either by commission or omission.

At a recent lecture in Eugene, Benton Johnson, University of Oregon sociology department head and religious cult expert,

suggested a course, "Atheism," elaborating rationalist understanding, would be a desirable addition to social science curricula, and affirmed the espousal of skepticism by many, if not most, University academics. Johnson described how North Carolina's governor congratulated graduates during his graduation long ago giving each a Bible. Johnson, nevertheless, asserted the old, false theological "argument of universal consent": "No culture or society has ever been found without some concept of deity," providing classic evidence how religious influence misleads people.

Alan Charles Kors in "Atheism in France, 1650-1729" (Princeton University Press, 1990) documents many letters from early Catholic missionaries to superiors in Europe describing native tribes in North and South America, as well as "heathens" in China who had no concept of "God," yet practiced exemplary, moral, ethical conduct among themselves and with neighboring people.

White, Anglo-Saxon, protestant, professors dominating the University of North Carolina faculty were, evidently, less re-

ceptive of Catholic sources and scholarship than public institutions serving Catholic populations in the north.

Religious bias undermines the integrity of secular education in ways that amaze objective observers. Let's not martyr the intellects of citizens on the altars of the superstition and faith. Vote no! on ballot measure 11 which provides tax credits for biased sectarian education.

Bert Tryba  
Eugene

### Selective birth

Dave Frohnmayer's television advertisements announce he would be a good governor, protecting Oregon's present and future citizens.

However, he belongs to the

pro-abortion advocacy and does not even support the desirable parental notification proposal. So, if elected he would be a governor to those citizens selectively allowed to be born.

The Oregon Citizen's Alliance group, recognizing the various trends that have eroded the values in this country in regard to the merit and appreciation of children, parenting and human life in general, have nominated a conservative-minded man to run for governor. He is Independent Al Mobley. He will get my vote.

I will also vote for measure 8 which would ban abortion with the three exceptions of rape, incest and to save the life of the mother.

Betty Lindley  
Pleasant Hill

### LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.