

Limiting keg use may be pointless

Every Saturday morning, the Autzen Stadium parking lots fill with rowdy tailgate parties, obnoxious drunk folk and lots of beer kegs.

The University and Eugene police department didn't like that idea. So tomorrow's Washington-Oregon face-off will instead feature rowdy tailgate parties, obnoxious drunk folk and lots of beer cans and bottles.

You have to wonder if that's what University officials intended.

Actually, not all kegs would be banned from the stadium. People wishing to bring kegs would need approval from the athletic department and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, as well as needing a certified server to prevent underage drinking.

But kegs are not the cause of underage drinking. And limiting their use won't solve much.

As most underage students will tell you, obtaining alcohol is not very difficult. Anyone with an over-21 friend or relative can attest to that. And if a student is really desperate, he or she will often ask a stranger. Limiting kegs certainly makes it more inconvenient for underage students, but it won't stop them.

One thing to remember is that fans can still get a keg if they need one. It's just means a little more red tape. For fans playing by the law, it shouldn't be that big of a deal.

A larger problem for everyone involved is that, with kegs gone, fans will have more impetus to start drinking before they get to the stadium. As it stands now, people come to the tailgate parties, grab their cups and have fun. But soon people may be going to the supermarket, buying a case of beer and enjoying themselves on the way to the stadium.

Drunk driving is already a serious problem after a game. The last thing we should do is give drivers an incentive to drink on their way to a game. It's a problem that should be looked at.

The final result of the keg limitation is that fans will bring bottles and cans for drinking instead of kegs. In other words, Safeway will probably be busier on game days than the keg distributorship.

This is also problematic. First, kegs are a cleaner and easier solution than cans. The beer is in a single container to be distributed. Cups can be used, reused and disposed of easily. And the mess can be confined to a smaller area.

Granted, many keg users utilize plastic cups rather than paper, an unsound environmental choice. But at least these cups are usually used by one person repeatedly.

Cans and bottles can be used only once, disposing of the containers is difficult because there aren't recycle bins in the parking lot, and the mess will probably be spread out wide and far.

Still, there are valid reasons to limit the use of kegs at Autzen. The University's intention is good. After all, if a group still wants a keg, it just needs to get the University's permission. But the worry here is that it may create more problems than it was supposed to solve.



LETTERS

Satan man

Right on Jon, you've got guts to take a stand in favor of Measure 9 (ODE, Oct. 12). Unfortunately, you may experience some harassment. I proudly wear buttons supporting Measure 9, and have received numerous "sneers," as well as some disturbing phone calls. I hope your stand on Measure 9 will not bring you any grief — just happy thoughts.

Contrary to popular belief, not all people who support Measure 9 are fundamental right-wing Christians. I am, in fact, a Satanist. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to teach my religious beliefs and/or sexual practices in school. Nor will the government promote Satanism. But homosexuals are allowed to teach their ways. This is unfair. In order to ensure equal rights for all, vote yes on 9.

Norm Kuehl
Women's Studies

Elect Hornbuckle

Students living west of Agate Street, on and off campus, have an unusual opportunity to vote for an advocate for the poor people among us. Kevin Hornbuckle is young enough to remember vividly the pressures of college life and to represent student interests and values on the Eugene City Council.

Hornbuckle advocates fairness in taxation, low cost housing, adequate medical care and human rights for everyone. He is endorsed by Eric Ward and "Communities Against Hate."

Hornbuckle will add a more consistent and compassionate voice to a city council that has, for example, callously denied very modest camping site facilities to destitute homeless families. In the past, Eugene has permitted numerous concert goers to camp near Autzen Stadium simply by waiving city ordinances.

Hornbuckle will help reorder city priorities. For example, Eu-

gene has made costly cosmetic changes in the downtown mall while denying for 10 years city ordinance-mandated fire and ambulance protection to a large area of the city.

Legally required financial reports prove that big money interests support Hornbuckle's opponent. Big money interests frequently serve us all, but entrepreneurial distractions may lead to the injustices exemplified above.

Hornbuckle is unwilling and unable to buy this election. He depends on the insight, good judgment and commitment of alert students to vote for him.

Ray Wolfe
Professor Emeritus,
chemistry

Remain diverse

In a commentary published in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* on June 23, I noted that the faculty at the University are not internationally diverse or sophisticated, and because of the paucity of scholars and counselors from other countries, especially from the Middle East, it would be better if international students spent their educational dollars elsewhere.

Later in the summer, bigotry revealed its ugly face, and my remarks of June 23 proved to be prescient. The short but eloquent remarks of Xiaoyan Yan (ODE, Oct. 8) summarized the story.

It would be most appropriate if all students join with international students to boycott courses dealing with international relations, foreign policy and related subjects, until scholars from the Middle East and elsewhere join the faculty to bring a semblance of diversity in the presentation of ideas and realities.

As a student I faced the bigotry and discrimination of this system and came out stronger knowing that those who are bigots are individuals of small stature and flawed character. So, international students rejoice that you are strong to be in a foreign land, enduring all facets of life, mastering a foreign language and studying and receiving advanced degrees in the midst of adversity. Imagine any member of this faculty or administration in your home country doing the same.

In the meantime, if you intend to stay at the University, keep your eyes open, speak out and let our diversity keep us strong to be vigilant against all forms of bigotry.

M. Reza Behnam
Eugene

Empowerment

How do you see empowerment? How does authority affect your everyday life? On Nov. 3, we will all have the chance to vote and take part in deciding who is going to represent us, work with us and lead us. We will all have an opportunity to be empowered. Getting registered to vote, getting informed on the issues and actually voting is empowerment.

We must all exercise our right to vote. There are many controversial issues this year. But if we take the time and make ourselves informed of the issues and listen to what the candidates are saying, then we can make an educated decision. I hope everyone that can vote will. If we, as students, make our vote count, we can change our surroundings.

Christopher Hogan
Student

LETTERS POLICY

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.

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