

Greek alcohol policy needs reality check

The University and the greek system are working together to create a tighter alcohol policy for fraternities and sororities. However, the current proposal before the Student Conduct Committee will do little to help the greek system deal with alcohol abuse at its functions.

The policy has three options, the first of which is to hire a licensed Oregon Liquor Control Commission server to serve alcohol and check student IDs at functions.

This option assumes merely checking ID is an effective method of preventing underage drinkers from gaining access to alcohol. It does not. Underage drinkers gain entry into nightclubs and bars every night. Either their ID is not thoroughly checked, the person checking doesn't care, or they have fake ID. That's the real world.

The second option would require party goers to bring their own alcohol. However, this option fails for the same reasons as the first: Although the ID of those bringing alcohol will be checked, a marginally creative student with little effort could thwart the system.

The third option would allow fraternities and sororities to submit a customized proposal to the greek system two weeks before a planned function. Do-it-yourself, on-the-fly rule making is destined to fail. Whoever approves the plans will be criticized for inconsistency. And when a plan is rejected, the function will either have to be postponed or canceled, ruining everybody's day.

The fundamental flaw in the entire plan is that it assumes people between the ages of 18 and 21 are incapable of handling alcohol, the same faulty premise upon which state law is also based.

Simply put, there is no magical transformation that occurs between 18 and 21. If people are going to abuse alcohol, the degree to which they do it will not be determined by their age.

The greek system and the University should face reality and admit that people under 21 are going to consume alcohol. With that basic fact faced up front, the greek system and the University can then set out on a campaign of education.

Teach students, at all ages, what the effects of alcohol are and how to use alcohol responsibly. An effort may also be undertaken to teach students that they can have an enjoyable time without alcohol. Hard to believe, but it's true.

A University-wide alcohol policy that is based on the real world will go much farther toward reducing alcohol abuse than a policy that is little more than action for action's sake.

The greek system and the University should face reality and admit that people under 21 are going to consume alcohol

Obama/Clinton

A

B

C

D

CLINTON MAKES PROMISE

QUICKLY CLARIFIED BY STEPHANOFILOS

FOLLOWED BY FLAT DENIAL

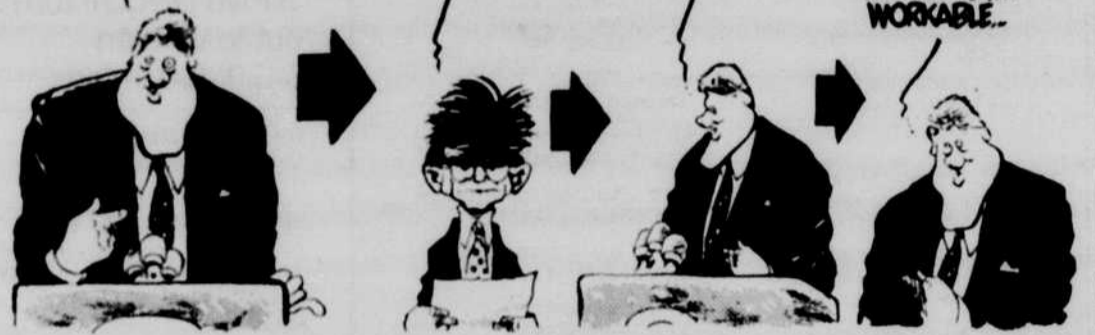
FOLLOWED BY 180° REVERSAL

"WE WILL HAVE ELIMINATED ALL TAXES BY 1995."

"WHAT HE MEANT WAS ALL TEXAS BY 2001..."

"I DON'T RECALL EVER HAVING SAID THAT..."

"YOU KNOW WHEN I SAW THE REALITY ONCE IN OFFICE, I SAW THAT WASN'T WORKABLE..."



LETTERS

Poor reasoning

I am a pre-journalism major who is consistently amazed at the poor quality of reasoning in your editorials. It is truly a "gray" area. Specifically, I refer to the April 12 editorial about a multicultural center.

The text repeatedly contains the terms "they" and "them." "They" are accused of a multitude of questionable acts. Who are "they"? As a member of the Upik peoples, am I one of "them"? Multicultural means having many given peoples. That means many belief systems, yet your editorial implies "they" are all the same.

That attitude is what a center is all about. To be a minority is to be forever excluded at some level. Even when allowed to use space in the Fishbowl, there is a separation. What is so wrong about a place of refuge and learning, a place where people are cognizant that there are differences between a Persian and an Athabaskan?

After all, nobody asked me if I mind funding the *Commentator*, the *Student Insurgent* or the *Emerald*. I would rather have the money for me. These publications represent 10 percent of ASUO disbursements. I find it offensive that I am required to fund publications that consistently demean and alienate people who do not subscribe to a particular opinion or agenda.

You have opinions and I have opinions, but that's all they are because they are subject to change. Because this is a school, maybe we should be learning from what you report, rather than being deluged with items more suitable for a gossip column.

David T. McCanna
Pre-Journalism

the election rules after the initial ballot count was known?

With this in mind, I'd like to know how the write-in candidates factored into the final tally. Some voters wrote the names of the candidates in the given space rather than filling in the appropriate box. So how could the number of votes for either ticket not increase, though the Warren/Johnson tally went down by two votes?

The recount process isn't the only problem here either. Why is it that certain volunteers at various voting booths specifically told graduate, law and international students that they were ineligible to vote? Some students went to other booths where they were allowed to vote with no hassles. Others simply walked away angry and frustrated. Aren't all students who pay student fees eligible to vote in student elections?

With these issues at hand, ASUO executives wonder why student apathy is such a problem. It's not that we don't care what happens in the University community. We just can't figure out how to make a difference from the outside while those on the inside conveniently pull their strings and abuse the system.

Katrina Zerga
Biology
Anthropology

Ouch

Upon leaving the University Student Health Center the other morning, I encountered a woman being cited by OPS Officer Otis Scarborough for failure to register her bicycle and the perilous action of riding on the sidewalk. Unfortunately, my bike was locked next to the scene of this hideous crime, whereupon Scarborough conveniently noticed that my bicycle was unregistered with the University as well. Fate be it, I was then asked for my student ID and ticketed for my blatantly deviant behavior.

Believing I was free to go, I casually slipped my foot into my pedal in hopes of skating to the edge of the street. Oops. Mistake number two. Nothing could slip by Scarborough's keen eyes. Oh no, not a lecture on the definition of "walking," an action

humankind has been practicing for four million years.

His words spewed in one ear and out the other while I admired the pretty purple and white blooming tree in front of me. Finally, I hopped on my bike and rode the ten feet to the street with Scarborough yelling that I would be receiving yet another citation in the mail. Good, I thought.

People like Scarborough take away the "quality of life" from humankind, as well as all other life forms. The longer I'm at this institutional learning facility, the more I feel life is being sucked out of me. Pretty soon I'm probably going to wither up and blow away. Sometimes attending this university is like being in bed with a porcupine, a 1,000 pricks against one.

C. Travis Stumpf
Geography

Respect

I am appalled. As a student senator, I attended the April 7 University Assembly meeting. I take offense at the accusations and insinuations that all student senators vote together, "locked, arm-in-arm."

Professor Tom Givon implied that my fellow senators and I lack the intelligence and integrity to honestly vote in the interest of the University. There is a serious problem with a university if a student is given the message that our professors do not respect us for having a thoughtful opinion.

I have sat in on an endless number of meetings where everything from fiscal impact to ideological morality, from academic freedom to student needs, was discussed. I believe I have been exposed to enough of the on-going discussion and debates to have a working knowledge of what's at stake.

I did not spend countless hours and two years worth of meetings to hear a professor tell me I do not know what it is we are debating, and would be so negligent as to vote a certain way because senator A and B voted a certain way.

Give me a little credit and respect for sacrificing my time and energy.

Dick Leg
English

Oregon Daily Emerald

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