



The Taste of Germany, located at the corner of 13th Avenue and Alder St., offers a variety of German gourmet beer and wine at a reasonable price.

WILSON CHAN/for the Emerald

Taste of Germany on campus

By Jeff Knaysi
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Achtung, baby! Old World War II allies Germany and Italy are back together again, only this time they're enemies fighting for patrons on Alder Street. The Taste of Germany, a Bavarian restaurant and bar nestled behind Guido's, opened last week.

You may ask, "Isn't German food a little specialized for students raised on burgers and I Can't Believe It's Not Butter?" Yes, but that is exactly what owner Karen Snyder wants. She is aware that some people would rather eat yak meat than endure sauerkraut and garlic wurst, but her establishment fills a niche it is the only German restaurant in Eugene.

Snyder, 50, who hails from Springfield but lived in Germany for four years, has long dreamed of owning a restaurant. A nurse for 18 years, she saved enough money to purchase the Chinese restaurant Bamboo Pavilion earlier this year. (You remember it the dimly lit, filthy place that you hated yourself for loving!) She renovated the building, turned up the lights, painted a German flag on the wall, and ... voila!

The Taste of Germany has tasty food at decent prices. Although, the dinner menu may be a stretch for budget-bound students (entrees range from \$8.50 to \$15.75), the wurst menu is very accessible. Items such as knock-

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Consensual crime in free society, nobody's business

Depending on your point of view, you can look at *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, the latest book by Peter McWilliams, in three ways.

If you tend to be morally conservative, a Christian fundamentalist, or a fan of Pat Robertson, you may find this book offensive, or at least a challenge to your values.

If you favor the legalization of such things as marijuana use, public nudity, gambling, prostitution or bigamy, this book could be the ultimate argument in favor of your cause.

But if you consider yourself a casual observer of the various squabbles of our society, you will find this book an entertaining, well-researched, and humorous comment on how silly our legal system has become as a result of imposed morality.

McWilliams, a co-author of the popular, three-volume "Life 101" series, in the course of roughly 800 pages, challenges what he calls in the book's subtitle "The Absurdity of Consensual Crimes in a Free Society." He does it bluntly, convincingly, and in an entertaining fashion.

As an adult member of our society, McWilliams argues, you should be allowed to do with your person and property whatever you choose, as long as you don't harm the person or property of another.

Some of his statistics: 350,000 people currently in prison and another 1.5 million on probation or parole for consensual crimes; 4 million will be arrested this year for committing one of these crimes; \$50 billion will be spent this year on prosecution and punishment for these crimes with an additional \$150 billion in lost tax revenue.

"Why can't we just live and let live?" he asks. In his view this would:

- Reduce personal income taxes by one-third
- Create 6 million tax-paying jobs
- Free up law enforcement resources by



Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do

★★★★

AUTHOR: Peter McWilliams
PUBLISHER: Prelude Press
COST: \$22.95

allowing them to pursue the real criminals, such as murderers, robbers and rapists

- Unburden the clogged legal system
- Double the amount of available prison space.

One could ramble on for pages about some of the things that can be learned in the course of reading this book. Did you know, for example, that marijuana is only now referred to by that name because William Randolph Hearst used it to differentiate it from hemp, which was commonly used for many things until the 1930s? One product of hemp is paper, and Hearst owned several forests to maintain the paper supply for his publishing empire. Around the same time, cost-effective methods to make paper from hemp fiber were developed, that could have made traditional wood-pulp paper obsolete.

McWilliams says that Hearst newspapers began calling hemp by its Mexican name, marijuana, and reported "news" items like "Marijuana Makes Fiends of Boys in 30 Days." No this doesn't mean that McWilliams actually encourages the reader to start smoking pot, but he does make a logical argument for decriminalization. It should be a matter of personal choice, he says.

One will be no more likely to start smoking pot after reading this book, but the history of how several drugs became illegal to be a fascinating comment on what influences our legal system. Here's a hint: It isn't the voters.

Another chapter compares TV evangelists

Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell to the Pharisees of the Bible: "They knew how to posture, thus appearing more righteous and, therefore, more deserving of leadership than others. They took advantage of every photo opportunity. They were in the right place at the right time doing the piously right thing. Being political, the Pharisees cared more about how they appeared than what they did. They fasted twice a week, and the world knew it. 'Oh, those Pharisees: they fast twice a week; what holy men!'"

Whether or not you agree fully, in part, or not at all with McWilliams and his arguments, you will find this book informative, entertaining and a challenge to the way you view the laws of our society. The upper corner of each page highlights an unending barrage of eloquent, humorous and relevant quotations taken from many sources. Here are some of my personal favorites:

- "Why doesn't everybody leave everybody else the hell alone?" — Jimmy Durante
- "Ye shall now the truth, and the truth shall make you mad." — Aldous Huxley
- "We don't seem to be able to check crime, so why not legalize it and then tax it out of business?" — Will Rogers
- "As a heterosexual ballet dancer you develop a thick skin." — Ronald Reagan Jr.

Very little will change as a result of this book. The war on drugs will continue, conservative christian groups will still lobby the government to turn back to God, and you will still get arrested for playing nude volleyball on a public beach. But I think it's a mistake to overlook the points made in this book. Our legal system is badly broken, and we need to look at new ways to try and repair the damage done to it in the name of "morality."

— Arik Hesseldahl
Oregon Daily Emerald

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