

EDITORIAL

Government caught with its guard down

Buried deep in the heart of Nevada is \$10 billion in gold. Buried deep in the rules that govern this country is the 1872 Mining Act, and it just cost the United States nearly \$10 billion.

The 1872 Mining Act enables miners to buy U.S. land for as little as \$2.50 an acre. The 1,949 acres sold to the U.S. Subsidiary of American Barrick Resource Corporation is costing the company \$5 an acre. The federal government will make a whopping \$9,675.

In an attempt to attract people to explore the West in the 19th century, people were entitled to meander over millions of acres of public lands, staking a claim, enabling them the rights to the fruits of the lands. The gold, and other natural minerals, could be mined, and no royalties had to be paid to the government for any treasures found.

"The lesson is, the law should have been changed a long time ago," Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the Natural Resource Committee, told a reporter for *The Washington Post*.

It's a lesson the federal government is in no way entitled to learn. The act has been effective since 1872 because there is no excuse for the act to remain unchanged. Gold has been obscure since the days of the Klondike and Sutter Mill, justifying the lackadaisical attitude for changing the act. But the act entitles more than the search for gold, as it contains many natural minerals.

Mining, under the 1872 Mining Act, has cost the federal government an estimated \$1.7 billion a year. Profit has been lost simply because the wheels of change have ground close to a standstill.

Congress began an attempt to change the 1872 Mining Act, but instead of making a change it feared a mining rush. Certainly there would be a rush, but there must be a change, and the change should have happened years ago. Billions are being lost by Congress dragging its feet. Legislation began to be enacted, which enabled the federal government to be entitled to 8 percent of the royalties from hard rock minerals.

The money the government lost is one part of the issue. The land, like the money, is federal land, but it is American land — land citizens of this country are entitled to use to benefit the masses. Not only is the government permitting use of this land, it seems unethical to make personal profit available for public land. The American people are entitled to the profits their land reaps, and legislation must be passed in order to facilitate the royalties that are entitled to everyone through governmental use.

Mining for gold in Nevada is one example of catching the government with their hands down. There is nothing that can be done about the money that is lost by an age-old agreement, the 1872 Mining Act. The act is irrelevant and doesn't have any qualities that represent it in a positive light in this day and age. Barrick has seen the potential of the land, invested time and money, and will reap the benefits.

Certainly this is only one example of many that exist. Other outdated laws and acts that exist need to be changed. Discoveries by private interest ending in public interest loss should not be tolerated.



COMMENTARY

Campus needs micro-brews

By Greg Hamilton

Eugene — It's 10:20 in the evening on a rather black night here in the candidate's quarters. I've hunkered down with a few neural depressants and a solid word processor to tell you why I've decided to throw my hat into the presidential fray.

I'd like to say it was my keen knowledge of the issues and it would probably help me politically if I had some experience in the upper echelon of student government.

But I won't lie to you ... I won't even feed you a line like you might be used to with other candidates.

But I'll give you a hint ...

My political power comes from a liquid medium.

That's right folks, you guessed it ... BEER.

Here in Eugene we have a strong demand for the fruit of the hop. It is the nectar of the gods, a fine and sweet thing that adds frivolity to our free time and a little extra girth to our waists. But I'm not just talking about any average beverage; I am referring to the finer elements: the stouts, the ales and the glorious hefeweizen.

These are the elements on which my candidacy is based.

Micro-brews ... and more of them.

How do I expect to fulfill such a lofty agenda?

Bring the source closer to students.

A micro-brewery on campus.

Do you like the idea? Well, if you aren't a fan of beer, then I can understand your apathy in getting out to vote in the upcoming elections, but if you do find some validity in my convictions ... don't wait another minute. Prepare to stand behind a gonzo agenda and vote for the ticket that will help bring you relief after those long days of studies, those arduous afternoons of academic frustrations.

It's about 11:10 p.m. now, and my journalistic instincts are beginning to surface — as well as the influence of the depressants that I mentioned before. I believe

I should begin to expound on some of the reasons why a micro-brewery would be good for our campus ... even though my explanations may be ultimately indecipherable.

Think of the ways it would benefit the student body. It would provide closer access to liquid refreshment as well as a possible multitude of new micro-brews.

As far as the location goes, why not the Fountain Court area in the EMU? If the Fountain Court could be utilized in such a way, the profits would probably be much higher and might provide a more suitable atmosphere for the concerts and selected events that are currently being scheduled there on weekends.

Another issue that can be brought to the forefront is the possibility of a curriculum in brewery sciences. If a micro-brewery is established on campus, why not offer students an education in the finer elements of brewing beer? I know many individuals who have experimented with home brewing, so why not offer them, as well as others, the opportunity to gain some expertise in the field?

Undoubtedly, such a scholastic offering would bring in a large number of willing participants, both in and out of state, to contribute to the University's coffers as well as the quality of beer in Eugene.

Envision if you will, an on-campus brewery program working to aid both the social and academic needs of students here at the University.

We'd be innovators, pioneers in an area that has long been an object of student popularity. The University would have yet another scholastic region to claim in its quest to be progressive in the arena of higher education.

As far as where the money would go, why not use a portion of micro-beer sales to offset student fees? As it is, students already pay \$111 every term for incidental fees, so why not use some of the beer profits to cut students a little slack?

If a brewery and pub were brought into existence on campus, part of the revenue could be used to offset the current fee that

is required of all University students.

Through this brewery agenda, we would not only serve the consumption program but also the academic and financial dockets as well.

It's now about 1:30 in the morning on the day that this opus is due, and I'm feeling considerably lubricated, both physically and politically.

This state of mind has led me to some conclusions.

I believe there is a large group of student voters out there who are not being represented by the "serious" candidates that are currently jockeying for the title of ASUO president. While my candidacy has been treated as a "joke" by both the student media and my fellow presidential opponents, I believe that its existence has some legitimacy.

While it may seem foolish and crass to some, my bid for student government probably represents a larger section of the student body ... the section that chooses to abstain from voting for a student government it can't identify with.

My goal, aside from seeking to bring a micro-brewery to campus, is to try to bring out those students who might otherwise choose to be uninvolved in the process of selecting who will call the shots in student government.

Believe it or not, the people who are elected supposedly represent your voice as well as your dollars ... and it is your money that is being spent.

I advise you to be involved in its allocation.

OK. Let's reiterate what I've said up to this point:

1) A brewery on campus offers three things: social consumption, academic contribution and financial justification.

2) If you agree with me, vote Hamilton for ASUO president.

3) Even if you don't agree with me, get involved in student government elections and treat it as you would your classes: as part of your education and your future.

It's your choice.

Greg Hamilton is a candidate for ASUO president.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159 EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Managing Editor	Calley Anderson	Editor-in-Chief: Jake Berg	Sports Editor	Steve Mims
Editorial Editor	David Thom	Editorial Editor	Jeff Pickhardt	
Graphics Editor	Jeff Paslay	Photo Editor	Michael Shindler	
Freelance Editor	Jeff Winters	Supplements Editor	Kaly Soto	
	Night Editor: Dave Charbonneau			

Associate Editors: Edward Klopstein, Student Government/Activities, Rebecca Merritt, Community, Heather Himes, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Mandy Baucum, Lori Bettineski, Eric Buckhalter, Wilson Chan, Dave Charbonneau, Amy Columbo, Jim Davis, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Sarah Henderson, Yin Leng Leong, Marius Meland, Trista Noel, Elisabeth Reenstjerna, Robbie Reeves, Lia Salocchia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Michele Thompson, Amy Van Tuyl, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Brian Davis, Subir Dutta, Nicole Herzmark, Teresa Isabelle, Jeff Marion, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Kelsey Wakefield

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager, Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck

Distribution: John Long, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

Production: Dee McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom 346-5511 **Display Advertising** 346-3712

Business Office 346-5512 **Classified Advertising** 346-4343