

## States must allow Indian sovereignty

Responding to the economic stagnation taking place on many of their reservations, Native Americans and their allies have begun taking an increasingly common road to "economic prosperity."

By taking advantage of their reservations' sovereignty, which allows them significant independence from the laws of the federal and state governments, many reservations have chosen to make certain activities, illegal or unpopular in most of the country, legal within their borders.

The activities range from the sale of exotic, dangerous fireworks, to the running of hazardous waste sites, to the sponsoring of massive bingo halls with \$2,000 prizes. As these operations have grown, gambling, in particular, has become a mainstay source of revenue for many tribes throughout the United States.

It used to be that the only people who got upset about these operations were the big casino owners of Nevada and Atlantic City. But now, with so many state governments filling their coffers with money from state lotteries, opposition to Indian gaming halls is growing.

The Coeur d'Alene tribe of Idaho complicated the matter last month when it announced plans to provide a nationwide lottery to be played over the phone by credit card. Although parts of the operation would undoubtedly take place on the reservation, the vast majority of callers would be dialing up from places elsewhere, where such credit-card gambling is commonly against the law.

It would be fairly easy for the states to make legal arguments against the phone lottery on the sovereignty issue. Even if it could be legal on the reservation, they would say, it should not be permitted elsewhere.

But the real basis of the states' opposition is not legal; it is financial. The states want to run the same kind of operations, when it comes right down to it. If anyone is going to profit from gambling, they say, it ought to be us.

Of course, there's some legitimacy to that. State-run gambling can be better monitored, and therefore presumably less corrupt, than private gambling. And state governments have plenty of programs deserving of the funds that could be raised.

But so do the tribes that reside on these reservations. With economic competition and dwindling natural resources continuing to damage their economies, they need some sort of income to keep afloat.

It is unfortunate that gambling, fireworks and waste dumping appear to be the only options available for some tribes. But if they are, the government should resist the temptation to clamp down, so long as the clamping is intended merely to safeguard state revenues.

Perhaps the phone lottery should fall; it could be an infringement of state sovereignty to put it in place. But the law should continue to allow Indian sovereignty to prevail within reservation boundaries in other cases. The government should not use its muscle to placate greedy states, eager to kill competition for gambling dollars.



### OPINION

## Portland nightclub shows intolerance



PRIMO A. J. FONTANA

Before this Saturday night, I was worried about finding a subject for this week's column. But lucky for me, something happened that was more interesting than anything that I could have dreamed up.

That evening, my girlfriend and two friends of ours (who, incidentally, are gay) went to The City, which is a nightclub in Portland. It has a reputation for being a mainly homosexual establishment, but many heterosexuals go there as well. It plays good music and, as far as clubs go, is relatively safe.

Well, my story. After dancing for a while, we went and sat down near the bar. While the four of us were chatting, I gave my girlfriend a kiss. Now, it wasn't a gross one, and we weren't making out, it was just a kiss.

A millisecond later I heard a loud rapping sound against the bar. The bartender was smacking an ashtray against the counter and he motioned for me to come to him.

I walked over toward him and the moment that I was within earshot he said, "This is a gay club. No overtly heterosexual acts are allowed. This is a warning. If it happens again, I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

Now, in a way this is understandable. Similar things, and much worse, have been done to gays for years. During tough times, an establishment which catered only to them would have been an oasis in a harsh world.

However, this club was happy

to take my hard-earned money and it's not as if our affection was outlandish and out of place in the atmosphere. Many gay males kissed their female friends without comment or reprimand from the employees and ours was in no way beyond that level.

Also, there were a few "Gothic" straight couples who were all over each other. Did the bartender make spectacles of them? Nope. Due to the fact that they looked "alternative," their affection must have been more acceptable than our "mainstream breeder" version.

For the sake of argument, I think that we should change the situation a bit. Let's say that a man, we'll call him Newt, a straight Euro-American out to make a buck, opened up a club of his own.

Now, at Newt's Place, as he would probably call it, let's say that things are jumpin'. Good tunes, good beer, a big crowd, all of the trimmings. On one particularly busy night, as Newt himself is serving drinks, two men give each other a kiss at the bar.

Due to the fact that our buddy Newt has his mind stuck in the Jurassic Era, he doesn't appreciate this showing of affection. So, he smacks an ashtray against the bar to get their attention.

When one of them walks over to him, Newt says, "This is a straight club. No homosexual acts are allowed. This is a warning. One more time and I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

In most civilized parts of the nation, the public, gay and straight alike, would be quite angry and rightly so. This is the nineties. The homosexual community has been stifled in the closet for long enough and although our friend Newt should have the right to operate his business as he wishes, many people would probably take their money, which could have been his money, elsewhere.

That is how democracy works, at least in theory. The people and their cash speak and we get social progress.

This is being stifled by The City. Their "gay club" policy holds progress back, rather than encouraging it, for three main reasons.

First, it singles out a group and stifles that group's expression. If homosexuals should be sensitive to anything, it should be this. They have had to struggle for years, and continue to do so, to escape the closet. There is no reason that, as they leave it, they should attempt to push straights in.

Secondly, it encourages separation rather than integration. Those of us who support gay rights (as I have done on this page) should look forward to the day when homosexuals and heterosexuals can live together without anybody being stigmatized for his or her sexual preference. The City has forgotten the rallying cry of "Honor Diversity" which was so central during the No on 9 and 13 campaigns. This is what we should be shooting for, not more segregation.

Finally, it attempts to create an artificial environment at the expense of straight patrons. Just as social conservatives attempt to build themselves a moated existence apart from the real world, those at The City are doing the same thing. Rather than creating a place of freedom, they are building one of artificial conformity.

It's time to end the titles and the compartmentalizing. People are people. In the age of multiculturalism identities have become more important than those who lie behind them. We don't need new laws, new curriculums or a new culture. All that we need is common courtesy and the ability to let people do as they please.

Primo A. J. Fontana is a columnist for the Emerald.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3155 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.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Kaly Soto  
**Managing Editor:** David Thom  
**Editorial Editor:** Robbie Reeves  
**News Art Editor:** Jeff Paslay  
**Freelance Editor:** Lori Bettineski  
**News Editor:** Rebecca Merritt  
**Sports Editor:** Chris Metz  
**Supplements Editor:** Trista Noel  
**Night Editor:** Amy Columbo

**Associate Editors:** Amy Columbo, Student Government/Activities, Marcelene Edwards, Community, Colleen Pohlig, Higher Education/Administration

**News Staff:** Steve Asbury, Regina Brown, Melody Conroy, Amy L. Devenport, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Matt Garton, Joe Harwood, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Shannon Kilduff, Adam Kincher, Samantha Martin, Matt McBride, Mark McTyre, Patrick Minford, Ben Moebius, Natalie Montgomery, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Sherry Rainey, Natasha Shephard, Paul Van Sickle, Sean Smith, Mathew Stiffer, Mara Stine, Jeremy Stinson, Kim Weiss, Brian Womack, Les Zaczek

**General Manager:** Judy Riedl  
**Advertising Director:** Mark Walter  
**Production Manager:** Michele Ross  
**Advertising:** Anne Amador, Anita Borgaes, Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Nicole Herzmark, Kelly Lyon, Jeremy Mason, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mittelstaedt, Kelsey Wekell  
**Classified:** Becky Merchant, Manager Kyle Davis, Joli Selten  
**Distribution:** John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Graham Simpson  
**Business:** Kathy Carbone, Supervisor Judy Connolly  
**Production:** Dehlla McCobb, Production Coordinator Shawna Abele, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Molly McCanta, Jennifer Roland, Clayton Yee  
**Newsroom:** 346-5511  
**Business Office:** 346-5512  
**Display Advertising:** 346-3712  
**Classified Advertising:** 346-4343