

Bottle Bill revisited

Readers of the *ODE* may be interested to know why OSPIRG activists appeared on campus last fall, asking registered voters to sign a petition in favor of an initiative to expand the Bottle Bill.

First, the Bottle Bill urgently needs updating. Many people are surprised to learn that non-carbonated beverages such as iced tea, Gatorade, Snapple and bottled water are not covered under the current bill because at the time of its enactment in 1971, these drinks represented a very small share of the market.

Today, sales of these drinks are increasing by 30 percent per year. Because there is currently no deposit on them, 100 million containers of such beverages became either litter or landfill rather than a reused resource.

Second, activists are out gathering signatures because other avenues of change have been blocked by special interest lobbying.

Large, out-of-state corporations such as Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Busch make more money using disposable containers rather than recyclable ones and spend millions to defeat recycling proposals.

In Oregon, anti-Bottle Bill forces spent \$500,000 on campaign contributions and lobbying in 1994 alone. Susceptible to such pressures, the 1995 Oregon Legislature refused to consider a bill proposing expanded recycling, despite the fact that it was cosponsored by 11 state representatives and backed by the signatures of more than 7,000 Oregonians. A public hearing on the

bill was also quashed.

For this reason, a referendum, which will reflect the wishes of all Oregonians rather than the demands of the special interest groups, is the best means of expanding the Bottle Bill. Oregon law requires 73,000 signatures before this initiative can be put on the ballot.

Petitions are being circulated on campus and around the state so that the issue will be put before the people rather than being at the mercy of lobbyists. Please sign the petition so the people will be the ones to decide the issue.

Fritz Steussy
Eugene

Elite Gordon

Not many of us could or would pay \$1.2 million for four antique golf clubs. That Republican senatorial candidate Gordon Smith did make such a purchase tells us that he's amply qualified to play golf with the too numerous multimillionaires already entrenched in the U.S. Senate.

Smith's personal assets are substantial. He has managed very well, but in his campaign he has yet to present proof of credible concern for the public interest.

Instead of buying expensive toys, Smith can demonstrate that he is an enlightened capitalist by investing his excess cash in enterprises that increase jobs and the gross national product.

For 15 years as a U.S. representative, Ron Wyden has competently guided legislation in Congress that benefits the many, not the few.

Smith, on the other hand, has

no such record of achievement. Over the years Wyden has conferred regularly with his constituents at many town meetings. His career is a testament to his commitment to government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Oregonians and the rest of our nation need Wyden, not Smith, in the U.S. Senate.

Charles O. Porter
Congress Member, 1957-60

Return artifacts

The return of Indian artifacts and human remains is long overdue. Under the Native Graves Act, museums must return the Indian property they have been holding. However, to make Indian people pay the money for what already belongs to them adds insult to injury.

These human bones and sacred objects should never be taken away from their burial places in the first place.

The University has been holding up to 200 hundred Calapooya Indian bones taken from graves. There is no scientific or historical reason for the University to have them. These human remains should be returned to the Indian people for their proper burial. It is the only decent thing to do.

Stephen Williamson
Cottage Grove

Third choice

The special election to fill Bob Packwood's U.S. Senate seat has brought out the best in the regular politicians running for that office.

If Oregon could export leftover mud during the 1996 presiden-

tial election, we could expand the Oregon Health Plan to cover everybody in the state. We, the voters, complain about politics as usual and then go ahead and elect another Republocrat.

We can only break the cycle by doing something different.

Third party candidates will be springing up in all quarters of the United States as people tire of the usual rhetoric of demagogues that control the current system. If we elect a third-party candidate to this Senate seat, our senator will have seniority when the rest of country follows suit.

Fortunately, the American Party has a genuine candidate that breaks the political mold.

Karen E. Shilling is a member of the public who deals with the same daily crises that we all face. The other parties insist on putting forth professional politicians, the kind that has brought our government to this point. Karen brings a normal, common-sense perspective to Washington; she is not some millionaire lawyer with a gazillion-dollar campaign.

The American Party believes in government of the people, by the people and for the people. The Constitution should be a written law that is followed and put within reach of the average citizen. We shouldn't have to hire a lawyer to interpret the rules.

Oregon can put a real person in the Senate, or we can just elect Ron Wyden or Gordon Smith. If we want to be on the forefront of national political change, Oregonians have to do something different. Elect Karen Shilling to the U.S. Senate!

Leonard J. Schussel
American Party Treasure

Thanks, Phi Beta S.

Homeless Awareness Week, which began Nov. 12, received scant attention in the media. Happily, however, some University students were not only concerned, but were moved to action.

One truly heart-warming effort was the Phi Beta Sigma Sleepout carried out by the newest fraternity on campus. Five members spent the night of Nov. 15 in a tent in the courtyard of the EMU.

Not only did the Phi Beta Sigma members collect pledges of more than \$800 to provide food for the shelterless during the holidays, but the fraternity plans to adopt a family each month and supply it with groceries.

We applaud these young men and all the students who supported their efforts with donations. These students are an example in compassion to the many adults who choose to ignore a problem that is becoming more serious every day.

Florence K. Douglas
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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Informational Meetings

- Jan. 11 7:00 # Riley Hall 650 E. 11th Street (RA)
- Jan. 11 7:45 # Riley Hall (PA)
- Jan. 12 3:00 # EMU Behind Room (RA)
- Jan. 12 3:45 # EMU Behind Room (PA)
- Jan. 15 7:00 # Ramey Room Hamilton Complex (RA)
- Jan. 15 7:45 # Ramey Room (PA)
- Jan. 16 7:00 # Carson Gold Room (RA)
- Jan. 16 7:45 # Carson Gold Room (PA)
- (all times are pm)

Deadline for RA and PA Applications Jan. 19th at the University Housing Office

University Housing is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Institute, committed to Cultural Diversity and Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act