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PERSPECTIVES

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Drink Smarter NOT HARDER

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL

If you choose to drink, exercise some common sense before you ever pick up the bottle

Attention freshmen: Above all else, during your time at the University be sure to remember college drinking rule number one — when you are able to change the direction the room is spinning, it's time to throw up.

Other than that, by the time you're drunk, it's usually too late to think about your drinking behavior.

Recently, a group of students were found unconscious on the floor of a fraternity at Louisiana State University. Apparently, they had been drinking heavily to celebrate pledge week and the beginning of school.

Several of the students were sent to the hospital, and one died from alcohol poisoning. His blood alcohol level was more than seven times the legal limit in Oregon.

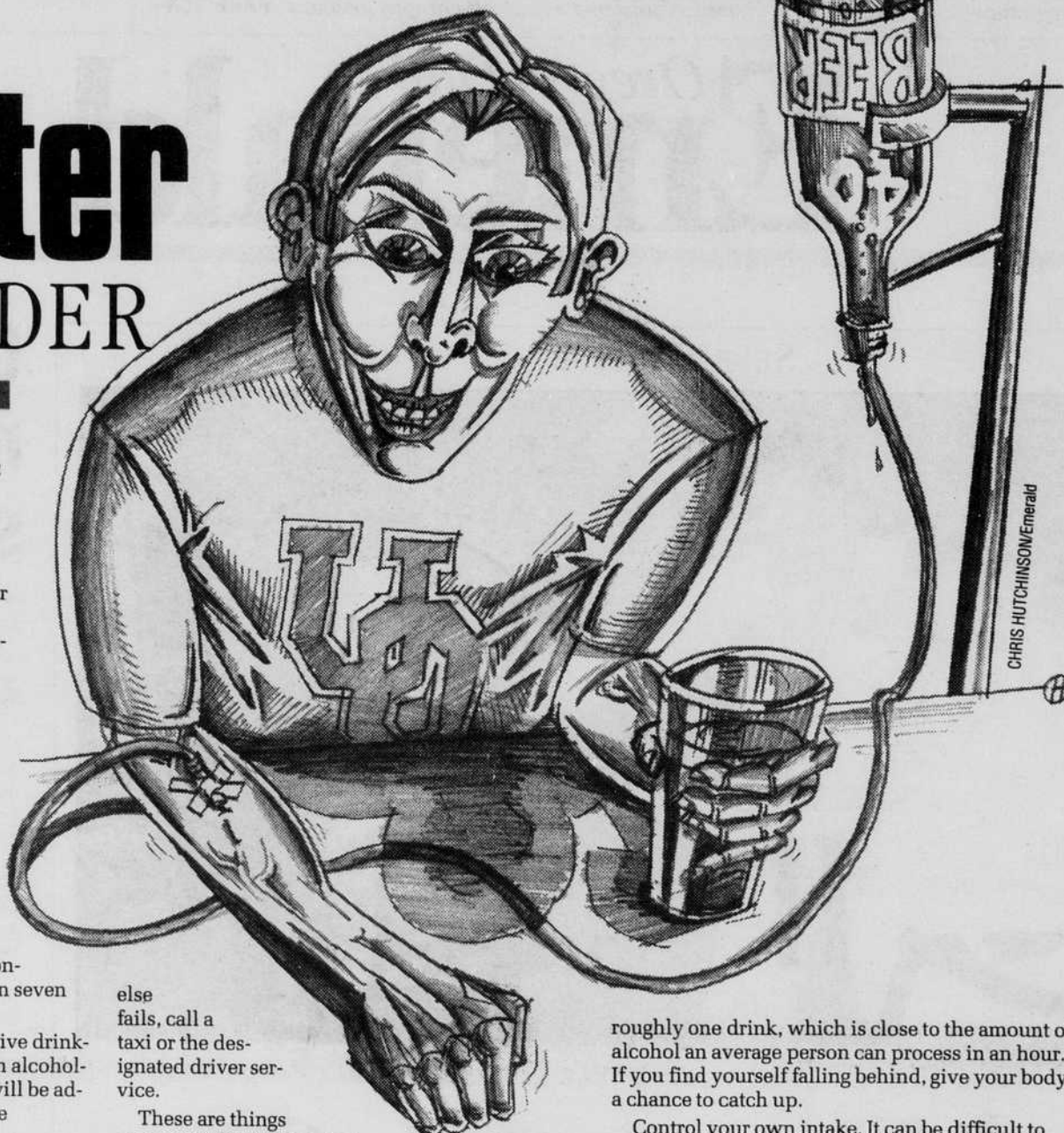
Most people will never die from excessive drinking. A substantial number will be killed in alcohol-related accidents, however. Many more will be adversely affected by their drinking or by the drinking of those around them.

Dealing with a morning hangover is unpleasant, but dealing with slumping grades, trouble with the law and friends lost because of inappropriate or even violent behavior is far more unfortunate.

We all know that a large number of students are going to drink heavily, legally and illegally. It would be foolish of us to suggest they refrain or to challenge their choice.

What we do suggest is that, if you are going to drink, you exercise some common sense before you ever start. By the time the world is spinning out from under you, any rational decision-making ability you had has probably long departed.

Above all else, make sure you have a safe way home. If you can walk to a party or bar instead of driving, do so. Barring that, assign a designated driver — instead of ridiculing your abstaining friend, take advantage of his or her good sense. And, if all



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

else fails, call a taxi or the designated driver service.

These are things we've all heard before, but a disturbing number of drinkers still ignore the advice, and innocent people are often killed as the result.

There are other important things to consider before you drink. Set a reasonable limit for yourself before the evening begins. If you didn't like throwing up all night last week, odds are it won't be any more fun this time.

Know your limits. Don't get pulled into drinking contests with the biggest guy on campus if you are a 5'2" tall freshman who has never had a drink before. Many people come to the University having drank little, and they take a long time to discover that just because there is still alcohol in the bottle doesn't mean you have to finish it.

Keep track of how much you have had. Remember that a 12 oz. bottle of beer, a glass of wine and a 1.5 oz. shot of 80 proof liquor are all equal to

roughly one drink, which is close to the amount of alcohol an average person can process in an hour. If you find yourself falling behind, give your body a chance to catch up.

Control your own intake. It can be difficult to know how much you are drinking if you allow others to mix drinks for you, especially if you are drinking something like punch, where the idea is often to add the maximum amount of alcohol with the minimum alcoholic taste.

Most of all, think. You are the best judge of whether you have had enough. Don't allow yourself to be coerced into drinking more. If you aren't feeling well, don't continue drinking, and if you are uncomfortable with a situation, avoid losing more control by continuing to take in alcohol.

People like to brag about how much they have had to drink. Unfortunately, when you crash your car into an innocent person or die in a pool of your own vomit, there isn't much to brag about.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

Quoted

"The general impression is that the special teams have cost Oregon State a lot of games over the years."

Mike Riley, OSU football coach, quoted in the August 30 Register-Guard. And we thought that the whole team had cost Oregon State a lot of games over the years.

"Perhaps it would be a good idea to try firing the counselors and sending half the deans back into their classrooms, dismantling the football team and making the stadium into a playground for local kids, emptying the fraternities and boarding up the student-activities office. Such measures would convey the message that American colleges are not northern outposts of Club-Med."

Mark Edmundson, a professor at the University of Virginia, in the September Harpers. But if we did that, we might have to study.

"I always believed the press would kill her in the end."

Princess Diana's brother, **Charles Spenser**, lamenting the loss of such a hard-working member of society, in the Sept. 1 Register-Guard. So, Prince Charles is next, right?

"If somebody didn't find this, it would be quite a problem."

Physicist **Neil Cason**, who recently helped provide evidence of the existence of an exotic meson, an extremely tiny particle, quoted in the Sept. 1 Register-Guard. Almost as big a problem as over-population and deforestation, I reckon.

Otto Poticha
 Poticha Architects, Eugene

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep the courts

I read with great interest that in order to construct the health club addition to the P.E. facilities at the University of Oregon, the [Campus Planning] Committee and their architects require that the covered tennis courts be torn down. Actually there appears to be conflicting reports. Some state the first four courts are to be removed and placed at the end of the balance of the courts. Some state the first four or five are to be removed and not replaced, and finally, some state they will all be torn down and replaced with another covered varsity tennis building.

I would strongly request that all these ideas and directions be reevaluated.

As some of the committee mem-

bers may know, the tennis courts were constructed with student excess activity fees. These were excess dormitory fees and the courts were paid for with no funding by the state system. The state's contribution was the land and maintenance. These courts were not to be varsity level courts nor P.E. courts, they were built for student activities. The reason they are laid out side to side rather than end to end are so large student activities could occur without interference of the cross fencing. These large events never happened because after construction and the short term or lack of continuity of the students' time on campus, the P.E. department took ownership and scheduling priority with the courts.

The serious question based on this history is whether the Univer-

sity is planning on reimbursing the students for the replacement value of the courts?

My other and more personal interest, as the architect and designer of the courts, is that they are an important architectural piece on the campus and a landmark in the community. They have won national architectural design awards and have been published in every important architectural journal in the United States, Europe and Asia. These courts and the law school building, as I recall, are the only two buildings on campus that have received any modern day recognition. These are important works of architecture and need to be protected. The University is a place of higher learning complete with a major college of architecture. It is the committee and college's role to

protect and support the few significant architectural pieces on campus.

If the committee is prepared to proceed with the demolition of this facility, I and some of my architectural colleagues will immediately make application to the State Historic Office to seek having the courts placed on the state's Historic Buildings and Places Registry as a means to protect them.

If the committee, the campus architect, the architecture faculty and the current architect for the new Esslinger project can't find alternate means, sites or concepts that incorporate and eliminate the need to demolish these tennis courts, I am prepared to offer my services to assist them.