

Brewers

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state law was on his side. Oregon law says minors can make beer, but they can't drink it.

Still, age eventually became an issue in a conversation with one of the owners.

"It came up that I was not of age, and he was really surprised," Venus said. "I thought I was going to lose my job."

But the owner didn't mind, and after attending an American Brewers Guild program in California, Venus was offered the head brewer job at Fields. He has been producing beer there for six months.

"Sean is an excellent brewer," said Dale San Jose, Fields manager. "He has a love for brewing beer. When he's here, he has a mission — to keep Fields beer flowing."

But keeping the beer flowing is no easy task.

To begin the brewing process, Venus takes malted barley and feeds it through a device he describes as a "large coffee filter."

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Dale San Jose
Fields manager

Hot water then is poured over the grain.

The process extracts all the flavor and sugars, and the resulting liquid is boiled.

Venus adds other ingredients such as honey and fruit to flavor the beer.

After the mixture cools, it's fermented. Yeast consumes the sugars, producing carbonation and alcohol.

The beer is ready to be put into the keg.

Venus' dream is to own his

own brewpub, preferably somewhere on the East Coast, and put his name on the sign. The walls would be covered with renditions of Botticelli's masterpiece, "Birth of Venus."

He plans to model his business after simple breweries he visited in Berkeley, San Francisco and Seattle. The brewery would have a cozy atmosphere like a coffee place, Venus said. "[You'd] just sit there and drink and have conversation."

When asked about his beer preferences, Venus says he enjoys pale ales the most.

"The lighter beers are my favorite," he said. "I don't really like to get drunk."

For Venus, it's not about the alcohol content, it's about the taste.

And even if his dog doesn't share his passion, Venus' roommates definitely appreciate his profession.

"My roommates have a good deal," he said. "There's always beer in the house."

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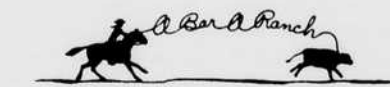
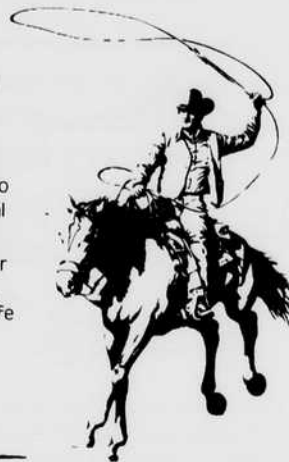
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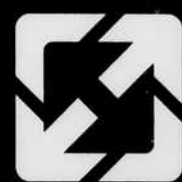
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