

News briefs

Democrats continue boycott

SALEM — House business remained stalled on Wednesday as Democrats for a third day continued a boycott over a redistricting dispute with the majority Republicans.

Talks between House Speaker Mark Simmons and House Democratic Leader Dan Gardner continued.

"We're still meeting to try to reach an amicable resolution," said Gardner spokeswoman Shaun Shindler.

The Democrats since Monday have refused to provide a quorum to do business in a tactic to block Republican efforts to pass a GOP-backed legislative redistricting measure written so it would bypass Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Kitzhaber has said he won't sign any measure that doesn't have bipartisan backing.

The House held a brief session Tuesday to pass a motion to "compel" absentees to attend, the only business that can be done without a quorum of 40 members.

Simmons, a Republican, sounded conciliatory at a news briefing on Tuesday.

He said "a lot of options are on the table" and that he was working to "bring this to a friendly closure. I want to make room for all members of the family to come back."

The Associated Press

Smoking ban

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ah Bar and Cafe. But he added that talk about the ban's effect on business is merely speculation because every bar is facing the new restrictions, and it's equally hard to predict how customers will react.

Other establishments such as Doc's Pad are building outdoor seating areas for smokers.

The ordinance prohibits smoking in enclosed rooms and within 10 feet of the entrance to an enclosed room. Smoking will remain legal in tobacco stores, designated smoking rooms in hotels and private residences, unless the residence is used as a day-care or health facility.

Despite the ban's almost unanimous approval by councilors, bar patrons have mixed feelings of support and disdain for the change.

"I hate breathing in someone else's cancer," said Eugene resident Anna Hulst as she sat in Soriah with two friends who were both smoking.

One of Hulst's friends, Meghan Besonen of Eugene, said while she opposes the ban and thinks bars should voluntarily choose to go smoke-free, she will continue to go out and simply step outside when she wants to light up.

Many bar patrons, such as junior psychology major Bez Sharkey, say they hope the ban will help them quit. Sharkey said with Oregon's rainy weather, he expects to pass up a cigarette frequently instead of standing outside or on a patio in a cold, damp climate.

Kamis, who smokes between mixing drinks, said with assurance that he will quit on Sunday. He's

The Eugene smoking ban will go into effect Sunday.

Smoking is prohibited in any enclosed space except for:

Tobacco stores, designated smoking rooms in hotels and private residences unless the residence is used as a day-care or health facility.

Smoking is prohibited within 10 feet of the entrance to a public building.

For more information, visit smokefreelanecounty.org.

To report a violation of the smoking ban ordinance, call 682-6687.

tried before, but he started again because of the people smoking in the bar around him.

"The hardest part was at 10 p.m. when everybody lighted up," he said. "But if the smoking ban gets lifted, I'll smoke again."

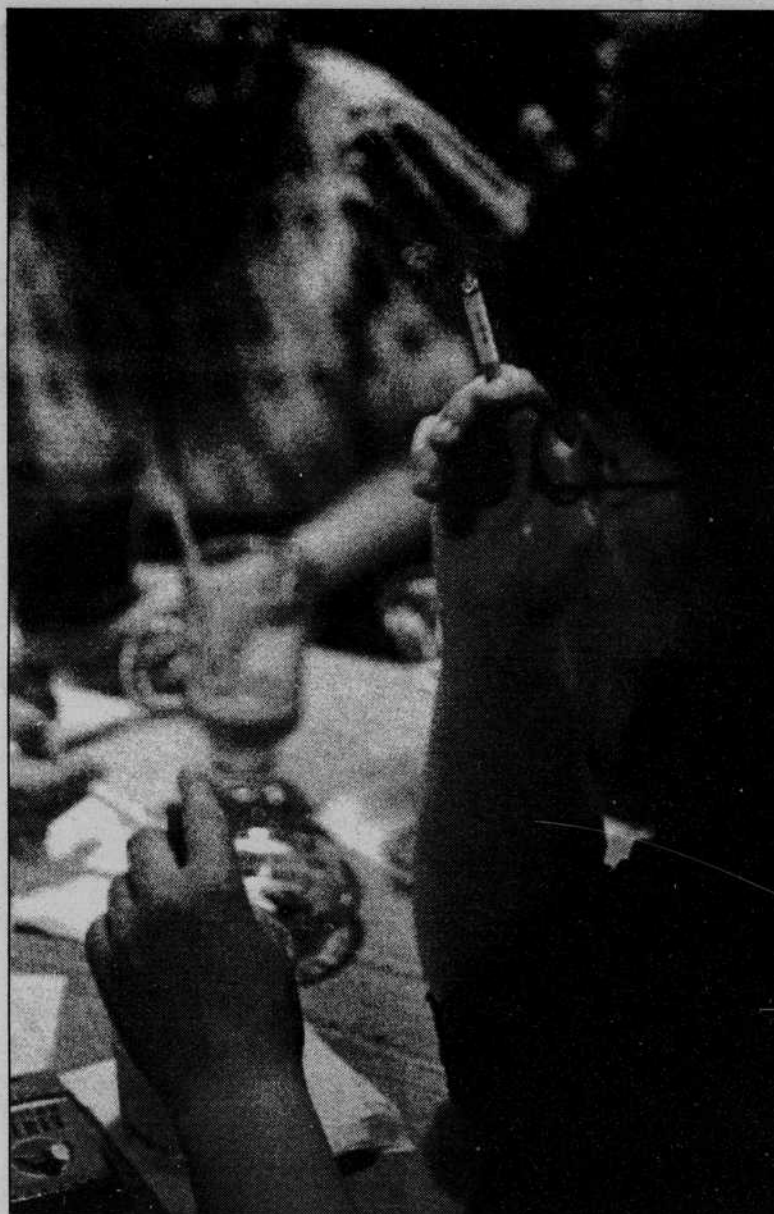
Kamis is still against the ban because he believes the council and supporters incorrectly cite public health as an advantage of the ordinance.

He said the majority of people who work in bars smoke themselves, and many smoke-free restaurants with bars already exist in Eugene.

But Eugene resident and self-described part-time smoker Mara Ingerhom said she's "way excited" about the advantages of every bar being smoke-free.

Kamis suggested that the issue is larger than simply whether a person can enjoy a smoke while having a pint at his or her local pub.

"If they're [concerned] about public health, they should just stop the sale of cigarettes," he said.



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Jenn Doherty said she will continue to go to bars even after the smoking ban takes effect.

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