

Underage entertainers barred from clubs

Ban threatens livelihood of young dancers, musicians, comics

Jeff Sorensen
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has pushed back a meeting to determine whether or not they can permanently adopt the recent rule to ban underage entertainers from alcohol-serving venues.

Supporters of the bill say the temporary rule, which expires March 20, is necessary in order to keep minors out of places where alcohol is served. The commission is scheduled to meet in a phone conference on March 15, despite their hopes to have a decision made by February.

The bill was created with the intent to prevent young girls (ages 18-20) from dancing nude in clubs. The original bill was deemed unconstitutional and voted to be a violation of the dancers' right to freedom of expression. Nancy Miller, the woman who originated the bill, gained support from several state representatives and tried three times to pass the bill without success.

In order to get the bill passed, Miller changed the bill to include musicians, comedians, actors, dancers and independent con-

tractors. There were already laws in place preventing dancers from directly interacting with drinking patrons, but several problems had occurred with dancers fetching drinks and breaking rules of physical contact. In spite of this, there has not been a cited case of a musician breaking alcohol laws in the state of Oregon.

Andrea Meyer of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has already filed a lawsuit challenging the bill's constitutionality. There have been several musicians, actors, comedians and dancers who have signed on to the lawsuit, and they are "cautiously optimistic the delay could signify a decision in [their] favor," according to Meyer.

Brad Wager, Clackamas student and local guitar player, is among several of the musicians angry over the ban.

"It's so stupid ... I've already lost gigs because of it," said Wager.

Along with feelings of discrimination, many musicians feel the ban prevents their main source of income. Matt Seymour, for example, is a 16-year-old junior at McMinnville High School and bass player for

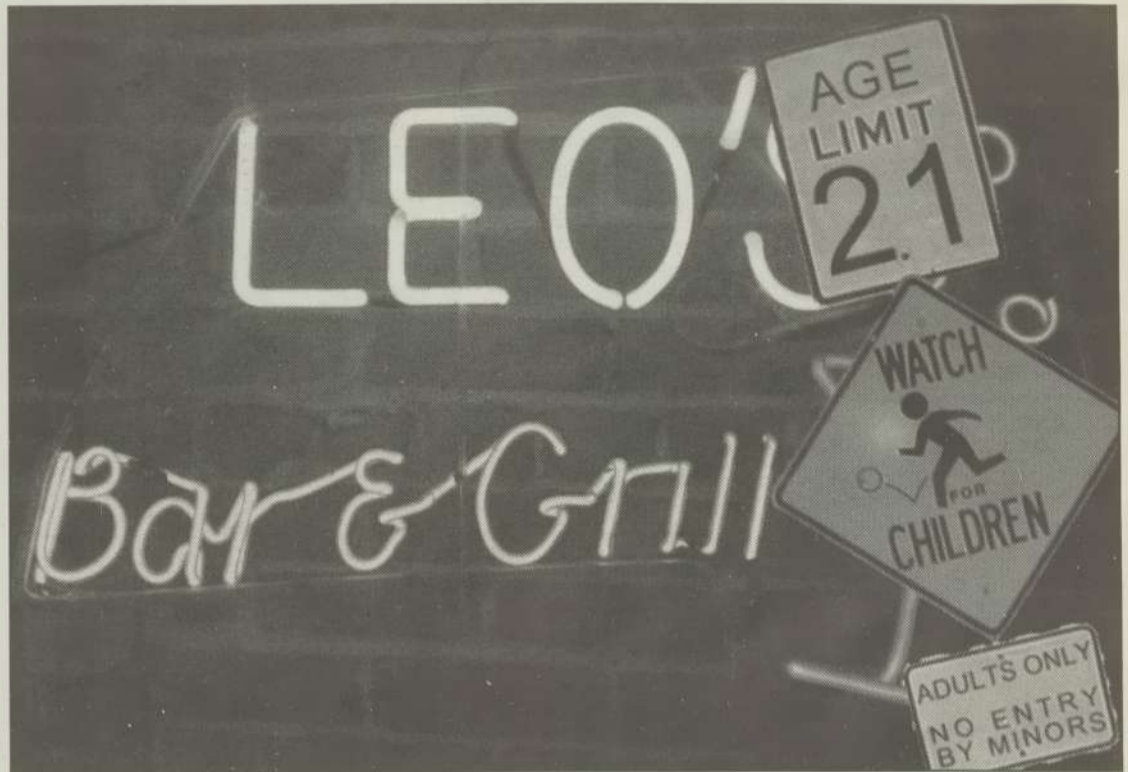


Photo Illustration by JESSE LAMOND CLACKAMAS PRINT

the Portland blues group The Jake Blair Band.

"They're doing something that isn't right. It affects anyone my age who wants to be a musi-

cian. I think they have too much power, the OLCC," he told *The Oregonian*.

The OLCC unanimously adopted the ban in August 2002,

and it became effective in January 2003, but officials were forced to make the rule temporary because of a paperwork error.

Faculty display musical skills in Willamette Falls Symphony



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The Willamette Falls Symphony performed Feb. 22 in Gregory Forum. CCC staff and retirees are part of the group.

Jadon Triplett
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The Willamette Falls Symphony and Oregon City High School Choir performed Daniel Bukóvich's "From the Journals of Lewis and Clark" at the Gregory Forum last Sunday afternoon.

The event was held to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Willamette Falls Symphony is made up of a diverse group of musicians, including retired Clackamas chemistry instructor Margie Arighi on the clarinet.

"[This] was one of the hardest [performances] we'd ever done, not because the music was that difficult, but because it was such a big production," Arighi said.

The Willamette Falls Symphony started out as an

eight-person orchestra at CCC in 1981. Back then, it was called the Clackamas Community Orchestra.

"They started just as a class here at the community college, it was kind of for fun," explained Margie Tosi, retired Clackamas division secretary. The symphony now boasts nearly 50 members.

The symphony has two objectives: to make classical music easily accessible to the community at a low cost and to give qualified community members of all ages and ethnic backgrounds an opportunity to play classical music. Judging by the wide range of ages (approximately 8 years to 80 years) and ethnic backgrounds, the latter purpose has been accomplished. The tickets are not too expensive, either.

Many attendees found the

music performed to be moving and emotional; at times haunting and at other times inspirational. The music was designed to put pictures of exploration and adventure into listeners' heads, transporting them back to the days before Oregon was even a territory.

"It was our historical obligation to play something in honor of Lewis and Clark, so this was it. It turns out there was a perfect piece for it," said Michael Perlman, musical director and conductor.

The next concert will be held Sunday, May 2, 2004, at 3 p.m. in the Barclay Community Center, located at 817 S. 12th Street in Oregon City. For more information about the Willamette Falls Symphony, call (503) 632-7267 or visit the website at www.orgsites.com/or/willamette-falls-symphony.

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