

# Alcoholic energy drinks banned by the OLCC

By Joshua Baird  
Arts & Culture Editor

Students everywhere revel in the glory of energy drinks. They provide us with the most vital aspect of the food pyramid: caffeine. However, just as with so many great families, the energy drink family has its alcoholic aunt or uncle and wishes it could just stop inviting them to reunions, Thanksgiving or other social gatherings.

On Nov. 20, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission took it upon itself to let energy drink companies like Four Loko, Joose and MAX know they aren't on the guest list any longer.

"I think there are a lot of factors that play into this decision. One is young people all over the country have been getting hurt from these products. We are fortunate that we haven't had any of these incidents happen here," said Christy Scott, the public affairs specialist at the OLCC. "We have been concerned about these products since the products came out. ... We want to make sure that the young people here are safe." "(They) knock you the hell out," said Clackamas student Aaron Cox. "(Sparks and Four Loko are) bad for you."

The five citizen commissioners, the decision making team for the OLCC, voted 4-1 in favor of banning Oregon distribution and sales of seven brands of alcoholic energy

drinks. In addition to those previously mentioned, these drinks are Core High Gravity HG Green, Core High Gravity HG Orange, Lemon Lime Core Spiked and Moonshot.

"I think it's a good idea. It's making it safer for people, because people drink a lot of (energy drinks), just like with alcohol," said Catherine Hunter, a first year student at Clackamas.

This ban does not affect bartenders' ability to make cocktails with energy drinks, such as "Jager Bombs" and "Tic Tacs."

According to the OLCC, this ban is due to a Food and Drug Administration report saying that these drinks are considered to be "adulterated" because the companies added caffeine to them. This is not a permanent fix, however, nor does it encompass all alcoholic energy drinks. Beverages such as Tilt and Spark were left untouched by this ban.

The ban is really just a temporary fix until a more formal rule can be made on May 18, 2011. The initial ban went into effect immediately following the meeting.

Some people may be upset by this, but for some it is about being responsible for oneself. "If there are still alcohol and energy drinks, it's a personal decision. If you can't handle it you shouldn't take (them)," said Kaden Adams, a Clackamas student.



Oregon.gov

Alcoholic energy drinks such as Four Loko and Joose were banned in Oregon on Nov. 20 by the OLCC.

## OSU student detained

Thanksgiving is supposed to be about gratitude and sharing with family, friends, and neighbors. Portlanders almost had it all taken away over the holiday weekend.

An alleged car-bombing attempt occurred at the Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown on Friday, Nov. 26 during the tree lighting ceremony. Somalia-born 19-year-old Mohamed Osman Mohamud

was arrested for suspicion of using weapons of mass destruction. He is charged with attempting to detonate a parked van carrying explosives. Investigators later determined that the explosives were ineffective.

Mohamud is a student at Oregon State University and lives in Corvallis. He is facing the possibility of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

-Jaime Dunkle

# OPINION: Student sells fair trade



Contributed by Sarah Mitts

The Clackamas Print's Sarah Mitts owns her own fair trade business. She helps women and children in India create and sell their own unique products worldwide.

By Sarah Mitts  
The Clackamas Print

Have you ever stopped and wondered where the things you buy come from or how they were made? Do the people behind the products you consume get paid well or are your dollars contributing to child slavery and exploitation of people around the world?

You can make a difference this Christmas by buying fair trade gifts, which let you know that the people who made them were paid fairly and treated with dignity and respect. Join the Northwest Fair Trade Coalition and Portland's Unitarian Church in downtown Portland for a Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar and Forum, Dec. 11 from 1-5 p.m. to help bring social and economic justice into your holiday shopping.

In 2008, I started a fair trade company called AWAZ Voice for Empowerment, to help create a market outlet for crafts and textiles made by marginalized artisan groups in India and to be a voice for conscious consumption in our country. I spent four months doing volunteer work in India during college and returned in 2007 for a year to work on community development projects with nonprofit organizations helping impoverished women, children and groups. I learned about the prevalence of child labor in the making of products for Western markets and organizations who were rescuing children from this forced labor.

I realized this was happening all over the world every day, being driven by consumers like ourselves, who buy these products and support unethical companies.

In today's global society, more often than not the clothes, the toys and the majority of the items you buy

from America's most popular stores are made in poor countries in factories or farming communities where workers and the environment are being exploited. Forests are being cut down to support cash crop farming for export, child slavery and trafficking proliferate in almost every industry where workers are forced to endure long hours without breaks and meager wages in sweatshops and maquiladoras.

Green America's Responsible Shopper program provides you with the real story about abuses by well-known companies that highlight the continued labor, environmental and human rights violations in their work. A well-known shoe company with products often retailing over \$150 was recently caught paying their full time workers in India below the minimum country living wage - less than \$2 a day. The same company knowingly exposes workers to hazardous chemicals without appropriate protection and as a result humans and the environment suffer.

Our conventional trading system continues to favor the interests of wealthy nations and companies who distort the terms of trade and underpay farmers and producers around the world for their work.

In the last 60 years, a consumer-driven movement called fair trade has emerged. This movement is helping to bring more economic justice and equality into our trading system. Fair trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach that aims to help marginalized producers in developing countries obtain better trading conditions, access markets with fewer middlemen and promote sustainability. The movement advocates the payment of a higher price to small scale farmers and artisans as well

as social and environmental standards, helping producers develop knowledge and resources to improve lives. It focuses in particular exports from developing countries to developed countries most notably handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fruit, chocolate and flowers.

I discovered fair trade when I saw the impact of their work on women and communities. Women were organizing in democratically run cooperatives, where they all had a voice and were earning as much as their peers. They worked freely in a production unit or from their homes. They had enough money to pay for their children's education and go to the doctor when needed. They made beautiful woven scarves and textiles from natural dyes and did fine embroidery on handbags and home items. In 2008, I started working with five different groups to buy their products and help market them in the U.S. to help support an ethical trade movement empowered communities make a difference.

Fair trade is more than just a fair price; it's a way to help fight global poverty. As consumers, we can vote with our dollars and make a difference by supporting a movement that helps low income communities learn skills to develop a self-sustaining livelihood to get out of poverty. Be more conscious of your consumption, vote with your dollars and make a difference. Make the switch and buy fair trade items today.

To learn more about fair trade or how you can get involved, visit [www.voiceforfairtrade.com](http://www.voiceforfairtrade.com) or contact me at [sarah@voiceforfairtrade.com](mailto:sarah@voiceforfairtrade.com)

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