

HOPPED-UP BIAS

In response to the "So Hoppy Together" article (10/13 Corvallis section): Good beer can be made without the addition of hops. People have been making beer from grain for thousands of years and have used a wide variety of herbs and spices to balance their brew. Yes, hops work extremely well, balancing the sweetness of the malt, while providing and antiseptic quality that helps to preserve the beer. That doesn't mean we have to close our beer loving minds and forget the wonders of the past.

Before hops, sage was the most common herb used in beer. Cardamom, nutmeg, wormwood and rosemary were also popular additions to beer. I can just imagine some ancient brewer saying, "Without sage, beer would simply be a sweet alcoholic drink that tastes a little bit like oatmeal." Anchor Steam brewery of San Francisco has experimented with an ancient Sumerian beer recipe estimated to be around 5,000-plus years old, and guess what, no hops.

*Stephen Mildrexler
Eugene*

MIERS TIME?

In a nation divided by political labels, there is unity on at least one issue. Informed people on both sides are speaking out against President Bush's choice of Harriet Miers, his former personal attorney, as a Supreme Court nominee.

Charles Krauthammer wrote, "If Harriet Miers were not a crony of the president of the U.S., her nomination to the Supreme Court would be a joke, as it would have occurred to no one else to nominate her."

George Will added, "There is no reason to believe that Miers' nomination resulted from the president's careful consultation with people capable of such judgments. If 100 such people had been asked to list 100 individuals who have given evidence of the

reflectiveness and excellence requisite in a justice, Miers' name probably would not have appeared in any of the 10,000 places on those lists."

There's no requirement that a nominee for the Court must have served as a judge at a lower level, but a person who lacks that experience should have an impressive legal mind and be able to demonstrate their superior ability over any other possible candidate.

Miers can meet neither standard. Based on the small amount of public records regarding her accomplishments and opinions, she may well be the least capable person ever nominated to the court. But that's probably an appropriate choice, coming from the least capable president in American history.

*Rob Lafferty
Blachly*

DILUTING LABEL

Thanks for your coverage on the organic food industry (beginning 9/1). There's more to the story that will interest your readers. According to the Organic Consumers Association, this week, "Large corporations are moving to lower organic standards allowing Bush appointees in the USDA National Organic Program to approve a broad list of synthetic ingredients and processing aids that would be allowed in organic production."

What this means, if the Bush administration has its way, is that virtually ALL food will qualify as "organic." USDA bureaucrats and industry lobbyists (including Wal-Mart), not consumers, will gain control over organic foods and products to the detriment of public welfare. For more startling details, visit www.organicconsumers.org and voice an opinion before this gets voted on in congress real, real soon. Soon like hurricane soon.

*Scott W. Webb
Nashville*

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WE ENDORSE

Ballot Measure 20-106

for External Review of Complaints Against the Police

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Bobby Green, Sr.
Lane County Commissioner
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Eugene City Councilor
David Kelly
Eugene City Councilor
Andrea Ortiz
Eugene City Councilor
Chris Pryor
Eugene City Councilor
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Lisa Arkin
Elliot Aronin & Mrs. Aronin
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Sue Barnhart
Scott Bartlett
Joan Bayliss
Andrea Beardsley
Charlotte Behm
Harriet Behm
Jon Belcher
Anthony Biglan
Angela Binder
Sandra Bishop
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Sexual Assault Support Services
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ACLU of Oregon
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Angie Sifuentes, Aaron Boyce,
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Guadalupe Quinn
CAUSA, CUBP
James Mattiace
Oregon Bus Project
Majeska Seese-Green
Whiteaker Community Council
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If you want truly independent and credible External Review of complaints against the police, please vote "YES" on Ballot Measure 20-106.

- It restores the credibility of police complaint procedures, necessary for improving police/community relations.
- It protects the public by encouraging filing and follow-up of legitimate complaints.
- It benefits police officers by providing consistent, fair, respectful, and accountable complaint investigations and procedures.
- It improves police services by proactively identifying issues before they become problems.
- It saves money by avoiding costly litigation.

JOIN US — VOTE YES

for External Police Review

Mail your ballot by Nov. 4 or
deliver to Lane County Elections by Nov. 8

PAID FOR BY VOTE YES FOR EXTERNAL POLICE REVIEW - Judith Schoap, Treasurer