



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

“Give me Liberty...”

January 1999

Inside:

Candidate Statements
Andy Jumps the Gun
The Last Fodder
And MORE!

The Burp News • 1612 10th Street South • Arlington, VA • 22204-4768 • newsletter@burp.org

Stranger in a Strange Land: My First BURP Meeting

By Jennifer Y. Caldwell

Even after four years of college, mucky issues still brew in my head-What is an 'atache', and where can I get one? Who is Bin Laden and why is he so mean? Who's that actor that plays the Taco Bell dog in those commercials? But despite all these questions, as I walked into the Brewers United For Real Potables (BURP) Christmas party Tuesday night, I was confident that there was one thing I did learn about in college-beer. Unfortunately, I was mistaken.

Prior to meeting the BURPers, I had never really given beer, the topic, much thought. Like anybody else in college, I've drunk it, usually lukewarm after waiting in line for it for 20 minutes or at \$1.00 Bud night at the Santa Fe Cafe—a sacrilege for BURPers. But I hadn't really examined the topic.

After taking a whirl around Southeast,

I found The BURPers gathered around in the JayCee Community Center in Oxon Hill. My dad, Jim Caldwell, a more recent member than most, was amongst them. Pink-faced and pie-eyed, he waved me over holding a glass I recognized from home. “Come on Jennifer, get your notebook and I'll introduce you around,” he told me. The BURPers were an eclectic bunch. I was definitely the youngest person there, but there were more women than I had expected. Some BURPers looked as if they had just come from work. Others looked like, “Work??”

By 7 p.m., when I walked in there were about 60 people there mostly gathered around this long table with about a million bottles of beer on it that I had never seen in my life. My dad had driven straight from his job at the embassy to the party, and had been there since about 5:30, explaining the ubiquitous smile and red face. He's a great cook, but he's a slob. Although I maintain

that he was one of the most normal-looking people there, he had managed to spill barbeque sauce from the pork ribs he made all over the front of his shirt.

So these are your friends, I thought scanning the room for people I had seen at my house before. Suddenly I saw Ralph Bucca, a wild-eyed, wiry haired man, weighing maybe 115 pounds, who I had once seen in a toga. He was a fellow BURPer, and had been at my house before.

To enter, BURPers were required to bring “more food and beer than you can eat or drink.” Bucca, famous for his odd brewing methods, (or rather his oddness in general) also brews mead and makes wine. I tried a sip of his homemade ChesbayVu Blanc wine, which had an aftertaste that I wasn't sure whether to attribute to my dirty glass or to the wine itself.

See MEETING Page 2.



The BURP Calendar

January 1999

- Sat, 23 13:00, BURP Election Meeting and Pale Ale Compt'n in Falls Church, Va.

February 1999

- Mon, 01 19:00, Pale Ale & IPA @ Bricks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Mon, 08 19:00, Brown Ales & Milds @ Bricks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Tue, 16 20:00, Mardi Gras in DC, Wyndham Hotel, Dixie Beer, \$55, 202 333 5588. - Wed, 17 19:00, Redhook Tasting @ Brickskeller, \$27, 202 293 1885 (Wed ONLY). - Mon, 22 19:00, Porter & Stout @ Bricks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Tue, ?? 18:00, BURP Meeting and Stout Club Competition in Oxon Hill, Md.

March 1999

- Mon, 01 19:00, Cask-Conditioned Ale @ Bricks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Mon, 08 19:00, Scottish Ale @ Bricks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Mon, 15 19:00, Old Ale, Barley Wine @ Bircks (Smtn Inst), \$130/6, 202 357 3030. - Tue, 16 19:00, Scottish Beer Tasting @ Brickskeller, \$27, 202 293 1885 (Tue-Thur). - Sat, ?? 13:00, BURP Meeting in Kensington, Md.

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MEETING from Page 1.

As the night wore on, I was introduced to everyone at the party, getting a lot of flack for carrying a notebook. Eventually, I was conned into writing a story for their BURP Newsletter.

Suddenly a man wearing a nametag that read, "Delano 'Adjunct Boy' Du Garm bellowed, "Beer Ye! Beer Ye!" The crowd quieted down, and DuGarm announced it was time for food. Everybody put down their potables and made a bee-line for the edibles, which were quite tasty. Not only were they excellent homebrewers, the food was amazing. They had everything from Indian dal to venison stew.

Everyone headed with full plates to the other side of the room, sitting anywhere there was room, because there didn't seem to be any BURP-cliques. Dinner time chatter, revolved around beer, of course.

Jim Dorsch, a BURPer since about 1984 only attends BURP meetings twice a year because he works weekends at the beer and wine department of Fresh Fields Supermarket. He is also a freelance beer reporter, and writes for the Washington Post's Food section and various industry magazines. He commented, "truth is like a spice, and should be used very sparingly in journalism." Before the conversion, friends told me he was a mathematician.

Feeling again reassured that my journalism talents were being used wisely, I sat down to eat with my dad. I felt like I was in Cheers, where everybody knows your name. I was afterall, wearing a nametag, but besides that everyone kept asking me because frankly, I was an oddity there. Even though there were members from all sects of society-scientists, aspiring musicians, journalists, etc.-they all had one thing in common that I did not have, the love of beer.

And it not just that they love beer.

They love beer like a Hindu loves a cow-they worship beer. One long-time member Wendy Aaranson, a former BURP Fearless Leader, has traveled all over the world educating herself on indigenous beers in places like Peru and Africa. Later she comes back and tries to emulate the process in the United States. On one occasion, after a trip to Peru she and other female BURPers, posing as virgins danced and chanted around a large fire in a ritual to make "chicha." To make it they had spent the days before masticating corn until it is grainy and spitting it out, the present enzymes in the saliva fermenting it naturally. Very mystical... Almost a religious experience.

After a few minutes of discussing why beer makes you full with Alan Hew, a pony-tailed Asian guy, BURPer John Esparolini poured a tiny bit of Wisconsin Belgian Red, which tastes just like a cherry, into my glass. It wasn't much more than a sip, so I gulped it down. "You see," Hew lectured, when you gulp a beer down like that you can't taste any of its characteristics. So I tried again, slowly this time. And he was right, it tasted even more like a cherry.

While Dad and Hew discussed the inferiority of American beers, the "Beer Ye, Beer Ye!!" call came again, and it was time to nominate next years BURP officers, bearing names like "Minister of Education," "Minister of Culture," and "Liberian."

By about 9:30 nominations were over, meaning they finished nominating [almost] the exact same officers from this year all over again, and all of the beer memorabilia had been raffled. BURPers don't seem to get too drunk, so all of the pleasant buzz that they may have had earlier had long since passed. By 9:30, it was time to go home, have to get up for work in the morning, have to take out the dog, have to take the kids to school.

Parents are so cute with their hobbies.

Cannon Fodder (the last)

By Fearless Leader, Tom Cannon

This is it. My last column for the newsletter. I'm very happy to announce that this year we have candidates for all BURP offices, including, for the first time in recent memory, some CONTESTED OFFICES. That means (I think) that we may have to actually count votes this year! Remember, the elections meeting will be held in January. Vote early and vote often!



Now comes the sad (and potentially boring) part when I thank all the BURP volunteers over the past two years that made being leader fearlessly easy. I'll try not to forget anyone, but since there are many, it could be inevitable. Please forgive me if I do. First, to our Ministers of Culture, Mark Stevens and Jay Adams. It seems hard to believe that we have made our own Spirit of Free Beer into one of the largest and best known homebrew competitions in the country. This has been due to lots of volunteers, but the bulk of the credit has to go to the organizers, Mark and Jay. Second, I really want to thank our newsletter editor, Dan Brown. The newsletter editor is the one guy in the club who has to get things done on time, and Dan has done a magnificent job, particularly since he also managed to get himself engaged during his last year as editor, which I'm sure has not made the job easier. Good luck to Dan and Cyndi and we hope to see them at meeting in the future (after their lives calm down a bit). Thanks to our Treasurers, Doug Kruth and Steve Marler. Doug did a great job of organizing and reporting our finances, and Steve took it over and improved on it. Thanks to our Webmaster, Lynn Ashley. BURP is now known far and wide (ask at any homebrew event around the country!) and this is largely due to our outstanding Web page. Thanks to Bob Cooke for lugging the BURP library around to meeting sites all over the region. And special thanks to our Minister of Education, Wendy Aaronson and our Minister of Propoganda, Bill Ridgely. In case you haven't noticed, these guys serve year in and year out as our Education and Membership officers.

Burp Officers -- One last time.

Office	Officer	Phone
Intrepid Leader	Tom Cannon	(703) 204-2256 H
Minister of Education	Wendy Aaronson	(301) 762-6523 H
Minister of Culture	Jay Adams	In Exile!
Minister of Truth	Dan Brown	(703) 271-6310 H
Minister of Propaganda	Bill Ridgely	(301) 762-6523 H (301) 827-1391 W
Minister of Finance	Steve Marler	(703) 527-4628 H
Liberian	Bob Cooke	(703) 451-1540 H
Minister of the Web	Lynn Ashley	(703) 522-5308 H

See FODDER Page 3.

FODDER From Page 2.

They are the anchors of our club, and if you get a chance, thank them yourselves. Of course, I would also like to thank all of our monthly meeting hosts. I've always believed that, at least, to be a homebrew club, you have to have a newsletter and monthly meetings. And with a club of our size, finding a meeting location is not always easy. To all of you (Alison, Paul and Jamie, Larry and Trish, Jim and Alice, Chuck and Helen, John, Andy, Dan and his staff at BNG, Peter and Joyce, Pat and Janet, Bob and Carolyn, Bill and Wendy and Rick and Karen) thanks for offering your homes for our meetings. We couldn't have done it without you. Finally, thanks to all of our other volunteers, the judges, stewards, beer registrars, judge coordinators, SOFB prize and sponsor bosses, cooler wenches, table coordinators, port-potty kings, cellar masters, crab procurers, mash-out helpers, chili commissioners, raffle ticket sellers, prizes donators, Tour de BURP organizers, newsletter article writers, election officials, brewers, drinkers, and last, but certainly not least, Bob Dawson our BURP Engineer extraordinaire. Thanks everyone. It's been a great two years. And if you're not one of the above, get involved. You won't be sorry.

So with this, I'll slide off into the sunset. I'd like to challenge the new officers with some daring new ideas for the club, but, of course, if I did, I'd have to volunteer to run them. And I've got lots of brewing to do, and plenty of beer to drink. See you all at the next meeting.

Cheers



The BURP News Pilsner Glass

Minister of Finance Report

By Steve Marler, Lame Duck Minister of Finance

It was an honor to serve as Minister of Finance over the past year. I was deeply touched by how the membership forgave me for making off with the BURP finances last April. I worked very hard since my return to discreetly raise activity prices in order to replenish the BURP account.

Below is my final BURP financial report.

September - December 1998

Expenditures

BURP Merchandise	
(bottle openers)	\$ 700.00
Membership Raffle Prizes	\$ 400.62
Supplies and Room Rental	\$ 139.93
Crab Feast	\$ 212.00
Newsletter Copies and Postage	\$ 437.57
Education Mash tun/Boil Pot Class	\$ 377.91
Culture Real Ale Competition ..	\$ 115.26
Spirit of Belgium	\$ 39.80
Spirit of Free Beer	\$ 47.62
Mashout	\$ 397.97
Total Expenditures	\$2868.68

Revenue

BURP Merchandise	
(bottle openers)	\$ 552.00
Membership Raffle.	\$ 424.00
Fees	\$ 750.00
Boil Pot Raffle	\$ 102.00
Newsletter Copies and Postage	\$ 437.57
Education Mash tun/Boil Pot Class	\$ 390.00
Miscellaneous Raffle/Bottle Openers/Boil Pot Raffle	\$141.00
Interest	\$13.26
Total Revenue =	\$2809.83

Overall

Total =	-\$58.85
Total Checking =	\$4,146.01
Total Savings =	\$1,512.77
Total Worth =	\$5,658.78

Minister 'o Culture Report

By Andy Anderson, Soon to be elected Minister of Culture

This may be in the proverbial category of putting-the-cart-before-the-horse, BUT, if I am elected Minister of Culture at January's BURP meeting, I will be soliciting entries that day for a Club-Only competition. February is the AHA Club-Only competition for "Special and Experimental Beers". BURP will actually be running that competition on 2/13/98, but our club is still only allowed one entry. So, we need to run a club competition for those weird beers. As January is our Pale Ale competition, the judging/selecting of our representative for the AHA contest will have to be done off-line.

So, bring 2 bottles of your "Special & Experimental" beer to the meeting on 1/23. Aside from meeting the loose standards detailed below, all I ask is that you have another 3 bottles of you potentially-award winning beer held in reserve in case your magic elixir is elected to represent BURP in the AHA contest.

The following information is from the AOB's website:

Category 23. Specialty and Experimental Beer

Any ale or lager brewed using unusual techniques and/or ingredients other than (or in addition to) malted barley as a unique contribution to the overall character of the beer. Examples of specialty beers include (but are not limited to) beers brewed with honey, maple sap or syrup; worts heated with white-hot stones; and low- or nonalcoholic beers. Examples do not include the use of fruit or herbs, although they can be used to add to the character of other ingredients. The overall uniqueness and experimental quality of the beer should be considered.

a) Specialty Beer Any nonclassic style fitting the above description.

Orig. Grav.(°Plato) 1.030-110 (7.5-27.5)

Fin. Grav.% (°Plato) 1.006-30 (2-8)

Alc./Wt. (Alc./V.) 2.0-9.5 (2.5-12.1)

IBUs 0-100

SRM (EBC) 1-100 (2-197)

[Table didn't translate well. Check it on the AOB web site! Ed.]

b) Classic-Style Specialty Beer

Any classic ale or lager to which special ingredients have been added or a special process has been used. Examples include honey Pilsener, maple porter, sorghum stout, pumpkin pale ale. Brewer should specify classic style.

BURP News

BURP News is the official newsletter of Brewers United for Real Potables. It is published monthly, and is written by and for the members of BURP. Subscriptions are covered in the cost of yearly club membership dues, which are currently set at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for couples.

Articles, photographs and artwork of all sorts are welcome. Submissions related to homebrewing beer are more likely to be published than other items. Please note BURP news will be getting a new editor and mailing address as of next month. Please Email submissions to "newsletter@burp.org"

From The Editor

By Lame Duck Minister of Truth, Dan Brown

Well, here it is, the last BURP news of my tenure. Once again, this one is as timely as the majority of the issues I've published. Looking back, a lot of things have happened in my life, in the last two years. I'll spare you all the excuses...

People say that this is one of the most time consuming offices of the club. I won't argue. Its also a very rewarding one. In recording and publishing the happenings of the club month to month, you create a product which, no matter how many typos, misspellings, goofs, and Newman quotes it contains, is something tangible and useful for the club. It's a job that I've enjoyed, most especially after I'm finished each month.

I've heard discussions of having an "all electronic" newsletter in the future. I've always thought that this would be a good idea, though, only recently has the technology been truly widespread enough for it to be possible. "Printing" a PDF document, which is then posted on the BURP website, is likely the most timely, economical and ubiquitous means of distribution available to the club. However, this doesn't serve everyone, nor does it have quite the same feeling as a paper version. Numerous people have told me that they enjoy both the "to have and to hold" feeling of paper, as well as the delight in receiving something more interesting than a utility bill in their mailbox.

During the time that I held the post as Minister of Truth, the officers debated soliciting advertising from local homebrew shops. This was largely an effort to offset some of the cost of printing and mailing and there was interest from more than one shop. Between concerns of favoritism and commercializing our club's publication, the idea was dropped.

As reference, the cost of each individual newsletter is currently roughly 85 cents. Clearly, at 11 or 12 newsletters a year, this is easily covered under the current membership rates. The point here is that the issue isn't really about money. The club has consistently held a positive balance, even after having held a few events which haven't broken-even. We aren't going broke printing and mailing the newsletter.

People have said that the newsletter is a "membership benefit," one of the few truly tangible ones. I personally think that while

A letter from Arizona

By Bill Fessler, Ferm-editor of ASH HotBreak

December 1, 1998

Dear Fellow brewers:

I just had to drop you a note after reading a copy of your December newsletter. I am a member of the Arizona Society of Homebrewers (ASH). In fact, I'm the ferm-editor of the HotBreak Newsletter for the club. I believe I made it on to your mailing list last year after doing research on legalizing homebrewing. Anyway, that is not why I'm writing, it just feels good to share some of my experiences.

The real reason I am writing is to welcome Wendy [Aaronson] and Bill Ridgely to Arizona. I read about their adventures in the Grand Canyon state and the Oak Creek Brewing Company in Sedona. Sounds as if you had the typical fun most people experience at one of our best breweries/brewpubs in the state. Sedona is worth the trip itself, especially to witness the sunsets on the surrounding red rocks (I personally rank it above a trip to the Grand Canyon.) To make it even more worthwhile, Oak Creek Brewing Company gives visitors a great place to eat, drink and be merry after the sun goes down (and before).

If Bill and Wendy (or any other BURP members) head this way again, please be sure to get in touch with me, or any other members of ASH. I would be thrilled to give

it's a nice thing to have, it is not the real reason most people have joined BURP. That happens because they're interested in brewing beer, because they enjoy socializing and sharing their hobby with other homebrewers and most of all, because BURP is a hell of a lot of fun to participate in. Newsletter or no, paper or electronic, any concern I'd have with the future of the publication would be surrounding what the people of the club are doing. Are we having fun? Is the club still brewing good beer? Is the club still teaching people about beer and brewing? Is the club still welcoming new members into the ranks? These are the things that have always, in my opinion, really mattered about the club.

I'd like to take a moment and thank all the people who've helped with the newsletter. Thanks to all the folks who've submitted photos and articles, to the lickers, stickers, folders, staplers, and stampers. Thanks to the other officers who've been

you some other destinations a homebrewer would appreciate. You have already found one of the best in the state, but it is not the only one worth a visit.

If you feel the need for a guide, my wife and I could probably be tempted to lead you around. Our fee is quite modest: a twelve pack of Old Dominion! You see, we're former Beltway brewers ourselves. My wife grew up in King George County, just outside Fredricksburg, VA, and I lived in the Arlington/DC area for five years myself ('90 to '95). Old Dominion is the beer that made me a homebrewer. My in-laws stock up on it whenever we come back for a visit, and we always try to fit in a meal at Hard Times.

Anyway, it has been a joy talking with you. I feel like an honorary member of the club, being a resident and also getting a newsletter each month. If you ever want to read about some of our club's activities (including reviews of the brewpubs around the state), log on to <http://members.aol.com/ptoye/ash>.

Prost!
Bill Fessler
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diligent about writing, especially Tom Cannon who has almost always been the first person to get their column in. Thanks to Lynne and Doug for hosting many times over. Thanks to Bill Ridgely for helping keep me at some semblance of "on time." Thanks to Lynn Ashley for collecting and collating what seems to be an ever-increasing percentage of the content in the form of the BURP Website. Thanks to the club as a whole for electing me, thanks to previous editors Bruce and Polly for getting me started. Thanks to Delano for volunteering to take things over this year, enjoy! Feel free to let me know if you need help.

Thanks most of all to Cynthia for your patience and understanding. I think I had a laptop with me, working on the BURP News, as I was waiting to meet you on one of our early excursions to Big Hunt and now we're both up at an early hour as I'm putting the finishing touches on. Thanks, my love! Here I am, finally at the end of my tenure! Time to get ready to get married!

1999 Election Candidate's Statements

Compiled By Lynn Ashley, BURP Webmaster.

BURP Officers will be elected by the BURP membership present at the Annual BURP Election Meeting: 13:00 (1pm), Saturday 23 January 1999 Falls Church, Virginia

Candidate for Fearless Leader John Dittmann

I have been a member of B.U.R.P. for just over 2 years, but have been active in as many as five homebrew clubs over that time period. This membership in a wide variety of clubs gives me many differing arenas from which to draw my experiences. I served as Vice President of the Boston Wort Processors the year prior to joining B.U.R.P. I am a registered and active BJCP Judge.



John Dittmann

I offer you a sampling of my views and hope you will contact me if you have any questions.

I am firm in my view that we should examine our connection with the American Association of Brewers and the American Homebrewers Association. In my view these organizations, in their current state, offer little to the homebrewer.

I feel mail costs are too high and require us to spend too much money on the newsletter. I will propose saving some mailing cost by delivering the newsletter in an electronic form. I am currently a member of a club that has worked this successfully and has offered discounted dues to individuals that accept this option.

B.U.R.P. has provided much to me in the past two years. From excellent competitions to magnificent mashouts to wonderful educational programs B.U.R.P. is proven to be a great club. I hope you will elect me as your Fearless Leader and allow me to lead you for 1999.

Candidate for Fearless Leader Rick Garvin

candidate for BURP President Rick has been a member of BURP for over 10 years. He was BURP's first BJCP judge when he joined BURP and has been certified since 1987. Rick has been involved in all of BURP's major events with an emphasis on

beer competitions and education. Rick was BURP's first Minister of Education and began BURP's BJCP training program. Before handing the BJCP program over to Wendy Aronsen BURP went from 1 to 25 BJCP judges. Rick has served as Associate Director for Ex-



Rick Garvin

ams for the BJCP.

Candidate for Fearless Leader Steve Marler

I am honored to accept your nomination for Fearless Leader, and value the confidence you have shown in me by your nomination. Or should I say, respect your ability to recognize a sucker when you see one?

If elected Fearless Leader, I would like to re-focus the clubs attention on the purpose for which it was founded: Home brewing. As members of BURP we have a common mission: to have fun promoting the production and knowledge of good beer.



Steve Marler

However, many members, including myself, are concerned that BURP has slowly been drifting towards a beer appreciation or beer drinking club. As home brewers we need to have an appreciation for the classic beer styles and the fine beer that is being produced today; drinking the fruits of our labor is the final reward. However, important as they are, I believe that these activities should not be BURP's primary focus.

As Fearless Leader, I would like to work with the other officers and the membership over the next year to put BURP on a course toward being THE home brew club of the new millennium. Here of some of the ideas I have for achieving this goal.

New Meeting Format - I would like to see the beer tastings, which have been taking place before the meetings, be-

come a permanent part of the meeting. The meeting would start at the usually time, but we would open with the beer tasting for those interested in participating. Following the beer tasting, all club business would be dealt with (i.e., announcements, etc.). The raffle would take place after the club beer competition, as it does now.

Brewers Challenge Competitions - I would like to work with the Minister of Culture to implement a new home brew competition at our meetings. Interested members would be given the specifications of a commercial beer. The challenge would be to brew a beer as close to the commercial example as possible. Each beer would be judged, not according to any style guideline, but on how close it comes to the original commercial example.

Mentoring Program - I would like to institute a formal mentoring program. Brewers in BURP, both extract and grain, that would like their knowledge and get to know other BURPers would volunteer to be a mentor for either a new home brewer, an extract brewer that would like to start all grain, or a member that just wants to improve their brewing process.

Member Profiles - I would like to work with the Minister of Propaganda and the Minister of Truth to do profiles of BURP members (especially new members) in the BURP newsletter and on the BURP web page. I think that this would be a good "ice breaker" for new BURP members and established members that don't know all 200 or so of us.

Reinheitsgebot Education Series - As a follow-up to our successful BJCP class, I would like to work with the Minister of Education to explore the possibility of have a more in-depth series of classes that look at malt, hops, water, and yeast and their effects on beer. In particular we would study how the various types of each affect the look, smells, taste and feel of the beer we brew.

Web Page - I would like to work with the Minister of the Web and the Minister of Truth to put some of the technical articles written by BURP members, such as A. J. Delange's article on water, on our web page. I believe that a technical section on our web page would be beneficial to both BURP members and other home brewers that visit our web site.

Have fun promoting the production

See CANDIDATES Page 6.

CANDIDATES From Page 5.

and knowledge of good beer: this is BURP's mission, and if elected, these are some of the ideas I would like to explore over the next year to accomplish this goal. If they sound good to you, I would appreciate you vote on January 23, 1999.

Whether you plan to vote for me or not, I encourage you to vote. This year you have choices. It's your club! Get involved! Make a difference!

Candidate for Minister of Education Incumbant Wendy Aaronson

I'm delighted to seek reelection for this extremely important office. As Minister of Education for the past 5 years, I have coordinated with the most knowledgeable and



Wendy Aaronson

experienced homebrewers on the East Coast (who happen to be BURP members) to bring educational programs to BURP ranging from building mash/lautertuns and keg cookers to training BJCP judges. The quantity and quality of all-grain beers at a BURP meeting and the list of BJCP judges are measures of the success of our programs. This year, we also conducted commercial/homebrew tastings prior to the meeting in order to educate our membership and prepare the judges for the club competition. In previous years, we held monthly sessions to study and discuss a particular style or brewing technique.

Meeting the educational needs of our diverse membership is a challenge and, if elected, I assure you that I will continue to meet these needs. I have four goals for the upcoming year. My first is to change the name of this office to Minister of Enlightenment, not for any reason in particular; it just sounds more spiritual. The second is to seek your input for new programs and repeat programs such as the BJCP preparation class (provided there is sufficient interest). The third is to continue to have an educational segment at each meeting (since many of our members do not have the time to attend programs outside of our scheduled meetings). Finally, BURP should play a role

in educating or enlightening the community. We should continue to take advantage of invitations from beer festival organizers, homebrew shops and beer retailers to enlighten the public about our hobby.

**Candidate for Minister of Culture
Andy Anderson**

To those of you who know me, you may be wondering why I volunteered for this position. To those of you who are unfamiliar with me,



Andy Anderson

let me tell you what you need to know about me. I'm lazy, slothful, and only show initiative when attempting to avoid responsibility. However, the one thing about which I can truly show interest is beer and the process by which it is brewed. In respect to brewing I can actually be described as anal-retentive in covering all the details.

I have been a member of BURP for five years and have enjoyed the work other members of this club have done. It's time for me to give back some of which I've taken. So, I think it's time for me to throw my hat into the proverbial ring and actually make a campaign promise. I hereby promise that if elected, I shall serve and not run off into hiding (unless I get a job transfer back to England, in which case ... :-)

**Candidate for Minister of History
Bill Newman**

Bill's official statement:

Figaro!

Tom Cannon's last charitable act as Fearless Leader... writing Newman's candidate statement:

I, Bill Newman, am presenting myself for the position of BURP Libeerian. I would like to be Libeerian for many reasons, but primarily, to meet chicks. Further, as many of you already know, I am a cheap bastard, and this is a good



Bill Newman

way for me to get control of all the books so I don't have to buy any.

If elected, my first proposal would be, at each meeting, to hold a BURP storytime in a corner of the meeting place, where I will read sections of varying brewing related texts to members. Second, I have made many trips to the City of Baltimore and have come to appreciate its slogan "The City That Reads". I would like to make BURP "The Homebrew Club That Reads", and to that end, I will be glad to help any of our illiterate members (more than you would think!) work on their literacy skills. For any member that would like to improve on their reading skills, I will hold interpretive sessions where we will examine my own handwriting to try to figure out what it means. Finally, in the true spirit of any library, I will demand QUIET! around the box of BURP beer books as well as in any place they are stored. Remember, this is a library, not a playground! I also think BURP libeery cards could be cool.

In closing, I would like to thank Bob Cooke for his fine work as BURP Libeerian. But, alas, all good things must come to an end, and Bob, your 15 minutes are up. Time to move on, my friend, and let NEWMAN take control!

**Candidate for Minister of Finance
Christie Newman**

I've been in BURP for three years now and feel its time for me to give back to the club. This office in particular is one I feel I



Christie Newman

can handle, because it mainly requires me to be at all of the meetings and because it requires responsibility and

money management skills. Now, contrary to my husband's opinion, I CAN balance a checkbook. And I think I've only missed one meeting since we joined BURP.

So unless someone else wants the job, I would be happy to do it.

I do hope to get more people involved at the meetings by selling the raffle tickets.

See MORE Page 7.

MORE From Page 6.

I think asking people for money is a great way to get to know everyone ;)

Candidate for Minister of Propaganda Incumbant Bill Ridgely

I have maintained the BURP database for 10 years

and still don't see the wisdom in migrating away from my tried & true DOS-based database package. That's because I'm both cheap



Bill Ridgely

and lazy. If anyone wants pretty graphics and cute fonts on their address labels and membership rosters, they need to run against me.

The membership job is fun because it allows me to get to know members before I even meet them, a real advantage to a name-challenged person like myself. It's also time-consuming and labor-intensive, but I think it's important to have a reliable and competent person in this role. I'm not sure about the latter, but I think I rate pretty well on

reliability. Besides, God knows what kind of trouble I'd be getting in if I didn't have something like this to keep me busy.

Candidate for Minister of Truth Candidate Delano "Adjunct Boy" Dugarm

I. Give members the option of receiving the BURP news in electronic format (probably PDF), rather than on paper. This would save the club some money, and members considerable clutter.

B. Print the BURP news on hemp paper, rather than on wood pulp paper. This plank has no connection with any desire I have to smoke huge, mind-corroding joints.

3. All BURP officers will be referred to using nicknames. Some candidates (Andy "The Wanker" Anderson, for instance) already have them. Others had better think them up soon or they will be assigned.

[Ed Note: VOTE FOR DELANO!]

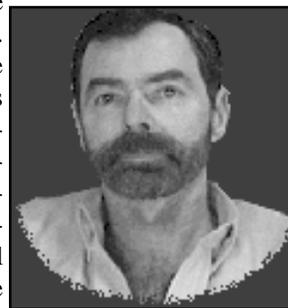


Delano Dugarm

Candidate for Minister of the Web Incumbant Lynn Ashley

If elected, I will continue to provide BURP with an effective and comprehensive web presence on the internet.

Photo coverage of our events and an up-to-date BURP calendar will continue to be priorities. I will work with the Minister of



Lynn Ashley

Truth to help implement his desire to make the BURP newsletter electronically available to those members who want it. As in the past, I will not attempt to turn burp.org into a predominantly technical site. There are already lots of those. I will, however, encourage BURP members who publish technical homebrew articles to also provide them for publication on burp.org. And of course, @burp.org email aliases will continue to be available on a first-come first-served basis to all BURP members.

Please vote for Lynn Ashley to continue as your Minister of the Web. Thanks!

Absentee Ballots Notice

By Alison Skeel

To all BURP members:

If you are unable to come to the BURP meeting on January 23rd, you can still cast your vote, either electronically or by snail mail. As of now, the only contested office is that of Fearless Leader (President) with candidates John Dittman, Rick Garvin and Steve Marler. But check the BURP website or Newsletter for last-minute entries before voting.

To vote by e-mail (message must reach me by noon Friday, Jan 22) send a message stating your preference to: election@burp.org and identify yourself by name and the street address at which you receive the newsletter.

Send US Mail (must reach me no later than Kensington delivery Friday, Jan 22) to Alison Skeel, Ballot Tabulator 3911 Spruell Drive Kensington MD 20895

Hope to see you at the meeting, but vote in any case!

Beer Clarity

By Ben Schwalb

A lot of people like to see crisp, clear beer in their glass. Then there are people like me who couldn't give less of a poop about clarity. All that matters to me is that it tastes good. I like thick beers, and suspended particles only enhance a brew's thickness. Plus, if you're drinking a very dark one, you can't see through it anyway, no matter how much gunk has settled out. But for you anal-retentive types whose brew has to be clear, or else you'll be too grossed out to drink it, I grudgingly offer the following. Carrageenan, better known as Irish moss, is a seaweed product that is used in many things, including ice cream. If you add it during the last 15 minutes of the boil, protein molecules will be electro-statically attracted to it, causing them to stick to the bits of carrageenan and eventually settle to the bottom of the fermenter in clumps.

Other clarifiers (also called finings), such as polyclar, are added to the primary

or secondary fermenter. Do not boil finings unless the instructions explicitly say to, otherwise they will be rendered ineffective. All finings assist flocculation (that could be a dirty word with just a little help), which is the tendency of proteins and yeast to clump and settle. Adding finings after fermentation may cause an evolution of CO₂, which helps expel any oxygen that might get into the wort during racking.

Sometimes brew looks clear at room temperature, but after refrigeration it appears cloudy. What has happened? The lower temperature has caused previously-scattered proteins to clump together into groups that are large enough to reflect light but not heavy enough to settle. This light blockage is called "chill haze". Finings help settle these proteins, but they don't always get 'em all. Time is a good clarifier. What looks like swamp water one month might appear to have been filtered the next.

Of course, some beers never clear.