



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

" As a Democrat, I fear I'm going to be crying into my beer a lot this holiday season, so I want the beer to be good and strong and life-affirming"
David Edelstein, Slate.com



Bill Ridgely, Editor
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December 2004

15 Harvard Court
Rockville, MD 20850



**December Meeting
BURP Annual Holiday Banquet,
Winter Warmer Competition
And 2005 Elections
Gaithersburg, MD
Friday, Dec 17, 2004
6:00 - 10:00 PM
(Doors Open at 5:00 PM)**

**January – Major BURP Event!
Spirit of Belgium 2005
Fri-Sun, Jan 14-16, 2005
Sheraton National Hotel
Arlington, VA**

**February Meeting
English Brown Ale Competition
Date and Venue to be Announced**

Garvin's Grist

By Rick Garvin, Fearless Leader

It is with a smile that I write my last newsletter article for my term as BURP's Fearless Leader. It has been a great two years, with the help of my great BURP friends and BURP family. We have had a great officer corps for my two terms who have kept the schedule full, the events working smoothly, and the fun flowing. Thanks to all of the members who show up to the events with great attitudes and great homebrew.

Looking over the past two years, it is amazing to remember of the things we accomplished: The MCAB-V national homebrew contest and banquet, hop buys, Dan McCoubrey Stout contest and Irish Stew, Chili Cookoff, Spirit of Free Beer homebrew contest, MASHOUT, Real Ale Festival, bike tours in The Czech Republic and Germany. We had great meetings each month with style-specific homebrew contests and education sessions. There really has been a lot going on. The great BURP volunteers make it happen. Give yourself a hand!

Bill Ridgely handed over the reigns on the eve of MCAB-V. I am going out with a bang with the Spirit of Belgium 2005 conference starting on January 14th. We have an awesome array of speakers and events scheduled. The conference team has pulled together a great event. We have attendees coming from points between Alaska and Belgium. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter with details on how you can join us.

Transition of power routinely works well in BURP. We will be handing over a healthy treasury and BURP's traditions to a new group of officers. We have some hard working officers running for additional terms. I look forward to working with the new crew and will enjoy watching them make their BURP vision a reality.

Spirit of Belgium was an event I wanted to see us do again on my watch. This has been a year in the planning. Big events are fun, but it is the steady calendar of BURP homebrewing events that makes the club great. It is pretty telling to me when my teenage and seven year old daughters prefer BURP events to playing with their same age friends. My daughters always want to see their BURP friends and complain loudly if they miss an event. BURP is fun, whether you drink homebrew or not. Homebrew adds the spice to this great club!

Thanks for the fun!

Cheers, Rick



Spirit of Belgium 2005 – A Celebration of Belgian and Belgian-Style Beers

Dates: January 14-January 16 – Martin Luther King Day weekend
Venue: Sheraton National Hotel
 900 S. Orme Street
 Arlington, VA 22204
 (Special rate for SOB attendees – Call 703-521-1900 for reservations)
Cost: \$190 for full conference
Web Site: <http://burp.org/events/sob/2005/index.html>

It is not too late to sign up for BURP's Spirit of Belgium 2005 conference. This event promises an awesome array of speakers, beer tastings and

socializing with people from Alaska through Belgium obsessed about Belgian beer. We have great support from the Belgian embassy for this event. They are helping us bring in beers from five breweries that have never been seen in the United States. We have 15 speakers, 3 tastings, and 1 sensational banquet lined up. The tastings will feature 16+ homebrews, 50+ Belgian beers and beers from more than 16 American breweries. The freshest information can be found on the SOB 2005 website.

Up until now, the only way you could participate in the event was purchasing a ticket to the full three-day conference. Not everyone could spend three days with us. Starting the week of December 13, we will begin offering a limited number of ala carte tickets. We will announce ticket pricing and availability on the BURPlist email list. You can also check the SOB 2005 web site. Last resort is to call me – 703-629-4671. The ticket options that we expect to offer are:

- Friday Registration Reception - included in all ala carte tickets
- Saturday – All day ticket
- Sunday – All day ticket, includes banquet
- Sunday - Belgian-Style Beer Reception only
- Sunday – Banquet only

Don't forget that a number of BURP's best Belgian-style brewers will be contributing homebrewed beers to the opening reception to be held on Friday evening, Jan 14. Reception beer coordinator **Mel Thompson** reports that 16 kegs have already been confirmed for the event.

See you at the Spirit of Belgium. I'll be hanging out near the keg of Cantillon Lou Pepe Kriek.

Cheers, Rick

Spirit of Belgium Homebrew Contest

Are you excited? Are you ready to enter? Do you have your entry all packaged and ready to enter? Because if you are ready, then so are we. **Tom Cannon & Andy Anderson** will begin accepting homebrew entries for the Spirit of Belgium homebrew contest starting at the **December BURP meeting**. You can also drop off entries at

Jay's Brewing in VA or Maryland Homebrew in MD (or mail them to Andy's house).

We will be accepting entries in 14 Belgian categories, with each entry requiring a \$6 entry fee. Three bottles are required for each entry. More details, including the entry form & bottle labels, can be found at [the competition website](#).

Join Your Fellow BURPERS for the Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet Friday, December 17!

The December BURP meeting will be our Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet. This fabulous feast will be held at the Town of Washington Grove McCathran Hall in Gaithersburg, MD on Friday, December 17. Doors will open at 5:00 PM for those who wish to help set up and decorate. Festivities will begin at 6:00 PM, and we ask that everyone be out of the facility by 10:00 PM. As always, volunteers are needed to help with decorating, setup, and cleanup following the banquet. If you would like to assist, please contact one of the Holiday Banquet Coordinators below:

Food Coordinator, Wendy Aaronson – 301-762-6523 (e-mail aaronson@burp.org)
Decorations and Site Coordinator, Alison Skeel – 301-942-3622 (e-mail skeel@burp.org)

As with previous banquets, everyone should plan to bring a dish of their choice. If you are not sure what to bring, please feel free to contact the food coordinator above for suggestions. In past years, there have been a wide variety of appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, and desserts. We hope this tradition carries on. It has also been a longstanding tradition to use beer in dishes if at all possible, so be creative. Try to provide enough food for at least 6-8 people. All dishes should be prepared ahead of time as much as possible. The only food prep facilities in the hall are a small microwave and a refrigerator. Electrical outlets and power strips will be provided for crockpots and other heating devices if needed.

In addition to great food, the holiday banquet is always a showplace for homebrewed holiday beers. This year will feature a Winter Warmer competition organized by Minister of Culture **Mel Thompson**.

All in attendance will have a chance to vote on their favorite winter warmer, and ribbons will be given to the winners.

The other featured event will be the election for BURP's 2005 officer corps. Election of officers can be done online at the BURP website, but for those lacking web access, paper ballots will be available at the meeting. Officer candidate statements are printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The holiday banquet is always one of BURP's premier events and an opportunity for you to show off both your cooking and brewing skills. Don't miss the fun. Join your fellow BURPERS for a great time and a feast to remember!



(Photo by John Esparolini)

NovemBEER Meeting Report (or How many BURPERS does it take to change a light bulb?)

by Phillip DeBeers

Forty-six kegs of beer on the wall,
Forty-six kegs of beer
Suddenly all of the lights went out
Was tasting a bitter, looked like a stout
Forty-six kegs of beer on the wall

*How many BURPERS does it take to change a light bulb?
Never mind, we'll drink dark beer.*

The Highlights:

'Twas an illuminating meeting with 105 BURPERS and guests as counted by **Mike Horkan**. Unfortunately, some BURPERS were gone and some

were still going (*he didn't check the bathrooms*). **Mike** counted the BURPers outside. Later, after everyone came out for **Kathy's** raffle, he counted the BURPers inside.

Arrived late and missed most of **Andy Anderson & Tom Cannon's** real ale presentation. They attempted to show BURPers that we should be able to see through real ale. It should not be cloudy. BURPers went along with him up to a pint. Then Andy pontificated, "A glass of real ale should never distort your vision." Obviously, Andy never had a glass of **Bill Ridgely & Wendy Aaronson's** "Wee Heavy Ale". At 1.095, this brew had gravitatus, my favorite ale of the event. It not only distorted my vision, it put a swagger in my step and even made **Tom Cannon** sound brainy. Powerful stuff. I tell ya', that ale explained why **Wendy's** last name starts with AA.

*How many burp officers does it take to change a light bulb? Three. Two to ponder "is it still a light beer if you drink it in the dark?" and one to see if it affects **Andy's** vision.*

Forty-six kegs of beer on the wall!!! Can you believe that! **Colleen Cannon** said she went to a real ale festival in the UK that had *only* forty kegs. We bad!

The Beers:

Intended to do a report on the beers. I planned to take a sip of every ale and make notes. In the middle of my research, everyone was kicked out and all the taps were changed! Had only made it though half of the first set of kegs. I tasted almost none of the second round. So can only tell you about a few of the beers.

Alan Hew's dry stout was a strange brew, and so was the brew story he started spinning.

How many BURPers does it take to change a light bulb? Ten: One to hold the bulb in the socket and nine to drink beer until the room starts spinning.

Alan's stout was called "Little Franky". **Alan** started with the spent grains of a mash from Franklin's Brew Pub, got that? Franklin's was brewing a high gravity imperial stout, so there were lots of fermentables left for a small beer. And since

cask conditioned ales are typically lower in alcohol, **Alan** took the mash home and did a second running. Franklin's even gave him the yeast! **The Frugal Brewer** would've been proud. The beer had character. And **Alan** is one.

Another interesting brew was **Christine Johnbrier & Rick Garvin's** special bitter. I liked it. Thought it tasted like a rauch beer. Not bad for a BURP officer.

How many burp officers does it take to change a light bulb? Only one. Officers will screw up anything.

On the other hand:

How many meeting reporters does it take to assist a BURP officer changing a light bulb? Just One! Someone has to lick his finger and stick it in the socket to make sure the electricity is on.

Kathy Koch's beer had great taste and was less filling. It went to the head of the class. In fact, only head filled my glass. Waited 'til it settled and was rewarded. It was reminiscent of a wonderful **Jim Busch** beer. Both had that slight peppery aftertaste - very good again for an officer. And **Kathy** also prepared another great raffle!

*How many BURP treasurers does it take to change a light bulb? Are you kidding? **Kathy** won't even change a five-dollar bill. But she will give you six raffle tickets!*

Other good brews I tried included a sweet stout by **Brian Dueweke** (*where did he get that last name? My spell check started smoking*). **Brian**, a new member, decided to join BURP despite meeting us at MASHOUT. **Brian's** wife **Kathy** called out the numbers for our raffle. Thank you, **Kathy**.

I'm getting spoiled. The beers were *only* comparable to good commercial beers. Brewing has become so good in BURP that equaling good commercial beers has become commonplace. **Andy Anderson's** extra special bitter was a favorite - it earned all three adjectives. **Calvin Perilloux** (*another killer name. New rule, only people with easy to spell names get press coverage*) - **Calvin** is a BURPer as well as FOAMer (Frederick Original Ale Makers). FOAM had a "brew on the fly" contest.

Calvin entered and produced three full mash beers on the same day.

Now as BURPers know, I never criticize fellow BURPers, but **Calvin's** ales were beyond the pale. (*And I don't mean too much crystal malt*). I explained to **Calvin** that BURPers take homebrewing seriously and that there is no way he could brew a decent beer playing "brewed on the fly". (*The brewing location alone was disgusting.*) **I not only refused to taste his "beer," I chastised him for embarrassing himself, FOAM, and BURP by not submitting a serious entry when he was competing against BURP's best brewers.** He apologized, and **Calvin** feels bad about his gross misjudgment. I ask **BURP**ers to castigate him no further. I'm sure he will feel bad enough after reviewing his score sheets.

Mel Thompson's pale ale and **Dave & Becky Pyle's** ESB both made me say "yum". **Jay Hopkins** brewed an ordinary bitter and **Keith Chamberlin** an extra special bitter. Both were noteworthy. Unfortunately, I was using a tape recorder. I hit play instead of record. So I know I liked them but don't remember why.

Bill & Christie Newman and **Greg Weisz** created a dark mild that was surprisingly flavorful for such a light bodied beer. Heard several BURPers commending and recommending a northern English brown ale by **Betsy & Bob Kepler**. I missed this one. Life is unfair.

Steve Marler's 70-Shilling Scottish Ale was very good. Was like a mild IPA. I liked it a lot. I don't know what a shilling is supposed to taste like, but this is the best one I ever tasted!

*How many BURPers does it take to change a light bulb?
Two: One to say "That's the yeast of our problems" and one to say, "My sediments exactly"*

There were so many ales I missed. **Colleen** said the judges loved the competition. No beer had to be excluded for not being good. Judges were forced to choose between exceptional and wonderful brews.

The Light Bulb:

All right, let's take another *circuit*, let's *switch* to more *current* events, I'll explain the light bulb. Let me set the stage (actually the porch). BURPers got a real *charge* when they saw the kegs. They were beautifully arranged on the porch at the Windy Ridge Brewery (*a superb name don't you think?*). A custom wooden bar-rail section had been built by **Pete Ryba**. On three walls were beer engines and big fancy tap handles. On the floor was a new royal blue plastic tarp. It was quite impressive, albeit the taps and carpentry more so than the tarp. You could see the effort that went into this production. Ah! But what truly set off the event was the lighting. There, above our heads (*fore and foam*) was a ceiling fan. Not just any ceiling fan, mind you. This fan contained a built in light fixture. And that light fixture provided the ambiance that set the entire room aglow in radiance. Well, at least, for a while.

Suddenly, without warning (*can you have suddenly, with warning?*) the light went out! Pandemonium ensued! Ladders, light bulbs, screwdrivers, and flashlights were everywhere. I looked around and saw the dear, sweet ladies of BURP. I saw the fear. I felt the grip of panic. I heard high-pitched screams. Thank heavens for those well-grounded ladies of BURP who quickly came to the aid of our hysterical BURP officers -- many of whom had fainted. There was flashing, screwing, turning-on, sparks flying, burnouts, dim bulbs and positively shocking things. (*your quintessential BURP meeting*). Oh, the humanity of it all!!!

Bill Ridgely was brought to. Then we brought him two more. Finally, he was able to change the light bulb. The light returned, the crowd gasped, and that's how the saga "How many BURPers does it take to change a light bulb" began. Brave BURPers were coping with dark humor.

*How many BURPers does it take to change a light bulb?
Twenty-one: One to change the bulb, one to turn on the ceiling fan and freeze everyone in the room while **Bill** gets a bulb, eighteen to harass him, and one to opine "watt happens?"*

OR

*Twenty-two: One to change the bulb, seven to steady **Bill** on the ladder, seven to steady the seven that are steadying **Bill**, and seven to bring real ales to the work crew.*

The light bulb was finally replaced thanks to **Bill** and his ladder. In celebration, **Mel Thompson** proposed a toast to the former. **Tom Cannon** made a toast to the ladder.

The Heroes:

Let's thank some of the folks that made this all possible. **Andy Anderson, Tom Cannon,** and **Dave Pyle** spent all week delivering kegs and beer engines. **Bill & Wendy** were the biggest heroes. Imagine hosting a huge judging Friday night and then hosting an early meeting the next day? Plus they brewed three entries! Have you noticed, **Bill's** brewing skills have improved dramatically under **Wendy's** influence. In fact, if **Wendy** hadn't cut me off for a while (*from drinking that is*), I too might have been under the influence. Thanks, **Wendy**.

Bill set up a wonderful outdoor fireplace. It was *grate* fun. It warmed the cockles of BURPer hearts. **Craig Somers** and **Steve Wynn** went straight to the fire when they arrived. I bet their cockles were plenty cold. Those loonies rode bicycles!

And speaking of winners, a toast to our 2004 BURP officer crew! Others may disparage them but they were the best. When **Rick Garvin** gave his announcements, he didn't place himself on a pedestal. **Rick** was not on his high horse. No, this time he stood on a rock. That rock had symbolic value. Like **Rick**, it was not to be taken for *granite*. Nor should any of our officers on the *slate*. We have a dog-gone good pack of nominees for 2005.

How many BURP officers does it take to change a light bulb? Should have been zero. We should have lit candles. Not with this BURP officer crew, no one could hold a candle to them!

The Food:

I don't know who brought all the food. It filled four long tables outside, and there was even more inside. Accolades were directed toward **Alison Skeel**, who roasted and brought a huge turkey. And, I saw that **Colleen Cannon** brought **Tom Cannon**. There was more ham, chicken, sausages, pastas, and there must have been ten different cheese trays. Discovered after my fourth helping

that **Mac & Diana McEwen** brought the wonderful taco dip made with homegrown peppers.

And the *souper* smell in the kitchen was **Lynda DiValentin's** minestrone. It started getting cold toward the end of the meeting (*the weather, not the soup*) and was most appreciated.

By far the most talked about food was the giant jar of garlic. Who brought a three-pound jar of garlic? **AND WHY?** I can tell you this - I didn't see any vampires, and I didn't do a lot of kissing either!

The Low Lights:

The bad news is **Peter & Joyce Long** are moving to Florida. They worried that this might be their last BURP meeting. Fortunately, quick thinking BURPers (*i.e. non-officers*) found a solution. We voted to have all winter meetings at **Peter & Joyce's** home in Florida. We agreed that BURPers would all stay at their house. The vote passed nearly unanimously with only two dissenting.

Was well past dark when I left Saturday night, and the meeting was still going strong. A big BURP toast to **Bill & Wendy** and the many volunteers I neglected to mention! Most importantly, I want to tell BURPers my highlight of the meeting. I was seated and drinking an ale when **Becky Pyle** walked over to chat. I looked up at her as she stood in front of me. Becky is not shy - she is a very up-front woman. As I listened, she had a couple of serious points that I was pondering. I really hoped to grasp them. Alas, I didn't, they were a bit over my head at the time. She did have a special message to get off her chest. I would like to share this message with my fellow BURPers. Remember, "**Becky Pyle** is your Hop Union." I know I'll never forget. Here's hoping you Know-Ale, and Have a Hoppy New Year!

The Winners:

3rd Place – **Newman, Newman & Weisz** (Ordinary Bitter)
 2nd Place – **Bob & Betsy Kepler** (Northern English Brown Ale)
 Champion Ale – **Calvin Perilloux** (Mild Ale)

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RYDler

Q. This is not beer related but certainly apropos to the "eatin' season". How much is wasted by Americans in the food chain – a) 20-30%; b) 40-50%; or c) 60-75%?

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BURP Elections to be Held This Month

Yes, once again it is time to elect new officers to serve as leaders of BURP for 2005. Position descriptions and candidate statements are below. Voting may be done online at <http://www.burp.org/elections/2005/> or by paper ballot at the December meeting. The BURP Officer positions are:

Fearless Leader (President)

Duties: Coordinates BURP activities with other officers. Makes announcements at meetings. Represents BURP to the public. (Which means that you can send articles to your relatives, who will do almost anything to avoid telling their neighbors what you do for fun). Initiates and coordinates major BURP activities (conferences, festival participation, etc).

Candidate: Colleen Cannon

Candidate Statement: The problem with this club is people just don't know how to have fun. A civilized British pub-like setting with 46 kegs of homebrewed real ale turns into a raucous Zydeco dance party. Educate BURPers on uncommon and indigenous beers styles and they put rocks in their beer, cheese rinds in their beer, cicadas in their beer, even breakfast cereal in their beer. The BURP library is going to the dogs. BURPers enjoy living large. They brew in industrial sized breweries inside their homes, ferment in huge oak barrels, and cook whole animals on barbecue grills the size of a small brewhouse. The national elections are over. Whether you're a Democrat, Republican, or

Libeertarian, it's time to put aside our partisan differences and vote for the Party Party. We, the BURPers, have worked very hard on some major events the last few years. We can be proud of our successful Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing 2004, our annual Spirit of Free Beer, our phenomenal Spirit of Belgium 2005, and turn our focus to excellent homebrewing, quality competitions, and good ol' fashioned fun. This year, I will have a specialty beer on tap all year long, for anyone who wants to whine and complain without offering any help. You're invited to belly up to the bar and pour yourself a tall, cold glass of shutthehellup. Any questions?

Minister of Enlightenment (Education)

Duties: Organizes educational sessions about brewing techniques or particular styles. Sets up yearly preparation courses for the BJCP exams. Holds pre-meeting commercial beer tastings to assist club members in honing style recognition skills.

Candidate: Wendy Aaronson (Incumbent)

Candidate Statement: BURP is very fortunate to have many members who have a wealth of knowledge and a willingness to share it. As Minister of Enlightenment, all I have to do is create programs that facilitate sharing among the entire membership. This year, my goals are to conduct a BJCP Exam Preparation Class and schedule the BJCP exam for a time around Spirit of Free Beer and to conduct educational sessions at some of the meetings. We have had a successful BJCP course in previous years, but it is increasingly obvious that time and traffic are our enemies. My new concept for the course is a curriculum that includes judging at BURP meetings, brewing with advanced brewers, local study sessions, and practice exams. Most importantly, I will guarantee a passing score on the BJCP exam. This structure is extremely flexible and will also permit individuals who do not have any interest in taking the exam to become better brewers. I am strongly committed to conducting an educational session at some of the meetings. This is one of the most important activities for the club because many members want to learn more about brewing and beer styles, but their time for outside activities related to this hobby is limited to a monthly meeting. In 2004, I introduced the "Tweaking It" sessions and received a lot of positive feedback. The doctored beer class that was

held in the early spring and the slide show and presentation that Tom Cannon and Andy Anderson held during the Real Ale meeting in November were extremely popular. Finally, I have not given up on the idea of an educational project that will, at a minimum, result in a BURP newsletter article and probably a publication in Zymurgy. Areas to explore include yeast profiles and first wort hopping. Beer made as part of these projects can be consumed at the meetings. FREE BEER!!!

Minister of Culture (Competitions)

Duties: Runs monthly club competitions and writes articles about styles for the BURP News. Orders awards for contests. Recruits the competition organizer for the Spirit of Free Beer or does it himself/herself. May organize trouble-shooting corner at meetings.

Co-Candidates: Bud Hensgen & Mark Hogenmiller

Candidate Statement: (From Bud) I'm really doing this because if I don't, **Mark Hogenmiller**, the real Minister of Culture, might not run. He is going to need some help. I also hope that being a co-officer in the club will help improve my lousy beer. I will probably be shamed into doing a better job. Also, I would like to come up with ways to increase the number of club members who enter competitions and also maybe see some new faces actually WINNING competitions. I would also like to find ways to get newer members involved in managing competitions and increasing their role in other club activities. This could help us move towards bringing in new faces among club officers too, because the present crew isn't going to live forever. Finally, I believe that if I am elected to share an office, I won't have to take any crap from **Tom Cannon** any more. On second thought, that probably won't change anyhow.

(From Mark) I gladly accept the nomination to be the Co-Minister of Culture with **Bud Hensgen**. I felt motivated to take the challenge to not only keep Bud in line, but to also improve on the work that past Ministers of Culture have done. The bar has been set high with the increased participation in the Spirit of Free Beer, Spirit of Belgium, Club Competitions and other great events that have been established under the BURP legacy. With all these great events comes an opportunity to reexamine our roots as home brewers and assess

the original purpose of these events is to encourage and grow new participation in the hobby, make us better brewers, and explore the history and culture of beer. I am seeking election to this office to give back for the support, encouragement, honest feedback and free beer I have received since taking up home brewing in 1988. Schweinshaxe for Everyone!

Minister of Truth (Newsletter)

Duties: Edits the BURP News and gets it to you in time for you to know when and where the next meeting is. Solicits articles and people to be meeting reporters. Serves as BURP's Secretary for its official functions.

Candidate: Bill Ridgely (Incumbent)

Candidate Statement: So, you all want me back for a 2nd term as BURP Minister of Truth, do you? I'll show you. I'll publish photos of BURP members in compromising positions (pretty easy to find at any MASHOUT). I'll start printing obscene words (Coors, Schlitz, Corona). Do you have any idea how much work it takes to do this damned job? Well, okay, I'll calm down, take a deep breath, and volunteer for another year. The same caveats apply, though. I need writers and lots of 'em. I especially need volunteers to write meeting reports (much as I appreciate the work of **Jim Hanson**, **John Gardiner**, and **Tom Cannon** over the last year). I also still need trip and festival reports. Sure, I could have written about the BURP trip to Germany last summer, but there were over 15 people on that trip. Couldn't anyone else have done a brief write-up? It was a remarkable trip, to say the least. Many other BURP'ers have engaged in beer travels recently. How about a contribution to *your* newsletter? A few contributions on homebrewing (recipes, techniques) would also be greatly appreciated (in addition to those provided by the Minister of Culture). So, vote for me as your Minister of Truth for 2005, 'cause, let's face it, ain't no one else runnin'.

Minister of Propaganda (Membership)

Duties: Serves as BURP'S point of contact with folks who are interested in joining. Maintains the club membership database and electronic newsletter notification e-mail list. Prints the membership cards. Sends out renewal notices.

Candidates: Jim & Linda Rorick (Incumbents)

Candidate Statement: Once again, St. Arnold has inspired us to run for the office of Minister(s) of Propaganda. During the last year, we have strived to provide timely membership services to our fellow BURP members. And since we're finally getting the hang of it, membership services should continue to improve. In our many years of BURP membership (since 1995 by our best recollection), we have enjoyed the many benefits of membership, including education, camaraderie, and the tasting of many a fine ale and lager from BURP brewers. We believe that, like St. Arnold, we can preach the benefits of beer, especially when consumed within the BURP congregation. We believe that all beer brewers can benefit from association with fellow brewers and that BURP is the best organization of brewers. Our goals are to (1) maintain and grow the BURP membership by providing information and support to current members and sponsors, and (2) preach the ways of BURP and St. Arnold (with his never empty mug of beer) to those worthy of membership. If re-elected, we will strive to fulfill the duties of Minister(s) of Propaganda to the best of our abilities and the bottom of our mugs.

Minister of Finance (Treasurer)

Duties: Knows where the money comes from and where it goes. Maintains the BURP bank account. Participates heavily in financial forecasting issues, such as "can we afford to front the money for T-shirts, glasses, and openers." Makes reimbursements when presented with appropriate receipts.

Candidate: Dan Fapp

Candidate Statement: My fellow Burpers, it is with the greatest humility that I come to you today to seek your vote to become BURP's next Minister of Finance. In my four-years as a BURP member, I have enjoyed the many benefits of association with this fine organization, including SOFB, MCAB, monthly meetings and holiday parties. I believe it's my time to step-up and give something back to the club as a way to say thank you to all those that have come before me to make this organization possible. If elected, I give my word that I will do my best to maintain the sound fiscal position of this great club, to continue the outstanding work of those Ministers of Finance that came before me, and to do my best to ensure our continued collective access to FREE BEER. I believe my background makes me ideally suited for this

position. Not only do I have a Master's degree in Finance, but I was also treasurer of my Cub Scout troop for TWO consecutive years. Moreover, I have already come upon some wonderful opportunities that could enhance the club's financial standing. For example, I have recently received several promising e-mails from nice widows in Nigeria who guarantee wonderful returns on our investment if we help expatriate funds from their dearly departed husbands' bank accounts that were criminally stolen by State banks. With opportunities like these, there's nothing we cannot accomplish! All kidding aside, the club has a wonderfully challenging year ahead with the Spirit of Belgium IV, the National Homebrewers Conference coming to our neighborhood, and our usual slate of club events. I offer my services to the club to see that we have the financial resources to meet our obligations for these events, and to continue our prosperity into the future. Thank you four your consideration and your vote.

Candidate: James Harrison

Candidate Statement: No statement received.

Minister of the Web (Web page)

Duties: Administers burp.org. Maintains the web site. Creates new pages for upcoming BURP events and updates the web pages. Keeps the BURP Calendar current. Custodian for BurpList and BURP's administrative internet mailing lists. Maintains the @burp.org email aliases.

Candidates: Jamie & Paul Langlie (Incumbents)

Candidate Statement: Thank you for your support this past year! We look forward to serving you again in 2005. We will continue to upgrade the site and to be responsive to the Club's needs. We'll collaborate with the various committees to publicize BURP activities. With the support of "Team Langlie," including Stein and Kai, we have the technical and artistic capabilities needed to keep the site running smoothly. Your ideas are always welcome, because bottom line, the website is only as useful (and fun) as your contributions make it.

Minister of History (Liberian)

Duties: Maintains the BURP Libeery, a great resource, which is underutilized. Receives newsletters from clubs all over the country, which is pretty interesting. Sends the BURP goon squad after people who have not returned Libeery

material. Writes interesting articles based on libeery resources for BURP newsletter.

Candidates: Pat, Janet, & Cerveza Crowe (Incumbents)

Candidate Statement: Books? Those are large dusty coasters for our beer, right? Wait. I said that last year. Last year? Wow the year did fly by. In our second term as BURP Libeerian, what did we accomplish? Last year the BURP library got a new warm comfortable home up off the floor on dry shelves. We had two books borrowed. We added a number of books from donations and one purchase. Check out our new Belgian beer cookbook! As Libeerians we will faithfully carry out our duties as BURP officers. We are also looking to build upon the previous year's work by updating and posting the catalog on the BURP Web Page to reflect the current collection. We will also develop a lending form to be available on the Web page. Our goal is to increase accessibility, stir more interest and encourage lending for the BURP Library. Thank You.

Candidates: Christina Allers & Tippy Wren-Allers

Candidate Statement: As new nominees, Tippi and I are looking forward to the opportunity of serving BURP as Ministers of History, also referred to as Libeerian. If elected, we will take on this challenge with curiosity and enthusiasm. We hope to attract new interest to BURP's wonderful collection of brewing references as well as discover new possibilities for this position. We have our computer, phone, pencil, book mobile, and time. We would be honored to work with such a terrific group of individuals that also happen to brew some of the finest beer ever. Cheers.

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Answer to Dec RYDler:

A. The answer is b) 40-50%, according to a study over 20 years from the University of Arizona. Be a "Frugal Brewer." Relish, recycle and reserve your resources. Stay happy, harmonious, and healthy in 2005.

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BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Dec 1984

The Dec 1984 BURP meeting was held at the home of President **Dan McCoubrey** in Wheaton. The Nominating Committee appointed at the Nov meeting announced its recommendation of eight BURPers to run for office in 1985. Nominations were also open to the floor for additional candidates. The actual election was scheduled for the January meeting. Also discussed at the meeting were proposed activities for the upcoming year, to include a blindfolded contest to identify different brands of American megabrews by aroma and taste. Finally, members were reminded that annual dues of \$12 were due in January.

The December "Dear BURPers, Brewers, and Friends" newsletter mentioned that the beers from the new Chesbay Brewery in Virginia Beach were finally becoming available in area stores. A full list of vendors would be published in an upcoming newsletter.

10 Years Ago, Dec 1994

The first event on BURP's December schedule was a Scottish Ale education class held at **Bill Ridgely's** home in Springfield, VA on Dec 2. The class featured a tasting of 12 Scottish ales brought home by Bill and **Wendy Aaronson** from Scotland that Fall. At the end of the class, Wendy passed out three yeast cultures (Belhaven, Caledonian, and Maclays) to interested brewers. The annual BURP Holiday Banquet, held on Dec 14, was the highlight event on the calendar. The banquet was coordinated by **Becky Pyle** and held at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD. Two big food highlights were **Jim Tyndall's** Samiclaus pork loin and **Chuck & Helen Popenoe's** venison tips with mushrooms in stout sauce. However, there were lots of other great dishes, including carbonade with poppy noodles in oud bruin, sausage stuffing in ale, and chicken & mushroom soup with pale ale. Desserts included cranberry bread made with Sam Adams Cranberry Lambic, bourbon & stout pie, and **Dot Steller's** apple pie from scratch. The main business at the banquet was nominating BURP officers for 1995 (nine

nominations for 7 offices) and showing appreciation for those who served the club well in 1994.

The December BURP News featured several wrap-up articles on the first Spirit of Belgium Conference, including a full report on the event by **Jim Dorsch**. Jim also provided his typically informative "Whole BURP Catalog", which announced the debut of Tupper's Hop Pocket Ale, the high-gravity, highly-bittered bottle conditioned IPA that **Bob & Ellie Tupper** designed to their own taste ("If anyone else enjoys it, that's good", stated Bob). Special holiday beers announced for 1994 included Oxford Brewing Co's "Santa Class" (a strong Scotch ale), Old Dominion's "Dominator" (a 7% ABV doppelbock), and Sisson's "Prancer's Pride" (spiced ale).

Part 2 of **Bill Ridgely's** "Making of Scotch Whisky" (on the distilling process) rounded out the December issue.



Editor's Corner

*By Bill Ridgely, AKA Johnny Inkslinger
Minister of Truth*

Do you all like the special holiday logo on this month's masthead? I found it in an old file folder. Ex-BURPer **Duane Fraver** drew the logo for the 1988 holiday edition of the newsletter. It's nice to be able to roll it out again in '04 (Just wish I could get someone to color it).

Some of you might also have noticed that the graphic on the right side of the masthead has been reflecting the club's beer theme for the month. It's

been kind of fun finding appropriate graphics for each issue.

A couple of special thanks go out this month. First, many thanks to **Pete Ryba** for building the new beer engine racks on our back porch. They provided a great new expansion area for the Real Ale Festival and made traffic control a whole lot easier.

Second, thanks once again to my old buddy **Philip DeBeers** for writing a meeting report in his unique, whimsical style. Now, if I can just get him to restart his old Frugal Brewer column ...

Spirit of Belgium 2005 is right around the corner, and I highly encourage all BURPERS to support the club and attend. If you have been unfortunate enough to miss one of these fantastic events in the past, you'll find this one worth every penny of the admission price. I also hope BURPERS will enter lots of Belgian-style homebrews in the competition. Let's show the rest of the country and the world that we are unsurpassed in brewing these unique beer styles.

I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday banquet on the 17th. Winter Warmers, yummm!

Cheers, Bill

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