



# THE Rubber Chicken



April 1994

The Newsletter of the PrimeTime Brewers, Grand Rapids Metro Area HomeBrew Club

Rubber Chicken Vol. 3 NO.4

Send articles, reviews, cartoons, advertising requests, etc., to Mike Cartwright, 1639 Margaret SE. GR. 49507, 243-5242 or better yet bring them to the meeting, proceeding the next newsletter, The Third Thursday of every month

## Officers:

President

**Bruce Brandt**

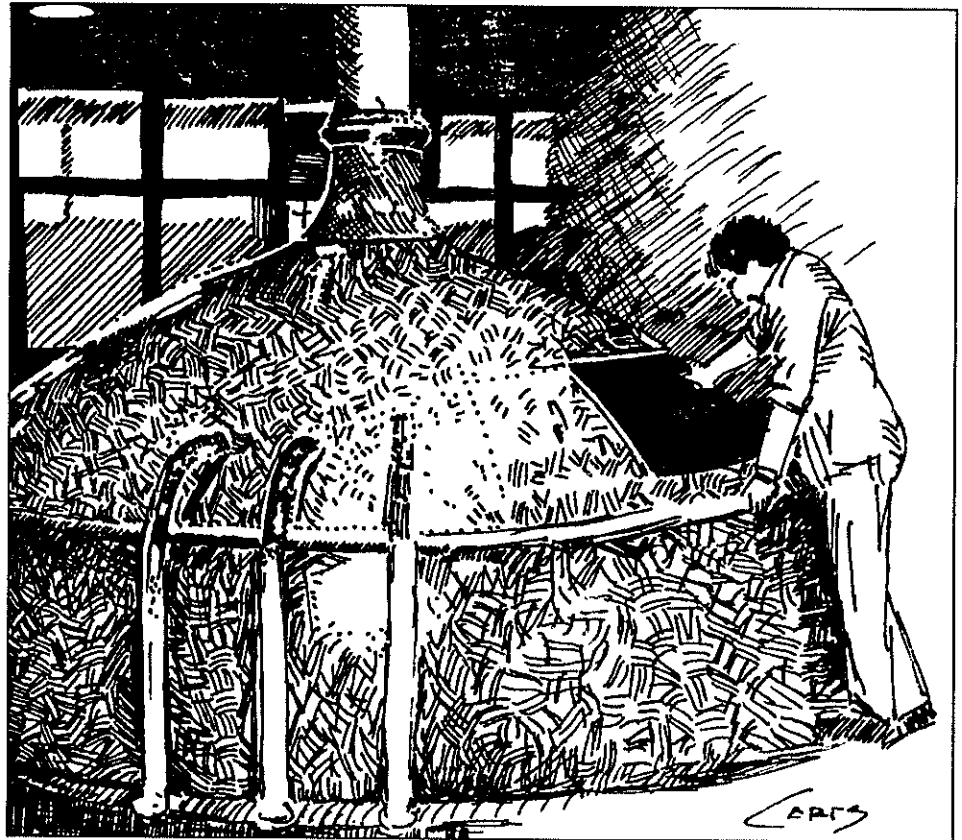
Vice President

**John Lemke**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Rick Flynn**

The April meeting is at our newest of Homes, Jim Darling's new business location, or next door actually. 419 Michigan, Next Door—Left facing, to Riverside Reality. It is on top of the Hill CatyCorner from Butterworth Hospital, Next to MacDonalds, Please Do Not Park in their parking Lot! There is a lot next door—behind—on the same side of the street, off the side street that is adjacent to our building.



*John... I know it was a brand new grain bag...but it's time to come out.*

## April's brew is Stout

Bring your homebrews and others with, don't drop them off for tastings.

## B & B LIQUORS

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## Meeting Notes Rick Flynn

Winterfest 1994

The Primetime Brewers First Annual Winterfest was a big success. We had 40+ people attend, and from what I could tell, I believe that everybody enjoyed themselves. We had plenty of good food and plenty of good brew.

The results of our 50/50 raffle was a \$76. split of \$30. each to the club and to Chris' friend who's name has slipped my memory.

Our Beer quiz was fun and challenging. We had 12 different beers on a score sheet and gave the person being tested, 5 of the 12 on the list, Blind! Their job was to select which 5 beers they were given in 2 minutes. The results of our quiz are as follows:

0 for 5

3 members - you

people need to

practice more and

lay off the Zima

5 people - beer

drinking needs

some work.

2 members -

getting a little

more serious...

1 member - serious

and LUCKY!

1 member on a re-

test, got a 0 the

first time

0- looks like we

need to take our

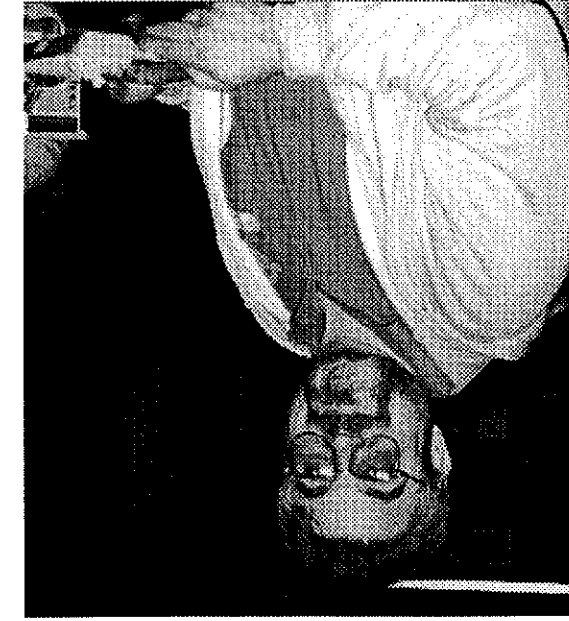
beer, and it's

tasting a little

more serious. Everybody

has homework this month. Drink

Beer!!



Is this guy having fun at the Winterfest or What?

Have you been brewing this spring? You know this is the time to put down your summer slammers. Brew up your light ales, lagers, steam... Don't be caught without some of your best home brew's come Memorial Day. Now is the perfect fermentation lead time for the summer time. Get Brewing!

Bruce has been in contact with Larry Bell of the Kalamazoo Brewing Co. regarding National Homebrewers Day of May 7. Larry does not have a structured event planned, however, Larry is open for an informal visit to his brewery. This would involve a brewery tour and informal time to hang out at the brewery and bar. He said bring some homebrews, Bell's beers will be available for purchase at the bar. This might be a great opportunity to road trip to Bell's and then stop a Aries London Grill in Plainwell.

Let's plan on a Tail-gater at one of the White Caps games this summer. Do we have a volunteer to head this up.

If you are one of those souls or know any one who has fallen from the ranks for not paying their dues, Wake up Brothers and Sisters, pay those dues, come to the meetings and enjoy the PrimeTime Brewers. We also hardly solicit your contributions to this newsletter.

Retails...  
Contribute to  
the Primetime  
brewers with  
an Ad in the  
Rubber  
Chicken!

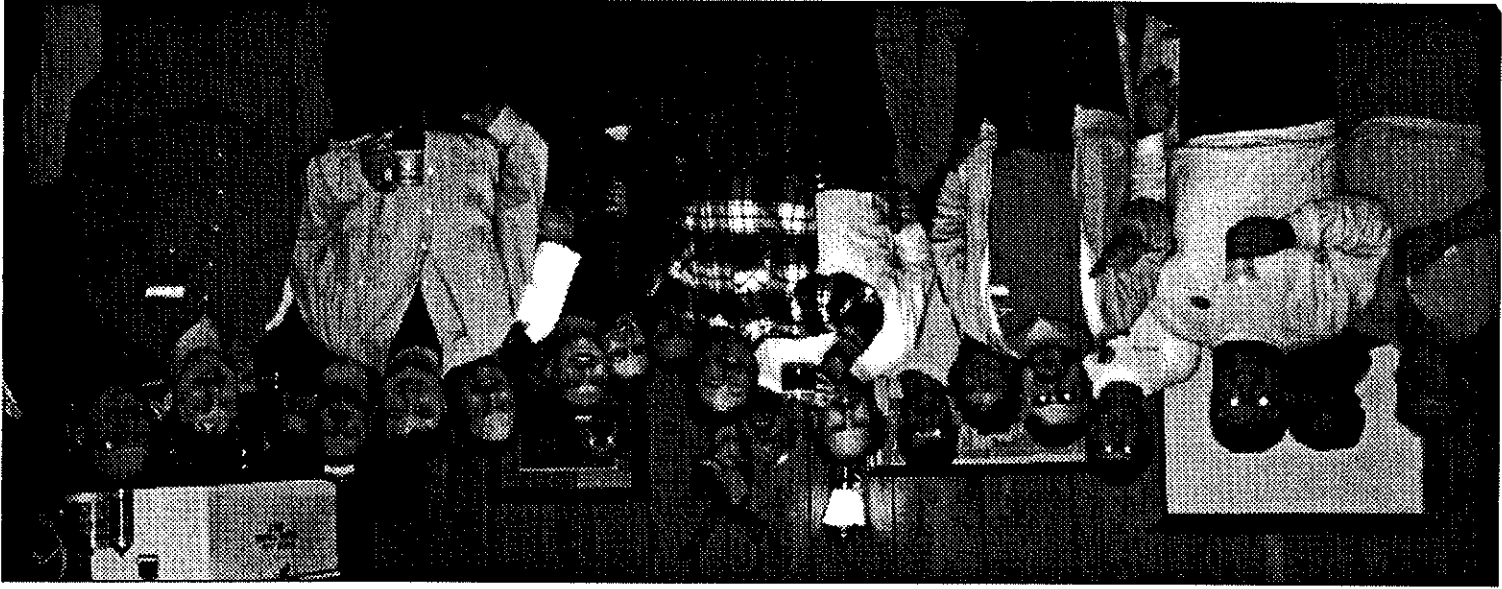
## Winterfest '94 Bruce Brandt

WINTERFEST 1994

The 1st Annual Prime Time Brewers "Winterfest" party was definitely a success. We did have several new faces in the crowd who had come to check out our club. I believe that most of them joined our ranks.

The all-grain brewing demo went pretty well. I mashed in the grist at exactly 4:10 pm. The finished wort was racked off of the trub and pitched with yeast by 9:45 pm. The entire brewing time was 5 hours, 35 minutes. The actual labor time involved was about 2 hours. The rest of it was just waiting for things to happen. We probably won't get many all-grain converts from the demo, but there was a lot of interest in equipment and techniques.

The batch of dry stout, made at the demo, was in the primary for about 3 days. It's currently in a pop tank at 32 degrees mellowing out a bit. The ending gravity was 1.010. The starting gravity was at 1.049 due to a good extract yield of 1.032 per pound of grain. The apparent attenuation was 80% with an alcohol content of 5.3% by volume. I should have this demo batch carbonated and ready to sample by meeting time. During the all-grain demo, Rick Flynn and Mike Cartwright conducted a blind taste of commercial beers. I was stuck by the brewpot, so I couldn't participate. From the reports that I heard, nobody guessed all of the beers correctly. I had to interrupt the tasting; briefly for a group photo. I'm going to send it in to the AHA with a press release. With a little luck, you may see your smiling face inside a future issue of "Zymurgy". Hope to see you at the next meeting or bash!



What a crew, what a crew... What a TRIBE!

## THE WINE BASKET

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Monday Thru Saturday  
12:00 - 11 pm

I recently received a letter from the Fermenters of Special Southern Indiana Libations Society (FOSSILS) homebrew club. This letter had a shocking bit of information about the famed Budweiser Budvar Brewery, in the Czech Republic. There has been an ongoing battle between Budvar and Anheuser-Busch for many years. Michael Jackson even commented on it in his "Beer Hunter" video's. A-B wants to sell their cheap, adulterated version of the pilsner beer style to the Czech masses. Budvar has prevented this from happening to the present.

Before the downfall of the Soviet Union, Budvar was controlled and supported by the government. While communism isn't to great for an individual's rights, it does prevent company take-overs by greedy capitalist robber barons like A-B. Budvar is now a privately held company. Because of the hard economic times faced by the former Soviet Republics, A-B is slowly trying to take over Budvar. According to a press release from Britain's Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), A-B currently owns 34% of Budvar. Once they attain 51% interest, they own it.

If Anheuser-Busch can gain control of Budvar Brewery, they can pretty much do as they please. This could include; closing the brewery, changing the recipe or brewing process, brewing a cheap imitation in the U.S. with a Budvar label, or use the brewery to produce A-B's own products. They would like us to believe that they're going to finance Budvar so it can carry out its long held tradition. Don't buy it. There's too much cash to be gained by having their own watery product flood Europe. Economically depressed people will learn to drink A-B's beer if that's all they can afford.

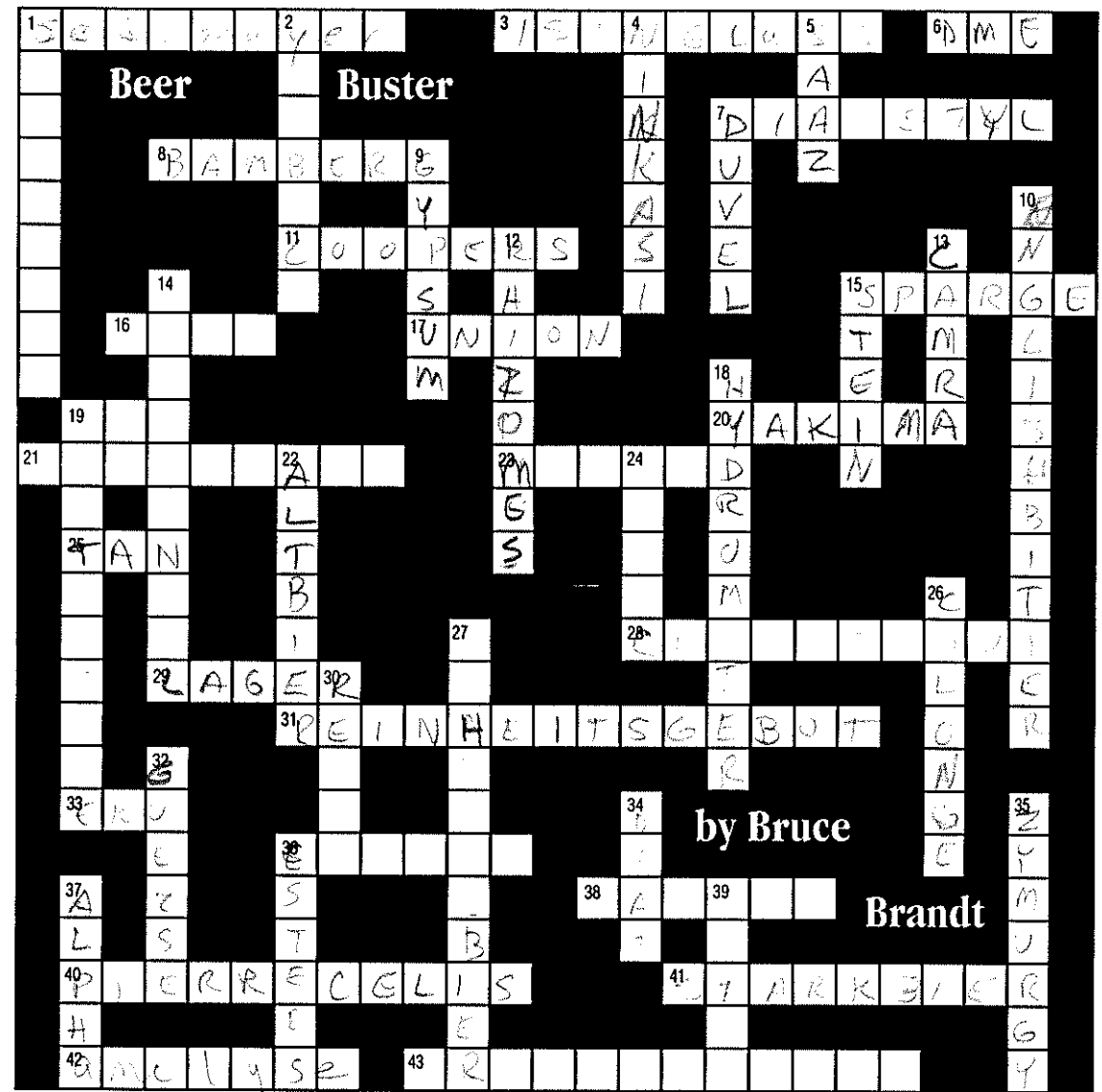
The Czech Budweiser Budvar is a small brewery in a faraway country about which we know a great deal. It is once more under siege by Anheuser-Busch, the world's biggest brewer, which would dearly love to end the confusion between it and the Czech's versions of Budweiser. New readers who may be surprised by our concern for a lager will appreciate that the Campaign's support for good beer does not end at Dover. While the main thrust of our activities is and will remain cask-conditioned British ale, we also support all the world's great beer styles. It is a long-standing CAMRA policy to back any traditional beer under attack. Hence our membership of the European Beer Consumers' Union, which works tirelessly to ensure that the traditional beers of all European countries are safe from takeovers, adulteration or crass mass marketing mania. Over the years CAMRA officials have worn a path to the doors of the Budvar brewery in the South Bohemian town of Ceske Budejovice. With its commitment to pure ingredients and long, cold maturation, the brewery produces one of the classic lager beers. Anheuser-Busch has been maneuvering for years to buy a stake in Budvar, even before the fall of the old dictatorship. When Budvar is privatized later this year it will become more vulnerable to international predators. The American giant claims that its intentions are altruistic, that it merely wants to help Budvar expand its sales. But altruism is not deeply imbedded in the western, free market brewing industry, where price-cutting, mass advertising, "blandified" beers and market domination are the order of the day. And it beggars belief that the owner of the world's largest beer brand, which just happens to be called Budweiser, wants to help a beer of the same name improve its share of the market. Anheuser-Busch, with its blatant advertising in the Czech press and its generous donations to schools and universities in the republic, is engaging in a blatant game of cultural imperialism. We have no doubt that the real aim is to control Budvar, with 34 per cent of the company this year rapidly becoming 51 per cent in a few years' time. And once A-B gains control it can either close Budvar, brew its beers under license in the US or bowdlerize the beer with cheap ingredients and corner-cutting production methods. Genuine Bohemian Budweiser beers constitute one of the great beer styles of the world. They need no help from the purveyors of corn-and-rice near-beers. Budvar must be saved.

**Why a lager brewery needs our support.**

The big question is what can we homebrewers do about A-B's interest in Budvar. Well, the FOSSILS brew club was kind enough to send a step by step approach to this problem. The first method is a petition drive. Included with this newsletter is a petition for you to get filled out. All of us know other brewers or import beer drinkers who will give us their support. Just get all of the signatures that you can and bring them in to the next club meeting. The club will send them back to the FOSSILS for processing, or you can mail it yourself to the following address  
Another way to spread the word is through the media. A letter to the editor of our local paper should reach a lot of people. This will be brought up at our next meeting to see if we can get any volunteers. A more direct approach would be to write or call Anheuser-Busch personally. Mail can be directed to the following person at  
A-B:  
Mr. John Koykka  
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.  
One Busch Place  
St. Louis, MO  
63118-1852

Sometimes, mail, petitions, and general hate letters can get mislaid in a large company. The circular file is a popular drop-off point. If you wish to contact Mr. Koykka directly, he may be reached at (314) 577-2000.  
As homebrewers, we know what good beer is.  
The tremendous growth brewpubs and micro's is proof of the population's desire for a quality, handcrafted product. The Czech people have many great beers and breweries that need preserving. If A-B can take over one of their finest, what will happen when our micro's start taking too big of a share from them. By pitching in our support now, we may make some small difference.





Clue to solving the puzzle start with The Joy of Home Brewing

**Across**

- 1. Lager yeast's father
- 3. Fish bladder clarifier
- 6. Dry malt abv.
- 7. Better in margarine than lager
- 8. Smoky beer city
- 11. Brewery down under
- 15. To rinse the grist
- 16. With yeast
- 17. Burton primaries or Dortmund
- 20. Cascade's home
- 21. Famous red brew
- 23. Hallertau's U.S. relative
- 25. Black and \_\_\_
- 28. Mackeson's type
- 29. To store
- 31. German brew law
- 33. Famous German digital Doppelbock
- 36. Porter's original moniker
- 38. Wallon type Belgian ale
- 40. Belgian brewer turned cowboy
- 41. Strong German beer by law
- 42. Alpha or beta enzyme
- 43. 1979 U.S. Homebrew bill

**Down**

- 1. Tepid defect
- 2. Doppelbock's frigid cousin
- 4. Goddess of beer
- 5. Zatec red herb
- 7. Belgian Devil's brew
- 9. Hardens water
- 10. Britain's session beer.
- 12. Hop roots
- 13. England's ale watchdog
- 14. Cascade hybrid aka CF J90
- 15. German Beer Mug
- 18. Reads 0 at 60° F in water
- 19. Belgian's sudden death saloon
- 22. Dusseldorf's claim to fame
- 24. Pumpkin beer king
- 26. Kolsch's only legal origin
- 27. Black German Lager
- 30. Sticky substance in hops
- 32. Straight Lambic Style
- 34. German lite pils
- 35. AHA magazine
- 36. Fruity aroma & flavor in beer
- 37. Bittering acid in hops
- 39. Belgians commonly name their specialty beers after him

## THE LAST BURP!

	1994
* April	Stout
May	Altbier/Kolsch
* June	Welsse/Weizen
July	Steam Beer
August	Pils/Cream Ale (Summer Bash)
* September	Oktoberfest/Marzen
October	Belgian Ales
* November	Specialty Beer
December	Holiday Beer (X-mas Party)

\* AHA Club Only Competition Beer's

This Month we would like to welcome  
Mike and Cindy Barnes  
to our club.

Bring you friends, wives, husbands, significant  
others, hell bring your boss... well let's not get  
carried away.

I've heard alot of people are seeing our  
brochure in the stores that have decided to  
advertise with us, so spread the word and  
patronize those establishments that help the  
PrimeTime Brewers grow and prosper.





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**Officers:**

- President  
**Bruce Brandt**
- Vice President  
**John Lemke**
- Secretary/Treasurer  
**Rick Flynn**

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**May's brew is**  
**Alt/Kolsch**

Bring your homebrews and others with, don't drop them off for tastings.

**This Month:**

**Holland Club, Lake Street Brewers are going to visit our club**

**Mini Mashing**

**Hot Potato Salad**

**PTB T-Shirts**

