

Difficult to pronounce, easy to enjoy

Mahr's U is not a college, but it is an education of sorts.

The full name of the beer is Mahr's Brau Ungespundet hefetrub. This may prevent some newbies from ordering it because of its slightly difficult pronunciation, but it shouldn't. Simply ordering a Mahr's U will suffice. And it's a beer you shouldn't miss.

I've been meaning to write about this Kellerbier for some time now, but I keep forgetting, as it's not around very often. Fortunately for local beer drinkers, it recently was on at The Dirty Truth in Northampton, and will be on tap there again soon, maybe even at the time you're reading this.

This style of beer is an artisanal one and is largely identified with Franconia, a region that allegedly has

more breweries per square mile than anywhere else in the world. (Mahr's is in Bamberg, which is in Franconia, in Bavaria, Germany.)

The term "Ungespundet" translates to "unbunded," meaning that the brew was lagered in a container not controlled by pressure. This attenuates the carbonation and allows for a smoother enjoyment of the other notes in the beer.

And notes are aplenty. The nose is grainy and grassy with a hint of hops. The first sips reveal further bread-like grains and a touch of fruiti-

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ness. There is a very slight roasted quality to the malt as the beer opens up, which blends well with the subdued but noticeable hoppiness. The hops help the beer finish dry and satisfying.

The hue is a bronzed gold-

cloudy haze. (The “hefetrub” part of the name basically means “turbulent yeast.”) The beer has a decent but short-lived head, but one that leaves thick lacing on the

small group. (I'm thinking four to six people, to keep it manageable as far as getting seats in pubs, driving in one van, etc.) We would hit brewpubs and craft beer halls in Dublin, Galway and Cork, as well as several other counties. I am putting this out here today to see what sort of interest there would be among my readership. If this is something that might interest you, email me at raconteurgeo@gmail.com

Don't forget about the Worthy Craft Beer Showcase on Saturday. The fest runs noon to 4 p.m. on Worthington St. in downtown Springfield, right in front of Theodores'.

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Beer nut

GEORGE LENKER

Beer notes

I have been mulling the idea of putting together a craft beer tour of Ireland for some time now. I wouldn't want it to be too big, as I'd want everyone to feel the camaraderie of a