

NORML



Emerald graphic

Marijuana supporters adopt higher goal, back legalization over decriminalization

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

Eventual legalization of marijuana was adopted as a new goal by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws at their seventh annual conference last weekend in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the conference NORML supported decriminalization of marijuana, but according to Ron Friedland, Oregon NORML state coordinator, NORML now advocates legalization as "more preferable" than decriminalization.

Friedland, a Eugene resident and a graduate student in biology and bacteriology at the University, was Oregon's first official representative to a NORML conference. Oregon NORML was formed after the Oregon Controlled Substances Act passed in 1977.

To explain the new push for legalization, Friedland quoted former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, a member of the NORML advisory board, as saying that legalization will promote respect for the law.

Because the use of marijuana will not stop and because frequent marijuana users consistently violate the law and thereby show disrespect for it, legalization will promote respect for the law, Friedland said.

The three-day conference was a training and information convention covering lobbying skills and the legal and medical aspects of marijuana.

An assessment by NORML of recent elections nationwide shows that the political climate is less favorable for NORML than it has been in the past, Friedland said. "It is difficult, but we are making progress," he said.

Eleven states have now decriminalized marijuana, Oregon being the first in 1973. The laws provide that marijuana users not suffer a criminal record for minor marijuana violations and that they be punished by a fine without a jail sentence and a traffic-like citation will be issued in lieu of an arrest.

Friedland said he will be lobbying in Oregon this year for changes in the cultivation and possession laws. He is confident that Oregon will be the first state to record in its legislature the decriminalization of cultivation of marijuana.

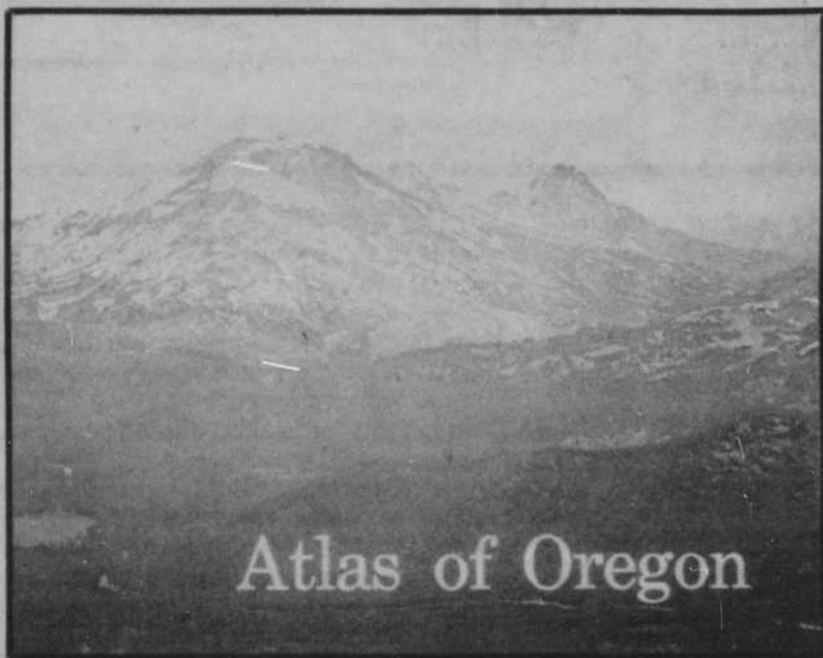
State Rep. Cecil Johnson, R-Grants Pass, will introduce in the next legislature a Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Act, similar to the experimental program approved in New Mexico, Friedland said. That program, scheduled to begin any day, allows for marijuana to be used in treating glaucoma and cancer chemotherapy patients.

The use of marijuana in treating cancer chemotherapy patients is currently up for review before the Federal Drug Administration and Friedland estimated that many states may be requesting the legal use of marijuana in therapeutic programs by the end of the first six months in 1979.

Because there will not be sufficient marijuana to support every states' program, Friedland said, individual states will have to supply their own marijuana either by using confiscated marijuana or by growing their own.

The only marijuana being legally cultivated in the U. S. is being grown by the National Institute for Drug Abuse on a five-acre plot in Mississippi, Friedland said. The Drug Enforcement Agency has allowed the cultivation for experimental purposes.

Books of Oregon



Atlas of Oregon



Dining on the Oregon Coast



ORYGONE IV
or, if this is July and it's raining,
this must be Oregon.

By James Cloutier



OREGON II



Oregon Folklore

By Susan Irvine

Give a part of Oregon to someone this Christmas. Not everyone can experience the beauty, the peace, and the rain here, so why not pass on some of your images of the environment of Oregon to others? The Bookstore has a wide selection of books about Oregon for the different interests we all have.

THE TRADEBOOK DEPARTMENT

UO
BOOKSTORE

13th & Kincaid 686-4331
Open: Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30 Sat 10:00-2:00