

# oregon daily emerald

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## Free dope Eye patient tokes 'fed-grown'

By SHARON MARZANO  
Of the Emerald

Robert Randall smokes two-and-one-half ounces of marijuana a week, courtesy of the U.S. government.

Randall smokes the marijuana to decrease the sight-robbing pressure of fluids on his optic nerve. He suffers from glaucoma, an irreversible eye disease.

As the founder of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, Randall is working for the enactment of a federal law that would allow the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. At present, he is the only American who has legal access to the drug.

Four years after winning a much-publicized court battle granting him immunity from existing marijuana laws, Randall told the 15 people gathered in Studio B of the University Library Friday that every glaucoma and cancer victim should be allowed legal access to the drug.

Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy are now given Delta-9 THC, a synthetic psycho-active drug used to control the muscle spasms of vomiting brought on by the treatment, which destroys both healthy and cancerous cells.

Randall claims Delta-9 THC is ineffective and can be disorientating when ingested. "It's raw, harsh and much more intense than marijuana, while it's effects are the same as a strong dose of psilocybin mushrooms."

Cancer patients are expected to ingest the drug orally, but that's hard to do when vomiting caused by the chemotherapy usually lasts for days, Randall said.

The psycho-active elements in Delta-9 THC also compound the tensions cancer victims experience and increase the potential for a "bad trip," he added.

Randall said smoking marijuana is a much easier way for a cancer patient to

ingest the drug, and its effects also are more pleasant.

Marijuana for glaucoma victims is much like insulin for a diabetic, as it arrests the spread of the disease. Eventually glaucoma causes blindness as the eye is forced out of shape and the optic nerve destroyed by increased pressure, Randall said.

"Every day without it (marijuana) means a loss of a few more cells," said Randall, whose vision hasn't decreased since he began smoking 10 marijuana cigarettes a day four years ago.

But the federal government refuses to acknowledge marijuana's medicinal benefits even though the drug has been used medically for more than 5,000 years. A Chinese herbalist first recorded marijuana's potential as a muscle relaxant in 2737 B.C.

Until 1937 marijuana was used in the United States for a variety of medical purposes. The plant's stalk was cultivated for rope and shoelaces, and its seeds were used in bird feed.

Today, 24 states have passed laws that permit medical use of marijuana. But states don't have access to the federal government's marijuana supply, grown on a five-acre plot in Mississippi, due to its limited supply and the unwillingness of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency to allow its distribution, Randall said.

Because the government considers Randall a research experiment, he hasn't been billed for the 35 pounds of marijuana he's smoked during the last four years.

"The government isn't losing that much on the deal because it costs them only 30 cents an ounce (to grow the marijuana)," Randall said.

Cancer or glaucoma patients who would like use marijuana should petition the federal government and write to their congressional representatives, he said.

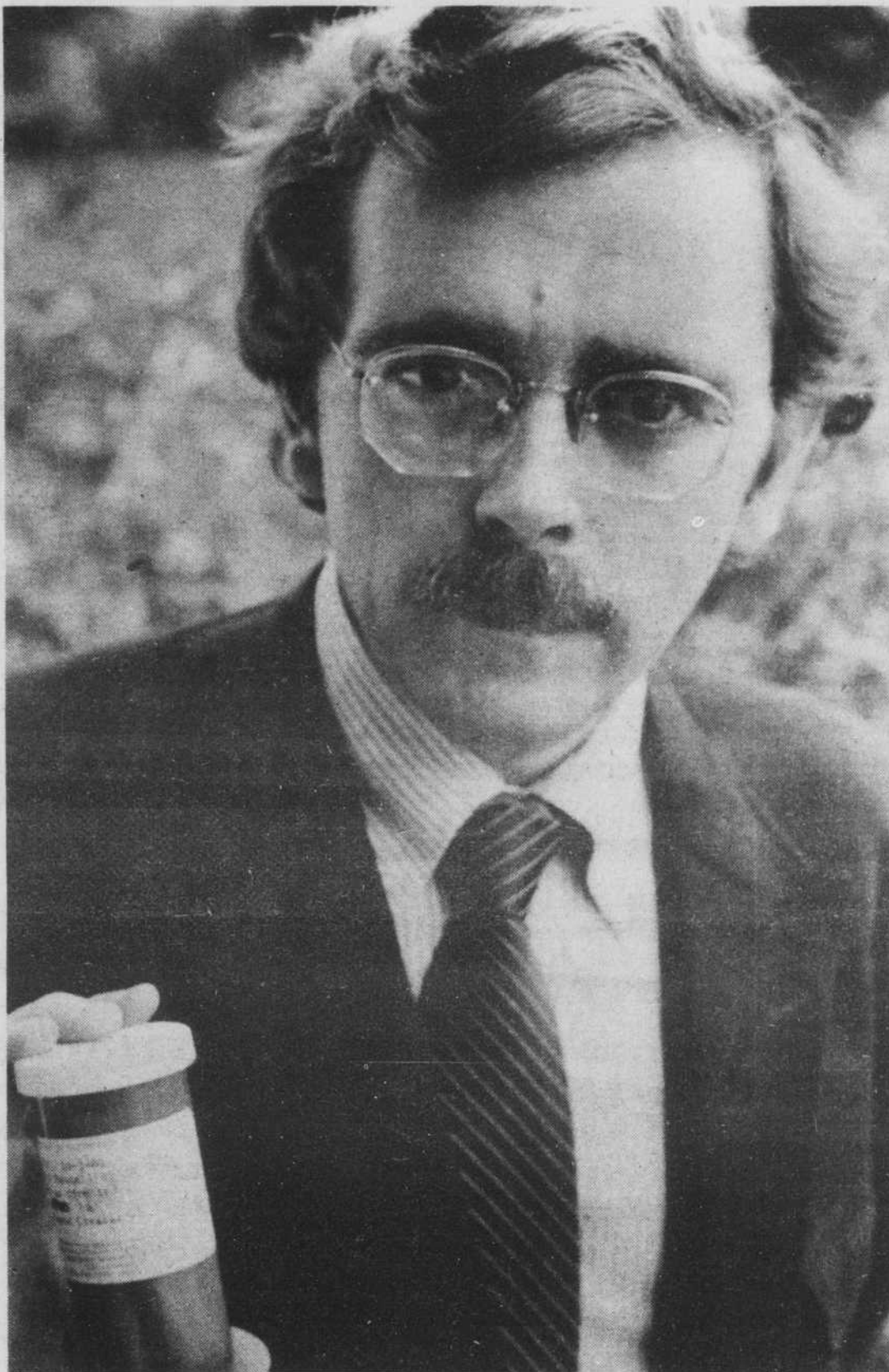


Photo by Erich Boekelheide

Robert Randall displays prescription pot.

## Budget cuts hamper other Oregon schools

By BILL MANNY  
Of the Emerald

The University isn't the only four-year institution in Oregon having to make the best of a bad budgetary situation.

"Simply put, it's hard," says Oregon State University Pres. Robert MacVicar of his task of making financial ends meet.

"It's like getting cut with a dull knife."

Presidents of the state's other universities face the same problems that plague University Acting Pres. Paul Olum.

The State Board of Higher Education handed all eight four-year institutions in Oregon a 5.5-percent reduction in educational budgets this summer. That's \$2.7 million less for the University and a comparable \$2.9 million for OSU. Portland

State is making do with a \$1.9 million cutback.

"It's hurtful to the students, and it's hurtful to our research," MacVicar says. "We're heavily into kinds of research with special importance to the needs of Oregon."

"It means turning away a lot of students," says Pres. Joseph Blumel of Portland State University. And the quality of education is suffering, he adds.

"Average class sizes have gone up dramatically. There are a number of students who can't get the courses they need."

MacVicar says actions to make up for the state's shortfall have inconvenienced rather than shortchanged OSU students.

"It would be impossible to say it's had no effect." Students "will see it more as an incon-

venience" than a reduction in instruction quality, he says.

The inconveniences include closing libraries, reducing supplies and equipment and putting off needed classes until future terms.

"That's just part of higher education," MacVicar says. "There's a lot of resiliency. It doesn't get better quickly, and it doesn't get worse quickly."

"It's a long-term, erosive effect, with a very, very serious impact."

Many of the budget-related problems around the state are the same, and the lists of reduced services and functions equally painful:

A freeze on out-of-state travel, unfilled faculty and staff vacancies, a 15-percent cut in services and supplies and elimination of inflationary in-

creases, reduced library hours and book purchases, dramatic cutbacks in equipment purchases, reduced physical plant operation budget...the list goes on.

At OSU where students register by computer, there were no class cancellations. But sections ordinarily opened to handle unexpected student demands during registration were scrapped.

Cutbacks in supplies and services also have hit hard at OSU, where there's a heavy use of supplies in the applied sciences.

Budget reductions have had a different effect at Portland

State. Instruction there is heavily dependent on the part-time teaching of local professionals.

Courses and sections have been pared in mathematics, engineering, the sciences, business administration, and art and architecture.

Library hours have been cut way back — creating a ripple affecting other Portland schools that share libraries. PSU's library serves as the center of this system.

"There's one other aspect," Blumel says. "It's going to be worse winter and spring."

The school used a disproportionately large chunk of funds to smooth out reductions this term. That means less money for winter and spring and fewer part-time instructors at PSU.

"I don't know how things could get any worse."