

Demos set platform discussions

The Lane County Democratic Party will hold its first work sessions on the 1984 Lane County Democratic Platform Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Harris Hall.

The platform discussions are open to all registered democrats. Fifteen subject committees will formulate positions in each subject area to be presented for debate and adoption at the Lane County Democratic Party Platform Convention Dec. 3.

The platform adopted by Lane County Democrats will then be forwarded for consideration at the State Democratic Party Platform Convention which will be held at the Valley River Inn in March.

Sam Dominy, Cottage Grove, chair of the County Convention, says "It is very important that all democrats take this great opportunity to formulate policy in this presidential election year. What we decide in Lane County may well have influence at the National Convention in San Francisco next summer."

Aims for 1984 ballot

Group seeks to reinstate the death penalty in Oregon through statewide petition drive

By Michael Cross
Of the Emerald

Claiming that at the present time "we have no punishment that fits the crime of murder," William Jolley and others who share his feelings have set out to reinstate capital punishment in Oregon.

Jolley leads "Maximum Penalty," an organization circulating petitions to place a referendum on the November 1984 Oregon ballot. The group needs 83,361 signatures of registered Oregon voters but is seeking at least 100,000 to ensure a safe margin.

Jolley thinks voters will approve the measure if given the opportunity to vote on it. Surveys show that about 75 percent of Oregonians favor the death penalty, he says.

Voters approved a similar pro-

posal several years ago but the Oregon Supreme Court rejected it due to a technicality in the sentencing portion of the law.

If amended, the Oregon Constitution would read "henceforth the maximum penalty for willful, wanton or

tragic chair, gas chamber or firing squad.

The amendment's organizers chose to bypass the Legislature due to general lack of interest by members, Jolley says.

Capital punishment is not "cruel and unusual," Jolley says.

mit murder, he says.

Murderers should be "punished for the inhumane and barbaric act of murder if we are to maintain some semblance of a civilized society."

Research evidence shows the existence of an applicable death penalty reduces the violence of crime when there is an assurance the punishment will be carried out, Jolley says.

If capital punishment is approved in the state, Oregon judges could hand down a death sentence where the "conviction is certain and proved by the facts and evidence beyond any doubt," Jolley says.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty for murder, many states have approved similar measures.

'We have no punishment that fits the crime of murder'

— William Jolley

premeditated murder shall be death by lethal injection."

Lethal injection involves administering the subject with a chemical compound resulting in painless death. Several other states have opted for this form of execution rather than the elec-

The murderer's victim was "subjected to the most cruel and unusual punishment at the hands of a self-appointed executioner. The punishment should fit the crime," he says. The death penalty is the appropriate punishment for those who com-

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