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closes doors
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Marijuana petitioners reach 70,000 mark

Proposal moves closer to election

By Michael Clapp
Of the Emerald

Oregon Marijuana Initiative supporters announced Monday they have gathered more than enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

"It's on fire, man," said OMI spokesperson William Conde. "We have in excess of 70,000

signatures in hand and we're getting 2,000 to 3,000 more each day."

To place the initiative on the ballot, supporters must gather at least 62,521 valid signatures by July 6, when the petitions must be submitted to the secretary of state's office for verification.

Election officials will then check a random sampling of signatures and subtract the percentage of invalid signatures in the sampling from the total number of signatures submitted.

OMI supporters still are petitioning to add to their "margin of security" and to insure themselves of a spot on the ballot.

The OMI would eliminate criminal penalties for possession and cultivation of marijuana for personal consumption for those over the age of 18. It does not define personal consumption or place any limits on how much could be grown.

"Consumption is a personal thing," Conde said. "It's a lot like sugar. Some people buy it



Photo by Michael Clapp

Oregon Marijuana Initiative spokesperson William Conde said Monday that the proposal's signature drive is "on fire."

by the five-pound bag, some by the ten, but if somebody's got a hundred pounds on their back porch, you can assume they're in the sugar-selling business."

Conde said he thinks legalizing marijuana cultivation for personal use will reduce the amount of money used to purchase marijuana through illegal channels and will bring that money back into the regular

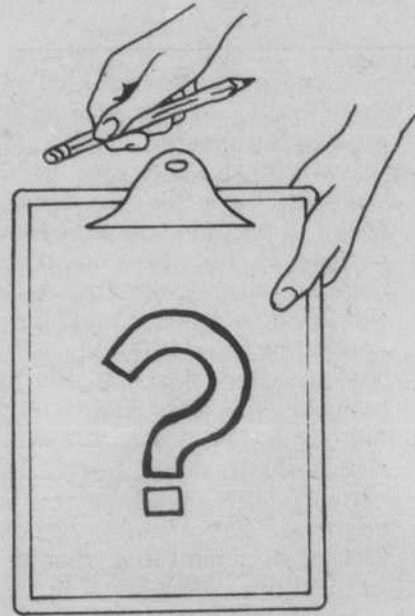
market

"Maybe somebody will come into my lumberyard and buy \$150 worth of lumber instead of buying an ounce of bud," Conde said.

But the important thing, according to Conde, is that the voters will get the chance to decide whether people should be thrown in jail for "altering their consciousness."

Conde, who has worked on the petition drive for a little more than a year now, said he feels the initiative has a good chance of being approved by voters in the fall. He said he has noticed that a wide range of people are willing to sign the petition.

"Eighty percent of the people over 65 who come into my store sign the petition," Conde said.



Graphic by Karen Mobley

Hatfield lauds science facility

By Paul Ertel
Of the Emerald

A proposed science building for the University is one of the keys for economic recovery in the Eugene/Springfield area, Sen. Mark Hatfield told members of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Realtors Monday.

"We have one of the greatest resources any state can have in the University of Oregon," Hatfield said.

The Senate recently approved a \$2.3-million grant for planning and design of the facility, which will house many of the general sciences and will provide space for high technology research.

Turning to broader issues, Hatfield praised recent efforts by the federal government to aid the economy.

"The federal government is investing in resources to help create the breakthroughs that will create the jobs needed in our economy," Hatfield said.

But the federal government could also have a negative effect on economic recovery if the federal deficit is not reduced, he said.

Hatfield said working to reduce the deficit has been one of his main activities in the Senate. Hatfield has worked on a plan to reduce the deficit by \$150 billion over three years, but he said that amount is not enough to pay the interest on the deficit this year.

Deficit spending is not just a problem with government, he said, but is a pervading economic practice in this country.

"The business deficit in this country is higher than the federal deficit," Hatfield said. "And the personal deficit in this country is higher than the federal deficit."

America's deficit binge has international repercussions, as fifteen percent of America's debts are owed to foreign countries, Hatfield said. And that figure is going up, he said.

One solution to the deficit is restructuring the federal tax system to make it more efficient and to facilitate collection of unpaid taxes, he said.

The second step is holding the line on both military and non-military spending. "We've



Photo by Michael Clapp

Sen. Mark Hatfield discussed the federal debt and defended the recently-signed Oregon Wilderness Bill while in Eugene Monday.

not been able to get the votes to reduce or hold the line on military spending," Hatfield said.

In the last three years, however, the Senate has appropriated \$100 less for the military than the administration has requested, he added.

Another cause of the deficit is government "entitlement" programs that are set up in such a way that money goes to those who do not need it, the senator said.

"Why should we put out \$1 billion to people who make \$30,000 a year for medical assistance when there are so many others who need it?" he asked.

But Medicare, social security, food stamps and certain educational programs are "very sacred, sensitive political programs" that Congress is not willing to tamper with, he said.

Though Hatfield said he would support an amendment to balance the budget, a constitutional convention would be a "melee," with single-issue groups battling to get their pet amendments into the Constitution.

Hatfield also defended the Oregon Wilderness Bill, which he sponsored in the Senate. The bill, signed by Pres. Ronald Reagan last week, will stabilize the state's timber industry by taking forestry management out of the courts and putting it back in the hands of the forest service, Hatfield said.

"I don't know of any judges who have been to forestry school," he said.

Picnics, parades, parties highlight July 4 offerings

By Michael Clapp
Of the Emerald

Chill the watermelon, grab a six-pack and toss in some sparklers for the kids. It's time for the summer's all-American holiday: the Fourth of July.

If you live in the Eugene area you can probably see the Autzen Stadium fireworks display from your backyard, but if you want to get out and enjoy a full day's festivities here's some of what's happening and where.

•The 29-piece "Summer Concert Band" is featured at the Orchard Point Park Fourth of July picnic. The band will play from 7 to 9 p.m. at the park, located west of Eugene at Fern Ridge Reservoir.

There also will be a fireworks display by the Eugene Yacht Club and free train and pony rides and a pillow bounce for children. Organizers of the event recommend you bring a picnic lunch or plan to buy lunch at one of the park's concession stands. There also is a \$1.50 per vehicle admission charge to Orchard Park.

•For the athletic minded who might like to celebrate Independence Day with a bit of healthy competition, the annual Butte to Butte 10-kilometer run starts at 8 a.m. at Spencer Butte Middle School. There will be entertainment along the course of the six-mile run and a post-race breakfast, hosted by the Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club, near the finish line.

Runners can register between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. today at the Eugene Hilton or between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. at the starting line on the day of the race. Entry fee for the race is \$8 today and \$10 tomorrow morning.

If you're not in shape for 10 kilometers you might want to stake out a spot along the course and watch. With \$1,000 in prize money awaiting the first place finishers in both men's and women's categories and \$5,000 to be split up among the top 10 competitors, the contest should be fierce.

•A chicken barbeque, frisbees and "lots of fun and craziness" is planned for the Alton Baker Park picnic put on by the Active 20/30 Club and KDUK. The \$3.75 barbeque dinners will be served from 11 a.m. to dusk and will include chicken, potato chips and ice cream.

At 4 p.m. those at the park will be invited to march over to Autzen Stadium and watch the fireworks display. There will be on-the-ground pyrotechnical exhibitions, as well as aerial displays. Admission is free, but donations to support next year's show will be accepted. Those who enjoy the display from afar and would like to contribute can mail in their donations to the Active 20/30 Club, P.O. Box 365, Eugene, OR 97440.

•For auto-racing buffs there's the "Outlaw" open competition at the Emerald Speedway. Gates

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