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OMI count questioned

By Paul Ertelt

Of the Emerald

The Oregon Marijuana Initiative failed to make the November ballot because of errors in verifying signatures, say petitioners for the measure who plan to bring a lawsuit against Secretary of State Norma Paulus.

But Greg McMurdo, deputy secretary of state, says he is satisfied that no errors were made in the verification process.

"Every group that doesn't get on the ballot always says there are errors," he says. "But they never come up with anything and always end up dropping it."

But the petitioners have documented several cases where the state's numbers just don't add up, says petitioner John Sajo.

The petitioners needed 63,521 signatures of registered voters by July 6 to get the measure on the November 6 ballot. They turned in almost 85,000 signatures.

But after a sampling was sent back to the counties to be verified, 28 percent of the signatures were disqualified, leaving the petition 3,019 signatures short. The state routinely verifies only 5 percent of the signatures with the counties. The percentage of error in that sample is then extrapolated to the total to determine if enough signatures have been obtained.

Lawyers hired by the petitioners are in

the process of rechecking the invalidated signatures, and they have already found several discrepancies, Sajo says.

"In Klamath Falls, there were three they said were not registered," he says. "We went in and found the cards in the card file." Also, Josephine County recorded that 49 signatures were not valid, while the correct number was only 45, he says.

And there have been several cases where petitioners had crossed out signatures that seemed doubtful, but some of these were used in the samples anyway, Sajo says.

"We're finding factual discrepancies in virtually every area, and most are against us," he says. Since the sampling is only 5 percent of the total signatures, the petitioners only need to find about 150 erroneously rejected signatures to prove the measure should have been on the ballot.

But McMurdo maintains the state has no provisions to rectify the situation if it is proved that the measure was rejected because of errors. The only recourse the petitioners have is to go to court, he says.

Sajo says the secretary of state does have discretionary power to place the measure on the ballot, but she has refused to do a recount.

"We will be filing a lawsuit in the next few days, but we feel it is unfair that we have to do that," Sajo says.



Autzen's new floor

Harry Kambhuis, an OmniSport International USA employee from Holland, labors away on the 30-yard line of the new OmniTurf at Autzen Stadium. Kambhuis is part of a crew of OmniSport employees and 12 University football players who are installing the new stadium rug.

Officials say the \$363,500 rug, consisting of inch-long polypropylene fibers anchored by 40 pounds of sand per square yard of turf, is the first of its kind to be installed on a football field in the United States.

Photo by Michael Clapp

Student congress attracts political speakers

By Julie Shippen

Of the Emerald

State Senator Margie Hendriksen is one of many well-known political figures who have been confirmed to speak at the 37th Annual United States Student Association summer congress to be held at the University Aug. 4-9, said Sherri Schultz, the local USSA congress coordinator.

Other speakers on the agenda include Gwen McKinney, of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists; Keith Jennings, with the Progressive Black Students Committee; Ron Herndon, of the Portland Black United Front; and Jan Oliver, University Council for Minority Education and a former ASUO

president.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro is being sought as the congress's keynote speaker, Schultz said. The ASUO executive staff is also pursuing Democratic U.S. Reps. Jim Weaver and Les AuCoin as lecturers for the congress, Schultz said.

In related USSA affairs, three of the University's seven outstanding USSA voting delegate positions were filled Tuesday. ASUO Pres. Julie Davis and Schultz, ASUO executive assistant, were appointed delegates at the weekly meeting of the ASUO executive staff.

Bill Snyder, ASUO student events coordinator who carried USSA voting

delegate power last year, will again serve at the week-long summer session and at the three other nationwide congresses set during the coming year.

As voting delegates, Davis, Schultz and Snyder will act as representatives of the University and ultimately help decide the organization's platform policies for the next year.

Up to four more delegates will be chosen from other campus groups who have been active in various political issues, such as the Student Campaign for Disarmament or the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, Schultz said.

The ASUO executive staff also invites

interested students to attend the USSA congress as observers. Although they may not vote on caucus resolutions or the legislative agenda, observer delegates will have all other rights of voting delegates. All task forces, workshops, general sessions, and plenary sessions that interest them will be open to observers free of charge.

Workshops and general sessions at the congress will address topics ranging from voter registration, campus divestiture of South African financial holdings and women's safety on campus to environmentalism, racial violence and the student's stake in Central America. A complete agenda is posted in the ASUO office.

Tax reform expected from special session

By Mike Sims

Of the Emerald

When Gov. Vic Atiyeh addresses a joint special session of the Oregon Legislature at 10 a.m. Monday, he will ask lawmakers to make two significant changes in the state's tax structure.

Atiyeh wants the legislature to modify Oregon's unitary tax on national and international corporations that do business in the state. The governor also wants the body to resolve an Oregon-Washington "tax war" by making changes in how Oregon taxes income earned in the state by out-of-state residents.

The Senate also will take action on a slate of Atiyeh appointments to state boards and commissions, but the name of Terrence Clark will be absent from the agenda. Clark, who was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education in June, will be unable to attend a Friday meeting of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments.

Committee aide Marilyn Sander said Wednesday that Clark's appointment to the board cannot be considered by the panel (which must approve executive ap-

pointments before they are sent to the full Senate for confirmation) unless he is present to testify on his behalf.

Clark is a second-year dental student at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. He was appointed to replace Southern Oregon State College student Randall Gill, whose term officially expired June 30. However, Gill will remain on the board until Clark's appointment is confirmed by the Senate.

Sander said that the committee and the Senate are expected to convene again in September.

Officials hope that modification of state corporate tax laws will help enhance Oregon's business climate. Many American and foreign firms currently refuse to locate in any state that employs the unitary tax — Oregon included. Foreign business leaders, as well as Atiyeh, have urged Oregon lawmakers to make changes that would base Oregon corporate tax rates on domestic earnings only.

Under the current unitary tax law, a corporation's entire worldwide income is used by the Department of Revenue as the basis for determining what portion of

that income has been earned in Oregon.

"There is no guarantee that companies will move to Oregon if we modify the tax," observed Atiyeh press aide Denny Miles. "But it's guaranteed that we won't be considered for expansion by those firms if we don't."

Speaker of the House Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, was forthright and optimistic in predicting passage of the proposed modifications to the tax. "I'll vote in favor of the modification; it'll pass both chambers and be signed by the governor Tuesday afternoon," he said.

In explaining Atiyeh's request that the so-called "border tax" be changed, Kerans said "Basically we're going back to the status quo by repealing the 1983 change."

That change came in the form of a law enacted by the 1983 Legislature that required non-residents who work in the state to pay Oregon income taxes based on total household income, rather than on income earned in Oregon.