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Marijuana petition garners support at University rally



Photo by Mark Ylen

Randy Prince (left) and Pat Phillips read a petition in favor of legalizing marijuana in Oregon. Students for the Oregon Marijuana Initiative gathered signatures in front of Chapman Hall and later held a rally in support of legalizing marijuana.

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

The beat of conga drums beckoned more than 100 curious onlookers, and tie-dyed shirts dotted the quad-range area in front of Chapman Hall Friday preceding a rally to legalize marijuana.

For an hour-and-a-half, Students for the Oregon Marijuana Initiative gathered signatures for a petition to place the Drug Abuse Program Funding Act on the 1990 state ballot.

The DAPFA initiative, OMI's response to the passage of House Bill 2479, is "a way of stopping the prosecution of people who grow marijuana," said Robert Cummings, OMI regional coordinator.

Under the current Oregon law, the penalty for growing one marijuana plant is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, he said.

DAPFA, however, would not only legalize personal use of marijuana, but it would also "make the distinction, which is constantly getting blurred in the war

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State board ponders increasing housing

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Reporter

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education decided in its Portland meeting Friday that the University might receive more student housing within the next two years if a local study determines that increased housing is necessary.

The state board voted to immediately request up to \$10 million in standby bonding authority for University housing from the Oregon State Legislature.

The bonding authority will be used only if Eugene, Springfield, Lane County and University officials decide that more housing is needed after the University's projected enrollment cuts.

According to Oregon State System of Higher Education Communications Director Jim Sellers, the standby bonding authority is a "housekeeping measure to prevent delay," because the state board cannot sell bonds for higher education funds without the legislature's permission.

"The legislature must authorize the state board to sell bonds, but we don't know now if new housing will be needed at the University," Sellers said.

"Because the legislature doesn't meet again until 1991,

... the board has to get this straightened out now."

University Vice-President for Administration Dan Williams said if new housing is necessary, the state board and the legislative Emergency Board authority will vote again on the bond issue.

"I think it's pretty clear that something in the way of housing will be needed," Williams said. "In a couple of months we'll have a good idea of what that will be exactly, and how much of the bonding authority will have to be used."

The board also tentatively approved a computer science master's degree program for Portland State University. The program would serve Portland "placebound" students who cannot travel to the University or Oregon State University to complete their master's degrees.

Sellers said the master's program would not affect the quality of the same programs at the University or OSU.

In addition, the board tentatively approved an Interdisciplinary Center for Ethics in Health Care at Oregon Health Sciences University and a business-oriented North Pacific Applied Research Center at PSU.

Neither program is expected to require extra state funding, Sellers said.

Student hunt for storage begins

Local space hard to find

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Reporter

As the end of spring term approaches, and students prepare to leave Eugene for the summer, many University students are searching frantically for storage facilities to hold their extra belongings while they are out of town.

Or at least if they aren't, they should be.

If students wait until the last minute to rent storage units for the summer, they may discover that no vacant spaces are available, according to Gib Hockett, manager of Budget Storage located on Franklin Boulevard.

"Usually students ought to go looking about a month ahead for storage," he said, adding that all his 4 feet by 10 feet storage units, the size most students request because it holds "about a pickup-full," are occupied already.

"Of course, you don't ever know when they (the occupants) are going to move out," Hockett said. "You can call me today, and I won't have any vacancies, but if you call me to-

morrow, I might have 10 spaces open.

"But you should never depend on people to move out," he added. "You should just line up your space ahead of time," Hockett said.

Hockett said Budget Storage's 4-by-10 units cost \$23 per month plus an additional \$10 processing fee. Because renters are allowed 24 hour access to their storage units, only minimum security is offered, he said.

"I'm the only one here, so at night there is no security," Hockett said.

However, other Eugene storage facilities, such as North 99 Mini-storage located on Highway 99 near Mahlon Sweet Airport, offer around-the-clock security.

According to Manager David Cook, North 99 Mini-storage has four resident managers and security guards as well as watchdogs that are released after the gates are closed at 8 p.m.

"We are open from 8 to 8 six days a week," Cook said. "That seems like a reasonable time period for people to have access, and plus we can insure the best security on the units that way.

"We've got a very service-oriented attitude, and we're

more personal than other storage places," he said. "We really care about caring for people's things, and we get a lot of rental referrals because of that."

Out of the total 776 storage units available at North 99 Mini-storage approximately 100 are still vacant, Cook said. "But students need to hurry if they want to rent because we're averaging 10 (rentals) a day now," he said. "So the ones that are left will be gone by the end of a month."

Cook said 5-by-10 units cost \$28 per month and 10-by-10 units cost \$45 per month. "We also refund the unused rent if you move out in the middle of the month, and we don't require a 30-day notice like most storage places do," he said.

In addition, Cook said he supplies a moving trailer for the renters at no extra charge. "We try to cater to people's needs and keep everything on a personal, comfortable level," he said.

The mini-storage business is very profitable in Eugene because of the University student consumers, according to Tony Smith, manager of Sav-N-Lock located on West 11th Avenue.

"We probably get at least 80

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Folk fun

Sunshine, live music and a big, messy burrito — what more could a kid ask for? Saisha Costello-Houghten, 21 months, was one of several hundred people attending the Willamette Valley Folk Festival sponsored by the EMU cultural forum.

Photo by James Marks