

## POLITICS

### Peyote bill allowing for religious use clears House

By Gerrit Koepping  
Emerald Contributor

SALEM — The use of peyote as part of a religious practice may soon be protected by a bill currently in the Oregon Senate.

House Bill 3039, which passed in the House on Friday with a 40-16 vote, would protect individuals from prosecution if they can prove they used peyote for a religious purpose and that it did not endanger the user.

The bill was sent to Senate President John Kitzhaber, D-Roseburg, for assignment to a Senate committee.

The use of peyote by Native Americans is strictly regulated by leaders, and it is sacrilegious to abuse the substance, said David Baines, president of the Association of the Native American Physicians Inc., in a letter to the House committee that considered the bill.

"I have never seen or heard of anyone harmed by its use in the proper setting," Baines wrote. Moreover, he said the prohibition of peyote is another form of discrimination against Native Americans.

Rep. Jim Edmunson, D-Eugene, said that the issue is about freedom of religion vs.

concerns over drug abuse. Edmunson, a sponsor of the bill, said the bill would only protect individuals who could prove in a court that they were following good faith religious practices.

Edmunson said the bill would create more tolerance for Native American culture.

"We need to teach people to respect the rights of American Indians and other groups to practice their religion as they see fit, to their own God, to their own life," he said.

Rep. Marie Bell, R-Eugene, opposes the bill on the grounds that there are no guarantees about the health and safety of pregnant women and infants.

"In all the testimony we had we could not get any documented statistics to tell us that infants and little children wouldn't be taking it," Bell said.

David Fidanque, the Associate Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, said that the current prohibition against peyote violated the constitutional protection for freedom of religion. He said that under current legal precedent "the state could outlaw the use of wine in the Christian churches."



### Watch It!

David Grant studies on one of the few patches of grass left intact after the Willamette Valley Folk Festival as four joggers come a little too close for comfort.

Photo by Mark Ylen

## Sister University Project to meet

### MEETINGS

International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce meets tonight at 7 in Room 332 Gilbert. A speaker from Australia will give a presentation.

### Et als

Latin American Support Committee meets tonight at 5:30 in EMU Cedar Room C.

OSPIRG's alternative energy/energy conservation group meets tonight at 6:30 in EMU Suite 1.

EMU CCDC Parent Council meets tonight at 6:30 at the Westmoreland Preschool Site, 2103 W. 17th Court.

Sister University Project meets tonight at

5:30 in the EMU Maple Room.

### SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

"Grants and Consulting: A Workshop for Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students" is the title of a workshop to be held today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room.

"Performance and Prestige: Macedonian Rom (Gypsy) Women" is the title of a slide lecture to be held today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 330 Gilbert.

### MISCELLANEOUS

The Burglar is the title of a film about the current punk rock scene in Leningrad with Soviet rock star Konstantin Kinchev. The film, part of the Russian Film Series, will

be shown tonight at 6:30 in Room 115 Pacific.

College Republicans social will be held tonight at 6 at 1477 Hilyard - 2.

"Impact Zone" is the title of a video to be shown in the Outdoor Program office, EMU Room 21, today at 12:30 p.m. The video is a "windsurfing" documentary about the Hawaiian surf.

Azul: Scenes of Contemporary American Life is the title of a film to be shown tonight at 7 in Room 100 Willamette as part of the Latin American Film Festival.

Open mike coffeehouse will be held in the EMU Skylight Lounge tonight from 7 to 10.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication.



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