



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/EMERALD

A Eugene firefighter examines a dryer to see what caused it to catch fire. The smoldering dryer was pulled out of the basement of the McKenzie Study Center, a Christian co-op.

## Fire interrupts Easter potluck

Natalie Montgomery and Patrick Minford  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

A load of dish rags in a clothes dryer caught fire Sunday evening, sending a thick wave of smoke through the basement of a University-area house.

None of the nearly 30 people at the McKenzie Study Center, a Christian cooperative house, reported injuries. The center, located at the 18th Ave and University St., was hosting an Easter potluck for children from a local church.

The house sustained no damage, but the dryer

and the dish rags inside it were destroyed, resident Greg Hamilton said.

"The ironic thing is we have two other dryers, so we'll still be able to do laundry," Hamilton said.

Three fire trucks responded to the fire. Firefighters, who removed the smoldering dryer from the house basement, were not sure what caused the fire.

"I swear I cleaned the lint trap," said resident Carmen Stoll, who put the rags in the dryer.

## Bob Dole critical of president

RUSSELL, Kan. (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Saturday he would oppose President Clinton's choice for surgeon general and might block the nomination from coming to a vote. Dole also said he regretted questioning whether Clinton is a "real president."

Dole in the past has been critical of Clinton's choice of Tennessee obstetrician-gynecologist Henry Foster for surgeon general. But until Saturday Dole had not disclosed how he would vote.

Dole, taping NBC's *Meet the Press* for broadcast Sunday, said he did not believe the Foster nomination would clear committee. If it does, however, Dole said he might not bring it to the Senate floor; as majority leader, Dole controls the Senate schedule.

Foster's nomination has been controversial from the outset, because of his past performance of abortions — and because the White House gave several conflicting accounts about the number of abortions Foster has performed. Foster's nomination is vehemently opposed by Christian right organizations, groups Dole has been courting in his presidential bid.

After the balanced budget amendment failed in the Senate last month, Dole said Clinton had abdicated his responsibility

by not supporting it. He said the outcome might have been different "if we had a real president" in the White House.

"I must say if [I could] I would go back and state that differently. ... I made a mistake, I shouldn't have said that," said Dole, of his criticism of Clinton, which he suggested was meant in jest. "I was smiling, though."

In addition to that remark about Clinton, Dole classified as mistakes comments made during past campaigns, including saying Democrats were responsible for most wars involving the United States, and former President Bush lied about Dole's record during the 1988 presidential primary campaign.

"I think people in Russell, Kan., when they think something is inaccurate, they ought to say so. We're fairly blunt out here. If I've only made three mistakes in my life, at my age, you know I have a pretty good record."

Dole announced his bid for the GOP presidential nomination last week in Topeka.

During the taping, Dole said he is in good health, "with a lot of stamina, a lot of energy," and will make public his medical records. But he said he won't pledge to serve just one term — he would be 77 at the end of a first term — because that would make him a lame-duck president

from the day he was sworn in.

Dole had hinted in February he might serve only one term if elected.

He said he won't select a vice presidential running mate before he secures the GOP nomination because "if you have a running mate out there, you're going to be having two people being shot at ... by the press."

He said he didn't mention abortion during his announcement tour last week because it is a divisive issue, and "I don't want to drive people away from the Republican Party." He said he favors regulating abortion by law rather than by adopting a constitutional amendment.

NBC taped the show in the packed 600-seat auditorium at Ruppenthal Middle School. It was the city's high school until 1962; Dole graduated from it in 1941.

The show was taped in Dole's hometown because of a bet he made with host Tim Russert. Dole bet Dallas would beat Buffalo, Russert's hometown team, in the 1993 Super Bowl. The Cowboys won, and *Meet the Press* went on the road for the first time in the three years Russert has hosted the show.

The taping marked the 53rd time Dole has appeared on *Meet the Press*, the most appearances by any guest in the show's history.

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