

# Initiative eyes campaign costs

Charles E. Beggs  
The Associated Press

SALEM— Hoping to slow the escalating costs of running for office, former Congressman John Dellenback and others filed an initiative measure Monday to create public financing of campaigns in Oregon.

Putting contenders for public office under pressure to raise big war chests "is bad for the candidate and bad for the system," said Dellenback, a Republican who served from the 4th U.S. House District from 1967-75.

"Most people in Oregon want campaign spending brought under control," Dellenback said as he and others conducted a news conference about their measure, which is aimed at the November 2000 ballot.

The proposed ballot measure would make candidates for state office eligible for tax money if they agreed to limit spending and not accept private donations for campaigns.

Advocates of the proposal are seeking a way to curb spiraling campaign spending without running afoul of the courts.

In 1997, the Oregon Supreme Court struck down a voter-passed

law limiting donations to \$500 for statewide candidates and \$100 for legislative contenders.

The ruling said the restrictions violated constitutional rights of free speech and expression. On the same grounds, the court overturned a 1974 voter-approved law limiting campaign spending.

Public campaign funding bills identical to the proposed ballot measure were introduced in the Oregon Legislature this year but never received a hearing, said Paula Krane, president of the League of Women Voters of Oregon.

"Legislators don't feel there's a public outcry for this," she said.

Advocates of the initiative measure, the Oregon Working Group for Campaign Finance Reform, say they're confident it would pass legal tests because the spending and contribution limits are voluntary.

Under the public financing plan, the exception to the contribution ban would require candidates to raise a certain number of \$5 donations to qualify for public funds.

A state Senate contender, for example, would have to collect 500 donations of \$5 to be eligible

for tax funds. The candidate then would have spending limits totaling \$75,000 for primary and general election races.

The proposed "political accountability act" is patterned after campaign finance laws passed by voters in Maine, Massachusetts and Arizona and by legislators in Vermont.

Public funding of campaigns hasn't yet occurred in any of the states under the relatively new laws, said Diane Sands, a former Montana lawmaker and political director of the group promoting the Oregon ballot initiative.

Senate Majority Gene Derfler, R-Salem, is among those skeptical of the proposal to give government funds to candidates.

"I'm not sure people would be willing to spend tax dollars on campaigns," he said.

Krane said donations of less than \$50 made up just 4 percent of the \$12.5 million raised by legislative candidates in 1998.

"The public is losing faith in the political process," she said.

Sands estimated it would require about \$10 million in public funds to finance campaigns in the first election year after the law took effect.

## BLM tears down century-old dam

MEDFORD— The government has torn out a century-old concrete irrigation dam from a Rogue River tributary to open more freshwater habitat for threatened coho salmon.

Removal of the 10-foot-high Alphonso Dam from the east fork of Evans Creek about 10 miles northwest of Shady Cove last week will open 12 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and native cutthroat trout as well as coho, said U.S. Bureau of Land Management biologist Jayne LeFors.

BLM spent three years working with other state and federal agencies preparing for the removal and spending \$55,000 on the job.

"We've got a number of barriers for fish passage around Jackson and Josephine counties," said Mike Evenson, district fisheries biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "This wasn't a real large one, but every one has an impact."

Homesteaders built the dam in the 1890s to provide water for their fields, but over the years the concrete of the structure crumbled and the pool behind it filled with rocks and silt.

The Rogue Flyfishers club built a fish ladder over the dam in the 1970s, but there was often too little water flowing through the ladder or too much water flowing over the dam, said LeFors.

BLM is working with another property owner to remove a small diversion dam on a tributary of Evans Creek. Although it is on private property, federal law allows public funds to be spent on the project if it will benefit public lands. BLM has land in the tributary's drainage.

"Coho are kind of a lazy fish," she said. "They like slow-moving water and little side channels and alcoves. They don't like to spend a lot of energy trying to get up past these blockages."

One property owner was still using the water from the dam, but BLM was able to work with them to assure they will have access to water.

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## Inventor

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During the 1998-99 fiscal year the technology transfer office generated more than \$330,000 from inventions created at the University. This is significantly more than the \$180,000 generated during the 1997-98 fiscal year, and Sherer said the revenue is continuing to climb.

Although Keana holds bragging rights to the most patents at the University, his inventions are just a few of many. Most patents involve discoveries in the sciences but others include computer patents. A height-adjustable dorm bed is a University invention that continues to generate money annually.

As for Keana, his inventions have generated relatively modest amounts of revenue. That money has

come in the form of royalties from biochemical companies interested in selling radioactive versions of his drugs as pharmacological tools.

"It's a little bit like the stock market," Keana said. "Very few patents earn money, but you have to have a lot of them because you never know which ones will make it."

Presently both Cerestat and Acea 1021 are on clinical hold, stuck in the complicated testing process that takes many years. Keana is hopeful that one day his inventions may see the market. But for now he is waiting for approval on a series of patents involving a new potential drug, one that may be used as a treatment for Parkinson's disease.

And, of course, Keana will continue to think up new inventions in the meantime.

## News Briefs

### Students named to deans' list

1,265 out of the 11,923 University undergraduate and post baccalaureate students made spring term 1999 deans' lists for their respective University school or college.

The list is compiled for fall, winter and spring terms. To qualify, students must have a required minimum GPA of 3.75. They must also be in good academic standing and have completed at least 12 or more graded credits for the term.

### Student activists come to Portland

More than 200 student members of the U.S. Students Association will participate in the 52nd Annual National Student Congress at Port-

land State University, Aug. 4-8 to set USSA's action agenda for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Issues to be discussed include higher education funding, social security, hate crimes, workers' rights, health care, gun control, and affirmative action. Representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students, the Student Representative Council of Ghana, the Korean Student Network Group of the country formerly known as Burma and the University of Hawaii will also discuss international student solidarity issues.

### Airline adds Eugene service

American West Airlines officially announced its plan to add twice-daily service from the Eugene Airport to

its two main hubs in Phoenix and Las Vegas starting Sep. 10. It plans to add a third trip in October.

### Weapons found in stolen vehicle

Jacob K. Takao, 23, was found July 31 inside a stolen automobile from the state of Utah parked near 986 Bennett Lane in Eugene.

He was also in possession of an AK-47 rifle, numerous rounds of ammunition, knives, a sawed off shotgun and a live hand grenade.

Takao was arrested on charges of the unauthorized use of a vehicle, unlawful manufacture of a destructive device, unlawful possession of a short barrel shotgun and a probation violation warrant.

The Eugene Police Burglary/Auto Theft Division is following up this investigation.

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