

Socially acceptable for a kid, misunderstood by adults

By JOSH MARQUIS
Of the Emerald

When Jim Rivers talks to adult groups about drugs, he says that marijuana may or may not be harmful, but it is illegal. He says the same thing when he talks to school groups. Jim Rivers is a detective on the Eugene Police Department.

Rivers is assigned out of the juvenile division to handle all juvenile affairs for the schools serving the South Eugene High School area. He has been a policeman for almost eight years and has been on the juvenile team for more than two. He just returned from the Institute for Social Concerns in Oakland, California.

The Institute helps educate counselors, educators...and policemen in various aspects of drug abuse. Rivers explains that much of the two-week session dealt with counseling and the social awareness in a community to "the drug problem."

Wednesday, Rivers gave one of the talks he gives frequently upon request of clubs or schools. This time he addressed the luncheon meeting of the Eugene Civitans. With him he brought what he calls his "drug board", which is a display of various illicit drugs seized by the police.

The audience at this Wednesday's talk was composed almost entirely of businessmen in their early forties. Rivers started off by saying that he has found "that adults have a whole lot of misconceptions about drugs and that sometimes the kids are much more knowledgeable."

Rivers pointed out that adults who smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol are consuming drugs and that it's "just as socially acceptable for a kid to smoke a joint as it is for an adult to have a drink." Rivers told the Civitans that "things were a lot different when we were kids 15 years ago, sometimes we have to look at it from the kids' side."

Detective Rivers explained to his audience that some people persist in the belief that LSD has some legitimate usage. "It has no medical use," said Rivers, "and it doesn't come in nice little clean capsules, people mix it up in their bathtubs and it frequently isn't very pure." Responding to a question about alleged chromosome damage by LSD, Rivers replied that tests haven't shown anything conclusive and that he believes "the psychological dangers far outweigh the physiological dangers."

Rivers said that his experience has shown that "the biggest rip-

off in town is the sale of all kinds of garbage as mescaline when there has been only one recent sample that actually proved to be mescaline."

Another man asked if Rivers agreed that marijuana led to harder drugs. Rivers answered, "I don't subscribe to the theory that grass necessarily leads to other narcotics, it may well be that some decide to go on to booze."

After his talk Rivers answered questions about drugs and explained the uses of the roach clips and hypos displayed on his drug board. Det. Rivers explained that he doesn't try to tell anyone — kids or adults — that drugs are "bad for you." He just tells them they are illegal and what some of the effects of the drugs can be.

Rivers spoke highly of the University's Drug Information Center and its director, Mark Miller. He and Miller will be giving talks together, and Rivers is already working with White Bird Socio-Medical Clinic on various drug education programs.

"Adults, as well as kids... but particularly adults, should know the real facts about drugs, so they can discuss the problem knowledgeably and intelligently," says Rivers.



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The making of a 'state insect' as if Salem isn't buggy enough

There is a movement in the air to give Oregon a state insect.

The Oregon rain beetle (*Pleocoma oregonensis*) has been nominated in House Concurrent Resolution 5, sponsored by Rep. Paul Walden of Hood River. The resolution has been tabled, apparently without hope of resurrection, in the Environment and Land Use Committee.

What is an Oregon rain beetle? It's big, shiny, black with golden fur, and it feeds off the state tree, the Douglas fir.

Only the males fly. And they fly only during the fall monsoon months of September through November. And only at 35 degrees Fahrenheit. And only in the morning. And only if it's raining.

The females are burrowers. They remain at the entrances to the burrows and exude an odor to attract males, several of whom are certain to arrive on her doorstep. The scramble for her favors usually leaves many of the males maimed and dying.

The female lives on after mating, although the males will die within a week. In the spring following the mating, the females will lay eggs around the roots of trees. The beetles take nine to 13 years to mature — the second longest known insect life cycle, exceeded only by the locust. The grubs live in the soil, which will contain beetles and grubs at all stages of growth.

The Oregon rain beetle lives mainly in Oregon, which is the reason the Oregon Entomological Society supports its nomination for state bug. The beetle causes some problems with the roots of fruit orchards, but generally lives in harmony with native

vegetation. It is not a pest, and some people think it is pretty. The Oregon rain beetle is not an import, as is the honeybee, which is the Arkansas state insect.

Rep. Walden's secretary, Eleanor Blundell, has heard gossip around the capitol that the resolution to give Oregon a state bug may be taken off the table of the committee. The bug has received the enthusiastic support of the Salem Rainmakers and the James G. Blaine Society.

Loren Russell, secretary of the Oregon Entomological Society and de facto chairman of the Society's bug committee, is coordinating the campaign from his office in the Entomology Department at Oregon State University, where he is a graduate student.

University students may be happy to learn that there is a

colony of Oregon rain beetles on Spencer's Butte, five miles south of Eugene. This colony is one of five related species to be found throughout the state.

The beetle not only tolerates Oregon's cool rainy climate, but it must have it to survive. The beetle is one of the most primitive living members of the "scarab" family, and its ancestry goes back to the Age of Reptiles. The Oregon species has grown up with Oregon, making its adaptation to Oregon forests down through geologic history.

Four other states now have state insects, along with state trees, flowers, birds, mottos, flags, seals and animals. California chose the dogface butterfly. Florida has the Chinese praying mantis. Arkansas picked the honeybee, and Iowa is considering the ladybug.

Wingard — tax plan is 'non-progressive'

A dichotomy exists in the McCall Tax Plan which may result in a non-progressive tax, according to Sen. George Wingard (R-Eugene).

Wingard, who spoke to the Rubicon Society on Friday, said the tax program had been divided into sides with homeowners on one side, business on the other and a line drawn down the middle. No money can be shifted across between the two, Wingard said.

Wingard supports the homeowners' side but not the

business side. "They should give homeowners tax relief, and leave business like it is," he said. "Anytime you tax business and they pass it on to the consumer, it is going to be non-progressive." And the McCall Tax Plan includes a business profits tax.

Gov. McCall initiated the plan, and Wingard believed the "Governor should be congratulated on taking the ball and running with it." The plan, which would increase the state funding of schools from 21 to 95 percent also includes a raise in the income tax.

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