

Health Center handles heavy load



Photo by Kevin McCauley

Health center doctors and nurses handled over 8,400 students last year and they expect to see even more this year, especially when they begin vaccinating for the swine flu next month.

By JANE HARRIS
Of the Emerald

Officials at the University's Student Health Center firmly believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, but they can't always adhere to this philosophy. Most students who visit the center they say, are too far past the preventive stage when they come in.

Over 8,400 students visited the center's doctors and nurses last year, and the figures rise every day.

"This is not a measure of success," says Avar Long, director of the center. "We just do whatever we can handle." This includes general medical attention and treatment, minor surgery and care of simple fractures. The center also handles routine laboratory procedures, limited psychiatric and counseling services and immunization clinics.

Many students come out of the health center with complaints and

horror stories about the treatment they received. However, a survey of students using the health center completed last year showed that 80 per cent were satisfied with the treatment they received.

One recent patient in the infirmary complained the doctors are too conservative with the use of pharmaceuticals. "We are conservative," Long admits. "We will not use any controversial drugs and we will always look for an alternative."

"It was the students on the committee who expanded the GYN (gynecology) services a few years back. The students pay the bills. They should have some say in what they want done here."

Long went on to say that if anyone has any serious complaints they should talk to him or take it to the health center's advisory committee. The committee, a student-faculty group, deals primarily with budgets, although they do have an effect on policy.

The ASUO agrees. Mark Cogan, vice-president for state and local affairs, has included the health center in the ASUO's legislative package for the coming year.

"We are trying to put the health fee under the coming year. We are trying to put the health fee under the control of the Incidental Fee Committee, says Cogan. "The students should have more say in what goes on there."

"The ASUO is not trying to close down the health center. Under the IFC we would have a health center board, similar to the EMU board."

Although Long agrees with the concept of student input, he says he is at odds with the ASUO proposal.

"We have to plan ahead. That can't be done as well under the IFC."

Long fears that the student's health fee, \$54 annually, would be cut if put under student control. A cut in the fee would result in a cut of services.

"The trend has been toward more services," he said. "There is no way that fee will get away from

ASUO voting booths will open Wednesday

Polling in the ASUO primary election is set for Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 20 and 21. Voting booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at six campus locations.

Booths will be located at 150 Geology, Gilbert Hall, the EMU terrace, Carson-Walton dormitory crosswalk, the library lobby and the law school.

A plastic picture I.D. card and current certificate of registration are required for voting. Students who will not be on campus during the election may vote by absentee ballot today in Suite 4. All candidates must file expense forms by 5 p.m. today.

Positions on the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC), Erb Memorial Union Board (EMUB) and Student-University Affairs Board (SUAB) will be on the ballot. Also appearing on the ballot will be positions for OSPIRG, freshman and junior class officers and three constitutional amendments.

One amendment would abolish class officers after June 1977, if approved. Another amendment will convert all IFC positions to two-year terms during the next two years. A final amendment will move election of EMUB members to spring term.

ASUO officials aren't making voter turnout prediction. "Admittedly, the candidates haven't been particularly energetic during the last couple of weeks of the campaign," says Jamie Burns, ASUO vice-president, "but I hope there's a little bit more energy shown in the next few days."

Burns says campaigning really stimulates voter interest and turnout. He urges all voters to read the voters' guide statement which has been expanded to 200 words.

Flu shots set for Nov.

The order of inoculation for the upcoming swine flu shots clinic has been released by the student health center, but the exact dates haven't been determined yet.

University students, staff and faculty will be able to receive their shots during a two-week period in November, once the vaccine arrives, according to health center officials.

Scheduling will be according to the last four digits in students' social security numbers. Faculty, staff and dependents of students

over 18 years of age may receive shots from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

Two make-up days are also scheduled.

Day 1 2,000-3,599	Day 6 7,200-8,399
Day 2 3,600-4,799	Day 7 8,400-9,599
Day 3 4,800-5,999	Day 8 9,600-0799
Day 4 6,000-7,199	Day 9 0800-1,999
Day 5 Make-up	Day 10 Make-up

the students. Every nickel is justified. Working under the IFC would make it difficult to budget."

Clinic hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays. For emergencies at other times, students may use the west entrance on Beech Street, across from Carson Hall.

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