

DIC will test if your 'stash is trash'

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

If your stash is damp, yellowish and sickly looking, don't flush it yet. The University's Drug Information Center (DIC) can now analyze your marijuana to detect if herbicides are present.

Wednesday's Emerald reported that the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) alleges that about 10 percent of the marijuana flowing into the United States from Mexico may be contaminated with the toxic herbicide para-

quat. NORML charges that the United States government is partially responsible, because the fed's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has supplied equipment and training to the Mexican government for aerial spraying of marijuana and poppy fields in that country.

A National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that paraquat-treated marijuana appears "damp, yellowish and sickly looking."

Dale Gordon of the DIC says his office has recently acquired the services of a Palo Alto, Calif. firm that can provide chemical analysis of marijuana samples to detect if

herbicides are present.

Gordon says the DIC will send submitted marijuana samples to Farm-Chem Inc., which will analyze the pot through a process called thin layer chromatography. Through this process Farm-Chem can determine if either paraquat or the herbicide diquat is present in the sample.

Gordon says one-half gram, or about half a joint, is needed to make for an accurate test. He requested that persons interested in getting their pot analyzed should call the DIC at 686-5411 and arrangements will be made for sending the sample in. He says results are usually received within three to

five working days.

The DIC will also analyze marijuana for foreign substances other than herbicides. Gordon says his office has been analyzing anywhere from two to seven samples of marijuana each month.

"In the past we've had samples submitted by people who reported suffering unusual side effects from the marijuana," Gordon says. He adds that many of the tests have proved negative, but some have contained substances that are either similar to marijuana in appearance, such as oregano increased the potency of the smoke with drugs such as PCP.

Battle shaping over burning

Battle lines are being drawn over the likely field burning confrontation this spring.

"If it comes down to it, we are prepared to enter the battle of Eugene and industry vs. the state and the field-burners," City Council member Eric Haws said at Wednesday's city council meeting.

"If it comes to a crunch, we expect Mr. Long (city attorney) to crunch," Mayor Gus Keller said, referring to Eugene possibly filing a law suit against the state for violation of the federal Clean Air Act.

In late January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) turned down the state's request that the 180,000-acre field burning figure be allowed to continue.

The EPA concluded that the state "had not justified allowing the increased pollution which would occur due to burning 180,000 acres as opposed to 50,000," according to a memo from Long to the city council.

In order to justify the 180,000 figure, the state would have to implement off-set measures in area industrial air pollutants, decreasing pollutants by 3,000 to 5,000 tons.

"We cannot believe they would order those kind of decreases," Long said. "Are we going to shut down Oregon?"

Long added that industry's expensive effort to monitor air pollutants to date has eliminated only 1,200 tons of polluting particles.

Long asked the state to change its course of action and expressed hope that the state would present another one-year interim measure which the EPA would "reject full-scale."

"Then maybe people will sit down and talk," he said.

"If none of this occurs, there's going to be trouble in the spring," he added.

"If there is no contract and no revision (and none seems likely based on what has occurred at this point in time), state officials may be faced with alternatives very distasteful to them, namely, knowingly violating federal law, or enforcing a 50,000 acre limitation," Long's memo to the council stated.



Photo by Patrick Sullivan

Frances Peterson, supporter of the University Mothers Club for the past 17 years, regales tales of her long-time involvement with the club. Peterson, who is "one of the reasons the Mothers Club exists on campus today," was honored recently with the Golden Feather award.

Old Mom still active in club

By NANCY MARSHALL
Of the Emerald

Frances Peterson, active supporter of the University Mothers' Club, recently received the Golden Feather Award for her long-time support on various projects.

She was presented a green and gold apron with ducks on it as a badge of service.

Peterson isn't unusual, except that she's now 70 years old and still active on the state and local Mothers' Clubs. Her involvement began in 1961.

Genna Lemman, president of the University Mothers and creator of the Golden Feather Award, believes Peterson deserves some recognition for the time and effort she's contributed.

Described by Lemman as a "soft-spoken little old lady, grandmotherly type, and modest about her work," Peterson is "one reason why the University Mothers exists on campus today. She's given a lot of her time, and hung in there all these years," says Lemman.

Peterson has supported the local unit in the past years through rummage sales and money-raising luncheons. She was once president, and says of herself, "I've done a little bit of everything."

She has been publicity chair for the state board since 1969. In that time she devised a new way of building publicity through newspaper articles. She writes articles about present and upcoming events on the state board and submits them to various Oregon newspapers for publication.

But as of June, Peterson will be resigning from the state board.

"It's time I let someone else take over," she says.

When asked why she became involved in the Mothers' Club, Peterson replies, "I had always wanted to be a part of the University, probably because I was never able to go. I like the mothers and like working with them, and enjoy the campus atmosphere."

Lemman says, "Mrs. Peterson is an exceptional duck."

Insurance firm denies charges of harrassment

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Charges that the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company has photographed Jefferson resident Shirley Mallone and harassed her because of her participation in an initiative petition to repeal three recently passed workmens' compensation bills as reported in Tuesday's Emerald, have been categorically denied by Keith Skelton, the company's attorney.

Skelton, however, did admit

that the company has taken photographs of Mallone to be used in its investigation of her workers' compensation claim.

Mallone, who has been disabled since 1973 with an injury she received working in an Albany hospital, said earlier this week that the insurance company had been photographing her and recording her telephone conversations for nearly five years.

Most of the photographs have been taken of her in front of her home, Mallone said. Several pictures were taken during a family garage sale and later used as evidence by the insurance company lawyers to prove she was self-

employed, she claimed.

Although she has no proof the company has tapped her telephone, Mallone said statements from private conversations over the telephone have also been used against her.

Skelton denied that the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company did anything illegal by photographing Mallone.

"We find that there are many cases where one side or the other will employ detectives or other means of investigation in the course of the case for fact finding purposes," he said.

Photographing claimants, especially in workers' compensa-

tion claims, is a wide-spread practice, Skelton explained. "They are mainly used in some cases where there is some contention of fraud involved."

According to Skelton, no invasion of privacy has occurred during the course of the investigation of Mallone's claim.

Frank Howatt, assistant commissioner of the insurance division of the State Department of Commerce, explained that while photographing claimants may be normal practice, the state's insurance companies are bound to the same laws as private citizens.

"It is my understanding that the companies can take pictures of whomever they wish as long as

they don't create a public nuisance by trespassing or intimidating anyone," Howatt said. "Whatever rules pertain to society apply also to the insurance companies."

Although Mallone thinks the company's alleged harassment is due to her involvement in the initiative petition drive to repeal legislation which reorganized the state's Worker's Compensation Department, Skelton explained the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company's management had not heard of the petition drive until this week.

"Mallone has had a very bitter case going on," Skelton said, "so she's going to do everything possible to win the case."

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