

Area drownings increase

By HEIDI SWILLINGER
Of the Emerald

While a myriad of lakes and rivers in Lane County provide excellent resources for escaping the heat, people apparently need to use more common sense when boating or swimming.

According to Dale Trink, emergency services assistant for the Lane County Search and Rescue Unit, the number of area drownings is abnormally high this year.

Ordinarily by the end of June, only three or four drownings or "water-related incidents" are reported. Since January, however, the Search and Rescue Unit has responded to 10 water incidents, including seven drownings.

"Now that the weather's better, the problem is going to get worse," Trink predicts.

"People aren't thinking," he says. "All of (the drownings) can probably be summed up to carelessness."

Some basic precautionary measures seem obvious, but Trink says people tend to ignore them or take them for granted. For instance, he says, "Know how to swim. You'd be surprised how many people don't."

Also, he suggests using life jackets. That

means wear them, he cautions, don't just stow them away.

But parents of small children should remember that life jackets are no substitution for close adult supervision.

Don't "drink and swim," says Trink. "People don't realize how much drinking affects stamina and the length of time they can stay in the water."

Accidents often occur when people overestimate the durability of rafts or inner tubes. "They think they can take the rapids in a mickey mouse rubber raft," Trink says.

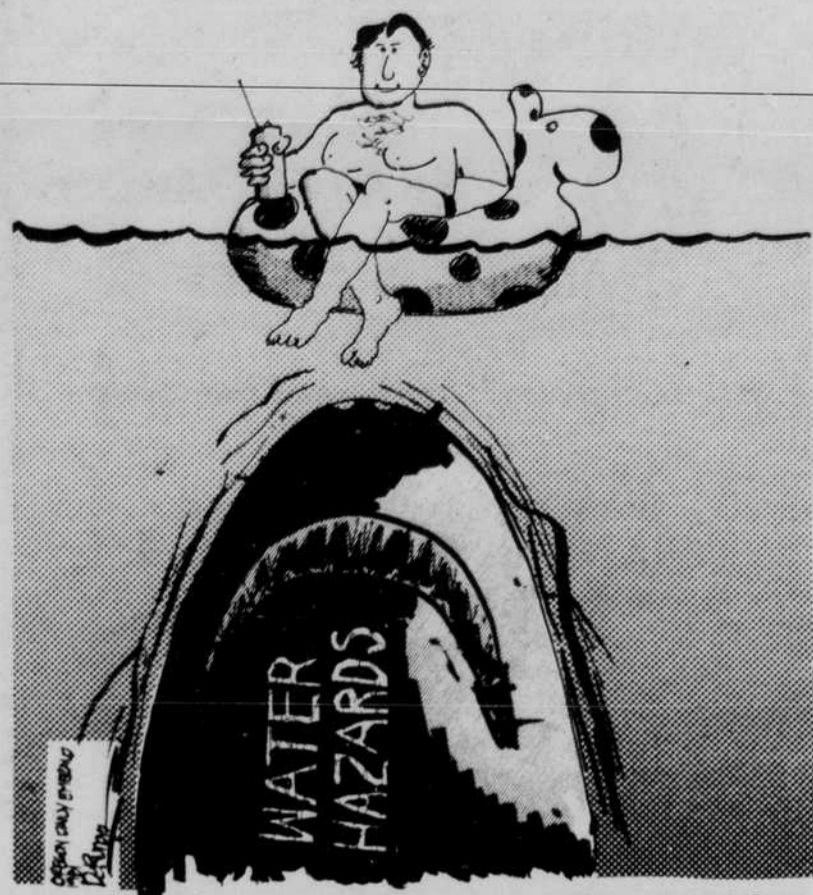
In addition, he warns people not to overload boats, canoes or rafts. "Most boats are designed for a specific number of people." Know the limit and adhere to it, he says.

Trink stresses respect for the water, and suggests that people study an area before going out in a boat. "Never go into an area you don't know," he says.

Trink also warns about hypothermia — the lowering of the body's core temperature.

"Hypothermia is one of the biggest killers," Trink says.

"When swimming in cold water, you have 10 to 15 minutes before it gets to you."



Graphic by Max DeRungs

Montagu at conference

World renowned anthropologist Ashley Montagu will discuss children's unrecognized needs during a University conference later this month on the socialization of children.

Montagu is one of seven prominent scholars in human development who will address the public conference, set for July 21-24 at Valley River Inn.

Other speakers include Raymond Lowe, a University counseling professor who directs a model parent-youth center in Eugene and who will talk on "Dissidents of the '60s: Parents of the '80s"; Sandra Scarr, a Yale University psychology professor who will lecture on "The Effects of Families on Social and Personality Development"; and Constance Kamii, a psychology professor at the University of Illinois who will address "The Role of the School in the Development of Autonomy."

Registration costs for the general public are \$80 for the entire conference, \$25 for individual days and \$10 for each evening lecture. For University students, costs are \$30, \$10 and \$4, respectively.

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