

PARENTS

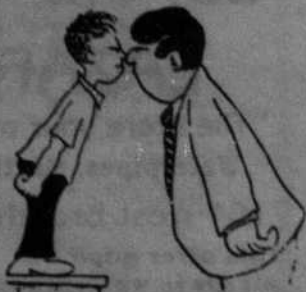
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Eugene: not a very pretty place for the chronic allergy sufferer

Eugene can be one of the most beautiful spots in Oregon during the summer with its acres of green grass and rows of blossom-filled trees, but first-time visitors should beware because they may have to pay a price for the scenery, says Dr. James Jackson, Student Health Center director.

Eugene is one of the largest commercial grass seed producers in the country and, therefore, one of the worst places for allergy sufferers, he says.

Heavy concentrations of grass pollens, the most widespread allergy culprit, come from the grassfields north of Eugene and become trapped here, lingering in the air from about mid-spring to mid-summer.

In addition to this, Eugene is the home of a wide variety of tree pollens, Jackson says. "They've planted just about every tree known to man here, so no matter what allergy you have, you'll find it here," he says.

In fact, Jackson says that a lot of people who never had

allergies before may experience them when they come to Eugene because of the variety and amount of pollens in the air.



Jackson says that over the years young adults can become sensitized to certain things, such as grass pollen or dust, and then finally suffer a reaction when exposed to high concentrations of it.

More than 10 percent of the University population has significant problems with allergies, which can hamper their abilities to study or even go to class during the pollen

season.

There are, however, certain ways to avoid or lessen the effects of allergies, Jackson says.

The first solution is simply avoidance. Jackson says that it may be best to just stay inside and keep the window closed on warm sunny days.

If this does not sound appealing, there are many over-the-counter antihistamines, such as Chlor Trimeton and Actifed, that may alleviate some allergy symptoms, Jackson says.

The Health Center also can supply prescription medications. Allergy injections sometimes are recommended for severe allergy sufferers to build up their sensitivity to certain pollens, but Jackson says this is a long-term process taking anywhere from three to six months to complete.

Jackson says that for most people this may only be a temporary problem because grass seed concentrations tend to level off in July, reducing allergy symptoms.

Graphic by Shawn Bird

Camp and conference visitors help keep the University alive

By Andrea Skufca
Of the Emerald

The more than 7,600 hundred people who will attend conferences and sports camps this summer will do more than learn a new skill or gain some new ideas — they will help subsidize student housing costs for next year, said Matt Schermerhorn, University conference manager.

In addition, the influx of tourists and students helps area businesses maintain hours and revenues during the summer months.

"For every \$100,000 we bring in during the summer, we reduce student room-and-board fees 3 percent each year," said Schermerhorn, who predicts the University housing department will gross between \$650,000 to \$700,000, which is down from last year's \$800,000 gross.

By providing housing, food, meeting and catering services, the housing department brings in between \$8,000 and \$15,000 each conference, Schermerhorn said, adding that those figures do not reflect EMU food sales and catering revenues.

Duane Partain, EMU food service director, said the EMU caters a variety of receptions once or twice a week during the summer mon-

ths, but with the significant decrease in visiting groups, food services will decrease this summer.

"Last year, there was about three times the activity going on on campus," Partain said. "Because there are far fewer athletic conferences, there are far fewer events that affect us significantly."

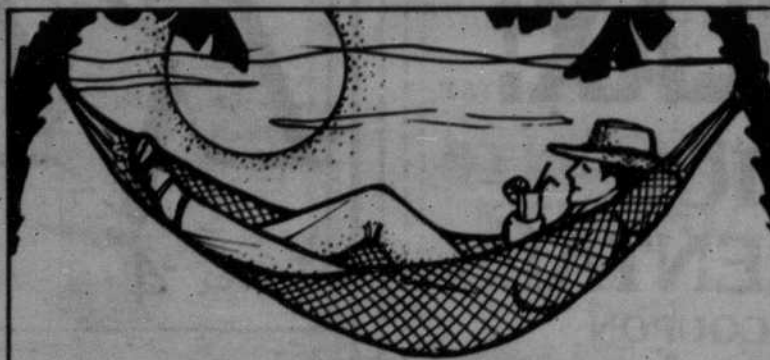
"On the average, we've been doing a little better each year," Schermerhorn said.

University Bookstore Operations Manager Judi Johnson agrees the influx of visitors to the bookstore was greater last summer, due to larger conferences and events. Johnson added that it is the increase of tourism and conference-goers who keep the bookstore open during the summer.

Both Johnson and Partain admitted that business from visitors also affects staffing at the bookstore and EMU.

"We're not anticipating anything large this summer, but during larger conferences, we have to hire more cashiers," Johnson said.

Partain said that without the activity from visiting groups in excess of summer school students, the EMU would have to let even more employees go than they normally do when school concludes in the spring.



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