

Grant will aid efforts against substance abuse

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

The University's Campus Organization for a Substance Abuse Free Environment (COSAFE) has joined the fight against drug and alcohol abuse with help from a two-year federal grant.

A \$93,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to COSAFE, a 36-member campus organization, will help in changing "the social acceptance of drug and alcohol abuse on the University campus," Acting Dean of Students Jane DeGidio said.

COSAFE, an organization composed of faculty, staff and students committed to creating a "substance abuse-free environment," has been on campus since 1986. But with the new grant, the group now has been designated as the University's umbrella substance abuse prevention program, DeGidio said.

According to a report released last April by the Dean of Students Office, since March 1986, six students have died in incidents directly related to substance abuse.

The report also stated that 84 students who visited the Student Health Center in winter 1987 alone were diagnosed as suffering from substance abuse problems.

In addition, 16 percent of all students who visited the University's Counseling Center during the 1987-88 fall and winter quarters, or 651 students, cited substance abuse as their main problem, the report stated.

To address the growing problem, COSAFE is attacking the University's substance abuse

program also come into play, she said.

COSAFE has examined and made changes in the school's alcohol and drug policy, and conducted a drug use survey of University students. The results of the survey will be used to determine overall campus attitudes toward drug and alcohol use — an important step in determining the needs of the campus and types of programs that can meet those needs.

The COSAFE grant, received from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Educa-

"hit and miss" quality of the substance abuse policies implemented in college campuses throughout the nation results from a lack of information and guidance.

"We are throwing millions of dollars away on good-faith efforts and programs that we think work," wrote Gerardo Gonzalez, associate professor of counseling at the University of Florida, in the Nov. 9 article. "Little research is available on what actually works and under what circumstances. The irony is that we are research institutions — with no research on alcohol and drug abuse among college students."

COSAFE is gradually bringing about changes in the campus' outlook toward drug and alcohol abuse, said Joanie Robertson, training and prevention coordinator for the dean of students office.

It also is increasing people's awareness of the problem and encourages them to communicate with one another, especially when devising a campus-wide "wellness" program, Robertson said.

Robertson added that al-

though a foolproof plan to conquer the substance abuse problem has not been found, the first tentative steps on this campus already have been taken in the founding of COSAFE and its attempts to decrease social acceptance of drug use and increase students' sense of responsibility to maintain a substance abuse-free community.

'We are throwing millions of dollars away on good-faith efforts and programs that we think work'

—Gerardo Gonzalez

problem from all angles and soliciting help from students and faculty members to aid its effort, DeGidio said.

Although the educational and prevention aspect of the COSAFE program is stressed strongly, other aspects of the

tion, really is a "prevention grant," DeGidio said. "It enables us to try different things in an attempt to find out what works."

According to an article published in The Chronicle of Higher Education, much of the



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Group to host video night

MEETINGS

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship invites students

Et als

To a "Second Day of School Book and Video Night" tonight. Meet at the visitors' parking lot across from Oregon Hall tonight at 7 to walk to 1953 Garden Ave. together. For more information, call Bill at 345-8090.

LECTURES

Don Luce, director of the Asia Resource Center, will report on "Vietnam and the Environment: The Aftermath of War" today at noon in the EMU Forum Room. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Southeast Asian Studies program, Survival Center, the International Studies Program and Clergy and Laity Concerned.

MISCELLANEOUS

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once unless the event occurs before noon. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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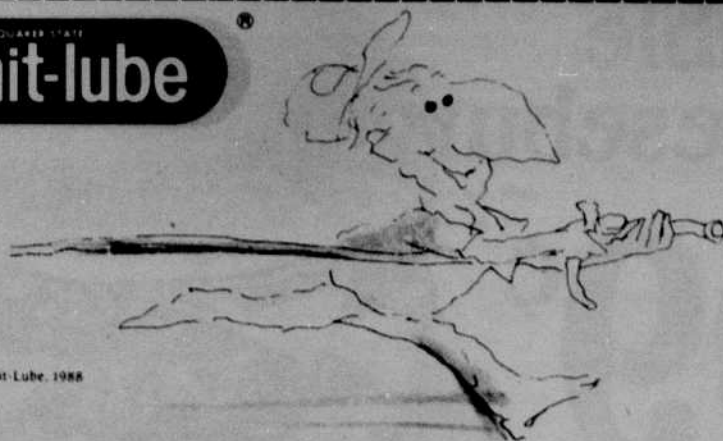
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