

# Conference examines social impact of illegal drugs

By Greg Hough  
Emerald Reporter

How drug policies affect governments and businesses, and what might be done to improve such policies, will be a prominent theme of "Dealing With Drugs," a two-day conference scheduled for today and Saturday.

More than 175 University students have enrolled in the conference, said human services Associate Professor Kenneth Viegas, whose department is co-sponsoring the event.

**'I think it'll make drug problems and drug prevalence worse in younger age groups, age groups in which no one really believes drug use is healthy or responsible.'**

**-Dave Frohnmayer**

Four sessions will be held during the conference. Three concurrent sessions are scheduled today: "Drugs And The Workplace," "Drugs And The Law," and "Drugs And Crime." The fourth session,

"The Drug Business," will take place Saturday.

"In this conference, we're not dealing with education in depth, or the treatment of addiction," Viegas said. "We try to focus on the (drug) business, which means that we have more representation from law enforcement, some from corrections, and judicial interests, both prosecution and defense positions."

State Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer and 14 other presenters will speak at the conference. Speakers include Univer-

sity Professors David Schuman and Steven Hecker, Springfield Police Captain Jerry Smith, and Nancy Pemberton, an assistant federal public defender in San Francisco.

Pemberton, a member of the

Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California, represents indigent defendants charged with federal crimes, many of whom are accused of committing drug offenses. She will be among the busiest at the conference, giving two presentations and participating in a "dialogue" session with Frohnmayer.

"I was asked to speak representing the position of the ACLU, which is that drugs ought to be decriminalized," Pemberton said. "And I will take the position that they ought to, in great part because the criminalization of drugs, and the amounts of money we have spent in trying to combat drug use with stricter penalties and law enforcement, is a bankrupt policy."

"Although (the government) has increased the amount of cocaine seized by the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), from 1.7 tons in 1981 to 70 tons in 1987, during that same time the price of cocaine went from about \$50,000 a kilogram to \$15. All told, I don't think the 'war on drugs' is working — I think that it attacks a symptom and not a cause," Pemberton

said.

Pemberton said drug abuse is linked most strongly with economic depravity, and the federal government "is doing nothing to address that. Our economic policies over the last eight years, if anything, have increased the problem."

Frohnmayer will speak at the conference on drug legislation pending before the Oregon State Legislature. He said the Legislature is currently considering "seven or eight" drug-regulation bills.

"I don't think that decriminalization will work," Frohnmayer said. "I think it'll make drug problems and drug prevalence worse in younger age groups, age groups in which no one really believes drug use is healthy or responsible."

"We know that the American economy loses \$100 billion a year in lost productivity time from industrial accidents," he said. "We know that we are paying an enormous amount of money in social services to drug-dependent families. We know that a significant amount of our crime problem is driven by drugs. Drugs aren't bad because they're illegal, they're illegal because they're bad for



Dave Frohnmayer

you."

All conference sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Eugene's Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Hwy., said Betsy Lane of Eugene's Quality Conferences Ltd., which is also sponsoring the event.

Enrollment for the sessions is still being accepted through the human services office in Hendricks Hall.

## Animal rights group meets today

MEETINGS

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals meets today at 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room E. All those planning to

**Et als**

participate in Wold Laboratory Animal Liberation Week are encouraged to attend.

Bahai Association meets today at 3:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room D.

LECTURES

"Future of Lesbian and Gay Legal Rights" is the title of a lecture by lawyer, speaker and activist Mary Dunlap tonight at 8 in Law Room 129.

MISCELLANEOUS

International Coffee Hour is at 4 p.m. today in the EMU International Lounge.

United Methodist Campus Ministry goes on retreat at Odell Lake on Friday and Saturday. There will be no meeting on Sunday.


Fourth Annual Riverfront Park Picnic is Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. between the Autzen Stadium Footbridge and the University campus. There will be food, music, ultimate Frisbee and more.

John Muir Day Rally and March begins at noon in the EMU Courtyard. Following presentations from musicians and speakers, participants will march to downtown Eugene to call for a more sustainable man-

agement of Old Growth and protection of the spotted owl.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run the day of the event unless the event occurs before noon. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style.

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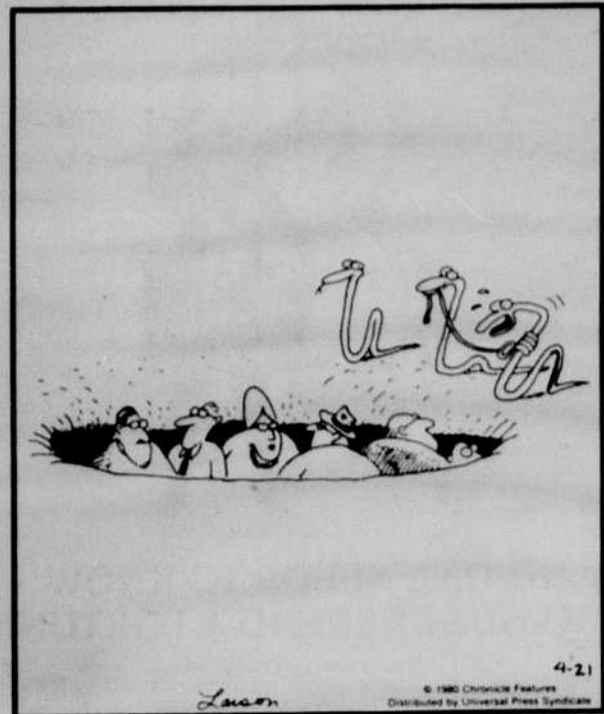
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**THE FAR SIDE**

By GARY LARSON



"No! No! Not that! Not the pit!"

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TRIPLES VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

DATE: May 7th, 1989  
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1. Complete the Application.
2. Bring Application and \$30.00 Entry Fee (make checks payable to Ullr Ski Shop) to Ullr Ski Shop 1640 W. 7th. Entry must be in by May 1st.
3. Pick up Team Packets Saturday May 6th between 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. at Ullr Ski Shop.
4. The Tournament will be limited to 25 Teams and will be First Come First Serve.