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MEChA urges Brand to join grape boycott

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

More than 300,000 agricultural farmers are poisoned every year because of the toxic pesticides used on crops, including grapes, according to a film shown to MEChA members and University President Myles Brand on Tuesday.

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student union, voiced their concerns about poisonous pesticides used on grapes and urged Brand to support the removal of grapes from campus.

These pesticides have had long term effects on the workers. One-third of the pesticides used cause cancer. Some of the pregnant women who worked in the fields had children with birth defects. Other workers have died simply because of direct poisoning, according to the film *The Wrath of Grapes*, produced by the United Farm Workers.

"We want to make sure he's aware of the problem and that he's going to support it," said Eddie Beanes, MEChA director.

MEChA is asking the University to ban all commercially produced grapes, including table grapes from California, said Shelli Romero, co-director of MEChA.

Currently the University food services, including dormitories and catering services, are using

Chilean grapes because California grapes are off-season.

MEChA is concerned with what happens when the season changes and Chilean grapes are no longer available. Beanes said.

"While California grapes are the main focus we are also concerned with other countries such as Chile who furnish grapes when the grapes provided by California are in the off-season," Romero said.

"We want to make sure these grapes are not sprayed with pesticides as well as the California grapes," Romero said.

Romero challenged the University to at least put the grapes through a test to make sure they are not contaminated.

MEChA recommends that either organically grown grapes be used or other fruit substitutes, Beanes said.

"Organic grapes are perfectly safe," he said.

The United Farm Workers have been trying to ban the use of five highly toxic pesticides in the agricultural area since the 1960's. Their main target has been grapes because it is the most dangerous crop. Over eight million pounds of pesticides are used on grapes a year, according to the film.

Currently all but one of the pesticides have been banned.

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Photo by Mark Ylen

Students lining up at the University Student Health Center for shots to prevent hepatitis.

Hepatitis-A alert sounded

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

About 1,300 students who ate in the Carson Hall dining room last week may have come in contact with hepatitis-A because of an employee who was infected with the virus.

The Student Health Center confirmed Monday through a blood test that an employee working in the dining hall had hepatitis-A, which is the most common type of hepatitis, said Dr. James Jackson, health center director.

In response to this discovery, the health center is offering free gamma globulin injections for those students who might have come in contact with the hepatitis virus while eating at the Carson Hall dining room.

Jackson said the chance of exposure to students who ate in Carson Hall between Jan. 18 and Jan. 28 is minimal because of the good hygiene practices employed in the dining facility.

The employee was wearing gloves and using good personal

hygiene, but there is a small chance that food handled by the employee, especially the salad bar, was contaminated, he said.

The hepatitis-A virus is characterized by nausea, fever, loss of appetite and excessive fatigue.

Stan Petrusek, manager of environmental health for the Lane County Health and Human Service Division, said the risk of exposure is small enough that

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Program creates faculty positions

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

A buying power of \$2.1 million from the matching of private gifts by the state's new Endowment for Excellence Program is resulting in the creation or enhancement of three faculty positions in the humanities and social sciences.

Thomas Brady, a University history professor, has been named as the first President's Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and The Carlton and Wilberta Savage Visiting Chair in International Relations has been expanded, announced Donald Van Houten, dean of the college of Arts and Sciences, Tuesday.

A new distinguished professorship in Russian Literature, Language and Culture has also been created, Van Houten said.

Brady, a specialist in late medieval and early modern European history, has been with the University since 1967.

Brady said he is honored to be named to the position and had special thanks for former university president Paul Olum for the role he played in creating the position.

"I am particularly grateful to Paul Olum," Brady said. "This is an honor for both historians and students."

It was Olum who, when Brady was contemplating leaving for Emory University in Atlanta, convinced him to stay by promising to appoint Brady to a chair.

"I thought it over and decided to stay," Brady said. "What was particularly attractive was that there was no endowment to raise my salary, the en-

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Walking the Dogs

Peter Bach and his two dogs, six-year-old Ted and seven-month-old Foster enjoying a walk in the rain Tuesday afternoon. The wet weather is expected to last a short while longer.

Photo by Mark Ylen