

State should pay for student measles shots

Given a recent outbreak of measles at a local high school, it would not be surprising to see a similar occurrence here at the University.

Measles has disrupted West Eugene's Willamette High School in many unpleasant ways. The first case was reported Feb. 10, and since then 14 others have come down with the highly contagious disease. The most recent case was reported Tuesday, and the outbreak is far from over.

Not only were those students affected, but the antibodies of all but five of the school's varsity basketball team were found to be deficient. Games had to be rescheduled, and it looks as if the outbreak could affect spring sports as well.

If an outbreak of measles has disrupted a 950-student school such as Willamette, consider the effects of a measles epidemic at the University, with students cramped together in classrooms and dorms. A large measles outbreak undoubtedly would disrupt the University and could also be dangerous. One in 10 measles patients develops complications, such as inflammation of the lining of the brain.

Getting immunized as soon as possible would definitely be a good idea, especially when one considers that many students have not been immunized since their grade school days.

The price of the shot averages about \$22 at the Student Health Center, \$28 for a combination shot for measles, mumps and rubella. Unlike the free shot given for the hepatitis scare in Carson Hall earlier this month — the gamma globulin shot was provided by the state — the health center is providing the measles vaccine on its own.

The price of the vaccine is somewhat disappointing. The health center is not at fault for this and is providing the vaccine at only slightly above cost. It is unfortunate, however, that the state is not providing these shots free of charge to students as well.

We encourage all students who can pay for the shots to get them, but we hope the state will soon see fit to pay for immunizing its students to thwart what could be a nasty scene in the University's residence halls and classrooms. The University has taken the precaution of requiring all new students arriving in the fall to have proof of immunization; perhaps it could go a step further and pay for the shots itself.



Optimism wanes as Senate eyes clean air

After being nudged by President George Bush, the Senate is preparing to consider new clean air legislation for the first time in 12 years. And where there was once optimism and excitement over proposals that offered much cleaner skies for the 21st century, there is now concern.

Presently, Senate leaders and members of the Bush administration are meeting behind closed doors to negotiate specific parts of the clean air bill. On Wednesday, environmental officials from 13 states, including California and New York — the two states with the worst air problems — and Oregon, accused the negotiators of stripping away provisions of the bill to substantially weaken it.

Some of the provisions that might not make the final proposed legislation include tougher tailpipe controls — which officials say are necessary to curb auto emissions in Los Angeles and New York, but administration and industry representatives say are too expensive — and restrictions on smaller in-

dustries that environmental officials say produce up to 60 percent of industrially produced smog.

Tampering with the clean air proposal is not the only dirty work going on in the Senate right now. There are fears that a filibuster is in the works to kill the whole clean air act. Such a filibuster would likely be successful, too; Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine) is having a hard time tallying the 60 votes necessary for cloture to end a senatorial stall.

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group says that it doesn't appear that our state's two senators, Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, can be counted among the 60 that would vote to end a filibuster. One should expect Oregon senators to stand on the side of environmental consciousness.

They need to fight any filibuster that would kill the new clean air act. And more importantly, they — and their counterparts in the Senate — need to approve a non-emasculated version of the bill.

Letters

Truths

Eric Eckman: You need to learn not to try to speak of things of which you have no knowledge (ODE, Feb. 16). Sexual orientation is not a matter of personal choice; it is an inborn part of one's nature, as inherent as all the other things that make up a personality.

Just because you can't imagine having feelings like that doesn't mean everyone else is like you and doesn't have them either. You cannot speak for someone else's experience.

I have heard of the so-called "truths" you cite that gay people have an inferior record as spies, and I'm sure they are only fabrications. It reminds me of the "scientific facts" people used to use to justify discrimination against people of color. Like race and gender, whether one is gay or not has nothing to do with the quality of job they can do.

You are saying that it is OK for anyone to discriminate against anyone else for any reasons that please them. Hitler thought that, too. So do the leaders of South Africa.

But hate does not make the world go round. And everyone

should have the right to walk the earth and live without this discrimination. It is sad that this still has to be said at the dawning of the 21st century.

Sue Simonich
English

Dog phobia

I am outraged that the Lane County Animal Regulation will resume patrols of campus. The purpose of these patrols is to squeeze revenue out of citizens, to perpetuate dog phobia and to feed a bureaucratic machine.

Leash laws are the result of fascist, dog-phobic ideology which assumes all dogs to be untrained and dangerous. Dog catchers look for opportunities to find people. Would it not be more effective to provide public education and train people to train their dogs?

This is not to say we don't need dog catchers. In the case of a rabid dog who is eviscerating students, their expertise would be appreciated. It is true that Animal Control often reunites lost dogs with their humans. Ironically, many of these "lost dogs" were abducted by dog catchers while tied to a

tree.

Campus is an excellent place for dogs. There are few cars and lots of grass. Of course if everybody brought their dog we might have a problem — but they don't. My dog has never killed a squirrel, a cat or a child. Many people love dogs and the sight of a dog actually brightens their day.

Although we are confronted with many problems on campus which need policing, dogs are not one of them. Women cannot walk on campus at night without fear. The riverfront is a toxic waste dump. Every day bicycles are stolen. Jaywalking is rampant. Many people should be confined to leashes. Many dogs deserve more freedom.

Bob Neustadt
Romance languages GTF
O.J. Cooper
Dog

Misogyny

Barbara Rodgers complains about the "See Dick" AIDS t-shirt in the ASUO office (ODE, Feb. 16). I have to admit, when I first saw it, I, too, thought of "Pat" as a woman's name.

However, I think that her feelings that someone has a misogynic attitude have blinded her to the true implications of the shirt's message.

Yes, "Pat" is gender-nonspecific, and for good reason. If you will look at the shirt again, "Pat" is not shown — only his/her actions with Dick (doing "something" in the back seat of a car). This is done to cover the broadest possible range.

It does not matter whether "Pat" is male or female. The message is that Dick is being promiscuous, and therefore putting both himself and his partners (whoever they may be)

at risk of AIDS and other assorted diseases.

There was a letter a while back coining the term "homophobia-phobia: the fear that everything is homo-phobic." I think that your view is similar, and thereby introduces "misogynophobia: the fear that something is meant to be harmful/hateful to women." Some people suffer from this, and look for misogyny everywhere; such an attitude is no more valid than searching for Freudian symbology in the cream cheese labels at Safeway.

James Drew
Computer Science

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.