

Hot weather means allergy relief needed

By Sarah Clark
Oregon Daily Emerald

The beautiful spring weather in Eugene last week brought smiles to many faces.

And made some people sneeze.

Warm, dry weather signals plants to release pollen in the air — pollen that will eventually land on other plants and fertilize them.

But when pollen lands in people's bodies, disaster can occur.

About one-fifth of the population carries the gene that causes hay fever, said Dr. Robert Jones, a Eugene allergist.

The gene makes their systems produce antibodies that react with the pollen. When the reaction occurs, their bodies release inflammatory chemicals such as histamine.

The chemicals cause the sneezing, itchy eyes and exhaustion hay fever is famous for.

Right now, trees such as cottonwoods and elders are creating most of the pollen, Jones said.

Allergists say the real problem is just beginning — grass has just started to bloom.

According to the Oregon Seed

Council, about 400,000 acres of grass seed are planted in the Willamette Valley each year.

As the seeds bloom, they release pollen into the air. The wind blows the pollen south, right into Eugene, where it's trapped by foothills to the south and mountains to the east and west.

This makes Eugene a particularly miserable area for hay fever sufferers. Pollen counts of 75 particles per cubic meter are considered high; last year counts in Eugene rose above 1,000, Jones said.

Last week, pollen counts were low — about 25 particles per cubic meter, Jones said.

As pollen counts rise, more people will start showing symptoms. And those who have already been sneezing will become even more sensitive to pollen, said Dr. Richard Buck, an allergist who works at the Student Health Center.

Whether this hay fever season will be worse than last year depends on the weather, allergists say.

Allergists say the best way to minimize misery is to stay indoors with the windows shut.

STREETWISE

QUESTION:

Will you transfer to the University of Wisconsin if Myles Brand gets a job there?

"I'm graduating this year, but hypothetically, let's just say where Myles goes, I go."



PAUL HEINTZ
senior, political science

"Probably not. Wisconsin is too cold even with Myles' warm heart."



PETER WONACOTT
graduate, asian studies

"I don't think so. The winters are too cold, and Myles and I have a deep, caring relationship that can stand long distances."



GAYLE FORMAN
sophomore, journalism

"No way. There are so many wonderful people in Oregon. Myles is one wonderful person."



RONISUE LEE
senior, interdiscp. studies

"I think he is a pretty good administrator, but it would take a lot more than Myles to make me change my life situation."



SHARYLYN TENORI
senior, japanese

"No, I really don't care about Wisconsin, and I'm sick of cheese."



STEVE CATHERWOOD
freshman, undecided

Women still face battle for equal rights, professor says

By Nann Alleman
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Equal opportunity for women in the workplace requires facing up to the problem of sexual harassment, a Notre Dame professor of philosophy and peace studies said Friday.

The problem is rooted in the unequal distribution of economic power, said

James P. Sterba, a guest speaker for a Humanities Center symposium titled "Justice: Race, Class and Gender."

Sterba said as many as 50 percent of the women in the labor force have suffered from some form of sexual harassment.

"Many find themselves in a double bind. If they fight, they could lose their jobs. If they don't fight," he said, "they

could lose their self-respect."

Employers also lose out if they ignore harassment problems, he said.

Sterba said businesses pay the price because productivity levels of harassment victims tend to drop significantly.

Paying for stressed employees who take medical leave is also costly, as is replacing them if they quit, he said.

Changes in the distribution of econom-

ic power could help to rectify the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace, Sterba said.

Sterba said women need to have equal access to jobs with equal pay.

On the global scale, a United Nations report revealed that women are responsible for 66 percent of all of the work produced, paid and unpaid, yet they receive only 10 percent of the salaries, he said.

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