

Potential measles epidemic narrowly stopped

Disease: Sixteen students were exposed while attending a conference at Western Washington University

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

A potential measles epidemic was narrowly averted this week when 16 University students attending a conference at Western Washington University were exposed to the infectious virus.

The students, most of whom are resident assistants who attended a leadership confer-

ence last weekend, provided the University's Student Health Center with official proof of vaccinations, said Judy Moffett, the center's nursing director.

"By having the measles program in place, we have averted what could have been an incredible disaster," Moffett said.

The University requires every student who has enrolled after fall 1990 to provide proof of receiving two measles shots, the necessary vaccine amount.

Entering students have one term to comply with the University's requirement before the Office of the Registrar administers a block on students' regis-

tration for the following term.

"This reinforces why we have to be so strict in our requirements," Moffett said. In serious cases, measles — an acute and communicable disease — can be fatal, she said.

At Western Washington University, the discovery of eight measles cases since Feb. 14 has prompted the administration to close the campus to non-students and non-faculty members.

Twelve university music events are closed to the public until March 9. Additionally, the Office of Admissions has canceled all events that would bring prospective students to the cam-

pus, including twice-daily campus tours, according to a press release.

Whatcom County Public Health authorities are requiring vaccinations for all Western Washington University students, staff and faculty born on or after Jan. 1, 1957, who have not had the two shots.

To be effective, two measles shots are necessary. Typically, the first shot is given to children after their first year, and the following shot after one month. However, one can receive the second shot — which vaccinates against measles, mumps and rubella — at any time.

Most students have had at least their first measles shot, said Virginia Sands, a nurse and measles specialist at the University of Oregon's Student Health Center. However, if they received their first shots before the age of one, they are not effective, she said.

Students who haven't had their second measles shots are at great risk of contracting the disease, Sands said.

The vaccine is available at the health center for \$6 and no appointment is necessary. For more information, call Sands at 346-2764.



Lance E. Vieu, 25, of Dexter was killed after a Lane Transit District bus struck his VW station wagon and spun it into a traffic light support on the corner of 13th Avenue and Willamette Street. Witnesses said that the car entered the intersection under a red light. The LTD driver and all seven passengers aboard were unhurt.

Dexter man dies after bus strikes car on East 13th

Collision: Several witnesses say the Volkswagen station wagon ran a red light

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

A 25-year-old Dexter man died Wednesday when his car collided with a Lane Transit District bus at the intersection of East 13th Avenue and Willamette Street.

Lance E. Vieu was driving a red 1966 Volkswagen station wagon traveling eastbound on East 13th Avenue, said Tim Birr, a spokesman for the Eugene police department.

As Vieu's car entered the intersection, it was struck by the southbound No. 34 Bailey Hill bus.

"Several witnesses told police that the vehicle entered the intersection under a red light," Birr said.

The driver of the bus, 61-year-old Gordon Smith, told investigators that he "broad-sided" the Volkswagen as it went through the intersection.

The impact caused the Volkswagen to spin around and come to rest against a utility pole on the southeast corner of the intersection, Birr said.

When firefighters arrived on the scene they found Vieu, who was apparently not wearing a seat belt, partially out of the driver side door.

Lottery ballot measure might fund education

Schools: If the measure passes, 15 percent of lottery profits will be placed in an endowment for schools

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

A plan to set aside Oregon Lottery money for an education trust fund passed in the Senate Wednesday and is now headed for the ballot this spring.

The measure also would ask voters to change the state constitution to make it clear that lottery revenue can be used for schools.

Legislative leaders and Gov. John Kitzhaber have set May 16 for submitting the lottery-for-schools package to a vote.

Before the plan can go to voters, the House and Senate must agree on a final version of HJR15.

Originally the House had

said the measure would ask voters to allow lottery dollars to go to schools.

The Senate addition said that 15 percent of lottery profits would be placed in an endowment fund, which would collect interest for school programs and college scholarships.

The proposal grew out of a campaign idea from Gov. John Kitzhaber. But Kitzhaber is unsure of how he stands on the additions that would require an amendment to the Constitution, said Jon Coney, a spokesman for Kitzhaber.

"It's kind of murky right now really where we are on this part of the issue," Coney said.

Kitzhaber had wanted the trust fund issue to be separate from the lottery-for-schools ballot measure. But he will campaign for voter approval of the measure even with Senate president Gordon Smith's pro-

posal attached.

Smith estimates his measure would require setting aside about \$100 million in lottery money in 1997-99 and generate \$5 million in interest earnings for school programs and scholarships, according to the Associated Press.

Those numbers would only grow as more lottery revenue and money from other sources is added to the fund in future years, he said.

"It's a whole new principle for government, that we're going to save for the future," Smith said.

Some Senate Democrats opposed Smith's plan.

Sen. Pete Sorenson, D-Eugene, voted against the proposal because he was concerned by the use of the constitution in the plan, said Ron Schlittler, a spokesman from Sorenson's office.

"It's really denigrating the basic document of the state," Schlittler said.

Other Democrats said that while the trust fund is a nice idea, there are pressing budget needs that need to be addressed now before any thought can be given to setting aside lottery dollars for future education needs, according to AP.

"When your children are malnourished, you don't put your money into a savings account; you buy food," said Sen. Bill Bradbury of Bandon. "Until we can feed our children, it doesn't make sense to eat 15 percent of the lottery."

Smith and other Republicans argued, though, that the Legislature will always be faced with more budget demands than it has resources to handle.

"There will never be a good time to begin saving, unless you have the courage to do it now," Smith said. "This body will always be short of money."

■ GOOD MORNING

► NORDMAN, Idaho (AP) — Don't expect it to be an Olympic medal event anytime soon.

But in this northern Idaho town, the prospect of curing late-winter cabin fever is reason enough to justify downhill "boat-ing."

With varying degrees of control, more than 50 crash helmet-clad competitors navigated their watercraft-cum-bobsleds down snowy slopes in Monday's third annual Priest Lake International Downhill Boat Race.

About 250 came to watch the event at a hill behind the community church.

"Why do it? Because it's stupid and we're suffering from cabin fever," explained racer Don Yasen.

Racers gathered at a starting line marked by cherry-flavored gelatin dessert powder poured across the snow.

They ran alongside canoes, fishing boats and skiffs, hopped in and then steered toward the finish at the bottom of the hill.