

Virus alert affects University

Samantha Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

The recent hepatitis A alert sent many University students who had been exposed to the virus scurrying to the student health center and the Lane County Health Department to receive immunizations against the virus.

After an employee of a Eugene Red Robin restaurant tested positive for hepatitis A, the Lane County Public Health Department issued a public hepatitis A alert.

Amy Craddick, a sophomore, said she went to the Lane County Health Department to receive her immunization.

"I was annoyed that I had to take time out of my day to go get this shot," Craddick said.

When asked whether this recent scare would affect her patronage of Red Robin and other such establishments, Craddick said that for the time being she wouldn't be eating there, but would probably return to the restaurant later on.

Matt Williams, a junior, said he had a blood test to check his liver for the virus because he had missed the two-week period when an immunization against hepatitis A could still be effective in preventing the virus. The results were negative.

Williams recalled a feeling of "apprehension," when he realized he had been exposed to the virus.

"I wasn't exactly sure what it was," he said. "I just knew it was bad."

Williams also said that this recent incident would not affect his choice of eating establishments in the future.

Sandy Mowrer, the clinical services supervisor at the Lane County Health Department, said the virus can be spread by such simple contact as sharing a cigarette with someone who was exposed.

"One of the best ways to deal with this is to pay attention to your own personal hygiene," Mowrer said.

Mowrer said hepatitis A should not be confused with hepatitis B. Hepatitis A is transmitted from fecal to oral contact through contaminated water and food. Hepatitis B is spread through blood and other bodily fluids. Hepatitis A has a relatively fast appearance and symptoms may show between 20 to 40 days after the exposure.

The student health center received approximately 300 immunization doses from the Michigan State Public Health



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

A nurse at the Health Center prepares a shot for Hepatitis. After a Red Robin employee tested positive, there was a Hepatitis alert issued.

Department last Friday, said Heather Wilson, pharmacy manager of the student health center.

Wilson said that the student health center had heard by word of mouth last fall that Michigan was a supplier for the immunization.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, director of the student health center, said the health center had also received 120 doses from a local Safeway pharmacy as of last Friday. Prior to the shipment, the center had approximately 50 doses on hand which were immediately used up.

Fleischli said that because the effectiveness of the immunization declines two weeks from the time of exposure, students who miss this two-week deadline will have to "wait it out" in terms of letting the virus run its natural course.

Common symptoms of being infected with hepatitis A include loss of appetite, lack of

energy, achiness, feverishness and jaundice (yellow skin color). A small fraction of people die from hepatitis A, Fleischli said.

The Lane County Health Department received approximately 500 doses from the Michigan State Health Department last week. Prior to the Red Robin incident, the Lane County health department had 50 doses of the immunization, called gamma globulin, in stock.

Scott Collins, spokesman for Red Robin, said he was "very thankful that no one else has become ill."

Collins also said that Red Robin had set up a system for direct billing from the student health center to Red Robin to cover charges for the immunizations.

There have been 250 reported cases of hepatitis A in Lane County so far this year, Mowrer said.

WUNDERLAND
5th STREET PUBLIC MARKET
683-8464
VIDEO ADVENTURE
VALLEY RIVER PLAZA

15% Student Discount
IHOP
Good only at these locations:
Broadway • Gateway
345-9976 • 747-1024
Must present UO or LCC student I.D.
Not valid with other discounts.
Valid for I.D. holder only.

JOHN HENRY'S
BEER • MUSIC • ARTS
342 - 3358
136 E. 11th • Eugene, OR.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY
FREE POOL
Every day until 9 p.m.
Sunday & Monday all day
Pinball & FREE Foosball
Smokers Welcome
See our concert schedule in Friday's Entertainment section

Summer Duck Call is Coming May 1!
Are you Ready?

Last Chance to See
An extraordinary CD-ROM about one of the most mysterious planets—our own.

After years of writing about life on other planets, novelist Douglas Adams teamed up with zoologist Mark Carwardine to investigate life on this one. Traveling to remote corners of the globe, they visited endangered species studying the animals' imperiled status and the efforts being made to protect them. Wildly funny and deeply poignant, this two CD-ROM set gives an intimate view of some of the rarest and most intriguing inhabitants of Planet Earth.

Microcomputer Support Center
202 Computing Center • 346-4402
Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM
e-mail: mpp@oregon

Advertise in Oregon Daily Emerald Classifieds! Call 346-4343!

SHUMBA
Come dance to the sound of marimba!
Monday, May 1, 8 p.m.
No cover
Pounder Night
Every Thursday Night
FIELDS
1290 Oak St.
341-6599

TIRED OF HOWLING AT YOUR COMPUTER?
NEED HELP WITH:
• Diagnosis
• Repair
• Installation
• Hardware/Software Configuration
• Communications

Let us help get your computer working productively for you.
CALL USER FRIENDLY AT 942-1324