

# Chicken pox vaccination available in health center

Mara Stine  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The first chicken pox vaccine to be developed is now available to University students in the Student Health Center.

Varivax was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in March and was available at the University May 1, said Judy Moffett, nursing director of the health center.

Chicken pox is a viral infection characterized by a rash of red, itchy blisters.

For \$100, a student receives two doses of the vaccine with the second one to be

given one month after the first, Moffett said.

The vaccine has proven 80 percent effective in preventing chicken pox, she said.

"Twenty percent of those vaccinated might get the disease but it will be milder," she said.

Moffett said most University students have already had chicken pox, and won't need to be vaccinated.

About six cases a year are diagnosed at the health center, said Gerald Fleischli, director and physician for the health center.

He also said international students seem to get infected more often than domestic students.

"It does seem like a greater proportion of the cases that we see are with international students," he said. "It may be that it is not as common a disease overseas."

Moffett said chicken pox are one of the most highly communicable childhood infections so very few teens, young adults and adults come to the University without catching it, she said.

The vaccine is most useful for children but can benefit adults who haven't had chicken pox and are going to be in situa-

tions where they may be exposed to it.

Students who haven't had chicken pox and plan on working with children in day-care centers or schools should be vaccinated, she said.

Fleischli agreed and said the disease appears to be worse for adults.

Because the vaccine is so expensive, the health center is looking into costs of a blood test that determines whether a person has had the disease. However, if the blood test costs more to administer than the vaccine, it would be cheaper to get the vaccination, Fleischli said.

# Humanitarians released after nine weeks of captivity

PORTLAND (AP) — Rita Knapp worried that her son, Jonathan, was placing himself in danger by going to Bosnia with the humanitarian group Pharmacists Without Borders.

"He said, 'Mother, don't worry, they're not going to send us where there's fighting,'" the Portland woman said of her 37-year-old son, the youngest of her four children. "But the need for medical supplies in Sarajevo is critical."

On March 4, Jonathan Knapp and four supply drivers for the French-based relief organization took a wrong turn at the Sarajevo airport and were taken prisoner by the Serbs.

His parents got the news three days later.

Her first reaction, Mrs. Knapp said, was fear for her son's safety: "When one doesn't know what is happening, those kinds of worries surface."

Held captive for nine weeks, Jonathan Knapp, the convoy leader, and his four French colleagues finally were released May 11 after the relief group agreed to pay \$36,230 ransom demanded by the Serbs.

The Knapps said French officials and the World Council of Churches aided in arranging the release. U.S. officials never were allowed to see the men, Mrs. Knapp said.

For the first five days, Knapp was isolated from his French colleagues and interrogated four times.

"We were told at one point that they offered to let the Frenchmen go and keep Jonathan," Mrs. Knapp said.

"The Pharmacists told them at the beginning there would be no bargaining on that score."

Adding toward the Serbs' animosity toward Americans, she said, there was suspicion when they heard that Knapp was the son of a minister.

"The Serbs got word that he was a minister's son," Mrs. Knapp said. "They thought he was the son of a government official. That would have been a real prize for them."

The Rev. Charles Knapp is a minister in the United Church of Christ (Congregational).

After five days, a former employee of the French foreign ministry was allowed to see the five men.

"Jonathan said everything changed after that. There was no more interrogation. They were given special diets, they were treated much differently," she said.

The men were allowed to send and receive letters, but she said she sometimes found it hard to write to her son.

"I sat down to the typewriter several times and I felt like I was bone-dry. I felt like drivel, insignificant things, were inappropriate," she said.

There was wistful quality to some of her son's letters, but he didn't sound depressed, she said.

"He couldn't afford to be," she said. "This was his crew and he had to stay up for them."

His letters described their conversations, the food they ate, their accommodations and their surroundings, she said.

"He described the daffodils poking through the ground and the two heavy snowstorms they had, and seeing fields that were turned, but he couldn't tell what was being planted there."

"He said the countryside seemed very much like the Northwest in its beauty, and he said it was sad [that because of the war] the people could not enjoy it the way we in the Northwest enjoy our scenery," she said.

During the Knapps' ordeal, they kept in touch with the U.S. State Department, Amnesty International and the Carter Center in hopes of help for their son.

Two of the former U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Ben Weir and Terry Anderson, offered their help and support, Mrs. Knapp said.

The Knapps felt they had to provide the same support for their son.

"I don't know so much as it's faith, but that it's hope," she said. "We had to believe everything positive was going to happen."

"Whether you call it prayer or whatever you call it, I believe that those things get through to people who are in troubled places."

This week, the Knapps said, their son was back in France attending to business. They waited to hear more about his schedule and upcoming visit.

"Within a couple of weeks he'll be home, but we don't know when," Charles Knapp said. "We've had some nice conversations with him, but it would be nice to see him and touch him, too."

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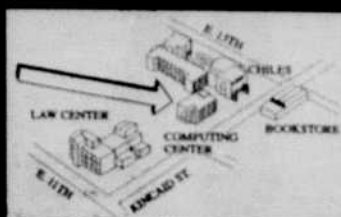
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