

Hepatitis

Continued from Page 1

of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, dark urine and jaundice or yellow coloring of the skin and eyes. Unlike hepatitis A, the symptoms appear more gradually, and it is possible for a person to remain infected for a lifetime.

The number of hepatitis B reported cases are up from 34 in 1997 to 52 as of Sept. 30 for Lane County. The Lane County Health and Human Services attributes this rise to an increasing number of infected patients using intravenous drugs.

Approximately 300,000 Americans contract hepatitis B each year, according to the American

Social Health Association. Of all the reported cases, approximately 75 percent of the people are between 15-39 years-old, according to the ACHA. Because there is no cure for HBV, the health center recommends the three-shot immunization, which takes place during a six-month period. For students ages 19 and under, the shots are \$6 apiece, and for students 20 and over, they are \$31 each.

"It is such a serious disease. It is like, 'Why wouldn't you get it?'" said Sharon Harbert, registered nurse at the Student Health Center.

The ACHA recommends all college students get the hepatitis

B vaccination. This virus is so prevalent that it is standard regulation that all newborns be immunized before they leave the hospital, Harbert said.

Many people are at risk and are unaware of it. One-third of those infected have no identifiable risk factors and do not know how they contracted hepatitis B, according to the ACHA.

Practicing safer sex, not using injectable drugs and avoiding exposure to blood or other bodily fluids will reduce your risk.

Hepatitis A also has serious implications for students. The hepatitis A virus is a highly contagious virus that can be contracted by eating or drinking

something that has been contaminated with stool or blood of an infected person. As of Sept. 30, there were 91 reported case in Lane County for 1998, almost double from the 48 in 1997.

Symptoms of hepatitis A are similar to those of B; however, their onset is slightly different. Typically, the older the patient, the more severe the symptoms. Symptoms may last about four weeks, but up to 20 percent of the affected persons show symptoms for up to 15 months and some may need to be hospitalized, according to the health center.

Hepatitis A can cause severe liver damage and possibly death. The percentages of deaths are seven times greater in people older than 40 years and younger than 14 years, according to 1989 data provided from the health center.

HAV used to be a concern primarily for people traveling to under-developed areas of the world, where it is endemic. However, there have been a high number of cases reported in the Eugene area, said Dr. Gerald Fleischli, health center director.

According to the Lane County Health and Human Services Division, the high number of cases of HAV is primarily attributed to the high number of transient persons in the population. Quite frequently, transmission of the virus is more frequent because of low levels of cleanliness. However, the number of hepatitis A cases are not confined to the Lane County area.

When it comes to the number of reported cases of HAV, "Oregon is consistently above the national average," said Dr. William E. Keene, epidemiologist of the Oregon Health Division. He also said the West Coast in general is also higher than the average. Being in an area of high incidence puts the population at a greater risk of contracting the virus, Keene said, but there is no determined reason why Oregon and the West Coast have such a high number of cases.

For protection, there are two vaccines available for hepatitis A, which students can get at the health center. In addition to get-

Risky behaviors

Hepatitis A

Traveling to developing countries where hepatitis A virus is common
Eating contaminated food either prepared by an infected person or using contaminated water

Having vaginal, oral or anal sexual contact with an infected person
Using silverware, cups or glasses that an infected person has touched with unwashed hands

Making contact with stool of an infected person and neglecting to wash your hands

Sharing food with an infected person or drinking water contaminated with sewage

Hepatitis B

Having unprotected sex
Having multiple sex partners
Sharing needles

Potentially from having contact with needles for tattoos, acupuncture or piercing

Having close, frequent contact with the blood, semen, vaginal secretions or saliva of infected persons

Where to call

University Student Health Center:
346-4441

Sacred Heart Medical Center:
686-7300

SOURCE: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Health Center

ting vaccinated, other steps may help to slightly reduce the risk of contracting HAV.

Cleanliness, such as washing hands regularly to prevent passing fecal matter, is recommended by the Oregon Health Division. The health center recommends that students contact them when making plans to travel outside the United States.

According to the health center and other experts, vaccination is the safest way for students to protect themselves from both viruses.

Sarah Skidmore covers the health center, counseling center, alumni association, AAA school and the business school for the Emerald. She can be reached via e-mail at sskidm@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Are you a Eugene Water & Electric Board customer ?

Do you use an electric heating system ?

Keep The Heat

with

FREE

weatherization

Income Eligibility Guidelines

# in Household	Annual Income*
1	\$16,680
2	\$19,080
3	\$21,420
4	\$23,820
5	\$25,740
6	\$27,660
7	\$31,063
8	\$34,563

* Some portions of your income may be deductible, enabling you to qualify.

If you answered yes to the questions above, you may qualify for free weatherization services that will help your home hold the heat and save you money. Whether you own or rent your house, apartment or mobile home you can get comfortable now.

Call EWEB's Energy Management Services:
484-1125



This program is sponsored by Eugene Water & Electric Board, Bonneville Power Administration and the Housing Authority and Community Services Agency of Lane County.

Want A Challenge?

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Start your career off on the right foot by enrolling in the Air Force Officer Training School. There you will become a commissioned officer in just 12 weeks. From the start you'll enjoy great pay, complete medical and dental care, 30 days of vacation each year,



www.airforce.com

plus the opportunity to travel and see the world. To discover how high a career in the Air Force can take you, call 1-800-423-USAF, or visit our website at www.airforce.com

Oregon Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

NEWSROOM — 346-5511

Editor in chief: Ryan Frank
Managing Editor: Laura Cadiz
Community: Mike Hines, editor.
David Ryan, Felicity Ayles
Entertainment: Mike Burnham, editor.
Amy Boytz
Higher Education: Teri Meeuwesen, editor.
Sarah Skidmore, Tricia Schwennesen
In-depth: Nicole Garton, Eric Collins
Perspective: Jonas Allen, Kameron Cole, editors.
Amy Goldhammer, Stefanie Knowlton, Vince Medeiros, Ashley Bach, columnists.

Giovanni Salimena, Chris Hutchinson, illustrators
Student Activities: Kristina Rudinskas, editor.
Laura Baker, Peter Breaden
Sports: Joel Hood, editor, Rob Moseley, asst. editor.
Tim Pyle, Scott Pesznecker, Allison Ross
Copy Desk: Sarah Kickler, copy chief.
Rich Dirks, Leah Faltus, Stephen Palermi, Jennifer Shinen
News Art: Matt Garton, editor.
Katie Nesse, Cara Strazzo, graphic designers.
Amanda Cowan, Matt Hankins, Laura Goss, Nick Medley, photographers.
Scott Barnett, Kristen Sullivan, photo technicians.

On-line: Jake Ortman, editor.
Broc Nelson
Freelance: Holly Sanders, editor.

ADVERTISING — 346-3712

Becky Merchant, director. **Rachelle Bowden,** Leighanne Cyboron, Brian Diamond, Dan Hageman, Doug Hentges, Andrew Lakefish, Amy Ruppert, Erick Schiess, Emily Wallace.

CLASSIFIEDS — 346-4343

Trina Shanaman, manager. **Corri Jimenez,** Kate Lamb, **Debbie Levy,** Angela McGrath

BUSINESS — 346-5512

General Manager: Judy Rieul
Business: Kathy Carbone, business supervisor. **Judy Connolly,** receptionist.
Distribution: John Long, Charles Scholes, Katsuyuki Hirose

PRODUCTION — 346-4381

Michele Ross, manager. **Tara Sloan,** coordinator. **Joselyn Bickford,** Nicole Garton, Laura Lucas, Katie Nesse, **Brandt Nelson,** Broc Nelson