

Dial-a-nurse services offer 24-hour medical advice

Students in need of free medical advice have several options available

By G. Jaros
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If it involves a knife sticking out of someone's head, don't call — you want 911.

But for non-emergencies and free medical advice, call any of the three 24-hour dial-a-nurse services in the Eugene-Springfield area. Services are offered through the Student Health Center, Sacred Heart Medical Center and McKenzie-Willamette Hospital.

Nurses don't make diagnoses and they can't tell you what medicines can be mixed together. That is the job of a doctor or pharmacist. What they can do is assess how urgent seeing a doctor is and what comfort measures can be taken in the meantime.

The majority of calls to the care

centers are about fevers, flu, diarrhea, headaches, nausea and vomiting, chest pain, STDs and birth control.

"We get a lot of calls about birth control," said Pam Fix, urgent care nurse at the Student Health Center.

Although many of the questions are the same, answers can depend on which center is called. This is especially true if the question involves what can be done when last night's love making led to a broken condom, and the call is to find out if anything can be done to avoid pregnancy.

At Sacred Heart's "Ask-A-Nurse," the answer is black and white.

"We must say we have no information on that topic," said a registered nurse with 30 years experience who wasn't allowed to give her name.

The reason they have no information is because they are a

Catholic hospital that doesn't support abortion, which would include the morning after pill, the nurse said.

If you call the health center's



"Nurse Line" they will inform you of that pill. It is basically a strong concentration of birth control pills that stops the egg from being fertilized.

At McKenzie-Willamette, they do not have a nurse line per se, but anyone who calls with questions is transferred to a triage nurse. They also can talk about avoiding an unwanted pregnancy by using the day after pill or by taking a number of birth control pills at once. For any exact amount, be sure to call and speak

24-hour dial-a-nurse services:

- Student Health Center's "Nurse Line": 346-2770 (If Health Center is closed, press 1. Hours are: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat.; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun).
- Sacred Heart's "ASK-A-NURSE": 686-7000
- McKenzie-Willamette Hospital: 726-4400

to a licensed nurse.

All the dial-a-nurse services mentioned are staffed by licensed nurses with years of experience.

Calls made to the health center during business hours are answered by a nurse. When the health center is closed, calls are transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The staff at Harborview do a couple of things, said Judy Moffett, nursing direc-

tor at the Student Health Center.

When a girl who had already been assessed medically for a head injury was home alone and worried, a nurse at Harborview called her every couple of hours to check on her.

"When a person identifies themselves as a student, any advice given is then faxed to [the health center] early the next morning," Moffett said. If there's something on there that needs to be followed up, then someone at the health center will contact the student if they haven't already contacted them, Moffett said.

All three dial-a-nurse services hope more people will call and take advantage of the free service.

They also want people to know that they can be a referral service for different resources, including mental health, nutritionists, poison control, child abuse and local agencies such as White Bird and Women's Services.

Election

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the ballot was unconstitutional, and that Sturges' extension of the deadline for submission of ballot measure wordings violated elections rules.

In its written decision, the court clarified some questions that mired the election in controversy.

On the question of whether the ASUO Executive had the right to call the election, the court wrote, "... we find constitutional amendments in a special election are proper where such amendments are 'consistent with the best interest of the student body.'"

The court went on to say, "The special elections ballot may not include any ballot measure which affects the funding commitment of the ASUO."

"We understand that the initial purpose of the present special election was to amend the constitution. However, we find the placement of measures affecting funding could be extremely detrimental to the student body."

The ASUO Executive expressed mixed feelings about the decision in a written statement released Saturday. The statement said that while the

court has the power to make this decision, it has misused its power.

"By ruling that the ASUO Executive is prohibited from holding a special election for the purpose of funding student programs, it has placed a brick wall in the path of student action," the statement said. "Special elections should be used sparingly but should be flexible to deal with situations that would warrant a special election."

The statement also asserted that there is nothing in the ASUO Constitution that prohibits funding measures from being on a special election ballot.

But Austin said the court set a strong example.

"The court set up a binding precedent for the future," he said. "Even if a special election is called in the future, money measures cannot be placed on the ballot."

The court also will allow the measures that were initially approved for the special election to automatically appear on the election ballot in April.

These already-approved measures will, if passed by voters in the regular election, give increased funding to the

Designated Driver Shuttle and allot an increase in student fee money to the Family Co-op Center at Spencer View.

The question of the legality of Sturges' decision to extend the ballot measure deadline was also dealt with by the court.

The majority of the court justices found that a deadline extension is permitted if it is done in a fair and impartial manner. Although the court did not find that the ASUO Executive — under whose authority the elections coordinator works — acted with malice, it did find the extension biased.

"We are ... troubled by the fact that the extension deadline was neither fair nor impartial," the court wrote. "The two measures that were supposed to benefit from the extension, Duck Web and OSPIRG, were sponsored by the ASUO President."

However, Sturges said she felt relieved at the court's decision regarding deadlines.

"I'm just glad they realized that the deadlines are mine to change," she said.

She said she was pleased that a decision has been made that could pos-

sibly lead to a change in the grievance process, but the late decision of the court makes the special election and spring election difficult to organize.

Sturges must wait for the results of the measure that would amend the elections grievance process before she can put together the election packet for the spring ASUO Elections.

ASUO candidates must wait for Sturges to finish the election packet before submitting their ballot measures. Once they have submitted their ballot measures, their wordings must be approved by the Constitution Court.

"It is almost physically impossible to hold a spring election," Sturges said. "As of now, if a ballot measure gets denied by Constitution Court, the chances are poor of it getting resubmitted and approved in time to be on the ballot."

Because of the time crunch for the spring elections, Sturges said she was forced to run a smaller special election this time to get the ball rolling. Facility Services requires four days to set up the poll booths for the election, so she was forced to have the stand in front of the ASUO office.

Calendar of events

Monday, March 1

■ Alaska Rainforest Campaign Slide Show, 12 p.m. in EMU room 37. The show is sponsored by the Outdoor Program. Call the 346-4365 for more information.

■ A Zero Tolerance Rally to end hate crimes will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the EMU amphitheater. The event was organized by the ASUO.



Spring registration begins
Thursday • March 11th
10am

Offering non-credit
art workshops for
students, faculty
staff and the community.

Fibers
Painting
Drawing
Attained Glass
Bike Repair

Jewelry
Ceramics
Woodworking
Photography
And more...

Schedules available now at the Craft Center

Located on the Ground floor of the EMU • 346-4361
craftcenter.uoregon.edu

EMU Erb Memorial Union

free entertainment

Friday • March 5th
9-10pm
DRIVE

Saturday • March 6th
9-10pm
Chuck Messinger



emufoods.uoregon.edu



clubsports.uoregon.edu

Men's Rugby

UO vs. OSU
Saturday • March 6th
12n-3pm • Southbank Field

Women's Rugby

UO vs. Central Washington
Sunday • March 7th
1pm-5pm • Southbank Field

Returns, discontinued items, excess inventory, used rental gear and other deals will be flying at this unique gathering of Eugene's most popular outdoor gear stores! These folks are here to get rid of stock at bargain prices. For more information, call 346-4365.

Some of the participating stores: Anderson's Sporting Goods • Beyond Clothing • Berg's Ski Shop
Blue Heron Bikes • Boardsports • Cycle-Bi • Eugene Skin Divers • Footwise • McKenzie Outfitters
Sports Play It Again Sports • River Runner Supply • REI • Seaports Dive Center



OUTDOOR STORE GARAGE SALE

outdoorprogram.uoregon.edu

Tuesday
March 2nd
7:30pm • Free
EMU Ballroom