







**Diabetes** 

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Diabetes is a disease caused by a deficiency of insulin, a hormone secreted from the pancreas. About 16 million Americans have dia-betes, but of these only about 10 million have been diagnosed. Diabetes increases the risk of blindness, kidney failure, amputations and cardiovascular disease.

A health center diabetes team made up of health center physicians, pharmacists, nurses and Olmos began meeting during spring term and came up with the idea for the student group, she

Another goal of this group is to provide a network for newly diagnosed diabetic students, said Julie Norton, health center pharmacy

"There's so many issues in college that are complicated by having to manage a chronic disease," Norton said.

Students are finding the group to be a valuable resource.

'I like making that connection and having peers that I can talk to," said Nicole Long, a secondyear interior architecture major.

Long is collecting signatures as part of The Petition for a Cure, an effort of the American Diabetes Association to gather 1 million signatures in support of a cure for the disease. The signatures will be presented to Congress in March 2000, she said.

Diabetes is a costly disease. Diabetics require daily injections of insulin to keep their blood sugar at normal levels.

"Taking proper care of yourself is a huge financial burden," Boone said. "I have to buy insulin, syringes, blood glucose testing supplies and glucose tablets."

A bottle of insulin costs about \$20 at a retail pharmacy. The same bottle costs \$11.50 at the

health center pharmacy, he said. The health center pharmacy is a member of a multi-state buying group. It gets discounts because it is a government agency and passes the savings to students.

The next Students With Dia-

betes group meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Nov. 18 in the health cen-

November is National Diabetes Awareness month. There will be free diabetes screenings in the lobby in front of the EMU Fishbowl from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov.

## Senate

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Virgamini served on the Constitution Court before, but resigned based on personal reasons that he would not discuss, which concerned some of the senators.

In a prepared statement for the senate, Virgamini said he felt that a degree of maturity and integrity are more important than his past personal decisions.

Sen. Scott Kolwitz agreed and said, "Virgamini has been both highly critical of our questions and his own answers, and that's why I approve of his confirmation."

The senate decided not to ap-

prove the EMU budget increase, or benchmark, of 5.3 percent for the 2000-2001 academic year until they have more information on specifically how and why the EMU is spending its funds.

If approved in the weeks to come, the benchmark will be covered by an increase in the student incidental fee, raising it from \$58.18 to \$60.89 per student per

The Student Senate is the legislative branch of the ASUO and handles financial issues regarding student programs. The senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday night in the EMU Board Room, third floor. All students can attend these meetings.



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