

Calendar

Thursday, April 12

Kid's Craft Club: Kids of all ages learn to make cool projects. This month's topic is "Bouquet of Spring," with butterflies and blossoms. An adult must accompany children under 6. 4:30 p.m. Children's Department, UO Bookstore, 895 E. 13th Ave. Free. For information, call Doreen Degenhardt, 346-4331 Ext. 236.

Visiting Artist Lecture: Artist and jeweler Sondra Sherman, Rhode Island College of Art and Design, discusses "On & Off the Body." 7 p.m. Room 115, Lawrence Hall. Free. For information, call 346-3610.

News brief

Sorority members may be suffering from Norwalk virus

The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority is working with the Lane County Health Department to find out what has caused several house members to fall ill with similar symptoms in the past few days. An e-mail sent to many Greek house presidents Tuesday morning said a few women were constantly vomiting, and that two women were taken to the hospital.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, director of the University Health Center, said the department suspects the Norwalk virus to be the culprit, but there was no proof as of press time.

No reports have been made that the virus has appeared anywhere other than the sorority house, Fleischli said.

"It's all under control," said Katie

Prendergast, Kappa Kappa Gamma president. "There's nothing that's life threatening."

The most visible symptoms of the Norwalk virus are diarrhea and vomiting, and the sickness can last between two and four days, Fleischli said.

If the case is severe, the person may need to be treated with hydration, Fleischli said. But unless the person has other significant medical complications, the situation does not usually escalate further.

The Norwalk virus is transmitted by the "fecal-oral" route, Fleischli said. That means if people do not wash their hands after going to the bathroom and then they eat, prepare food, or shake hands with other people, they could be spreading the virus.

"So the big message for people is wash their hands before they eat, before they prepare food and after they go to the bathroom," Fleischli said.

Financial aid

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Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., initiated the law with the hope of deterring students from using drugs, identifying abusers who need treatment and holding students responsible for taxpayers' money.

But critics have said the rule unjustly targets lower-income students — by penalizing them twice, first with the drug conviction and second with the loss of aid — and minorities, who studies show are disproportionately convicted of drug crimes.

The law has been the motivation for universities joining Students for a Sensible Drug Policy. In the last few years, the group's membership has jumped from two to about 80 chapters across the nation. SSDP aims to fight civil injustices that it says arise from the country's war on drugs.

Shawn Heller, national president for SSDP, said the law is unfair not only because it punishes students in addition to fines they incur, but also because only poor students — who need the aid for college — lose an opportunity at an education.

"If wealthy people who don't need aid get a drug conviction, they won't lose money for their education," he said.

Marisa Garcia, a student at California State University in Fullerton, knows how damaging the loss of aid can be when someone is not in the wealthy class.

After police found a pipe with traces of marijuana in her car, Garcia not only paid a \$415 fine, but the amount of financial aid she received dropped. As a child of a single mother with more than one

child in college, the drop proved devastating, she said. The sophomore sociology major had to work longer hours at a floral shop while taking classes at the same time to compensate for the loss.

"It was really hard," she said. "My mother thought I might have to drop out ... I didn't know what I was going to have to do."

David Borden, executive director for the Drug Reform Coordination Network, added that the provision only addresses drug crimes.

"You can kill or rape someone and still receive financial aid," he said. "That may be the most absurd part about this."

Angela Flood, chief of staff for Rep. Souder, said that if members of Congress want to add other crimes to the provision they can. But Souder is primarily concerned with drugs because he is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources.

One of the largest complaints about the law is a concern for its potential for racial discrimination. While only 13 percent of the population is black, almost 55 percent of drug convictions include blacks, according to the Office of National Drug Policy. Borden said this disparity proves racial profiling is still a large problem. He added that the drug provision pushes this discrimination onto the education system.

Flood pointed out that the provision does not mean anyone convicted of a drug felony automatically loses all federal funding. Depending on the offense, funding can be partially decreased, and those who lose all their aid can regain eligibility by getting drug

abuse treatment.

"If you're committed to your education, you'll get back on track as quickly as possible to regain eligibility," she said.

But Borden said this part of the provision is not sensible because people who need money for aid probably cannot afford treatment and most likely do not have a drug problem anyway.

"A lot of people with drug convictions don't have drug problems," he said. "This just takes up treatment lots that are already scarce."

Flood mentioned that Souder has traveled to many countries, especially in South America, trying to help stop the flow of drugs to the United States. On his visits, he has been told many times that there would not be such a supply unless there was a high demand.

Flood said that Souder introduced the provision as a way to help stop drug use, especially among college students who experiment with drugs and think it is OK. She added that students on aid are using taxpayers' money and should be held accountable.

"This directly challenges drug use as a common practice," she said. "And if you know you're going to lose aid, you hopefully won't do drugs."

But Heller argued that the drug provision is ultimately unfair and won't stop students from using drugs. Rather, it will worsen the situation.

"The heightening of the war on drugs has gotten the attention of students," he said. "Now it's serving as a roadblock to education, which we view as the solution to so many social problems."

surrounding labor and trademark licensing.

Adopted during the board's Feb. 16 meeting, the policy requires all schools in the Oregon University System to conduct business in "a straightforward and politically impartial manner," making it illegal for Oregon's universities to become full members of monitoring groups such as the WRC and FLA.

Greg McLauchlan, an associate professor of sociology, said "it was a sad day in higher education" when a university is required to step back from organizations that he said offer some of the only truly accurate accounts of human rights abuses in international factories. He said it should be every university's mission to rely on unbiased sources of information for intellectual discussion, and that the board's policy prevents that flow of ideas.

Other senators said the policy defeated the spirit of student activism that helped keep the issue of human rights abuse on the campus agenda.

"The net effect of how the story unfolded is negative," said Randall

McGowen, a history professor who also called the board's policy "a legal smokescreen."

He said faculty members should implement the ad hoc committee's recommendation to ensure that the student movement does not become forgotten.

Margaret Hallock, faculty director for the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, said she remains optimistic about working on human rights issues despite the board's decision.

"There is still much we can do under the [Oregon University System] policy," she said.

By staying in touch with monitoring organizations and continuing to look at the various issues around human rights, Hallock said the University will be able to maintain in active voice in the debate.

Other senators echoed opinion that the University need not take a defeatist or victimized stance.

Senators will vote on the committee's report, which was introduced as a motion, at their next meeting in May.

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Senate

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He said the one point all members of the committee agreed on was that the University should encourage the collaboration of research and education on human rights in the global economy.

"We envision the creation of a center for the study of global rights," Frank said.

Many senators supported the motion, which was tabled to be voted on at the next meeting, and also expressed their dismay and frustration at the state board's policy.

University President Dave Frohnmayer attended the senate meeting and said afterward that the administration wholeheartedly supports the intent of the ad hoc committee's recommendation, but said it was far too early to guess at the plan's specifics.

"We will embrace the spirit of the recommendation," he said.

Frohnmayer also added that the board's policy "doesn't do anything to stifle" active debate on the issues