

News brief

Health Center reports first case of influenza

The University Health Center reported its first confirmed case of influenza last week.

According to nursing director Anne Mattson, a student visited the Health Center on Thursday and was

diagnosed with influenza — one of the first cases in Lane County.

Mattson was careful to point out that this was only a single case and that no outbreaks have been reported in Lane County this season. She also noted that the Health Center had received its entire shipment of flu vaccine and is now giving vaccinations to all who want them.

Mattson said that with the lack of

sleep, increased stress levels and poor dietary habits that often accompany finals, many students are at a higher risk for contracting the flu than they otherwise would be.

"(Vaccinations) are a nice preventative measure and a good way to make sure students won't be sick over the break," she said. "It's a nice time to get the vaccine."

—Leon Tovey

Santa

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I've been asked for (a Civil War victory)," he said.

He said on one particular day, five boys between the ages of five and seven approached Santa with their gift lists.

"After they gave me their lists, I'd look at them and say, 'If you had the chance to trade the gifts on your list for a Civil War victory, which would you take?'" he said.

All five of them said they wanted the football win before the toys.

"Duck blood runs through here very thickly," he said.

"Santa" said he comes in contact with a lot of young people who have Ducks quarterback Joey Harrington as their hero.

"One of the boys had to be called Joey when he was here," he said. "This college really affects the entire town."

Duck fans and Duck students alike visit "Santa." He said he was

visited by half a dozen college-age students one day in November.

"I love it," he said. "I always ask them what their majors are and how they're doing. It's great."

Sophomore Kasie Kudrewicz went to see "Santa" two weeks ago because she said she doesn't feel too old.

"It was fun," Kudrewicz said. "I'm going to be him when I grow up."

Emerald features reporter Marcus Hathcock can be reached at marcushathcock@dailyemerald.com.

Online

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ers shouldn't be a concern for online consumers, but just something to keep in mind, she said.

"Unless you're buying bomb supplies, you're not going to be affected," she said.

The mall habit

Though online shopping has the benefit of convenience and selection, some students still would rather brave the busy malls this December.

Senior psychology major Andy Jones said he enjoys the in-person experience.

"I like going to the mall — especially this time of year," Jones said.

While Lowe said he isn't opposed to shopping online, he also prefers shopping in person for holi-

day gifts.

"I like to buy things I can actually touch," Lowe said.

Sullivan said although she has been satisfied with the books and clothing she has bought online, people should use their own eyes to select holiday gifts.

"With going to the mall, you can see what you're buying before you get it," Sullivan said. "In a picture (on a Web site) everything looks great — but when you get (the product), it may not look as good."

Jones said online shopping is only useful for those people who have their gift lists set in stone.

"I might use online shopping for holiday gifts if I knew what I was going to buy," Jones said. "I just have an easier time going out and looking (in person) for gifts."

Meeske said that in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, some

people may be less likely to frequent crowded shopping centers.

"Online shopping is incredibly convenient," Meeske said. "You don't have to drive around or do all that crap you'd have to do in the stores."

No matter where individuals spend their money this holiday season — at the mall or on the Internet — Meeske said e-commerce has returned, and predicted it will only continue to grow.

"When all the dot-coms started dropping out, it looked pretty bad for e-commerce," Meeske said. "We saw it smoldering a year ago, but like a phoenix it's rising from the flames. I think we're going to see continued massive growth in e-commerce."

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