

Drugs

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which could be more.

In looking at drug incidents reported to the Student Judicial Affairs program, which receives a substantially higher number of incidents than DPS because of its jurisdiction over the residence halls, Director Chris Loschiavo said the frequency of reports is relatively consistent year-round. However, annual statistics have varied in the past three years.

During the 1999-2000 academic year, the University charged 346 students with violations of possession, growing or selling and distributing marijuana, according to Student Judicial Affairs numbers. The number dropped dramatically the following year with 184 possessions, three growing and two selling charges in 2000-01. The next year, these numbers rose again with 280 possessions, seven selling and no growing reports in 2001-02. During fall and winter terms this year, 181 students were charged with possession, one with growing and none with selling.

Considering that annual statistics

vary and the majority of incidents occur in the residence halls, some might suggest the numbers depend on each incoming class, but one pot aficionado said the inexperience of users causes numbers to skew.

"The only ones that get caught are the peeps buying little dub sacks, the rookies," said a local pot smoker, occasional dealer and University student, who spoke with the Emerald on the condition of anonymity. "DPS doesn't have a clue about what really goes on."

Possession aside, DPS has also received seven reports of drug paraphernalia since September, which Hicks said does not necessarily indicate an issued citation.

"A student can possess a pipe," he said, "but unless a residue is found, it is not considered an offense." Besides marijuana-related reports, Hicks said only two of the 73 incidents involved mushrooms and one involved methamphetamines.

Frowning on everything but "the chron," the dealer said he isn't surprised that marijuana is so popular in Eugene — much of it in the area is super potent and grown outdoors, which he says customers

seem to prefer.

"Herb is natural, from the ground," he said. "It's just like wine."

Despite what he called unfounded rumors of certain times of year being "harvest seasons" in Eugene, Loschiavo said he does not expect to see an increase in the remainder of the term. He added the majority of dealing charges are issued in the fall and winter.

In her experience at the University, Residence Life Director Sandy Schoonover said there typically has been an increase in drug-related incidents in spring. She said it's likely that not all incidents will occur in the residence halls as the weather gets warmer.

"People want to be out in the sunshine," she said.

The dealer said a harvest is upcoming, but Eugeneans can expect a better quality "product" in the next few weeks rather than a rise in the actual quantity of weed.

"Because marijuana is illegal, its circulation will always be unstable," he said. "But experienced people will know when to get the dank shit."

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

Today's crossword solution

F	L	O	P	R	E	V	S	P	I	T	A	S	
A	I	N	T	A	L	O	E	A	D	U	L	T	
R	E	T	A	L	I	A	T	E	G	E	N	O	
E	G	O	I	N	T	E	R	P	O	S	I	N	G
R	E	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	E	D	S	E	E
O	N	O	T	A	P								
S	H	A	W	A	M	O	R	S	A	G	A	S	
A	U	D	I	T	H	R	O	B	T	O	G	A	
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				G	A	P			N	T	H		
A	D	O	K	E	P	T	A	N	E	Y	E	O	N
M	A	C	H	I	N	E	R	I	E	S	A	R	E
I	N	C	A	N	L	A	S	T	S	T	R	A	W
S	T	U	N	G	T	I	L	E	A	N	T	E	
H	E	R	D	S	S	L	E	D	U	S	E	R	

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Immigrants

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committed certain crimes. Even non-citizens who commit crimes such as shoplifting can be detained after they are sentenced, so long as their crime results in a jail term of one year or more.

In the court's opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist refuted critics' claims that the 1996 law is too harsh, writing, "Congress adopted this provision against a backdrop of wholesale failure by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to deal with increasing rates of criminal activities by aliens."

But local immigration lawyers oppose that line of reasoning, arguing that immigrants are being treated unfairly by the judicial system, an occurrence that many people believe is becoming more commonplace in post-Sept. 11 America.

Raquel Hecht, a Eugene immigration lawyer, said a large number of her clients will be affected by Tuesday's decision, significantly impairing her ability to argue their cases. She added the court's decision will lead to the fragmentation of families, as family members convicted of minor crimes are hurriedly deported and the routes available to protest their removal start to disappear.

"I think (the court's decision) is going to limit the constitutional rights of long-term immigrants," she said.

Four justices seem to agree with Hecht.

Justice David Souter, along with Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Paul Stevens, dissented from the majority's opinion, criticizing the court's official decision and reasoning.

"Due process calls for an individual determination before someone is locked away," Souter wrote, adding that lawful, permanent residents often build strong ties to America and aspire to become full-fledged citizens.

"This case is not about the national government's undisputed power to detain aliens in order to avoid flight or prevent danger to the community," Souter stated. "The issue is whether that power may be exercised by detaining a still lawful permanent resident alien when there is no reason for it and no way to challenge it."

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