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DRUGS

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2002, Hicks said.

Despite the more than three-fold increase in drug violations, DPS has cited a smaller percentage of students than EPD did the prior year. This year, DPS cited 36 percent of students caught with drugs, with the remaining receiving referrals to judicial affairs. In 2002 EPD cited 38 percent of drug offenders caught on campus.

"The biggest increase this year to last year has been in drug offenses," Hicks said at the meeting.

For that same period, alcohol violations rose only 15 percent. This year, 45 students were caught with alcohol violations, compared to 39 last year.

Hicks explained that it's difficult to compare last year's numbers with this year's because last year DPS was unable to issue citations. Also, he pointed out that three-quarters of people cited for alcohol violations this year were cited at the Civil War game. Next year's Civil War game will be held at Oregon State University, however.

DPS officer Jed McGuire said the numbers are up this year because of an increase in violations, not patrolling officers.

"I've dealt with more people with more dope than in the past," he said. "If anybody has any idea why — maybe there's just a great harvest this year — I don't know why."

McGuire said the great majority of students caught are underclassmen and said that many of them are experimenting during their first term or their first term back at the University.

Hicks said most of the people who received citations had been contacted by officers two or three times before for drug violations. Also, many of them were not cooperative, he said.



Tim Bobosky Photographer

On Thursday, DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks told the Public Safety Advisory Group drug violations have increased significantly.

"I wonder if this big (Atkins Diet) increase is pushing people away from beer," ASUO Student Legal Services Director Ilona Koleszar said, drawing laughter from many people in the room.

Also, DPS cited two people for littering and two for urinating in public. Both cases of public urination occurred at the Civil War game, but Hicks said he was unable to say whether those cited were Beaver fans or students at all.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Saturday

U-Lindy swing dance, 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., EMU Fir Room. Beginning swing dance lesson at 7 pm. The Stolen Apple Trad Band, a seven-piece traditional jazz and swing band featuring University music students, is playing from 8 p.m. - 10:30pm. All ages, no partner necessary. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public.

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