

Letter to Editor:

Reader favors legalizing pot

The article "Health care going to pot" Jan. 15, was concerned that legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes for a few in pain would endanger the many that would use it illegally for recreation.

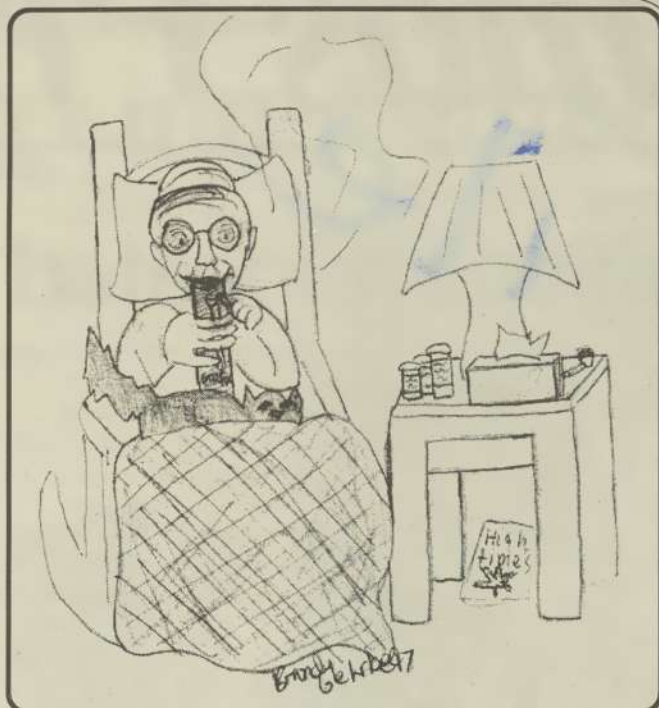
I fail to see the logic of withholding one proven medicinal herb from sick and dying patients because some choose to abuse it. Following that logic, are we to withdraw nitrous oxide (laughing gas) from dental patients, cortisone (some do abuse steroids) treatment for sports injuries, or various drugs for mental disorders?

Doctors and pharmacist are so regulated that I don't see how prescribing marijuana is going to benefit the criminal element that traffics in it. Being a controlled substance would make it nearly impossible to get without a prescription.

As far as legalizing it for medicinal uses making it look attractive to kids? Ah, come on, what's attractive about taking your grandma's medicine?

Esther Esson
Unworried mother of three kids

(Editor's Note: Unless letters to the editor are signed, they will not be considered for publication.)



NEWS BRIEFS

ChanneLight performs at art museum

Bill Briare and his eclectic folk group ChanneLight will appear at the Oregon City Art Museum on 606 John Adams Street in Oregon City at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1.

The group will play a wide assortment of instruments and feature songs with roots in many styles of world music.

Special guests include Jan Anderson and Loren Ford of No Strings Attached. This is a free show for all ages. For information call ext. 2457.

Do you suffer from math anxiety?

The Focus on Women program is offering a free lunch and learn session, "Getting Past Math Anxiety," on Feb. 4.

An exploration of your feelings about math and what you can do to decrease the negative feelings will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Gregory Forum.

Register for WKS 1-03. You may call ext. 2310 for more information.

Women's group to hold book discussion

Join other women to share a common-read book and discuss what each participant is reading and recommends.

Bring your lunch to the discussion from noon to 1 p.m., in Barlow 108, on Feb. 5.

Register now for WKS 1-02. For more information on the free session call ext. 2268.

Horticulture therapist to speak on gardening

Join Teresia Hazen, a horticulture therapist for Legacy Health System, at an Aging Issues Forum from 10 a.m. to noon in CC127 on Tuesday, Feb. 4. She will speak about using gardening and horticulture activities to promote awareness of seasonal changes, problem solving, conversation and reminiscing awareness.

The session is free and open to the public. For more information, call ext. 2456.

Tax course offered

With taxes just around the corner, now is the perfect time to brush up on preparing those tax returns. Learn the basics of preparing a simple income tax return at a free information session from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Jan. 30, at the college's Family Resource Center.

The overview includes what is needed to complete a short federal and state return.

The class will also discuss the earned income credit and the child care credit, who qualifies and how such items are computed.

For those interested register for WKS 5-01 or call ext. 2268 for more information.

Discussion centers on current events

Join the college's Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program today and discuss the "Current State of the Church." The morning session, "The Church at the End of the 20th Century," will be presented by Susan Russell.

The second of the three-part series on current events will be held in the afternoon session. Joanne Baker will host a discussion of current topics presented by participants. Bring articles and clippings.

The sessions are from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Harmony Center, 7616 SE Harmony Road, Milwaukie. Cost for one or both sessions is \$4. For more information, call ext. 3230.

Taking a look at Oregon's history

What's next for Oregon? Join the Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program and discuss Oregon's developing history at the Feb. 5 morning session.

The afternoon session concludes the three-part series entitled, "Current Events." Joanne Baker will host a discussion of current topics presented by participants. Bring articles and clippings.

Sessions run from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Harmony Center, and cost is \$4.

For more information, call ext. 3230.

HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention focus at Clackamas County task force meeting

Karin Redston
Co-Feature Editor

The Clackamas County HIV Prevention Planning Task Force held its first 1997 planning meeting Jan. 17 at the college's Family Resource Center.

The orientation meeting for new and returning members focused on HIV-prevention education in Clackamas County. A plan will be submitted to the state for approval and implemented on approval.

The 1996-97 mission statement of the task force reads: "The mission of the Clackamas County HIV Prevention Planning Task Force is to decrease the number of HIV infections and to increase the level of awareness of HIV/AIDS in Clackamas County through established and innovative approaches to assessment, planning, education, services and evaluation. Our emphasis will include development of cost effective prevention services and of knowledgeable local leadership."

As of Dec. 18, 1996, a total

of 169 cases of AIDS were recorded in Clackamas County. Of these, 156 were in white males. However, the direction of the disease is changing.

According to an article in the Dec. 2, 1996 issue of *Newsweek* written by John Leland, the virus is now epidemic among the poor and the minority populations nationally. The fastest growing population is African-Americans.

In Oregon, although the highest group with HIV infection is still Caucasian homosexual males, a steady rise of HIV infection has been noted in women and children for the last six years.

"There is a lot more education that needs to be done," said Lee Burleson, Co-chairperson of the Clackamas County HIV Prevention Task Force. "People out here think HIV is a big city problem. Most of the people I have dealt with don't live in the suburbs, they live in smaller towns away from Portland. That is true all over the state."

According to Dixie Whetsell, Co-chairperson of the Clackamas

County HIV Prevention Planning Task Force, 20 percent of all people infected with HIV were infected as teenagers. Whetsell also pointed out that 45 percent of all AIDS cases were over the age of 30.

"Clackamas County is unusual in that the men that have been diagnosed with AIDS in our county are older," noted Whetsell. "That's been fairly consistent in our county since the beginning."

Implementations of the 1996 plan included needle exchanges for intravenous drug users, condom distribution, "Love and Play Safe" coasters in bars, brochures, posters, resource cards, and community educational outreach and presentations.

On campus, current services include condom dispensing machines in the bathrooms of the Community Center. Clackamas's policy on HIV and AIDS maintains no tolerance for discrimination against anyone who is HIV infected.

The Clackamas County HIV Prevention Task Force will meet again Jan. 30.

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