

'D' marks driver's licenses of Oregon anatomical donors

One out of every eight Oregon drivers licenses now bears the special code letter "D", designating its owner as a potential anatomical donor to Oregon's growing organ transplant programs.

Figures just released by the Oregon Donor Vehicle Division show that 227,663 drivers have elected to carry the donor "D" since the program began four years ago this month. This is up nearly 60,000 from last year's total—an encouraging sign, according to Oregon Donor Program officials.

"I'm just delighted," said Oregon Donor Program chairman Dr. Robert Bacon. "It indicates an increasing public awareness of the growing need for donors. I think it has a great deal of long-term significance for a lot of sick people in Oregon."

Dr. Bacon said it is difficult to determine the relationship between the increased number of "D"s and the number of actual donations, but he noted that kidney transplants at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center are up "way beyond expectations this

year." University Hospital's renal transplant unit reports 53 operations so far this year, their busiest ever.

"I would be very surprised if this were not a reflection of the success of the 'D,'" said Bacon. But the program's greatest benefits, he said, lie

ahead.

"We're establishing a pool of donors which will become more and more valuable in the future as the options for transplantation continue to expand." Surgeons in Oregon are currently active in the transplantation of kidneys,

eye tissue and skin. But transplant teams elsewhere report increasing success with heart, liver, pancreas, and even lung transplants. "They have had their ups and downs," said Bacon, "but I think there's some hope there."

Sue Harris, who works behind the counter at the MVD's field office in The Dalles said, "just about everybody up here is doing it." Harris noted that women are often more likely than men to opt for the "D". The MVD figures confirm this: Women

with "D's" outnumber men 53 per cent to 47 per cent.

"A women will sit there and read the renewal notice and think about it for a few minutes," she said. "Men usually just want to get it over with." Teenagers, who presently account for just seven

per cent of registered donors, seem to be the most reluctant, said Harris. "They sometimes look a little squeamish when I ask them about it," she said. "I tell them they don't have to do it now."

There are 45 miles of nerves in the body.

Examiners take cycle safety class

The Oregon Motor Vehicles Division has taken a step toward overcoming criticism of its motorcycle testing and license program.

Administrator Harold L. Grover said all DMV office managers have taken part in a course in motorcycle safety and operation.

Motorcycle groups in the past have criticized state motorcycle testing programs, including Oregon's, on the grounds that tests were too easy and that some personnel giving tests were not motorcyclists or not sufficiently trained on motorcycle operation.

Oregon's DMV added an off-street riding demonstration to its on-street testing program several years ago. The agency says about half of its examining personnel hold motorcycle endorsements.

The program to upgrade testing procedures has come at a time when it is most needed, Grover said. Motorcycle operator tests are booming this year with the number of endorsements from April through July up about 46 per cent. Motorcycle deaths also are up again this year. Through August, 49 motorcycle drivers and passengers had been killed in Oregon traffic. Last year after eight months that figure was 45.

"Driver licensing," Grover said, "is a key part of the state's highway safety program. For that reason, we think it essential that people conducting tests are highly trained and skilled in evaluating performance of applicants to operate all types of vehicles."

McElligott visits with the Pope

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production. The Pope said there is a clear command from God to populate and preserve the land for the youth.

"We were the only group in the U.S. he did not give the devil for doing some misdeed," McElligott said.

The lone farmer, and now judge, said about 8,000 people met the Pope at the airport and the 350,000 plus visitors gathered on a 640 acre farm where the Pope spoke.

"The Pope traveled around in a helicopter and there was tremendous security," McElligott said. "I can't imagine even the president or Castro getting as much security. The Pope stood on a hill and about every 10 feet there was a secret service or state patrolman. Such an alert group you have never seen."

"The best feeling was the welcome for the Pope. It was the nicest spirit. It just tickled me to death."



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