

Health Center ready to give relief to hay fever wheezers

By Patty Pryor

Hay fever season is upon us, and employees at the University Health Center are starting to see the effects of it.

"This gets to be the busy season," said Steve Blom, health center administrator. "It'll be a big problem until the first frost, in late October.

Hay fever is especially prominent in Nebraska because of the high pollen count, said Dr. Ralph Ewert, chief of staff at the center.

About 30 percent of Americans have hay fever, said Ewert.

"It's just that the 30 percent in Nebraska have it worse," he said.

Hay fever sufferers can be treated at the health center by either a general clinic physician or by one of the two doctors in the allergy clinic, Blom said.

Many students' hay fever problems can be handled by a prescription from one of the clinic doctors or by over-the-counter medications, Ewert said. However, for more severe or complicated cases, such as those involving asthma, the clinic physician will send the patient to the allergy clinic. Tests are done and injections administered.

The allergy clinic is staffed by two practicing allergists from Lincoln.

While these two doctors are at the health center only on Wednesdays, Blom said, there is always a trained person in

the building to give injections if a problem arises.

"Anytime you inject something into the body," he said, "there could be complications."

Nurses are also available to give injections in the allergy clinic from 10:30 through 11:30 a.m. and 1 through 4:30 p.m. weekdays other than Wednesday, Blom said.

However, two difficulties often occur with regard to treatment, said Ewert.

First, he said, many students come to the clinic for injections of a drug prescribed by their own doctor, but without specific instructions concerning the dosage or frequency.

Administering medication is very individualized, he explained, which makes specific instructions necessary.

Secondly, Ewert said, patients 19 years of age or younger often fail to bring in the necessary consent form.

Both problems, he said, involve numerous phone calls and attempts to track down vital information.

Most treatment programs consist of a series of injections, with gradually increased doses, over a period of two to three years, Ewert said.

The treatment is aimed at attacking the symptoms, he added, rather than the problem itself.

"There really is no cure for hay fever," Ewert said.

UPC to aid Kimball series

The University Program Council will use money from student fees to support performances at Kimball Recital Hall, according to Campus Activities Program coordinator Martin Wood.

Wood said that when a reduction in Kimball's funding was threatened, the UPC decided to use some student fee money to help Kimball.

Ron Bowlin, director of Kimball Recital Hall, said although funding for this year's performance series is already estab-

lished, next year's funding may be reduced.

Bowlin said the Reagan administration's budgetary requests will mean a substantial reduction in the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts.

In exchange for the student fee funding by UPC, a cultural affairs committee now being formed will give UPC a say in what performances are chosen, Wood said.

Wood said that applications are being taken for members of the new committee.

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