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Girls Staters hear about drugs, both good and bad

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MISSOULA--

Young people are more susceptible to drugs than their elders are, Dr. Robert L. Van Horne, dean of the University of Montana pharmacy school, told 312 Girls State Representatives Tuesday on the UM campus.

Dr. Van Horne told the girls about the good and bad effects of drugs. He said that although the use of marijuana is increasing, the use of LSD is declining.

Telling of the pitfalls of legitimate drugs, Dr. Van Horne described "development tolerance" formerly known as addiction.

The UM pharmacy dean said that over a period of time the body builds up/tolerance to a drug and requires that drug in order to function normally. Young people are not so apt to fall into overuse of legitimate drugs, he added.

By constantly submitting himself to legitimately prescribed stimulants and depressants, becomes many a victim "caught up in the vicious cycle of drug taking," Dr. Van Horne said.

The UM dean also informed the girls that although drugs may enhance human experiences they do not make superhuman feats possible as some drug users have stated.

Young people take drugs for a variety of reasons, Dr. Van Horne said. Sometimes they rebel, take risks and experiment for thrills. Some youths are "oblivion seekers," desiring to escape from the stresses of life, he said. "Personality change seekers" also try to escape from reality by indulging in illegal drug use, he added.

Education as to the benefits and detriments of drugs is essential to the entire American public, Dr. Van Horne concluded.

Girls State continues at UM through Saturday. The high school coeds and their adult leaders are slated to head for home following breakfast Sunday morning at the University Center.

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