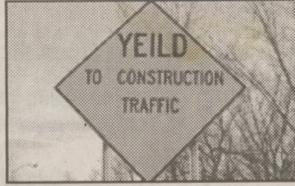


Speaker unveils her slave-trade database



Construction sign goof-up gets attention



Cabaret at Varner this week and next

Bobbie Biezski - 'two-timing' Grizzly



Sunny High 51°



INSIDE

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NEWS edge

Remember to vote in the Student Congress Elections this week. Voting takes place today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Fish Bowl of South Foundation Hall and 1:30-7 p.m. in the Oakland Center. Tomorrow voting takes place from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the OC and from 5-7p.m. in Elliot Hall.

Student Program board is bringing Dr. Drew Pinsky, from MTV's Loveline, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30 in the Pioneer Food Court. Tickets can be picked up at the CSA ticket window.

Jennifer Granholm, Attorney General of Michigan, will be presenting "Michigan Law According to the Attorney General" at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 at Meadow Brook Theatre. The lecture is free and tickets are not required.

"Accomplished OU Women" will be celebrated on Monday at a reception from noon-1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the OC. All are welcome to celebrate the women of courage and vision within the OU community, during Women's History Month.

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Larceny investigation open

By Lisa Remsing
NEWS EDITOR

Police are still investigating the vandalism and theft of property in 20 parked cars in the early morning hours of March 11.

According to Mel Gilroy, OU Police Lieutenant, two officers have been assigned to the case. He said that leads have been devel-

oped by reviewing tapes from the closed circuit surveillance equipment in the parking lot.

On Sunday, March 11, police received and investigated approximately 20 complaints of broken windows and missing personal items from parked vehicles in the P5 lot behind Vandenberg Hall. Missing from the cars were compact discs, disc players, loose change, registration and insurance

papers. According to police reports, one student reported 100 CDs missing from her vehicle.

Gilroy estimated that the total in damages and stolen property equals between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Each broken window alone costs approximately \$250, he said. In some cases all four windows were broken out of vehicles, in other incidents only the side windows or

windshield were damaged.

"We have placed special attention and more patrols in this lot because of the incident, although we routinely patrol these areas after midnight," said Gilroy.

He said it appears that no specific make or model of vehicle was targeted, but rather those with personal items out in the open. Smaller items that were easy to take turned up missing instead of

big items such as car stereos, Gilroy said.

"As always, if you see anything suspicious, give us a call and let us check it out," said Gilroy.

The police are asking that anyone who knows anything about the incident, or remembers seeing anything out of the ordinary on the night of March 11, to please call the OUPD at x3331.

Fighting date rape drug use

By Cara Plowman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the growing use of GHB, also called the date rape drug, Governor John Engler recently made March GHB Awareness Month for Michigan.

OU is also trying to spread awareness and invited guest speakers to campus last Monday to make that point. Judi Clark lost her daughter, Samantha Reed to GHB.

Reed, 15 at the time, was hanging out with friends when someone put GHB in her cola. Reed suffered projectile vomiting and then lapsed into a coma. By the time she arrived at an emergency room, she was brain dead, said Clark.

This year's campaign for GHB awareness focuses on the increasing voluntary usage of the drug. In the past, the drug was used primarily as a 'date rape' drug. Now, smaller doses are being consumed for recreational purposes because it is cheaper and somewhat mimics the effects of alcohol, said Jim McBryde, special assistant for drug policy, Michigan

Department of Community Health. Past campaigns have focused on the drug's use by body builders as well as the "watch your drink" campaign.

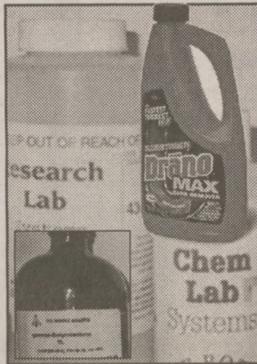
"In the case of GHB, nobody knows how much it's going to take to kill you," said McBryde. "Every single batch is different (because it is homemade)."

GHB, as McBryde explained, can be manufactured by anyone. All of the chemicals needed can be bought in drug stores. Two of the ingredients are crystal drain cleaner and acetone, said McBryde.

Clark said that the drug kills by slowing the heart and lungs. Because it's not patient-specific, meaning it doesn't effect people with more body weight differently than those with less, users never know what he/she getting and what the drug could do.

"There's no safe level the first time. There's no safe level anytime," said Clark.

Clark and McBryde said that the drug is more accessible now, even though the FDA banned it in the U.S., because of Internet sites that sell kits from Canada.



Email reveals tension between SECS, Math

By Cara Plowman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Poor teaching and low grades in the applied mathematics course APM 541 may be hurting the reputation of OU and its engineering graduate program.

That was the worry that former Engineering and Computer Sciences Dean Michael Polis had when he opened what has become a Pandora's box that cost him his job.

The Post filed a freedom of information request for copies of Polis' email correspondence and student course evaluations for APM 541 for the past three semesters.

The email trail starts with a message from the director of DaimlerChrysler's Institute of Engineering about his concerns with APM 541, in November of last year.

The email raised concerns that the corpo-

ration and the Institute of Engineering had with "the potential of unfair grading and a lack of consistency within this course."

The email also stated that "employees who fail classes must repay the company."

But, it went on to state that if students are failing classes and it is not their fault, and is actually the direct fault of professors who don't teach fairly or grade consistently, "it probably wouldn't be fair for DaimlerChrysler to demand repayment."

Polis said many of OU's engineering graduate students are sent here from DaimlerChrysler, though employees can also go to other graduate engineering programs.

According to Polis, even though a 2.5 is a passing grade, "3.0 and below is very bad in a graduate class."

If APM 541 is being taught poorly, Polis said, it could hurt the relation-

MATH continues on A2

APM 541 stats since 1994
Students enrolled
783
Students under 3.0
224
Withdrawals or Incompletes
56
Students performing below level
35.76 percent

Murphy to retire as HC director

By Ryan Schooley
THE OAKLAND POST

For the past 16 years Brian Murphy has guided OU's Honors College (HC) and helped build its reputation and presence on campus. But starting next fall, the HC will be under new leadership as Murphy retires as director.

During his tenure, the HC has grown from a small program tucked away inside Varner Hall to a modern glass edifice next to East Vandenberg. With its curving glass walls and the "Echo Cognito" sculpture near the entrance, the HC is now recognized campus wide.

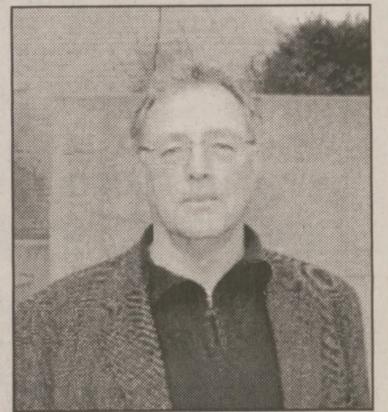
Murphy spent his time as head director shaping the HC into its present form. Prior to his stint at the HC, Murphy taught full time in the English Department.

"When I started 16 years ago, the program was so small that it was in danger of winking out. It was like a well-kept secret, but now it's out in the open," Murphy said.

Back in 1985, HC courses would sometimes have three students per class and an overall enrollment of only 40 students. However, Murphy nurtured this small constituency to 140 students.

"I met with faculty in order to bring together people excited about teaching with students excited about learning. Students from different majors and backgrounds help... make the Honors College unique," Murphy said.

Under Murphy's guidance, students navigated the challenging course work involved in the HC. In building a strong student body, Murphy said he "spent a lot of time



Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post

GOOD BYE 'OL FRIEND: Director of the Honors College Brian Murphy will retire after this summer. He has worked at the HC for 16 years.

being a motivational speaker to the students. I told them to believe in the life of the mind."

Enough students believed, and today, with this blend of skilled professors and dedicated students, the HC now participates in a variety of activities campus wide. Its role in the recent panels on physician assisted suicide and the staging of "Killing Time" at Meadow Brook Theater are just two recent events.

Murphy explained that the HC's role on campus is a little hard to quantify.

"The Honors College has had an intangible effect on the intellectual life at OU, such

MURPHY continues on B7

Springtime for a day



Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE: Many students could be found sitting outside yesterday, which was the first official day of spring.

MATH

continued from A1

ship SECS has with DaimlerChrysler.

"It got me to the point where I said I have to do something," said Polis. "Engineering gets a huge number of students from Daimler. There's very few students in (the mathematics) program at all. I don't think they get much support from Daimler."

Polis attempted to discuss complaints he was receiving externally and from students in the class with Mathematical Sciences Department chair Marc Lipman. Lipman, however, was not sympathetic.

In an email exchange dated Dec. 4, 2000, Lipman and Polis responded to each other's opinions on the course.

Lipman wrote, "I observed the contrast in success rates between fall and winter... It may be worthwhile to see if the student populations have different characteristics in different semesters... But this is a side issue."

Polis responded, "I completely disagree. I think this is the central issue. I believe it is linked to the faculty teaching the course and this is why I asked you who taught (each semester)."

Polis argued that because math professor Meir Shillor was teaching the class instead of associate professor Peter Shi, less students were dissatisfied with the class and, subsequently, received higher grades.

When Lipman asked Polis how he felt about the APM 541 course, whether or not it was "properly educating" engineering students, Polis responded, "As far as I'm concerned, the objective of APM 541 is to take our students and get them to a point where they can successfully handle the mathematical subjects we'd like to see covered in the course. From this point of view, APM 541 is a failure."

In a recent interview, Lipman told The Post about the tension he thought surrounded Polis. "I think everyone is tense around Dean Polis. The loudest sigh of relief when he got canned was from his school," Lipman said. "His traditional method of dealing with things

was to scream at people. Every time I saw him he chewed on me. Well, I'm sorry, but I don't work for him."

Polis said that he has "never yelled at anybody."

On Dec. 22, Polis announced in an email memo the creation of a class called EGR 595 Special Topics. The engineering course was going to be a substitution for APM 541 and students could register beginning Jan. 3, when winter classes began. The attempt at creating a new course taught by the engineering department was an effort Polis made in eliminating all of the problems his students were experiencing with some of the math professors and the APM 541 course.

Meanwhile, Associate Provost Wallis Andersen was asked to mediate between Lipman and Polis. Polis pressed her for a decision the last day OU before winter break. She told him she had worked out a compromise but refused to disclose the details.

In an email message to Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Louis Esposito after his conversation with Andersen, Polis wrote, "I just had a very unpleasant conversation with Dr. Andersen. She first stated that the problem had been solved, but she could not tell me how. When I said I needed to reply to DaimlerChrysler, and that we were going to give a EGR 595 special topics course that would be the equivalent of APM 541 she told me that the Provost's office was ordering me not to do this. When I told her the problems with Math had been going on for years, she essentially stated the reason nothing had been done was my approach. She states I should not have berated the Math Department publicly (at the Dean's Council) and that most units had problems. Further, she stated that our course CSE 125 'is an embarrassment'. At that point, I hung up on her since I felt that further conversation was pointless."

Esposito told Polis he wanted to meet with him on Jan. 3. At that meeting, Polis was told to resign or be fired. He resigned.

"(The professors) need to re-dedicate themselves to teaching," said Polis. "Thirty-six percent (of graduate students) are failing. That's based on data I had."

In the winter term, Shillor was reassigned to teach the class in place

of another instructor.

The problems in the Math department are not limited to the APM 541 complaints. A junior business administration major has filed a grievance against his instructor in the MTH 122 class this term. That grievance is pending before the department committee.

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