

# Cheating in pre-med courses increasing

(CPS)—The chemistry lab was deserted. The pre-med student had been working all night on an experiment that would mean one-fourth of his grade, a grade that could take his GPA out of the competition for medical school. The experiment botched again, there was only one thing to do: lower the grading curve. He picked up a vial of clear solution and began adding it at random to other students' experiments.

With applications to medical schools skyrocketing, sabotage and cheating in pre-med lab courses have become standard fare at some colleges.

Cheating techniques, according to Johns Hopkins Dean Sigmund Suskind, ran the gamut from cribbing and copying during examinations to such extremes as students deliberately altering other students' lab experiments to gain a competitive edge in class standings.

"What I'm concerned about is the flagrant examples," said Suskind. "Large groups working together, major cribbing, alteration of experiments, theft of exams, major cooperative efforts."

Large-scale cheating is not unique to Johns Hopkins. Pre-med cheating at Stanford University in California often takes place in organic chemistry classes, according to a recent survey by the student newspaper.

"Students who were not pre-med, but who were going to become chemists weren't bothered with," said one former pre-med

student who was dismayed by the competition. "It was all done by pre-meds with the attitude of 'You might be the one who keeps me out of medical school.'"

At Ohio State University, several pre-med students have reported stolen lab notebooks, or notebooks just before grading and returned with lab reports torn out.

No one expects that the thieves will be caught. "Most cheating isn't even reported," said an Ohio State biology professor. "Students aren't willing to turn other students in."

Part of the problem in stopping pre-med cheating is the penalty for the crime—failure in the course. "To fail a kid in a course,

especially in a pre-professional school is like a sentence for life because it means they will never make it into law or medical school," said an Ohio State student. "Profs know that and some even look the other way."

Although most school officials direct their attention to the almost hopeless cause of weeding out of-

fenders, others believe cheating indicates underlying problems in the criteria medical schools use to screen applicants.

"An obsession with grade-point averages is an unfortunate way to select good practitioners of medicine," says Albert Gelhorn, director of the Center for Biomedical Education at City College of New York.

In 1970, according to Gelhorn, pre-med students from several universities told him: "We cheat. We try to give wrong information to our colleagues. We sabotage chemistry experiments."

"Things have gotten worse since then," said Gelhorn. "Pre-med school is a cutthroat business."

The solution to cheating, says Gelhorn, begins with a re-examination of medical education. "We shouldn't be looking for someone who does well in organic chemistry—something the practicing physician rarely uses—but someone with a concern for taking care of people."

Yet things may be looking up for grade-pressured pre-med students. The Medical College Admissions Test, an exam which weighs heavily in the screening process at medical schools, is scheduled for an overhaul in 1977.

"The new test will attempt to identify humanistic qualities and problem-solving abilities rather than just a knack for spewing back information," said Boener. "We're hoping this shifted emphasis will eventually help humanize the pre-med student's school experience."

## Preceptorship: Program lets students view a doctor's day

By JOYCE DeMONNIN  
Of the Emerald

The pre-medical honor society, Asklepiads, has developed a preceptorship program to let students "walk through a physician's day," according to Mary Lee Baker, student director of the program.

Now in its third year, the program "permits students to observe doctors both in the office and in the hospital," according to Baker.

Currently, 33 physicians are participating in the program. They work with one student during a three-week period, called a rotation, and allow the student to observe any medical procedures in which he is involved, providing the patient is willing.

Preceptorship students have radiology and surgery privileges at Sacred Heart Hospital, according to Baker, so if the doctor a student is working with goes into surgery, the student may observe.

"The program either makes the student really excited about medicine or convinces him to drop the pre-med program altogether," Baker says.

Pre-medical students are selected for the program by the officers of the Asklepiads, according to Baker. Generally, the student must have completed a year of pre-medical courses with a 3.3 GPA or better in science to qualify for the program, she says.

The preceptorship program began two years ago and does not receive any money from incidental fees, although the program is based at the Pre-Health Sciences Center which receives about \$400 annually.

The students work with one physician about six hours a week during each rotation, then change doctors. General practitioners, orthopedic surgeons, internists, and even an acupuncturist are among the physicians currently in the program. Although the students receive no credit for the time they spend with the doctor, the program may be helping them get into medical school.

The number of students from the University who are accepted at the medical school in Portland has gone up from approximately 26 in 1972-73 to about 40 for the past two years, according to Mariss Strange, pre-health sciences coordinator.

Although many factors influence acceptance into medical school, Strange says, the program makes students better candidates for acceptance because it gives them a better understanding of medicine rather than "just hearing about medicine from Ben Casey."

Strange said that since acceptance to medical school is so fiercely competitive, acceptance is based on motivation and devotion to medicine as well as on the grade point average.

She pointed out that the preceptorship program could be helpful to other disciplines as well, such as pre-dental or pre-law. This pre-professional experience can more adequately prepare students for their chosen careers, she said.

"The program has helped me gain a more realistic view of the physicians' role—what it is to be a doctor. It has definitely confirmed my interest in medicine," says Baker.

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**EVENTS**  
**AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT MEETING.**  
Wednesday, January 28, 7 p.m. in the Long House, 1506 Columbia St. Free dinner; information on local health, social programs; status report on Indian conflict with Dr. William Boyd and U of O administration; status report on fund-raising and legal position of Indians in higher education. 12949.28

**EMU CULTURAL FORUM**  
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Friday, January 23rd  
7:30 p.m. **EMU Ballroom**  
\$1—U of O Students \$2—general public  
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**EMU BEER GARDEN**—this Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. Music by the **EXPRESSIVE JAZZ SEXTET.**  
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**ENTERTAINMENT**  
ONLY 15 MORE DAYS TILL THEATER OF  
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February 5-10  
TICKETS AT EMU MAIN DESK  
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**THE ANANDA MARGA SOCIETY PRESENTS**  
**QUACKSER FORTUNE HAS A COUSIN IN THE BRONX**  
Gene Wilder (THE PRODUCERS, YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN) portrays a Happy-go-lucky horse-manure collector in Dublin, in this unusual film. Delightfully wacky Quackser is on top of the world till he encounters "true love" and automation. Like HAROLD AND MAUDE, distribution of this film was botched, so this is a rare opportunity to see this comedy gem.  
Saturday January 24 180 PLC  
\$1 8:15 & 10:15 p.m.  
12947.23

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**  
**"FRIENDS"**  
**ELTON JOHN BERNIE TAUPIN SOUNDTRACK**  
Seldom seen 1971 Paramount Pictures release. A teenage couple desert all others to create their own life and deliver their child in Southern France. Many have heard the Elton John soundtrack but few have seen this color film.  
Saturday, January 24 7 and 9 p.m.  
177 Lawrence \$1 ODA  
4016.23

**THE EMU CULTURAL FORUM**  
Presents  
**THE CHUCK MANGIONE QUARTET**  
on January 21, 1976, 8 p.m. at the EMU Ballroom.  
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**ON FRIDAY, February 6 SHINOLA** will appear in a dance-concert in the EMU Ballroom. 12943.23

**THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
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7:30 and  
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**CINEMA 7**  
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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**EMU Cultural Forum**  
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CLAUDE CHABROL'S  
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Comparable to the work of Fuller and Peckinpah. A picture you'll attend breathlessly every inch of the way.  
—Winsten, N.Y. Post  
**"AN ELEGANT BLAST"** at corrupt authority.  
—Sayre, N.Y. Times  
150 Science 7 & 9:30 p.m.  
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**University Film Society**  
presents  
Sunday, January 25  
INGMAR BERGMAN'S  
**THE RITUAL**  
Bergman deals in **THE RITUAL** with themes of obscenity and censorship. A troupe of itinerant players accused of performing a public obscenity are interrogated by a Kafkaesque judge in his chambers. Soon both the judge and the accused are entangled in a Bergman nightmare fantasy.  
... I can't imagine anyone who is deeply interested in movies denying himself the mixture of pleasure and pain that the film affords.  
—N.Y. Times  
180 PLC \$1 8 p.m.  
12959.21

Acme-Bijou presents  
John Ford's  
**TOBACCO ROAD**  
(1941, 84 min.)  
Gene Tierney and Ward Bond lust in the dust.  
8 p.m., Wed. Jan. 21, 180 PLC  
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**PERSONAL**  
**TO THE LADIES** of Kappa Kappa Gamma, thanks for the great wake-up! Chi Psi. 4073.21  
**A TRI-DELTA DELIGHT**—to my Dotty—your happiness is my joy. From your Mommy. 4074.21

**TO THE FOXES** of Beta Theta Pi: Good luck with initiation and hang in there. We love you! Love and smooches, the court. 4075.21

**KAREN: GOOD LUCK** this week! The nights will be so lonely without you. Ferda. 4083.21

**MYRTLEBELLA: ARE YOU** going to stand in line with me Saturday? Remember, only honorable intentions. 4060.21

**SCHAFFER'S GOT A SQUEEZE** box they wear on their chest, and when Delta's have us over, we never get no rest, a dancin' all night, the drinkin's all night, third floor thanx the Delta's. Hope you had a lot of fun too! Remember, we're lovers, not poets —Thanx—3rd floor Schafer, ext. 5380. 4055.21

**SMITTY, YOUR FAN CLUB**  
is gathering forces  
It's getting near spring—  
No more cross-country courses.  
You might run the steeple,  
A 2-mile or ten,  
But whatever you run  
We're behind you again.  
You'll torture your body  
For mile after mile  
With intervals, road-runs—  
And do it in style.  
Yes, we know that you're working  
As hard as you can.  
Who needs Williams and those guys?  
We've got Superman. 4054.21

**INTERESTED IN FRATERNITIES?** Delta Upsilon, 1774 Alder St. is having a "Coffee Hour" tonight at 9 p.m. Interested men may call 686-3580 for rides and information. 4069.21

**SHARE YOUR SKILLS AND** talents while earning academic credit. ESCAPE is looking for students interested in working in Junior Highs and High Schools. Stop by the ESCAPE recruitment table in the EMU Lobby or call 686-4351 to find out how you can help. 12957.23

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**TO THE PERSON** who took a hand gun stapler out of my mailbox in ASUO Office. Please return it; I promise not to prosecute. Richenstein SUAB-16. 4011.21

**DEPRESSED?** As part of a research project, the University Neuropsychology Lab is offering a 4 week treatment program for depressed persons. The treatment fee will be waived if the client completes all assessment and daily records needed for the research. Clients will be selected on the basis of a screening test and an interview with a staff member. If interested, come to the Neuropsychology Lab in Straub Hall (entrance on 15th Ave. across from the covered tennis courts) to take the 1-1/2 hour screening test. Testing will take place between 8:30 and 3:30 on weekdays. 12888.23

**SONG WRITERS**  
Lead sheets made ready to submit to publishers. Call Charles Nathan, 686-9921. 12932.23

**WUN-HOP-KUEN-DO KUNG-FU.** New class being formed. Will be taught near campus. Call 747-0591 after 6 p.m. 3915.21