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Bomb threats empty class, ruin midterm

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

Two bomb threats halted a midterm and forced the evacuation of Room 150 Geology at about 12:45 p.m. Monday.

One threat was received at the EMU Main Desk phone at approximately 12:45 p.m. and then another at the campus security office about 12:50 p.m., according to campus and police officials.

"There were two different people that called. There was a woman (who called the main desk), and a man called the office," said Richard Tanner, director of campus security.

"They said they were the Revolutionary Youth Brigade, I can't remember exactly, but they said there is a bomb in 150 Geology and it would go off at 1 p.m.," said Debby Martin, an EMU employee who took the first call at the main desk.

"Then they said something about capitalism — death to capitalist pigs or die all pigs of capitalism, I can't remember *verbatim* — it had to do with capitalist pigs," she said.

Campus security and the city police responded and searched the room. At about 1:05 p.m. the room was declared safe to re-enter.

The call "sounded like it was a tape recording," Tanner said.

The callers identified themselves as members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, but Tanner said the public safety office has not been able to contact the group. "You never know," Tanner said when asked if he thought the group was responsible.

The Emerald tried to contact the RCYB several times without results.

Some people waiting for the officers to check the room speculated the bomb threat came to avert the mid-term examination in John Keana's Organic Chemistry class.

"It's shocking, but it relieves the pressure (of the exam), but it's sad," said a student who preferred not to be identified.

Keana canceled the exam and said a make-up exam would not be given. Keana said the bomb threat, if done to avoid the midterm, was "awfully selfish."

Despite the speculation, the investigation will continue in the same manner any bomb scare investigation would, said Sgt. Rick Allison, Eugene Police Department.

"It's too bad students have to suffer," Allison said. "One of these days it might be for real."



Photo by Bob Baker

The above exhibit is a part of the Northwest Computer Graphics Conference which continues through today.

Pictures worth 114,000 words

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

A picture is worth over 114,000 words, estimated Randall Stickrod, keynote speaker Monday night at the Computer Graphics Conference, which attracted about 800 people to its first day of activities.

Stickrod, editor and publisher of Computer Graphics World magazine, discussed the potential for computer graphics in different fields.

While he admits many people may wonder about the value of applying sophisticated computer technology to pictures, Stickrod says computers can show so much information that the eye cannot process it all.

Stickrod sees computer graphics as a "compelling" technology.

"The reason it is so compelling is the latest buzzword — productivity," he says.

Using computer graphics increases productivity in almost every field, says Stickrod. For example, in design there is a lot of redundant work being done by talented people because when they start to produce something new (like a car for General Motors or a plane for Boeing), they have to start from scratch.

By using computer graphics, Stickrod notes the preliminary work would be in the computer so the designer could just make alterations in the computer itself.

"It's not that computer design is better or more creative or enhances the creative process," he says. "It just allows artists to be more productive."

Stickrod notes the boom in computer graphics is

quite a change from four or five years ago when only a small group of people were involved.

"The last three to five years have seen a quiet revolution. The second industrial revolution is happening in the world today," he says. Stickrod notes the advances in commercial and industrial use of computer graphics have become common because of technology which allows computers to store more information in a smaller area for less money.

"It has become available to even the smallest commercial and industrial users," says Stickrod. "It has become legitimate as a tool of industry."

Even as Stickrod speaks about advances in the computer graphics field, he adds cautiously there is still a need for improvements.

"I don't want to make it seem like computer graphics have arrived," he says. Stickrod explains the software is an enormous problem which has been changing in the last year or so.

He also says there is a need for a clearer understanding of the use of colors. Right now there are up to 16 million colors available.

"The technology is ahead of people's ability to use it," he says. "We need to teach people how to use color properly."

"Reduced to the most elemental level, the most important impact is the next generation of children will be utterly uninhibited by technology," he says. "It will be an extension of everyday life. If we are impressed by advances today wait ten years when those kids hit the streets."

Disaffiliated: Woman 'outgrows' Greek life

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Lisa remembers the exact night last year when she decided to move out of her sorority.

She got home late from work after a "long, tiring day" only to discover she had forgotten to call and say she would be late for dinner.

Because she hadn't called, there was no dinner and no chance of getting any. She went out and got a can of pop.

When Lisa returned to the house and started upstairs with the can, the house manager chastised her for drinking on the first floor.

"And that was just it," Lisa said. "There comes a time when you say, 'I don't want to be in this anymore — how can I get out?'"

Lisa, 21, is a former University sorority member who decided after three years that sorority life no longer fit her lifestyle.

"It's so screwed because the reasons they were formed at the time aren't valid any more," she said.

Women used to join sororities to find husbands, to have their meals prepared, to live in a safe environment and to be part of "the ethics of Christian womanhood," she said.

"All those false morals. That's what the sorority system is, but they're no longer reality," said Lisa, adding that she wasn't the only one to leave her house last year.

"Lisa," incidentally, isn't her real name. A University senior, she asked for anonymity so her interview wouldn't reflect on her old sorority. She also was concerned how her former sorority sisters might react to a newspaper article discussing their lifestyle.

Not many women disaffiliate ("D.A.") from sororities each year, said Marti

Chaney, Panhellenic advisor. Her office is in the middle of changing and improving record keeping, Chaney said, so no definite figures are available.

Sorority membership this year is close to last year's level, she said, although fall rush was down a little, probably because of the drop in enrollment and a large spring rush last year. Of 351 girls who participated in fall rush, 266 pledged.

In general, each sorority is self-regulating and has its own policies regarding disaffiliation, Chaney said. Sorority members usually sign several agreements when they are initiated into a sorority, including a promise to live at the house until a new member is ready to move in.

But Chaney sees "living in" as one of the main advantages of belonging to a sorority. By having someone else to do the shopping, meal preparation and cleaning, it gives the student more time

to be a student, she said.

"I think there's so much time ahead that you have to do that — Why let that interfere with what you're here to do?"

Lisa felt it was the sorority that was interfering with what she was here to do. So she left the guaranteed social life, the secret handshakes and passwords and the "Christian" ceremonies for a life as a non-Greek apartment dweller.

She now calls herself — with obvious relish — a "born-again G.D.I." (God-damned independent).

Lisa was quick to point out that her first two years as a sorority sister weren't like the third. She joined her sorority during her freshman year, she said, partly because her mother, father and brothers all had been Greeks at Oregon State University.

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