

College nightmare occurs:

Student barely survives four finals on same day

By Frank Shaw
Of the Emerald

When Sue Bartz woke up on the first day of finals week fall term, she faced the unenviable prospect of taking four finals on the same day.

Bartz, a junior majoring in computer science, realized she had four finals — math, computer science, literature and sociology — scheduled for the same day about two weeks before finals week and tried to get at least one of her professors to change a final to a later date.

She didn't have any luck.

"All my teachers were sympathetic about it, but they still wouldn't change the final," she says.

Bartz also spoke to the deans of two of the schools, the offices of academic advising, student services and the Registrar, and Bob Bowlin, dean of students.

All gave her the same message — they thought it was a rotten deal, but there was nothing they could do.

"Everyone thinks you can petition to have a final changed," Bartz says, "but I tried, and you can't."

After talking to Bowlin "I just gave up," she says.

Provost Richard Hill says the University's policy is that exams will be given at the time they are scheduled and suggests students check the final schedules when registering for classes.

Because of the University policy prohibiting professors from giving finals or final projects during dead week or any time prior to the scheduled time, instructors are reluctant to postpone the final time for students.

"They're (the professors) damned if they do and damned if they don't," says Hill.

Marliss Strange, associate director of academic advising, says students faced with this problem should pick up their registration verification from the Registrar's Office and take it to the professors so they can prove their finals are all on the same day.

If the students can't arrange with the professor to take the final later that week, they should take an incomplete in the class and take the final the next term. Strange says she never has known a professor to refuse this request.

Mary Fulton, assistant to the head of the mathematics department, says Bartz's math final was a common one, and all 400 or more students



Photo by Bob Baker

Sue Bartz survives an academic ordeal.

in various sections of the math course took their finals at the same time.

In this type of case, she says, the math department advises the student to contact other professors and to change one of the other finals, because it's easier to change the time of a final for a class with fewer students.

Fulton says if a student came to her and said no other instructors would change the finals' times, the math department would help contact other departments.

Bartz began studying eight days before finals and says she was pretty well prepared for the tests. Nevertheless, she says she could have done better with more time to review between exams.

"I think it definitely had an impact on my grades," she says.

If she had to do it all over again, Bartz says she would start studying way ahead of time and not waste her time trying to get her teachers to change the times of her finals.

From now on Bartz says she will be more aware of when her finals are scheduled when she registers for classes.



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Rule allows interest charges

A new rule allowing the University to charge interest on overdue accounts such as housing contracts, deferred tuition and short-term loans has been enacted.

In addition, several administrative rules dealing with student records, smoking areas, and parking regulations have been amended.

The University can now charge 9 percent interest on all liquidated debts that are six months past due unless the

contract specifies a higher rate, up to a 12 percent ceiling.

Changing the computer system to deal with the interest charge will cost the University \$10,000. The interest charge is estimated to bring in about \$12,000 annually.

An amendment to the student records policy, requested by the registrar, will help prevent falsification of student records by students who are using transcript copies from other institu-

tions. Parking regulation changes will stop people from transferring reserved spaces if they no longer need them, says Muriel Jackson, administration assistant.

Another amendment clarifies the non-smoking and smoking areas of the University. It prohibits smoking in elevators, restrooms and all public offices except in designated smoking areas and allows smoking in private offices only with mutual agreement by all occupants.

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