

Students grade professors

By Frank Shaw
Of the Emerald

Halfway through the term the instructor steps down from the podium, announces it's time for the class evaluation and leaves the room.

Another faculty volunteer breaks the class down into small groups of between six and eight students who respond to three questions: What do you like about the course? What changes would you suggest? What specific suggestions do you have to allow for the proposed changes?

The new process, called Small Group Instructional Diagnosis, uses small group discussion among students to provide an instructor with evaluative comments.

After the questions are answered, the volunteer asks each group to give their response to the questions and writes a summary on the board.

When each group finishes responding, the class votes on whether the blackboard items are accurate. If they are, the volunteer prepares a report for the instructor.

Chemistry prof. Ralph Barnhard, a member of the art of teaching committee, says the new process gives students a better opportunity to let the instructor know how they feel, and because the evaluation takes place in the middle of the term, the students can get an immediate response to their suggestions.

The first question is designed to find out what the students like about the class and usually sets a positive atmosphere, Barnhard says.

When the students are asked what needs improvement in the class, answers range from messy handwriting to poor textbooks, and many suggestions are useful, Barnhard says.

"The professors sometimes don't perceive what's going on in the class," he says. But the

new process lets them know what the students think, he adds.

Barnhard says the most valuable part of the new process is it allows the instructor to make needed changes in time to benefit the students.

Not all the suggestions are necessarily good. Barnhard recalls a history class where almost all the students hated one of the texts, and while the professor agreed with the students' evaluation, he decided to keep text.

"If we gave students everything they want, we'd end up with peacock television," he says.

Under the new process, students also find out more about what their classmate think than they would with a computerized teacher evaluation on the last day of class.

When Barnhard was facilitator for a small honors college class, he discovered the students were intimidated by each other, and that discovery created a different atmosphere.

The instructor did not get better, but the overall class instruction improved because the class became aware of the problem.

The process has some problems, Barnhard says. For example, a freshman class may evaluate their first term courses in comparison to their high school teachers.

Some 22 classes were evaluated using the new process fall term, and Barnhard says he would like to see about 100 done each term.

Not every class should be evaluated this way, and no one teacher should be evaluated more than once a year, he says. Only the professors participating in the process, which is voluntary for students, see the written results, and results are not put in the instructors' permanent files unless they request it.

Suit names fraternity in 'hazing' incident

EUGENE (AP) — A former University fraternity pledge who says he suffered brain damage and permanent physical injury in an accident during an initiation rite has sued the Kappa Sigma fraternity and others for \$1.9 million.

Mark Rosier of Eugene, in a complaint filed last week in Lane County Circuit Court, accuses Kappa Sigma and several Eugene chapter officers of negligence in sponsoring a late-night rite two years ago in which a band of pledges were abandoned on a roadside 15 miles from town.

Rosier said he suffered brain damage, a fractured skull and injuries to his leg, knee and face when he was hit by a car while standing in the road. Rosier seeks nearly \$1.8 million in general damages and \$98,725 in medical expenses.

Rosier's attorney, Art Johnson, said his client, an 18-year-old freshman at the time, has been a convalescent for much of the past two

years and only recently enrolled at Lane Community College to resume his academic career.

In Feb. 22, 1981, incident described in the suit, Rosier and eight other uninitiated pledges were taken by fraternity members to a park, then left to find their way back to campus.

The suit says Bruce Larsen, an employee of the Marcola Rural Fire Protection District, stopped his fire truck to talk with the pledges. Police at the time said Larsen claimed the pledges flagged him down to ask for a ride to a telephone, but he told them he was not allowed to pick up passengers.

As they were talking, Herman Cook, driving northbound in a car, hit Rosier and Ron Pierce, of Boise, Idaho, sheriff's reports said.

Larsen and Cook are named as co-defendants.

Rosier accuses the fraternity and fraternity officers Robert Hansen, Mark Wax, Ronald Wolfe and Gary Wells of negligence.

Statutes lack bite to deal effectively with dogfighting

Humane society only barks at offenders

By Sean Meyers
Of the Emerald

Dogfighting is to Oregon what the smell of wood pulp is to Lane County — almost everyone agrees it exists, it is unpleasant, and it is likely to continue.

"We get pit bulls (terriers) that you can tell by looking at them they have been fought," says Kathy Flood of the Lane County Animal Regulation Authority. "It's really very sad that people will take these animals and fight them for money."

Even though state humane society and county animal regulation officials cannot recall a dogfighting-related arrest in Oregon since the 1979 state Legislature passed a key animal-cruelty statute, there is strong evidence that it exists on a relatively widespread basis.

At one point in recent months, injured pit bull terriers, by far the favorite breed used in dogfighting, were coming into the LCARA at a peak rate of three or four a month, says Jack Jenkins, an LCARA animal control officer.

Because pit bulls are rarely claimed by their owners, "we have to put them to sleep, unless they're an unusually friendly dog," Jenkins says.

Flood suspects many of the pit bulls coming into the LCARA are professional fighters because of older scars around the face, ears, throat and genitals, unusually well-developed jaw and shoulder muscles and closely bobbed ears and tails to prevent tears during fights.

Flood says the LCARA's hands are tied when it comes to pursuing dogfighters. She cites a number of reasons — a lack of specific information, insufficient manpower to pursue leads and legal restrictions in acting against suspected dogfighters.

Barbara Boga-rosh, a Humane Society investigator in Portland, describes the problem more succinctly.

"We have really weeny statutes when you compare them with other states," she says.

The Humane Society and the LCARA cannot make arrests — they must act in concert with a recognized law enforcement agency. Coordinating such an effort, especially in light of the secrecy and security surrounding dog fights, is difficult.

Boga-rosh's investigations are generally limited to the Portland area, where she has been involved for more than a month on an undercover operation that has infiltrated organized dogfighting in the metropolitan area.

Boga-rosh is working in cooperation with the Portland police department, which she says is interested mainly in making arrests for the "gambling and prostitution that seems to go with dogfighting" rather than the animal-cruelty violation.

"There's a lot of dogfighting going on in Portland, especially among the black community," says Boga-rosh. "That's not to say that blacks are the only ones fighting dogs or that they're more likely to fight them, it's just that that is where our investigation has led to."

Boga-rosh is "working undercover, hopefully still undercover," on the case. Operating in disguise, she eventually gained the trust of some dogfighting insiders and was invited to a match that consisted of two bouts between pit bulls fighting to the death.

"It was frightening and it was vicious," says Boga-rosh. "I thought most of the people there were idiots. I could not



Photo by Bob Baker
Thor is 65-pounds of face-licking congeniality when it comes to meeting people, says owner David Carlton. The University student says dangerous pit bulls are bred, not born.

understand their mentality."

Working undercover, she hears a lot of "really bubbly descriptions about how a dog totalled opponents," like sports-writers describing the action in the stadium the night before, she says. "This is just heresy, but one story was that there was a guy who apparently didn't like his dog's performance in a fight so he pulled out a gun and shot it in the head."

The opportunity for violence may extend beyond the animals.

"I was told by the same person that I should be very careful around the guy who had shot the dog," says Boga-rosh, "because if this individual was to find out what I was up to, he wouldn't think twice about shooting me too."

"It gets pretty scary," agrees Flood,

who recalls hearing about a pair of northern California investigators who were investigating a dogfighting report one night and "were never to be seen or heard from again."

Marc Paulhus, a former field investigator for the Humane Society in Washington, D.C., now working as a regional director in Florida, confirms the grim picture.

"We have run into evidence that certain people will have other people killed, primarily for welshing on debts," says Paulhus. "At one point, I found myself in the company of people that were eliminated."

Paulhus says the Humane Society's national office is working on an investigation involving dogfighting in

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