

Dead Week drops a killer load at last minute

■ The week before finals is a time for studying, but with classes, many feel it's not enough time

By Jessica Blanchard
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's Dead Week at the University, a time when students are supposed to focus on studying and preparing for finals.

But that's not the case for Mike Hurd, a junior pre-journalism major; he has far more work due this week than he will during finals week. After turning in his final 100-page paper due today in his information gathering class — a.k.a. "info hell" — Hurd will have just enough time to finish a three-page paper for another class before it's due on Friday.

His case is not unusual at the University. Though the week before finals is supposed to be the calm before the storm — hence the term "Dead Week" — many students find themselves overburdened with last-minute tests, projects or papers.

"It's just a matter of getting it all done," Hurd said. "Not having classes would definitely have helped. It would have been a lot less stressful."

According to University policy, instructors are not supposed to ad-

minister tests worth more than 20 percent of the final grade, including finals in any form, during Dead Week. Major projects can only be due if the faculty member specified their Dead Week due-date on the syllabus within the first two weeks of the term.

At some universities around the nation, such as Indiana University and the University of California at Santa Barbara, faculty are strongly discouraged from giving any tests in any of their classes during Dead Week. And at Iowa State University, instructors are not even allowed to assign course work that falls due during the week prior to final exams.

Although students may dream of not having classes or projects due during Dead Week, such a system wouldn't work at the University, said University Registrar Herbert Chereck. Most of the universities that have a true Dead Week are on the semester system, which has longer terms than the quarter system that the University uses.

"On the quarter system, our calendar is so compact, we just don't have that opportunity," Chereck said. If the University didn't hold classes during Dead Week, the school year would have to be longer to make up for the lost class time, he said.

While it may not be possible for

Stress-relief tips

Take deep breaths or practice breathing exercises during stressful moments.

Get enough sleep.

Eat balanced meals.

Take a break from studying, and change your surroundings by going for a walk.

Break large tasks down into manageable chunks.

Limit intake of alcohol and caffeine, which can aggravate stress symptoms.

SOURCE: University peer health educator

the University to completely avoid classes during Dead Week, it's too much to expect students to learn new material or have tests in both Dead Week and finals week, said Becky Dorsey, geology professor.

"I think to give any kind of test during Dead Week is just stupid," she said. "It's unfair to students."

Students have mixed reactions to Dead Week. Some think it's too much to expect students to turn in papers or have tests right before finals; others said it's part of college life.

Mercedes Reeder, a junior undeclared major, said she's having a fairly easy week because she's only taking 12 credits and only has a final in one of her classes.

"But my problem is that I procrastinate," she said. "I save everything for this week, so it's more my fault than the teachers'."

Reeder said she has heard many people complain about Dead Week

being too rigorous academically.

"It does seem that it's more stressful than it should be," she said.

Other students think their peers should just toughen up and do the work.

"That's school — you're here to study," said Richard Bartoldus, a senior history major. "Of course it would be nice to have a week off with nothing to do, but I just accept that I'm going to have classes up until finals week."

Court

continued from page 1

The first hearing involved the State vs. Soldahl, for which the court reviewed the lower court's decision that police illegally stopped motorist Gerlad Norman Soldahl. This involved a traffic stop made by a state trooper at the request of sheriff's deputy Gil Milete, who suspected that the two occupants of the car were wanted on felony charges.

Once stopped, the officers realized that the occupants were not the suspects. Milete then discovered that the driver was driving

with a revoked license. The defendant was indicted for a felony but claimed that the stop was illegal because the trooper did not have probable cause. Earlier courts upheld this argument.

For the second case, McLean vs. Buck Medical Services, Inc., the court reviewed an earlier ruling that Buck Medical Services was exempt from paying overtime wages to employees. Paramedic Gary McLean is the representative of a group of employees from the company involved in the class action lawsuit, which claims the company and counties violated provisions of the Public Contracts Law by failing to pay overtime and holiday wages.

Earlier courts ruled in favor of the company and counties.

In the final hearing, State vs. Ferman-Velasco, the court reviewed the conviction and sentencing of Carlos Roberto Ferman-Velasco for rape in the second degree and sexual abuses in the first degree. Using guidelines from measure 11, he was sentenced to 75 months in prison on each count and ordered to pay witness fees of \$25 for non-police witnesses. The lower courts ruled against Ferman-Velasco, arguing that the punishments were justified.

The morning session ran from 9 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session ran from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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CRIME WATCH

Reported March 1 through March 7, 2000:

March 2: Criminal Mischief II, 1800 block of Onyx Street, vehicle vandalized.

March 2: Theft III, 1800 block Franklin Boulevard, 7-11 store, items shoplifted.

March 3: Theft III, 1500 block East 15th Avenue, bike wheel stolen.

March 4: Assault IV, 1400 block Villard Street, individual bit during fight.

March 4: Criminal Mischief II, 2000 block Hilyard Street, two trees run over by car.

March 5: Robbery III, 1300 block Alder Street, beer stolen.

March 5: Urinating in Public, 1500 block East 15th Street.

Crime prevention tip of the week from OPS Officer Guse:
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