

Around Campus

Parties turn into campus riots

At least 53 people were arrested for fighting, destroying property and setting fires after Central Michigan University football victory parties turned into riots this past weekend in Mt. Pleasant, police say.

The riotous behavior of many students and outsiders "was frightening" and continued until about 4 a.m. Sunday, said Sgt. Barry Trombly of the Mt. Pleasant State Police Post, one of five police officers and a firefighter who suffered minor injuries in the melee.

"We were on the receiving end of rocks, bottles, stop signs, hub caps -- everything these little darlings could throw," said Trombly, who was hit by a rock. "I haven't seen anything like it since 1970-71, when I was on the MSU campus after Richard Nixon started bombing Cambodia."

The riot grew out of parties after CMU's football team beat arch rival Western Michigan, 20-13. The trouble at CMU started on South Main Street when police tried to move about 3,000 to 5,000 partiers out of the area, witnesses said.

Mt. Pleasant's 20 police officers, backed by 70 from other jurisdictions, many wearing riot gear, were met by a hail of rocks and bottles as they tried to sweep partiers from Main Street's fraternity row from High to Bellows.

"Students were chanting 'Hell no, we won't go!'," Trombly said. "They were like drunken animals."

"It was definitely a riot," said Mt. Pleasant Public Safety Director Martin Trombley. "The two key ingredients were too much alcohol and too many people."

New book looks at Greek hazing

Newly released "Broken Pledges: The Deadly Rite of Hazing" (\$18.95, Longstreet Press) examines the problem of fraternity and sorority hazing and its consequences.

"Broken Pledges" describes initiating new members through age-old activities like "goldfish gulping," branding, stunning pledges with a cattle prod or forcing pledges to eat or drink concoctions that make them ill.

The book includes a breakdown of reported hazing incidents in the last few decades and stories of college students who were injured or killed during a hazing ritual.

Author Hank Nuwer says the book explores a dangerous, and under-reported, college topic.

"In the book, I'm basically in the role of a reporter, trying to find out whatever is available," he says. "They've been trying to end hazing since the 1920s ... yet it continues."

Campus visits are key for admissions

What's the No. 1 item influencing a student's decision about where to go to college? A survey of 181 freshmen at Connecticut colleges says it's a personal visit to the campus.

The second most important factor, the students say, is the good old catalog that lists and describes courses. Third is opinions of family and friends.

Eileen Matthay of Southern Connecticut State University, who conducted the survey, suggests high school principals should be more liberal about giving students time off school for campus visits.

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Few questions are asked in class

By Mary Beth Marklein
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Information Network

A classroom full of college students asks only about 3.3 questions an hour, an Ohio University study finds.

"American students are falling dreadfully behind, and part of it is their lack of assertiveness," says study co-author Judy Pearson, professor of interpersonal communication. Students today "seem to be more complacent, subdued, compliant," she says.

In their study of 331 undergraduate students taught by 15 different instructors, Pearson and graduate student Richard West found:

— Only 49 questions emerged in more than 900 minutes of class time; most were to clarify an idea or to address other "low-level" points that "don't really get at the substance," says Pearson.

— Male teachers got more questions than females.

— Female students asked fewer questions overall, and were less likely to ask questions of male instructors than female instructors.

Pearson says instructors must bear some responsibility for the dismal showing.

"We have to start thinking about creating a classroom climate that allows the asking of the question," she says. "We somehow think that if we have mastery of the subject matter, that's enough."

Asking questions "is really one of the most fundamental activities that takes place in the

School to offer bachelor's degree in alcohol treatment

Union Institute, in Cincinnati, Ohio and the American Council on Alcoholism, based in Baltimore, Md., now will offer a bachelor's degree in alcohol education and treatment.

The bachelor's program was created in response to a need for counselors who have attained a degree from an accredited institution to help millions of alcoholics in treatment centers nationwide.

Music plays rating game

People say the music industry should label records, tapes and discs similar to movie ratings:



Source: National Research Corp. June 1990 poll of 1,500 adults

Marcia Staimer, Gannett News Service

classroom. It's one of the main publish the research findings in ideas of teaching," says Lawrence January.

Rosenfeld, editor of Communi- (Mary Beth Marklein writes for cation Education, which will Gannett News Service.)

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