

Sex ed. class postponed

By Hilari Anderson
News Editor

The human sexuality class has been postponed due to questions concerning its compatibility with the goals and mission of SPU.

Last September, the *Falcon* quoted Sam Dunn, vice president of academic affairs, as saying that the human sexuality course was "integral to our curriculum, has been well taught, and will continue to be offered."

His response was the result of complaints by two students, Kevin Gibbs and Todd Rowe. Last year, Gibbs described the class as containing "explicit and grossly obscene material." Rowe was unavailable for comment.

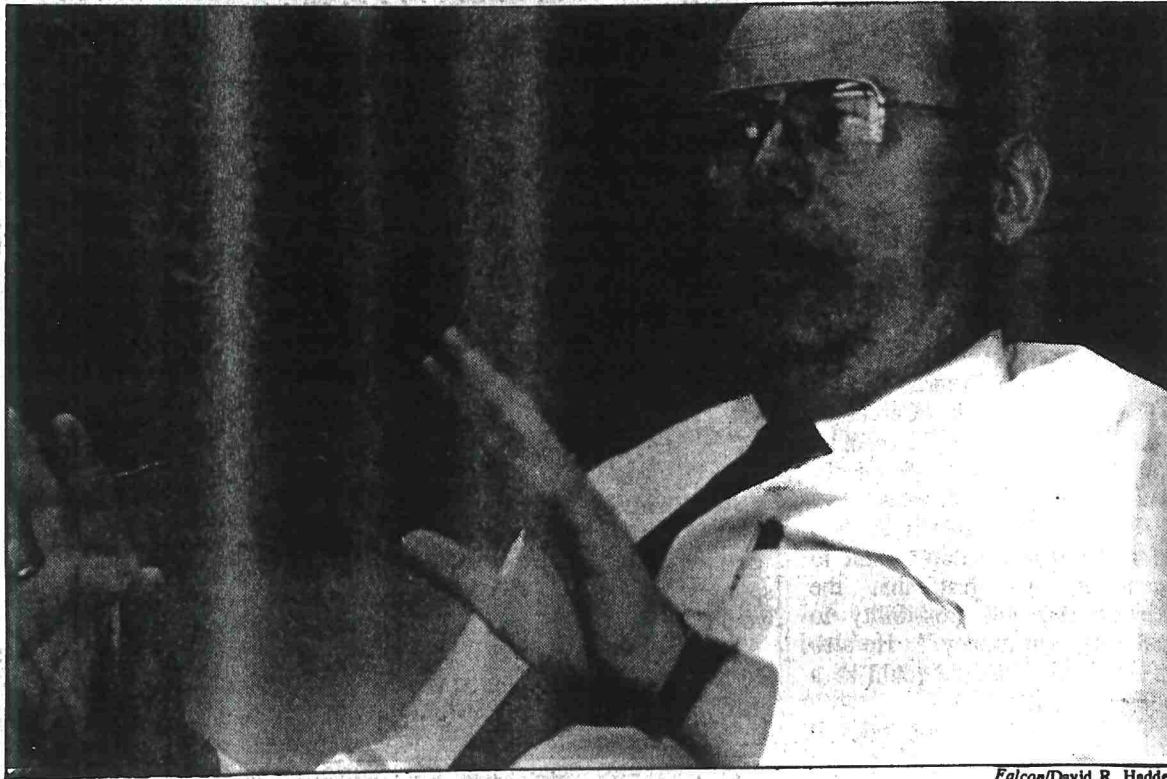
The complaints began when Michael Roe, discipline chairperson of psychology, took over the class for two quarters in 1989 and 1990 while its usual instructor, Mary Fry, was away on academic leave.

According to Michael Roe, the controversy "began as a complaint about the textbook."

The textbook, *Our Sexuality*, by Crooks and Baur, has received national attention from *Citizens for a More Informed America*. The group attacked the book and a human sexuality course taught at Nassau Community College in New York.

The group's complaint, according to Joseph Dondero, chair of the department of health education at Nassau, was that the materials Dondero used were sexually explicit.

According to a written statement prepared by Michael Roe, "Crooks and Baur's *Our Sexuality* is one of a number of



Falcon/David R. Hadden

Sam Dunn, vice president of academic affairs, reviewed the Human Sexuality course over the summer of 1990. In a reversal of his original statement, Dunn explains that the decision to postpone the course was solely his.

widely used texts in human sexuality." He added that the comparison of the book to other texts "reveals similarities in the coverage of topics, in the explicitness of graphics, and in the non-judgmental orientation (except where exploitive sex is criticized)."

He went on to say that he did not agree with all of the material in Crooks and Baur, as he does not agree with all of the material in any of his textbooks, "including," he said, "my statistics text."

The controversy surrounding SPU's class brought about Sam Dunn's review of the course

over the summer of 1990.

Dunn stated that he compared about 30 books looking at "what kinds of illustrations were used," and whether or not it was in line with other universities.

It was this review that led Dunn to make the public statement that the course was a good one.

Over the course of the year the class continued under Mary Fry, who has taught it for 15 years.

This fall, the class was postponed.

When asked when the class would return, Dunn said "that hasn't been finally ... decided."

He added that it would probably be too late to get it going winter quarter.

Questions surrounding the reasons that the class has been postponed were also asked. Dunn answered them by stating that "the controversy has continued" and that "critics had continued to press"

However, he did not wish to expand on what the controversy was or who the critics were.

Fry said she was told that she "wasn't conservative enough."

But, she said that she was not informed of any other reasons for the postponement of her class.

Joel Paget, member of the Board of Trustees, was the only person who was willing to go on the record with a statement on the controversy.

According to Paget, one of the issues dealt with how the class addressed homosexuality.

"When you have ... Christians practicing homosexuality in the class ..., it runs contrary to evangelical tradition."

Homosexuals have been brought in to speak to the class for years, according to Mary Fry.

Paget said that classes taught at Seattle Pacific should contain content that is consistent with evangelical tradition. He also said that there are "not many Christians who believe there can be practicing Christian homosexuals."

When asked to respond to Paget's statement, Dunn had no comment, except to say that there were many reasons for the postponement, and, in a separate interview he stated that he didn't want to imply that the issue of homosexuality was a major part of the controversy.

Provost Curtis Martin, in a separate interview, said that a board member doesn't have the details to make the decision to postpone the class. He said that the responsibility rests with the vice president of academic affairs.

"The only person who has the full set of reasons hasn't given those reasons ... Sam Dunn is the person who knows."

Dunn backed up this statement by saying that he alone

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Postponement of class unclear

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made the decision to postpone the class.

Martin said that the course is not at this time compatible with the goals and mission of SPU. He did say, however, that this was not the definitive statement on the course's postponement.

Bud McDole, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said he thinks the administration felt the course could not be taught if faculty did not support and subscribe to the basic Christian beliefs and principles that SPU stands for.

"They felt that they did not have an instructor that they were confident could present the course material and live within the appropriateness of the religious principles that SPU adheres to," McDole stated.

Martin, however, said that this was not a judgment against a faculty member.

As far as critics were concerned, there were a variety of statements. Dunn said that there had been "various kinds of constituents ...," adding, "I don't care to mention names of groups ... I don't think they have that much influence."

Fry said she thought that there was an outside pressure although "it's very unclear ... who was complaining."

According to Paget, word of the controversy spread quickly through Christian circles.

Fry did mention, however, that a woman who was not a student at SPU enrolled in her

class to examine it during the spring quarter of 1991.

Fry said that the woman wrote a letter of complaint to the administration which she was never allowed to see. At the time, however, she said the administration told her that was no concern.

She did not wish to release the name of the woman.

When questioned about an outside interest coming in to the class, Dunn chose not to comment.

The postponement of the class has also led to questions on how much control faculty members have over their classrooms; questions regarding academic freedom.

According to Tom Trzyna, assistant to the vice president of academic affairs and the dean of humanities, "the best guarantee of academic freedom is the use of good process in decision making."

Trzyna then recited steps outlined by Martin Luther King Jr. which referred to good process. He said: "you've got to collect all the facts, you've got to purify your heart and you've got to be willing to negotiate before you take direct action."

Dunn spoke of academic freedom by referring to the American Association of University Professors' 1940 statement on academic freedom, which, he said, SPU adheres to. However, Note three of the statement allows for church related institutions to choose whether or not they follow the statement.

Dunn said that course content

"must be congruent with the religious mission of the University."

McDole said, "I think academic freedom stops if there is a breaching of religious values or the moral values that are dictated by the owners of the University, in this case ... the Free Methodist Church.

"Academic freedom is fine as long as it does not impinge upon the religious beliefs or moral values that the school holds dear ... then academic freedom takes second place."

Fry said that she feels her class is an important one to prepare students for life outside of SPU.

"I've never taken teaching this course lightly," she said.

A committee has been formed to look into the matter along with Sam Dunn and Mary Fry.

The committee consists of five faculty members: Barbara Bovy, Barbara Innes, Rob Wall, Bill Woodward, Mel Foreman and Glen Paddock.

Faculty council is also in the process of putting together a task force to look into the postponement and how it relates to academic freedom. Names for the task force have not yet been made public.

According to Trzyna, "the people who are most concerned ... are now talking ... It is important that the campus give them space and peace in which to talk.

"The provost's staff came up with excellent two-year objectives for the University," Trzyna said. "I believe it's critical that we get to work on those objectives ..."



U.S. support for democracy in Czechoslovakia assured
President Bush assured Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel of United States support for the promotion of democracy within Czechoslovakia.

After four decades of communist stagnation, Havel spoke of hope that this bilateral agreement will strengthen ties between United States and Europe.

Since 1990, the United States has provided \$45 million in aid to Czechoslovakia. The American Enterprise Fund received five million dollars.

Bush has promised to add \$10 million into the fund over the next three years.
(Information compiled from Seattle Times)

U.S. missile falls into Iraqi hands

According to Pentagon officials, Iraqis have in possession a Tomahawk cruise missile.

This missile, which was a weapon used in the Persian Gulf war, fell into Iraqi hands in an accident. It seems that the missile obtained a target and then failed to detonate.

Although the missile is intact, it is no longer operational.
(Information compiled from Seattle Times)

Interested in Law School?



A representative of Gonzaga University School of Law,

Christian colleges contacted

By Geoffrey S. DeWeese
Staff Writer

were asked about their classes.

With the questions arising over SPU's human sexuality class, other Christian colleges

Four schools out of the contacted offer a human sexuality class in some capacity. At Biola University, in

"Show Me Where Fair"