It is a short week for me. Like most people in the Department (I should probably add the University), I am taking Friday off. I will visit my sons and drive to St. Louis to see my parents. This time of the year is good to work on lectures, get caught up with paperwork and to get a research grant submitted.

Of course, the oil fiasco in the Gulf is dominating the news, as it should. The quirkiest news item I recently read concerning the oil mess, was that the Louisiana craft brewery, Abita was selling Save our Shores Charitable Pilsner, with the profits going to the clean-up of the Gulf shores. However, you cannot purchase the beer in Alabama. The beer is sold in 22 oz. bottles, and that is against Alabama law. Now, if they were to package it in two 11 oz. bottles, and double the amount of waste for the landfill (since you cannot recycle glass around here) and increase the amount of oil needed to truck the tons of extra glass to the market and then to the landfill, that would be completely acceptable. Somehow this indicates to me that the problem with the oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico is a result of deeper issues than merely BP and oil rig safety.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Our sympathy**
David Steffy's wife, Pauline, passed away on Monday, 21 June. Martin Hall made a collection to send to the Arthritis Foundation in memory of Pauline Steffy. A total of $170 was collected and sent to the foundation. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**FAR Memorandums Due back to Head**
A few of the Faculty have not yet returned your Faculty Annual Review (FAR) memorandums back to the Head. Please make any comments that you wish and sign and return the memorandums as soon as possible.

**New Computers!**
On a very short time-line, the Dean asked for requests for new computers. Congratulations to David Steffy, Laura Weinkauf, and Tracy Casey. All three will have their greater than 5 year old desktop computers replaced with new computers.

**Lock the Doors Behind You**
If you are here after hours or on week-ends, please make certain that the door locks behind you.
Deadline for Computer Purchases for this Fiscal Year

The deadline for requesting quotes from the Division of Information Technology for computer, laptop, peripheral, and non-site license software purchases during this fiscal year is Friday, July 30, 2010. This deadline also applies to existing quotes that need updating. Purchase orders for these items should be faxed to vendors by Friday, August 6, 2010 so that receipt of the items will be within the current fiscal year. While receipt of any order cannot be guaranteed, it is imperative that this deadline be followed.

Degenerate States

The Philosophy of Ambiguity

For those who love the philosophy of ambiguity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of English:

1. Don’t sweat the petty things and don’t pet the sweaty things.
2. One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.
3. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
4. If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
5. The main reason that Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.
6. I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "where’s the self-help section?" she said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.
7. What if there were no hypothetical questions?
8. If a deaf child signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
9. If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?
10. Is there another word for synonym?
11. Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"
12. What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
13. If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
14. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
15. Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
16. If a turtle doesn’t have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
17. Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
18. If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
19. Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?
20. How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?
21. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
22. One nice thing about egotists: they don’t talk about other people.
23. Does the little mermaid wear an algebra?
24. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
25. How is it possible to have a civil war?
26. If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?
27. If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?
28. If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
29. Whose cruel idea was it for the word ‘lisp’ to have ‘s’ in it?
30. Why are hemorrhoids called "hemorrhoids" instead of "asteroids"?
31. Why is it called tourist season if we can’t shoot at them?
32. Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?
33. If you spin an oriental person in a circle three times, do they become disoriented?
34. Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact Tracy Casey before noon on Thursdays at: ts_casey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.