

Calculus Teacher Gives Students the Shaft

Juniors and seniors who have taken Honors Advanced Algebra and are thinking of taking calculus should think again.

Not all the students who are presently enrolled in the course are doing well or happy with what they are learning. Six of the 13 students taking the course said it's okay; three said they don't like it but are determined to see things through because the course will look good on their transcripts; and the other four said they are not getting what they expected.

Their frustration could be summed up by the comments of Mary Sanchez, senior. She said that the teacher, Mr. Harry Howard, "is incapable of explaining calculus to students who are not familiar with the subject." She said she is often lost in the lectures and that she does not get enough help from Howard.

When Howard was asked about the dissatisfaction of some of his

students, he said, "Students of limited ability, like Mary, have difficulty grasping subjects as difficult as calculus and probably cannot earn above a 'C' in my course."

Howard has been teaching here at Slippery Falls for five years. He is a graduate of Sand Dunes State in California, where he earned a 2.5 GPA. His college grade in calculus was a D+.

At Slippery Falls he tried to start a calculus club, but no one joined. Students say he will help them if they go to him, but he seems reluctant to offer assistance and almost never encourages them to stop by his classroom for help.

Students who expect to enroll in calculus should discuss their plans with other teachers in the math department. We need a new calculus teacher!