

POLICE REPORT

05/06/05 FOUND PROPERTY: Provided directions to campus. Wallet found in Olmsted lounge/owner located and wallet returned.

05/06/05 ESCORT SERVICE: Provided escort to faculty member to airport.

05/06/05 VRP ASSIST: PSO assisted vehicle registration with determining owner of three out of state plates.

05/06/05 ALARM ACTIVATION: Burnt food caused alarm to activate. Smoke cleared and alarm reset.

05/06/05 DISABLED VEHICLE: Staff member reported running out of gas in tractor. Assisted with pushing tractor to pump.

05/06/05 MOTORIST ASSIST: Provided directions to campus visitor.

05/09/05 ALARM ACTIVATION: Pull station activated. Resident life reset station.

05/09/05 ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY: Provided background check on former student/waiver provided.

05/09/05 VISITOR INJURY: Visitor fell while in the women's locker room and struck head. University accident report completed.

05/09/05 MOTORIST ASSIST: Provided truck driver directions to first street.

05/09/05 MOTORIST ASSIST: Provided directions to lost motorist to toll house road.

05/10/05 THEFT: Faculty member reported cash belonging to engineering club taken from desk. Value \$200.

05/11/05 POLICY: PSO collected infectious waste from health services.

05/11/05 HEALTH/SAFETY: Staff reported mulch fire on south walkway. Staff put out fire.

05/11/05 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Provided Capital Times editor with general information about department.

05/11/05 HEALTH/SAFETY: Truck parked in westbound lane adjacent softball field. Verbal warning given to owner to move vehicle.

House of pain

By Frazier Moore
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - As an abrasive anti-hero, Dr. Gregory House is hardly unique. But the sort of rotten attitude he radiates is typically the product of a tortured psyche - think Andy Sipowicz's wrath on "NYPD Blue."

"House" is quite a different matter. One of the season's unlikeliest new hits, it's a medical drama about a misanthropic doctor and the pain that racks his body, not his mind.

Perhaps no TV protagonist has been stamped so profoundly by a physical affliction. Walking with a limp, his cane supporting his bum right leg, House is constantly hurting. Pain is part of his persona.

So is drug abuse. He overmedicates on Vicodin.

"I do NOT have a pain MANAGEMENT problem. I have a PAIN problem," he once snarled at a waiting room of flustered patients. "But who knows? Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm too stoned to tell."

House wasn't looking to win these patients' confidence. He considers their routine complaints a waste of his time. At Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital, he generally ducks the clinic's day-to-day chores. What he holds out for is any case that's baffling enough to engage his world-class diagnostic skills.

Meanwhile, people skills be damned! As brilliantly portrayed by Hugh Laurie, House is snide, arrogant, a little wild-eyed and less than professional in appearance (he flat refuses to wear his prescribed white coat).

So how come a recent tvguide.com poll named him the sexiest doctor on TV - by a wide margin? Maybe this show was just fated

to succeed.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that "House," airing at 9 p.m. EDT Tuesday on Fox, benefits from its hit lead-in, "American Idol."

A less obvious factor: House's hardship is all too relatable for viewers.

"Approximately 1 in 5 Americans suffers from chronic or recurrent pain," reports ABC News, which was partnering with USA Today this week in a project called "The Fight Against Pain."

Time magazine addressed "The Right (And Wrong) Way to Treat Pain" in a January cover article, noting, "Perhaps the biggest reason so many patients suffer more than they should is the tendency among doctors and patients alike to see pain as a mere sideshow."

Well, "House" sure doesn't see pain as a sideshow. Here, pain is fetishized and, despite the Vicodin, unyielding. It's the main event.

But "House" creator David Shore dismisses any idea that his series was out to capitalize on pain as the culture's next big thing. He was just looking for a storytelling device. "We wanted a character who was unpleasant," he explains. So he made House the victim of a crippling, embittering blood clot.

"As originally conceived, we had him in a wheelchair," Shore recalls. "Fox said, 'No way.' They were right. It works better to show him at the same level as everybody else, but in pain with every step."

With House, there's the pain of recognition for any viewer who was ever plagued by so much as a headache or a muscle strain. But how to maintain the right balance with this damaged champion, keeping him not just relatable, but also bearable? It's

tricky, Shore allows. Make House too harsh and the audience flees, while "if we make him too nice, we destroy what's interesting about the character."

So far, so good - particularly on the next show. Written by Shore, this next-to-last episode of the season departs from the customary format (lifesaving remedy found just in time) for an extraordinary hour framed in a lecture hall, where, under protest, House substitutes for an ailing prof.

As he tangles with the students in this diagnostics class, he will shed light on his own condition - how, through bungled treatment and tragic choices years before, he was left in his impaired, tormented state.

He also reconnects with someone from his past (guest star Sela Ward in the first of several appearances spilling into next season). A woman who seems to have broken House's heart, Stacy Warner comes begging him to treat the mysteriously sick husband he didn't know she had.

"I KNOW you're not too busy," Stacy says. "You avoid work like the plague. Unless it actually IS the plague."

"I'm not too busy," House concedes - "but I'm not sure I want him to live."

However sarcastic and self-indulgent, House, as usual, is painfully honest. And however much a jerk, he's a jerk who believes morality is measured not by attitude, but results. He's got no cause to apologize. He saves lives.

"This is a guy who doesn't have time for niceness or pretense," says Shore. "He wants to get to the stark truth as quickly as he possibly can."

Why not? Even when the truth hurts, House was hurting first.

CAMPUS CALENDER

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

May 16 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. The first session in the series features Dr. William Mahar and Dr. Marian Walters with an introduction to participants, speakers, and tutors, and an introduction to the proposal process. (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 17 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Dr. Barbara Sims will discuss "Taking Research Issues from Ideas to a Grant Proposal." (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 18 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Lisa Murray from the Office of Research will focus on "Building a Budget." (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 19 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Jane Childs, University Park Development Director, will discuss "Foundation and Development Funding Sources" and Bernadette, Penn State Harrisburg librarian, will discuss "Grants Information from Funding Directories and Web Sites." (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 20 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Dr. Walters will discuss "Grant Form Pages," and Lisa Murray from the Office of Research will focus on "PIAF." (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 23 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Proposal Planning with Lynn Miner and Associates. (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

May 24 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Proposal Writing with Lynn Miner and Associates. (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

May 25 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Explanation of support functions from the State Data Center on the Harrisburg campus with staff from the Institute of State and Regional Affairs. (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

p.m.)

May 26 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Michael Behney, Director of Institute of State and Regional Affairs, will discuss "Knowing the Grant Community and What's in the Pipeline" and Dr. Barbara Sims will discuss "Resolving Human Use Issues." (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

May 27 - "Grantseeking A-Z" for faculty will be offered. Explanation of resources available from the University Park Office of Research.

June 7 - MBA Information Night. Learn about Penn State Harrisburg's redesigned MBA program which provides students additional flexibility in scheduling and completing the degree. RSVP not required. For information, phone 717-948-6250 or e-mail hbgadmit@psu.edu. (6 p.m. in the Library)

FUN & GAMES

August 27 - Family Buffet. Join all the first year students and their families for a dinner buffet and entertainment. (4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Community Center)

August 28 - Target Mall Run. Make sure to catch this bus in order to shop for you and your room. Stores include Target, Old Navy, Borders, Kohls, Michaels, Party City and others. (1 p.m., bus leaves from the Community Center)

August 29 - Pancake Breakfast. Meet some of the student affairs staff as they prepare a pancake breakfast for you. (9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Community Center)

August 29 - Pizza Party and Craft Night. Enjoy pizza for dinner and stick around to try out your creative talents with various craft activities. (7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Community Center)

August 30 - Eric O'Shea - Comedian. Blow off some steam from your first day of classes and

enjoy a laugh. Eric is a two-time national comedian of the year nominee and veteran college performer. Sponsored by the Entertainment Council. (9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. in the Community Center)

August 31 - All Campus Picnic. Come out to Vartan Plaza to enjoy free food and entertainment. Entertainment Council also brings back a campus hit - No Show Ponies to perform during the picnic. (12 p.m. - 2 p.m. in the Vartan Plaza, Olmsted Building)

September 2 - Movie Shuttle. Make a reservation and enjoy a movie at the local theatre. (7 p.m., shuttle leaves from the Community Center)

September 4 - Kipona Festival. Kipona means "sparkling water" in Native American language. The festival was named among the top ten festivals the state of PA - it includes food, rides, entertainment, boat races, arts and crafts, and the largest fireworks display of the year. Make sure to reserve your seat! (5 p.m., meet at the Community Center)


September 14 - Club Fest. Enjoy free food as you learn about the different clubs on campus. Find out how to join. This event is sponsored by Student Government Association. (12 p.m. - 2 p.m. in the Vartan Plaza, Olmsted Building)

September 15 - Preacher Moss. "End of Racism" Comedy tour. Preacher Moss knows how to deliver the goods on how we see race, through laughter, respect, and the humility of a man who has felt the sting of racism for not just blacks, but whites, gays, latinos, asians, the poor, and the underclass of America. (9:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. in the Community Center)

*Campus Calendar is adapted from the online events calendar at hbg.psu.edu.

Have something to add?
Submit to the Campus Calendar and Things You Need to Know by emailing captimes@psu.edu or calling (717) 948-6440.

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