cont. Criminal Charges Filed Against Principal Investigator in the UCLA Case

A recommended set-up for syringing tert-butyllithium includes inert gas supply and venting to a bubbler, as well as a glass syringe. *http://cen.acs.org*

The District Attorney's charges specifically cite regulations involving failure to correct unsafe workplace conditions and procedures in a timely manner, failure to require appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment, and failure to provide chemical safety training to employees. The three fundamental lab safety controls all fell short in this instance.

1) Administrative rules and policies: personnel should receive general safety and job specific training to ensure the individual knows how to respond if and when something goes wrong.

2) Engineering equipment: providing the right tools and knowing how to use them: functional safety showers and fume hoods. Fume hoods should have useable work area free from clutter and flammable materials.

3) Personal protective equipment: lab coats, gloves and eye protection should always be worn.

This case emphasizes the importance of developing not just a good training program, but a culture where people actually pay attention to safety – not just, "Yeah, I got my annual training and I'm done."

Frontline supervisors have been held accountable for employee's actions in private industry, however Harron is the first professor to be charged this way. As society changes we are being held to higher standards. This case could change the way we view the responsibilities of professors and the board of directors in academia.

Machine Tool Safety

By Shaun W. Savage

It has been nearly one year since the academic community learned of the untimely death of a Yale undergraduate student. While working alone in a science laboratory shop one evening, the student was killed when her hair accidently became entangled in a lathe. The cause of death was asphyxia due to compression of the neck. The accident was believed to be easily preventable if basic safety measures had been applied.

As with many highly publicized accidents, it provides an opportunity to evaluate safety measures aimed at preventing a similar event. Tufts University has machines and tools such as lathes, drill presses, and table saws. The University understands that such equipment is critical to various functions; however, working safely with this equipment should not be overlooked. Prior to using such equipment, it is critical that staff, faculty, and students are familiar with safe work practices. Examples include using machine guards, wearing personal protective equipment, and working with a partner or colleague. Despite these examples being standard practice for most machine and tool use, various pieces of equipment are more complex. As a result, prior to beginning work, the manufacturer's operating instructions should be reviewed and consultation with designated staff, faculty, or Tufts Environmental Health and Safety Staff (TEHS) should be performed. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), offers an *eTool* with general information. The link is located at:
http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/index.html

As mentioned, there is a variety of machines and tools that if used incorrectly can cause harm. Learn from the unfortunate accident at Yale, and utilize the resources available to you prior to beginning work.

"there is a variety of machines and tools that if used incorrectly can cause harm."

A manual metal lathe located in the Bray Laboratory Building machine shop is similar to the machine that killed Yale senior Michele Dufault on April 12. freerepublic.com