Reported cases of cheating at UC Berkeley dramatically increase

By Helen Hwang

Close to 500 Computer Science 61 students were caught cheating on an exam last semester, which is consistently ranked as one of the top three in the nation, is not immune to cheating. A midterm was dropped from grading as a result of widespread cheating in Computer Science 61A, a core prerequisite for the highly competitive computer science major.

"I'm not interested in protecting the academic reputation of the university," said Brian Harvey, the course's computer science professor. "Who cares? I'm more concerned about the effect on students.

Cheating can affect how students get into the highly competitive computer science major, which requires students to apply. Cheating can inflate students' grades and make it more difficult to get into the major. "Admission to the major is based on lower division grades, and students are essentially competing against each other for places," Harvey said. "Cheating is significant because it raises the bar for getting in the CS major."

The second midterm for Computer Science 61A was scheduled at the same time as one in Computer Science 61C, another major prerequisite. As a result, about 30 students took the midterm early. There are normally only a few students with conflicts who take the exam early, and it had never posed a problem before, Harvey said.

But this year some early exam-takers gave out test questions to other students, and there was quite widespread discussion of the exam questions. The problem was the sheer number of students taking the exam early.

"When there are only a small number of students taking the midterm at a different time ... they are less likely to cheat, and they become statistically unimportant. This time it was a large group of people," Harvey said.

"Academic dishonesty is anathema to the idea of higher education."

Neal Rajmaira

UC Berkeley student judicial affairs director

Cheating in the computer science department, which has been a problem before, Harvey said. "People build habits of behavior through every action, Harvey added.

"If you learn to cut corners as a student, you are preparing yourself to cut corners later in life," he said. "There are plenty of ways this can become problematic, especially as a computer programmer."

"Cheating is simply one thing among many that you have to consider in a large class like mine," Harvey said. "I'd rather focus on meeting the needs of students who want to learn rather than devote lots of energy to those who don't want to learn."
Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Palestinian leader Arafat "the biggest obstacle to peace in the Middle East." He said Arafat "has tried to make political gains through the death of innocents," during a televised address to Israel on Monday night.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat called Sharon's speech a "declaration of war." Sharon spoke after Israeli air strikes on Wednesday in the Gaza Strip, killed several of Arafat's helicopter pilots and his landing pad. Soon afterward, Sharon's jet airplanes were reported to have destroyed buildings in the West Bank town of Jenin.

Palestinians sources reported two people have died in the attacks and as many as 17 people were slightly injured. Israeli sources have called the attacks a "signal" to Arafat following a series of suicide bombings that killed at least 25 people this week-end. — BBC News

Tests postponed for U.S. missile shield
WASHINGTON — Saturday's fifth test of the U.S. missile defense system was canceled due to unfavorable weather conditions.

The tests involve a dummy warhead on a booster rocket that will be shot from Vandenberg Air Force Base. An interceptor will be launched from Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands about 20 minutes later. Of the four tests of the system, two have been successful and two have failed. There is much controversy about the tests and the missile defense system. Russia and China oppose the system and the tests, saying it will start a new arms race and that it violates the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the former Soviet Union. U.S. officials say that the tests do not violate the treaty. — BBC News

InternationalBriefs
Middle East
ISRAEL — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Palestinian leader Arafat "the biggest obstacle to peace in the Middle East." He said Arafat "has tried to make political gains through the death of innocents," during a televised address to Israel on Monday night.

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Africa
GUINEA — A attempted coup against the Guinean government was foiled Saturday night in the capital, Conacry.

The government said the coup attempt, involving units of the army, Almami Camara, and the former navy chief of staff, Lamine Mane, were "massive. Details were still being gathered, while other officials are reportedly on the run, according to the International Affairs Ministry in Conacry.

Despite the situation, there have been no signs of shooting or fighting, the capital remains calm, western diplomats said.

Nouhae said the two military men were arrested by the police planning the coup. Some of those on the run allegedly have ties to former president Nino Vieira, who was overthrown in 1998. — BBC News

Asia
JAPAN — A top Japanese official has voiced support for changing the law to allow females to inherit the throne of the world's oldest monarchy, two days after the birth of a new princess to the imperial household.

But the chief cabinet secretary, the government's top spokesman, and the minister of Gender Equality, said any change could take decades.

Crown Princess Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, gave birth to a baby girl Saturday. Japan has had several reigning female monarchs, but in its last one was the 18th century Empress Gosakuramachi.

The succession law written after World War II, which redefined the emperor as a ceremonial leader, imposed the men-only rule. — CNN News

Europe
GERMANY — A revised draft proposing an interim government in Afghanistan is close to being finalized.

Four Afghan factions have been modifying a U.N. proposal for a 29-member ruling party — party of a larger interim authority — that would be comprised of a chairman, two deputy chairmen and 24 council members. The top position in the interim administration will go to the Rome faction, which represents former King Mohammed Zahir Shah. There have been several names mentioned from the Rome group, and a source told CNN that

U.S. faults Palestine's Arafat

By Steven Mufson
THE WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON — It has become an all-too-familiar pattern: every new round of bloodletting between Israelis and Palestinians, a senior U.S. official somberly urges both sides to exert maximum restraint to prevent further violence.

Not Monday.

With buildings still ablaze near the Gaza headquarters of Yasser Arafat after an Israeli rocket attack, the Bush administration had few words of sympathy or condemnation for the Palestinian leader. Instead the administration said that Israel should restrain for suicide bombing attacks over the weekend that killed 26 people were legitimate responses.

"Israel is a sovereign government," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "Israel has a right to self-defense and the responsibility to prevent further violence." The Bush administration, which even at the beginning of the year believed Arafat could do more to restrain violence, has been further strained by an effort to involve Israeli leaders to persuade the administration of Arafat's complicity in the killing of four civilians. As a result, there was no U.S. reaction, all the more so because of Arafat's role in the latest round of killings, which helped fuel the flames of Arafat's complicity in the Arafat family's relations with Hamas. And in that context, people (in the administration) feel very strongly that the burden on the Arafat to deliver the leadership to demonstrate that he is a leader for peace."
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By Jacob Jackson

Progressive Student Alliance and the College Republicans Club, the two prominent political organizations on campus, share a passion for activism and social awareness in government.

But that's where the similarities end.

"Our groups are just plain fundamentally opposed," said Brent Vann, president of the College Republicans Club. "They're socialists and we're capitalists." PSA co-director Sarah Elliot acknowledged that PSA's startling demonstrations are intended to grab attention.

"Our group tends to be even more left-wing than they are right," she said.

The "Die-In" represented PSA's fundamental opposition to the war. "We can't advocate the killing of innocent people," said Jesse McGowan, co-director of PSA. "The problem with this war is that the people who are directly responsible aren't being punished, and many innocent people are." PSA co-director Clayton Whitt made a local analogy.

"If you have a murderer in San Luis Obispo, you don't bomb San Luis Obispo," he said. "You punish the individual responsible."

The FSA event, which drew the ire of the College Republicans Club, took place three weeks ago at Farmers Market. Members of PSA participated in a peace-walk candlelight vigil, and crossed paths with several members of the College Republicans Club. The two groups engaged in a heated argument and the San Luis Obispo police were called to mollify the dispute.

"If you have a murderer in San Luis Obispo, you don't bomb San Luis Obispo," Vann said. "After Sept. 11, the only thing college Republicans care about is America." The College Republicans Club celebrated its pro-war stance with a pro-American rally earlier this month. Members of PSA attended the event and protested the war side-by-side with supporters, further fueling the tension between the two groups.

"They're wasting their time," Vann said of PSA's efforts. "Ninety-five percent of this campus supports the war effort, and we're on the right side."

McGowan said that despite their differences, the groups showed a certain respect for each other. "Apathy is a terrible thing, and unfortunately, many students don't care about the issues affecting them," he said. "One thing you can say for these two groups — they take a stand for what they believe in."
Religious does not always mean fundamentalist

Opinion

Tribunals should not ignore U.S. ideals

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the public has largely returned to the daily routine of life as it was before. News reports are injected with news of a war-off-war or attempts to bolster national security, but as we know it - the ins and outs of our daily experience - has maintained a similarity to our existence in pre-attack America. Yet as the American public accepts life as usual, the principles that define the individuality of the American way of life being transformed in order to bring about some form of justice.

Now let me set a few things straight. I support military action to stop these attackers and support any action in order to keep domestic terror ism-free. But more importantly, I also support the Constitution, the document upon which the principles of this nation firmly rest. Any abuse of these principles represents not merely a change of face in policy, but a corruption of American ideals.

Times of war often produce astronomical public support for the government's actions. This is no exception. But times of war also may create a sort of moral blinding within the public - a passivity or acceptance of government actions. The end result is a crushing defect of the enemy. Granted, I find it hard to blame the average person for thinking this. Natural human responses to this are understandable.

The problem with the mixlem fundamentalist stereotypes affect us. Many religious individuals see those that they're seeking some form of spiritual ity in their lives, but they're scared away from structured religion by the intolerance and control those stereotypes project. In college, we really begin to define our selves and see those that live face major questions about our personal faith and beliefs. It's important to believe that Christianity is the most valid religion. I'm not in position to dismiss others faith because they vary in detail from my own, and I can't argue the attributes of any faith in goodness. Some of these stereotypes are childish and illogical. "Don't touch me, I'm not a boy." If we can build a world where we'll even come to terms with being labeled "religious."
Nearly 10 percent of Princeton undergrads report sexual harassment

By Julie Kestenman

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. — Nearly one in 10 Princeton University undergraduate students who responded to the April 2001 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey reported that they were in some way sexually harassed on campus.

"It is surprising that I know that there are more people who are assaulted," Bryant said. Finnie also addressed the validity of the data. "Different people will have different interpretations of the data," she said.

The survey had a 20 percent response rate, which may seem like only a representation of a small portion of the Princeton undergraduate community. But both Finnie and Bryant said awareness of harassment, its definition and its implications on campus are important results of the survey.

"It helps us understand what the lives of people are like on campus," Finnie said. "What is happening to the students outside the classroom is a huge impact on their lives inside the classroom.

SHARE offers free confidential counseling for victims and perpetrators in addition to their friends and residential advisors. Bryant and the rest of the SHARE staff run prevention and peer-education programs in residential colleges, eating clubs and local middle and high schools.

"It is a big part of people's recovery process to have an opportunity for activism," Bryant said.

Forum criticizes Northern Alliance, women's status

By Amelia E. Lester

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — At a forum organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW) on Saturday night, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan's U.S. representative spoke of her own lifelong struggle against the Taliban, as well as her reservations about the ability of the Northern Alliance to affect positive change for Afghan women.

"The Northern Alliance are just as misogynistic and brutal as the Taliban, but they deceive the international community to think otherwise by wearing suits and speaking Western languages," said the representative, Tameenah, who is unable to be photographed or use her last name to security concerns.

"The campaign against terrorism and for women's rights will not get anywhere unless non-fundamentalists come to power," Tameenah said.

The 9.3 percent of undergraduates who responded to the April 2001 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey to President Lee, Boston's NOW president, said she thinks the survey allows students to tell the real story of what it is like to be a student at the university, especially regarding sensitive subject areas like harassment.

"What is happening to the students outside the classroom has a huge impact on their lives inside the classroom," Finnie said. "Women are even more afraid of the Northern Alliance than the Taliban.

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Braving the Grade

Cars head south over the Cuesta Grade on Monday afternoon. Construction on the Grade came to a halt this past weekend due to construction worker strikes. The strike has since been settled. Look for the story in tomorrow's Mustang Daily.

HOUSING
continued from page 1

a pain to move it. It made it a lot easier to move, the furniture was much more comfortable than anything he has ever done," said former Clinton administration official.

Arafat lives with two other roommates in a condominium in San Luis Obispo. Her parents had sold some property and reinvested the money into the condominium, she said.

"They know the area and they thought that it's a good place to invest," she said.

ARAFAT
continued from page 3

administration did not mention that the weekend attacks had been preceded by the Israeli assassination last month of a top Hamas commander, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud.

The latest bloody incident appears to have solidified the view among administration members that the Palestinian leader has brought Israeli retaliation upon himself, while undermining any U.S. plan to pressure Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"The burden clearly is on Chairman Arafat," Fleischer said. "It's a lot more comfortable with the living arrangements and have their parents take care of house repairs.

"It's a lot more comforting knowing that if something does go wrong, I deal with my parents rather than a company," Vellozzi said.

Although there are numerous advantages to her housing situation, Shires said some things might be hard to manage.

Because Shires' parents live in the Ray Area and aren't in San Luis Obispo very often, she has had to deal with the maintenance of the house, such as the gutters, painting and roofing, she said. If she encounters a problem with the house, she consults her parents to find the best way to fix it.

"In a sense, have been the house manager, which could be difficult when you're living with friends," Shires said.

"If things go wrong, they come to you first because you're the direct link (to your parents)."

When it comes time to graduate, Shires' and Vellozzi's parents can decide whether they want to sell their place or keep renting it out to students who are hungry for housing.

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There are many other advantages of having parents as landlords, Vellozzi said. Students can decorate the place how they want, choose their roommates, be sure they are comfortable with the living arrangements and have their parents take care of house repairs.

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