

## Letters

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stereotyped. Why do you hate us so much? You're making it way too easy for us to think you're just mad that you're not honors students. Your ill will is starting to sound like the projection of your frustrations onto the nearest scapegoats: honors students.

Your hate letters aren't as cathartic as you want them to be, but instead stir up further ire, fueling the schism between an already powerless student population. If we really want a voice in housing decisions, we need to cease the name-calling. It takes attention away from those in power and weakens our already slim chances of changing university policy.

**JULIE K. MILLIGAN**  
FOURTH-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

## Chinese cared more about Sept. 11

In regards to Angela Diamond's column last month, I have the same impression of Americans and their attitudes toward the world. They only care about themselves or things directly related to them. However, I'm surprised to know there are Americans like Diamond who have such foresight. After Sept. 11, it seemed more Chinese cared about the event than Americans (I'm from China).

Diamond's opinion is really great. She should run for U.S. president.

**HONGFEN LI**  
GRADUATE CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT

## Sen. Hollings' bill is next 'Big Brother'

Sen. Fritz Hollings has introduced a bill known as the Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act that would force the electronics industry to embed copy protection software into everything digital. That includes cell phones, MP3 players, CD players, televisions and anything else with a microprocessor.

In the digital industry of today, the code that operates your "objects-of-digital" comes from a variety of sources, but mainly from some commercial software firm. However, there are other sources, such as the bored unemployed programmer. Remember your beloved Napster? That program was the product of a

programmer with nothing but free time and an idea. If the CBDTPA passes, in less than three years, all code released would have to have U.S. government-approved copy-protection software imbedded inside.

The copy-protection software I'm referring to would inhibit any programmer from releasing non-government-approved code from being shared with any other computer. Those days of sharing MP3s with your friends would be over. Even if those MP3s are of your own musical creation, you wouldn't have the right to share it. If you were to write a program of your own and actually had it approved and copyrighted, you wouldn't have the rights to late distribute newer versions of your own code.

Wait, there's more. Because the United States seems to be

the only country considering such ridiculous judicial actions, the CBDTPA would greatly prohibit file-sharing with anyone outside U.S. borders. Anyone living outside would continue to have free use of unapproved software. However, anyone living within U.S. borders wouldn't be allowed to download any copy-protection-free software produced by anyone elsewhere. So, if you purchased a version of Linux (or any other open-source-based OS) that had code written from outside the United States and didn't contain copy-protection software, you would face criminal penalties, which would range from a heavy fine (\$250 to \$25,000) to a possible prison sentence.

This is the closest our government has ever come to becoming "Big Brother." This goes above and beyond all forms

of control it has ever instituted. Please do something to prevent this. E-mail Hollings. Tell everyone that your rights are being flushed away.

The battle of digital rights was small when it was being fought against the MPAA concerning Napster and free file sharing. That battle was lost. Whether CBDTPA is passed or not very well could determine who wins the war of open source.

**MARGARET HARRIS**  
FIRST-YEAR BIOLOGY STUDENT

## Submission Policy

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