

# the CHALLENGER

A Publication of the Harper College Honors Program

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## Uncle Sam knows best?

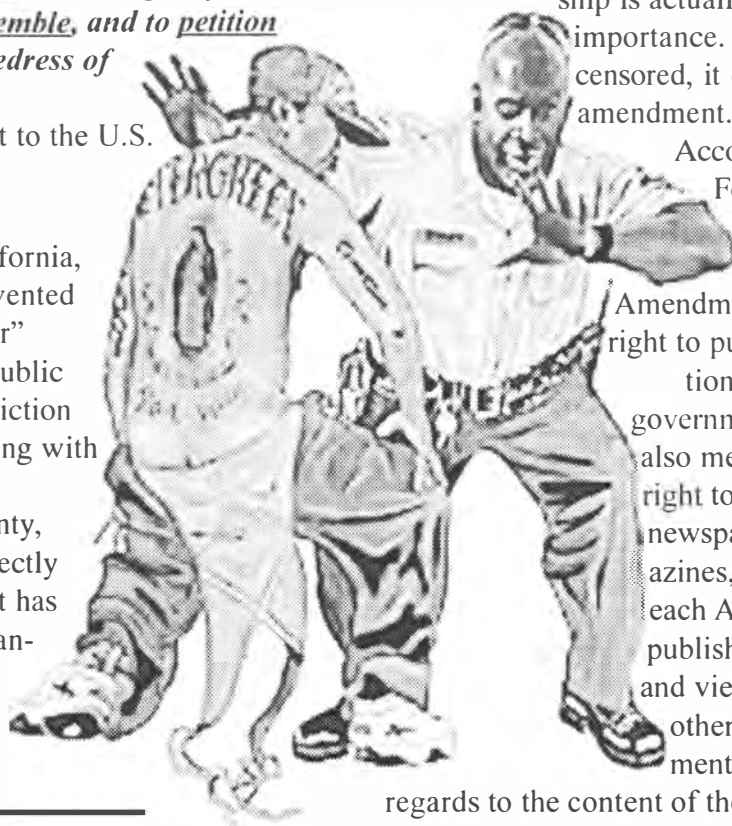
by Rana Raeuchle

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

— The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

In Los Angeles, California, artist Alex Donis, is prevented from displaying his “War” series of paintings in a public place because of the depiction of male policemen dancing with male “hoods.”

In Montgomery County, Texas, the book *It’s Perfectly Normal*, a best seller that has been translated into 17 languages, is banned from the public libraries



because it addresses the subject of homosexuality.

Censorship is rampant in today’s society, and most people never hear or even think about it. Every once in a while, it makes the local news when a religious or parent group protests materials allowed into the libraries, but each act of censorship is actually a matter of national importance. Every time an item is censored, it challenges the first amendment.

According to the Freedom Forum, a first amendment awareness organization, “The First Amendment gives the press the right to publish news, information and opinions without government interference. This also means people have the right to publish their own newspapers, newsletters, magazines, etc.” It ensures that each American can write and publish their own opinions and views of the world with others without the government having any say in

regards to the content of the message.

But some do not believe others should be able to produce and sell works found to be objectionable. An example is in the town of Livingston, Montana where a high school principal attempted to have the magazine *Rolling Stone* removed from the school library. “Society has to draw the line, and I’m a line drawer,” he told the *Associated Press* September 5. He reasoned that *Rolling Stone*

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# From the Editors

Heather and I would like to thank everyone involved in the Challenger. Special thanks go out to our colleague Rana Raeuchle. We couldn't have made the deadline without your help. Also special thanks to our faculty advisor Martha Stone for her patience and understanding.

Rooting through the seedy underbelly of current government activities we have learned the fine line differentiating invasion of privacy and need to be protected.

We hope that readers take away from this issue a greater understanding of the current issues facing American citizens today. Are these concerns the ravings of UFO government cover up enthusiasts or issues that we as Americans must look more deeply into?

Decide for yourself.

Co-editor Heather Jefferies  
Co-editor Jacob Pope

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## Big Brother is Watching: A Negative surveillance in

by Jacob Pope

New York's police department has moved into the future towards George Orwell's 1984 society filled with snooping cameras. The New York government has installed 2,397 cameras "hidden" throughout the city according to a study done by the NYCLU. While these cameras are meant to monitor for crime, the potential for abuse is very real. Big Brother has just acquired one thousand nine hundred and eight pairs of eyes to look into the lives of American citizens. Some people believe this to be an added element of safety while others an invasion of privacy.

Surveillance cameras have become a popular tool of law enforcement. Government officials can now check up on you at toll plazas, subway platforms, in housing projects, public parks, street intersections, and various points along the road. In Harlem at the Grant Houses during the same year that 39 cameras were installed, those cameras helped catch a burglar, sex assailant, and vandal. The cameras also reduced crime by 44 percent. If a person knows that he or she is being watched then they are much less likely to perform an act which is illegal. While watching people has the positive effect of improving their behavior, it also severely limits their freedom. Individual freedom is the basis of American society without which we lose our identity.

Credit cards, computer IDs, telephones, cell phone satellite tracking, and other technologies make you a big red blip on the government radar screen shouting "Here I am!" With probable cause government agencies can find out what you eat by credit card charges, what you look at on the Internet, who you call, and where you've been. DNA testing is becoming a more popular issue of late. DNA databases could be used to match convicted felons to DNA samples. While this practice could help catch convicted criminals, it could also help convict innocent people.

In SMU's *The Daily Campus* there was an article on cameras added to monitor the campus. College is a time during which many students learn how to deal with independence. Drinking is one of the most rampant of the experiences college students partake in, which is illegal until 21 years of age. Making mistakes and learning from those mistakes is one of the tools by which we as individuals become functioning members of society. Without the freedom to make mistakes out from under a watchful eye personal growth is retarded. Neither advocating nor denouncing any of the stupid or illegal acts which students participate in I suggest that it is their right as individuals to screw up, or as I will probably refer to it in later life "learning experiences."

# and Postive Outlook on Government our Daily Lives

by Heather Jefferies

The New York police department is moving into the technology future with its own piece of the big brother pie. Police are using surveillance cameras and DNA testing to help put a stop to crimes in the neighborhoods and fight back against drug dealers and users. There is an astonishing 2,397 cameras hidden throughout the city according to a study done by the NYCLU. Surprisingly, city officials only watch around 300 of them, with all the rest being operated by business owners and other individuals. Some people say that this is an invasion of their privacy, while others see the good they are doing and like the fact that they are there.

Surveillance cameras are becoming quite popular in helping in the fight against crime. Cameras are being placed at toll plazas, subway platforms, in housing projects and public parks, on top of traffic lights, and at various points throughout the streets. The police are very happy with the success the cameras have been achieving and plan to add more cameras in the years to come. One of their success stories takes place in Harlem at the Grant Houses. During the same year that the 39 cameras were installed, they helped catch a burglar, sex assailant and vandal, as well as helping reduce the crime rate by 44 percent.

Another way the New York

Police Department is moving into the future is through DNA testing. Police Commissioner Howard Safir is an advocate for DNA testing. He wants to keep records of everyone that has been arrested for a crime in New York City, according to an article by Rose Marie Arce, titled On Guard. Many believe that through the use of DNA testing serial killers and rapists could be stopped after their first victim.

The police are not the only ones using new technology to help fight crime or make people feel safer. I read an article in SMU's The Daily Campus on the cameras they added to help capture campus crime. In the article Lt. Richard Salazar explains how all the cameras are in plain sight and everyone is aware of them. The cameras are installed in areas where they are most needed. Lt. Salazar's response to the issue of privacy invasion is "that the cameras are here to help and protect the students and faculty. They are a good thing as long as they are used for safety, nobody should feel intimidated by them".

Lt. Salazar brings up a valid point in the article. He points out that places such as the average grocery stores and departments stores have cameras placed throughout them and no one seems to mind them. The first thing we must do is realize that the cameras are there for our protection, not to invade our privacy.

## Voyeurism in America

by Maham Khan

Eyebrows are raised and noses are wrinkled when many of the people I know talk about "The Bachelor", a television show featuring one man who gets to select the one woman, out of thirty, that he will propose to. The women all primp themselves only to pamper him. For many "love" is declared after one date. If you are a realist of any kind, then you'll beg me to stop now. The irony behind reality television is that it is so far from reality. Shows like the Bachelor, Real World, Survivor, Temptation Island, (Just to name a few) all seem to bring out the worst in the people being televised. I guess that's why they do so well considering the fact that our society seeks out drama. According to MSNBC News November 8, 2002 "reality TV shows rate the highest amongst all, beating out most WGN, ABC, NBC sitcoms and just about matching the viewer ratings for The Sopranos..." (which thankfully is not reality TV).

So what draws us so closely into the lives of strangers. Do we indeed carry a voyeuristic attribute that drives us to support the destruction of human nature, the exposing of people's mistakes and competitive nature to the whole world? Why do we tremble at the thought of Oliver Orwell's version of Big Brother becoming a reality for all of us? Yet when the TV show "Big Brother" comes on, we become nothing more then

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# Our Thoughts

## Heather's Thoughts

The first time I actually heard the phrase "big brother is watching" was back in high school. During my senior year the high school I went to put up cameras in all the hallways and in the parking lot for our protection. I never really thought about them too much, but one day I saw someone walking around the halls with a sign that had the famous words on it: "Big Brother Is Watching". It was a shock to me to see anyone get so worked up over some cameras. It wasn't a big deal to me to have the cameras there; the most I ever heard come out of anyone's mouth about the cameras was that they were a big nuisance. The biggest complaint was that it would inter-



ferre with people trying to make out in the halls between classes. But that sign, it made an impact on me. It made me think about how others felt about their privacy and how others are invading it. I know school cameras aren't that big of a deal to most people, but to some they were.

Now I know that the school I went to is not the only place with cameras, and this is small compared to all the other type of privacy invasion going on, but it was a big deal then. This was my first experience with the whole big brother idea and it opened my eyes. I think that when taken too far, big brother can definitely be an invasion of our privacy, but some of it is okay.

Recently, my friend took me to a

spy shop and they had tons of cameras and binoculars of all shapes and sizes. No matter where you went in the store you were on the television they had set up with the multiple cameras hidden throughout the store. I was amazing to see all the different types of cameras and how small they could be. Some were even hidden in children's toys. They had portable lie testers that were so small they could fit into a purse or backpack and that wasn't even the most shocking thing in the store. The thing that shocked me the most was some type of chemical a parent could use on a child's undergarments to test if they had gone out and had sex that evening. Talk about an invasion of one's privacy.

Where is this world heading? Now a parent doesn't even have to ask questions about their child's social life, they can tell without any words.

## Maham's Thoughts

The word ethics gives me an uneasy, rather uncomfortable feeling. I am not sure why. I think maybe it has to do with the fact that when ever you try to define something that has such fine parameters, you end up losing the whole purpose of the question in the first place- that it can not be done. I believe that I can not define or set up rules as to what falls under ethical and unethical. Sure, I have my opinions as to things that I do find that fall under those categories, but what makes my opinion correct?

In our recent discussion at the Honors meetings, we discussed pornography. There was definitely a question as to how ethical is it to come down harder on obvious porn, but not pose an ethics matter to some of the very graphic love making scenes in some of the best movies display? (ie. American Beauty) We as a society support tremendously shows like Real World, and the Bachelor just by watching them (I am guilty of this too). Yet, when the question of voyeurism comes up, we shrug away the possibility of the government setting up some day, a Big Brother scenario for us. Then the question of ethics will rise.

I guess that uneasy feeling maybe is irritation. I find it irritating that we only rise ethical questions when it is convenient for us. And one man's ethic may not work for the other...why?



# on Big Brother

## Jacob's Thoughts



Having a big brother watching over your shoulder doesn't in and of itself seem like a bad thing. If we had implanted chips kidnapping would become extremely difficult. Crimes would be solved much more easily tracing a suspects whereabouts to the scene of the crime. When we record everything or watch everywhere proof of innocence and guilt is much easier to substantiate. But if that same big brother weren't so altruistic tapes, records, and identities could be erased or changed with an imperious wave of the hand. The question is, how much do you trust your life in the hands of some random government employee. I'd rather not have my life open to the manipulation of those with the capability to manipulate a few numbers on a computer screen to change my life.

## Rana's Thoughts

As an American, I pride myself on the fact that this country is known for granting the highest levels of personal freedom. It's too bad that those personal freedoms are slipping away at an alarming rate. The government is getting bigger and regulating more, corporations are cornering markets and buying politicians so the little people - the voters and working class - lose control over their own rights, and probably the most upsetting to me, we are more and more often being told what we can and cannot create, watch, read, and listen to by the government in the form of censorship.

In researching my articles for this issue, I was shocked, sickened, and in awe of just how much the government intervenes and takes away our personal freedoms. In Texas, a bookstore owner is being sued and faces thousands of dollars in fines

for selling an adult magazine to an adult (yes, he did ask for I.D.), art is being torn down and funding revoked because it reflects new ideas about homosexuality and religion. Literature is being challenged on the shelves of public libraries because it addresses issues such as puberty, sexuality, and "Anti-American" ideas.

I think this country was founded on the idea of creating a place where people can go and express their innermost feelings without persecution. That idea is still around, although the feelings may have changed and intensified over the years. But just because the idea is still there, doesn't mean that the laws are still being respected.



# Meet the Honors Professors

by Heather Jefferies

Linda Campbell

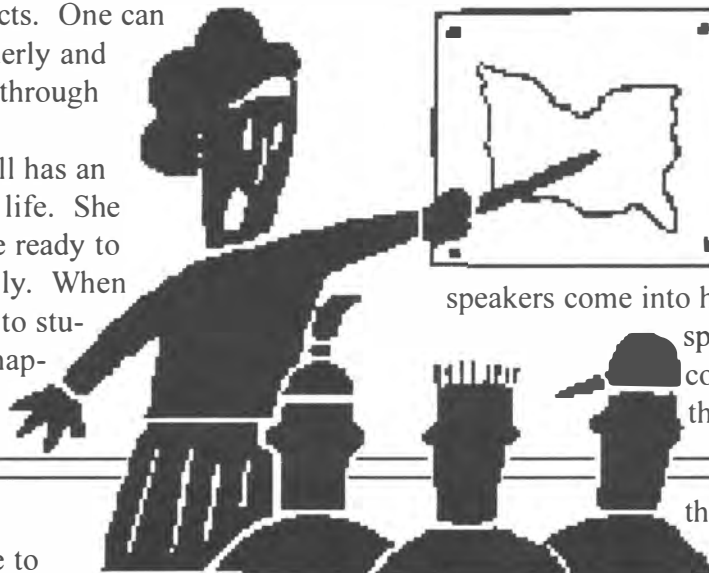
I would like to introduce you all to Professor Campbell. She teaches the honors section of Psychology 228. She is not only a professor, but also a student. She is taking classes at the doctorate level so she understands how it feels get lots homework. She mentioned that she doesn't expect her students to have to do anymore work than she would, so you will not be weighed down with a ton of work every night. Professor Campbell is also a coordinator for the mentor program, which pairs Harper students with k-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in local schools that could use a little help in different subjects. One can also work with the elderly and Habitat for Humanity through the mentor program.

Professor Campbell has an interesting outlook on life. She believes one should be ready to change their motto daily. When I asked for her advice to students on success and happiness, she told me

she does not give advice, she likes to give scholarly knowledge. She would like to encourage students to be wise consumers of literature and research, and to also be good investigators. She also believes you should be a challenger, but do it with dignity and respect.

Professor Campbell seems like a busy person, but is willing to make time for her students if they have a need to meet with her. She is a ferocious reader who loves to go digging for answers. She also loves to be outdoors and visiting with her family up north.

In her class you will learn about the human life span from conception through death and dying. She divides the human life span into 7 stages and everyone will pick their favorite stage and become an expert. Each person will give a presentation on his or her stage which can be as creative as you like. Professor Campbell likes to have guest speakers come into her class and has had a fertility specialist come in to explain the costs and everything involved in the fertility process.



Jeff Przybylo

Since you have to take Speech 101 anyway, why not get honors credit while doing it? Jeff Przybylo is teaching the honors section of speech this upcoming semester and it should be as painless as possible. Just kidding. There are actually some benefits in taking Jeff's class. First of all, the class is small so there are less people to get up in front of, and when you do get up to give a speech, odds are you will know most of the class already. Another benefit is that there is variety in an honors class. The honors speech is not necessarily like all the other speech classes. Jeff has a basic plan for what needs to get done,

but where the class goes from there is up to you, the student. If you are a talkative bunch you may get to do some debates, and if you are a very diverse group, maybe you will get to do a speech on your culture.

After meeting with Jeff for this interview, I learned that there is a lot more to him than meets the eye. First of all, he sells beanie babies on ebay, which at first I did not believe. But he does and his name is jeffreybeans68 in case you're looking to buy or sell, or just want to sneak a peek. Jeff is also very into going to see live

theatre. He sees about 25 to 30 live performances a year. He also enjoys a good book. His motto on life is "Make it happen".

Jeff has been with Harper now 7 years fulltime after 2 years as a part-time teacher. He actually grew up in the neighborhood. He applied once, but was turned down in the beginning, so he ended up at Lincoln University in Missouri. Then Harper contacted him to apply once more, and has been here ever since. I'd like to end her with Jeff's advice to students on success and happiness. "Be on time, don't blow things off, and above anything else, be creative. If you do those three things you'll be successful in anything you do".

# Homeland Security

by Rana Raeuchle

In answer to the September 11 attacks, President Bush proposed a new “Homeland Security” program that would essentially combine several intelligence agencies to promote the flow of information and make it easier to monitor foreign visitors, criminals, and suspicious activity. Mike Sherry in the Quill, Sept. 2002 said, “Under the homeland security plan, 22 federal offices and agencies would be wrapped into a single Cabinet-level agency with a workforce of about 170,000 people and a \$38 billion annual budget.”

This new organization is intended to decrease the chance of terrorist attack, but at a price.

According to Sherry, one of the provisions of the new Homeland Security organizations restricts information about what the government calls “critical infrastructure.” He notes, “...the provisions under consideration would exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FIOA) material that could potentially open critical infrastructure facilities to terrorist attack.

Confidentiality this department demands may be important, however, it also restricts people from “whistle-blowing” on corporations that are protected under the act. In extreme cases regarding sensitive material, the act

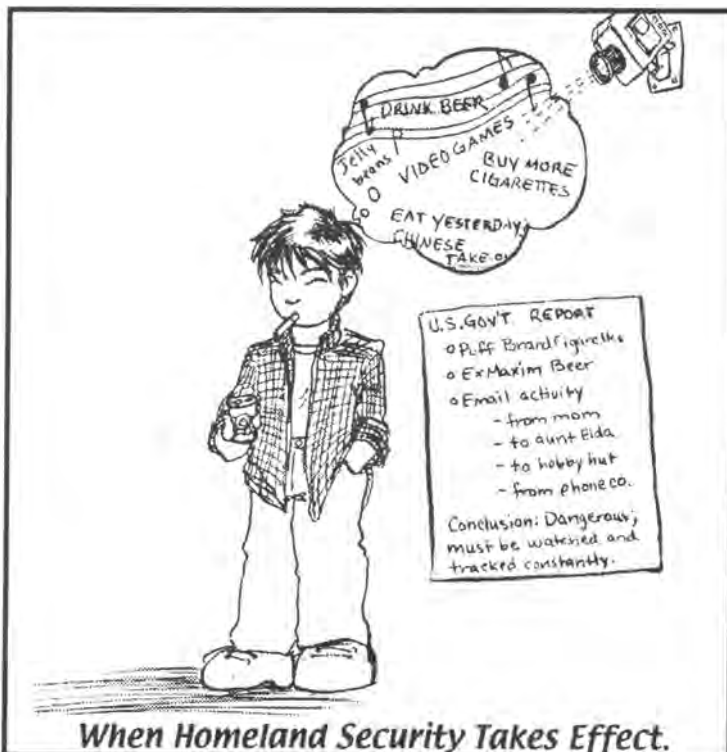
could actually prevent civilians from drawing attention to corporate misconduct and cover-up. This may be disturbing in the wake of Enron and WorldCom; companies that would both have been protected by the new program.

The creation of the Department of Homeland Security was done in the form of a bill that passed through the lame duck session of congress. According to Nation, Dec. 2002, the bill was originally designed as a 32-page proposal by the president to consolidate intelligence agencies, but the final bill that passed the senate was over 500 pages and included provisions such as exempting drug makers from lawsuits on vaccines (protecting one company from lawsuits involving mercury in vaccines). The final bill also removed some civil liberties such as giving the government the right to monitor email and personal data as well as tap phone lines without warrant or permission, and removes worker rights inside the agency, removing their union bargaining rights.

According to Sherry, there is consensus among Americans that something needs to be done to protect our country from another attack, however, there is still debate over what kind of actions are necessary and whether the personal freedoms granted Americans by the Constitution are too high a price to pay for that security.

## Burnt Toast

by Rana Raeuchle



glorified sex, drugs and violence and had no place in a school library.

Generally the question is not if a given publication, work of art, or song is appropriate for adults, but if it is appropriate for children. If that is the question, then who is responsible for providing the answer? According to the first amendment, the government cannot legally make that distinction, and in the case of movie ratings, there is a panel of five California parents who decide for the entire country where the lines should be drawn between child, adolescent and adult material.

In the booklet *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Movie Rating System*, the Motion Picture Association of America states, "The rating system is strictly voluntary and car-

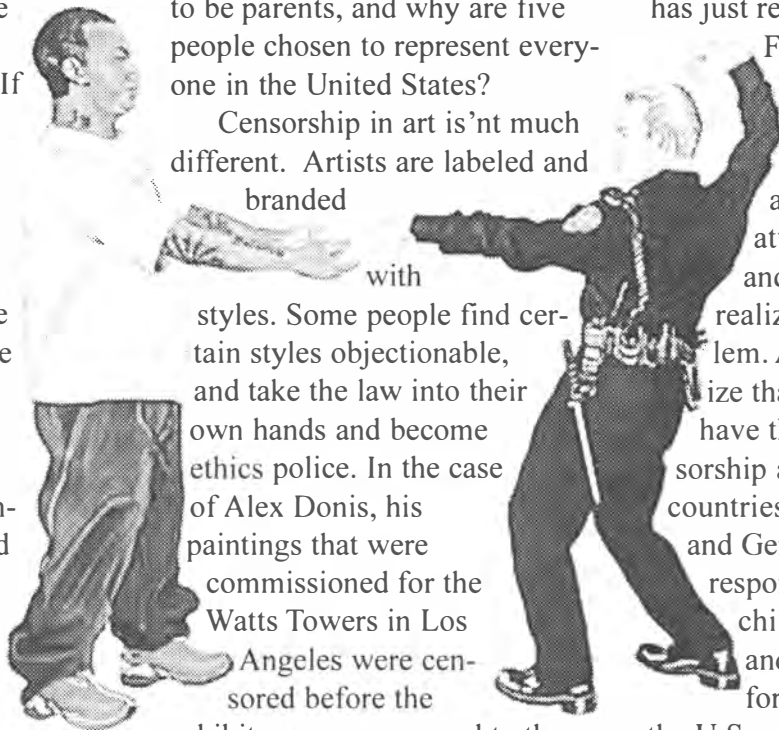
ries no force of law." They go on to say that it is up to theaters to determine whether or not they will enforce the rating guidelines. So, why do the panel of censors have to be parents, and why are five people chosen to represent everyone in the United States?

Censorship in art isn't much different. Artists are labeled and branded with styles. Some people find certain styles objectionable, and take the law into their own hands and become ethics police. In the case of Alex Donis, his paintings that were commissioned for the Watts Towers in Los Angeles were censored before the exhibit was even opened to the public. His series of Oil and enamel paintings entitled "War" were deemed too homoerotic, and were removed without his consent or knowledge. All of the subjects in

the paintings were fully clothed, but they were images of male police officers dancing with male gang members. The exhibit was censored in September 2001 and has just reopened in the

Frumkin/Duval gallery in San Francisco.

Most cases of first amendment violations are not brought to the attention of the public, and so many people never realize that there is a problem. Also, people don't realize that other countries don't have the same levels of censorship as the United States. In countries such as Japan, France and Germany, it is a parent's responsibility to teach their children right and wrong and to take responsibility for what that child sees. In the U.S., we have other people telling us what our children can and cannot see.



## Honors Society News and Events

January 29 is going to be the first meeting of the spring semester honor society meetings. Same bat time, same bat channel.

We would like to thank Jacob Pope for creating the annual honor society ornament.

We would also like to thank everyone who participated in the PTK Adopt-A-Family

### *Campbell continued from pg. 6*

If you take this class, you will also get to go on field trips throughout the semester. Professor Campbell likes to take the class to the Quest Academy, which is an education program for gifted students with an IQ of 125 or more.

After speaking with her over the phone I was given the impression that she is an easy going teacher who likes to enjoy class with her students as they all learn in a peaceful environment, where everyone feels welcome to voice their opinion.

### *continued from pg. 3*

peeping toms peeking into people's personal dilemmas. In a survey done by TV Guide April 2001, 58% of people who watched *Temptation Island* would never actually expose themselves on the show.

I must admit I am as guilty as the next person when it comes to watching these shows. But I too, must decide if it is ethical to support something that I would never take