

College course stresses ethics in computer use

By Karen Hermes Smith
staff writer

People don't know how to react when they read newspaper articles about computer hacking, said Diane Tihansky, coordinator of computer science programs at St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake.

They may know it's wrong, but tend to think, "Gee, wasn't that clever?" she said. "They wouldn't say that if someone vandalized the school or broke into a file cabinet."

Tihansky is teaching a 15-week, three-credit course at St. Mary's called "Computers & Society: Ethical and Practical Issues." It's one of many new courses in the college's business curriculum.

Computer hacking — illegally using someone else's computer data base — is one of the ethical issues she and her 15 students are discussing.

"I want people to begin thinking about some of these issues. To realize that just because something can be done, doesn't mean it should be done."

Privacy protection for computer hardware and software, and the effect of robotics on employment, are other subjects Tihansky addresses in her class.

new computer science major at St. Mary's, included the class on ethical and practical issues because she thinks these issues need addressing.

"Our philosophy is not to turn out a bunch of programming experts. We want to train people to think about the appropriate use of this technology."

Computer majors, she said, also may think that the computer is the panacea for everything. Her class gives them an opportunity to discuss some of the problems computers cause.

The course, which attracts students from other majors as well, also helps prepare college students for some of the moral decisions they'll have to make as citizens, she said, including what is the appropriate punishment a court should impose on a computer hacker.

Programming ethics is another area researched in Tihansky's course. For a long time, she said, computer programmers had a "God-like" mystique about them because so few people understood what they did. They were able to come and go as they pleased without their bosses questioning them.

PSYCHOLOGISTS ARE NOW researching the effects computers have on people.

Two areas of study include cyberphobia and cyberphilia — but they still don't fully understand what brings them on, Tihansky said.

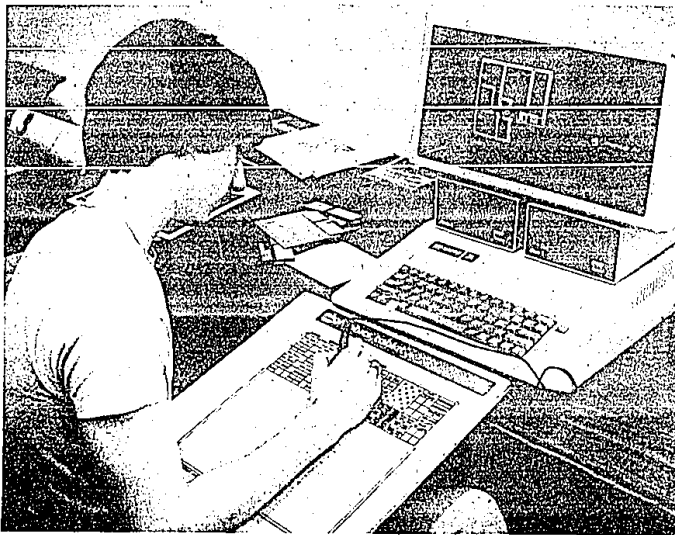
A person with cyberphobia becomes hostile toward computers. "Part of it may be that they're afraid of losing the jobs. For many people, they see computers as a form of control."

People with cyberphilia are those glazed-eyed individuals who are addicted to computers, Tihansky said. Such people may enjoy the power they think they have with them, she said. Computer hackers may be victims of cyberphilia.

"WE TRY to cover a lot of issues. We don't solve any problems."

Tihansky received her master's degree in computer science from Harvard University and her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Marygrove College, Detroit.

She taught computer science at Florida International University in Miami, and worked as a programmer for Resources for the Future Inc. in Washington, D.C.; Project CLAIMS for the Bureau of Governmental Financial Operations, U.S. Department of Treasury; and the city of Alexandria, Va.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Plenty of computers are in use today. A course given by St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake stresses ethics in their use.

Complaisant
at
HUNTERS SQUARE

Says:
YES!!!!
YES!
We Have GUESS JEANS!
YES!
we have the new ESPRIT.
YES!
We have SPY'S JACKETS.
YES!
We have the best selection ever.

Complaisant
at
HUNTERS SQUARE
For The Latest "In" Fashions
Open Daily 10-5:30, Wed. & Friday to 9
855-6566
Farmington Hills, Mich.

COUPON

FREE Haircut
with every Perm
Haircut can pertain to any family member. Good Mon-Thurs. thru 5-31-84

\$5.00 OFF All Hair Color Services
\$1.00 OFF All Nexus Products

CUTTERS SALON
474-4412

LEGO BUILDING CONTEST
COME IN AND PICK UP AN ENTRY BLANK!
Now Until May 20

10% OFF ALL LEGO PURCHASES

IN THE ORCHARD MALL - WEST BLOOMFIELD ORCHARD LAKE RD. @ MAPLE • Phone 651-6770

all for learning

White House Manor
Restaurant and Lounge

Cordially invites you to join us for our fabulous Sunday Brunch, featuring traditional and unique menu items.
\$8.95 adults, children 10-16 \$5.95, under 10 years of age, free with our compliments.

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CALL 349-6200

Live Piano Bar Entertainment Tues.-Sun. Closed Mon.
43180 W. Nine Mile Rd. 600 Feet East of Novi Rd. Novi, MI
Major Credit Cards Accepted Valet Parking Optional

Richard's

Annual Spring Savings SPREE

SAVE ON OUR ENTIRE STOCK! UP TO 40% OFF ALL

JACKETS • COATS • JEANS • DRESSES • SKIRTS • SHORT SETS
SHORTS • POLOS • PANTS • TOPS • SLEEPWEAR
• SWIMWEAR • SUNSHADES

*excluding accessories, toys, previous layaways. Sale Ends May 20, 1984.

BOYS and GIRLS WEAR
Because your children are special

Livonia Mall - 7 Mile & Middlebelt
Canton - Ford & Sheldon Rds.
Lincoln Center - 10 1/2 Mile & Greenfield

SAVE 'TIL 6! Because Saturdays through Thursdays, if you're seated by 6 p.m., you get your choice of 10 delectable Muer entrees — Fresh Catch, Chinese Sauté and more. Plus Charley's Chowder, House Salad, Hot Homemade Bread. **\$7.95** beverage and dessert!

Diggers
470-5000 Grand River, between Orchard Lake & Middlebelt, Farmington
a Fresh Muer Restaurant
Accepts Express and other major credit cards accepted.

DO YOU CARE WHAT HE PUTS INTO HIS BODY?

What we put into our body can mean the difference between a clear head and congestion. Many modern disorders, from high blood pressure to anxiety and fatigue, are linked to additives. A steady diet of chemicalized, overprocessed "nonfoods" — the kind we've become used to buying — may compound the problem. There are alternatives. Whole foods full of natural goodness can help prevent many modern maladies and allergies. Enrich your knowledge of good food; protect yourself and those you love. It pays to watch what we put into our body.

OPENING MAY 30th
DEEP DISCOUNT NATURAL FOODS
COMPLETE GROCERY & DAIRY SELECTION
VITAMINS • DELI • BAKERY • BULK FOODS
COSMETICS • APPLIANCES • BOOKS
ORGANIC MEAT AND PRODUCE
SPECIAL FOODS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

GOOD FOOD CO.
an alternative supermarket

477-7440 33521 W. EIGHT MILE (WEST OF FARMINGTON RD.)

MR. TILE CO.
"DO IT YOURSELF" HEADQUARTERS
20% TO 65% OFF EVERYTHING IN STOCK!
ALL NAME BRANDS
ALL 1st QUALITY
LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!

BRIGHT GLAZE WALL TILE
12¢ EACH
4 1/2" x 4 1/2" 9600'S
EASY TO DO YOURSELF
OTHERS TO 65% OFF

SELF-STICK NO WAX TILES
FROM **59¢ EACH**
ARMSTRONG, TARKETT, MARFOLD, SUNBEAM
70 COLORS AT 1/2 OFFERS

FANCY OR PLAIN 8" x 8" ITALIAN QUARRY TILE
FROM **69¢ EACH** ART 19
1st QUALITY LIFETIME GLAZE

SOLID OAK PARQUET HARDWOOD FLOORS
Reg. \$2.30 12" x 12"
FROM **\$1.40 EACH**
OTHERS TO 65% OFF

CERAMIC FLOOR & WALL TILE
79¢ SQ. FT.
LARGEST SELECTION IN MICHIGAN

MR. TILE CO. PRICES GOOD THRU MAY 20, 1984
MICHIGAN'S LARGEST SELECTION OF FLOOR AND WALL COVERINGS

348-8850 M-F 9-5:30, Sat. 9-5:30
CLOSED SUNDAY
MR. TILE REPORTS TO TELEGRAPH ALSO, E. DOTHY