Course 16 to look at "hidden grades"

(Continued from page 1) The memorandum states, "Normally such a student should retake the prerequisite subject. The transcript of the student taking a subject twice will include both grades. However, the unit for the subject will only be counted once, in accordance with the established procedure now being followed by the Registrar." "In certain circumstances," states the memorandum, "the successful completion of a program of remedial work to demonstrate adequate preparation can be arranged." Witmer said that this extra work might include problem sets on a quiz, and would be done during IAP or summer.

Bernoff wins award

By Max Halperin

The British government has awarded Andrew J. Bernoff '82 a Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in fluid dynamics at Cambridge University in England. The scholarship is awarded to thirty American students each year in gratitude for the Marshall Plan of post-World War II aid to Europe. The scholarship pays for two years' tuition, living costs, and vacation travel expenses. Bernoff wanted to attend Cambridge University because "Cambridge is the place where the real history of fluid dynamics ... developed, and ... it is one of the best places in the world" for fluid dynamics. He also wanted to be in England for non-academic reasons: "I look forward to travelling in Europe."

Bernoff and the other 29 (Please turn to page 16)

NIH recommends relaxing DNA guidelines

By John J. Ying

A National Institute of Health (NIH) advisory board this month accepted a proposal to relax compulsory guidelines for federally funded recombinant DNA research and strongly rejected another proposal to make the guidelines voluntary.

The NIH committee chose to keep the guidelines mandatory for two reasons: the possibility of a public backlash resulting in state and local government laws to regulate recombinant DNA research, and lingering doubts about the safety of some experiments.

Biology professor David Baltimore, co-author of the rejected proposal, said his plan to end mandatory guidelines "tries to reflect the judgement of a vast majority of scientists who believe that recombinant DNA research is no more hazardous than the mainstream of research." Those who disagree with him, Baltimore said, "represent, at best, a small fraction of the scientific community."

Several types of genetic experiments would now be permitted: those that release into the environment organisms containing recombinant DNA; experiments that form material containing genes which transfer into lethal toxins; and those that transfer a drug resistance-trait to microorganisms.

The approved proposal passed 16 to 5 and is subject to the approval of the acting NIH director. Susan Gottesman, author of the proposal, favors mandatory guidelines because a few types of experiments warrant oversight.

"If they are to be watched, then it makes sense to make guidelines mandatory," she said.

James Mason, executive director of Utah's state health department and a member of the NIH panel, commented, "Although I believe the guidelines should be voluntary, the public is not yet ready for them to become voluntary."

The passed proposal expressly restricts on the special handling of organisms. In particular, experiments with one-celled organisms that do not cause disease would be carried out under reduced restrictions.

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