Column/Andrew L. Fish

Why did The Tech print that?

February has just begun and there's one issue of The Tech that I'm sure we would all rather forget: the Super Bowl in East Campus. Some of my friends were critical of my excessive exuberance in East Campus this year, and some of my堀 friends were critical of the showing of a sexually explicit film in East Campus. Some of the showing was very explicit indeed.

In retrospect, I suspect that if I had not reported the happenings of Feb. 3, 1987, Associate Directors for Student Affairs James R. Teichman and I would have praised charges against Dershowitz, and the Committee on Discipline would not have had the MPJ Motion Statement of Sexual Explicit Films. I could not have predicted this outcome at the time; I simply reported on something I considered newsworthy. The most troubling story ever written about was the rape of a student last summer. I agonized for days about what to print and what not to print. By reporting the details of what occurred, I would be helping a man avoid facing even more damage on someone already victimized. But if the sugar-coated the truth, it could be responsible for the spread of safe sex and rape myths.

To the real I decided to print all that I know. While as an individual I truly did not want to hurt anyone, as a journalist it was my duty to report what happened without worrying about the possible consequences. As just as in the case of the pornographic film, I could not predict the impact of my story on the individuals involved.

We frequently are put in the position of reporting information some segment of the community does not want to see in print. Two weeks ago we reported that several faculty members at a meeting of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program called for the elimination of second-year freshmen pass/fail. We retained this information in a legitimate manner, yet several students urged as not to print it. For fear that CUP meetings would then be closed to non-members. But it is our job to report what we have, not to worry about potential fallout from our stories. Some may say this is a callous attitude, but I believe it is the only way to run a newspaper. Newspapers do not hold it back. Sure, if we had not run certain stories (Please care to page 5)

Column/Thomas T. Huang

Truth — but whose truth is it, really?

As the driver replaced the flat tire on the roof of the bus, I watched the bronze-skinned children play outside. Squatting, two boys and three girls ran out of the wooden shack that were their homes and armed only by Chey navy blue of the side of the day.

A little boy with this dark aura, clean and white, never entered my eye. Their laughter seemed to rise from the ground just as the night air seemed to descend on the small Mexican village.

Beyond the children, I could see the signs of bars and restaurants in the center of the village. They do not hold it back. Sure, if we had not run certain stories (Please care to page 5)

Emphasis on AIDS test precaution

To the Editors:

There are a number of significant inaccuracies in the report of my EAP talk on Jan. 12 "Medical Director Westergy describes improved AIDS test," Jan. 13, and this prompts an extended letter. Firstly, the talk was "News Insights into the Epidemiology of AIDS," to headline an improved AIDS test," mentioned in the wrong place as a starter.

The new test detects AIDS antigen, present prior to antibody production, or possibly an early indication of antibody disease in a person who has been HIV antibody positive, but well, its usefulness is still to be determined since it is still being evaluated in clinical trials and is not yet FDA approved. It may be of use in screening blood in blood banks since it theoretically would identify individuals who are at risk for HIV but not testing positive due to antibody HIV.

Moving through the article, there are a number of other editorial to major mistakes:

1. By 1991 there may be as many as 2 million people infected (HIV) with as many as 5 million cases of AIDS.

2. Infants born to mothers who tested HIV positive or in fact not born to HIV positive parents.

3. If "sonic rays" means heat- ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

We seem to have made a decision to be more the cause of human tragedy and enormous health bills. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," but no one gets to publish public policy as a platform that includes preventing (Please care to page 5)