

General Note: It should work well to have the narrator parts read by the skit moderator, who halts the skits where indicated and leads a discussion with the audience of the points relating to the Honor Code brought up by each skit.

**Narrator** [*in an announcer voice*]: The following are dramatizations. The events and people depicted are fictional. Everything and anything that can go wrong in these skits pretty much does. To be honest, if this many violations occurred in one day, the GRB would throw up its hands in utter despair.

### **Honor Code Skit on Classroom-Related Topics**

by Rob Rossi, 1999

revised by Jim Harrington, 2001

revised by Isaac Chenchiah with John Choi, Heather Cox and Marissa Mock, 2002

revised by John Murphy, 2003

**Andy:** Talks like, 'Valley' fer sure

**Karli:** Normal voice

**Asa:** Normal voice

**John:** Whiny, marginally psychotic, Mr. Burns kind of voice

**Lauren**

**Surelys**

**Prof. Graeme**

Suggested props: Book on reserve, chairs/desks for students in scene with Professor.

*Setting 1: Outside a study room in Sherman Fairchild library*

**Narrator:** We now join some first-year students outside a study room in Sherman Fairchild library.

**Andy:** Dude, I'm just freaking out about this assignment from 142...like, we're suppose to know this stuff coming in?!?

**Karli:** I think I can figure it out, but it's going to take a lot of time. I have better things to do! Plus this is just the first problem set - things will just get harder from here. We always worked in study groups at Harvard, do you think that's OK here?

**Asa:** I don't know...it's pretty unclear what's OK and what's not OK in this class. The professor didn't hand out a homework policy like in 159, and he hasn't said anything about it either.

**Andy:** Right on! A study group would be aughsum. Count me in, dude.

**Asa:** Well, I don't know. I'm going to see how far I can get on my own. Good luck with it. I'll see you around.

*Andy and Karli go into the room and continue talking. John is seen listening in on their conversation through the wall, making faces.*

**Karli:** It would be most efficient to divide the problem set up between us. I can do the odd problems and you do the even ones.

**Andy:** What! We figure out how to do the problems and then discuss them later?

**Karli:** That's tedious. Everything should be obvious once you have the solution, so we can just exchange the solutions to save time.

**Andy:** No way! Let's work on the problems together. I can't do it by myself.

**Karli:** Arrrgh. The idea here is to save time. But if you are worried about it, I suppose we can do this one together.

*The two start working together, discussing the problems. Andy is scribbling down notes as he listens. Meanwhile, outside in the library, Asa is looking through the stacks and is talking to himself.*

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, in the library stacks...

**Asa:** Reserve books for this class are...ah, here they are.

*Picks out a book, scans through it. Stops in shock at one point, looks at homework page, then back at book.*

**Asa:** Wow, it's right here in this book. The problem and the solution! Exactly like on the homework. This will help immensely.

*Asa sits down and pours over the book, writing as he does so. Eventually John comes up to talk with him, a clandestine look on his face.*

**John:** [*Suspicious*] Working on 142?

**Asa:** Yep. I found one of the reserve books basically walks you through each problem exactly as on the homework. It's still difficult to understand, but it's tractable.

**John:** [*In a crazy world leader voice*] Exxxcellent...I shall have to take a look at it later.

*John walks away. Asa eventually gets up and puts the book back. John then swoops in, takes the book, looks it over, quickly copies the solutions to the problems, then hides the book out of place.*

**John:** Ha ha ha ha! Mine! All mine! All the solutions to the problems, verbatim! And now they will be hidden where only I will find them! I am a genius!

*Setting 2: Lauren is talking with a fellow group member in their shared office.*

**Narrator:** Later, Lauren, another student in the class, speaks with her office mate, Surelys.

**Lauren:** Hey, did you ever take 142?

**Surelys:** No, but I remember Joe always saying how tough that course was. His office is just down the hall, you know.

**Lauren:** It doesn't look like he's around today, but would he still have the homework sets, do you think? I'm taking the course pass/fail and I'm just overwhelmed with everything right now. It would really help to not have to crunch through everything from scratch, if possible.

**Surelys:** Oh, I've borrowed notes and books and such from Joe before, so I'm sure he'd be willing to help you out. If you have a master key, you can get into his office and leave a note for Joe about borrowing what you need. Just make sure you follow the Honor Code.

**Lauren:** Oh. OK. You think it might not be OK for me to look at last year's homework sets?

**Stop at this point and discuss who may have violated the Honor Code. Start with John, who has violated the Honor Code. Then talk about the others as a group: It was the students' responsibility to find out what the HW policy was for the class - before doing anything. They have all made a mistake in making assumptions about the policy. In view of fact that the course policies are unknown at this point, all the other students could be acting in accordance with the Honor Code, or all could be in**

**violation of it.**

*Setting 3: In lecture hall. Asa is clearly exhausted. John looks triumphant. All the students hand in their homework to Professor Graeme.*

**Narrator:** With the homework due, the students return to lecture.

**Asa:** [To Professor Graeme] Do you know what happened to Green's book, the one on reserve? It was really helpful, but now it's gone. Could someone have checked it out?

**Professor Graeme:** Not in this case -- it should be there. I'll look into it.

**Professor Graeme:** [To everyone] Alright, I hope the homework was a snap. Any questions?

**Andy:** Dude! No...wait...Mr Professor Dude.. Can you tell us the homework policy for this course?

**Professor Graeme:** Oh, they're the same as they've always been.

**Andy:** Ahhh...None of us were here last year. Duh! Could you say a little more?

**Professor Graeme:** Ha ha. My homework policy is simple and to the point:

First of all, you're not to look at any course materials from previous years in which I taught the course. Secondly, you must personally complete all the work you hand in and be able to reconstruct this work on your own.

This means that plagiarism of solutions from other students, textbooks, or any other source is a violation of the Caltech Honor Code.

Of course, I'll trust you to follow these guidelines unless you give me a reason not to. All the exams will be take-home as well, although for those, you can only consult your own notes and assignments -- no speaking with people.

**Lauren:** Oh oh. I think I may have violated those rules already.

**John:** Those two! Those two deviants over there! Yes, them! They have been conspiring in a study group already, conspiring against you! I am sure of it!

**Stop and discuss aspects of the Honor Code:**

### PRINCIPLES

- **it is your responsibility to find out**
- **ignorance is not an excuse**

### VIOLATIONS

- **subdividing HW by simply copying each others answers**
- **student who finds book and blindly copies could be plagiarism**
- **student who hides library book**
- **student who looked at old homework problems**
- **students who report self or others to the professor -- they do the right thing but report it to the wrong person -- they should contact the GRB!**

### NON-VIOLATIONS

- subdividing HW by explaining to each other how to do each question
- student who finds the book, makes attempt to understand the problem
- Using solution from book on reserve by Prof.

### POSITIVE BENEFITS OF THE HONOR CODE

- take-home exams
- keys to open others' doors
- borrowing books
- faculty trust

#### **Honor Code Skit on Home-Related Topics**

v.1.20 Giorgio Isella 1999

revised by Jim Harrington, 2001

revised by John Choi, 2002

revised by John Murphy, 2003

**Andy:** Talks like, 'Valley' fer sure

**Karli:** Normal voice

**Asa:** Normal voice

**John:** Whiny, marginally psychotic, Mr. Burns kind of voice

**Lauren**

**Surelys**

**Graeme:** Lauren's boyfriend from another school.

Suggested props: Laundry basket, table to act as foosball table

*Setting 1: Lauren is a new student at Caltech. Her officemate, Surelys, invites Lauren to join her in watching a movie in the Catalina recreation room.*

**Narrator:** For our second skit, we join up with Lauren and Surelys, who both live in the Cats.

**Surelys:** Hi Lauren, how's it going?

**Lauren:** Fine, thanks.

**Surelys:** Did you enjoy the Catalina BBQ yesterday?

**Lauren:** Yeah, nice people and lots of food!

**Surelys:** Hey, I managed to score a bootleg copy of "Gigli" on DVD, and I'm planning on watching it in the central rec room tonight. If you're free, why don't you stop on by?

**Lauren:** Well, I have to go shopping, but I'll drop by when I'm back. I'll bring some beer...actually, can I ask you something?

**Surelys:** Sure, go ahead!

**Lauren:** I don't have a car so I normally push a shopping cart back to the Cats. I've seen others doing that. Is that OK?

**Surelys:** Sure. I'd give you a lift, but I'm busy till 8 tonight.

**Lauren:** Great! So I'll meet you at the rec room out here at 8:00! Ummm, what happens if it's taken?

**Surelys:** No problem, I reserved it.

**Lauren:** Oh, you can do that?!?

**Surelys:** Yeah. I've reserved the central rec room every Thursday night for the next two months.  
[Flippantly] You know, just in case I want to watch TV.

**Lauren:** Cool! See you tonight.

*In the evening, Lauren enters the empty rec room with her boyfriend, Andy. A little later, Surelys enters through the laundry room door, holding a laundry basket and the DVD. Surelys is clearly very upset.*

**Narrator:** Later that evening in the Central Catalina rec room...

**Surelys:** Arrrgh! I want to do my laundry, but some woman is using all the machines, and I'm sure she doesn't even live here anymore! And the dryers are ALWAYS full. People just stuff their clothes in and come back days later! [Notices Graeme] Oh, hi!

**Lauren:** Surelys, this is Graeme, my boyfriend.

**Surelys:** Nice to meet you.

**Graeme:** Hi.

**Surelys:** Are you a student too?

**Graeme:** Yes, but not at Caltech. I'm just visiting for a few days.

**Surelys:** It must be boring for you with Lauren in the lab all the time!

**Graeme:** Well, it's not too bad...She gives me her ID when she's in the lab, so I can go to the swimming pool and the gym whenever I want. The library's great, too; I can surf the net for as long as I want there!

**Surelys:** How can you do that? Don't you have to have a Caltech user ID to log in to library computers?

**Graeme:** Sure, but I just use Lauren's. She told me her password.

**Surelys:** Oh, cool. Well, let's get this movie started.

*Later in the evening, Surelys, Lauren, and Andy are captivated by the movie. John, Andy, Asa, and Karli come into the rec room and are very noisy [talking, laughing, and generally carrying on]. John is holding a videotape.*

**Narrator:** Halfway through the movie...

**John:** [In a very loud voice] Oh man! This place is always taken. [To Lauren] Hey, are you going to stay long?

**Lauren:** Yes, we are. I think there's about an hour left in our movie.

**John:** [To his group] Sorry guys, I guess we'll have to wait.

**Asa:** [Very loud, to group] Hey, I haven't played foosball in a while! Wanna play?

**John:** [*Loud*] Yeah! I'll play with Karli. We will crush you guys!

**Andy:** Riiiiight! You'll be begging for mercy soon.

*The foosball players start playing loudly, ignoring the movie group.*

**John:** Gooooooooaaaaaallllllllllll!

*Andy walks up to the four foosball players.*

**Andy:** Hey guys, can you keep it down a little? We are trying to watch a movie here!

**Andy:** Oh, sure. Sorry.

*Surelys goes back to the TV, but the four keep playing and making noise...*

**Surelys:** [*To Lauren and Andy*] These guys are morons. Do you want to try telling them to shut up again?

**Lauren:** [*To the four playing, angrily*] Hey, would you be quiet?!?

**Karli:** Listen, why don't you watch your movie and let us play in peace here?!

**Lauren:** We can't hear a thing with you four playing behind us!

**Karli:** So why don't you go to another rec room?

**Lauren:** We reserved this one so we wouldn't have this problem!

**Karli:** Well, there are four of us and only three of you; and the only foosball table we like is here...So I guess we stay.

**Lauren:** [*to Surelys*] These guys are not going to stop. We might as well leave. I'm sorry.

**Surelys:** Never mind. Have a good evening. I'll go back and try my laundry again...

**Stop and discuss aspects of the Honor Code:**

### VIOLATIONS

- excessive rec room reserving
- lending of ID (only for lender, not for girlfriend)
- misuse of computers
- the loud foosball players

### NON-VIOLATIONS

- stealing a shopping cart
- copyright infringement (against the law)

### POSITIVE BENEFITS

- reserving rec rooms
- generous library and computer facilities

- gym privileges
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### **Honor Code Skit on Research Lab-Related Topics**

v.1.20 Jie Yu 1999

revised by Jim Harrington, 2001

revised by Isaac Chenchiah with John Choi, Heather Cox and Marissa Mock, 2002

revised by John Murphy, 2003

**Andy:** Talks like, 'Valley' fer sure

**Karli:** Normal voice

**Lauren**

Suggested props: Computer monitor/keyboard, telephone

*Setting 1: Karli and Andy's office, in the afternoon. Karli is hanging a poster on the wall, banging loudly with a hammer, while Andy talks on the phone.*

**Narrator:** We join two graduate students in the office they share.

**Andy:** *[With a disgusted expression, looking at Karli but talking into the phone]* Sorry, Asa, I can't hear you; it is very noisy in here!

**Karli:** *[Finishes putting up the poster, then steps back and admires it.]* Don't you think this poster is cool?!? I looked for a copy of it for years, and now I've finally found it. You're lucky I'm sharing the wealth by putting it up where you can see it too.

*Karli sits down at her computer to write some e-mail, and is clearly distracted and disturbed by the following telephone conversation.*

**Andy:** *[Still talking into the phone]* OK, Asa. I can hear you now. What were we talking about? Oh yeah! Nick and Jessica. No, I don't think they'll last long. *[pause]* Why, Jessica is so stupid and lazy, and Nick has all the social graces of a wooly mammoth. *[pause]* Did you hear about the camping trip?? *[pause]* Oh that's good stuff. Tell me more...*[a bunch of no way's and you're kiddings]*

**Lauren:** *[Knocks on the door, then opens it]* Hi Karli, can I talk to you for a second???

*Karli and Lauren step outside the office together.*

**Lauren:** Where can I copy my tax form??? I don't have a personal account on our copier.

**Karli:** Personal account?!? Don't be stupid...you have a research account, right? Use that, who cares!

**Lauren:** Is that allowed???

**Karli:** Hey, you know... *[In the tone of the Mastercard ad]* Pizza at Chandler, 6 dollars; paper and photocopies, 3 dollars; finishing your taxes: priceless! For everything else, there's your boss' research account.

**Lauren:** Oh, thanks. By the way, can you give me a hand with the transient microwave system?

**Karli:** Sure, let's go.

*Setting 2: Down the hall, in the lab*

*Karli and Lauren walk a little, open a door, enter the lab.*

**Lauren:** [*Starts turning on switches, then stops, looks around, startled*] Where is it??? Where is it???  
[*Lauren seems very very worried*] I can't find the streak camera! Oh, it is sooooo expensive, ten years' stipend!

**Karli:** What's the problem???

**Lauren:** I left it here in lab twenty minutes ago, but it's gone...it's gone!

**Karli:** Here we go again...

**Lauren:** Again?!? What do you mean???

**Karli:** It must be John. He didn't tell us before he took that expensive toy last time, or the time before that...it's already happened three times, and it is so annoying. I was scared to death when it first happened to me. Let's go to John's lab and get it back.

*Setting 3: Back in Karli and Andy's office.*

**Narrator:** Later, back in the office...

**Andy:** [*Attention caught by Karli's computer*] What's that on the screen saver. That's pathetic. [*Slaps the keyboard to make the screen saver go away. Then sees that Karli didn't log out of her e-mail account*] What! Karli didn't log out again! The nerve of that girl! I should say something. No wait! I'll send her an email using her account! That would get her attention.

**Karli:** [*Walks in*] Hey, are you using my account??? I was logged in, you know!

**Andy:** You're so inconsiderate Karli! We're suppose to share this computer...and look at the screen saver... and that lame poster. Garfield! Garfield was cool in 3rd grade!

**Karli:** Garfield rocks! Your poor taste isn't my problem! You think you're better than I am??? Babbling on the phone all the time when I am trying to think, talking about people behind their backs. You never consider how others feel...and you really have a big mouth, talking about other people so even I can hear it.

**Andy:** It was a private conversation! Butt out!

**Karli:** I didn't want to listen, but there's no way I couldn't!

**Stop and discuss honor code issues.**

### VIOLATIONS

- ♣ using other peoples computer accounts for any purpose
- ♣ not being considerate with respect to shared equipment
- ♣ misuse of lab funds or equipment
- ♣ pattern of ignoring office ethics (how your behavior affects others' work)

### POSITIVE BENEFITS

- ♣ research group Xerox account (shared code)
- ♣ shared lab equipment, common stockroom supplies

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## **Honor Code Skit on Teaching-Related Topics**

by Surelys Mock and Heather Cox, 2002  
revised by Andy Choi 2002

**Graeme:** a fun-loving slacker TA

**Andy:** hard working perfectionist TA

**Surelys:** student flirting with Graeme TA

**Karli:** Undergrad 1

**Lauren:** Undergrad 2

**Asa:** Undergrad 3

Suggested props: stack of papers to "grade" and shuffle around and a pen

*Setting 1: Graeme and Andy share an office, where most of the action occurs. Andy is getting mobbed by an assortment of undergrads, otherwise known as holding office hours. They are all talking at once.*

**Narrator:** It's just after midterm exam time and we join Andy, a TA, holding office hours with some undergraduate students.

**Andy:** Okay, everybody, calm down. One at a time. I'll try to get to everyone.

**Karli:** But, there's only an hour before the Interhouse party, and the other TA wasn't at his office hours this morning!

**Andy:** He wasn't there? Well, I'm sorry, but I can't do anything about that. Let's try to go through the problem set question-by-question.

**Lauren:** There's no way I can finish this set now. Since the other TA wasn't there, you should grant me an extension.

**Karli:** Me too!

**Asa:** Yeah, and me too!

**Andy:** Well, I'm not sure what our extension policy is, but since you guys tried to get help and couldn't, I guess it's fair to give you extensions . . . Just don't tell the other undergrads about this; they didn't try to go see Graeme, so it doesn't apply to them anyway.

**Karli:** Well, my boyfriend's been sick, can't he get one too?

**Andy:** Only if he gets a note from the Health Center.

**Karli:** Hmph! Well, if that's the way you're going to be . . .

**Andy:** Any more questions?

**Asa:** No, not now. I need to work on my Phys 2 set 'cause I couldn't get an extension; that TA's tough!

**Andy:** OK, but if you have any questions, you should definitely email me. It's easier to clear these things up immediately and not wait until the last minute, OK guys?

**Lauren:** Yeah.

**Karli:** Whatever.

**Asa:** Thanks!

*The undergrads exit discussing Phys 2.*

**Andy:** [to self] Wait, you can say no when they ask for extensions? That would make life so much easier! This course is taking forever! At least I finally have a grading strategy, so I can explain why they got points off of their problems -- that was a nightmare the first week!

*Graeme wanders in with Surelys. They are discussing a party they went to last night.*

**Graeme:** That party was smokin'!

**Andy:** Where have you been? You had office hours this morning, remember? All the students came to me instead.

**Graeme:** Yeah, well, I overslept. We went to this great party in LA last night. Besides, you understand the problems better than I do. And I did help Surelys an awful lot, didn't I, Surelys?

**Surelys:** Yeah, but you had to keep referring to that answer key a lot. If I have any real problems, I'm talking to your officemate, here.

**Andy:** You showed her the answer key?! You know we're supposed to lead them through the problems without giving answers.

**Graeme:** Says who? I hadn't done them myself, and the end result is the same anyway. So why do it the hard way?

*Surelys picks up on the tension.*

**Surelys:** Well, uh, I don't want to interrupt class stuff, so I'll be going. Thanks for the help, Graeme. Will I see you at the Blues Club later?

**Graeme:** You bet.

*Surelys leaves. Graeme makes a high-five motion. Andy leaves him hanging.*

**Graeme:** Hey, man, didn't you see that? She's hot for me!

**Andy:** But she's also your student. Rule #1 of TA'ing at Caltech: You can't date your students!

**Graeme:** Yeah, I can see why they say that, but this is different! She's not, like, trying to get better grades. We're really into each other.

**Andy:** That's nice, but you still can't do it. Can't you just wait until the end of the term? I'm serious, Graeme, I'm going to have to talk to Professor Thompson if you're going to --

**Graeme:** [Interrupting] OK, OK. It's not like we're dating right now, anyway, so be cool. No need to involve the prof in this!

*Andy turns away to work. Graeme starts humming "Margaritaville," and grading papers extremely rapidly. Graeme throws papers, picks them up, writes on them, and puts them down. Andy notices.*

**Andy:** What are you doing?

**Graeme:** Grading papers. The heavier ones go further and get better grades. You keep complaining I don't

do enough work . . . but look at me. [*Graeme scribbles grades on three papers with a flourish for all to see and places each down as if it were a masterpiece that everyone should see.*] Your problem is time management. Look, I'll do you a favor. I'll cover for you, and grade all of the exams. You can cover my office hours for the next three weeks. I just can't get up in the morning.

*Andy picks up two of the exams from the ground, looks at them carefully.*

**Andy:** Hey, wait a minute. These two students have made practically the same mistakes. And you gave them completely different grades! Wait . . . [*slower*] these two exams are practically the same! [*Feeling frustrated and annoyed.*] Have you ever noticed that Karli and Asa always turn in nearly identical work? Wait, ... of course not...

**Graeme:** So?

**Andy:** Professor Thompson told us before the exam that collaboration was definitely not allowed. I think these two are working together. What should we do?

*Graeme makes a noose-hanging gesture.*

**Andy:** You're no help. Well, the Honor Code is pretty strict around here and I don't want them to get in too much trouble, so I guess I'll let it go this time...

*Andy picks up another exam.*

**Andy:** Hey, look at this one. It's much longer than the others, and half of it is in black pen, and the last half is in red. [*studies it*] The student says that the portion in red pen was completed after the time limit. How are we supposed to grade that?

**Graeme:** Look, this was a take-home exam. Think about it. Probably everybody went over time, and just one schmuck admitted to it. But if it makes you happy, I'll penalize them for it.

*Graeme crosses out the A and puts a C.*

**Graeme:** There, from an "A" to a "C".

**Andy:** That's just as bad as giving him an "A" in the first place.

**Graeme:** [*getting annoyed*] Look, do you want me to grade these or not? I thought you had midterms of your own due.

**Andy:** You're right -- but this is ridiculous. Could you at least pretend to read these? [*Looks at watch.*] I have got to go and get some sleep. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

**Stop and discuss aspects of the Honor Code.**

### **PRINCIPLES**

- **dating students**
- **Making collaboration policy clear**
- **Suspecting cheating (mention Board of Control)**
- **Consistent policies on going over-time, extensions, etc**

### **NON-VIOLATIONS**

- **helping students outside office hours**

- **having clear & fair grading scheme**

### **VIOLATIONS**

- **dating student**
- **seducing TA**
- **giving random extensions**
- **showing one student answer key**
- **not reporting suspected violation**
- **skipping office hours: taking advantage of department/faculty**

### **POSITIVE BENEFITS**

- **take-home exams**
- **extensions**
- **TA trust and help**
- **faculty trust**