first tested his software and it gave erroneous results:

```
In-reply-to: cindy.yardley
From: randy.samuels
Re: damned if I know
I cannot for the life of me figure out what is wrong with this function, swing_arm().
I've checked the robot dynamics formula over and over again, and it seems to be
implemented correctly. As you know, swing_arm() calls 14 different functions. I
lifted five of those from the PACKSTAT 1-2-3 statistical package verbatim. Please
don't tell a soul! Those couldn't be the problem, could they?
- Randy
```

Experts tell the Silicon-Observer that lifting software from a commercial software package like PACKSTAT 1-2-3 is a violation of the law. Software such as the immensely popular PACKSTAT 1-2-3 is protected by the same kind of copyright that protects printed materials.

Mike Waterson, CEO of Silicon Techtronics issued an angry statement concerning Max Worthington's release of "confidential" electronic mail transcripts. Waterson's statement said, in part, "I have asked our attorneys to look into this matter. We consider those transcripts the exclusive property of Silicon Techtronics. Our intent is to pursue either civil or criminal charges against Mr. Worthington."

In reaction to yesterday's developments in the killer robot case, the ACM or Association for Computing Machinery announced its intention to investigate whether any ACM members at Silicon Techtronics have violated the ACM Code of Ethics. The ACM is an international association of computer scientists with 85,000 members.

Dr. Turina Babbage, ACM President, issued a statement from the ACM's Computer Science Conference, which is held every winter and which is being held this winter in Duluth, Minnesota.

An excerpt from Dr. Babbage's statement follows:

All members of the ACM are bound by the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct1 . This code states, in part, that ACM members have the general moral imperative to contribute to society and human well-being, to avoid harm to others, to be honest and trustworthy, to give proper credit for intellectual property, to access computing and communication resources only when authorized to do so, to respect the privacy of others and to honor confidentiality.

Beyond that, there are professional responsibilities, such as the obligation to honor contracts, agreements, and assigned responsibilities, and to give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computing systems and their impacts, with special emphasis on possible risks.

Several of the people involved in the killer robot case are ACM members and there is cause to believe that they have acted in violation of our association's code of ethics. Therefore, I am asking the ACM Board to appoint a Task Force to investigate ACM members who might be in gross violation of the code.

We do not take this step lightly. This sanction has been applied only rarely, but the killer robot incident has not only cost a human life, but it has done much to damage the reputation of the computing profession.

THE SUNDAY SENTINEL-OBSERVER MAGAZINE

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. HARRY YODER

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by Robert Franklin

Harry Yoder is a well-known figure on the Silicon Valley University campus. The Samuel Southerland Professor of Computer Technology and Ethics, he has written numerous articles and texts on ethics and the social impact of computers. His courses are very popular, and most of his courses are closed long before the end of the registration period. Dr. Yoder received his Ph. D. in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1958. In 1976 he received a Master of Divinity degree from the Harvard Divinity School. In 1983 he received an MS in Computer Science from the University of Washington. He joined the faculty at Silicon Valley University in 1988.

I interviewed Dr. Yoder in his office on campus. My purpose was to get his reaction to the case of the killer robot and to "pick his brain" about the ethical issues involved in this case.

Sentinel-Observer: Going from electrical engineering to the study of religion seems like quite a jump.

Yoder: I was an electrical engineer by profession, but all human beings have an inner life. Don't you?

Sentinel-Observer: Yes.

Yoder: What is your inner life about?

Sentinel-Observer: It's about doing the right thing. Also, it's about achieving excellence in what I do. Is that what sent you to Harvard Divinity School? You wanted to clarify your inner life?

Yoder: Virtuosity, I call it. You want to be a virtuoso performer in the miracle of life. I'm just like you.

There was a lot going on at the Divinity School, and much of it was very compelling. However, most of all I wanted to understand the difference between what was right and what was wrong.

Sentinel-Observer: What about God?

Yoder: Yes, I studied my own Christian religion and most of the major world religions, and they all had interesting things to say about God. However, when I discuss ethics in my computer ethics courses, I do not place that discussion in a religious context. I think religious faith can help a person to become ethical, but on the other hand, we all know that certain notorious people who have claimed to be religious have been highly unethical. Thus, when I discuss computer ethics, the starting point is not religion, but rather a common agreement between myself and my students that we want to be ethical people, that striving for ethical excellence, and more generally, for virtuosity, is a worthwhile human endeavor. At the very least, we do not want to hurt other people, we do not want to lie, cheat, steal, maim, murder and