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Career Fair
Oct. 18th



CALTECH
cheerleading
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Saturday 10am-4pm
in front of Spalding

The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 3

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 12, 2001

NATIONAL COMING OUT WEEK: OCT. 8-12, 2001

National Coming Out Week is celebrated every October. Its purpose is to promote Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender (LBGT) visibility. With this visibility we hope to counter ignorance and fear of Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays, and Transgender people, and to provide inspiration for those who have not yet come out.

"Coming out of the closet" is the act of revealing the truth about one's sexual orientation to others. Coming out is a very personal process and can take many forms. It involves having enough courage and feelings of self worth to reveal this very personal information to others. This can mean taking the risk of being rejected or misunderstood by those around you. However, by being honest about who we are, LBGT people can begin to erase the misunderstanding and bigotry.

While we cannot assume that others will understand or care about what it means to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender, studies show that non-gay people who know someone who is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender support equality based on sexual orientation. By coming out to families, friends, and co-workers, the impact we can have on the population is extraordinary.

It is clear that LBGT-related issues will not be taken seriously until people know who we are. LBGT people are part of every aspect of life — we are parents, friends, children, and co-workers. We are your professors, your TAs, your lab technicians, your Librarians. It is up to us to let the world know.

The people listed below are just a few of the LBGT individuals who are part of the Caltech/JPL community. Our goal is to demonstrate in a direct and dramatic way the size and diversity of the LBGT population at Caltech, JPL, and the Caltech-affiliated community at large. In addition, we hope to provide support and inspiration to those among us who have not come out, or who are just beginning the process of coming out.

We invite you to join with us in recognizing National Coming Out Week.

Ramos-Horta to speak at Caltech

BY KEVIN BARTZ

He wasn't even thirty at the time, and his mountainous East Timor homeland was just then cracking the one-million mark in population. But in 1975, young Jose Ramos-Horta left his seven surviving siblings behind—four brothers had already died at the hands of Indonesian partisans—for a trip to the Big Apple to rally United Nations support for his campaign against violence by his country's military.

Nearly 24 years later, he finally succeeded—to the tune of independence for a newly democratic East Timor and a Nobel Prize for "sustained efforts to hinder the oppression of a small people."

But tonight at eight in Ramo Auditorium, Ramos-Horta travels from East to West to share his nonviolent doctrine with a Caltech audience as part of a whirlwind speaking tour aimed at spreading his message to a somewhat larger people: the United States.

This year's first in the Caltech Y's Social Activism Speakers Series (SASS), Ramos-Horta's presentation, "Peacemaking: The Power of Nonviolence," targets students unsure of how to use engineering skills to a socially productive end. Delivered in conjunction with fellow East

Timorese author and petitioner Matthew Jardine, the lecture promises slideshows and speeches on "how to prevent war and terror," in the words of SASS member Jennifer Caron '03.

"I think it's important that our students understand that the research they do has wider implications, both in California, the US and worldwide," said Postdoctoral Scholar Ravinder Bhatia, who spearheaded administrative efforts to bring Ramos-Horta to Caltech. A native of East Timor himself, Bhatia leads and coordinates East Timor Action Network Pasadena, the local branch of a nationwide humanitarian group dedicated to ending Indonesian violence.

"Specifically, I'm thinking about weapons technology," he explained. "Many of the weapons used against the East

Timorese people, the F-16 aircraft for instance, were actually produced by Western nations." Bringing students' attention to such "wider implications," he insisted, is tantamount to SASS's stated goal of "introducing the Caltech student body, as well as the public, to people who have dedicated their lives to the im-

provement of society."

In fact, since its conception three years ago, SASS has hosted a plethora of public notables running the gambit from media pundit Amy Goodman to Nobel Prize-

winning landmine activist Jody Williams. Despite their breadth, all of SASS's sponsored lectures strive to "inspire Caltech students to apply their scientific/technical training to help resolve local and global issues."

And who better to spread this message of peace than the man who, in the words of Bhatia, "has really been the major voice of the East Timorese people over the last 25 years"?

Especially in the backdrop of America's latest war on the Taliban in Afghanistan, Peaceful Justice Coalition (PJC) ring-leader Michael Russo '02 pegged the timing of Ramos-Horta's arrival as "particularly appropriate"—even though he tagged East Timor as "low on our priority list right now."

"This ties in with Afghanistan; hopefully, we can coordinate our efforts in the context of civil liberties," he offered, "and stuff that the CIA and the US has done that has caused suffering in the

world." In this sense, fellow PIC cohort Peter Dennedy-Frank considered Ramos-Horta's message "a valuable one in that he talks about peace in an area that has been racked by war in recent years."

Indeed, despite East Timor's noted success in winning independence and a democratic government, the infant nation still struggles in matters of diplomacy, facing what Caron called "a devastating threat for quite some time now." Amidst his arrival on campus, Ramos-Horta remains at the forefront of a battle to free some 80,000 East Timorese refugees held hostage in Indonesia, the liberty of whom is a prime concern for Bhatia.

"I hope Dr. Ramos-Horta can address the issue that it's not about making the best technical device or the most money," he offered. "It's about the human use and making students aware of the social implications of their research." Likewise, Dennedy-Frank connected such technological discretion with his own dreams of world peace. "Basically, violence begets violence, but peace too may spread around the world," he said.

Still, the effort is an uphill battle, one that even today is changing the landscape of non-violence and the drive for peace, according to Caron. These days, the chance to "view different examples of conflict resolution and different ways of dealing with threats," she held, is the gem of Ramos-Horta's presentation and life work.

"Your choices are not war and peace," she maintained. "Your choices are what process moves you toward one goal. There are people in the movement who just stand out there with peace signs, but that's just not enough for some of us. We're Caltech students. We want something more."



Students charged for course catalogues

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Apparently the new year has some changes in student expenses, for instance the previously free Catalogue is now sold at \$10 to upperclassmen and the Health Insurance has gone up by \$50 in addition to a policy of non-refundability.

Students have been shocked by these unexplained alterations. I decided to go up to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Christopher E. Brennen and take his comments on the above issues.

With regards to the catalogue-pricing, he broke out to say that there would be more information on the causes of the change next month but acceded that it was partially a result of the Student Affairs budget cuts.

At the moment, the Course Catalogue for 2001-02 is available free of cost to all new stu-

dents and faculty but is \$10 for anyone else. However, he stated, that this should not be a problem because the catalogue is completely available online.

Bringing in environmental issues such as energy conservation, he went on to say, "We are using a lot of trees for something that is not necessary. We have to get used to trying to function with less paper!"

Hence, due to all the aforementioned causes, a lower number of catalogues were printed this year and hence were charged to fill in the shortage of supply.

The other worry that has struck students is the raise in health insurance.

Prof. Brennen regarded this as part of an attempt to limit the sky-rocketing cost to the Institute of the student health insur-

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Commentary & Minutes

Marcus reports from Macedonia

The aftermath of war is not a simple thing. There are many different kinds of war, and many different ways in which war affects society. For the last two weeks I've been bicycling across Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo exploring these different facets.

My cycling began in Novi Sad, a modern and picturesque city in northern Serbia particularly targeted by NATO in its 1999 bombings. Strolling through the city center, I felt like a traditional European tourist awestruck by the way ornate churches dominated the pedestrian streets. But wandering out to the Danube riverbank I was struck by something else.

Never have I seen damage on the scale of Novi Sad's suspension bridge. One tower nose-dived into the river bringing with it several sections of roadway and leaving the rest of the bridge slanted, teetering above the water.

Other targets I witnessed in Novi Sad and Belgrade reflected the same power. I saw large office complexes tumbled like sandcastles, bridges flicked into oblivion and missile-ripped government centers. Damage I have seen in Bosnia, Israel and Macedonia—bullet holes and mortar craters—does not compare to the awesome destructive power of America. Our mark is like the Finger of God!

But it is important to note that the destruction in Serbia is localized. In Novi Sad, except for three prominent bridges, to find the damage one has to know where to look, and the same holds true for Belgrade. Not so in Kosovo.

Bicycling through Kosovo is a ride through destruction—it's not an occasional feature but a constant part of the scenery. Everywhere, in the countryside and in the cities, there are the remains of houses. Some have only lost their roofs. Many have lost all but the eerie remains of a solitary wall. And many others are gone completely, memo-

rialized by a pile of rubble.

What does it mean when a place has been so comprehensively damaged? It means that the conflict has extended beyond war into a realm that makes war look like peace: the realm of ethnic cleansing.

In theory war is not a civilian affair. Of course the citizenry is always affected, but usually more by fear than actual violence. On the other hand, ethnic cleansing seeks to destroy a whole ethnic group, young and old, man, woman and child. In Kosovo, where the targeted ethnic Albanians were 90% of the population, this meant a comprehensive attack on Kosovo society. And so it is that I found in Kosovo building after building, town after town, obliterated. First the Albanian homes were destroyed then, to prove there are no good

guys, the Albanians responded in kind to the Serbs and "collaborator" gypsies once Serbian troops withdrew. Now all of

Kosovo is in ruins.

But I've realized something about this perception of destruction in its physical remnants. When I was in Belgrade I passed by a car accident. Two cars were piled together, the front with its windshield smashed, and laying some 40 feet ahead was an old man, lifeless. A stream of blood leaked from his mouth into a puddle on the asphalt, affirming that this was the look of death. It was a powerful, fortuitous encounter.

I realized that the shock of war's destruction is not in the image of a concrete building crumbling to the ground. While this may be shocking, it pales in comparison to the shock of numbers of lifeless forms like the old man's scattered through the wreckage. As I spent more time in Kosovo I got used to its scenery of rubble. But the ongoing human experiences in Kosovo are continuously powerful. Orphans with troubled memories and ethnic groups separated by NATO troops, these were the things I never got used to.

ARC Announcement

My name is Nicholas Knouf, and I am ASCIT Director of Academic Affairs. As well, I chair the Academics and Research Committee (ARC). The mission of the ARC is to serve as an objective liaison between students and faculty, to facilitate effective communication, and to improve the quality of learning at Caltech.

The ARC contains student representatives from each of the seven houses, along with two representatives-at-large, a secretary, and myself. We're here to hear your academic concerns and to address them. We work

with faculty and administration to make sure that the student voice is heard in academic matters.

One major activity for the ARC is the Student/Faculty Conference, to be held later in the school year. This conference aims to bring students, faculty, administration, and staff together to identify, address, and solve problems that face the campus community. For the latest updates regarding the conference and the pre-conference committee meetings, visit <http://sfc.caltech.edu>.

If you have any academic sug-

gestions or concerns, feel free to e-mail arc@donut.caltech.edu. As well, you can come to our meetings to express your views. We usually meet on Wednesdays at 3:30 - 4:30PM in SAC 33, the ASCIT offices. You can also visit our homepage at <http://arc.caltech.edu>, to read the latest minutes, see our current activities, and to find out the current meeting time.

Thanks, and good luck,

Nicholas Knouf
Director of Academic Affairs,
ASCIT

ARCminutes

10/10/01

Present: Nick Knouf (Chair), Al Valdivia (Sec.), Tim Crosby (BI), Jonathan Lee (Da), Iram Bilal (Pa), Vesna Sok (Ru), Larry Stewart (Rep-At-Large) and Chris Elion (Guest)

CS 1 - Chris Elion is present to voice some concerns, some of which were raised last year, about CS 1. The main discussion was about the transformation of the course from a practical to a more theoretical focus. Chris (potentially with the help of Al and Jonathan) agrees to look into putting together a document summarizing the student concerns regarding the present course and the student desire for practical programming courses.

Student Faculty Conference (SFC) - Nick informs us that the SFC schedule for this upcoming February will be pushed back to March or April so as to have

more time to properly prepare. A website for the conference has been created at <http://sfc.caltech.edu>.

Ch 3a - There are concerns raised regarding the day-long sections of Ch 3a being included in this terms schedule. It is decided that Justin Ho should do some looking into this matter based on his chemistry major status and his lack of attendance.

Advising System - Nick raises the issue that the advising system in general for undergrads as an area in which the ARC could and should do some work in this year, to the agreement of everyone present. Suggestions included updating and expanding on the upperclass advising resources created by the ARC a year and a half ago, encouraging increased faculty student interaction and the potential return of the turbulent option book idea.

Meeting Time - It is decided that the ARC will meet every

destruction, combined with comprehensive economic sanctions that have prevented reconstruction, led to the death of over a million people. The US justified its actions by citing the misdeeds of the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Hussein. However, the Iraqi people did not deserve punishment for the behavior of their ruler any more than the innocent Americans in the World Trade Center deserved punishment for the misdeeds of their government.

During the attack on Iraq, the American media simply regurgitated their government's rationalizations. So, while most Americans may not have been able to point to the Middle East on a map, they knew that the US was defending human rights, freedom, democracy, and decency. Flags were displayed widely. All were urged to "support our troops." There was considerable pride in how successfully Iraq was crushed and its troops wiped out. On the campus of Caltech, where I lived as an undergraduate, the mood was upbeat, even jovial. While I mourned, some of my friends literally partied. The last thing on anybody's mind was the Iraqis who perished.

A decade later, flags are ubiquitous again. This time, however, the mood is somber. There is dignified empathy for the victims of the terrorist attack, and there are touching acts of kindness in the face of suffering. In moments of abandon, I imagine that this awakened sympathy will permeate the artificial boundaries of national borders to engulf victims the world over. I imagine that the American people will prevent unjust policies and acts of brutality by their government abroad. But then realism sets in: I know the media will continue to uncritically present a rosy image of the US foreign policy. The public will take it on trust that their government does right. And I will grieve again.

-Behnam Sadeghi, Class of '93

Commentary
from Abroad

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 3
OCTOBER 12, 2001

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Announcements (Mints): noon Monday
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

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Commentary on attacks

My friends and I have spent the last week and a half grieving for the victims in New York (*The commentary was received in mid-Sept.--Ed.*). But these feelings are not new to me as they are to most of my American friends. I have felt the same way for much of the past 20 years. Being from Iran, the first time I experienced this sense of grief and loss was during the Iran-Iraq war. As a teenager in the 80's, I cried equally for the Iraqi and Iranian victims of that war. As I grew older, other man-made tragedies elicited my empathy: the US-Iraq war, the genocide in the Balkans, the plight of the Palestinians.

Throughout it all, nothing depressed me more than the US attack on Iraq. In this case, a whole country was bombed back into the preindustrial age. The infrastructure necessary to civilization was shattered, and 9000 homes turned into "collateral damage." That

Commentary

THE TYRANNY OF EDUCATION

BY JIALAN WANG

In America, "Trust no one," is the motto, especially pertinent to those with authority. But one kind of authority escapes much of the suspicion associated with politicians, lawyers, and police. Us.

Although we are somewhat regarded as social underachievers, scientists command a sort of respect that no one else does. Despite a certain "mad scientist" archetype, scientists in general are deemed more trustworthy, honest, hardworking, and rational than pretty much any other segment of society. Sure, we might unwittingly make discoveries and invent technologies that wreak havoc on the human race, but we aren't bigoted, we don't rape people, and we don't rob banks. In our ivory towers while pursuing pure knowledge, we are innocent from the evils of the world.

A look around campus seems to show that this belief approximates the truth. The scientific community is largely composed of unmaterialistic, open-minded, and a relatively harmonious individuals who are certainly more well-behaved than society at large. So it

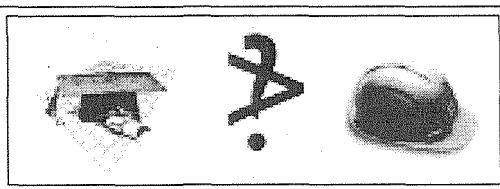
seems we are deserving of the special respect we get, and that education is the key to a better world.

In fact, higher education seems not only to be praiseworthy but actually indispensable nowadays. It is hard to even get a decent job without a college degree. But is all of this education really necessary? Furthermore, is the pursuit of knowledge really that much nobler than, say, the pursuit of building things out of wood or growing corn?

As America's educated elite, we can scarcely even fathom these as valid questions, much less answer them in a reasonable manner. It is fairly easy to establish the need for the general populous to be literate and to have basic knowledge of arithmetic and history and the need for some people to become scholars. However, it is a different matter altogether to treat those with more education better and to make it difficult to get by without it. One might immediately counter that education is far from mandatory in our society, and that we are in fact struggling just to minimally educate

the masses. But this is exactly the point – if education were not so integral to success, it wouldn't be such a big issue. Those who aren't lucky enough to become educated are effectively screwed, barring the minute possibility of becoming a teenaged pop star or a successful stripper.

The fact is that our society has been built around the necessity of education. Consider by analogy the automobile. In most places in America, it is necessary to have a car in order to be successful – simply to carry on normal activities like go to work, buy groceries, and visit the doctor. Sure, it technically



is a choice whether or not to own a car, but it is such an inconvenience that it is not truly a choice. In most countries around the world, society is not structured with the assumption that people have cars, and so they live perfectly well without them. So could be the case with education.

It has always been argued that ignorance leads to oppression, but may mandatory knowledge not also be a form of oppression? We esteem intelligence, but only a very particular kind of intelli-

gence, concerning Maxwell's equations as opposed to restaurant management, group theory instead of accounting. Garbage collectors do more for public health than doctors and policemen do more for the public good than physicists, but they command only a small fraction of the respect. Just as we aspire to be biologists and mechanical engineers, others aspire to be farmers and auto mechanics. But our goals are somehow nobler than theirs and our work is somehow more worthwhile.

As a Caltech student and future scientist, I subscribe to the belief in the nobility of education, but I am hard pressed to explain exactly why, and it sounds uncomfortably like so much propaganda. It doesn't seem fair that someone who has no interest in academics must either go through four expensive years of classes they dislike or be resigned to a working-class income and an inferior status. Everyone talks about expanding one's horizons in college, but we only seem to expand them in the direction of abstraction and sophistication, neglecting many of the simpler aspects of life.

In the end the skills we value are just arbitrarily chosen. This whole debate may just be a matter of the subjectivity of values. It is just important just to realize that

our path is not the only or best path in life. Something we never learn in school is how to empathize, even with people who aren't as "smart" as we are.

CATALOGUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ance plan.

He commented on it further, "Health insurance is a crisis throughout the country, especially nowadays. Deluxe schemes are becoming more and more expensive. Hence, I would really hope that more health care options are available to students as they are to the staff."

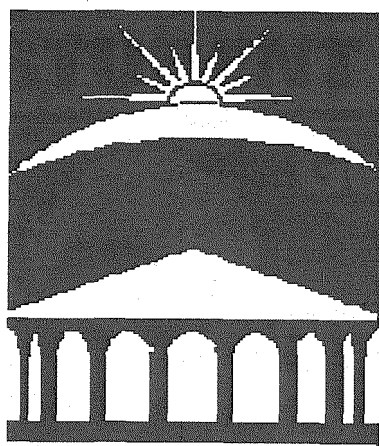
He also encouraged students to participate in the dialogue regarding the Student Insurance Plan and said that Caltech was committed to providing a Health Insurance plan that is comprehensive.

A more detailed comment on this should be available from the Benefits Office of Human Resources, which is directly linked to the Health Plan.

Thus, with this cause and effect analysis, Caltech has entered the 21st century by addressing environmental issues and also by the appropriate allocation of fiscal resources.

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Oct. 18, 2001

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Minutes

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

OCTOBER 3, 2001

Present: BoD - Dana, Joe Fassler.

And now ladies and gentlemen, let's get ready for round 2. First meeting of the new school year called to order at 4:38 pm.

General Meeting

Clean-up business. Where are the publications? The Totem was printed right after the end of third term last year, and will be sent to all of the MSC's except for the frosh. Graduates from last year will be sent a copy only if they contributed. Much like the CURJ, boxes will be in place in the houses and near the mailboxes for unwanted copies, to be distributed into more appreciative, civilized hands.

Both Big T's (2000 & 2001) are in press, and the 2001 Big T is likely

to reach us before the older one (thanks Eric Tuttle). They will be received before the end of the term. For her dedication and contribution, Wren Montgomery, BS '00 will be reimbursed. For a preview of the ASCIT 2001 Big T page, check out the very elegant, very chic glass display case on the Olive Walk.

Little t is also in press, to be received by the third week of October. However, in light of the terrorism and poop stage of the economy right now, a lot of the businesses who paid an arm and a leg for ads in the little t before had to cut back. The little t will probably cost an additional \$300-\$400.

UROH- Joe Jewell will soon be in the process of soliciting departments for research position openings. Now that the summer research students are gone, many professors will be interested in hiring new help.

Welcome back, everyone, by the way.

Frosh interest sheets are outdated. A lot of the clubs on the sheets don't

exist any more, and lots of new clubs that aren't on the list would like to be. Coordination between the frosh interests and clubs is rather poor; that is, frosh who circle the clubs that they would be interested in never find out 1) if the clubs exist, or 2) just how much ASCIT would really like frosh to work for us whether or not you circled us or not.

Finances. Hall Daily recommended two other firms nearby who might be interested in helping little, old non-profit ASCIT file a tax audit. Martha-Helene spent hours in the library on Sunday night trying to learn how to file taxes for a 501c (whoohoo, can you feel the enthusiasm for filing our own taxes), and the sketchiness of sponsoring groups tied to political activities. Related to financial stuff is our desire to transfer accounts here and there, possibly to the Credit Union for greater accessibility.

Social Event. 7 bands are registered so far to play in the first ever Caltech Battle of the Bands, to be staged south of the Winnett Center,

Saturday night starting at 8 pm. Liquor is still iffy because the Athenaeum needs its bartenders for a wedding, but we should be able to wrestle a few away to serve "refreshments". GSC has supplied \$500, since many students in the bands are grads. ASCIT should be ready to fund another \$500. A \$200 prize will be awarded to the winning band, and in light of the event, the Jamroom has been absolutely packed this week for rehearsals (EXXXcellent!)

BTW-if you don't know what the Jamroom is, talk to Spencer Rarrick (rarrick@its.caltech.edu) our undergrad liason to the aural mecca. Basically, the Jamroom has music equipment and serves as a practice room for music lovers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Evidently,

A happy senior.

comed. The Alumni Association also appeared in favor of holding a contest for composing a new alma mater. After the Couch Crew (Todd Schuman, Joe Jewell, Joe Fassler) began singing the alma mater it became more obvious that a new one, perhaps more tone deaf-friendly, was necessary.

DVD Library. Near the end of last school year, a large number of movies were stolen from the ASCIT DVD Library stored in the Coffeehouse. It now appears that if ASCIT can uncover the receipts from the DVD purchases, the Treasurer's Office may reimburse us. The DVD Library will now be stored in a location where unauthorized seizure will result in automatic tar and feathering.

Donut Logistics. The weekly odyssey to Donut Man has taken many an hour of sleep. Accordingly, Martha-Helene proposes that we get weekly donuts from Winchell's and use the money that we save to have more midnight donut cornucopias. For those of you who are new to the Friday morning sugar experience: the ASCIT president delivers donuts to the RF breezeway at 8 AM.

Parking. Recently, Martha-Helene and Joe Fassler mourned the loss of their parking spaces on campus, due to the booming campus population. New parking structures are being proposed but new, strict regulations on undergraduate spaces will also be enacted (in what many on ASCIT BoD see as only a short-term solution). Next year's incoming class will be prohibited from parking on-campus, and ASCIT sees this as a serious blow to the undergraduate quality of life.

Due to liability issues, ASCIT may cease funding to clubs that center around dangerous activities: i.e. rock climbing, firearm shooting, physics courses overloading. The Physical Education Department ended its rock-climbing class due to insufficient certification. Should a student be injured doing a club activity, ASCIT as a fund provider could be sued. Given that ASCIT isn't very rich to begin with, abstaining from volatile clubs is a rather smart plan.

Student-Faculty Conference Proposals. Nick and Martha-Helene have been in the process of brainstorming specific topics that should be addressed at the upcoming conference (proposed for a late February, March, or April return). Items presently on the agenda include the Honor Code and the quality of residence life for undergrads. Committees will be composed of student and faculty co-chairs, with additional members on the committees comprised of other faculty members, administration, grad students and undergraduates. The committees will hold town-hall meetings open to the undergraduate body for input.

In other ARC news, students are still disappointed over the CS1, CS2, CS3 sequence and the full day lab sessions scheduled for Ch3a.

Evidently,

Justin

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

OCTOBER 10, 2001

Present: BoD - Dana. Guests: Kevin Bartz, Tech spy 1; Iram Bilal, less subtle Tech spy 2.

Meeting brought to order as Martha-Helene strolls through the door, ten minutes late and obviously excited about the many items on the agenda to be addressed, circa 10:08 pm.

Kevin is mistakenly identified as Lyle- all two of the ASCIT-friendly slave force, confused already.

Iram inquires about the price of purchasing Caltech catalogs (\$10 for upperclassmen at the bookstore), which does reflect the cost of publication and the man-hours behind its production. The charge has been added this year because Student Affairs, which acts as an umbrella organization for Residence Life, Undergraduate Admissions, Minority Student Affairs, and the Career Development Center among other offices, is experiencing 7% budget cuts. In addition to printing fewer copies of the Catalog, an environmentally-friendly measure, the frosh mugshot books were only produced online as pdf files this year.

General Meeting

At the Alumni Association meeting on September 29th, it was reported that the freshman retention rate of last year's incoming class was 98%, which was met with much chagrin at Harvard, MIT, Stanford, and Yale-thwarted kleptomaniacs and such.

Martha-Helene spoke recently with the Alumni Association, concerning the Millikan Library ad hoc committee. Undergraduates will be allowed to have one student representative on the panel that will address the possibility of archiving everything in Millikan online and converting the library into space for other offices. The Alumni Association also expresses that undergraduate input on choosing reasonable prospective speakers at future Alumni-student luncheons is wel-

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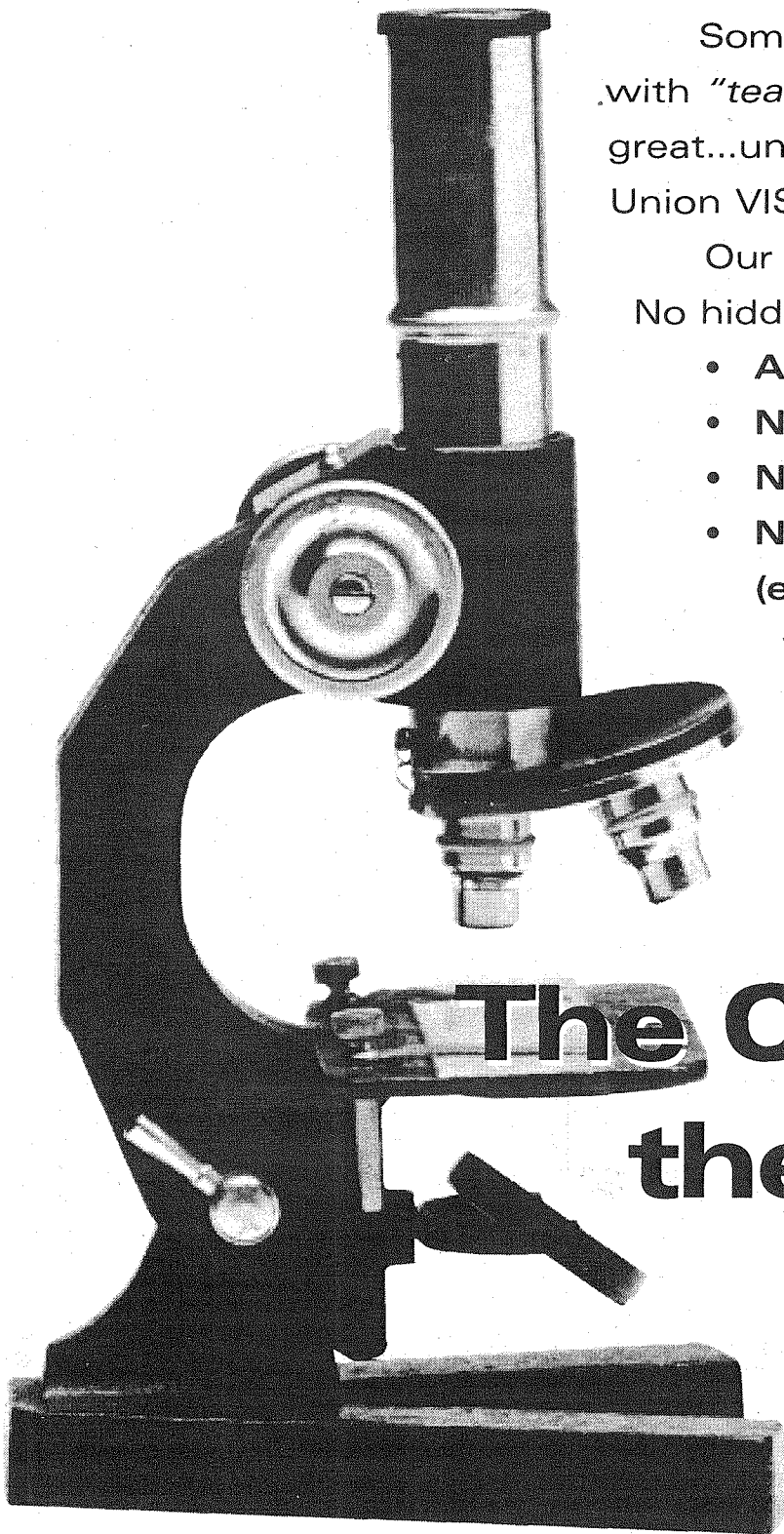
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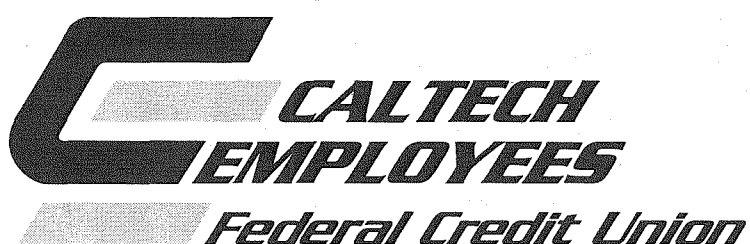
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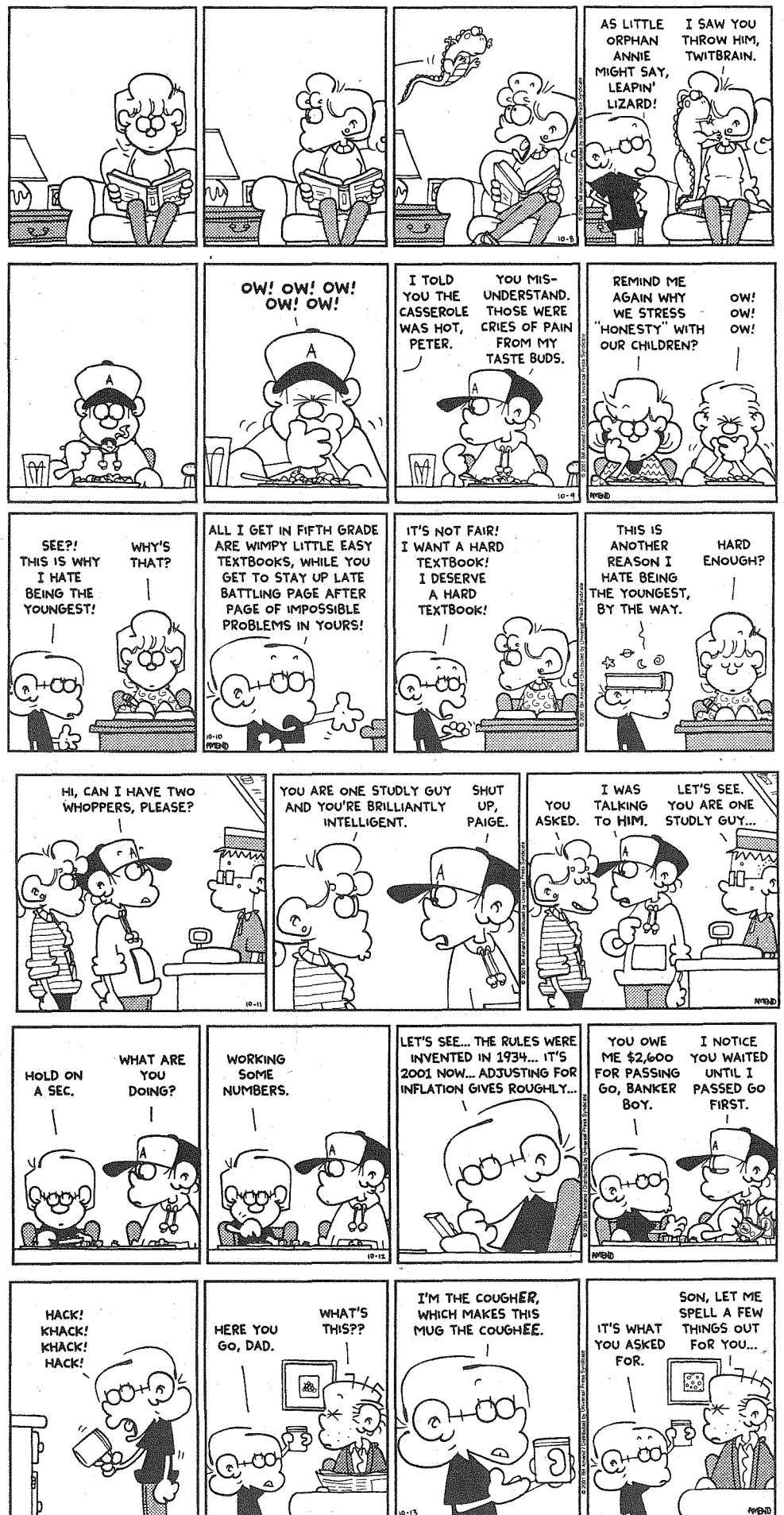
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BLOODLUST (R)
 [12:00] 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 12:15

TORTILLA SOUP (PG-13)
 [11:30] 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

A Film by David Lynch
MULHOLLAND DRIVE (R)
 [12:30 1:30] 4:00 5:00 7:30 8:30 11:00

GRATEFUL DAWG (PG-13)
 [11:30] 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

VA SAVOIR! (PG-13)
 [1:00] 4:30 8:00

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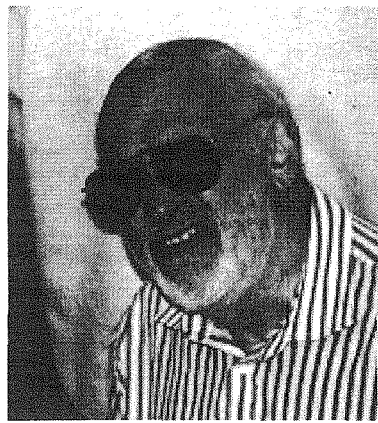
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Dean's

Dean's Corner

Colic or bucolic?

by Jean-Paul Revel



For the last 4 weeks now the major topic of attention and concern (in this country) has been the use of freshly fuelled hijacked planes to attack significant landmarks in New York and Washington. We feel for the victims and even more so for their families and friends. We also worry about the larger consequences of these attacks, both indirectly on our economy, and on our relations with others in the world. Last weekend the US and Great Britain began a double pronged attack on Afghanistan.

On the one hand we try to reassure the Afghanis that we are well intentioned toward them, by dropping food packages. On the other we try to demolish the defenses of the present Afghan regime in the hope of catalyzing its overthrow. It would be satisfying to flush out the people we believe were involved in the terrorist attacks, but of course we did not manage to achieve a similar aim in Iraq. The terrorists may well be preparing more "dirty tricks." They tell us so (was that not a chilling statement by bin Laden, mild mannered and doe eyed, and full of a messianic hate?).

Of course whether they do or not, it is good tactic for them to threaten us, and so add to the heap of our worried speculations. It is hard to decide what to do in the face of people so convinced that God is on their side, that they believe they serve him by slaughtering people with differing beliefs. Not that such a characteristic is unique to Islamic radicals. Far from it. It unfortunately seems to be a trait that is the human norm rather than the exception.

There is so much talk of peace and justice along with the pursuit of narrow, self serving, and sectarian goals. Whether simultaneously using bombs and food is the best approach is, of course, not known and will not be known probably for a long time. Many of us would have preferred subtler retaliation (easy to say of course, don't try to pin me down to what I mean by that - I don't really know; and besides, my personal preferences may be out of synch with the majority). All these complex problems and the emotional roller coaster we find ourselves on may well influence our ability to concentrate, to sleep, affecting us in many other ways. In talking to students I have become aware that many have been more concerned with things pe-

culiar to their state, rather than worrying about goings on in the world. One major distraction, rotation, is now over and most of you should now be ensconced in your quarters for the rest of the year. But wherever stress comes from in your life, please make sure that you pay heed to its symptoms and seek help. We are always ready to talk to you about these and other problems.

It would feel good to escape all of the concern and be able to discuss, say, the potato motif in the universe. I approach the topic with some trepidation, because it seems to me I am the only one (!) to have noticed that so many of the small objects out there, such as asteroids and comets, all look like spuds. Yes, even the titillatingly named Eros looks like a potato, rather than anything even remotely erotic. You'll say aha!, there are plenty of non spud objects out there. Take Geographos for example. Geographos is an asteroid, imaged by radar at Goldstone in 1994. With a major axis of 3.2 and a minor of 1.2 miles, you might think of it as a fat cigar, but to me you see, with its relatively pointed ends it looks more like a yam. A sweet potato may not be a true potato, but it is nevertheless a potato, in everyday parlance at least. A specially picturesque object is the comet Borrelly imaged just last September 22 from 2000 miles away ("the heart of the comet") by the long lived craft Deep Space 1 (its long life is due to a bit of extra hydrazine fuel added at the last minute!). The images received back on earth show the comet to be shaped just like the potato we pulled out of the ground in our garden last week.

Unfortunately it was eaten, so I can't even show you a picture of this phenomenon. One of the investigators on the Borrelly imaging team, obviously unaware of our garden spoils, said it looked like a bowling pin to him. I guess even though potato is what came to my mind, a bowling pin would be perfectly in line with our ideas of the origin of comets. Gravitational perturbations bring them out of the Oort cloud, a huge reservoir of comets which orbits the sun about 1 light-year away. "These comets are near the boundary between the gravitational forces of the sun and the gravitational forces of other stars with which the sun comes into interstellar proximity every several thousand years. According to the

theory, these stellar passings perturb the orbits of the comets within the Oort cloud. As a result, some may be captured by the passing star, some may be lost to interstellar space, and some of their orbits are modified from a relatively circular orbit to an extremely elliptical one coming close to the sun". It clearly seems a case of cosmic bowling!

There are lots of other things

that need discussion. Of course the need is from my perspective and my agenda is not necessarily everyone else's. One item that comes to mind is another form of bowling practiced on a less cosmic scale, yet of considerable potential impact. I speak of the cyclists who, I guess to protect themselves from collisions with the 4 wheeled monsters which roam the streets, take to the sidewalks, and so seriously endanger pedestrians. Sidewalks, need I say it, are for bipeds and for accompanied small quadrupeds. Baby carriages too, but bicycles, or skateboards, or even plain skates? No.

Please exercise your good

judgement and spare our neighbors, and also all of us walkers on Campus. No need even for Phys1 to figure out the dire consequences of an impact.

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

1) Heil, Martha (2001) Deep space 1 snaps close up comet pictures, Universe, 31, n018, p.1

2) <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/basics/bsf1-3.html>

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Mints

Announcements

Wanna learn to fly? The Aero Association of Caltech/JPL is holding its Fall General Membership meeting on Wednesday, October 24, at 7:00 pm in 201 E. Bridge. Come learn about our fleet of six airplanes at nearby El Monte Airport and the opportunity to get your pilot's license. The meeting will feature guest speaker Peter Garrison, who writes the "Technicalities" column for Flying Magazine. Both members and non-members are invited to attend. For more information about joining the Caltech Flying club or the Fall General Membership meeting, contact Gilead Wurman, gwurman@its.caltech.edu, x1256, or Elaine Ou, ou@its.caltech.edu, x1037.

Women in Science is a new group on the Caltech campus. It was started by a group of concerned female graduate students, and we are now looking for new members. Our first event will be a lunch and round-table discussion with Prof. Janet Hering and Prof. Marianne Bronner-Fraser on Oct. 16 at noon at the Carriage House. To sign up for the lunch, please email cynthiac@its.caltech.edu. Our second event will be an Open Forum on Nov. 1 at 7pm at the Women's Center. The discussion topic for this forum will be "Treatment of Women at Caltech: Past and Present". This event is open to all members of the Caltech community. If you would like to learn more, please email Cynthia at cynthiac@its.caltech.edu.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club is offering two four-week class series this month: Lindy Hop and Chacha. Lindy Hop, taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson, takes place on Mondays (Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29). Classes are \$20 for the series or \$6/lesson for all Caltech students, \$28 (series) / \$8 (per lesson) otherwise. Chacha (Wed. Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31) is amateur taught and costs \$1/lesson (free for frosh and students taking it for PE credit). All classes are held in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9pm, followed by a half-hour practice session. Refreshments provided; no partner or experience is required. Additionally, on Mondays from 9:30-11pm we offer a mini-ballroom dance party - request or bring your own music! For more information, contact Megan Knight at knight@its.caltech.edu or visit our web page at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom/>.

Caltech Quiz Bowl is having practices every Wednesday and Thursday in SAC 65 at 7:30. We are a group of graduate and undergraduate students who get together and participate in competitions consisting of trivia questions on everything from science to literature to sports. The Wednesday practice in particular is meant for new players. For more information see our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~quizbowl.

Feeling stressed??? Sign up for the Stress Management Workshop offered by the Student Counseling Center. This workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing primarily on basic relaxation techniques and stress management skills. The 3-session workshop will meet on consecutive Mondays (November 5th, 12th, and 19th) from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call x8331 to reserve your place in the group.

The Dean of Students Office needs tutors in all areas--help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is \$10.00 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans' tutor please stop by the Deans' Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

Athenaeum Tennis Ladder. All Athenaeum members, ages 18 and older, are invited to join a new managed tennis ladder. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players call each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. The ladder includes both men and women, but matches will be formed between players within a few ladder rungs of one another. Each of year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time, but respond by Oct 23, 2001, to be included in initial matches. For more information, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6798 or email to athennis@caltech.edu.

Come learn to dance like your favorite music stars!

The Caltech Dance Troupe will be sponsoring Beginners' Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9-10:30pm, Braun multipurpose room beginning October 9. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are required. There is a \$2 fee for the introductory class. This fee will be credited to the fall quarter fee if you decide to join the class for the rest of the term. The term fee for students is \$10 and for non-students is \$20. To register, email troupe@caltech.edu. Free ballet classes sponsored by the Caltech Dance Troupe start Saturday, October 6. No special clothing or shoes are required for the beginners' class. All classes meet at Braun multipurpose room. Beginners meet from 1-2:00pm, intermediate from 2-3:30pm, advanced from 3:30-4:30pm. For more info, see our website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe>. Questions or comments? Email: troupe@caltech.edu.

Eat Pizza and listen to stories about the adventure of Amateur Radio at the **Caltech Amateur Radio Club** (CITARC) meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 16 in the Winnett Club Room. No license required to join in the fun. See our award winning "ham shack". For more info, contact N6LL@arrl.net

Guitar Classes At CIT

CIT Guitar Classes for the fall quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on October 9 as follows: Beginning Guitar Class 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM; Intermediate Guitar Class 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM; Advanced Guitar Class 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive 3 units of credit. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore). Mr. Denning can be reached at (323) 465-0881 or by email at: ddenning@caltech.edu. The Guitar Home Page is at: www.music.caltech.edu/guitar.html

Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Discussion Group

Whether you are out and proud, exploring your sexual identity, coming out, or anywhere in-between, we invite you to our Discussion Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15 pm in the Health Center Lounge. The group is a great place to meet new friends and the atmosphere is generally very relaxed; at the same time, more personal and "serious" discussion topics can be addressed. This is a confidential meeting and attendance does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation; supportive students and staff are welcome as well. And refreshments are served! For more information call ext. 8331. To find out about LBGT events on campus, please visit the Caltech Student Pride Association (CSPA) calendar at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cspa/>.

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

Community Service Opportunities Abound!

The Caltech Y offers students and staff a variety of ways to participate in community service. Opportunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Shelter, math tutoring (on or off campus), reading tutoring, and working at local hospitals. One-time community service events are planned each term and opportunities for service on a regular basis exist.

Undergraduates with federal work-study can receive \$15/hr for their community service work. To be added to the community service interest email list, or for more information about the Community Service Program, please contact Kristin Abbott at kabbott@caltech.edu or call 626/395-3180. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

Scholarships

The Financial Aid Office has applications and/or information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located at 355 S. Holliston, second floor.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html> for information on available scholarships.

Upcoming Events

Self-Defense Class for Women Sponsored by the Caltech Women's Center. Free and open to students, staff, and faculty. Saturday, October 20, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm OR Saturday, November 10th, 10:00am- 6:00pm. Steele House, Carriage House Conference Center. This 8-hour training offers participants the opportunity to learn and rehearse self-defense techniques. Participants will practice these new skills with a full padded assailant in a variety of simulated attack scenarios. The workshop will also include: assessing dangerous situations responding to being followed diplomatic limit-setting and communication skills. This class will introduce you to skills that can help you avoid, deter, and resist physical and verbal assault. For more information or to register please call ext. 3221. Space is limited. ***Please note that Men's Self-Defense Classes will be held in the spring***

Attention Women Students! Caltech Society of Women Engineers and Women's Center Presents: Information Session for Women Students, Thursday October 18th, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM, Winnett Center Club Room Would you like to know where to turn to when you have problems with the Caltech ratio? Scholarship opportunities only for women? Free food opportunities for women? Women alumni network opportunities for career? Professionals from various departments will talk about their services and programs for women. This session is designed for women students, especially frosh. FREE FOOD! For more information, contact: Emma Kang, ekang@its.caltech.edu, <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~swe/infosession.html>

Caltech Library System Presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.

Tuesday, October 16: Patents Tuesday, October 23: Web of Science for Science and Engineering View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

Persian movie screening in celebration of Mehregan: Saturday, October 13, 3:30 PM -- 8:00 PM in 080 Moore. Come and celebrate Mehregan, the Persian Festival of Autumn, and learn about Iranian culture! We will show two Iranian movies: Salaam Cinema (1995) and Through the Olive Trees (1994). Both movies have English subtitles. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Organized by Friends of Iranian Culture at Caltech (FICCIT) FICCIT website: <http://ficcit.caltech.edu/>

The Caltech Alpine Club and REI present the **Telluride Film Festival** to Caltech on October 23, 7:30pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. Tickets are \$5 for students (otherwise \$8 advance/\$10 at door). The film line up appears below, in addition there will be base-jumping and ski films with titles to be announced. Tickets are available at the Caltech ticket office 1-888-2CALTECH or through ticketmaster outlets. This event could sell out, so get your tickets early! Films: Ode To Avalanche by Ken Bailey & Michael Friedman, Gatherers From The Sky by Gauthier Flauder, The Fatal Game by James Heyward and Richard Denison, Turtle World by Nick Hilligoss, and The Man Who Planted Trees by Frederic Bach

Get certified in Adult First Aid and CPR by the American Red Cross.

Adult First Aid and CPR classes will be held the week of October 15-19.

The classes are schedule as follows: Monday, October 15, 9am-4pm, Wednesday, October 17, 9am-4pm, Friday, October 19, 9am-4pm, Tuesday and Thursday, October 16 and 18, 6pm-10pm (Must attend both days to be certified). If you are interested in attending one of these classes please contact the Environment, Health, and Safety Office at extension 6727 to reserve your place. Class size is limited so reserve your seat today.

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