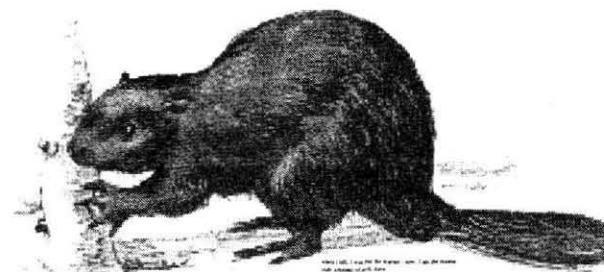


see olive walk  
find out your off-campus pick  
  
read about committees  
see page 3



baxter lecture hall

7:30,  
10pm

STAR  
WARS  
12 days

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 27

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1999

## CALTECH BANDS HONOR LONGTIME DIRECTOR BING

COURTESY PUBLIC RELATIONS

In honor of William Bing's 25th anniversary as director of bands at Caltech, there will be a special concert held on Saturday, May 15, at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

For the special occasion, Leslie Deutsch, a Caltech alumnus and long-time band participant, has written a special composition entitled "Fantasy and March for Three Trumpets." It is a piece that showcases Bing's instrument of choice, the trumpet.

Several of Bing's former students will be in attendance or performing. Among them is Paul Asimow, a recent Caltech graduate with a PhD in geology, and a soon to be faculty member at Caltech. Asimow is flying to Pasadena from New York to conduct a work with the concert band.

Bing has been instrumental in creating a highly successful and innovative music program at Caltech. Robert Manning, flight system chief engineer of the Mars Pathfinder mission as well as an active member of the jazz and concert bands since his time as a Caltech undergraduate, commented, "Bill brings an important opportunity for students and Caltech community members to escape their highly technical daily lifestyles and surround themselves with relaxing stimulation for 'that other side of the brain.' Remarkably, the results have shattered more than a few outsiders' expectations of what a technical institute like Caltech can create."

In addition to the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band, there will be performances by the Caltech Swing Band, and the Caltech Thursday Jazz Band. The 50-piece Concert Band and two 18-piece Jazz Bands are composed of students, faculty, and staff of Caltech, employees of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and members of the community. There will also be a few special exhibits in the lobby highlighting the accomplishments of some of Bing's former students and members of the present ensemble.

## Grad student Teresa Hsu commits suicide

*First-year Chemistry graduate student found dead in Catalina apartment complex*

BY TECH STAFF

Graduate student Teresa Hsu was found dead in her Catalina apartment Wednesday morning. Hsu was a first year graduate student in the chemistry department, and a member of the Dougherty research group and a teaching assistant for Organic Chemistry (Ch 41). She was 22.

The body was discovered around 9:30 a.m., when a member of the housekeeping staff entered the apartment. The staff member discovered the body with a note reading "cyanide"

and immediately reported it. Apparently, Hsu had taken her own life.

According to Kevin LaPresle of the Pasadena Fire Department, emergency personnel evacuated the apartment complex and closed portions of Catalina Avenue and Wilson Boulevard under the suspicion that cyanide gas was involved. Several Caltech employees who had entered the room in response to the initial report were examined by paramedics and released. A hazardous materials team was called to the site, and determined that granular potas-

sium cyanide had been added to a cup of coffee. The source of the compound has not been determined, and the apartment showed no signs of foul play.

Caltech held a short press conference on Wednesday afternoon, relaying the incident to the local news media. Dr. Chris Brennen expressed shock and sorrow at the incident. He said that Hsu was "a bright young woman with great promise as a scientist."

Yesterday, members of the Chemistry Department met to share their thoughts on the loss, and discuss the support network



Teresa Hsu

currently in place for graduate students.

Authorities urge others to allow time for family and friends.

## Caltech Mars Society sends plan to NASA

BY DEREK SHANNON

Forget the new Star Wars—an ambitious project by undergraduate members of the Caltech's chapter of the Mars Society could be bringing an epic space saga to a solar system near you.

"This could be the plan to send the first humans to Mars," beams Caltech sophomore Chris Hirata, who, along with three

other Caltech undergrads and the support of Caltech's 80 member chapter of the Mars Society, has developed a new plan that would land the first humans on Mars on May 25, 2014.

"On May 25th? Don't you mean by May 25th?" asks Kara Swedlow, a senior who was treated to an early version of the plan. But Chris makes it clear: "On May 25th. We calculated

the trajectory exactly." The Caltech Mars Society team calculated a lot of things exactly—from parachutes and retro-rockets for landing on Mars to the chances-good, it turns out-of returning the crew safely.

The team of undergrads, which also includes Jane Greenham, Derek Shannon, and Nathan Brown, all freshmen, will present their plan, the Mars Society Mission, to NASA's top thinkers on human Mars exploration at the Mars Exploration Forum May 7th at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston.

The Mars Society Mission is part of the Mars Society's political and technical efforts to make a human Mars mission a reality. "And having the safest, most reasonable plan possible is a big part of that," explains chapter president Derek Shannon. An inexpensive plan using conventional technology, says Shannon, could mean success for a new humans-to-Mars initiative in the next year or two. Continues Derek, "Based on cost estimates for earlier plans that the

Mars Society Mission improves upon, we could send humans to Mars using just a fraction of NASA's budget over the next ten years," for a total cost between 30 to 50 billion dollars, less than the current cost of the International Space Station and less than the inflation-adjusted cost of the Apollo missions to the Moon.

Team member Nathan "Goober" Brown, who designed the Mars Ascent Vehicle that will bring the five-person Mars Society Mission crew back from the Martian surface, explains the need for a new plan. According to Goober, two leading plans have previously been the focus of debate: lightweight, four-person Mars Direct, created by aerospace engineer and national Mars Society leader Dr. Robert Zubrin, and the bulkier, six-person NASA Reference Mission, developed by NASA's Mars Study Team. Says Goober, "The Mars Society Mission fixes the problems with these plans by avoiding over-optimistic as-

PLEASE SEE MARS SOCIETY ON PAGE 2



*The Medieval May Day celebration, held on the Court of Man last Saturday, brought olde cheer to Caltech.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Please,  
Choose Life*

A month ago Mike Rhoads, age 22, killed himself. On Wednesday Teresa Hsu a first year grad student in chemistry, also 22, was found dead in her Catalina apartment after killing herself. These two members of our community chose to take their own lives for reasons we will never know for certain. I ask anyone thinking about suicide to please wait, hang on, and choose life. These deaths have hurt our community. Those who knew them must now grieve, deal with feelings of guilt, confusion, and maybe anger, and go on despite their loss. Last year, trying to cope with the effects of a troubled childhood (not the pressure of Caltech), I considered ending it all. I remember feeling different and isolated from every other human being. Feeling like there was no way out, no light. At one point I was holding on by the thought, "Why die today, why not tomorrow, next week?" I set dates three times and each time knew I would hurt the people around me and chose to wait. Eventually I found another path. It was not easy, but I am sincerely glad that I chose to live. If you are feeling trapped, isolated, hopeless, and suicidal, please wait, there is no emergency to die, we have so little time to be alive as it is. Despite the fact that I did not know Mike well and did not know Teresa at all, these deaths have affected me a great deal. I have found myself feeling very sad and sometimes angry. I hope we as a community can take from these deaths a real understanding that suicide

hurts people and that though many people who kill themselves believe that no one will care or grieve, many people are grieving for Mike and Tersea now. Many people who commit suicide feel that they are completely isolated. Please look at what is happening now and see that these two people were not isolated. Mike had many friends and connections on campus and his death is hard for people to deal with, even for people who did not know him or had only met him casually. Tersea was also a member of a research group and of the Caltech community and many people are affected by her death. If you are feeling suicidal please reach out, please do not allow yourself to feel isolated. You can talk to friends, upperclassmen that you trust and respect, R.A.s, the deans, look for support groups, ask the counseling center for help (ext. 8331 for students and 8360 for staff and faculty). If you're stuck and its 5 am and you cant find anyone to talk to you can call a 24 hour hotline (suicide prevention center: (310) 391-1253), they will talk to you and help you get through the night. You do not have to suffer alone and in silence. Please, reach out and speak out. We are not weak for asking for help, we are courageous. If someone is talking to you about suicide, Shane Ross, who was a friend of Mike Rhoads, advises that you "DO NOT FREAK OUT, but be accepting and calm when someone mentions suicide. But take it seriously. Don't tackle them to the ground, but don't blow it off either. Advice I've heard from suicide prevention people: Make sure they don't have access to the means. When someone talks about committing sui-

cide, keep a caring eye on them for a significant period of time. Don't necessary believe what they say during that time. Take their threat seriously. We live in a death denying culture, so any statements regarding the desire for death are indicative of a serious problem. Don't tell yourself, "This is the conclusion they've come to. I must respect their decision, their right to die." Nonsense! Their feelings are shrouded in a depressive fog, they don't see hope. But there is hope, and there is reason to go on. There is more to this world than what reaches our own experience. You may feel like shit now, but life won't be that way forever. There is light. Choose life." I would advise that sometimes people talk about killing themselves as a way to communicate the intensity of their feelings and that it is fair to ask someone who is talking about suicide "What are you really looking for? How can I help you?" and sometimes to come right out and ask why they are talking that way. We, as individuals and as a community, can reach out to others and someone who feels at all connected is less likely to kill themselves.

Shane would further advise: People kill themselves as a result of depression. When someone tells you they're suicidal, one must try to seek and destroy the source of the depression. Perhaps what gave them value has been destroyed or lost. Or it may be that they are monumenally pissed-off at someone or something. The pain must be addressed. And the reward is light at the end of depression's dark tunnel. And life. The fact that someone took their own life can bring up a wide range of emotions and issues for all of us. For those of us who have per-

sonally considered suicide it can bring all sorts of things up. When I heard that Mike died it took me some time to get the "that could have been me, maybe his situation was just like mine" out of my head. For a confusing instant part of me felt jealous. The sadness is still with me. It is real to me what it feels like to want to make it all just go away and I do not believe that myself or others who feel these feelings are bad or wrong. I also know what it feels like to be glad to be alive, and I am. I have hope, and I am not so different than anyone else that I can have it and you can not. If these tragic events are bringing up feelings in you please know that you have a right to feel your feelings even if you didn't know Mike or Tersea and you are not alone in being affected by their deaths. Shane advises those that were close to Tersea and Mike to "give yourself permission to feel (to mourn, get angry, etc.) and not deal with other shit for awhile (like your schoolwork, lab work, etc.). Take sleep as it comes. Your sleeping patterns may be strange and irregular. You should eat and stay alive, even if your appetite seems to be going." This is tough stuff and I believe that by openly acknowledging that we can help others making this decision to choose life. The pain that I felt last year that I believed would never end has subsided, it is a memory now, one that these recent deaths vividly remind me of. I do not want to hurt people, I am very thankful that I chose to live. Thank you for taking the time to read this appeal. Like Mary Marsh "I sincerely hope that we will take this opportunity to expand the

lines of communication." I hope and believe that through deliberate and random acts of caring and kindness we, as a community, can help our members to choose life.

Jen Caron  
caron@cco

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to:

**The California Tech**  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125

or by electronic mail to [editors@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:editors@tech.caltech.edu).

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5 p.m. Monday

noon Monday

6 p.m. Tuesday

noon Monday

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The universe is driven by the complex interactions of three things: matter, energy, and enlightened self-interest.

**MARS SOCIETY - LAUNCH PLAN TAKES OFF WITH NASA**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

sumptions and politically sensitive technologies, such as nuclear thermal rocketry." The Mars Society Mission instead shows how all conventional launch vehicles, similar to those used to launch today's robotic missions, can send tomorrow's crew of Mars explorers to the Red Planet.

So how does the Mars Society Mission work? The Caltech team tells an intriguing story, with the figures-and even illustrative computer generated movies-to back it up: It all begins on July 1, 2011, when the first payload, the uncrewed Earth Return Vehicle that will wait in orbit around Mars to return the crew to Earth, is sent toward the Red Planet by the Qahira (from the Arabic word for "Mars") Launch Vehicle, which the team also designed.

The Earth Return Vehicle is followed by a Mars Ascent Vehicle and a cargo payload, which reach Mars and begin making methane and oxygen propellant out of the Martian atmosphere for the return home.

In January, 2014, the five-person crew departs Earth in a Crew Return Vehicle that is almost identical to the Earth Return and Mars Ascent Vehicles. This craft meets with a habitat module ("hab") launched separately to Low Earth Orbit, and together the Crew Return Vehicle and hab take the crew on a 134 day transit to Mars, landing on the potentially famous date of May 25, 2014. After 612 days exploring, learning, and living on the Martian surface, where the crew will try to answer fundamental questions about life and whether humans will be able

to live permanently on Mars, the crew boards their Mars Ascent Vehicle, which blasts off to meet the Earth Return Vehicle in Mars orbit. Both vehicles take the crew on a 129 day trip back to Earth, where they finally arrive on June 4, 2016, after two and a half years away.

Safety was a primary consideration in designing the Mars Society Mission, says team member Jane Greenham. According to Jane, a native of South Africa who lived in Jordan before coming to Caltech, but whose favorite exotic locale is Mars, the team performed a risk analysis of their plan compared to Mars Direct and the NASA Reference Mission, and the Mars Society Mission came out safer every time. Jane, who performed much of the safety study, says, "Because the Mars

Society Mission uses more complete back-up systems on the way there and back, we can make the crew's safety much more of a sure thing."

Shannon clarified, saying, "The Mars Society Mission doesn't add more components, it simply finds ways of extending the uses and reuses of the vehicles that will already be necessary to put people on Mars."

The Caltech team has high hopes that the Mars Society Mission will influence NASA's Mars plans for the better, and increase the chance for sending humans to Mars in the near future. Jim Burke, a veteran of several robotic interplanetary missions and the team's faculty advisor, says, "NASA is doing a terrific job of encouraging the new ideas that will make the mission happen."

# Student-Faculty committees open for membership

If you've ever dreamed of power beyond mere mortal comprehension, sign up now!

BY CATELYN GIFFORD

The sign-ups for the Faculty-Student Committees will end on Thursday, May 13th at 5pm. To sign-up write your information on the door of SAC 33 and send a paragraph explaining why you would like to serve on the committee to catelyn@cco. Interviews have been moved to Friday and Saturday, May 14th and 15th. Below is a description of each committee, for a list of current members refer to [www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~ihc](http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~ihc). If you have any other questions talk to your house president or email catelyn@cco.

## Policies and Curriculum

All changes to Caltech's undergraduate academic policies and curriculum is addressed by this committee, including unit-ing, grades vs pass/fail, course descriptions and numbering, option requirements, procedures for obtaining double majors, and other changes to the catalog. Some core curriculum changes are discussed, but these do not make up the majority of its work. The committee also considers student petitions; independently designed options, double options, fifth years, second bachelor's degrees, and requests for outside credit. Notable recent decisions include a change in the double-option requirements, the approval of an

undergraduate minor, and the addition of the ECE option. The time commitment is an hour long meeting every few weeks.

## Educational Outreach

This committee brings together diverse campus resources emphasizing the importance of educational outreach into the surrounding community. The committee oversees the YESS program, works with the minority recruitment and retention office, brings speakers to campus, and organizes and publicizes various outreach opportunities for members of the Caltech community. The bulk of the work done by this committee happens third term.

## Frosh Admissions

This committee decides which applicants will be admitted to Caltech for both early and regular decision and awards freshman scholarships. Applications are first read and commented on by admissions officers, faculty and students. Then, small groups of readers meet to decide which applications are accepted, denied, and wait-listed. This process occurs during first term for early decisions and is repeated second term for regular action. The time commitment for this committee is crucial since the more time the students devote to the committee the more their opinions are recognized. Application read-

ings can take anywhere from 2 to 8 hours a week for the last half of both first and second term. Early action group meetings occur during finals week first term and total 8 to 12 hours. Regular decision group meetings occur during finals week second term and can take up to 30 hours total. Students who apply for this committee must be able to guarantee both first and second term involvement.

## Grievance

This committee includes faculty, grad students, and an undergrad and handles grievances of any kind having to do with Caltech. The committee is convened by the Vice President for Student Affairs to deal with individual cases. It has not met in eight years.

## Institute Programs

This committee decides on speakers or performers for all educational, entertainment, and cultural programs sponsored by the Institute, such as the Watson Lecture series and OPE events. The student members make suggestions for speakers or performers, and participates in the committee's discussions. The time commitment is 6 hours a term at most.

## Scholarship and Financial Aid

This committee proposes changes to the amount charged for tuition, and minimum stu-

dent contribution as well as assigning Upperclass Merit Awards. The bulk of this committee's work, reviewing merit award applications, is done during mid-terms week in third term.

## UASH

This committee makes decisions on all UASH petitions, including reinstatements, late drops and adds, over/underloads, extra terms, etc. Also, it choose recipients for three awards. The student members participate in the discussion and voting. The time commitment is one full-day meeting on the first day of each term in addition to one of two one-hour meetings per term.

## Upperclass Admissions

This committee is in charge of transfer and 3-2 admissions. This committee meets at the end of third term. Since the current committee members have not met, the IHC will not appoint new students to this committee this year.

## Faculty Advisor Committee

These students work autonomously with the Deans and the Mosh to help the Faculty Advisory System work smoothly and improve knowledge and communication between the registrar, the advisors and the students. There will be a pilot Student Advisor Committee as well.

available  
committees

Academic Policies  
and Curriculum

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Educational  
Outreach

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Frosh Admissions

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Grievance

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Institute Programs

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## innerspace

By Jason Meltzer

### Cultech?

*Disclaimer: Here's a new innerspace. It's blatant bitterness. Might want to put a disclaimer blurb at the bottom : )*

-Jason

I feel dirty after my last Innerspace. Dirty? You may wonder why. It was a nice little article for the Prefrosh about college and why one should choose or choose not to attend Caltech. Why should I feel bad about writing such a thing? We'll come to that later.

As I stated in my Prefrosh column, Caltech is a difficult school to attend. Students here do a great deal of work, more than those at most other universities,

even other first rate institutions. By extension, we have less free time because we're often doing work. We also have a small campus, small student body, and no big "college town" atmosphere.

All of this can occasionally give students the feeling of confinement — that we're being somehow deprived of the easy and fun lifestyles that we think other college students have. This may be an illusion, but many students apparently think it's true, which is what's important for this article.

Lately I have observed that people here, including myself, have become more and more upset with this place. Maybe it's just spring

fever, maybe it's just my group of friends, or maybe it's just the prism through which I currently see the world, but it is a notable observation nonetheless. All of my friends complain that they're tired, they have too much work, there's nothing fun to do, and all sorts of other woes. We slave away at our assignments, even on weekends and into the night (though for many night is prime-time). I'd like to go to the beach tomorrow, but I probably should write code, and everyone I know needs to work, too. So instead of California sun and surf, I get fluorescent lights and a computer screen. Just a bit depressing.

Most creatures on this Earth have the natural instinct to get away from any situation that makes them uncomfortable, as it may threaten their survival. We humans, however, can override this instinct with our reason: we can decide that there really is no danger and force ourselves through any number of difficulties. Caltech students, seemingly, have a particularly high threshold for struggling through such situations. Every day we go through self-

imposed mental trauma. Whether it be rushing to finish assignments, or studying for tests, or simply being exposed to courses and people that make us feel inferior. My question is: why? Why do we do these things to ourselves?

The obvious (and feel-good) answer is that we are people who place such a high value upon learning that we will sacrifice many other aspects of life in the pursuit of knowledge. How noble. How naive. No, my philosophy does not allow for such ridiculousness (well, I'm sure that there are *some* people who can claim such nobility, but I don't think many). There must be other reasons. Perhaps it's for the degree, or the networking, or the future benefits. That sounds reasonable, but I don't know who would think that's worth it all. The root of it is that Caltech students are, at heart, masochists. We like the pain of slaving away at assignments and being beaten down by our classes. We like to have our egos dashed and our intelligence challenged. Why else would we put up with it?

Caltech, the ingenious entity it is, feeds this tendency of its students, perhaps even selects for it. I am reminded of a quote from Dune, a book I am currently reading. It deals with the Sardaukar, the "soldier-fanatics" of the Padishah Emperor, who are bred on a hell-planet to make them

fierce warriors. Leto Atreides explains to his son how such men can be useful and loyal: "There are proven ways: play on the certain knowledge of their superiority, the mystique of secret covenant, the esprit of shared suffering. It can be done. It has been done on many worlds in many times." This made me think of Caltech - we endure suffering, feel a sense of camaraderie and elitism, and ultimately develop pride. We complain about our problems and how we often hate Caltech, yet we stay. Further, we encourage others to join us as well! We are the Sardaukar of intelligentsia, but, unlike them, we chose our fates. We go through the hell of Caltech, complaining all the while, but stay, recruit others, and finally donate money when we leave!

This brings me back to my introduction. During Prefrosh weekend, Caltech suddenly becomes a friendly, happy place. Work isn't too bad, the weather becomes beautiful (more support for my theory that Caltech controls the weather), and we undergrads tell the Prefrosh about the wonders of Caltech. I unconsciously participated in these festivities, and now realize my fault. So I feel that I have sinned in writing my Prefrosh column, and now I have repented!

Should we change our name to Cultech? Think about it.

Admission and  
Parking are FREE!

**20th Annual Bandorama**  
*featuring the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band, Caltech Swing Band, Caltech Thursday Jazz Band, Conducted by William Bing, Guest Artist: Gary Foster, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute*

Saturday  
 May 15, 1999 8:00 PM  
 Beckman Auditorium,  
 on the Caltech Campus,  
 Located South of Del Mar  
 at Michigan Ave.

This free concert will celebrate the 25th anniversary year of Caltech's Band Director, William Bing. Featured artists this year will be Gary Foster. A world premiere composition by Caltech Alumnus Les Deutch for concert band will also be performed this occasion and feature trumpeters John Drayman, Michael Hall, and Niles Pierce. Guest conducting on the podium will be Greg Richards, Jason Clark, Carl Anhalt and Paul Asmoe.

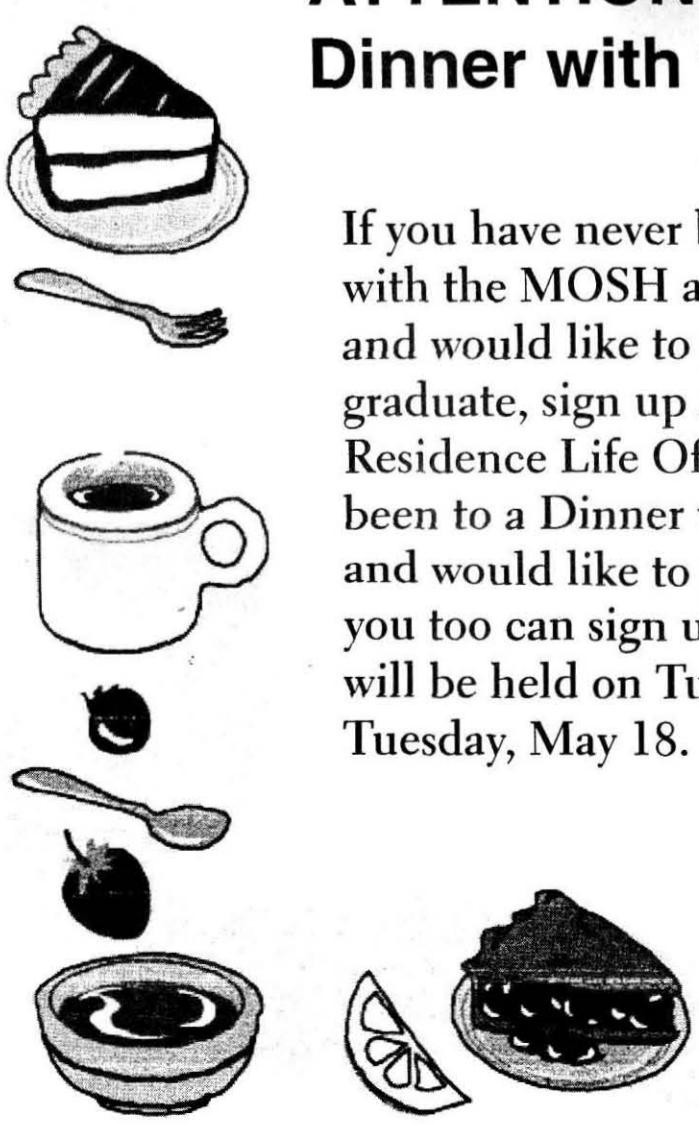
25th Anniversary  
 of the Caltech Band

For Further Information  
 About this Free Concert, Please Call the  
 Caltech Ticket Office at (626) 395-4652

25 years

## ATTENTION: SENIORS Dinner with the MOSH

If you have never been to Dinner with the MOSH at Steele House and would like to go before you graduate, sign up ASAP in the Residence Life Office. If you have been to a Dinner with the MOSH and would like to go one st time, you too can sign up. The dinner will be held on Tuesday May 11, or Tuesday, May 18.



# This One's a Keeper

Mizu-Zushi 546 S. Lake Ave. Pasadena

BY KEVIN SCALDEFERRI

Mizu-Zushi has bravely stepped into the seemingly-cursed location across the street from Burger Continental. I believe they are the fourth restaurant to occupy this space during the two years I have been in Pasadena. However, unlike previous tenants, Mizu-Zushi was completely packed during the lunch hour.

The decor of the restaurant is quiet and traditional, shielded by Japanese shades from the bustle of Lake Avenue. The sushi chefs are friendly and greet you enthusiastically when you arrive at the bar, and they don't complain if not everyone is eating sushi. A small bowl of marinated julienned octopus, which I found to be better than ginger for clearing your palate, quickly appears at each place setting.

The fish is uniformly very fresh and flavorful and the pieces are generously sized.

Tuna cut from a glistening, intensely red slab is beautiful and tasty, but even better is the fatty tuna which literally melts in your mouth. Unfortunately, it's also substantially more expensive. The fresh water eel is fantastic; slightly crisped without being crunchy and with a delicate sauce that really lets the taste of the eel stand out.

Salmon and yellowtail are two more staples of sushi, and they too do not disappoint. The yellowtail, in particular, has a wonderful texture. Salmon roe is fresh and plump, although I find eating the whole roll at once a little much and prefer picking them out one-by-one with chopsticks. While I'm not usually a fan of mackerel, this is the best I've had with none of the oily fishiness that usually plagues mackerel.

The menu includes several lunch meals which are clearly the economical way to go at \$7-10 including miso soup, steamed rice and salad. The

## FEATURES

sushi meal tells you exactly what you'll get and includes plenty of the good stuff. The miso soup has a great broth, but the tofu is somewhat tasteless. Teriyaki chicken features tender pieces of breast meat with a restrained sauce that neither overpowers the chicken nor drowns it in sugar. The teriyaki meals also include a small order of California rolls.

After your meal, you are presented with no mere plate of orange wedges. With a few deft strokes, the chef produces what can only be described as orange sashimi. A flower of orange peel cradles succulent, thinly-sliced orange.

Finally, it is with some embarrassment that I must admit that I was eating so enthusiastically that I neglected to dissect one of my pieces so that I could taste the rice on its own. Since the rice is the real test of a sushi restaurant I haven't given a star rating with this review.

I think Mizu-Zushi has what it takes to break the curse of their location. I certainly hope they do as I look forward to returning frequently in the future.

## The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

**KOSOVO CRISIS:** Staff Sgt. Andrew Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Christopher Stone and Spc. Steven Gonzales were released this past Sunday after being prisoners of war for the past month. Also, Russia and the major Western powers set aside their differences over NATO airstrikes Thursday and drafted a joint plan to end the Kosovo conflict, including the deployment of an international peacekeeping force.

**SOUTHERN PLAINS STATES:** Deadly tornados ripped across parts of Kansas and Oklahoma this past Monday, and continued through to Tennessee Wednesday and Thursday. There are 51 confirmed fatalities from this particular storm system, including 41 from Oklahoma; 54 people are still missing.

**MORONI, COMOROS:** The new military leader of the Comoros said his junta will be in power for a year and will include civilian politicians, although not those associated with "the old guard." Calm was reported on all three islands Saturday following the bloodless coup, the fourth to succeed since Comoros gained independence from France in 1975.

**MOUNT EVEREST:** Mountain climbers ascending Mount Everest's north ridge reported that they found the frozen body of legendary mountain climber George Mallory, who disappeared on the peak in 1924. Some historians speculate that he and a partner were the first to reach Everest's summit, nearly 30 years before the successful ascent of Sir Edmund Hillary and his Nepalese partner Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

**JERUSALEM, ISRAEL:** Nine centuries after Christian Europe sought to redeem the Holy Land, a group of Western Christians is seeking forgiveness for the slaughter and destruction left in the Crusaders' wake. Holding printed apologies in Arabic, Hebrew and English, the participants in the "Reconciliation March" said Sunday they planned to hand the fliers to Jews, Muslims, and Eastern Christians whose forefathers were killed during the invasion.

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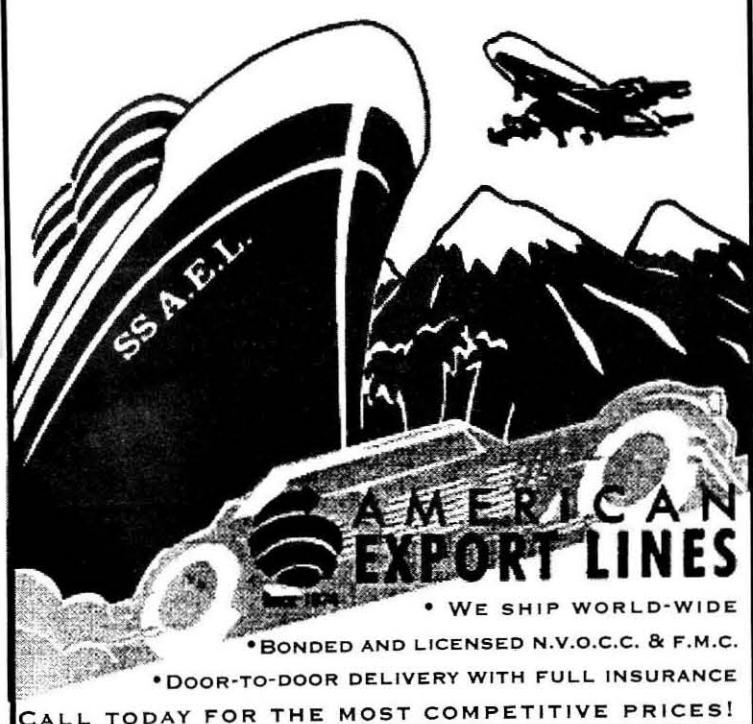
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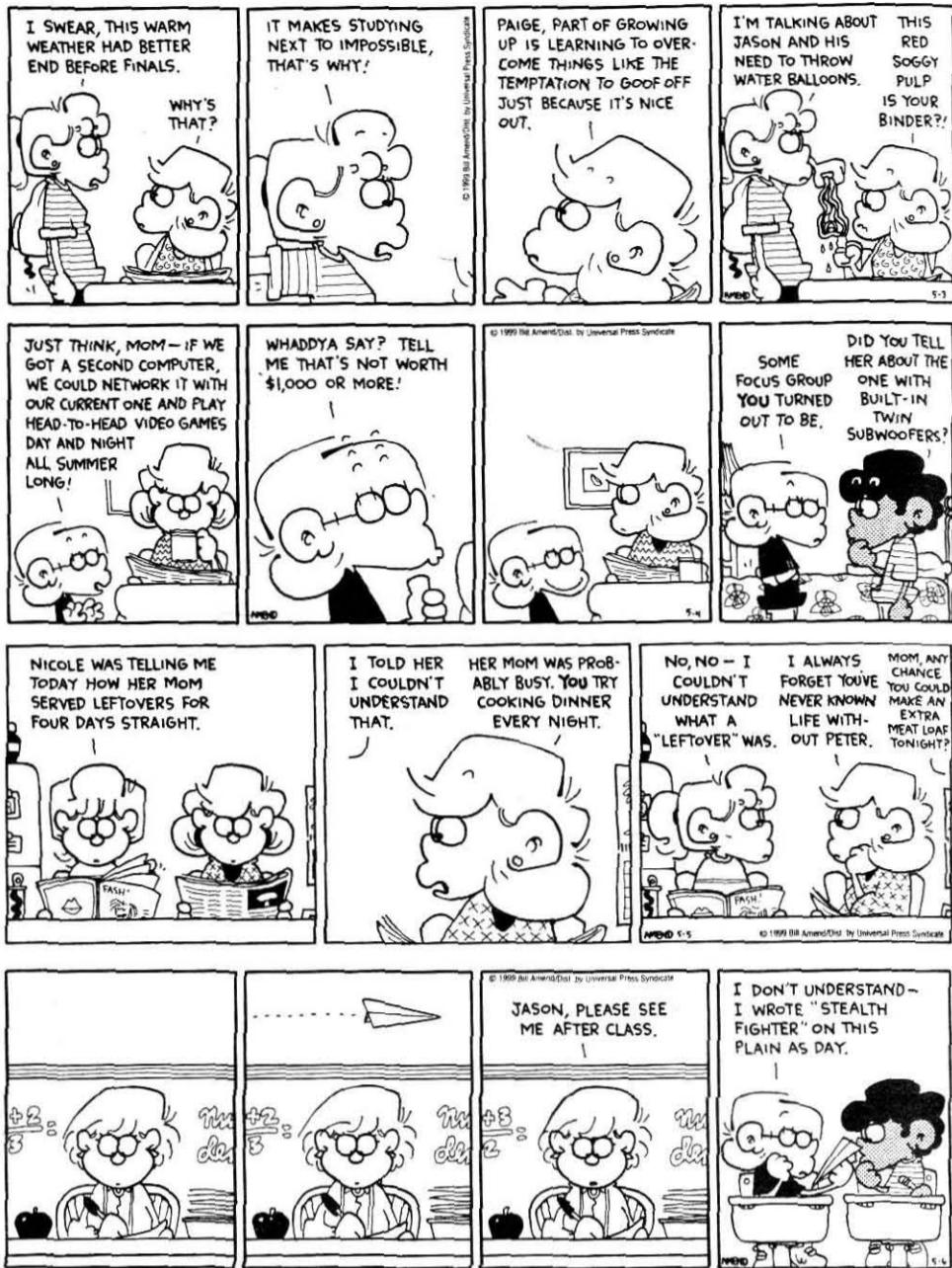
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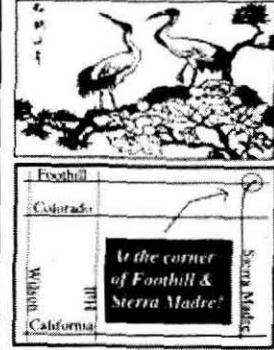
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Daily [1:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

**Kate Winslet HIDEOUS KINKY**  
Daily [1:30] 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

**Penelope Cruz OPEN YOUR EYES**  
Daily [1:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:00

**David Cronenberg's EXISTENZ**  
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**Robert Altman's COOKIE'S FORTUNE**  
Daily [1:35] 4:25 7:15 10:00

# Dean's Corner

## Van Gogh's Dopamine

by Jean-Paul Revel

own severed appendage.

It has also been theorized that he suffered instead from Porphyria, the disease that affected mad King George, most recently of movie fame. It also may be that van Gogh's problems were exacerbated by his intake of "absinth", an alcoholic drink very popular at the time and which is represented by one painting in the exhibition. This drink contains an extract of wormwood, which has been suspected, but not proven, to be a psychoactive drug. In van Gogh's time it was thought to increase creativity, one of the excuses used by drug users even today. One of the possibilities that has been discussed is that the artist was a manic depressive and if so, he might have been helped had he lived today. Maybe, but I must say that I think that would have been a dismal outcome.

Now wait, don't throw the paper away, wait, let me finish. You see his early paintings are the ones which to me seem to be the work of someone who is depressed. They are all in browns and blacks, dark colors, paintings of dingy surroundings, of lonely places, of farms on

barren plains, renditions of a dark, dismal vicarage needing a major spruce up. What is considered to be his first masterpiece, "The Potato Eaters" painted in 1885 (yes, only 5 years before his death) is a case in point. It shows a half dozen starving people hunched around a plate of potatoes which they hungrily snatch with craggy hands. The only light comes from a smoky lamp hanging from the ceiling. It suggests poverty, despair, and while it may well have been a painting true to life, one could argue that only a depressed person could empathize with such scenes. But that is the time when he presumably was still "sane".

A few years later, when he was driven to commit himself to an asylum, he was instead painting bright scenes of sunshine and warm skies, of golden fields heavy with grain, of bucolic plains bordered by blue mountains warm and steady and peaceful as can be. But who knows, who knows? May be his depression had already started 5 years before. One hundred years ago very little was understood about the nervous system. Today we have a better, if still a very incomplete grasp of things. As you all know, I am sure, what makes the brain work is the interactions between neurons

which communicate via "neurotransmitters", released by one cell and detected by the next in the chain, where they become bound to specific receptors which are concentrated at the areas of contact between the cells, the synapses. Stimulation continues till the neurotransmitter falls off its receptors which happens when the transmitter concentration drops. This "resets" the system. Prozac and other agents interfere by slowing down the reuptake of serotonin, the mechanism by which the serotonin released at synapses is normally removed. In depressed patients who suffer from too little serotonin, slowing reuptake in effect increases the concentration of serotonin, the width of the patient's smiles and their well being.

If he was depressed, perhaps van Gogh would have been helped. There is more and more evidence that our moods and our behavior are controlled in part by our own chemistry. People have wondered who the "me" was, if chemistry could alter it so. I guess the classical canonical "me", a solid rock, immutable and self contained, has to be discarded. There is a "me", endowed with basic properties, a basic intelligence, modified, hopefully "improved" by nurture, but which can be modulated in various ways. Our behavior can clearly be modified by drugs acting on our brain cells, in a reasonably benign fashion by Prozac, in less auspicious ways by other drugs. Van

Gogh may well had all his genius "in him", but his unfortunate personal chemistry led to behavior which determined his early death. The activity of neurons is modulated by many molecules. There are opiate receptors which naturally bind to endorphins, giving us experiences like the highs of long distance runners. Morphine or heroin hijack these receptors.

It is thought that most drugs of abuse act by affecting brain circuits which use dopamine as a neurotransmitter. For example amphetamine and cocaine increase the level of dopamine released. Rats will repeatedly self administer amphetamine if the cells are fooled into believing that there is a shortage of dopamine. Withdrawal of drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, opiates and stimulants all cause a drop in the level of dopamine in specific brain areas. With a drop in dopamine concentration comes the need to use more of the drugs which raise the dopamine. Why risk one's brain, the greatest gift besides life that all of us have? Van Gogh's excuse would be that he did not know. I don't know what valid excuse the intelligent drug user of today can give.

A bientot,



Jean-Paul Revel  
Dean of Undergraduate Students



by Elisa Chiang

I hope everyone that came to Mini Decompression had a good time. I know some people are confused about why Mini Decompression is so much smaller than Decompression. Decompression is the Y's big event every term and is both a lot of work and money. Mini Decompression has a similar purpose to Decompression, to

help students relax during testing season, but its not meant to feed you a full meal. But we have found a great demand for more food so we will try to bring you more food. If you have suggestions what you would like to see at Mini Decompression, you can email Elisa at polaris@cco. If we did get dinner type food, what would you want to see?

Subway sandwiches, pizza, chinese, hamburgers, bagels? Remember that we do have a limited budget and that the Y excomm has midterms too!

Volunteer at the Revelon Run/Walk for woman this Saturday. We will meet at Steele House around 8:00 am and be back after lunch. You'll get feed, get a T-shirt, and have lots of

fun. If you have federal work-study, you can earn the usual \$12/hr. Contact Heather Dean at heatherd@cco for more info.

Semana Latina is next week! Look for events everyday. The week ends with a party Saturday night in the Ricketts-Fleming Courtyard. Contact the Y if you would like to know more about the events.

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## Announcements

\*\*There has been a change in the location of the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club dance lessons. Both the free beginning Merengue (7:30-8:30 pm) and Argentine Tango (9:00-10:00 pm) classes on Mondays and the Salsa (7:30-8:30) and Hustle (9:00-10:00) lessons for a moderate fee on Thursdays will now be held in the dining room of the Dabney Residence Hall. Each lesson starts with a review and no partner is needed.

\*\*Professor John Seinfeld would like to report that he has accepted an invitation as the 1998-9 **Distinguished Israel Pollak Lecturer** to deliver a series of lectures at Technion, I.I.T. and at Tel Aviv University during the two-week period of May 8-24. If there should be anything that you may like him to take note of, or attend to, during his visit to Israel, please let him know.

**Catholic Big Brothers, Inc.** needs YOU to lend a child a helping hand in a non-school-hours program where children ages 7 to 14 and **volunteer mentors** work together to improve reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Enrique, a one-time Little Brother, has now designed a solar panel for JPL that may power the next Mars rover. Sessions are located at the Northwest Pasadena Mentoring Center, Villa Parke Community Center, 363 East Villa Street. Catholic Big Brothers has been serving volunteers and children of all faiths since 1925. For more information call 800-463-4066.

**The Caltech Progressive Coalition** welcomes students, faculty, and staff across a broad ideological spectrum who are interested in working hard for peace, human rights, and economic justice. For instance, we are active participants in the nationwide campus movement against the sanctions and bombing war in Iraq. For more information, contact [progress@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:progress@ugcs.caltech.edu).

Do you suffer from depression, anxiety or other emotional problems not related to substance abuse? We may be for you. An **Emotional Health Anonymous Meeting** is held each Thursday evening at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 1901 S. San Gabriel Blvd., at 8:00 pm, (enter off of Marshall; the meeting room is directly behind the church.) For more information call 626-287-6260.

Go to [www.JobMonkey.com](http://www.JobMonkey.com) for free information on many thousands of **summer work opportunities** around the world.

Information and applications for **1999 Summer Work-Study** are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 1999. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1 to be considered. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 1999.

There is a **Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA)** meeting at 10:30 am, Saturdays at Las Encinas Hospital (2900 E Del Mar Blvd.) in the Inservice Room. This is a meeting for survivors of sexual abuse. Remember: You are not alone.

Are you bright, motivated, fun, and energetic? Do you want to make a difference on campus? Join the undergraduate **Women's Leadership Group!** This group is dedicated to pro-

## Mints



moting campus-wide, inter-house, leadership for undergraduate women. The group is forming now, and a planning meeting will be scheduled for early Spring Term. If you are interested in joining, contact Janna Horowitz in the Counseling Center, x8331 or [janna@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:janna@cco.caltech.edu), before the end of winter term.

**Free anonymous HIV testing** is available every Monday evening using Orasure oral testing at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S Arroyo Parkway. Appointments by calling 888-448-9242 are preferred; walk-ins are welcome. Last appointment at 8:00 pm. For more information call Craig Petinak at 626-441-8495.

## Events

\*\*This term's **SEDS lecture series** continues at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 12 in room 151 Sloan with a talk entitled "**Gravitational Waves: What they may Teach us about Gravity and the Universe**" by Kip Thorne, venerable Caltech professor and researcher. Refreshments will follow the talk.

\*\*Dr. Beck Weathers, survivor of the May 1996 disaster on Mt. Everest, will speak of his incredible journey in his presentation, "**Miracle on Everest**" at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on Wednesday, May 26 at 8:00 pm, as part of the **Distinguished Speaker Series**. Unlike the eight climbers who perished, Weathers was given a second chance to live, though his body bears permanent scars from his ordeal. For more information contact Kathy Winterhalder at 310-546-6222 or visit [www.speakersla.com](http://www.speakersla.com).

\*\*Theater Arts at Caltech will present Euripides' tragedy "**Trojan Women**" in Braun Court at 4:00 pm on Saturdays, May 22, May 29, and June 5, and Sundays, May 23, May 30, and June 6. Admission costs \$15.00. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

\*\*Dr. Ahmed Zewail, Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Physics and professor of physics at Caltech, will speak on "**Freezing Time: The Six Millennia Race to Femtoseconds**" in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 19. Admission to this Ernest C. Watson lecture is free. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

\*\*What do **Big Bad Voo Doo Daddy, Star Wars, and Frank Sinatra have in common?** They all have connections with a concert coming up at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium on Saturday, May 15, with the Caltech Swing, Jazz, and Concert Bands. The concert will be free and will feature many Caltech students. There will be a reception following the program.

\*\*Caltech Quiz Bowl will be hosting an **Intramural Quiz Bowl Tournament** on Saturday, May 15. This event is open to the entire campus (undergrads, grads, faculty). The questions being used are specifically written for IM tournaments, so the difficulty level should be appropriate for all participants. Contact Josh DenHartog ([josh@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:josh@cco.caltech.edu)) for more information or to register a team.

\*\*The next **Seminar on Science, Ethics, and Policy** will be given at 4:00 pm in Judy Library in Baxter Hall on Thursday, May 13 by Dr. Katherine Anderson, Assistant Professor in the Science, Technology, Culture, and Society Programme at York University.

The talk is entitled "Scientists or Profits? -- Putting Weather Prediction on the Map." Refreshments will follow the lecture.

\*\*Dennis Dougherty, Professor of Chemistry, and Peter Dervan, Bren Professor of Chemistry, will discuss "**The Chemistry of Life: Molecular Recognition**" at the **Chemistry 0.1 seminar** on Friday, May 14 at 4:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. Abstracts for this and other Chem 0.1 seminars are available online at [http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCE0\\_1seminars.html](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCE0_1seminars.html).

Rudolph Marcus, Nobel Laureate and Arthur Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry, Harry Gray, Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry, and Jacqueline Barton, Arthur and Mariam Hanisch Memorial Professor and Professor of Chemistry, will discuss "**The Chemistry of Life: Electron Flow in Biological Systems**" at the **Chemistry 0.1 seminar** on Friday, May 7 at 4:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. Abstracts for this and other Chem 0.1 seminars are available online at [http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCE0\\_1seminars.html](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCE0_1seminars.html).

Come hear the Caltech Glee Clubs and Caltech Chamber Orchestra perform a program of spirituals and international music from six continents at 8:00 pm on Friday, May 14 or 3:30 pm on Sunday, May 16 in Dabney Lounge. Admission to this **Spring Concert** is free. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

The San Gabriel Valley Hospitality House has been invited to join the San Gabriel Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity for the 2nd annual **5K Hike for Habitat**. Join in for a 3-mile scenic walk and help two charities at once! Proceeds will support the efforts of The Hospitality House to provide accommodations for families facing medical crisis far from home and for Habitat for Humanity to eliminate substandard housing in the San Gabriel Valley. The walk will be held on Saturday, May 22 at Victory Park in Pasadena. Registration and warm-up are at 7:30 am followed by a short welcome at 8:15 am. The hike starts at 8:30 am. Prizes will be awarded for the most money raised and Habitat for Humanity T-shirts will be given to everyone who raises over \$25.00. Be a walker or cheer on from the sidelines. For details and a pledge form call 626-585-1588.

**Flutist Gregory Lawrence Jefferson** will give a **free concert** on Sunday, May 9, at 3:30 pm in Dabney Lounge. The program for the concert will include Debussy's La Plus Que Lente, Chopin's Minute Waltz, a number of pieces by Henry Mancini, and Kreisler's Tambourin Chinois, among others. Call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652 for more information.

As part of the **James Michelin Seminar Series**, David Galenson, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago and a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Re-

search, will present a talk entitled: "**The Careers of Painters from Manet to Minimalism: A View from the Auction Market of Two Episodes in the Development of Modern Art**," on Thursday, May 13, 1999 at 7:30 pm in Beckman Auditorium. Professor Galenson will present data drawn from art auctions held since 1970 to estimate the relationship between the price of a painting and the artist's age at the date of its execution. Admission is free. For further information, call campus ext. 3610.

Come to Beckman Auditorium for **Bandorama** at 8:00 pm on Saturday, May 15. This special concert will honor Caltech's band director, William Bing, who will celebrate his 25th year at Caltech on that evening. The Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands will perform a medley of Caltech songs and a Sousa march. Saxophonist Gary Foster will be the guest artist. Admission is free. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

Buddy Hatton will narrate the **Armchair Adventures travel film "Bali"** in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm on Friday, May 14. Admission costs \$7.00-\$9.00. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

Come watch grammy nominated Japanese Composer Isao Tomita honor the 1000 year anniversary of **The Tale of Genji**, a sweeping story of romance and passion set in the Japanese Imperial Court, with a groundbreaking blend of live music and high definition video. The performance will feature a unique combination of an 88-piece orchestra, the traditional Japanese instruments of biwa, flute, shô and koto, along with a colossal video wall that dramatically presents a digital film created exclusively for The Tale of the Genji. The event will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 11 in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. Tickets may be purchased at the Pasadena Civic Box Office, 626-449-7360, or Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

The drummers of **San Jose Taiko** will perform on Friday, May 7, at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium. San Jose's contemporary music fuses the traditional rhythms and melodies of Japan with the beat of American jazz and the world music of Africa, Bali, Brazil, and Latin America. The company features both men and women drummers. Tickets are prices at \$29, \$25, and \$21; Caltech student price is \$5. Call 1-888-2CALTECH or campus extension 4652 for more information.

A **Vintage Denim Apparel Auction** will be held in the Pasadena Center Conference Building at 11:00 am on May 8. A preview will run from 9:00 till 11:00 am. The auction features a variety of high quality denim apparel, including vintage Levi's, Lees, Wranglers western pants, name brand work gear, jeans, jackets, and related items. The event costs \$10 including a catalogue. For more information call 208-237-2002 or 626-793-2122 or email [flying@nicoh.com](mailto:flying@nicoh.com) or visit

[www.flying2.com](http://www.flying2.com).

Come watch "**The Life and Times of Albert Einstein**," a glimpse into the life of Albert Einstein as seen through the eyes of his secretary/watchdog, Ellen, on Sundays at 7:00 pm in the Fremont Centre Theater, 1000 Fremont Avenue. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 with student ID. For more information call 888-441-5979 or 626-441-5977.

## Fellowships and Scholarships

Students and faculty are invited to submit proposals to the **National College Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIAA)** by May 15 to fund student projects and faculty courses and programs that enable students to pursue the steps leading to commercialization of their innovations. Two types of NCIA grants are offered: Advanced E-Team Grants of up to \$20,000 to student innovators, and Course and Program Development Grants of up to \$50,000. E-team grants may be used for summer stipends, equipment, prototyping and supplies, business planning and the like. For more information and application forms visit <http://hampshire.edu/ncia> or call 413-559-5318.

The **John Gyles Education Fund** is offering scholarship awards up to \$3,000 for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. Citizens, have a 2.7 or higher GPA, and demonstrate financial need. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. To obtain an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 1999 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

For information on the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, for clarification of questions, contact:

**FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.** To make an appointment, call x2150. For more information, please email [lauran\\_stopler@starbase1.caltech.edu](mailto:lauran_stopler@starbase1.caltech.edu).

**UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.** For information, call x6280, or stop by 515 S. Wilson for an appointment.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@tech.caltech.edu) or Mail Code 040-058 by noon on the Monday prior to its inclusion. Submissions must be brief and concise. Please do not send Mints in difficult formats like Binhex or Word document. ASCII and rtf are best. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Solicitations will be referred to the business manager.

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