

"He's a dancing stud. And he knows what he's doing in the darkroom."



And you thought the ASCIT movies were boring...

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 30

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

## Summer Board

BY SHANNON STEWMAN

This summer, Caltech Dining services is trying a new program. CDS is offering an optional summer board program designed to provide flexibility and convenience for summer residential students.

Students on the program purchase a dollar amount of food in advance, at a discounted price, and can spend it at various campus food centers.

According to Andre Mallie, Executive Chef and Director of Caltech Dining Services, students can use the summer board to pay for food at Avery House, the Avery Grill, the Red Door Cafe, and Chandler Dining Hall. When asked about use at the Coffeehouse, he expressed hope for that option but it ultimately depends on ASCIT, which beginning to assume control of the

PLEASE SEE BOARD ON PAGE 2

## This Year's Graduation

BY KATY ISAACS

Commencement ceremonies for graduating Caltech graduate and undergraduate students will begin 10:00 am, Friday, June 12th on the Beckman Mall. Commencement activities will be taking place from June 10th through June 13th.

A reception for the International Graduates will take place the evening of Wednesday, June 20th in Steele House. This event is hosted by the Office of International Student Programs and is by reservation only.

Thursday, June 11th will begin with the president's welcoming luncheon at the president's residence, hosted by President David Baltimore and Dr. Alice Huang and Dean Jean-Paul Revel and Dr. Galina Moller. Reservations are required.

This event will be followed by "Slices of Caltech" at 1:00 pm which includes campus tours and tours of the student houses with specially recreated Ditch Day stacks.

At 2:00 pm there will be presentations in Ramo Auditorium.

PLEASE SEE GRADUATION ON PAGE 2

## Capra—The great ranch escape

BY AUTUMN LOOIJEN

In an effort to get the most out of Capra Ranch, Director of Campus Auxiliary and Business Services Tom Mannion is proposing that the ranch be expanded into a 120-bed conference center.

Mannion stresses that plans are "very rough," and have not yet been presented to the upper administration. The entire campus will have time to evaluate the plans over the next year.

Frank Capra and his wife built the five-bedroom ranch and lived in it from 1956 to 1971. The ranch, which is in the Fallbrook area, was a gift from

Capra to Caltech in 1972, and was intended for use as a retreat for faculty, trustees, and students. The house has room for about 25 people and has a sunken playroom and bar. The grounds include a hedge maze, citrus orchards, groves of trees, a palm-lined entrance, and lots of snails.

Capra Ranch is rarely used during the week, and even sits empty on some weekends. Meanwhile, many campus groups use conference facilities elsewhere. The ranch is simply too small for them.

The proposed plan would expand the ranch house into a

PLEASE SEE CAPRA ON PAGE 2



Historically Caltech students have practiced many strange rites and traditions to survive finals week. A little known fact is that during the 50s a Ricketts group venerated a large courtyard spheroid. A lesser known fact is that similar rituals still go on today in the privacy of one's own room.

## McKinney Award Winners

COURTESY OF LITERATURE FACULTY

The McKinney Committee of the Caltech Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the winners in the 1998 contest for excellence in writing. The contest began in 1946: entrants were judged on the quality of a factual essay and a related oral discussion, as well as overall improvement in English. Dr. Samuel P. McKinney, M.D. provided a \$3,500 endowment for the prize in memory of his wife, who was a high school English teacher. Since that

time, it has evolved to include fiction as well as non-fiction, and has been opened to all undergraduates, rather than just Juniors.

This year, in the category of prose fiction, first prize has been won by Erik Dill. In the category of non-fiction essay, first prize is awarded jointly to Eleanor Park and Kathryn Todd. No prize was given in poetry this year.

Honorable Mention is given to Bryan Eastin, Mason Porter, Iljje Kim, Melinda Turner, Brian Watkins, Joseph Cook and Helen C. Claudio



The current favorite design for an expanded Capra

## Update on ASCIT Acquiring Coffeehouse

BY SHANNON STEWMAN

The Coffeehouse will soon be changing hands. The move from Caltech Dining Services to ASCIT should happen sometime this summer, though a date has not yet been set.

Though plans won't be finalized until early this morning, the transition could begin as early as June 12.

Baldeep Sadhal, President of ASCIT, expressed several goals for the new management. His prospective style, to "generally run it more like a business," includes repricing some items and standardizing some portion sizes.

As with the current ASCIT trend toward greater documentation, ASCIT is aiming at creating an operating manual to complement the handed-down lore of the Coffeehouse.

As for ASCIT's restructuring of the Coffeehouse, the daily jobs of management will likely

be handled by student night managers, coordinated by a student head night manager.

An assistant head manager would assist, who won't be a Caltech student, will assist the head manager in inventory, ordering, and possibly working the grill on certain nights.

Baldeep himself will be working at the Coffeehouse over the summer to coordinate the transition effort.

Other proposed and suggested changes for the Coffeehouse include making Pacman free, making beer available, and having faculty and administrators periodically make shakes.

ASCIT is also looking to reinstate the Coffeehouse User's Group (CHUG) as an interhouse committee to both guide and diversify the Coffeehouse.

ASCIT will distribute surveys later to poll student opinions on changes, and a suggestion box located in the Coffeehouse is in the works.

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## Clubwatch!

The Asian Pacific Student Union meets last week in the Avery conference room. They elected officers for the 1998-1999 year. Their new president is Ben Wu. Their Graduate and Undergrad Veeps are Joyce Peng and Kay Jhun respectively. Hongyu Ran is the new Secretary/Historian. Janice Yeung is the new Treasurer. Ernest Tong is their new Freshman/Sophomore Rep. They are planning a leadership retreat at Capra in mid to late June.

The California Tech is looking for contributors to this years Rivet. All interested are invited to a Rivet meeting in The Tech office (SAC 40) at noon, Saturday May 30th (tomorrow). Lunch will be provided. If you cannot attend but are still interested, please email The Tech at [editors@tech](mailto:editors@tech).

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club reminds everyone that there will be swing dances at the Green Hotel in Old Town starting Friday. A lesson will start at 8:00 pm and be followed by music via a live band at 9:00 pm. Those interested in going should email Kevin Scaldeferri ([kscaldef@cco](mailto:kscaldef@cco)) to arrange carpools.

The Caltech Entrepreneurs Club is under a new executive committee. They had a General Meeting new wednesday, May 27th at 5pm in 114 E. Bridge. They would like all members of the Caltech community to help them set the course for the new year. Among the tentative plans already on the agenda are a partnership with USC business school, high profile speakers, a entrepreneurs forum, entrepreneurial workshops, a summer internship program, and relations with MIT, USC, and Stanford.

The Clone Arrangers will be meeting in the Beckman Institute courtyard today at noon. Bring a 'friend.'

S.P.E.C.T.R.E. is planning to hold another movie soon. They are planning to show Dr. Who episodes. Those who are interested and would like to suggest episodes should email [lawrence@alice.wonderland.caltech.edu](mailto:lawrence@alice.wonderland.caltech.edu)

To submit club news, please send a brief description of the event to [editors@tech](mailto:editors@tech).

## The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

**NEW DELHI, INDIA** — In keeping with the threat to penalize India for conducting five nuclear tests, the World Bank will delay \$865 million in loans indefinitely. It is hoped that these consequences will deter Pakistan from performing its own nuclear tests, but Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan is under intense pressure from militant Islamic groups to demonstrate their nation's nuclear ability, too.

**PAKISTAN** — Pakistan detonated five underground nuclear devices on Thursday. Pakistani officials stated that they were acting in self-defense by conducting the tests in the wake of India's tests, while Indian officials stated that "Pakistan...forced [them] to take the path of nuclear deterrence."

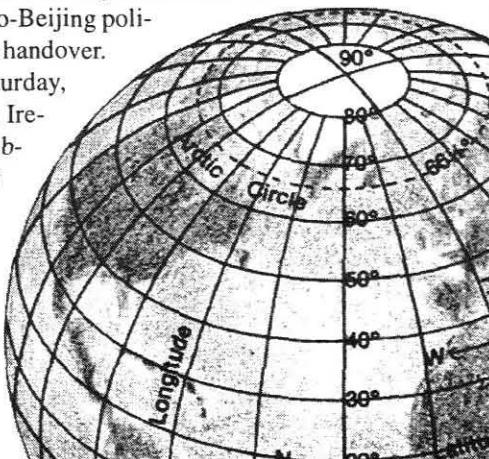
**ZUGDIDI, GEORGIA** — A five-year lull in violence in western Georgia came to a close several days ago as fighting broke out between Abkhazian separatists and Georgian militias. A cease-fire agreement was signed Monday, but the area is not yet stabilized. Tens of thousands of Georgian refugees have since fled across the Inguri River, prompting President Shevardnadze to cancel Independence Day celebrations.

**JERUSALEM** — Tension between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority has increased in the wake of recent violence. This violence was set off when Jewish settlers poured foundations for new houses in the Muslim Quarter on Monday. Even though this was done without a building permit, the Israeli authorities initially ignored the settlement. Demolition of the structures was ordered on Tuesday in the wake of demonstrations by Palestinians and Israeli peace advocates.

**PARIS** — On Tuesday, police in France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland detained 88 people suspected of being linked to the Armed Islamic Group of Algeria. The internationally-organized operation was designed to head off terrorist attacks during the World Cup, which will be held in France this coming summer.

**HONG KONG** — A record number of Hong Kong's eligible voters braved torrential rains Sunday in order to participate in the territory's first election under Chinese rule. Many of the pro-democracy advocates were voted back into the legislature after having been replaced by pro-Beijing politicians at the time of the handover.

**IRELAND** — On Saturday, the people of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic overwhelmingly voted "yes" to a peace accord that will transform the country's social and political institutions. The accord will allow for greater governing flexibility in Northern Ireland.



## Cynthia Gong on the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology conference

BY CYNTHIA GONG

Last week I attended the annual ASBMB (American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) conference in Washington, D.C., enabled by funding from the Caltech Women's Center.

There were few undergraduates there, and I felt like a voyeur as professors, professionals, and others discussed undergrads, in research and for teaching. I discovered not only

that being a smiley, unsure teenager will get you a lot of free candy (two pounds of Tootsie Rolls!), but that we Caltech undergrads are luckier than we realize.

Other colleges don't have a lot of money for scientific research. Other colleges don't have Nobel laureate professors. Other colleges don't have names that demand instant respect. Other colleges don't have expansive programs for undergraduate research. Other col-

leges don't have newspapers so desperate for filler they'll print long-winded public thank-you letters to their Women's Centers. Caltech does.

So use Tech's resources while you can, undergrads. It's really what you make of it. As Ralph, the aging homeless guy I found rooting around in the trash bins behind the Capitol building, said to me, "This looks like a lot more fun than it is. Stay in school, honey."

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## GRADUATION...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rium in Baxter by the SURF award winners. Keri Ryan, Katrik Srinivasan, and Dave Tytell will be speaking. At 3:00 pm, the ME 72 design contest video will be shown. At 4:00 pm, student videos of Senior Ditch Day will be shown.

The President's Carden Reception for graduates and their families will take place at 5:00 pm at the President's Residence. The Alumni Association Reception will take place at 5:30 pm on The Athenaeum lawn. The Graduate Student Graduation Banquet in the Avery House Courtyard will start off with recognition awards at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm, reservations are required. At 6:30 pm, the Senior Graduation Banquet (for undergraduates) will take place in The Athenaeum, reservations are required.

A Student Concert will take place at 9:00 pm in the Dabney Lounge. The Caltech Chamber Singers are featured with various other student performers.

Friday, June 12th will begin with the Commencement exercises at 10:00 am on the Beckman Mall. Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," will be the speaker. Afterwards there will be a reception for Graduates, both undergraduates and graduate students on The Athenaeum lawn at noon. This will be followed by the Commencement Luncheon in The Athenaeum, reservations are required.

The last Graduate Student Concil event of the school year, "Asado!" will take place on

Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm on the North Field. There will be food, drinks, games and live music all afternoon.

## BOARD...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coffeehouse this summer. Advantages of the summer board include discounted food and convenience, especially for non-Caltech summer students. The board program can be purchased in amounts of \$100, \$200, \$300, and \$500. The discounts range from five percent of the price, for the \$100 plan, to ten percent, for the \$500 plan. The North and South House kitchens will, as usual, not be open this summer.



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## CAPRA...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting center with five conference rooms and dining facilities. The gate house would be converted into an administration building. The orange and lemon groves would be replaced by six condolettes, which would hold 120 beds.

Athletic facilities would include two tennis courts (convertible to basketball courts), a swimming pool, a jacuzzi, two volleyball courts, outdoor exercise equipment, and a putting green.

## Tech errata

*The California Tech* has two items to update this week. In last week's list of Ditch Day stacks, we unfortunately overlooked the "Millenium" stack in Avery, created by seniors Daniel M. Zimmerman, Gustavo Joseph, Brian K. Muzas, and Guillaume Lessard.

In the Letter to the Editor in last week's edition, the letter referred to a petition circulating among graduate students. This petition is available from Pat Wrean, x4370, [wrean@cco](mailto:wrean@cco). All interested parties are encouraged to contact her and sign the petition.



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and mate in 8


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# ASCIT Survey Results

250 students replied to the survey. Percentages indicate percent responding yes unless otherwise indicated. It's not too late, either! Surveys should be given to Autumn Looijen, MSC 302, Dabney 1.

**Do you want:**

Interhouse	84%
Projector	57%
Daihatsu	32%
Doughnuts	81%

**Women**

a- increasing efforts to recruit?	84%
b- increasing financial aid to women?	38%
c- reducing the number of males at the institute?	19%
d- changing admissions standards?	9%
e- be more sympathetic towards women?	30%

**Minorities**

a- increasing efforts to recruit?	70%
b- increasing financial aid to minorities?	35%
c- reducing the number of overrepresented minorities?	9%
d- changing admissions standards?	6%
e- be more sympathetic to minorities?	24%

If Caltech's new French chef were to teach a 3-unit cooking course, would you take it?

72%

Should frosh be on pass/fail third term?

53%

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## Crime and incident beat

BY ANNA SIMS

**May 6, 1998****Suspicious Person**

At 11:50 am, security responded to a report of a suspicious person loitering in the Keck and Church buildings. Security located and questioned a suspect. It was discovered that the suspect was informed previously not to return to Caltech. Suspect was arrested for trespassing.

**May 8, 1998**

Security responded to a report of items missing at the Church building rooms 071, 066, and 054. Persons reported that a calculator, valued at \$30, a tape dispenser, valued at \$15, and a syringe, valued at \$245, were missing.

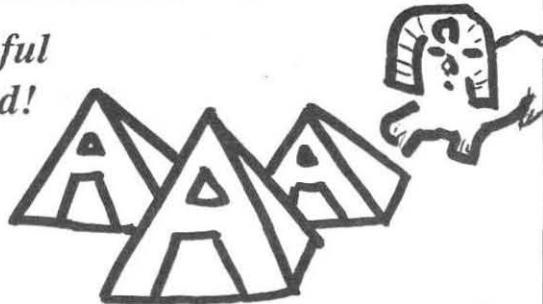
**May 13, 1998****Suspicious Person**

At 7:24 pm security responded to report of a suspicious person last seen in the laundry room of SAC. Persons reported 2 white males, approx. 40 years of age. A thorough search was done of the area, no suspects discovered.

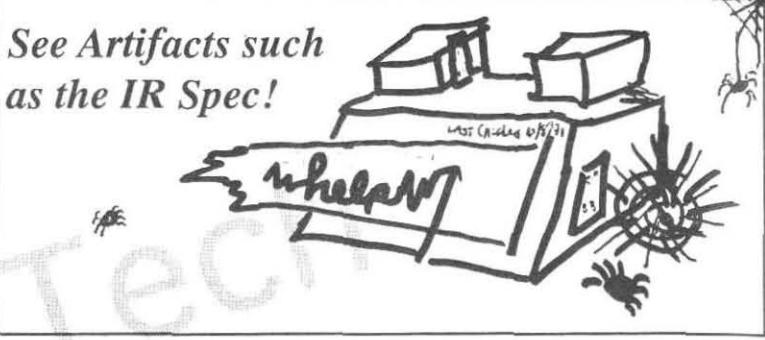
**May 19 1998****Suspicious Person**

At 1:55 am, while on patrol, security discovered a person sleeping on the west side of Sunnyslope warehouse. The subject was advised that he was on private property then escorted off property.

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## The Caltech Environmental Task Force in action

*And how it's making our community a better, cleaner, friendlier, more responsible place*

BY ARI HERSHOWITZ

This year's Ditch Day showed the energy, ingenuity and in at least one case the concrete thinking skills of Caltech students at play, and demonstrated our ability to transform campus overnight. With every graduating class, Caltech releases these energies on the world, and has in less than 100 years produced scientists and leaders who have transformed our understanding and use of nature. As another class of Tech graduates emerge to make their mark on the world, the Caltech Environmental Task Force (CETF) is gathering support for the adoption of an official environmental policy at Caltech, which could establish a vision for Caltech as a leader, not just in science, but in the wise and conscientious application of science. If the Caltech community decides to adopt an environmental policy, it will join universities and corporations in many countries which have affirmed their commitment to environ-

mentally responsible values and practices. However, Caltech, as one of the most influential scientific institutions in the world, is in a unique position to guide the use of science and technologies to benefit our environment.

Over the past few months, members of CETF have been meeting with campus administrators, faculty and student groups to introduce their proposal and have, for the most part, received support. No one has objected to the principles of the policy: to reduce waste, conserve resources and raise awareness of the environmental impact of our actions. However, some administrators are not convinced that Caltech needs a policy to affirm these principles, and would like to gauge the level of support from the Caltech community for such a policy.

Judging from initial reactions, the community is very much in favor. At the campus Earth Day celebration, on April 24, CETF circulated a petition calling for an environmental policy at Caltech, which has

been signed by nearly one hundred students and fourteen faculty. The Caltech Y executive committee voiced its support as did the GSC with a unanimous vote. The new dining hall managers have already begun to implement a cardboard recycling program and are enthusiastic about reducing waste and improving recycling at Chandler.

Many of the individuals who spoke with CETF recognize the need for Caltech to implement energy efficient and environmentally responsible practices, and see the policy as a welcome guideline to reach those goals. Outside pressures have already affected Caltech's environmental practices and will continue to do so. Caltech is the largest customer for Pasadena Water and Power, it pays steeper rates for energy than residential customers, and a rate surcharge is set to increase these charges at an additional cost of over a million dollars per year. Driven by cost alone, Caltech will have to find ways to reduce its energy usage. Caltech is also bound by state and local regulations to reduce its waste production. The California Waste Management Act of 1989 requires a decrease in municipal waste production in cities and counties in California amounting to 50% of 1989 levels by the year 2000, and these requirements will be passed on to Caltech. This and other legislation will slowly move California institutions to limit detrimental impacts on the environment. With an environmental policy, Caltech can take control of these changes, assure that the

changes are sparked from inside, and provide incentives for members of the Caltech community to contribute ideas to making these changes more effectively.

And perhaps a healthier environment, on and off campus, will be incentive enough. It was a Caltech scientist, Clair Patterson, whose research on lead toxicity helped convince the public of the need for national automotive pollution control measures and helped remove lead from the gas pump. On scientific matters, (think of Dr. Feynman in Washington), when Caltech speaks, America listens. And the world listens. Nearly 50% of next year's incoming graduate students will be from outside the U.S. The practices and philosophy they learn here will be carried across the globe. Caltech is making a global impact on the environment with or without a policy. The design of a clear and well thought out environmental policy will give us the opportunity to make this impact reasoned and positive.

*The Caltech Environmental Task Force has put together a draft of the policy, and invites your suggestions and criticism. The policy, a form for comments, and an online petition, can be found on the CETF website at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~cetfers/policy.html>. If you would like to get involved in the establishment of an environmental policy for the Institute, or join CETF in its recycling or other environmental activities, sign the online petition and/or email [cetfers@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:cetfers@cco.caltech.edu).*

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# ✓ ASCIT Election 1998 ✓

## SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

### Brigitte Roth



Senior year: the climax of the Caltech experience. We will have survived the core ('xcept maybe some of us chem 3a) and will no longer need to worry about some of those generally nasty classes (e.g. 95, 98, 41).

Senior year will be time for celebration. Time to stack. Time to graduate. I want to take part in making senior year a good one and am running for Senior Class President on the following platform:

- 1) lots of fun activities to occupy our time as we underload 3rd term
- 2) a graduation ceremony by the seniors, of the seniors, for the seniors. This means we have a speaker whom we have heard of before and who won't put us to sleep. And the music at graduation will be the music we want to hear and sing.
- 3) a senior gift we actually care about and that will be remembered. After all, if we are going to give a gift to Caltech,

why not have it be something cool? For example, we could pull off a major prank that would bring further fame to Caltech...

- 4) I have discussed the job with Myfanwy, the current president and feel confident that I am fully capable of doing it and that I would enjoy it thoroughly.

I want to make this year a good one, elect me for Senior Class President.

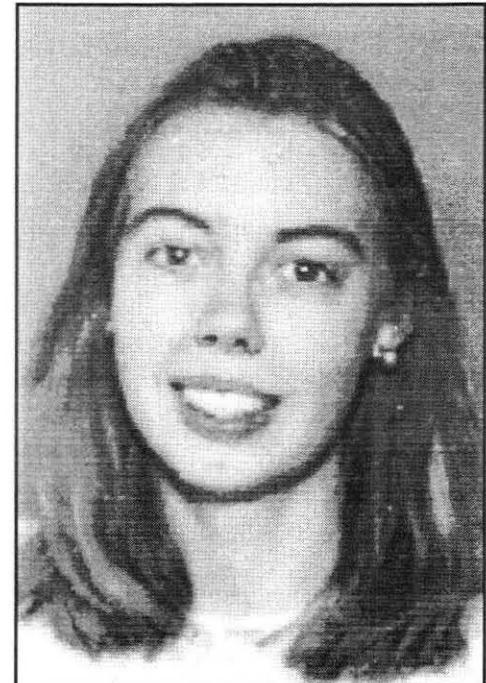
Thanks for listening,  
Brigitte

*The officers for the senior class shall be responsible for setting the date of Senior Ditch Day and for determining the form of each year's commencement exercises. They shall also coordinate the seniors to ensure that no irreplaceable items are damaged as tasks of Ditch Day stacks.*

### Leigh Engen

I don't think I possess the wit or the skill to convince people, solely through a newspaper statement, to vote for me. I'm pretty sure that I'm not going to be able to write anything to convince anyone to vote for me who wouldn't vote for me anyway. But I don't think I've ever turned down a chance to ramble to an audience, so here goes (having wasted all this time, I'll try to keep it short):

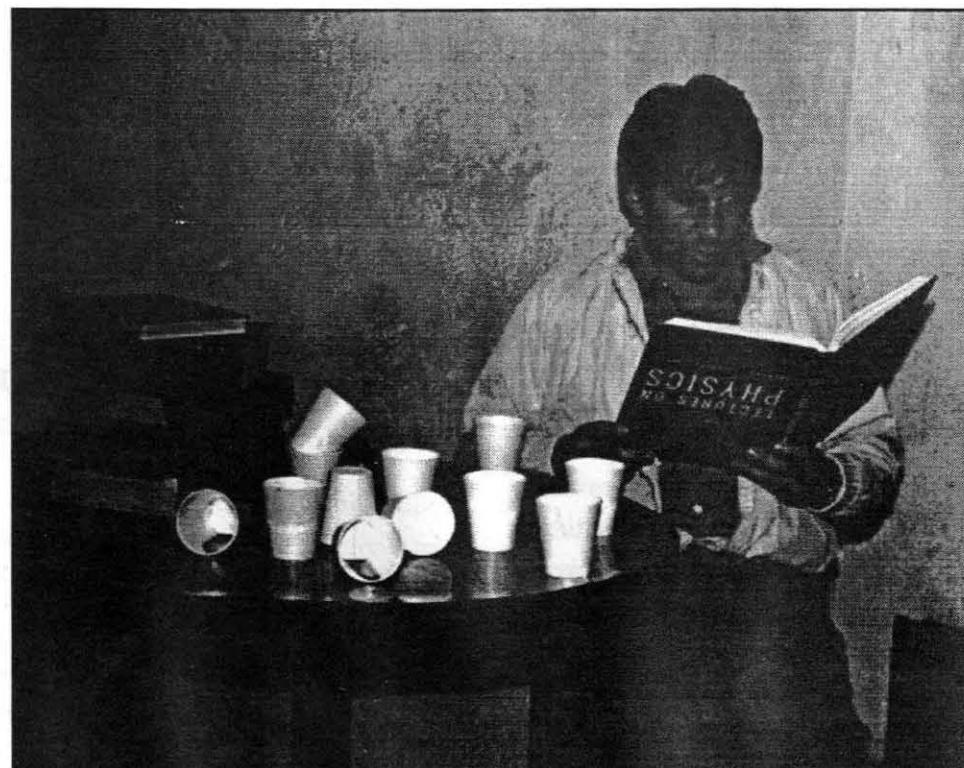
So why am I running for Senior Class president? I'm sure most underclassmen can identify with the feeling of slight, general annoyance I've felt towards the seniors and their senior-ness (the announcements, the aura of "I-know-more-than-you-do") for the past 3 years. However, as if by magic, the day after Ditch Day this year everything the seniors have ever done made sense to me. I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I'd like to serve in the office of president in order to make that light as bright as possible for my classmates by being involved with the Convocation Committee and



organizing other year's-end activities. And of course I want to get my name printed in the little t.

Even though I've never held a campus-wide office, I've been very involved in my house through activities and both appointed and elected offices. I'm more than anxious to use whatever knowledge those experiences have given me to be the best possible president for the class of 1999. (Does anyone else out there think that's a really cool year to graduate in? Just curious.) Thanks for reading all the way to the end, and please, please, please vote for me for senior class president :)

## Erik Streed Autumn Looijen



Want a two headed, three hosed, four armed, organizational juggernaut to represent our class? The former Tag Team Editorial Terror of the Tech wants to be YOUR Senior Class President. WE are Autumn Looijen and Erik Streed.

With dual On Campus action we'll be twice as accessible as our opponents. WE know how important the traditions of Commencement and Ditch Day are and WE will fight for what you want. Honed by years of experience handling administrators, only WE have the broadest range of diplomatic, tactical, and strategic responses for every occasion. Bad music about to be played at Commencement? Everything from a correctly spelled, polite, firm request to total nuclear annihilation (don't ask) can be given to the Music Director. WE will make sure that the traditional Hallelujah Handel's Messiah is sung at OUR graduation. Unless, of course, you want Wagner...

Ditch Day is important. We understand that in the past, there have not always been enough daihatsus available on Ditch Day. We're already working on ways to increase the number of available daihatsus so that your stack doesn't get left without one. If there's enough interest, we'll also put out a special Ditch Day issue of the Tech, where you can hide clues

in articles or fake ads.

Remember Our Platform:

1. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus will be sung at Commencement.
2. Ditch Day: Bigger, better, bolder.
3. Daihatsus for everyone
4. Ditch Day Tech

Two Seniors. One Choice.  
[streed@cco](mailto:streed@cco) and [autumn@cco](mailto:autumn@cco)

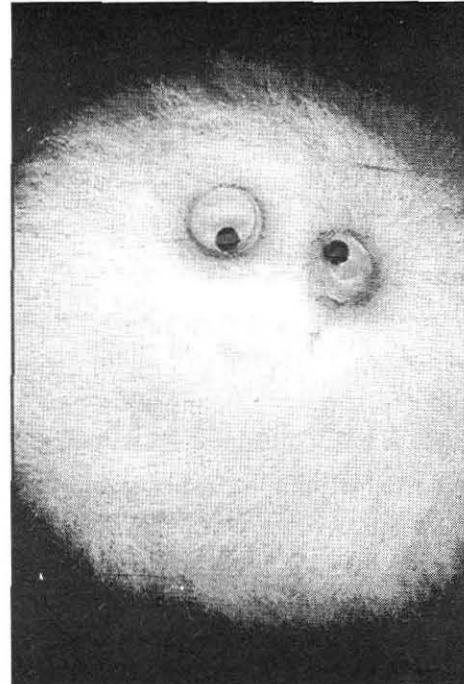
**VOTE!**  
**ASCIT**  
**ELECTION**  
**MONDAY**  
**10 A.M.—10 P.M.**  
**• CLASS OFFICES**  
**• BYLAW MADNESS**

# ✓ ASCIT Election 1998 ✓

## SENIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

### Mic Westcoat

Hi, I'm Mr. Warm Fuzzy! I like to spread warmth and happiness everywhere. So please vote for Mic for Veep and Autumn/Erik for Prez for a warm and happy Senior Year!



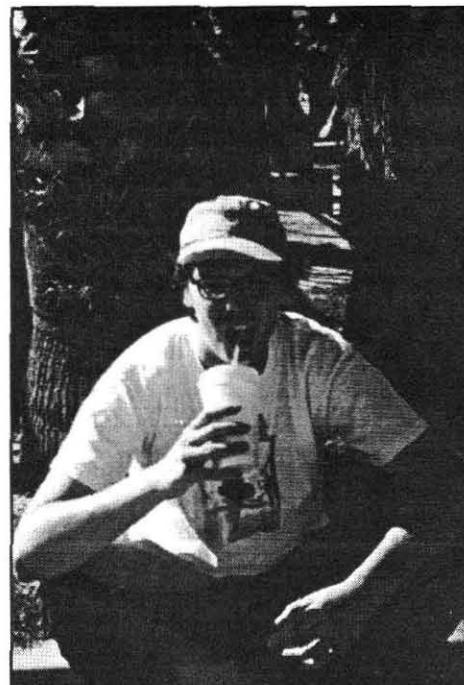
### Ryan McCorvie

I am Ryan "Disco" McCorvie.  
Now for some Hip Hop.

(Lil Kim) See I believe in money, power, and respect. First You get the money. Then you get the muthaf—in', power. After you get the f—in' power muthaf—as will respect you.

(Chorus [Lil Kim]) It's the key to life. Money, power, and respect. Whatchu' need in life. Money, power, and respect. When you eatin' right. Money, power, and respect. Help you sleep at night. You'll see the light. It's the key to life. Money, power, and respect. Whatchu' need in life. Money, power, and respect. When you eatin' right. Money, power, and respect. Money, power, and respect.

(Sheek Louchion) Ayo my whole clique bout it, bout it. We take yours while you pout about it. Truck, step out the whore's wanna' crowd around it. You could see me on optimum TV. Go in your bathroom turn the light out. Scream! Bloody Mary, 1, 2, 3. Sheek ain't your usual friend. About to setchu' up like Kaiser and walk straight at the end. I'm done wit' ice and charms. I'm tryin' my whole casket when I'm gone. Pull up wit' class on the don'. Once I meet em' I greet em'. Kiss his feet for freedom. Tell em' thank you lord. Cuz on Earth I was gettin' bored. Now resurrect me back to this cat called Sheek. So I can make this album. And get back the cats that's weak. Two thirty, six two. Me bust for you that's like a cat vs. a



pitbull. Gun, know clip full, keep hunger. And plan for the future, cuz you figure you gon' be older way longer than you gon' be younger.

(Repeat Chorus [Lil Kim])

(Jada Kiss) Yo nutin' but the hotness. Whenever we drop this. Monotonous for ya'll to keep hatin', cuz ya'll never gon' stop us. I keep my rocks spotless, and my hoes topless. Take time try to figure out who da Lox is. Fear no one. Kick rhymes like Shoguns. You scared to blow one. Get robbed wit' your own gun. If I don't respect you I'm ah check you. And if I don't kiss you I'm a peck you, right before I wet' chu. I sneeze on tracks an' bless you. I'm special. And if you like workin' out, then I'm gon' stretch you. Husslin' is dead but we still get red. Turn the spots in the bakeries to get back bread. And ya'll said my monies spent. But it's in the Bent'. So when the feds come the dogs can't get a scent. For my story, self-explanatory that I'm the hottest thing on the street. An' yall ain't got nutin' for me

The officers for the senior class shall be responsible for setting the date of Senior Ditch Day and for determining the form of each year's commencement exercises. They shall also coordinate the seniors to ensure that no irreplaceable items are damaged as tasks of Ditch Day stacks.

### Heather Dean

Hi! I'm running for Senior class Vice-President. I enjoy leading and planning events, as some of you might know through work I've done with the YESS program and International Student Orientation or as President of the Caltech Y. I like to talk to people, and I'm good at listening to those I work with as well. I take leadership positions very seriously and get things accomplished. I coordinate activities such as Project Angelfood and other community service events quite often, so I know how to get people organized. I believe that I could do a great job as Senior Class Vice-President,



so I ask that you think about voting for me in this election.

Thank you.  
Heather Dean

### Mike Westover

Why should you care about this election? Why not ignore it like all the others, or worse, vote no? In case you don't know what the senior class officers do, here is a list of eight reasons why you should vote in this election.



- 8. **Ditch day.** The senior officers have to do a lot more than just choose the date. They have to work with the house reps to coordinate fakes and resolve conflicts involving common areas like Millikan pond and the gene pool.
- 7. **Senior video.** This will be one of your most lasting mementos of senior year. You want a video that gives time to all the houses, to stacks, and to special events like ME 72.
- 6. **Senior gift.** How we will be remembered. We have to find a gift that both stands out and is affordable.

5. **Senior trip.** Past classes have had a party. This year's seniors are having a senior trip, which is a much better idea. Mexico, here we come!

4. **Graduation speaker.** Why settle for a boring speaker because the class officers weren't willing to look hard enough?

3. **Senior banquet.** The banquet has the potential to be a really cool event (who is going to turn down an eight-course meal?), but we need to advertise it well in advance,

I have a lot of experience working with the administration and reps from the houses to get things done. As ASCIT Director for Academic Affairs, I organized the student-faculty conference two years ago. That meant reserving the room, planning food, getting funding, printing programs, and on, and on. As ARC chair, I worked with the house reps to start the mid-term course surveys. I know how to pull off big events, and I will work with the class president to create a great senior year.

# ✓ ASCIT Election 1998 ✓

## SENIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

### Ryan Dieckmann

So the VP is supposed to help the senior class president pick a date for ditch day and help organize commencement. This means that the VP has to be able to do a number of things:

- 1) organize a large event without killing himself,
- 2) be able to work with others, a.k.a. delegate,
- 2) pick a date 3rd term and stick with it, and
- 4) work outside the limelight while the class president steals all the glory.

Can I do these things? Yep, not that hard. This year I was in charge of OPI, with two other people, so the organizing thing is in the bag. Same for being able to delegate and motivate people, power tools do wonderful things to people's drive. Also, this year and again next year I was and will be a member of the frosh admissions committee; if I can pick frosh for tech I'm pretty sure picking a commencement speaker won't be that hard. And finally dealing with the presidents ego is



easy; make sure he gets the meals at the Ath and all will be well. Anyway, I prefer to be in the background, it's much easier to get work done. Most importantly, though, is that I want to be VP. I enjoy organizing events and seeing them work out and nothing needs celebrating more than finishing 4 years of tech. Now for the rash campaign promises that won't happen. Vote for me and enjoy a new 2 day version of Ditch Day. Vote for me and get Bugs Bunny as the commencement speaker. Hey, somebody has to do the job, why not me.

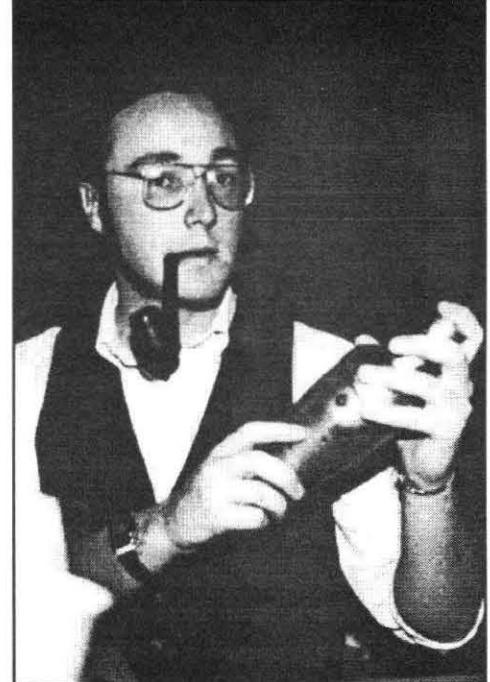
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### Mike Astle

The Transformers thing is getting a little old I guess. Here's a picture of me in my finest hour. Four parts gin to one part vermouth. Maybe we could have Senior Martini Night. We could all stand around in the Ath and say things like "shaken, not stirred" and "boy, that really tastes like crap". Here's my idea for the Senior Gift. I would like to get a playground style swing-set for the Ricketts/Fleming Courtyard. It would be cheap, distinctive, and easy to maintain. I think that people might enjoy sitting on a swing for awhile during those long California afternoons. If we have some leftover money, one of those vomitron merry-go-round things or a jungle-gym might also be fun. Or hell, we could just blow all our money on liquor.

"Martinis should always be stirred, not shaken, so that the molecules lie sensuously on top of one another." — W. Somerset Mougham

"Happiness is finding two olives in



your martini when you're hungry." — Johnny Carson

A guy walks into a bar and orders a Martini, 25 parts gin to 1 part vermouth. The bartender sizes him up, decides not to argue and mixes the potion exactly as ordered. When he slides it across the bar to the customer he asks: "You want a lemon twist with that?" The man leans across the bar, grabs the bartender and yells in his face: "When I want a goddam lemonade I'll ask for one!"

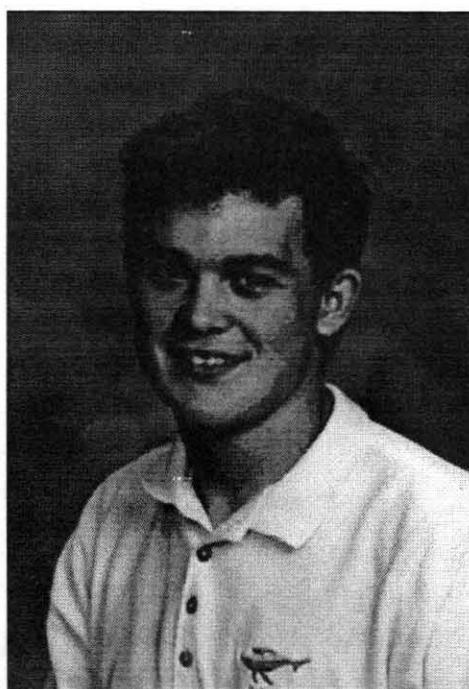
## JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

### Matthew Sullivan

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- 2) be able to work with others, a.k.a. delegate,
- 2) pick a date 3rd term and stick with it, and
- 4) work outside the limelight while the class president steals all the glory.

Can I do these things? Yep, not that hard. This year I was in charge of OPI, with two other people, so the organizing thing is in the bag. Same for being able to delegate and motivate people, power tools do wonderful things to people's drive. Also, this year and again next year I was and will be a member of the frosh admissions committee; if I can pick frosh for tech I'm pretty sure picking a commencement speaker won't be that hard. And finally dealing with the presidents ego is



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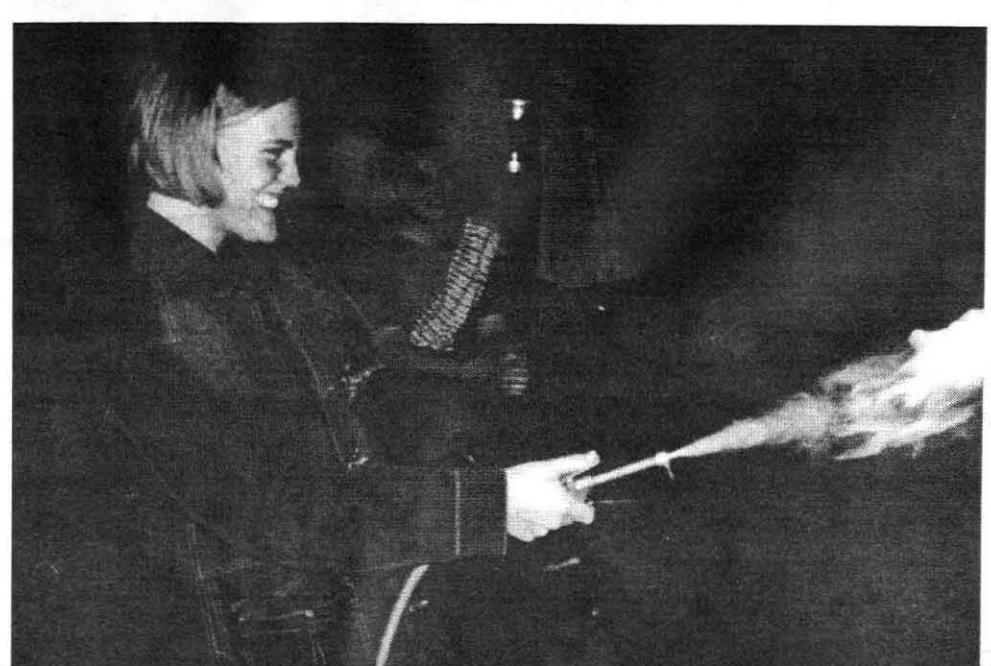
*The officers for the junior class shall be responsible for organizing a Freshman-Sophomore Event during the first term of each academic year. They shall also be responsible for obtaining a speaker for their class's commencement exercises.*

### Cate Gifford

what the hell does the junior class president do? i get the feeling no one really knows or cares except me. a little beheaded baby told me that the only duty of the prez was to organize some sort of mud tug-o-war between the freshman and the sophomores. i say to you—what better form of live entertainment makes you want to shout, "hey cleetus, that rips my clit off!" more than watching

underclassmen sprawl around in the mud like swine.

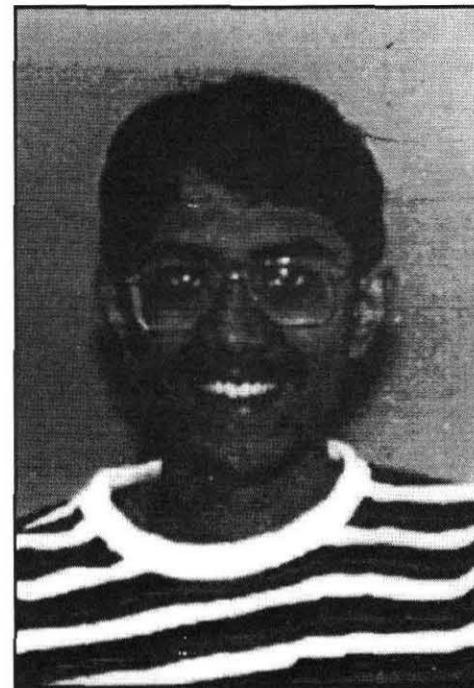
putting together only one event in exchange for the job title is lame, so i plan to figure out what ever happened to interhouse. ascit has a bunch of money burning a hole in their pocket, and a campus-wide party sounds like a good investment. also, dont we deserve something for making it to junior year without flaming out? shouldnt we get some sort of beach bbq where we tan our creamy white flesh to a golden brown, and take out our frustration on those helpless pieces of wood we light on fire and dance around? yes, damnit.



# ✓ ASCIT Election 1998 ✓

## JUNIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

Rafed  
Amin Al-Hug



"Silence is a text easy to misread."  
—A. A. Attanasio

*The officers for the junior class shall be responsible for organizing a Freshman-Sophomore Event during the first term of each academic year. They shall also be responsible for obtaining a speaker for their class's commencement exercises.*

Angela  
Shum

Just vote for the little guy.



## ASCIT SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Hanna  
Kim

Hi! I would like the chance to serve as your ASCIT social director. I'm on the Ruddock social team and the Executive Social Committee. I love organizing social activities and I want to make sure we have cool ASCIT stuff in the future. Thanks.



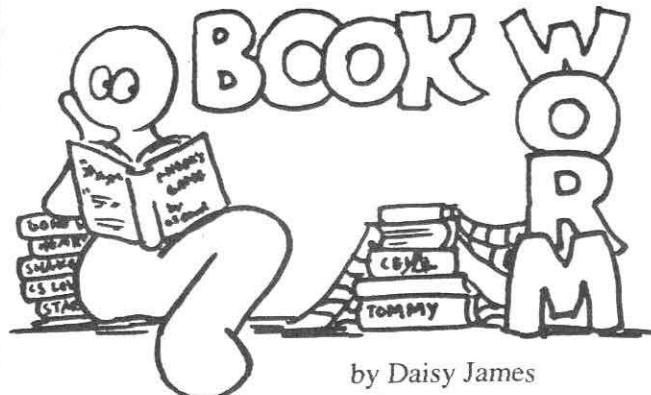
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10 A.M.—10 P.M.  
• CLASS  
OFFICES  
• BYLAW  
MADNESS**



by Daisy James

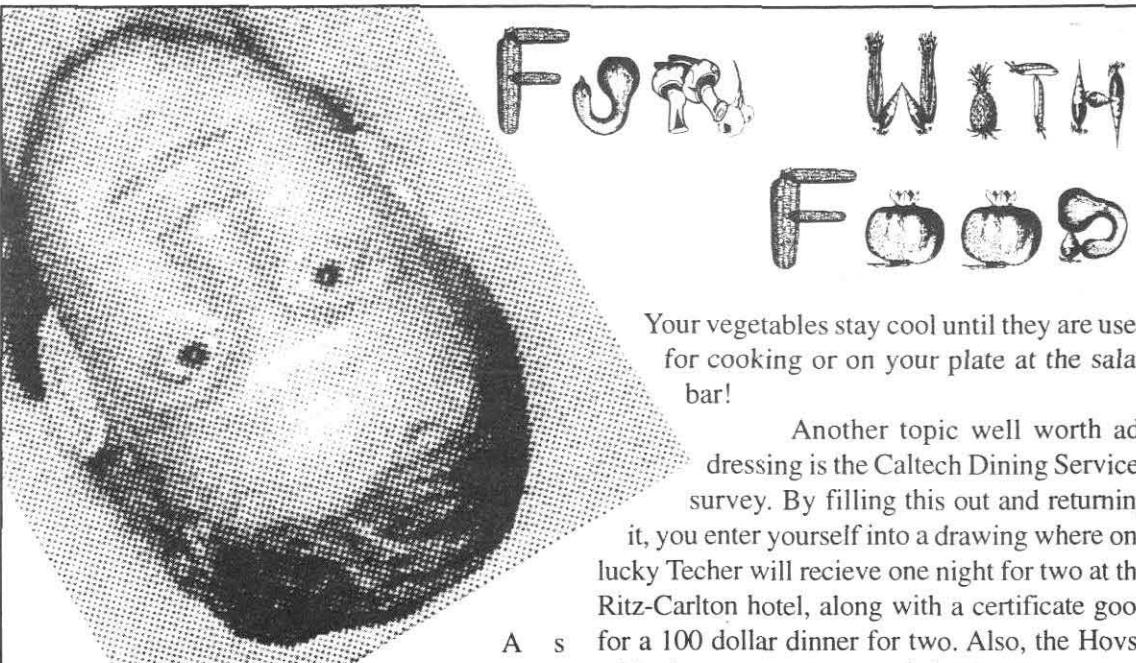
**The Wolves of Saverneke**  
*Edward Marston \*\*\*\*\**

What I found the most interesting about this book was its premise. Set in England in 1086, it concerns the collection of the data for the Domesday Book and draws on an actual entry for its basis. (The Domesday Book was a sort of inventory of the country done at that time for tax purposes.) From this rather dry source Marston has created a fast-paced and engaging mystery novel, with a fictional murder and actual land dispute. The story is for the most part well constructed; the clues are given fairly and the plot is generally cohesive. There are a few points at which the author does not seem to be putting enough thought, or is following some fancy of his own that does not really follow. But the descriptions are vivid, the history well researched (if at time too apparently so) and the characters believable, so I am disposed to be a bit generous on the minor trouble points.

**Graduate Programs:**  
Physical and Biological Sciences Jonathan Spaihts  
**Graduate Programs: Engineering** The Staff of The Princeton Review \*\*\*\*\*

Two relatively slim volumes of grad school listings and advice, these do not really seem to stand out from the reams of others except perhaps by their relatively low cost. The first lists sixty-one schools, the second one hundred and eight. Both present the relevant numerical information (admissions, student faculty ratios, etc.) and a bit

of qualitative info (weather, prestige, etc.) They refer extensively to something called "the Gorman score" without giving any discussion of what this is actually based on. Judging by the Caltech entries (they write it Cal Tech, I hate that) they're a bit out of date, their research clearly predates the opening of Avery. Still, if you want general advice on applying to grad schools and are mostly interested in the top places, I can see these being quite useful. Note: The writer of the Physical and Biological Sciences book occasionally attempts a pseudo-hip style of language in his writing; don't say I didn't warn you.



Your vegetables stay cool until they are used for cooking or on your plate at the salad bar!

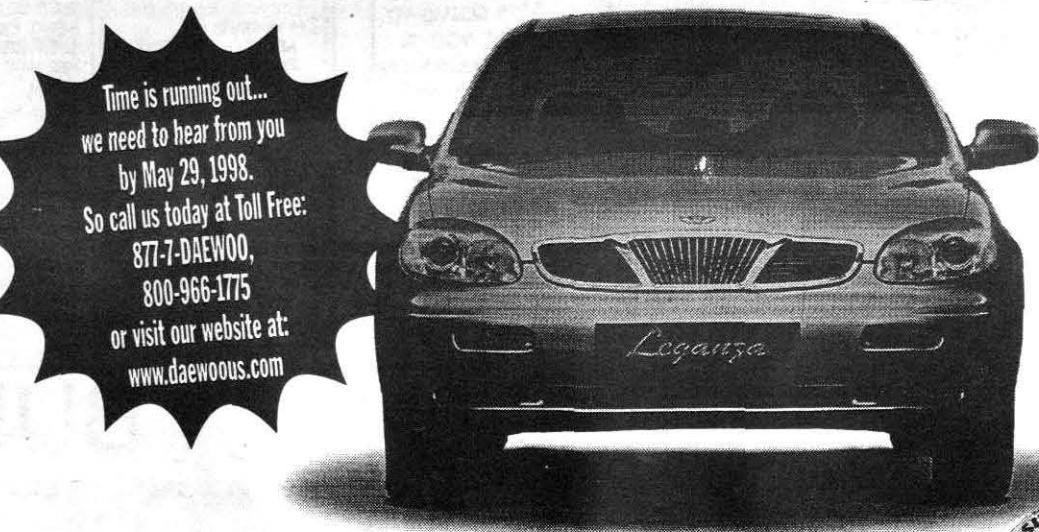
Another topic well worth addressing is the Caltech Dining Services survey. By filling this out and returning it, you enter yourself into a drawing where one lucky Techer will receive one night for two at the Ritz-Carlton hotel, along with a certificate good for a 100 dollar dinner for two. Also, the house with the most entries (weighted percentage of course) will get a party at Tom Mannion's house. The winner will be drawn at the Olive Walk dinner June 5th. Which reminds me...

**OLIVE WALK DINNER JUNE 5th.** This will be a luau complete with a roasted pig and a smoothy bar. It should be fun for all Seniors finishing finals, and for the rest of us about to start them.

That about covers it for now. As always if you have any questions or concerns about food at Caltech please contact me at [tytell@cco](mailto:tytell@cco).

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\* Complete details will be provided at a later date.  
\*\* Rules of this program may vary to comply with various state regulations.  
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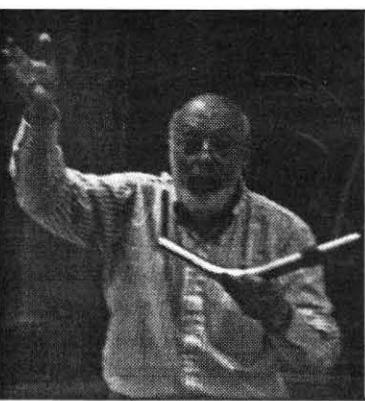
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# Dean's Corner

## How Unique is your Problem?

by Jean-Paul Revel

my time on

Prof.'s problems, I am concerned about the students.

They are losing the supports that were extended to them in childhood, and have to begin assuming adult responsibility for their own welfare. They have to complete adjusting to their sexuality, the physical manifestation of which began just a very few years ago. All this while their image of themselves has to undergo other changes as well. Heretofore in their High Schools they were tops in their classes, superachievers all, piling success on academic success, recognized by their peers and teachers alike. They are now here at Caltech however, with this source of satisfaction removed. They can't be all at the top of the class, statistics prevent it. They have to work, when previously many could coast. They need to discipline themselves; it is hard and discouragement sets in, feelings of worthlessness that they don't know how to deal with. They may feel alone, abandoned by their parents, or they may resent parents' continuing need to be there and "interfere" with their life. It is a tough tough thing to have to build a whole new way for oneself. Along with that there is often loneliness too. They had to leave behind all their friends and start to make new ones. The importance of social isolation is emphasized by the statistic that there is a much higher level of suicides among foreign students.

All of you, the students and all of us, the Professors have come to Caltech as a result of winning in a very exhaustive examination for our abilities. Professors are hired on the basis of their past or promised achievement as determined by "Search Committees" which canvas widely in search of the most competent, the most original, the most promising men or women in particular fields. They must be able to serve as role models for our students, and to enhance the reputation of Caltech, thus ensuring that it will continue to attract more of the best of researchers and students alike. But I don't want to spend

All of the things we talked about above cause anguish and pain, which can build up to more than a person can bear. How much anyone can bear is highly variable depending for example on whether clinical depression is present. Obviously depressed people can bear less than inveterate optimists. But then neither depression nor optimism is a fact external to us, a reality of the world around us. It is a state of mind, a result of the state or constitution of our brain and how it functions, and can in fact be modified. It is part of the way in which we perceive the things that are happening to us. The story of the Cannibals and the Missionaries illustrates how difference in perception affects behavior of different groups of people, but the metaphor also holds for individuals. The Missionaries pull their boat on the beach, stow their oars and disembark, hands extended with gifts, wide smiles on their faces, encouraging the natives to approach. But the natives see them as peculiar beings, with funny hats and repulsive beards, threatening them by showing their teeth and snarling at them. They are convinced that these newcomers are a threat to them, which they probably are, but not in the way they see it. The Missionaries end up in the pot, wondering why their approach was spurned and why they have been abandoned by heaven. There was only one external reality, the appearance of the Missionaries and the faces they made. What was different was the interpretation of what the faces meant. In-

dividuals can react quite differently to the same set of circumstances, which in some people could produce unbearable stress and pain, and could be well tolerated by others.

What determines the amount of pain that anyone can stand? That depends on how strong one is, whether one is already depressed, so that even a little more pain will break us, or not. The interesting thing is that we can modify our level of depression, the amount of pain than can be tolerated. It depends on the way the synapses in our brain function. Viewed in a very simplistic way, the way we feel is modulated by the activity of specific sets of synapses in our brain. A synapse is the place where two nerve cells come close to each other and interact. An article in the June issue of Scientific American describes what we now understand as the biological basis for depression. Brain cells communicate commonly by the exchange of signals in the form of molecules of neurotransmitter. In most cases there is a unidirectional exchange, that is one of the two cells participating in a synapse, the presynaptic cell, releases molecules of neurotransmitter into the extracellular space. The second, or postsynaptic cell's processes has receptors which can specifically bind the neurotransmitter molecules. Once a receptor has a molecule bound to it, it changes its molecular configuration and this signals the postsynaptic neuron that its receptors have bound neurotransmitter, and thus cause the second neuron to stimulate the next one(s) in the chain. If the concentration of neurotransmitter is high, then the occupancy of receptors is high and there is constant stimulation. If the neurotransmitter concentration is low, then the receptor-neurotransmitter complex dissociates and stimulation stops. The activity of neu-

ronal circuits which use serotonin apparently contributes to mood. Low serotonin levels are associated with depression. One particularly successful way to raise the serotonin concentration has been to inhibit the reuptake of released transmitter by using drugs such as Prozac. Reuptake by the cells that released it is the normal mechanism by which neurotransmitter is removed. Preventing the reuptake makes the stimulation last longer and thus positively affects the mood of the person who takes the drug.

Mood of course can be affected in many different ways, although they all impinge on the same neuronal circuits. So when you suffer, gather the courage to talk to someone. You may feel threatened by this, worried that it would reflect badly on you. So maybe talk to a Counselor, a trained professional. Not that you should really fear your RA, or Advisor, or Dean. Or talk to someone outside of Caltech, a Minister for example. Don't try to deal with your problems alone. Maybe you should try to do something that is fun, truly fun, something that you can concentrate on and gain satisfaction from doing. Going to Magic Mountain may not do it, you may have fun while doing it, but feel it was a waste of precious time afterwards. You are already stressed and don't want to add to it. But remember there is nothing shameful about having these fears, these stresses, most of us have them, I hate to tell you, you are not unique.

A bientot!

*Jean Paul Revel*

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## Announcements

**May is Public Relations Contest Month.** Enter the first contest, "Turn Your Old Lab Notes into Food!", by sending a clean xerox copy of your favorite page of lab notes to mail stop 1-71, attention: dipalma. The most interesting/creative/bizarre entries will be used to illustrate "the poetry of the laboratory" in the new Admissions view book. The creator will get a gift certificate for coffee and/or dessert. Illustrated lab notes are especially welcome.

The second contest in **Public Relations Contest Month** is "Your Caltech in Print!" If you're tired of the way Tech is pictured in official Institute publications then here's your chance to show the world what it's really like. The first five undergrads who send email (subject: Photos) to [dipalma@Caltech.edu](mailto:dipalma@Caltech.edu) will get a free camera and film, and a week to use them. The best pictures will be published in the new view book.

**Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum** will publish and award cash prizes to 35 poets entering their *Poetic Achievements Awards* poetry contest. All entrants into the contest are automatically eligible for their *Poet of the Year* award to win one of three publishing contracts. Poems should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. G, 609 Main St., PO Box 193, Sisterville, WV 26175-0193, or <http://www.tinplace.com/sparrow>. For more information contact Patricia Flanagan at (304) 652-1449.

Weekly open **IHC meetings** have now been permanently moved to Thursdays at midnight.

Nominations are now open for the offices of 98-99 **Big T Editor and Business Manager**. Interested individuals can nominate themselves by signing up on the door of the ASCIT/IHC office (SAC 33).

**Free anonymous HIV testing**, using an oral HIV antibody test, is available every Monday evening from 6-8 pm at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena. Persons wishing to be tested may make an appointment by calling, toll-free, (888)488-9242, or (626)441-8495. Walk-ins are also accepted. Both pre- and post-test counseling is provided, and results will be given the following Monday.

**The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30pm until 10pm in the Health

Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation – only that she or he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

## Events

There will be a **jazz concert** in Dabney lounge entitled "WestCoasting: A Lecture and Concert," at 3:30pm Sunday, May 31st. It will feature a short lecture on the history of west coast jazz followed by a concert both of which will be conducted by Hersh Hammel. The concert is free; for further information call x4652.

**TACIT** will be presenting "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," a play by Frank McGuinness. Their performances will be in the Underground Theater, SAC 50. For information call x4652.

† The William Bennett Munro Memorial Seminar, "How to Do Things with Things (A Toy Story)," will be given in the Judy Library, 110 Baxter, at 4pm, Monday, June 1st. It will be given by Bill Brown, associate professor of English, University of Chicago. Refreshments will be served.

† The Safety Office will be having an open house in room 25 of Keith Spalding, 10am-2pm, on Friday, June 5th, to celebrate over 50 years of service to the Caltech community. Refreshments will be served and door prizes raffled.

† The Pasadena Community Orchestra will have a concert in the Sierra Madre Memorial Park, 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd., on Saturday, June 20th, at 6:30. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated. For information call (626) 445-6708.

† The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) opens *The Marcia Simon Wisman Study Center for Works on Paper* on June 23rd. The facility is located on the south side of the Sculpture Plaza at MOCA (250 South Grand Avenue in downtown LA). During the first week the exhibit will be open to the public. Students with ID get in for \$4, admission is free for all every Thursday from 5 to 8pm.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series** of Southern California is moving into its second season. The events will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on five remaining dates, at 8pm. Mark Victor Hansen will be speaking on June 10th. For information, call (800) 508-9301.

## Mints

† denotes a new announcement.

For most Caltech events listed, further information can be obtained by calling 395-4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH, or through the Caltech website, <http://www.caltech.edu>. Special discounts are available for most shows for Caltech/JPL students, staff, and faculty.

## Fellowships and Scholarships

ship Program (UGSP) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 15 competitive scholarships to support top undergraduate students who are committed to pursue careers in biomedical research. Awards are up to \$20,000 per year. To qualify, a student must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident, be enrolled in or accepted by an accredited undergraduate institution, and carry a GPA of 3.5 or better or be in the top 5% of his/her class. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate extreme economic need or come from a disadvantaged background. For each year of scholarship, the student will fulfill a 10-week summer research/mentoring program and after graduation, fulfill one year of full-time employment, both at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. **UFA**

Working or studying in **New York City** this summer? Educational Housing is a nonprofit group that helps students locate safe, reasonably priced New York housing. For more info, visit [www.studenthousing.org](http://www.studenthousing.org). **FAR**

**Work in Britain** this summer or next fall: The British Universities North America Club (BUNAC) offers a special student work permit for \$225, valid for 6 months, allowing U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age to legally work in Britain at any time of the year. Jobs can be prearranged, or students can just go to Britain and find jobs (most students find work within a week of arrival). BUNAC's program also provides participants with a helpful manual and a job hunting center in London. BUNAC can also prearrange your first 3 nights of lodging in London. Applications and further information are available in Fellowships Advising. Visit BUNAC's Work in Britain site at <http://www.BUNAC.org>. **FAR**

**Washington Summer Science and Technology Policy Program** for advanced Undergraduates is a rigorous six-week, 7-credit program of study and writing, combined with practical internship experience and on-site briefings by people important to shaping Science and Technology policy. It runs from June 13 to July 25, 1998. Details are available at <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/cge>. **FAR**

The National Institutes of Health's Undergraduate Scholar-

cation Fund, Attention: R. James Cougle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B5G4. Filing dates for mailing applications in 1998 are June 1st and November 15th. **UFA**

The **1998 BFGoodrich Collegiate Inventors Program (BFG-CIP)** is seeking entries for this year's challenge. The program recognizes and rewards full-time college students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdocs) and faculty whose innovations, discoveries and research are deemed the year's most outstanding. Up to six student/advisor teams are awarded cash prizes totaling up to \$42,000. Students may enter as individuals or teams. The invention, idea or process submitted must be an original idea and the work of a student or team with his or her advisor. There is a June 2, 1998 deadline. For more information, call (330)849-6887 or e-mail [pkunce@invent.org](mailto:pkunce@invent.org). Applications are available on the web at <http://www.invent.org/bfg/bfghome.html>. **FAR**

The **Jewish Family and Children's Services** offers financial support for Jewish individuals and their families. Individuals may apply for up to \$5,000. Special scholarships are available for study in Israel. Eligible students must have financial need, have at least a 3.0 GPA., and be residents of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin or Sonoma counties, or the Bay Area. There are no deadlines—applications are accepted throughout the year and are available in the Financial Aid Office. **UFA**

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

**FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.**

For information, please contact [lauran\\_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu](mailto:lauran_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu). To make an appointment, call x2150.

**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, and the editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material