

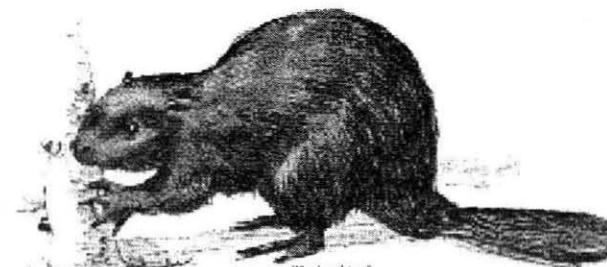
SWE

finals movie schedule • moore 070

Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri.

Sliding Doors Farewell My Concubine Something about Mary

Lethal Weapon 4
Contact Conspiracy Theory



anime club movie!

Kiki's Delivery Service

9pm • Saturday

see Club Room A

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 21

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999

TECH EDITORS GIVE THEIR FAREWELL

BY ERIK DILL ET AL.

It has been a long year. Thirty-four issues of the California Tech have been published since the previous editorial team surrendered the reins late last February. Thirty-four weeks of donuts and a one a.m. splurge, thirty-two weeks of Dilbert and Foxtrot, thirty-three Dean's columns (plus one surrogate), four business managers, a new Institute president, the Ricketts Pot, Coffeehouse reorganization, Professor Emetrius, Fun with Food, a live Ditch-Day electric chair, remodeling of Winnett, the passing of an undergraduate, alumni and past faculty, big donations for biology and financial aid, sculpture by way of Apollo and Chandler toilets, some heavy-duty Riveting, and finally Falstaff, a shiny new, functional printer to spread the news with: it has also been an eventful year in the publications office.

With the help of our small, dedicated staff, five of us added journalism to the standard Tech repertoire and set out to report the defining experiences of the Caltech community. We promptly found out that the experiences defining the Caltech community primarily involve studying and brief flashes of publicity for months or years of research. These are not exactly the ideal conditions for producing a newspaper, but somehow everything came together on a weekly basis. The superficial lack of interesting events forced us to dig a little and discover the fundamental elements of the Institute universe. In a never-ending, ravenous search for each week's front page, we witnessed an endless panoply of individuals bringing their interests, concerns and daily lives together.

By the end of that year, the editorial team had been whittled down to three by graduations. Owing to experience, and acquisition of a functional printer, the paper still came out. We even came across some stories that needed to be written, not just to fill white space, but because the information and associated opinions needed to be brought to light. After a year in the pub-

PLEASE SEE EDITORS ON PAGE 2

Pseudoscience may have merit

Dr. Tony Rothman advises that scientific principles may require second thought

BY DAVID GUSKIN

In the final analysis, it may be better to let "wackos" spout unconventional theories about the relationship of physics to the modern world, according to Dr. Tony Rothman who spoke at the Skeptics' Society lecture on Wednesday, claiming that some tiny bit of their pseudoscience may turn out to be the real thing.

The lecture opened with an introduction by Michael Shermer, the publisher of the society's magazine, *Skeptic*, and doctor of evolutionary biology. Shermer spoke on the difference between science and pseudoscience, giving a few humorous examples including the newly-discovered element Administratium and deep questions like "before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?" Dr. Shermer then made the point that the primary tool for discerning science from pseudoscience was the idea of peer review.

"If someone's got a theory, someone else will try to debunk it," concluded Shermer.

Shermer proceeded to introduce the speaker, Dr. Tony Rothman, explaining that his new book *Doubt and Certainty* attempts to take an objective view on the validity of knowl-

edge out," comments Rothman, explaining that certainty is the result of numerous interplaying doubts and skepticisms.

Rothman's book is written in fiction style, with dialogues among characters and characters ballying back and forth on the

...much less air time has been given to things like solid-state physics...and plasma physics...than has been given to cosmology and superstrings, which have no practical use at all...

edge. Rothman, a professor at Wesleyan in Illinois and an avid writer of books and screenplays, sets his stage at an Academy where scholars from all times and schools of thought can interact and theorize together.

"I've set up an academy where scholars from all ages can meet and beat each other's

great questions of science.

Dr. Rothman explained that nearly all of our current civilization's scientific knowledge has arisen from subjective interpretations of natural laws. In addition, the public has often attempted to incorporate new concepts in physics, such as the Big Bang and relativity, into ev-

eryday culture. However, these interpretations of the science behind physical events don't always reflect the most practical or useful aspects of science, and they can often lead to misinterpretations of science as pseudoscience and vice versa.

"[Historically,] much less air time has been given to things like solid-state physics, which has given us modern electronics, and plasma physics, which may give us nuclear fusion in the future, than has been given to cosmology and superstrings, which have no practical use at all," said Rothman.

His book addresses, among many other aspects of science, some of the more fundamental questions of physical law. These questions include:

- Why is there 'left' and 'right'?
- Why does time go forward?
- Is science relative or absolute?
- Is there a Theory of Everything?
- Is space curved?
- Can math describe nature?

PLEASE SEE SKEPTICS ON PAGE 2

ASCIT general election results

TURNOUT BY House

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|----|
| Online | 81 | Lloyd | 34 |
| Blacker | 40 | Page | 22 |
| Dabney | 20 | Ricketts | 20 |
| Fleming | 58 | Ruddock | 41 |

ASCIT Secretary

| | Tom Snyder | Clifford Hicks | Hanna Kim | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|----------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 51 | 73 | 135 | 31 | 11 | 15 |
| redistribution | 51 | 74 | 138 | -- | 11 | 46 |

Absolute Majority: 136

ASCIT Treasurer

| | Danny Abrams | Sean McHugh | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 110 | 107 | 36 | 5 | 58 |
| redistribution | 112 | 107 | -- | 5 | 96 |

Absolute Majority: 111

IHC Chair

| | Jaideep Singh | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-----------|---------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 233 | 58 | 14 | 13 |

Absolute Majority: 152

BoC Secretary

| | Kevin Bradley | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-----------|---------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 186 | 78 | 11 | 41 |

Absolute Majority: 139

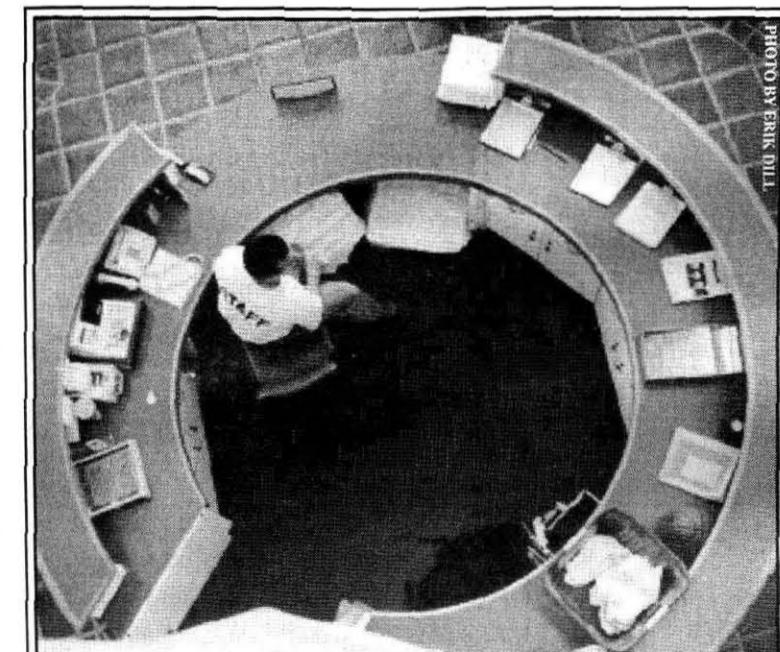
California Tech Editor

| | David Guskin | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-----------|--------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 205 | 50 | 13 | 42 |

Absolute Majority: 138

CONTINUED...

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ELECTIONS ON PAGE 2



In a freak accident, quantum experiments transform the Braun Athletics facility front desk into a stargate.

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| Letters to the Editor..... | 5 |

ASCIT general election results

(cont.)

Academic Director

| | Melvin Leok | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 190 | 75 | 11 | 39 |
| <i>Absolute Majority: 140</i> | | | | |

Social Director

| | Brad Reynolds | Garrett Heffner | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 83 | 106 | 64 | 9 | 53 |
| redistribution | 86 | 106 | -- | -- | 135 |
| <i>Absolute Majority: 92</i> | | | | | |

Upperclassman Director-at-Large

| | Jeremiah Smith | Eric Hale | Scott Bruce | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 173 | 81 | 20 | 19 | 7 | 16 |
| <i>Absolute Majority: 151</i> | | | | | | |

Freshman Director-at-Large

| | Todd Bowra | Derek Shannon | Michael Hochburg | NO | W/I | Abs. |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|----|-----|------|
| first run | 42 | 105 | 20 | 58 | 17 | 74 |
| redistribution | 45 | 108 | 20 | -- | -- | 143 |
| <i>Absolute Majority: 151</i> | | | | | | |

Respectfully Submitted,


Peter J. Freese
ASCIT Elections Chair

EDITORS SAY GOODBYE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cations office, it became blindingly clear that this job is not done for the glory, nor for the honor, prestige, or GPA. None of those motivations would have survived the first week. At the heart of all journalism is the fundamental necessity to disseminate elements of the human experience. Good journalism should bring people closer by revealing the random

events of life which evoke the pure anger, joy, frustration, sorrow and elation that are the only true common elements in our existence. On occasion, we have succeeded in these lofty aspirations. On others, we have shown the events which make Caltech such an interesting, dynamic intellectual community. Sometimes we stumbled - the road between science and journalism

is long and arduous - but Dilbert still came out on a regular basis.

In retrospect, it was a long year, but certainly fruitful. Hopefully, the campus community has benefitted as much from the joy and the pain as we have. Now, as our predecessors have done, we surrender the reins to the next editorial team. Good luck Dave.

SKEPTICS STUDY CERTAINTY, DOUBT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rothman attempts to show that none of these questions can be answered with complete certainty, using his Academy construct to show the reader that science is by no means perfect science.

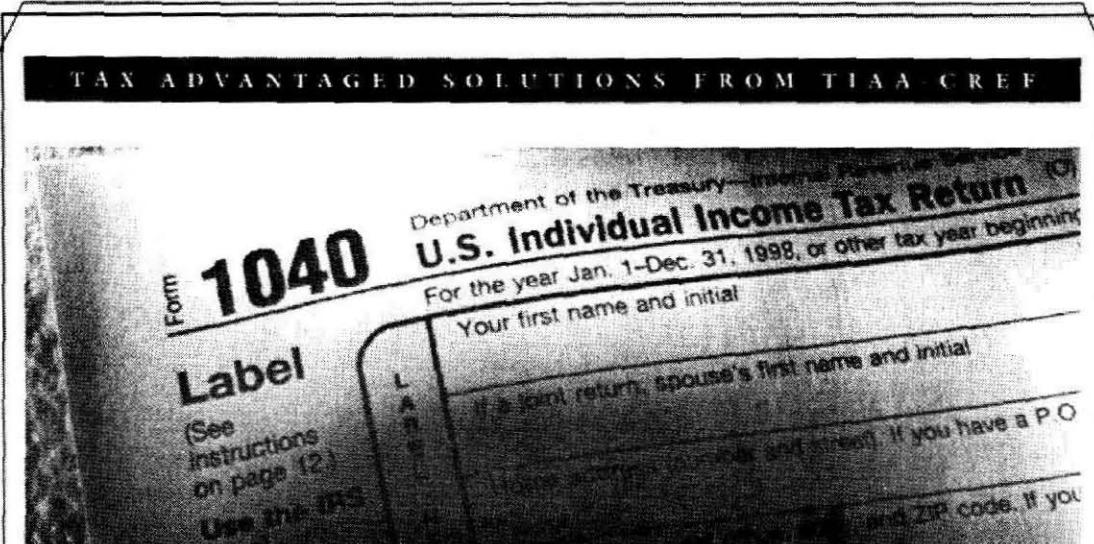
Rothman concluded by calling attention to the fact that many of most sacred scientific

principles are hard-pressed when asked to deal with non-ideal situations. He cited the oscillation of a pendulum as example of the failure of mathematics to describe accurately certain phenomena of nature.

"As long as the oscillations remain small, the math is simple and the motion is simple har-

monic. But once you get to larger swings, you can approximate from now until the crayfish whistles on the hill, but you won't get anywhere."

The next Skeptics Society lecture is Sunday, March 28th at 2pm, in Baxter, on *The Hidden Book in the Bible*, given by Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman.



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The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest and Tech Staff

BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA: "Yup, they're still fighting." A second of peace talks are scheduled to begin in France this coming Monday, but most officials involved in the current round of peace discussions don't anticipate that the fighting will end because of this conference.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA: The bodies of the three Americans believed to have been kidnapped last week by Colombian rebels were discovered last Friday in western Venezuela. In the past week, Colombia's left wing FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), a Marxist rebel group responsible for 60% of Colombia's 2,000 annual abductions, has claimed responsibility. Supposedly, "Commander Gildardo," a low-level guerrilla ordered the murders, but the Colombian government is asserting that this man is being used as a scapegoat for German Briceno, who is the brother of FARC's second in command, Jorge Briceno.

EAST TIMOR: The East Timorese people will soon have the opportunity to vote on a plan offering them "wide-ranging autonomy" within Indonesia. East Timor is a former Portuguese colony that was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and was annexed a year later. If the people reject the autonomy vote as is expected, Indonesia will offer the country full independence.

WALPORT, OREGON: The wreck of the New Carissa was sunk on Thursday was sunk by a Navy destroyer after firing over 70 shells into it. The ship ran aground off of Coos Bay on February 4th of this year, and has been spilling oil there since. Six hundred dead birds were found nearby.

REDMOND, WASHINGTON: On Wednesday Microsoft acknowledged a security flaw in Window NT that could allow a person to gain superuser privileges. Microsoft hopes that a patch will be available by the end of the week.

DEATHS: Justice Harry S. Blackmun, who will be best remembered for his role in the historic Roe V. Wade court decision, died last Friday. Stanley Kubrick, the prolific and groundbreaking film director, died last Sunday. Joe DiMaggio, the Hall of Fame baseball player, died last Monday.

CULTURE SHOCK

by Cheryl Forest

Auditions - TACIT "The Trojan Women" by Euripides Friday, March 12: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14: 2:00 p.m. Dabney Lounge Contact Shirley Marneus at 396-6259 for more information.

Pilgrimage Across Europe narrated by William Stockdale Friday, March 12, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. Beckman Auditorium Spend a summer and part of the fall with a couple following their secret star on a pilgrimage that takes them from Wales to Romania, and finally to Portugal. This event is part of the Armchair Adventures Travel Film Series.

Boys of the Lough Saturday, March 13, 1999 Beckman Auditorium This Celtic quintet represents the rich musical heritages of Ireland, England, Scotland, and the Shetland Islands.

The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio Sunday, March 14, 1999 at 3:30 p.m. Beckman Auditorium. The group will be performing: Haydn's Piano Trio in A Major, Hob. XV:18; Ravel's Piano Trio (1914); and Brahms's Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo Friday, March 19, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. Beckman Auditorium The South African a cappella group who made an impression on the world singing backup on Paul Simon's Graceland album.

From the Dungeon...

"Calling People Trash: A Macintosh Computer's Psychological Problem"

My first face-to-face encounter with a Mac was when, as an undergraduate working late one night in a lab, I dared insert a floppy disk into the slot which I have since come to know as the black slot. When I was done working, I had the perhaps silly pretension of getting my disk back. I looked for an eject button, but alas, without success. After a long while of imploring this computer with personality to return my precious data, I had the good fortune of a passer-by telling me to throw my disk to the trash. 'What?! My disk, to the trash?!" Reassured that the trash actually represented *me*, and that if I moved the disk there it would finally move to me, I hesitatingly did so. Bad start: any computer who calls its user trash has a serious psychological problem. But then again, who doesn't have a psychological problem, and so I learned to live with Macs' incomplete command of the English language.

But last week, the psychological problem went physical, and became real impotence. My Mac was having a bad day, and decided not to load the operating system. 'Fine', I said,

'could I just have my disk back?' And then I remembered: a Mac does not even remember I am trash if unable to boot. My User's Guide gave the obvious answer: press Shift-Apple-1. My Mac responded with a blank stare. The *Owner's Guide* was helpless, as was *Getting Started*. Obviously, ejecting a disk was not a good place to start. Finally, after I had become a Mac librarian, I found a source of disc-ejecting knowledge: the *Mac Reference* suggested I boot the computer while pressing the mouse button (and holding my left little finger to the back of my head, for luck). This self-evident procedure produced the response that should have by now been as obvious: none at all.

My manual had but one more recipe before sending me to the all-powerful nearest Mac dealer. 'Take a pin', it said, 'straighten it and insert it into the tiny hole beside the disk slot until the disk is ejected'. Finding a pin late at night was not trivial, but doable. The real problem was when I found out there was a size mismatch: my 'normal' pin wasn't up to the job, and would not satisfy the black

hole into yielding the promised prize. It took finding a *big strong* pin to do the job. And believe it or not, several hours after I had begun, I finally got my disk back.

So if you ever wonder who invented eject buttons, you know now it was a heck of a smart man (or woman). And you know he or she never worked for Apple. With many software firms discontinuing Mac support these days, it is not uncommon to read about concern for Apple Computer's future. Now you know what Apple's *real* problem is.

And talking about misnomers, one last illuminating fact for all of those lonely Techers out there: look up 'unable to get a date' in Microsoft Word's Thesaurus. Believe me that it's worth it. You'll scarcely believe your eyes when you see how honest Bill Gates can be.

Alex Backer
alex@caltech.edu

From the Dungeon... is a column done in cooperation with the Graduate Student Council meant to cover graduate student issues. Alex Backer is a graduate student at Caltech.

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launch pad.

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Adam Villani: Media Guy

A Civil Action

John Travolta is more restrained and less annoying than usual in this courtroom drama based on the true-life Woburn, Mass. case in which a deep-pocketed factory poisoned the town's water, killing more than a dozen children from leukemia. With the notable exception of Kathleen Quinlan, who's just as wretched as she was in *Apollo 13*, the supporting cast is fantastic, populated with the likes of William H. Macy, Tony Shalhoub, Dan Hedaya, and Robert Duvall. The legal proceedings presented are far more interesting and entertaining than I'm sure they were in real life. My only real problem with the movie is that while the bulk of the film's pace was rather labored (though not boring), the last five minutes wrapped up so quickly they seemed like shorthand for material to make almost an entire second film. Using the source material's true-life status as an excuse for poor pacing is unacceptable to me; anyone who's seen *Rashomon* or read the Gospels knows there's more than one way to tell the same story.

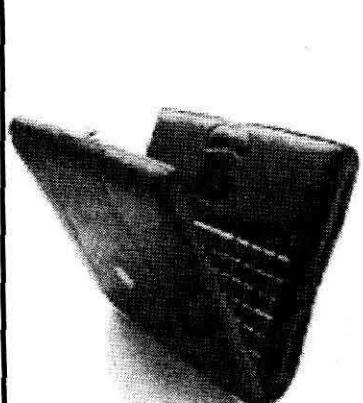
The film world lost one of its greatest directors on Sunday when Stanley Kubrick died in his sleep at home in England, just one week after shipping the final edit of his upcoming film *Eyes Wide Shut* to Warner Brothers. An American by birth, the notoriously reclusive Kubrick had moved to England in the 1960s to maintain his independence from the Hollywood studio system. Stanley Kubrick was one of my favorite directors; every one of

his intense and uncompromising films was good, and *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* are widely recognized as classics. In his latter years he grew increasingly meticulous, controlling every detail of his production, shooting dozens of takes for the most mundane scenes, and going years between films (his most recent movie, *Full Metal Jacket*, was released in 1987). We can all be thankful that he was able to finish one last film as his legacy.

Adam Villani's Past Movie Star Ratings

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| The Thin Red Line | 4.0 |
| The Celebration | 4.0 |
| Saving Private Ryan | 3.5 |
| Rushmore | 3.5 |
| Babe: Pig in the City | 3.5 |
| Life is Beautiful | 3.5 |
| Central Station | 3.5 |
| Shakespeare in Love | 3.5 |
| A Civil Action | 3.0 |
| Happiness | 3.0 |
| Prince of Egypt | 2.5 |
| Blast From the Past | 2.0 |
| Elizabeth | 2.0 |
| You've Got Mail | 1.5 |

A yacht
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of a dinghy.



BY KEVIN SCALDEFERRI

NYC Seafood

715 W. Garvey Ave.
Monterey Park
*** (out of 4)

If you're looking for good, authentic and reasonably priced Chinese food, the trip down to Monterey Park is well worth it. Of the large number of restaurants clustered around Atlantic and Garvey, this is my favorite.

There are a large number of soups on the menu, including a section dedicated entirely to shark fin soup (ranging from \$8 per person to over \$40). We went more conventional (and cheaper) with an order of the House Wanton Soup and the Hot and Sour Soup, both of which were \$8 for a bowl that could have served six people. Both soups featured an exceptionally high stuff-to-broth ratio. The house wanton was full of seafood and vegetables with truly monstrously sized wontons filled with pork and shrimp. The hot and sour, while not truly spicy, had much more zing to it than any you will find in Pasadena.

The entrees on the menu are quite varied and

uniformly good, but the seafood and the vegetarian items are the real standouts. The Eggplant Hot Pot was truly outstanding, one of the finest dishes I have had in any restaurant. Even the people at our table who normally don't like eggplant and don't consider it food if it doesn't have meat were raving about this dish.

The Rock Cod Fillet with Vegetables was delicately flavored and the fish was very fresh, although there could have been a little more of it.

The Szechuan String Beans were another wonderful vegetarian dish with the beans sauteed to just the right balance of tenderness and crispness. Again, carnivores should still go for it as long as there's meat dishes elsewhere on the table.

I personally don't like the Shrimp and Walnuts with Salad Sauce (or the same dish that goes by other names at other restaurants), but those who do like it said that this was the best version they have had.

The Szechuan Bean Curd was quite good, but not any better than I have had anywhere else. I recommend making the trip frequently.

this may be that this dish has tasted the same to me everywhere I've ever had it, so perhaps my tongue simply doesn't pick up on the subtleties of tofu.

The Chicken with Cashews was, well, chicken with cashews. Better than you'll get at Panda Express but I'd suggest experimenting a bit if you're going to drive this far.

The only really disappointing dish we had was the Squid with Vegetables. I've gotten good squid here before but this time it was much too tough, a problem that wasn't helped by the fact that the pieces were huge.

Also, most of the vegetable in this and the Rock Cod was piles of bok choy with a staggering amount of MSG. Like our soup, the "hot" dishes were only mildly spicy. I suspect that this problem can be fixed by specifically requesting that they be hot or by making sure your group includes several Asians.

All told, we stuffed ourselves for \$12 per person including tax and tip and we probably could have made due with one fewer entree. I recommend making the trip frequently.

Men's Tennis team gains first conference win

BY GERALD PALMROSE

With determination and grit, the Caltech men's tennis team fought its way to a 5-2 victory over the University of La Verne, thus earning their first conference win of the season.

The Beavers were led by #1 Matt Musick, who continued his strong play with a victory over his nemesis, David Dang of La Verne, 6-2, 6-4. Musick had previously never beaten Dang, but by playing a punishing back court game, he was able to control the points and roll along to victory.

Earlier on, both the #1 and #2 doubles teams were down in their matches, but both came back to win their prossets and put Caltech in the lead. Most notably, the #2 team of Eric Sherer and Jason Wong stormed back from 3-0 down to win 8-4 in convincing fashion.

The rest of the matches generally went in Caltech's favor, mainly because of Tech's extraordinary depth this year.

Coach Gillam remarked, "This is the best team that I have coached in my three years."

Tech also played two other matches in the past week, the first against Pomona-Pitzer and the second against Rochester. Both matches were deceptively 6-1 losses, with just a few key points determining several close matches.

The Beavers have one more match before spring break today against Colorado College, with whom they will have lunch with along with Rochester. Colorado College is ranked in the top 25 in Division III, and will certainly give Caltech one of its best challenges of the year.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

United States not totally at fault for deaths of innocent Iraqi citizens

Dear Sir or Madam -

It seems to me that an agent A is directly responsible for an outcome O if A makes a choice x that substantially contributes to the environment forming O (and thus, in a sense, helps to in fact define that O occurred) **and** if A had another feasible choice y that does not do so, i.e. after which one would not say that O had transpired.

In his letter of March 5, Mr. Philhour writes that a large number of innocent Iraqis have died as a direct consequence of U.S.-led sanctions, presumably implying that the U.S. government (A) is directly responsible for these deaths (O). I agree. However, it also follows that the Iraqi government (not people) is directly responsible for these deaths, since they have a choice (y), namely cooperation, that would have produced an entirely different outcome. There is no reason that more than one agent cannot be directly responsible for an outcome, and in fact this is most often the case. I fear that Mr. Philhour has succumbed to the temptation of trying to blame one person or organization for a bad outcome (as have many modern Americans, hence all the lawsuits that we observe), even if facts suggest otherwise.

Sincerely,
Julian Jamison

p.s. From my definition (or any other plausible one, or even common sense), God is also directly responsible for these sad deaths. I can sympathize with not choosing to single God out for blame, though, primarily because it is considerably less likely to have any impact.

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to:

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Pasadena, CA 91125

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innerspace

by Jason Meltzer

A Ray of Hope

I was surprised and heartened recently after reading a letter sent by a former Tech student concerning my last column. Surprised that someone actually reads my column and cares enough to send a letter about it and heartened by the content of the message. Apparently the last line of that article caught his attention: "One day, we will look back and say: 'College was the best time of my life!'" Right now, I sure hope not.

But if I go on myself any longer, there won't be room for the letter. So here it is, hopefully a ray of sunshine in a sometimes dimly dark world. Thanks again, Shal!

Pow! Like a bullet between the eyes, the last paragraph of your 2/26 Innerspace hit close to home. The short story: this is not necessarily the best time of your life; the best may be yet to come.

I flamed out during second term of my Junior year, in the spring of 1977. Valentine's day wasn't exactly the cause, but it didn't help any either. At the time I didn't admit to myself, much less to friends and family, that a driving force in my manic/depressive moods was simple loneliness. So my

angst was expressed in a much safer, less personal way: "I don't know what I want to do with my life." I talked of considering careers other than EE, linguistics perhaps.

My family didn't understand the depression that preceded the flame-out. They would attempt to reassure me that "you have everything going for you." In my bitter moods the silent rejoinder was "but no one going for me." One rainy day, cycling to campus from my apartment, I caught myself idly wondering about veering suddenly in front of oncoming trucks.

That focused my attention on what I was feeling. I visited a counselor at the health center. In one excruciating session he convinced me that he was far crazier than I would ever be. Seeing no hope of working through both my issues and my course work, I visited UASH. Then I had to tell my parents. That wasn't easy, but it didn't go as badly as I'd feared.

When I got home my parents were still baffled. Their misguided attempts to cheer me up included the assertion that I'd look back on these as "the best years of my life" (sound effect: clang! fol-

lowed by the fading echo). In what was probably the cruellest thing I ever did to my mother, I shot back: "If I truly believed that, I'd kill myself now."

Fast forward to 1988. I never did have a girlfriend while at tech, but afterward I had half a dozen serious relationships, lasting a few months to a couple years each. Then I finally found "the one." Those were turbulent years. Great joys, some disappointments. I did return to finish my junior year, and senior, graduating with a BS in E&AS (there was no EE at the time) a couple years later than originally planned. Afterward, several classmates and I founded a company. Some still worked there, some had left. Some of them had married, some had children. But I, at last, married my soulmate.

Fast forward to 1999. I still see my wedding as the first day of the best years of my life. My wife and I are expecting our third child, and first daughter. That company survives, even flourishes, and despite ups and downs, has provided me both professional satisfaction and financial comfort. I am profoundly happy with my life, to a degree I could never have imagined in 1977.

By the way, don't misunderstand me: I'm not advocating a leave of absence as a cure for anyone's case of angst. What I'm saying is that these feelings can fester, and by seeming insurmountable become insurmountable. Don't wallow in them, banish them. Easily said, not easily done; believe me, I know. It may take longer than you'd prefer, but things can and will get better. That's the long story.

Shal Farley

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FEATURES

The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

8MM

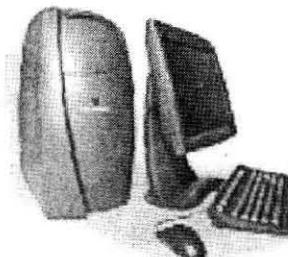
*+1/2 disturbing "suspense" thriller

Rated R for sex, bad sex, really bad sex, and brutality

Come rain or shine, there is nothing in this world that is certain except death, taxes, and well...it seems like porn too. Congress' futile attempts a few years ago to ban lewdness altogether from the Internet seems a shadow of a memory now that post-Showgirls, porn-surfaced 8mm has succeeded in at least attracting the glances of theater-goers and the pocketbooks of not just a

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few cinematic spectators.

8mm is one of those examples of movies where it pays to read a review prior to getting in the car. The movie trailer was absolutely misleading, with only a mild allusion to the hard-core sadomasochism which underlies the film, material which Joel Schumacher actually recreated in the course of making the movie (yikes, a step-backward from *Batman & Robin*). What the movie has created is definitely a disgust for the S&M industry, isolated as it is in the abject streets of urban LA, and not so much the "legal" stuff which has been integrated with the visage of the Playboy mansion. As sleazy as the hovels where it is manufactured or orgazmed, are the immoral invalids behind the camera, epitomized by a disgusting "talent" scout and partner S&M smut virtuoso director. But likewise, the film engenders no distinction between itself and what it has satisfied. The same glimpses of dehumanizing bondage and whatever is used to describe synthesized dirty acts except bestial copulation is as abound as a veritable porn film, to the degree of superfluity. Net result: this film is as dirty as the film it tries to portray.

In the film's beginning, private investigator Tom Welles (Nicholas Cage) is employed by a recently-widowed, frail lady coincidentally named Mrs. Christian who finds a disturbing rape-followed-by-slashing film among her deceased husband's private items, but not that the film's existence has already discredited her sicko husband already, authentic or not. Conscience guides her to send Welles on a mission to determine the veracity of film du snuff and the identity of the girl slashed on film, and hopefully to find the girl herself alive.

For a while, Welles follows shady clues half-heartedly in the belief that snuff flicks are just urban legend. In the course of his search for the first half of the movie, from gothy-dark drudgeville Harrisburg, PA to Hollywood and New York, there is a rather decent pace with a tinge of levity once Welles finds Max California (Joaquin Phoenix), a rather nonsensical, quirky guy who has the brains to elevate himself from the environment in which he has subjected himself, though he doesn't. One might

also be amused by the fact that a job has justified Welles' gallivanting in porn and ostracism of his wife (Catherine Keener) and baby girl Cinderella.

The film takes a bad turn once it introduces the underworld of pornography, which necessity has forced Welles to enter. The 8mm film is some pricey investment, not of the "home video" genre, and supposedly delicately produced and directed. Seriously, it's rather silly that such a degrading film has that kind of attached professionalism. The fact that there are these "professionals" making S&M media offers the coherence to the movie so that Welles can actually look through existing stuff on the market and determine the identity of the snuff film makers based on similar style points. In the process, the audience is introduced to those smiley, happy faced people in dark rooms watching and doing the devil's work, and as Monsieur Max Cal says "You dance with the devil, the Devil don't change, the Devil Changed you."

Welles for the most part, seems immune, and only in such character-clinching moments, in front of the mirror murmuring "I'll be okay" (immortalized in the movie trailer now), does he really seem fazed by the material. But his sudden display of emotion is almost unwanted behavior. When Cage escapes with his life, his first reaction is to drive, in his stern-faced sullen self way, and only at cinematically convenient times does he question the human struggle. Is this a characteristic of private investigators, to detach oneself from the subject to such an extent? Well, pragmatically so, but there seems a limit in which even a dedication to occupation is superseded by feelings. Indeed, Welles questions his humanity, but it comes and goes with the regularity of an on-off switch. While the rare occasional glimpses of the mortal struggle are meant to assert Welles' humanity, there is nevertheless a machinelike nature to Cage's character, and likewise to the trite conclusion meant for cinematic suspense.

As the film passed its halfway point, there is something disastrously missing and wrong, that is inherently linked with the fact that there can't be a decent film made about porn. The elements of the plot do provide a cohesive story—if so and so hadn't done this at this time, or if she hadn't killed herself at the time, etc. there would have been further breakdown of the story, so it's hard to conceive of any changes making the story better. But thank goodness we don't know of any real stories to compare this movie to, and to know what it should have been like.

200 Cigarettes

**** romantic comedy

Rated-R (implied naughty tummies, people under the influ-

ence of booze, language, and the bad style of early '80s pop culture)

The glitz hours before the midnight countdown circa the birth of the MTV revolution in the city that never sleeps, presented courtesy of lonely, boozed-up people looking for love. Seemingly a typical, potential-tragedy-turn-for-the-better romantic comedy, but let's compare *200 Cigs* with its young, rising star prowess and Kevin Costner's *Message in a Bottle* or Andy Garcia's *Just the Ticket* shall we? Ever since the bottom-baring *Dances with Wolves*, Kevin Costner hasn't made a single decent movie, underwater fishy guy or mail office vigilante otherwise. And here, he's deciding between the choice of chastity out of respect for the love of his life, his deceased wife, or a new romance with a chic, likewise starry-eyed romantic.

Few writers, though, will ever come up with an on-screen or on-stage love affair as moving as Shakespeare or Tom Stoppard, so here we have the case of a serious romance ill-timed in the wake of Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow. *Just the Ticket* is likewise self-destructive. The theme of opposites attracting, this time in the guise of a low-life ticket scalper and a more conservative type who dumps him once is so trite and *When Harry Met Sally/You've Got Mail*-esque, without the whole quality thing. Anyway, I haven't seen the two, but based on LA Times, Washington Post, and Entertainment Weekly, I'd have to admit to being at least swayed by this popular opinion.

The recent release of *200 Cigarettes* was unfortunately little noticed, with little hype from MTV productions. New Year's Eve 1981 in NYC, however, will never be more popular. What's particularly astounding is that despite the huge cast, and each character getting a very limited amount of on-screen presence, there is so much character development over the course of their seemingly shallow and quirky minute-time-span conversations. The film strings together a series of elegant little vignettes, each focussing on a pair, just friends or maybe more, and their common goal of arriving at a potentially dead party in Noho (North of Houston Street). The New Year always serves as a time of introspection and what unites the teens and twenty-somethings is their common loneliness, though some are more cognizant of this than others.

The central figures Kevin (Paul Rudd) and Lucy (Courtney Love, amazingly awesome) share a *Friends*-ish platonic relationship. The mutuality for the moment, though, is compromised as Kevin drowns in his misery over a breakup with ex-live-in girlfriend "Mad Woman Ellie" (Janeane Garofalo), the stage artist emblem of feminism who makes less than graceful appear-

ances. Lucy is then forced to work overtime bearing the company of her chronically love-cursed good friend, though his state of misery is a nice thing to have around for the sake of feeling better than him.

The primacy of enjoying life at this happy time in the year mixed with the anxiety of never finding someone to be with on New Year's leads some to do rather kooky things. But despite their rather hedonistic intents, boozing, smoking, and looking for booty (for the sake of not being jinxed for the remainder of the year) with disregard to '90s-esque problems like STD's, there is an underlying sentimental quality. Sex is not the only thing that they're looking for, though the one-night stand mentality of NYC New Year's culture has crafted dates for the primary purpose of lust.

They're twenty-something, but there's an almost crushing sense of junior-high anxieties, peer-pressure to enjoy themselves, if just for a day in spite of their personal miseries. To smoke and drink and treat each other like crap as the inducers and lowered inhibitions dictate that jeopardize the potential of intimacy and extended happiness. Forcing gratification upon themselves like some rite of passage in the name of convention introduces themselves to their own shallowness, in rather comical ways. For two artsy-type ladies, they realize the hard way that their search for dates for the sake of having one has thrust them into the company of losers, an attractive, but nonetheless corny, bartender, for example, asking such character-defaming questions as "Would you like your eggs scrambled or fertilized?" Lewdness though, isn't prevalent in the movie, and is only used as a means for greater cinematic levity.

With strong performances from a diverse cast, and all due respect for the coherence of the story despite the many characters the audience has to keep track of, there's nothing missing from the film. Friendship, as epitomized in the film, is a such a good thing. Chastity, though, can be compromised, but the characters who meet their happy endings (via horizontal polka) do so out of what they think is love. For those are pooh-poohed by the audience to begin with, there is deserving retribution. Lovely one-liners and amusing dialogue an hour and a half later...voila, the efficacy of movies to put you in a good mood. A must-see movie to cap a month of otherwise crappy ones.

Starring: Christina Ricci, Ben Affleck, Casey Affleck, Paul Rudd, Courtney Love, Martha Pimpton, Dave Chappelle, Jay Mohr, Gaby Hoffman, Catherine Kellner, Janeane Garofalo



Adam Villani, Media Guy: 1998 Movie Armageddon

The upcoming Oscar ceremony marks the end of the 1998 movie season, and I hereby present to you, the reader, my summation of the year in film. I saw fifty-three new 1998 releases, and about of equal number of older feature films in repertory or on video. As always, I try to be selective and avoid movies I don't think I'll like, so I thought the majority of films I saw were pretty good. Most reviewers don't have that luxury, and I salute them for sitting through movies far worse than *Lethal Weapon 4*, which was the worst motion picture I saw last year, but was at least entertaining in its own ludicrous way. Note that the Oscar ceremony has been switched this year to a Sunday, March 21.

Top Ten Films of 1998

Ranking and rating films is always a difficult affair, but it is nice to put the year in a capsule by presenting a ten best list. Some decisions come easy, like putting *The Thin Red Line* and *Fireworks (Hana-Bi)* at the top of the list, but with outstanding movies being so different in aim and subject matter, figuring out whether to rank *Bulworth* or *Taste of Cherry* higher becomes a dicey affair indeed. One movie in particular I left off this list but might have otherwise put on was Roberto Benigni's touching Holocaust comedy *Life is Beautiful*. This beautiful film is one of the few movies to bring me to tears, but it was a unique motion picture that I had enough reservations with that I decided to place it out of competition, in a category of special regard all its own.

1. The Thin Red Line Watching Terence Malick's poetic meditation on war was the most engrossing cinematic experience of 1998. It asks difficult questions and offers no easy answers.

2. Fireworks (Hana-Bi) Writer/Director/Actor/Editor/Painter Takeshi Kitano was the most astonishing new find of the year (he also directed *Sonatine*). This is a true work of art, juxtaposing sublime beauty and shocking violence.

3. The Celebration Every scene in Lars von Trier protege Thomas Vinterberg's bare-bones family drama rings of truth and immediacy.

4. Henry Fool My first Hal Hartley film, I was engrossed from the first frame. Both humorous and intensely dramatic, *Henry Fool* deals with both grand and personal issues. Awesome diarrhea/marriage proposal scene, too.

5. The Kingdom II This continuation of *The Kingdom* develops the characters further and is funnier than the first film. Udo Kier as a half-demon baby with 2-meter limbs supported by an aluminum frame is by far 1998's weirdest image on film.

6. Taste of Cherry Abbas Kiarostami's low-key drama about an unnamed man searching the streets of Teheran looking for someone to help kill himself was mysterious, contemplative, and sad.

7. Saving Private Ryan Simplistic yet supremely crafted, *Saving Private Ryan* has quickly established itself in this country's psyche as a landmark war

film.

8. He Got Game When are people going to realize that Spike Lee is one of this country's best and most important directors? *He Got Game* shows Lee's mastery of expressing ideas and telling stories through cinema.

9. Bulworth Warren Beatty's 1998 project said the things I'd been wanting to hear for a long time and was pretty damn funny, too. Too bad it didn't get anywhere near the reception it deserved.

10. Rushmore Though a little shaky at times, this was a movie where I wanted to cheer for the hero because I personally liked the guy.

Special Mention: *Life is Beautiful*

Honorable Mention: *Babe: Pig in the City*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Central Station*, *The Eel*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Forgotten Silver*, *Gods and Monsters*, *I Married a Strange Person*, *Love and Death on Long Island*, *The Opposite of Sex*, *Pleasantville*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sonatine*, *The Truman Show*

Oscar Analysis

In brief: *Saving Private Ryan* bags 8 awards and *Shakespeare in Love* gets as many as 6. *Gods and Monsters* has a shot at winning in all three of its nominated categories, but none of those are sure things. Don't count out Miramax's marketing muscle behind *Life is Beautiful*, either.

Best Picture: *Saving Private Ryan* was by far the early favorite, but the momentum now is with crowd-pleaser *Shakespeare in Love*. Still, if I were a bettin' man, I'd put my money on the Spielberg film. I'd like to see *The Thin Red Line* take home the statuette and *Elizabeth* be removed from the ballot, but that's not going to happen.

Director: Spielberg has this one wrapped up much tighter than the Best Picture Oscar. It was great to see the Academy honor Malick with a nomination here, but his movie is far too unconventional to win a major award here.

Actor: These are all good choices, though the forgotten John Hurt, from *Love and Death on Long Island*, was nearly as good as Ian McKellen in a similar role in *Gods and Monsters*. This one's hard to call, though McKellen may have the critical edge. A possible upset would be for Benigni to duplicate his Screen Actors Guild win in this category.

Actress: The nominated performances I've seen here, Cate Blanchett, Fernanda Montenegro, and Gwyneth Paltrow, are all certainly worthy, though I'd pick Montenegro for *Central Station*. The Academy will likely choose Paltrow. They missed an opportunity here to nominate a really edgy performance in *The Opposite of Sex* by Christina Ricci.

Supporting Actor: None of the nominees here really inspire me, but I guess the contest here is between Robert Duvall in *A Civil Action* and Ed Harris in the otherwise overlooked *Truman Show*. I would have gone for Bill Murray in *Rushmore* or Udo Kier's aforementioned bizarre turn in *The Kingdom II*. I'll say Harris wins, but who really knows?

Supporting Actress: Lynn Redgrave was entertaining in *Gods*

and *Monsters*, but hardly more than a caricature. Judi Dench made a strong impression with her brief role in *Shakespeare in Love*, but I would have preferred Joan Allen or even Reese Witherspoon in *Pleasantville*. I'd bet Dench rides in on *Shakespeare's* coat-tails.

Art Direction: These nominees are okay, but it's a shame *Babe: Pig in the City* or *The Truman Show* weren't nominated here. This is one *Shakespeare in Love* will probably pick up, but I'd vote for *Pleasantville*.

Cinematography: This is one of the few honors *The Thin Red Line* might actually walk away with, were it not for the competition in the form of *Saving Private Ryan*. The Academy voters will find it too difficult to pass up rewarding Ryan's awesome battle scenes.

Costume Design: *Velvet Goldmine* won't have much chance of pulling a *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*-style upset here with *Shakespeare in Love*'s Elizabethan powerhouse in the running. The costumery in *Shakespeare* was sumptuous, but *Goldmine*'s was much more original. Also, as a general rule, expect the popular *Shakespeare in Love* to beat out the darker *Elizabeth* in head-to-head competition.

Documentaries: Nobody can really predict these, so your best bet is to go with the Holocaust movie *The Last Days* and the short *Sunrise Over Tiananmen Square* for some good acceptance speeches.

Editing: *Saving Private Ryan* wins hands down for its invasion sequence. Takeshi Kitano did some really amazing things in the editing room with *Fireworks*, though, but I'm sure almost nobody in the Academy saw that one.

Foreign Language Film: It's *Life is Beautiful* all the way.

Makeup: Curiously enough, there are no monster movies (like *Blade* or *The X-Files*) in this category this year. Expect *Saving Private Ryan*'s dismembered bodies to win. The hairstyling on Denzel Washington in *He Got Game* deserves some recognition here.

Original Score, Musical or Comedy: Disney will probably be trumped by *Shakespeare in Love*. Personally, I'd go for Jonathan Richman's work in *There's Something About Mary*.

Original Score, Drama: *Saving Private Ryan* will be the likely winner here. The music categories are hard to judge because people generally pay attention to the action on the screen, so just go with the most popular movie on the list. *The Thin Red Line* had some pretty interesting music.

Original Song: This category is always terrible. I guess Whitney and Mariah's melismatic performance of "When You Believe" from *Prince of Egypt* will earn it an award, but any of the songs from *There's Something About Mary* or *I Married a Strange Person* would have been better.

Short Films: I have no idea. *The Canterbury Tales* and *Victor* sound like good titles.

Sound: *Saving Private Ryan* nabs this one. *Bulworth* and *He Got Game* had interesting sound design.

Sound Effects Editing: Ditto.

Visual Effects: I haven't seen any of these. From what I hear, *Mighty Joe Young*'s effects were understated, and *What Dreams May Come*'s were pretty impressive. *Armageddon* was the biggest popcorn movie of the year, though, and will probably take home the statuette.

Writing, Original Screenplay: In my view, there's a pretty strong correlation between a good movie and a good screenplay, so for my favorites, you can basically look at the top 10 list, but I'd especially like to praise *Henry Fool* here. *Shakespeare in Love* will beat *Ryan* here, but probably not in the Picture or Director categories.

Writing, Adapted Screenplay: Usually most of the Best Picture nominees are adapted from other works, but this year only *The Thin Red Line* fits into this category. That makes it the one to beat here, and *Gods and Monsters* might do that. This may be the only statuette my favorite film of the year takes home.

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A.S.C.I.T.

Minutes

FEBRUARY 15, 1999

Present: BoD, Garrett Heffner, Melvin Leok, Jeremiah Smith, Abe Ankumah, Adam Lawton, Karl D'Adamo

Meeting called to order at 22:06.

General Business

Multihouse - Adam wants Fleming's \$200 for Ruddock/Fleming ice-skating.

Meat - Karl wants recognition and funding for a Carnivore Club. He requests a total of \$175 for enjoying the preparation and consumption of meat. The BoD recognizes the club.

Electrons - Abe and others are reviving the IEEE. They need \$1500 to pursue all of their hopes and dreams.

{ Alan swears Baldeep in. The new people get a tour of the office. }

Training - Jaideep encourages everyone to attend the leadership exercises being put on by the Residence Life Office.

Food - Jaideep says that Dave Tytell says that Andre says that he wants a body separate from the existing Food Committee to investigate broad aspects of the board plan. Baldeep agrees that the current Food Committee is not the right organization for the job. Mike suggests that ASCIT try to get control of the membership of the Food Committee from the Houses. Derek suggests a triumvirate. Baldeep will talk the matter over with the IHC later in the week.

Dough - Danny reports that there are about \$40,000 in the ASCIT coffers with another \$18,000 coming next term.

SURF - The BoD kicks around the idea of sponsoring a SURF. Baldeep and Mike think that a SURF researching the history of undergraduates at Caltech would be worthwhile.

Capra - Baldeep wonders aloud about throwing another old BoD/new BoD retreat. He wants to spend some heavy hours considering ASCIT's funding policy, among other projects.

Officer Reports

Derek - Updated UROH. Summary and handbook done. The budget meeting is coming up.

Autumn - Nothing to report.

Hanna - Invites to installations are out.

Jaideep - Signups for IHC Secretary, Athletic Manager, and Food Chair are on the door of SAC 33.

Devi - Nothing to report.

Danny - Sanwa was closed today. Duh.

Mike - Everyone should report their key turnovers. The summaries for the annual report are due now.

Alan - The signup for BoC Rep. at Large is on the door of SAC 33.

Baldeep - A few more changes need to be made to the online voting system and it will be perfect.

Meeting closes at 23:06.

The BoD votes not to fund the Carnivore Club. The BoD allocates \$75 for the IEEE to get them registered as a chapter.

Meeting adjourned at 22:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary

A.S.C.I.T.

Minutes

FEBRUARY 22, 1999

Present: BoD (minus Danny)

Meeting called to order at 22:05.

General Business

Meeting time - Baldeep wanted us to try to find some daylight hours to schedule our meetings so that administration and faculty would be able to attend if they pleased. The BoD decides to meet at lunch for the first Monday of each month, though the other meetings will remain at 10pm.

Meeting with Chris Brennen - Baldeep, Alan, and Jaideep met Chris Brennen and discussed the reorganization and redistribution of Student Affairs which will be effective March 1. A boost in funding for the performing arts was mentioned. Also a new athletic director has been selected and will take office on April 2.

Frosh Camp - Baldeep and Jaideep also met with the deans to discuss frosh camp since it is likely that it will not be at Camp Fox for the incoming class of freshmen.

Budget Meeting - April 3 has been tentatively set as the date for the big bad ASCIT budget meeting. This is the first weekend of third term.

Off-campus picks -

Jaideep would like BoD input on how off-campus room picks should work since Kim West has set a March 1 deadline for a decision on how to run the room picks. Last year Avery had its room picks before on campus housing and the rest of off campus housing had room picks after on campus housing. This has however, caused some conflicts for undergraduates unsure of whether or not they will be able to live on campus, those entering their sophomore year in particular. Jaideep met with the RA from Marks who said that they would prefer to have all of the off-campus room picks including Avery to be all together after the on campus room picks. Avery Council members have mentioned that they would like to keep the Avery picks before on-campus room picks in order to build a sense of community.

Baldeep, Jaideep, and Melvin decide to meet with the Avery Council at their meeting after dinner on Wednesday.

ASCIT van - Baldeep mentions that Brian Collins asked that the ASCIT van should be given over to the student shop to be signed out for student use. The BoD decides not to do so due to potential liability and risk.

Officer Reports

Derek - Updated UROH and will look into reserving a room to use for the budget meeting.

Jeremiah - Be careful about putting up fliers at Occidental. Security will cost you and ask you to leave.

Garrett - Looking into possible locations for the ASCIT formal. He has talked about it with Tom Mannion and says that Ritz Carlton at Huntington is a location he will try to pursue. Garrett has also looked into the possibility of bringing back Interhouse but there are many issues to consider before pursuing it.

Melvin - Met with the Dean to discuss the student-advisory system. There will be an open discussion on Wednesday at 5pm in Steele 102 to discussing the possibility of an ECE major.

Jaideep - Updated the IHC webpage. The URL is www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~ihc. Jaideep also working on some off-campus picks issues. See general business for more details.

Hanna - Will put up signups for appointed offices soon. Requests check for \$62.80 for food for past BoD meetings and it is approved.

Alan - BoC rep-at-large interviews will be on Thursday.

Baldeep - Met with lots of administrator types. See general business for more details.

Meeting adjourned at 23:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

He feels that the current proposal seems to be lacking in the actual computer engineering requirements for an official ECE major. Nothing definite was decided.

Jaideep - Is still planning to meet with the Avery Council since it didn't work out last week. The decision about how off-campus room picks will work relative to all the other room picks needs to be made as soon as possible. This week the IHC appointed offices will be selected.

Jaideep also went to a food meeting where they discussed the declining balance as a system to be tried at Avery next year. The balance could be used anywhere around campus such as the Red Door Cafe or the Coffeehouse and a percentage of the unused balance would be credited back to you at the end of the term. A committee of Avery as well as other campus individuals will be created to look into the details.

Danny - Checks were written in order to close all of the Sanwa accounts. Now we just wait and see mode. . . Currently we have \$60,950.66 which calculates to approximately \$46,000 with outstanding checks to be cashed. Danny also met with Patti. (See general business for details.)

Hanna - Signups are up for ASCIT appointed offices of little t editor, little t business manager, Big T editor, Big T business manager, Tech business manager, totem editor, Election Chair, and ASCIT movies chair. The signups come down Friday, March 5, at 10pm. Interviews will begin at the ASCIT meeting on the evening of Monday March 8. Also, the roster has been updated and copies are distributed. The BoD happily embosses their new rosters.

Alan - Has discussed and will discuss the WASC report and self-study with Maria Satterwhite and some administrators.

Baldeep - Updated the donut order, truly responding to the people's requests. Baldeep also met with Patti. (See general business for details).

Meeting closes at 22:44. The BoD decides to wait to decide on allocation of money for Dan Fain's electronic/techno party for more information concerning the budget for the party.

Meeting adjourned at 22:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

A.S.C.I.T.

Minutes

MARCH 8, 1999

Present: BoD (Danny wanders in at 22:16, Derek scurries in after at 22:17), Wren Montgomery, Daniel Stick, Sarah Cooke, Dan Fain, Hall Daily, Vanessa Sih

Meeting called to order at 22:07.

Dealing with Guests

Wren M. and Hall Daily

Printing contract for the Big T needs to be approved by ASCIT. Some problems were encountered with the completion of the 1997 Big T caused some finance deficits but most of those were made up by on-campus ads. Prospects are good to at least break even with the 2000 Big T. "The reluctance of house historians to meet deadlines is costing us a lot of money" - Hall Daily. So basically, if the house historians would realize that the deadlines they are given are the actual deadlines and meet them, a lot of money could be saved.

Dan Fain - Came back with a budget summary of the electric/techno party he has planned for March 27th. He wants a total \$640, \$180 for audio rental, \$300 for visuals and lighting, and \$160 for miscellaneous costs. Dan requests half of this amount, \$320, from ASCIT.

Sarah C. - Picks up Ricketts Interhouse Memorial funds for this year for Ricketts' Apache.

Dan S. - Requests \$300 for Quiz Bowl to attend the NAQT National Quizbowl tournament at the University of Michigan. The super-organized person he is, Dan passes out a detailed, personally signed budget to each and every BoD member.

Vanessa S. - Stops by to pick up Interhouse Memorial funds for the Dabney Drop Day party and the little t bonus checks.

General Business
Other Appointed Offices - ASCIT BoD decides to meet on Saturday at 11:00am to interview and decide upon the rest of the appointed offices.

Officer Reports

Derek - Has gotten a list of club heads (He clarifies that it is not related to golf). Will work on publicizing the ASCIT budget meeting to be held the first weekend of third term.

Jeremiah - Wildly claims that the ASCIT van

will be sold by the second week of third term. Will be taking some kind of beverage orders for the Capra retreat. The copier has paper.

Gert - Reps have been recruited from all seven houses for the Executive Social Committee (ESC).

The Ritz Carlton Huntington is still a possibility for the ASCIT formal. Details still need to be worked out. Lloyd has possession of the ASCIT lights at this point but will be returned soon. Some of the lights apparently got damaged at the Dabney party but that is being worked out.

Melvin - It seems as though the ECE option will soon go for approval at a faculty meeting. Melvin mentions his reservations about the haste with which this is being passed and the fact that the option contains no digital electronics requirements, which is odd for a computer engineering major. More student input will be collecting by forwarding the requirements of the major to the IHC to send to their houses for comments.

Jaideep - At this point, Kim West decided that the off-campus picks will work the same way they did last year with Avery house picks first, on-campus picks next, and finally the rest of off-campus picks. This is what the Avery Council prefers. The IHC would prefer a different plan with more of a compromise between the wishes of the IHC and the Avery Council since the IHC would rather have the on-campus picks first. Katie Noyes, the president of Ruddock House, has circulated a survey about the effects of this method of room picks from last year. The responses received indicate that it would be worthwhile to explore other options in order to benefit the most people. Jaideep is optimistic that something may still be worked out. The IHC believes this system of off-campus picks plan would be fine if having the Avery house picks first only affected those currently living in Avery and those who planned to live in Avery. The problem is that, in the IHC opinion and from survey response, a much wider scope of people are affected by method of room picks.

Also, Catelyn Gifford was appointed IHC secretary, Greg Fricke was appointed IHC athletic manager, and Ian Swett was appointed IHC food chair.

Danny - Wrote some checks.

Hanna - Organized some interviews for the ASCIT ap-

pointed offices and only got an updated roster from Alan to put in the Olive Walk kiosk.

Alan - Selected BoC Reps at large Elizabeth Hong and Selwyn Scharnhorst. Did some other secret stuff.

Baldeep - Set April 26-28 as dates for ASCIT Capra retreat.

Meeting closes intermittently for interviews and decision making.

The BoD votes to appoint:

Little t editors: Sarah Milkovich, Angie Han, Myra Interiano, Augusto Callejos

Election Chair: Dan Liebling

Little t Business Manager: Erik Dill

Tech Business Manager: Lexi Baugher

The BoD approves the printing contract for the Big T.

The BoD also allocates \$75 and free usage of the ASCIT lights for Dan Fain's electric/techno party.

Finally, the BoD approves \$505 for the Caltech teams to defend our honor at the NAQT National Quizbowl tournament.

Meeting adjourned at 00:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

FEBRUARY 19, 1999
I.H.C.
MINUTES

Meeting called to order @ 12:00p.m. in Dabney House

All Present minus Tanya + Alan Rosenwinkel + Dave Tytell (Food Chair) + Mike (old Ricketts President)

Welcome to Marie Fox (Page) and Ishnaeritsu (Ricketts) to the IHC. Mike leaves.

Sign-ups for the offices (Sec, Ath Man, Food Chair) are coming down the 23rd of this month. Encourage people to sign up for them. Email Tanya days and times that you can meet for the interviews next week.

Fleming beat Ruddock at Tennis. Ricketts challenged in Basketball and Fleming accepted. Page challenges next week.

Dr. Drew from Loveline is coming to Caltech on the 25th @ Noon. Since he is only allowed to give presen-

tations to 150 people or less, you have to get a ticket if you want to attend. Tickets can be gotten from Marie (Page Rm. 203), Ute (Lloyd Rm. 201), & Beverlie (Drug & Alcohol Coordinator's office in the SAC).

There is bartender training tomorrow Sat. the 20th @ 2:30. Encourage people to sign up, i.e. contact Barbara ASAP. If you want to be a bartender, then apply to Barbara Green.

Dave says that Andre wants to set up a Committee to review general Board issues such as a Declining Balance Program at Avery. Declining Balance means that you put in a set amount of money and every time you eat, you use up some of that money. You pay extra if you eat more. This proposed Committee would be set up to give extra input into these issues. Ultimately, the decision would be made by the IHC Food Committee.

Alan wants to make Roller Hockey a minor. He believes that Ruddock, Fleming, Page, and Lloyd can all field teams. He also thinks the issue of organizing Roller Hockey is the challenging House's responsibility. If it is too difficult to organize, then the challenging House shouldn't challenge in it. Both Matt and Katy claim that their Houses can not field teams. The point that is made that since Lloyd has the equipment to play Roller Hockey, that it gives them an advantage. The question of why should Roller Hockey be a minor is raised by Marie. Alan replies that if it were a 4th sport, no would accept in it. We close discussion. IHC votes 1-6-0-0 against making Roller Hockey a minor.

Some point in the future, we will meet with Biff to discuss the issue of vacancies in off-campus alleys.

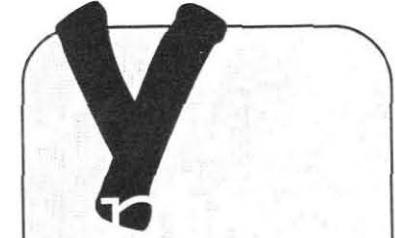
The IHC Webpage will be going over a overhaul in the next few weeks such that it will contain information and be useful. House Secretaries should email Jaideep a list of current officers and a list of all past Presidents and years. (<http://www.ugcs/~ihc>)

The House Athmen will meet soon (after the appointment of the IHC Athman) to review all of the IHC Athletic Rules.

Meeting Adjourned 12:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaideep Singh
IHC Chairman



by Elisa Chiang

The Y's big event of the term is on Saturday and Sunday.

DECOMPRESSION!!!

So come, eat, relax, talk to people, and climb out of your holes. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, bagels, fruit, chips, chili, drinks, popcorn, and all the wonderful goodies we have time and time again. Decompression will be held at Winnett. The food will be on the roof and entertainment in the main room. The Club room will be showing videos.

Good luck on Finals!

Alternative Spring Break is going to Taijiana. We will be doing community service work, mostly painting and helping out a community computer lab, in a village near the city. Living accommodations and food are arranged, there is not cost for the trip. All you need to bring is clothes to work in and any spending money for when we go into town.

Forms are available at Steele house. We are limited to twenty people and many have shown interest. The first twenty people to fill out and return the forms will go, the remaining people will be placed on a waiting list.

Just a reminder, applications for the Studenski Memorial Award are due today. The Studenski Memorial Award is a travel grant of \$3,000 that will be awarded to a Caltech undergraduate who would benefit from a period away from the academic community in order to obtain a better understanding of self and to consider and explore possible options for his/her future.

Interested Caltech undergraduates should submit a concise written proposal which describes the intended use of the award. Specific travel plans and estimated expenses should be included as well as an explanation as to how these plans fulfill the purpose of the award which is to explore options for his/her future.

To be considered, the application must be received at the Caltech Y office, Mail Code 1-94, before 5:00 p.m. Friday March 12, 1999. Include your phone number and email address on the application.

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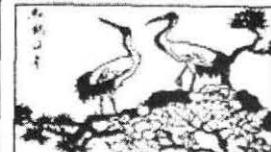
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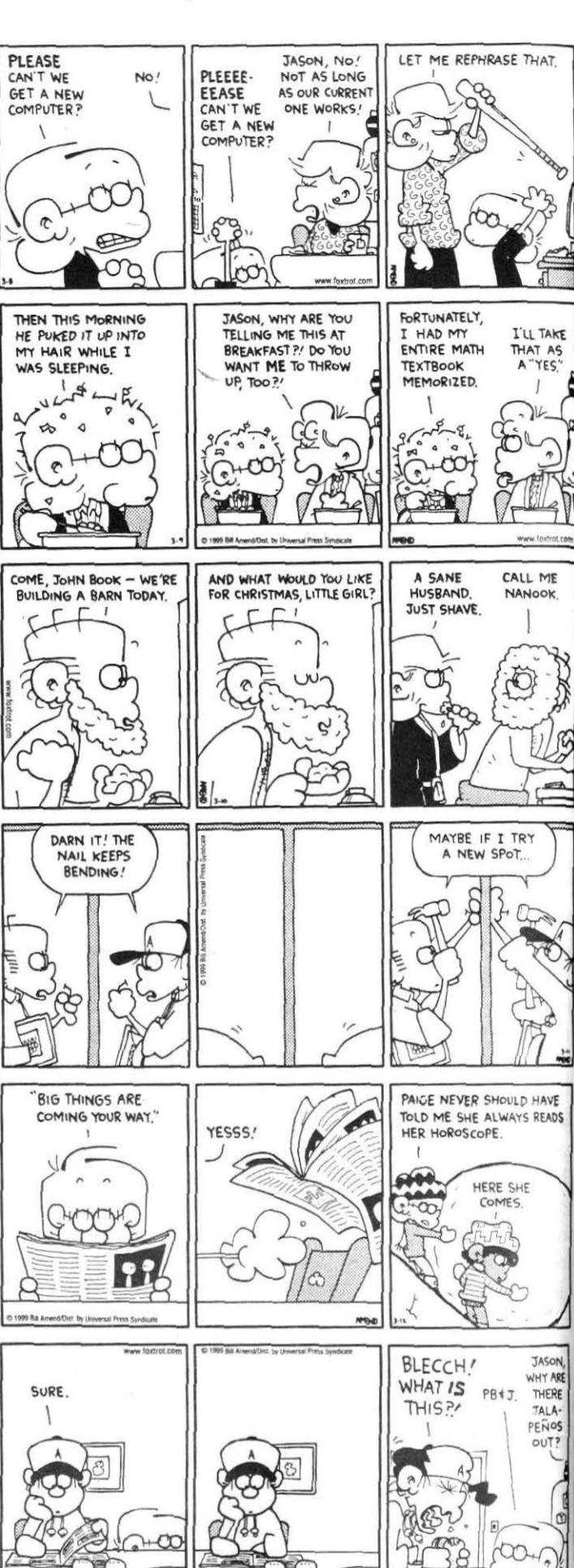


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Isabelle Huppert THE SCHOOL OF FLESH Daily [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50
Myles Berkowitz 20 DATES Daily [12:45] 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:00
Bill Murray/Jason Schwartzman RUSHMORE Daily [12:00] 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40
Piper Laurie St. Patrick's Day Daily [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:00
Academy Award Nominee LITTLE VOICE Daily [11:30] 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
Academy Nominee: Best Foreign Film CARLOS SAURA'S TANG Daily [1:20] 4:10 7:00 9:55
Samira Makhmalbaf THE APPL Daily [12:30] 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:55



Dean's Corner

A hitch in the wagon?

by Jean-Paul Revel

Belief and knowledge are very different things even though at times one can be mistaken for the other. In my last column I wrote about the origin of the wheel, and implied that it was not such a trivial matter as it seemed, to reinvent it. I based my belief on the information I had gathered, too hastily perhaps, about where and when ancient wheels or carriages had been found. From the dates assigned to these artifacts I concluded that there was no need to imagine that the wheel had been independently invented in different places. There had been plenty of time for wheels to roll from the near or middle East (where they seem to have originated, about which more below), to western and northern Europe, even if pulled by slow oxen. Say the trek is a roadless 5000 miles long, given that no oxcart would follow a beeline (do bees?). At 1 miles a day the trip might take 14 years. I guess there would be time even for a snail pulled cart on a random walk to cover the distance. On the basis of pictorial

evidence it is also widely believed, and I reported, that wheeled vehicles originated in Sumer, in the plains between the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Today I stand before you chastised, or at least less certain of my statements. My tentative knowledge has been degraded to belief. The hypothesis I had embraced may have been falsified. In the mail last Monday morning I anonymously received a copy of an article originally published in *Scientific American* some 30 years ago (The beginnings of wheel transport, S. Piggott, *Sci. Am.* July 1968, pp36-44.). Prof. Piggott suggests the possibility of local development of wheeled vehicles in the Netherlands and Denmark, so there is no need to assume diffusion of wheeled carts. The same article casts some doubt that the first vehicles were invented in Mesopotamia, suggesting instead an origin a little to the North, between Lake Van in Eastern Asia Minor and Lake Urmia in Northern Iran.

At first I was taken aback by this. As you might have gathered, I am an ignoramus in these mat-

ters, writing about

them with the superficial authority conferred by books, nay encyclopedias! I suppose I could have researched the topic more diligently, searching for and reading original sources perhaps, or casting a wider net to get a greater sampling of opinions. As I said last week however, I had trouble finding much data, but I guess that's no excuse. So the *Scientific American* article took me by surprise, until I read it carefully. The case it makes for the wheel being reinvented in Northern Europe is not very strong it seems. One important argument advanced to support this is that there are very few, if any remnants of wheeled vehicles found between Southern Russia and Denmark or the Netherlands. But a lack of data is not very convincing, it may only mean the archaeologists had bad luck, or that conditions were poor for the preservation of wooden parts. Of course may be what diffused is the idea of wheel, rather than carts per se. After all there were no roads to start with. On the other hand the pioneers of the West made do without.

What is peculiar about the article is not that it seemingly refutes the views I had gleaned from other sources. I have no owner-

ship in them, my opinions are "prefabricated," derived from the statements of others. Even if it was my data, I should have looked at it without emotional attachment. What is peculiar is that, like a tabloid, *Scientific American* makes strong statements in the title and the figure legends, but these claims evaporate when one reads the fine print. In this instance the body of the paper essentially retracts what it claims in the title. The story emphasizes that archaeologists in southern Russia, Armenia and Georgia have unearthed large amounts of new prehistoric material, including vehicles from as far back as 2500 BC. Having done so, it goes on to state that nothing has been found that is as old as the Sumerian pictographs of wheeled sleds (>3000 BC), the basis for claims of precedence for their neighbors to the south. So here we are: a statement is made (people of old living where the Georgians, the Armenians, the Russians live now, invented the wheeled cart) and then contrary evidence (the pictographs) is presented, the Sumerians were in fact first. I guess the author does not want to be confused by facts, they are damaging to his headline hypothesis.

Belief, to be upgraded to knowledge, needs be passed to the test of factuality. Knowledge however is always on trial, and can, in fact must, be changed when new evidence appears. In

this case there does not seem to be new evidence except that carts are found, but apparently from a later period.

Prof. Piggott is well known expert in the field but has nevertheless stumbled it would seem. Although an expert is presumed able to dispense good advice or make sensible statements about his topic, there is a chance that s/he will be wrong in assessing a given situation. The fact that there is a chance that the expert might be wrong, does not make the non-expert more likely to be right. The *Scientific American* article does not convince me that the wheel was invented near Lake Van, rather than further South in Mesopotamia. Again that does not make me, the non-expert, right. If I had found the article before writing my piece I would have been more cautious in my assertions. I would have done more research, allowing me to choose between the opinions of even more experts, or make a consensus of the opinions based on a wider sample. What really counts is to continue our attempts at turning beliefs into knowledge. Climb aboard the winning wagon.

Good luck on your finals and a bientot.

Jean Paul Revel

1999 FRESHMAN SUMMER INSTITUTE Summer Positions Available

The Freshman Summer Institute (FSI) is a six-week residential program for incoming Caltech Freshmen. The program provides a select group with an introduction to the freshman year at Caltech. The program begins on August 8, 1999 and ends of September 17, 1999. The following positions are available for Summer 1999:

Counselors

(1 Head Counselor and 3 Program Counselors)

Counselors provide a stabilizing influence in the residence hall and provide additional guidance for students in conjunction with program coordinators. Each counselor is responsible for tutoring and social activities.

Instructors and TA's

Instructors and TA's will prepare and implement the curriculum for the following subjects:

- Calculus
- Chemistry
- Math
- Physics
- Writing

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 17th at 3:00 PM in the Avery Library. All students interested in applying should plan on attending this meeting. Snacks will be provided.

Contact Cheryll, Yuny, or Ramona at x6208 or email cheryll@caltech.edu for more information.

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Announcements

**Come join SAGE (Sexual Awareness Group for Education) in our next meeting on Thursday March 11, at noon in the health center lounge. We are strongly encouraging new members both male and female to join. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions or would like more information feel free to contact any of the following students: David Bernat, Karen Rantamaki, Paula Whitten or Ute Zimmermann.

If you have the time we have the need. Goodwill industries of Southern California is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of lives of people who have disabilities and other vocational disadvantages by helping them to become productive and self-sufficient through education, training, and job opportunities. Goodwill helps more than 2000 people each year and is nearly 90 percent self-supporting through its 24 retail stores, education, and job-training programs, computer recycling center and its Industrial Services contracts with local businesses. For more information on how you can help Goodwill help others through volunteering, call Robin Braislin at 323-223-1211 ext. 230.

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 promoting 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, before the end of winter term.

Mark your calendars! **Prefrosh Weekend 1999** is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th, through Sunday, April 18th. If you are interested in helping out with Prefrosh Weekend, please contact Dina Figueroa, Assistant Director of Admissions, at dina@admissions.caltech.edu.

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? The **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 8:15 P.M. until 10:15 P.M. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation -- only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relavent topic and then moves on to general discussion. Call x8331 for more information.

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.

Looking for summer work in one of the nation's last examples of pristine wilderness? **Glacier National Park**, located in the northwest corner of Montana, is looking for students to fill more than 900 summer jobs in all segments of the hotel and hospitality areas. Positions range from hotel front desk clerks to tour guides to guest entertainment roles. For details on jobs and salaries call Glacier Park, Inc. at 602-207-2620,

write to them at 1850 North Central, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924, or visit www.gpihr.com.

Events

Come see **Ladysmith Black Mambazo, featuring Zulu high-kicking dance and a capella singing, in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm Friday, March 19. For more information call 626-395-4652 or 1-888-2CALTECH.

The **Caltech Folk Music Society will present legendary singer and songwriter **Peggy Seeger** at 8:00 pm on Friday, March 26 in Dabney Lounge. Over the years Peggy has recorded 17 solo albums and has written hundreds of songs, perhaps most notably "I'm Gonna Be an Engineer," an anthem of women's struggle for equal rights. She continues to write and sing witty, socially incisive songs with a strong, beautiful voice and accompanies herself on guitar and banjo. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$4 for Caltech students and children under 12. For information and tickets call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

On Saturday, March 27, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Sunday, March 28, from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, the **Coin-op Super Show and Sale, in conjunction with **Toyrific**, once again returns to the Pasadena Center, 300 East Green Street. More than 200 dealer spaces will be filled with antique advertising, jukeboxes, cartoon character toys, gumball and peanut machines, antique toys, barber chairs, and the like. The two-day event will include drawings for merchandise, tickets to the next Super Show, and valuable same-as-cash certificates. Tickets are \$5.25. For more information call Coin-op at 303-431-9266 or the Pasadena Center at 626-793-2122.

A **biochemistry seminar on "DNA Nanotechnology" will be given in Sturdivant Lecture Hall, 147 Noyes, at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 18. Nadrian Seeman, professor of chemistry at New York University, will deliver the talk.

The **Von Karman Lecture Series continues in the von Karman Auditorium at JPL on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 pm with a lecture entitled "**Mapping Mars**" by Joseph Beerer, flight operations manager for the Mars Global Surveyor. Admission is free. For information call 626-354-5011.

The **Carnegie Observatories Colloquium Series continues Tuesday, March 16 at 4:00 pm in the Santa Barbara Street Lecture Hall, 813 Santa Barbara Street. The lecture, given by Andrea Ghez, associate professor at UCLA, is entitled "High Proper Motion Stars in the Vicinity of Sgr A*: Evidence for a Supermassive Black Hole at the Center of Our Galaxy." Refreshments will precede the lecture at 3:30. For more information call 626-577-1122.

Tune in to KPCC-FM (89.3) at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 17 to hear John Allman, Hixon Professor of Psychobiology and professor of biology at Caltech, discuss "Evolving Brains" on **Airtalk: The Caltech Edition. Call 626-793-3667 for phone-ins.

****Caltech SEDS** will be holding its sixth telescope construction meeting on Sunday, April 4, the first weekend of third term, at 2:00 pm in the SEDS lab (0011 Thomas). No prior experience is necessary. For detailed construction plans follow the Construction Instructions link from <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~seeds/telescope.html>. For other information

Mints

contact Loren Hoffman at loren@cco.caltech.edu or Leon Torres at leon@ugcs.caltech.edu.

The Human Resources, Employee Services office will sponsor a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Thursday, April 8, from 12:15 till 5:30 pm and Friday, April 9, from 10:15 a.m. till 3:30 pm in the Winnett Lounge. For an appointment please contact Kim at ext. 6001 orkim.goodfriend@caltech.edu. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Come watch **Jorge Mester and the Pasadena Symphony** continue its 71st season with a concert featuring pianist Seung-Un Ha. The program will include Alfvén's Swedish Rhapsody No. 1, piano concerto No. 3 by Bartók and Symphony No. 3 Brahms. The concert will be held at 8:00 pm on Saturday, March 20 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. Student tickets are available for \$7.50 at the door with student ID or for \$6.00 through the Caltech Y. For more information call 626-793-7172, 626-584-8833, or Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

One of the largest and best attended art shows in the area will open on Saturday, March 13 at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 54 North Oakland Ave. The **25th Annual Community Art Show** attracts top artists from all over Southern California vying for several prizes. An awards ceremony will open the show at 3:00 pm Saturday in Gamble Lounge honoring the winners with a reception and viewing of the show which will run through March 28. There is no admission charge and most paintings are for sale.

The Mariachi Heritage Society presents "**The Divas of Mariachi**" at 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 13 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. This 8th Annual concert features Reyna de Los Angeles, America's first all female Mariachi. Other special guests include the majestic sounds of Mariachi Las Alondras, Tejano legend Little Joe, and the nation's premier mariachi, Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez. For more information call 626-449-7360 or Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

The annual **FOCAL (friends of Caltech Libraries) Booksale** will be held on Friday, April 23 from 8:30 am till 2:30 pm in Dabney Hall Lounge and Gardens. The booksale is open to the public; everyone is welcome. Come and see what treasures there are to be discovered!

William Stockdale will narrate the **Armchair Adventures travel film Pilgrimage Across Europe** on Friday, March 12, at 8:00 pm in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. One of America's foremost travelers and lecturers, Stockdale devotes all of his time to writing and lecturing. He has written for prominent national magazines and The New York Times, and his films have appeared on television and are available on video. Tickets to this film are priced at \$9.00 and \$7.00, and can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, or through Ticketmaster. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

Earthquake Preparedness Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall on Tuesday, March 23. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at 626-395-6727.

Fellowships and Scholarships

The **Society of Women Engineers Los Angeles Section (SWE-LA) is pleased to announce their 1999-2000 scholarship program. Scholarships are open to all women in undergraduate and graduate engineering programs in good standing. Special consideration will be given to those students with unique circumstances and financial need. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, official transcripts, one page, typed essay, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from professors in the Engineering Department. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications should be sent to: Heather Benfield, SWE-LA Scholarship Committee Chair, 12120 Rochester Avenue Apt. #12, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Application materials must be postmarked by April 1, 1999.

The **American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society** (AESF) is offering scholarships to upper-class undergraduate and graduate students for the 1999-2000 academic year who are interested in careers in the electroplating and surface finishing field. Undergraduates must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials science, materials engineering, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To obtain an application form and further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826-3298. Entries must be submitted to AESF by April 15, 1998.

The **Beckman Internship** will be available for the summer of 1996. The internship, supported by friends of Arnold Beckman, will pay a stipend of \$4,000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician and to see the inside process of government. The intern is expected to make arrangements with the appropriate political persons. It is open to any undergraduate who intends to be a Caltech student next year. If interested, submit a brief proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend, to the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-

Gates, by Monday, April 5, 1999.

Green Hills Software annually awards merit-based scholarships and fellowships to Caltech undergraduates who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude in computer science. The award for the junior year consists of a \$2,500 scholarship. The award for the senior year may consist of either a \$25,000 or \$5,000 scholarship. In addition, one or two applicants are invited to become Green Hills Fellows. Applicants should be second term sophomores with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. The selection criteria include programming ability, academic performance, and faculty and peer recommendations. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, current academic transcript, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty or employers familiar with the student's work. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by April 16, 1999.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program** offers scholarship awards to undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds that are committed to careers in biomedical research. In return, recipients are obligated to serve as paid employees in NIH research laboratories during the summer and after graduation. The scholarships pay for tuition and reasonable educational and living expenses up to \$20,000 per academic year. Applicants must be full-time for the 1999-00 academic year, have a 3.5 or higher GPA or be ranked within the top 5% of your class, and classified as having exceptional financial need. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, official transcripts, one page, typed essay, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from professors familiar with the student's academic qualities. For more information, visit the NIH website at <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is March 31, 1999.

Fellowships Advising and Resources has received information on a number of **summer undergraduate research fellowships**. Students receive a stipend and sometimes travel and room fees are paid. Stop by our office and check through the summer fellowship files for information on these and other summer fellowship opportunities.

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

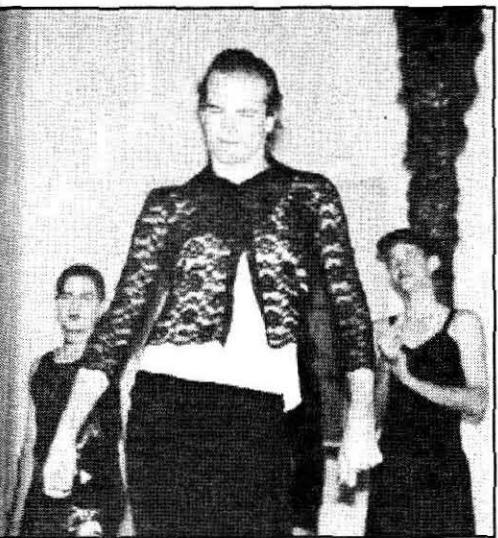
FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office. To make an appointment, call x2150.

For more information, please email lauran_stoyer@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 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.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125



Jay Hubisz models his outfit.



Dustin Boswell performs.

Interhouse Drag Contest

Dabney House hosted the first ever interhouse drag party in the middle of last term, with full participation and friendly competition from every undergraduate house. The idea was born at a social leadership retreat held at UCLA's conference center two weeks before the event, and Iljie Kim organized it to (hopefully) begin a wave of creative interhouse congeniality.

Five guys from each house entered the show, for a total of 35 beautiful women who strutted their stuff down a makeshift runway to the beat of some appropriately bad music. Each contestant was judged by a panel of judges representing each house on the basis of how convincing she was, her beauty, and in the case of the finalists, answers to questions like 'What is your favorite nail polish color and why?'

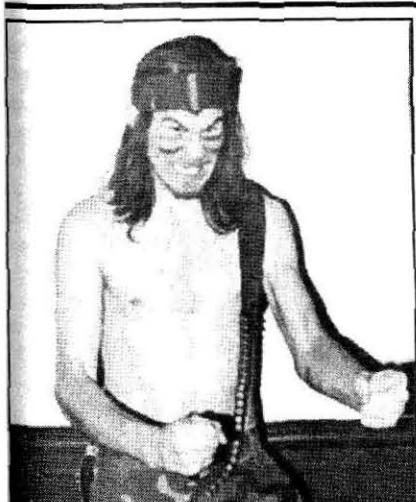
Matt Musick of Fleming House came in first with his impressive roaring 20s era costume and sexy strut, and the audience which packed Dabney courtyard to overflow came away pretty happy with the exciting hour of dresses, makeup, and laughs.



Steve Schell and Scott Bruce play to the crowd.



More of the drag contest's contestants line up in front of the audience in Dabney courtyard



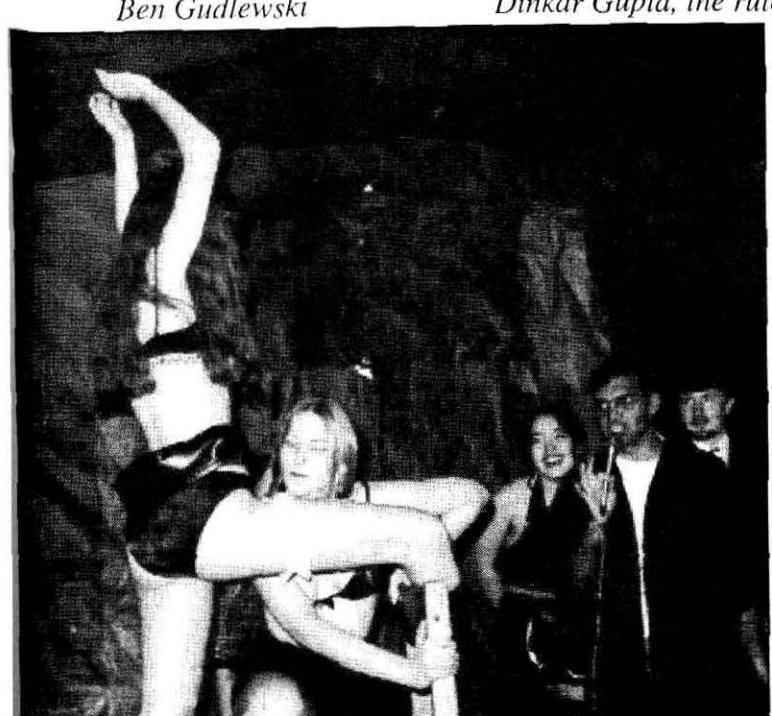
Ben Gudlewski



Dinkar Gupta, the ruler frosh, measures the length from knee to garter.



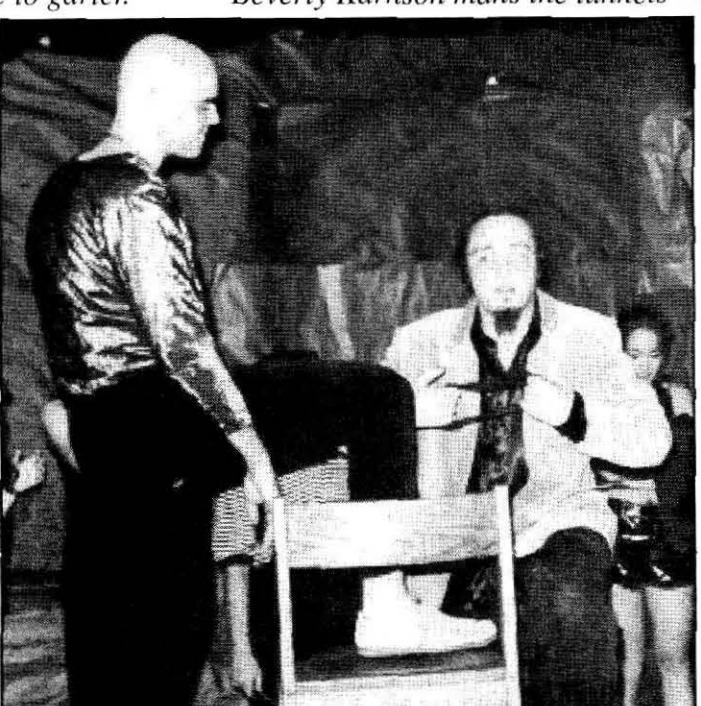
Beverly Karhson mans the tunnels



Apache

Left: Sacha Calkins and Sarah Cooke perform in the annual garter contest while master of ceremonies Kohl Gill comments. Kat Oseen-Senda and Andrew Casteel look on.

Right: Steve McCoy and Mike Astle demonstrate how two perfectly heterosexual men can have fun at Apache.



HOROSCOPES**Aries:** (March 21-April 19)

Congratulations on finally amassing the world's largest collection of porno jpg's. If only you had friends to share it with.

Taurus: (April 20-May 20)

Seek out Virgo's, and kill them. They have plans for you.

Gemini: (May 21-June 21)

The stars at first predicted that you would find your one true love today. Then they found our you don't believe in them. Oh well, colon cancer, and the eventual colostomy bag are almost as good as love.

Cancer: (June 22-July 22)

Your hopes of becoming rich, successful, and happy will achieve fruition in 5 days. Unfortunately, you, and the matrix, will die in 3 days as the result of a bizarre accident involving Transformers action figures.

Leo: (July 23-Aug 22)

Leo's are generally courageous, clever and cute. The stars are puzzled as to how you were born a leo.

Virgo: (Aug 23-Sept 22)

Jesus will personally come down from heaven to forgive your sins. Only then will you truly appreciate the quality of blotter you've been buying lately.

Libra: (Sept 23-Oct 23)

You have continued success proving your parents were wrong when they said, "that will make you go blind."

Scorpio: (Oct 24-Nov 9, Nov 11-Nov 21)

You will meet someone today who will want to marry you and have several kids. Assuming you are not a masochist, I would advise killing everyone you meet.

Sagittarius: (Nov 22-Dec 21)

After realizing your future, the stars were laughing too hard to share their knowledge. Sorry, no horoscope this week.

Capricorn: (Dec 22-Jan 19)

Expect the cat owning members of your Hovse to hurt you when they find out that isn't gum in their cats' fur.

Aquarius: (Jan 20-Feb 18)

Expect your life to be largely uneventful for the next seven days, just as it's been for the last 6000+ days. Gosh, it must suck to be you.

Pisces: (Feb 19-March 20)

Others find it fitting that your star sign is Pisces. This is probably because you smell like three-day dead, rotting fish.

Fool: (Nov 10)

Dark forces are aligning against you. Be wary of those you point at you and say, "Singaia," as they might just wound you instead of killing you.

On the order of 100 ways Tech can kill you

- Millikan accelerator accident: frozen pumpkin shrapnel embedded in your skull
- Brain hemorrhage trying to decrypt the Dean
- The Admissions Committee never makes mistakes
- Compiling binary in your head
- Athenaeum polka bands
- Giant fireball engulfs South Hovses
- Roomate needs a 4.0
- B.O.C. reads "Wit and Wisdom of the Spanish Inquisition"
- Dining Services watches "Soylent Green"
- Heart attack dancing with the Tutu Man
- Hypothermia at Apache
- Perfect score on the Ph 106 final
- Swimming in P-Plant cooling towers
- Run down by Nobel Laureate on roller blades
- Multi-Daihatsu pileup on the Olive Walk
- The Whisper Chipper
- Ch3a: secret LD50 testing???
- Beowulf goes on a rampage
- Me 72 adopts "Large Pointy Projectile" theme
- ASCIT acquires nuclear capability
- Death by Tommy (I&II)
- Death by Tommy's
- The Tech needs filler
- Rocks & Beer
- Ricketts "christens" the pentagram
- Tragic vacuum cleaner accident while posing for the BFD
- Taking liquid oxygen to a UASH meeting
- Write for the Tech
- 4am CS lab followed by 8am chem lab
- Accident with liquid nitrogen leaves you looking like Apollo
- Divide by zero
- Counseling Center prescribes cyanide tablets for your depression
- Catalina sinks into Pacific during Frosh Camp
- Secret earthquake generator unleashes 15.0 "global killer"
- Decapitation by Whirling Blades of Death "sculpture"
- Accidentally tunnel into Level 4 Biohazard lab
- Drunken dancing on Death Pebbles
- Steam tunnel sauna
- Millikan library collapses on you. Campus community rejoices.
- Caltech Legal declares you a "liability"
- Stephen Hawking loses bet with Kip Thorne, goes on murderous rampage.
- Liberal Arts overload
- Ph2b "Schrodinger's Student" Demo. Emlyn opens the box.
- Wrath of the Registrar
- Microsoft collects your soul a little early
- Even plants die after not sleeping for a few years
- Duct-tape mummification
- Impaled by overzealous Leatherman owner
- The Ride
- The Core
- Dabney wins the Disco trophy: mass suicide in Page & Fleming
- Coffeehaus introduces "Grease by the Plate" special
- Torn to pieces by rabid women [ed. note: you wish]
- Glomming cuts off all oxygen
- Roompick disputes settled by duel
- Death by extension
- You flame. Really.
- ZAP!
- Gunbattle with security
- Engulfed by your ulcer
- Left in Death Valley on Ge1 field trip
- The Ebola Monkeys get loose
- Dean goes on Dabney naked Millikan run
- Soldering live 120V wires for Ditch Day stack
- Cause undetermined, but Dr. Koonin denies all involvement
- Lost in Hyperspace
- Baltimore tests new AIDS vaccine
- El Nino
- Getting drunk on random organic solvents
- Alley Assassins gets real
- Lloyd coke machine gets mad at you
- Rogue guerrilla factions enter Blacker politics
- LIGO really creates gravity waves
- Glorious return of the twisted little dwarf
- Bi/CNS 162 moves from rats to live human trials
- Computational overload
- Your computer crashes. You die from loneliness.
- OD on caffeine
- OD on the artificial colors in Mountain Dew
- ASCIT Treasurer sells your kidneys to keep Coffeehaus in the black

Evil Geniuses Manifesto

We are the Evil Geniuses for a Better Tommorow. Better for us, that is. Our purpose is to make the world conform to our objectives. We do this by:

1. Wreaking havoc, promoting chaos, and generally making a mess of things for our amusement.
2. Wreaking havoc, promoting chaos, and generally making a mess of things for our personal gain.
3. Prosecuting cunning plots involving neither havoc nor chaos for our amusement and personal gain.

Well, you get the picture. We're in it for ourselves. We are the THEY who are out to get you. We are watching you. And for crying out loud, get some better deoderant. We're getting tired of smelling you. We apologize for telling Microsoft programmers that a talking paper clip might be a neat idea. Aside from that, we deny everything. We think that you should, too.

"If you're not part of the problem, you're not one of us."

-Evil Geniuses for a Better Tomorrow (brain@ugcs)

Next meeting: 11:42 Tuesday in Kerckhoff 298.

DEAN'S DRUG REVIEW CORNER

Hi there, it's Jean-Paul here again, with another review of the current quality of drugs to be found around LA. As usual, the scale is from one to ten.

LSD (4) Most likely this was from the same batch as I tried last week, and it probably wasn't kept too well. Sure, the mind effects helped me write my "Deans Corner" as well as usual, but the visuals just weren't that great. How long until we finally get some doses around here of the "Beavis and Butthead" quality?

Crystal Meth (7) You can usually rely on good old crank to keep you wired for long stretches, and the current Meth going around is no exception.

Crack (N/A) I just had to add this one in to re-assert my claims that I have never tried crack, despite what everyone says. Crack is a ghetto drug, and as a chivalrous man

I wouldn't be able to send my wife to the ghetto (the little lady does all my shopping (I accidentally proved myself guilty of having never been in a grocery store by not knowing about cosmo in the bru-ha-ha over the Rivet in '96-'97), long live the 50's!).

Marijuana (0) Sorry, this isn't an official rating. This is because all my wife could get her hands on was some ragweed, and I didn't have time to waste on low-quality weed.

Coke (2) Bleah, this was a true disappointment. This weeks shipment was weak. I mean, it was comparable to taking 6-8 whitecross, except the buzz from the whitecross would have lasted longer.

Sorry that the list is so short this week, compared to the usual 20+ drugs reviewed, but as drop day draws near I've actually had to do some work... pfft.

STUDENT RUSH \$100,000 FOR SAME DAY HARVESTING

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DON'T TELL
OVULATE.**

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Possess no major STDs
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