

Frosh on Pass/Fail.

see page 3



Facts aren't important

Tip: Don't believe everything you read.

# THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 21

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1997

## Mannion gets ACS, Archives, and the Athenaeum

BY ERIK STREED

The Tech has learned that as part of Caltech's reorganization, the Athenaeum will be transferred to Campus Auxiliary and Business Services on April 11. Control of Administrative Computing Services (ACS) and the Caltech Archives will be transferred at the end of April. The announcement regarding the Athenaeum was scheduled to be issued by John Curry, Caltech's Vice President for Business and Finance this Friday April 4. However a misplaced dot caused an email draft of the announcement to be sent to The California Tech by accident. The email in question also

referred to a similar fate for ACS and the Archives coming before May.

Campus Auxiliary and Business Services is Caltech's fastest growing division, consuming and creating new departments at record pace. Directed by Tom Mannion, Campus Auxiliary and Business Services currently includes the Housing Office, Food Service, Child Care, Campus Card Systems, Caltech Bookstore and recent additions Mail Services and Graphics Arts. The latter two represent Mannion's first move in what is expected to be a complete takeover of the Keith Spalding Business Services Building. ACS lies directly over Mail Services and would be an

easy target for vertical integration. With the impending takeover of ACS, Mannion will control half of Keith Spalding and be well positioned to take over the rest. After assimilation of the Athenaeum, Tom Mannion will control the entire southeastern corner of campus, providing a solid base from which to launch an attack for either the City of San Marino or Physical Plant. Blacker Construction Company is rumored to be a possible low cost replacement for Physical Plant.

Mannion has gained the backing of the undergraduate community though his habit of hiring anyone who enters his office with a complaint. Mannion currently employs the largest

single block of students on campus and can control them through the offices in Campus Auxiliary and Business services. Mannion's Minions, as they are known, eat and sleep within his domain. With the Campus Card System controlling a growing number of buildings, Mannion can lock out former student employees from both home and work. In addition Mannion controls the undergraduate food supply through TFM, adding fluoride much like the Communists did during the Cold War.

One of the cost cutting measures used by Mannion is to replace Caltech staffers with undergraduates on Federal Work Study. This reduces payroll ex-

penses to near Third World levels and ensures that no employee has more than 4 or 5 years of experience.

An excerpt from the memo:

*"This reorganization is taking too long. Doing things department by department is taking forever. We've got to start doing things by the book, and that means the A's come first. The Athenaeum takes up half a page so there must be something he can do with it. ACS and the Archives could both use some belt tightening by Mannion but they can wait till the end of the month. I'll be look at the next page of the directory sometime tomorrow and figure out what we can cut from there."*

## Lauritsen excavation unearths rare metal

BY RON DOLLET

The excavation and construction work that have been going on in front of Lauritsen the past 4 months are finally over after a two month delay involving the discovery of a chunk of carbonadium, a rare naturally occurring alloy of iron, titanium, and other industrial ores.

Carbonadium, probably formed after decades of compression of metallic byproducts and other architectural debris in the vicinity, has only occasionally been produced synthetically. Dr. Lois Palyof, a visiting professor from the University of Minnesota, along with some colleagues from nearby Wisconsin, is among the few people in the country conducting research on this metal.

"The chances of this happening are one in a few thousand, especially in an already developed area of Los Angeles," she said.

Carbonadium was first discovered in the late 1960's in South Africa by a team of Italian and French scientists led by Otto Ditali. Ditali hoped that the alloy would play an important role in the future of computing and semiconducting. "The metal is just too expensive to produce and not nearly as reliable as silicon," explains Palyof. "Carbonadium research was



PHOTO BY WREN MONTGOMERY

Recently declassified photograph of the Carbonadium, obtained at heavy cost by the Tech staff.

almost entirely scrapped in the mid seventies in favor of diamond and finely impure silicon." However, Palyof admits that the metal does have some strategic and defensive uses if one is willing to pay tens of millions of dollars in rare metal development. Multiple sheets comprised of web-like layers give the alloy the ability to be resistant against high velocity impact on a much higher scale than current Teflon vests. Its extremely high density, though, restricts it to vehicular use.

"Think of it as a bulletproof vest for a tank and as expensive as a fighter plane." Palyof also expresses the possibility for a riot control shield in the mak-

ing. "Maybe even a circular disc that comes back to you like a boomerang."

Graduate students and staff working in Lauritsen and Firestone speculate that the media crews suddenly appearing on campus to report on the Caltech basketball team were secretly assigned to get inside scoops on this Lauritsen excavation mystery. Some say that small but noticeable radiation levels have contaminated various metal and nonmetal samples inside Lauritsen's sub-basement, and forced the scrapping of the entire physics stockroom last month. This report remains unconfirmed.

## Caltech alums among cult suicide victims

BY ANDY NORRAN

The tragedy at Rancho Santa Fe unfortunately included four Caltech alumni among the 39 cult-related suicides. The former students were among the members of Heaven's Gate that took their own lives last week in San Diego County with a deadly mixture of barbituates followed by vodka.

The names of Scott Townshend (1992 CS), Jason Quarter (1978 Math), Jack Bates (1975 CS), and Phil Sutton (1997 CS) were released from Scripps Memorial Hospital last Saturday. Computer files recovered by the San Diego Police Department were analyzed and cross-referenced with other Heaven's Gate records in Oregon, Texas, and New Mexico, and it was discovered that Quarter and Bates, both formerly of Lloyd House, were recruited into Heaven's Gate after its co-founder and leader, Marshall Applewhite, visited Oregon in the late 1970's. Recent graduates Townshend and Sutton from Ricketts House later joined

the cult after the group began using HTML design to fund their activities. Heaven's Gate, under the label Higher Source, interviewed many computer science students from the greater LA and San Diego area.

The cult Heaven's Gate, according to former member Jeffrey Bennatts (who now goes by the name Balance), described the group's purpose as "totally overcoming the physical, mammalian behavior of this level, the level of the animal kingdom." Recruited in Anaheim, Balance said he eventually became disillusioned when the group kept returning to the same cities to recruit new members with minimal success.

Cult related mass suicide is not a recent news breaking event. Members of the Solar Temple, a European UFO-Neo-Christian cult underwent their final "journey" last month in Switzerland. The mass suicide in Rancho Sante Fe was supposedly an effort by the group to rendezvous with a spaceship trailing Hale-Bopp.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Novel solutions to the ratio problem

Dear Editors,

Despite the hopeful outlook for next year's frosh class, the male/female ratio still remains a depressing and limiting issue for many Caltech students. This is a problem which the Institute should be responsible for fixing. There is an easy and effective solution which does not involve compromising admission standards or sex-biased exterminations.

The best way to solve the ratio problem is for the Health Center to offer free sex-change operations. Such operations create new and interesting opportunities for relationships and also decrease incidents of sexual harassment while still retaining one's personality traits. Changing paraphernalia is much easier than changing orientation. We could even start charging usage of the house urinals to promote such a change, but then I guess the whole toilet lid issue would arise again.

Perhaps we could encourage participation by making it into an interhouse competition. The Residence Life Office could offer a \$500 prize to the house that converts the most men (or maybe just \$500 worth of prophylactics). If we could convince a large number of Scurve males to make the change, we could start a

Caltech women's sumo wrestling team.

Other options worth exploring could be an academic option to transfer males on the bottom rung of the grade

*If we could convince a large number of Scurve males to make the change, we could start a Caltech women's sumo wrestling team.*

later to local colleges in "exchange" for their top women. Not only would it encourage harder work and competition, but it would also increase Caltech exposure and even promote women to apply to Tech in the first place. Exchanges could take place after every midterm and final, and if someone had to be "demoted" a certain amount of times, then they should be put on indefinite leave of absence. Call me selfish, I guess.

Through a group such as the UASH, we can easily regulate the ratio while maintaining our traditional high standards of academic excellence.

(We could also hold a regular mens' only "Challenge Page To Basketball, Drinking, Or Both" in which the losers would be killed.)

ANDY NORRAN

### ATTENTION! All Photocopy users in the SHERMAN FAIRCHILD LIBRARY

The new Mag-striped Ids will be needed for photocopying after March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Card Office will be in SFL to issue Ids & setup accounts.

Debit Accounts must be set-up to use research & departmental funds for photocopying.

SFL Room #129

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
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## OPINIONS

### Lotteries should be used to stop population growth

Dear Editors,

In the old days, people used to keep their populations under control and everything in the hands of the church using a marvelous system called a lottery. The lottery would have a single "winner" who would be sacrificed for the good of the community. They were stoned to death by the villagers. This method of population control

should be put forth in the United States. People should be randomly taken out of their homes and shot to decrease the population, if they hide they are standing in the way of progress and should be hunted down

*...if they hide they are standing in the way of progress and should be hunted down and tortured as an example to those who would attempt to thwart the will of the people and the good of society.*

and tortured as an example to those who would attempt to thwart the will of the people and the good of society.

No question that this is a bit harsh, but wouldn't it be better to do this as opposed to having everything collapse in ten or twenty

years when people will start eating each other and other barbaric things?

An institutionalized thinning of the population would be

*In all my years of reading the California Tech I have never come upon a writer whose employment was so deeply entangled with his writing.*

NED FLANDERS

### Erik Streed, God's gift to copyeditors

Dear Editors,

I am writing to express how much I enjoy reading

Erik Streed's articles in the *Tech*. Mr. Streed combines an Orwellian like paranoia with clean cut conflict of interests in his writing. His consistent placement on the front page clearly indicates that he is one of the *Tech*'s best writers and that the occasional spelling

or factual error in his pieces are obviously the result of a governmental conspiracy reaching to the highest levels of the executive branch. In all my years of reading the *California Tech* I have never come upon a writer whose employment was so deeply entangled with his

writing. Writing about the opening of a new library and managing to spend half the article glossing over the Card System, of which he is

an employee of, is truly the sign of a good journalist. I look forward to seeing more articles by Mr. Streed as he begins his tenure as one of the Tech Editors proper.

ERIK STREED

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to

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Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125

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

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### Caltech Administrators...

*Curious about your place in Tech history?*

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during a Caltech Steam Tunnel Tour.*

*I am...*

- Tom Everhart, Caltech President
- Gary Lorden, VP of Student Affairs
- David Wales, Master of Student Houses
- Kim West, Director of Residence Life
- Jean-Paul Revel, Dean of Students

*and I would like to take a party of  
on a whirlwind tunnel tour  
guided by the friendly Tech Editors.*

*Please clip and return to The California Tech,  
Caltech 40-58 or directly to SAC Room 40.*

## Administration declares frosh on pass/fail

BY SAMSON TIMONER

In a dramatic turnaround, the administration announced yesterday that freshman courses would not be graded third term this year.

"We never really wanted them to be on grades," said an anonymous source in the Residence Life Office. "The freshmen are under so much pressure just to adjust to the Caltech environment. Pass/fail makes that transition easier. We were under pressure from someone higher up to put the freshmen on grades originally — now we have been able to correct the situation."

Last year was the first year in decades that freshmen were on grades third term. The move was intended to prevent freshmen from developing poor study habits. However, Lorry Allen, in the Registrar's Office, noted that there is no indication that this sophomore class is do-

ing better than any previous sophomore class. In fact, there is no statistical evidence that suggests there has been any change in students' work ethic.

*"We represent the best interests of the students."*

—GARY LORDEN

"We never really thought that grades would make any difference, we just went along the idea because of the pressure that was put on us," remarked Allen. Allen declined to say who was applying that pressure.

The Student Affairs Office seemed happy with the move.

"We represent the best interests of the students," said Gary Lorden. "Anything that makes them happier is a good thing." The Dean's Office also seemed

pleased with the move, as did Kim West in the Residence Life Office.

With so many administrators happy with the switch back to pass/fail, the question remained: who was behind the original decision to put the freshmen on grades? Unnamed sources told the *Tech* that Dr. Lo Emet was originally behind the decision. The *Tech* was told that Dr. Emet has talked with members of the faculty for years, trying to convince them that freshmen don't need pass/fail. However, the *Tech* has not been able to confirm this statement, and Dr. Emet was unavailable for comment yesterday.

A quick search through the undergraduate Houses found positive response. A freshman in Page House celebrated by drinking several beers.

"I'm on pass/fail," he exclaimed between hiccups. "Woo hoo!"

## Caltech admits 94% women for next year

BY AUTUMN LOOIJEN

Next year's freshman class will be Caltech's first mostly-female class, the Admissions Office announced Friday. The class will be 94% female. Though some students are crying reverse discrimination, sources in the Admissions Office claim there "just weren't many qualified men this year."

Caltech, which currently has a male : female ratio of 3:1, is in for some changes,

"We're practically a babe-rama," said an anonymous source in the Admissions Office. "In fact, *Playboy* has just contacted us looking for a Caltech student to be their Computer Science Playmate this year."

The Caltech Counseling Center expects glooming to decrease markedly this year, and told the *Tech* that depression, bitterness, and other common problems should virtually disappear.

The Caltech Women's Center could not be reached for comment.

Some students, however, see sinister forces at work behind the new freshman class.

"Who do they think they're fooling?" said Dusan Misevic, an undergraduate in Page House. "Do they really expect us to believe that so few qualified men

applied? It's ridiculous! They're trying to fix the ratio, but Caltech's reputation is going to suffer for it."

The sports department "has mixed emotions" about the new freshman class. For the first time since Caltech opened its doors, there will be only a handful of male freshmen to shore up existing teams.

*The sports department "has mixed emotions" about the new freshman class.*

"[The] frosh class will be a great shot in the arm for our women's sports teams, but it could prove to be a major setback for the men's teams. All in all, it is probably a great move and will allow us to

compete right away for a conference championship in many of our women's sports. GO LADY BEAVERS!!!" said Wendell P. Jack, Assistant Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Women's Tennis Coach Karen Nelson said, "This is big news for our women's athletic teams. Our numbers on the tennis team should increase significantly with this incoming freshman class. I don't foresee a shortage of players for the next few years!"

Organizing Prefrosh Weekend may also prove difficult, since all the prefrosh will need female hosts. The Admissions Office is confident, however, that this will not be much of a difficulty.

## The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

### ARECIBO, NM —

The SETI radio astronomy facility announced that it had received a transmission emanating from somewhere behind the Hale-Bopp comet. The message received stated, "Come on up, the view is great!"

### PASADENA, CA —

Caltech scientists announced this week that they had discovered a cure for AIDS. Some graduate students were eating Tommy's chili burgers for lunch when some of the sauce fell into a culture of AIDS infected cells. The cells burst immediately, leaving only healthy cells with a heightened cholesterol level.

### HONOLULU, INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF HAWAII —

After long negotiations ensuring unlimited VISAs to wealthy Americans, Hawaii has declared itself independent from the United States. In order to retain the current American flag, Northern California has offered to separate from Southern California to become our newest 50th state.

### LIMA, PERU —

The former hostages ran hastily back to the Japanese Embassy in Lima upon the eruption of nearby volcano Mt. Yerupaja. The long-time dormant volcano surprised all with a colossal explosion ejecting thousands of tons of material into the air. Overcast skies are

expected and sweaters recommended for all during the next several months.

### JERUSALEM, ISRAEL —

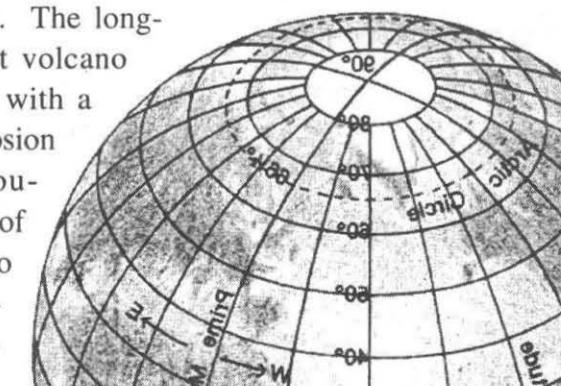
In an unforeseen demonstration of religious tolerance, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat joined together in an Easter egg hunt. After exchanging gifts of chocolate, they decided to cease further aggressive activities against one another.

### KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA —

In an effort to increase tourism to Malaysia, city industrialists have created a new ultra-light flying craft for overseas travel. The new F47s offer a superior view of the landscape and much more leg room, having eliminated the fuselage.

### BEIJING, CHINA —

Government officials canceled the trade agreement with the United States upon delivery of the aircraft from Boeing. It seems that Japanese technicians intercepted the shipment and deftly replaced the 747s with full-size origami replicas before their delivery to China.



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# book review book review book worm. book review

book review book review book review

BY DAISY JAMES

- A Wonderful Work of Several Committees
- Slightly twisted
- Pretty
- Decadent
- Boring
- Really really boring

**Tommy (Vols. I+II)**

By Tom M. Apostol

•••

This former staple of Caltech existence was recently shot down by the fact that the author no longer teaches the class. Still, one look inside either imposing tome and the reader is immediately struck by the incredible, insurmountable, dullness of the thing. There are rumors of people capable of reading both in their entirety, but your humble critic remains wary of such claims.

Of the two, *Tommy I* is generally considered to be superior, mainly because it features 666 pages, something that says as much about the content as the length. *Tommy II* boasts of a less remarkable 672 pages. Both make admirable doorstops.

**The Mechanical Universe**

By David L. Goodstein, Tom M. Apostol and a bunch of other people

1/••<sup>2</sup>

This book is a triumph in Tech's ongoing effort to sell books by its tenured professors. It is the novelization of the hit

TV show by the same name and has every bit of the excitement and drama of that gem of the small screen. The reader is whisked through the world of classical mechanics, beginning with the Copernican Revolution, taking a nostalgic look at Newton's Laws and ending with the dramatic Quest for Low Temperature. This book gives the final answer to which falls faster, the chicken or the egg.

Other criticism and praise for the book that I have gathered are that there aren't enough colors and Isaac Newton was a stud. I find it to be an important and useful resource, especially when I want to look up any joke that Prof. Goodstein has ever told.

**The Art of Electronics**

By Paul Horowitz and Winfield Hill

••••

I haven't taken this class or read the book and I have no intention of ever doing either. I'd guess it weighs about ten pounds and it has a seventies-looking dust jacket. It would probably be overkill to use this as a doorstop; I would suggest you set your TV on it.

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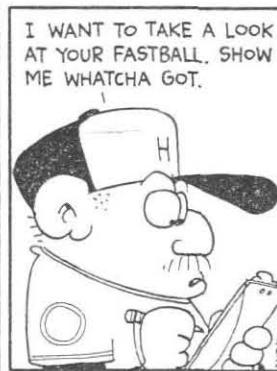
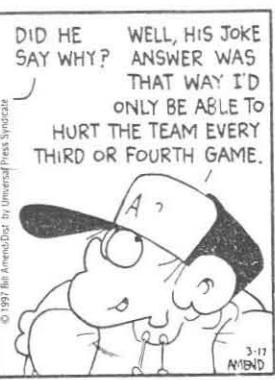
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**FEATURES**

# Foxtrot

by Bill Amend



## n o w hear this.

by Ron Dollete

**Critic Anthology, Vol. 1**

**Menudo** is back on the scene with an anthology of their illustrious career. Whip out your hot pants and start swinging to such Latin pop tunes as "El Chupacabra Dance," a flamenco dance version of Arturo Sandoval's, "La Guarapachanga" and "That Gringo's Goin' Down." They've also included a live recording of my personal favorite, "Tiene Pantalones De Queso." The Anthology includes a few new songs as well, and the band seems to be headed in the hip-hop direction, with new rap songs and the addition of a DJ in their recent concert shown over the Internet in RealAudio. (Webmasters estimate that four, maybe five thousand people logged onto the site and frantically tried to exit.) There's also a mail-in coupon for a free bandana and also a slap bracelet, so this one is going to be hot.

**Henry Rollins** is helping **Adam Sandler** produce a new comedy album, as of yet untitled. The CD is due out in June, and some singles already hearing airplay on the Dr. Demento radio show is "Crafty Macarena and Jizz." Rollins' political influence can be seen in the new Sandler material, notably "Scottish People Doing Funny Things With Sheep Ain't So Bad" and "I'm Sorry 2Pac, Don't Kill Me." Due to popular demand, Sandler decided to increase the number of excited Southerner skits just to piss everybody off. Rollins himself makes a guest vocal appearance playing the goat in "Run The Old Man Over With The Pickup Truck" and also the disgruntled lover in "I'd Write You A Poem,

Baby, But Nothing Rhymes With Fuck You."

In the spirit of the three tenors comes a trio of the most soulful, artful, and beautiful musical composers of our time. **John Tesh and his orchestra** are joining **Yanni**'s troupe along with **Kenny G** to form a harmonious, symphonic menage of musicians. The lead song, "Prancing" is a perfect melodious mix of soft and easy rhythm with a hint of sexual spice. Kenny G, as usual, is playing his saxophone while Tesh and Yanni skillfully enrapture the soul with mesmerizing synthesized wind shears and a faint whale song in the background. The masterful instrumental, "Heartbreak In A Flower Shop" is a wonderful tale of two young people trapped in their work as students of horticulture and botany. The song switches to a more ambient, trip-hop type of flair, with whimsical undertones of Yanni making funny plop sounds on his keyboard and Tesh going down on a chocolate pie with two backup singers. If you listen closely to "Making Love In Reykjavik," you can hear the surprise guest background vocals of **Axl Rose** and **Barry Manilow**.

**Dick Wagner** is also re-releasing his hit single "**The Ride Of The Valkyries**." A wild and popular piece, this symphonic masterpiece has been used in various places including almost every Warner Bros. cartoon. Alongside "Carmina Burana," it has been considered one of the most often played classical works of all time. Emphatic undertones and wonderfully expressive scales give "The Ride of The Valkyries" a rich and colorful flair and should be played as often and as loud as possible. Hey, it's better than Alanis Morrisette and Oasis.

Also new is **David Hasselhoff's Greatest Hits**. It caught me off guard when I found out the CD was empty. So I burned a copy of *Diablo* and haven't gone to lecture since. AFD Records is also releasing a CD called **Milli Vanilli Unplugged**. Actually, this one wasn't empty (which also caught me off guard) but it did have about three and a half hours of what sounds like a stealth bomber flying overhead.



# Dean's Corner

## Commencement!

by Jean-Paul Revel

should take place where the real beginning of your travails began: on Catalina.

So this year there will be a Senior camp as well as a Frosh camp. It will work like this: you have heard about the Japanese company which is bringing the Queen Mary to Tokyo, where it will be refurbished and put on display for a few years, before returning to its home berth in Southampton... I mean Long Beach.

Well, through the diligent efforts of our administration, it has proved possible to arrange for the Queen to take us all to Camp Fox next June 12th on its way West to the East.

Imagine the procession of floats from last New Year's Parade as they go down the freeways in triumph, with police escort and sirens hauntingly ululating, bringing our cream and their parents and guests to the Long Beach *embarcadère* (does

that not sound so much more sonorous than "boat terminal"? where we will mount aboard the Queen.

Fireboats will swarm in the harbor, rousing splendid sprays; a dozen tugboats will push, pull, hoot and exert their power; and, freed of its rocky girdle, the Queen, with its cargo of laureates, will majestically sail out of the harbor with a gut wrenching, soul searing, eye watering, heart contracting blow of its steam or-

*Well, through the diligent efforts of our administration, it has proved possible to arrange for the Queen to take us all to Camp Fox next June 12th on its way West to the East.*

gan pipe. The seagulls will rise in unison and begin to surf in the lee of the stately boat as all of us, from administration on down, will line the railings and wave.

*Et voilà*, the Atheneum kitchen will take over the Galley and prepare to serve the tra-

ditional Gala Dinner all prepared with Catalina specialties: Buffalo ribs, roast goat, cactus salad and uni (sea urchin roe sushi). The Trustees and President will man the Bridge, the VPs will serve hors d'oeuvres (cactus pears, boar spareribs) and the deans, well, they'll retire to their cabins to practice their roll calls.

And the students? As on every trip to Catalina they'll spread out on the benches, or on the deck chairs and snooze or gawk at the flying fish, or snuggle tight against the chill wind under the beautiful skies of Southern Californiae.

They'll smooch, play cards and, since they are all of-age-seniors, they'll libate in moderation. Does that not sound absolutely idyllic?

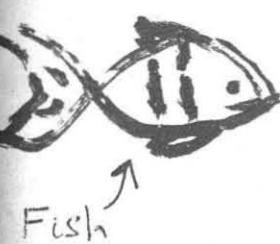
The Biology Division, encouraged by the successful cloning of Dolly the sheep, and the rumors of attempts made to revive Pharaohs and Mammoths by cloning, has decided that bringing back Louis Pasteur or Albert Einstein would be a coup of major magnitude. Unfortunately, these clones will not be ready to act as Commencement speakers in time. But wouldn't the babbles of young Einstein be worth many words by, say, Al Gore?

In the end we may just have to settle for the pleasure to hear Dolly Parton impersonating her homonym. The speech will be delivered around the campfire, and there will be a special confetti canon installed at the top of Bible Peak.... This does promise to be a graduation day like no other before, and of course, although we know nothing of the future, unlikely to be matched there either.

By special arrangement, the rear deck of the Queen will be cleared and fishing lines installed for those not otherwise occupied. It is not going to be great sport fishing, hammerhead shark and all that stuff, but still it may be possible to hook a tuna or two, or it may attract the dolphins who'll entertain us with their skillful antics. I see it clearly now, fish, or as the gallic saying goes... *Poissons, Poissons d'Avril, "Poisson d'Avril!"*, the cry that in my childhood we all let out when we successfully managed to attach a goldfish effigy to our pal's backs or Prof's sleeve. *Poisson d'Avril!* April Fool's Day. That's what this is all about....

Enjoy the reveling *et à bientôt!*

*J.P. Revel*



V.W.

The first day of Spring has sprung and the lawns are being fattened and greened in anticipation of the Graduation Ceremonies for the class of '97. Even though Gretchen Larson and her acolytes are plotting things in Pasadena, I understand through the grapevine that this is in fact a ploy and that a new plan has emerged. It is still a big secret, but it has been decided that it would be appropriate to change the venue of Commencement.

In my native language, that of the master of logic, Descartes, who thought he was alive, *commencement* means "beginning". In this uncivilized part of the world, however, it means to end, justifying generations of commencement speakers exclaiming, as if they had had a tremendous insight, that the end of college was actually the beginning of life for all the graduates.

Anyway, it has now been decided that Commencement



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PC Magazine, 8/96

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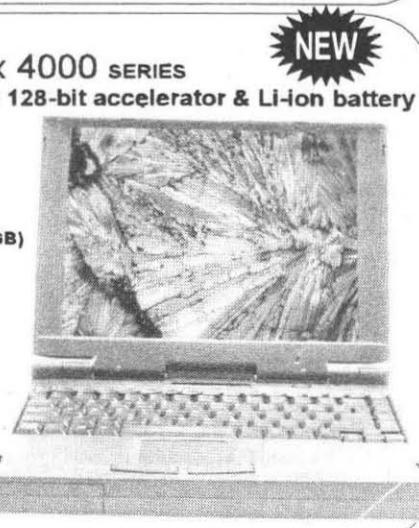
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# Ditch Day was Yesterday!

BY AUTUMN LOOIJEN  
AND WREN MONTGOMERY

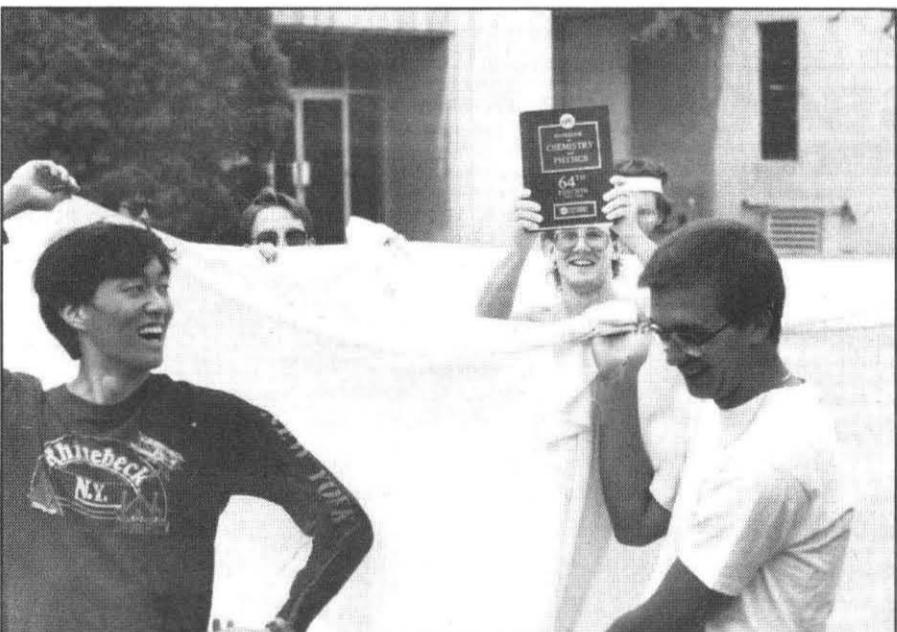
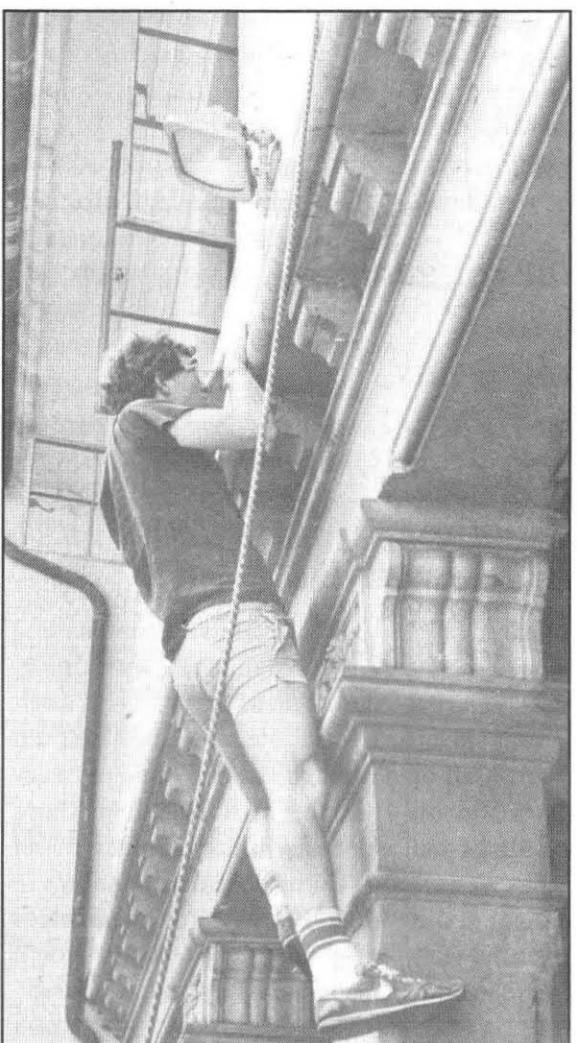
In a surprise turn of events, *The California Tech* is somewhat bemused to report that Ditch Day was yesterday. A crack team of photographers managed to cap-

ture the event on film.

This year's stacking seniors were especially stealthy in their preparations: so stealthy, in fact, that even the faculty were surprised.

"Ditch Day? I thought Ditch Day was tomorrow," said Professor Nate Lewis.

Local news, too, was caught off guard. The event, which is usually popular with print and broadcast journalists, received little attention this year. Gretchen Larson said that the seniors had hoped Ditch Day would be quiet this year.



# Caltech football team remains undefeated after three years

BY ERIK STREED

With all the local and national attention that the Caltech basketball team has received, other Caltech teams have felt rather left out. Heading this list is the Caltech football team,

which has not lost a single game since the end of the 1994 season.

The coach attributed an extremely strong defense to the continuing success of the Caltech Football team. Regrettably, most undergraduates

haven't even attended a Caltech football home game.

One of the reasons Caltech's football program has remained relatively unknown for so long is the lack of a star player to catch the attention of Beaver fans and sportswriters

everywhere.

The Caltech Beavers have a surprisingly successful history. With more trips to the Rose Bowl than any other team in history, the Beavers have not received the accolades that other teams get for just a single

trip to the Rose Bowl.

The Caltech football team has won more games at the Rose Bowl than any team in recorded history, including USC, Northwestern, and the University of Wisconsin combined.

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**RATES....** \$4.00 for first 30 words; 10¢ for each additional word. Prices are negotiable if you're a cute blond. Oh, heck, all things are negotiable if you're a cute blond. I should say a whole bunch of other administrative stuff here, but I'm not. Go find something real to do with your time. Or at least a real paper. If you are still reading this, you are a LOSER. Go away! Get!



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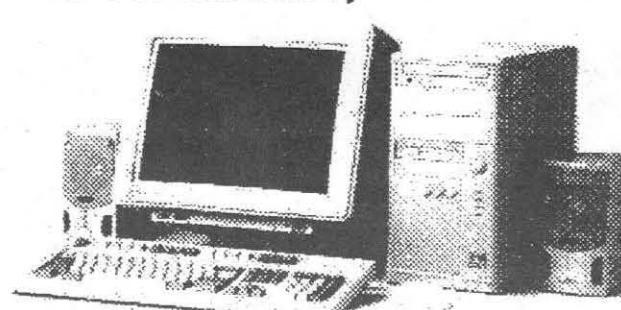
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## Events

The Athenaeum will be holding smog tasting classes this Wednesday, April 2. Air from Mexico City, Beijing, Calcutta, Gary, Ind., and Sulphurville will be served. Tap water from these locations will also be available for reference purposes. Medics will be present for the light of heart.

The Caltech Womens Chamber Ensemble will be performing in Dabney Hall this Saturday. Songs by unknown sisters of Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart will be performed, in addition to a special medley of the last N.O.W. board meeting minutes. All female members of the Caltech/JPL community are encouraged to attend for an evening of sisterhood and song. Reception to be held afterwards in the Women's Center.

The Family Pet Expo will be held Wensday from 11 AM to 2 PM in the residential sections of Avery House. Pets on display will include shedding putty tats, spitting cobras, sheep, bunny wabbits, and 100 different kinds of insects.

The Athenaeum will be holding a 50's Sock Hop on Friday, April 25 in the Main Dining Room. A 50's costume contest and a dance contest will be held. Gift certificate prizes will be awarded. If you have a photo of yourself during the 50's send it to Barbara Buckley, c/o The Athenaeum. Please no classified photos. Remove your reservations and reserve space by calling 818-395-3705.

The Caltech Peeping Toms Club is looking for new members. Who knows what fun things will happen when we set out to watch Master of Student Housing David Wales do dishes at Steele House followed by observations of President Everharts TV preferences this Wednesday evening. BYOB (bring your own binoculars) and be prepared to show Caltech ID to pesky security officers.

## Notices

Tite for the wreck's new dyslexia column. Short pay and high hours. Fun with spoonerisms. Meet lots of nice Moles, Darbs, and one Pageboy, two if you count Neil, while we all laugh at the Lloydies (actually just Maria, but she's not down here anyway).

Physical Plant and Pasadena Power & Water will be causing an unscheduled power outage on Thursday, April 3 at 1:23 PM. Caltech staff should shutdown their computers and provide backup power for any critical applications. The unscheduled outage will last exactly 5 minutes and is to remind the Caltech Community of who really has the power on this campus.

On a similar note, the Physics department will be halting gravity for an undetermined length of time next month.

The Procrastinators Workshop has

## Mints

= denotes a new announcement.

been postponed yet again. The rest of this annoucement will get finished later.

The Chandler Dining Hall will be serving something called Steak Bomb this Wednesday. This food substance does not have The California Tech's seal of approval.

The Blacker Frosh are looking for donations of scrap steel, old tires, ready mix cement, rebar, acetone, and rubber bands for Hell Ride™ 97 [Remember upper-classmen, Hell Ryde is Tonyte]. Regretfully 1500 lb metal plates cannot be accepted. Please make sure that any metal plates either exceed this weight or are cut in half. Donations should be delivered to Nathan Schara, Blacker 5'8" or Ryan Cox Blacker 2x3x3x3.

The Red Cross of Pasadena out for your blood. Get to them before they get to you and donate blood today or whenever the Bloodmobile drops by.

UASH would like to inform all undergrads with GPAs above 4.0 that they are throats and will be required to fail at least 3 classes in the next term or be placed on probation at Club Med without e-mail or web access. Premed students who meet the above requirements will be beaten severely by non-premed bio and chem majors before being forcibly transferred to PCC.

## From the Mental Health Maintenance Center

Is your girlfriend or wife bossy? Does she make decisions on her own without consulting you? Mental Health is currently offering de-assertiveness and co-dependency training sessions at Caltech. Learn how to bind your significant other to you in a meaningless cycle of self destructiveness.

Is stress getting to you? Did you push the button on a two billion dollar project just because someone didn't say please? Destroy a lifesaving vaccine vial by crushing it in your bare hands? Join the Caltech Acceleration Club and vent in a nondestructive manner. We'll be dropping modern computer hardware, the latest in spectrographic equipment, English romance literature, and several hundred laboratory mice from nine stories above the ground. Watch your stress level drop with some of the most hated hardware on campus. Millikan roof, 10 p.m., Friday.

## Fellowships and Scholarships

The Los Angeles Branch of American Society of Handicapped, Female Astrophysists of Icelandic descent will be awarding 5 scholarships for sophomores of \$10,000 plus universal medical insurance. Applicants should be of Icelandic heritage (no Norwegians please), majoring in Physics or Astronomy with intent to participate in a crippling accident before graduation. While students who are not severely disabled may apply, the successfully applicant should demonstrate a history of attempting to injure herself in a life-threatening manner. Requests for applications and medical extensions should be sent to Professor Marge Svennersonned c/o Happy Gopher Rehabilitation Center, 13 Radiation Lane, Three Mile Island, PA.

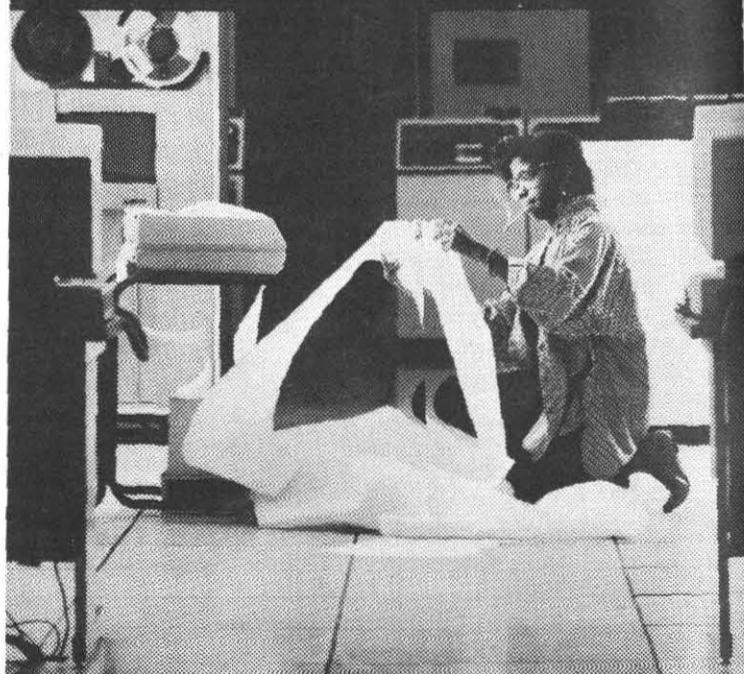
The American Generalists Society will be awarding scholarships to students. Please contact John Smith, 4312 Pine St., ATowne, MI for more information. Applications will be due and should be postmarked.

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