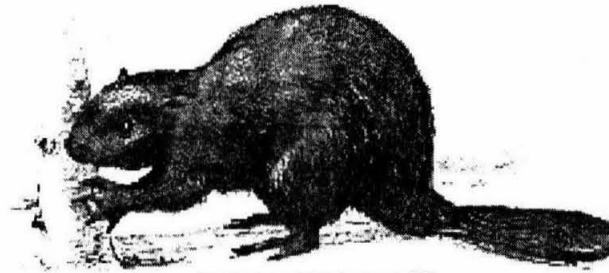


Ditch Day! Ditch Day!
Ditch Day! Ditch Day!
Ditch Day! Ditch Day!

See the pictures: pages 5-8

Ditch Day! Ditch Day!



Senior Awards

See page 3

The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 28

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 26, 2000

DRUGS AND THE BRAIN: A CLOSER LOOK AT BIOLOGY 1

BY MERC CHASMAN

Of all the core classes here at Tech, it's hard to say which is the most notorious. Each has its own special qualities which endears it to us and/or leads us to tear out our hair in frustration. Since its creation, Bi1 has been a source of frustration for professors and administration alike. Ten weeks simply isn't enough time to give a good introduction to a subject such as biology, and as a result all sorts of things have been attempted in order to give non-biology majors a glimpse of the subject.

This year, Bi1 is being taught differently, by a different professor, yet again. Instead of trying to give a bunch of bored frosh a lightning-speed broad introduction to the subject, Professor Henry Lester is instead focusing on a specific area. Entitled "Drugs and the Brain," the course looks at how drugs and addictions work at the cellular and single-molecule levels. Since the frosh bi majors are off taking Bi 9, those of us in this course are more used to thinking in terms of math, chemistry, and physics, and it seems to be taught with this in mind.

Those with a strong background in biology (and who could prove it, either with AP scores or by taking a test) have been allowed to do equivalence credit, involving either writing research papers or doing computer simulations. Those of us with little or no background look at them enviously over our Maple- and web-based problem sets and borrowed copies of Big Alberts. Even so, despite the grumblings about problem sets and course organization (the course uses e-groups to post problem sets, lecture notes, and general course information, rather than an ordinary web page), most people seem to find the lectures interesting. Prof. Lester and the others responsible for this course have tried very hard to catch our attention and interest, calling in many guest

Seniors skip class: chaos ensues

BY TECH STAFF

Ditch Day. These are two words which every Techer is familiar with, an odd pseudo-holiday which, at some level, is the sort of thing that could only happen at Caltech. Where else would an excuse to escape school work for one day result in all the seniors working around the clock for the preceding several days in an effort to create the perfect stack?

Ditch Day began in 1921, but the exact date when supersoakers became a critical component of a stack is unknown. May 19th (better known as Ditch Day 2000 or "tomorrow") dawned hot and clear, and the freely flowing water battles were a welcome relief. So too was the excuse to skip class for a day- for Ditch Day is not only for the seniors.

Originally, underclassmen, jealous of the senior's day of freedom, would take the opportunity to prank the unsuspecting senior's rooms. Eventually, seniors started leaving defenses, which escalated into the modern stacks—sometimes elaborate defenses (known as brute force stacks), but more often in the

form of complicated puzzles which the underclassmen must solve. While the stacks provide fun for all, the seniors also generally leave a bribe to discour-

cial Forces, Big Trouble in Little Chinatown, Nintendo, Princess Bride, Southpark (2 of them), Simpsons, and Too Many Secrets to name just a few.



Participants in "The stars are wrong" stack march down the Olive Walk. For more photos from Ditch Day see pages 5-8

age underclassmen from "counter-stacking" or pranking their rooms.

Every Ditch Day is different, just as each stack was different. The range was immense, the names of some of the stacks giving an idea of the variety of themes: Texas militia, MacGuyver, The Ghostbusters, Austin Powers, Jedi versus Sith, Indiana Jones, The Matrix: join the agents and kill Keanu, Spe-

Seniors often teamed up to produce more impressive stacks, but you can be sure that come 8 am, there were no seniors left on campus. The rules of Ditch Day say that any remaining seniors may be duct-taped to trees.

That is not to say that all the seniors actually left. Many stayed "off-campus" but near enough to provide clues to their wayward stacks. With all the news coverage of Ditch Day,

A near deaf experience

BY SCOTT VAN ESSEN

This Saturday at 6:30 PM in the amphitheater behind Sherman Fairchild Library, Caltech's own all-male *a cappella* group - Ephonema - will be giving a free concert for the entire Caltech community. Ephonema has performed at decompressions, sponsored events, and concerts organized by the *a cappella* community here since its inception three years ago, but this is something new. While it is not uncommon to see the nine members of the group singing under an arch at midnight, never before has the group staged a full blown outdoor concert utilizing the magnificent landscaping of our campus.

Said Ephonema co-founder Chris Miller, "Caltech has such a beautiful campus that it's a shame not to take advantage of it." The amphitheater is, in fact, perfect for a performance of this type. A small tile patio at the

bottom provides a stage which is well visible to several swaths of grassy sitting areas. Buildings on three sides provide favorable acoustical setting, and the towering Sherman Fairchild Library provides an elegant backdrop for the performers. "I've been waiting for some group to perform there ever since they built it" said Ram Basu, a manager in Public Events.

Ephonema is composed of Chris Kurtz ('00), Chris Miller ('00), Mark Popkin-Paine ('03), Jason Chua ('01), Zander Nicholson (G), Dule Misevic (Staff, '98), Mark Barton (Staff), Bret Naylor (G), and Scott Van Essen (BS '95, MS '00). The concert, called "Near Deaf Experience", showcases 15 songs, including works by Metallica, Green Day, Huey Lewis, Dave Matthews, and several original pieces.

Saturday, May 27, 6:30 pm, SFL amphitheater, 1-1.5 hours, bring a blanket if you don't want to sit on the grass.

students were not surprised to see several helicopters hovering overhead, but then one came down lower and lower, hovered over the south field, and dropped a clue to the waiting stack below. The senior remained "off" campus, and the stack could continue.

There was also some permanent construction undertaken. Although not exactly a part of Ditch Day, one senior "stacked" Millikan with pizza boxes, providing the leaning tower of pizza. A very impressive wheel-mounted potato cannon, and a new path in front of Avery are just a few of the other relics which will grace Caltech long after Ditch Day.

Not everything ran quite so smoothly. There was a serious accident which resulted in the driver of a daihatsu being hospitalized overnight after another student shattered the windshield of the vehicle.

Accidents aside, little could mar the enthusiasm of Tech students as they raced around campus battling the diabolical plots of the seniors. Then, at 5 pm it was all over- all over, that is, until next year, when Ditch Day is scheduled to be "tomorrow".

ASCIT Election results

Class officers:

Senior Class President:
Vice-President:

Puneet Newaskar
Dan Daly

Junior class President:
Vice-President:

Dinkar Gupta
Sam Yeager

Bylaw Ammendments:

1. Director-at-Large job description change - Passed
2. Movie Chair job description change - Passed
3. Calling back past BoC reps - Failed
4. Dismissal of a rep judged to be biased by his peers - Failed

- Passed
- Failed

Protests to the election should be made by Fri. 8 pm (e-mail protest@ugcs)

Full election results will follow next week.

Inside the Tech

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ASCIT Minutes

LESTER:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lecturers to talk about their research.

As a hard-working Tech reporter determined to find all angles of the story (or perhaps as just a curious frosh wondering who to thank/blame for this course), I asked Prof. Lester about his views of the course, his goals for it, and the reactions he has gotten. Although he was quite busy, he was kind enough to reply as follows:

"This will be brief as I'm spending full time these days preparing Bi 1 lectures, and it's better to let the course speak for itself in all respects."

"However the students have been simply wonderful. Constructive and interesting questions in class; enough chuckles to encourage more of my bad jokes; excellent feedback that will allow tuning up both lectures and problem sets for the next rendition. It's quite clear to me that students respond positively to faculty efforts."

"The TAs, both undergrads and grads, have also thrown themselves into the project. They work long hours, constantly check on the students, and exude enthusiasm. Mag Bak, our Webmaster, solved several problems gracefully."

"The professional staff consists of Ms. Patricia Mindorff, who handles communications, and Dr. Yinong Zhang, head TA. They also put in intense and skillful effort."

"One unsung hero is Mike Walsh, head of the Biology Division's Electronic Shop. Mike tunes up the A/V equipment, net connections, laser pointer, and lighting before each lecture. My laptop was stolen from a hotel podium in San Francisco, during the off day (Wednesday) between Lectures 2 and 3. Mike and Pam Fong, the NIMH Center's computer expert, immediately got my new laptop from Caltech Wired. They loaded up the proper software, debugged the network and audio connections, restored the backups, and handed it to me when I landed."

"Other members of the Caltech Biology Faculty pitched in with cameo appearance as students or I realized that we needed additional information. Professors Barbara Wold and Paul Patterson have presented entire lectures. The Core Curriculum Faculty Steering Committee, chaired by Andrew Lange, provided key guidance at several steps over the past year. Dr. Steven Hyman, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, came to Caltech from Washington to present his own view of molecular psychiatry."

—Henry Lester

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MAY 23, 2000

Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting

May 23, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Mike Schein, Jon Ladd

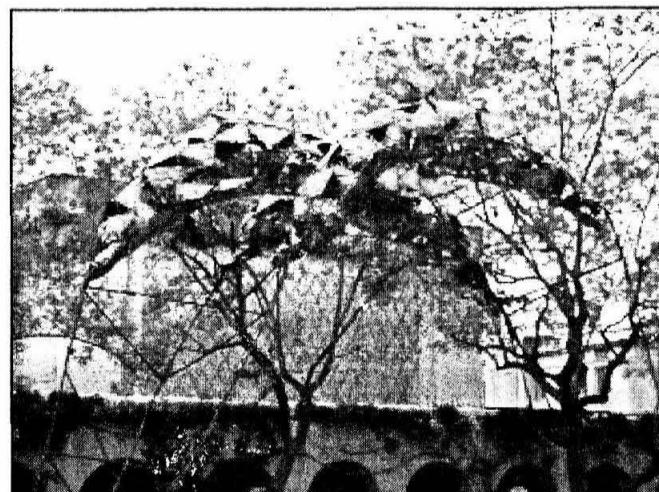
Meeting called to order at 10:25 pm.

General Meeting

Mike, the Election Chair, comes to discuss tomorrow's election for bylaw amendments and class officers. He'll be putting the voting boxes in each house (except Avery, which is too far away) at 10 am and will take them back at 10 pm. He will also put up garish neon pink signs to annoy people into voting. There are three flavors of ballots: blue for current sophomores, green for current juniors, and white for everyone else. The BoD will have a ballot-counting party on Thursday at 3:30 pm. Election protests should be sent to protest@ugcs by Friday, May 26 at 8 pm. We already have one confirmed protestor, who also happens to be a perennial election favorite.

"Where's Melinda?" the BoD asks. She is so busy with ASCIT Formal preparations that she keeps running in and out of the meeting to pick flowers.

By the way, the Formal is this Friday, May 26 at 7 pm at the



Ritz-Carlton Huntington. According to the invitation, the name has been changed from "Divine Ball" to "La Notte Scintillante" (which is Italian?). Melinda asks the BoD if we would like to help build a "4-post structure which goes around the 42' by 39' dance floor" by Friday. The BoD unanimously votes no, so the hotel's decorations will have to do instead of inspired student artwork.

Sean goes up to Fleming to get Jon Ladd, the IHC Ath Man, to come and talk to us about varsity letters. He claims that the letters for this past year will be ordered this term and will arrive sometime during the summer. Varsity jackets, partially subsidized by ASCIT, will be ordered at the beginning of next year.

Next, Sean gives us the latest word on our financial status. His statement is "we're doing good." Cool. Eric asks Sean to give the BoD a quick presentation about each ASCIT bank account at the next meeting.

Martha-Helene is expecting a third term report from each of the new clubs we funded this year. All the new clubs were contacted by Eric through email a while ago. Remember new clubs: no report, no funding.

We are still waiting for financial reports from publications (except from the very responsible Tech editorial staff). We'll spam the rest of the publications people about turning their reports in.

The next topic on the agenda is ARC Stuff. Eric talked to the CLUE editors, who report that their current status is exactly the

same as the last time they reported (3 weeks ago). Their new estimated time of completion is the end of the term, hopefully. The BoD realizes that there is not much incentive for them to finish this project. Who else would do it? Laura and Chris volunteer to look into it and will report back next week.

Eric talked over the Frosh Advising idea with the IHC. They had some suggestions, which included sending out a general letter to incoming frosh about how to register and setting up a web page with more detailed info, including student contacts for each option. Emma will send out a mass email as soon as possible asking for student volunteers for frosh option advisers. Eric will write up a letter for the incoming frosh about general registration, including his two strategies for frosh year. The ASCIT Movie Committee has been pretty busy lately. The Outdoor Movie last Friday was a success! They are planning on having another one in the fall. Mission Impossible 2 will be shown in the 900-seat theater at Pacific Hastings tomorrow (Wednesday, May 24) at 11 pm and is free for undergrads. The event is sponsored by Tom Mannion.

The Screening Room will have to wait until next fall, at the beginning of the school year. The shelving for the DVD Library is still being constructed for the Coffeehouse.

Meghan, the Publications Director, will send the publications people an email asking for compensation schedules (including salaries, commission rates, possible bonuses, description of duties, and a payment schedule), the question "Where are you on your road map?", about prob-

lems (including with administration or human resources), and about equipment status. They need to reply by Sunday, May 28. Melinda reports that there are 204 people going to the Formal. She has been having a problem with undergrads responding late (the deadline to confirm was Saturday).

Eric assures us that he will be moving out of the ASCIT office soon. His senior roommate will let him back in now that Ditch Day is over.

The "Leaning Tower of Pizza" prank by Joe Cook and Howen Mak went up on Millikan on Ditch Day as planned. It looks great and even made the front page of the Pasadena Star News.

Nate Austin's dolphins are also up on Millikan bridge. Will ASCIT be able to adopt one?

The last ASCIT BoD meeting of the school year will be next Tuesday, May 30 at 10 pm in SAC 33. Meeting adjourns at 12:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason C. Cardema

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Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
editorial email: editors@tech.caltech.edu
advertising email: adv@tech.caltech.edu
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EDITORS IN CHIEF
Jonathan Foster
John Oh
Dana Sadava

BUSINESS MANAGER
Tasha Vanesian

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Jennifer Lee

COMICS EDITOR
Kenneth Kao

PHOTOGRAPHER
Erik Dill
Dana Sadava

COPY EDITORS
Elisabeth Adams

CONTRIBUTORS
Jason Cardema
Vanessa Sih
Erik Dill
Kenneth Kao

STAFF WRITERS
Justin Kao
Mohi Kumar
Mere Chasman
Mona Sheikh

FEATURE WRITERS
Justin Ho
Stephen Shepard
Jason Melzner
Adam Villani

MINTS
John Oh
Roger O'Brien
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PHOTOGRAPHER
Erik Dill
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Senior Awards

Caltech seniors recognized for exceptional leadership

Candace Chang, Matthew Musick, Katherine Noyes, and Baldeep Sadhal awarded the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award for 2000

BY SUZETTE CUMMINGS

Candace Chang, Matthew Musick, Katherine Noyes, and Baldeep Sadhal were awarded Robert L. Noland Leadership Awards at a dinner presentation in the Athenaeum Library on May 17, 2000. The Robert L. Noland Leadership Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities.

Candace, a senior in Chemistry, received the award for her outstanding leadership and service to the students of Caltech. She has been Chairman and Secretary of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Student Advisory Council, overseeing 300 Caltech and non-

Caltech students during their summer research projects. She has served as President and Vice President of the Premed Club. She has served for two years as a Health Advocate for her student dorm, providing first aid and counseling when needed. Candace is also an excellent violinist, performing with the Caltech-Occidental Orchestra all fours years at Caltech. She is a frequent performer in James Boyk's "Alive with Music" master classes that introduce classical music and the violin to those who might not be familiar with either one. She is also a frequent violin solo performer at numerous Caltech events.

Matt, a senior in Engineering and Applied Science, received

the award for his many contributions he has made to student life at Caltech. He has been very active within Fleming House during his four years and has served that house as a UCC, a house athletic team member, and most recently as Fleming House President. He has proven he has the ability to work well with others, to address and represent the needs of the students in his house. In all his activities, Matt has been dedicated to learning the opinions of his fellow students and finding ways to improve the quality of student life.

He was appointed to serve as a member of the AIDS Task Force and the Student-Athlete Mentoring Program (ACME). He has also been a four-year member of the basketball and tennis teams and served as co-captain for both teams his junior and senior years.

Katie, a senior in Biology, received the award for the many contributions she has made to student life at Caltech. She has been very active in Ruddock House in a variety of roles and elected offices, culminating in the office of the House Presi-

dent. Her leadership in that role has had a tremendous impact on the House and its relations with other Houses. Katie has also demonstrated leadership qualities on a personal level and helped many students individually to regain self-confidence in order to continue developing their potential to the fullest extent. In addition, Katie has been a member of the Caltech Women's Glee Club since her freshman year, developing her own musical talents and encouraging others by example to pur-

PLEASE SEE NOLAND ON PAGE 11



*Robert and Del Noland with the Robert L. Noland Leadership Winners - 2000
Candace Chang, Katie Noyes, Baldeep Sadhal, Matthew Musick*

The Outside World

by John Oh

WASHINGTON - Beginning June 1, a federal law will take affect requiring U.S. oil companies to sell a more expensive but less polluting fuel. The extra cost of this new fuel is already being passed on to the consumers. Currently, U.S. drivers pay on the average \$1.53 per gallon, up a shocking 37 cents per gallon from this time a year ago. Geoff Sundstrom, of the American Auto Association, said, "We can't blame OPEC this time, this is a domestic issue." Many regions across the nation fear shortages of the new gasoline, and have requested waivers from the EPA.

WASHINGTON - Undercover agents simultaneously breached security at eight federal agencies and had enough time to effectively plant bombs. The agents, working as special investigators for the Government Accounting Office, were able to use fake police IDs to bypass security at 19 of the government's most secure building as well as Reagan National and Orlando International Airports. The surprising ease with which agents were able to breach these facilities, which included the Energy Department and the Federal Aviation Administration, has already prompted several responses, including Attorney General Janet Reno's announcement of changes in security procedure at the Justice Department.

NEW YORK - A study released Wednesday showed that sales of recorded music near college campuses declined by 4 percent during the past two years, while sales at stores overall rose by 12 percent. The Recording Industry Association of America responded to the results saying that they "come as no surprise and confirm our worst fears, this demonstrates the importance of protecting artists' rights on the Internet," according to Amy Weiss, spokeswoman for RIAA.

WASHINGTON - Pentagon Inspector announced that Kenneth Bacon, assistant secretary for public affairs, and Clifford H. Bernath, Bacon's main deputy, both of the Defense Department office of public affairs, violated the Privacy Act when they released information from Linda Tripp's personnel file to a reporter in 1998. Defense Secretary William Cohen sent a mildly scolding letter to both men, but Defense Department spokesman said that Cohen will take no further actions.

NEW YORK - Two gunmen terrorized a Wendy's restaurant Wednesday just before closing time, gagging and shooting seven employees, five of whom were killed. Chief of Detectives William Allee said that he believes the motive to be robbery. Police received a call Thursday morning from the two survivors, who had managed to free themselves from the duct tape that the gunmen bound the employees with. One of the survivors is in critical condition, the other in serious condition, at New York Hospital Medical Center in Queens.

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Interview with a Caltech author

The Tech recently interviewed Anna Kashina, a postdoctoral scholar in biology at Caltech who is originally from Russia. She has also written a fantasy novel which will be coming out late this month. I talked to her about *The Princess of Dhagabab*, her history in writing, and her reflections about Russia and language.

Tech: What's a biology postdoc doing writing fantasy? Not really an accusation you understand—but how did your interest in writing start, and how has your interest in biology influenced your writing?

Anna: I think the question of how my interest in writing started is closely related to the question of when did I first start to write. So, I'll answer them both at once. I wrote my first novel when I was six years old and destroyed it very soon afterwards, when one of the adults pointed out an error in the last phrase. It read: "They sailed off to the West where the sun rises".

I never questioned why I wrote it—I simply had to. I always loved books and I always found something imperfect in them. I wanted to create a book that would seem perfect to me. (Of course, this attitude has changed now). It really goes beyond your question but I think I first thought of myself as a writer when I created something I didn't destroy very soon afterwards. By then I was already 20 years old.

OK, back to biology: the short answer would be: biology had nothing to do with my writing. I became a biologist because it was interesting to me and because being a writer never seemed like a profession, just something I really liked to do. The way biology influenced my writing was mostly through teaching me to think logically and to seek out and process large amounts of

materials. I am really grateful to my scientific background for giving me this ability.

Tech: Where did the idea for *The Princess of Dhagabab* first come from?

Anna: From a dream, where all my ideas come from. Every once in a while I have these striking dreams that make me sit down and write immediately. Luckily, they come at such intervals that I am always able to finish with one before the next one comes along. I am really afraid to stop having them one day, but maybe then I will finally learn to write properly, with a plan, an outline, and everything.

Tech: Why did you come to the United States, and where did you live in Russia?

Anna: I lived in Moscow, Russia, all my life and was really happy there. The reason I decided to go to US is purely 'scientific': after 'perestroika' science in Russia basically stopped being financed and as a result became very inefficient. I felt that if I were to have any scientific future whatsoever I needed to go to US and try to do better work here. I left right after I got my Ph.D.

Tech: How did you learn English? Did you already know it fairly well before moving?

Anna: I was learning English with private teachers on and off since I was four. I learned it really well when I was in the 8th and 9th grades and I had a nonsense private teacher recently retired from the military academy. Lots of energy, lots of order, really systematic learning. Of course I have improved considerably since I came to the US—mostly in speaking and under-

standing, although my accent is still frustratingly obvious. A big help was watching TV (contrary to popular belief) and constant reading.

Tech: You have previously published two other books in Russian (*In the Name of the Queen*, and a collection of short fantasy stories). Why is this one in English?

only by contents but by sound as well, when you describe the scenery, or a beautiful lady, for instance. English is much better for describing action and for writing dialogs—it is very dynamic and efficient. I think this difference may even reflect some differences between Russian and English-language literature (don't hold me to that, though).

me to write it, there is something about the market not accepting too many books from the same writer in too short a period of time. Unless, of course, my book becomes the next "Harry Potter".

Tech: What's your general approach to writing? Do you force yourself to write some every day, or do you just write when inspiration comes?

Anna: I feel inspired most of the time and I usually write whenever I have time to sit down and write a reasonable piece. It is always a struggle to stop myself from writing, and some time it results in writing some random pieces that don't even belong to the same novel. I usually don't write in sequence and combine these pieces later, writing links between them. With the sequel, since I do have so little time now, I try to make it more organized.

Tech: Can you give a summary of the book?

Anna: I was never good at writing a summary of my book (my publisher does a much better job of that) but I'll try.

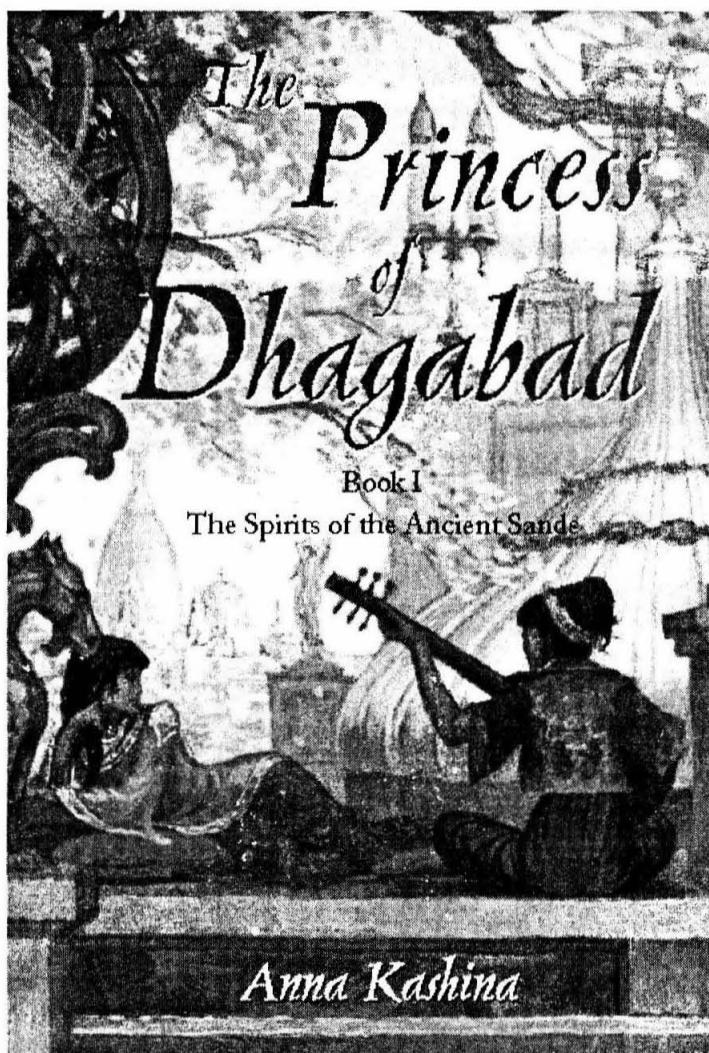
The book is a love story between an Arabian princess and her slave, a djinn, in a setting similar to the world of the Arabian Nights. Behind its Arabian scenery and magical adventures the key idea, from my point of view, lies in who the djinns really are. As found out early in the book, the djinns are all-powerful wizards whose power becomes so dangerous to let loose in the world that some god-like forces enslave them at the very moment when they reach absolute power.

Russian readers are (or used to be) a lot different from American readers. Before 'perestroika' there weren't enough good books available and people were desperate for them. The most available were books by new authors (usually bad) and books by communist leaders (no comment). Right after 'perestroika', when my books were published, people suddenly started getting inflows of classical and foreign literature, and books by new Russian authors became even less popular with very few exceptions. The book I wrote was a pirate novel about Elizabethan England and I felt that if I ever wanted to sell this book I had to have an English name. I translated my name Anna Kashina into English and came up with the name Ann Porridge.

Tech: Do you have any comments about the differences in writing in the two languages?

Anna: When I write, some stories naturally come out in Russian and some come out in English. I used to think it corresponds to the language of the book I was reading at the moment. Now I really don't know how it happens, although I do tend to write more in English now.

There is a marked difference pointed out by Vladimir Nabokov, with whom I tend to agree. Russian is much better for visual descriptions—it can become almost poetic, beautiful not



Anna Kashina

Tech: Why did you write under a pen name for your first book?

Anna: I did it so that I could sell it better, and I guess it requires a little bit of explanation.

Russian readers are (or used to be) a lot different from American readers. Before 'perestroika' there weren't enough good books available and people were desperate for them. The most available were books by new authors (usually bad) and books by communist leaders (no comment). Right after 'perestroika', when my books were published, people suddenly started getting inflows of classical and foreign literature, and books by new Russian authors became even less popular with very few exceptions. The book I wrote was a pirate novel about Elizabethan England and I felt that if I ever wanted to sell this book I had to have an English name. I translated my name Anna Kashina into English and came up with the name Ann Porridge.

Tech: When can we expect the next two novels in the series?

Anna: Novel #2 is in the works right now, but I cannot tell how soon it will be published. I hope in a year or so, with novel #3 to follow in another year. I think that, aside from the time it takes

The Princess of Dhagabab is scheduled to be published on May 29th. More information can be found at www.herdias.com

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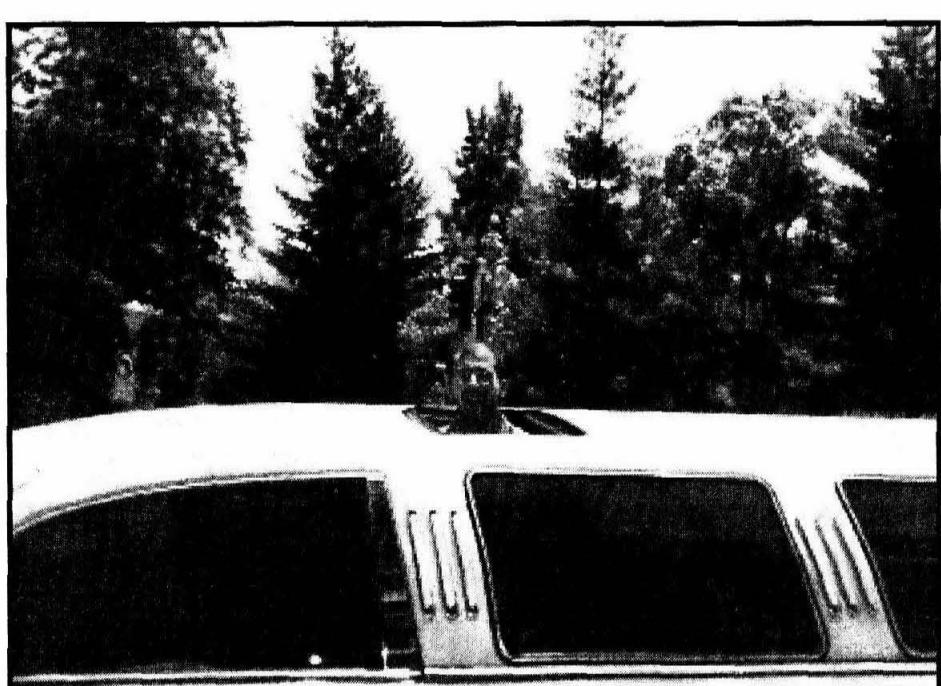
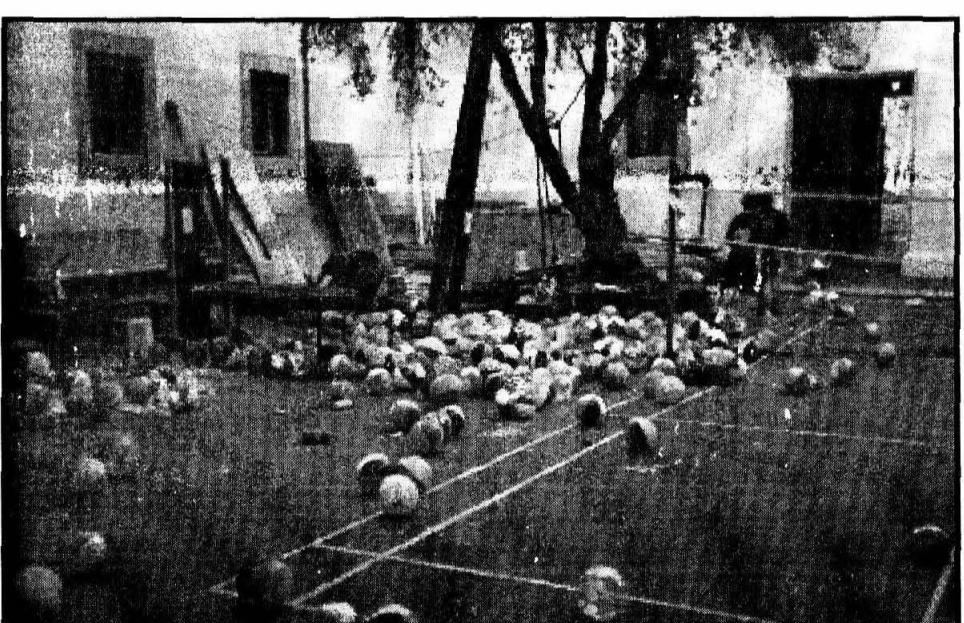
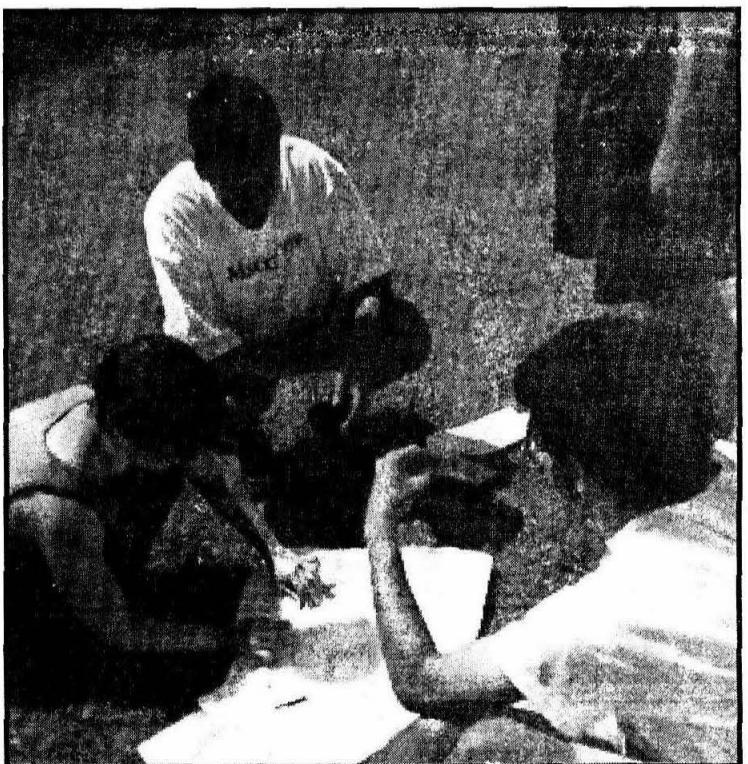
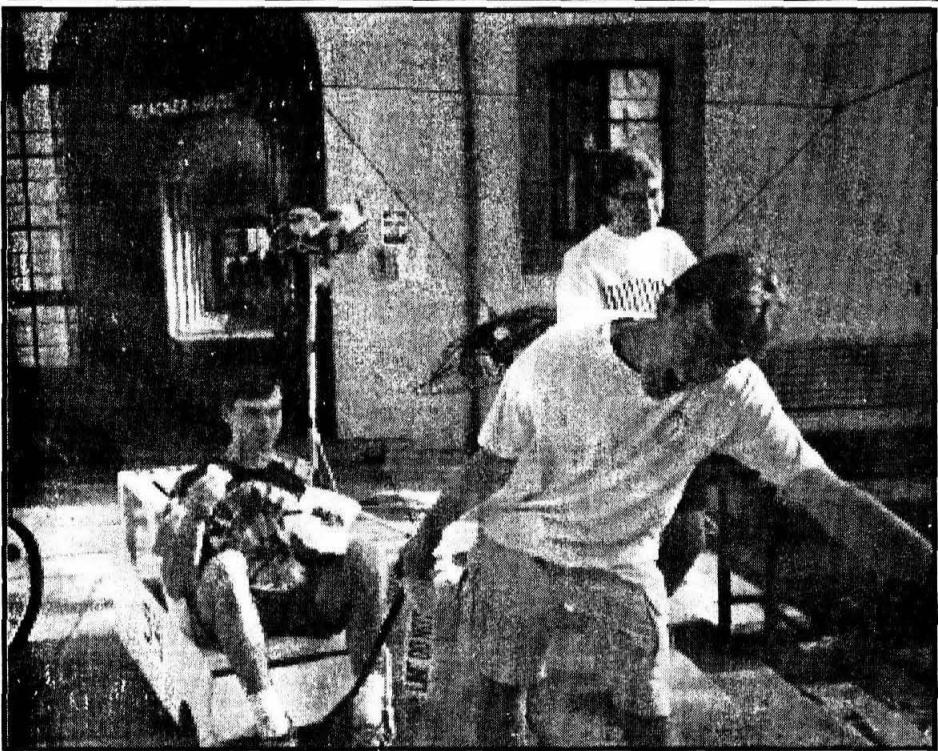
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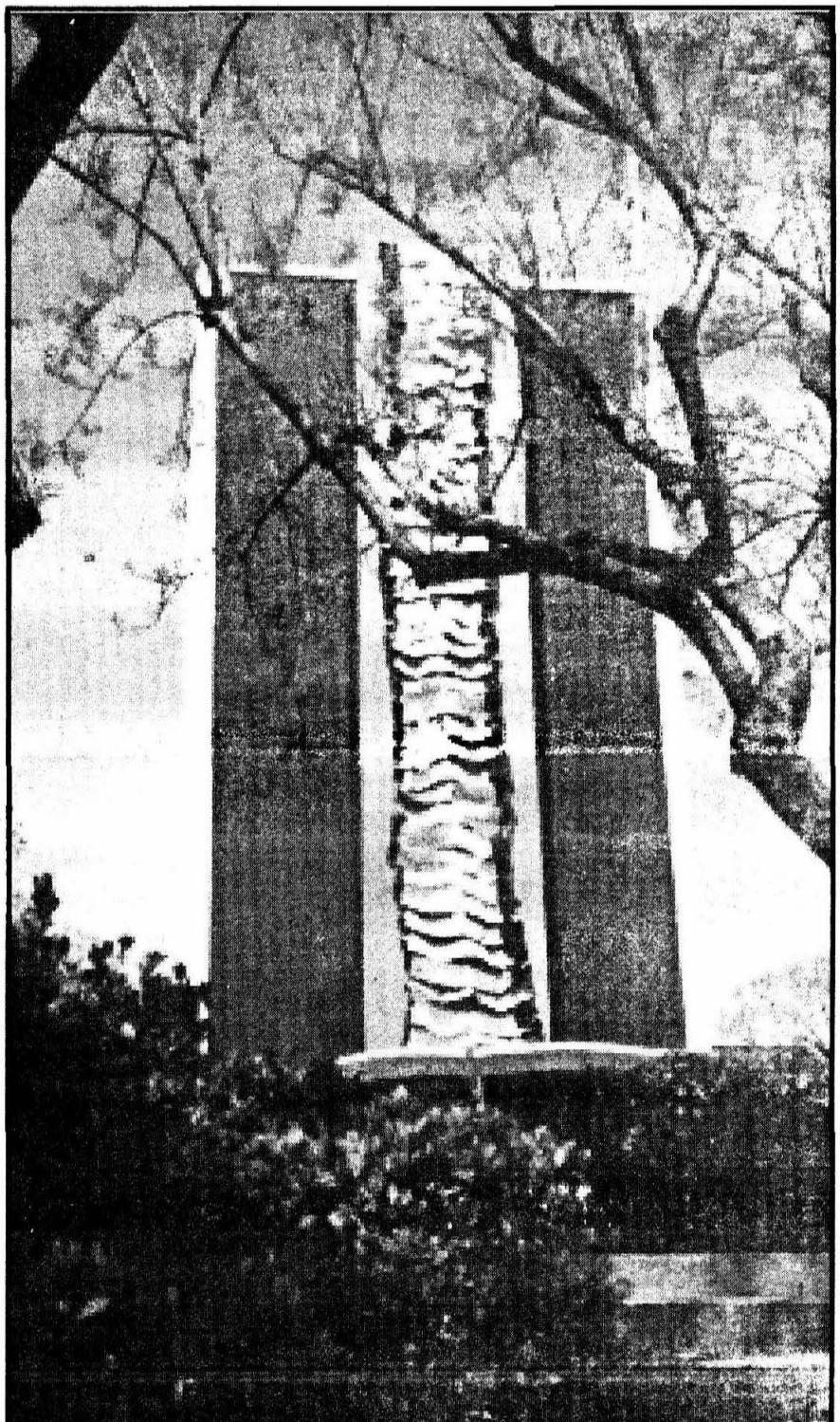
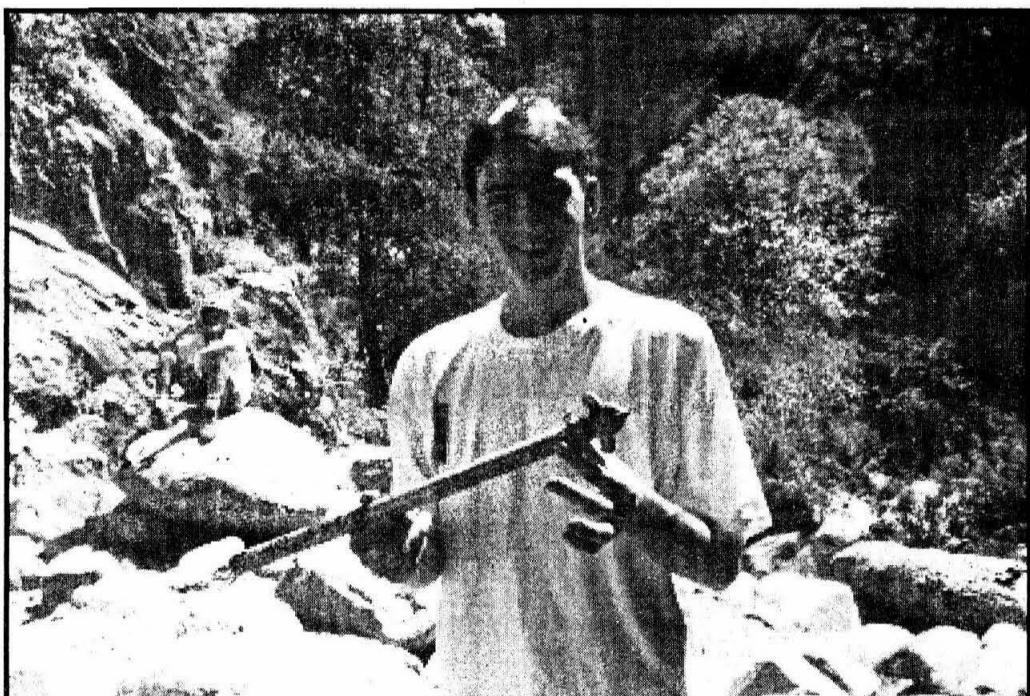
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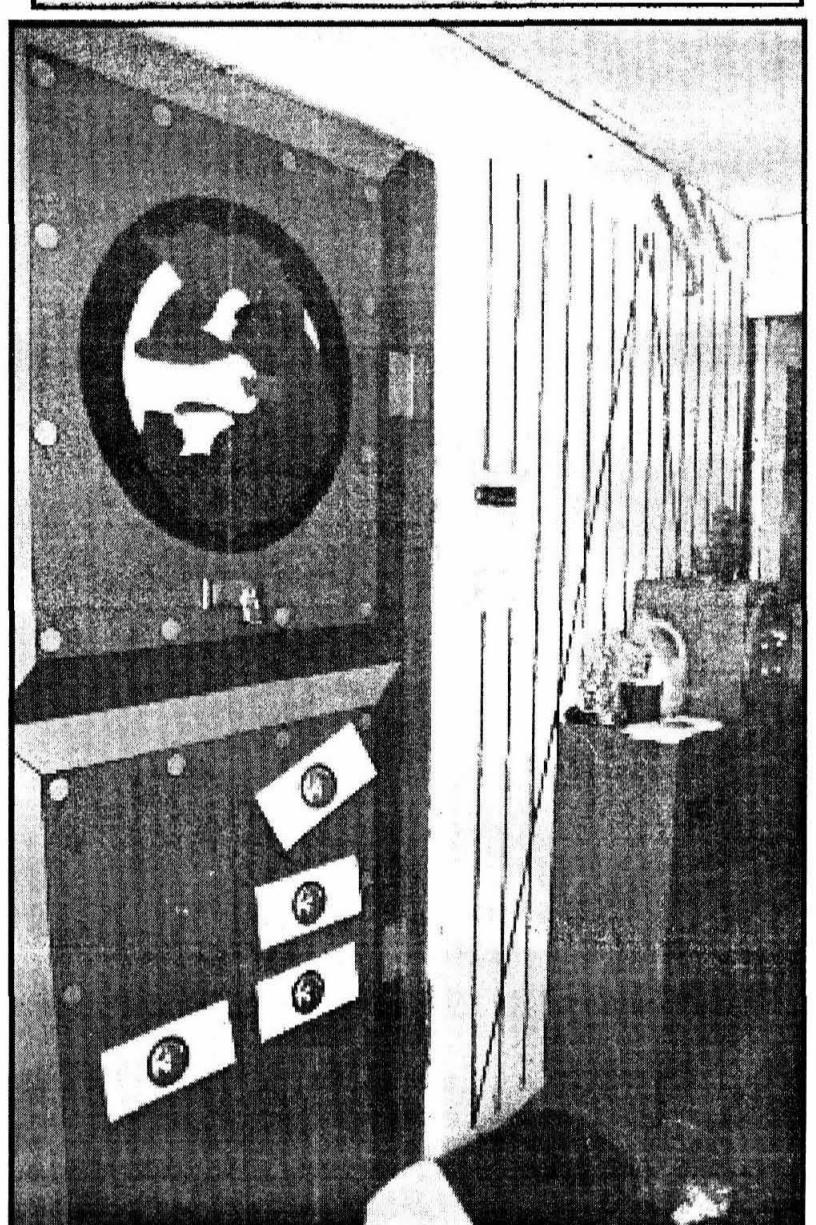
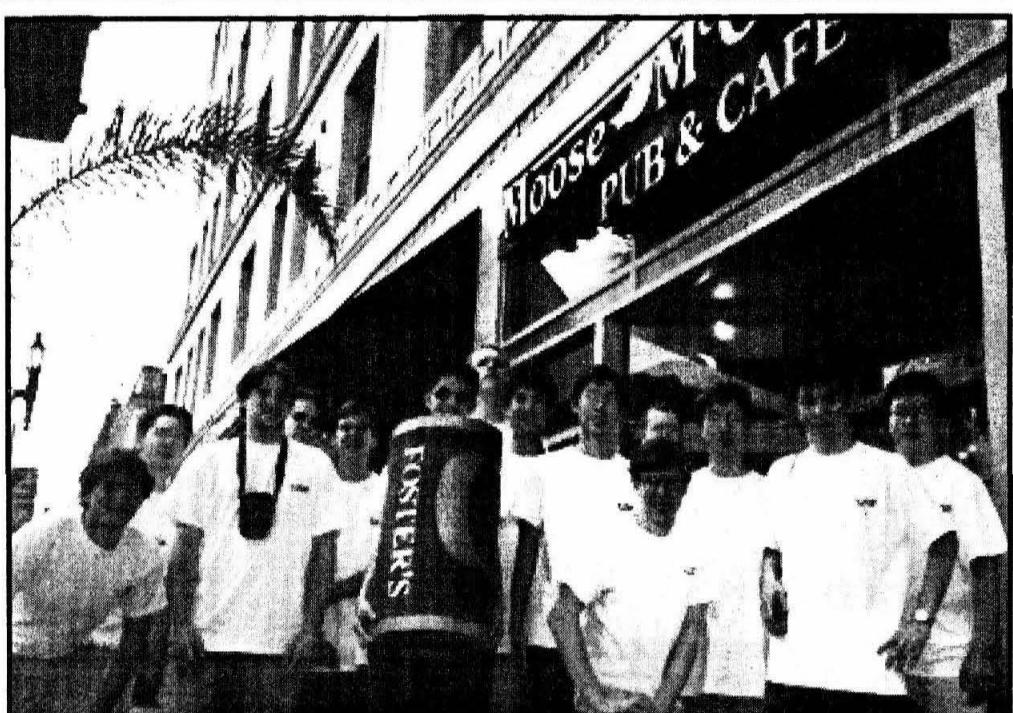
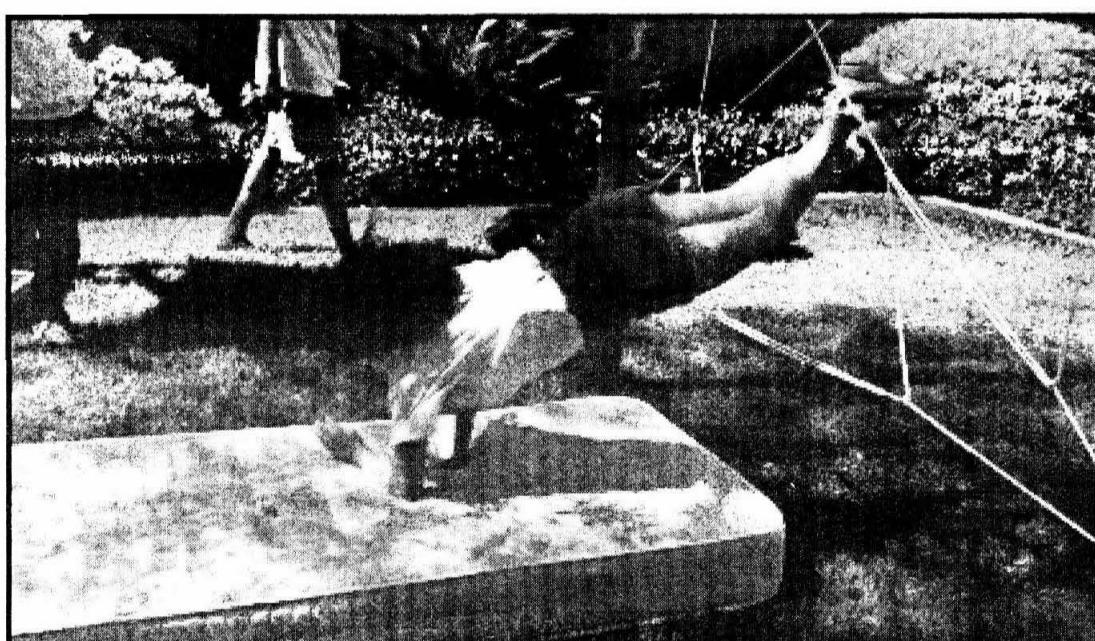
Ditch Day 2000



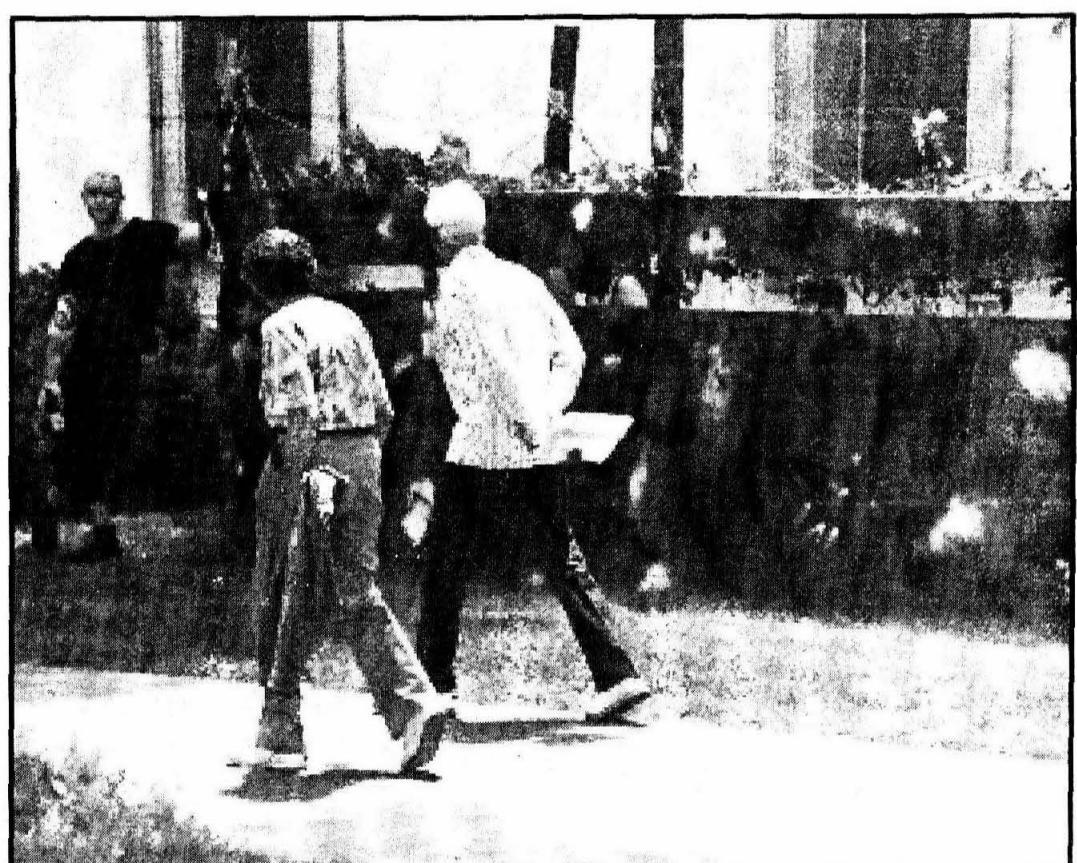
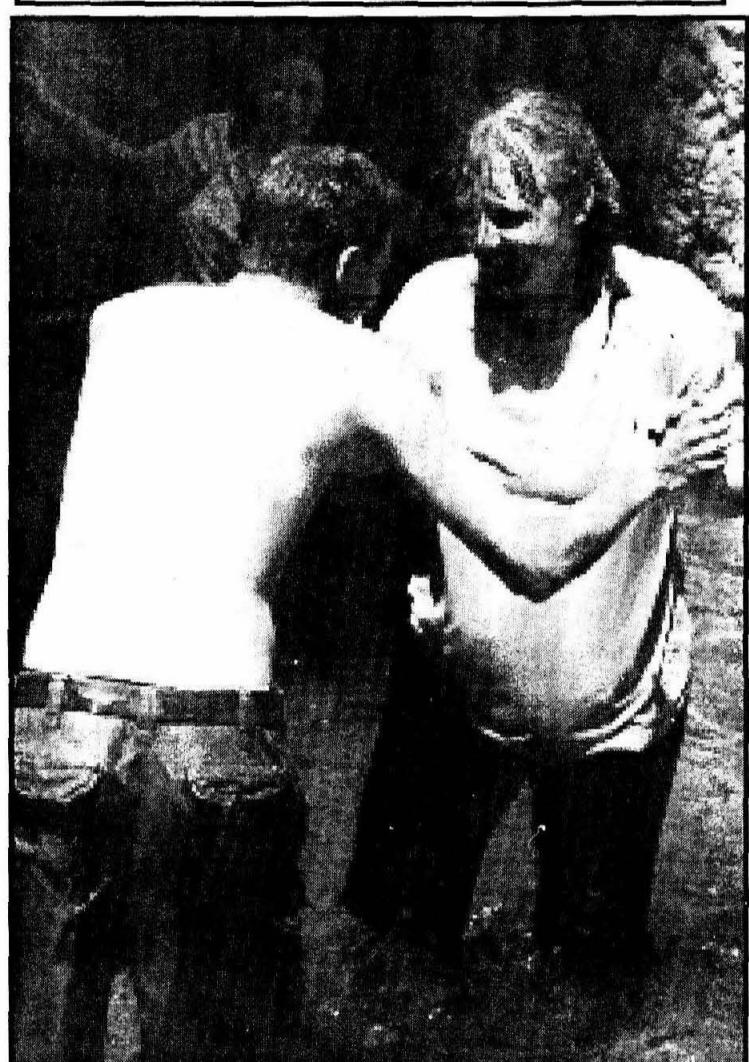
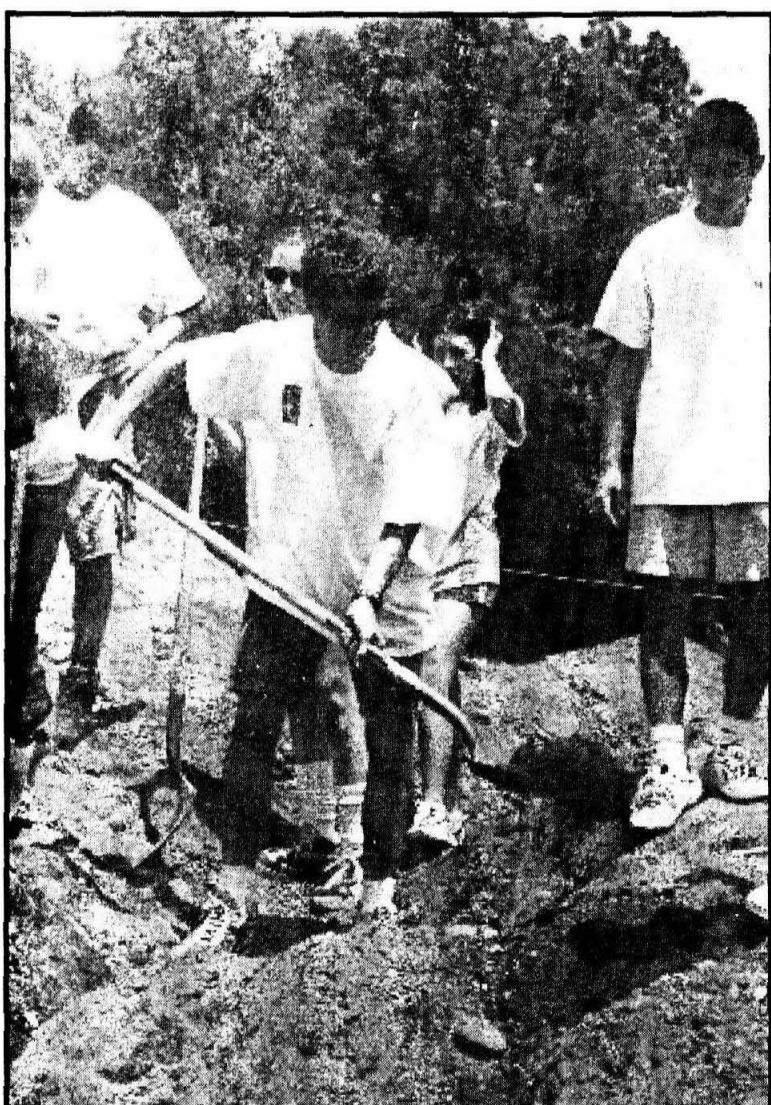
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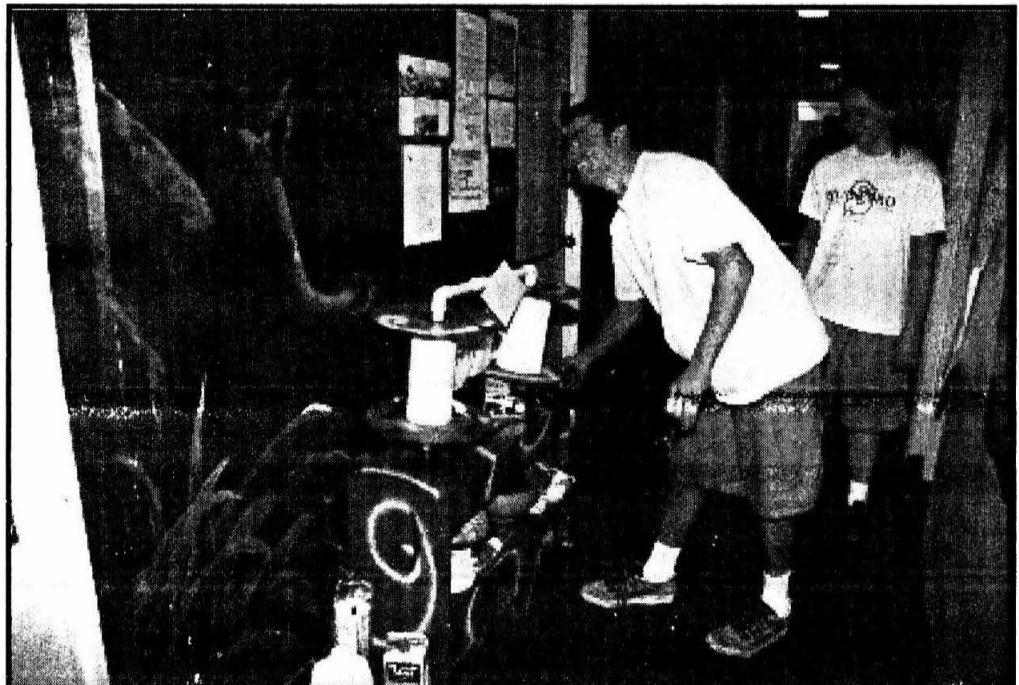
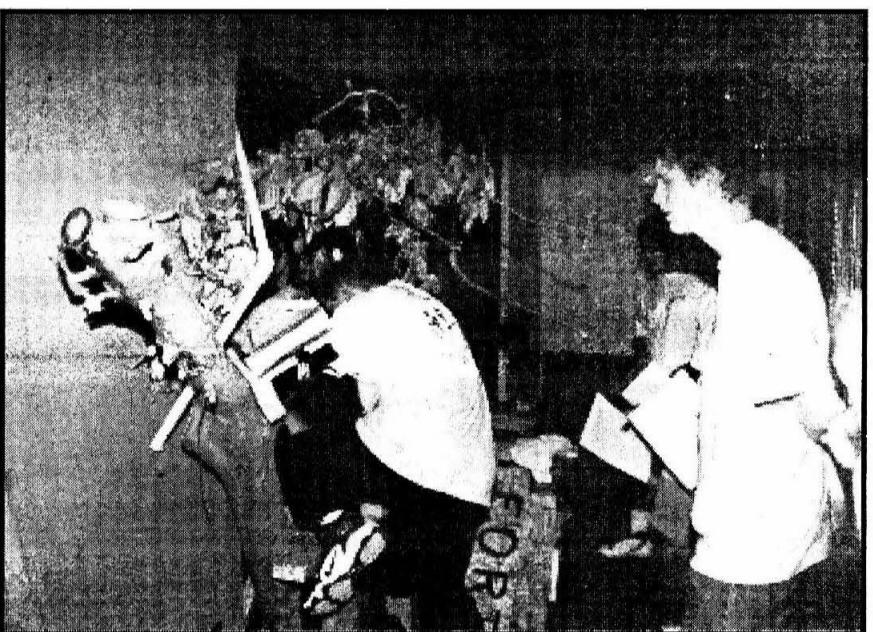
Ditch Day sent students all over campus and Southern California and provided perfect timing for senior pranks like the Milikan pizza boxes (above).



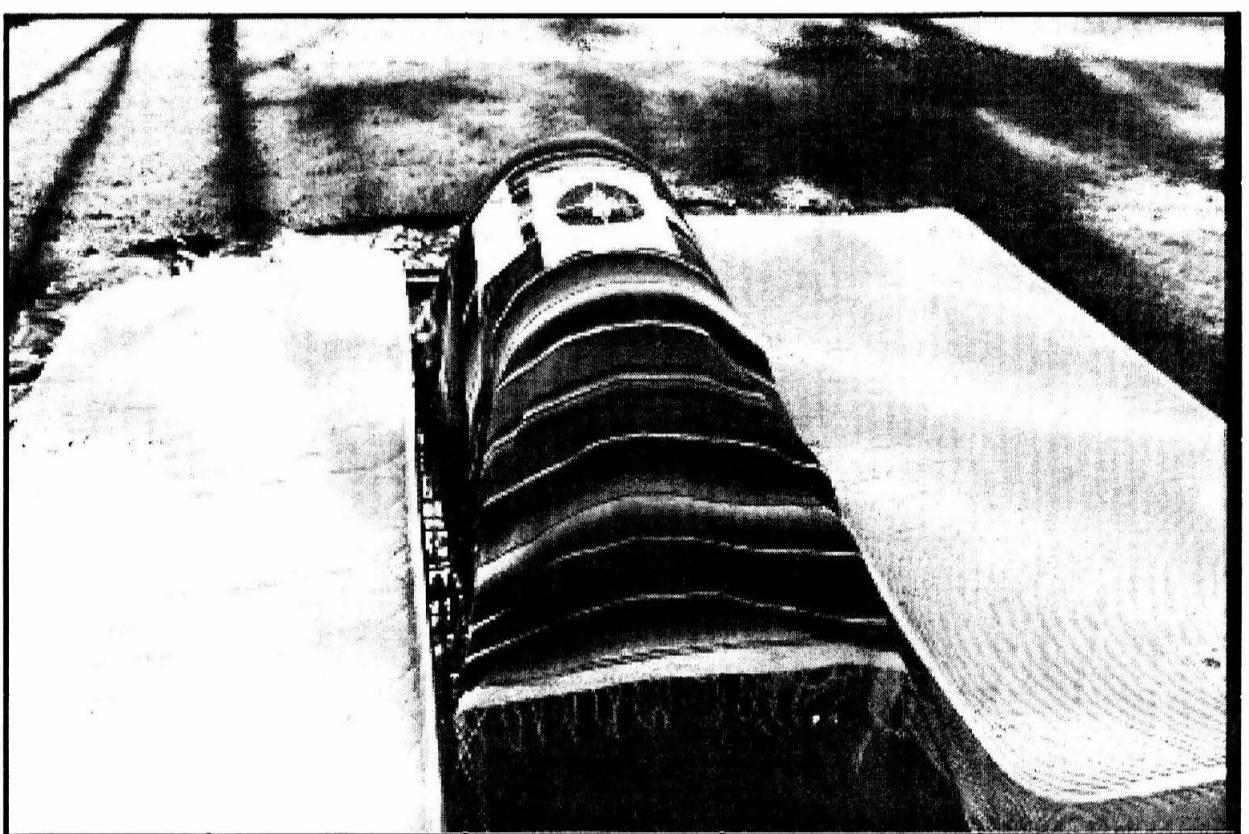
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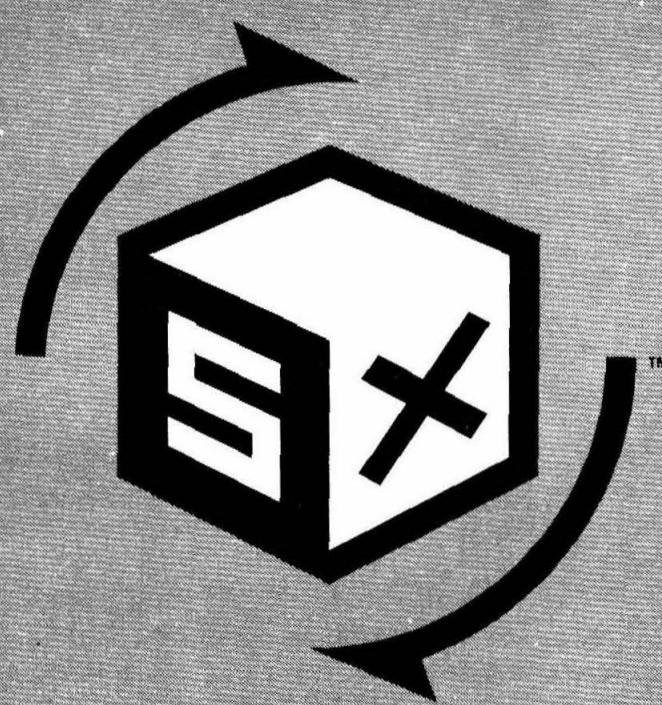


Ditch Day 2000



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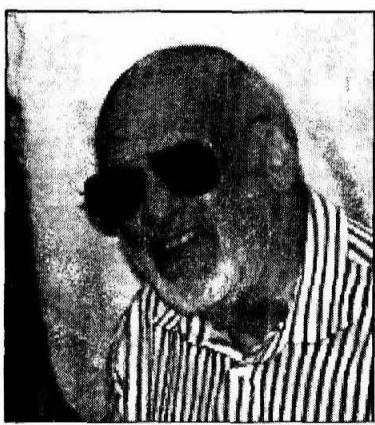
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The Dean and the iBook



Dean's Corner

Time Travel

by Jean-Paul Revel

CRE

ATED BY THE "EVIL GENIUSES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW." MILLIKAN LIBRARY WAS CLAD IN SCALES, IN THE GUISE OF SOME 40 ROWS OF PIZZA CARTONS. MILLIKAN, HOWEVER, DID NOT LEAN; MAYBE A BETTER NAME WOULD HAVE BEEN "THE LEARNING TOWER OF PIZZA". ANOTHER SPECTACULAR CREATION, A POD OF GOLDEN DOLPHINS JUMPING OVER MILLIKAN BRIDGE, APPEARED THE DAY AFTER DITCH DAY. EVERYONE SEEMS TO LIKE IT, A LOT. THANKS TO THE DESIGNER AND HIS CAST OF HELPERS FOR A REAL TREAT.

Well, that was it, the long awaited tomorrow was actually last Friday. Time travel, Caltech-style. Students ditched their classes to participate in this carnival organized by the Seniors. Besides the moans of some profs who lost a precious day in their courses, there were also complaints from others to the effect that we could have chosen a better day, one when they were scheduled to teach. There is no way to satisfy profs, no way, and as to the students, well, you know better than I. And there is no way to satisfy the Dean, that tiger in disguise, who spent the day mulling the precepts of the Honor Code. "Pranks and Practical jokes have always been part of undergraduate life at Caltech" says The Handbook. "Pranks, when planned with consideration for the rest of the community, can be very enjoyable" but of course there is a down side: "badly thought-out pranks may otherwise take unfair advantage of someone in the community". May all your pranks in the future avoid this pitfall.

One spectacular production was not even a stack. Named "The Leaning Tower of Pizza," it was

are gifts that will remind the graduate of the giver, every day, or maybe once a month, assuming of course that they'll be used at all. But why should these drab utilitarian gifts be at the top of the list? (Could it be that the order was determined by how much companies paid to be listed?)

Item #3 was a Palm Pilot, specifically the Palm IIIx Connected Organizer. The blurb said "If you're still writing notes to yourself, stop." Stop, right. "The Palm IIIx is a noteworthy addition to your lifestyle." What artful subliminal reinforcement of the urge to make notes! "Part of an award winning line of organizers, this organizer is expandable..." — watch out, not expendable. "From 12,000 addresses to 5 years of appointments, you'll reach for..." no, I won't reach. I stopped reading right there. I am sure a Palm Pilot would be a useful accessory in your busy life after Tech (there is one), but the idea of 12,000 addresses is just too much. Who knows 12,000 people to address? Oh you poor graduates, I shudder to think of your lives burdened by so many contacts, acquaintances and heaven forbid even 1,200 girl- or boyfriends? Less disturbing is the next item listed, the "iBook 300MHz / 6GB / 64MB / 12.1" TFT NoteBook (Blueberry): Smooth

rounded edges and a carrying handle to fold away when not needed. This iBook is made for computing on the move. And with the amazing AirPort you can say farewell to network cables. The AirPort allows you to be online without actually being plugged..." Good that you could avoid getting plugged, another clear indication that the crime rate is decreasing. And think, you'll be able to emulate the smug young executive in the current ads, who, from the comfort of her waiting room chair, beats out everyone to the last seat remaining on a flight to "whatever your (her) final destination." See, I am not in a hurry to reach my final destination, really, you take the seat, "Apres vous, mon cher Alphonse."

The list continues with more traditional offerings, a digital music player, a digital camera, more computers, a color printer... That's good, this last one, the graduates will need to send resumes, which will clearly be more notable if printed in rainbow colors. Come to think of it, better stick to basic black. Item number 12 seems to be an absolute necessity. Judging by how popular they are I am surprised it is not higher on the list. Surely every graduate already owns one of those devices, which seem glued to the ear of so many. Pretty soon they'll be prime gifts for "new baby" showers. But then maybe babies of the future will have a phone implant before leaving the hospital. But now comes a gift without which no graduate could survive away from TFM: an indoor grill.

"This grill has a 125 square inch cooking surface, giving you enough room for whatever you want to grill. It drains fat between bars and away from food, so you can..." Let's see, square root of 125 is about 11. A grill 11" on the side is large enough for a dozen hotdogs and may be even a brace of hamburgers. It hardly seems big enough for anyone whose address book might contain 12,000 entries. I guess the solution is to buy a whole battery of these grills or maybe a gaggle of the smokeless model which is also advertised, so you can grill to your heart's content in your Penthouse, on a rainy day.. But the oddest gift, I think, is the "TG15 Tailgater (tm) Blender - Chrome: The Tailgater Blender is designed for cars, boats or campers and comes with a 15' cord and AC power adapter. It can also be powered by a 12-volt cigarette lighter. Its heavy-duty chrome-plated plated metal base keeps everything in place while you" while you what? Ah yes, maybe while you use the "DM100BG PartyMate (tm) Portable Drink Maker: This DM100BG PartyMate Portable Drink Maker makes cocktails, frozen smoothies, power drinks, daiquiris and more. Made of rugged, water-resistant construction and shatterproof 32 oz. (960 ml) jar, it is perfect for outdoor use." Good thing that most of our graduates are of age when they leave us.

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

NOLAND:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

sue non-academic interests along with course-related and academic work. She is very involved with the Caltech Christian Fellowship, holding regular studies in her dorm room, and leading worship with her guitar when needed.

Baldeep, a senior in Electrical Engineering, received the award for the many contributions he has made to student life at Caltech. He has been the ASCIT President for the last two years. In that capacity he has been instrumental in shaping student government. Baldeep also served as a member of the Committee on Student Government and Administrative Action (COSGAA) which reviewed the manner in which disciplinary actions occur at Caltech, and assisted in the formulation of the Conduct Review Committee (CRC). In all his activities, Baldeep has been dedicated to learning the opinions of his fellow students and finding ways to improve the quality of student life. Because of his time as ASCIT president, many things about undergraduate life have changed. The ASCIT web page

is in the process of being modernized, the student Coffeehouse has been remodeled and is being managed by students, and each student house is getting a DVD player and a DVD library is being set up.

The Green, Froehlich, and Haagen-Smit Awards were presented on May 25, 2000 at a luncheon hosted by the Deans in The Athenaeum. Jeffrey Barrick, junior in Chemistry received the George W. Green Prize. The Green Prize is awarded to an undergraduate student in any class for original research, an original paper or essay, or other evidence of creative scholarship beyond the normal requirements of specific courses. The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for outstanding juniors in the top 5% of the class. Christopher Hirata, a junior in Physics, was selected this year. Betty Hong, a sophomore in biology, won the Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award. The Haagen-Smit Award is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and has made recognized contributions to Caltech.

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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional HSS Course Announcement for Fall Term 2000-01: Lit 129 Austen, Bronte, Woolf An introduction to four of the most important English writers of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Understanding these novelists as a tradition, we will pay particular attention to formal developments in the Novel from the marriage plot through modernism. Jane Austen, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, and Virginia Woolf's major works-including but not limited to Emma, Persuasion, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Light-house. Instructor: King; TTH 1-2:30

The McKinney Committee of the Caltech Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the winners in the 2000 contest for excellence in writing. In the category of prose fiction, first prize has been won by David Hockaday. In the category of non-fiction essay, first prize is awarded to Jit Kee Chin. The poetry prize was won by Stephen Shepherd. The Hallett Smith Competition (for the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare) was won jointly by Jim Wong and Robert Swinney.

RELOCATION: Effective Monday, May 8, 2000, The Bursar's Office will relocate from the first floor of Keith Spalding Building (Business Services), Room 116, to 363 South Hill Street and occupy the first floor of the main Hill House. The new Mail Code for the Bursar's Office will be 3-7. The telephone and fax numbers for The Bursar's Office will remain the same. Please note that the Disbursement Audit Office has been moved to the garage structure in the back of the Hill House. Additionally, a new Satellite Cashier's Office will be operational for Personal Accounts only in the garage structure of 363 So. Hill Street. The Satellite Cashier's Mail Code will be 4-7 and the telephone number will be (626) 395-2482. Only a minimal disruption in services on the morning of Friday, May 5, 2000 is anticipated.

The final Beginning Night Club Two Step class originally scheduled for Mon 29 May has been rescheduled for 7:30 - 9:00pm Mon 5 Jun'00 in Winnett Lounge. For further information see www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call Don at 626/791-3103.

Halsey Rodman's art installation entitled "One and Many Suns," which includes sculpture and photographs, will be on view at Caltech's Outdoor Art Space until July 9. The art site is located behind the Campus Recycling Center on Holliston Avenue

Local indie rock label looking for interns for sales, marketing, internet and promotions. Looking for motivated self starter who is resourceful and responsible. Computer skills a plus! Serious inquiries only please. Email: vrichter@netcom.com URL: <http://www.vanrichter.net>. Telephone number: 583-4717

CIM Vision International, an E-Commerce company based in Long Beach, California, is seeking talented individuals with a passion for software development in Windows 2000 COM+/Java/ASP. Immediate openings are available. Candidates must show attention to detail in their work, have good oral and written communication skills and demonstrate that they work well under pressure as well as in a fast paced team environment. Preference will be given to those candidates that have experience with C++, MFC, COM/DCOM/COM+, ATL, Java, SQL and UML. Please send resume and a cover letter to: Human resources, CIM Vision International, 360 Oceangate, Suite 1500, Long Beach, CA 90802.

The CBDC hosts a series of weekly "mini-parties", i.e., no lesson/demonstration or theme as done for the "regular" parties. The parties are free and take place in Winnett Lounge after each pro-taught class on Mon. from 9:00-11:00 p.m. Refreshments are provided and no partner is required. From 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. music pertaining to the previous class will be played, but after 9:30 p.m. feel free to make requests or bring your own music.

Due to recent vandalism, Cleveland Elementary School in Pasadena is seeking donations of books and equipment for the school's library. Specifically, the school is in need of two overhead projectors and books appropriate for grades K-6 to replace those stolen or destroyed. Donations may be made directly to Cleveland Elementary School at 524 Palisade Street, Pasadena, California, 91103. For questions or further information, please contact Principal Abel Quesada at 626-794-7169 or Laura Biedebach in the office of Congressman

James E. Rogan at 626-577-3969.

Ride your bicycle to Caltech? Register with Caltech's CYCLOCOMMUTERS. <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cyclocom> or email: cyclocom@caltech.edu. Monthly random drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate to a local bike store and free tune up and extras at the Commuter Fair Day, on May 19th! If you are a distance rider, log in your miles for an extra chance to win additional prizes every 6 months.

EVENTS

Caltech Library System Presents: May 30 - "Patent Searching (Free & Proprietary, Equivalents, Legal Status, Cited References)" 12-1 p.m. in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room, 328. Register at <http://library.caltech.edu/learning>. For other questions, contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu

Dr. Paul B. MacCready, "Dyslexia and the Creative Individual" at the Art Center College of Design, Ahmanson Auditorium, 11:30 am Wednesday, May 31, 2000. Dr. Paul B. MacCready, a recently featured as Time Magazine's "The Century's Greatest Minds" series "on the 100 most influential people of the century," heads the first of 3 lectures titled "Dyslexia and the Creative Individual."

Caltech's KipFest Science Symposium to Feature Physicists Kip Thorne and Stephen Hawking. Advance Tickets Available Now. Caltech is hosting KipFest, a symposium on the occasion of theoretical astrophysicist Kip Thorne's 60th Birthday, June 1 to 3, 2000, to honor his career in physics, and his commitment to the communication and popularization of science and science education. Early admission tickets for the Saturday Science Talks are available now at the Caltech Ticket Office for students, faculty, staff and JPL employees, with a limit of two (2) per I.D. These early admission tickets

provide guaranteed seating if presented by 9:30 a.m. There are a limited number of tickets, available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on tickets, please contact the Caltech Ticket Office at ext. 4652.

The 12th annual NASA Planetary Science Summer School offers student scientists and engineers the unique opportunity to design a space exploration mission in one week. "Discovery Micromissions: Focused Low Cost Science" is scheduled for August 7-11, 2000, in Pasadena, California. The program is directed toward PhD candidates and recent PhD graduates. For more information on the program and an application form, please visit <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/pscischool/>. The deadline for applications is June 11, 2000. Questions on science content may be directed to Ms. Anita Sohus at JPL, (818) 354-6613, or anita.m.sohus@jpl.nasa.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Collegiate Inventors Competition, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, is handing out money—big money—to college inventors and their advisors. Each winning student - or student team - receives a \$20,000 cash prize. Faculty advisors each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. The competition, open all full-time college students and judged by distinguished scientists and inventors from across the country, awards up to six prizes each year. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2000. In addition to cash prizes, winners and their advisors will travel to the induction ceremony of the National Inventors Hall of Fame on September 8-9, 2000. During the weekend, winners will be honored and have the chance to learn from the greatest scientific minds of our time who visit the Hall of Fame each year for the induction festivities. Applications are available at www.invent.org/collegiate.

The Jewish Loan Association is offering interest-free student loans to qualified individuals for tuition, books and sup-

plies, and living expenses. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate study and have a 2.5 GPA or above. For further information, please contact the Jewish Free Loan Association at 213-761-8830 or 818-464-3331.

The John Gyles Education Fund is offering scholarship awards up to \$3,000 for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or above, and demonstrate financial need. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. To request an application, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attn: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Dr. Frederiction, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 2000 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

The Department of Defense hosts three student internship programs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. These include Internships in Terascale Simulation Technology (www.llnl.gov/str/str.html), Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) Pipeline Program (www.llnl.gov/asci/index.html), and Graduate Interns in Nuclear Weapons (www.education.llnl.gov/gint). Housing and salary are at competitive rates. For more information, contact Barry Goldman, 925-422-5177, or goldman1@llnl.gov.

Information and applications for 2000 Summer Work-Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, **but no later than June 1, 2000**. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 2000.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@ngcs.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.