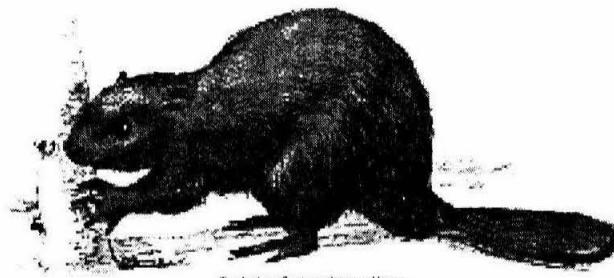


The triumphant
return of the
IHC Minutes
(see Page 2)



Platoon
by Oliver Stone

See it at the ASCIT movie
next Friday (5/12)



The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 25

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 5, 2000

BFD, Page website come under fire

BY TECH STAFF

Most everyone at Caltech has heard of Ruddock's literary journal, the BFD, whose editors describe it thusly on Ruddock's homepage: "The BFD is a waste of the house's money where the editors can be crude and tasteless and can make fun and insult everyone else in the house. And, we love it..." An offensive newsletter is as much a part of the stereotypical college experience as, for example, the somewhat vulgar or otherwise controversial images known to be on some of the house websites.

Not as widely known may be that the BFD will not be published for the rest of the year, and that Page house's webpage is no longer on Caltech's server.

Shortly after prefrosh weekend, Deans Jean-Paul Revel and Barbara Green, together with Victoria Strapman, one of the institute's attorneys, talked to Kevin Franklin and Jeremiah Smith, two of the editors of the BFD. They were called in as a result of a formal complaint to

the administration about the nature of personal attacks in some BFD articles.

As Dean Revel put it, "We called them in to talk to us, and they informed us that they would not be publishing for the rest of the year." He did express hope that the administration could talk to next year's publishers and that the BFD could be published again.

"Putting an end to the BFD is not a viable option," said Smith, "but no one finds it an acceptable publication." The editors did regret, however, that people who had qualms with particular articles in the BFD did not approach the editors before contacting the administration.

"It's much easier to solve these problems early on in an interpersonal way," Smith said.

When questioned about why the BFD, which has been published for about 30 years, would finally come under such criticism, Revel said that "times have changed, sensibilities have changed." He said that in the old times, when there was less di-

versity (both with respect to gender and race), things were different, but that today there is much less tolerance for many of the things published in the BFD.

There was also an issue of the editors violating a rule that kept them from printing material about individuals who had expressly stated that they wished to be excluded from BFD articles.

Around the same time, Page House moved its site off of Caltech's servers. The Dean confirmed that this was at his request and at the advice of Caltech's lawyers, who, apparently, are still unsatisfied with the redirect page at the former location of the website. It warns the viewer: "The Page House website, jrpaged.net, is designed for use by members of Page House, who are college students. As such, it contains material that may disturb the sensibilities of some viewers. Please proceed at your discretion. The California Institute of Technology in no way endorses jrpaged.net, and the Institute is not responsible for

any content contained therein." A note on Page's homepage says that "the man is still not satisfied", and the Dean confirmed that the legal advisors were unhappy that you could still reach Page's homepage from Caltech's main page. The fact that Page House's webpage can be reached via a search engine was also mentioned as a cause for some concern.

When questioned about the timing of these events (right around Prefrosh weekend), the Dean replied, "Caltech wants to present a view that does not include, for example, raunchy pictures." The basic point is that Caltech desires to control its appearance to the outside world, "what we'd like to project as opposed to house abc." Revel denied that he was attempting to present a "rosy" picture to prefrosh or the outside world, although he acknowledged that the timing was not entirely coincidental, as it is around prefrosh weekend when most

PLEASE SEE BFD ON PAGE 2

Education chronicle faults Caltech's diversity

BY DANA SADAVA

Caltech's lack of adequate numbers of African-American students was made the focus in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, in an article entitled, "A Top University with No Black Freshmen."

As the title suggests, none of the members of the class of 2003 are African-American, a statistic which has drawn a great deal of attention and concern from observers and institutional affiliates alike.

Two possible causes of this occurrence were presented in the article, which was published on April 28. The first was that a statistic on minorities at Caltech will undergo normal fluctuations, but will suffer the consequence of being blown out of proportion because of the small class size.

The second and more highlighted reason for the lack of enrollment of African-American students was Caltech's failure in recruiting them.

Cited among other areas of improvement was a faculty com-

mittee formed in 1995 to actively recruit minorities to the institute. Last year, that committee disbanded.

Sue Borrego, Associate Dean and Director of Minority-Student Affairs, acknowledged that different departments in the administration attempt recruiting efforts, but that communication about these efforts and coordination among them has been difficult.

Complementing these problems, the article said, is a feeling among admissions officials that only the most qualified applicants should be accepted, and that recruiting efforts should not involve admitting students based on race in order to fill a quota.

Sophomore Richard Bowman was quoted as saying, "Caltech is treading a fine line here. They don't want to give the impression that they're showing preference for certain people and giving someone an advantage."

Statistics reported in the article reveal how this attitude prevails: the percentage acceptance rate for African-American applicants

Semana Latina next week



Next week is Semana Latina, a weeklong series of events organized by Club Latino and CLASES (the graduate and undergraduate Latino organizations at Caltech). In the evening there are movies, music, speakers, theater and film. Noontime events occur throughout the week from May 8th to May 12th, with each day featuring music and food (\$4) typical of a different region of the Spanish-speaking world.

at Caltech is 15% as compared with an overall 18% acceptance rate. In contrast, 44% of African-American applicants are accepted to MIT, compared with its 19% overall acceptance rate.

As to why very few accepted African-American students decide to enroll, students featured in the article claimed that Caltech

PLEASE SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 2

ROD KIEWIET
NEW DEAN OF
GRAD STUDIES

BY JUSTIN KAO

Dr. Roderick Kiewiet, professor of political science, has been selected to replace Dr. Arden Albee as the Dean of Graduate Studies when Albee steps down on July 1. A former Dean of Students from 1992 to 1996, Kiewiet will now have the responsibility of overseeing administrative operations concerning grad students. Given the high amount of department autonomy in dealing with grad students, this mainly consists of handling general inquiries, giving out financial aid, dealing with the flow of admissions material, and other similar tasks.

However, Kiewiet does not intend to be complacent. His plans for the future include establishing "online admissions", which certain other schools already have, and "identifying things across the board to enhance graduate education."

Kiewiet attended the University of Iowa, and obtained his Ph.D from Yale University in 1980. In 1992, he received the Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the best book on U.S. national policy. The award, which he shared with Mathew McCubbin, was for *The Logic of Delegation: Congressional Parties and the Appropriations Process*.

On his appointment, Kiewiet said, "The first thing I heard about it was when Chris Brennen called and basically offered me the job." As to why he took it: "They wanted me to do it." Although the former administrator will be giving up some of his classes as he joins the administration again, Kiewiet stated, "it feels like the right thing to do." He expressed his satisfaction with Caltech and his feeling of duty to help make it even better.

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BFD:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people take a look at Caltech.

On the general issue of how far Caltech's administration is planning on going in this matter, Revel expressed the opinion that there was no great problem if someone "wants to have a beer or smoke a joint, but if people are going to come here for that reason, I don't want them." Revel also acknowledged that there are other aspects of undergraduate life at Caltech (he mentioned specifically Ricketts' webpage) which people may find offensive, but he had received the most complaints about the BFD and Page's website, and indicated that it was not a good idea to have "too many balls up in the air at the same time."

DIVERSITY:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

may appear unattractive to minority students because there are so few there to begin with.

However, other administrative officials say that African-American students choose not to come to Caltech for the same reasons as other applicants: "They are simply not willing to narrow their study options to Caltech's focused curriculum."

Caltech's administration is working with admissions committees to improve statistics and recruitment strategies.

**I.H.C.
MINUTES**

Present: IHC, Jason McElhaney, Yuki Takahashi.

Meeting called to order at 12:08 pm in Page dining hall.

The IHC is getting feedback from current student members of the Student-Faculty Committees.

Jason sits on Institute Programs, where student input is highly regarded. They want to involve more students and have invited performers to eat dinner at the student houses. Jason has been working to get student-type concerts organized. Basically, the committee really wants input. The time commitment is light, requiring a meeting once or twice per term, and organizing sign-up sheets in the houses.

Yuki sits on Student-Faculty Advisors. They have met a couple of times to talk about improving relations. He has proposed 3-to-1 ratio dinners as a way for students to meet professors. There will be a meeting

with the dean next month. In order for this to work, someone will need to organize and publicize the event to students.

Dan tells the rest of the IHC that the four south houses are getting new fire alarm systems. Fleming is first, meaning that it cannot be occupied for seven weeks in the summer. Dan estimates that 35 Flemms will need a place to stay. The other house presidents should get an estimate of their summer occupancy and arrange to accommodate the displaced students.

Chris reminds us that Biff is still asking about the umbrellas that went missing during Prefrosh Weekend. He also mentions that someone has brought up a question about rotation rules. The IHC will meet next Sunday to discuss the rotation rules and apportion freshmen.

Meeting adjourns at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa 'is it friday already?' Sih

IHC Minutes are online at ugcs/~ihc/minutes/index.html.

The Outside World

by Dana Sadava

Vieques, Puerto Rico: Thursday Federal agents removed 215 protesters on a U.S. Navy bombing range. Both the demonstrators and the eviction were peaceful.

Seoul, South Korea: Both North Korea and South Korea decided yesterday that all 37,000 U.S. troops must be removed from South Korea to facilitate improving ties between the two countries, who will meet at a summit in June.

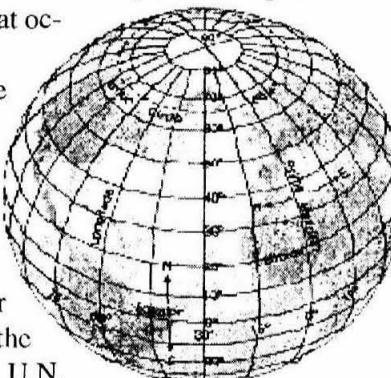
Colombo, Sri Lanka: On midnight Wednesday the Sri Lankan government put its Public Security Act into effect, which will allow the military to control air traffic, ships, publications and demonstrations that might hurt its war effort against the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Moscow, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the U.S.-Russia treaty START II, which forces both countries to obliterate large nuclear stockpiles.

Jakarta, Indonesia: A magnitude-6.5 earthquake hit central Indonesia yesterday, causing many buildings collapse and killing five people. The quake was centered under the Maluku Sea, 65 miles off Peleng Island.

Beirut, Lebanon: Israeli planes bombed two Lebanese power stations this morning. Two people were killed and the stations suffered extensive damage. The Israeli military issued a statement that said the attack was a retaliatory one in response to the Hezbollah attack on Israel that occurred yesterday.

Sierra Leone, Africa: More U.N. personnel were taken hostage by a rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front, on Thursday, increasing the number held hostage to 69. The U.N. is accusing leader Foday Sankoh of overseeing the kidnappings. UNAMSIL, a U.N. peacekeeping force, is investigating negotiations with the rebels but has had little success so far.



CADS Coming to 'Tech

BY DEBORAH SOUTHERLAND

Have you seen the CADS? This is not a reference to prefrosh. The Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program will be conducting a survey of issues related to alcohol and other drug use on campus. The Caltech Alcohol and Drug Survey (CADS) has been seen here before, albeit under a different guise. The last administration of the CADS was in 1998. The new version has been revised using feedback from undergraduate and graduate students, and will be available through an internet web site.

Data from the CADS will be used to track changing campus trends, compare them to national and regional data, and develop services to meet student needs. The survey is not related to the implementation of the alcohol policy and will have no bearing on the regulation of the policy, amount of alcohol allowed at parties, etc.

You may wonder why we are surveying again, two years later. If you have been at Caltech for a while, you may have noticed that some campus drug use patterns shift from year to year. One year a certain drug seems to be "in vogue," only to almost dis-

appear the next year. By attaining up-to-date information about campus drug use, the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program can provide educational materials, resources, and programs that address the current, real needs of students.

You will be receiving (or may have already received) an email invitation to take the CADS, along with additional instructions. Your response is, of course, completely anonymous. Your participation is greatly valued; please take the time to complete the CADS. The results of the survey will be made known to students after all data are analyzed.

If you have any questions or comments about the CADS, please call Deborah Southerland, Coordinator of the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program, at x2961.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
editorial email: editors@tech.caltech.edu
advertising email: adv@tech.caltech.edu
ISSN 0008-1982

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 25
MAY 5, 2000

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Advertising: 5 p.m. Monday
Announcements (Mints): noon Monday
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

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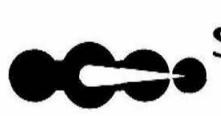
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Institute Affairs

Student affairs office struggles with newly-developing software snafus

BY JOHN OH

As the world held its breath and waited for the final seconds of 1999 to tick down, men and women through Caltech had their hands full with another problem: pushing their way through unfamiliar territory in order to meet the deadlines of over nine hundred students. Over the years, Caltech had gathered mountains of records in various formats throughout the campus. It became painfully evident that a main system of networking these records was needed, so that departments could communicate with each other and exchange their data.

As many people are aware, a solution to this problem was recently implemented, but not to the best of results.

As Caltech began bringing various modules of the new network system online (development was overseen by Oracle) most of the inevitable glitches and bugs were transparent to most of the student body. Unfortunately those that afflicted the offices of student affairs, especially the registrar, caused no

less than a few headaches for students, staff, and faculty alike. The software modules for the offices of student affairs were designed by Exeter, a computer development company that specializes in information systems for universities and colleges. The plan was to create a system that would meet all the needs of the offices.

Student Affairs encompasses a huge sphere of functions crucial to students, from the dean's office to the registrar to financial aid. "There are a lot of data systems. The intent was to program all of those," said Dr. Christopher Brennen, Vice President for Student Affairs, referring to the functions of the student affair offices. "You would have all these different modules that would speak to the same common database."

The first student affair modules to come online were those of admissions and financial aid. The first class to be admitted using the new system was the class of 2002. However, the software was run stand-alone then, and was not used integrated into the overall network,

which was the eventual goal.

"The magnitude of the problems only really became apparent when we started to bring in the central module that involved the registrar's office," said Brennen. "It's been a real struggle to keep even [a bit] ahead of what was needed immediately."

The registrar's module, which had the greatest visible impact to the student body, was brought online just this past summer. "It was clear to us that a lot of performance problems needed to be corrected," said Brennen. There was a great urgency in the registrar's office last term when it was realized that there was still quite a long ways to go until the new system would be running smoothly. "It was very close, first term," said Brennen. "But thanks to the very hard work of a lot of people, we avoided a catastrophe, but that does not mean the system is anywhere near where we would like it to be."

So far, there are only five student affairs modules working: the admission office, financial

PLEASE SEE ORACLE ON PAGE 5

Caltech awarded grant

BY JILL PERRY

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has awarded the California Institute of Technology a \$2 million grant to be used over three years to purchase scientific computer equipment for the Biomolecular Structures Laboratory at Caltech.

"This equipment is absolutely essential to put Caltech in a position to lead the field of protein design, which has great promise for applications to medical research," said Caltech President David Baltimore.

The computational biology hardware will be used by scientists like Stephen Mayo, associate professor of biology and Howard Hughes Medical Institute assistant investigator. They will use it to study protein structure, function, and design.

"It's phenomenal," said Mayo. "Computational biology is a new and rapidly emerging area and this will be very high end, high performance computer hardware. It will be one of the most significant computing facilities at Caltech."

The equipment will provide a means for studying biotechnology materials that could be used in human therapeutics, industrial

biotechnology and agriculture. It will be housed in the Broad Center for Biological Sciences, a structure that, when completed in 2002, will provide space for 10 new Caltech research groups that will work at the cutting edge of the biological sciences.

Caltech kicked off the Biological Sciences Initiative in 1998, to raise \$100 million for new faculty and resources. The Parsons Foundation gift is the first to address one of the key objectives of the Initiative, providing equipment for state-of-the-art instrumentation facilities that scientists in the Broad Center will share with others on campus.

Caltech has a history of discovery in the biological sciences, with six Nobel Prize winners in medically related fields. Thomas Hunt Morgan, who founded the Division of Biology at Caltech in 1928, won the Nobel Prize for identifying the gene as a specific entity with a fixed location on a chromosome. His Nobel was followed by prizes for George Beadle, Max Delbrück, Renato Dulbecco, Roger Sperry, and Edward Lewis, who, in 1995, received the Nobel for his decades of

PLEASE SEE PARSONS ON PAGE 5

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Sports and Reviews

Soda Jerks serves up

BY JENNIFER LEE AND
TASHA VANESIAN

Tucked in a corner near the intersection of Del Mar and Fair Oaks is a restaurant called Soda Jerks. When you enter the building, you are whisked back to the 1950's. The inside is decorated with Coca-Cola memorabilia, hanging bicycles and toys, and other fun things. They also feature an authentic back bar from the 1900's. Guests have the option of sitting at booths, at tables, or at the bar counter.

We sat at a table, where menus were waiting, and had a difficult time choosing what to order. The main meal choices range from salads and sandwiches to hamburgers and hot dogs. Dishes are given creative names - Jennifer ordered the Judy Garland (a Caesar salad), and Tasha

ordered a Johnny Unitas (a hamburger with avocado, bacon, and cheese). Then we flipped to the desserts and beverages section of the menu, and decided to try a strawberry milkshake and a Curious George's Jungle Shake. The shakes were the best we've ever tasted.

The serving sizes were huge—we each took home a doggie bag, and were barely able to finish our shakes. The atmosphere was lively, the service friendly, the food excellent.

Restaurant Name: Soda Jerks
Location: 219 S. Fair Oaks Ave.
Hours: Mon-Thurs 7am-10pm
Friday 7am-11pm
Saturday 8am-11pm
Sunday 8am-10pm
Phone: (626) 583-8031
Prices: \$10-\$15

Patti Smith releases brilliant new album

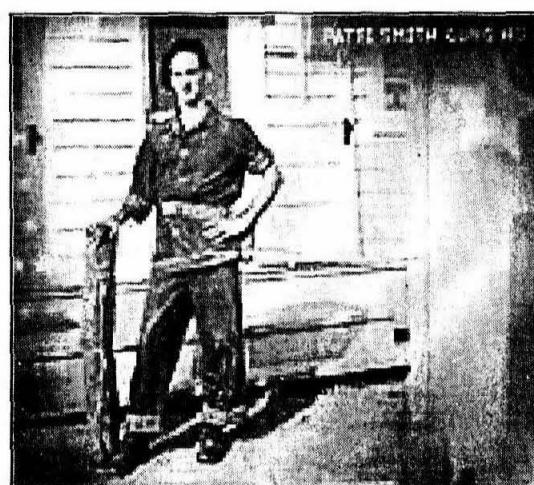
BY STEPHEN SHEPARD

True comeback albums are rare in rock—it isn't uncommon that they're attempted, but it's virtually unheard of that they're successful. Patti Smith failed miserably, in critical opinion at least, with her 1988 comeback Dream of Life. Fans of her 70s work, when she was regarded as the "High Priestess of Punk", were unimpressed at her new found... well... contentedness.

It was Smith's misfortune—and, perversely, our gain—that tragedy has struck her repeatedly since Dream of Life. After losing her

brother and friend Robert Mapplethorpe to AIDS, her husband Fred "Sonic" Smith died suddenly in 1995. This galvanized Smith to produce two fantastic albums, both of which are dark, intense, and rewarding.

Gone Again (1996) and Peace



Gung Ho
Patti Smith
BMG/Arista

Caltech athletics season closes

BY CHRIS HUGHES

Baseball (4-23, 0-18 SCIAC)

Head Coach: John D'Auria

Recent Results: Pasadena City College 8-Caltech 1, Whittier 9-Caltech 2, Whittier 11-Caltech 0, Whittier 23-Caltech 8.

The baseball team concluded the 2000 season with three losses last weekend to Whittier. On Friday, senior Greg Fricke went 3-for-4 with a double, triple and two RBIs. Left fielder Dax Herrera also went 2-for-4 with a run scored. In Saturday's season finale, Brian Stalder went 3-for-4 with a homer, two runs scored and two RBIs. Senior outfielder Matt Sullivan closed his college career with a 2-for-5 performance while classmate Alan Rosenwinkle also homered in his final collegiate game. Fricke, who entered the week ranked fifth in the conference in hitting, closed the season with a

3.94 batting average.

Men's Golf (0-7, 0-7 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Chris Hughes

The 2000 Caltech golf season wrapped up last Thursday with the 36-hole SCIAC Championships. Caltech finished 8th with rounds of 396-402 for a team total of 798. Individual scores for the Beavers: Nick Lorenzen (91-93), Stephen Wexler (98-98), James Lamanna (103-101), Jason Chua (104-110) and Jacob Lacouture (124-114).

Men's Tennis (10-11, 3-4 SCIAC) Head Coach: Wade Gillam

The men's tennis season officially ended as two Caltech players competed in the Ojai Valley tournament. In singles, Matt Musick dropped a 6-0, 6-2 decision in the first round to eventual tournament winner Thomas Oechel from UC-Santa Cruz. Musick and Arjun Narayanan fell in round one of the

doubles competition to tournament runners-up Nick Cunningham and Derek Fitzpatrick from UC-Santa Cruz, 6-0, 6-0.

Women's Tennis (11-11, 3-4 SCIAC) Head Coach: Karen Nelson

Two women's players also competed as part of the Ojai Valley Tournament. Nalini Colaco and Nita Losoponkul teamed in doubles, winning their first round match against San Francisco State's Dianne Lee and Tomoko Sato, 6-4, 6-4. The duo fell in round two 6-1, 6-0 to eventual semifinalists Jennifer Mitchell and Angelina Zodorovska from Loyola Marymount. In singles, Colaco fell in round one to UC-Davis' Shawna Barasch, 6-3, 6-2. Losoponkul also dropped her first round match, a 7-5, 6-4 decision to Cal Poly Pomona's Jenna Baker.

tar, chanted vocals and looming helicopter samples. The song captures Ho Chi Minh as the embodiment of revolution, building an incredible intensity as Smith sings:

"And the great birds swarm
Spread their wings overhead
And his mother dead
And the typhoons and the rain
The jungles in flames
And the orange sun—
None could be more beautiful
Than Vietnam"

On these lines, Smith's voice finally breaks from chant into fragmented melody, and all of the pain and beauty Smith explores in this album crystallizes. The song continues, but this is the high point of the track and of the disc.

Gung Ho stubbornly bucks almost every trend in music of the past twenty years, but resurrects and revitalizes the 70s art / punk sound so vibrantly that most "modern" releases dim by comparison. This album is a thoroughly worthwhile purchase, and a welcome return to form.

The album does have its flaws—the second half, notably "Upright Come" and "New Party", aren't half as engaging as the first. Also, tracks such as "Glitter in their Eyes" are only mostly successful at adding modern flourishes to Smith's sound.

That said, if there is any fairness in the world, Gung Ho will gain Smith back some of the attention she deserves. Gung Ho brilliantly recreates—and then expands upon—the angular sound punks developed in the late 70s.

Full of jagged riffs, beat poetry

and fragmented pop melodies, this album recalls much that was great in the late-70s work of Patti Smith, Television and the Talking Heads.

From the compelling "One Voice," which shades Eastern mysticism with an eerie intensity, Gung Ho is raging and beautiful in the classic beat tradition. "Lo and Beholden" picks up immediately with an unnerving Biblical conceit and with enrapturing guitar-base interplay between Lenny Kaye and Tony Shanahan. "Boy Cried Wolf" and "Gone Pie" continue in that vein, "China Bird" is gloriously reflective, and "Persuasion" recalls Smith's work with her late husband and features a solo by their son.

Though the quality of the songwriting diminishes as the album runs its course, the closing track redeems the disc with the challenging "Gung Ho." Smith brings together the Eastern and political themes of the disc, setting them in an ominous, 12-minute sprawl of hypnotic gui-

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Institute Affairs Continued

ORACLE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

aid, registrar, the bursar's office, and the graduate office. Housing, career development, and other student affair offices have

yet to be implemented.

Future project considerations include web based applications, which is projected to be implemented by the next admission cycle, and also web based registration.

PARSONS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

work on how genes control development. Baltimore received a Nobel Prize at the age of 37 for his work in virology.

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation was established in 1961 by the late Ralph M. Parsons, founder of the international engineering and construction firm that bears his name.

The foundation, since 1974 a

separate, free-standing, charitable organization independent of the corporation, awards grants focusing on the areas of higher education, social-impact programs, health, civic and cultural endeavors.

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HE MUST BE HAVING PROBLEMS AT HOME.
BWAA-WAH-AH!



ROGER, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND RUN TO THE STORE FOR SOME EGGS?

SURE. I'LL BRING PETER.

JUST EGGS!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR CREDIT CARDS, RIGHT, DAD?

HOO YEAH.



DID YOU KNOW THAT STAPLERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED EQUIPMENT?

NO ONE LIKES TO MAKE CONVERSATION WITH THE ASSET TAG MAN.



OTHERWISE YOU GO CRAZY AND BUY WAY TOO MUCH FOOD.

GOOD THING WE HAD THOSE SANDWICHES BEFORE WE CAME.

I'LL PUT THIS CART WITH OUR OTHERS.



YESTERDAY I BUILT A GUEST HOUSE USING BUNDLES OF CASH AS BRICKS.

I NEED A NEW SPEECH WRITER.



SHOULD I GET THE EXTRA-THICK BACON, OR THE EXTRA-REGULAR...?

SHOULD I GET THE LOW-CAL FROZEN PIZZA, OR THE FOUR-CHEESE, ALL-MEAT, HUNGRY-DUDE EDITION?...

YOU'RE A LOT MORE FUN TO SHOP WITH THAN BUYING THREEP.



I HAD TO INVENT SOME NEW WORDS.

BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ANY OF THESE THINGS.

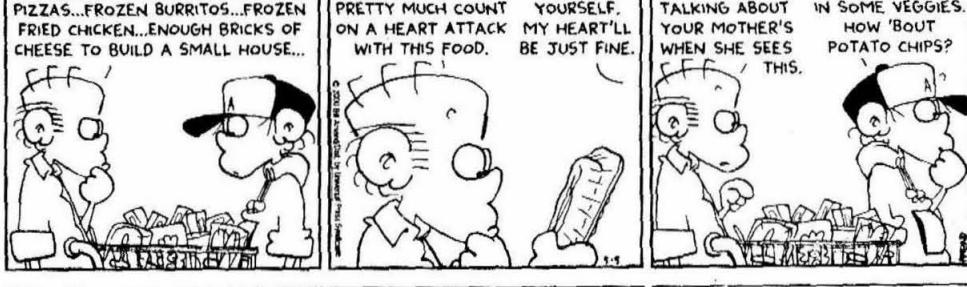
- SPLURBY
- NOOBAH
- PIZKWAT



ICED TEA, ROOT BEER, MILK, CHOCOLATE SYRUP, SARDINES, CRACKERS...

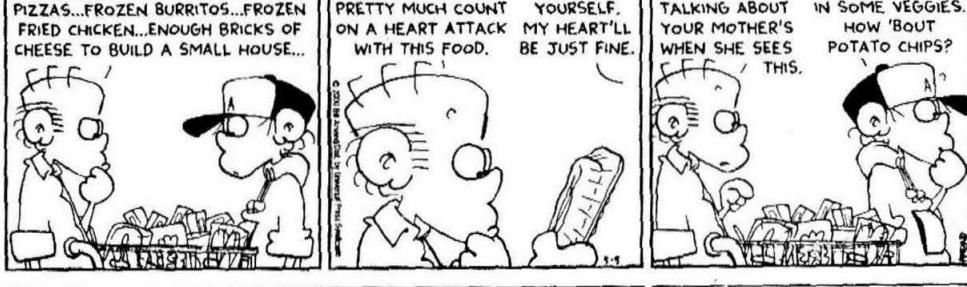
CLAM CHOWDER, PEANUT BUTTER, SPICY MUSTARD, MAYONNAISE, POP-TARTS...

IF THIS CART DOESN'T SPELL "DELICIOUS," I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES.



IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, THAT ISN'T A COMPLEX.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I GOTTA TAKE A WICKED WAG.



I'D SAY WE CAN PRETTY MUCH COUNT ON A HEART ATTACK WITH THIS FOOD.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

MY HEART'LL BE JUST FINE.

ACTUALLY, I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S WHEN SHE SEES THIS.

OK, LET'S THROW IN SOME VEGGIES. HOW 'BOUT POTATO CHIPS?



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CORN CHIPS, BEAN DIP, SODA, NACHO SAUCE, ICE CREAM, BEEF STEW, MINI DONUTS...

I WANTED CALM DOWN. FORTY-EGGS! WE'VE GOT SIXTY. THERE ARE 47 MORE ONE JUST BAGS IN HAS THE IN HERE! THE CAR.

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HUMAN TRAFFIC (R)
Fri. - Thu. [12:30] 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
THE VIRGIN SUICIDES (R)
Fri. - Thu. [11:45] 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45
THE LAST SEPTEMBER (R)
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Of ditches and Deans



Dean's Corner

D-Day, Caltech style

by Jean-Paul Revel

As I walked over from my car's parking spot to work earlier this week, I saw the first signs of Ditch Day. In this instance it was a black plastic tent on the lawn behind Beckman Institute, with an ominous sign taped to it: "For Seniors Only. Please do not Disturb". Obviously tomorrow is approaching fast.

I always enjoyed the ingenuity of the students in devising their stacks, although I must say I have acquired a different perspective on the proceedings, now that I am Dean. While in most cases the stacks are all in good fun, enough of them over the years have placed students in potentially dangerous situations to give me the willies. There is not much that I can do about this on the great day itself besides write to you about it. In the end I must rely on the seniors to have the good sense to devise stacks which are fun without placing the

other students (or anyone else) in jeopardy. The Honor System Handbook recommends that "when planning a stack" students "...should ask [themselves] if this (will be) fun for the participants, or upsetting". Equally important is that the students participating in the stacks will have the good sense not to accept tasks which seem somewhat dicey to them. For example climbing buildings or trees to retrieve clues may entail too much risk. A potential bout of crowning success is not worth a lifetime of consequences. Remember, and I quote again explicitly from the little green book, let us wave it in the air as we quote: "When acting as part of a group, always think as an individual!"

It is all meant to be fun, remember? The problem with fun is that it seems difficult for everyone to agree on a definition for the word. Fun things are activities from which one derives pleasure and satisfaction. Different things

Roman times an afternoon at the Coliseum, watching gladiators do each other in or doing bare handed combat with terrifying Ethiopian lions was considered the height of all fun. That in fact was all that the citizenry needed to be happy, "panem and circenses", bread and the circus. However I doubt that the gladiators, and certainly not the Christians among which the wild beasts were let loose, found the experience especially fun. The moral is: don't let lions (or their equivalent) loose on campus, even on Ditch Day. (Note, there was once a student with a tame lion, which (I almost said who), came along even at some of the Men's Choir performances. Do I remember that right, Don?). Anyway I am not up to dealing with lions, or with students suffering the consequences of meeting even a toothless one.

So what is it that determines the appropriateness of a given behavior, or sets the tone for what one considers fun? I guess fun is doing what you enjoy doing, and that comes with being able to

give oneself totally to the task at hand. I know that you are immersed in the latest problem sets, and so by the above definition of fun, you should already be enjoying yourselves immensely. Too much of even a good thing, though, does not always make for fun. In the case of the homework we have been talking about, while your ears may have turned red from concentration, and so could allow one to quantitate how much fun you are having doing your assignment, it is not so much fun when the problem set comes back scribbled all over by the TA, dissenting with your conclusions. So the kind of experience as well as the proper time and place may differ, depending. Getting wholeheartedly involved will provide fun and distance from the every day concerns of homework, midterms and finals. But that is only going to be a great experience if you are thoughtful, in spite of abandoning yourself to the fun of the chase. I do understand that Ditch Day is one of those Caltech Events which titillated your curiosity and raised your excitement when you considered coming to Tech. Great, there is nothing to prevent you from enjoying this tradition. It is nevertheless essential that all of you exercise due care in enjoying the day. I believe I don't have to tell

you that none of the policies concerning conduct by students are rescinded for the day. The only thing that is really different on Caltech's version of D day is that no one expects you to be in class. Your profs. have been told that you would be otherwise busy. Most of them need not be reminded further, but if you have problems along that line we'll do our best to help, the day after tomorrow.

Caltech gives its students an amazing amount of freedom. That is, of course, an expression of the confidence the school places in you, in your ability to get things done thoughtfully, and to exercise good judgement. The freedom is not a license to behave in ways you know your parents would disapprove of, or that the Dean will get exercised about, just to give two obvious examples. The freedom you enjoy gives you a chance to show that you have in fact outgrown the need for external control. It is a hard, very hard thing to do, especially in the heady atmosphere of the Day. And so have good fun, safe fun and do nothing that you might come to regret.

A bientôt!

Jean Paul Revel

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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pasadena Symphony tickets are available at the Caltech Y. The Concert date is Sat., May 6, 8 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and will be conducted by Jorge Mester. Tickets cost \$6.

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, 300 Oceangate, Suite 1500, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Beginning Night Club Two Step, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for five successive Mon. starting Mon., May 1: [taught by a professional dance instructor, \$30.00 except \$20.00 to Caltech undergraduates] Beginning Salsa, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for five successive Wed. starting Wed., May 3: [student taught, free to students, suggested nominal \$1.00/lesson donation for others] Both lessons in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. No partner is required. Refreshments and dance practice time are provided after each class. For last minute changes see www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call Don at 626/791-3103.

Free mid-term ballroom dance party with refreshments, 8 p.m. until midnight Sat. May 6 in dining area of Avery; sponsored by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club. Refreshments and dancing starts at 8 p.m. From 8:30-9:00 p.m. there will be an introductory Merenge lesson. No partners are required. In addition to the Waltz there will be music for the waltz, fox trot, tango, cha cha, salsa and others as requested [or bring your own music]. For last minute changes see www.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call Don at 626/791-3103.

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.

CIT Guitar Classes for the spring term will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on Apr. 4. Beginning, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Intermediate, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Advanced 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive 3 units of credit. For more information, contact Darryl Denning at (323) 465-0881 or by email at ddenning@caltech.edu, or visit www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html

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 CYCLOCOM-MUTERS. Website: <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

Women dressed just in hats? Men who can don one gracefully? **6 de mayo PARTY!!!** This Sat., May 6th at 9 p.m. in the Catalinas North Rec Room, 1054 E. Del Mar, Pasadena (free parking thru Wilson). Caltech Invites UCLA, USC & the Art Center. Some of America's premier up & coming filmmakers will be in attendance. Come dance the 70s, 80s, 90s & 00s. Mexican hats encouraged. Free drinks and snacks; no cover charge. Dr. Evil will be performing live! Brought to you by the GSC

The "JESUS" film, an accurate representation of the life of

Jesus Christ, will be projected in 070 Moore on Tue., May 9 at 9 p.m.. The film is an excellent way to learn more about who Jesus is and what he did. There will be door prizes and refreshments.

Doris Kearns, Pulitzer Prize winning historian, will speak at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Tue., May 9, as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. The program begins at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$26, \$36, and \$46 and can be purchased at the Pasadena Civic Box Office, 626-449-7360 or through Ticketmaster. For more information, call 310-546-6222 or visit www.speakersla.com.

"The Technology and Commerce of Music Synthesis: The E-mu Systems Story" presented by Dave Rossum (B.S., Biology, '70) Co-Founder, E-mu Systems Chief Scientist, Creative Technology Ltd. Wednesday, May 10, at Avery Library. Dinner: 6 p.m. Talk: 7 p.m. Dave will discuss the entrepreneurial aspects of E-mu Systems from its inception in 1972 through its acquisition by Creative Technology (makers of the Sound Blaster) in 1993. All those interested in entrepreneurial case studies and/or audio synthesizer technology are encouraged to attend.

Finland-Land of Contrasts, Beckman Auditorium, Fri., May 12, 8 p.m. Ed Lark will narrate this Armchair Adventures travel film. Admission: \$8, \$7. For information call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Spring Concert, Ramo Auditorium, Fri., May 12, and Sat., May 13, at 8 p.m. The combined Caltech Glee Clubs and the Caltech-Occidental Orchestra will perform a program that includes Ralph Vaughan Williams's "In Windsor Forest" from his opera "Sir John in Love." Free admission, for more information call 1-888-2CALTECH

Lui Collins, singer/songwriters will appear in concert on Sat., May 13, at 8 p.m. in Dabney Lounge. Collins will accompany herself on guitar. Tickets are \$12 for adult and \$4 for Caltech students and children under 12. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Earthquake Preparedness

Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Thu., May 18th. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at x6727.

"A Different View of the DNA Double Helix: A Conduit for Charge Transport," Beckman Auditorium, Wed., May 17, 8 p.m. Dr. Jacqueline Barton, professor of chemistry, will give this Ernest C. Watson lecture. Admission is free. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

Bandorama, Ramo Auditorium, Sat., May 20, at 8 p.m. The Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands will perform. The jazz bands will feature two student vocalists and perform music from the swing era to the present. Admission is free. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

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 supplies, 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. Fredericton, News 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@ugcs.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.

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