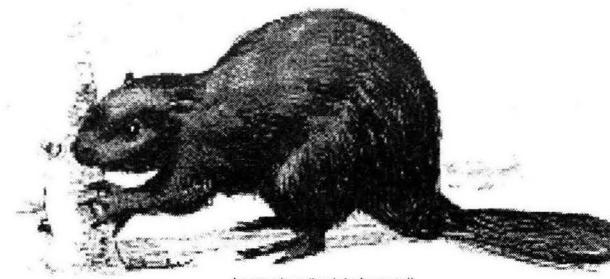


To celebrate the 2001 Mars Odyssey launch
and help promote Yuri's Night: Mars
Society will show "2001: A
Space Odyssey" on the
Olive Walk this Sat.
April 7, at
8 PM.

*Make
a Difference
Day: this Saturday!!*



**Budget Meeting for Club
Funding!** get forms at:
<http://donut.caltech.edu>
due: 4:30 PM, April 11, 2001

The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 21

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 6, 2001

CHANGE IN MENU COURSES

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Another Menu Course? A menu course, as some Caltech professors describe it, is one which gives exposure to a field not incorporated in the main core, in a broad and pure form. However, with the introduction of Ma 7 (Number Theory for Beginners), the newest menu course, a couple of questions have been raised. Why was another menu course added all of a sudden?

As Professor Marianne Bronner-Fraser explained, enrollment in existing menu courses, such as Ge 1, has been exhausted and hence a limit had to be placed on the number of students allowed to take a given course. However, she went on to explain that it did not seem fair to turn away students from a course due to management difficulties without offering them an alternative. Hence, the need for another menu course arose, and was filled by the Math department.

Ma 7 is a two year experiment; that is, it will be offered 3rd term this year and next year and then, based upon the evaluations and feedback, the faculty will decide if the course should be added to the list of menu courses permanently or not.

Currently the course is off to a head start with Professor Dinakar Ramakrishnan instructing it. As he excitedly exclaimed, "I am keen to introduce to today's student what mathematicians think about and finally teach them something far from Calculus; most of Ma 1 and 2 is based on late 19th and early 20th century math except for maybe differential equations."

When asked about the main content of Ma 7, Ramakrishnan said "It is a vast course about numbers, properties of prime numbers, solving equations in whole numbers and maybe one or two applications of number theory, for instance, explaining all the math behind the RSA encryption system."

One important fact about the course is that it is not necessarily geared towards math majors. In fact, Ramakrishnan's advice for Math majors is that they should take some other advanced "Number Theory" exposure rather than just relying on Ma 7.

Yuri's Night celebrations launch

BY ZANE CRAWFORD

The hum of machinery droned on all around him, incessantly.

"Are you bored?" a voice squawked through the headset.

"I could bear it a little better if there were some music," the young man responded, joking.

Soon the omnipresent hum became a deafening roar, the young man was crushed back into his seat, and a blinding light streaked into the sky above the steppes of central Asia. After a couple of minutes the quiet abruptly returned, and the force of his acceleration was replaced with a euphoric weightlessness. The young man looked out his one tiny window. The luminous bluish arc of Earth's limb stretched across his field of view.

"I see Earth... it's so beautiful!"

One hundred eight minutes later, the young man was once again above the plains of the Soviet Union, soon to be immortalized as the first human to venture beyond our earthly cradle, and into the endless star filled sea of space.



*"Circling the Earth in the orbital spaceship I marvelled at the beauty of our planet. People of the world! Let us safeguard and enhance this beauty - not destroy it!"
- Yuri Gagarin*

will be marked on all seven continents, in more than forty locations, as remote as Bujumbura, Burundi and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and as urban as Tokyo, London, and Los Angeles. The name of this celebration is Yuri's Night.

The festivities will take different forms, but the underlying

His name was Yuri Gagarin. The date was April 12, 1961 and his name may well be recognized after the political leaders of the 20th century have faded from memory. Millennia from now, when our descendants inhabit many worlds, many islands in the vast black void, they

will look back at Gagarin and know he was the first. Through skill, or luck, or chance and fate, he was the first of us to tread beyond our pale blue home.

April 12 has long been celebrated in Russia as a national holiday: Cosmonaut Day. This year, however, through the efforts of young space enthusiasts around the world, the celebration is spreading.

The occasion themes are all the same: more than just a celebration of Gagarin, Yuri's Night is a statement of optimism about Humanity's future in the Universe. It is an attempt to bring space to the consciousness of a younger generation, the generation that could contain the first people to walk on Mars, the first space tourists, and successful space entrepreneurs.

Members of the Caltech community have been instrumental in the organization of this worldwide event. Graduate student Loretta Hidalgo, is one of two co-founders, and has helped to coordinate teams of volunteers both worldwide and in Los Angeles, where the flagship party will be held. Also involved are Cynthia Collins, who is managing press relations, undergraduate Nathaniel Brown and Chris Hirata, and alumnus Zane

Crawford, who are working on technical aspects of the event.

In other space happenings, on April 7, the 2001 Mars Odyssey space probe will be launched. The orbiting probe, which should reach Mars this October, will mark NASA's return to Mars after twin failures in 1999. After an aerobraking period, Odyssey will begin to gather data on Martian near-surface water, minerals, and possible radiation hazards to future human crews in January 2002.

-contributions made by Derek Shannon

The Yuri's Night The World Space Party

If you'd like to join the celebrations, here is what you need to know:

When: 9pm-2am Thurs. April 12, 2001
Where: The Hollywood Palace, 1735 Vine St., Los Angeles
Tickets: \$15 before 10pm; \$20 thereafter;
for more information see
<http://la.yurisnight.net/nl/ticketsla.htm>
Entertainment: Trance and house music with a space-bound twist

This event is for 18 and over only - make sure to bring your ID. Yuri's Night is a non-profit event. All proceeds will benefit global youth outreach and education programs.

For more information, see:
<http://www.yurisnight.net> or send an e-mail to zane@yurisnight.net.

Techers bring sunshine during spring break

BY RUMI CHUNARA

This spring break, 14 students from Tech did something constructive. The Caltech Y has organized an Alternative Spring Break program for 5 years, in which students can volunteer their time to meet community needs. Each year, those undergraduate and graduate students who participate visit an underdeveloped community to help improve the area.

In 1996 the Y organized the first trip to a Navajo reservation in Arizona, and in 1997, fifteen students went to a Piu reservation. The trips to a small community near Tijuana, Mexico, called Tecolote, or more informally Teco by its inhabitants, started in 1999.

This year the students spent 5

days in Mexico. Initially, the students were considerably struck by the poverty in this area. The streets of Tecolote are littered by countless broken-down cars that the owners cannot pay to tow away or fix, dogs infected with the contagious disease Scabies, and trash disposed of by children who know no better. Anyone who has crossed the border has undoubtedly noticed the quick change from the US to Mexican side. Despite this, students who have attended the Y trip for multiple years have noticed a dramatic change in Tecolote's environment.

From greener fields to more businesses, and a larger population, Tecolote has grown immensely in just a few years. The way of life encountered in

Mexico was much more community-like than any American town. The enthusiasm that rang from citizens of Tecolote and surrounding communities, especially the children, was good motivation for the Techers. Each day, after being awoken by the birds, the Caltech group was greeted by the smiling faces of children outside the community center in Tecolote. It was here, at the community center, that most of the work was done. The group finished the job of tiling classroom floors started the previous spring. In addition, the community center's lot was cleared in order for a garden to be planted for the children. Later in the week, the students

PLEASE SEE BREAK ON PAGE 2

Inside the Tech

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IHC Minutes
Foxtrot
Dilbert
The Dean's Corner

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MINUTES

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MARCH 8, 2001

Present: BoD. Guests: Audrey from the Treble Makers, Dan Daly.

Guests: Audrey, who has a last name that is too long and phonetically difficult to spell, came on behalf of the Treble Makers to pick up funding that they neglected earlier. The "Love Sux" concert went really well, and they need more money to pay for the stage that they had built. In consideration of their ability to potentially stage an "ASCIT Sux" concert, we agree to give them the funding.

Dan Daly came to the ASCIT concerning honor keys, trinkets that were presented to students for involvement back in the day, but have not been awarded since sometime during the '70s. In a meeting with alums, it was proposed that the tradition of passing out keys be restored. It's also a way to mooch off some money from alums since they'll be helping in subsidizing the presentations.

The honor keys will be used to award those who devote a special amount of attention in extracurricular activities or leadership, especially beyond the student involvement in the house system since awards for that context already exist. The keys would cost \$26 if purchased individually, or \$24.50 if purchased in a group of 12. A system of selection, possibly based on input from the Music Department, Y, Art Department, or Athletic Department directly, will be proposed in further detail in the future.

General Meeting

A bit of unfinished business from the interviews for ASCIT

appointments was the first item of the agenda. Isaac See interviewed for the position of Election Chairman and turned out to be the only one interested in the job, so he was approved for the position. This decision was not made yesterday as the other candidate whose name was on the sign-up sheet decided not to run and did not show up for an interview.

We don't know enough about the Jamroom to make a decision at this time about appointing Spencer. While ASCIT is contributing funds for its maintenance, its proceedings remain cryptic. If we are unable to appoint an undergraduate as the manager we will relinquish jurisdiction over the jamroom to the GSC.

The Caltech Legal Department reiterates that it is illegal to show porn in a public place, which is of particular concern to us because we were hoping to get away from the touchy subject of having to police the content in the ASCIT screening room. Many years ago, one of the student houses tried to set up an entertainment room which would receive the Playboy Channel, but even after the house posted signs about potentially offensive material and raised curtains, etc. the Legal Department prohibited the acquisition of the channel. The Screening Room can be accessed by student UID cards, which still qualifies the premises as public access. In light of this precedent, don't reserve the room for porn.

The floor was also opened on Joe Jewell's proposal for ASCIT Screening Room Rules. While reservations are limited to those made by ASCIT members, anyone will be allowed to enter and watch. Those who reserve the room at the <http://donut.caltech.edu> website will have priority in deciding what

fresh should refer to in order to change board plan. The Food chair (Rachel Dexter) should be the person to contact. (Long discussion about the activities of the Task Force that is looking at how Caltech housing options can be improved by studying housing arrangements at other colleges.)

* Tory was at Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr and Yale. Dana was at MIT and Harvard.

* Yale likes its suite housing. Suites failed in Swarthmore.

* Yale has a swing hall, where they move one of their colleges and renovate the dorm. They will do this to all 12 colleges and then make the "swing house" into graduate housing.

* Yale can attract celebrities etc. to student teas, but on the

is being shown in the room. The ASCIT Screening Room may not be reserved for more than a 3-hour block of time unless a single movie lasts for more than 3 hours, and consecutive reservations will not be allowed. That is, users must wait at least 3 hours before reserving the Screening Room a second time. And don't watch porn.

Ted presents the extent of his planning for the Pre-frosh weekend ASCIT carnival. \$500 will be designated for a special device, such as Sumo wrestling suits, bungee run, or sticky fly wall. The extra money-sucker will be in conjunction with the bouncy castle, dunk tank, snow cone machine, popcorn machine, and any booths that clubs will be setting up to keep pre-frosh entertained. We would like to convince the houses to share in the costs for some of the equipment, and for the clubs to share in the activities. The Deans' Office and Admissions will also grant us some funding.

The carnival will not be on the ATH lawn due to a schedule conflict - a banquet that will be commencing at 5:00 pm which is too pish-tosh for a horde of bouncing pre-frosh and undergraduates, so they want us away long before then. An alternative location is the grassy areas in front of and adjacent to the Winnett Center, also providing an area for a stage for clubs to perform on.

In addition, Ted will be visiting hotels in the next week (finals week) to select a locale for the ASCIT formal, which will be held on either Friday or Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. He's looking for a ride to the Sheraton, Double Tree, Ritz-Carlton Hotels. No one's leaping at the chance. Poor Ted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 am.

Evidently,

Justin

whole they did not like their systems too much.

* Yale mostly has faculty members in residence.

* MIT has grad students and faculty in residence.

* Dana feels that Task Force visits will yield lots of suggestions in the next few weeks and feels more student input is required, in particular from the North houses. If students have any questions/suggestions about the task force or its visits to other colleges, contact Dana (dana@its) or Miriam (feldblum@its).

* Mike Nassir, an alum from '93, is proposing to fund the houses around \$500 each if they hold an event to which all alumni are invited for Alumni Weekend. Everyone seems to

BREAK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Daniel Wu,
Bryan Easton,
and
Nathan Wozny
help
clean a
school
in
Mexico.

met more children at an orphanage slightly outside of Tecolote. Here the students learned many things from an American gardener named Thomas, including how to plant trees, how living in such a small community can be fulfilling and how riding in a truck filled with manure can prove enjoyable.

The trip also offered an opportunity to visit some different parts of Mexico. The Mexican-U.S. border extends right past the coast into the ocean. Many people are not aware that this site houses a fence with the words Stop for the Guardian, the name of the US immigration officers who patrol this area, scrawled across in large Spanish letters to warn all those souls trying to break through to the United States. On the last day of the trip, a quick visit to Tijuana's small vendors and shops gave another more commercial look of the country.

The students enjoyed and found all different parts of the trip to be fulfilling. Katie Homann, a freshman that attended the trip this year for the first time, commented, "Interacting with the people of the area was the best way to see and experience Mexico." Another first-timer on the trip, Daniel Wu enjoyed "meeting other students from Caltech - and the taco stands were incredible!"

The Alternative Spring Break

provides an opportunity every year for about 15 students to not only do some work to help a less privileged area, but to experience a different way of life. The students learn about a different culture and an essentially different world. While we may come back from such a situation feeling more thankful for what we have, we will also learn what it means to be hard working, positive thinking and truly happy.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
editorial email: editors@tech.caltech.edu
advertising email: business@tech.caltech.edu
ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 20
APRIL 6, 2001

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TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT
Vikram Dendi

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
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Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

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I.H.C. MINUTES

APRIL 3, 2001

In attendance: Dana Vukajovich (IHC Chair), Dinkar Gupta (Secretary), Victoria Sturgeon (Blacker), Marcus Williams (Dabney), Sean McHugh (Fleming), Chris Flatt for Aaron Davies (Page), Rick Karnesky (Ricketts), Sarah Hunyadi (Ruddock), Not Present: Dan Liebling (Lloyd)

* Tuesday noon does not work well for Aaron since he has a language class. Meeting time will probably be switched, but remain at lunch.

* Sarah wants to know who

fresh should refer to in order to change board plan. The Food chair (Rachel Dexter) should be the person to contact. (Long discussion about the activities of the Task Force that is looking at how Caltech housing options can be improved by studying housing arrangements at other colleges.)

* Tory was at Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr and Yale. Dana was at MIT and Harvard.

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* Yale can attract celebrities etc. to student teas, but on the

whole they did not like their systems too much.

* Prefrosh weekend is in two weeks. Presidents should remind houses of Rotation rules prior to it, and for prefrosh who might show up too early.

* ASCIT wants houses to help with the prefrosh carnival.

* Disco Trophy with Dabney has been challenged by Fleming.

* Everyone is welcome to attend all IHC meetings. The meeting schedule is on the IHC webpage and will be updated once the new meeting times are decided. Drop a line to Dana (dana@its) or Dinkar (dinkarg@its) if there is a specific issue to be discussed or just drop by.

* Mike Nassir, an alum from '93, is proposing to fund the houses around \$500 each if they hold an event to which all alumni are invited for Alumni Weekend. Everyone seems to

- Dinkar Gupta

ENTERTAINMENT

HHealth Center**Eating Disorders**

Kevin P. Austin, Ph.D., Caltech Student Counseling Center

Students sometimes come to the Counseling Center for advice on how to help a friend they believe might have an eating disorder. They want to know the signs of an eating disorder and how to help their friend with this sensitive issue. This article was written to help you help a friend who may have an eating disorder.

The two most common forms of eating disorders that we see at the Counseling Center are anorexia and bulimia and sometimes we see students who suffer from both disorders.

Anorexia is a disorder where a person loses 15% of their body weight as a result of a highly restrictive diet and excessive exercise. Bulimia is a disorder where the person uses purging, diuretics, or laxatives to rid themselves of food they have just consumed. Both disorders can lead to serious health problems. How do you talk with someone about an eating disorder?

It helps to appreciate how sensitive the topic of food, weight and appearance are to most people and especially people with an eating disorder. Sometimes people will joke about another person's weight or make passing reference to how little a friend eats, hoping the other person will get the hint or pick up on the message and start to talk about it. That's not a strategy that is likely to be helpful when trying to talk with someone who has an eating disorder.

It helps to talk to your friend, in private, when you are prepared to talk about what you see happening to them that concerns you. Mention how your friend eats but don't focus on it or their weight. Discussions about food, weight or how your friend looks will more likely make them want to avoid the topic. Don't try to get your friend to eat more or eat less- this will only make them feel like you are trying to

control them and they will become resentful-just as you would if someone told you how much and what to eat.

Focus on what you see going on- they spend less time hanging out because they are exercising a lot, they disappear after dinner, or they seem really stressed out. While your friend is very focused on their weight, appearance and what they eat, you need to focus on the issue behind weight-their self-esteem. People who suffer from anorexia tend to be perfectionists, so much so they are rarely satisfied with themselves. This is true with their weight loss, even when they have already lost a lot of weight already and are too thin.

People with bulimia often eat to feel better but then they feel very badly about themselves because they feel out of control with how much they eat. But the bad feelings a person with an eating disorder has about themselves don't come from their eating disorder -it's the other way around-they feel bad about themselves and they use food and controlling food as a way to feel better.

Eating disorders can really take hold of a person, which can make it hard to get through to them, even to a close friend. It may take several conversations over time where you focus on how your concern for how your friend is doing rather than how much they eat or their weight. It can seem really hard to know what to say to someone with an eating disorder so if you'd like to know more about how to help someone with an eating disorder check out the Counseling Center's web page <http://www.counseling.caltech.edu/>.

There is an article on our web page that goes into more detail about the symptoms of eating disorders and how you can talk to your friend about getting help. There are also links to entire sites devoted to the topic. Keep in mind that people do recover from eating disorders-getting help can make a difference. If your friend's eating disorder continues or you feel like it's just too much for you to deal with call us at the counseling center so we can help-that's what we're here for and we're glad to be of help.

The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

Memento

(B+)

"Memento"

is the poster

representation

of all those feelings that creep upon you occasionally, when you're not quite sure why you're standing where you are or woke up somnolent a bit foreign.

In those moments of consciousness when you reacquaint yourself with the surroundings, take a deep breath, and contemplate the entity of yourself and possibly how silly it seems to control a vessel which is your physical being and has a mind of its own, you step into the realm of existentialism. Whatever purpose you were working for takes a pause, and then you continue on your way, feeling a bit foolish because you lost a few seconds in thought and the need to attend lecture, or write a movie review resumed the spot as a top priority.

The main character in "Memento," Leonard, stoops over a corpse that once was a man. Only

seconds before, Leonard held a gun in his hand and blew the back of the man's brains out, and just a few minutes before that, Leonard accosted the man in an abandoned shack and physically assaulted him with a crowbar. Each action, while standing alone, was motivated by a previous event, Leonard's recollections do not proceed to the origin of the problem. Rather, his mind, and our understanding of the story through him, proceeds in a backward sequence of acts, forming a reconstruction of his crime.

As the story unfolds in this retrograde manner, peeling away chapters in the past, we learn that Leonard suffers from the inability to form new memories ever since a violent attack in which his head collided with a bathroom mirror. While trying to protect his wife from a rapist and murderer, he acquired this chronic short-term amnesia, which allows him to remember fully everything before the accident, but leaves his understanding of things in the

present in jeopardy. As one character remarks, Leonard may remember who he was, but not know who he is.

To aid himself in daily life and in his quest for vengeance, Leonard relies on Polaroid photos and captions about people he's met and places he's seen. His notes acquire an axiomatic significance any time later when Leonard is forced to recall the person again. In guiding his life through scribbles, Leonard is forced to trust nearly everything he's told in a social circle of "friends" that realizes how easy it is to manipulate him.

Succeeding in his nihilistic task could never bring him lasting peace of mind and yet it feels like an appropriate pass-time because the alternative would be to become an obsessive vegetable. And so Leonard may find the psychopath John G. who he has devoted his life to pursuing, or killed him already, but his knowledge of doing so will only be fleeting and essentially meaningless.

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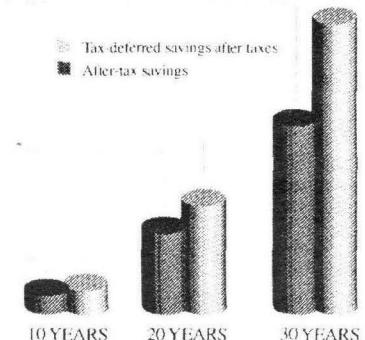
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FEATURE

Caltech Cheerleading emerges victorious from competition

BY CALTECH CHEERLEADING TEAM

In December of 1999, two women decided that Caltech needed cheerleaders. We noticed the lack of school spirit, lack of attendance at athletic events, and we wanted to see techers cheer on and support other techers. By January of 2000, we were eight athletic women who proudly called ourselves the Caltech Cheerleading Team.

It is now April of 2001 and we are 17 co-ed members strong (13 women, 4 men) and the Division II Co-Ed/Jr. College champions from the Cheerleaders of America West Coast Open Competition.

To become the champions we all put in 200% of our effort. Leading up to competition we practiced 12 hours per week, and some of us put in an extra two to six hours per week for gymnastics training. At times we were frustrated by the fact that athletic facilities were not made available to us during practice times, but our devotion to the squad and to each other helped us to stay focused—we would simply find a free classroom or lawn where we could work together.

We attribute much of our focus and good attitude to our new coach, Toni Garza. Toni was selected from a pool of 14 qualified applicants, all who wanted to coach the Caltech Cheerleaders. The decision to hire Toni was made by a unanimous squad vote. We largely credit Toni for the increase in our level of cheerleading. She taught us big stunts, cheers, dance routines and tumbling, but more importantly, she taught us how to work together and perform like a team.

We performed for the first time this year at the Caltech versus MIT women's basketball game. We cheered at all subsequent evening home games for both the men's and women's basketball teams. We feel honored and privileged to cheer at these games and we enjoy knowing that our presence is greatly appreciated by the athletes.

Jonathan Bird, a member of the mens varsity basketball team told us, "I felt more like we were a real team when you [the cheerleaders] were there. Despite the fact we were down by 20, 30, or even 40 you guys still cheered. You really made the game exciting and a lot more fun than usual." Statements like these are what we live for. Knowing what we mean to the sports teams

keeps our spirits up. Even when we are forced by the referees to cheer in the corner of the gym, we are smiling, excited, and just happy to be there cheering. Barbara Green (who has been sup-

often be as high as \$200 per person. Most of all, we want the greater Caltech community to know this: CALTECH HAS CHEERLEADERS! We cheer at games, we have bakesales,



*The Cheerleaders after winning their competition.
Back Row: Juan Garcia, Sarah Cooke, Rui Wang, Kristin Shantz, Oscar Jay Carlton, Jailan Wang, Cheryl Forest, Bridget West, Toni Garza (Coach), Middle: Ted Jou, Nitzan Roth, Chuck Hsiao, Angel Garcia (relative of coach), Front Row: Janet Zhou, Jean Kim (Co-Captain), Erica Nicole Eber (Co-Captain), Elaine Ou, Rachel Medwood.*

portive of us from the beginning) said, "The cheerleaders are doing a great job! Their presence at our sporting events has added to a feeling of school spirit and pride."

Cheering at games however isn't all we do. We are athletes in our own right. Cheerleading is a year round sport and this year we practiced long and hard to prepare for our very first competition.

On March 11, 2001 if you were awake at noon you would have found the Caltech Cheerleading Team by the steps to the Ath parking lot, primping and preparing for competition, trying not to vomit from nervousness. Given the sub par performance we had given at the last basketball game of the season, we were very anxious to perform the very same routine that we had just botched. Nevertheless, we went out there and tried our best, and it paid off. Our performance at the competition was by far the best one we had ever given. The judges seemed to think so too as they awarded us the champions of our division.

Since the excitement of competition has died down, we have had time to think about what our big dreams are for the future of the squad. Next year we hope to compete once each term, and add volleyball to our repertoire of sports that we cheer for. We hope to get new sponsors and the support of the athletic department to assist us in paying competition entry fees which can

carwashes, we sell t-shirts, and we win competitions.

If you haven't already seen the cheerleading team perform, we invite you to see us perform next at prefrosh weekend. If you would like to help support the Caltech Cheerleading Team, please buy a t-shirt from us and show your love. T-shirt requests may be emailed to cheer@its.caltech.edu or you may sign up for one in your house lounge starting April 9, 2001.

DEAN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

so far so good, "Purified using our Crystal-Fresh process, including filtration, ozonation, reverse osmosis and /or deionization. Contains purified water and selected minerals in nutritionally insignificant amounts for great taste." Legally correct, perhaps, but not so tempting. No wonder it is all in very small print. It was enough to discourage me, but then Sparkletts does not mention springs, only "wells."

I decided to look further for springs, but my search quickly got derailed when I discovered Spring Creek Prams - Ah! I thought, babies, little ones in the spring of their lives - but I got puzzled when I read that the prams were ideal for fly fishing. I had a hard time imagining chubby babies standing in their carriages and wielding a fly rod. A rather bizarre image don't you

March Madness Concludes

BY KEVIN TSE

Of the major sporting events that take place throughout the course of the year, few can compare to March Madness. The NCAA tournament always has a little bit of everything: the miraculous game winning shot, the stunning upset, and story lines that even Hollywood could not come up with. This year's tourney was no different.

The 2001 NCAA tournament will be remembered as one of the most exciting tournaments in recent memory. Gonzaga advanced once again to the Sweet 16, proving they are not a Cinderella team anymore. Hampton, a 15 seed, pulled off the most stunning upset of the tournament by defeating the 2nd seeded Iowa State Cyclones. Relatively unknown players, like junior guard Marvin O'Connor who scored 37 points in St. Joseph's loss to Stanford in the second round, made a name for themselves on the national stage. Finally, who could forget the touching story of Arizona Wildcats coach Lute Olson and his struggle to rally his team from the depths of a 21 ranking midway through the season and make a run for the championship, while fighting off the pain of losing his wife during the season. All these events contributed to the magic of this year's NCAA tournament.

Of course, the goal of every player and coach is to make it to the Final Four. This year's Final Four, comprised of Duke, Michigan State, Arizona, and Maryland, was arguably the best group of teams in the last 10 years. Odds makers, analysts, and online polls all confirmed the feeling that all four programs

think? But then I found that it was not babies but "prominent fly fishers" who owned the Spring Creek Prams. It turns out that not all prams are baby carriages. A pram can be a small, very stable, flat bottomed boat. In my discomfiture I next stumbled on a site in the UK entitled "SpringTIME". That seemed to be more like it.

I thought of springtime in England, primroses, lilacs and buttercups, lovely thatch covered cottages, tiny colorful gardens and all that. It turns out I had stumbled on the description of an initiative from the Department of Trade and Industry. SpringTIME is a program of IST (Inst. of Spring Technology) and stands for "Spring Technology Information and Material Exchange". I was their 34933rd visitor. I quickly made way for the 34934th, only to stumble on another "Spring", which turned out to stand for "Special Parkinson's Research Interest

had a legitimate shot at winning the national championship. In fact, 3 out of the 4 coaches had won at least one national championship before. The semi-finals game saw Arizona blitz Michigan State, the defending champions, in the second half to take a 18 point lead they would never relinquish. Duke fell behind by 22 early to Maryland, but rallied to defeat the Terps to set up a Duke vs. Arizona match-up in the title game on Monday.

The national championship game was tight to the end. Despite a quick 6-0 lead for Arizona in the first 3 minutes of the game, Duke lead by 2 points at halftime. With solid defense and rebounding from Shane Battier and Carlos Boozer, Duke was able to fend off the likes of Loren Woods (22 points) and Richard Jefferson (19 points). And, by riding the hot hand of Mike Dunleavy (21 points, five 3-pt. FG) Duke got the scoring they needed to win the game 82-72, clinching their third national title in 10 years.

Can we expect to see the same excitement from the NCAA tournament next year? The answer is yes, and it is very likely these same 4 teams, along with other perennially outstanding programs, will be among the nation's elite once again. Duke, Michigan State, North Carolina, and Stanford are all getting a McDonald's All American to replace the seniors graduating this year. Also, Kansas will get 2 All Americans, while Florida leads the pack with 3 next year. Look for next year's regular season to be filled with just as much excitement, culminating in an equally action packed Final Four.

Group." Obviously, spring is a many splendored thing.

Actually, some of the most splendid are listed in the Special Spring Edition of the "Wine Country Week Real Estate Reader," which offers "an important Fourteenth Century Stone Castle on 200 acres" in Southern France, reconstructed by a "native architect-interior designer." All you have to do to own this "personal village" located "in a fairy tale, breath taking setting" is to spring \$6 million. Of course you might prefer the "Best Beachfront in Hawaii, or perhaps the World's," all 156 ft. of it, for a mere \$2.5M. Ah and by the way, none of this is an April fool's joke. I would not spring that on you.

A bientot!

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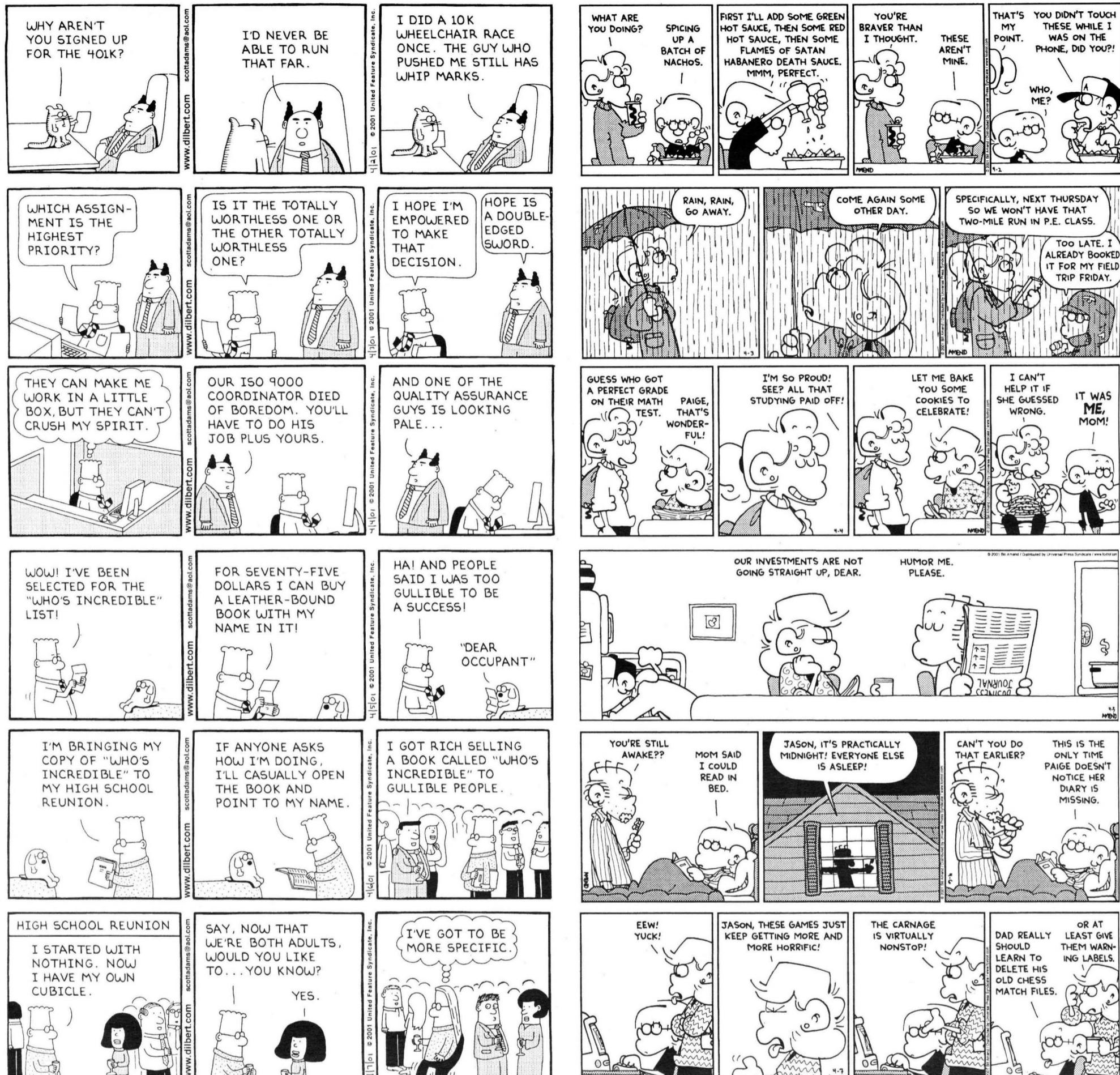
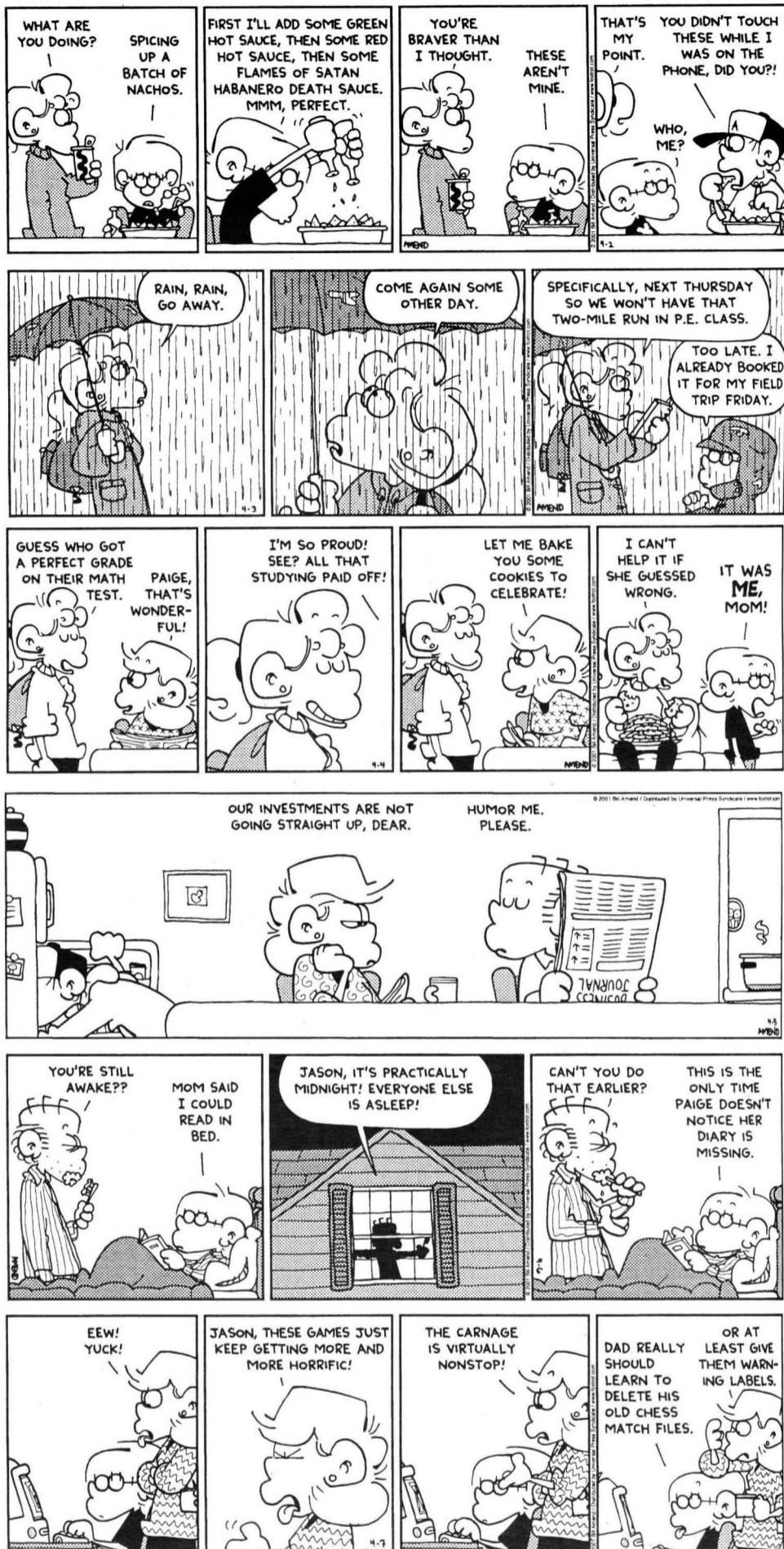
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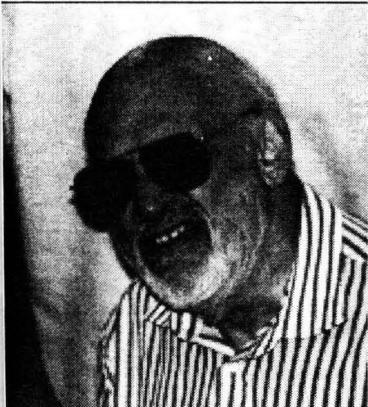
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DEAN

Dean's Corner



A spring in my walk

by Jean-Paul Revel

I was walking to my car late the other day, enjoying the cool air after a very hot day, and a view of the mountains seemingly rose up right behind campus. Freshly revealed as the haze of the day dissipated, they seemed even more lofty than usual. The black silhouettes of the trees against the pale colored sky made the scene very romantic. Of course it was romantic, it was (still is!) spring!

And just as I realized this, I noticed the pigeons cooing right on the walk ahead of me, with the male stretching and doing his little pirouette, shaking his head in as suggestive a way he could muster, trying to show himself off to best advantage to his intended mate. Up in the trees some starlings were doing their

stuff also, but it seemed a very precarious matter, what with their balancing on some of the smallest twigs. That wasn't a convenient place for a seduction dance, far from it. I had to laugh at the hard time they were having of it and at their perseverance. Too bad the object of attention was not on a more stable stand. But then each of us must make what he or she can do of spring.

Spring means so many different things to different creatures! The gophers in my yard are feeling ambitious and are digging new tunnels for their soon-to-arrive progeny. I don't know what beavers think of, but I can imagine them planning larger quarters for their new crop of baby beavers.

Caltech beavers of course are getting ready to spring into ac-

tion for the last term

of the school year. For many seniors it may be a sinecure and they can spend their time turning handsprings. For the rest of you I guess it's time to spring your Palm Pilots, the other kind of Handsprings or whatever PDA you use and carefully plan your schedules. You don't want to miss a class! That's nothing new that I am springing on you, this attending of classes, oh nothing new at all. Nor is attendance a problem unique to Caltech.

I found that out in an article about Prof. A. J. P. Taylor of Oxford (Atlantic Monthly April 2001, p 109) who is described "as the only person who could get Oxford undergraduates out of bed early in the morning-and in vast numbers." In the same issue of the Atlantic, David Brooks, writing on "The Organization Kid," expresses surprise at finding Princeton students replying to email at "1:15

A.M., 2:59 A.M., 3:23 A.M." Yes, Princeton, Princeton in the springtime, with its magnificent display of azaleas in bloom. It is a splendid show before the hot and muggy weather to follow. Come to wonder if that might have anything to do with Einstein's decision to go to Princeton instead of coming to Tech?

The story is that Millikan's offer was paltry and the ante raised only after it was too late and the great man had already made his decision to go, in spite of the fact that his correspondence makes clear that he enjoyed California and Caltech very much. Could it be that besides all else, including having his wife successfully argue for a significantly higher salary than offered originally, Einstein remembered Princeton in the spring?

Among all the different kinds of springs are the rolls, crunchy rather than springy if they are good, I think. (Note however the technical analysis of spring rolls by the National Consumer Agency of Denmark which concludes in part "it can therefore not be determined that one spe-

cific sensory property is of greater importance for strong preference than others (e.g. taste or consistency)" - www.fs.dk/uk/tm/tm970712.htm.

The roll part I understand. But the spring? Does it refer to the time of year or the mechanical properties of this many splendored delicacy? Another source of "spring" (sic) involves all these wells of still and sparkling water. How can one spring in France produce all of the fizzy Perrier water that is consumed around the world? And what about all the other spring waters? Where does the water come from for those dispensing machines (bring your own container) in front of the grocery stores everywhere? Is the water piped in directly from a mountain spring or is there a tanker docked off shore? Not likely, I am sure you'll agree. The sensory properties, as the Danes would say, are more likely conferred by a magic imparted by the little filters that hang behind the dispensers.

The label on bottles of Sparkletts says it all: "Drawn from our deep, protected wells,"

PLEASE SEE DEAN ON PAGE 4



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THIN MINTS

Welcome to the new, and somewhat improved Mints. In response to student feedback, we have decided to add a little box at the bottom of the mints page focusing on a few events in the upcoming week which might interest you. Generally these will be events which are not in the Mints announcements, things like Watson lectures, events around Pasadena, Drop/Add days, and the like. Hopefully this little box will help you attend all the things you want to see, and avoid all those which you do not. Let us know what you would like to see here, or any other suggestions for re-design by mailing mints@tech.caltech.edu.

Announcements

ARC Rep-at-large sign-ups! Sign-ups for the two ARC rep-at-large positions go up near SAC 33 Friday, April 6th and come down Monday, April 9th at 5PM. The ARC is the Academics and Research Committee, the ASCIT committee that deals with academic matters of importance to the undergraduate student body. From the ASCIT bylaws: "The Academics and Research Committee shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for actively enhancing the academic and research experience available to undergraduates at the Institute. Specific responsibilities shall be assigned by the Board of Directors."

Duties of the ARC are: appointing student representatives to student faculty committees that deal with academic matters (Core Curriculum Steering Committee, Academic Policies, Curriculum, Library, Educational Outreach, and Faculty/Student Advisors); solicit nominations and select candidates for ASCIT Teaching Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards; and to perform whatever other duties are necessary to enhance the academic and research experience of undergraduates. We hope this year to take a more proactive stance by increasing our interaction with the faculty and administration.

Remember: ARC rep-at-large signups, near SAC 33, coming down Monday at 5PM!

Attention: Current Frosh, Sophomores & Juniors. **2001-2002 Upper Class Merit Awards**. Each year, the Faculty Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid grants a number of Upper Class Merit Awards to the most academically-talented of the Institute's Sophomores, Juniors, and, occasionally, Freshmen. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional performance in formal classes and/or in independent research, and not on financial need. Last year, students were awarded Upper Class Merit Awards in the amounts ranging from \$13,162 (two-thirds of tuition) to \$19,743 (full-tuition). The number and caliber of the applicants determine the level of awards in any year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office at 355 S. Holliston or online at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu>. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. The deadline for submitting completed paper applications to the financial aid office is 5:00 PM, April 20, 2001. No exceptions will be made to this deadline.

Guitar classes at CIT for the spring quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on April 3 as follows: Beginning Guitar Class 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM. Intermediate Guitar Class 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Advanced Guitar Class 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. 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. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore). Mr. Denning can be reached at (323) 465-0881 or by email at: ddenning@caltech.edu. The Guitar Home Page is at: www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html

The dance troupe will be offering **FREE dance classes** Spring quarter. On Thursdays from 9-10:30pm, an introduction to modern dance series will be taught by professional instructor Liz Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell received her BFA and MFA degrees from The Juilliard School and the University of Washington, respectively. She has spent 30 years in modern dance, touring extensively throughout the US and Europe with several distinguished companies. Relocating to LA in 1994, Ms. Maxwell has been on the faculty of CalArts, CSULB, Moorpark, Loyola Marymount, and Scripps teaching dance technique, composition, and specializing in dance history. These classes will begin on April 12 and run through May 31 in the Braun multipurpose room. No prior experience is required, and no special clothing or shoes are needed. Free ballet classes taught by volunteer instructors will begin April 7. Beginning ballet meets from 1-2pm, intermediate ballet meets from 2-3pm, and advanced ballet meets from 3-4pm. For the beginning class, no special shoes are required. For more information, please visit our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe. To sign up on our mailing list or to reserve a place in the modern class, please send an email to troupe@caltech.edu.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issue such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15pm in the Health Center Lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation - only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call ext. 8331

Community Service Opportunities Abound! The Caltech Y offers students and staff a variety of ways to participate in community service. Opportunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Shelter, math tutoring (on or off campus), reading tutoring, and working at local hospitals. One-time community service events are planned each term and opportunities for service on a regular basis exist. Undergraduates with federal work-study can receive \$15/hr for their community service work. To be added to the community service interest email list, or for more information about the Community Service Program, please contact Kristin Abbott at kabbott@caltech.edu or call 626/395-3180. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

Paid Summer Internship in Silicon Valley Free room and board, \$1000 spending money for 8 weeks, paid for weekend trips, up to \$5000 for eight weeks of experience with a Silicon Valley startup. Check out www.uofdreams.com and if you have any other questions email melly@its.caltech.edu.

The Caltech Alumni Association has funding available for student organizations. We give preference to organizations that encourage interaction between students and alumni. To be considered for funding, an application form must be completed and returned to the Association ASAP. The form can be found on the web at http://www.its.caltech.edu/~alumni/sfar_funding.html If you wish to receive an application in hardcopy form, please contact Kim Goodfriend at extension 6852 or by email at kimberly@alumni.caltech.edu.

Event Highlights

CALTECH COMP. SCI., 25-YEAR CELEBRATION:
April 9, 8:00 AM to April 10, 3:00 PM.
Beckman Institute auditorium

EARNEST C. WATSON LECTURE SERIES:

April 11, 8:00 PM

Beckman Auditorium

"Understanding the World, One Molecule at a Time," by Stephen Quake, associate professor of applied physics at Caltech

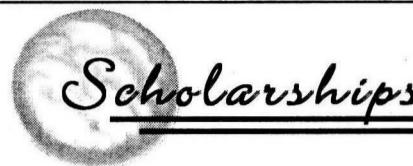
YURI'S NIGHT - LA PARTY:

April 12, 9:00 PM

Hollywood Palace, LA

contact Zane Crawford zane@yurisnight.net

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. 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.



The Financial Aid Office has applications and/or information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located at 355 S. Holliston, second floor

Summer Work Study: Information and applications for 2001 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, 2001. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1 in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the Work Study funding will begin with the July 2nd payroll.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation administers a need-based grant program for Vermont residents. Vermont Grants can be used at colleges throughout the state as long as the college is approved by the US Dept. of Education for participation in the Title IV student aid program. Students are required to file a FAFSA in addition to filing a Vermont Grant application. For eligibility requirements and an application call VSAC at 1-802-655-9602, in-state 1-800-642-3177 or see www.vsac.org

P.L.A.T.O. is offering scholarships up to \$5000. These scholarships can be used for tuition, room and board, fees or other education-related expenses. The scholarship program is completely web-based; no paper applications will be available. Any student enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college or university for Fall 2001 is eligible to apply regardless of status. There are no minimum GPA or standardized test score requirements. The application and additional information regarding the program will be available beginning February 1, 2001. All applications must be submitted by April 30, 2001. Scholarships will be awarded in August 2001. Visit www.plato.org

The National Institutes of Health scholarship program, the Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (UGSP), targets students who are committed to pursuing careers in health research or basic biomedical science research. The UGSP has strong mentoring and science enrichment components and offers up to \$20,000 per year in financial aid educational expenses. They provide housing during the summer and transportation, and their stipends for the 10 weeks are between \$2,500 and \$4,000. After graduation from college, recipients also "pay back" a year of service for each year of scholarship support, again through paid research training at the NIH. This pay-back can be deferred until after completion of graduate or medical school, and students are encouraged to defer their service pay-back until after receipt of their doctoral degree. For further information and an application go to the Internet site at: <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>

The American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF) is offering scholarships to upper class undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in careers in the surface finishing field. Applicants must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, materials science, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, statement describing career objectives, list of educational achievements, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or professors. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Please send completed application materials to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, Central Florida Research Park, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando FL 32826-3298. Entries must be submitted to the AESF Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2001.

John Gyles Education Awards are awards available to students in Canada and the United States. Awards are for all areas of post secondary study. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. Filing dates for mailing applications in 2001 are April 1, June 1, and November 15. Students can receive an application by sending only a stamped *** (US 34 cent), self-addressed, standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to the following address: John Gyles Education Awards, Attention: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4

School of International Training (SIT) Freeman Grant which can be applied to the following semester programs: China, Yunnan Province: Languages & Culture/ Viet Nam: Culture & Development/.Mongolia: Culture & Development.These undergraduate awards are based on academic performance, curricular interest and the ability to carry out independent field study and will generally average half the program fee. Grant recipients are expected to help promote intercultural understanding and cooperation between the people of the United States and Asia. Deadline for the completed application is April 15 for the fall semester. More detailed information on SIT and its Study Abroad program is available at www.sit.edu. To receive an application, students can call 888-275-7881 or e-mail studyabroad@sit.edu or stop into the Fellowships & Study Abroad Office in SAC Room 25.

Upcoming Events

Caltech Library System Spring Instructional Sessions: "Quick Review: Accessing Full-Text Journals and New Online Databases" April 10-13, 2001 from 12:00 ~ 1:30 p.m. (This class will be held on a walk-in basis.) Sherman Fairchild Library, Multimedia Conference room, 3rd floor, Room 328. Information: email kathleen@library.caltech.edu or call ext. 6713.

The Caltech Progressive Coalition is showing the movie "Paying the Price" on Friday, April 13 at 7:30pm in 070 Moore. It shows the impact of the bombings and sanctions against Iraq. A discussion will follow and refreshments will be provided.

Caltech Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar On Science, Ethics, And Public Policy: Dr. Yochai Benkler, Professor of Law, Director of the Information Law Institute, New York University. "Freedom in the Digital Environment: Property, Commons, and the Institutional Ecology of Information". Room 25, Baxter Building, Friday, April 13, 2001. 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-4087 or michelle@hss.caltech.edu. For a complete list of SEPP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, visit our web site: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/sees/SEPP.html>

The Aero Association of Caltech/JPL will hold its Spring General Membership meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 pm in 201 E. Bridge. The meeting will feature guest speaker Barry Schiff, who has received worldwide recognition for his wide-ranging aeronautical accomplishments. He holds five world speed records and has received numerous honors for his many contributions to aviation safety. Non-members are also welcome to attend this meeting. For more information about joining AACIT or the Spring meeting, please contact Elaine Ou at x1365 or ou@its.caltech.edu.

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