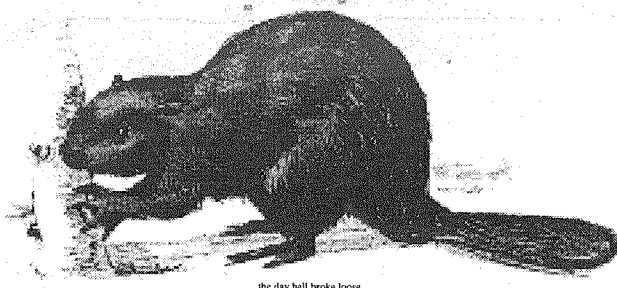


Halloween!

BOO!

be scared, you're at Caltech...



Alex & Walter's
Birthday!
Hazzard, Sat.

The Outside
World

.....

Anthrax Crisis
Attorney General John Ashcroft is warning Americans of the possibility of further anthrax attacks. The terrorists are taking advantage of the recent attacks and are “plotting, planning, and waiting to kill Americans again,” said Ashcroft. Anthrax spread through the mail has already resulted in 32 total anthrax exposures and thirteen infections, including three deaths. The primary targets have been government agencies; the most recent discoveries of anthrax was in the Hart State Senate Building. As a precaution, some mail addressed to federal officials has instead been rerouted to Ohio to be irradiated.

Microsoft Launches XP
Bill Gates formally launched Microsoft’s new operating system Windows XP yesterday at a long awaited event in Broadway’s Marriott Marquis Theatre. In attendance were New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”’s Regis Philbin, among many Microsoft partners and members of the PC industry. The system is expected to offer customers increased reliability and power, promising fewer computer crashes and increased security with file encryption and restricted access. It’s also easier to use, with a better Start menu and a brighter, redesigned look. The computer industry hopes that the release of XP will help revitalize an industry that has seen a 11.3% worldwide decrease in computer sales since the September 11th attacks.

US withdraws from Fed Cup
The United States team that could have featured Venus and Serena Williams and Lindsay Davenport formally withdrew yesterday from next month’s Fed Cup finals to be held in Madrid. The U.S. Tennis Association decided that security reasons and fears of terrorism made it unsafe for elite athletes to be competing abroad. The U.S. is the defending champion of the international tournament. A replacement team will be selected by Monday.

- by Janet Zhou

Freshmen retention rate soars

BY KEVIN BARTZ

Amidst a flurry of Admissions Office-led efforts to “share real students’ perspectives” with admitted candidates, only six of 234 freshmen skipped town last summer, marking the second consecutive bumper year for Caltech’s recent near-perfect freshmen retention rate. Among last year’s incoming first-year undergraduates, 97.4% returned to campus this fall—a substantial jump over the past decade’s more modest 93.5% average.

“It’s been increasing each year,” explained Admissions Dean Charlene Liebau. “The rate has been on an upward trend as we do studies on students who have not been admitted and interview current students about what qualities make a successful student, about what kind of preparation is necessary.”

Her recent campaign to ensure that “incoming students have some idea what they’re getting into” has been the department’s kingpin in what Student Affairs Vice President Christopher Brennen termed an “increased

focus on retention, both for every student and through added attention to students by staff.” With a newly reformed selection team encompassing students, faculty and admissions deans, Liebau has taken pains to pluck elite students who have “actively pursued passion in math and science aggressively beyond grades and test scores.”

The result, in her eyes, is a “self-selecting” applicant pool, one increasingly likely to “have some idea what a focused research environment is all about, so that the expectation and reality match.” And the fruits of such efforts to present an honest Caltech image have shown; over the past two years fewer than a dozen frosh have dropped out.

The rise in retention is remarkable for its time frame. In the three years preceding, the Institute retained just barely one in ten, not to mention a drooping 80% a decade earlier. Last year, the figure jumped to 98% from 93.1% the previous year which jumped from 89.9% the year before—numbers well below

Incoming Year	Number of Total Freshmen	Number of Retained Freshmen	Retention Percentage
'00	234	228	97.4%
'99	254	249	98.0%
'98	217	202	93.1%
'97	216	194	89.9%
'96	218	200	91.7%
'95	231	215	93.1%
'94	209	190	90.9%
'93	232	219	94.4%
'92	224	208	92.9%

the national par of around 95%. Again this year, Admissions once more waved off critics who dubbed the increased retention a fluke by weighing in at a consistent 97.4%.

ASCIT Freshman Director-at-Large Joe Jewell attributed the rise to the Institute’s enhanced exposure in publications that break down and rank America’s universities. “I’ll point out that our class was the one that saw Caltech ranked first in *US News [and World Report]*,” he said. The result, he argued, was an enlarged applicant pool from

which Liebau’s mixed student-faculty selection committee could handpick the best.

But recent budget cuts could threaten this growing publicity. With universal rollbacks ranging from five to seven percent, a tightened travel account has forced a few stops from the department’s trans-American itinerary, according to Brennen. Pointing to a transportation system “strained nationwide” in light of recent high-profile terrorist hijackings, he tagged the situation a “challenge to con-

PLEASE SEE FRESHMEN ON PAGE 5

Attacks may affect student diversity

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

The attacks on September 11, 2001, have drawn various reactions worldwide that are affecting almost everyone in one way or another. Even apparently unrelated departments such as academic institutes, are being drawn into light considering that one of the 19 terrorists was a student who got into the States with a student visa. The obvious question to this would be if all this could affect Caltech and Techers, and the answer is both yes and no.

Recently Senator Feynstein went out of her way to ask for a six-month moratorium on the issuance of visas to all students coming from abroad. However, after meeting with representatives from educational institutes and from the UC system of universities, she ended up staying her motion from legislature and instead went on to join the efforts of the anti-terrorism department. The application of these measures has been delayed by

the incidence of anthrax in various states all over America.

One might think why she thought that the former measure was a solution to terrorism. Then again, many people have had similar responses to the September 11 attacks.

One of Feynstein’s tasks includes funding an ongoing Immigration and Naturalization Service program for tracking systems, which are to be implemented in 2003. Though it will not affect the application procedure for international students any, it will increase the work of the international student programs (ISP) office here at Caltech.

According to ISP Director Parandeh Kia, there had been no problems with any of the students who entered the country after the attacks. This confirms that so far there has been no change in the US policy regarding student immigration. However, Kia insisted that it was absolutely essential for current stu-

dents holding visas not to fall out of status at any point.

She added that legality of national IDs, such as passports, while traveling even within the US will be recognized, and that at the moment the IDs’ validities had not been discussed at all. If an issue of the sort were brought up though, this would undoubtedly instigate a big debate.

She assured students saying, “We are very hopeful and fairly confident that there is not going to be a major negative impact on the educational community. Several Congress members have appreciated the importance of

the presence of international students. I do not think that anybody is looking at closing doors to their flow into the country for receiving higher education in US universities.”

If more information on this is needed, contact Parandeh Kia at parandeh@its.caltech.edu and do not forget to attend a talk by Professor Niels Frenzen on November 14, 2001, at 7:30pm in the Beckman Institute Auditorium (as opposed to Beckman Auditorium) on legal issues within the US and the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. Frenzen is a professor of immigration law at USC.

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Letters to the Editor

When I read the October 19 feature "Conditional Love," I felt the need to write an appropriate response. I appreciate the writer's courage in taking on such a difficult subject, but in my opinion the article is based on fallacious assumptions about love.

What is love? Love is not desire: we can desire someone without caring one whit about them personally. Love is not the feeling of "being in love:" we can love parents, siblings, and platonic friends, and many couples continue loving one another long after this feeling disappears. Love is not an emotion; it does not descend on us from outside. Love is a conscious decision to care about someone else, to want the best for them, and to aid their personal growth.

Love is different from liking. We can like a computer, a car, or a good book, but since they cannot grow personally, we cannot love them. We usually like something for a reason: we like people for how they act, their abilities, or their physical appearance. Because liking depends on conditions, it changes over time and can disappear as quickly as it appeared, if we get a better car or computer, or discover a repugnant habit in someone we used to like.

But because we love a person,

and not his or her qualities, love cannot depend on the recipient's appearance, abilities, or actions. The recipient may change as time passes, and may grow or diminish in our eyes, but our desire for his or her good need not change. There is no contradiction in continuing to love someone who has become cruel or evil. Pure love does not blind us to reality: it is the will to help a person become the best they can, no matter how good or how bad they are now.

Unlike liking, true love cannot ever cease. If we stopped loving someone, our love must have depended on some condition that ceased to obtain--and therefore was never real love at all. The vow "to love, to honor, to be true, as long as we both shall live," far from being an empty promise no one has the power to keep, says no more than that the partners do, in fact, love one another.

Of course, love is not always reciprocated. But true love does not depend on the recipient responding to it the way the lover would like him or her to. The facts are that relationships don't work out; we lose touch with friends; people stop liking us. But love is unaffected by these trivial things. Once we love someone, we love them forever, no matter how long we go without seeing them or how differ-

ent they become. Far from what the article claims, love is the one unconditional, the one permanent thing in this world of change.

These ideas are centuries old, but as true today as they ever were. In times when travel and divorce were less prevalent, people learned to love each other because otherwise life would have been unbearable. The fantasy of "romantic love," which appears (and disappears) unexpectedly, is a relatively modern development. The search for perfect romance, while it makes good movies, breaks many hearts every day: people expect the magic wand of love to solve all their problems, rather than making the effort required to extend true love to another person.

Permanence may be more difficult in today's world, because of our personal freedom and independence, but the availability of other options only makes true love more precious. And who among us does not long for something unchanging in this transitory world? Love is the only satisfactory answer.

Sincerely,
Michael Shulman

I am writing in response to an article printed in last week's edition of the California Tech entitled "Campus faces budget cuts" by Kevin Bartz. In particular I would like to address the comments made by the Freshman Director-at-Large (FDAL) Joe Jewell. I find the FDAL's comments to be troubling and upsetting in both their tone and level of inaccuracy.

During the course of my time at Caltech I have worked extensively with the Minority Student Affairs (MSA) department. Most recently this past summer I worked as the Head Counselor for the Freshman Summer Institute (FSI) program. In this capacity I aided in the planning and logistics of many events. As such I can say with absolute certainty that the FSI program did not use a limo as was stated by the FDAL. During the FSI program we were always conscience of saving funds whenever possible, just like all other departments on campus. After discussing this matter with the Director of the MSA, Associate Dean Susan Borrego, I learned that the Irvine Scholars Program for the Caltech Class of 2004 did use a limo for an event this past September. However, this was done only after it was found to be \$100 cheaper than a rental van and \$266 cheaper than Caltech Transportation Services. As someone who has helped organize events for various departments on campus I can say that sometimes price irregularities do occur and the receipts are there to prove it. Furthermore, the MSA's Caltech budget did receive a 7% cut that is on par with the entire campus. I would urge the FDAL and others to check out their facts before using rumors and half-truths to malign a department or set of individuals.

The most troubling of the FDAL's quotes is the statement "Minority Student Affairs? Those people are richer than God". This comment is divisive and insensitive in its tone and marginalizes a segment of our community. It is particularly troubling that an ASCIT officer who serves as the voice of the freshman class made this statement. During my three years at Caltech I have seen our entire community grow in its acceptance of diversity on campus. Comments such as these, however, are contrary to that spirit and it is disappointing to hear them from one of our elected leaders.

Al Valdivia
Class of 2002

The Caltech Minority Student Affairs Office was given short shrift in the October 19, 2001 edition of The California Tech. The Tech's article did not examine all the facts relevant to MSA, and thus presented a very one-sided opinion.

It was with great shock and near-horror that I regarded the way I was portrayed in the article that appeared, "Campus Faces Budget Cuts." The quotes from me in the story, taken entirely out of context and used absolutely without regard for the many supportive statements I also made, imply my opinion of the Minority Student Affairs Office to be nearly the opposite of what it actually is. I was not given the opportunity to review the article before publication and I certainly did not believe the reporter would use me to malign the organization or the students that it supports in any way.

For the record, I would like to state that I am entirely in support of the goals of MSA, and furthermore that I believe it to be a well-run and worthwhile organization that enriches the Caltech community. I was saddened that my name was used and my words were chosen to imply such a negative opinion.

Joe Jewell
ASCIT Freshmen Director-at-Large

As the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Diversity and Minority Affairs, I'd like to comment on the recent article regarding Institute budget cuts ("Campus faces budget cuts," October 19, 2001). Through a variety of programs and efforts, the Institute is committed to increasing diversity at all levels across campus. This wide-ranging initiative, in which the Office of Minority Student Affairs plays a fundamental and critical role, is of utmost importance if Caltech is to be truly representative institution of higher education in this nation. A comment made in the article suggested that certain programs or efforts made on behalf of diversity goals were "richer than God." This kind of derision is unhelpful and unnecessary divisive, and, whether intentional or not, it insults the hard work done on behalf of diversity by dedicated staff, students, and faculty. I would be more than happy to meet with anyone from our community to discuss the variety of diversity efforts now underway at Caltech. If we are to accomplish these goals, sustained commitment from the entire Institute is imperative.

Bill Deverell

Student's perspective on parking problems

In what is arguably the most drastic measure in the new parking policy, freshmen will not be allowed to park on campus starting next fall. Why? The underlying problem is that Caltech is short on parking. Although many staff members who have lost reserved parking spaces are painfully aware of Caltech's new policy, undergraduates who are not so immediately affected do not all know how the plans that are now in place will change their the way they live in the future.

Of course, an answer to this shortage must be found. Right now there is just enough space for everybody, partly due to the addition of a 90-space lot on the north side of campus. Predictably, the problem is not solved forever, as growth was one of the main reasons we ran out of parking initially, and growth continues. Next year, more spaces will have to be opened up, and the current solution is to take spaces from incoming freshmen. After that, Caltech administrators imply, we will probably move to a fee-based system. This, you can figure, will both reduce demand and pay for more parking spaces, at the expense of CIT drivers.

But wait a minute—what about freshmen? This is motor city. When was the last time you took the bus somewhere? I recommend that you try it, but don't plan on really getting anywhere in a reasonable amount of time, not dinner on Saturday, or the AMC theater in Covina (the one with stadium seating), or the beach, and definitely not the mountains. For students who don't have cars, getting to places like these is already a problem, even though Techers are quite regular carpoolers. If the one in four students who have cars went to one in five, getting somewhere would just be that much more difficult.

There is no easy solution to this problem, but it seems that a parking plan which more equally distributed available spaces would be better for undergraduate life. Charging for parking, barring construction of

PLEASE SEE PARKING ON PAGE 3

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Letters to the Editor

Many study aboard opportunities available

Caltech students have many opportunities to study abroad. From living in a foreign environment, to learning a new language, to researching fields only found in select countries, going abroad can be a very enriching experience that complements the standard undergraduate Caltech experience. Unfortunately, relatively few undergrads take advantage of the many openings to travel, so much of this funding goes to waste. Several travel scholarships are again available this year, which you can sign up for in the Caltech Fellowship and Study Abroad Office (SAC 25). Here are some of the more important scholarships offered:

The NSEP David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship aims to equip Americans with an understanding of less commonly

taught languages and cultures and to develop professionals who are integrally involved in global issues. Scholarship recipients can choose to study in any country except Western European countries, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (preference is given to countries "more critical to national security"). Emphasis is placed on language study of the native host language. Recipients can choose to study a minimum of one academic term with a minimum of \$4500 reimbursement per semester, or a summer term of 6 weeks with a minimum of \$2500 of reimbursement. This is a federally funded scholarship, and thus requires U.S. citizenship. Scholarship recipients also have opportunities to work for an agency of the federal government with national security

responsibilities after studying abroad. I personally have been a recipient of this award in my sophomore year, which allowed me to study in a language-intensive program in Taiwan for 6 weeks during summer break. It was a great experience, and I encourage anyone who is interested in studying language abroad to sign up. The campus deadline for handing in materials for this scholarship is January 23.

The Freeman Asia Awards funds summer, semester, or year-long study in East or Southeast Asian countries for undergraduates. Students can study in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, or Vietnam. Summer study is re-

imbursed \$3000, semester study \$5000, and year-long study \$7000. U.S. citizenship is required. The application for summer 2002 is due by mid-February, and spring 2002 program applications are due November 1. Applications are available online at <http://www.iie.org/pgms/freeman-asia/>.

Finally, the Bishop Summer Study Abroad Prize is aimed to expose scientists and engineers to international issues and cultures. Recipients can study anywhere in the world, and U.S. citizenship is not required to apply. Enrollment in a 6-12 weeks study abroad program is reimbursed up to \$6000. Language study and/or culture study is required as part of the prize. For example, if you wish to go to Britain, you should choose a program that teaches British his-

tory, architecture, literature, etc. If you propose a non-English speaking country, your program should have at least one course studying the language. The campus application deadline is in mid-February.

If you are interested in any of these programs, please visit the Caltech Fellowship and Study Abroad Office for more information. In addition, there will be a meeting held in the Winnet Club Room on Wednesday, November 28th at noon to further discuss studying abroad scholarships.

-Philip Fung,
Senior, ECE,

PARKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

new spaces, is the most logical thing to do for reasons above, but is it justified to restrict student parking to forestall the effects of growth for one or at most two years? The result will probably be that restricted student parking will become the status quo, and freshmen may never have the hope of holding a permit.

So what can be done? There are more options than simply charging drivers to park. Caltech could provide some alternate form of transportation, similar to the Student Affairs van that clubs can sign up to use. Or, since undergrads do share cars a good deal, one way to help further spread out costs under a fee system would be to pay for half the cost of student permits with an assessment (about 1/8 the price of a single permit) to all undergraduate accounts. Of course, these ideas are all up for discussion, and Caltech admin-

istration has graciously responded to a letter from ASCIT on the parking issue. A committee with student representation is being formed to discuss the parking situation and consider alternate options to the current plan. ASCIT (with the help of the web team) has developed a survey for undergraduates to gather information about their transportation needs, and it is available online² today. Go fill it out and have your driving/riding habits and opinions be counted, whether you have a car or not. Additionally, you can contact me³ or another member of the BoD if you have concerns about this (or some other) issue.

Yours truly,

Joe Fassler
ASCIT VP

1. atc.caltech.edu/CIT_Parking/ParkingMemo1.pdf
2. donut.caltech.edu/vote/
3. jfassler@its

If you are reading this, then you must be very bored. You see, we didn't have anything to fill this space. Sorry, but no articles, minutes, ads, letters, etc. can fit into this tiny 4 in. by 3.5 in. space. So we were forced to fill it in with some gibberish.

I guess you should smile.

Yeah, that's it **SMILE**.

End of gibberish.



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Campus

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

OCTOBER 22, 2001

Present: BoD - Dana. Guests: Sarah Cooke, Movies Chairman
Meeting brought to order at 5:04 pm.

Guests

Sarah, the Movies Chairman is planning to update her committee that will consist of representatives responsible for distributing tickets for ASCIT-sponsored movies and for making new DVD purchases for the Library. She will send an undergraduate-wide e-mail advertising the positions.

Sarah will also start looking for a large safe that will serve as the DVD library security chamber. New DVDs will not be purchased until a secure location is found. With regards to recovering lost DVDs, the receipts for the films that were stolen have not been uncovered yet, but it is believed that they were purchased online, and therefore should be traced through an online account. Once the new and old collections of DVDs are

amassed, Sarah or someone she delegates responsibility to, will re-number the DVDs and make pretty decoration displays for DVDs that may have lost their original cases. Sarah is not planning an outdoor Olive-Walk walk movie since it is starting to get cold and the event has not been well attended in the past, so it is proposed that the money that was reserved for this event will be funneled back to the general Social Budget. This term will see a continuation of the ASCIT-sponsored movie. There have been many requests for ASCIT to sponsor a viewing of "Lord of the Rings", but unless students are willing to take a hiatus from their winter breaks and return to campus, that option does not appear likely. "Lord of the Rings" premieres after the end of the first term finals, so "Harry Potter" appears to be a more reasonable choice, though Martha-Helene adds that she would rather see a more "adult" movie. Martha-Helene's inner-child was taking a break that day.

Sarah is also serving as a liaison from the Cheerleading and Gymnastics Clubs, who kindly request their funding for the term.

General Meeting

Ayeh points out that ASCIT seems to owe Caltech some

money, a statement that was met with many puzzled expressions. The debts were not incurred during this administration, however. At one point, we owed the Athenaeum \$.52 due to interest on an outstanding debt. Other debts were not paid several years ago and ignored by subsequent administrations, until now.

Several houses contacted Ted about their multi-house funding, a portion of the ASCIT budget designated for social activities that bridge two or more houses (each house can receive up to \$200 per term). Fleming and Lloyd hosted a joint Laser Tag event, with attendance close to 80 people. Ricketts requested money for a party at Hazzard it threw in conjunction with Page. Ruddock and Blacker participated in broomball together. Each of the houses is approved for their multi-house funding by votes of 7-0.

Student-Faculty Conference. Nick, Martha-Helene, and the ARC have decided to push the date of the Student-Faculty conference to a date in April, either the 5th, 12th, or the 19th. Chris Elion has written a proposal for programming courses outside the CS department that are less focused on theory behind computer science than the present CS 1, 2, and 3 sequence. Martha-Helene raises a concern that

some classes are being cancelled due to an inadequate number of enrolled students, though she remembers reading somewhere that professors are supposed to hold classes as long as 5 or more students want to take it.

Parking. Joe Fassler re-drafted his letter to administrators with authority over the new parking policies, which he plans to hand-deliver. The new policy ending freshmen's privilege for parking on-campus next year was a primary concern. In order to gather more quantitative data, Joe and the Donut Development Team are forming an online survey on <http://donut.caltech.edu> that will poll students for how far they drive, how often they get off-campus, and whether public transportation was ever considered as an alternative. This information will be used in a more detailed report to administrators urging reconsideration of the new parking policy. Joe is also contacting the Parking Office for data on the number of faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduates who have registered their vehicles.

Last week's Budget article. Joe Jewell's remarks were taken out of context, and he apologizes for any offence the misrepresentation has caused. In response to the article, Joe states, "I'm upset that my views about the MSA

were not accurately represented. The reporter in question did not call back to double-check my quote. I am whole-heartedly in support of the MSA and its goals." Joe adds that in his statement to the reporter, he emphasized that the MSA has worked hard to gain grants from outside Caltech and that a large portion of its budget is independent of the Institute. Accordingly, the budget cuts that have affected Student Affairs should not have hurt the MSA as much as other departments directly. This additional information was not relayed in the article that used his quote, and Joe is deeply sorry that his intentions for the statement were mis-communicated and at the expense of offending others.

Donut Committee?? Retrieving Friday morning donuts from Donut Man is a necessary part of a well-balanced, nutritious breakfast, though proving less and less so for the ASCIT President. Do we have any volunteers for pioneering our new special, very ASCIT-friendly Donut Committee?

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Evidently,
Justin

ARC

CH 3a

Justin Ho, on behalf of the Academics and Research Committee

Some students, particularly upperclassmen who have not taken Ch3a yet, may be dismayed that each of the sections for this lab requirement are now structured for 5 hours on one day of the week: an 8 am- 10 am block followed by an afternoon block from 1 pm- 4pm. In the past, an all-day section was reserved exclusively for Friday, while four other sections were each split across two days as 3-hour blocks in the morning or afternoon. While the prospect of spending 5 hours in-lab on a given day (in addition to classes in between the two blocks or in the evening) may seem daunting, the scheduling change is meant to be more accommodating and to improve efficiency. With all-day sections, students can assemble equipment at the beginning of the morning block and leave disassembling of apparatuses and glassware cleaning to the very end of section. The previous structure for the sections would have required set-up and clean-up at the beginning and end of each block. Students can now leave apparatuses in their hoods in the interim period, which provides more flexibility for completing experiments during the morning block. Because of the all-day scheduling, students can expect to spend 5 hours in-lab as opposed to 6 hours. This time saving measure has resulted in a more honest uniting system, according to the instructor for the course, Dr. Jane Raymond. In the past, the class was listed as a 0-6-0, which accurately accounts for the 6 hours in-lab, but egregiously overlooks the time needed for doing pre-labs and writing reports. Because of this disparity, experiments designed for the last two weeks were curtailed. The 12 hours of free lab time in the last two weeks of the term were reserved for finishing experiments or otherwise to make-up for the extra time that students spent during the first 8 weeks for out-of-lab work. Because students can be more efficient under the new all-day system and need only 5 hours of lab-time, the class can be designated as a 0-5-1, which represents the work break-down more accurately.

Dr. Raymond states that the times were coordinated with the math, physics, and chemistry departments to accommodate freshman and sophomore core classes. Math core classes start at 10, and the physics and chemistry departments do not hold their core classes until 11, so the 8 am-10 am morning block does not pose a conflict. For freshmen or sophomores in Ch 41, there are 40 spaces in the Tuesday and Thursday sections each term, which do not conflict with the Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning lectures. Attempting to coordinate lab blocks for upperclassmen taking a much wider range of classes, however, is too difficult. While many upperclassmen may find the new times inconvenient, they are reminded that Ch 3a serves as a freshman lab and should be taken during freshman or sophomore year at the latest, in order to minimize class overlaps and to serve as an extension of Ch 1. Dr. Raymond and the ARC express their regrets that upperclassmen that have not taken this requirement may have difficulties with the new schedule. To address more concerns about Ch3a or other academic matters in the future, e-mail arc@donut.caltech.edu.



What's new at the Y?

- **Noon concert** today near the Red Door Café - Singer/songwriter Jeremy Toback will be performing modern rock/pop.

- **Rebuilding Together** - Help fix up a house in Arcadia

owned by two disabled brothers. Tasks include painting and other outside work. A group will meet tomorrow (Sat. 10/27) morning at 8:30 at the Y. Contact niki@its ASAP for more information or to sign up.

- **Día de los Muertos** - Participate in building a community altar. Tuesday, October 30, 4-6 pm, Keck Student Services Building. Call x6207 for more information. Co-sponsored by Minority Student Affairs, the WorkLife Program, and the Y.

Did you know?

The Y has information about many volunteer opportunities in the Pasadena area. If you are interested in tutoring, working with abused children, or helping the community in other ways, contact Greg Fletcher (gregf@caltech.edu) or drop by the Y. You can also earn your Federal Work Study aid while doing community service.

The Y ExComm meets every Monday at noon in the Y Lounge to plan upcoming Y events. If you are interested in what we do, please stop by! The Y is located on the first floor the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.

Commentaries

One of the first things we learn in kindergarten is to always tell the truth. But as we grow older we learn that don't lie really means don't lie except when it benefits someone and doesn't hurt anyone else, when it would be cruel to do otherwise, when a girl asks if she looks fat, etc. etc. "Liar Liar" used to be a schoolyard taunt, but now we are all liars. By the time we reach adulthood, the don't lie rule has accumulated so many clauses that it has become essentially meaningless.

In fact, our usual definition of lying only encompasses a fraction of the fraudulence we daily carry out. Lying with words is simply the most explicit and well-defined form of falsehood. What about wearing makeup? Is it a lie to pretend you were born with it when it's really Mabeline? Is that a lie for a poor person to pretend to be just another middle-class suburbanite by shopping at Abercrombie and Fitch? Is it a lie to ask, "How are you?" when you could not care less if the addressed dropped off the face of the Earth? Life is filled with subtle deceptions, and if we are to put such a high premium on honesty, we're going to have to take a harder look at ourselves.

Wouldn't it be better to just get

rid of all of this artifice and simply behave genuinely for a change? After fiascos like Bill Clinton's entire tenure as President, one would be inclined to

together long without clubbing each other to death like cave people must have done.

There is a need for deception under some circumstances, but

where does it end? White lies most of us find acceptable soon grow into gray ones and then become lies under oath about having sex in the White House. Nowadays, the blurry line between making interpretive liberties and devishly deceiving has all but disappearing

entirely.

Moreover, is dishonesty to be judged based on its consequences or simply on principle? We profess to believe in the principle, but we are very selective about when we apply it.

We worship celebrity, we patronize cosmetic surgeons, and we allow carefully worded duplicity from politicians. We accept all of these pretenses, but at the same time, most of us still count honesty as one of the most important aspects of being a good person. Something has to give. So is it better to be a liar in a sophisticated world or to be honest in a simpler one? I don't know, but it seems we have made our choice. Honesty is so much more than having a candid tongue, and we can't even achieve that much. Our actions speak louder than words, and they are lying loud and clear.

believe so. But it appears that lying is an increasing function of civilization. The more elaborately we are able to hide ourselves, the more it seems we can accomplish as a society. To be functional members of society, we must cooperate with annoying peers and coworkers, pretend to be interested in what others are saying, and ingratiate ourselves with higher-ups on a daily basis.

Lying is in fact essential to maintaining an organized civilization, and propriety often must override honesty. Not only is it inappropriate to tell your sister she looks hideous, but it is also inappropriate to tell your co-worker she is a hot babe (the latter could actually be illegal). We should avoid these sorts of improprieties as much as possible, even if we have to lie. Otherwise, few of us could live

Liar Liar

by Jialan Wang

Marcus reports from Macedonia

I can't decide if Skopje is utopia or the ninth circle of hell. Here are the arguments for both sides.

As utopia, Skopje has the cheapest prices in Europe. For \$75 a month I am living in student style in my friend's backyard shack. Fast food hot dogs are served up for 50 cents—not skimpy American wieners but hearty Macedonian sausages packed with salad and french-fries into an oversized bun. Sometimes I follow a hot dog feast with ice cream, a 7-cent indulgence.

Macedonia is not the only Eastern European country whose struggling economy has lowered prices, but it is one of the few who faces the struggle with dignity. There are few beggars; nobody treats me as a rich American and people take the 50% unemployment in stride.

Strong European exposure keeps Skopje a cosmopolitan city. Youth follow the Western fashion trends and are vigorously developing subcultures in pursuit of modern urban identi-

ties. Despite ongoing ethnic disputes, the anything-goes culture of Skopje keeps life laidback.

But then there is the other side, the problems that gnaw at Macedonia as they have at all the Balkan states. Foremost among these is the issue of ethnic identity.

In America we are taught about the evils of racism. This notion is pounded into our heads by parents, teachers and media to the point where most of America shares this common belief. In Skopje they are familiar with the idea of racism and everybody is opposed to the term in principle, but not so in practice. In one breath a Macedonian will declare they are against racism, and in the next that the Albanians are a scourge on Europe.

Then there is the plague of patriotism. As America is learning now, nothing spurs patriotism like the feeling of being under attack. When Albanian guerillas started chasing the Macedonian police out of ethnic Albanian towns and demanding autonomy, the Macedonians

came together. Suddenly their identity meant more now that the enemy of Macedonia was clear and present.

Approval of the corrupt government and previously despised police rose through the roof. Flags flew, the country came together and it became very important to be Macedonian. This would be alright if it were not happening on the Albanian side as well. It seems that in a war everybody gets hot.

Passing freely between the sides of the conflict, I look upon these trends with a sense of despair. The irrationality of Albanians and Macedonians believing that they are so different and finding in their ethnic differences a sense of right and wrong causes me endless frustration. I wish one side would act like enlightened protagonists, but both are filled with closed-minded nationalist hawks. This is the hell of Macedonia. Sometimes I think the best solution is obliteration of this misguided parcel of land.

FRESHMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tinue to improve efficiency" for admissions officials.

"It shouldn't have a direct impact on the size of the applicant pool," held Liebau. "But if we aren't able to travel or you can't publish as many things, perhaps [it may]. In the past, we've always made a concerted effort to expand our travel to all parts of the US." During the yearly college admissions process, high school students could historically attend any of a slew of regionally based Caltech admissions sessions that "convey the message that we are a very focused research environment." But Admissions may now have to scale back or drop entirely anywhere from 10 to 20 of these "regular programs," according to reliable sources.

However, the supposed personal touch in her department's admissions process would the quality and quantity of admittees at top-notch levels despite a potentially diminished applicant pool, remarked Liebau. "We would hope that in the selection process you would still pick students who are prepared for Caltech," she offered, "as it should be for a highly selective institution." Brennen, too, cited the department's "excellent record" as evidence that "the quality of incoming classes is definitely going up."

And despite Caltech's relatively few Admissions staffers—only a half-dozen compared with a national standard of 30 to 40 for premiere schools, according to Brennen—he remained confident that his "professional

staff has always done a fantastic job of competing head-on with the MITs, Stanfords and Princetons."

ASCIT President Martha-Helene Stapleton alluded also to the *little t*'s timely publication last fall as evidence that freshmen were more "prepared" than those of years past, when printing delays in the definitive guide to student life led partially to a morale "kind of low on the whole." Indeed, a record seven candidates threw in their hats for last winter's freshman director-at-large election, reflecting substantial interest in a position sometimes decided by default.

In fact, this trend of "more focused interest" proved to be the earmark of the retained 98% of frosh, according to Liebau.

"They're big nerds," maintained Senior Dana Vukajlovich. "And they're a lot more certain of what they want to do, in terms of a specific subset of science. In my class, there are more 11th-hour [option] changes." This added sense of self-purpose among last year's frosh, she theorized, led to "fewer study groups and less divided interests"—but also a more directed student body.

But nerds or not, Student Affairs official Sharyn Miller, Brennen's assistant, saw the increased retention as a sign of "enormous potential."

"Everyone we admit can be successful," she said. "We can take you there."

Caltech students now have a recording studio to call their own. Funded by a generous gift from Professor Rochus Vogt, the recording studio is located in the Student Activities Center. It has some of the best microphones and gear money can buy. Already, many students have recorded in the studio, which also has a drum set, piano, and amps.

For more information about the Caltech Recording Studio, please check out its website at: <http://recordingstudio.caltech.edu>

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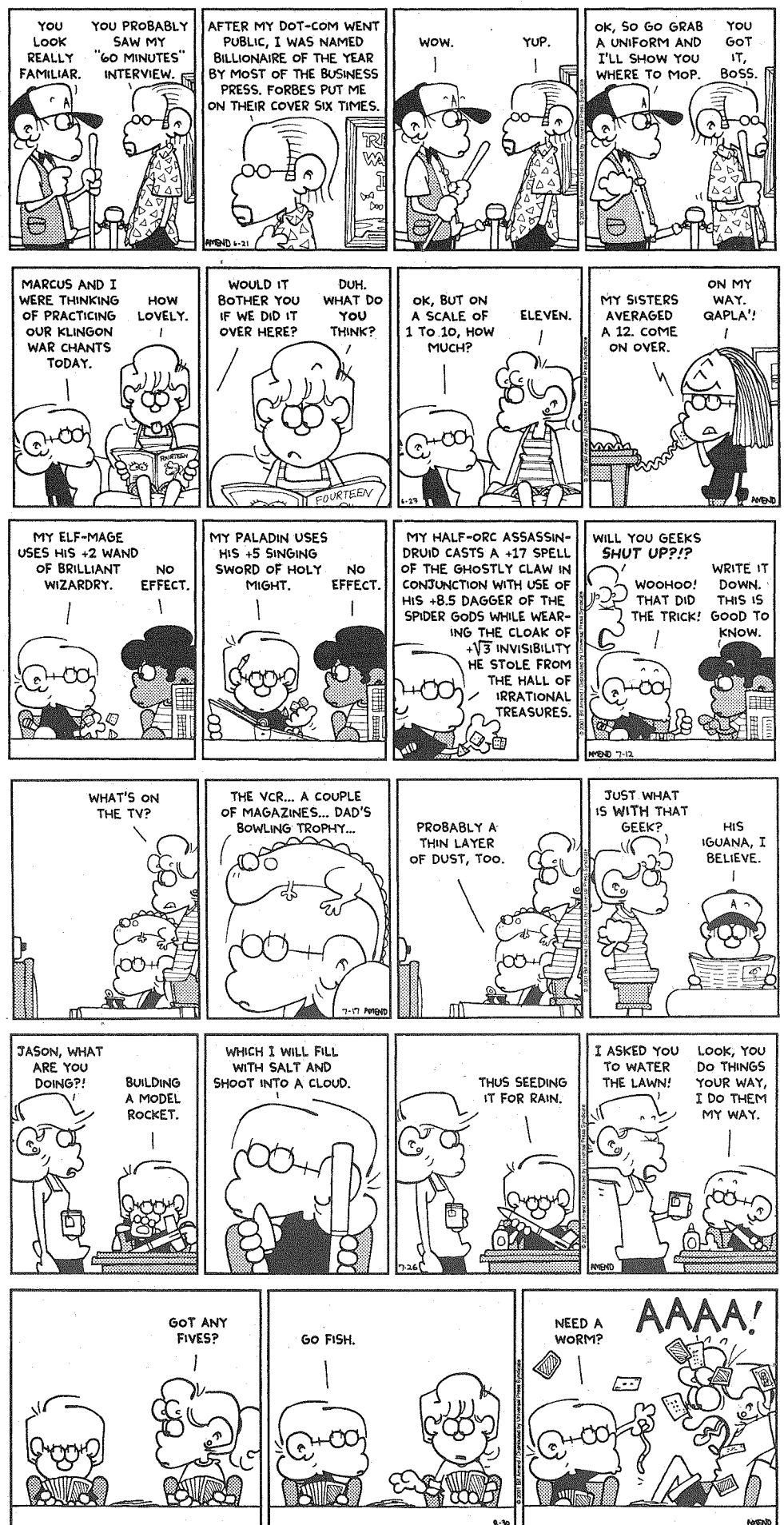
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BLOODLUST (R)
10:15

MULHOLLAND DRIVE (R)
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INTIMACY (NR)
[1:15] 4:15 7:15 10:00

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Dean's

Dean's Corner

Then and now

by Jean-Paul Revel

paintings) which had been designated to receive refugees who like us came from the Alsace. Before ending up in a refugee camp, where we slept on straw in a crowded barn, we stayed for a short while with a family. I have no clue as to who these people were. All I know at this point is that they found our gas masks hilarious. I guess they had not been issued any, living far from the Northeastern France where all the action was expected to take place. They kept on asking us kids to put them on, ha! Ha! didn't we look funny! I developed a revulsion to the protective gear, which made us look like pigs, or elephants, depending on which model one had received. Lucky for us we never did need to transform ourselves into 2-legged elephants for any serious purpose, but the horror I felt lingers on.

All this (and more, which you will be spared) has come back to haunt me with the recent Anthrax attacks. I suppose the filters (often just activated charcoal cartridges) on gas masks would have offered protection from the deadliest forms of anthrax (the pulmonary variety) but would not really be useful: there would be problems in removing the mask without contaminating oneself, problems neatly solved by the whole body suits with integral air supplies sported by the Public Health or Haz Mat teams. But clearly, wearing such suits is not a long-term solution. Nor is the prophylactic intake of antibiotics, which might just lead after a while to the selection of drug resistant organisms. Better to have a potent way to protect us in case of an actual or believable threat of infection.

There is a resurgence of TB caused by evolution of strains now insensitive to the drugs which had almost conquered the disease. Ditto for syphilis and other venereal diseases, against which the magic of penicillin is now often useless. It sure is all pretty scary and there are scarier things yet, if we should have to deal with viruses like Smallpox or Ebola, instead. Antibiotics don't work in the case of viral diseases (although in the case of flu for example, they can alleviate secondary bacterial infections). There are antiviral drugs, but defense is more likely to be in the form of immunizations, unfortunately not available or effective in all cases, and slow.

While there is much to worry about, it is nevertheless important to keep things in perspective. The flu, a viral disease which we discuss mostly offhandedly, killed 20 million worldwide in 1918. Being exposed to Anthrax as part of a concerted attack is truly scary. But we

may be in worse danger when driving to work. In each of the last 5 years more than 37 000 people died in their cars, in spite of the prophylactic seat belts and air bags (www.fars.nhsta.dot.gov/). The dangers in biological warfare are great but yielding to a primeval panic could make things even worse. I had always assumed that bioterrorists would need large scale release of infectious agents. That was what was done when governmental agencies

tested the spread of "innocuous" bacteria over San Francisco many years ago. But even a minimal attack will have been effective, if it gives rise to panic. The fear is particularly hard to control when continuously fanned by repeated sensational news coverage.

I was struck for example by the reporter, mike in hand, earnestly reporting on the discovery of yet another contaminated letter, while behind her a health worker in a space suit was removing the suspect material. Either the reporter was dumb to expose herself unnecessarily, or she was only making believe, sensationalizing a benign incident, i.e. getting us to watch some commercials while doing the terrorist's bid-

ding by fanning concern. I won't tell you what was being advertised (that would be making their bidding too). A much more positive image was the calm banter in the lines of postal workers shown waiting for their Cipro. So be alert, make sure you know what to do (start with your RA or Security) but do not give in to fear. As Roosevelt said and I quote a little out of context, "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself -- nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes..."

A bientôt!

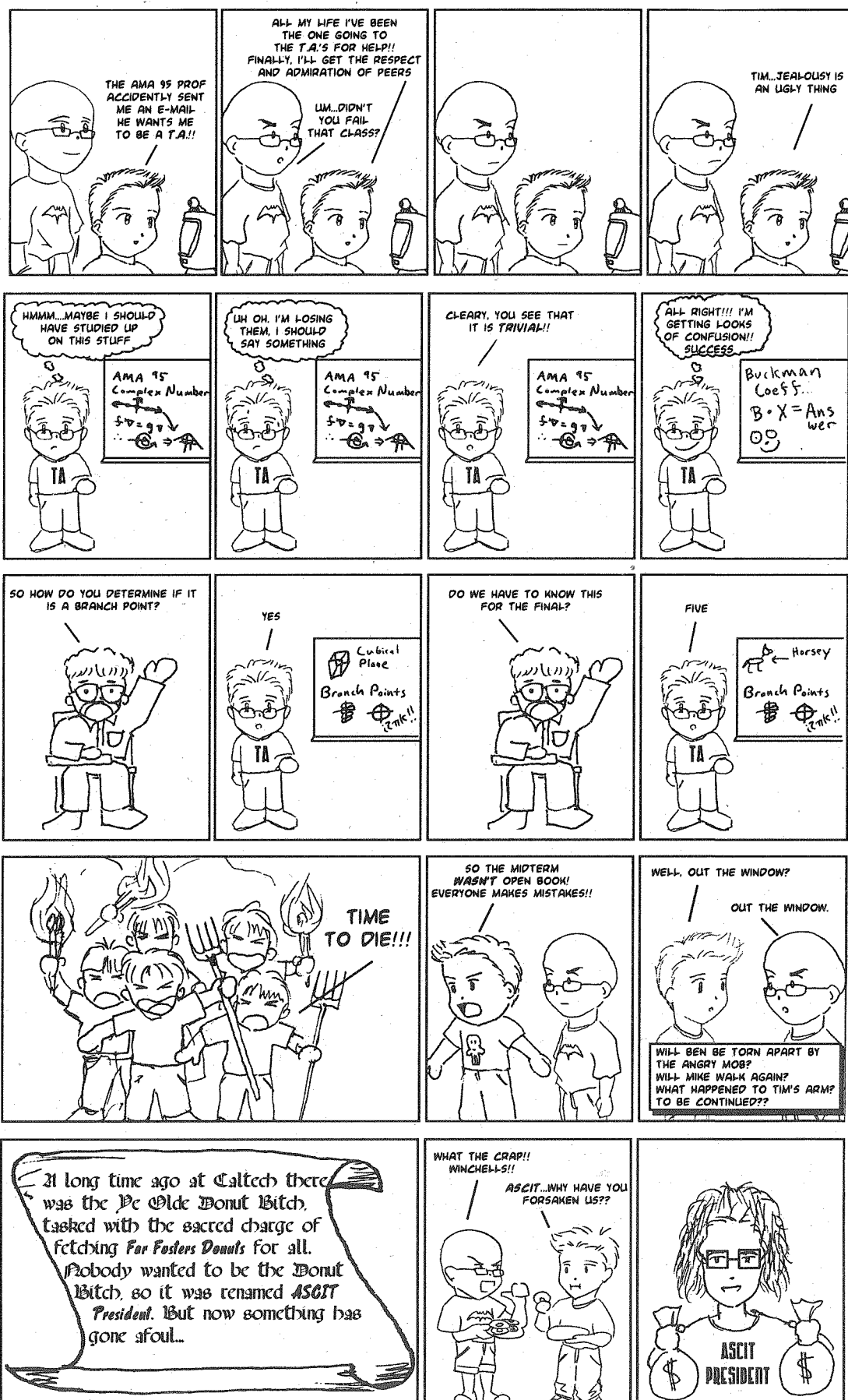
Dean of Students

CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

www.CripplingDepression.com

By Mike Yeh, Ben Lee, and Tim Wan

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to anybody is purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff. Contactfeedback@cripplingdepression.com



Mints

Announcements

ACM Programming Contest. Want to go to Hawaii? We will be holding the local ACM programming competition this Saturday, October 27th, starting at 11:00 am, until around 4 pm. The contest will be held in UGCS. We will select nine people to represent Caltech at the regional contest on November 10th. The top team at the regional contest will get a free trip to the ACM World Finals in Honolulu, Hawaii in March. If you are interested, just show up in the UGCS lab in Jorgenson at 11 am on Saturday. For more information, contact Ben Mathews, mathewsb@its.caltech.edu, or David Stafford, dstaff@ugcs.caltech.edu.

Flu Shots will be available free of charge to Caltech students and staff who present a current, valid Caltech ID. Vaccinations will be given at Winnette Lounge on Wednesday, November 14, 2001 from 10r am to 5 pm. - ONE DAY ONLY. Dependents are not eligible for this program.

Japan Internship Orientation Meeting. Are you a freshman, sophomore, or junior who wants a meaningful, research-based summer internship? Are you interested in the Japanese culture? There will be a presentation Friday, November 9, 2001 from noon to 1 pm at the Center for Student Services, 3rd floor Conference Room (414 S. Holliston Avenue). Former interns will share their experiences. Space is limited to the first 30 people. Light lunch will be provided. The Japan Internship Program is sponsored by the Career Development Center.

Exchange Programs. Sophomores & Juniors: Come to an information meeting on the Cambridge Exchange Program and learn how to spend a term in England. Wednesday, November 7th at noon in the Winnett Club Room. Lunch will be served - RSVP no later than Monday, November 5th by e-mail: ssstone@caltech.edu. (You must have a 3.2 GPA to apply.) Also, there is the opportunity for Sophomores and Juniors to spend a term in Denmark! Come to an information meeting on the Copenhagen Exchange Program and meet the Danish students who are here at Tech now. Wednesday, November 14th at noon in the Winnett Club Room. Lunch will be served - RSVP no later than Monday, November 12 by e-mail: ssstone@caltech.edu. (You must have a 3.0 GPA to apply.)

The Environment, Health, and Safety Office in conjunction with the Pasadena Fire Department will be offering Pasadena, Emergency, Response Training (PERT) on Friday, November 16, 2001 from 9 am to noon. The disaster training is taught by the Pasadena Fire Department. The session will cover what to do before, during and after an emergency. It will also cover disaster psychology, what to expect following an event. The training is open to anyone interested in becoming better prepared for an emergency. If you are interested in attending the PERT please contact the Environment, Health, and Safety Office at extension 6727 to reserve your place. Class size is limited so reserve your seat today.

The Intercultural Discussion and Support Group provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of relating across cultures. Group activities will provide participants with an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about this process, as well as relate personal experiences from their lives at home and at Caltech. The Group will meet every Monday beginning October 22 from 12 -1 pm in the Women's Center Lounge. (265-86, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services). This Group is facilitated by the Counseling Center and International Student Programs, and is open to ALL Caltech students, graduate and undergraduate, American and international. Drop-ins welcome. If you plan on attending any of the meetings or would like additional information about the group, please contact Jim at endrizzi@caltech.edu.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club is offering two four-week class series this month: Lindy Hop and Chacha. The first three weeks have already passed, but if you know the basic figure, come and learn the new figures taught this week. Lindy Hop, taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson, takes place on Mondays (Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29). Classes are \$6/lesson for all Caltech students, \$8/lesson otherwise. Chacha (Wed. Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31) is amateur taught and costs \$1/lesson (free for freshmen). All classes are held in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9 pm, followed by a half-hour practice session. Refreshments provided; no partner or experience is required. Also, on Mondays from 9:00-11 pm we offer a mini-ballroom dance party (first half hour coincident with the lindy practice session) - request or bring your own music! For more information, contact Megan Knight at knight@its.caltech.edu or visit our web page at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom/>.

Feeling stressed??? Sign up for the Stress Management Workshop offered by the Student Counseling Center. This workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing primarily on basic relaxation techniques and stress management skills. The three-session workshop will meet on consecutive Mondays (November 5th, 12th, and 19th) from 12-1 pm in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call x8331 to reserve your place in the group.

The Dean of Students Office needs tutors in all areas--help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is \$10.00 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans' tutor please stop by the Deans' Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

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.

Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Discussion Group

Whether you are out and proud, exploring your sexual identity, coming out, or anywhere in-between, we invite you to our Discussion Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15 pm in the Health Center Lounge. The group is a great place to meet new friends and the atmosphere is generally very relaxed; at the same time, more personal and "serious" discussion topics can be addressed. This is a confidential meeting and attendance does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation; supportive students and staff are welcome as well. And refreshments are served! For more information call ext. 8331. To find out about LBGT events on campus, please visit the Caltech Student Pride Association (CSPA) calendar at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cspa/>.

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 Caltech Dance Troupe will be sponsoring Beginners' Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9-10:30 pm, Braun multipurpose room beginning October 9. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are required. There is a \$2 fee for the introductory class. This fee will be credited to the fall quarter fee if you decide to join the class for the rest of the term. The term fee for students is \$10 and for non-students is \$20. To register, email troupe@caltech.edu. Free ballet classes sponsored by the Caltech Dance Troupe start Saturday, October 6. No special clothing or shoes are required for the beginners' class. All classes meet at Braun multipurpose room. Beginners meet from 1-2:00 pm, intermediate from 2-3:30 pm, advanced from 3:30-4:30 pm. For more info, see our website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe>. Questions or comments? Email: troupe@caltech.edu.

Athenaeum Tennis Ladder. All Athenaeum members, ages 18 and older, are invited to join a new managed tennis ladder. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players call each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. The ladder includes both men and women, but matches will be formed between players within a few ladder rungs of one another. Each of year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time. For more information, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6798 or email to athtennis@caltech.edu.

Scholarships

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.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html> for information on available scholarships.

Upcoming Events

Free Dance Party! Come join us for latin, swing, and ballroom music, and dance the night away! A beginner's Waltz lesson will be taught at 7:30 pm and general dancing will start at 8:15 pm. As always, the party is free, open to everyone, and refreshments will be provided. Beginners are especially welcome! Saturday, November 3rd in the Winnett Lounge.

Women in Science is a new group on the Caltech campus. It was started by a group of concerned female graduate students, and we are now looking for new members. We will be having an Open Forum on Nov. 1 at 7 pm at the Women's Center. The discussion topic for this forum will be "Treatment of Women at Caltech: Past and Present". This event is open to all members of the Caltech community. The group will also be hosting Lunch With Faculty #3 on December 4 at noon at the Carriage House. Professors Jackie Barton and Sossina Haile will share their experiences about being women in science. Lunch will be provided; however, space is limited so please RSVP by sending email to Cynthia Collins at cynthiac@its.caltech.edu. If you would like to find out more about the Women in Science group, feel free to contact us at cynthiac@its.caltech.edu.

Self-Defense Class for Women Sponsored by the Caltech Women's Center. Free and open to students, staff, and faculty. Saturday, November 10th, 10 am- 6 pm. Steele House, Carriage House Conference Center. This eight-hour training offers participants the opportunity to learn and rehearse self-defense techniques. Participants will practice these new skills with a full padded assailant in a variety of simulated attack scenarios. The workshop will also include: assessing dangerous situations responding to being followed diplomatic limit-setting and communication skills. This class will introduce you to skills that can help you avoid, deter, and resist physical and verbal assault. For more information or to register please call ext. 3221. Space is limited.

Please note that Men's Self-Defense Classes will be held in the spring

The California Institute Of Technology Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences presents its **Seminar On Science, Ethics, and Public Policy** this Thursday, November 1, 2001 in the Baxter Lecture Hall at 4 pm. Dr. Jesper Lutzen, a visiting Associate Professor of History here at Caltech, and an Associate Professor at Copenhagen University will be speaking on the topic of "A Forceless Geometric Image of Nature: Heinrich Hertz's Principles of Mechanics (1894)." Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-3563 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/ses/SEPP.html>. **Please note that the first Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Seminar has been POSTPONED until further notice due to illness. This WAS scheduled to take place on October 22, 2001 in the Baxter Lecture Hall at 4 pm. This seminar was also a William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization, and the speaker, Anthony T. Grafton (of Princeton University) was to speak on "Faustus and Friends: The Renaissance Magus in Context." The lecture will be rescheduled.**

Caltech Library System Presents: The following session is approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.

Tuesday, October 30: Find it Full-Text! Learning Academic Universe

View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

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