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# THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 27

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1998

## Swelling prefrosh cause Tech growing pains

BY SHANNON STEWMAN

Though they won't know it till September, next year's freshman class have already become a presence on campus. Admissions are up this year, with 258 acceptances as of Thursday, a 48% yield from the number admitted. The number has already had an impact on house roompicks, as the swell in freshmen has reduced the number of spaces on campus. According to Jaideep Singh, IHC Chairman, the original on campus spaces reserved for 250 freshman and fourteen transfer students have been changed for the time being to spaces for 258 freshman and six transfers.

Although this number has not been finalized, and Admissions expects notifications to continue to arrive until early next week, the number of matriculating freshmen is not expected to grow much larger. As Dr. Kim West, Director of Residence Life, who runs house roompicks along with the IHC, said "I think we've gotten most of the letters postmarked on the first... the folks we haven't heard from aren't interested."

The issue of housing, however, is still a problem. Even with the Avery lottery earlier this term, the number of people wanting to live on campus exceeds the number of available spaces. Spillover will be to the remaining 15 doubles in Avery

spaces and the other off-campus housing, in the Chester and Del Mar apartments, and other places.

A more serious problem is the number of people who counted on being on campus and didn't enter the off-campus lottery, but found themselves booted. Jaideep hopes "that we can make some kind of arrangement for them." However, he made it clear that "first priority is for those that entered the roompick on time."

Every house has been affected by the frosh surplus. The north houses are taking on an average of forty-four freshmen, and the south houses an average of thirty freshmen. Next year Ricketts will have only twelve non-officer, non-senior, and non-freshmen spaces available. There was only one space available after officer and senior picks in Lloyd. Fleming, which had already started its roompick before revised figures were released, unfortunately has to drop two freshmen.

Chris Kurtz, Fleming's House Secretary, commented that "it's unfortunate the way things worked out and I think it would have been better had the administration given more generous figures to begin with." On the other hand, Nicholas Breen, Secretary of Blacker, reported that his house's roompicks were relatively painless. He was anticipating having to kick up to

eight juniors off, but did not have to kick any.

As of Wednesday, when Admissions reported the acceptance number at 240, the incoming frosh class offered Caltech thirty-two minority students (or 8% of the class), an increase from past years. However, the increase in next year's freshmen hasn't increased the ratio. Only thirty percent of the incoming frosh are women. Although the total acceptance rate of admitted women is only forty-three percent, the number who attended Prefrosh Weekend and accepted is sixty percent.

This year there were 2,942 applicants, forcing Admissions to be more selective, and only 18% were accepted. Admissions' goal for subsequent years is to increase the number of acceptances from admitted women and underrepresented minorities.

Charlene Liebau, Director of Admissions, credits the increase in applicants to alumni involvement, active recruiting by the faculty, and Caltech's high school Signature Award program, all of which brought Caltech into the public eye.

When asked about the current financial aid and scholarship competition between schools she replied that "that has become increasingly competitive," with the cost of higher education driving up the stakes considerably.

## Braun hosts Memorial Day KELROF race

BY MOHI KUMAR

Do you enjoy running? Do you enjoy watching other people run? Do you want a free T-shirt? DO YOU WANT FREE FOOD?

It is time once more for Caltech's annual tradition: the KELROF 24 hour run!! KELROF, Kellogg's Eight Light Regiment Of Foot, will be held on the track behind Braun Gym this Memorial Day weekend. The race begins at 9:00 am on May 23, and extends to 9:00 am the following day.

The tradition began in 1977 when Stephen Kellogg, then a Caltech undergraduate, heard about a nation-wide, 10 person, 24 hour relay sponsored by Runner's World magazine and signed up himself and his

friends for the race. Kellogg actively managed the Caltech teams for his entire undergraduate career, the crown of which occurred when their 1978 team (which included CS/EE lecturer Glen George) placed 14th in the nation.

Although the Runner's World contest is no longer a national event, Caltech still holds the race and still abides by the race's rules, even though over the years those rules have laxly slightly. Teams can be up to ten people. Each runner runs for one mile and then is relieved by the next team member. The team with the most total miles at the end of the 24 hours is declared the winner. There are no prizes, but there will be plenty of free food and each person who participates gets a free T-shirt cour-

tesy of the Caltech Y.

"It is a fun event that brings together 10 people," says Jeff Mendez, this year's KELROF co-coordinator. "Caltech undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, alumni—all are welcome. Casual runners are also welcome," Mendez reassures.

This year, the coordinators are hoping for a turnout of at least 50 people. They are currently signing up full teams and arranging teams for people who are teamless. Trainers will be present. If you have questions, or would like to participate, please contact Jeff Mendez (744-9009 [jeffreym@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:jeffreym@cco.caltech.edu)) or Conrad Ziesler (585-9262/ [conrad@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:conrad@cco.caltech.edu)). Good luck, runners!!



PHOTO BY ERIC DILL

Semana Latina hosted many cultural shows this week including bands, dancers and food. This well coordinated festival was well attended. Many lunchtime events took place on the stage outside Chandler Dining Hall. Pictured above are the Native American dancers who performed on Wednesday.

## Caltech bands perform

BY BILL BING

On Saturday, May 9, at 8 PM in Beckman Auditorium, the Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands will present the 19th annual BANDORAMA. Featured on this free concert program will be music and images of the planet Jupiter. The music is by Gustav Holst and the images of Jupiter are compliments of the Galileo spacecraft. Guest conductors for the evening are Ashwin Vasavada and Les Deutsch. Both of the guest conductors have very important relationships with the spacecraft. Les, a Caltech graduate, led the team that developed the spacecraft

and ground system communications improvements that enabled the success of the Galileo mission after its main antenna failed to deploy. Ash, a graduate student, has been helping to image pictures of the planet. Also featured on the program will be a saxophone concerto written especially for our guest saxophone soloist, Jerry Leudders. The Jazz Bands will play music from the swing era, such as the "Charles-ton" and "Side by Side". Flutist Mary Davis will be featured in a movement of a jazz suite by Claude Bolling. Undergraduates Brigitte Roth and Kjerstin Easton will sing with the concert and jazz bands.

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# Junior-Senior Leadership Award Winners

**Jeanne Wilson: Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award**

Jeanne Wilson, a senior majoring in Biology, is this year's winner of the Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award. This prize is given in memory of Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen, Caltech '89, who was an exceptional student leader during her time at Caltech. Bibi was Director-at-Large on the ASCIT Board of Directors, President of Blacker House and was a student representative on the Curriculum Committee. She was one of the stars of the cross country, track and field and soccer teams. After her untimely death in 1990, a memorial fund was established by her family and friends to recognize outstanding student leaders.

Jeanne was honored at a luncheon on April 27 at The Athenaeum for the effective leadership she provided in her participation with the Caltech Y and participation at new student orientation. Jeanne has helped coordinate International Day, Earth Day, Semina

Latina, and Y noon concerts. She has also been the ASCIT movies treasurer and recently a Board of Control representative.

*Watch next week's California Tech for more award winners*

**Melissa Saenz: Mabel Beckman Prize**

Melissa Saenz has won the 1998 Mabel Beckman Prize. This award is dedicated to the memory of Mabel Beckman who supported Caltech as a friend and benefactor for over fifty years. The prize bearing Mrs. Beckman's name is awarded annually to a woman student upon completion of her junior or senior year and is made in recognition of demonstrated academic and personal excellence, contribution to the Institute community, and outstanding qualities of character and leadership.

Melissa was selected for the

qualities of outstanding leadership and service she has shown her four years at Caltech. She has been active on the Multicultural Task Force and has been co-president of the Caltech Latino Association of Science and Engineering Students. She has also worked very hard each year to help organize Semana Latina.

The selection committee felt that Melissa exemplifies the qualities that Mrs. Beckman valued. Her concern and support for her fellow students is greatly admired. Melissa's desire to serve others in the Caltech community has allowed her to make tremendous contributions to Caltech.

Melissa will be honored with the Mabel Beckman Prize at commencement on June 12, 1998.

**David Gabe Powers: Zeigler Memorial Award**

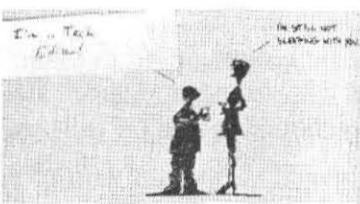
David Gabe Powers has been chosen this year's winner of the Fredrick J. Zeigler Memorial Award. David is a junior majoring in applied mathematics. The award was based on the recommendations of his mathematics professors, success in classes and interest in mathematics, which he exhibits to a high degree. He has excelled in his mathematics, physics and applied mathematics courses.

This award was established in 1989 to honor Fredrick J. Zeigler, a member of the class of 1976 and an applied mathematics major. The award is given to a pure or applied mathematics student in the sophomore or junior year who has shown excellence in scholarship as demonstrated in class activities or in preparation of an original paper or essay in any subject area.

*The California Tech would like to thank*

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**Andrea Hasenstaub:  
Beinecke Brothers  
Memorial Scholarship**

Andrea Hasenstaub has been awarded a Beinecke Brothers Memorial Scholarship. Andrea is a junior majoring in engineering and mathematics. This year, 83 colleges and universities were invited to nominate a student for a Beinecke Scholarship, and a total of 18 scholarships were awarded. The Beinecke Brothers Memorial Scholarship Program was established in 1971 by the board of Directors of The Sperry and Hutchinson Company to honor Edwin, Frederick, and Walter Beinecke. The income from the endowment set up by

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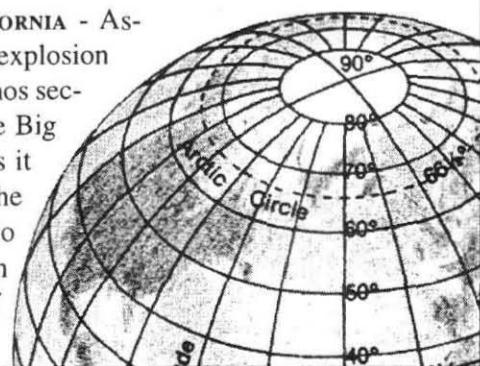
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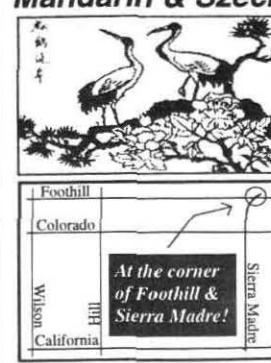
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# A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MAY 6, 1998

Present: BoD (minus Devi), **Audry Lee, Liz Kelley, Jenny Ives, Kanwar Kahlon, Matt Tisareno, Maria Satterwhite**

Meeting called to order at 22:04.

#### Dealing With Guests

**Glee Club** - Liz (President) and Jenny (Treasurer) are here to talk to the BoD about our decision not to allocate funding to the Women's Glee Club. The club's proposal at the budget meeting raised several concerns.

First, it appears that the Glee Club is organized much more like a class than like a club. They receive a majority of their funding from Student Affairs and participants receive course credit. Most important, concert dates and musical selections are dictated by an employee of Caltech - the course instructor, Monica Hubbard. Additionally, the BoD has some questions about perceived excesses in the Glee Club budget. For example, the club spends a great deal on postage and uniforms and sends representatives every year to a leadership conference in Washington, DC. Liz and Jenny decide to return next week when they are more fully prepared to address these issues. The BoD requests that they invite Monica Hubbard to attend as well.

**Athletics** - Audry has all of the third term jacket orders. The BoD agrees to subsidize half of each of these jacket purchases. This will use about 3/5 of the funds allocated for subsidies, so there should be plenty left over for the next two terms. Audry needs some more pins. She still

has \$400 left in her budget for the fiscal year, so the BoD sets her loose in a frenzy of buying and pinning and selling and the hurting and the metal teeth and the hey hey hey.. She also got a long distance access number for the athletic manager account. "Operator, I would like to place a call to Guam.yesGuam."

**Ice Cream** - Matt is looking for Special Event funding to cover the cost of the CCF Ice Cream Social(ist Pigdog). The BoD decided during the budget meeting not to allocate special funding for events that are budgeted for in a club's proposal. The BoD will consider how to handle this request in closed meeting.

**General Business Phones** - The Director extensions are all set up and will be mapped to the appropriate rooms. Mike will review the ASCIT entry in the personnel directory and send an update to the Dean's Office.

**Coffeehouse** - Tom wants more specifics about ASCIT management of the Coffeehouse. Specifically, he wants to see a breakdown of the responsibilities that CABS will retain. In order to do this, the BoD will need to determine what are the most important Coffeehouse issues to the students: cheesesticks or onion rings? Baldeep will try to hand off responsibility for this to Puneet (but will probably end up doing it himself).

**Budget** - The BoD votes 7-0-0 to approve the new budget.

**Officer Reports** Steve - "The most devilishly handsome member of the BoD" is still working on binding up the '96 CLUE. The Alumni Fund may start a program where clubs who write thank-you letters to alumni donors will be allo-

cated additional cash. They can then write yet more thank you letters for that money and receive even more dough. This cycle perpetuates until either (a) Ditch Day, or (b) the inevitable heat death of the universe. They asked us for a listing of ASCIT club allocations and Steve forwarded along the new and improved budget.

**Autumn** - The BoD produced four pages of survey questions. Autumn cut this down to one page of the most important questions. The survey is presented for review.

**Jasmine** - Completed some tasty business card designs. ASCIT has a dormant account with the Ath. It appears to have last been used by Jon McDunn. Baldeep sent them a memo giving himself, Mike, and Rob signing power on the account. The invitations for the formal are done. They were sent to all alumni with MSC numbers. Signups are available in all houses. The cost of the formal will be \$30 (down from \$40). There will be a jazz quartet, dancing, and general merriment.

**Jaideep** - The IHC completed their frosh camp recommendations. Some questions have arisen about the number of frosh that are coming this year. Jaideep's official message: "Everything will be OK." Jaideep would like to form a student advisory system. This may get punted to the ARC.

**Rob** - The publications committee met for the first time. Everything seems to be going smoothly. Rob is

looking into getting libel insurance for the Tech and liability insurance for the BoD via Caltech. Tom Mannion suggests that we formulate a Memo of Mutual Understanding with Caltech in order to shield ASCIT from potentially crippling litigation. One poison donut could drive us under. Rob's treasury program is up and running.

**Mike** - The Minority Student Affairs office has not gotten back to Mike about meeting with ASCIT. Steve will take on responsibility for getting this little rendezvous together. Mike found out how to reserve the Millikan Boardroom. Now we just need a reason to use it.

**Alan** - Dr. Brennen is forming a committee to deal with jurisdiction and communication issues. Alan was proposing amending the bylaws to allow the BoC to keep a record of issues punted to other offices. Response from past and present board members has not been very supportive. There will be a general business meeting to discuss this issue. The Honor System Handbook will also be published in the little t this year (complements of Dr. Brennen and the Student Affairs treasure hoard). Third term BoC talks will commence after midterms week. Someone suggested to Alan that a past defendant be brought to frosh camp as part of the Honor System discussions. Alan raises the issue that this might upset the Rotation system somewhat (presumably no one wants to live

with the criminal element). Either way, if you have been BoCed and are interested in sharing your experience, get in touch with Alan.

**Jaideep** suffers the intense Wrath of Mike in the form of a Booty Quake.

**Baldeep** - Our beloved President made some inquiries with the Alumni Association about the structure and management of their endowment. The donut order changed - more strawberry, less fritter. Residence Life is continuing to subsidize donuts. They hinted that they might want some recognition for kicking in the extra cash. Baldeep heard from the GPS department about getting access to Mudd. Only undergraduates who require access to Mudd for some really good reason can get their card activated to open the doors. This isn't really any different from the ton of buildings that require a Medeco for entry, so the BoD decides to let the matter drop. The letter to freshmen from ASCIT is done.

Meeting closes at 23:35.

The BoD decides to increase the CCF budget allocation to \$600. The BoD will not allocate additional funds for events accounted for in club budget proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 23:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D. Astle  
ASCIT Secretary

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# Dean's Corner

## Qui Sommes Nous?

by Jean-Paul Revel

yeet crawled on land. Maybe they are like the brainless creatures we find in the Ediacara fauna (flora?), large flat fans waving endlessly in warm shallow seas. Or maybe they would be like the unbelievable beasties with the even more outlandish names preserved in the Burgess shale. Or they could be something else altogether, since Nature seems to have a most vivid imagination. Of course, maybe they are a bit more evolved, the equivalent of dinosaurs or the like.

Actually with all the constant bombardment of Dinosaur stuff, I have been brooding about what things were really like in dinosauric times. Were the hatchlings like those one can see from the train at Disneyland cavorting joyously around their eggs? Were Mommy Dinos full of love for their brood? After all there is now evidence that some of them anyway tended their nests. Their eggs were neatly arranged in circles, and the adults seem to have been carefully sitting on the eggs in ways reminiscent of how chicken brood their young. May be dinosaur parents behaved like crocodile mothers, carrying their young tenderly in their mouths from one patch of water to the next, managing to save them in spite of the fact that the little un's must be hard to see down there at the end of their snout with those fearsome teeth.

So how is it for other creatures, how do they experience a complex affair like a wonderful spring day, the kind of thing that fills humans with joy and expectation and pleasure?

sure? What would that have done to a dinosaur? Did they experience joy and expectation and pleasure? Would the experience have been registered but in a fashion so different that we cannot even imagine it? Maybe not. Distant Dinosaur cousins like turtles, crocodiles and lizards clearly behave in a way that suggests that they have a positive tropism for the warm sunny spot. We say "they like it". Obviously so too do cats and dogs and may be even cows, although about the latter I am not so sure. They mostly seem to enjoy their cud. But what do nice warm sunny days feel to halophilic bacteria? After all they are certainly aware of it. They use the incoming photons' energy to power their metabolic needs. So they can grow and make babies and do their bacterial —I should say their Archea, for they are actually not bacteria except in appearance— thing. I guess a beautiful day probably just happens to them.

The sunshine and blue sky and cottony clouds may be all wasted on them, all they "care" about is the energy boost. After all we too live unaware of the inner functioning of cells in our livers or pancreases and yet without what's going on unnoticed behind the scenes, kaboom, patapouf! We are not even aware of the functioning of our brains, of the myriads of cells releasing neurotransmitters by which we keep calculating what our moods and feelings are. It seems to take so little to affect our perceptions. We are becoming increasingly aware of the delicate chemical balances which determine how we perceive the world. Is it not amazing and very sobering to realize that changes in the levels of a

few chemicals are the basis for well-being and happiness or despair. That the machinery which controls our humanity is in turn controlled by concentrations of a few chemicals?

There was a time when, although it was clear that ingestion of opium, certain mushrooms, or flowers or of alcohol could affect one's mood, it was not realized that the effects of ingesting these things had results that are actually not too different from those caused by normally occurring endogenous processes. The high we get from running is due to the release of endorphins, internally produced natural opiates. All these molecules bind to receptors on the brain cell's surface and influence its functioning. And so the pleasant and jovial personality of my pal Anthony and the negative outlook on life displayed by my friend Ursula may only have to do with the chemical composition of their brain environment.

It is indeed sobering to look at someone like the unabomber. Here is a lost soul who seems to have become unable to make connections with other humans. Just why is not quite clear. Apparently he had a brilliant mind (does he still have it?) yet he ended up believing that randomly killing or attempting to kill members of the technocratic elite would cure the ills of the world. Was his brain chemistry responsible for the "experiments" he carried out to develop better killing devices? Likely that is a very simplistic outlook. If you were St. Peter, however, guarding the doors of Heaven, what would you say to this fellow once he arrives asking to be allowed to immigrate? If Ted Kaczinski's deeds were commanded by lack of serotonin, or perhaps by some neurons which did not make the proper connections, how can one blame the poor fellow? After all, it is the Heaven that St. Peter is guarding that provided all these components. Why blame Ted?

Tempting but likely going too far. But there is obviously more

going on than that. How else to explain the many who throughout time and throughout the world participated in inhuman behavior? Obviously my assumption is that intelligence would serve as a brake to inhuman behavior, something which could be debated. It could not really be a chemical imbalance that suddenly affected every one in the SS troops in Oradour (Southern France), where women and children were stuffed in a country church which was then set afire, along with the rest of the village; the men were shot separately. It could not really be that every concentration camp guard had a miswired brain, which caused them to suspend people from meat hooks and club them to death. Nothing new, of course, as we all have distractingly read of all the living beings including animals passed to the sword in towns of old because of the abominations that they were committing. At least the Germans in Oradour released the beasts from their barns before setting the fires. Yet I am sure that many of the perpetrators of these crimes were devoted fathers, kind husbands and clear eyed leaders. Ah, to be a dog or a sheep or a cow, with little understanding of anything but the present or the immediate future, and may be some little things in the past, enough to avoid the electric fence that keeps me in the field or the scary slats which prevents me from escaping along the road.

So who are we? Where do we go? Would we be able to enjoy being alive as much if we were also not able to feel so keenly our defeats and sorrows? It would be nice if creatures on the newfound (well, better documented than ever) planets better had answers to our questions. Or perhaps it would be quicker to work hard on the answers ourselves. It will take an awfully long time to communicate with the aliens even if they are friendly. A bientot



*Qui sommes nous?*

Gauguin's painting asks the question of "Who are we... where are we going?" that haunts Humanity. (you can see a reproduction at <http://www.2.iinet.com/art/artists/major/g/gguin08.htm>), and it is precisely that we can ask such introspective questions that makes us human. But we are very complex, we humans, and it is often surprising to me that different aspects of us emerge at different times. You'll say, "How could he forget?" Well you are right, I can't really forget, but it is one of these things that are not always foremost in one's perception. Ah! Here is Brad, another human, another one of these complex —see what I mean?

The discovery of several stars surrounded by discs of material, and further yet the existence of empty zones in these discs suggesting the presence of planets, brings back in a more forceful way the possibility of creatures elsewhere. The intriguing idea is that such beings might have intelligence, and perhaps even the ability to share their thoughts with us. But then in turn, maybe they don't. After all, there seems to be only one intelligent species in our world, out of untold thousands of animals and plants. It is also true that our species arose not so long ago, and that even pretty close relatives such as Chimpanzees would not qualify as intelligent beings. Maybe the things on the new planets are still in the ocean, have never

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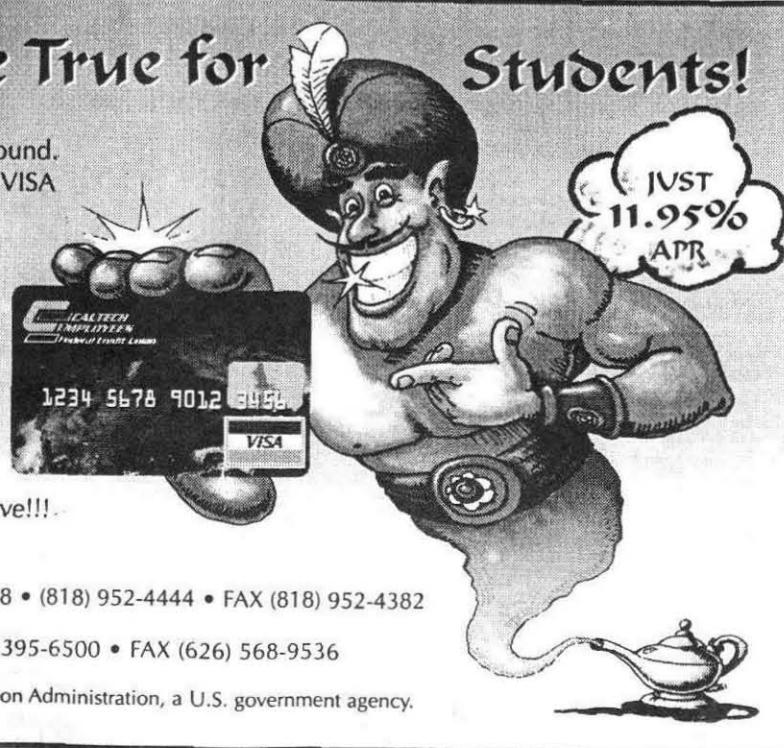




PHOTO BY TACIT

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" in SAC 50 is the new production by TACIT

## TACIT plays in SAC 50

BY RON DOLETTE

We are all familiar with the idea of prisoners of war: soldiers taken hostage by the enemy to be used as bargaining chips. But what if no war has been declared? What if the prisoners are civilians rather than soldiers? What if, while travelling in a foreign land, one could be seized by unknown captors and locked in a prison cell, chained to a wall, for no apparent reason? This is the situation that Frank McGuiness addresses in his play, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

The play concerns three men: Adam, an American psychologist; Edward, an Irish journalist, and Michael, an English professor. Each has been taken hostage by an

anonymous Lebanese political faction, and the three are held together in a prison cell in Beirut. Far from making a political statement, McGuiness examines the mental and psychological effects of being held against one's will, hidden from any contact with the "outside world". Each prisoner attempts to come to terms with the irrationality of his situation, while the play contains plenty of comic interludes to ease the tension.

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" is currently being produced by TACIT (Theater Arts at Caltech); performances will be May 22, 23, 29, 30, and June 5 and 6 at 8:00pm, and May 24, 25, 31, and June 7 at 2:00pm. Performances will be held in room 50 of the SAC.

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## FEATURES

You'd think with all those frosh there'd be more women!



LIFE AT TECH?

Looks like another year of unsuccessful gloomming



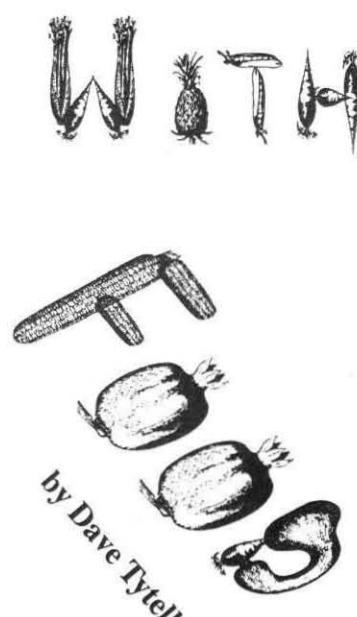
Sigh!



You'd think with all those frosh there'd be more date-able men!



## FUN WITH



by Dave Tytell



### IN-N-OUT TONIGHT!

Before I begin the main topic of this week's article, I wanted to remind everyone that there will not be waited dinners tonight due to the return of the In-N-Out van to Caltech! Also, look for Strawberry Donuts for dessert.

### VENDOR FAIR

This Tuesday, in the Lloyd courtyard, Caltech dining will be hosting the first ever Vendor Fair. The theme here is free food! Simply by filling out a survey of what you tried, what you liked, and what you hated, all undergraduates will be able to sample foods that range from Campbell's soups, to Foster Farms chicken. Ven-

dors will include Nabisco, Minute Maid, Coca-Cola, Lean Cuisine, Heinz, Kellogg's, General Mills, and much more. There will be over 25 booths lining the courtyard.

The purpose of the fair is so you can try new foods and give Caltech Dining Services input towards what should be ordered for the remainder of this year as well as next year. Comments will also affect what will be ordered at the new convinece store which will open when Winnett is completed.

As for future news, an optional Summer Board Program is being planned for all students who might be interested. Details to come.

Till next time!



## Jupiter & Jazz

19th Annual BANDORAMA  
Saturday, May 9, 1998 at 8 pm  
Beckman Auditorium  
FREE!!

Holst's "Jupiter"  
with Images from  
NASA's Galileo Mission

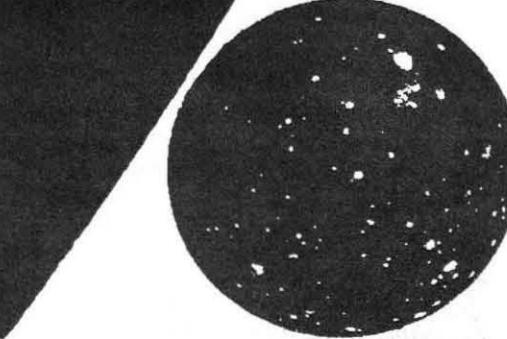
Guest Conductors:  
Ashwin Vasavada  
Les Deutsch

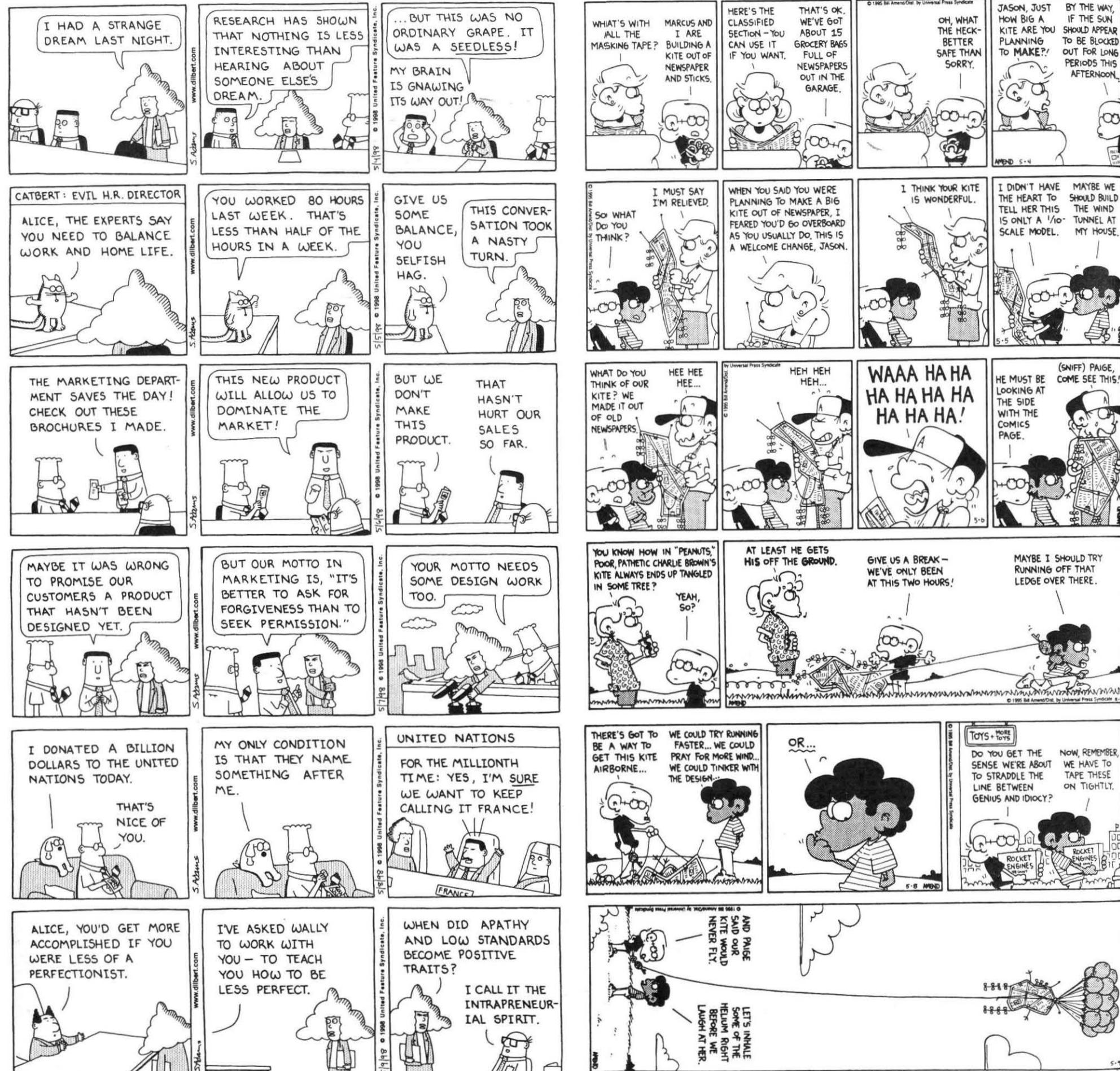


Guest Soloists:  
Mary Davis, flute  
Jerry Luedders, saxophone

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# n o w hear this.

by Ron Dolette

"I Don't Like The Prodigy or Puff Daddy: Lynch Me"

Oh, who am I kidding, people are going to construe what they want to construe. If I don't review enough classical or jazz albums, people will think I'm ignorant. If I don't review enough hip hop, then people will think I'm racist. If I don't give the latest Depeche Mode album a good review, people will think I don't have good taste. But you see, some people will see the opposite. I talked to one person about how people complain about music at a party. His reply was succinct and full of insight: "People only

dance to one kind of music because they only listen to one kind of music."

Now I'm not calling anyone racist. Music is a powerful force, but it doesn't move men to hate other men. If you're in the mood to groove and bounce, then it's alright for you to wait for just the right song to groove and bounce. That's fine. What I hate most of all is when people leave the dance floor when the music style changes. I ain't going out like no punk bitch. Get used to once style, yo, and I might switch. Is there not groove in music, in all its forms? You know what makes a song? Rhythm and melody.

Rhythm and melody. I'm trying to get everyone to listen to music in all its shades. Humans have a pretty limited range of hearing, and all we hear are nothing but standing waves. The laws of physics don't discriminate.

I think the reason why people prefer one genre over enough is because of what that style evokes within themselves. Energy, depression, joy, revenge, love, loss, motivation, tragedy, comedy, reassurance, lucidity, and transcendence. What if Tower Records arranged their CDs like that? Would it be easier for you to listen to Public Enemy or k.d. lang or Led Zeppelin?

Would that make it easier for you to try out groups like Bran Van 3000 or Bjork?

Musical taste is not the forum to discuss human inadequacies. It's a scapegoat that people use to represent frustration with each other, when what they should be doing is addressing more important issues, like why doesn't Ron like the Prodigy or Puff Daddy. In fact, I dislike both equally. Here's why: their music is boring, repetitive, and lacking in originality. When I play their stuff, there's nothing there that I couldn't get from somewhere else. I was at Ralphs the other day and I saw imitation Spam. Imitation Spam! What fools (Prodigy) decided to spend valuable studio time (Puff Daddy) rehashing material (Spam) that sucked anyway? I mean, I don't want to knock these guys completely: "Firestarter" was alright, and Puffy is one of the best producers in the business. That doesn't mean you belong behind the mic.

*And so with a certain gleam of apathy, I'm going to leave you not with reviews, but rather recom-*

*mendations on what to do. Bran Van's new album Glee is out: it's a cool mix of hip hop beats with a lazy rock and roller groove. "Couch Surfing" is kind of an annoying song, but the rest of the album is good. "Drinking In LA" should be getting a lot of airplay shortly. Public Enemy, harkening from a day when rap was a political tool, not a media tool, is back with the soundtrack to *He Got Game*. Their lyrics are not as aggressive and angry as *It Takes A Nation...* and *Fear of a Black Planet*, but it's more insightful and still worth listening to. Dave Matthews Band's *Before These Crowded Streets* is a great follow up to *Under the Table*. I never really like *Crash* as much: Dave seemed too distracted; he must've been in love or something, 'cause the songs on *Crash* didn't have the same funk and energy. That all comes back on this new one. Check out "Rapunzel" and "Don't Drink The Water."*

That's it. Go back to your human existence. Your apathy is killing you, and I don't care, and your CD player cares even less.

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## Announcements

Nominations are now open for the offices of 98-99 **Big T Editor and Business Manager**. Interested individuals can nominate themselves by signing up on the door of the ASCIT/IHC office (SAC 33).

**Free anonymous HIV testing**, using an oral HIV antibody test, is available each Monday evening from 6-8pm at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena. Persons wishing to be tested may make an appointment by calling, toll-free, (888)488-9242, or (626)441-8495. Walk-ins are also accepted. Both pre- and post-test counseling is provided, and results will be given the following Monday.

**The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30pm until 10pm 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 will be served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

## Events

The 19th Annual "Bandorama" entitled "jazz, Jupiter, and the Saxophone," will be performed by the **Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands**, directed by William Bing, in Beckman Auditorium on Saturday, May 9th, at 8pm. Ashwin Vasavada, a Caltech graduate student, will conduct the Concert Band for Gustav Holst's "Jupiter," while images of the planet from the Galileo spacecraft are displayed above the stage. Admission is free. For Information, call x4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH.

**The Caltech Chamber Music Program and the Caltech Chamber Singers**, directed by Delores Bing, will perform music by such female composers as Madame Billon du Jouy and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel on Sunday, May 10th, for their **Mother's Day concert**. Admission is free. For Information call Delores Bing, (213) 684-8964.

## Fellowships and Scholarships

\* **May is public relations contest month.** The first contest is; "Turn Your Old Lab Notes

## Mints

\* denotes a new announcement.

**Ephonema**, the Caltech men's a Capella group, will be holding a "sing all we know" concert on Sunday, May 10th, at Avery Dining Hall. Doors open at 7:30, **Treble Makers** will kick it off at 8pm. Sponsored by the Caltech Y, this even is free for all Caltech community, though donations are encouraged.

\* The final film in the **German Film Series** for spring term, **GEDENKTAG**, will be screened on Wednesday, May 13, 1998 in Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30pm. It is free and has English subtitles. For more information call x3610.

\* There will be a meeting to discuss **Caltech's fire policy** at 8pm on Wednesday, May 13th, in Steele House. Present will be the fire policy committee, Dr. Brennen, and IHC to address all questions and concerns. All are invited to attend.

\* **The Caltech Glee Clubs and the Caltech Chamber Orchestra** will be performing in Ramo Auditorium on Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at 8pm. Their program will include Brahms' *Song's of Destiny* and *Academic Festival Overture*. Admission is free. For information call x4652.

\* **The Caltech Toastmasters Club** wants to help you improve your public-speaking skills. The Club meets every third Thursday

from 12:15 - 1:15pm in Beckman Institute, room 121. The next meeting will be on May 21st. For more information contact Louisa toot, x3408, louisa@library.caltech.edu, or Jesus Ayala, x6744, FINJMA@finance.caltech.edu.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series** of Southern California is moving into its second season. The events will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on five remaining dates, at 8pm. Maya Angelou will be speaking on May 13th, and Mark Victor Hansen on June 10th. For information, call (800) 508-9301. For most Caltech events listed, further information can be obtained by calling 395-4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH, or through the Caltech website, <http://www.caltech.edu>. Special discounts are available for most shows for Caltech/JPL students, staff, and faculty.

into Food!" Send a clean xerox copy of your favorite page of lab notes to mail stop 1-71, attention: view book ed. The entry or entries judged to be the most interesting/creative/bizarre will be used to illustrate "the poetry of the laboratory" (or some such idea) in the new Admissions view book, and it will earn its creator a gift certificate for coffee and/or dessert at a local dive. Illustrated pages are especially welcome! For more information call x4686.

The **Computing Research Association Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research** (CRA-W) is pleased to announce a new initiative, Collaborative Research Experience for Women in Undergraduate Computer Science and Engineering (CREW), designed to provide collaborative research experiences for groups of two or three undergraduate women during the 1998-99 academic year. Students will work at their home institutions with a sponsoring faculty member on a project for which monetary support is typically unavailable. Ordinarily each student will receive a \$1000 stipend. There is no support provided for faculty stipends, however up to \$500 per project may be requested for special equipment, travel or supporting materials. Entries are due by May 30. For more information, visit <http://cra.org/Activities/craw>.

FAR

**Washington Summer Science and Technology Policy Program** for advanced Undergraduates is a rigorous six-week, 7-credit program of study and writing, combined with practical internship experience and on-site briefings by people important to shaping S & T policy. It runs from June 13 to July 25, 1998. Details are available at <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/cge>.

FAR

The **National Institutes of Health**'s Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 15 competitive scholarships to support top undergraduate students who are committed to pursue careers in biomedical research. Awards are up to \$20,000 per year. To qualify, a student must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident, be enrolled in or ac-

cepted by an accredited undergraduate institution, and carry a GPA of 3.5 or better or be in the top 5% of his/her class. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate extreme economic need or come from a disadvantaged background. For each year of scholarship, the student will fulfill a 10-week summer research/mentoring program and after graduation, fulfill one year of full-time employment, both at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. UFA

Working or studying in **New York City** this summer? Educational Housing is a nonprofit group that helps students locate safe, reasonably priced New York housing. For more info, visit [www.studenthousing.org](http://www.studenthousing.org).

FAR

**Work in Britain** this summer or next fall: The British Universities North America Club (BUNAC) offers a special student work permit for \$225, valid for 6 months, allowing U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age to legally work in Britain at any time of the year. Jobs can be prearranged, or students can just go to Britain and find jobs (most students find work within a week of arrival). BUNAC's program also provides participants with a helpful manual and a job hunting center in London. BUNAC can also prearrange your first 3 nights of lodging in London. Applications and further information are available in Fellowships Advising. Visit BUNAC's Work in Britain site at <http://www.BUNAC.org>.

FAR

The **John Gyles Education Fund** offers financial assistance to full-time students in Canada and the United States. Full Canadian or American citizenship is required. Awards are available for all areas of post-secondary study. A minimum 2.7 GPA is required. Criteria other than academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. To receive an application, please send a stamped, self-addressed, standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: R. James Cougle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B5G4. Filing dates

for mailing applications in 1998 are June 1st and November 15th.

UFA

The **1998 BFGoodrich Collegiate Inventors Program (BFG-CIP)** is seeking entries for this year's challenge. The program recognizes and rewards full-time college students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdocs) and faculty whose innovations, discoveries and research are deemed the year's most outstanding. Up to six student/advisor teams are awarded cash prizes totaling up to \$42,000. Students may enter as individuals or teams. The invention, idea or process submitted must be an original idea and the work of a student or team with his or her advisor. There is a June 2, 1998 deadline. For more information, call (330)849-6887 or e-mail [pkunce@invent.org](mailto:pkunce@invent.org). Applications are available on the web at <http://www.invent.org/bfg/bfg/home.html>.

FAR

The **Jewish Family and Children's Services** offers financial support for Jewish individuals and their families. Individuals may apply for up to \$5,000. Special scholarships are available for study in Israel. Eligible students must have financial need, have at least a 3.0 GPA., and be residents of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin or Sonoma counties, or the Bay Area. There are no deadlines—applications are accepted throughout the year and are available in the Financial Aid Office.

UFA

For information on the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, or clarification of questions, contact:

**FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.**

For information, please contact [lauran\\_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu](mailto:lauran_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu). To make an appointment, call x2150.

**UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.**

For information, call x6280, or stop by 515 S. Wilson for an appointment.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@tech.caltech.edu) or Mail Code 040-058 by noon on the Monday prior to its inclusion. Submissions must be brief and concise, and the editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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