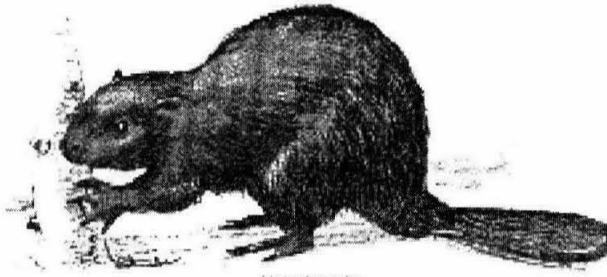


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Dave Guskin:  
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the wall when the  
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# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 20

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 10, 2000

## IHC CHAIR REVEALS ROOMPICK PROCEDURE

BY CHIRS ELION

As most of you know from first-hand experience, the off-campus roompick last year was pretty disastrous. This year, the IHC, Residence Life, and the Avery Council have worked together to come up with something better for everybody. The purpose of this article is just to give you an idea of what to expect; official material from Housing and Residence Life will be coming out soon.

Sometime during spring break, Housing will distribute cards to all students. If you want to be guaranteed housing next year, then you must return this card to Residence Life. After this, you may choose either to enter your House's roompick or to abstain. If you are currently living in Avery, you have the option of entering either your House's roompick or the internal Avery lottery, (but not both), or you can abstain.

Once all students have indicated their preferences, everyone will be given an off-campus lottery number generated by a computer program. Avery will have its roompick at some predetermined time, and the Houses will then conduct their roompicks (whether these are before or after Avery's lottery is at the discretion of the individual Houses). One third of the rooms in Avery will be available at this internal roompick, which only current Avery residents can enter (though nonresidents can be pulled in as roommates). Finally, Residence Life will conduct the general off-campus roompick, at which point all remaining rooms will be distributed.

Now you're probably wondering, "Why would I want to abstain from my House's roompick? What's the point?" Those who do not enter either their House pick or the Avery pick will receive a slightly better probability distribution for the off-campus pick. This is to give some advantage to students that REALLY don't want to live

## Bookstore unveils new web site

BY JON FOSTER

Have you ever been dismayed at the prospect of traveling all the way to the bookstore in the middle of a Californian winter only to spend a lot of money on a lot of heavy textbooks which will only make you feel stupid? Caltech's bookstore aims to ease the pain a little with their new website ([www.bookstore.caltech.edu](http://www.bookstore.caltech.edu)), which will hopefully eliminate the last reason to ever leave your safe little climate-controlled room.

In January, the bookstore purchased a new e-commerce module which works with their current inventory and sale system. There had long been plans to enter the arena of internet commerce, but with the purchase of this module the site is finally becoming a reality. Judi Capron, Special Project Coordinator for this site, said that the website is far from finished, but that what they have up is a beginning, and the staff of the bookstore is "looking for feedback on the bookstore and on the website."

Imagine being able to grow an unlimited amount of tissue for transplantation in the laboratory. Imagine regenerating the limbs of amputee victims. Imagine finding cures for heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

Science fiction? Although such clinical applications are perhaps decades away, the recent emergence of stem cell technology is helping to transform medical fantasy into scientific reality.

Stem cell science and their biological and philosophical impact on humanity was the topic of the 2000 Biology Forum, held Thursday, February 24, in Beckman Auditorium. Sponsored by Caltech and co-sponsored by the San Gabriel Newspaper Group and Huntington Memorial Hospital, the event focused on the stem cell research breakthroughs made during the last year.

Voted as the No. 1 Science Story of the Year by the journal *Science*, stem cell research re-

One of the major impetuses for a website was to provide services for Caltech alumni who wish to continue to make purchases through the bookstore,

The website offers plenty for students, too. Currently, students can, among other things, use the website to obtain textbook listings by class, search to see if spe-

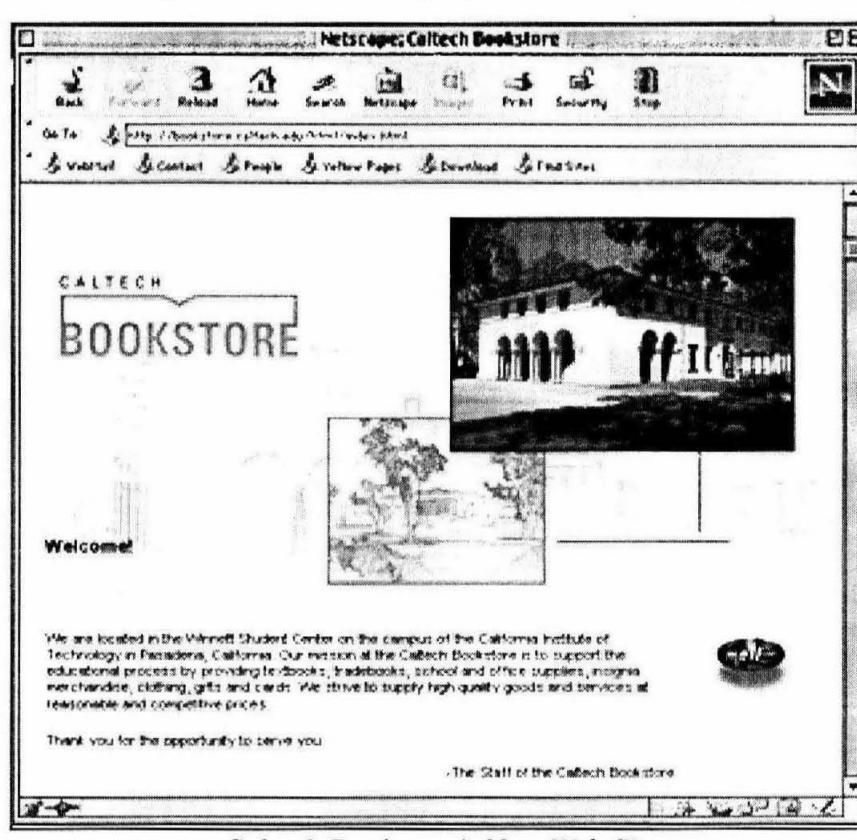
your Student ID number or credit card, and the bookstore offers free shipping to on-campus locations.

Another major goal Capron has for the website is to make it responsive to change. "We have wonderful resources here because we're Caltech," and she hopes to involve the whole staff of the bookstore in the website so that the site does not become static and outdated. This goal is quite clear from the main page of the bookstore, which offers news about the bookstore and features new publications.

The website is not in a very finished state. There are certain navigational inconsistencies, some outdated pages, and many features are not fully implemented. "What we have up is only the beginning, it will continue to be developed," explained

Capron. Major additions to the

PLEASE SEE BOOKSTORE ON PAGE 5



Caltech Bookstore's New Web Site

whether these are current books in their discipline areas or Caltech insignia merchandise. Specific books are in stock at the bookstore and order office supplies. Purchases can be made with

## Future of stem cell research topic of 2000 Biology Forum

BY MOHANA KUMAR

Imagine being able to grow an unlimited amount of tissue for transplantation in the laboratory. Imagine regenerating the limbs of amputee victims. Imagine finding cures for heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

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Voted as the No. 1 Science Story of the Year by the journal *Science*, stem cell research re-

volves around the mechanisms organisms use to transform undifferentiated immature cells into specific types of tissues.

"There are two tales of cell development," informs forum panelist and Caltech biologist Barbara Wold. "Cells regenerate in adults in response to injury, degenerative diseases and normal wear and tear of the body. Cells also regenerate when a fertilized egg becomes an embryo and then becomes a newborn."

The latter example of human embryonic development greatly fascinates stem cell researchers. The zygote, a fertilized egg, is the parent cell of all biological tissue. "The cells in the zygote and later in the blastomere are termed 'totipotent'—that is, they give rise to all other kinds of cells in the body," continues Wold. "Further development of the organism leads to multi-potential stem cells—parent cells from which only muscle tissue, or internal organs or neural tissue can develop."

"A substantial biological challenge is to understand the regula-

tion and execution of developmental decisions that lead from multi-potential, undifferentiated precursor cells to their specialized differentiated products," explains Wold. Wold is currently conducting research on multi-potential cells that give rise to muscle tissue.

According to Wold, stem cell research could provide pathways for gene therapies that could bypass immune rejection of transplanted tissue; certain diseases could be cured by manipulating the stem cells from the ailing person. In such a case, the current problem of transplant donor availability would be eliminated.

"There are some liabilities, however," Wold cautions. "How

do we prevent generating unwanted cell types? Could improper stem cell manipulation lead to tumors?" Wold also comments that therapies currently under development only endeavor to provide one important cell component of an organ. "We are a long way from building an organ in the lab. This is much more complex."

A second panelist, Dr. Jeremy Brockes, a professor of biology at the University College London, suggests that the answer to many questions regarding how to generate specific cell types from stem cells can be found in studying the newt. Brockes is specifically in-

PLEASE SEE FORUM ON PAGE 2

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# News

## FORUM:

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terested in how the newt is able to regenerate its limbs, jaw, heart and eyes.

"The newt tends to be imbued with a mystical quality because of its ability to regenerate. We, however, would like to understand and manipulate this ability," explains Brockes.

Brockes' research involves studying the mound of stem cells that develops on an amputated limb of a newt. He has shown that the multi-potential stem cells, once committed to regenerating an amputated limb, will continue to regenerate the limb even if the mound has been transplanted to another part of the newt's body.

"Will we ever be able to regenerate like a newt? I have no meaningful answer. However, studying this process might give insight into how to stimulate regeneration in amputee victims."

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Another forum panelist, Caltech biologist and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator David Anderson, is also very interested in the medical possibilities that stem cell research suggests. Anderson, the first to isolate mammalian neural stem cells, is primarily concerned with the mechanisms that control cellular diversity in the mammalian nervous system.

"Neural stem cell transplantation could have a profound impact on the treatment of many patients with neuro-degenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and Alzheimer's disease," Anderson states. "However, there are issues involved with neural stem cell transplantation, including the complexity in determining the type of stem cell to be transplanted, the source of these cells, and their quality. How does one isolate these cells from the rest of the brain tissue?"

Anderson also comments that

there are many ethical questions surrounding neural stem cell research. "Where do you get neural stem cells that can be used in a scientific investigation? A primary source is from fetal tissue, which is only available in limited amounts. This raises the ethical question of whether scientists can grow embryos purely for this type of research."

Alexander Capron, the final forum panelist, agrees. Capron, the Henry W. Bruce Professor of Law and the University of Southern California, was also a member of the National Bioethics Committee that specifically reviewed the issue of stem cell research.

"The source of the stem cells used for government funded scientific research is controversial," remarks Capron. "In 1974, the government imposed strict rules regarding research using fetal tissue. Clinton has lifted the moratorium on fetal tissue research; however, controversy still surrounds the use of embryos in research."

"Currently, the government will not fund research in which an embryo is created or destroyed," Capron continues. "However, scientists can use embryos in which the method of creation is acceptable, like spontaneous or induced aborted fetuses, provided that the scientists have the consent of the party donating the fetus and that this party's decision to donate the fetus was separate from research purposes."

Regardless of government restrictions on stem cell research, the forum moderator Robert Lee Holtz comments that the prospects of such research is dazzling. "The medical applications of stem cell research are merely possibilities, not even probabilities," remarks Holtz. "However, if properly manipulated, stem cells are blank slates—they can form any type of cell."

Moreover, Holtz foresees that the advancement of stem cell technology will have a profound impact on society. "Stem cells will

provide the cures that doctors and patients seek. They will be a source of wealth for venture capitalists interested in lucrative new medical techniques. And they will also continue pose ethical questions, especially to religious leaders, who might find such research morally disturbing."

## ROOMPICK:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the Houses, and to those students who know that they won't have a spot in their House next year (i.e., most current frosh).

We feel that this new system is more fair to everyone, and also a lot simpler to understand. You can check out the official procedure, as well as the program that will generate the roompick numbers, at [www.its.caltech.edu/~elion/ihc](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~elion/ihc). If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at elion@its.caltech.edu.

Tech Is Food:  
The Tech Editors had two free lunches last week. Were you eating TFM while we ate at the ATR?  
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Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153  
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editorial email: [editors@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:editors@tech.caltech.edu)  
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### EDITORS

Jon Foster, John Oh, Dana Sadava

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Tasha Vanesian

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Katy Isaacs Erik Dill  
Kudah Mushambi

Roger O'Brien

### CONTRIBUTORS

Erik Dill

Jason Cardema

Katharina Kohler

Kenneth Kuo

Tim Raub

Dave Guskin

Chris Elian

### FEATURE WRITERS

Justin Ho

Jason Meltzer

John-Paul Revel

Adam Villani

### CIRCULATION STAFF

Roger O'Brien

Rick Karnesky

Illall Daily

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## Opinion

### An open letter to supporters and opponents of civil same-sex marriages

This past Tuesday, Californians cast a historic vote in opposition to same-sex marriage.

This vote capped off months of campaigning and increasingly ill feelings on both sides of the issue.

During the campaign, supporters of Proposition 22 insisted that restricting marriage to heterosexual couples did not constitute discrimination, and they maintained their opposition to overt discrimination against gays and to the denial of existing rights.

We commend Proposition 22's supporters for so strongly vocalizing their opposition to discrimination.

And yet... there are more than 1000 rights, responsibilities, and protections bestowed upon a heterosexual couple when their relationship is legally recognized in marriage.

In the wake of Proposition 22, the gay community is deeply concerned about pre-

serving the civil rights we feel should be afforded all of us, as Americans and as human beings.

We can understand and can respect the fact that the term marriage means many things

*"We extend to you an open invitation to discuss what's really at the heart of this matter"*

to many people, and to some, marriage is a word that should be reserved for heterosexual unions.

But one must recognize that reserving *the rights and responsibilities* of raising a family to traditional opposite-sex couples is discriminatory!

Now that this vote is finally behind us, let us lay down our swords, and let us stop shouting and start listening.

We extend to you an open

invitation to discuss what's really at the heart of this matter: what are the barriers to civil same-sex marriage, and why has a reasonable compromise been so elusive?

Those of you who spoke in favor of Proposition 22 last week, and those who are opposed to same-sex marriage — we ask you to join us in a healthy, meaningful discourse on the subject.

Perhaps we may all grow toward a common understanding, and we may even be able to identify some common goals. We will come with an open mind, ready to listen, as long as you do the same.

Let's set up a time, let's find a place, and let's invite everyone to come.

You know how to reach me, I'll be hoping to hear from you.

Yours truly,  
Aron Meltzner  
Caltech Students Pride  
Association  
Caltech LesBiGay Union

### Considering the merits of admissions interviews

BY DANA SADAVA

munication skills in order for others to pay attention to their ideas and discoveries.

I was surprised when I enrolled here to find a writing test that needed to be taken only if a student (including English as their 1st language) did not earn at least a 660 on the SAT II Writing Test or a 3 on the AP English Composition Exam.

With the exception of international students, I was shocked that Caltech would accept such a huge discrepancy between verbal and math scores, which have rested comfortably in the high 700's.

Caltech has already recognized this need for communication education at the collegiate level by instilling a Science Communication requirement as part of the core curriculum.

Why not carry this policy to their undergraduate applicants? It seems logical that an institution that values knowledge so highly would make sure that the students they bring in can make their ideas heard.



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# Entertainment and Sports

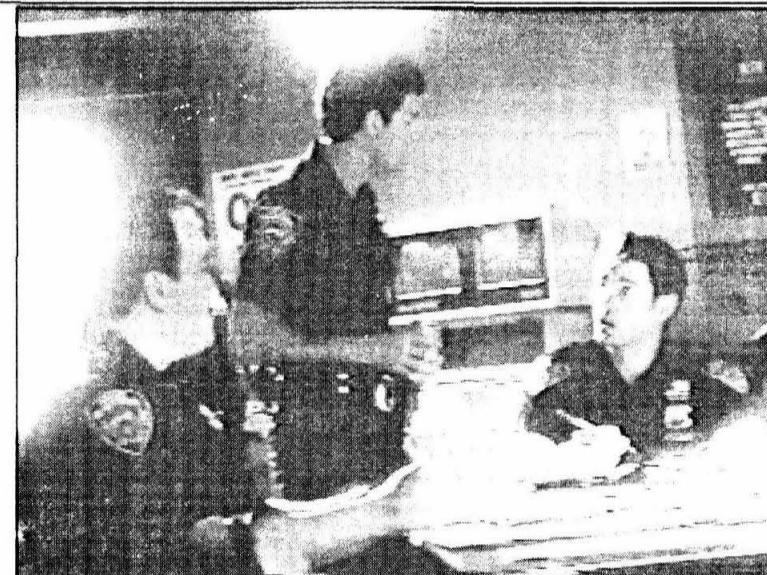
## UPN airs innovative but immature "The Beat"

BY DAVE GUSKIN

The United Paramount Network believes that in providing today's youth and twenty-somethings with "hip" and "creative" new situational drama, they are doing us a service. They are wrong.

To illustrate, I present to you "The Beat," a new police drama series scheduled to air in mid-March. The show treats us to a journey through the professional and private lives of two New York cops, Officer Mike (Derek Cecil) and Officer Zane (Mark Ruffalo). The camera and the "action" follow these two do-gooders through the streets of New York City, as they save the city and their personal lives from a fate worse than death.

What fate would that be, you ask? It basically consists of a show that combines funky cinematography with poor wit and incoherent plot, and then rips off the features of many other successful shows. The Beat's only redeeming quality is the power-



Derek Cecil and Mark Ruffalo star in UPN's "The Beat"

ful gagging urge it supplies. Oh wait.

Warning: if you suffer from epilepsy, do NOT watch this show. That goes for those of you with some taste in viewing material as well.

The action and plot are muddled underneath an extremely right-brained cameraman and editing crew, who use every opportunity for creative expression to rape our minds. Color shifts from standard "reality" palette to one that is "COPSSesque" enhanced. Flashback sequences intermingle with action and dialogue. I lost my focus after two minutes of flipping between emotional states.

The poor wit comes in with interesting and varied conversa-

tion between the primary cop-like characters, Mike and Zane. Apparently, Zane is of the opinion that calling the dot over the "i" a "title" is funny or something. He is wrong, as is the rest of this show.

Whatever the producers' impetus for creating this show, it is clear that they've made a monster. As President of UPN Tom Nunan remarked, "We expect the viewing audience to be as shocked and blown away by 'The Beat' as they were by ... 'Homicide'." There are a few morals to this story: (1) everything UPN touches turns to evil, (2) shows that suck are lame, and (3) I think the new medication is making me a little fuzzy. What?

## La Fiesta Grande serves to please

BY DANA SADAVA  
AND TASHA VANESIAN

La Fiesta Grande Mexican Grill y Cantina provides a fun atmosphere in which to eat great food at reasonable prices.

Bright colors greet guests in the entrance to the restaurant, which is modeled after

a hacienda courtyard. Paintings of bullfighting scenes surround the customers, including one painting of the owner "losing" his tackle with a bull.

The owners provide delightful live entertainment from 7pm into the night. In their friendly, laid-back atmosphere, they serenade the guests with Mexican folk songs. An average meal costs around ten dollars and is served in large helpings. Fresh chips and hot salsa are also immediately brought to the table.

We sampled the La Fiesta Appetizer Platter, with heaps of "macho" nachos, quesadillas

and taquitos. We recommend you split it with three or four people.

A wide selection of alcoholic beverages is available (and there is a full bar in back); we tried a

### LA FIESTA GRANDE MEXICAN GRILL Y CANTINA

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takeout available

virgin strawberry margarita and a virgin piña colada, which were wonderfully fruity and sweet.

For a main course, we chose their beef chimichanga and arroz con pollo. All meals are served with beans and rice, and these were exceptionally well-prepared. Everything was well-seasoned and appropriately fried.

The food was served hot, and guests are not rushed through dinner. At 6pm the restaurant was nearly empty, but be prepared for a full crowd to be developing by six-thirty. We highly recommend La Fiesta Grande. Hasta luego!

## Not quite "The Whole Nine Yards"

BY JOHN OH

A moral Bruce Willis, an innocent Natasha Henstridge, a conniving Rosanna Arquette, and a brave Mathew Perry—The Whole Nine Yards, released by Warner Bros., has many actors and actresses trying to break away from their stereotypical roles. They only achieve partial success.

Bruce Willis, a traditional action hero with the "Die Hard" series under his belt, has the role of a hitman, like his character is The Jackal but with attempts at a sense of humor added. He plays Jimmy "The Tulip" Tudeski, a contract killer who ratted on a powerful Chicago mob boss in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Natasha Henstridge plays Jimmy's wife, Cynthia, whose cold demeanor makes her a more fitting mob leader than Kevin Pollack, the mob boss's son out to get revenge on Jimmy. Jimmy moves in next door to meek dentist Nicholas "Oz" Oseransky, played by Mathew Perry, married to an absolute terror (played by Rosanna Arquette) who wants to kill her husband for life insurance money.

All credit where it's due: Bruce Willis is brilliant in his perfor-

mance as a contract killer with a strong sense of moral values. The execution of his lines are near perfect, and he flawlessly switches from gentle nice guy to cold killer.

Another pleasant surprise is the relative newcomer Amanda Peet, from WB's "Jack and Jill," who plays a hopeful contract killer disguised as a secretary. Peet and Willis have great chemistry, both playing off the fact that they kill people with wonderful nonchalance.

Rosanna Arquette also plays her role nicely, and cruel as her character is, her antics add a delightful twist to the movie. These three (Willis, Arquette, and Peet) seem to carry the movie. Much remains to be said about the others.

Mathew Perry is, well, Mathew Perry, and while he's got the bewildered look and the short surprise gags, he still acts as if he's on the set of a sitcom, not a movie.

Natasha Henstridge fares far worse. At best, we see a half-hearted smile from her, and most of the time she plays a mobster better than the mobsters them-

selves. To put her performance in perspective, she fits her role as well as Denise Richards fit the



role of a nuclear scientist in "The World is Not Enough." When Perry and Henstridge have scenes together, it seems as if we're watching an elementary school play. The horrible acting from these two almost ruins the brilliant acting of their co-stars, but the movie is still saved by a simple story that leaves a lot of room for comedy.

All in all, The Whole Nine Yards wasn't a great movie, and it did have its painful awkward moments, but it starts with a good story, and Willis and Peet give an absolutely priceless performance.

Rated: R

## Caltech sports in review

BY CHRIS HUGHES

### CALTECH ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Paul Thienphrapa, Men's Track and Field (Freshman/Los Angeles, Calif.)

Freshman Paul Thienphrapa competed in five events at Saturday's SCIAC Four-Way Meet at Pomona-Pitzer.

He established personal bests in three of his four individual events: 100 meter dash (12.29), 200 meter dash (25.66) and long jump (18'5"). He also posted a season best in the triple jump (36'9 1/2") as well as running the leadoff leg of Caltech's 4x400 meter relay team.

Overall, Thienphrapa finished fifth in the long jump and triple jump, eighth in the 100 meters and 11th in the 200 meters.

### LAST WEEK

**Baseball** (3-13, 0-12 SCIAC)  
Head Coach: John D'Auria

Caltech was swept last weekend by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Senior Greg Fricke hit safely in all three games, going a combined 5-for-11 (.455) with two runs scored and two RBIs. Second baseman David Hiller also collected hits in all three

contests (4-10, .400) with a pair of runs scored.

**Women's Track and Field** (0-4, 0-4 SCIAC) Head Coach: Julie Levesque

In the women's four-way meet at Pomona-Pitzer, Amy Duvello turned in one of her best performances of the season with a second-place finish in the javelin with a personal best of 97'6".

She also took sixth in the discus with a season best effort of 92'4".

Serena Eley finished sixth in the 400 meter dash, seventh at 200 meters and eighth at 800 meters. Her 200 meter (30.71) and 800 meter (2:42.74) times were season bests.

Dana Ionita-Ariton also turned in a season-best time in the 200 meter dash (35.33).

Amy Kelly earned eighth place in the 3000 meter run and ninth at 1500 meters.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Track and Field:** Saturday, March 11, at Ben Brown Invitational, hosted by CSU-Fullerton (Fullerton, Calif., 10 a.m.)  
**Mens and Womens Fencing:** Saturday, March 11  
**NCAA Western Regionals** (Brown Gym)

# Signing off



*me, before the Tech*

## Say goodnight, Dave

*A final farewell from the ex-Tech editor*

Sometimes I feel like a nut. I have good reason, too for the past year, I was the sole Tech Editor, a title which carries with it much pain and hardship. I was warned, and I didn't listen. People tried to wave me away, crying out that I wouldn't be able to handle the stress on my GPA and my sanity.

Well, I'm still here. I'm glad to be done with the Tech, and very glad that there are others to take my place down there in the lonely Tech office on Thursday nights. Its a tough job, but somebody (Jon, John and Dana) has to do it. It was too much for one person, even someone with my superhuman layout skillz. There is strength in numbers, and the new editorial team will learn that lesson, hopefully sooner rather than later.

I had some success. Some may doubt the truth in that statement, but I can tell you that not many people have the chance to make such an impact on so many brilliant individuals. Yeah, I know most of you read only for the Dilbert. But there are some who laugh at the Deans wacky shenanigans, others who take interest in the World Outside of Caltech, and still others who treat it like some sort of normal newspaper.

I had fun. My friends say it was crazy of me to get myself involved in so much work. But you know, deadlines, flaky writers, nonexistent layout staff and cranky copy editors \_are\_ a lot of fun, if you think about it. Hmm... that didn't quite come out right. Its fun to play around with a weekly paper. Its something basically creative in this world of equations and science here at Caltech.

I had hard times. I'm not going to lie about the hurt that accompanies any great undertaking. And, despite its seemingly limited importance, the Tech was something great. Sitting in the office, in the wee hours of the morning, with only half a newspaper to show for a week of work, I sometimes felt a little suicidal. Well, not \_actually\_ killing myself, but maybe fleeing from the deadlines and the pain. Choose not to do a paper one week. Doom the Tech by leaving my office as Tech Editor and regaining my Thursday nights.

But I made it, without too many screw-ups. And I don't regret going down there a year ago and signing up for Tech Editor. It wasn't just because somebody had to do it. Somebody would have done it, if it wasn't me. But there's a part of me that just couldn't let go of the newspaper life I had in high school. I've had a chance now to face my inner newsprint-cutout demons and crush them in my fist of journalistic prowess. I can let it go in peace.

I'm going to finish with the lessons I learned during my term as Tech Editor. Read and learn.

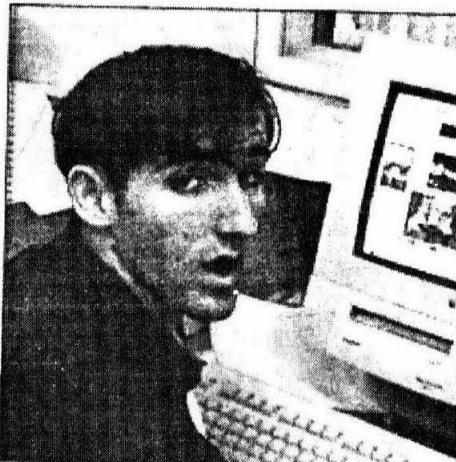
(1) Teams of one are not so hot... especially if you're the one. I guess this is a corollary of the collaboration principle. Don't work by yourself if you can help it, especially if its as much work as the Tech is.

(2) Even if the work is painful, find a way to make it fun. Sometimes this means working with others. It'll take longer, but it'll keep you sane.

(3) Don't stress. Stress leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to... well, you know.

Good luck, guys.

*Daniel Grishin  
me, after the Tech →*



## BOOKSTORE:

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

site will be the inclusion of a children's section, featuring things like the wide range of scientific toys available at the bookstore, comparative pricing with other online textbook resellers such as varsitybooks.com and amazon.com, and partnerships with other companies such as Office Depot and PPI to provide a fuller range of office supplies at lower prices.

As a separate, although related project, Caltech Wired should also be unveiling a new website soon, which will potentially be an extremely useful resource to students who wish to purchase computer equipment.

Feedback in the form of comments on the web site and suggestions for the future can be directed to Judi Capron (judi.capron@caltech.edu)

## Techers fly in competition

BY MICHAEL DESALVO

The Caltech Flying Team competed in the National Inter-collegiate Flying Association's annual aviation competition, SAFECON, which was held this year at Brackett Field in La Verne, CA.

Even though this was their first SAFECON in five years, they brought home a great fourth place out of eight teams. This occurred despite very tough competition that included such aviation-oriented institutions as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The competition included both flight events and ground events. In the precision landing events, pilots tried to land a single-engine light airplane on a target line on the runway. In the short-field landing event,

grad student Paul Krueger achieved 5th place among 8

competitors. Out of 27 competitors in the power-off landing event, grad student Olivier Duchemin came in 17th and junior Michael DeSalvo earned 8th. DeSalvo also came in 10th in the navigation event, and senior Greg Detweiler took 3rd place in the instrument flight event.

There were flight events for non-pilots as well; junior Yuki Takahashi acted as dropmaster in the message drop event and came in 7th.

Caltech also competed in the ground events, including preflight inspection, aircraft recognition, manual flight computer accuracy, and taxiing, where Krueger finished 2nd.

The team looks forward to fielding a larger and hopefully more competitive team at next year's competition, to be held in Prescott, Arizona.

Congratulations to all Caltech participants, and Blue Skies!

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

March 6, 2000

Present: New BoD minus Laura;  
Guests: David Zaragosa, Christoph Baranec, Garrett Heffner, Leo Eisner, Kacie Shelton, Nick Breen, and Wes McCullough. Meeting called to order at 10:12 pm.

David and Christoph come to collect their funding for Apache, which was approved long ago by the previous BoD. As Sean writes the check, Gurt comes in with a huge box of DVD players, one of which goes with David and Christoph to Ricketts.

There are old checks for Sean to hand out. Leo, the treasurer from the Orienteering Club receives \$50. Kacie from the Anime Club receives \$250 for all of last year. Nick requests election reimbursements.

Emma gives a report on last Thursday's meeting of the Academics and Research Committee (ARC). New members have not been chosen yet, but the current members have elected Jason Tran as the new ARC secretary.

Emma says that the contracted people are working on the CLUE, which will be on the web this year in addition to the traditional paper format. Also, a few people are working on option books. Started by Melvin Leok, option books will be written by undergrads for undergrads with specific information about each major. The Biology option book, written by Clifford Hicks, will be completed soon.

Martha-Helene is excited to tell us about the posters she made for the budget meeting. She designed them to catch people's attention and they certainly do. Coming soon, see them on a wall near you.

Eric brings up that we need to finalize the dates for the Budget Meeting and the Capra Retreat. The BoD decides that the Capra Retreat will be during the first weekend of third term. The Budget Meeting will be on the second weekend of third term, starting Friday night (April

7) after dinner in 070 Moore. Eric has updated the ASCIT web page, adding a link to the club budget proposal form. Martha-Helene will quickly pick up HTML and work on the budget meeting part of the web page.

Next, Wes, who has been waiting patiently, proposes a movie budget. His budget includes \$1000 for the DVD library, \$1000 for projector-style movies in Baxter, and \$1000 for miscellaneous events such as outdoor movies.

Melinda brings in strawberry donuts! She also has information about the formal. First, GSC has agreed to hold a joint formal with ASCIT and will supply part of the funding and a four-person social team. GSC estimates that 40 grad students will attend. Next, Melinda tells us she has six possible locations: Ritz-Carlton, Huntington; Doubletree Hotel, Pasadena; Hyatt Regency, LA; Hornblower Dining Yachts, Newport Beach; Disneyland; and Universal Studios.

If the formal is held at a theme park, ASCIT will rent part of the park (like New Orleans Square in Disneyland) and decorate it. Melinda will decide on a location by the end of Spring Break. She is being assisted by David Levy and Tom Mannion, who both have useful connections.

Eric proposes his ExComm. Here are the members: Nathan Stein (Ru), Chair, Joe Fassler (Bl), Vanessa Sih (Da), Alec Muller (Fl), Katherine Ip (Pa), Shannon Stewman (Ri), Geoff Meissner (Ru)

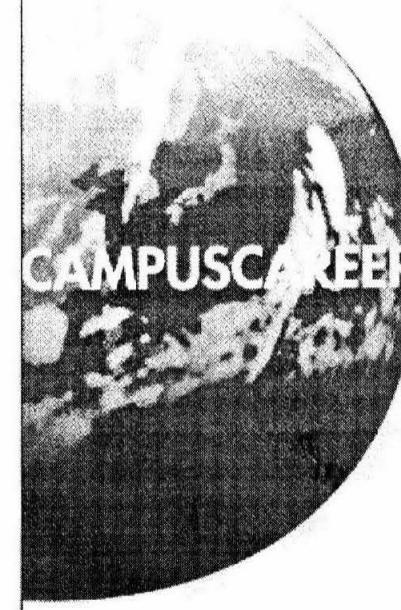
At least two of them have experience on the BoC. Eric has tried to get equal representation from each of the houses (with himself as the Lloyd representative), though he notes "double Rudd action on the ExComm." He still has to finalize some things and will email the BoD later in the week to get his ExComm approved. (Note: The BoD approved the ExComm by email on Tuesday.)

The next ASCIT meeting will be at the same time on the Monday of the first week of third term (10pm). We will discuss the Budget Meeting and the itinerary for the Capra Retreat. Chris will work on a database for the information we get from the club surveys. The last meeting of this term adjourns at 11:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

**ATTENTION**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
AND GRADUATE  
**STUDENTS**  
WORLDWIDE

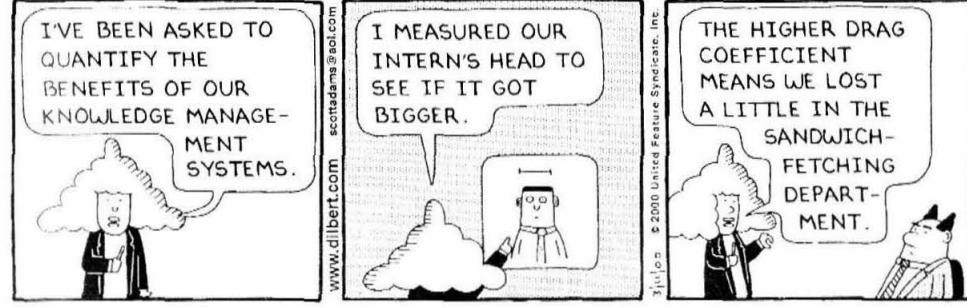
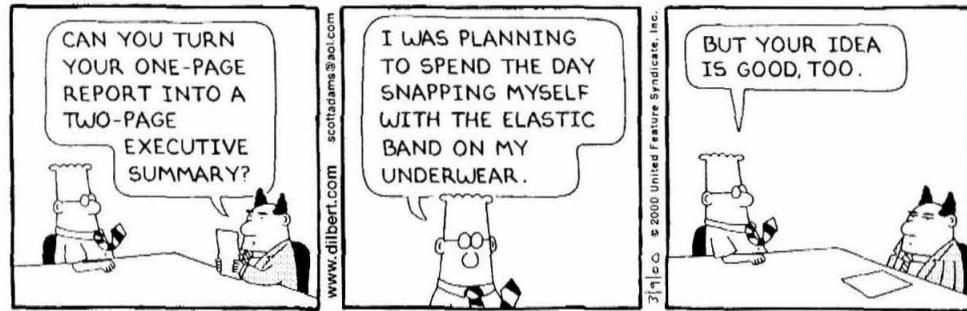


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# Comics

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Based on the novel by John Irving  
**THE CIDER HOUSE RULES**  
Daily [12:40] 3:50 7:00 10:00

Anthony Hopkins/Jessica Lange  
**TITUS**  
Daily 1:35 5:00 8:30

Starring Kate Winslet  
**HOLY SMOKE**  
Daily [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

Directed by Pedro Almodovar  
**ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER**  
Daily [12:30] 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:20

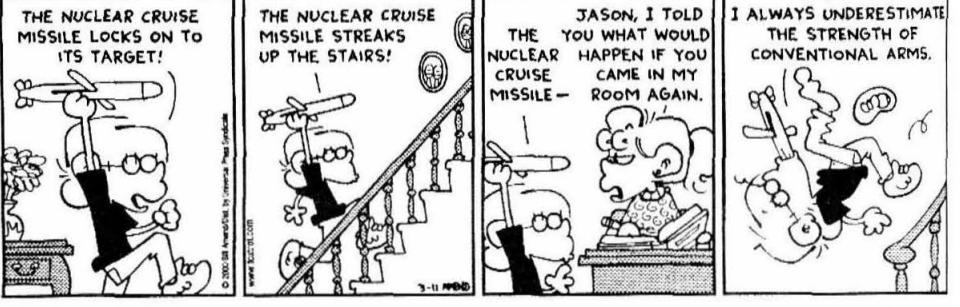
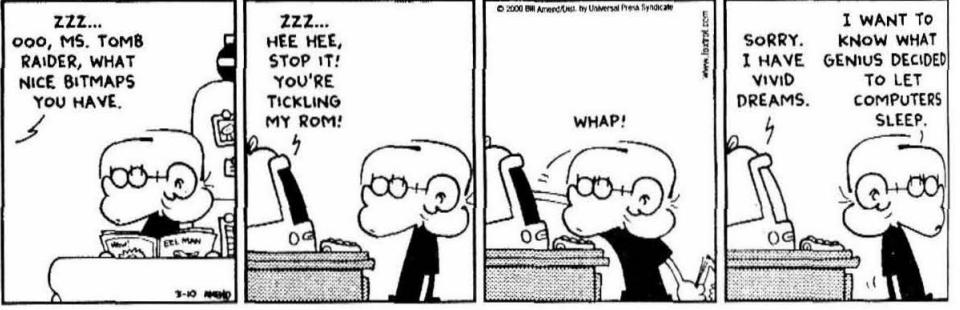
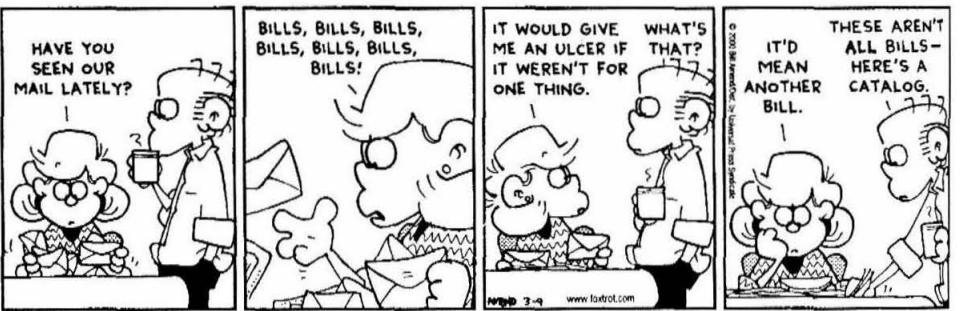
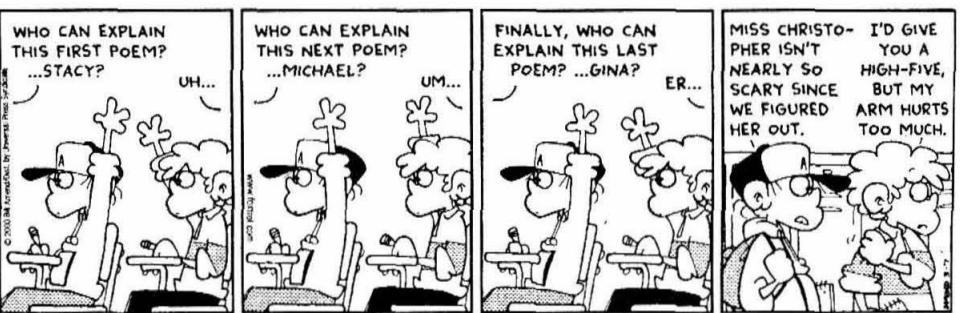
Based on the novel by Jane Austin  
**MANSFIELD PARK**  
Daily [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:00

Starring Ralph Fiennes  
**ORIGIN**  
Daily [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

Directed by Tim Robbins  
**CRADLE WILL ROCK**  
Daily 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

Call for details THIS WEEK'S FEATURE

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Cuisine of India  
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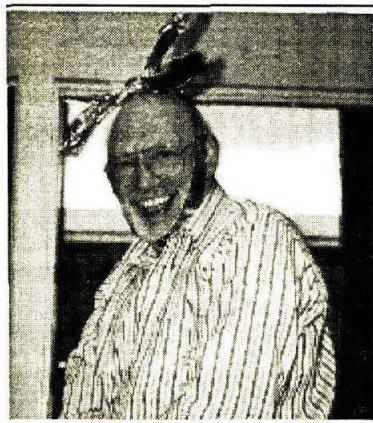
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# Of Deans and Daihatsus

## Dean's Corner



### Pleasure Driving

by Jean-Paul Revel

all of that is lost anyway except when the rapid acceleration at takeoff pushes us back into our seats. We get greyhounds to run after a mechanical rabbit that they can never catch, and we devise people-type tricks to get us to experience the thrill of speed. We compete in bike races and marathons (well, some of us do). In less athletic endeavors, we drive to scenic picnic spots, taking any excuse we can to go from here to there, fast. Of course I am exaggerating, the fun is not just getting there.

The pleasure one derives from the sensation of movement is not restricted to humans. Surely you have smiled at the beatific air of a poodle, front paws on the sill of a car window, ears flapping in the wind, totally engrossed in the fun of having the world go by without having to exert itself. Not being poodles, we usually don't drive with our heads out of car windows, but driving nevertheless used to be exhilarating. I say used to be, because the optimal time for enjoyment of cars may have passed, at least in Los Angeles (in most cities, come to think of it). It often feels like a chore rather than a pleasure to drive somewhere. There are

just too many other people

trying the same thing, and trips end up as adrenaline draining sessions of collision avoidance. It has, in fact, been like that for a long time. When I was a grad student and went to the mountains as often as my experiments permitted, coming back to Boston from New Hampshire or Maine was already a slow, tedious, impatience-provoking, drag. Narrow two-lane roads, the conduits between the White Mountains and Storrow Drive, inched on. Even the three lane highways, where traffic going in opposite directions alternately had passing rights, were chaotic messes, sweaty-palmed contests where everyone tried to overtake as many cars as possible before the pavement markings gave the other side the right of way. Things got better as the multilane highways were built up, but even those, by now, are often clogged by traffic.

So the idea that driving is a pleasure may not be so accurate at this point. Often there are substitutes, like the unbelievably popular "Autopia" at Disneyland (does it still exist?). Just to make sure it was not just my jaundiced perception that things were bad in the driving department, I went to the web and searched for "driving pleasure" expecting to find paean to automotive motion. I guess I am not at

all hip (from hippos, horse, as in hippodrome, hippopotamus, etc.). Instead of dealing with driving cars, ski mobiles or all terrain vehicles, I found that practically all of the entries had to do with riding... horses. I discovered that there are strict rules for "Pleasure Driving", rules that have little to do with what I had imagined. I learned that the horse was supposed to have a black leather harness with square patent leather blinkers, snaffle bridle with side check or overcheck, and running martingale, and that ladies' wear is "a conservative dress, blouse and skirt, shirt and jods with apron, saddle suit or day coat and jods. Men wear business suit, saddle suit, sport jacket and slacks. Gloves are recommended, apron and hats are optional." (1) Oh well—I decided to search further. What I found was that not only horses can be used in Pleasure Driving, but llamas as well. Of course llamas present their own challenges, to whit: "an unavoidable learning curve spans several shows while a llama adjusts to this new (and seemingly ridiculous) environment for driving. Careful preparation and understanding speeds the transition greatly and helps to produce a calm, safe, and relaxed driving llama." (2)

In all of that, no mention of what I thought would be central to Pleasure Driving, and that is the horse- or llama-less carriage. Further work revealed that the person to whom we owe the pleasure of driving horseless carriages was, you guessed it, a Frenchman, one Nicholas Joseph Cugnot, who installed a steam engine on a cart in 1770 (3). It

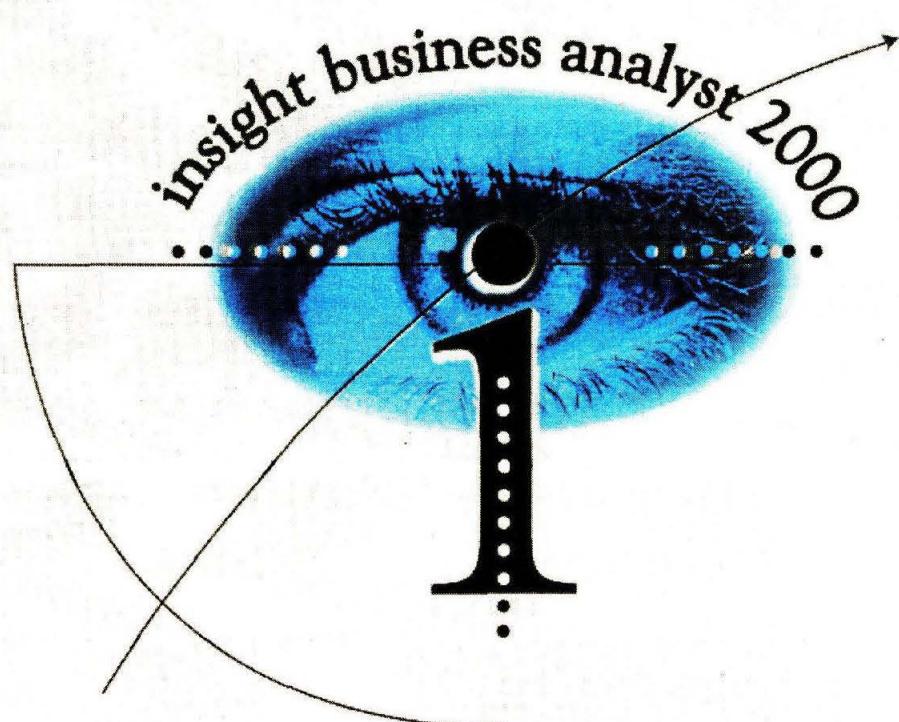
took over a hundred years to have the idea developed to the point where it was practicable. The descendants of this early attempt are those that are usually touted: the Daimlers, the Benzs, the deDions, the Studebakers and the Fords. Here on campus a tradition of pleasure driving has established itself, often a clandestine affair in the middle of the night. A bit like the ride in Space Mountain (Disneyland again!) where one is taken on a wild ride in terrifying darkness, the Daihatsus which provide this thrill are the descendants of an electric land carriage contrived by one Moses Farmer of Massachusetts. With electrical carts, as with pleasure driving llamas and horses, there are rules to be followed. It should be obvious, and it is something I have pointed out before, that one must have prior and specific permission from the owner to drive one of the carts belonging to one of the various campus organizations. Otherwise, you'll emulate a 1906 event in St Louis which I also found mentioned during my search for driving pleasure: the first car theft. Also obvious is that the cart must be returned in the same condition it was in, when you asked for permission to use it. May you derive pleasure in driving yourself to excel in your finals!

A bientot,

*Jean Paul Revel*

Jean-Paul Revel

(1) [http://mifoxtriot.com/v\\_pleasure.htm](http://mifoxtriot.com/v_pleasure.htm)  
 (2) <http://members.aol.com/nubin1/pleasuredriving.html>  
 (3) <http://www.motorcraft.com/History/>



## McKinsey & Company

Programs will be held on  
**May 18-21 and August 24-27.**  
 Locations are yet to be determined.  
 All expenses will be paid.

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All applications must be received by March 13. Applicants will be notified by mid-April.

For more information and an application, visit our web site at <http://www.mckinsey.com/insightba> or pick up a brochure from your career services office.

# Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mark Your Calendars!** Admissions, Prefresh Weekend will be held Thursday, April 13th through Sunday, April 16th. For more information email [dina@admissions.caltech.edu](mailto:dina@admissions.caltech.edu) or [ryan@admissions.caltech.edu](mailto:ryan@admissions.caltech.edu).

**Attention student club officers!** The ASCIT budget meeting for the Fiscal Year 2000 (third term 2000 - third term) is fast approaching. All clubs seeking funding from ASCIT this year must submit a budget proposal by 4:30 p.m., Mon., Apr. 3. The actual meeting is schedules for the evening of Fri., Apr. 7. Details and forms are available on ASCIT's website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ascit/bm2000.html>.

**Beginning Lindy Hop class,** 7:30-9:00 p.m. for four successive Mondays starting Mon 27 Mar'00: [taught by a professional dance instructor] \$24.00 except \$16.00 to Caltech undergraduates] in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. No partner is required. Refreshments and dance practice time are provided after each class. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call Don 626/791-3103.

**The Disbursement Audit Office** will relocate from the third floor of Keith Spalding Building (Business Services), Room 307, to 363 South Hill Street. Initially, Disbursement Audit Office will occupy a part of the first floor of the main Hill House, but eventually move to the Garage structure in the back of the Hill House. The telephone numbers and fax (626) 229-0740 will remain the same. The new Mail Code for Disbursement Audit will be 2-7. Only minor disruption in the morning on Tuesday, Feb 23, 2000, is anticipated due to this relocation. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

**Spring Term Offering:** Beethoven, An Exploration of the Composer's Life and Work, Mu 123, MW 11-12:30 at 19 Baxter. Instructor: Neenan Prerequisite: Some proficiency at reading of musical scores - MU127 or equivalent ability. Permission of instructor required. Ludwig van Beethoven is arguably the most influential and important composer in the history of music. Mu123 will explore his life and work, using Maynard Solomon's landmark biography and musical examples from the major genres (symphony, concerto, string quartet, piano sonata etc.). Lecture/reading course with in-class discussion, listening, video presentations and live performances. Field trips to off-campus performances to be arranged. Because of the nature of the course (ie. some musical analysis), students must have some proficiency in reading music.

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

**H&SS Division** offers the following Selected Topic Courses for spring term 2000: H 161 Race & Ethnicity in Modern America, H 161 Women and the Family in the US before 1900, Lit

180 British Fiction of the 20th Century, Lit 180 American Fiction of the 20th Century, SES/PI 169 Causation & Causal Inference, Ec 101 Experimental Economics in Principle & Practice, Psy 101 Seminar in Cognition, SS 200 Social Choice Theory: Consistency, Strategy and Dynamics. Note: Contrary to the catalog listing - SES/H 159 Science and Society will be offered in the spring by Professor Kevles on T 7:30 p.m. in 128 Bax. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter.

**Beginning American Viennese Waltz** offered by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for four successive Mon starting Feb. 14: [taught by a professional dance instructor, \$24.00 except \$16.00 to Caltech undergraduates] in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. No partner is required. Refreshments and free dance practice time are provided after each class. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call Don 626/791-3103.

**Be a part of the earthquake team.** The U.S. Geological Survey (on campus) is looking for a part time intern for ongoing monitoring and programming of an automatic, web-based system for gathering post-earthquake shaking and damage data (see <http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/ciim.html>). Summer work also possible. More info thru Carrer Center. Email [wald@gps.caltech.edu](mailto:wald@gps.caltech.edu).

## EVENTS

**Local Red Cross Chapters** hosts the sixth annual Red Cross Spirit Award, Sat., Mar. 11, at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Awards will honor the cast and creators of the TV series JAG for its positive portrayal of men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. Also featured will be a Humanitarian Award for Hydeia L. Broadbent and special humanitarian recognition to Bonnita Wirth, Ph.D., and Barbara Cienfuegos, L.C.S.W. Please RSVP to Melanie Jones at 626-799-0841 x503.

**"The College of Comedy with Alan King"** to be taped in Beckman Auditorium. Alan King and some of the biggest talents in American humor go back to school for two unique live comedy events at Caltech on Tuesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 23 at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are only \$5.00! They can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office (332 S. Michigan Ave.) or by phone on x4652.

**Music of the late 20th century** to be featured in April 12 Dabney Lounge Concert. The Division of Humanities and Social Science will offer a free concert, open to the Caltech community, on Wednesday, April 12, 8:00 PM, in Dabney Lounge, as part of the division's music offerings for benefit of students enrolled in music courses and the community at large. Members of The St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Thomas Neenan, Music Director and Conductor (and Lecturer in Music at Caltech) will be joined by composers William Kraft and John M. Kennedy for an informal look at music at the turn of the new century. Featured will be conversation with the composers and Neenan about the music to be performed which will include Kraft's "Concerto for Percussion and Chamber Ensemble" and works by Kennedy, Tan Dun and others.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**The Literature Faculty** is pleased to announce the Annual Hallett Smith Competition, honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double spaced, and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities class, or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit their work to Professor Jenjoy LaBelle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 21, 2000. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in the case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. LaBelle, x3605, or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

**The Jewish Loan Association** is offering interest-free student loans to qualified individuals for tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate study and have a 2.5 GPA or above. For further information, please contact the Jewish Free Loan Association at 213-761-8830 or 818-464-3331.

**The American Meteorological Society** is pleased to invite applications for the 2000-01 AMS/Industry Undergraduate Scholarships in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. Prospective candidates from the fields of earth sciences and related fields who intend to pursue careers in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences are encouraged to apply. The award is based on merit and awarded to students who demonstrate potential for accomplishment in these fields. Applicants must have successfully completed two years of study by August 2000 at an accredited institution with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status. The scholarships are available to students who will be juniors in the fall of 2000.

The award is renewed for the senior year based on the recipient's performance and recommendation of a faculty advisor. Applications can be obtained from the AMS web site at [www.ametsoc.org/AMS](http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS). Any questions may be directed to Donna Fernandez, 617-227-2426 x246, [dfernand@ametsoc.org](mailto:dfernand@ametsoc.org); or Stephanie Armstrong, 617-227-2426 x235, [armstrong@ametsoc.org](mailto:armstrong@ametsoc.org). Applications must be submitted by March 3, 2000.

**The Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund** will award five \$10,000 and fifty \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate women in the fall of 2000. Applicants must be women currently residing in the United States who plan to return to an accredited four-year college or university and plan to enroll part-time or full-time to complete an undergraduate bac-

calaureate degree. Eligible applicants must have completed at least one semester of college a minimum of five years prior to September 30, 2000 and not have enrolled for more than one college course per semester since September 30, 1995. For further information and application materials, you may contact Elizabeth Tuma, Program Manager at 507-931-0439. Only the first 1,000 applications received will be considered for an award. Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2000.

**The Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs**, through the Desk and Derrick Educational Trust, is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, completed at least two years of undergraduate work, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, demonstrate financial need, and plan to pursue a career in the petroleum or allied industry. Awards in the amount of \$1,000 annually will be made to full-time students. Part-time students qualify \$400 annually. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.

For further information, you may contact: Evelyn Black, Desk and Derrick Clubs, 4823 S. Sheridan, Suite #308A, Tulsa, OK 74145 or email at [evelyn.black@labatt.com](mailto:evelyn.black@labatt.com). Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2000.

**The SAE Foundation for Science and Technology Education** will award an \$2,000 scholarship at a rate of \$1,000 per year to a college senior or graduate student for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be citizens of North America (U.S., Canada, Mexico) and pursuing a course of study or research related to the conservation of energy in transportation, agriculture & construction, and power generation. Applications are available by contacting Connie Harnish, SAE Educational Relations at 724-772-4047, email [connie@ase.org](mailto:connie@ase.org), or via the web at [www.sae.org/students/yanmar.htm](http://www.sae.org/students/yanmar.htm). Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2000.

**The Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** is offering scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to female college students entering their junior or senior year for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus or community involvement. Female students must be residents of the San Ramon Valley (Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, or Diablo, CA) or graduates of its high schools with a junior or senior standing as of September 2000. For more information and application package, please send your request with a \$0.66 stamped self-addressed large envelope (9"X 12") to: Linda Elsdon, 61 Milano Court, Danville, CA 94526. Entries must be postmarked by April 3, 2000

**The JVS Jewish Community Scholarship Fund** announces the availability of applications for the 2000-01 academic year. The funds are intended to provide a limited amount of financial aid for needy Jewish students who are legal and permanent residents of Los Angeles County. Applicants must be full-time at an accredited educational institution and have a 2.5 GPA or above. Recipients are also eligible to apply for loans from the Meltzer Undergraduate Student Loan and the Becker Graduate Student Loan Fund of the Jewish Free Loan Association. For further information you may contact: Jewish Vocational Service, 5700 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite #2303, Los Angeles, CA 90036, or phone 323-761-8888, extension 122 or 132, or via email at [jgaynor@jvsla.org](mailto:jgaynor@jvsla.org). Entries must be submitted by April 15, 2000.

**The P.L.A.T.O. Education Loan Program** is offering students a chance to receive up to \$10,000 in scholarship for college. Any student enrolled in an accredited two- for four-year college or university is eligible to apply. Scholarships are merit-based and applicants must have a grade point average of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). Winners will be chosen by Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America (CSFA), an independent third party, and scholarships will be awarded August 2000. All information and application material can be accessed, 24 hours a day, at [www.plato.org](http://www.plato.org). Applications must be submitted online by April 30, 2000.

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

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

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

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