

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

Friday (5/19)
10:00 p.m.
RF Courtyard



Class officer election Statements

pages 4-5

The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 27

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 19, 2000

CHANGES AT THE CALTECH Y

BY JUSTIN KAO

Well-known to students as one of the friendly people who keeps the Caltech Y running smoothly, Athena Castro will now be in charge of the whole thing. Previously Director of Student Activities and Community Service, Athena recently took on the office of Executive Director. The Y's previous Executive Director, Sue Borrego, transferred to Minority Student Affairs, where she is now associate dean/director.

As executive director, Athena will be working "more directly with board members," administration, and the student affairs office. She commented that she doesn't "think students will notice anything different" about the way the Y is run. This is not surprising, as she brings to the job six years of experience in Caltech student affairs, five of them working at the Y.

The management change doesn't seem to have affected any Y activities, and Athena talked about several upcoming events. She mentioned the trip to see Dinosaur at El Capitan, and stated "we're now getting ready for the Y Hike... [and will be] sending out information soon." Also upcoming, after the term ends, is a move to the new student center at Keck, across the street from Physical Plant. Athena says she's hoping the new location will get "people [to] come out and visit us... now that we're here," and in general take advantage of the Y's programs and services.

Mailboxes are vandalized

BY DANA SADAVA

Recently, Security at Caltech warned the community of attacks of vandalism and theft that have occurred in the past two months. About ten student mailboxes were vandalized. Glass in the viewing windows of the boxes were broken and a few students reported that expected mail was missing.

Chris Henderson of Mail Services said, "We replaced the glass in the windows with a heavier plastic material, so that at least glass will not shatter all over the mailboxes,

Barton defends conducting DNA

BY JOE FASSLER

Most people do not generally think of graphite and DNA as being chemically similar. Nor have many people considered the possibility that DNA could conduct electricity, but that is exactly what Dr. Jackie Barton and her research group have been trying to show in recent years. In a lecture to about 450 people in Beckman Auditorium on Wednesday as part of the Watson lecture series, Barton compared the stacked base pairs of the DNA double helix to the stacks of carbon sheets in graphite crystals. Although the interactions between the sheets of carbon are weak, she said, graphite can still conduct electricity along the stacking axis, and perhaps this is true for DNA as well.

Since the 1960s, not long after the announcement of the structure of DNA by Watson and Crick in 1953, the question of charge

transport along the DNA chain has been debated and studied by



Dr. Jackie Barton

scientists with varying results. In her lecture, Barton presented a number of different experiments carried out in her group which supported the idea that charge transfer is indeed possible. One of these experiments involved attaching transition metal com-

plexes with a fluorescent tag to the ends of a short DNA molecule. Fluorescence changes were then used to determine if an oxidation-reduction reaction, which would require the transport of an electron through the chain, had taken place. Results showed that the reactions did take place, but not in strands with a mismatched base pair such as AG or CT.

During the lecture, Barton explained the results of a number of other experiments carried out in her group as well, including one in which a reaction initiated at the end of the DNA chain occurred 200 angstroms, or nearly 60 base pairs, down the helix. Considering the applications of her research, she cited mutations of a single mismatched base pair, such as those that cause sickle cell anemia and certain cancers. Since strands of DNA with mismatched base pairs do not allow charge transport, one possible applica-

tion of her work (though well into the future) would be detection of such mutations. Other possible applications might come in the design of new electrochemical sensors.

Barton is a native of New York, receiving a BA at Barnard College in 1974 and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at Columbia University in 1979. She went on to do postdoctoral work at Bell Labs and Yale University before holding positions as assistant professor at Hunter College and returning to Columbia to become a professor in 1986. Three years later, she joined the faculty at Caltech where she currently works under the title of Arthur and Marian Hanisch Memorial Professor of Chemistry. She has also received numerous awards for her work in chemistry and has participated in a wide range of boards and advisory committees, both in government and industry.

A closer examination of the class of 2004

BY JON FOSTER

At an introductory speech last fall, when Caltech's current freshmen were not yet traumatized by the sight of Baxter lecture hall, the speaker told the class of 2003 that they were a special class. "You are the last class that we can be sure entered because of Caltech's merits, and not because of our rankings." While it remains to be seen exactly what the implications of this will be, statistics for next year's class are becoming available.

Currently, the admissions office has received 185 commitments for next year's entering class. This number excludes four students who are deferring their entrance to Caltech for a year, and also does not take into account the 39 students from which admissions has yet to receive replies. Charlene Liebau, director of admissions, said that the proportion of students who have not yet replied is not unusual, and that in general students waited longer to make a decision this year.

Of these 185, 68 are women. This equals 36.75% of the class, an insignificant rise over last year's ratio (36% women). Since the remaining 7.5% of the class is as yet unknown, the ratio could still change significantly. In reference to the recent improvement in the ratio over the last few years, Liebau explained that Caltech was "the happy recipient of high schools encouraging girls in math."

Given the article which appeared in the April 28th issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education, which faulted Caltech for having no African-Americans in the class of 2003, the admissions committee was certainly interested in the breakdown of underrepresented minorities in next year's class. Of the current accep-

tances, 9.7% are from under-represented ethnic groups: 4 African-Americans, 13 Hispanic/Latino, and 1 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Additionally, 25 students chose not to disclose their ethnicity.

Liebau was quick to point out that "every student admitted passes the same bar", unlike at some universities where admissions decisions are not entirely race-blind. Additionally, she indicated that it was not Caltech's fault that the class of 2003 lacked adequate minority representation—Caltech had accepted seven African-Americans, and they chose not to come for "much the same reason anyone does", citing factors like curriculum and location.

This year was rather unusual for admissions. Applications were up across the country, as more students applied to college, and those that did applied to more colleges, but Caltech's ranking in

U.S. News and World Report may well explain why Caltech saw an abnormally large jump in applicants (up 21.4% to 3514). However, Liebau did say that this variable had "little effect on the decision making once a student was admitted", saying that students generally cited the typical reasons for not matriculating: uncertainty about their commitment to science, location, and others.

As for what Caltech can expect next year? Liebau laughed, "I wish I were a soothsayer." The information sessions and fairs which admissions representatives have been visiting have been well attended. The trend of a generally increasing applicant pool is expected to increase. Additionally, according to Liebau "Caltech's focus is in the forefront of student interest." While Caltech's applicant pool may have jumped abnormally this year, the pool might never shrink again.

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Opinion and News

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The bylaw provision to dismiss representatives was designed with the intention of protecting the accused. The bylaw states, explicitly, that defendants can ask the chair to remove representatives they feel would be biased. The spirit of the proposed amendment, and the unfortunate Excomm ruling on the current bylaws, would be to take this decision out of the hands of the accused and put the decision into the hands of the preliminary investigators of the case. Since the defendant is already protected against personal bias by the current bylaws, this amendment can only remove board members in two circumstances: representatives whose House-approved views — while not personal — have bearing on the case, and board members who have a personal bias in favor of the defendant.

The representatives of the Board of Control are, predominantly, House officials, elected because of their beliefs and character. The fact that these are representatives of the Seven Houses is extremely important. The elections were designed to occur on a campus-wide scale, but in an environment where the candidates were well-known. Naturally this will best occur at Caltech in the Houses, and the candidates will reflect the opinions of the Houses on the Honor

Code.

The proposed amendment would allow the chair and secretary to remove the opinions of a board member from a case. Since current bylaws allow a board member to be removed from a case on the request of the defendant, because of personal bias, this amendment expands the scope of bias to outside the narrow protection of the defendant. No board member can be wholly unbiased in their opinions on academic or social cases which confront the board, and these views are why they were elected in the first place.

The amendment simply substitutes one form of bias for another. The bylaws make it explicit that no preliminary investigator of a board of control case may vote on that case. The governing principle of this bylaw is that those who investigate the case, much like criminal prosecutors today, have shown an inherent bias by the very act of deciding to bring the case to the full board. By the bylaws, these investigators will be either the chair or the secretary and another board member. Typically, though, both the chair and the secretary perform the investigation. This amendment asks us to believe that the chair and the secretary are completely unbiased in a case in which they, themselves, are disqualified

from voting.

The current bylaws and our simple common sense dictate that both the chair and the secretary, under these circumstances, cannot judge the case in an unbiased fashion and therefore should not be able to change the makeup of a board whose judgement is presumed, by their very right to vote, to be free of personal bias. Although the voting members are not free of their

member blocking any action because of personal bias is untrue; at least one other member must dissent along with the personally biased member to block a decision. Since the defendant can already dismiss members for bias, and any reasonable defendant would do so if the bias was against them, the amendment only seeks to remove members who, from personal bias, would block convictions

and the more stringent protections. Such a block, however, does not mean the defendant is acquitted. In the case of a hung-board, the decision currently goes to the Dean of Students.

Whether this is fair or not is another question, but currently a blocked conviction is not an acquittal. The chance that personal bias could interfere with a legitimate investigation just does not justify the possibility of the chair removing an elected representative simply because of his views. BoC representatives must stand for something, and the case itself should not dictate what they stand for.

The proposed amendment asks the student body to choose between the current bylaws and ones which would give even more authority to the chair and secretary. This situation would be in direct conflict with the wishes and beliefs of the House

"The amendment simply substitutes one form of bias for another."

personal views and biases, these views are why the Houses elected them. No person can be completely unbiased at any time. It would be grossly unfair to allow the BoC secretary and chair to judge which of these impersonal biases are appropriate for which cases. We certainly don't allow our court judges to pick the juries.

Furthermore, in the case of board members with a personal bias for the defendant, the board is not blocked from making a fair decision. The required quorum of the board, seven (7), means that not one, but two representatives would have to dissent from any action to block it. Thus the chance of just one

members who elected their representatives. Although the current excomm ruling is far more lenient than this amendment, this is surely not the answer. The bad ruling from excomm cannot be fixed by an amendment which would essentially embody its spirit. Instead, we must vote this amendment down and propose another one which actually fixes these problems. We must protect the defendant. We must also protect the opinions of the board representatives, and only in doing so can we protect the Honor Code and our ability to uphold it.

An honor code not supported by the beliefs and the ethics of the student body is next to useless. This amendment would only further the already too-great distance between the Board of Control and the students it oversees. I urge the student body to vote NO on this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Stewman
Member of ASCIT Excomm

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We live for the One. We die for the One.

Gov't Mule's new album shows promise

BY STEPHEN SHEPHERD

Gov't Mule is proud of its guitar jam heritage, and it shows on their new album, *Life Before Insanity*. Founded by Allman Brothers alums Warren Haynes and Allen Woody in 1994, Gov't Mule has already released four albums, two studio and two live. *Life Before Insanity* attempts to condense their live sound into a tight studio album, but is only partly successful.

Life Before Insanity opens strongly: "Wandering Child" is an excellent slab of hard rock, with progressive timing changes and edgy blues-rock riffs. The title track follows, and is even better written, alternating gentle-but-edgy verses with a wily guitar crunch that propels the chorus. But both these tracks suffer from awkward bridges and sagging energy. Jamming sounds fresh in concert, but the songs suffer from a lack of focus, showcasing guitar pyrotechnics but never coming to a satisfying climax.

Gov't Mule cleans things up on "Bad Little Doggie", the third

track and first single. The tune strips away the excesses but also a lot of the flavor, making for an invigorating but superficial ZZ Top sound. The album picks up again with "Lay Your Burden Down", featuring a guest performance by Ben Harper, but by now the album has established itself: Brilliant guitar riffs and Wurlitzer drones keep sections of most tracks driving along at full speed, but things break down when one considers songs as a whole.

There are two other high points on the album. "Tastes Like Wine" is elegantly understated, and world-weary lyrics work in the song that seem pompous on paper.

"I Think You Know What I Mean", also has a lyrical awkwardness that is quickly forgiven. The political spin on the last verse is a forced attempt at social relevance, but the basic gimmick is clever and nasty and viscerally satisfying—you'll find yourself smirking despite your misgivings.

While Gov't Mule is unlikely to convert many new fans with *Life Before Insanity*, fans of guitar rock will do well to have at least passing familiarity with their work. If they learn to constrain the song writing, they'll be a very formidable act

The Outside World

by Erik Dill

Jerusalem, Israel—Violent protests between Israelis and Palestinians early in the week calmed, and peace negotiations between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Yasir Arafat resumed.

Shambiko, Eritrea—The Ethiopian offensive against Eritrea continued, capturing this border town and claiming 25,000 killed wounded or captured Eritreans.

Liaoning Province, China—One thousand Workers and retirees protested at the Liaoyang Ferroalloy Factory, demanding back pay and pensions. Three protesters were detained by police, and dispute ended when a deputy mayor promised back wages would be paid soon.

Chicago—3M Company announced that it will phase out most Scotchguard products because the compound it contains perfluorooctanyl, persists for long periods in humans and the environment. It is not particularly toxic, just unusually inert.

Washington D.C.—In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court struck down part of the Violence Against Women Act, ruling that victims of rape, domestic violence and other "crimes motivated by gender" cannot sue in federal court. The majority opinion stated that Congress does not have constitutional authority to pass such legislation, reserving such actions for individual states.

Iran—A media crackdown continued as the judiciary shut down pro-reform paper Ham Mihan. 18 newspapers and journals have been closed in the last month.

New Delhi, India—Protesters marched through the streets to oppose government reductions of food and fuel subsidies.

ASCIT Minutes

A.S.C.I.T.

May 9, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests:
Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmadi,

Nate Austin

Meeting called to order at 10:05 pm.

Guests Ayeh, one of the Totem editors, picks up a check from Sean for her publication.

Nate has received permission for putting up his dolphins, which will be up on the order of weeks or even months. Construction will be finished sometime this week. He is requesting \$150.

General Meeting Eric consulted the lawyer about the requests to donate money to specific groups through ASCIT, which is a non-profit organization. The lawyer agrees that it is not a good idea. No money laundering operations for ASCIT!

The Beach Trip is this weekend. A few members of the BoD (Eric, Melinda, Jason) and Dan Liebling will go to Malibu tomorrow to check out the beaches. We are deciding between Leo Carillo and Zuma Beach, the main concern being whether or not barbecues are allowed. The Caltech Y is currently working on getting buses and is handling all food-related issues. Eric has emailed copies of our advertising posters to the GSC to put up around the Catalina apartments. Melinda will work on a directory staff email to be sent out within a few days.

Melinda reminds us that the ASCIT Formal is coming up! It will be in two weeks on Friday, May 26. She will send informal emails to the houses to remind them.

The BoD is working on a few bylaw amendments. Laura has two proposed BoC bylaw amendments written up. One allows dismissal of a BoC rep if his peers feel that he is biased. The second is a formalization of the current Board practice of calling past members to serve in order to maintain a full quorum.

Eric proposes two amendments that would change specific duties of the Directors-at-Large and the Movie Chair to more general ones. Instead of being included in the bylaws, the duties would be specified in the resolutions, at the discretion of the current BoD. The motivations behind these amendments are that the ASCIT van is being sold (which would take away half of the UDAL's duties, as specified in the current version of the bylaws) and that the management of the new DVD library will be handled by the ASCIT Movie Chair, which would be better specified in a resolu-

tion rather than a bylaw amendment. (A resolution may be added/changed/removed by majority vote of the BoD while a bylaw change requires two-thirds majority vote of ASCIT members).

The BoD approves to submit these bylaws for general vote. The voting on these proposed bylaw amendments, as well as for class officers (Senior and Junior Presidents and Vice-Presidents), will be held on Wednesday, May 24. The election will be run by our election chairman, Michael Schein, his first official assignment.

Eric reports that some rooms in the SAC will be opening up since the Career Development Center will be moving to Keck. SAC 35 is still preferred for the Screening Room, although there seems to be a lot of noise because of a bathroom directly above it.

The SAC arcade room will also be opening up. The BoD takes a field trip there to decide a new use for the room. We decide to turn it into a study room/lounge complete with desks, chairs, bookshelves, couches, and the old jukebox from the Coffeehouse.

Meeting adjourns at 11:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

May 11, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Puneet Newaskar

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

Guests Puneet comes to hand out flyers for the Boot-co event this Sunday, May 14. It will be an ultimate Frisbee competition between classes and the winners will receive some "boot-ey." There will also be a barbecue. The event is open to all undergraduates.

General Meeting Chris reports that there are currently only 180 frosh for next year. Caltech will go to the waiting lists to try to get a maximum of 215.

Sign-ups for class officers are now up on the door of the ASCIT office. They will be up until Thursday, May 18 at 5 pm (not until Friday, May 19 which was mistakenly put in the directory email). The reason for setting the deadline for Thursday is to give the candidates the chance to submit statements and pictures to the Tech for publication that week. The election will be run by our Election Chair, Michael Schein, his first official assignment.

The Campus-wide Beach Trip is coming up this Saturday, May 13! It will be held at Zuma Beach in Malibu, one of the best beaches in all of Southern California. A school bus has been rented for the entire day (\$675) and will hold a maximum of 57 people. The bus is scheduled to depart from Caltech at 10 am and

12:30 pm and will leave the beach at 4 pm and 6:30 pm. The Caltech Y will have their barbecue there at 3 pm. Also, rumor has it that Piet Moeleker (the former GSC Chair) and a group of grad students will be biking to Zuma starting at 8 am, a 53.6-mile trip. Melinda promised to give Piet a burger once he gets there.

Emma goes through the list of nominees for the ASCIT teaching awards, as selected by the ARC. For professors, there will be 5 awards and 5 honorable mentions. For TAs, there will be 2 awards and 4 honorable mentions. The nominations for the recipients of the teaching awards were received a few weeks ago by email. The teaching awards banquet will be held the week before Commencement.

Chris announces that the IHC will vote on the members for the Student Faculty Committees within the next few days.

Eric says that there are more committees available for students. They include Core Curriculum Steering, Health, Student Housing, and Athletics and PE. We will find out more about them and possibly hand them over to the IHC next year.

The formal is in two weeks. The theme will be "Divine Ballroom." Melinda describes the elaborate structure and decoration scheme to the BoD.

The BoD unanimously votes to give \$100 to Nate for his dolphin project. We will also ask if ASCIT can have its own dolphin. We'll call him "Asky."

ASCIT Movies is working on renting out a theater for the opening night of Mission Impossible 2. They will be offering free tickets to all undergraduates.

The ASCIT meeting next week will be held on Tuesday night, May 16, at 10 pm.

Meeting adjourns at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

May 16, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Kenny Higa, Zach Medin, Joe Cook

Meeting called to order at 10:06 pm.

Guests: Kenny and Zach request funding for KELROF, a 24-hour relay run on Memorial Day weekend. The competition will be open to all undergrad and grad students, in teams of 10. They need money for a trainer (majority of the cost), food, T-shirts, and advertising. They will also request funding from the Caltech Y and the GSC. Meghan suggests asking the health ads to cover the event instead of paying for a trainer. Zach says he'll look into it.

Joe requests money for a prank he's been working on with Howen Mak. All I can say is that it involves pizza boxes — a whole lot of pizza boxes. They have received the OK from all the required authorities and are requesting a maximum of \$400.

General Meeting

The BoD unanimously approves the IHC Student Faculty Committee appointments.

The Campus-wide Beach Trip was a success! And it came in under budget! Over a hundred people came to the event, the majority being grad students, and all of them reported having a good time. The Caltech Y did an awesome job with the food. Special thanks go to Elisa Chiang, Kenneth Kuo, and Helen Claudio for all their hard work. The only mishap that Saturday was a flat tire on the 10 am bus on the way to Zuma, but it made it anyway. Jason also got his very first speeding ticket on the way back. The police officer was very nice though he gave several possible excuses to use for disputing the ticket.

The ASCIT Movie blitz includes showing Mission Impossible (the original) on Friday night at 10 pm near the R-F Courtyard and renting out a screen at Pacific Hastings on Wednesday night at 10:45 pm for the opening of Mission Impossible 2 (after the E-Club's Internet Ventures Fo-

rum). The movies will be free for all undergrads.

The ASCIT Formal is next Friday, May 26. Melinda reports that all 150 of the undergraduate tickets have been sold and there are 30 people on the waiting list. She is looking for a way to include everyone who would like to come. There are still a few graduate student tickets left. The money for the formal is being collected by Meghan Smith (megsmith@its.Ruddock 103).

Melinda gives us a detailed report on the formal, including tickets, invites, the menu, place settings, flowers, corsages, the band/dance, photos, construction, the theme, advertising, and the table arrangement. With the formal fast approaching, Melinda and her social team have everything under control.

Laura is working on the BoC bylaw amendments.

Chris has talked to Sue Friedman. There will be no more than 215 frosh next year.

The BoD talks about the recent censorship of house web pages. A possible solution is to have ASCIT buy a web server, or rent from a third party, to host unrestricted sites. Laura and Chris will look into this over the summer.

Emma will talk to the ARC about setting up student advisors for next year's freshmen.

Next week's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23 at 10 pm. There will be no meeting on Thursday. At the next meeting, we will discuss publication reports. We are still waiting for the Big T's road map and compensation schedule.

The BoD unanimously approves \$150 for KELROF, plus 60 all-beef hamburger patties.

The BoD approves \$135 for Joe's prank (5-4).

Meeting adjourns at 11:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

SCREW THAT SUMMER JOB!

We've got big, serious cash for you.

Tell us what you'll dare to do and how much you want to be paid for doing it.

If we think your dare is worth the bucks, you're on.



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The only thing you have to lose is working all summer.

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Lab tech job in San Francisco. Looking for a tech to study DNA damage response in yeast, in new/fun lab at UCSF. Involves genetics and biochem. Perfect for graduating senior wanting to go to grad/med school in two years. email toczyksi@cc.ucsf.edu

Loving couple seeks CA surrogate for healthy pregnancy with donor or possibly her own eggs. Compensation package, expenses paid. Please contact us at antibes00@yahoo.com

Happy, productive couple seeks gentle, attractive egg donor, preferably Jewish, to create family. Passion for science, math, or literature a plus. Full compensation or charitable donation. Veremos2@aol.com

Produced by



Senior Class Offices

Kristin D. Commer

When I was in high school I came to visit Caltech. The students here seemed happy, though they warned me about the heavy workload. I listened to that warning, but I didn't comprehend it. Now, after studying astronomy here for three years, I understand! I understand how amazing it will be to say that I gradu-



ated from Caltech. I hope that come commencement next year all the members of the Class of 2001 will share this feeling of accomplishment. I would be honored to represent you in making all the necessary arrangements for this occasion, and would appreciate your vote for senior class president.

-Kristin D. Commer

Puneet Newaskar

Seniors seem to have it pretty good at Caltech. Sooner or later, underload petitions become a reality, Ditch Day stacks become a bigger concern than finals and the countdown to graduation becomes a source of good cheer. All this is certainly well deserved though, considering the blood, sweat and tears of our preceding three years. The main reason I am running for Senior Class President is to try and ensure that we leave this place with good memories and that our long, arduous Caltech career ends on a high note.



class will inevitably have a big impact on our state of mind as we prepare to leave Caltech. For instance, the enthusiasm with which we plan and carry out Ditch Day, the level of attention we pay to our formal dinner and commencement activities, and the dedication with which we pursue the speaker of our choice will all make a difference to how we look back on our final few months here.

This will have to be a collective effort involving our entire class, but as always, leadership in articulating our priorities and coordinating everything will be key. I feel that I can provide this leadership and I would be honored to do so. My confidence comes largely from my experience. This past year, I have served as Junior

Jenny Ives

Why do I want to be Senior Class President? Why would anyone want to be Senior Class President?

Money? Power? Fame? Women? .

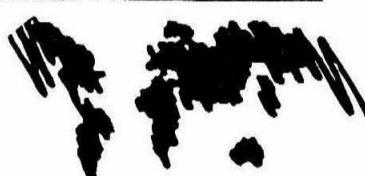
wait, nevermind. I was talking to other members of our class and we were resolving to be a cool class, to have the most awesome ditch day ever, and to have a commencement speaker that would make other colleges drool with envy. However, we then decided that



we were to lazy to actually move off of the couch and do anything about it. I decided that I would. I WILL OVERCOME APATHY! I will run for this office, and if you elect me, I will make sure that WE ARE THE COOLEST SENIORS EVER. We will have an awesome speaker, and we will have a great day for ditch day. (Who ever heard of ditch day on a Friday?) So, overcome your own apathy and remember to vote Wednesday. And while you're at it, make sure that you vote for me.

McKinsey & Company

INTERVIEW TRAINING July 28, 2000



McKinsey & Company will hold a training course for its interviewers and is looking for students to act as "mock" interviewees on **Friday, July 28**. You should have an interest in consulting or in general business issues.

Applicants' performance on training days will be confidential. If you have applied or are intending to apply to McKinsey for a position, these practice interviews will not play any part in the recruitment process.

The mock interviews will take approximately 3 hours in our downtown **Los Angeles Office**. (You will be scheduled for either a morning time slot or an afternoon time slot.)

We will pay you \$100.00 for your time and you will also receive feedback on your performance in the interviews.

If you are interested, please submit a copy of your resume (including your GPA information for undergraduate and graduate schools, test scores, i.e., SAT, GMAT, LSAT, GRE scores) by Thursday, June 1 to:

Tricia Cook
McKinsey & Company
400 South Hope Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90071

If you need additional information, please call Tricia at (213) 312-4195.

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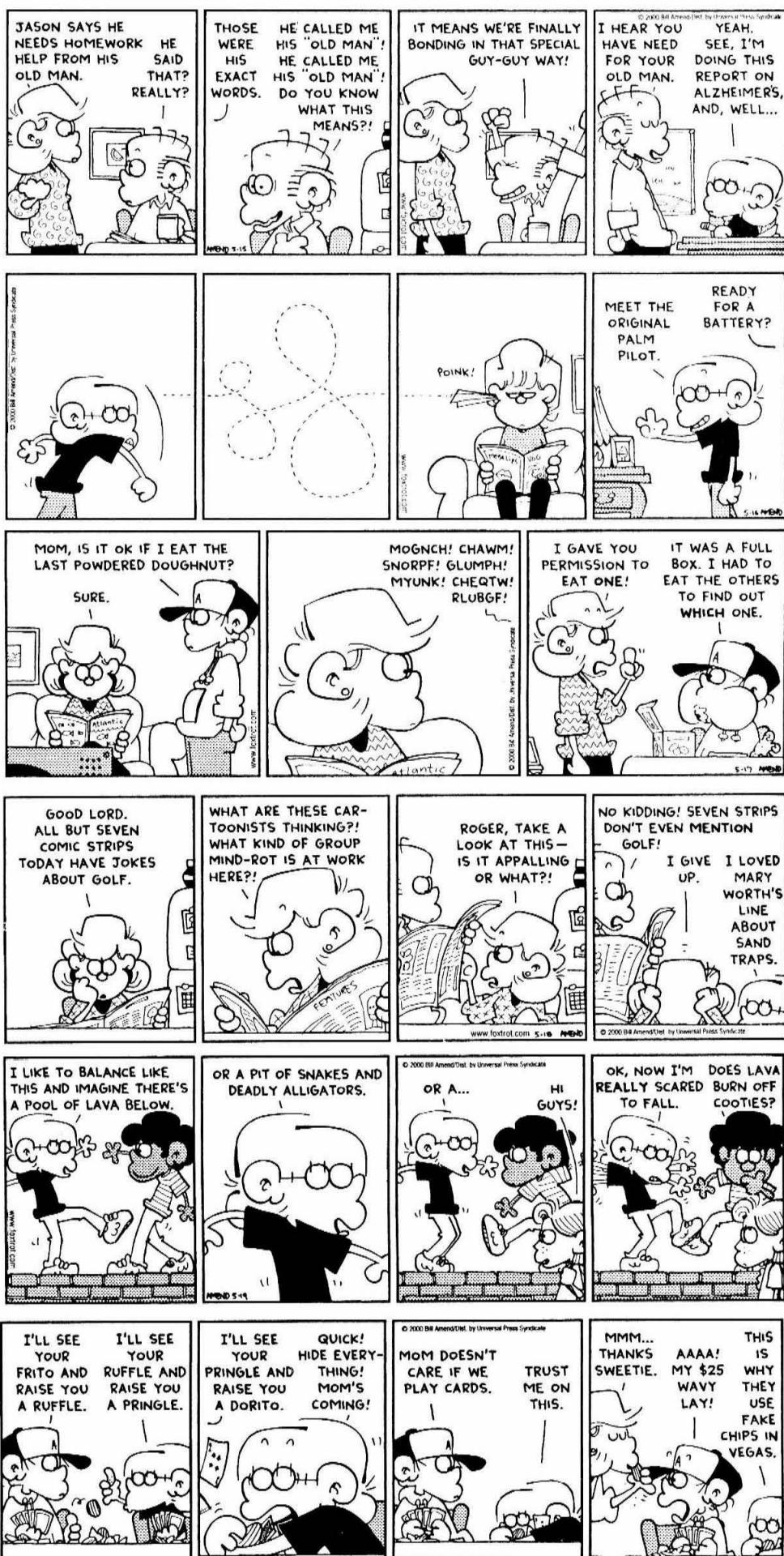


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Is tomorrow today?

by Jean-Paul Revel

me".

Speaking of accidents I presume all of you know about what has been and is still going on in Los Alamos, and I don't mean the adventures of Feynman while he was cracking safes and sparring with administrators. No, I mean the more immediate problem of an intentionally set cleanup fire which ended up consuming more than 44,323 acres and is still burning as I write. 25,000 people had to be evacuated from the town and surrounding communities.

Luckily the labs in Los Alamos seem to have been mostly spared. That was a fire under control by people who believed they knew how, by "professionals", and so apparently was a less generally advertised fire on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Other recent and spectacular accidents which occurred in a "professional" setting was the fireworks explosion in Enschede (Netherlands), which started in such an apparently innocent and non threatening way that townspeople had, "set their chairs up in a row to watch the fireworks." And then a

huge explosion,

compared by some to an atomic fireball, killed 20 and injured 601. Another fireworks explosion has now occurred in Spain, leaving 4 dead. I don't have to continue this gruesome listing, and I sure hope that nothing like these statistics will befall us, whenever tomorrow is. Oh! I know, it can't happen here, we know what we are doing ...watch out, it can. No one, not even Techers are immune to catastrophes.

Fire still captivates us today as it fascinated our predecessors from very early days, long before the emergence of Homo Sapiens. Then as now, fire is a warm companion and a powerful tool. Yes, animals, not just humans, use tools: sticks to shake down bananas, or to gather those delectable termites and other such yummies. But this knowledge remains local, and ephemeral. Only man remembers long enough to make an invention last and be improved upon generation after generation. And only man has managed to use fire as a tool. Animals fear fire, something which, it is presumed, did not escape the attention of our hominid ancestors, who may well have used fire to lessen their chances of becoming lion

dessert. It is believed that fire was an important factor in allowing hominids to leave the shelter of Africa, and survive in less clement environments 500,000 to 1.5 millions years ago.

At first the problem must just have been to keep the home fires burning, so as to effectively block the entrance of the home cave to marauding grizzlies. But Orga had no way to make fire; he could only keep it going after a storm had ignited brush by accident. A thunderstorm might be very fearsome, but also very important—the rumbling skies left behind a gift of fire which could be collected. Only much later, maybe as recently as 10,000 years ago (or so I have read) did our ancestors learn how to make fire, probably by rubbing sticks. Rubbing the sticks produces a little pile of hot sawdust called punk (is that where the word originates?) which friction eventually heats up enough to cause it to ignite. Or maybe the ancients learned to use well-dried debris to capture the spark produced when stones are banged against each other. With gentle blowing they could then get a flame to go.

Some of today's "primitive", "stone age", societies in South East Asia, the South Pacific Islands and Malaysia actually have devised incredibly sophisticated devices for making fire, like the "fire piston". It consists of a hollow cylinder, into

which fits a piston, made to fit tight with a gasket of greased string or fiber. Some tinder is placed in the bottom and a quick compression by pushing in the cylinder creates enough heat to light the tinder. Quickly extracted with a pick the smoldering stuff can then be used to start a larger fire. Enough said, fire does occupy a very special place in the heart of humanity and playing with fire is an expression which denotes both the fascination that fire has held for people, and also the dangers associated with this useful demon.

Even in our sophisticated environment it is still a terrible danger. In the US 2 million suffer burns each year, 6000 die from injuries sustained in a fire, and 300,000 are seriously burned. (I got this info at Burns Survivors Online (<http://www.alpha-tek.com/burn/>). The same site displays the following statement, "You will never find a stronger willed person than the Burn Survivor, for they have suffered the worst injury to the human body anyone can endure and survived." So I am bugging you all, because I want to make sure you do not join the ranks of the "strong willed survivors".

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel



If today should by any chance be tomorrow, enjoy! But having a ball presumes that each and every one of you does his or her level best to be safe. The seniors have exercised all of their ingenuity to give you all a great time but it is up to you, the participants, to use judgement in carrying out their directives, or else you might not be around to set up your own stack one, two or three years from now.

"Come on Dean," I hear you mutter, "that's a real bore, you are telling us this kind of thing over and over. We are not little kids. We know what we are doing." Well, all this may be true, but it takes only one slip by one person to ruin this fun day and maybe more.

Experience has unfortunately taught me that things can unexpectedly get out of control. It takes so very little to change a wonderful occasion into an accident, the consequences of which someone could have to suffer with for the rest of their lives. So please, as Harry Truman used to say, "show

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional HSS Course Announcement for Fall Term 2000-01: Lit 129 Austen, Bronte, Woolf An introduction to four of the most important English writers of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Understanding these novelists as a tradition, we will pay particular attention to formal developments in the Novel from the marriage plot through modernism. Jane Austen, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, and Virginia Woolf's major works-including but not limited to Emma, Persuasion, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse. Instructor: King; TTH 1-2:30

Asian pacific heritage week presented by APSU, CaltechC, CCSA, Hawaiian Club, KSA, and OASIS. Monday, May 22nd to Thursday, May 25th. Asian Pacific Heritage Week is a weeklong series of events that provide a chance to expose the Caltech community to various aspects of Asian Pacific culture. Food, performances, movies, and other sorts of activities will all be available for the enjoyment of all members of Caltech.

RELOCATION: Effective Monday, May 8, 2000, The Bursar's Office will relocate from the first floor of Keith Spalding Building (Business Services), Room 116, to 363 South Hill Street and occupy the first floor of the main Hill House. The new Mail Code for the Bursar's Office will be 3-7. The telephone and fax numbers for The Bursar's Office will remain the same. Please note that the Disbursement Audit Office has been moved to the garage structure in the back of the Hill House. Additionally, a new Satellite Cashier's Office will be operational for Personal Accounts only in the garage structure of 363 So. Hill Street. The Satellite Cashier's Mail Code will be 4-7 and the telephone number will be (626) 395-2482. Only a minimal disruption in services on the morning of Friday, May 5, 2000 is anticipated.

Local indie rock label looking for interns for sales, marketing, internet and promotions. Looking for motivated self starter who is resourceful and responsible. Computer skills a plus! Serious inquires only please. Email: vrichter@netcom.com URL: http://www.vrichter.net. Telephone number: 583-4717

CIM Vision International, an E-Commerce company based in Long Beach, California, is seeking talented individuals with a passion for software development in Windows 2000 COM+/Java/ASP. Immediate openings are available. Candidates must show attention to detail in their work, have good oral and written com-

munication skills and demonstrate that they work well under pressure as well as in a fast paced team environment. Preference will be given to those candidates that have experience with C++, MFC, COM/DCOM/COM+, ATL, Java, SQL and UML. Please send resume and a cover letter to: Human resources, CIM Vision International, 300 Oceangate, Suite 1500, Long Beach, CA 90802.

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

The CBDC hosts a series of weekly "mini-parties", i.e., no lesson/demonstration or theme as done for the "regular" parties. The parties are free and take place in Winnett Lounge after each pro-taught class on Mon. from 9:00-11:00 p.m. Refreshments are provided and no partner is required. From 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. music pertaining to the previous class will be played, but after 9:30 p.m. feel free to make requests or bring your own music.

Due to recent vandalism, Cleveland Elementary School in Pasadena is seeking donations of books and equipment for the school's library. Specifically, the school is in need of two overhead projectors and books appropriate for grades K-6 to replace those stolen or destroyed. Donations may be made directly to Cleveland Elementary School at 524 Palisade Street, Pasadena, California, 91103. For questions or further information, please contact Principal Abel Quesada at 626-794-7169 or Laura Biedebach in the office of Congressman James E. Rogan at 626-577-3969.

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

EVENTS

Bandorama, Ramo Auditorium, Sat., May 20, at 8 p.m. The Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands

will perform. The jazz bands will feature two student vocalists and perform music from the swing era to the present. Admission is free. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information. "Godzilla Eats Las Vegas" will be one of the compositions performed at the Caltech Bands annual "Bandorama" concert at 8 PM on Saturday, May 20. This free concert will feature the Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands. Other pieces on the program include a Sousa march, an overture by Hindemith, and jazz compositions by Charlie Mingus and Billie Holiday. Also featured on the program will be vocalist Kjerstin Easton and conductor Jason Chua.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday May 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. for **Halsey Rodman's art installation** entitled "One and Many Suns". The art work, which includes sculpture and photographs, will be on view at Caltech's Outdoor Art Space until July 9. The art site is located behind the Campus Recycling Center on Holliston Avenue

Join Faculty, Alumni, and your fellow students for tea at the Huntington Gardens from 10:45-12:15 on Sunday, May 21. The cost of the tea is covered, but students will need to pay for admission to the gardens. Contact athena@caltech.edu or call x6163 to sign up. Space is limited, so please sign up early. Organized by the Caltech Y.

The Mars Society of Caltech/JPL is unveiling its latest human Mars exploration strategy this weekend with a talk at Caltech, and we also have a lot of media on our web page that will be accessible in about an hour. A press advisory and press release cut and pasted below. Nice Word versions of both can be downloaded under the at <http://mars.caletch.edu/marscheme.html>

Caltech Library System Presents: May 23 - "The New PubMed, Ovid Medline, and other Biomedical Information Resources" Learn about searching through the above databases for information. The sessions will be held from 12-1 p.m. in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room, 328. Please go to <http://library.caltech.edu/learning> for more specific information, and to register. For other questions, contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713

or kathleen@library.caltech.edu

Caltech Education Science Club will meet May 24, CAPSI, 287 S. Hill Ave. The topic is Seizing Opportunities- Science Careers "Outside the Box" Here is an opportunity to find out some creative careers for students majoring in science. This quarter's meeting of the Science Education Club will present for you a panel of people who have graduated with science degrees and whose science background and training lead them to find a career in a non-traditional part of the workplace. Please let us know if you are planning to attend the meeting so we can reserve a place for you and some pizza too!

Everyone is welcome ahammon@caltech.edu or telephone x3222 or 3623

Dr. Paul B. MacCready, "Dyslexia and the Creative Individual" at the Art Center College of Design, Ahmanson Auditorium, 11:30 am Wednesday, May 31, 2000 Dr. Paul B. MacCready, a recently featured as Time Magazine's "The Century's Greatest Minds" series "on the 100 most influential people of the century," heads the first of 3 lectures titled "Dyslexia and the Creative Individual."

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://llnl.gov/str/str.html)), Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) Pipeline Program ([www.llnl.gov/asci/index.html](http://llnl.gov/asci/index.html)), and Graduate Interns in Nuclear Weapons ([www.education.llnl.gov/gint](http://education.llnl.gov/gint)). Housing and salary are at competitive rates. For more information, contact Barry Goldman, 925-422-5177, or goldman1@llnl.gov.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, is handing out money—big money—to college inventors and their advisors. Each winning student - or student team - receives a \$20,000 cash prize. Faculty advisors each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. The competition, open all full-time college students and judged by distinguished scientists and inventors from across the country, awards up to six prizes each year. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2000. In addition to cash prizes, winners and their advisors will travel to the induction ceremony of the National Inventors Hall of Fame on September 8-9, 2000. During the weekend, winners will be honored and have the chance to learn from the greatest scientific minds of our time who visit the Hall of Fame each year for the induction festivities. Applications are available at www.invent.org/collegiate.

The Jewish Loan Association

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

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

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Information and applications for 2000 Summer Work-Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, **but no later than June 1, 2000**. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 2000.

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

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