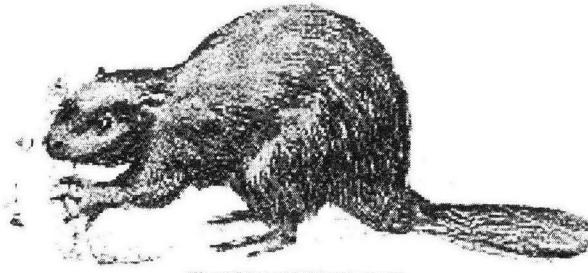


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The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 20

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH, 9, 2001

STEVENSON AWARDED FEYNMAN PRIZE

BY RUMI CHUNARA

Creation of a course unlike any other in the world, along with a constant demonstration of passion for his exemplary work in undergraduate education, has earned David Stevenson the honor of the 2001 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Richard Feynman was a Caltech professor and Nobel Laureate renowned for his creative and inventive approach in the classroom and with regards to science in general. It is in his honor that Caltech awards the Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching every year to a professor who demonstrates the same types of characteristics: exceptional ability, creativity and innovation both in the classroom and in laboratory instruction.

Working in the geological and planetary science division, Stevenson deals with the origin, evolution and structure of planets. A selection committee composed of both faculty and students honored Stevenson, the George Van Osdol Professor of Planetary Science, for modifying the Geology 1 course. The existing class was changed into a new elective course within the core curriculum. Stevenson's success is apparent simply by observing the dramatic increase in the class's enrollment, from 20 students at its start to 165 this year.

The selection committee noted that Stevenson has a lucid and enthusiastic teaching style, and manages to bring together concepts from evolution, biology and chemistry into the Geology 1 class. Stevenson is also responsible for the incorporation of field trips into the course to give students the opportunity of firsthand observation. It is most likely Stevenson's stress on active, rather than passive learning which makes his teaching style attractive to many students at Caltech. "One hopes that students are being taught to think and not just grind through lots of homework," remarked Stevenson, about the importance of a developed learning process.



When's the last time you got your hands dirty?

How often do you get off-campus? Get to help others? Get to mix and mingle with people from other houses? Especially all in one day? If making a difference appeals to you, but you're not sure how to do it, here is your opportunity. The Caltech Y is proud to announce Make A Difference Day, an invitation for all Caltech students to spend the first Saturday of third term (April 7) exploring the world of community service.

You choose a project from a list of about seven, then the Y provides the meals (all three!), transportation to the site, and an end-of-the-day barbecue and volunteer fair. The volunteer fair starts at 4 pm on April 7 at the Y and is open to the entire campus, even those who do not participate in a project. All it takes to participate is filling out the postcard you'll be getting in your campus mailbox sometime during the first week of third term, dropping it into campus mail, and keeping your day free for service and fun.

At Caltech, it is difficult to find a balance. Much of our time is devoted to classes, problem sets, and labs, and some is spent re-

Your opportunity to make a difference

laxing by talking to friends or getting involved in our houses (and occasionally we even sleep!).

Part of the goal of the Y is to help students learn about themselves and their place in the community by providing opportunities that students can not acquire from classes or house events. To achieve this goal, we offer ways to get involved in various service projects in the community. However, we also realize that not everyone is ready to make a big time commitment, and not everyone is certain what kind of community service is best for them.

We hope that Make a Difference Day will change that. Does the idea of building a house for someone who otherwise would not have a place to live appeal to you? What about talking to an elderly woman in a nursing home who does not often get visitors? Or watching a child's face light up because you are giving him or her the loving attention that he never got from his parents?

Here is your chance to explore your non-academic talents and the joys of helping others. If you are ready to make a difference in the lives of others - and your own - we hope you will join us!



Caltech students helping out at a community service project in Arizona, during last year's Alternative Spring Break program.

Make a Difference Day Projects

Habitat for Humanity: Help build a home for a needy Pasadena resident. We will be doing painting, panelling, tiling, cleaning, etc. No experience necessary.

Trail cleanup: Visit a popular trail in the nearby Angeles National Forest, and make it a more pleasant place to hike.

Union Station: Work with homeless people who are trying to put their lives back together so they can get off the streets. An estimated 75% of the people that stay here do not return to homeless shelters after they leave.

Hillsides Home for Children: Visit a home for abused children. We will help the children build balloon-powered cars so they can learn about science and engineering and have fun. We will race the cars at the end, and award prizes.

MACH 1 (Move a Child Higher): Help children with disabilities use horseback riding as a fun way of improving physical and cognitive abilities.

LA Hunger Cleanup: Work with other students in the area on various projects such as painting shelters, cleaning food pantries, planting community gardens, etc. This nationwide event also raises funds to help the homeless and hungry.

Beach cleanup: Visit Venice Beach and help clean it up.

Amberwood Convalescent Hospital: Visit a nursing home and talk to elderly, read to them, write letters for them, or play a musical instrument. Let us know if you can play the piano or another instrument!

The Outside World

High School Shooting

Santee, California: Charles "Andy" Williams opened fire on classmates at Santana High School Monday morning during a break between classes, killing 2 students and wounding 13. Randy Gordon, 17, died on school grounds, and Brian Zuckor, 14, died in a nearby hospital. Much-shaken students and teachers returned to school on Wednesday, the same day that Williams, age 15, appeared in court for the first time. If he is convicted of all the charges, he would face 500 years in prison. He is not eligible for death penalty because of his age.

Discovery

Kennedy Space Center, Florida: NASA is all set with the space shuttle Discovery. The shuttle's mission is to deliver a new crew to the international space station.

Yahoo-new CE wanted!

New York: Yahoo delivered concerns Wednesday over its first-quarter financial results, which might fall short of previous expectations. It also announced a search for a new Chief Executive to replace Tim Koogle. He will remain the Internet media company's chairman.

Inside the Tech

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Yoghurt

by: Sue

Some cultures tend to make major events out of ancestor worship. Take the Chinese-in their society, the most revered members are the elderly. Now there's nothing wrong with that. Personally, I just don't think that they're looking back far enough. For my sort of hero worship I tend to try to take a bit of a longer view. Fortunately, to my delight and to the delight of 6 and 7 year old boys all over the greater LA county, there is just such a shrine located here. And for a while, not only is there an entire section for worship, they've brought in one of the greatest: Sue.

For those of you who are convinced that I have gone completely off my rocker (let's face it, not a bad assumption) let me assure you that I speak... er, write truth. The LA County Natural History Museum, from now until April 22, is displaying the cast of Sue, the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex ever found.

Now what's the big deal. I mean the T. Rex is dead, deader than disco. Why should you be concerned with the display of a cast? First, we are talking about a huge 13 foot high, 42 foot long (convert to meters to your hearts content) several tons or muscle, and a mouth full of lethal banana teeth. One giant Cretaceous car-

nivorous machine. Furthermore, this is a precise cast that can still be used for study, so while it's not really the real fossils, it's close enough that you really couldn't tell the difference unless you were right up next to them. Secondly, what person isn't still amazed at the size and power that such animals would have had. Now I realize that the meteor that took them out was probably a good thing (from your point of view) but what if it hadn't? Just imagine the T. Rex and Triceratops fighting just inside the doorway in living, screaming color.

Besides if meat eaters aren't your thing then there's still a variety of other dinosaur fossils that weren't nearly as threatening. If you're really lucky they won't even throw you out of the kids excavation area. It has fake bones and old tire bits (neat to witness, it ain't that easy in the field). While you may have to forgive the fact that most of the

people that you'll see in the dinosaur hall will come up to about your waist and will just be so thrilled they will be jumping up and down it's still neat to see. Besides dinosaurs are cool to everyone; even this dang spell check has all of the common Latin names in the spell check. Ironically, it does not have the word Latin. Even if dinosaurs aren't your thing, there's still plenty more to see.

The hall of Cenozoic fossils contains many things that most people tend to skip in their thoughts on history. As far as many are concerned the dinosaurs died and humans arose a while later, and nothing really neat happened in between. How wrong they are. The horses and the beardedog are really the highlights. Figure this one out: horses arose in North America and spread outwards. Yet, when North America was colonized horses had to be brought back in as they had died out. Ironic,

don't ya think?

Other neat stuff—the Megamouth, the world's rarest shark — a 14.5 foot long male. Only five others have been seen since they were discovered in 1976. They have him in formaldehyde. The Native American collection is pretty neat, lots of stuff that you might not see back east nearly as much. They even have a replica pueblo. The marine hall is pretty cool, and the bird hall has lots of birds. The bugs are really cool if you're not going to run away screaming, and the gem and mineral collection is top rate. Especially the vault that is guarded to prevent you from even thinking of taking home any of it. The rutilated quartz outside is really cool too.

So if you think that you'd like something a little more passive, try the museum. Info on hours and whatnot at www.nhm.org. Try not to be annoyed at the kids thrilled to be there, I'm one of them.

STEVENSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As quoted in a News Release by Caltech, Stevenson expressed that teaching does not only help students, "Teaching helps the teacher as well...." Because Stevenson does not have a lab, he also noted the importance of teaching as a benefit to researchers. "This is especially true of people who are more theoretically inclined in their research because that kind of research is helped by looking at things with a fresh approach."

Stevenson's research has also won him numerous other awards, including the Harry H. Hess Medal for outstanding achievements in the research of the constitution and evolution of Earth and its sister planets, given by the American Geophysical Union in 1998. In 1993, Stevenson was elected by the United Kingdom's National Academy of Science as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his scientific excellence and work of distinction.

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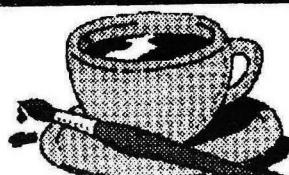
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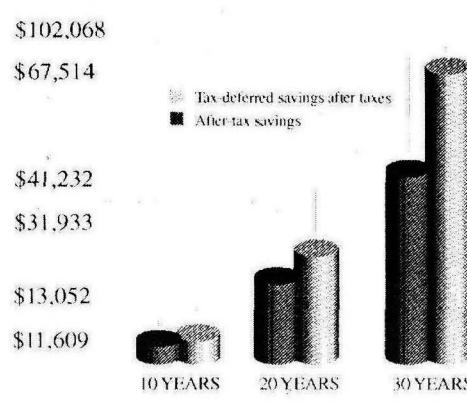
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ASCIT Minutes & Editorial

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MARCH 1, 2001

Present: BoD, The Fassler (Joe!!!! Where are you? 12:41 pm late show)

Second formal meeting of the new BoD convenes at 11:10 pm. Last week's initiation dinner doesn't count as a meeting due to ASCIT game silliness.

Guests None tonight, although we certainly welcome students to participate in our discussions. Come and join our Scooby gang if you have nothing better to do on a Thursday night at 11 pm.

General Meeting

The sign-ups for the ASCIT appointments have been rather skimpy. We're still looking for little t and Big T slaves. It's almost Friday, and sign-ups are due to come down tomorrow. In light of apathy, we vote on a resolution to extend the deadline to Monday at 5:00 pm (like that's really going to make a difference).

Perhaps it'll give us enough time to twist some people's arms--the people who end up signing up for a position at my request, haha, you know who you are.

Seriously though, the future of the ASCIT publications is at stake. Just remember that you want us to have a yearbook, and a little t, and a Totem. Don't worry about the trees, they'll grow back in 50 years or so. Resolution to extend the deadline passes unanimously. Hooray for extensions, and that goes for homework too.

The DVD library has been being updated rather furtively. That is, money to make the collection spiffier has been granted, but who knows what's being purchased? Maybe we should start printing out the new movies in the Tech--more filler for the editors.

In a related matter, some people have been delinquent about returning rentals, and it's been hard to track them down like rabid animals. We would like to develop computer-based student accounts for DVD info, which will be broadened to implement online voting too.

JAPANESE

WOMEN NEEDED

A physician is assisting a couple wanting to start a family. Can you help? Website www.physician.yourmd.com, or call toll free (800)862-5158. Inquire about "donor program".

But for now it's just ASCIT's way of playing big brother and spying. More work for the web gurus.

Pre-frosh weekend planning is starting, and it was proposed that

Avery House be allowed to host pre-frosh this year (the yellow sheet which will pop up a week later would seem to indicate otherwise). A discussion ensues. IHC did not support the proposal and neither does ASCIT.

If freshmen are not allowed to live in Avery, it doesn't make sense to allow them to be pre-frosh there as it doesn't give them any notion of how life is in the other undergraduate houses. The social atmosphere around the seven houses during prefrosh weekend would be hard to reproduce in Avery, especially as Avery is relatively far. It's a whole 5 minutes walk from the South Houses to Avery and we expect the pre-frosh to be very immobile.

Given the inadequate mingling opportunities for pre-frosh should they live there, ASCIT BoD sends its delegates to inquire further with admissions and sway them away from the idea. Switching to another topic suddenly: we need to start planning on the format of the ASCIT budget request forms and to verify that there are undergraduates in the clubs so that the clubs are eligible for ASCIT funding. Some clubs have been formed exclusively with graduate students, and ASCIT is trying to snub them.

Catalina apartments, or graduate student housing, every two weeks. But, it has stopped cleaning Del Mar and Chester facilities. Martha-Helene had a toilet in Del Mar that hadn't been cleaned for a year when she moved in last year. That's gross, and definitely not conducive to a healthy, shiny environment. This issue will be brought up before the undergrad housing committee.

Erik Dill! Erik Dill!!!!!! Big T info is not good. We plan a clandestine intervention: Operation take-away-and-publish. We are materializing ever more so into a Scooby gang.

The ASCIT Screening room is

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ON PAGE 5

There's no place like... Home

COLUMN BY JIALAN WANG

A few weeks ago an ex-boyfriend of mine from Arkansas, where I grew up, emailed me out of nowhere, and in addition to confirming that he is the same as he was when I left, he asked me when I was going home again. At first I wrote back that I had no plans to return to Arkansas, but then I thought to myself, "Home? But I am here."

For all of our lives we've been living in our parent's home, and although most of us still refer to that as "home," it's finally time to make homes for ourselves. But when does a place become a home, or even more interestingly, when does a place stop being one?

A home is a place that makes you comfortable, where you can say and do whatever you feel like without being checked by social conventions. Even in our parents' home, there were things we couldn't do and things we would never say, but here we can

be ourselves in our full dorky glory. And unlike almost any other place, there is a complete lack of social stratification and social pressure here. Until I came here I had always felt like a stranger in the world, even with my parents in many ways. Even with the people I was closest with, there was still a distance that could never be bridged. It was as if I was speaking a language that no one else could understand, and for the longest time I was resigned to being alienated forever. Even though we may have grown out of the need to "fit in" to a larger society, we all have a desire for human empathy, and for a lot of us, the only place we've ever found it is here.

But a free and friendly environment doesn't just become a home, you have to make it one. The only way to do it is just to care. We all got here because we care about science, and no matter what bitter upperclassmen say, we can't get through Caltech without caring, either. One of the most amazing things about this place is the conspicuous lack of apathy. Caltech demands that we care about classes, and because time is so precious, all the activities that we choose to do are ones we put our hearts into. Thus, Caltech is much more of a home than any-

where we've ever been because this is one that we've made. There is a transience to it—living out of a single room, moving several times a year, and knowing that in a few years we'll be gone—but for these four years, Caltech is not just home, it's our entire lives.

At the same time that Caltech is becoming home for all of us, though, our old homes are becoming ever more distant. Although there may be many places that we hold fond and familiar, I think that just as we can only see an optical illusion in one way at a time, there is room for only one home in our hearts. It's often hard even for us to appreciate how much we have changed here, so it would be all but impossible for someone who hasn't gone through the same thing to understand. Even after spending just a summer and two terms here, I know no other life than as a Tech. The last time I went back to Arkansas, I felt even more alien than ever, like I had left my life to go to a place that my heart had already left behind. I still try to keep in touch with friends from high school, but there are more than just miles between us now, there is a whole world. And although my old boyfriend thinks "Maybe someday..." like Arkansas he's past tense.

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Sports

Caltech men's tennis wins at Cal Lutheran

BY JAE-WOO CHOI

The men's tennis team notched their first win against Cal Lutheran on Tuesday by a score of five matches to two. This game was marked by unfortunate circumstances. Due to the recent rainstorms, the match-up was rained out twice. As a result, singles matches were played before doubles matches. However, this did not prevent the rain from interfering the matches.

The rain started up once again midway after play had started in the matches. Thus, the Caltech players took two roundtrips to finish the game against Cal Lutheran. Even under these circumstances, Caltech showed up confident and ready to defeat Cal Lutheran.

The pace of this conference game was set early. First to win was #2 singles player, Vivek "V Dawg" Sankaran. He is a freshman who was once ranked as one of the best players from Wisconsin. He continued his fine tradition of bulldozing through his opponents with his 6-0, 6-0 showing. Team score: 1-0.

Next, #3 singles player, Eric "Smooth" Sherer, continued Caltech's winning tradition. Currently undefeated, he is a senior known for his big shots and smooth style. He won easily 6-1, 6-0. Team score: 2-0.

Playing inspired, #1 singles player and co-captain, Jason "Hong Kong" Wong, showed up to win today. His overpowering serves and tremendous groundstrokes were on show for everyone to emulate in his 7-5, 6-0 showing. Team score 3-0.

Caltech won this conference game when #6 singles player, Jae-Woo Choi won 6-4, 6-1. Team score: 4-0.

Next to finish was #5 singles player, Harry "Bad to the Bone" Kao. As a senior on the team, he

United States men's soccer falls short against Brazil

BY TECH STAFF

The United States Men's National Soccer Team took on #1 ranked Brazil in a friendly match on March 3 at the Rose Bowl. The US, having impressively won their World Cup qualifying match against mighty Mexico 2-0 in Columbus only three days prior, limped into the Saturday match having only two fully healthy field players on the bench. That meant that a very young US team took on the powerful Brazilians, who themselves

showed the youngsters how to play consistently every point. However, in a tough match, he lost 6-3, 6-4. Team score: 4-1. #7 singles player, Vicente "Big Scary" Fernandez, played a hard-fought match. He lost 8-2.

#8 singles player, David "D.C." Chou, played a match against a very good opponent. He lost 8-2.

In an arduously long match, #4 singles player and co-captain, Gerald "Big" Palmrose, gave a very tough fight. With his dominating presence at the net and at the baseline, he took his opponent to three sets but lost 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. Team score: 4-2.

Meanwhile, the #2 doubles team went up and finished their match while Palmrose was finishing his singles match. In about 20 minutes, Wong and Sherer finished their opponents, 8-0. Team doubles score: 1-0. Team score: 5-1.

The #1 doubles team of Sankaran and Palmrose were not to be outdone. They went out and promptly won 8-3. Team doubles score: 2-0. Team score: 5-2.

In a match that looked to be turning around, #3 doubles team of Kao and Choi lost 8-5. Team doubles score: 2-1. Team score: 5-2.

The #4 doubles team of Fernandez and Chou showed off their skills in their 8-5 showing.

Unable to join us on this recent trip to Cal Lutheran were the usual #5 singles Arjun "Mr. Happy" Narayanan, Yuki Takahashi and Joseph "The Forehand" Koo.

At the end of the day, Caltech defeated Cal Lutheran, 5-2. Look for us to continue our winning tradition when we go on the road on Friday at Whittier and at home on Saturday against Hardin-Simmons. And please remember to support the tennis teams fundraising!

were without some of their most prominent figures due to club team commitments overseas.

Despite only the US's second goal against Brazil in over 70 years, the US fell 2-1 in a sloppy game. Brazil took an early lead as the scoring opened up after 25 minutes of even play. A free kick taken by Ronaldinho at the top of the 18-yard line was lifted over the 6-man US wall and just barely flew past the outstretched hands of US goalkeeper, Tony Meola.

The score could have easily

Midseason madness as teams scramble to make trading deadline

BY KEVIN TSE

Ah midseason, what a tumultuous and hectic time for any pro sports team. Are you a contender for the playoffs or just a spoiler? Are you meeting the expectations of your critics, yourself, and your team? If not, is there still time to change that?

And in comes the trade deadline. This is the time when a coach or GM can make up for any shortcomings on their team, and make a serious run at the playoffs. This season was no different. Here is a breakdown of some of the big names that were dealt in the NBA, NHL, and NFL in the past two weeks:

The 76ers helped themselves a lot. They needed a proven center to take on the goliaths in the West, and they got one. By acquiring Dikembe Mutombo from the Hawks for Theo Ratliff, Toni Kukoc and others, the Sixers are showing that there's no time like the present to win a ring. Though Ratliff is seven years younger, Mutombo has proven himself countless times, evident by his winning the Defensive Player of the Year three times. Watch for the Sixers to roll through the East and put up a good fight with the likes of Shaq, Wallace, and Robinson in the West.

Juan Howard found a new home, and a new start, in Dallas. By playing alongside Nowitzki, Finley, and Nash, Howard will no longer have to be the go-to guy. With defenses keying on his new teammates, expect Howard to step up his game and contribute right away. In exchange for Howard, the Wizards got good young talent in Richard Hamilton, Courtney Alexander, and Etan Thomas, not to mention the journeyman Christian Laettner. In the meantime, Jordan also cut Rod Strickland to save some cap room. Strickland will sign with his original team, the Portland Trailblazers.

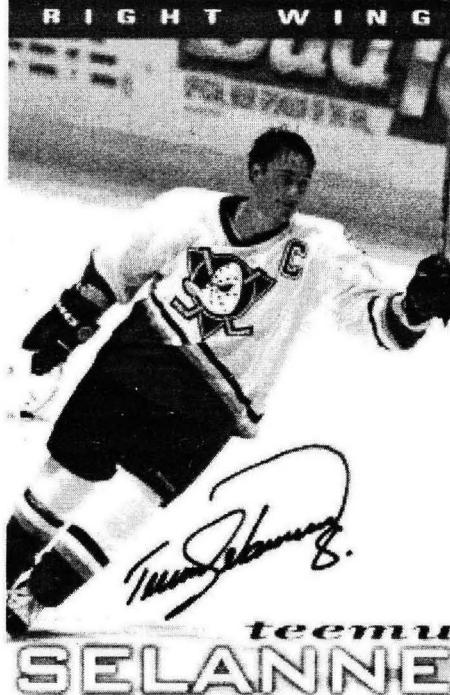
The Raptors, while being extremely active, did not necessarily improve. They shipped off Mark Jackson back to the Knicks in return for Chris

been 2-0 just minutes later when Juninho chipped a pass to Emerson's foot on the top of the penalty area. Emerson hit the ball out of the air with a full volley, only to have a diving Meola deflect it wide over the endline.

The momentum shifted as the US was the next to score. Chris Armas dribbled to the left endline and passed to a wide open Clint Mathis on the right

Childs. Also, in a separate deal with the Pistons, they sent away Corliss Williamson in exchange for another rebounder, Jerome Williams. Superstar Vince Carter is going to have to get used to his new point guard. Sure he'll continue to lead his team in scoring and make spectacular dunks, but how long can the Raptors keep up this shuffling of players before Vince is fed up?

Shifting gears to the NHL, March 5th 2001 will be a day that forever lives in infamy for Ducks fans. It was on this day that the Anaheim franchise dealt Teemu Selanne away to the San



teemu SELANNE

Jose Sharks, who had just recently fallen out of first place in the Pacific Division. In exchange, the Ducks seemed to get the raw end of the deal by only getting Steve Shields (a backup goalie) and wing Jeff Friesen along with draft picks. Logically this trade makes very little sense from the Ducks perspective, except perhaps to give Selanne a chance to play for a contender.

Also making deals before the NHL trade deadline were the Phoenix Coyotes, Tampa Bay Lightning, New York Rangers, and St. Louis Blues. The Yotes sent two-year holdout goalie Nikolai Khabibulin and defenseman Stan Necker to the Lightning, in exchange for three players and a second round draft choice. The Rangers acquired

side of the penalty box. Mathis patiently, but accurately, placed his shot into the far post and beat Brazilian keeper Rogerio Ceni who was helpless.

Brazil made it 2-1 for good in the 56th minute, when Silvinho took a long, flighted pass and sprinted to the endline. Meola challenged but slipped, and Silvinho passed it across the mouth of the goal to Euller who

tapped the ball into the back of the net from just one yard out. defensemen Peter Smrek from the Blues in exchange for veteran defenseman Alexei Gusarov. The Blues have been scrambling to find veteran help in defense ever since they lost league MVP and Norris Trophy winner Chris Pronger, and former Norris Trophy winner Al MacInnis for most of the second half of the season.

Finally, who says you even have to be in midseason to shake things up? The NFL has seen some very surprising moves in recent weeks. Names like Troy Aikman, Matt Hasselbeck, Doug Flutie, Brad Johnson, John Randle, Ryan Leaf, and Brett

Favre headlined the news this week. Aikman was cut by the Cowboys on Wednesday after sustaining a season debilitating concussion. Flutie was cut by the Bills in favor of injury-prone Rob Johnson, thus opening Flutie up to talk to many perspective teams in dire need of an experienced QB. Brad Johnson was released by the Skins but was signed by the Tampa Bay Bucs, who also picked up the unpredictable Leaf.

QB Elvis Grbac also left his home in Kansas City to join the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens, whose previous

QB Trent Dilfer was not even offered a new contract after winning the Super Bowl. Pro-bowler John Randle was also cut by Minnesota only to be signed by Seattle, who also got a new starting QB by trading for Hasselbeck from Green Bay. Seattle also cut their former starting QB Jon Kitna who signed with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Amidst all the shuffling around that is now commonplace in pro sports via free agency and trades, there are still those that stay with the same team for most of their careers. Brett Favre, who was originally drafted by Atlanta in 1991 and then sent to Green Bay after his first season, signed a lifetime extension that will make him a Packer for the rest of his career

tapped the ball into the back of the net from just one yard out.

An interesting injury was sustained by a fan, as he leapt across two rows of seats to grab one of the free souvenir balls being kicked into the stands at halftime. He sustained minor head injuries from landing on the seats and concrete next to him.

More

Interhouse standings

Interhouse Trophy Standings 2000-01 Cumulative Running Score

	Blacker	Dabney	Fleming	Lloyd	Page	Ricketts	Ruddock
SOFTBALL	22.5	22.5	45	45	36	9	54
SOCER	63	13.5	49.5	49.5	36	13.5	27
SWIMMING	32	16	56	40	48	8	24
ULTIMATE	58.5	36	58.5	45	22.5	9	22.5
TRACK&FIELD	16	24	56	40	48	8	32
total:	192	112	283	219.5	190.5	47.5	159.5
VOLLEYBALL	3-2	2-4	5-1	4-1	1-4	3-3	1-4

- compiled by Tech Sports Editor

OUTSIDE WORLD:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stars seen after galactic explosion

NASA's oldest orbiting observatory noticed gigantic star clusters that formed when galaxies collided. On Wednesday, The Hubble Space Telescope released images, with unprecedented focus, of the universe when galaxies crash into one another with greater frequency. The pictures were used to rebuild one particular violent encounter and determine its age. The small galaxy M82 collided with its much larger neighbor M81 approximately 600 million years ago during an event that lasted about 100 million years.

Bush open with North Korea

Washington: President Bush reduced South Korea's hopes and plans for a quick resumption of negotiations to end North Korea's missile program, on Wednesday. Instead of continuing with former President Clinton's initiative, Bush, in a straightforward manner, told South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung that he viewed North Korea as a threat.

Iraq messing with sanctions

United Nations: On Wednesday, the chairman of the U.N. sanctions committee said that Iraq was attempting to obtain illegal kickbacks from companies selling humanitarian goods under the United Nations oil-for-food program.

- compiled by Iram Parveen Bilal

ASCIT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

not meant to be a make out love shack. We're all for making love, not war, but please not on the new couches. Also, while we can not control the material which will be aired, appropriate judgement should be used in making a selection.

Movies can be reserved for the room, but ASCIT members can not be excluded from watching anything. We hope that student discretion is adequate to allow ASCIT to skirt the violent/pornographic content issue. Keep in mind also that kids shouldn't try some of the things they show courtesy of la Presidenta.

The grad students want ASCIT to help in advertising their activities. The GSC president made the suggestion of combining the undergrad and grad student calendars of events. The idea sounds cool, but we as undergraduates would like to preserve some of our shindigs for our own populace--wards off creepy grad students too and keeps the discussion away from research-centric topics should we deem them unworthy.

Health insurance also came up in their meeting, which was reiterated by Martha-Helene. Did you know that Caltech automatically puts us on a dental plan? Even if our parents have provided one for us. We have to go

ourselves to some office to get ourselves off of it. Sounds a bit shady.

Also, the grad students are planning on developing a database of lab reviews, and possibly including undergrad reviews from those students who have worked in a lab for a long time. The proposal sounds cool, except there should be a way to give us immunity should we provide a critique that isn't cheerful and rosy.

The Alumni Fund seems to be growing by leaps and bounds, and they want us to milk them. Proposed uses of money include more scholarships and more activities for alumni and undergrad mingling. One of the spiffy ideas that came up was to have student-alumni company visits, where undergrads thinking of going directly into the work force can shadow alums at some company.

Alumni would also be willing to serve on advisory committees and making submissions to the option review book, an anthology of reviews for respective options. Alumni-student advising is good for choosing electives and all. Having an option review book could steer us away from choosing options we might regret in the future altogether.

At the faculty-board meeting which some of our delegates also attended, there was a major dialogue on the addition of menu courses. There were so many

people taking Ge 1 last year that there was a cap this year. If enrollment is free and open, the class will become too large and spiral out of control. Oh, the chaos. But it's hardly fair to the Ge major. Dana adds that the number of students who selected that major has tripled since the Ge 1 enrollment has ballooned, which is cool because the Ge profs feel loved now.

More choices need to be available, and in light of this need, Ma 4, a class in chaos is being offered. ASCIT is questioning whether it goes against the spirit of the menu course though. While Ma 4 will be an intro to chaos, it's not an intro to math in the same respect that Ge 1 and Ay 1 are intros to geology and astronomy, respectively.

In addition, it's unlikely that non math-majors will be taking the class, whereas the menu option was designed to broaden the fields of study of students who weren't planning on taking any more Ge or Ay classes. Well said, well said. On that note, having Env 1 again or an intro to Mechanical Engineering based on building legos would be fun. Also, CNS should totally offer something that isn't graduate level.

Long, long ASCIT minutes, but a lot was discussed at the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:39 am, Friday morning.

Evidently, Justin

Second Thoughts?

- Having second thoughts if medical school or graduate school is right for you at this moment?
- Have you considered working at a top pharmaceutical company for a few years before heading back to school?
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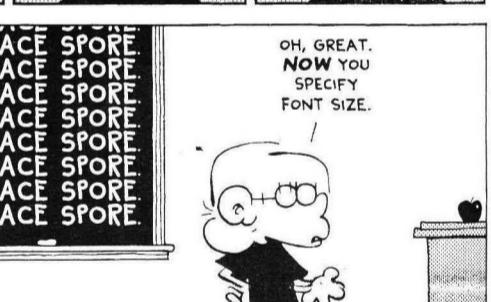
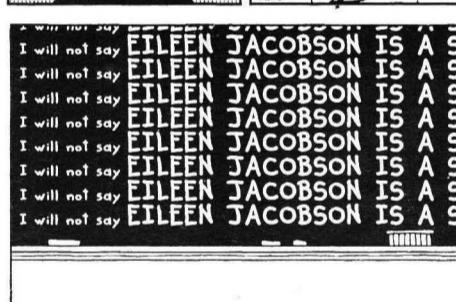
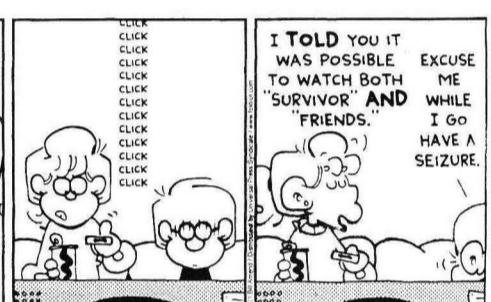
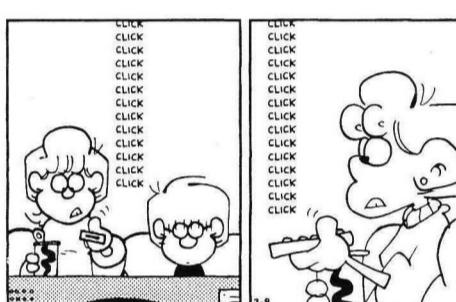
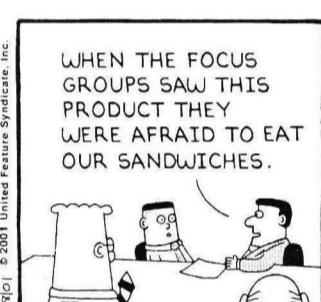
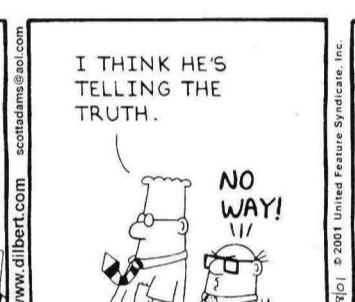
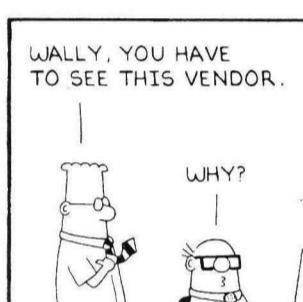
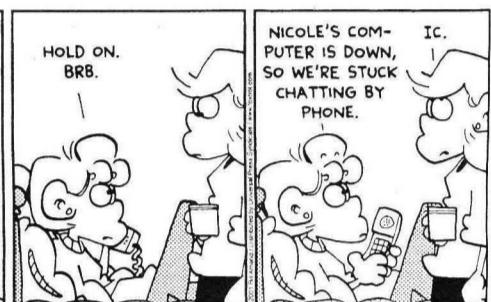
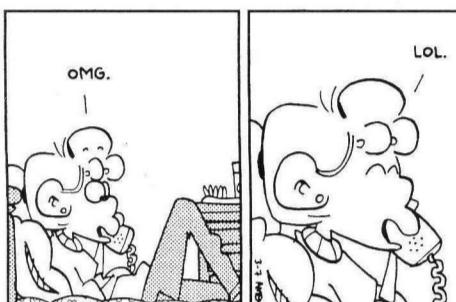
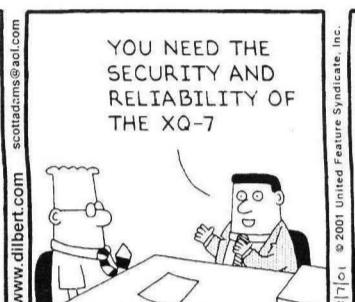
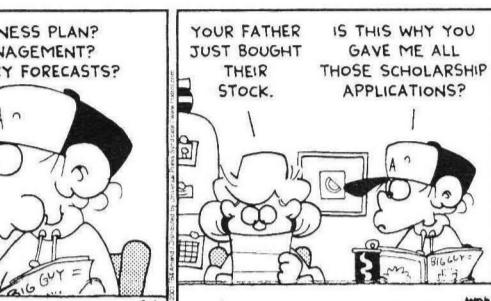
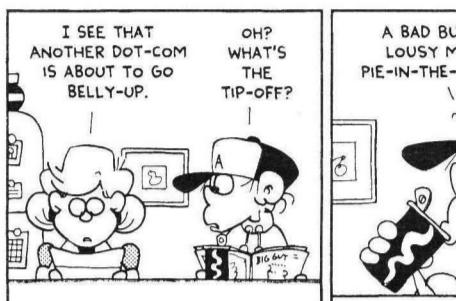
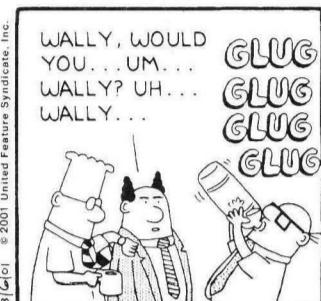
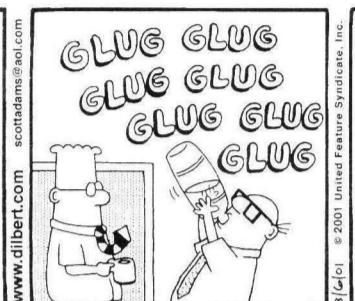
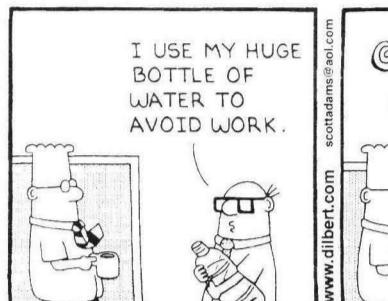
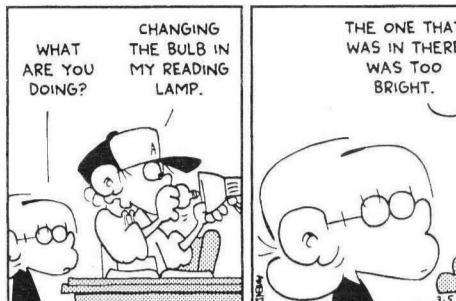
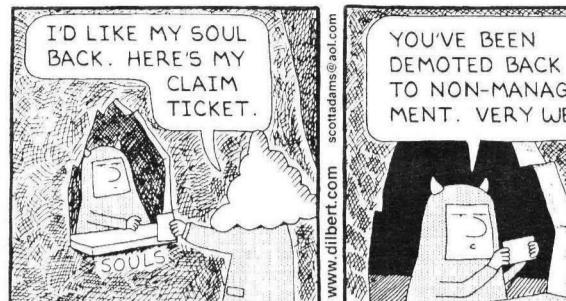
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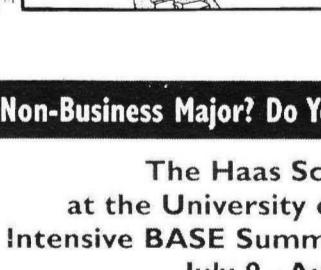
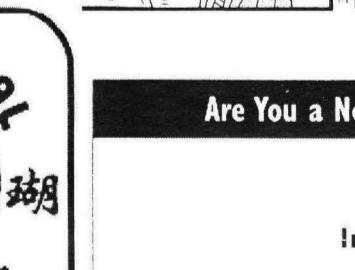
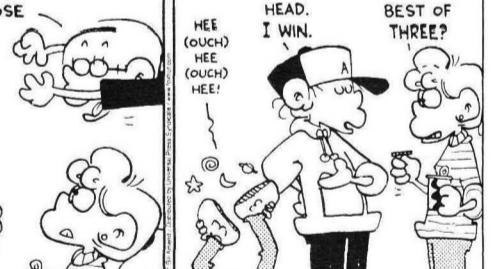
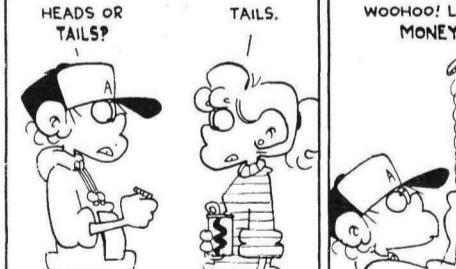
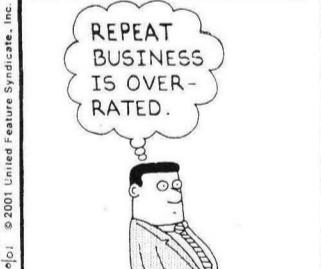
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5 Academy Award Nominations

CHOCOLAT (PG-13)	[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00
MALENA (R)	[11:45] 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:45
THE CAVEMAN'S VALENTINE (R)	[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50
WIDOW OF SAINT-PIERRE (R)	[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50
2 Academy Award Nominations	
POLLOCK (R)	[1:00] 4:00 7:00 9:50
BLOW DRY (R)	[11:45] 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
10 Academy Award Nominations	
CROUCHING TIGER (PG-13)	[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00

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Dean's Corner

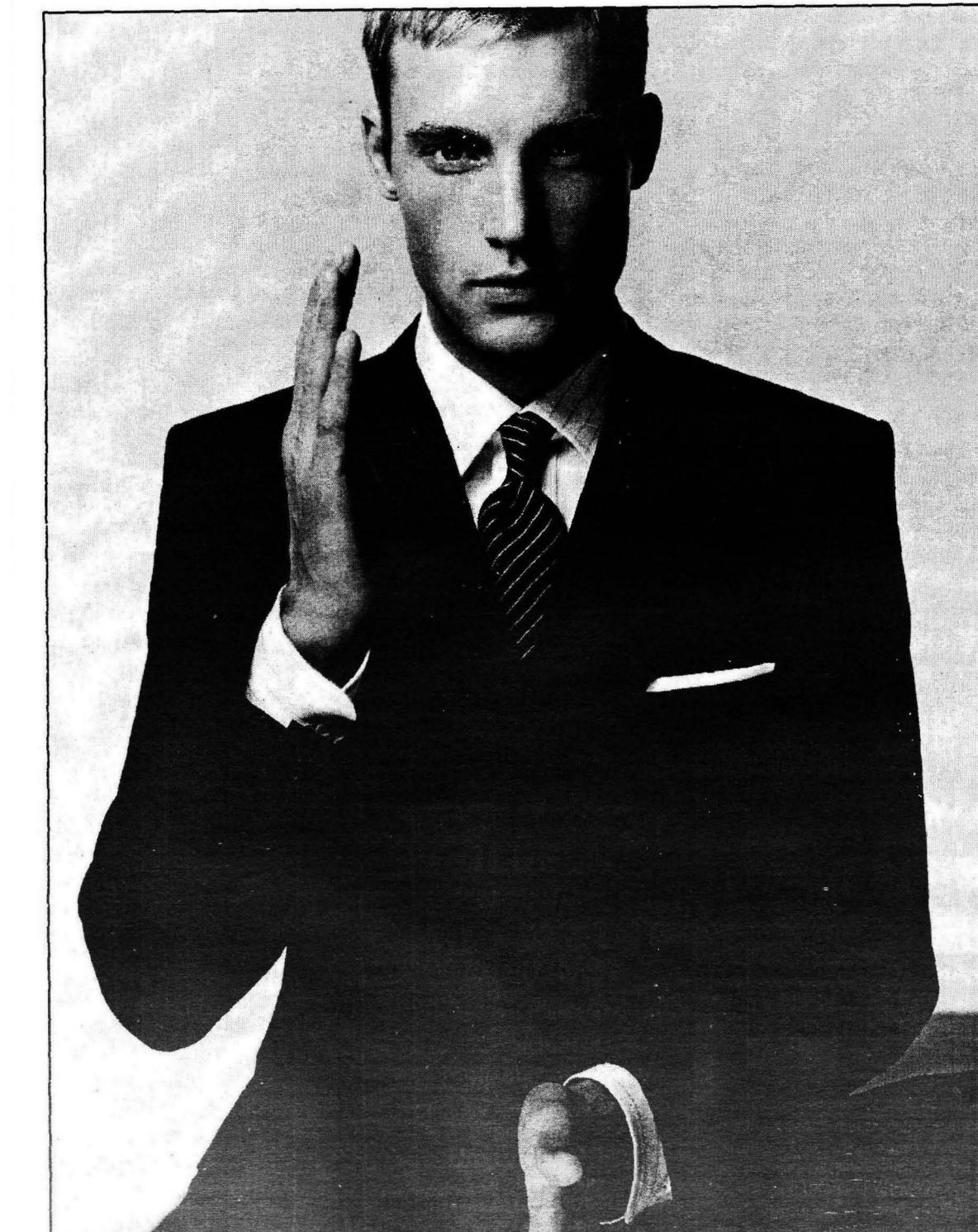
Platitudes

by Jean-Paul Revel



It used to be, in the good old days, that talking about the weather was always safe. When relationships, politics or even sports seemed to be dangerously charged topics, the weather could be counted on to be non controversial. Mark Twain commented, and I paraphrase, that everyone talks about the weather (even though nobody does anything about it). It is an easy attitude for us in Southern California to adopt, what with our supposedly placid meteorological conditions.

These days, however, not even the weather is a safe subject for genteel conversation. Bringing it up can cause blood pressure to rise, and voices to be raised. There are moans about how terrible the rain. There are endless stories about THE thunder clap. Was that a tornado that had been spotted out there? It did not touch the ground, so, big deal, but remember when the roof of Convention



H was damaged some years ago? And was that a water spout that was spotted off the coast? And so it goes, including predictions of widespread depression descending on the locals unless the sun makes its appearance once again, etc.

In the face of all this negative talk about them, the elements take their revenge in the best way they can, by making monkeys out of us who rely on human meteorologists and their computers. Poor creatures, they are egged into making predictions, which an impish Mother Nature then playfully contradicts. Most of us watch or listen to the forecasts, even though we suspect that the terrible winter storms which they predict may never materialize.

Gone are the days when Caltech trained forecasters selected the right day for the invasion of Normandy during WWII! Right on the button or so goes the lore. I think I remember that the weather was actually terrible, but

may be that's what was wanted, to increase the element of surprise. These days one is left to suspect that the talk of impending storms is just a way to hook viewers and expose them to advertisements for products they don't want. That's the game.

Of course it is just like false fire alarms; One becomes desensitized to warnings of dangerous weather, and to entreaties for purchasing perfume, just as one stops reacting to fire alarms. All the hoopla about non events could well get people to ignore weather warnings should they be serious.

I am probably too harsh on the media. They relay the best info there is available to them. Besides, a 70% chance of rain is a 30% chance of dry conditions. Here we say "partly cloudy", but in Great Britain they look at it the other way and speak instead of "sunny intervals".

Just why a forecaster would ever say there is a 100% chance of rain, is a bit beyond me. Anyone in their position should know better than to make such a strong statement. All it takes is for a storm track to be off its predicted course

by just a few, or a few dozen miles to make a perfectly good prediction, a miss!

In this last storm, Pasadena received only a little rain, leading to all this frustration about misleading information, but just to the North of us, I understand, the rain gauges registered 5, 10 even 15 inches, not just cats and dogs, but lions and wolves. Overall, we seem to have already far surpassed our seasonal quota of precipitation even though we are not in "el Nino" conditions (at least I have not heard anyone use that phrase).

So don't you pretend that things aren't a bit crazy. The world has seemed to be upside down to me, and it is not because of my own inability to distinguish up from down. In fact I have heard many people say it also, on many occasions. But does that make repeating "the world is upside down" a platitude, when it seems that LA and Seattle have exchanged latitudes? When Seattle, unshaken for half a century, suddenly finds itself on a roller coaster ride, what with being tormented by an attack of plate subduction, and Southern California, prone to suffer from trepidations, being instead taken to the showers?

But every cloud is supposed to have a silver lining. Considering the fact that there are shortages of

electricity in the state, one might have assumed that rain and more rain, would be all to the good. Not so, as I heard on the way to work the other morning. Gov. Davis said "Yes", he had succeeded in mitigating the energy crisis right now, but that in spite of these efforts there were serious concerns about power shortages as early as next May. Next May? Are not all our reservoirs full? The ponds on Campus threaten to overflow and need to be drained with a garden hose, and yet there is no water for power production?.

The sad fact seems to be that we depend on power generated in the Northwest. They have the dams with the turbines and we, not them, are getting the water. See what I mean when I said about things being upside down? They miss the rain and have the quakes and we will be left high and dry, without enough juice to go around. What is sure is that this is the last day of classes for this winter term of 2001, and finals will soon be due, so I wish you all, well, "hals und bein bruch". Enjoy your few days off and to all a hearty.

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

H&SS Division Selected Topics and New Courses for spring term 2000: *Ec 101* On the Rationality of Irrationality - Hefetz MW 10:30-12 125 Baxter, *H 161* Medieval Knighthood - Brown Organizational meeting M 10am 33 Baxter, *H 161* Civil War and Reconstruction - Hacker T 7pm 237 Baxter, *Law 134* Law Technology - McCaffery TTH 1:30-3 128 Baxter, *Lit 180* Greek Epic and Drama - Pigman Organizational meeting M 2pm Judy Lib, *Lit 180* British Fiction of the 20th Century - Sutherland Organizational mtg. T noon 128 Bax, *Lit 180* American Fiction of the 20th Century - Sutherland Org. mtg. W noon 128 Bax, *SES/PI 169* Who Gets the Kidney? The Philosophy of Social Choice Theory - Hild Th 1-4pm Judy Lib. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter. Descriptions for all selected topic courses are posted in Baxter.

Win great prizes and enhance your resume! Participate in the **Pocket PC programming contest**. Create a cool application for the Pocket PC platform and win a pocketpc. You will also be eligible for a national competition where you can win up to \$25000. All participants get free software (windows 2000, visual studio, wince devkit etc) and there will be lots of fun giveaways. Teams of up to three. Signup for the contest at http://www.studentdev.org/msr/ms_group.asp?gid=88887 by becoming a member of the Pocket PC club. The entries will be judged at Caltech level in the first week of April. Contact caltechmud@consultant.com for more info.

Dreaming of Spring Break???

Make plans to join the Y for an alternative spring break trip to Tecolote, Mexico from March 25-March 29, 2001. We will travel as a group and volunteer at the local community center to do various service projects that may include painting, laying tile, and general repair to the community center facilities. Watch for coming news about an information session, or please contact the Caltech Y for more information at 626/395-6163 or kabbott@caltech.edu.

EVENTS

FREE: End-of-term Ballroom Dance Party

What: Caltech Ballroom Dance Party Date: Fri 9 Mar'01 Time: *8:00pm Start of refreshments and warm-up dancing *8:00-8:30pm Introductory East Coast Swing lesson *8:30-11:59pm Open Dancing

Where: Winnett Lounge

Feel free to make requests and/or bring your own music for the "open" section.. Everyone is welcome (beginners, intermediates, Caltech affiliates, community members, etc.) No partner is necessary. Refreshments are provided at no cost. For last minute changes see <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom>, or call Don Trask at 626-791-3103. Other ongoing activities of the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club for the rest of the term include [all are held in Winnett Lounge- Dance classes start at 7:00pm and the mini-parties at 9:00pm]:

1. Beginners' Hustle on Mon
2. Beginners' American Waltz on Wed
3. Mini-Ballroom Dance Parties on Mon.

Country-folk singer Katy Moffatt will perform in Dabney Lounge on Friday, March 16 at 8:00 PM. Katy is a transplanted Texan, now living Los Angeles. Constantly on tour, she seldom makes an appearance here in her own backyard. This concert is a great chance to hear her wonderfully expressive voice and her fine songs. Student tickets are \$4.00 and can be obtained at the Office of Public Events (395-4652) or at the concert.

The Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series will be held during the Winter Term on Friday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall. Medical research and its applications today require tools and methodologies from a variety of disciplines. It is no longer enough to know only molecular biology and genetics or even their

relation to complex physiologic systems. This series will highlight new research in engineering, computational science, chemistry, physics, and biology being accomplished by Caltech and JPL investigators, often in collaboration with clinical partners. Scientists and clinicians from elsewhere are also invited. The focus will be on the translation of fundamental science/engineering into clinical/medical devices, approaches, and cures. The presentations are geared for a generally literate scientific audience and not for the specialist. Seminars are open to the public. For information, contact Stacey Scoville at staceys@caltech.edu or (626) 395-6320. A complete list of lecture and abstracts is available at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/biomed.html>

Caltech Alpine club and REI present the best films and videos from the 25th Anniversary of the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Exceptional mountain stories to life when they come to Caltech's Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30pm on March 28th, 2001. This year's selection includes: The Sahara's Secret Garden a film which explores a secret canyon in the North of Chad, in the heart of the Sahara Desert. Even today, access to the Ennedi Massif is difficult and only a few rare nomads have been privileged enough to penetrate the heart of this astounding massif; Quartzite's Fall: A Wilderness Tale traces the destruction of a calls V+ rapid leading to a federal investigation; and a variety of skiing, kayaking and rock climbing films. See our website for the full lineup: <http://www.events.caltech.edu/alpine>. Tickets are \$6 for Caltech students, \$8 advance, \$10 at the door available through 1-888-2CALTECH or REI, Arcadia 626-447-1062. Come check out the exhibitors faire at the fest, with REI, the Sierra Club, Outland and others. Raffle for cool swag included with the price of admission.

NCIIA 5th Annual Conference Technology, Products & Ventures: Creativity & Innovation in Higher Education on March 6-9, 2001 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. <http://www.nciia.org/events/conf01.shtml> At the 5th Annual Meeting of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance attend experiential sessions on:- E-Team Curriculum Innovation- Technological Entrepreneurship- Team Based Product Design- Interdisciplinary Student Learning. Participate in Hands-on, in-depth workshops on: -Secrets to Success for Technology-Based Innovation -Strategies for Opportunity Assessment & Feasibility Planning -Kinetic Creativity -Hands-on Inventive Problem Solving -Sources of Start-Up Funding for Inventors -Network and share ideas about innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship in higher education -Learn more about the NCIIA's unique grants program, funding innovative courses and inventive student projects -Attend a full day of Pre-Conference Workshops. For more information: E-mail: info@nciia.org Phone: 413-587-2172

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
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SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

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

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

The American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF) is offering scholarships to upper class undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in careers in the surface finishing field. Applicants must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, materials science, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, statement describing career objectives, list of educational achievements, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or professors. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Please send com-

pleted application materials to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, Central Florida Research Park, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando FL 32826-3298. Entries must be submitted to the AESF Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2001.

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

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 2001-2002 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 2, 2001.

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

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.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.