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# THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 24

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1998

## Third Term: Pass/Fail?

BY MOHI KUMAR

It is an issue that has left Juniors and Sophomores complaining over unfairness, Freshman wishing they deferred admission for a year, and prospective Caltech students breathing a sigh of relief. Year-round pass/fail for Freshman, though still only a possibility, is the new hot topic among the faculty. Unfortunately freshman, if the suggestion passes, it will only go into effect in the 1998-1999 academic year.

Freshman have received grades for their third terms since the 1995-1996 academic year, before which was year-round pass/fail. "The idea behind this was that many faculty observed that students under the pass/fail system were taking courses less seriously and putting less effort in them, especially during third term," explained Professor David Stevenson, the current Chair of the Faculty. "After all, it is a lot easier to get a 'P' in pass/fail than it is to get a good letter grade."

Stevenson further elaborated that the fear was that students were taking advantage of the pass/fail system to take as many classes as possible. "Many faculty feel that it is better to do fewer things and learn them well than to do many things superficially."

"What have we seen now that three years have passed? Well, it is not entirely clear," Stevenson chuckled. "Here is my impression, not as the Faculty Chair, but as a professor of a third term freshman course: I became aware of concerns one year ago—the faculty involved in teaching the core curriculum began to feel that students worried more about their grades than learning the material. I saw this myself while teaching GE 1. This concerned us."

Dr. Lange, the Physics 1b and 1c analytic track professor agrees. "It is much better to keep the grading system as pass/fail for the third term of freshman year. The third term in this course is a time when things get complicated and difficult. Students need this time to adjust to

BY KATY ISAACS

For the first time this year many Caltech students saw the sun. This was not because it was a truly beautiful spring day on Caltech's garden-like campus, but because 300 prefrosh were arriving.

Actually, the prefrosh have been slowly trickling in since earlier this week. The minority students had a banquet Wednesday night. However, it was nothing like Thursday when waves of second semester high school seniors started arriving via Pasadena shuttle.

Identifiable by their prefrosh weekend name tags, t-shirts, and information packets, or maybe by their camera-carrying parents, many of whom were here from the parents' program in the

morning, the Caltech acceptees were just starting to get a feel for the campus into the afternoon. Many could only remark on the scenery.

"The campus is really pretty. It's really great here," said Silas Wang of Toronto.

Karen Daugherty of Simi Valley, California thought much the same, given one exception. "I like the campus," she said. "But the library is ugly. I took the tour here and saw all the ivy and the vines—and then the library."

Other prefrosh who had been around slightly longer were beginning to note which of their preconceptions about Caltech were real and which were illusions.

"Truthfully," started Melissa Chen of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

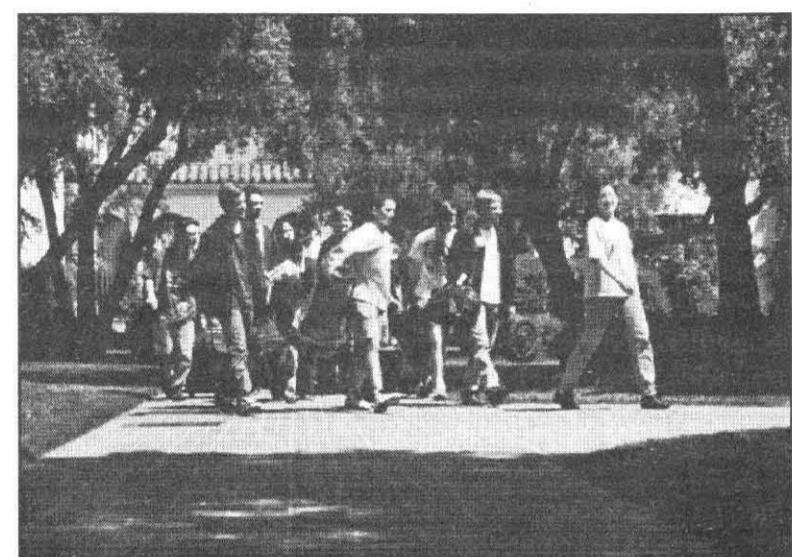


PHOTO BY ERIC DILL

gan. "I expected to find lots of nerds and computers, I mean, it's not a bad thing."

"I knew there were a lot of famous people from here, I just didn't know there were so many," remarked Dana Muallen

of Dallas, Texas. "Also, I thought everyone here would be studying really hard, being really competitive, but people are a lot nicer than that."

"I think it's a lot like MIT,"

PLEASE SEE PREFROSH ON PAGE 3

## Caltech to lose pianist

BY MICHAEL VANIER

James Boyk, Caltech's pianist-in-residence and faculty member in electrical engineering, is scheduled to lose his position of pianist-in-residence at the end of this term.

Dr. Boyk has been with Caltech since 1974, and organizes an informal weekly Music and Talk session in Dabney Lounge every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

He also gives private piano lessons to Caltech students, performs recitals, and gives master classes.

The decision was made by the former Vice-President for Student Affairs, Gary Lorden, as a cost-cutting measure.

The decision will end most of Dr. Boyk's activities on cam-

pus, with the main exception being his course in music and science, EE/Mu 107, which will continue. The course involves independent projects which investigate the connection between music and science.

In particular, the Music and Talk sessions, private piano lessons, and recitals in Dabney Hall will end.

Dr. Boyk's students, friends and colleagues have expressed concern over the decision, and are actively seeking to have him reinstated.

Dr. Boyk has also served as a consultant and recording engineer on a number of projects, and has recently started organizing internet forums on audio and on music teaching.

He has written a book, "To

PLEASE SEE PIANIST ON PAGE 2



PHOTO BY ERIC DILL

Sunday, April 12 — Children enjoy the return of sunshine and typical Southern California weather as they hunt for Easter Eggs on the Athenaeum Lawn. The event was part of Easter Sunday lunch at the Athenaeum.

## Caltech Jazz and Jokes

BY WILLIAM BING

The Caltech Jazz Bands, directed by William Bing, will make their first appearance in more than ten years at the world famous comedy club, "The Ice House," 24 N. Mentor in Pasadena, on Sunday, April 19, with two shows, starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be a \$5 cover charge for students and an \$8 general admission fee for this special evening. There is also a two drink minimum. During each

set, members of the audience and band will tell a joke, and the best joke of each set will win a \$25 gift certificate to a local CD store. Vocal soloists with the jazz bands will be Cheryl Forest and Brigitte Roth. Many other members of the jazz bands will also be featured. The guest artist for the evening will be comedian Steve Altman, who uses a sampling keyboard as his "gateway to madness." Rolling Stone called Steve's digital comedy "a dizzying display of man

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# Overseas fellowships

A great option for next year's seniors

BY LAUREN STOLPER

With senior year almost upon this year's juniors, a wide variety of fellowship and scholarship options are available as post-Caltech choices. Fellowships can cover the cost of graduate study in the U.S., or cover studying abroad.

Fellowships vary in their competitiveness, countries where you can study, duration, qualifications, and amount of the award. During the third term, juniors will receive a copy of the 1998 version of the Caltech Guide to Fellowships, also available on the web at the Fellowships Advising & Re-

sources Home Page, accessible through Caltech's Web Page.

The deadline dates for most fellowships are in the early fall. Because of Caltech's late September start, applicants for the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright must turn in all application materials by the first week of school. The deadlines for the Watson and Churchill are a few weeks later. Fellowships require a well thought out essay or plan of study, and research into possible faculty mentors and universities.

The Fellowships Advising and Resource Office will be holding the Spring Fellowships Meeting on Wednesday, April

22 at noon in Chandler Dining Hall to introduce juniors to these possibilities. The meeting will be in the private dining room on the West side of Chandler, and a pizza lunch will be served. Please RSVP to [fellowships@starbase1.caltech.edu](mailto:fellowships@starbase1.caltech.edu) by Monday, April 20.

**Fulbright Grants** — The Fulbright allows graduating seniors and current graduate students who are U.S. citizens the opportunity to do research or advanced study for one year in a foreign country. Additional awards include awards for art, and for teaching English, math, or science abroad.

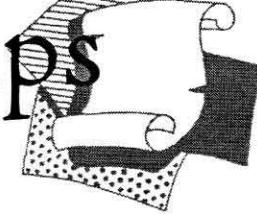
**Marshall Scholarships** — Marshall Scholars may study in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales at the undergraduate or graduate level, but must earn a university degree within the two years of study.

**Rhodes Scholarship** — The Rhodes provides U.S. citizens, who are between eighteen and twenty-four years of age, with two or three years of graduate or undergraduate study at Oxford University in England. Applicants must have demonstrated leadership ability and have an active involvement in team or individual athletic pursuits.

**Churchill** — The Churchill allows graduating seniors who are U.S. citizens a chance to do one year of graduate study at Cambridge University. Churchill Scholars can study for either nine or eleven months and must earn a degree. Scholars live in Churchill College while at Cambridge.

**Watson** — The Watson allows graduating seniors to do an independent project for eleven months anywhere in the world, excepting highly dangerous areas. Applicants must develop a detailed proposal that lays out their independent project and travel plans.

There are other fellowship opportunities for students for study abroad. However confusing the fellowship application process may seem, plenty of resources and personal advice are available in the Fellowships Advising and Resources Office, in SAC rooms 25 and 26.



## Pass/Fail...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their first year of college."

Lange does not observe that freshman taking his class on pass/fail put less effort into the course. "If anything, students get catatonic by grades. If it were up to me, I would keep pass/fail throughout freshman year, with a liberal distribution of shadow grades. We trust the students to be adults and to pay attention in class, and they do. I am very impressed by how hard people work regardless of grades."

"When I taught at Berkeley," Lange continued, "half of the room was filled with students who would constantly come up and 'grub' for points. This is not productive. People should care about learning."

Prospective Caltech students have mixed feelings about the possible decision to move to year-round pass/fail for their first year of college. "Year-round pass/fail would provide a safety margin, giving more time to adjust to the academic pressures of Caltech."

"All the same," added another prefrosh, "It would be bad for me—I might be tempted to slack off, and not try as hard."

Despite many of the third term Freshman Core Curriculum

Caltech Undergraduates,

The Core Curriculum Steering Committee, which I am Chair, is considering whether or not to recommend to the Faculty Board later this Spring that pass/fail grading be reinstated for third term freshmen. This would be for AY 1998-9. I am writing to solicit student opinion on this matter. Would it be best to retain the present system of grades or to return to pass/fail? Please let the committee know what you think by dropping me a note or sending me an email message.

Sincerely,

Jim Woodward Chair, CCSC MC 228-77 [jfw@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:jfw@hss.caltech.edu)

## The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

**Dublin, Ireland** - Nine members of the Irish Republican Army were released from an Irish prison in the first step to ease tensions since the peace accord was signed last Friday. A new political structure for Northern Ireland will give the Catholic minority more power while preventing unification with the rest of Ireland without the approval of the Protestant majority.

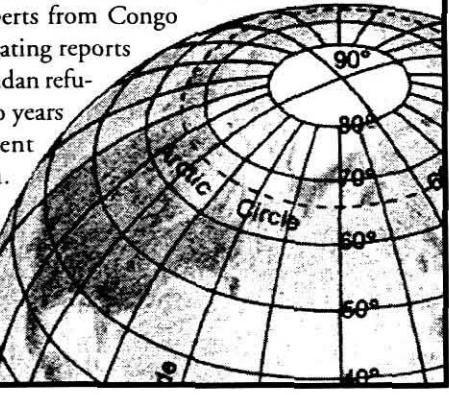
**El Bireh, West Bank** - Wednesday Israel freed Ahmad Qatamesh, a Palestinian prisoner who had been held without trial for five years and seven months. Israeli human rights groups lobbied for his release along with that of some 200 other Palestinians held without trial. This signals a softening of Israeli policy which has come under attack from human rights activists around the world.

**Nairobi, Kenya** - Somali militiamen kidnapped nine foreign Red Cross workers in Mogadishu. The gunmen have made no statement, but they may have intended to sabotage the Nairobi peace talks. The talks are hopes to find a reconciliation between the competing warlords in an effort to build some sort of government in the region.

**Siem Reap, Cambodia** - Though not confirmed by independent sources, reports from Cambodia say that Pol Pot, the founder of the Khmer Rouge, died Wednesday of a heart attack. The last few hundred Khmer Rouge guerrillas are hiding in Cambodia's northern mountains.

**Vienna, Austria** - Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer has relinquished all his duties at the request of Pope John Paul II in the face of charges that he molested young boys. Cardinal Groer was Austria's most senior member of the Roman Catholic Church.

**United Nations** - The United Nations will pull out its team of human rights experts from Congo where they have been investigating reports that tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees were killed in the last two years by troops loyal to the current President, Laurent Kabila. Little progress has been made in the investigations over the last year due to demonstrations by the public and obstruction by officials.



## Pianist...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hear Ourselves as Others Hear Us," which has received praise from such distinguished musicians as violinist Yehudi Menuhin and pianist Andre Watts.

When asked about the decision, current Caltech VP for Student Affairs Christopher Brennen said in a letter: "It is my present (and perhaps incomplete) understanding that my predecessor was required to make budget cuts and the judgment was made that the termination of Jim's role in Student Affairs would involve fewer students than any other cuts in our music program."

For his part, Dr. Boyk has expressed his gratitude towards those students, colleagues and friends who have written letters of support on his behalf.

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## Food Dude

BY DAVE TYELL

Hello prefrosh!

Let me first begin by welcoming you all to Caltech. Hopefully you will enjoy yourselves this weekend and have all your questions answered! I am writing to you as the Chairman of the Food Committee. This committee acts as a liaison between the board program and the students. Any changes requested by the students are implemented by us.

During prefrosh weekend, the board program is usually underrepresented, and many prospective Techers have left without their food concerns addressed. I hope to put an end to that this year. If this synopsis of the Tech board program doesn't answer all of your questions, please contact me personally. I live in Blacker 1 and my extention is 1277.

Caltech's board program is unique in many ways. The largest difference is the size. Caltech is a small school so many individual concerns are addressed easier than at larger universities. We have a full vegan bar every night with a rotating menu of entrees. There is also always a vegetarian (non-vegan) option served with the main meal of the evening. In addition, each dinner has two main entrees, side dishes, dessert, bread, and beverages. Lunches also have two main entrees to choose from, along with hamburgers/cheeseburgers, chicken/fish sandwiches, and of course fries! There is also a salad bar open at all meals, and a sandwich meat bar available (with peanut butter and jelly). Oh, and I almost forgot the ice cream chests and soft serve stations.

Special circumstances are dealt with on an individual basis. Some students on board

PLEASE SEE FOOD DUDE ON PAGE 4

## Prefrosh...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Helena Fu from New York City. "Not on the outside, but the inside."

"The houses have been a lot different from what I thought they would be," said Rui Wang of Tempe, Arizona. "I didn't expect all the wall paintings."

A few even had time to visit a class. David Marcus of Annandale Virginia had a discussion with Master of Student Houses and Physics 1c t.a. Steve Frautschi over an E & M problem left on the blackboard.

"I like the way they teach Calculus, I went to a T.A. session. It's a lot more substantial than the calculus in high school," mentioned Loren Hoffman of Richmond, Virginia. Education didn't take all her short time here though, she also talked to many undergraduates. "I like the freaks," she said.

The undergrads themselves were having fun as they enjoyed meeting new people and setting up for the weekend. Chairs and tables were being moved in preparation for dinner. Many students volunteered their time to man the registration tables in

front of the Ricketts-Fleming courtyard or run prefrosh to their host's room. Many hosts could be seen giving extensive campus tours.

Others took a more light-hearted approach to showing the prefrosh around. Games like Ultimate, Disc Golf, Tray Ball and Four Square were easy to run into. Two bright haired hooligans were dropping water balloons on innocent bystanders, remembering "A wet frosh is a happy frosh." 'Freshman' Kohl Gill was discussing his opinions of Caltech with the prefrosh.

"What's up with Tray Ball?" Nathan Brown of Corning, New York asked rhetorically after playing a few rounds.

The prefrosh had more to say after experiencing the fine institution that is house dinner. Dinner rules in all houses were strictly enforced, yet often broken. Dinners were also greatly lengthened by an abundance of important dinner announcements and prefrosh introductions.

"It's full of tradition and rich history," began Nate Austin of Newberry Park, California.

"The sugar bags flying around my head...quite an experience."

"It's very...interesting," said Jeff Sullivan of Dedham, Massachusetts. "Reminds me of a battle zone."

Wes McCullough of Seattle, Washington got to take a special role in his dinner. He got to squirt ketchup right from the bottle on a recently floated undergrad. "I was glad that I got to that," he said. "It was pretty cool. Dinner was great."

The prefrosh are in for more treats as the weekend continues. Scheduled events include an ASCIT party in Dabney Hall, the delicious foods of International Day, a plethora of house organized activities, and plenty more of Caltech to explore.

When asked about Caltech's strange spark of life this weekend, Director of Residence Life, Kim West said. "You cram it all into a small period of time and you hope people realize that every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday isn't like is."

Perhaps Will Ray of Houston Texas summed Caltech up best when he remarked, "I can't put it into words just yet."

## Baldeep's Corporate Capra Retreat

would be moved under the ARC.

3. Publications. After due consideration, we agreed that a position should be created to serve as a liaison between the BOD and the individual publications. Currently, all publications deal with the entire BOD and this is somewhat inefficient.

This "Publications Manager" will not have the power to direct the publications, but rather would report to the BOD. He will track the progress of publications, make recommendations for increasing efficiency, arbitrate disputes between publications and work with the Treasurer to track the finances of ASCIT Publications.

He would report the publications' progress to the BOD, make recommendations to increase the publications' efficiency, arbitrate disputes between the publications, and work with the Treasurer to track the publications' finances.

4. Business Committee. Rob (the Treasurer) wants to form a business committee that will consist of himself and the business managers of the corporation. The way things stand right now, there is little communication between the treasurer and the many financial managers of the Corporation. This committee may eventually facilitate a common accounting system for the entire corporation. The individual parts of ASCIT will remain financially distinct, though.

5. Bylaws and Resolutions. At Capra, we split into groups and reviewed the bylaws, mak-

ing note of places they could stand to be changed. Several areas that were in need of update were identified, so expect massive bylaw revisions soon.

In other news, ASCIT is selling the ASCIT van and purchasing an electric cart. The party lights and fog machine are rented out on a semi-consistent basis. The Big T is finally out (thanks, Wren). I swear the CLUE will be coming out soon, too (thanks, Devi). I also have this strange itching to start an ASCIT endowment, but who knows when I'll stumble upon someone who has a few million sitting around and doesn't mind giving it to a student government.

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## Minutes

MAY 20, 1996

Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting, 14 April 1998

Present: BoD (minus Steve), Adrienne Bourque, Xavier Fan, Brian Frazier, Audrey Lee, Corey Loomis, Diana King, Brigitte Roth, Damian Sullivan

Meeting called to order at 22:04.

**Dealing With Guests Athletics**—A whole bunch of people are here because they are concerned that ASCIT won't be able to subsidize letter jackets this fiscal year. Audrey (the IHC Athletics Manager) reveals that expenditures will be \$450 less than expected because ASCIT will recoup its loss on the Caltech patches that are purchased in cahoots with the jackets. This still leaves at least a \$1000 shortfall between what has been allocated for athletics, and what will be required to maintain the traditional ASCIT subsidies. Jackets apparently haven't been ordered for the last two years. It is possible that this year represents a larger than normal order because of the backlog. Why doesn't the Athletic Department help pay for these awards? Letters are a traditional function of ASCIT. Still, there is general agreement among the BoD that we would be willing to pass the financial responsibility along to the Athletics folks. If ASCIT is going to continue paying for awards and subsidizing jackets, we need to set the policy so that there is some cap on our contribution. This simplifies the budgeting process. The immediate issue is whether

ASCIT is willing or able to pay for the current crop of jacket orders. The issue will be put on hold while Audrey talks to the Athletics Department. If they are unwilling to contribute, the BoD may be able to reallocate money within the budget. There is also the possibility that the total ASCIT budget will be larger than expected. Rob keeps finding money everywhere.

**Lee** - Diana is concerned that a plaque is not a fitting gift for such a man as Lee Reavis. Jaideep explains that it is just an immediate measure while the Houses get their gifts together.

**Brigitte** - Jaideep moves that the BoD approve Brigitte as the new Executive Committee Chair. Rob seconds and the BoD votes 5-1-0 (Mike votes no) to approve.

*There is some sort of talking or something while Mike goes and breaks the copier.*

### Officer Reports

**Steve**—*Channeled by Adrienne.* Taking care of Frosh Director stuff for next year. Helping Jasmine with the prefrosh party. Baldeep tells us that every year the Zwick family gives ASCIT \$1000 to publish the CLUE. They did not receive a copy of the 95-96 edition. The responsibility of getting the text off the web and put into a nice book form is dropped on Steve.

**Autumn**—Has a flyer from the Taylor-Dunn people. She is scheduling a time where they will come out and show us their full line of electric vehicles.

**Jasmine**—There will be early morning donuts Thursday night/Friday morning at 01:00. Some professors and graduate students may be joining in the frenzy. The prefrosh party will be rad. A preliminary design for the forthcoming ASCIT business cards is complete. Apparently somebody complained that our new ASCIT logo is a negative portrayal of women. What-

ever. The BoD will be eating with Tom Mannion some weekend in the future. Mike will decide what we want to eat. Baldeep encourages everyone to show up on Thursday so that there is maximum crowd control.

**Devi**—The CLUE is on the way. Almost all of the programming is done. Requests for course reviews from last term will go out next week. Midterm class surveys will be out soon. There may be a web form setup for electronic submission. The ombudsmen training session happened. The Sherman Fairchild Library will be open until 4 AM during midterms. There is some possibility that PA units may be given Hum credit. The ARC does not have enough work to warrant weekly meetings. Baldeep encourages Devi to take up more of an activist role.

**Jaideep**—Everyone is invited to come and use Lloyd radio. Mike suggests an on air BoD meeting. Jaideep is looking into improving the quality of the music programs. Some folks have told him that the jam room is not being administrated very effectively. Lloydies have expressed an interest in sailing. Jaideep is talking to past IHC Chairs to get a feel for some Caltech history. He wants Interhouse back. Kim West has told him that she encourages us to invite people from other schools to Caltech parties. An Athletics Committee is being organized. The IHC will be busy selecting UCC's at their next meeting. The plaque for Lee may have already been ordered.

**Rob**—Is almost ready to start operating under the new budget. He needs to organize a time to change signing power on the ASCIT accounts. We may be getting 2 dues checks this time 'round. It is unclear whether the last check was picked up. Rob and Jaideep presented a document to Tom to

formalize our agreement about administration of the Coffeehouse. He gave them a copy of the agreement governing the Red Door. Rob will merge the language of the two and get back to Tom. The publications seem to be ok, except that we may not have enough Big T's to go around.

**Mike**—Compiled a list of proposed amendments. It will be sent out to the BoD and discussed at the next meeting. A new roster is out and on the web but not yet distributed. The Film Chair wants a key to the ASCIT kiosk. The Annual Report is getting up there near done.

**Alan**—Had a meeting with Kim West to discuss the jurisdiction of the BoC. It was agreed that Kevin Bradley (BoC Secretary) and Alan would meet with Dr. West periodically to discuss happenings. The BoC will be meeting with the UCC's

in preparation for frosh camp.

Baldeep - The Executive Service Corp. is not getting back to us. He had dinner in all of the houses except for Ricketts and Dabney this week. Baldeep wants to move ahead with the creation of a publication manager. He will have a resolution proposal for next week. Puneet has enlisted some aid and is knee deep in a profitability study of the Coffeehouse. Baldeep's article for the Tech is in second draft. He wrote a memo to the Y about why the BoD decided not to allocate them money.

Meeting adjourned at 23:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Astle  
ASCIT Secretary

## Food dude...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

have religious/medical food restrictions that require Caltech Dining Services to prepare separate meals specifically for them. The kitchen staff works with the students very closely, (to the extreme that chicken soup has appeared for students who were under the weather), and the staff always try to accommodate all requests.

As for next year, there has been much talk on the food committee about expanding the

vegetarian/vegan options, introducing more lighter cuisine, and perhaps implementing a kosher board plan. These changes are in the works as we speak, and quite possibly will be in effect when you begin classes in September.

Again, please contact me if you have any questions at all. Enjoy the festivities and hopefully I will see you in the fall.

Till next time,  
Dave

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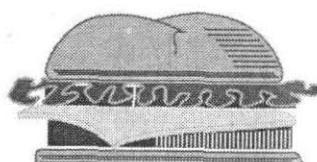
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# n o w hear this.

by Ron Dollete

After a long hiatus known as EE52, I'm here with another music review column. There's a lot of good stuff out there on the music shelves, and a lot of things to look forward to, as well.

I'm going to start off with the soundtrack to *City of Angels*. This is a pretty stunning album. It's a great CD from top to bottom, but of course, I'm pretty prejudiced towards soundtracks.

The intro song is a version of U2's "If God Would Send His Angels" that sounds more personal, more introspective than the version on Pop.

"Uninvited" shows off the side of Alanis I like most: bitter, angry on the inside, quiet on the outside. Not all of this CD is depressing: there's a slight blues presence on the album, highlighted with Paula Cole and her steamy, sexy song "Feelin' Love".

Peter Gabriel, Sarah McLachlan, and Eric Clapton

all contribute to this star-studded album. ✓✓✓✓

Also up is the new album by Semisonic. Their single, "Closing Time," has been receiving a lot of airplay on KROQ, and I hope it doesn't get overplayed, because it's an excellent song.

The album is called *Feeling Strangely Fine* and I think it's refreshingly different from the other cookie cutter bands of the moment, and I'm going to take the time to make another jab at Matchbox 20.

Semisonic seems to be able to evoke a variety of emotions, ranging from the nostalgic to funky, a mixture of all the best parts of Dave Matthews and the Counting Crows.

For the R&B fans out there, you'll be glad to hear that tonight is right for love. K-Ci & Jojo's new album, *Love Always* is just dripping with love gravy.

K-Ci & Jojo were originally part of the group Jodeci, a male soul group that rose in

popularity at about the same time as Boyz II Men.

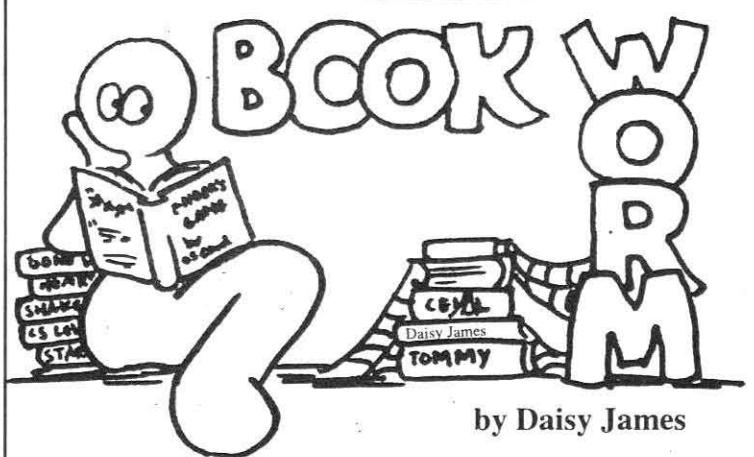
Despite the latter's overshadowing success, however, Jodeci (and consequently, K-Ci & Jojo) has always managed to have an edgier sound than Boyz II Men, namely a more mature, sultry sound. Sure, Boyz II Men may sound more lullabyish and romantic, but I think K-Ci & Jojo are the real sultans of soul.

This new album has your typical slew of R&B grooves: you got your baby-I'm-sorry-songs, baby-you're-treatin'-me-wrong, and baby-you're-my-world-songs. Of course, the crown jewel is the song, "All My Life," whose grandeur has managed to find its way to the top of the charts. ✓✓✓✓

I was going to mention something about the new Dance Hall Crashers' CD, but there's nothing striking about it, except maybe "Whisky & Gin" and "Cold Shower."

The whole ska/punk scene is starting to get old, and I think it's dying from overexposure. Too many of the same old garage bands are coming out. There are still some great acts out there, like the Bouncing Souls, The Jamons, and my new favorite ska band, Old Man Bone (OMB).

Dance Hall Crashers and their new CD, *Honey I'm Homely* just doesn't fall in that category. ✓



by Daisy James

## A MIND TO MURDER

P.D. James



James is a master of the psychological murder mystery and what better setting for her talents than a mental clinic. The minds of all her characters, even the murderer, are displayed for the reader, and yet she manages to keep the surprise and tension until the end. Part of her skill is in red herrings, making the reader believe that the answer is perfectly clear and really a little bit too simple when in fact it is something else entirely. The device is used repeatedly but with enough variation to keep it fresh. The mystery reader accustomed to intricate and convoluted plots is caught off guard by the eventual simplicity of it all. Her writing is superb, with every word chosen carefully and no sense of

things being tossed in for cheap effect. If I have any complaint it is the dark tone of the book; the hopeless world in which the characters live can become oppressive and it doesn't seem like allowing at least one person to end up happy would be too much to ask.

This is the second of her books starring Superintendent Adam Dangliess as an embittered Scotland Yard detective in London in the early sixties and the first one in which he really takes center stage. In her first book he was more of a black box into which the facts entered and from which the solution proceeded. His character has deepened here, as I hope it will do in subsequent books.

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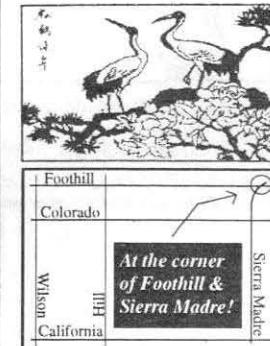
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# Dean's Corner

## Honor the system

by Jean-Paul Revel

Well, well, here you are, may be future Caltech graduates of 2002! And let me greet you from my corner, the spot I occupy once a week! What a glorious moment! We have tried to arrange that you could see the mountains, but we are not very good at predicting, let alone controlling the weather. You see, our department of Meteorology was dissolved after WWII. It had distinguished itself by fingering long ahead of time the right day for the Invasion of Normandy (D-Day), but without their help we are lost. On a clear day there is a breathtaking view from Campus. Go to the biology floor of Millikan library (9th floor) and you'll see what I mean. Not only is it hard to predict future weather, but it is also difficult to predict plain vanilla futures. As a result, although you may not know it, we are just as anxious about you as you are about us, oh you may-be-future Techers, intent on figuring out whether Caltech is the place for you. So ask questions, examine, ponder, talk to the students, professors and administrators, and

see what you will become part of, if you come here. You have read our literature and know that we are small and that we pride ourselves in that and in how excellent we are. You have read about our ratios, the good and the bad. The 3:1 student to faculty ratio and THE ratio, which if all of you come, will be improved, thanks to you, since THE ratio in the applicant pool has improved! You have read about our Nobel Prizes (although you may not know that our penultimate prize was won by a Master in Meteorology, for his seminal research in Genetics) and how many of our professors are members of the National Academy. But what does that mean to you? A top researcher does not necessarily make a good teacher, although a lot of the profs. are both. And that is what you are here for, to learn, to acquire the foundation on which you are going to build for the rest of your life. What's important about top profs. is that they can be role models for you, that you can acquire attitudes and outlooks which will serve you well in your own careers. It also means that many other bright and imaginative

people will converge

and assemble around the Prof. and that too will provide an atmosphere conducive to new way of doing things. They will be able to appreciate your flights of imagination and interest. You'll also have great opportunities for trying your wings at research, real work in a real lab. Some of you will even get to contribute sufficiently to have your name on published papers. I know, I know, all that is great but the people that you will be in contact most are your peers, the other Frosh and the Frosh of last year, and of 2 and 3 years ago. They too will form a cohort conducive to learn and to grow, and to mature. How good? I can't do better than to quote a letter written by an ex student, who left Caltech last year, because at the end of his Frosh year, he decided that he did not want to be a scientist after all; after being away for 6 months he wrote back to his friends here. (I quote him with his permission but I have changed the names and some details, to avoid big troubles with all kinds of people and organizations): "Phillip here. Phillip Smith. The one with the big ears. Yeah, that one. In any case, I decided to e-mail you all en masse with a few pearls of wisdom I have garnered from my days over

here at the Big, Lame, Boring School, er, I mean, UXXX. You see, hardly a day passes without my reflecting upon my short time at Caltech, recalling a flurry of memories from which I derive much warmth and happiness. These thoughts naturally leads (dean's comment: sic) me to think about where I am now and compare. The result of my inquiries: You are all the luckiest bastards on the face of the planet."

Granted, I only go to school 3 days a week. Granted, I do about as much homework in one week as you all do on any given day after 1:00 in the morning. Granted, I haven't seen a problem set since I left y'all. I say unto you, I have never known a greater group of people than those I knew at XYZ House, and I miss you all like members of my own family. The next time you're working non-stop through the night to get that mid-term finished, just remember these few words of mine. You are the luckiest bastards on the face of the planet to have each other as you do. I speak from experience; it is far better to be laden with work but in good company than to have a life of leisure with none to inspire you to greatness. So there you have it. Caltech is hard, very hard and all worth it. But you can succeed here specially if you follow some simple rules. The secret is.... work, be organized, and don't let yourself be distracted from what you are here for. And what you are here for is to study and learn. If it

is in a congenial environment, so much the better, but what counts in the end is work, a steady long pull. So if you have any chance to do anything at all before coming here, and of course you'll all be coming, please take time to learn HOW to study. Many of you have been able to coast up to now. Well that comfortable period is over, and whatever skills you can acquire to help you organize and motivate yourselves will be really important. And then there is the Honor Code. I know from experience that many of you will be attracted by the benefits that are afforded by having such a system. It is indeed wonderful to have the trust and confidence of the faculty and of your peers. To be trusted to take your exams home. To be believed implicitly. But don't for a minute however imagine that this comes without responsibilities. Each year there are people who fall short of the high expectations that our code implies. Many of these failures are due to a lack of appreciation of how difficult it truly is to uphold the code. The rewards only come in measure of the effort one makes to sustain the Honor Code to its smallest ramifications. Nough said for now. I hope you have a great and instructive visit, and that we are in your future.

See you all soon, or as I say in ending my column, a bientot.

*Jean Paul Revel*

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## Announcements

\* **THE PREFROSH ARE HERE!** (for more information on prefrosh-related events, see related story)

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

The non-profit, **Caltech/JPL Flying Club**, which provides low-cost, high-reliability aircraft rental, instruction, and insurance to members, has just expanded its fleet. Rates range from \$38-\$87/hour, depending on the aircraft. Caltech students get a discount on the monthly dues. More information is at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~aacit>, or by calling Peter Gluck at (818)354-9425. General membership meetings are held semi-annually; the next one will be on April 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in 269 Lauritsen.

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

**The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation – only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

## Events

\* World-renowned Flamenco dancer **La Tania** will be performing on April 17th at 8:00 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium, accompanied by guitarists and singers. Tickets cost between

\$20-\$26; tickets for Caltech students cost \$5.

\* The **Lula Washington Dance Theatre** will be performing their unique blend of African, modern, and ballet dance techniques on April 18th at 8:00 p.m. in Ramo Auditorium. All seats cost \$20, or \$5 with Caltech student ID.

\* ITS is holding a **Caltech Library System Web Class** on "Using the Web for Selected Resources in Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering." The class, which will be held on April 21 from 1:30-3 p.m. in 313 Steele, will be presented by Louisa Toot, Caltech librarian. For more information, contact Nancy Zachariasen, x3417.

\* A **Fire extinguisher class** will be held on April 24th at 10 a.m. on the room of the Wilson parking garage. To register, call the Safety Office, at x6727.

\* Caltech's seventh annual **Earth Day Celebration** will be held on April 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Olive Walk. The celebration will include booths featuring campus, local, and national environmental organizations, and music by singer and acoustic guitar player, David Harris. Chandler Dining Hall will provide free cake. Food will be available for a donation of \$1. For more information, call ATHENA Castro at x6163.

\* "Does Speed Exist," a William Bennett Munro Memorial Seminar featuring Frank Arntzenius, associate professor of philosophy at USC, will be held on April 24th at 4 p.m. in the Judy Library in Baxter. Refreshments will be provided.

\* **Capitol Steps**, a group of current and former congressional staffers will present political satire through parodies on both April 24th and 25th in Beckman Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series** of Southern California is moving into its second season. The events will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on five remaining dates, at 8 p.m.. Maya Angelou will be speaking on May 13th, and Mark Victor Hansen on June 10th. For more information, contact (800) 508-9301.

For most Caltech events listed, further information can be obtained by calling 395-4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH, or through the Caltech website, <http://www.caltech.edu>. Special discounts are available for most shows for Caltech/JPL students, staff, and faculty.

## Mints

\* denotes a new announcement.

### Fellowships and Scholarships

There will be an informational meeting on the **Marshall, Fulbright, Rhodes, Churchill, and Luce Fellowships** for juniors and "early bird" sophomores on April 22, 1998. Former fellowship winners will speak, and there will be some special handouts provided. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to [fellowships@caltech.edu](mailto:fellowships@caltech.edu). The meeting will take place at noon in Chandler Private Dining Room (room in Chandler next to the Red Door Cafe - enter through Chandler). Questions can be directed to x2150, or to the Fellowships Advising and Resources office in SAC 25. **FAR**

The **National Institutes of Health**'s Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 15 competitive scholarships to support top undergraduate students who are committed to pursue careers in biomedical research. Awards are up to \$20,000 per year. To qualify, a student must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident, be enrolled in or accepted by an accredited undergraduate institution, and carry a GPA of 3.5 or better or be in the top 5% of his/her class. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate extreme economic need or come from a disadvantaged background. For each year of scholarship, the student will fulfill a 10-week summer research/mentoring program and after graduation, fulfill one year of full-time employment, both at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. **UFA**

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

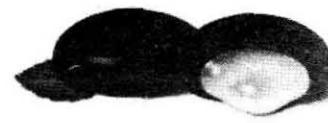
**Work in Britain** this summer or next fall: The British Universities North America Club (BUNAC) offers a special student work permit for \$225, valid for 6 months, allowing U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age to legally

work in Britain at any time of the year. Jobs can be prearranged, or students can just go to Britain and find jobs (most students find work within a week of arrival). BUNAC's program also provides participants with a helpful manual and a job hunting center in London. BUNAC can also prearrange your first 3 nights of lodging in London. Applications and further information are available in Fellowships Advising. Visit BUNAC's Work in Britain site at <http://www.BUNAC.org>. **FAR**

The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the first Annual Hallett Smith Competition, honoring the finest **essay devoted to Shakespeare**. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double spaced, and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities class, or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit their work to Professor Jenijoy LaBelle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 23, 1998. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. LaBelle, x3605, or Barbara Estrada, x3609. **UFA**

**The John Gyles Education Fund** offers financial assistance to full-time students in Canada and the United States. Full Canadian or American citizenship is required. Awards are available for all areas of post-secondary study. A minimum 2.7 GPA is required. Criteria other than academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. To receive an application, please send a stamped, self-addressed, standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: R. James Cougle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B5G4. Filing dates for mailing applications in 1998 are June 1st and November 15th. **UFA**

The **1998 BFGoodrich Collegiate Inventors Program (BFG**



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

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

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

**FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.**  
For information, please contact [lauren\\_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu](mailto:lauren_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu). To make an appointment, call x2150.

**UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.**  
For information, call x6280, or stop by 515 S. Wilson for an appointment.

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

"The prefrosh are way too young this year"

— Cheryl Forest

## THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech 40-58

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