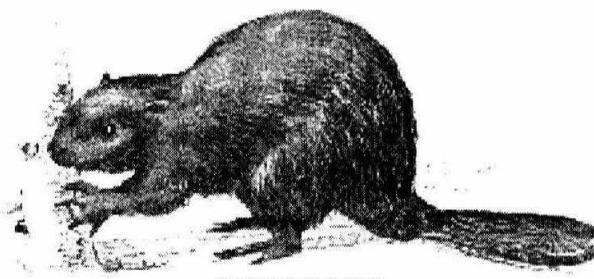


## OPEN BUSINESS MEETING

to discuss BoC bylaw changes

Wednesday May 17th  
in SAC 33 at 10pm



## Campus-wide beach trip

this Saturday



# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 26

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 12, 2000

## Fewer freshmen accept Caltech

BY JON FOSTER

There is good news from admissions for those people who wish to get good roommates on campus next year. After two years of abnormally large classes (235 and 260), the IHC was informed that as of Friday last week the number of freshmen who had accepted was 177. The decision was made to go to the waiting list in an attempt to fill up the class. According to Sue Friedman, acting Director of Residence Life, the number of confirmed acceptances is now up to 184. The IHC is preparing for

215 total Freshmen and transfers, which they will break up as follows.

The unusually small class is a reflection of the vastly different

Number of Frosh by house	
Blacker .....	27
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situation facing Caltech's admissions committee this year. The

total number of students applying to college jumped nearly 20% this year, and Caltech was ranked number one by U.S. News and World Report. This caused the huge increase of applications (a total of 4240 as opposed to approximately 3000 last year), but Admissions stuck with its desire to keep a fairly small class.

The acceptance of only 435 applicants this year puts the acceptance rate at 10.3%, well below last year's 18%.

Admissions will now turn to the waiting list for the first time in five years. Five years ago, a

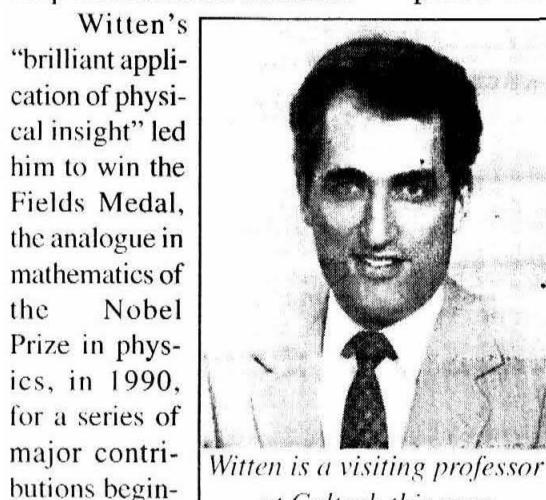
murder on campus during prefresh weekend naturally caused an abnormally small number of prefrosh to attend, and Admissions turned to the waiting list. They will do this again this year (albeit under much less dramatic circumstances).

A member of the admissions committee explained that the waiting list this year is of substantially different compositions than the one five years ago. As the number of high quality applicants has gone up, admissions has been forced to waitlist students who in past years would generally have been accepted.

## Witten speaks for SEDS

BY LOREN HOFFMAN

Fields Medal winner Michael Francis Atiyah summed up Edward Witten's role in physics and mathematics this way: "Although he is definitely a physicist (as his list of publications shows) his command of mathematics is rivalled by few mathematicians, and his ability to interpret physical ideas in mathematical form is quite unique. Time and again he has surprised the mathematical community by his brilliant application of physical insight leading to new and deep mathematical theorems."



Witten is a visiting professor at Caltech this year

Witten's "brilliant application of physical insight" led him to win the Fields Medal, the analogue in mathematics of the Nobel Prize in physics, in 1990, for a series of major contributions beginning with his simpler proof of the positive mass conjecture. Witten has spent the bulk of his academic career at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, and is now a visiting professor here at Caltech.

This past Tuesday evening, he spent about two hours in front of an evenly mixed audience of Caltech undergrads, grad students, faculty, and members of the general public. At Caltech, lectures from world leaders in various scientific fields are by no

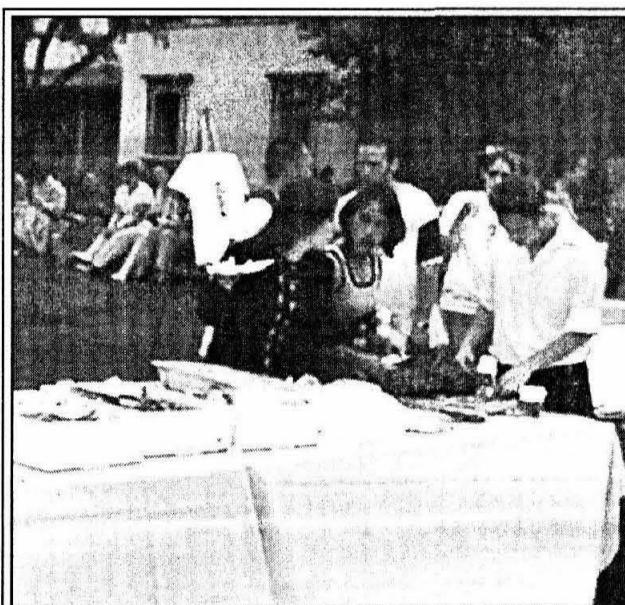
means hard to come by, but what made this lecture by Witten uncommon was its intended audience. Professor Witten agreed to speak on Tuesday evening solely at the request of a group of undergraduate students, and largely for the purpose of exposing undergraduates to the elegance of his work. And indeed, there was general agreement among the many students present about the accessible level at which the material was presented and the generally engrossing manner of Witten's speech.

A friendly question and answer period followed Witten's talk.

Some of the questions focused on the potential for experimental support for Supersymmetry at the Large Hadron Collider due to begin operation at CERN near Geneva late this decade. Other members of the audience, most notably a few

from the Pasadena community, posed enquiries concerning the philosophical implications of string theory. A number of the physicists present questioned Witten's hypotheses, as stated or implied in the talk, from a more technical standpoint.

The students of Caltech SEDS would like to thank Professor Witten on behalf of the Caltech student body for the sincere interest shown, and for volunteering his time in so generous a manner.



Starving Caltech Students get into the spirit of Semana Latina

## Varshavsky wins award

BY JOHN OH

Dr. Alexander Varshavsky, the Howard and Gwen Laurie Smits Professor of Cell Biology at Caltech, was awarded the Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Prize by the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation. The \$250,000 prize, which recognizes the most outstanding fundamental scientific contribution to cancer research, was shared by Dr. Varshavsky and Dr. Avram Hershko of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

Dr. Varshavsky and Dr. Hershko were cited for their discovery of the ubiquitin system for protein degradation and the crucial functions of this system in cellular regulation. Dr. Hershko discovered the role of ubiquitin in the process of protein degradation in the cell, while Dr. Varshavsky discovered the first physiological roles of this process and the relation-

ship between the ubiquitin system and malignancy in cancer cells.

"I am honored to receive this award, and grateful for the recognition it bestows on the entire community of ubiquitin researchers," said Dr. Varshavsky. "Back in 1990, ubiquitin studies were still a rather esoteric field. A decade later, thousands of laboratories all over the world are studying the ubiquitin system and problems connected to it. It is gratifying to know that

PLEASE SEE VARSHAVSKY ON PAGE 3

### Inside the Tech

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# ASCIT proposes new amendments

BY ERIC TUTTLE

On Tues., May 9th the ASCIT BoD officially proposed four amendments to the corporation bylaws, two of which concern the Board of Control (BoC). As per the bylaws, I have called a Corporation / undergraduate election on Wed., May 24. The bylaw amendments concerning the

BoC (Article VII) will be open for voting by all undergraduates (I have indicated these with a \*). The other two amendments are open to all ASCIT members. A 2/3 majority is required to pass the amendments. This and the following shall serve as the official notification and statement of the proposed amendments and election.

## Proposed amendments

[1] Article IV, Section 10 – Directors at Large Currently reads: *Offices of Directors at Large: One of the Directors at Large shall be a freshman and the other shall be an upperclassman at the time of election. The Freshman Director at Large is responsible for the publication of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook. The Upperclassman Director at Large is responsible for the management, finances, operation, and maintenance of the ASCIT van and copier. The Directors at Large shall in addition perform other duties as specified by the Board of Directors.*

Proposed change: Strike everything following "at the time of election" and replace with "The Directors at Large shall perform duties as specified by the Resolutions of the Board of Directors."

Amended Section would read: *Offices of Directors at Large: One of the Directors at Large shall be a freshman and the other shall be an upperclassman at the time of election. The Directors at Large shall perform duties as specified by the Resolutions of the Board of Directors.*

[2] Article XII, Section 4 – Movies Chair Currently reads: *The ASCIT Movies Chair shall be the chair of the ASCIT Movies Committee. The Chair shall be appointed by the Board of Directors with the counsel of the Treasurer, and shall be responsible for the Committee. The Movies Chair shall appoint additional members to the Movies Committee upon approval by the Board of Directors. The Movies Committee will be in charge of operating and maintaining the ASCIT Movies equipment, choosing each term's movies, and managing the business expenses and advertising costs. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Committee shall submit a budget for approval by the Board of Directors for the upcoming year, and they shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors on their status throughout the year.*

Proposed Change: Strike everything following "upon approval by the Board of Directors" and replace with "The Movies Committee shall be responsible for planning and conducting movie events as well as managing corporation entertainment resources as specified by the Resolutions of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall report to the Board of Directors on the committee's status throughout the year."

Amended Section would read: *The ASCIT Movies Chair shall be the chair of the ASCIT Movies Committee. The Chair shall be appointed by the Board of Directors with the counsel of the Treasurer, and shall be responsible for the Committee. The Movies Chair shall appoint additional members to the Movies Com-*

*mittee upon approval by the Board of Directors. The Movies Committee shall be responsible for planning and conducting movie events as well as managing corporation entertainment resources as specified by the Resolutions of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall report to the Board of Directors on the committee's status throughout the year.*

\*[3] Article VII, Section 3, Item (j) – Calling Back Past BoC Reps Currently reads: *If made necessary by subsections (g), (h), or (i) in order to maintain a full quorum of the Board, the Board shall reserve the right to ask any past members of the Board of Control to serve on a case, contingent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board members. In the case that full quorum is not met using all eligible current and past members, the Board reserves the right to ask the House Presidents to serve on the case. Each House President must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining Board members. All those serving on a case are bound to secrecy as stated in subsection (s). House Presidents who have served on a case are not considered former members of the Board of Control.*

Proposed Change: From the first sentence, strike "made" and "by subsections (g), (h), or (i)."

Amended Item would read: *If necessary in order to maintain a full quorum of the Board, the Board shall reserve the right to ask any past members of the Board of Control to serve on a case, contingent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board members. In the case that full quorum is not met using all eligible current and past members, the Board reserves the right to ask the House Presidents to serve on the case. Each House President must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining Board members. All those serving on a case are bound to secrecy as stated in subsection (s). House Presidents who have served on a case are not considered former members of the Board of Control.*

\*[4] Article VII, Section 3 – Dismissal of a rep judged by his peers to be biased Currently reads: n/a

Proposed change: Insert a new item (j); the current item (j) will become item (k) and so on. The new item (j) shall read: *If the Chair and Secretary feel that a Board member is not admitting a bias related to a particular case, then prior to the full Board hearing they will request that the member not hear that case. If the Board member disputes this, a vote among the remaining board members shall be called with a three-fourths (3/4) majority required to dismiss the member in question.*

Amended Section would read: as above.

## Statements about the amendments

*Statement in favor of amendments [1] and [2] – those concerning the Directors at Large and the Movies Chair:*

The simple intention of these two amendments is to clean up the bylaws and put detailed job descriptions where they belong – in the Board's Resolutions. This change was motivated by two changes: (1) We're selling the ASCIT van and (2) We want to add the ASCIT video/DVD library to the duties of the movie chair. The ridiculous result of these changes is that we would have to submit to a corporation vote a bylaw amendment concerning the job description of the UDG@L and the movie chair. The level of detail currently given in these articles is inappropriate to the bylaws and properly belongs in the corporation resolutions, which are "laws" passed by the ASCIT board of directors. Consider the description of the Social Director: "The Director for Social Activities shall be chairman of the Executive Social Committee. He shall be responsible for the organization of the Corporation's social activities and shall coordinate them with the social activities of the undergraduate Houses." This is an example of a much better bylaw – there is no specific mention of the ASCIT formal or the rotation party or pre-frosh party, yet these events still happen by directives of the Board. Imagine if we'd have had to amend the bylaws in order to change the pre-frosh party to a carnival. We don't want to waste the student body's time with silly details... that's what you elected us for. The important thing is that the job descriptions won't be changing significantly; they'll just be moving to a more malleable document.

-Eric Tuttle, ASCIT President

*Statement in favor of amendment [3] – that concerning the calling back of past BoC reps:*

The current working procedure of the Board is to call back past reps when necessary to maintain quorum. While ideally this would only happen due to dismissal by defendants or the reps themselves, realistically there is often a great deal of difficulty in finding times where at least nine people can meet. Other extracurricular commitments, an excessive amount of schoolwork, illness, and being away from Pasadena are common reasons that reps cannot make meeting times. For many years, it has been the working practice of the Board to call back past reps in these circumstances, and the ASCIT excomm has ruled that it is within the bylaws to do so. This bylaw change is a way of formalizing the current practice of the Board.

-Laura Brogoch, BoC Chair

*Statement in favor of amendment [4] – that concerning the dismissal of a BoC rep judged by his/her peers to be biased:*

Members of the Board of Control pledge to the Caltech community to uphold the ideal of the Honor Code to the best of their ability. However, Board reps are not above inherent human flaws. Situations often arise where a Board member may have unfair biases that prevent them from accomplishing their pledged task. In most cases, reps recognize these biases and are more than willing to be removed from the hearings; however, in rare instances, a rep may be unable to recognize a personal bias. In more disconcerting cases, he or she may be fully aware of them and still refuse to act accordingly. In such instances, the situation merits the somewhat more objective views of others to try to rectify these biases that otherwise simply impede, or perhaps rush, the decision process. However, no such check exists.

Currently, the BoC bylaws are ambiguous as to the procedure that should be followed when a Board member refuses to acknowledge a bias that is obvious to others. If the defendant does not request the dismissal of a rep, and the rep chooses not to dismiss him or herself, the bylaws are silent as to any further action. Should a

rep be biased for a defendant, it is clear that there is no incentive for the defendant to request the rep's dismissal.

Having a biased member on the Board puts an unreasonable strain on the system. All decisions require a 3/4 vote, which, depending on the number of members hearing the case, could be as few as one dissenting vote. It is not fair to throw that vote away on a biased member. Although the bylaws are intended to serve as a framework for BoC operations and to be intelligently interpreted by reasonable people, the ambiguities and high stakes surrounding this issue warrant the outlining of a more formal, consistent procedure.

The ASCIT excomm recently made an interpretation on this issue which is much stronger than this proposed amendment: "The chair of the BoC has the power to dismiss a representative if he feels that the representative will not render an unbiased judgement... The representative may appeal dismissals to the dean." (3/5/00). This ruling was an attempt to end a conflict within the confines of the existing article, but neither the excomm nor the BoC felt it was the optimal solution. This amendment seeks to provide a fairer, more bulletproof procedure.

This amendment does not place any house at a disadvantage in the justice process. The BoC is not designed specifically to be "house-representation-oriented" like the IHC, for example. Yes, each house has a rep, but it is not critical that each house be represented in every case... indeed, this is often not the case. The seriousness of BoC proceedings should by far transcend any house divisions. The reps are not there to defend their houses or their house members, but to uphold the honor code in the most objective way possible. Also, consider the general case of rep dismissal. If a defendant requests that a house rep be removed and the chair upholds it, that rep's house is NOT consulted as to who should replace him/her. Another member is selected (if needed) from the pool of past reps. Similarly, if a rep dismisses himself, there is no opportunity for the house to replace him. This is not written into the system because it is not fundamentally necessary. Also, it is important to note that a house's rep need not even be a member of that house.

This amendment also does not give new and unreasonable power to the Chair. It is a long-standing practice for the Chair to occasionally request that certain reps dismiss themselves from a case. Having conducted the preliminary investigation, the Chair would have greater insight into possible biases than other members and hence his/her advice should be carefully considered. Should the chair be mistaken, however, this amendment clearly protects the rep in question by requiring a 3/4 vote among all of the remaining board members to dismiss. Thus, only when a rep is biased to the point that it is clear to a super-majority of the board will that rep be removed. A dismissed rep could always appeal the decision to the Dean.

Finally, it is important to understand that the provisions of this amendment would be invoked only extremely rarely. The BoC generally functions effectively. However, when situations such as this arise, it is unfair to the defendant, the BoC, and the student body to leave the BoC paralyzed. It is in everyone's best interest to define a clear, fair procedure.

-Laura Brogoch, BoC Chair, Elizabeth Hong, BoC Secretary, Eric Tuttle, ASCIT President, Will Findley & Katharina Kohler, BoC reps

*Statement in opposition to amendment [4] – that concerning the dismissal of a BoC rep judged by his/her peers to be biased:*

Unbeknownst to most Techers, the Board of Control has a lot of power.

It can declare that you are "no longer fit" to attend Caltech and dismiss you from

the school, whether it is because of an academic or social Honor Code violation, so long as six out of seven members agree on it. They can also record the violation as a "disciplinary action" on your undergraduate record, which can in turn be seen by graduate schools. As if this is not enough concentrated power to a small number of people, the Board Chair and Secretary decide alone which cases merit the Board's attention.

Now they want to decide which members of the Board can hear a case.

The argument for this bylaw change is based on the idea that a Board member may either not see his own bias in a case or, realizing his prejudice, refuse to admit to it and thus must be dismissed. There are already two ways to deal with bias on the Board (bias meaning inability to render an objective judgment based on evidence alone): one is for the Board member to dismiss himself, and the other is for the defendant to dismiss the member. Any defendant can ask for dismissal of any member at any time, and because it is the defendant who is being heard it should be up to the defendant whether he can trust the member. There is no need for the rest of the Board or the Chair to have the power to dismiss a member.

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ON PAGE 4

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# ASCIT minutes and Innerspace

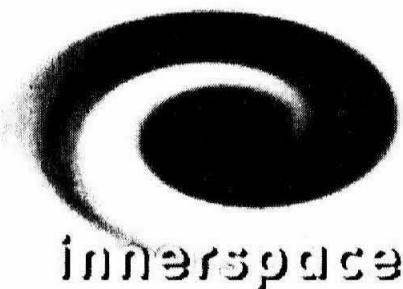
## VARSHAVSKY:

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Avram Hershko's and my work in the 1980s has helped to launch a field of this magnitude."

Dr. Varshavsky was born in Moscow, Russia, and received a B.S. in Chemistry from Moscow University in 1970. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1973 from the Institute of Molecular Biology in Moscow, where he was a research fellow until 1976. In 1977, he immigrated to the United States and joined the biology faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he began his groundbreaking studies into the functions of the ubiquitin system. He came to Caltech in 1992 and received the Merit Award from the National Institute of Health in 1998. Dr. Varshavsky's current research focuses on the N-end rule, which relates the lifetime of a protein to the identity of the amino acid at one of its ends.

The award ceremony will be held at the conclusion of General Motor Cancer Research Foundation's Annual Scientific Conference on June 6-7 at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where Dr.



**It's Appalling...**

By Jason Meltzer

Recent editions of *The California Tech* have bounced around arguments dealing with sexually explicit imagery and whether we should embrace such forms of "expression" at Caltech. While it is true that we have progressed much in recent years to accommodate the sensibilities of those less tolerant of such two-dimensional representations of the world, there is one area of life that has remained untouched by this new political correctness: the bathroom.

I don't know about you, but I find it absolutely appalling that people, in our modern society, still feel it appropriate to go /au naturel/ in the bathroom. And that at Caltech, a bastion of higher learning and enlightenment, we, too, bear our naked (or mostly naked) bodies when en-

from Lloyd, according to Dan), and getting some volleyball nets and Frisbees. This "Campus-wide" Beach Trip, of course, is open to the entire Caltech community.

Meghan tells us that the ASCIT van is working, but needs \$300 worth of work to pass the smog test.

Laura has talked to Betty about the BoC bylaw change and will write it up soon. She will bring it to the meeting next week.

Martha-Helene has a club mailing list up and it's ready to be used ([ascit-clublist@uges](mailto:ascit-clublist@uges)). She will compare with Dave Guskin to make sure she isn't missing any clubs.

Emma has invited the CLUE editors (Joseph, Timothy, and Travis) to talk to the BoD about last year's CLUE. They inform us that the survey email for first term 98-99 was sent out and responses were received, but there were problems due to the Oracle system. No more work will be done on last year's CLUE. They will do first and second term of 99-00 by May 24 and will complete third term during the summer. They are having some problems getting the grade distribution data, but Eric assures them that we will find a way to get it. They are also working on rewriting the software for analyzing the data.

Emma suggests the following ARC Reps-at-Large for approval by the BoD:

ARC Reps-at-Large: Elisa Chan, Nancy Wei, Abel Bourbois. Wait List: Vit Hradecky, Ram Srinivasan. The BoD unanimously approves.

The BoD is currently working on the following resolutions: Jamroom - The BoD will choose a new Jamroom head with recommendation from the current head. The head will be appointed at the beginning of third term, along with the other ASCIT-appointed offices.

Publications Director - The task of

gaged in such activities as using the toilet or taking a shower. It is true that we have progressed in our bathroom design and use over the past millennia. Before the rise of civilization, people would simply find an unoccupied portion of wasteland in which to do their business.

At some point, the latrine became popular, but the level of sophistication of such ideas was rather primitive in comparison to modern technology. The great ancient civilizations had rudimentary plumbing, allowing for some form of waste removal, at least. The Romans had communal bathrooms, where many people would relieve themselves in the same space (without any barriers); they'd probably have a chat while they were at it. So yes, we have come a long way in our bathroom sophistication, yet some still feel it appropriate to bear their naked bodies in this space — an outdated idea not in line with modern sensibilities for the protection of others' feelings.

When one enters a bathroom, one may find it uncomfortable, or even disgusting, that

another's naked body stands just beyond a thin curtain in the shower, or sitting on a toilet. While this may have been acceptable in the past, have we not progressed far enough in the level of sophistication in our society to put this brutish era behind us? Sensibilities have changed, and these actions are simply not acceptable anymore. Administrative bodies, like those at Caltech, now have to worry about people being offended at nakedness in the bathroom. Some find this issue as serious as sexual harassment or the public display of pornography! Where Deal Revel left off in his speaking out against pornography, I will continue and rally against nakedness in bathrooms at Caltech. This behavior is simply unacceptable: is this the image that the Institute wants to present to the world? That it's students are a pack of depraved creatures, removing all their clothes for showers? Caltech should simply not allow this kind of behavior — it's almost as bad as letting students put pictures of naked people on the Web (or maybe even worse)! And I am equally appalled that we allowed this to go on during Prefrosh Weekend, when we do everything possible

to deceive unwitting high school students into thinking that Caltech is the Promised Land upon which God himself smiles! Nakedness in the bathroom could turn away frosh who are offended at such activity and give them a negative impression of the Institute. We certainly don't want that to happen!

I know what you're going to say... "people have been naked in bathrooms for centuries." People have also waged war, committed infanticide, and eaten undercooked meat for centuries, as well, but we don't condone those activities in modern times, do we? Just because an activity was acceptable in the past does not mean we should accept it for the future. It's time we stop this terrible offense to human decency and bring the good, wholesome lifestyle to the bathrooms of America!

*Author's Note:*

*If you can't tell, this column is a parody. It is meant to be facetious and should not be taken seriously by anyone. If you write a letter to the Tech (or me) under the impression that this column is meant to be serious, I will proceed to publicly make fun of your stupidity. I also want to thank my friend Nitza for helping me develop the idea.]*

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

MAY 4, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Jamie Bresson, Audrey Lee, Helen Claudio, Keith Peters, Joseph Schaeffer, Timothy Elling, Travis Hime, Dan Liebling

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

Guests: Helen requests the check from ASCIT for publication of the Totem. She reports that the Totem will be ready to print in 2 to 3 weeks and will come in on budget.

Jamie and Audrey request \$150 for the Taiwanese Student Association for activities including field trips and dessert nights. They are requesting now because they missed the Budget Meeting.

Keith is receiving a donation for the stack he is working on. He is wondering if he can get ASCIT to accept the donation so that the donor can write it off as a tax deduction. Eric will discuss the issue with Caltech's legal people, but the answer is most likely no.

General Meeting: The ASCIT Campus-wide Beach Trip is coming up (Saturday, May 13). Meghan will put an ad in the Tech and contact the Caltech Y about barbecues. Martha-Helene will work on putting up posters, because she did such a good job for the Budget Meeting. She is getting them printed in color at Graphics Arts. Melinda has talked to the GSC, who has donated \$200 towards the event. The BoD still has a few more important tasks to do including deciding on which Malibu beach to go to, organizing the buses, ordering food (we can get 150 hamburger patties

Publications Director - The task of

publications director will be added to the duties of the Upperclass Director-at-Large.

Emma reports that nominations for teaching awards are in. The ARC will choose 10 professors (5 awards/ 5 honorable mentions) and 3 TA's (1 award/ 2 honorable mentions) by the next ASCIT meeting. The awards will be given a week before commencement and 2 students for each professor will be invited (selected from the students who turned in nominations).

Melinda presents her Executive Social Team for approval by the BoD.

Executive Social Team, Cheryl Forest (Blackler), Wren Montgomery (Blackler), Agnieszka Wojciechowska (Dabney), Rachel Thessin (Fleming), Garrett Heffner (Fleming), Meghan Smith (Ruddock), Dan Liebling (Lloyd), Kelly Klima (Lloyd). The BoD unanimously approves.

Dave is asking for a brief description of ASCIT for the little t. Eric and Jason will work on writing that up by May 19. Meghan reports that the publication people got paid recently! Sean informs us that a professor would like to donate to the Sailing Club through ASCIT. This is similar to the stack situation and Eric will also check this with the lawyer.

Eric gives us an update on ASCIT Movies. They can't do Mission Impossible 2 at Caltech because it needs a special permit. However, Tom Mannion will try to buy out all the tickets to a theater in Old Pasadena on the opening day (May 24). This event will be free for ASCIT members (small charge for everyone else). And the Friday before, Mission Impossible 1 will be shown as an outdoor movie. They will also be showing Platoon in traditional format in Baxter on May 12.

Laura reports on the recent Faculty Board Meeting. They are considering revising the Frosh humanities require-

ments to include three different areas (Literature, History, Philosophy) in which each frosh must take a certain number of classes. They plan to emphasize writing more. This proposal will be voted on in the next Faculty Board Meeting. Chris reports that the IHC will do interviews for the Stu-

dent-Faculty Committees next week. ASCIT approves \$120 for the Taiwanese Student Association. Meeting adjourns at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Cardema

Rome Venice Florence Vienna Budapest Prague Bangkok Moscow Lisbon Madrid Barcelona Tel Aviv Johannesburg Delhi Hong Kong

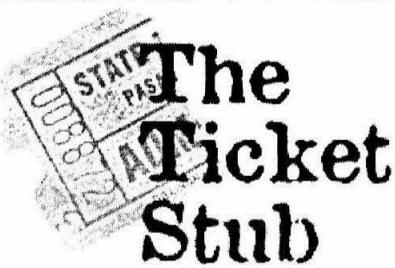
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## Movies and ASCIT



BY JUSTIN HO

Regardless of my verdict on "Gladiator," there will be a massive horde there anyway, so in case you find yourself at the movies with "sold outs" splattered on the ticket window, here's a film you may or may not want to consider.

**American Psycho (B)**

rated R: nudity, menage-a-trois, axes and chain saws

"American Psycho" aimed to be an insightful satire of '80s materialism and decadence, using a serial killer's propensity for committing homicides as the metaphor for Yuppie heartlessness. The title character is placed in an environment with contemporaries who share his professional ambitions, though without his murdering tendencies, and unlike other slasher films, the killer isn't a product of some quest for vengeance in retaliation of years of torment or some painful experience.

Quite the opposite, the Wall Street big potato is among those privileged society members with bottomless bank accounts, a job so secure that he can listen to bad music and flip through pornography magazines while at work without getting an inkling of criticism, and dine at restaurants where the waiters smirk with complacence as they list the exotic entree specials. It's an almost visceral reckoning with gluttony, one that would fill someone with glowing desire or burning contempt. But, at least in this trip to 80's nostalgia, it's a target of disdain for the person caught in the luxurious

bubble as well, for as the killer's conscience murmurs, it leads to a hollow man.

The rationale for the serial killings is a nice departure from the formulaic horror films that have emerged lately. No attempts on his life have been made that left him permanently scarred, there hasn't been any selling of the soul to the devil in a business suit or influence from the dark side, and it's difficult to label him as purely insane for although he delights in the melee of terrified splattering bodies he is nevertheless the source of moral reason in the film. But it is a conscience that remains in limbo and fails to criticize itself for wrong-doing by escaping under the umbrella of emptiness.

The Wall Street mergers and acquisitions shark by day and psycho killer by night, Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale), has never been wronged by anyone or perhaps he's been wronged by all of society in an abstract way. Every purchase and every gesture is a display of status, a flight into blazoning consumption for social promotion, but the desire to do so is internalized while simultaneously existing as something foreign to him.

When the battle of who owns the most aesthetic business card is fought with Bateman the evident loser, it is a bitter Bateman which emerges but it is the product of society's emphasis on being the best individual which causes such hatred. The contempt for losing such a trivial skirmish is instinctual, but it is a sign of the conversion of human to an automaton controlled by the need to polish his identity. And fueled by such a goal, nothing about him is solely independent or really a reflection of himself.

Nothing Bateman does ever surprises society, and civilization knows what Bateman will become, another anonymity in posh society where individuality is obliterated by mutual one-upmanship.

When Bateman wakes up each day to his morning facial cleansing ritual, there is little that the procession of cosmetics does to compensate for his emptiness. It is a pathetic attempt to be someone when he attempts to rationalize his affection for a song with elegant prose, in contrast to people he could potentially look down upon because they describe their attachment to music because it is catchy.

His tendency to enter such soliloquies, in turn, is a twisted little introduction to his delight in ending people's lives. The murderous rampages in which Bateman partakes are gory but imbued with a tongue-in-cheek quality that makes it more bearable.

It is rather under-stated that when Bateman kills, it is out of hatred of the world for making him a vapid pawn but even considering how empty he is, the man may be even incapable of a feeling as strong as hatred. Rather, it is not emotion which fuels him but possibly emptiness.

Bateman's monologues begin to descend into the surreal toward the end of the film so that the distinction between real or what is actually a portrayal of the storm raging inside his head becomes blurred. Though it allows Bateman to recite his most chilling remarks the ending is disorienting and awkward. The

re-staging of the '80s drug-induced, go-go culture is a bit superficial, even as seen through the eyes of someone who can't remember anything from them. The cinematography is a bit crisp and lacking in the vinyl feel which points to a movie which feels too recent.

This facet may work in the film's favor since it can be construed not only as a satire of greed in the '80s, but greed and its corruptive influence in any spatial or temporal setting. But for all its underlying positive message in the form of criticizing the swanky demimonde, something feels absent and it's not only the emotional emptiness which motivates the characters. Christian Bale is the quintessential anti-hero, so much so that even when investigations begin to surround him regarding the disappearances of missing people there's a feeling of empathy for him. It's not because the movie condones his actions by any means, but perhaps because a hope exists that his ambivalent conscience, founded on emptiness, will reach some redeeming conclusion.

Alas, there is none. In hindsight, the movie is filled with interesting complexities revolving around the angsty subconscious rage against society, but while in the theater it's too easy to be overcome by the violence and gratuitous exhibitions of hyper-masculine sexuality. These elements do contribute to the portrayal of Bateman as a psycho without humanity, but if the audience is to save its own its reaction is only to turn away.

## ASCIT: PROS/CONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

miss a BoC rep, even if a 3/4 vote of the Board was needed, two problems can arise. First, if the member to be dismissed is the representative of, say, Booty House, and there are no other members from Booty, then that house loses its representation in the matter. This is especially troublesome when it has to do with a Booty House tradition and there is no one on the Board to share the insight a Booty member would have. Second, what if the Chair and Secretary are biased, including most of the Board? Who will dismiss them? The Chair and Secretary may not be able to vote, but they can certainly influence discussion. Say a certain member of the Board has disagreed with the rest of the members on past cases and they think the problem will arise in the next case. What is keeping the Board from declaring this non-conforming rep biased and dismissing him before the case proceeds? Once the Board knows that this member votes consistently on a certain issue, it is certainly feasible that they can consider him "biased" in regards to certain kinds of cases.

It is true that we are all supposed to be honorable and intelligent, but do not put anything past people in power, especially when meetings are starting to run late and the members of the Board want to arrive at decisions faster. They may not want to deal with a certain rep on the next case.

Also, every student here deserves a jury of his peers, and the purpose of having representatives from all the houses is to make sure all opinions are represented and that no single house runs the show. What can the Booty rep do if the Board does not like Booty House as a whole? What will the defendant from Booty House do?

We must not give the Chair the unfair advantage of being able to dismiss anyone, lest the very upholders of the Honor Code violate the Code on a regular basis. As it stands right now, the ASCIT Excomm has given the BoC Chair the power to dismiss reps at whim. Somehow they have interpreted the bylaws, which clearly state who can dismiss a rep, to say that the Chair can dismiss a rep if she feels it necessary. I highly recommend reading the section of the ASCIT bylaws in question (Article VII, Section 3; it is a quick read) and see if you can find this implied power in there.

In a community full of trustworthy people, does it not seem odd that we need to give so much power to so few people?

-Aaron Davies, with Elizabeth Stameskin, Lexi Baugher, and Jacob Zasada

The ASCIT BoD has also decided to hold the junior and senior class officer elections jointly with the amendment election on Wed., May 24. All registered undergrads in the junior and senior classes may vote for their respective officers. The offices available are:

Senior Class President and Vice President: responsible for setting the date of Senior Ditch Day and for determining the form of each year's commencement exercises. They shall also coordinate the seniors to ensure that no irreplaceable items are damaged as tasks of Ditch Day stacks.

Junior Class President and Vice-President: responsible for organizing a Freshman-Sophomore Event during the first term of each academic year [Boot-EO is a bit late this year]. They shall also be responsible for obtaining a speaker for their class's commencement exercises.

Nominations open Thursday, May 11 and close Thursday, May 18 at 5pm. All nominated candidates will then have the opportunity to publish a brief statement in the May 19 Tech.

## The Outside World

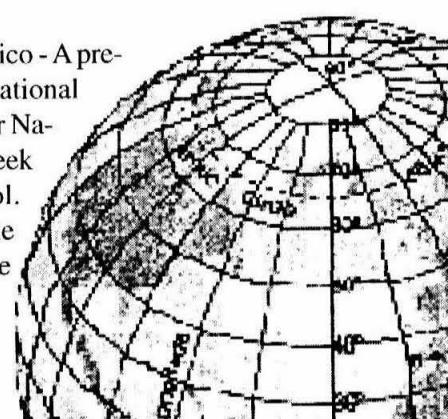
by Erik Dill

Washington D.C. - On Wednesday, May 10th, President Clinton signed an executive order which should increase the availability of anti-AIDS drugs in sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. will not pursue patent violations against countries in the region which try to obtain the drugs at lower cost.

Geneva, Switzerland - The US reported ongoing efforts to eliminate police brutality and abuse of prison inmates, in compliance with the United Nations Conventions Against Torture, which was signed in 1984. Amnesty International filed a counter-report documenting "numerous instances of torture or ill treatment," which are "fast becoming institutionalized across the country."

Shiraz, Iran - Farzad Karshi, an Iranian Jew on trial for spying, denied the charges against him. Of the 13 defendants in the case, he is the first to reject the accusations. Since the trial began a month ago, 6 others have confessed, and 6 have not yet taken the stand.

Los Alamos, New Mexico - A prescribed burn set by the National Park Service in Bandelier National Monument last week has gone out of control. The town, and most of the National Laboratory have been evacuated.



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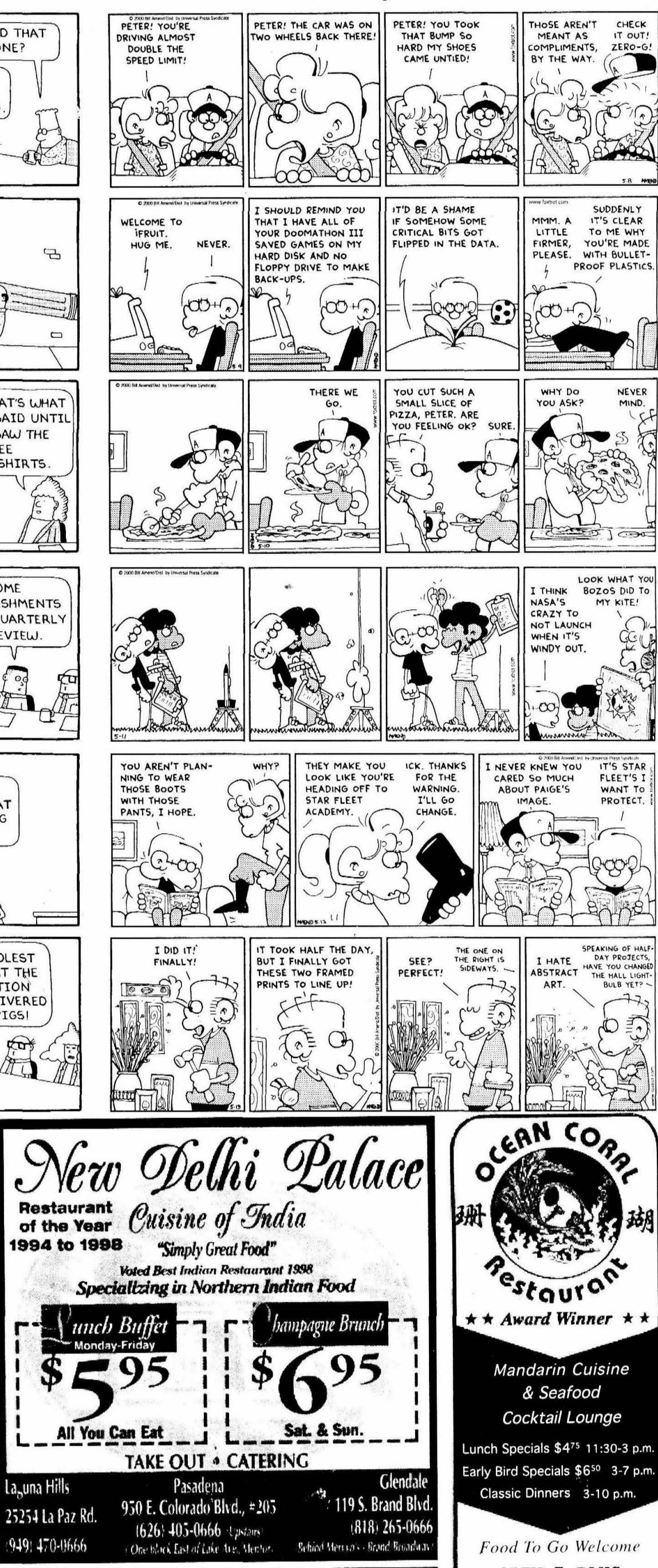
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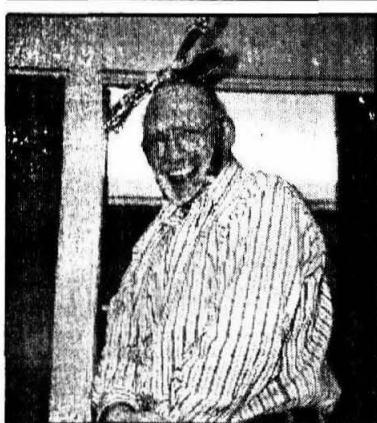
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# Dean



## Dean's Corner

### *The butterfly that roared*

by Jean-Paul Revel

against

time, going at

what seems to them break-neck speed by balloon, camel, elephant, locomotive and steamer. The wager was that it would take them no more than 80 days to return, but they arrive back in London a day late, realizing only at the last minute that in fact they were on time having gained a day because they had traveled eastward. A novel idea for the time when travelers obviously had not yet heard of a choice of Rosemary Lasagna, Glazed Beef or Trout Amandine on the way to London. If you never have read the story of Phileas Fogg, the imperious whist player, you can remedy the situation online, at [http://www139.pair.com/read/Jules\\_Verne/Around\\_the\\_World\\_in\\_80\\_Days/index.html](http://www139.pair.com/read/Jules_Verne/Around_the_World_in_80_Days/index.html).

So, a trip around the world was still a sensation even in the late 1800s. It sure seems to have taken a long time to sink into everyday consciousness, this idea

that the earth was a sphere, in spite of Magellan's exploits and even after poets acknowledged the fact to wit "At the round earth's imagined corners, blow your trumpets, angels." (John Donne)

Pythagoras in the 6th century BC had already concluded that the world was round, by analogy with the sun and the moon. Three hundred years later, Erastosthenes, the head librarian of the Great Library in Alexandria, realized not just that the earth was round but also succeeded in measuring its size accurately. He became aware that at noon on June 21st sunlight went straight down a well near what is today Aswan in Egypt, whereas in Alexandria, at the mouth of the Nile, a stick planted vertically cast a shadow in the sand. He had someone pace the distance (800 km) between these two places, and that allowed him to calculate the earth's circumference with what seems to be a surprisingly accurate result.

Well, let's get back to the Philippines where Magellan died and Mrs. Marcos kept all those

shoes. Who did not feel the effects of the "love bug" which spread from there around the globe? What happened is as amazing to me as the idea that a fluttering butterfly would influence the track of storms elsewhere around the world. Can you imagine that all the upheaval of the last few days could have been caused by the actions of a bank employee whose job

it was to direct complaints to people who knew the answers? Can you believe that such a fellow could bring the whole world to its knees? I know it may be not him, but his girlfriend, or his girlfriend's sister, but that hardly changes my point. Can you imagine that he could have done this in spite of the fact that he had no computer in his apartment? Oh well, maybe he did throw the thing into the canal, a "miasmic" ditch, said by news bureaus to pass near his decrepit apartment house. Of course, others have suggested that the "love" fest or rather infestation originated instead with a student in Australia. As I write this no one really knows where it did come from, this ILOVEYOU virus. All we know is that it did create havoc all around the world, and that in less than 80 hours, not 80 days. The whole affair demonstrates the extent to which we are all knit together,

willy nilly, by love, maybe, and by electricity, and digital signals.

Last week was also the anniversary of another global event. Unbelievably, nearly everyone, at least here, seems to have forgotten about May 8. Do you know what I am referring to? I was a kid, those many years ago, when this event took place. There was dancing in the streets, lots of hugging, kissing, tears of joy, a true love-in before its time. I have it on authority (from the net) that this seemingly forgotten event cost 52,199,262 lives around the world. It was VE day, Victory in Europe, victory of the Allies over the Axis. I guess all these casualties had not yet occurred on VE day. The number also includes the deaths that took place between VE and VJ day, what with fierce battles over tiny atolls, and atom bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. May the world never see such things again. So while one must deplore the unacceptable way of delivering the Filipino message, it is indeed a message that all nations should hear and heed. ILOVEYOU. Say it, repeat it and believe in it, and remember your mother on May 14th, she is the one who said it to you first.

A bientôt

*Jean Paul Revel*

## Los Angeles County Fire Department

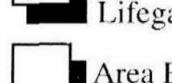
Incident and Rescue Report  
Lifeguard Division

Incident: Campus Beach Trip



Zuma  
Lifeguard Tower #9

Date: May 13<sup>th</sup>



Area Beaches

Time: 10:00am - 6:00pm



Baywatch Malibu

Age: [0, +∞]



Catalina Beach

Sex: (M) (F)



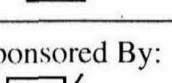
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# Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

**CIM Vision International**, an E-Commerce company based in Long Beach, California, is seeking talented individuals with a passion for software development in Windows 2000 COM+/Java/ASP. Immediate openings are available. Candidates must show attention to detail in their work, have good oral and written communication skills and demonstrate that they work well under pressure as well as in a fast paced team environment. Preference will be given to those candidates that have experience with C++, MFC, COM/DCOM/COM+, ATL, Java, SQL and UML. Please send resume and a cover letter to: Human resources, CIM Vision International, 300 Oceangate, Suite 1500, Long Beach, CA 90802.

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

The CBDC hosts a series of

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

**CIT Guitar Classes for the spring term** will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on Apr. 4. Beginning, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Intermediate, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Advanced 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive 3 units of credit. For more information, contact Darryl Denning at (323) 465-0881 or by email at [ddenning@caltech.edu](mailto:ddenning@caltech.edu), or visit [www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html)

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

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

## EVENTS

**Finland-Land of Contrasts**, Beckman Auditorium, Fri., May 12, 8 p.m. Ed Lark will narrate this Armchair Adventures travel film. Admission: \$8, \$7. For information call 1-888-2CALTECH.

**Spring Concert**, Ramo Auditorium, Fri., May 12, and Sat., May 13, at 8 p.m. The combined Caltech Glee Clubs and the Caltech-Occidental Orchestra will perform a program that includes Ralph Vaughan

Williams's "In Windsor Forest" from his opera "Sir John in Love." Free admission, for more information call 1-888-2CALTECH

**Lui Collins**, singer/songwriter, will appear in concert on Sat., May 13, at 8 p.m. in Dabney Lounge. Collins will accompany herself on guitar. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$4 for Caltech students and children under 12. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECHH.

**Caltech Library System Presents:** May 16 - "Beilstein Crossfire: Structure Searching and Display" Learn about: drawing chemical structures, changing atom and bond attributes, searching and displaying compound records, generic groups and atom lists, and reaction searching. There will be a comparison of Beilstein and Dictionary of Organic Chemistry/ Dictionary of Natural Products. May 23 - "The New PubMed, Ovid Medline, and other Biomedical Information Resources" Learn about searching through the above databases for information. The sessions will be held from 12-1 p.m. in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room, 328. Please go to <http://library.caltech.edu/learning> for more specific information, and to register. For other questions, contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or [kathleen@library.caltech.edu](mailto:kathleen@library.caltech.edu).

**Earthquake Preparedness Training** will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Thu., May 18th. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at x6727.

**"A Different View of the DNA Double Helix: A Conduit for Charge Transport,"** Beckman Auditorium, Wed., May 17, 8 p.m. Dr. Jacqueline Barton, professor of chemistry, will give this Ernest C. Watson lecture. Admission is free. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

**Bandorama**, Ramo Auditorium, Sat., May 20, at 8 p.m. The Caltech Jazz and Concert Bands will perform. The jazz bands will feature two student vocalists and

perform music from the swing era to the present. Admission is free. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

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

**Caltech Education Science Club** will meet May 24, CAPSI, 287 S. Hill Ave. The topic is Seizing Opportunities- Science Careers "Outside the Box" Here is an opportunity to find out some creative careers for students majoring in science. This quarter's meeting of the Science Education Club will present for you a panel of people who have graduated with science degrees and whose science background and training lead them to find a career in a non-traditional part of the workplace. Please let us know if you are planning to attend the meeting so we can reserve a place for you and some pizza too! Everyone is welcome [ahammon@caltech.edu](mailto:ahammon@caltech.edu) or telephone x3222 or 3623

## SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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