Phaedra by Jean Racine will be performed by Spectrum Productions in English in Ramo Auditorium Friday and Saturday nights, April 20 through May 5, at 8 pm.

Rachel Bard has been cast in the lead role of the incestuous heroine Phaedra, and Marshall Guisdon in that of the innocent Hippolytus. Murray Cohen will play Theseus; Patricia Butz will be Ariadne; Mara Marshall will be Oenone, the guilty confidante; Robert Almanza will be Thersamon; Judy Dexter Rye will be Iphigenia, and Catherine Eby will act the role of Pinope. Eric Warren is designing the set. Shirley Marneus continues as Artistic Director, and founder Oscar Mandel is the Producer.

Phaedra will be Spectrum's eighteenth production since 1972. A company whose main purpose is to stage "unusual plays of high literary merit," Spectrum has brought a wide range of dramatic presentations to Ramo Auditorium, including the works of Samuel Beckett, Lope de Vega, Woody Allen, and Friedrich Durrenmatt.

This season's production, a classic of the French theater, was written by Racine in 1677. It is a dramatization of a Greek myth: Phaedra, the wife of Theseus, is in love with her stepson Hippolytus, and their fates unfold into the inevitable tragedy.

Tickets for all performances of Phaedra are on sale now at the Caltech Ticket Office (or at Mutual and Ticketron agencies, for those of you readers out there in the real world). For information, phone (213) 793-7043.

ASCIT Appointments Opened

by Ray Beausoleil

Sometime within the next couple of weeks, the ASCIT BOD will fill the following appointive offices: At-Large ESC member, Educational Policies Committee member, Elections Committee member, Educational Policies Committee member, and Student Publications Director. These are "at the year's," Big 7 Editor and Business Manager (this year's and next year's), Big 7 Editor (next year's), and Non-Dorm Business Manager (next year's).

ASCIT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1979-1980

Page Sews up IH

by Bill de la Torre

In Tuesday's Interhouse basketball action an intense Page House squad handheld the usual overconfident Flmens a crushing bludgeon, 42-35. Page is now assured of the Interhouse crown.

Off a fast start, the inspired Dudes took early command, 5-2. But a quick rally by the Flmens put them out in front, 8-5. This was to be short-lived, however. Page quickly went into their "feed-Curatalo" offense and the cool guard rammed home 8 points to enable Page to enter the half-time locker with a solid 6-point advantage. Also contributing to the lead were the tough defensive efforts of forward Pat McMurry and center Ron Miller.

Following an inspired harangue, pre-game favorite Flmens appeared ready to play. Their hopes were immediately quelled, however, like so many sacks of potatoes. Unimpressed by the obstreperous and vociferous opposing fans, the Page cagers opened up their lead to 11 points through tenacious team play. This was all she wrote. The Dudes entered their four-corner rope-a-dope stall offense and easily cruised to a 7-point victory.

Page hero Charlie Curatalo led all scorers with 16 points and forward Pat McMurry commanded the board play with 14 rebounds.

A memorial service was held last Sunday at the Orange Grove Meeting of the Society of Friends.
There have been some complaints that the special activities this weekend will give the pre-frosh women an unreal impression of Tech. These complaints argue that the activities would not otherwise have happened and that the girls will be likely to accept Tech’s admissions offer under a false view of the school.

Now, just who is kidding whom here? The mere fact of their presence will be sufficient for an atypical “weekend at Caltech.” The alternative to special activities is to dump the women in front of the campus and while they probably wouldn’t be ignored, we doubt that they would appreciate shelling out their money (remember, they’re still paying for half of the travel expenses) and being left on their own.

Secondly, some special activities” to give an unrealistically optimistic view of Tech should be a perfectly reasonable balance for the unrealistically pessimistic impression they’ll get from talking with the undergrads. People enjoy bitching, and when asked “but what is it really like?” they tend to discuss flaws, no matter how perfect the object of discussion may happen to be. Caltech is no paradise, but we weren’t damned to Tech either. Somehow, despite all that opposes us, we continue to make this a breeding ground for masochists or it isn’t all so bad as we like to make it sound. We rather suspect the latter.

Anyway, next time you want to describe the “real Caltech” to someone, stop listening to the pre-programmed bitching and consider your actions. Instead of giving the standard answer, take the extra time to be honest with yourself. You never know—the truth might actually make you free.

—David Young & John Avery

Bitch, Bitch, Bitch...

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LETTERS

To the Editors:

The Coffeehouse has changed its policies. It is no longer catering to Caltech students. I am forced to assume this because of the evidence. Its hours have changed; they used to be 8 pm to 2 am. They are now 8 pm to 11 am.

Now, these are not Techers hours. One of the first things newcomers remark on is the strange hours Techers keep. Everyone knows this. The Y keeps its Xerox machine running all night long during the week, despite re-rolls and other such obligations to restrict the Xerox to office hours. The Milikan Library is open three or four hours later than most college libraries, in acknowledgement of Techers' hours. Deprecation runs late into the night. I could give you the idea.

So why does the Coffeehouse open only about an hour after Techers have left? You're not going to get many Techers that way.

And why does it close at 11 am? A lot of Techers are just

Whip Grade Inflation Now

It has come to our attention that in recent years the mean GPA of graduating seniors at Caltech has risen to an alarming high of 3.5, meaning that over half of our undergraduate degrees are awarded with "honors." This is deplorable. This rampant grade inflation is a serious threat to the academic standards that make this institution great.

Last year Dr. Chuck (that's a name) Wilts, then chairman of the Undergraduate Academic Standards and Honors Committee, brought this burning issue to the attention of the faculty, so that prompt action could be taken. He asked that his fellow professors adopt a more responsible policy of grading, and stop compensating for increased class enrollments by handing out As like they were green stamps. His voice was lost in the whining of marginal students, and excuses of bleeding-heart faculty who endorsed them. "Christ, don't we work them hard enough now?" was a familiar excuse used by many who care not.

We are every bit as concerned about this problem as Dr. Wilts, and we have spent many months studying it. While we completely agree with his goal of lowering the mean graduating GPA, we are forced to conclude that his method, of that of enforcing tighter grading standards, is continued on page five
Budweiser presents...

the TASTEBUDS

"FORECAST"

WATCH THE TASTEBUDS (IN ACTUAL COMMERCIALS) ON "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE!"

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE BOYS, HERE'S THE LATEST TASTE FORECAST.
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BAD NEWS...
CREAMED LIVER!
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YEAH??
A BUDWEISER?

NO...
NO?
BUMMER...

TWO BUDWEISERS!
YAY-YAY!!
FILL 'ER UP!

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CALL 'EM TASTEBUDS, ANYWAY?

KING OF BEERS
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It would be unfair to criticize this method without offering a constructive alternative, so we have formulated a plan of our own. We feel that it will accomplish the goal of lowering the average GPA, without stepping on the toes of the students on the lower portion of the academic ladder. The answer is so simple, we are surprised that no one (including us) thought of it before now.

The institute has a rule requiring achievement of a 1.9 GPA in order to graduate, and even one requiring maintenance of a 1.9 GPA simply to stay in school. Clearly, such a policy biases the distribution of graduating seniors towards cutthroats, and drives up the average GPA. Our solution, therefore, is to lower (or better yet, eliminate) these arbitrary requirements. We are confident that the results would be visible within the first year, and overwhelming within the first three years. In this way, we will be able to contain grade inflation, without causing a graduation recession.

We look forward to action on this matter by the faculty.

-Eric H. Eichorn
Golf can't put it together

by Loretta K. Laird

In recent golfing action, the Caltech Beavers have been quite competitive but unable to capture a victory. With a match remaining against lowly Whittier, however, the team is confident of snatching a win.

Two weeks ago the squad ventured down to La Jolla to play in the Torrey Pines Invitational Collegiate Golf Championship. Playing under ideal conditions, Caltech's top three men—Charlie Curatalo, Terry Thomason, and Doug McKenzie—turned in excellent scores for the two-day competition. However, in the end, archival UCLA won out the Techers and captured the team championship.

In last week's SCIAC matches the Caltech golfers took on LaVerne, Occidental, and Claremont colleges. Several fine performances were logged by our golfers, but key absences in each match thwarted any victory efforts.

Against LaVerne, the first twosome of Curatalo and Thomason had LaVerne's top pair in fits throughout the contest and captured key points.

Against Claremont, the first twosome of Curatalo and Thomason had LaVerne's top pair in fits throughout the contest and captured key points.

In addition to the Whittier contest and captured key points, the latter logging a fine sub-80 score. Terry Thomason also played well, but was unable to capture any points.

In addition to the Whittier match, the Techers are looking forward to the SCIAC Conference Championship at Friendly Hills Country Club on April 30, and the NCAA District III Tournament at Soboba Springs on May 7.

Service w/ A Smile

The Caltech Service League's annual Plant and Bake Sale will be given at the Winnett Patio, Friday, April 27, from 8:30am on. Proceeds will benefit the Service League projects for Caltech students. Please plan to be there.

Space War!

The Caltech Gaming Society will present a special scenario of alien space on Saturday evening in Clubroom 1. Those interested in participating should contact Rob Calvet in M.J. House.

We're the best paying student newspaper on campus.
**Gone like a Streak in the Wind**

If you haven't been coming to ASCIT movies, you've missed Raquel Welch as Lust, the Beatles at their best, and an Academy Award-winning comedy. If you haven't seen Cinematheque's movies, then you've missed desert epics and invasions of the earth by vicious plant pods. In other words, both Cinematheque and ASCIT movies have been showing good movies. So, to drum up business, I'm going to start telling you folks about the movies we're showing.

This Friday at 7:30 and 10:00 in Baxter Lecture Hall, for the ASCIT movie, will be Silver Streak. This movie stars Gene Wilder, Jill Clayburgh and Richard Pryor on board a cross-country train. Wilder sees a murder occur as he seduces Britt Ekland fans. This movie is a disappointment.

Don't let your years at Tech go by without experiencing a rea*Af**fHE***M*ii*Y1E*sl i

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**Phantasm**

**Phantasm** is geared for the 13-year-old male and is rated R--this may seem incongruous and so do some of the events in the movie. The hero of the film is a 13-year-old male who drives a car (his guardian brother's), readily uses a gun, and keeps his cool while all others are in panic. He investigates the strange goings-on at the local cemetery and unearthly evil awakens a superhuman mortician (whose chopped-off fingers continue to wiggle in their yellow blood) and a blood-sucking steel ball. The selling point of the film, and it is a strong one, is that it is a screamingly good and fun picture. It is inviting to the emotions, whether they be surprise, terror, disgust or laughter. There are a few special effects into a refreshing experience. 

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**The Wicker Man**

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I went to see the movie musical Hair knowing nothing more about it other than the songs “Aquarius” and “Let the Sun Shine In.” I came away from the experience quite impressed. It is a rejolucite sensory experience. This movie, directed by Melos Forman, is based on the ’60’s play by Gorme Ragni, James Rado and Galt MacDermot.

Opening scenes of dancing in the park seem a little other-worldly, but they give the viewer a sense of what an Oklahoma farm boy (John Savage of The Deer Hunter) feels. The Oklahoman is an Army recruiter who has a few days in New York before he is sent to Basic Training and later to Vietnam. In the span of those days he is introduced to the hippie lifestyle, freedom, inter-racial relationships, the wealthy elite, a beautiful dream-girl, jail, and freedom. The funniest moment is when he and his free-living friends (led by Treat Williams) crash a party of the rich and conservative. It is an opportunity for the viewer to share some of the conservative horror at the group’s antics and to share the hippie’s delight in destroying the upper class rigidity.

Seeing Hair while surrounded by sound in a good large theatre is the best way to view it (it is now playing at the Cinerama Dome). If only for its music, the movie is a saturating experience. The storyline is an undercutend which flows more evenly than that of most other musicals.

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**Hair**

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**Firepower**

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Firepower is an action adventure with big-name stars, James Coburn and Sophia Loren. I fell asleep somewhere near the end. The acting is alright, but the characters are unbelievable and the action is too little, too slow. Coburn is paid a million dollars to kidnap one of the richest men in the world and to turn him over to U. S. Government people, because the fellow is manufacturing bad drugs at his companies. This is worth seeing if it is on TV and nothing else is on.

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**The Passage**

I looked hard to find some redeeming qualities in The Passage but I could not find any. It is a WWII picture with stereotypically evil Nazi and a good family seeking escape into a safe country. The leading Nazi bad guy is an SS agent who burns people alive, rapes women, and is obsessed with tracking down the poor family that is trying to get away. The suspense near the end is not bad, but the farcical ending ruins any value the film might have had.

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**Vacation**

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**Attention:**

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**Graduating?**

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Attention:

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**Public Service**

Discuss, Discuss...

*The Women Student Discussion Group* will hold a special meeting Friday, April 27th, 12 noon-1pm, upstairs in the Y Lounge. Three graduate (Chemistry) students—Pat George, Frances Houle, and Mary Ann White—will discuss the NSF/UCLA Women in Science Conference they recently attended. If you can’t attend the discussions on a regular basis, feel free to drop in any Friday.

Call Bex @2394 for further info.

**Career Counselling**

Once again, the Caltech Y and the Geome Club are offering Career Counselling Seminars. The two scheduled so far are to be held on April 18th and on May 2nd, in the Y Lounge at 7:30pm. The former concerns itself with “Management in Government and Private Industry”, while the latter deals with “Careers in Academia”. All interested undergraduates are welcome.

**Health Answers**

Practitioners will answer phone inquiries between 8:30 am and 10:30 am Monday—Friday on any medical question. If we don’t have the answer, we’ll get it or tell where to get it.

Another Exam?!?

Arrangements for Physical Examinations for students for Graduate School, Transfers, Permanent and/or Summer Employment, Class II Driver’s Licence, etc. may be made at the Young Health Center. These examinations will be done by NURSE PRACTITIONERS Tuesday—Friday mornings by appointment. Please call x2394 for further information.

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or drop them off at our offices in Winnett Center, Room 107.