



Romeo (Don Huntington) says some very famous things to Juliet (Heidi Anderson) in TACIT's *Romeo and Juliet*

Romeo and Juliet

by Diana Foss

Romeo and Juliet, more than any other, is the first play most people think of when they think "Shakespeare." It is the canonical Shakespeare. Even though most people haven't seen it or read it, many have seen *West Side Story*, or can recite those famous words "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" and "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." One thus approaches a production of *Romeo and Juliet* differently from even *Hamlet*. A production must rise above the place the play has assumed in our popular culture and the banality inherent in this position. TACIT's *Romeo and Juliet* does not completely succeed in this, unfortunately.

When TACIT is good, it is very, very good, but even when it's not, it's not bad. Although nowhere near the excellence of 1984's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet* is worthwhile, graced by several sterling performances, moments of real lyrical beauty, and the lovely surrounds of Dabney Gardens. Unhappily, the play is too long, with the major performances lacking the subtlety to sustain it. Additionally, although there was no real way to avoid it, the play is performed in the afternoon, which robs it of much of its intimacy, as well as the effect of such lines as "She hangs upon the cheek of night as a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear."

It has been remarked that *Romeo and Juliet* could almost be a comedy up until Mercutio's death. Indeed, the two halves of the performance could almost be two different plays. It opens with the great rivalry of Verona expressed in the coarse bravado of the servants of both Capulet and Montague. Quickly, however, the brawl grows more serious and more and

more people are drawn into the fray, a marvelous scene as the angry towsfolk pelt the brawlers with fruit and brave words lead to bloodshed. Disaster is averted, however, by the Prince, masterfully, if briefly, played by Greg Tomko-Pavia. Here we also meet the excellent Benvolio (Taylor Lawrence), the peacemaker whose reward is a wounded arm, and Max Bryson's superb Capulet, here blustering and bristling as the Prince chastises both houses for their never-ending feud and promises that the next to fight shall also be the next to die.

We then meet Romeo. In many ways, Don Huntington is perfect for the role. Far from the mature, dashing lover so often seen in the part, he is above all, young. His friends kinsmen tease him unmercifully for his calf-eyed crushes, but Romeo's is indeed an adolescent passion. Only when he is called upon to portray rage and deeper passion does Huntington falter. Although he kills Tybalt through sheer luck, he isn't consumed with the blind fury that would make such luck possible.

And Juliet. Whereas Huntington's strength is in his youth, Heidi Anderson's Juliet is too young. Juliet is a stronger character than Romeo; when Romeo is swooning about love, it is she who lays the plans for their marriage, she who has the steely will to lie to her family and fake her own death to be with him. Anderson, however, goes through the whole play with the same wide-eyed grin and unmodulated voice until Tybalt's death. Here again, she is Huntington's opposite. Her tears and fury break her monochromatic performance; when she decides to leave her family, Juliet's steely will finally comes through. And she is wonderfully professional when dead. Even as Romeo and Paris fight over her very body, and after Paris falls, supposedly dead but chest still having, to the ground, Anderson is a very effigy.

Other notable performances are Astrid Howard's lecherous trickster of a Nurse, Tracy Petersen's Mercutio, the epitome of the dashing hero, and Craig Bateman's adorable clown, Peter. TACIT always does extremely well by its scene and costumes. There are some breathtaking pieces of staging: the fight two big fight scenes grow from insults to pandemonium before anyone can stop them. Most

stunning of all is Juliet's fake death. Capulet, his wife, the Nurse and Friar Laurence weep their cadenced lines and the effect is one of a chorus of grief. Then the scene flows seamlessly into Juliet's funeral. It is a superb effect. The costumes are graceful, as always, and Dabney does work quite well as a setting, especially the nice way the interior of the building is put to use during the party. The downside is that it was very hard to focus on important, intimate exchanges in the relatively large space they occupied. One wishes that someone could have come up with the money necessary to rent stage lights.

TACIT's *Romeo and Juliet* is not perfect, and it is not the best Shakespeare ever seen at Caltech. Still, it is often beautiful and ultimately worthwhile. Performances are tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30 in Dabney Gardens. Tickets are \$4.00 for students and \$6.00 general admission.

by Pam Feldman
BOC Chairman

The Board of Control feels that the secrecy which surrounds its operation has some disadvantages. For example, the community does not always understand the position of the Board on many issues; people are not sure of whether certain actions will or will not be treated as honor system violations. Currently, the Board is bound to secrecy and the records of cases are kept private. This means, for example, that if a person feels he has been wronged by the Board, he has no access to the official files of his case. Thus there are two different sorts of issues to be considered: providing more general information to the community on the operation of the Board, and giving convicted persons access to the information on their own cases.

In order to address the first issue, that of providing more information to the community on how the Board operates, on what actions the Board considers to be honor system violations, etc., the Board has resolved to release a set of abstracts of cases. Article VII, Section 3i of the ASCIT by-laws permits the Chairman of the Board to release, upon resolution of the Board, abstracts of cases. The

Core Changes

by Castor Fu

After working for nearly a year, the Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Sunney Chan, has presented its findings to the Faculty Board. The Core Curriculum committee was commissioned by the Faculty Board to reevaluate the the core curriculum by studying its impact, intent, and relevance. The response of the Faculty Board was generally favorable, although there were some reservations.

After discussions with the faculty, administration, students, alumni, and other schools, the Committee concluded that Caltech's "liberal science" approach towards education is especially useful in an age of rapid technological change. However, the scope of the "basic sciences" has changed radically in the past fifty years, leaving students with insufficient time to cover all the traditional topics as well as their own fields. The Committee also decided that students needed more time to absorb the information presented, and that the Institute should encourage independent work. Most of the Committee's recommendations parallel those of the Faculty-Student Conference, but they also proposed more extensive changes in the H&SS program.

The main recommendations for changing the science curriculum were rearranging ChI so that it fits in two terms and allowing substitutions for Ph2c and Ma2c. Changing the freshman laboratory requirement to a introductory one would allow some labs to be geared towards students in their sophomore year who would possess the knowledge to take advantage of the material presented. These changes would also open more room for introductory classes in fields like biology, computer science, and engineering.

The computing course requirement would be changed to a computing proficiency requirement. The Committee also applauded the creation of truly introductory computing courses, which the Caltech

Computing Organization plans to teach next year.

Most importantly, the Committee recommended reducing the overall unit requirement from 516 units to 480. The committee considered the possibility of changing to a semester system, but was uncertain of the practicality. At the Faculty Board meeting many members, including parts of the administration, commented that we should be willing to consider the drastic change to a semester system, if it would improve students' ability and willingness to learn.

The Humanities & Social Science requirements were considered, in their present form to be overly complex, not necessarily ensuring a well rounded education. The Committee recommended that H&SS construct courses for a 27 unit introductory H&SS requirement. These courses would serve as an introduction to essential issues and techniques, to help prepare the student for more in-depth study. The student would be expected to satisfy 18 unit "concentrations" in both Humanities and Social Sciences. The Humanities concentration could be satisfied by 5th or 6th terms of a foreign language. The remaining units of the 108 H&SS requirement would be 45 units of electives.

The committee further recommended that the writing requirement be implemented through a Writing Center, which was already planned by the H&SS division, allowing specialists in the teaching of writing to assist students, and freeing teachers of classes to concentrate on content. The Committee also endorsed the concept of an honors program which the H&SS Division has been working on for some time.

The Committee examined the coordination of math with other classes in the early years. Although there have been many problems in the past, the committee concluded that with proper feedback mechanisms, the current system of teaching mathematics is useful,

BOC Releases Abstracts

abstracts can not contain the names of the people involved in the case, nor such information as would lead to their identification.

A set of five such abstracts are now available in the rooms of all current members of the Board. Off-campus people should come to the room of either the Chairman (Pamela Feldman, Ruddock 134) or Secretary (Doug Roberts, Page 223) Note that all persons involved in the cases are referred to as "he" in the abstracts, regardless of the actual gender. Motions in the abstract are worded, for example, "A motion is made to send Student A on a leave", and implicitly this means "A motion is made to recommend to the Dean of Students to send Student A on a leave." In all cases the recommendations were approved by the Dean of Students. The five abstracts cover homework policy violations in modified collaboration and no collaboration classes, using a false account number to place long distance calls, receiving payment for work not done, and cheating on an exam.

The second issue cannot be addressed under the current by-laws, because complete secrecy on cases, aside from the section which per-

mits the release of abstracts, is an explicit feature of the by-laws. Protection of the convicted person was the motivating reason for this secrecy, and therefore it seems that if the convicted person does not want to be protected, he shouldn't be. The Board is intending to formulate and propose an amendment to the ASCIT by-laws some time next fall. The amendment might allow the convicted person to ① obtain a copy of the minutes of his case for his own records, ② release the minutes to the general community, ③ release the members of the Board from secrecy, etc. The convicted person will retain the right to have his case held confidential as under the current by-laws. The release of abstracts at this time serves the additional purpose that it will help the Board assess the need for and scope of such an amendment. The Board welcomes any feedback or opinions you may have on the contents of the abstracts now available, on the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to publish these abstracts, or on what should or should not be included in the amendment. Please feel free to discuss these matters with me or any other member of the Board.

Free Inside:

At long last, the hotly-awaited **Ditch Day Supplement**, starting promptly on page 7.

And — your guide to the special **ASCIT election** to be held Monday! See page 3.

LETTERS

Library Facts

To the Editors:

I must disagree with the rosy picture of the Caltech library system that Tony Stirk painted in his article of 2 May. All of the branch librarians with whom I have spoken are vehemently opposed to any centralization of services and collections, believing that those who need and use the smaller branch libraries get far more help than they would in a large, impersonal central library where cutting costs was more important than service. It is a sad statement about Caltech that none of them would allow his or her name to be quoted, for fear of being fired.

Caltech's departments are centered around their own, individual libraries, where the collections are readily at hand. Before jumping immediately to cut the amount of money spent on salaries, one should stop to consider the invaluable resource that a trained technical librarian represents, one who is aware of the needs of his or her department and can respond to

them personally. Removing the departmental libraries not only changes a functional space into a gaping hole, it also deprives its patrons of the personal services which are just as important as books and journals. And a library does not exist in a vacuum. If people won't walk over to use a giant, efficient, centralized library, then of what use is its efficiency?

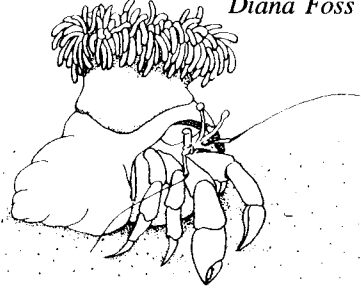
Beyond the problem of further centralization are the problems that exist in our present central library. Why is it that there is no one knowledgeable reference librarian in Millikan on a regular basis? As it now stands, the branch librarians must come to Millikan for several hours a week to work at the reference desk. This simultaneously robs those who use branch libraries of the services of their librarians, and cheats those who want to use Millikan's reference services. By the same token, why is it that there is no librarian on duty evenings and weekends, times when many people use Millikan library?

I also have questions about the library system's promised com-

puter system. Is this really the best and most compatible system available? Has it been used elsewhere, and is it still in use elsewhere? Can this system use OCLC, the standard database? And how much money is being spent on this system amid cries for cutting personell? I eagerly await the final implementation of this system.

Libraries are often taken for granted, and Techers are notorious for their ignorance on matters that have a profound effect on their lives. I hope that we hear more about these changes, and hear more justifications than have been set forth. I hope that Caltech won't let something happen to its libraries that it will later regret.

Sincerely,
Diana Foss



EDITORIAL

Hands Across L.A.

by Diana Foss

On Sunday morning, a friend of mine and I climbed into my car and drove to downtown Los Angeles to take part in Hands Across America. Although all the coverage I've seen since has been from either Middle America, or from places like Long Beach where it was really much more of a party, we stood on sixth Street, just east of San Pedro, in one of the poorest sections of the city.

We got there about 11:15, and spent the next 45 minutes talking to the other people, mainly white and middle-class like us, who had come to show their concern with hunger and homelessness in the US. Across the street sat about 20 people, all black, all presumably homeless. There was no interaction between the two sides of the street. It was extremely unsettling. On the one side were hundreds of people, millions of people by extension, who had the great feeling that they were doing something to help solve a ghastly problem, and on the other

side were precisely the people who had to live with that problem, every day. I saw very few of these people actually come over to join the line.

As noon approached, people began holding hands. There were so many people that the line bulged out into the street. That was the best moment of the morning, the realization that there really were thousands upon thousands of people who would come out and hold hands at the same time, even if just to think about hunger and homelessness. Several people had radios on; we could hear the main festivities at the end of the line in Long Beach. We were supposed to sing three songs: *Hand Across America*, *We Are the World*, and

continued on page 3

News From the GSC: Get Involved!

With a new Graduate Student Council elected, it is disappointing to see so many departments under-represented or not represented at all. The GSC is the voice and representative of the entire graduate student body. Its function is three-fold: to represent the graduate students, to provide programs to benefit graduate students, and to administer the honor code.

The GSC appoints representatives to the Faculty Board and all Faculty Standing Committees. The GSC communicates suggestions and concerns of graduate students to the members of the administration. The GSC also has a representative to the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association.

A recent project in which the GSC was involved was the construction of the Catalina apartments. In the planning of both Catalina I and the new Catalina II apartments, members of the GSC contributed to the layout of the buildings, the design of the apartments, the furnishings, and other aspects of the projects.

In the area of graduate student programs, the GSC sponsors and supports a variety of programs. These include the Red Door Cafe,

the sports leagues, parties, and many organizations on campus. The GSC also publishes the *Technique* (graduate student handbook), and sponsors programs for incoming graduate students. Finally, it is the duty of the GSC to administer the honor code through the Graduate Review Board. Caltech's honor code is unique in that it is administered by the students.

The GSC will be meeting on Thursday, June 5th, at 12 noon in the Red Door Cafe. These monthly meetings are open to all graduate students.

At this meeting, graduate representatives for faculty committees will be appointed. Some GSC representatives from last year will be continuing as representatives, so not all committees have openings. The committees for which there are openings (and the number of openings) are: Academic Policies (1), Foreign Students (1), Graduate Studies (1), Health (1), Institute Programs (1), Relations with Secondary Schools (2), and Student Housing (1). Any graduate student interested in becoming a representative is encouraged to attend the meeting. You need not be on the council to be on a committee.

Publication of the *Technique*, the graduate student handbook, will also be organized at the June meeting. This booklet is mailed out to every incoming graduate student before the start of the school year. It provides information on facilities, services and activities available at Caltech and in the Pasadena community. Copies are also available for continuing graduate students. Tony Stirk, the GSC Vice-Chairman, is in charge of updating the *Technique*. At the meeting, a subcommittee will be organized to do the necessary revisions. Any graduate students with ideas for or interest in revising the *Technique* should come to the meeting or contact Tony (127-72, x6556).

Another item on the agenda for

the June meeting is a discussion of the search for a GRB Chairman (and more recruits for the Graduate Review Board). Graduate students are encouraged to support the Caltech honor system by volunteering to be a member of the GRB. Contact David James (138-78, x6294) for information.

All of the activities of the Graduate Student Council are dependent on people to help run them. If you are interested, there are still many options with spaces available for GSC representatives. In addition, there are many opportunities to help out with GSC activities even if you are not on the council. Get involved! Help make Caltech a better place for graduate students.

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The Caltech Y Fly-by

Friday... May 30

Noon Concert: Room Service; on the quad.

Tuesday... June 3

Green Card, Play at Mark Taper Forum. 8:00 pm, sign up at Y office, rides at 7:15.

Wednesday... June 4

Y Night at the Movies, selections TBA, refreshments, free; 9:00 pm.

Friday... June 6

Noon Concert: Slowburn Jazz; on the quad.

Saturday... June 7 Sunday... June 8

Decompression.

Any questions, comments, or ideas?
Come see us in the Y office or call x6163



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Bill Allen Speaks at YAF Talk

by Josh Kurutz

Dr. Bill Allen, a professor of government at Harvey Mudd College, led a discussion sponsored by the Young Americans For Freedom (YAF) concerning reform in America's educational system. The Wednesday night presentation in Baxter Lecture Hall turned into a discussion among a largely receptive audience of self-proclaimed conservatives.

The thrust of Allen's argument was that the people who make up modern American society do not exhibit much self-responsibility and that this attitude can be directly linked to flaws in the educational structure. Part of the problem, Allen claimed, was that learning material is not the focus of the school system. To exemplify this, he asserted, "All education is private," meaning that everyone learns in his own mind and learning is not influenced by the environment one learns in.

The main portion of the problem, according to Allen, is that the citizens of the U.S. are "civic illiterates." By civic illiteracy, Allen meant that people are not knowledgeable about their own government and the philosophy behind it. As a consequence of this, he claimed, "Society is being deconstructed."

Weakened patriotism is supposed to be another result of this sort of ignorance. As an example of this trend, Allen said, "Now we have six- and seven-year-olds running around repeating these lessons, saying, 'But the Russians are people just like us, aren't they?'"

In response to the argument that the indoctrination of American youth would be similar to that experienced by Russian children,

Allen said that American ways could be taught on the grounds that they are better than the Russian's. "The American way of life is superior—that's true. We should say, 'This is the way human beings are supposed to live, and we're going to defend that.'"

Allen claimed, "It turns out that not only do people not learn civics, but they don't learn anything else well, either. It just may be that there is a connection between the lessons at the heart of American civics and a general sense of responsibility." Allen elaborated further on the subject of responsibility.

"People who are responsible for themselves look after themselves," Allen said. "I don't mind throwing people out on their own." Allen expressed the belief that there should be no public welfare, but conceded that a more practical measure would be to turn all welfare handouts into loans. This agreed with many of the beliefs Allen expounded. These ideas centered on the notion that all those who are needy are capable of getting back on their feet and being productive members of society. By making them responsible for themselves, they would do better jobs looking after themselves.

As the solution to the problem in education, Allen proposed a plan that consisted of two parts. The first stage would be to break up the K-12 administrations and their ties to state and federal funding and force individual communities to be responsible for the education of their children. The claim was brought up that those from poorer areas would not get adequate education. Allen responded,

"Education is not a function of the dollar, it's one of concern." He went on to say that, no matter how poor the community, if its members are concerned about their children's education, those children will be educated well.

The second stage would entail changing politics. Allen said he was, "willing to create a little polarization in the process." Under this sort of plan, people in power would say, "You're wrong!" and make firm moral judgements. Part of this would probably include introducing, "serious civics courses—ones that would introduce enemies."

The discussion itself was strictly conservative-oriented. There were only one or two people who appeared to have possibly disagreed with the speaker. One member of the group continually asked Allen if he knew of various cases which may or may not have been applicable, since he and the speaker seemed to be the only ones who knew of them. There were piles of YAF literature filled with suggestions on "how to deal with campus vermin," vermin meaning people or groups whose ideas do not conform with the YAF's. Also included in the literature were editorials heavily supportive of the Reagan administration's stand in Central America.

Dr. Allen received his B.S. from Pepperdine and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Claremont graduate school. In addition to being a professor at Harvey Mudd, he is a visiting tutor at St. Johns College in Santa Fe. He is a Kellogg National Fellow and a Fulbright National Fellow. Until recently, he was a candidate for U.S. Senate.

EDITORIAL Parting Glances

Well, here we are... my thirteenth paper, the thirtieth of the year, and the **Last Paper of the Year** (excepting, of course, the always-exceptional Rivet). How do I feel? Relieved, for the most part.

It's common knowledge, and true: being *Tech* Editor (or even co-editor) is not a job compatible with taking reasonable numbers of classes. With the 45 units I'm taking this term (higher than average for me, but then I am on the five-year plan), there's been quite a strain. I haven't been able to put as much time into the *Tech* as I'd like. Fortunately, this has been a typical third-term silly-season, with relatively little news and little space to fill (few ads bring few pages!). Things have been running pretty well on autopilot, and the papers have been okay, or so I like to tell myself. Next term, however, my units will be minimal and the *Tech* will prosper. Watch out...

It's also common knowledge that *Tech* editors fall into oscillation between two states: Intense fear, beginning on Monday afternoons, that there's no copy and the next paper will suck metal weenies, resulting in the tar-and-featherment of the Editor; and a growing Thursday-evening realization that *it doesn't matter* because *no one really reads this goddam rag anyway*.

There is some validity to both opinions, but not much. As a result of them, many Editors, by the time their term of office is over, have been subtly yet surely changed. Burnout and intense cynicism seem to be the major aftereffects (*hi, Matt!*).

*I seem to have avoided this fate so far, much to my luck. I do admit to being a worrywart, and its amazing how the same layout sheets can look cavernously empty at 3PM, impossibly overfull at 10, and perfectly filled by midnight. I still believe, however, that people do read the *Tech*, that people are interested in what it has to say. (If I'm wrong, please let me know!) With some more work put into it, this could become quite a decent little paper.*

The upshot of all this: while (co)editing the *Tech* can be a rather awful experience at times, I've actually had fun doing it, and I'm getting a lot out of it. Thanks for electing us!

Since no one's going to read this far, I can now slip in the savage part:

There'll Always Be a Page House Dept.: Check out the Syndicate Alley Inside World. Konstantin, Dave and friends first remind us of the spirit of Honor and Truth upon which Caltech rests, announce their unswerving allegiance to these principles, and tearfully denounce the IHC for its subversive actions in daring to question Page's loyalty.

But hell, laws and Codes were made to be broken, and sometimes a real man's got to hop on his Rambo Big-Wheel™ cycle and take matters into his own hands. Then, it's nice to know that he's got enough of his buddies on the BOC to overturn any convictions the other teacher's pets might try to stick him with.

Uh-huh. You figure it out.

—Jens Peter Alfke

Hands

from page 2

America the Beautiful. No one knew the first song, although we had been given lyric sheets. A few people knew *We Are the World*, but somehow we were all trying to sing with the radio, and no one could hear it very well. Even when it came time to sing the last song, a song that everyone knows, the radio had someone, probably Lionel Ritchie, singing to his own beat, and no one in the line got up enough courage to sing in time and lead everyone else along.

Standing next to us in line for a while was a woman who described her life as moving from one good cause to another. She was sweet, but very spacey, someone who might strike up an uncomfortable conversation with you on the bus. Yet, uncomfortable as she was to talk to, she was living downtown; she was working at the Catholic mission on Fifth Street. The people next to us on the other side went home to Arcadia after the fifteen minutes were over. And so did we.

Hands Across America had been ballyhooed for months, yet when it came down to it, comfortable middle-class folks all stood together for fifteen minutes and cast guilty looks across the street at the people we were ostensibly helping. I made my monetary contribution, and I believe in the cause of ensuring that every person in this rich country has enough to eat, and a place to sleep, but the effect that Hands Across America had on me was very different from what I had expected. It showed up the vast gulf that, although no wider than Sixth Street, separates holding hands with those with whom you feel comfortable, and making the real, personal commitment that is necessary for a real accomplishment.

ASCIT Election!

At the BOD meeting of May 15, Director for Academic Affairs Tylis Chang announced that he will be resigning at the end of this term. As a result, nominations were opened up for that office, and there will be an election Monday. The candidates' statements appear below.

In addition, an amendment to the section of the Bylaws describing the process by which ASCIT figures out how much money to allocate to campus organizations is coming up for a vote. The amended version of the Bylaws also appears below.

On the election ballot will also be

a survey to find out student opinion on a proposed coffeehouse in the south houses' basement. This would not be a move of the current coffeehouse, but rather the construction of a new coffeehouse with new and better facilities. However, the atmosphere of the current coffeehouse would most likely be lost.

Assuming that only one coffeehouse can exist, would you rather see a new coffeehouse in the south houses' basement, or the current coffeehouse in the present location?

This is simply a survey to indicate student opinion and comments on the back of the election ballot would be appreciated.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Article XIII

SECTION 2. BUDGET. The budgeting process will be handled as follows. All clubs will submit a budgetary request containing the proposed budget, sources of income, expected activities, number of ASCIT and non-ASCIT members, and a statement of purpose. At the budget meeting, the clubs may make a presentation. The Board of Directors will determine all other financial obligations

(e.g., salaries, insurance, and ASCIT organizations) including a reserve for the rest of the year. The remaining budget will be allocated to clubs. To enable the Board of Directors to more accurately assess the monetary need of individual clubs, a club questionnaire will be sent to each student. After the questionnaires are returned, the results will be tallied and made available to all members of the Board of Directors.

Candidates' Statements

H. Douglass Bloomer

Skip the usual, "I can do a good job" platitudes. I'm tired of them. Straight out the only qualification I have is that over the past year I have begun to care what the student government is doing. I haven't liked it a lot. The Directorship is a full voting membership on the BOD, and would thus give me some real ability to do something when it should be done. The major drawback that I have is that I am a flake. Honest injun, if you want someone whose life is going to revolve around this office, elect someone else.

Oh, yeah the TQFR. I should say something about that since it is the other major duty of the DAA. For the past three years I have been appalled at how useless the TQFR has been for me. I have been locked into core classes and most of the electives I've taken weren't represented. Fair is fair, you can only present the data you have. But the damn thing is set up by class, and ever since Tom Apostol left Math I I'd bet against a teacher teaching the same class two years in a row. The TQFR needs to be organized around the individual professors and TA's. A cumulative record of how they have been evaluated as teachers of the past few years would mean more than casual bitching about how tough the course material is. Come on, we all know AMa 95 sucks. Lastly, the numerical data is essentially worthless. You know you can't get decent statistics with the reporting rate that the TQFR gets. The important information is the individual comments, not the ratings. Though I don't think I would get rid of the ratings yet.

James Shih

To begin, I might as well copy the first paragraph of Tylis' election statement; if elected, I will keep the promises he made to restore the TQFR to its format before last year: "showing the quantity of each numerical response, not just the average; printing the entire question in each class report; and printing all com-

ments (with the number of times each is made), instead of deleting conflicting comments."

But there is more. The Director of Academic Affairs is also a voting member on the BOD. Because of my almost regular attendance to the BOD meetings this term, I should have little problem getting into the flow of things if I am elected.

Finally, I will serve on the Curriculum Committee next year. With some major changes in the core curriculum being considered right now, the TQFR becomes an important source of student inputs. By laboring over the data this summer, I would gain a better insight into what are considered by students as "problem courses." I would then be able to make my decisions based on the "popular demands."

Please vote for me on Monday.

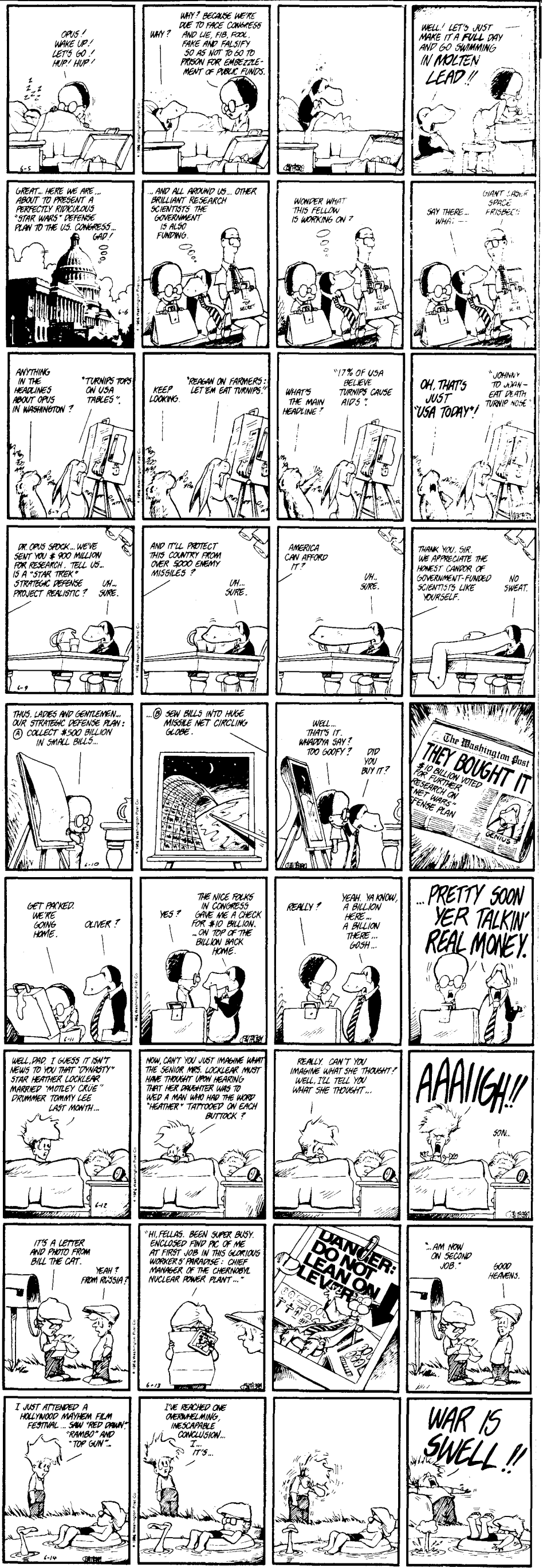
Devin Leonard

Please elect me as Director of Academic Affairs. As I was when I ran in the first election, I am ready to make a good TQFR. I feel that I could listen to opinions about courses in order to discern general comments about them. Desire to complete this task well, to me, defines qualification for the position. Thank you.

Raymond B. Moberly

If I am elected, this year's TQFR will be better than the sorry piece of trash printed last year. The printing will be legible and understandable. I hope to make the TQFR a good source for course information, not a comic book. I have a few ideas for the TQFR which include: ① Questionnaire updates, some new questions like "Is it a good course for non-majors?"; ② Mid-year feedback, (your professor will find out what is wrong before the year is over); and ③ Getting some comments or information from the professors to supplement student comments. I can type well and am good with numbers. I think I can be a good representative in ASCIT and am open to any suggestions you have.

Bloom County



by Berke Breathed
Thanx to the Y!

ENTERTAINMENT



"Oh yeah? Well, my hair mousse is twice as crispy as yours!" Iceman (Val Kilmer) vs. Maverick (Tom Cruise).

A Front-Row Top Gun

by John Fourkas

Top Gun
Directed by Tony Scott
Paramount Pictures

Once in a while a movie comes along that, no matter how shallow, no matter how weak, no matter how many faults, and no matter how many times it has been done before, is bound to be a hit. Of course, great amounts of pre-release publicity never hurt, but a hit is a hit—and *Top Gun* will be a hit.

Top Gun is an attention grabber from the very start. The movie opens with an almost surreal scene on the deck of an aircraft carrier during the "present time." Mystical fog whips around techs as they prepare the deck for touch-and-go's. The fog quickly envelops the audience also, and the viewer is soon catapulted into one of many riveting aerial conflicts. The producers of *Top Gun* don't mess around; the film opens with some of its hottest material (not that there isn't plenty more). The movie is full of fast moving aerial scenes which are put together in an expert manner (in so many similar movies it is impossible to tell who is fighting who in aerial battles; this is never a problem in *Top Gun*). I highly recommend the front few

rows if you decide to see this movie. It contains enough dogfight scenes that it is worth it to let the screen take up more than your normal field of vision in order to increase the effect of actually flying.

OK, so *Top Gun* has some hot action scenes. What about the plot, you ask? Well, here lies the major problem with this film. It has a plot, and the plot sucks. *Top Gun* is a series of high-tech action scenes strung together with clichés. The action works, the clichés don't. There are times when you can almost recite the actors' lines for them. Even more frightening is the twenty minute stretch of plot in the middle of the movie that is uninterrupted by action. This single stretch almost manages to kill the movie.

For those masochists who still want to know more, I'll give a clue or two about the plot. Tom Cruise plays Maverick, a hotshot flyboy who gets sent to Top Gun, the Navy training center for its top pilots, along with his Radar Intercept Officer (Anthony Edwards, of *Revenge of the Nerds*, *Gotcha!*, and *The Sure Thing* fame). These guys are doing their best to win the Top Gun trophy for the best flier, but they have some tough competition in the form of "Iceman" (Val Kilmer from *Real Genius*). Kelly

McGillis (of *Witness*) is the love interest; she's an astrophysicist and a Top Gun instructor in jets (figure that one out).

As you may have gathered by now, the plot of *Top Gun* is rife with clichés, contradictions, and huge holes. It's too bad that they had to bother to put a plot in the movie. Nonetheless, I suspect that Navy enlistment will show a big jump in the near future. This is the scary part of the whole thing—war is glorified throughout without any real show of the suffering involved. It's easy to shoot down a plane when you can't see the guy inside, and he's shooting at you. The movie makes it seem like a huge video game in the sky (I wouldn't be surprised if they do make a video game out of it). If a flier has problems, one gets the feeling that he's "not good enough", not that there is something wrong with what he is doing. Our boys never get hurt, or when they do it's just a silly accident. If you get hit by a missile, you just bail out of your plane—no problem. I found this whole attitude rather disturbing.

Despite all of this, I find that I must recommend this movie. Ignore the plot, sit in the front row, and enjoy... it will be well worth it.

Comedy With Conscience

by Josh Susser

Short Circuit
Directed by John Badham
Tri-Star Pictures

In these days of movies like *Blue Thunder*, *Rambo* and *The Terminator*, it is refreshing to find a film that doesn't recommend destruction and killing as the universal solution or portray technology as merely a means to that end. It is doubly refreshing to find such a film that is enjoyable to watch as well.

Short Circuit is a good piece of work that gives me new respect for those people in Hollywood. There's a lot to like about this film.

I liked Ally Sheedy (as always) in what is probably the most difficult role she has had so far. Sheedy does an admirable job as the sincere but flakey benefactor of various and sundry stray animals. It's only natural that she takes in a runaway robot, right? Sheedy thinks more with her heart than with her head, but proves that you

don't have to be brainy to be smart.

I liked Steve Guttenberg as the almost unbelievably awkward (I will not say nerdy) inventor of the movie's main plot device. I couldn't help but feel empathy for this poor intellectual, cooped up in an industrial research facility for so long that he can't deal with real-world people (especially women).

The robot, Number 5, was a really slick effect. He's supposed to be the ultimate soldier, but a bolt of lightning magically gives him a soul, and he decides he doesn't like killing. I couldn't figure out where they put their power supply (hefty laser weapon, folks), but other than that he was very believable. Number 5 is really the star of the show. He sings, dances and does a good imitation of John Wayne. He's a pretty good actor, too.

But to my mind, Fisher Stevens steals the show. Stevens plays an Indian (sub-continental) scientist, friend and partner of Guttenberg. Stevens is a wonderfully aloof

nerd, who commits more malapropisms than I have heard in my entire life. I hope to see more of him in films to come.

Short Circuit is a comedy, and works as such. The humor is sometimes side-splitting and often slapstick, but never made me feel as if my intelligence were being insulted. It's been a long time since I laughed so much at a movie and didn't feel stupid about enjoying the jokes.

But I liked *Short Circuit* most for what it has to say: that technology should have a conscience. *Short Circuit* doesn't have much nice to say about the defense industry, except maybe that the people in it all mean well but just don't think about what they're doing.

Messages aside, though, this film is worth seeing. It has a good plot, good acting, and good production values. It almost makes up for the fact that Ally Sheedy doesn't wear pearls.

The New Stuff

by Peter Alfke

So
Peter Gabriel
Geffen Records

Peter Gabriel began his career as the singer and theatrical front-man of progressive-rock gods Genesis; after his bitter departure in 1975, Genesis turned gradually toward a mainstream pop sound, with drummer-turned-singer Phil Collins in the lead. Gabriel, however, in a series of four solo albums, managed to keep his "progressive" intellectual artiness fresh and exciting, while other '70s giants (Yes, ELP, Pink Floyd) fell to mush. Infusing new-wave energy and African influences into his sound, he creates truly progressive music that stays clear of decade-old clichés. (Very few others have been able to do this; only King Crimson and Kate Bush come to mind.)

Peter Gabriel has an avid following, heaps of critical praise, and even a few minor hits ("Games Without Frontiers", "Shock the Monkey")—all the things an "alternative" artist could hope for. But can one blame him for wanting more, especially when he sees one-time colleague Phil Collins rise to superstardom and guest appearances on "Miami Vice"? Enter Peter Gabriel's new album, *So*.

Legions of die-hard Gabriel fans are now claiming that the title stands for "Sell-Out". This is a harsh accusation, but the album does have an undeniably more commercial sound than his others. The change is epitomized by "Sledgehammer", soon to be a mega-hit (and it deserves it!):

*"I've kicked the habit
shed my skin
this is the new stuff
I go dancing in..."*

The sound is pure early-'70s funk, with a playful James Brown-style guitar riff and Stevie Wonder ("Superstition") horns, while the lyrics use the venerable "just-call-my-name-and-I'll-be-there" motif, with the speaker as chameleon, offering to "be anything you need". The joking sexual imagerie, typified by "show me round your fruitage / I will be your honeybee," plays both on conventional soul/R&B lyrics, and on the animal metaphors in "Shock the Monkey". "Sledgehammer" shows Gabriel's full talents turned towards pure pop.

The rest of the album attempts a variety of sounds, some more successfully than others. The opening track, "Red Rain", somehow evokes both earlier, pre-"Security", Gabriel and better Bruce Springsteen. Perhaps it's the major-chord guitar, or jangling piano, or the impassioned, slightly hoarse, delivery of apocalyptic lyrics:

*"Well I've seen them buried
in a sheltered place
in this town
they tell you that this rain
can sting,
and look down
there is no blood around
see no sign of pain...
Red rain is pouring down
pouring down all over me"*

It's an excellent song, which should mollify fans miffed by "Sledgehammer". Less successful is "Don't

Give Up", an eagerly-awaited duet with Kate Bush. Peter sings of a lonely, bitter man, one of the "many men no one needs," and Kate, in alternating verses, is a voice of hope: "don't give up, 'cause you have friends..." It is, unfortunately, as clichéd and dumb as it sounds. The musical accompaniment, with laid-back rhythm section and gentle synth washes, should get this song some airplay on soft-rock muzak stations. It's a shame, since the beginning and end show some promise musically, but this is probably Peter Gabriel's worst song.

"Mercy Street," however, is everything "Don't Give Up" should have been; a quiet, subtle piece, calm and haunting. Its dedication to poet Anne Sexton is appropriate, for the lyrics are by far the most complex on the album:

*"She pictures the broken glass,
she pictures the steam
she pictures a soul
with no leak at the seam"*

The song floats along on breathy and whistling processed Fairlight sounds, fluid fretless bass, and non-standard percussion (surdu, congas and triangle). Gabriel's singing is quite expressive, with some good harmonizing; I wish that Kate Bush had added her considerable talents to this song, one worthy of them.

"Mercy Street" is followed by "Big Time", which will certainly follow "Sledgehammer" up to the top of the Pops. Gabriel *does* seem to have a knack for infectious pop songs. Driven along by a catchy bassline, sparkly guitar, and trendy gospel backup singers, Peter plays David Byrne circa "Talking Heads '77" and tells us, with wide-eyed innocence, how

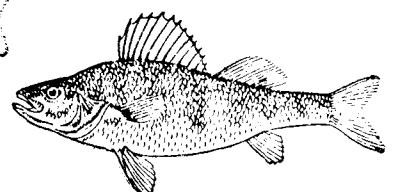
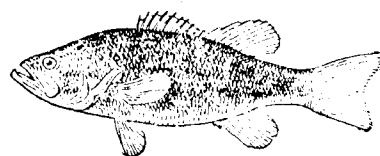
*"The place I come from
is a small town
they think so small
they use small words
—but not me"*

Now "my parties have all the big names / and I greet them with the widest smile." Byrne did it better, the approach comes off a bit too jokey here, but it's still very cute—plus, it has a great beat, and you can dance to it...

Also on the album are "That Voice Again" and "In Your Eyes", your basic good-but-typical Peter Gabriel songs (though the lyrics to the latter are a bit too simplistic), and "We Do What We're Told", another quiet atmospheric piece.

This is definitely a commercially-oriented album, and art-boy fans may feel gypped; there is certainly nothing here to match "Intruder" or "The Family and the Fishing Net", but if you look beyond your expectations and take the record at face value, it's quite good at what it sets out to do. It should, I hope, attract many new listeners, and that can only be good, for Peter Gabriel deserves a wider audience. As he sings:

*"My eyes are getting bigger
(big time)
and my mouth
(big time)
My belly is getting bigger
(big time)
and my bank account..."*





Quake Prediction

[CNB]—The magnitude six earthquake predicted for the Parkfield, California, segment of the San Andreas fault could trigger a larger-scale rupture of the fault, resulting in a magnitude seven earthquake that could be more dangerous, according to Caltech geologist Kerry Sieh. However, he said, the Parkfield earthquake will not cause a repeat of the last great earthquake in southern California, in 1857, in which a large section of the southern San Andreas fault ruptured.

Speaking last Monday (May 26) before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at their annual meeting in Philadelphia, Caltech Associate Professor of Geology Kerry Sieh reviewed his data on earthquake recurrence along the section of the San Andreas fault south of Parkfield, approximately midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Dr. Sieh spoke at a symposium entitled "The Parkfield Prediction Experiment: The Geophysical, Political, and Social Dimensions of an Earthquake Prediction."

Geologists have concentrated monitoring efforts in Parkfield because of the high probability of a magnitude six earthquake in the next several years. That region of the fault has experienced magnitude six earthquakes about every 22 years since at least the 1850s, according to historical records. The last such earthquake there was in 1966.

According to Dr. Sieh, historical studies showed that the magnitude 8¼ earthquake of January 9, 1857, appeared to be preceded by two magnitude six earthquakes along the Parkfield segment about 1½ to 2½ hours earlier. The 1857 earthquake ruptured the San Andreas all the way through the Carrizo Plain, almost to San Bernardino, east of Los Angeles.

"An important question now is whether the predicted magnitude six Parkfield earthquake will trigger a still larger, more destructive earthquake," said Dr. Sieh. "The question cannot be answered with confidence at this time; however, geological data suggest that a repeat of the great 1857 earthquake will *not* occur for at least another hundred years."

Dr. Sieh based his conclusion on earthquake slip data obtained by studying landforms in the area, such as streams and hills. These data showed that about 100 kilometers south of Parkfield on the Carrizo Plain, the 1857 earthquake, as well as previous great earthquakes, produced fault slippage of about ten meters. Overall, the San Andreas is known to move about 34 millimeters per year, which means that the Carrizo Plain segment breaks only about every 300 years. Thus, it should not break again for more than a century.

However, closer to Parkfield, in a region south of Cholame, California, slippage in 1857, and perhaps in previous earthquakes, amounted to only about 3½ meters.

"At a 34 mm-per-year accumulation rate, this part of the fault may already have the potential to rupture with 3½ meters of offset," said Dr. Sieh. "On the basis of analysis of landforms, it appears then that a 40- or 50-kilometer section of the San Andreas fault immediately south of the predicted Parkfield fault rupture could well slip in association with the predicted magnitude six earthquake."

"Taken together, the size of this extended Parkfield earthquake could be as great as magnitude 7 or 7½. Such an earthquake would be far more powerful than the predicted magnitude six, and would have more serious impact on surrounding communities," he said.

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