Brin On Antimonothanism

by Dan Ashlock

David Brin, noted science fiction author, gave a lecture on campus Tuesday evening, entitled "Why we are all such good liars". The former Caltech undergraduate and a Ph.D. from UCSD. He is the author of Sendai's Prac­tice Effect, The River of Time (an­nounced winner of the Hugo and Nebula awards. His new book, already sold out in stores, is titled The Upshift War. It is a situational sequel to Starside Rising and should be available in reasonable quantities this July.

The curious title of Dr. Brin's lecture had almost nothing to do with his talk and was stolen from another talk given in 1962. He led off with a number of reminiscences from his undergrad­uate days at Caltech. According to Dr. Brin there was a time a little over five years ago when Friday dinner in the undergraduate halls was an affair to which you wore a tie and at this period in Caltech's history off-campus women actually came to dance with them.

Dr. Brin spoke about his academic career, claiming to have predicted how many of his students would have. I am not sure of his accuracy, but I have seen his dissertation accepted over the vociferous objections of his thesis advisor. He had warm memories of his days at Tech, saying "I have very positive feelings about my undergraduate education at Caltech, the parts I have any positive feelings about it." According to Dr. Brin’s talk and was stolen from another talk given in 1962.

Dr. Brin touched on a number of recent and other topics during his speech. He is cur­rently living in Britain of which he says, "It's a nice place, pleasant people, lots of things to see and do, but I wouldn't want to raise any children over there." When asked why he replied, "because it [Britain] is so freezing." On the subject of education Dr. Brin urged us all to get involved in teaching, even if it means taking a pay cut and the company you work for into adoption or spending spare time teaching a course at the local high school.

On the evolution of intelligence and the question of extra-terrestrial intelligence Dr. Brin had a number of thoughts. He accused Carl Sagan and Frank Drake of having been "a kind of Pythian" for years that "we sent a message out there to a planet we didn't know of." He accused Sagan of having been forced into a retreat to a defensive position as their predictions of imminent alien contact have collected more and more dust. According to Dr. Brin the premier generation of anti­non-humanists were themselves reacting to the damage done by the people who wrote the pre-Sagan generation of anti­non-humanists were themselves reacting to the damage done by the people who wrote the pre-Sagan generation of antimonothanists. In the end he stated that the human animal may have evolved in a curiously inefficient fashion. Where the usual develop­ment of intelligence would proceed with alternating incremental jumps and sideways hitches, the human animal has achieved total mastery of its environment with, say, flat tools, fire, and a maximum fifty word vocabulary, which humanity did not need to take steps to get to. Once the overkill hard­ware was developed a software revolution was needed to raise levels of in­intelligence took place.

His second theory was more plausible and the idea was that society is not just a matter of individuals, modern society against. Brin said that human society is a synergetic process and not just a collection of individuals or 80 scientific publications, including four standard books on analytical chemistry. Professor Swift's research involved the application of physico-chemical principles to the problems of chemical analysis at the University of California, Berkeley.

Ernest H. Swift was survived by a daughter, Elizabeth Swift Kline, and two grandchildren, Sandra Kline and Kimberly Kline III. There will be no funeral. His family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Caltech's Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and the E. H. Swift Lecture Series.
Gabrielle Gordon, a senior in Lloyd House, has accused RSA Insurance Services, an advertiser in the Tech, of fraudulent business practices. Since she failed to produce evidence and since the Tech has been unable either to substantiate or to deny her accusations, we have declined to print her letter.

For more information contact Ms Gordon or Mr Robert Annis of RSA Insurance Services.

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ISSN 0008-1582

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

107-51 Winnett Student Center
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125

Phone: (818) 356-6154

Published weekly except during examination and vacation periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors.

Letters and announcements are welcome. All contributions should include the author's name and phone number and the intended date of publication. The Editors reserve the right to abridge and edit letters for expediency, literacy, or other.

Turn in copy (preferably on a Micro compatible, WordStar-formatted floppy disk) to the Tech office mailbox, room 107 Winnett. The deadline for copy is Wednesday at 5PM; for announcements, Tuesday at 5PM. Late copy may not be printed even if prior arrangements have been made with the editors.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Volume LXXXVIII • Number 26

1 MAY 1987

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THE GREAT DICTATOR

2. (Biology) True or False
a. Walking without shoes is the orthopedic equivalent of suicide.
b. Showering regularly is a good idea.
c. Condoms are your friends.

3. (Mechanical engineering) How much battery power does it take to float a blimp?

4. (Physics) Derive all possible universes. Show that the subspace known as Fleming is a closed subspace. Show further that Page is a null space.

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NEXT WEEK: Buckaroo Banzai

FRIDAY 1 MAY 1987

LETTER

Wei Not Guilty

To the Public: There have already been sev­
eral commentaries made this year on the colorful language, offensive material, and otherwise meaningless trash that is glorified in the In­
side World. I admit to having once been a participant in these affairs, but I find it most disconcerting that all of the hate mail and nasty remarks about Blacker House’s en­
tertainment last week was directed to me.

Please understand, dear readers, that I no longer have any con­
nection with what goes into such sections. If you’ll just take a couple of seconds to look at the col­
um of credits on page 2, you will find that the Inside World writer is Margolita Mia. She’s the one in charge now; she should take the blame. My hands are figuratively clean.

The hands of those who are who, and those who think they’re smart.

With all these intelligent people around, you would think that cer­
tain myths about intelligence would be shattered, debunked, or what­
ever, right? That’s no. It seems that smart people hold misconceptions about themselves.

The misconception I’m thinking about was perfectly expressed in the “Praise For No Gag Rate” let­
ter last week. I quote: “Some may say that the gag rule sacrosanct ‘gulli­
ble frost’ from believing horror stories about other houses. Are these the freinds who are going to be the scientists of tomorrow? Will they be able to ignore the er­
ronious data points? . . . We do not have to shield them from the gar­
bage that flies around during rota­
tion. Our freshmen deserve more credit; they can filter out the lies.”

This type of myth about intel­
ligence usually takes the form, X = Y.

In this case, let X=freshman and Y = discrediting lies. However this myth is bogus, since it is based on any connection between inter­
preting scientific data for and judging people’s honesty. Does be­
ing a good physicist make a person less gullible? It’s possible (but not probable). If somebody had said to me during rotation, “House X had characteristic Y.” I probably would have believed him (assuming the statement was from a sub) be­
because, as we all know, the Honor Code keeps us from taking unfair advantage of others—even during rotation.

I don’t necessarily disagree with the conclusions of the letter, only with the slipped thinking that went into that part of it.

Here’s another example from two weeks ago about forced feed­
ing: “Any person as intelligent as a Caltech student knows that we will only gain from Mr. Hin­
doy’s offer.” Hopefully when the editors wrote this, they weren’t sober.

The intelligence myth really gets hairy when people expect more out of you just because you’re “smart.” Take the “Rampant Chauvinism” letter from a few weeks back, written by “an ex­
tremely concerned mother.” She writes, “Since you guys [Tchers] are really a bunch of smart kids, let’s have a little creativity, cleverness, wit, vanity, clear, comic writing.

Here, the myth is that intel­
ligence is connected with wit and

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Gag Rule

from page 2

In an article in October about the gag rule, one of the presidents declared, "The gag rule is an attempt to silence the frosh... Anyone who believes the rumors deserves to end up where they're going."

I don't believe them? Weren't picks subtly rumors seem to be the ones about "smart." My friends really get mad at me when I bring this up, and they always give me the same answer: "This is completely safe to do because rumors weren't flying around?"

So people do it, people who are intelligent, people who are interested in hardware, people who don't care about the consequences. But because rumors weren't flying around, they don't believe them. They weren't picked by the freshmen significantly different

continued on page 5
More Inside World

from page 3

make me sick, though: I wonder how many slang words there are for vomit? I don't really know that many. There's Ralph, puke, chorf, and heave. Then there are the 'nice' ones: lose your cookies, get sick - like it's something you came down with! and there's finally put together a (lame) team for crew race, to no one's surprise, lung 'born again' d right out of the 'born again' school is: pray to the porcelain god. Well, enjoy your meal. . . .

Indoor Olypiad was just the diversion everyone needed from midterms week: Writers (and big young women) made the little appearance as a Flem, the fresher class finally put together a (lame) team for cow race, to no one's surprise, (see above) right in the middle of the entrance, and the jenius unveiled the band new, professionally done, official stagecap.

Floring and Friends picnic is rescheduled for Saturday afternoon - due to Sports Day. What to expect? Prof, and Coaches that You invited, Alum$, and food. What not to expect? Lots of hot babes, a Fleming vs. Faculty crew race, and someone (besides possibly Damage) pointing out to Prof, the people (if any) who are behind in their classes. So Be There!

Winters (and his greasy weenie) made his debut appearance as a Flem, the frosh class right in the middle of the entrance, and the juniors unveiled the brand new, professionally done, official pagecap.

Finally put together a (lame) team for crew race, to no one's surprise, lung 'born again' d right out of the 'born again' school is: pray to the porcelain god. Well, enjoy your meal . . .

continued on page 5
BANANA REPUBLIC SEeks Kindred Spirits

The denizens of our republic have always stood apart from the crowd. That's because Banana Republic has always been about being a little different. It was true nine years ago, when we were a tiny one-store business; and it's true now that we're a company with a retail presence in virtually every major U.S. market.

The people we rely on value that distinction. And they possess the skill, the energy, and the imagination to help us achieve it—in our clothing, our catalogue, and our stores.

As we continue to grow, so does our commitment to attract the quick-thinking, resourceful people in retail sales and management. While tradition walks hand-in-hand with tradition, please enquire about the fashionable aims and current concerns which are gleaned not only from the personal papers of the subject but also from impressions given by others. One also learns of the hobbits enjoyed by this personalities: Hans Beeth's rock climbing and Enrico Fermi's stubborn insistence on using worms instead of flies for trout fishing. It is exactly this kind of enjoyable details that distinguishes the denizens to earthlier propor-

From page 4

Kud. Hey, this is pretty good.
Man: Hey, this would be cheap to make.

[A Korean guy with glasses holds both hands behind his back and approaches his nemesis]

Gervett: Ha ha, guess who I got in my bun.
Hafe: What?
Gervett: No man, ged oh is now.
Hafe: No, I mean what did you say?
Gervett: Oh, gonna what I have in my hands.
Hafe: A pizza?
Gervett: Oh, yes, you rii.
Hafe: I'm right?
Gervett: No, you bee say lai kassawenn.
Hafe: Oh. Well, what is it then?
Gervett: A new don. Doi now don.
Hafe: What?
Hafe: Is it a parody of that damned Massengill commercial?
Gervett: Oh, no, it is. Rii.

[back to Tom]

Tom: Hauns. Where was O Oh yo-yo-yo, my hair. I once read a book about this guy with a plastic helmet for hair, but that's another story. Oh heh. Heh. Another story.

[no 12, it's looks like we're out of sequence. A woman is cut off in mid-sentence.]

Ricketts: Nonsense word of the day is "blfrt." Not to be confused with "bullfart," which is a very serious word that should not be taken lightly. More on that later.

Don't go to LAX without money, especially if you do have money and don't know what to do with it. Remember, a buck in the car is worth two on the phone.

Lloyd. Ricketts. Party. We had a reporter on the scene. So here's what The Street Social Group and Literary Art Columns Section—

Ta Da!

Hello, dialing. The Lloyd-Scourie party was laster tite, and it was simply THE social event of the night. Sam W. was spotted, looking slimmer, as usual, and with his hair combed, too. So I don't have to tell you how important this event was. His cold, blue eyes pierced me like needles. Or something. Vito the Man was there, too, for heaven's sake! He, sadly, was also wearing the same clothes. Remember, loyal readers, you can get laid at a Scourie party unless you have hair! Also, a few personal fashion tips from Vito Van H. Well, ok! Let's lighten the mood. I got out of bed this morning with all the human frailty, and an umbrella. But stop.

It's OK. I've got a Buck in my pocket. I tend to get myself into these situations when I'm discovered. But I don't know how.

Thanks, Tom, for those words to live by. I'm sure you've made a decision.

In other Ricketts Horse news, the Communist Messiah has gained a foothold in Scourie, in the form of Goddess Comrades who have a refrigerator full of soda in L.D. But don't worry, my fellow Americans. They won't stand up against the capitalist might of the Scourie. And our courageous boys in harness will soon be reconquering the land of democracy, the Soda fridge.

P.S.: Did you have a tough time dancing? Did I? I got a Buck in my pocket.

[Jacqueline Storm]

[no 12, it's looks like we're out of sequence.]

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[Jacqueline Storm]
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Seminar Day.

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In the midst of a day so packed

Hunt Morgan talked on "What

Raymond delighted guests at din­

"Vitamins in Health and Disease," and Thomas

"Particles in Physics," and Thomas

"Molecular biology," and Thomas

for the spring formal ...
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The Macintosh Plus, which comes with one 800K disk drive and a full megabyte of memory (expandable to four), lets you run MS-DOS programs.

Inside, the SE also has an expansion slot, so you can add a card that lets you share information over a campus-wide network. Or another card that
Move It or Lose It

All students who have belongings currently stored in the Blacker/Bicketts storage room in the South Commons basement should remove those belongings no later than Fri., May 15. Items can be stored in the main state student room in the South Commons basement. Keys for both areas can be obtained from House President, House R.A.'s or checked out from the Housing Office.

For the storage room to accommodate Dabney and Fleming student needs during the upcoming summer rehabilitation of these two houses, items not removed by the May 15th date will be removed by improper Housing Department staff.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Help Memorial Day

Please contact Nancy Drewhoff (x205) if you are interested in helping with a Memorial Day Program at the athletic field on May 25. (when else?) Duties to be assigned include organization and officiation of soccer, softball, inter-club water polo, and clean-up.

Free Athenaeum Meal

ASCI needs volunteers to add numbers to the spring formal and to run the registration booth the evening of May 3. Possible payment for calligraphy work and free dinner for both volunteers. Please call Nancy Drewhoff (x256) or Tom Gould (759-4005) for verification

Opens Evans SPS Nominations

Nominations for the Society of Physics Students officers are now open. The offices for which nominations are being sought are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer. Any student eligible for membership may be nominated. To request a Nominating Form, please contact Nancy Drewhoff, (x256) or Tom Gould (759-4005) for verification.

Free Career Center Workshop

All students are invited to attend Career Center's 5th Annual Spring Fundraiser downstairs in the Student Center at 7 pm on May 5th. Students interested in attending please call Bonny Saland (213) 254-7267.

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