



Media Guy returns to review the latest movies.

see page 6



Signups for ASCIT President and Vice-President will be posted next week at Winnett. If you are interested in either position, please sign up and fill in the requested information. Thank you.

Grace Yang
ASCIT Secretary

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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ASCIT faculty talks begin

BY KOHL GILL

Undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty: By now you should have gotten a memorandum, by e-mail, paper, or both, regarding the **1997 Student/Faculty Conference**. First, here's a brief summary of the memo for those of you who have misplaced your own (tsk, tsk). Every couple of years, the ASCIT Academics and Research Committee organizes a conference to talk about concerns students and faculty have about various aspects of life at Caltech. We (the ARC) form a few committees to spend some time researching and investigating these concerns and to present their findings to the Caltech community on the day of the conference.

This year, we will have three committees: one on the **Honor System**, dealing with the BoC, the GRB and the community in general; one on **Student Life**,

for non-academic topics related to students like housing, traditions, faculty-student relations, etc.; and one on the **Purpose of Undergraduate Education**, investigating the more fundamental questions at Caltech, like what we want graduates to take away from the Institute.

These committees will be formed as soon as possible and will work on these issues and any others they wish to tackle until the day of the conference, Tuesday, April 15th. (Don't forget to clear your calendars!) This is where you come in.

In order for the committees to be representative, in order that all sides be heard, in order to make this conference work we need your help. If you're concerned about these issues, e-mail the ARC at acad@cco, or leave us a message at x1590. Undergrads, grads, and faculty are all needed for these committees, so drop us a line and make a difference!

Hawking speaks on black holes

BY TERRY MORAN

Now in his tenure period stay at Caltech, Steven Hawking gave a technical lecture concerning "Loss of Information in Black Holes" in Ramo Auditorium yesterday. Although the talk was only part of the weekly Physics Colloquium, the lecture was well attended by both physics and non-physics staff and students. The highly theoretical talk covered the integrity of information as it approaches and reaches the depths of the singularity of a black hole. During his lecture Hawking also more accurately described the details of his most recent bet, made against Kip Thorne and John Preskill which he conceded upon a


SEE BET ON PAGE 5

whereas Stephen W. Hawking firmly believes that naked singularities are an anathema and should be prohibited by the laws of classical physics,

And whereas John Preskill and Kip Thorne regard naked singularities as quantum gravitational objects that might exist unclotted by horizons, for all the Universe to see,

Therefore Hawking offers, and Preskill/Thorne accept, a wager with odds of 100 pounds sterling to 50 pounds sterling, that when any form of classical matter or field that is incapable of becoming singular in flat spacetime is coupled to general relativity via the classical Einstein equations, the result can never be a naked singularity.

The loser will reward the winner with clothing to cover the winner's nakedness. The clothing is to be embroidered with a suitable concessionary message.


Stephen W. Hawking John P. Preskill & Kip S. Thorne
Pasadena, California, 24 September, 1991

Hawking conceded a bet about naked singularities to Preskill and Thorne.

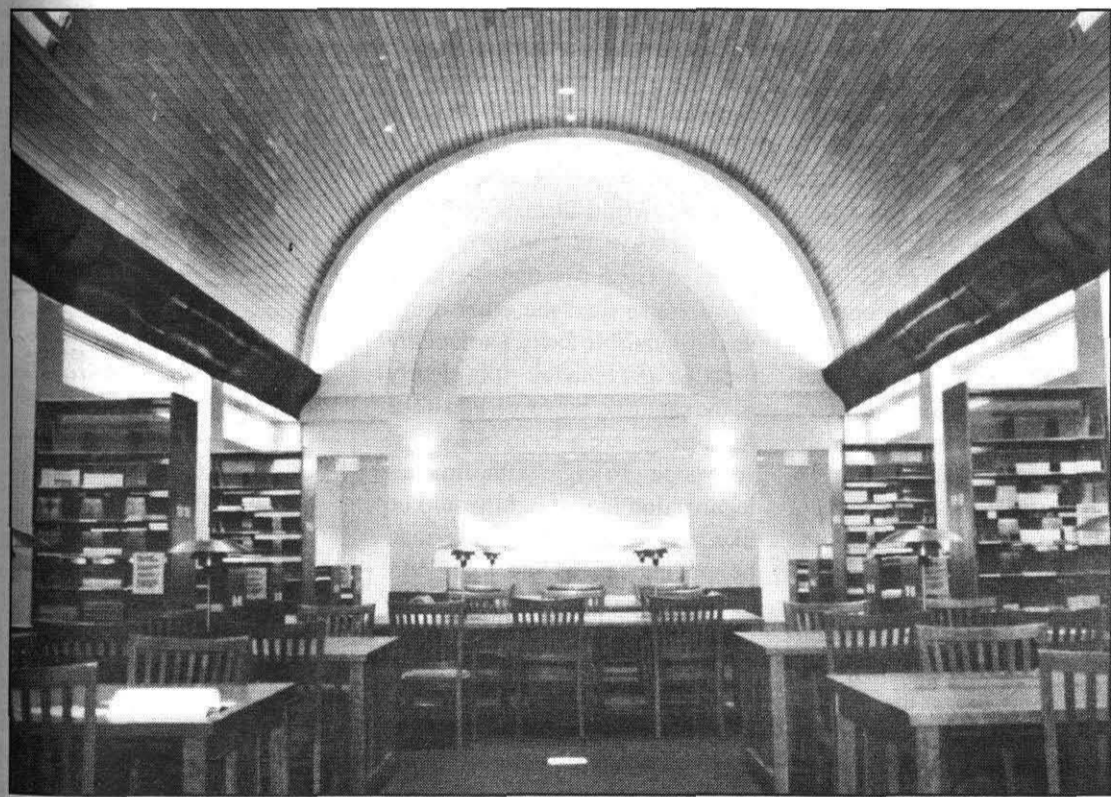


PHOTO BY RYAN COX

The Sherman Fairchild library, which opened Monday, sports a large reading hall and nifty lamps.

New Fairchild Library embraces keycards

BY ERIK STREED

The most recent addition to the Caltech campus, the Sherman Fairchild Library opened Monday, January 6 for institute use. The library is to be dedicated this coming January 14 at 3:45 p.m. in a ceremony on the west side of the building, near Dabney Gardens. This new library houses materials for the Engineering and Applied Sciences (E&AS) division. Constructed with funds provided by the Sherman Fairchild Foundation, the library consolidates

the holdings of several E&AS departmental libraries in one location. Journals are stored on the second floor in space saving automated racks which run on tracks. The third floor has a reading room with a cherry wood barrel vault ceiling. This room was modeled after the Linonia and Brothers Room at Yale.

Construction of this library marks a shift by the Caltech Library system towards a more technologically based approach to servicing the Caltech Community. Afterhours access to the li-

brary is control via the same keycard system that has been implemented at Avery House. The Xerox machines will soon be equipped with card readers to allow students, faculty and staff to charge copying directly to their accounts. In addition the library checkout system may also be integrated into the Campus Card System. Sherman Fairchild Library, like the recently constructed Moore Labs, is filled to the brim with fiber optic cable to provide high speed digital communications capability.

Hooked on politics?

BY SARA BEABER

Found a summer job yet? If the opportunity for a paid summer internship in politics or public policy interests you, read on.

The Dean's Office in 102 Parsons-Gates will be accepting proposals for this year's internship until Monday, March 3, 1997. Proposals should say how and where you would use the \$3600 stipend. I encourage any undergrad with interests in politics and public policy to apply for the internship, and start searching for a sponsor soon.

Welfare reform is currently a hot topic for the local, state, and federal government social service agencies, and I was privileged to be able to work in New Jersey's summer of reinventing welfare policy through the Beckman Politics and Public Policy Internship. This funding allowed me to intern with the policy analyst and advocate at Mercer Street Friends, a large non-profit social service agency in the heart of Trenton, New

Jersey's capital.

Now that President Clinton has signed legislation abolishing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, states will receive block grants of money to spend as they see fit, within certain strictures. New Jersey was already involved in drafting an alternative plan to AFDC and General Assistance (GA) for the state, and this plan became the basis for the Work First NJ legislation currently before the New Jersey legislature. As an agency that tries to address many of the needs of the disadvantaged in the greater Trenton area, Mercer Street Friends provides non-partisan policy research and analysis to inform and improve public policy as part of its mission to improve the quality of life for the community.

The high profile of welfare reform provided me a number of amazing opportunities to explore my long-standing interests in social service and social jus-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Open markets exploit the working classes

Dear Editors,

I'm writing this because your opinion and letters page often looks like it was photocopied from Newsweek. ;)

In an attack on *Z Magazine* (<http://www.lbbs.org/ZMag.htm>) in the last issue's "MindStalk," D.R. Sullivan wrote "Opening our markets [...] makes us all wealthy global citizens." This is accurate if 'us all' refers, as usual, to a small class of businessmen and public-opinion manufacturers, and those people aspiring to be a part of this group (such as a typical Caltech student). In fact, the standard trick of playing one labor pool off of another has been used for years to decrease wages and degrade working conditions. Only strong pro-worker organizations in the poorest countries and in the wealthiest

countries, not trade policy formulated by the businessmen themselves, can counteract this (though this becomes more difficult as agreements such as NAFTA and GATT allow undemocratic organizations even more control over what is made, who makes it, how it is made, and how it is distributed). Incidentally, Caltech students will most likely be on the wrong side of this fight when they own their own businesses ten years from now, their consciences appeased by "liberal" defenses of run-of-the-mill exploitation of the poor world majority.

As Sullivan points out, the modern progressive movement is "a tad schizophrenic" at times, but activists do understand their old foe, economic imperialism, despite its new look. The Zapatistas understood all of this when they declared war on the Mexican government the day NAFTA went into effect. Karl Marx understood all of this when he said, "I vote for

free trade because it hastens the revolution." It is not inconsistent, as Sullivan suggests, for progressives to be opposed to neoliberal trade policies.

BYRON PHILHOUR
GRAD STUDENT

And now, a word from Rob

Dear Editors,

At the surface, I'm moved to write by D.R. Sullivan's provocative "MindStalk" piece in the most recent Tech, but I'm going to blather on about a few other things while I'm at it.

First, I want to voice my enthusiasm and encouragement for well-reasoned opinion writing in the Tech. From John Hatfield and Neil Stevens' YES/NO debates, to D.R. Sullivan's "MindStalk," to the continuing discussion of issues in the letters to the editor, and even in J.P. Revel's musings on human nature, the last issue had a lot of what I really look forward to finding in a campus newspaper—something resembling a living, breathing discussion of a few of the important issues that shape our world.

The Tech has always done a pretty good job of fulfilling what is probably its central "mission:" disseminating news and information to the campus community on concrete topics such as sports, academics, and student government. Not long ago, the Tech's reach in this area made a healthy expansion to world news and broader entertainment reviews. (Myfanwy Callahan's "The Outside World" is the first place I turn in the Tech, as I no longer find time to really follow the news, and she provides a great, well-rounded, concise look at the world each week.) But only as of late has the Tech really found fertile ground in authors opening their minds to the public (myself included, I hope) and inviting readers to consider the more difficult, larger questions thrown at us in the real world. That such writing occasionally fosters discussion of such issues away from the printed page is encouraging for me to see. Perhaps it is a result of my existence in the rather distantly-connected graduate community, but I was beginning to fear that Caltech is a social graveyard, where all discussion centers on science alone.

Science is important, but the world is one heck of a lot bigger than that! Caltech should be too, if we are to emerge from it prepared to do whatever we strive to do.

In reference to Terry's editorial self-love fest of two issues back, a request for affirmation (I think,) let me say that I've worked on several papers and I know how hard it is. Your readership probably does not, so I'm here to tell them. Just putting together a paper that doesn't suck is very hard. Putting together a really good one, especially when it isn't your full-time job, requires a miracle each week. Readers, a LOT of effort from a LOT of people goes into putting together the rag that sits in front of you—so even if you think you could do better, keep in mind that you aren't, and it might be a lot harder than you think. Tell the Tech staff you appreciate their work, to the extent that you do, because that really means a lot. Only a few have the self-love that Terry does, and the others lose energy

I was beginning to fear that Caltech is a social graveyard, where all discussion centers on science alone.

when all they hear are complaints about a few inevitable errors and the Dilbert reruns.

Okay, on to D.R. Sullivan's "MindStalk" article. It was superbly written, a fantastic read. (Hey, can you tell I'm jealous???) But I have to respond to Sullivan's ruminations on marijuana and the "War on Drugs." (Capitalized to prevent lawsuits from the Bush administration.) I won't argue Sullivan's assertion that marijuana is no worse than the other drugs readily available today, particularly nicotine and ethanol. It is clearly of the same ilk, however, and if the legal drugs are a bane to society, so is dope. To suggest marijuana's legalization in that light would be like suggesting Pee Wee Herman be appointed to the Supreme Court because the others already on the bench are no worse than he would be.

Frankly, I'd be all for legalization of every imaginable drug if it were possible to restrict the detri-

mental consequences of drug abuse to the abusers alone, and the abusers were actually forced to swallow the consequences of such actions wholly on their own. But, as Sullivan himself eloquently points out, there are implications for those who share a home, highway, or neighborhood with drug abusers. From the battered spouse, to the innocent motorist killed by a drunk driver, to the victims of a crime spawned by a need for drugs beyond an abuser's financial means (be the drug legal or otherwise), drug abusers are not in a world of their own, no matter how much they may feel that way. What's more, our economy strains to pay for their misadventures, be it through emergency room services, crack babies, rehabilitation attempts, or unemployment and disability compensation. As long as we can't come up with a system that puts the consequences in the hands of those who make a choice to try, use, or abuse drugs, such a choice should not be made readily available to anyone, even mature adults. (This is not to say such a system can't exist...I even have a few ideas, but no room or time to share them here.) Until then, rather than adding another recreational or escape drug to the "legal" list, we should continue to work to wean ourselves of what is already there. This won't be easy, as we are well aware of the power of the financial and addictive 'needs' that back up our current champions, tobacco and alcohol. Through continued information efforts, we might be able to whittle the list of legal drug abusers down to the immature, the addicted, and the truly stupid, the latter of which would try to abuse

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drugs whether they are legal or not anyway. (Unfortunately, there seem to be a great many of the latter around these days.)

As to the "War on Drugs," forget such phrases as "that was the alcohol talking;" we need to make people responsible for the actions they take after purposely using drugs to lose control of themselves. The consequences for crimes committed as a result of drug abuse should be severe; as alcohol, weed, and tobacco all clearly show, drugs are not that hard to make and trying to stem their production is a wasted effort. If you get caught driving drunk, and are convicted, you should lose your right to drive, your access to alcohol, any alcohol you own, and whatever fraction of the cost of your arrest, trial, and incarceration that you might be able to scrape up. *That's* a deterrent. *That* might stem the growth of demand for drugs, legal and illegal.

A final point here, though more come to my mind as I speak. I've never tried even the legal recreational drugs, and no one in my family has had a drug problem, so what do I know? This is always the first reply I get when I take a stance on this issue. It led me to some inquiries with the "experts," and I've some results to share with you. Indubitably the euphoria some drugs can produce is (and will remain, thank you very much) beyond my knowing. But I can give you an idea of what it's like

to be physically addicted. "Experts" agree: most of us experience a physical addiction even if we never get hooked on drugs. It's our craving for sex. Whether you have acted on it or not, you've probably felt an irrational, very strong, physical craving for it. The "experts" concede that this is what it feels like to be hooked on a drug, except that the object of your fantasies is a white powder or stubby rolled-up vegetable leaf, and the strength of the craving varies widely. Strangely, while our society expects us to suffer the consequences of our sexual escapades, it gets all mushy-hearted when we abuse drugs. This is just plain stupid. *With all Freedom must come Responsibility.*

Surprised to still have your ear, a few more quick points.

I'd suggest a melding of John Hatfield and Neil Steven's well-written arguments is a viable third option to campaign reform. Allow donations to flow freely to all candidates, but require that each ad, placard, festivity, or whatnot clearly indicate where the money for it came from, dollar-by-dollar. Let people know that this tour bus was paid for by Exxon, this advertisement by Rupert Murdoch. At the same time, provide more public service announcement time to all the candidates, not just the big boys. *Require each candidate running for a given office to accept four invitations to debates, which must, in total, involve at minimum four other candidates for the same*

office. Finally, ban all political advertisements for the two weekdays and one of the weekend days immediately preceding election day. Give the facts a chance to be heard above the din.

After the Berlin Wall came down and apartheid ended in South Africa, you might have become overly optimistic about the direc-

*"Experts" agree:
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tion of our global village. Rwanda and Serbia should have shaken that mistaken optimism. Unfortunately, there are a hundred more such tragedies locked in corners of the world on which the U.S. has no economic dependency and thus most of us have probably barely heard of. The woeful story of Liberia's recent past in last term's final Tech was no exaggeration, and as much as humanitarian aid makes us feel good, it cannot solve problems. At best, it can make them go away, so long as there is more money. I saw a sign on a donation box today that sent me ballistic: "We can CURE hunger!"

Not by giving people food to eat! There's a difference between administering to a problem and solving it, a **big** difference. FICA or its private equivalents are no **cure** for hunger! It sounds as though the Liberian Social Justice Foundation realizes this, and is trying to solve Liberia's political dilemma rather than squeak a little more food past armed bandits to starving refugees. If only the U.S. foreign aid program could show such foresight.

A caveat on Samson Timoner's suggestion of attending seminars to find the major of your dreams: be careful. I could send you to three seminars, and with proper selection of speakers, selectively make you hate or love the subject area of which they are part. Most of Caltech's seminars are, as Samson said, dry, highly-technical, and often just plain unclear. I fall asleep at most, quite honestly. It is rare to find a good speaker around here, I don't know why. It may be the perceived audience. At any rate, my advice is to take your core course experiences as a starting point, talk to your TA's about their work, and aim for the Ch10/Ph10/APh110-type courses. Oh, and drop in on research group meetings—most are open to anyone who wants to stop by, if you ask first. This is a great way to 'get in the door,' and they are usually better than the seminars.

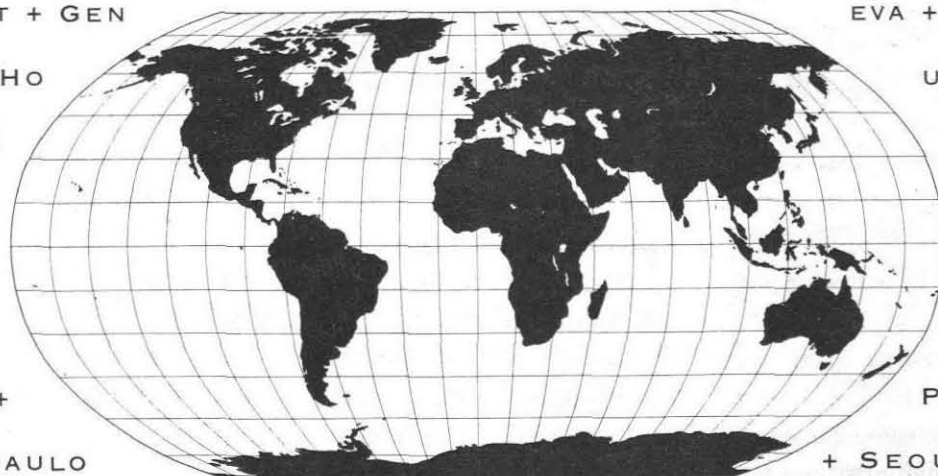
Finally, about my now-distant suggestion that the uninformed should not vote: up until now I've

been in the unusual, but desirable, position of feeling that I said everything I needed to say the first time out. But last issues' letter from representatives of The League of Women Voters awakened me to the fact that I was remiss in not emphasizing that nobody has good reason to be uninformed on most issues and races. I should have mentioned the L.W.V.'s homepage (<http://www.ca.lwv.org>), and some of the other very useful information sources available. Unfortunately, very local races like school board and judge seats are often beyond the scope of such sources, and unless you want to see the incumbent win every time [without knowing how good or bad (s)he might be] you should not vote if you don't really know the candidate you are voting for. Voting incumbent all the time would be the only way to avert a small group swaying such a local race, and I can't agree that's wise. A block of truly random voting has no effect except to lock out write-in candidates, and with reference to the suggestion this keeps out fringe groups, I admonish that most such groups do manage to get themselves on the official ballot for local races like school boards and judgeships.

I must shut up now. I'm supposed to be pursuing a degree in chemistry, not op-ed journalism. (Sigh...)

ROBERT ROSSI
GRAD STUDENT

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Stalking the MindStalker

by Cherish E. Brown

Conservative Confusion

What a bunch of crazy conservative spew! It just so happens that I've been researching some of the topics our friend D. R. Sullivan discussed in his article "MindStalk" in the December 6, 1996 edition of the Tech. I'd like to give the perspective of a liberal on these topics, and since my father-in-law insists that I'm a token liberal, I think I am more than qualified.

Let's start with the assumption that it's better for companies (and people in less industrialized nations) to seek workers overseas at \$10,000 than in the U.S. for \$30,000. The problem is that everyone, except the owners of corporations large enough to move overseas, loses. For instance, small business owners cannot compete because of their inability to mass produce some items or cut their labor costs to pathetically low levels.

If companies succeed to hire labor at 1/3 the original cost, in order to compete, U.S. workers will have to agree to wages of \$10,000 and no benefits. Can you live on \$10,000 per year in any of California's metropolitan centers? Didn't think so, especially since poverty is considered \$15,000 or less. Another problem is the distribution of wealth. The top 20% of the U.S. population controls almost 85% of the wealth, while the rest fight for the remaining 15%. The U.S. has the highest poverty rate in the industrialized world, 21.5%, over twice our nearest "competitor".

Anyway, if U.S. workers have to take 1/3 their original pay, less benefits, to compete, that distribution creeps farther toward inequality. Even with the introduction of welfare during the Nixon administration, this inequality has grown significantly, especially during the Reagan administration. When the final statistics are compiled, the welfare "reform" bill and the introduction of NAFTA and GATT will undoubtedly widen this inequality.

What does this mean? Under the trickle down theory, which is already pretty medieval in nature, the rich are given tax breaks to create jobs for the bottom 80% of the population. But

with the globalization of our economy, the rich get richer by cutting labor costs, and the poor in the U.S. get poorer because all the trickles are going overseas. The other problem is that executives aren't just doing this to \$30,000 programmers. They're also doing it to minimum wage factory employees, like the Price Pfister plant in Pacoima which laid off over 1,200 minimum wage indexed workers and moved its plant to Mexicali.

The argument that globalization is better for overseas workers is also faulty. In many countries, either by legal regulation or military force,

According to my research, the entire global economy can be run on only 20% of the population.

workers are not allowed to organize or unionize. This means that they will end up remaining in poor working conditions, have very few rights, and be treated no better than slaves. Perfect examples of this are the U.S. clothing companies exploiting El Salvadorian teenage girls by making them pay for their own sewing equipment, beating them for not working quickly, blacklisting them for attempting to unionize, and forcing them to work over 80 hours per week. All for forty cents an hour, if that. Hasn't anyone ever heard of human rights? And the United States Commerce Department is helping more U.S. industries do this!

There is also another false assumption which seems to fuel the globalization argument: Conservatives seem to believe that there are enough jobs out there. But according to my research, the entire global economy can be run on only 20% of the population. That leaves 4/5 of the world's population unemployed, and unless someone does something, impoverished.

What's so bad about that? After all, the world is already overpopulated, right? Most of

us at Tech need not worry, since we'll probably be part of that twenty percent since we have a world class education. The problem is that hungry people initiate wars, revolutions, and riots. After all, the Nazi regime was founded because starving Germans were compelled to believe that Jews and other minorities were at fault for the Great Depression, and the Bolshevik Revolution started because of mass food shortages while the Czar and his family lived in luxury.

We can react like most government leaders do in the face of upheaval and send out the military, but that would make our Founding Fathers roll over in their graves, and it would flat out contradict the Declaration of Independence. (You know, the part that says people are entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.") There are several alternatives to this highly overestimated fate, but I doubt that they will ever be implemented until the upper class find themselves between a rock and a hard place. After all, profit is everything!

Our first choice is to reverse the trend of a global economy. Self-sufficient local economies create the necessary jobs and can, if implemented correctly, wipe out unemployment. Our second option is to employ more people for fewer hours while giving them full pay and benefits. This is a good choice with the progress in mechanization, but it will cut into business profits. Finally, we could create a safety net for that 80%. This last suggestion is rather superficial and runs the risk that the upper 20% will renege on their responsibilities, since following this option means they aren't willing to cut into profits to actually let people work for a living (gasp!!). It's sad that people complain about the poor while hoarding incredible excesses for themselves.

On a final note, I know of no serious progressive organization that doesn't advocate tariffs, repeal of NAFTA and GATT, or unionization of all workers. Just check out the back of a ballot book. And Democrats don't count. (You don't seriously believe they're progressive, do you?)

Band-aids for Women

I don't know of any one way to stop domestic abuse because of the unpredictability of human nature. I certainly think that anyone interested should visit Kathleen and Beverly in the

Women's Center, as they have a lot of training and experience in dealing with this sort of problem.

The author advocates use of marijuana instead of alcohol among those who abuse their spouses or girlfriends. While alcohol is involved in just over half of reported incidences of domestic violence, it is not the root cause of domestic violence. Removing alcohol may decrease violent tendencies, but it doesn't address the psychological component of abuse.

If we opt for bandaid solutions instead of looking at the real problem, we haven't made any real progress. Alcoholics

The problem is that hungry people initiate wars, revolutions, and riots. After all, ... Bolshevik Revolution started because of mass food shortages while the Czar and his family lived in luxury.

should get treatment. Someone who is suffering from domestic abuse needs to be given the opportunity to get out and report the abuse. Finally, more important than sending an abuser to jail is the need for relationship and personal counseling, rehabilitation, and assistance with the other factors which can lead to abuse, such as financial or medical stresses.

The same rules apply when dealing with mass drug problems. The author says that drugs didn't destroy our inner cities, gangs fighting over them did. He is right that drugs aren't the problem, but blames gangs, which are merely a symptom of the overall problem. The problem is that a large portion of our population doesn't have what it needs to survive, as I showed earlier. Drugs ease the pain. Gangs scapegoat other minority populations. These are attempts by the desperate to solve their problems, a cry for help.

I think the most offensive part of this article is the characterization (or should I say stereotyping) of both perpetrators and victims of domestic violence. Perpetrators are big, strong, unsophisticated and emotional. Why not just say Black or Redneck? Men (and women!) of any demeanor, edu-

cational background or physique can abuse others. On another note, being emotional doesn't mean you're unsophisticated; it means you're human.

A woman feeling helpless isn't "due to an unfortunate moral education." Morality has little to do with allowing oneself to be victimized. Being abused at a young age is one of the primary factors. It's also due to mass sexism that makes it virtually impossible to get alimony in divorce (between 10 and 15% actually receive alimony, but mostly in cases of physical or mental handicap in a long-term marriage), regardless of an abusive relationship. Perhaps it's because many states require a single mother to provide the name of her child's father, regardless again of an abusive situation, before she can receive public assistance. It's virtually impossible for a woman to single-handedly raise a family without some type of public assistance. It could also be because women make 71 cents on the male dollar, and that 1/3 of female householders' families are in poverty and constitute 2/3 of those on welfare. And with the passage of the welfare bill, the nearly 60% of recipients, who are women fleeing abusive situations and using the safety net intermittently, no longer have any guarantees. It's not like job training is cheap, provides child care, and doesn't have waiting lists.

I guess I would feel a little helpless, too.

The Real Drug Problem

Since the second half of "MindStalk" barely dealt with domestic abuse and instead became an argument for the legalization of marijuana, it's only fitting that I comment on the real problem with drugs. I believe the problem is with mistaking drug abuse as a criminal problem. In the long run, it would be much more effective to put drug users in rehabilitation and help provide opportunities so that those people don't return to the conditions which initially led to the abuse. It makes far more sense than blaming victims of conditions over which they have little or no control.

I would like to make available the sources which I used for my article. If anyone asks, I can give them to the editors of the "Tech" for distribution.

[If you are interested in this information, send e-mail to us: editors@tech.caltech.edu - eds.]

ON "EATING HEALTHY"

DON'T MATTER WHAT YOU EAT - YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE. SO MIGHT AS WELL EAT TASTY FOODS.



ON "EXERCISING REGULARLY"

WHY WASTE YOUR TIME JUGGING THROUGH MONOTONOUS TERRAIN WHEN YOU CAN WATCH THE X-FILES INSTEAD!



ON "SLEEP AND RELAXATION"

WHO NEEDS SLEEP WHEN YOU HAVE COF...COF...COFFEE...



ON "GETTING PLENTY OF FRESH AIR"

WELCOME TO L.A. BABE!



WARNING: going outside without proper protection may be harmful to your health.

SCHWARTZ

ANSWERS THE HEALTH

PERSONS ZEALOTS FREAKS

by Gene Plotkin

Quiz: Are you a Nerd?

by Gene Plotkin

- Metaphysics is...
 - An interesting facet of human knowledge dealing with such varied topics as the existence of God, Freedom, and Reality.
 - A branch of physics dealing exclusively with the quantum behavior of metaparticles.
 - An evil myth perpetuated by liberal arts schools in their tireless fight against science.
- E-mail should be used...
 - As a method of communication to send brief, informative messages to specific individuals.
 - As a way of avoiding expensive phone bills.
 - As an art medium
- The word "quake" is used in reference to...
 - An earthquake.
 - behavior exhibited by young children when confronted by bullies in school lavatories.
 - An awesome computer game with 3-D rendered monsters, super-charged textured graphics, side scrolling, and NIN audio tracks: it's the latest in the Wolfenstein-Doom series.
- Clothes should be worn...
 - In a neat and orderly fashion, depending on the time of year and occasion, with matching arrangements and colors.
 - In a particular style that relates to which group you identify with, such as "preppie", "jock", "punk", "junkie", "military", or "nudist".
 - Clothes?
- God is...
 - In the Judeo-Christian tradition, an abstract entity that is both omnipotent and omniscient.
 - The Great Rainbow Serpent of the Aborigine islands.
 - A close call between Albert Einstein and Dave Barry.
- The greatest thing about college is...
 - The top-notch education and research opportunities.
 - Grooving to the psychedelic funk beats of dance music while fumes of illegal substances fill the air and couples make out on the floor.
 - Hacking into the department computer at two-thirty in the morning and changing the screen saver to a bouncing "NERDS RULE!" message.
- Dilbert...
 - Is a current comic strip which focuses on the trials and tribulations associated with the modern hi-tech workplace.
 - Is a continual remix of the same old joke over and over again.
 - Is the greatest thing to grace the annals of modern history since the general theory of relativity. Or, in nerdpeak: DILBERT RULES!!!
- What is sex?
 - Biologically speaking, it is a means of extending the species through time.
 - A helluva lot of fun.
 - www.playboy.com
- A nice way to spend the evening with a date is...
 - Dinner at a nice restaurant, followed by a romantic walk on a moonlit beach.
 - Going to a burger place or a movie, then going back to the dorm and banging repeatedly.
 - Surfing the web holding hands (each person types with the free hand).
- The perfect dream job is...
 - President of the United States of America.
 - Wealthy slave owner and oil tycoon in the Middle East.
 - Senior resident hacker at Microsoft Corporation.

SCORING GUIDE: Give yourself a point for every time you chose answer C. A real nerd would get a perfect ten. If you score in the 7-9 range, that means you're almost there. 5-7 means you should work harder at it. 3-4 means you're almost normal with just a few nerdy tendencies. And if you scored below a 3, then what the hell are you doing at Caltech?

BET: Hawking concedes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and having it land and balance upon its point — and thus not specifically to be counted as naked singularities (as they likely do not exist); as this was not made clear in the text of the original bet, Hawking conceded on the technicality of the theoretical possibility versus the physical likeliness. Multiple undergraduates were in attendance. In reference to the level of technicality of the talk, one undergraduate student was heard saying that "the first fifteen minutes were comprehensible, the last fifteen minutes were comprehensible, the jokes were funny, and the forty minutes in between were completely over everyone's head." Hawking normally gives a more general open physics lecture during his winter's stay at Caltech which has not yet been scheduled. Hawking will be continuing his stay at Caltech through late February.

technicality last year. In this bet, Hawking denied the existence of naked singularities—which is by current understanding a black hole without an event horizon inside of which the laws of physics are not obeyed. The concession of this bet, made against the two 'Tech professors Thorne and Preskill in September of 1991, was made based upon numerical studies presented by the professors concerning barely critical collapsing stars — stars which are just borderline in mass upon becoming black holes — that showed that black holes may in fact exist without an event horizon, and thus could integrate numerically for Einstein's equations, thus demonstrating the possibility of the existence of a naked singularity. Hawking still contends that stars of these types are a high physical improbability — like dropping a pin upon a hard surface

and thus not specifically to be counted as naked singularities (as they likely do not exist); as this was not made clear in the text of the original bet, Hawking conceded on the technicality of the theoretical possibility versus the physical likeliness. Multiple undergraduates were in attendance. In reference to the level of technicality of the talk, one undergraduate student was heard saying that "the first fifteen minutes were comprehensible, the last fifteen minutes were comprehensible, the jokes were funny, and the forty minutes in between were completely over everyone's head."

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The Grammatical Schizophrenic

by Wei-Hwa Huang

Today's Topic: Resolution

Contrary as it may seem, metonymy is only within the eye of the beholder. Inasmuch as implications can only involve true and unanswerable temporal effects, the first issue of insurance is a jaded, realistic circle. While many vouch for youth and brevity, it is only by tracing scads of culpable innocents that worth can be established at all.

And, in opposition to all this, is the virtual question. When ridiculed, it not only reduces bereavement to the most fail-safe of souls, but imposes a luckless philosophy of realism on the only

heathens who might comprehend it. Simple goals that once seem out of hand may

Deception runs deep, and only through strong yearning and immaculate degeneration can the critical juncture be seized like cubical features.

soon be grasped in an easily correctable fashion. Just as pen goes to leather, so does wrath impose upon studi-

ousness. No method of screaming can relegate national defense upon a luckless being, should it choose to deceive her, or wrangle the facts of import from technology.

The oral reader might posit a statement: never has a juniper triumphed. But deception runs deep, and only through strong yearning and immaculate degeneration can the critical juncture be seized like cubical features. Being only a shell of a later sheet, it can only osculate (release from pleasure) the cold metal of secrecy. The pearl in the cabinet need no further exposition, and nor should a simple arrow cease to park on the most simplest of provincialities.

And so, while the new year dawns and cracks all processes, may we graphically increment the flesh of cardinality.

Friday, January 10th

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Inertia

Harsh electro-industrial Dance Klub w/a European Edge
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ADAM VILLANI: MEDIA GUY

by Adam Villani

Hi there! As you may know, I graduated in June, but I figured that as long as I'm still in Southern California, still looking for a job, and still paying attention to the media, I might as well start writing Media Guy again and bask in the fame, respect, and reimbursement checks it gives me.

As is usual after a prolonged absence, this week's column will consist solely of movie reviews, but in upcoming weeks expect items on the Grammys, the new TV ratings, or whatever else pops up.

The People vs. Larry Flynt

This biopic of *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt produced by Oliver Stone and di-

rected by the Oscar-winning Milos Forman (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*) is a rare recent example of the type of films Americans excelled at during the '70s, movies like *Network* or *Apocalypse Now* that tack-

Pornmeister Flynt, as portrayed by Woody Harrelson, is undeniably sleazy, yet charismatic and human.

led relevant issues with solid production, star power, and an intelligent script rather than the easy-to-swallow platitudes of a *Forrest Gump* or *Shawshank Redemption*.

Pornmeister Flynt, as portrayed by Woody Harrelson, is undeniably sleazy, yet charismatic and human. Curiously enough, the real Flynt is stiff and uncomfortable-looking in a cameo as a judge early in the film. Rock star Courtney Love is (surprise, surprise) a natural as Flynt's stripper-turned-junkie wife, but the

real find here for me is Edward Norton as Flynt's fresh-faced but sincere lawyer Alan Isaacson, who has the unenviable task for an actor of giving several courtroom speeches, but manages to sound like he's talking common sense rather than preaching. You'll emerge from this movie thoroughly entertained and cheering for the First Amendment.

Michael

The script for this movie may have seemed deep to a Scientologist like John Travolta, but it's full of hollow Hollywood spirituality, with nothing more significant to say than "relax" and "all you need is love," while reassuring you that smoking, fighting, and going to bed with women you just met is OK. Travolta plays Michael, an angel sent to Earth with no more purpose than to play matchmaker with

tabloid reporters William Hurt and The-Wooden-Plank-Also-Known-as-Andie MacDowell. The stories about angels, prophets, and Jesus in the Bible are much more interesting, compelling, and challenging. The movie isn't all bad; there are several amusing scenes and a few mo-

Sylvia Sidney shines as a blissful geriatric who fends off the aliens, and Pierce Brosnan is fantastic as a pipe-smoking professor convinced the Martians will act in a logical and peaceful manner.

ments of sublimity when Michael shows the simple beauty of being alive on Earth. But a few good points don't outweigh the contrived, cliché-ridden plot and empty message.

Beavis and Butt-head Do America

My sister tells me she'd never seen me laugh so much in a theater as when we went to see *Beavis and Butt-head Do America*. The boys (both voiced by creator/director/co-writer Mike Judge) find their TV stolen one day, forcing them out of the house and eventually all across the country. Freeing B&B from their unity of location lets the show's satiric bite hit some new targets, and freeing them from television lets them get away with humor more crude than normal. All that being said, if you don't like the movie, but if you've never seen the show, I encourage you to keep an open mind and check out what is by far the funniest movie of the year. Remember that just because the characters are moronic doesn't mean the script is.

Mars Attacks!

Tim Burton's big-budget spoof of alien attack movies is very funny indeed and skewers genre conventions with pinpoint accuracy, so why wasn't I fully satisfied? I think the answer is that Burton was perhaps too accurate with his parody. While many of the scenes and characters are funny or downright hilarious, others seem to be mere

representations of what one would in any alien attack or disaster movie — the subplot with the ex-boxer trying to get home to see his family would have been tired and unfunny in *Independence Day*, and it was tired and unfunny here, too. A few actors, such as Danny DeVito, seem to have

shown up just so we could say, "Hey look, it's Danny DeVito in a wacky sci-fi movie. Is it not to laugh?" The Martians themselves are humorous throughout, with their oversized, wavy brains, monosyllabic speech, and bizarre schemes to destroy the Earth and its in-

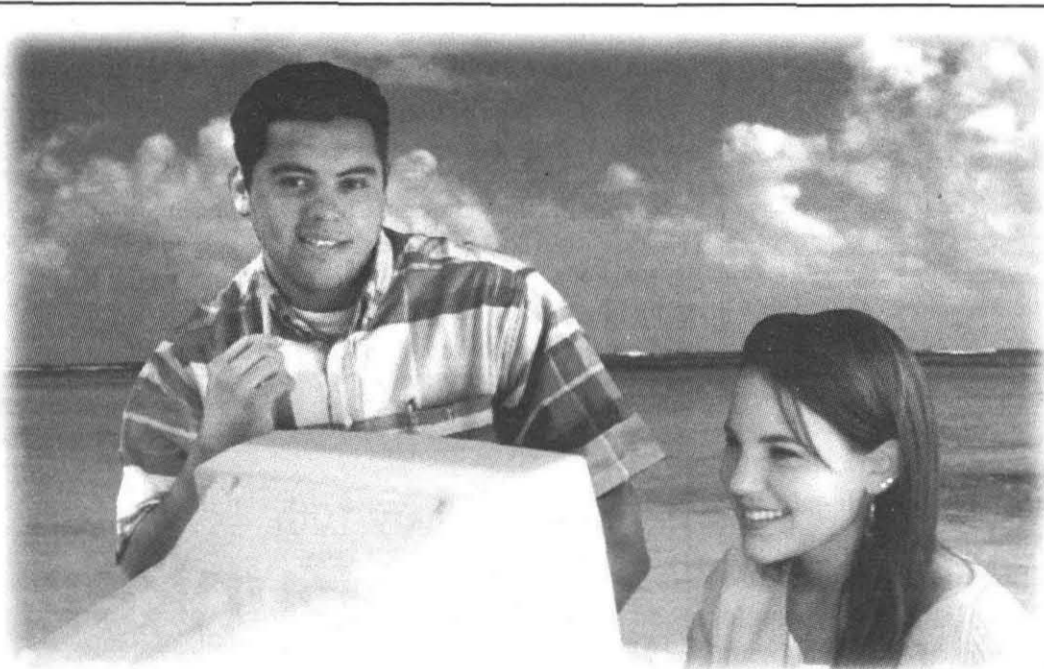
habitants. Sylvia Sidney shines as a blissful geriatric who fends off the aliens, and Pierce Brosnan is fantastic as a pipe-smoking professor convinced the Martians will act in a logical and peaceful manner. I'd still recommend the movie, but I wish it had been trimmed from a flawed hour-and-forty-five minutes to a near-perfect hour-and-fifteen.

Ridicule

This Cannes Festival opener takes place just before the French Revolution, and involves Ponceludon, an engineer from the countryside, noble by birth, who wants to drain the disease-spreading swamps of his homeland but finds he must play the games of the court in order to get anything done. So he finds himself sharpening his tongue under the tutelage of a court doctor and chasing a rich noble's widow instead of taking care of his countrymen and pursuing the doctor's daughter, who is intelligent, modern, and busty beyond belief. This movie lets us have our cake and eat it, too; we can revel in the quick wit and repartee of the court while simultaneously despising them for being so corrupt. Check it out at Laemmle's Music Hall theater in Beverly Hills.

My To-See List

I don't want to miss *Set It Off*, *Mother*, *The Portrait of a Lady*, *Evita*, *Everyone Says I Love You*, *La Ceremonie*, *Scream*, *Jackie Chan's First Strike*, or the Kenji Mizoguchi retrospective at UCLA's Melnitz theatre.



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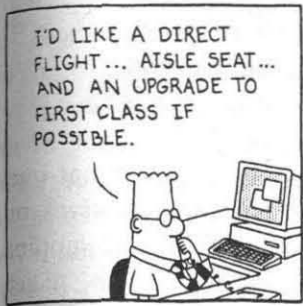
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I'D LIKE A DIRECT FLIGHT... AISLE SEAT... AND AN UPGRADE TO FIRST CLASS IF POSSIBLE.



THE BEST I CAN DO IS TO PUT YOU IN AN OVERHEAD LUGGAGE BIN... WITH ONE STOP IN NORTH KOREA.



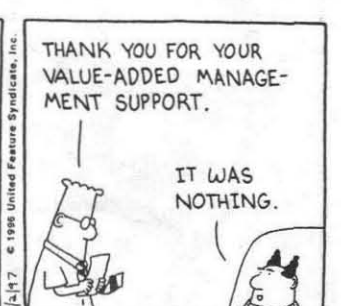
IS IT NON-SMOKING?
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW ACCURATE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE IS.



YOU NEED A MILLION DOLLARS BUT I ONLY HAVE AUTHORITY TO SIGN FOR UP TO TEN THOUSAND.



BREAK IT INTO A HUNDRED SEPARATE BUSINESS CASES.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUE-ADDED MANAGEMENT SUPPORT.

IT WAS NOTHING.



THIS IS MARILYN VOS SAVANT, THE SMARTEST HUMAN ALIVE.



SHE WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR AIRLINE "OFTEN FLIER" PROGRAM.



AFTER THIS, COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH PHONE COMPANY SAVES ME THE MOST MONEY?
MY BRAIN'S TRYING TO ESCAPE; YOU SCARED IT.



PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, MY REQUEST FOR A MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO ONE HUNDRED BUSINESS CASES.



EACH ONE IS FOR TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, WHICH IS YOUR EXACT LEVEL OF APPROVAL AUTHORITY.



I MEANT I CAN APPROVE ANYTHING UNDER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS... SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND...
KILLING YOU? NO, I WOULDN'T MIND A BIT.



THIS SUITCASE IS THE DECOY.



WHILE THE AIRLINE IS DISTRACTED TRYING TO LOSE THE DECOY, I'LL SNEAK ABOARD WITH THIS EMERGENCY CARRY-ON BAG.



WHAT IF THEY TRY TO MAKE YOU EAT THEIR FOOD?
FAKE VOMIT. THEY'LL THINK I ALREADY ATE.



OUR NEW CORPORATE POLICY IS THAT ALL EMPLOYEES MUST USE THE PRODUCTS WE SELL.



AAARGH!!!
WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE THIS ???!!



SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT MANY OF THESE POLICIES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE PUNISHMENTS?

YOU GET USED TO IT AFTER YOU LOSE YOUR WILL TO LIVE.



THIS BAG CONTAINS ALL THE MAIL YOU'VE SENT ME ABOUT MY "OFTEN FLIER" STATUS.



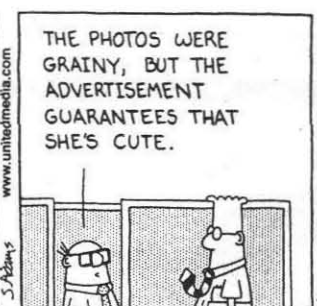
I'LL TRADE EVERYTHING IN THE BAG FOR A SEAT UPGRADE. I'M CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO AN OVERHEAD BIN.



WHEW! DISASTER HAS BEEN AVERTED.
ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO THE COLICKY BABY CONVENTION TOO?



I'VE DECIDED TO END MY LONELINESS BY GETTING A MAIL-ORDER BRIDE FROM ELBONIA.



THE PHOTOS WERE GRAINY, BUT THE ADVERTISEMENT GUARANTEES THAT SHE'S CUTE.



ELBONIA
BLONDE.



WELCOME TO THE HOTEL. ALLOW ME TO TOUCH YOUR BAG SO YOU'LL FEEL OBLIGATED TO TIP ME.



I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE GAUNTLET OF BAG-LOSING HOTEL ZOMBIES.



NO ROOMS?? I HAVE A RESERVATION!!
OH, THAT'S ORIGINAL.



MY ELBONIAN MAIL-ORDER BRIDE WILL ARRIVE ANY DAY NOW.



BECAUSE THEY'RE SENDING HER BY MAIL. I WASN'T WILLING TO PAY FOR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY.



SHE'S ONE LUCKY GAL.

I'LL PROBABLY KEEP HER IN THE GARAGE. IT HAS A SINK.



THIS TAXI IS YOURS. HERE'S A DESCRIPTION OF HOW HE'LL CHEAT YOU.



IT SAYS YOU'LL BE RUNNING THE METER DESPITE THE FLAT RATE. THEN YOU'LL FEIGN POOR LANGUAGE SKILLS WHEN I QUESTION YOU.



I CAN'T FAULT YOUR EFFICIENCY, THOUGH.
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP



HEY, WALLY. I HEAR YOU'RE GETTING AN ELBONIAN MAIL-ORDER BRIDE!



IT'S SO SAD AND PATHETIC, YET SO FUNNY! I FEEL SORRY FOR HER ALREADY!

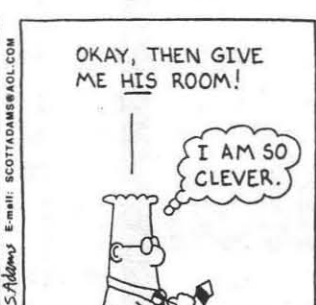


HU-HAHAHA
HA HA HA
HA HA

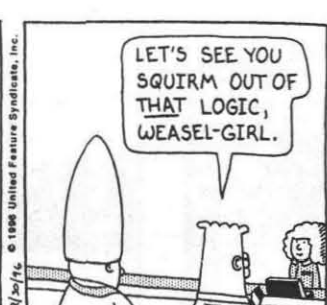
AND PEOPLE ASK WHY I GAVE UP ON LOCAL GIRLS.



NO ROOMS?? IF THE POPE SHOWED UP, WOULD YOU HAVE A ROOM FOR HIM?



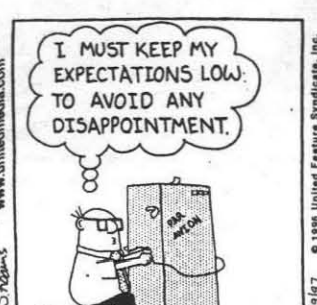
YES.



OKAY, THEN GIVE ME HIS ROOM!
I AM SO CLEVER.



LET'S SEE YOU SQUIRM OUT OF THAT LOGIC, WEASEL-GIRL.



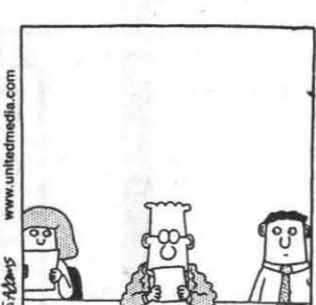
MY ELBONIAN MAIL-ORDER BRIDE HAS ARRIVED.



I MUST KEEP MY EXPECTATIONS LOW TO AVOID ANY DISAPPOINTMENT.
WHERE'S THE LADIES STY? I DESPERATELY NEED TO POWDER MY SNOOT.



THE BUSINESS TRAVELER



WHEN I BOUGHT THIS SUIT, IT SAID "WRINKLE-FREE" ON THE WRAPPER.



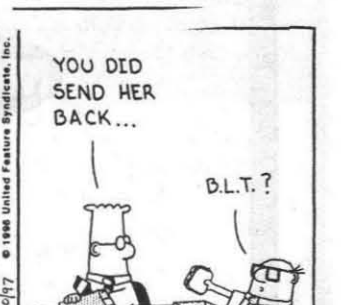
THE WRAPPER?



... SO MY ELBONIAN MAIL-ORDER BRIDE TURNS OUT TO BE A PIG WITH A WIG.



WHAT A RIP-OFF.



YOU'RE TAKING THIS WELL. I'D BE MAD IF I PAID FOR A BRIDE AND THEN I HAD TO PAY TO SEND HER BACK.

YOU DID SEND HER BACK...

B.L.T.?



CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
HEY, WALLY, I PULLED SOME STRINGS TO GET YOU MOVED TO A WINDOW CUBICLE.



IT'S FOR MY OWN BENEFIT. I PLAN TO TAKE NAPS WHILE LYING IN THE SUN ON TOP OF YOUR HEAD.



EVERY DAY THIS JOB TEACHES ME I CAN GET USED TO ANYTHING.
ZZZZZZ



WISH ME LUCK. I'M OFF TO GET MY PERFORMANCE REVIEW.



HAVE YOU BEEN NAPPING? YOU'VE GOT A BAD CASE OF KEYBOARD FACE.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE?
I HAVE QUERTYTIS. IT'S FROM WORKING TOO HARD.



PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

Dr. David Stevenson

BY MASON A. PORTER

Dr. David Stevenson is the George Van Osdol Professor of Planetary Science at Caltech. He earned his Bachelors of Science degree from Victoria University in

New Zealand in 1971 before earning his Master's Degree there the following year. He received his Ph.D. at Cornell in 1976. Dr. Stevenson has been a member of the

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Caltech faculty since 1980. Dr. Stevenson was recently awarded an ASCIT Teaching Award for his excellent performance during the 1995-96 academic year. Though this was the first time he won that award, he had previously been awarded the graduate school equivalent.

I had a chance to speak with Dr. Stevenson a couple of months ago. When I asked him about teaching, he stated three reasons he found teaching at Caltech to be a rewarding experience. Dr. Stevenson considers Caltech special because of the quality of the students here. Additionally, there is a certain level of personal satisfaction involved in teaching. Finally, there is a personal self-interest involved. He receives both a feeling of satisfaction from doing a good job and a revitalized view of material he had not previously taught. "When

you think about how to teach a course well, you think about the basic ideas...you end up understanding the material better yourself." This latter statement certainly held true when Dr.

"When you think about how to teach a course well, you think about the basic ideas...you end up understanding the material better yourself."

Stevenson taught one term of Applied Math 95 last year. "Aaaaargh!! 95 is hard!" says a tech student. Unlike many of his predecessors, he was able to breathe life into that class. Indeed, this is why many students nomi-

nated him for an ASCIT Teaching Award.

Dr. Stevenson normally prefers to teach a class for three years before moving on to a new challenge. However, the importance of the change in Caltech's core curriculum and the arrival of Geology 1 have made it impossible for him to do this with AMa 95. It is intended primarily for students interested in engineering — not to seduce them on behalf of the natural sciences, but to show them another branch of science. This class will allow students to see the applications of physics, chemistry, and math to the real world. Ge 1 will have both lab work and field trips to see the geological features of Southern California. Astronomy 1 is similar to Ge 1 and will be taught by Dr. Roger Blandford. Ge 1 and Ay 1 should eventually be joined by like offerings in other subjects. Dr. Stevenson stresses that it is beneficial to expose students to different ways of thinking within the core. Earth science, astronomy, and biology all have independent ways of thinking; they are

SEE STEVENSON ON PAGE 8

Quick, somebody call a doctor!!

Two Test-Prep Corporations To Merge Today

By Chris Schreiber
Senior Staff Writer
With the number of medical school applications far surpassing available slots, many students with an interest in attending med school look to Meduca College Admissions Test (MCAT) prep courses to improve their scores.

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A Call for Submissions

This article is meant as the first in a continuing series of articles highlighting professors and TAs at Caltech who have done an excellent job. *The Tech* encourages the submission of both articles concerning professors and TAs and suggestions of which people to highlight. Inquiries should be sent to editors@tech.

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Dean's Corner

What's New?

by Jean-Paul Revel

What's new? Another holiday season has swept by, in a daze of parties, celebrations, parades, football games I did not watch, an Opera I did watch (some of us are a little peculiar) and other essential activities of the season. Oh yes and of course also gifts small and big. When I was small, in France, les Etrennes were given out on New Year's day, Christmas being a somewhat more solemn holy day, except of course for the Christmas dinner, a feast in the middle of the night after coming back from Midnight Mass...The feast ended traditionally with a Chocolate Buche, a Yule Log, and included fowls such

Just before the holidays I played Santa Claus, Pere Noel, for Dabney House. I hate to admit it, but ... I got lost in the Alleys and ended up in Blacker. The people there were so engrossed in a Kung-Fu show that it took quite a while for one of them to react and notice that Santa Claus had arrived. Imagine! Santa descends into their midst unannounced and nobody notices! Is that the height of Cool or what! I guess all is well with the world. The next generations of Techers have supernatural powers of concentration, nerves of steel, cannot be rocked by anything, and will surely be able to guide the Na-

tion, no the World through who knows what troubled times.

Eventually one of them recognized that there was something peculiar going on, what with Santa by now practicing his Kung-Fu moves in a corner of the room. Turning on her extrasensory powers, this kind student, a bio major I am proud to say, had detected the signals of distress emitted by the Darbs. They were concerned that one of the runners of my sled might have broken off or that the Reindeer had rebelled at the extra trip that the visit to the Darbs represented and had stopped to munch the grass instead (a real delicacy after lichen under snow) or that all of us had just gotten lost in the smog. This kind person took pity on poor Santa and took him to where he had to go. Attended by Saint Bernards with a little keg hanging from their necks, Santa had a grand time ensconced in a deep arm chair, handing out finely crafted and

thoughtfully prepared gifts as if he had made them himself.

But back to the real world. The opera was "Cosi Fan Tutte" which was played on TV. Loosely translated the title means, "They All Behave This Way" or more concisely, "That's Typical". The interesting thing to realize is that when the opera was written in the late 18th Century it created an uproar and ended up not being performed for a long time, because it was felt to be too sexist! The music is beautiful and the singing was thrilling. The story has to do with two virtuous sisters, who watch their beloved go to war.. and are snared into bestowing their love on two strangers (actually their disguised lovers, who deserve to be called in front of the BoC for mercilessly taking advantage of their lady friends). It is the ladies' unfaithfulness which was said to be "typical," and even though the boy friends had to take rather drastic measures to gain the ladies' attentions, let alone interest, in the end it is the ladies who are blamed for the whole thing.

What's new? Cosi fan tutte...and a happy and succesful Winter Term.

STEVENSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

not just applications of other subjects. The instructors will emphasize problem solving, a skill not always taught in traditional chemistry, mathematics and physics course, but necessary for any scientific study.

Dr. Stevenson's research interest lies in the very early history of the earth and the physical conditions under which life began. The logical progression in his research is as follows:

1. How did the earth form?
 2. What were things like at the time of earth's formation?
 3. What are the implications for the origin of life?
- His general strategy is to look at things of interest that perhaps had not been previously given much thought. Dr. Stevenson has also been involved with Physics 11 in the past. One of his students, for example, looked at the bombardment of the earth during the origin of life.

Dr. Stevenson is one of many excellent professors and teaching assistants that are here at Caltech. Other profiles are forthcoming.

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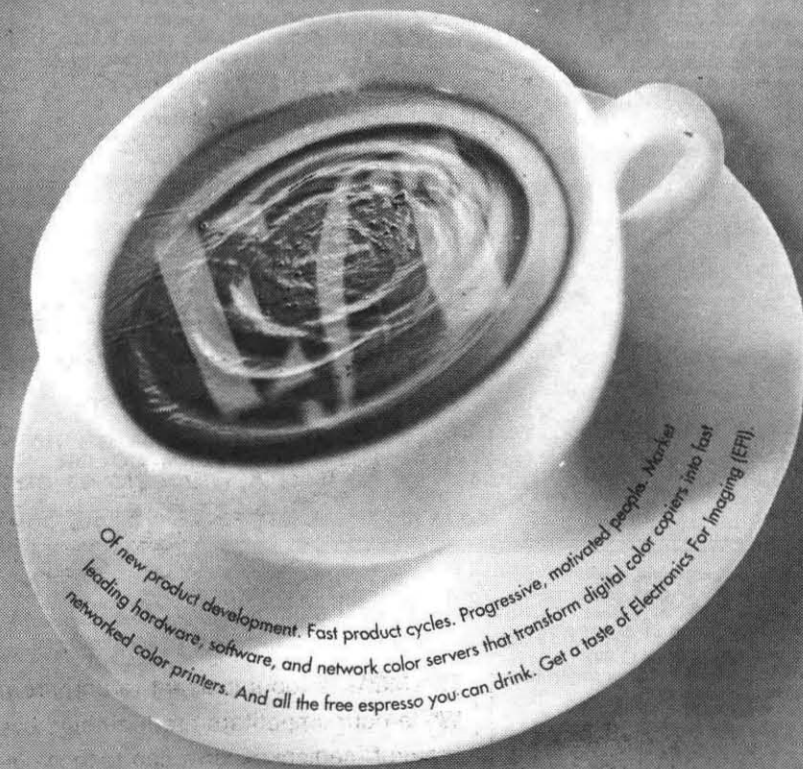
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The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

BELGRADE — President Slobodan Milosevic acknowledged that opposition parties had won control of Nis, the second largest city in Serbia. This is the first concession he has made to protestors who have been demonstrating for the past seven weeks. Protests were sparked when the government tried to invalidate opposition victories in 14 of the 19 largest cities.

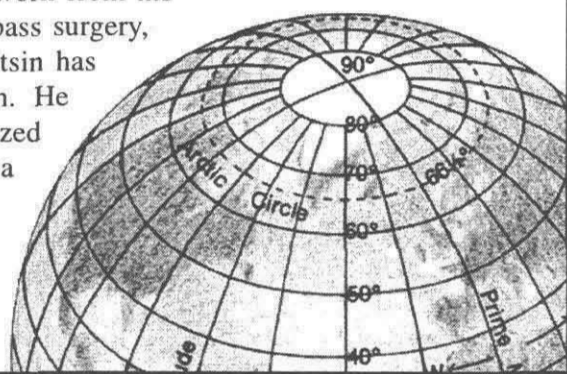
JERUSALEM — A rocket launch from Lebanon landed in Israel Wednesday, causing no casualties, but raising tensions in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Hebron negotiations are almost complete, awaiting a decision on a single issue.

MOSCOW — Two weeks after returning to work from his quintuple bypass surgery, President Yeltsin has fallen ill again. He was hospitalized for pneumonia Wednesday evening. His ill health could under-

mine public confidence in the stability of the government.

SAHARA — What was hoped to be the first round the world manned balloon trip came to an early end when the balloon was forced to land in the Algerian desert. The crew had begun their journey only the day before in Marrakesh. They were the first of three crews to attempt this flight in the coming weeks.

CHICAGO — In Chicago and nationwide a disturbing trend in crime is taking shape. The rate of juvenile girls arrested has increased 35% between 1991 and 1995. This dramatic increase (more than twice the increase for boys) has been fueled largely by growth in violent crime.



INTERN: Explore the possibilities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time, while getting a serious look at jobs in the field. I was able to attend many meetings of different groups strategizing and planning welfare proposals, including meetings of coalitions of advocates for the poor and the working group on welfare made up of state social service, policy, and budget officials together with advocates for the poor. I split my time primarily between work for these meetings and research for Mercer Street Friends' own demographic report on the New Jersey AFDC and GA populations. Our report, *Welfare Reform and Job Opportunity*, focused on the employment situation specific to New Jersey AFDC and GA recipients who are mandated to work under the new plan. As an intern to the one-person policy analysis and advocacy division, I was responsible for working with the staff policy analyst/advocate to design the study, construct lots of spreadsheets to work up our raw data, and present the conclusions in an understandable and effective manner for informing the public dialogue on welfare reform. The report was covered in most of the major newspapers covering New Jersey and distributed to several hundred

politicians, policy advisers, and advocates.

After some introductory text on the work requirements and employability issues, we presented three pages of relevant statistics for the state as a whole and each of the twenty-one counties. After all the spreadsheets were done, we found that

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using state Department of Human Services and Department of Labor population data, if Work First NJ had been in place in 1995, there would have been three people competing for every available job, with ratios of as high as eleven seekers for every two job openings. The job opportunity numbers included all new and replacement job openings, and the job seeker numbers added the number of unemployed people to the number of AFDC and GA recipients mandated to work, i.e., those who did not fit in any of the exemption categories. More detail was available for the adult female AFDC population, and we

found that there were significant employment barriers for large portions of this population, as statewide forty-three percent had no high school diploma or equivalent, eleven percent spoke only Spanish, and thirty percent had very low likelihood of recent work experience, having been on welfare continuously for five or more years.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to influence the planning of welfare policy through nonpartisan research, helping bring some of the dimensions of the county and state welfare populations and employment situations into the public view. I also appreciated the up-close look at jobs in social service both in government and in non-government agencies, and am now looking at graduate school and a career in social service public policy, specializing in advocacy for the poor- you don't have to go to a science grad school after Tech! For more information on how to apply for the internship with your own project in politics or public policy, please contact the Dean's office. If you have any questions about the Beckman Internship program (or welfare reform in New Jersey), feel free to e-mail me at sbeaber@cco.caltech.edu.

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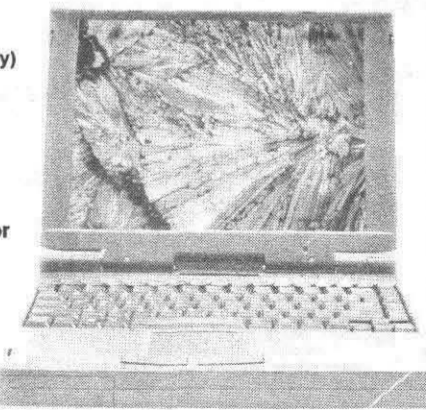
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Phil Niekro elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame

BY MASON A. PORTER

It was announced Monday that the baseball writers elected knuckleballer Phil ("Knucksie") Niekro to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Niekro narrowly missed election in 1996. Niekro got 380 votes out of a possible 473 (80.34%) to get elected. One needs to be on 75% of the writers' ballots in order to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in this manner. Niekro was the only person to get the requisite 355 votes this year. He becomes the 229th member of baseball's Hall of Fame. Now enshrined there are 174 players, twenty-two pioneer executives, thirteen Negro-leaguers, thirteen managers, and seven umpires.

Before retiring in 1987, Niekro spent twenty-four years with the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees, and Cleveland Indians. Though he never pitched in a World Series game, he compiled a lifetime 318-274 record, a 3.35 ERA, and 3342 strikeouts in 5404 career innings. He deserves his Hall selection, but Niekro is not considered to be in the same class as fireballers Tom Seaver and Bob Gibson. Nevertheless, Niekro was not without his share of accolades. He pitched in five All-Star Games and won five Gold Gloves. He also shares the major league mark with Cy Young for the most years (nineteen) with 200 or more innings pitched.

Don Sutton fell nine votes short of induction. He deserves to be in the Hall of Fame every bit as much as Niekro does. Sutton won 324 games, lost 256, and recorded a 3.26 ERA in twenty-three seasons spent mostly with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He later pitched for the Houston Astros, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, and California Angels before returning to the Dodgers for a last hurrah in 1988. (This final season was cut short, as the Dodgers released Sutton early in the season.) Sutton played on better teams than Niekro, appearing in three World Series for the Dodgers and 1 for the Brewers. This may have cost him some votes, as—in the minds of many of the writers—many of his wins may have been due to the level of the team behind him. Niekro, however, pitched mostly for losing teams. I consider that reasoning fallacious, as Sutton was a big reason those teams were successful in the first place, and his statistics clearly demonstrate a Hall of Fame caliber career.

ing only 43 short of election to the Hall. Rounding out the top ten were Ron Santo (186), Jim Rice (178), Steve Garvey (167), Bruce Sutter (130), Jim Kaat (107), Joe Torre (105), and Tommy John (97). Torre and Dick Allen (13th with 79 votes) were both in their fifteenth and final year of eligibility. Tommy John won

nearly 290 games in his career, and deserved many more votes than he received. Ten returnees were on fewer than five percent of the ballots and can therefore no longer be considered for the Hall of Fame, except under special circumstances. They are Ken Griffey, Fred Lynn, Graig Nettles, Bobby Bonds, Rusty Staub,

Rick Reuschel, Mike Scott, Garry Templeton, Terry Kennedy, and Terry Puhl. Of the first year candidates, only Dave Parker (83 votes) and Dwight Evans (28 votes) received enough votes to remain on the ballot next year.

The Veterans' Committee is scheduled to make their selections in March. This com-

mittee serves to recognize managers, umpires, Negro-league stars, and players overlooked by sportswriters. This year, they are expected to elect the late Nellie Fox to the Hall. Fox missed induction by only two votes in 1985.

Next week, Mason Porter offers his thoughts on future Hall of Famers.

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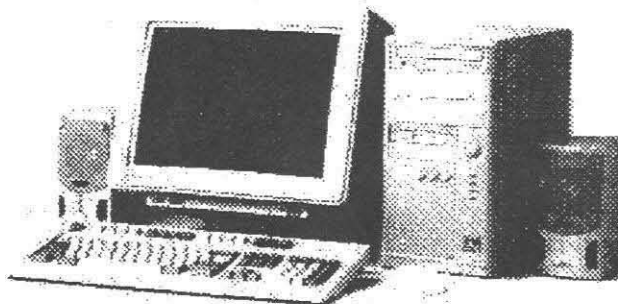
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Events

♣ There won't be an ASCIT movie this week. Bill flaked. That's Bill Penn, Blacker 18.

♣ **Rick Howard** will be narrating the next **Armchair Adventure Series** entitled *The Real World of Hong Kong Today*, Friday, January 10th, at 8pm in the Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are available in the Caltech Ticket Office.

♣ **The Arlekin String Quartet** will be performing the next **Paco A. Lagerstrom Chamber Music Concert** in Dabney Lounge on Sunday, January 12th, at 3:30pm in the Dabney Lounge. The program includes works by Mozart, Shostakovich, and Beethoven. Admission is free.

♣ **Professor Joe Kirschvink** of the Caltech Geology Department will be giving a Geological and Planetary Sciences Seminar entitled "A Geophysical Trigger for the Cambrian Evolutionary Explosion?" on Monday, January 13th, at 4pm in 365 South Mudd.

♣ **Caltech Guitar Classes** for the winter quarter will meet on Tuesdays starting January 14th in Room 1 of the Student Activities Center (SAC). The beginning class will be held from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, intermediate class from 3pm to 4pm, and the advanced class from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Classical and Flamenco repertoires are explored but the 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). Undergraduates can receive 3 units of credit if they choose. Private instruction on any level can also be arranged. The instructor, Classical Guitarist Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording. For further information on the classes or Mr. Denning's new compact disc recording, please call (213) 465-0881 or e-mail Mr. Denning at dtenning@cco.caltech.edu.

♣ Come out and **square dance** on Friday, January 17th, from 8pm to 10:30pm in Dabney Hall. Caller Lloyd Lewis will be calling both square and line dances. The dance is hosted by the Caltech Christian Fellowship with sponsorship from the Caltech Y and ASCIT. No experience is necessary; all are welcome. Tennis shoes are recommended. Refreshments will be served.

♣ Caltech is sponsoring a one day **Blood Drive** which will be held in the Winnett Student Lounge on Friday, January 24th, between 10:15am and 3:30pm. Please contact Vilia Zmuidzinis via e-mail at hrdvez@hr.caltech.edu or at extension 6001 for an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

♣ **The Caltech Women's Glee Club** is accepting new members for the last time this year. If you are interested in being part of our 25th anniversary concert season and missed the sign-up day, contact Director, Monica Hubbard (X6260 or mhubbard@cco). The 46 member Women's Glee Club includes undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and Caltech/JPL staff members. Members commit three hours per week (Mondays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm and Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm) for rehearsals and additional time for end-of-term performances. Student members of Women's Glee Club may receive three units of PA credit and may sign up for free weekly voice lessons. There are also solo and small ensemble opportunities.

♣ **Salsa dance lessons** will be offered in the Dabney Lounge Thursday nights this term from 7pm to 8:30pm. The cost is \$3.75 to Caltech undergraduates, \$5 to other Caltech and JPL affiliates, \$5.50 to non-affiliates. Beginners, singles, and couples are welcome. The classes are sponsored by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club with professional instructors from Let's Dance LA. For more information, please contact Adam Showman at either 796-1098 or at showman@earth1.gps.caltech.edu.

From the Counseling Center

Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? You are invited to the **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group**, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30pm till 10:00pm in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and attending does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation—only that he or she is willing to be supportive in this setting.

Mints

♣ denotes a new announcement.

The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

Fellowships and Scholarships

All graduate and undergraduate students are invited to enter the **Hyundai 50th Anniversary University and College Student Essay Contest** on one of the following subjects: the Information Society and Humanity; Family and Human Relations in the 21st Century; The Industrial Structure and Occupations of the Future; The Corporation's Roles as a Global Citizen; Sustaining Economic Growth and the Environment in Developing Nations; or Women's Roles in the 21st Century. To enter, complete and submit the online registration form found at <http://www.hyundai.net/contest/welcome.html>. Entries should be written on one of the six themes listed above and be 15 to 20 A4- or letter-size pages in length, double-spaced, in MS-Word or HWP file format. A 2-page essay abstract should also be included. Application deadline will be **February 28th, 1997**.

From the Dean's Office, 102 Parson-Gates.

Caltech students interested in a career-related to environmental public policy and Native American and Alaska Native students interested in careers related to health care and tribal public policy are invited to apply to be named a **Morris K. Udall Scholar**. The Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation operates an educational scholarship program designed to provide opportunities for outstanding U.S. students with excellent academic records and demonstrated interest in, and potential for careers in the fields of environmental public policy, health care, and tribal public policy. All applicants must be a current sophomore or junior pursuing a bachelor's degree on a full-time basis, have an average of at least a B or the equivalent, be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or resident alien, have a demonstrated interest in a career in environmental public policy or be a Native American or an Alaska Native and have demonstrated interest in a career in health care or public policy. If you are

interested, please contact the Dean of Students Office, 102 Parson-Gates, for an application. Deadline for receipt of nomination materials to the foundation is March 3rd, 1997.

The Dean of Students Office is accepting proposals for the Monticello Foundation Internship and the Robert and Delpha Noland Summer Internships. Three to five Caltech undergraduate women will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside of the Caltech community for ten weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a \$3,500.00 stipend. Applicants are required to identify the projects in which they wish to participate. All arrangements with the principal researcher will be the responsibility of the student. There are no restrictions as to where the research can be done, except that it must be outside the Caltech-JPL community. Other universities, commercial labs, or any industrial facility in which the student can arrange to conduct or participate in a research project can be the site for the experience. Each student will be asked to submit a short synopsis of her report to the Deans' Office at the end of the summer. If you are interested, please identify a sponsor for your experience at a research facility for a ten-week period. In a short essay, describe your project, and submit it to the Deans' Office in Room 102, Parson-Gates along with two faculty recommendations. The Deans would like to know for whom you would be working, where, and if possible some specifics concerning your proposed research topic. Proposals must be received by Monday, March 3rd, 1997.

From the Fellowships Advising and Resources Office, extension 2150, e-mail lauren_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu

The **American Association of University Women** offers a number of fellowships to women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, including one year post-doctoral fellowships and special dissertation fellowships. The international fellowship is awarded to women who are not citizens of the U.S. or permanent residents who are engaged in full-time grade or post-graduate study in the U.S. A poster with a tear-off card that allows you to send for an application is posted on our main bulletin board.

The **Department of Defense National Defense Student Education Grants** are now available to all seniors and first year graduate students; the Fellowships Advising and Resources office will receive applications by next week. The application will also be available from the Web within the next week or so at <http://www.battelle.org/ndseg/ndseg.html>. The NDSEG supports work in almost all fields of science and engineering. The NDSEG provides three years of support for graduate study. No military service or sponsorship of the Department of Defense is required of applicants. This year's application deadline is **January 15th**.

From the Financial Aid Office, 515 S. Wilson, second floor:

The **College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation** is beginning its scholarship selection for the 1997-98 academic year. To be eligible to apply you must be a woman who is a U.S. Citizen, a sophomore or higher, and have a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. Applications are available from the Financial Aid Office, and must be returned to the Financial Aid Office by **February 7th, 1997**.

The **Korean American Scholarship Foundation** is offering more than 40 scholarships of \$1,000 or higher to full-time students of Korean American heritage enrolled in at least their second year of undergraduate or graduate school. For an application form, write to:

Scholarship Committee, KASF Western Region, P.O. Box 486, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Applications and supporting documents are due **February 8th, 1997**.

Applications are now being accepted for the **1997-98 National Academy for Nuclear Training scholarships**. Scholarships are \$2,500 each and will be awarded to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, or chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear or power options. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, have minimum 3.0 GPA and be full-time sophomores, juniors, or seniors in 1997-98. Preference will be given to students demonstrating specific preparation for employment in the U.S. nuclear power industry. Applications must be postmarked later than **February 1st, 1997**.

The **Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity** announces the 1997 Essay Contest for the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics. The essay contest is open to full-time juniors and seniors. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$2,500, and third prize is \$1,500. Essays must be accompanied by a completed entry form. To obtain an entry form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 1177 Avenue of the Americas, 36th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Essay entries must be postmarked by **January 17th, 1997**. For more information about the contest, contact the Financial Aid Office.

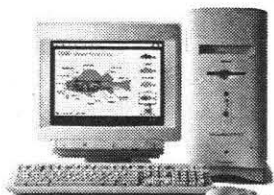
Women who are full-time juniors in 1996-97 are invited to participate in **GLAMOUR Magazine's 1997 Top Ten College Women Competition**. This competition recognizes exceptional achievements; the vision, determination and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. Winners will receive \$1,000, the opportunity to meet with top professionals in their fields, and national recognition in **GLAMOUR's October 1997 issue**. Applications are due **January 31st, 1997**.

The **American Meteorological Society** announces its **AMS/Industry Undergraduate Scholarship Program**. For the 1997-98 academic year, 18 undergraduate scholarships will be awarded. Two categories of students are eligible: 1) Students who are enrolled in course of study leading to a bachelor's degree in the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences, and 2) students who are enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's degree in science or engineering. Students in this latter category must demonstrate a clear intent to pursue a career in the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. Applications and supporting documents are due **February 21st, 1997**.

The **Marin Education Fund** announces the opening of its 1997-98 Undergraduate Grant application process. Applicants must be residents of Marin County, be enrolled at least half-time in undergraduate study, and have a low to moderate income. Applications are due **March 2nd, 1997**.

The **American Women's Club in Sweden** will be awarding a travel grant for study and research in Sweden. To qualify you must be a woman, age 18 or over, and an American citizen. You must also be accepted for a period of study or research at a Swedish educational institution or agency and show evidence of financial need. The completed application and all supporting documents must be received by **April 15th, 1997**.

The **Jewish Vocational Service** is accepting applications for scholarships from the **Jewish Community Scholarship Fund**. The scholarships are designed to provide financial assistance to Jewish students who are legal residents of Los Angeles County, attending college on a full-time basis. Applicants must have a 2.5 minimum G.P.A., must be a sophomore or higher by September 1997, and must be able to document significant financial need. The deadline for submission of completed applications is **April 15th, 1997**.



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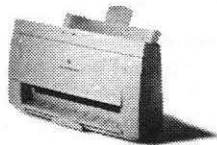
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