

Dilbert returns this week. Enjoy!

see page 8



H I G U Y
T I R W S
E F O R T
C E T E H
H N O W !

Puzzle yourself with a word find!

see page 5

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 15

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1997

Opposable Bums: A word from the ASCIT President

BY KOHL GILL

Hi, there. I'm Kohl Gill, and I'm your new ASCIT President. You shouldn't be surprised, seein' as how I ran unopposed. Doesn't that make you feel all warm and mushy inside, knowing that the leader of your student body was the only schmuck willing to do the job? Boy, it cheers me up like rain in the morning.

Hmm. Perhaps I began wrong. I actually am honored to be President. Let's see...

The Dummies Guide on How to Inspire People:

Step one: Act Sincere.

Howdy! I bet you're the kind of person who reads more than the first couple paragraphs of a Tech

article. Yeah, I thought so. You have opinions, too, about how things should be run around here, right? You've probably considered writing your opinions in the Tech on occasion, haven't you? My, you're quite the activist! But, wait! Have you thought about Student Government? No? Well, friend, do I have a deal for you!

Step two: Stoop down to their level.

But I don't know what ASCIT does! You should, considering you give them dues every term comparable to your House's. Check out the section in the *little t*, or (goodness, no!) skim the Bylaws. There are a lot of offices that need competent people, and sign-ups for most of them are posted on the

window of Winnett.

But I don't have the time or energy for an office! What are you doing, taking classes? Sure, an office takes time and effort, but you'd be surprised how worthwhile one of these jobs can really be. Imagine the feeling of accomplishment you get when a party comes off just right (Director of Social Activities) or when you get the van back (Upperclass Director-at-Large) or when ASCIT survives another audit (Treasurer). You get to have an impact on (and power over) the entire undergraduate community. To tell you the truth, I'm actually a lot more organized now than I was when I entered my first office. Think about it.

But I'm already doing too

much as it is! Now that *really* annoys me. Granted, there are those folks doing Y stuff, club stuff, and House stuff, and I respect them; I really do. But for every one of those guys, there's gotta be two or three people out there (especially in the bigger North Houses, where House offices have more competition), competent and willing, who have succumbed to the apathy of their peers. You know what? Apathy Sucks!

Step Three: Infect them with your emotions.

If you've read (or skimmed) this far, I commend you. I bet you're tired of my ranting. You know what I'm tired of? I'm tired of people complaining that ASCIT doesn't do enough for them, and then not offering any suggestions, or trying to change things themselves. I'm tired of hearing of Houses that discourage ASCIT involvement out of some twisted phobia of losing their competent leaders. I'm tired of the ASCIT President (and now, the V.P./BoC Chair) running unopposed (or virtually so). But I'm especially tired of walking by Winnett and seeing noone signed up for various rad, neat positions.

Come on, guys, sign up. If you lose, so what? If you win, you get to meet people from other Houses (God forbid!), get to know administrators and faculty (they're not *all* goblins), and get to bend this entire campus to your will!

Well, I wasn't going to put this in, but you have a right to know: all the really stellar babes are in Student Government. Granted, they're out governing other schools, but that doesn't make the statement any less true.

Alright. I'm gonna stop writing now. If you want to talk to me about an office, or anything else, here's how to reach me:

kohl@cco
x1590
Ri 56

Sign up outside Winnett!

ASCIT ELECTIONS! ASCIT ELECTIONS!

• Election results are back!

ASCIT President:
Kohl Gill

ASCIT VP/BoC Rep:
Maria Satterwhite

• The signups for ASCIT:

- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Social Director**
- ARC Chair**
- ARC Representative**
- ARC Secretary**
- IHC Chair**
- Ath Man**
- Upperclassman**
- Director at Large**
- Freshman Director at Large**
- BoC Secretary**

are up at Winnett! Sign up, and don't forget to submit your statement and photo to the *Tech* by Tuesday, February 4, at 5 p.m.

Votes:

ASCIT President	
158 Non-Abstaining Votes	
Kohl Gill	109
NO	24
Write-ins	25
ASCIT VP/BoC Chair	
157 Non-Abstaining Votes	
Maria Satterwhite	109
NO	29
Write-ins	19

Natural Born Reality Check

BY RON DOLLETE

"You've got to ask the right questions," said Stone in a talk at Caltech Wednesday night. "Who owns the world? Who owns the media? What does President mean? Where does the money go? Are you going live like slaves or like Spartans and deny the goddamn bastards victory over your soul?"

For a man whose name is nearly always said in the same breath as "conspiracy," Oliver Stone made it no secret that he thinks America is in trouble. In his talk, entitled "Film, Chaos, and Mass Delusion," the world famous director, screenwriter, and producer analyzed American history since World War II and the roles politics and media play in our thoughts and society.

One of Stone's major foci in this lecture was the Vietnam War, in which he served for fifteen months in an infantry division (and for which he subsequently received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star). He described it as a rotten war, and "a rotten war is lost by rotten politicians." Stone said the draft was too easy to dodge: if you could afford a college education, or even a trip to a doctor, you could evade the war. "If you go to war, everyone [must go]

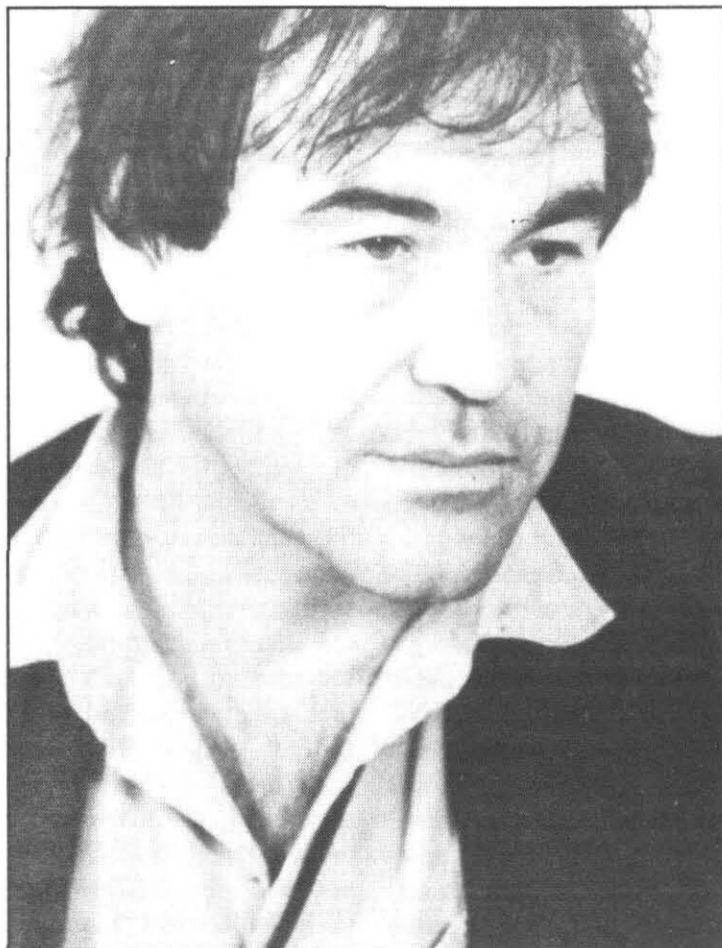


PHOTO COURTESY PUBLIC EVENTS

Oliver Stone spoke Wednesday in Beckman Auditorium.

to war, even the senators' sons." He added that the rich would then feel the pains of war, and change would be initiated. The Vietnam War, however, continued on for financial purposes, when it could have been resolved before Nixon even came into office.

By contrast, Stone describes how during subsequent visits to Vietnam, the Vietnamese didn't complain about

MIA's and POW's the way that the Americans did; they've moved on. He says, though, that "we have a duty to remember to those who died for our country...Move on, but remember." Stone explored various aspects of the Vietnam War in films such as *Born of the Fourth of July* and *Platoon*. (Interestingly, *Platoon* was originally written in 1976, but was not produced

SEE STONE ON PAGE 10

IN THIS ISSUE

THE USUAL STUFF

Announcements.....	12
ASCIT Minutes.....	6
Letters to the Editor.....	2
The Outside World.....	3
Question of the Week.....	10
Y News.....	6

THIS WEEK'S FEATURES

Bookworm.....	6
Circle of Fire.....	9
Dean's Corner.....	5
DILBERT®.....	8
MindStalk.....	4
Word Find.....	3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oh, Please....

Dear Editors,

I would like to offer an alternative to Cherish Brown's representation of undergraduate gender relations at Caltech. Although the *Tech's* readership is primarily undergraduate, my object is not to communicate these opinions to my fellows. Rather, I wish to address those members of the greater Caltech community who, not being directly exposed to undergraduate life, do not have a basis for judging the validity of Brown's perceptions for themselves. I, at least, would prefer that the faculty and graduate students who read the original article not view my community in the light Brown casts.

Before I begin, however, I feel it necessary to state that maintaining basic standards of civility during the composition of this opinion piece was a considerable effort. My first reaction to Brown's article was amused derision, and the temptation to descend into mean-spirited parody was strong. I desist here not because I am motivated by high standards of conduct or journalistic scruples, but because I fear that such an exercise — however entertaining — would tend to render my arguments suspect in the eyes of my intended audience.

I mention my own reaction to Brown's article by way of introduction because it is important for the outsider to understand how reactionary — and, well, crazy — her perceptions seemed to many undergraduates. Although I am sure she must have supporters in her camp, none of the undergraduate women with whom I spoke agreed with the content of Brown's piece. (True, a handful of women does not a poll make, but I ain't a polling service.... perhaps you will grant that the trend is suggestive.)

I disagree both with

Brown's factual assertions, and her judgment as to which gender issues are germane at Caltech. Let me address the most important factual points categorically. We all classify our acquaintances in a variety of ways, but it is untrue that the principal mode of classification applied to women by Caltech men is "babe versus bitch." The

If anything, the social climate generated by the skewed gender ratio leads to more gentlemanly behavior.

validity of her assertion that Caltech men usually speak of women in these terms (they don't) is less important than her implication that we *think* of women in these terms. It is unreasonable to assert that a multitude of individuals within an entire gender share the same perceptions, much less the same limited criteria for evaluating others. In fact, to whatever extent we *do* categorize each other, the individual classificatory schemes are far more sophisticated than Brown suggests, and certainly are not dominated by the puerile considerations she ascribes to the entity known as "Caltech men." Granted, all healthy males *do* notice traits like physical beauty, and such things *do* influence how we think about women. At the same time, there are enough other degrees of freedom that individual women invariably emerge as — surprise! — individuals, not "babes and bitches."

The statement that "male students treat many of the women here like toys or sex objects" is fanciful in the extreme. Brown's statement is so contrary to my experience that it is difficult to attack — how does one argue that the sky is blue, and not in fact chartreuse? To begin with — and I hope that I will not

offend my female friends by saying so — there is little a priori temptation to treat a randomly-chosen Caltech woman as either a toy or a sex object. Although the women have a clever saying: "The odds are good, but the goods are odd," the men have not developed an adage stating the converse: "The odds are bad, but the goods are...." On the whole, the women devote little more time to the cultivation of physical beauty and sex appeal than do the men (and you will perhaps note the proliferation of stubble, nondescript clothing, and less-than-rippling musculature about campus — not that this is necessarily bad). The reason is that, like the men, the women are also optimized for academic toil and work towards a career. To survive at Caltech, any student

must be a focused, no-nonsense scholar — of necessity, that's how the women are perceived. Given these circumstances, it is not natural for the undergraduate men to think of their female classmates as sex objects. Perhaps more importantly, the idea that men can get away with that type of behavior seems implausible to me. If anything, the social climate generated by the skewed gender ratio leads to *more* gentlemanly behavior. I cannot speak for other houses, but in Ricketts, the only door bearing pictures of lingerie-clad women belongs to a (heterosexual) woman. I get the impression that no one else would dare. Finally, Caltech does have a sexual harassment policy, and given the present political environment, you may be sure that it is enthusiastically enforced.

Factual points aside, my principal disagreement with Brown is her perception of where the trouble lies. In the second half of her article, she spoke of Jon Benet Ramsey, gorillas, the domination of women in our society by means of physical violence (?), and somewhat curious statistics on the rapacious nature of man. Caltech *does* have serious gender-related problems, but these ain't them. In the space remaining, I will sketch the issues as I see them.

Caltech is notorious for its 3-to-1 gender ratio, but it is difficult for an outsider to grasp the detailed implications of the arithmetic. Of course, the fun-

damental problem is obvious: the vast majority of college students are not biologically designed to content themselves solely with a life of scholarly study. It is bad enough that roughly half of Caltech's undergraduates will, of necessity, be discontent with their social lives. However, the male demand for feminine attention strains our community at least as much as it does the lonely individuals themselves.

Entering freshmen immediately experience the most dramatic manifestation of the gender ratio. That is because as a rule there are very few single women at Caltech. The first two weeks of fall term are an exception, owing to the entry of a new class of freshmen. Most of the men — freshmen included — are acutely aware of the situation, and are sorely tempted to meet and befriend as many of the frosh women as possible, as fast as possible. The ensuing melee is an exercise in bad taste,

"Yeah, I knew a guy from Caltech. Bright fellow, but he married the first secretary he met."

but it is also human nature — an artifact of the circumstances.

The day-to-day influence of the gender ratio is a bit more subtle. Rather than attempting an exhaustive treatment, I will relate a few instructive examples drawn from each gender. Let's begin with what some women have said, bearing in mind that these experiences are by no means universal. From what I gather, the primary irritations from a female perspective are not sexual harassment, explicitly sexist attitudes, or even the fear of rape, but the awkward press of unsolicited attention, the extra social delicacy that the situation requires, and the tiresome burden of dealing with uptight, embittered men. One former student who I spoke with said that she transferred out of Caltech because every male friend she made here eventually asked her out. Another student tells me that there was a period in which she felt very isolated because there were too few female students for her to find a kindred personality amongst the

women, and the compatible men were too apt to misinterpret what type of friendship she wanted. The craziest example I've heard came up in class discussion. One of my classmates says she thinks that some men feel "entitled" to the women who are picked into their house, almost as if women were a commodity to be rationed in an equitable manner. She was angry because some of the men in her house became resentful when she decided to date a man from another house. Now, all of this may sound similar to what Brown describes in her article, but there is an important distinction. This behavior is clearly motivated by economics, not the inherent wickedness of men, the failings of our society, or even overtly sexist attitudes. It is simply a matter of supply and demand. Whereas women are clearly desired and are sometimes thought of in an unnatural way, this does not imply that they are explicitly desired as sex objects or are necessarily categorized according to their willingness to "[sate] the sexual drives" of Caltech men, as Brown put it. There is such a thing as loneliness and a simple, uncomplicated desire for companionship.

There is much that is unsatisfactory from a male perspective, too. Predictably, complaints about the number, quality, and attitude of the women here are prevalent. In

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
phone: (818) 395-6153
advertising: (818) 395-6154
e-mail: editors@tech.caltech.edu
advertising: adv@tech.caltech.edu
ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 13
17 JANUARY 1997

EDITORS Shay Chinn Autumn Looijen Terry Moran	EVENTS & NOTES Ryan Cox
THE COOL EDITOR Ryan Cox	BUSINESS MANAGERS Heidi Eldenburg Kai Zhu
RAMPOLA™ EDITOR Erik Streed	PHOTO EDITORS Shay Chinn Ryan Cox
COPY EDITORS Jacques Frechet Wren Montgomery	STAFF WRITERS Myfanwy Callahan Mason Porter Neil Stevens Erik Streed Samson Timoner
NEWS EDITOR Dipasri Ghosh	FEATURE WRITERS Ronald Doflette Daisy James
OPINIONS EDITOR John Hatfield	CONTRIBUTORS Cherish Brown Austin Collins Brady Honsinger Grace Yang
FEATURES EDITOR Kanwar Kahlon	SPORTS EDITOR Amanda Schaffer
LAYOUT Chris Brooks Andrew Childs	APPRISER Hall Daily

Published weekly except during vacation and examination 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. Submit copy (preferably on Macintosh 3.5" disk) to the *Tech* mailbox outside SAC room 40, or e-mail to editors@tech.caltech.edu. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for literacy, expediency, etc. All articles are the property of the authors. Authors and columnists retain all intellectual property rights. Articles received in BBNEX format will not be accepted. Annual subscriptions to *The California Tech* for domestic delivery are \$28 for First Class Mail, \$12 for Standard Mail. Printed by News-Type Service, Glendale.

VISA LOTTERY BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

The instructions for the 1998 U.S. State Department Diversity Visa Lottery have been announced. The dates for this year's lottery are February 3 through March 5, 1997. Nationals of the **People's Republic of China, Taiwan, India, the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, Great Britain (except Northern Ireland), Poland, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, and Canada** are not eligible for the program. To pick up a copy of the procedures on how to apply for this Lottery, please stop by the Office of International Programs (Lloyd House, Olive Walk) if you are an international student, or the Faculty and Postdoctoral Scholars Office (Parsons-Gates, 010) if you are an international postdoc, professor, researcher, or staff member.

Bargain Finder Travel
A special service being offered to the Students of
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY



World Travel Group, Inc.
119 W. California Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105
(818) 796-4448

Callers must identify themselves and request the "Bargain Finder Desk"

In addition, the barriers to normal social interaction, the gender ratio's influence on a man's perspective, and its effect upon morale bear discussion. Those who are mindful of their reputation (yes, there *are* gentlemen here) are also aware that their actions are often subject to suspicion. I know one student who initially found it difficult to sustain lengthy conversations with his female classmates for fear they would think he was hitting on them; he wouldn't have given the matter a second thought before he came to Caltech. Also, it seems pretty clear that living here for four years can color how a man perceives women (which is a delicate way for me to say that I've seen some pretty desperate men here). Back home, I met a practicing engineer who had seen the result. He told me: "Yeah, I knew a guy from Caltech. Bright fellow, but he married the first secretary he met." As for morale, it is one thing to be lonely, quite another to lack any reasonable way to fix the problem. The situation upsets a lot of people.

Ironically, most of the problems associated with the gender ratio could be alleviated easily were it not for Caltech's workload and the relative isolation that results. The obvious solution to life in a narrow community is to seek greener pastures off campus. However, the constant press of homework limits the travel radius of any given student. That, combined with a local public transportation system that is rather inconvenient, tends to hamper those who wish to escape Caltech long enough and frequently enough to develop social ties in a different community.

These are the real problems, and I think they are largely blameless. As long as the gender ratio remains skewed, these problems will persist. They may not be as dramatic as rape nor as satisfying to decry (who can you berate? — certainly not the poor Dean), but they are very effective in lowering the quality of undergraduate life and the health of the community in general. As a senior, I'm nearly out. I've already been offered admission to my first-choice graduate program, so apparently Caltech did what it's supposed to. (I cannot overstate the gratitude I feel towards the various faculty who have directly taken an interest in teaching me and furthering my career.) At the same time, almost solely on the basis of the gender ratio and the quality of undergraduate life, I would never repeat my choice to come here, and I could not recommend it to a graduating high school senior. (I guess I won't be Caltech's recruiting poster boy.) Yes, we *do* have serious gender-related problems, but not because boys will be boys.

ANDREW HUNTINGTON
UNDERGRADUATE

Unacknowledged sexism needs to be addressed at Caltech

Dear Cherish,

After reading your article in the January 24 edition of the *California Tech*, I felt compelled to write this letter to you, and to the Caltech community at large.

First, I would like to commend you and tell you that young women such as yourself, are inspiring to me. You can see the "greater" force at work here, and that is unacknowledged sexism.

To be accountable for one's actions is a very integral part of being a healthy adult. When an individual does not treat others with respect and human dignity, then it is our collective responsibility to inform that individual that they have now crossed the boundaries of acceptable human behavior. Our adults, especially those in the positions of role-models, have the responsibility of teaching others to be responsible for one's actions. The excuse, be it "boys will be boys" or they are "going thru a stage" doesn't cut it.

The direction that our society as a whole is heading in is clearly one of total accountability for one's actions. We share this academic institution, and we also share the responsibility collectively and as individuals to make Caltech a safe, supportive and caring environment for all young women and men. Can we begin to really face this issue directly, and can we begin to acknowledge that we are a family, and in being a family we need to look at the painful and the not-so-good characteristics as well as our positive ones?

I would like to think that we have the courage as a community, and as individuals to do this. It needs to begin with our elders and role-models, who can teach us by their words and actions which behaviors are acceptable, and those which are not acceptable.

MARY SCHAFFLER
STAFF

Many women like it here!

Dear Editors,

When I read Cherish Brown's article "Of Babes and Bitches", I was startled to see the anger with which she described her experiences as a woman at Caltech. She at once condemned men's behavior and summarily negated any comment they would make to the contrary as self-serving. Cherish Brown also seemed to deny that any women can have another opinion. Their response is only to deny any problem or to blame the victims of sexual harassment in an effort to protect themselves, according to her article. I wish to offer another alternative.

Women are *not* automatically categorized into "babes" or "bitches". In fact, I have never heard a student speak of them in

that way. I am far more likely to have my fill of quantum mechanics jokes than to hear sexual innuendos. Although I would be wrong to call gender relations at Caltech normal, I don't feel that women are entirely persecuted, or even that men are all inconsiderate oafs.

Most women at Caltech have either been the object of glomming or witnessed it happening to a friend. This brings overwhelming amounts of attention and perhaps unwanted jokes, but this is a problem which is difficult to change. There is a reason that glomming occurs Frosh year; people eventually learn. Caltech students are picked more for their academic skills than their social ones, and there are bound to be some frayed tempers as an effect. Jokes in bad taste aren't masquerading "under the guise of boyish humor," they *are* just that. Sooner or later guys realize that some things shouldn't be said, and they learn. I feel that women are respected as intellectual equals here more than at most colleges. We all made it here for a reason and we prove ourselves every day.

Of course, there will always be the statistical one chauvinist Frosh every year. Of course, there *are* instances of sexual harassment that should be addressed and taken most seriously. However, I do not bemoan my plight as a woman at Caltech. I consider myself to be respected by the faculty and my peers, both men and women. I enjoy being here.

MYFANWY CALLAHAN
UNDERGRADUATE

Sexual harassment not as ubiquitous as Brown claims

Dear Editors,

I just finished reading Cherish's article and it feels truly great to know that one-sided opinions are no longer expressed at Caltech.

She was accepted to Caltech, so she obviously has quite a bit of intelligence. I might it unfortunate that she has chosen to entirely ignore it when expressing her opinion publicly.

Since I have been at Caltech, I have never witnessed the gross sexual harassment that Mrs. Brown describes, and doubt that it is as ubiquitous as she claims. (I admit I am unaware how much of what she describes actually occurs.) She condemns nearly half the human race sexual oppressors. She has the right to public express her views, but I would love to see what would happen if a male wrote the equivalent article from his point of view.

To think that people (even those who sexually harass others) classify people into only two categories is absurd. There are lots of makes and females at Caltech who are as good friends as any pair of members of the same gender. Yet, Mrs. Brown seems to think that most males

The Outside World

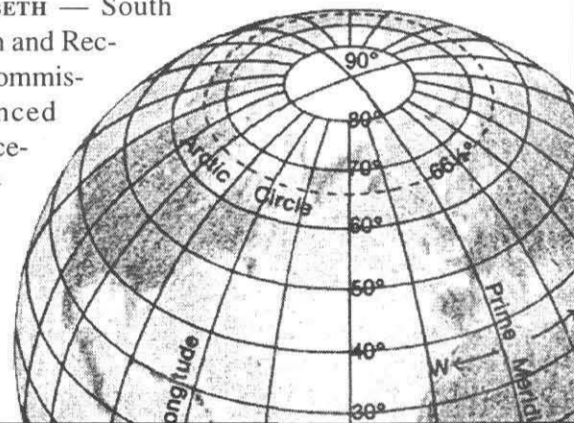
by Myfanwy Callahan

GROZNY, CHECHNYA — Chechnya elected a new President, Aslan Maskhadov, Monday in their first democratic elections. The former Soviet colonel will pursue independence for the Chechen Republic as his first priority.

JAMAICA — The success of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Canada, the U.S. and Mexico has severely undercut the economies of the Caribbean. Factories are closing and jobs are flowing to Mexico.

KIRMA, THE SUDAN — At least 50,000 people were forced to leave their homes after villages were "bombed and torched" in the Blue Nile area. The Sudanese government forces are destroying the villages in response to the rebel capture of five towns.

PORT ELIZABETH — South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission announced that five policemen had confessed to some of the Apartheid era's most brutal political killings.



are only capable of treating women as objects. It is true that some people will sometimes consider others to be bitches, but has it ever occurred to Mrs. Brown that this is due to one's personality more than anything else?

Lastly, Cherish Brown implies that a tribe of gorillas treats the female members of the tribe better than most human civilizations do. If this is the case, perhaps she should go run off and join one. Maybe she will find a few gentlemen there! In complaining about the classification of women, Mrs. Brown has done an equally impressive job of classifying men!

MASON PORTER
UNDERGRADUATE

Brown clarifies a couple points

Dear Editors,

I'd like to clear up a couple problems people had with last week's topic.

First, the terms "babe" and "bitch" were phrases which I borrowed from the countless males (who would probably prefer to remain nameless) I've heard discussing women. I didn't arbitrarily choose these terms: my use of them was merely a reflection of reality, not a molding.

The commission, established to help confront the country's past, offers to grant amnesty for confessors.

SOFIA, BULGARIA — With a collapsing economy and threats of mass protests, the ruling Socialist Party has offered to meet with opposition leaders to plan an early parliamentary election. Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev stated, without a date for elections, "the chaos and power vacuum may cause a threat to civil peace."

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In response to a Freedom of Information request, the CIA revealed that it had taught security forces in five Latin American countries the techniques of mental torture. The instruction was formally stopped in 1985.

Second, there are a couple people who said that men would never get away with printing what I did in the *Tech*. You're right: men could never get away with printing that they are objectified, harassed, and treated with general disrespect. They couldn't get away with it because it doesn't happen on nearly as grand a scale as it does for women. If you think that I was merely publishing offensive or "hate" literature against men, then you might want to check out some back issues of the *Tech* or the *BFD*. I have frequently seen things published by men which were offensive to women.

On a final note, I'd like to say that I don't hate men. I have a wonderful husband (who just happens to be a man) and have several good friends through political and other organizations who happen to be men. However, these men are enlightened: they liked my article.

CHERISH BROWN

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

or by electronic mail to
editors@tech.caltech.edu.

Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. on the week of publication.

The editors reserve the right to edit or refuse to print any letter for any reason.

MIND STALK

by D.R. Sullivan

An Essay on the Orthography of the English Language as an Example of Spontaneous Order

The writing system of the English language is often denounced for its inconsistencies and complexities, particularly the lack of a direct connection between spelling and pronunciation. Some complexity I acknowledge, but I wish to present the beginnings of an argument that our orthography has evolved into a fairly robust and rational solution for a problem *other* than exactly representing pronunciation.

First case: the "silent 'e'" isn't. Most of you should know this already, but I'll go through it anyway. Although final 'e's aren't pronounced as such they do lengthen preceding vowels, a rather necessary task as we have 5 vowel symbols and 13 simple vowel sounds, although that includes the schwa which is sort of defined as the vowel English doesn't care about. Still, even the long/short dichotomy taught in grammar school (inadequate — can you come up with 3 values for 'a'? But then they still impose Latin syntax on our language.) gives ten sounds, five which our alphabet doesn't include. ton/tone, run/rune. 'done' might seem an exception, with the same value as 'ton', but then try pronouncing 'don'. The vowel is still lengthened. Of course I would pronounce 'con' like 'don' but 'cone' like 'tone' — the vowel is still lengthened, but inconsistently somewhere.

Second case: some dialects drop 'r' or 'h' in many places. Should their writing conform to their pronunciation? I think most would agree that that would confuse them and us.

Asking for spelling to reflect phonetic pronunciation raises the question of whose pronunciation will be represented. The problem isn't that orthography doesn't match phonology but that phonology doesn't match phonology — that's what it means to have dialects. Except, that the differences between dialects often follow patterns — consistent shifts of vowels, dropping terminal 'r', or whatnot. Rather than having our writing pinned to one privileged/standard dialect (simple solution) we've evolved an orthography representing an abstract phonology from which an actual phonetic pronunciation can be predicted

Asking for spelling to reflect phonetic pronunciation raises the question of whose pronunciation will be represented.

using the rules of the dialect — rules often similar in form to other dialects, but with different values. Not that there still aren't irregularities, but part of English's complexity is in fact solving a problem most people don't realize exists. A rather 'fair' solution, too. Thus we get the benefit of some relation between spelling and pronunciation, using variable rules for variable dialects, while having the same written language be a bridge between different dialects, unlike Chinese which uses an arbitrary set of ideograms, one for each word.

And then much of the remaining irregularity is not random, but encodes historical information, which may well be

subject to more rules. Our French, Greek, and Italian imports are the biggies here. 'philosopher' could be 'filosofor', but that would lose the handy etymological crutch — particularly considering how much of English's classical constructions get adopted by other languages, e.g. I think the Japanese and Russian words for a telephone are more or less 'telephone'. And conversely, knowing that 'philosopher' is Greek in origin helps transcribe the 'f' sound properly. Similarly, one could gripe about having to memorize the odd spelling of 'shato' (actually, I want to pronounce that with a long 'a', whoops) 'chateau', and ask for it to be spelled 'shato', or one could remember that French *sh* is 'ch', *o* is 'eau', and that the word is French, thus spelling it with ease, except for the terminal 'x' of 'Bordeaux', whose justification I am unfamiliar with.

Again, there are still flaws, but most of what is considered an insanely flawed structure is in fact quite powerful and useful for dealing with a multi-dialect and history-rich language. Which becomes all the more impressive when one considers that not a jot of intelligence was ever applied to the overall design, except perhaps by multiple typesetters in Elizabethan England and Noah Webster. So much for the perils of anarchy.

On Drugs and Language

Doublespeak is here!

- "human remains pouches" for body bags.
- "collateral damage" for civilian casualties.
- "freedom fighters" for terror-

SEE MINDSTALK ON PAGE 7

Of Men and Women, Struggle and Adversity

BY STEVEN P. BENNETT &
ANDREW S. LAUCTUS



Few statistical aspects of the undergraduate body as a whole pervade the social structure at Caltech further than the "ratio" of men to women. Although Caltech as an institution has made much progress toward its goal of diversifying the community, there is clearly much work to be done both in recruitment and in the attitude of our students. Nonetheless, Brown's article represents an unreasonable attack on Caltech men, both in the student body and in the administration.

United States history has shown us the adversity women face in many areas of society, and Brown has many good points concerning some attitudes among uneducated and ignorant men. Generalizing to all men at Caltech, however, is espousing the same reasoning that she condemns in her arguments. Her article opens with a sweeping generalization about male opinions concerning women at Caltech. Specifically she contends that Caltech men do not have the ability to consider women as equals, either intellectually or socially. Certainly this kind of idea is not without foundation, since it has been only recently that the "boys' club" of science has opened its doors to women. But young people in science,

particularly at a place like Caltech are not the old men of 50 years ago. It is our belief that the kinds of male stereotypes purported by Brown (although certainly not nonexistent) are becoming less prominent at Caltech, and are neither defended nor condoned by administration.

Contrary to Brown's implication that only women prioritize studies at Caltech, most men are here to learn as well, not to "sate sexual drives." In all honesty, Caltech is a rigorous institution, where most of an undergraduate's time is taken up by schoolwork and classes. Neither men nor women have much time to analytically categorize their peers as sexual objects or otherwise. We believe most undergraduates are concerned with surviving Caltech and learning from each other. With many female professors and teaching assistants involved in the lives of undergraduates,

it would be difficult for an "immature male" to justify a claim that women are indeed merely sexual objects, rather than leaders in their fields. Gender inequities certainly exist at Caltech, as they do everywhere, but articles such as Brown's divide us rather than bring us together.

On several occasions, Brown says she is waiting for someone to "stand up and say that this sexist, objectifying, and obnoxious behavior is simply wrong, sometimes illegal, and will not be tolerated at Caltech." Statements like this are simply not true, in that Caltech as well as collegiate institutions all over the United States have striven to increase opportunities for women as well as to insure their fair treatment. Programs like the Caltech Women's Center as well as the process for filing grievances show that Caltech has already shown its belief that this behavior is wrong and unacceptable.

Potentially the most disturbing part of last week's article was the accusation that house officers, faculty, and administrators condone the events supposedly taken place. This is unwarranted and is unfair, especially

Caltech is a rigorous institution Neither men nor women have much time to analytically categorize their peers as sexual objects.

since the readership of the *Tech* extends to trustees, administration, alumni, and parents. As a former House President, I can attest to the commitment of myself and the entire Interhouse Committee to the defense of the interests of *all* undergraduates, not just those in particular Houses, and certainly not those of a particular gender. Undergraduate leadership reflects this; in my four years as a student I have seen female ASCIT presidents, House presidents and officers, BoC chairs, and numerous other campus-wide positions. Clearly the Caltech electorate feels that women have a right to not only exist at Caltech, but also to lead. Brown also accuses women at Caltech of "allowing" this stereotype to continue. Actively opposing these stereotypes does not have to include writing myopic articles for the *Tech*. In fact, an article such as that is not likely

SEE WOMEN ON PAGE 10

BEING BILINGUAL IS YOUR TICKET TO SUCCESS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

Interview with the world's top companies at the Pan-Asian Job Fair!



Feb. 7 - Feb. 8, 1997
South San Francisco Conference Center
255 S. Airport Blvd., South San Francisco, CA
9 am - 4 pm
Walk-In Registration Accepted



To register or get more information, contact: International Career Information, Inc.

Phone: 1-800-859-8535 <http://www.ici.com/acw>

China Hong Kong India Indonesia Japan Korea Malaysia Philippines Singapore Taiwan Thailand Vietnam

PAN-ASIAN JOB FAIR

Dean's Corner

The Honor in the System

by Jean-Paul Revel

guered college student who acted as his "nurse" during the holidays. His defense of this student is the only part of the movie that I remembered, and the ex military man's renewed olfactory interests in life left no mark at all.

My wife chided "You were never good at Integrals; there are many aspects to this story that you have to take into account." Yes, it was true, I only remembered the part about the Honor System. The student stands wrongly accused of carrying out a particularly audacious prank at school, because he refuses to identify the true pranksters. While the pressure on him mounts more and more, he cannot bring himself to snitch even at his own detriment.

I guess this is the place where I too have serious problems with the Honor System. Nullification of advantages gained in an unfair fashion, and protection of the community against a recurrence are civilized and just ways of dealing with the

problems that arise. But to set the machinery in motion someone has to suspect wrongdoing, someone has to call attention to a breach of procedures. Whoever is cheating is doing something dishonorable, but that does not make it easy to tell on them.

In the movie there is an impassioned plea and strong praise for the student who by his willingness to risk his own better interests, protects the identity of the perpetrators. He is extolled as being the incarnate image of the honor code. But that is not the Honor Code we live by. The hero, had he been at Caltech, would in fact have been breaking the code himself.

The little *t* of '46-47 says that "Tech's most sacred tradition . . . allows all examinations to be conducted without faculty supervision. It allows the student to leave his belongings anywhere on the campus with safety. It allows dealings to proceed between faculty and students with absolute confidence in the student's honesty." Well and good if the rules are not disobeyed. But, if they are dis-

obeyed, one is left with the ethical problem of having to tell on friends or acquaintances.

Is it not curious that while deploring the behavior of people in other societies who were encouraged to tell on each other to the Police, we actually have built a system where in fact we have to do the same thing? We deplore snitches, stool pigeons, moles (of course, I am not referring to M. Blackeri: them, we approve of!). Yet, unless breaches of the norms of conduct are brought to the attention of those responsible to enforce them, the rules won't get enforced.

If crimes are not reported, the Honor Code turns into a hollow facade. It is bad if students do not report the untoward things that they see. It is also bad if Professors feel that it serves no purpose for them to convey suspicions of cheating to the BoC because no punishment seems to follow. So for our Honor Code to work, for our BoC to act, someone has to report suspected misdeeds, someone has to accuse.

One account that I have mentioned before explains that in an in-class exam, if one student observes another doing something he thinks inappropriate, he is to stand and cry out "Honor Code Violation" without pointing out who is cheating.

Only if the perpetrator persists in his way is he to be fingered.

And in the end, fingered he has to be, in spite of the fact that our forerunners clearly stated that no faculty or official, should ever try to make a student "incriminate himself" or "require one . . . to testify against other students . . ."

I guess the operative word is "require." As long as one is not coerced into testifying, or denouncing someone, as long as these things are done in a peer situation, where students police themselves, acting on their own beliefs, then there is no problem.

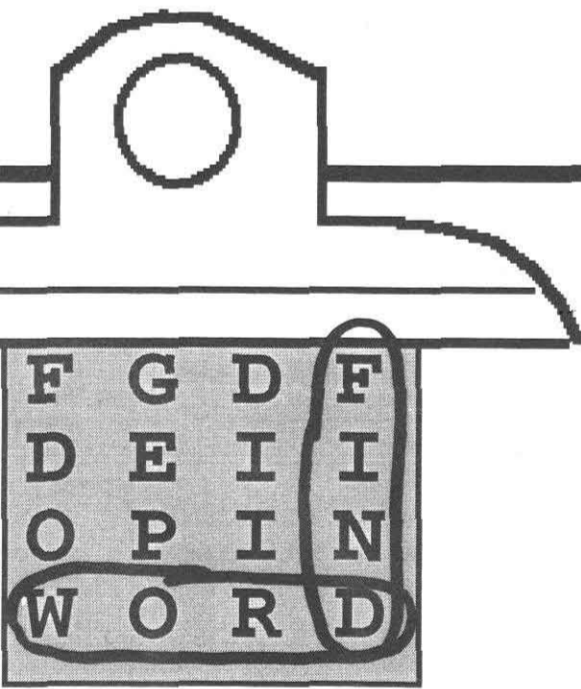
The better, ideal way of course would be to have a society so perfect, a group of students so honest, so thoughtful, so well adjusted, that no one would sneak a peak at closed exams, spend longer than allowed answering questions, take advantage of the system or of each other, if all the girls and all the boys were true to their commitment to "Tech's most sacred tradition," to which they implicitly committed themselves by deciding to come here. Is that too unrealistic? Shouldn't we all give that a try?

A bientôt.

J.P. Revel

Recently I saw the rerun of a movie on TV. It was called *Scent of a Woman*, and had made an impact when it came out a few years ago, but I had not seen before. I expected a sweet, romantic movie which my wife and I would watch quietly by a roaring fire, while the promised downpour would materialize outside. Warm and snug and cozy, a perfect way to ease into the New Year. Except that, as I remember, the movie was not at all what I thought it was about.

The title was only just a come-on, to bring the suckers into the theater. Actually that's not quite true, my wife pointed out to me a few days ago. There is a touching story about a grouchy, blind, retired codger who had been a military man in his happier days and had decided to have a last fling at high life before committing suicide. He actually happily rejoins the living while defending a belea-



D C N X W E M C A V L E L Q G
 C A L I F O R N I A A L L E Y
 K P A G E R U D D O C K K V T
 D B G Y F U F R F L I C K S M
 G R A D E S D A B N E Y J T X
 Y U F L E M I N G O Z V L T T
 G I N S T I T U T E R M I E A
 O T U G O Y V U F S E A A K C
 L O A H A S C I T K S A F C I
 O W X D F S H A F T Z A S I T
 N J H J L H J H O U S E P R E
 H A V C L O B L A C K E R Q V
 C L X O O V D Q G N B A D X T
 E E L F Y S O K P P Y K B E M
 T D F X D E O E E M A L F Y L

ALLEY
 ASCIT
 BLACKER
 CALIFORNIA
 DABNEY
 FAIL
 FLAME
 FLEMING
 FLICK
 GRADES
 HOUSE
 HOVSE
 INSTITUTE
 LLOYD
 PAGE
 PASS
 RICKETTS
 RUDDOCK
 SHAFT
 TACIT
 TECHNOLOGY

Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant

Mandarin & Szechwan Cuisine-Best in Town!



Party Tray to Go - \$5.00 per person (Min. 25 People)

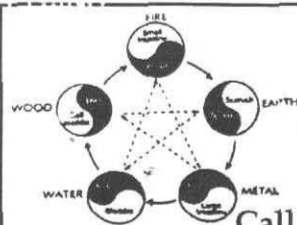
Orange Chicken Vegetable Noodles
 Pork Fried Rice Kung Pao Beef

Great for meetings, parties, etc.

5% discount with Caltech ID
 CATERING & FOOD TO GO
 Beer•Wine•Banquets

Lunch Special
 Monday-Sunday 11:30-3:00 pm

(818) 796-2531
 187 N. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107



JOHN HOLMSTOM

Student Intern
 at Samra University of Oriental
 Medicine Teaching Clinic

Call for Appointment

At the largest and oldest low cost acupuncture and herbs teaching treatment clinic in the USA.

Phone: (213) 709-4734 Please Leave Message

PASTA NIGHT AT THE ATHENAEUM

Monday night is Pasta Night at The Athenaeum. In addition to our a la carte dinner selections, we offer a three-course menu featuring soup or salad, three pasta entrees, and dessert

FOR ONLY Adults 12.95
 Children \$7.95

Enjoy a delicious dinner, and a selection of Italian wines. An outstanding value!

Athenaeum members please call the Front Desk for reservations at 818/793-6146



For Athenaeum membership information, please call Alicia at 818/395-8399

Y news

by Bradey Honsinger

Caltech Y activities got off to a good start this term: we've hosted several noon concerts, as well as presenting the Martin Luther King day festivities here on campus. We're putting together many new and different activities, so watch for more Y stuff this term. Of course, we're continuing our present programs; there will be more **Saturday Y Hikes** and **mountain biking trips** this term, so if you're interested stop by the Y for more information. We'll be holding **Mini-Decompression** next Saturday, Feb. 8; this term's mini-decompression will be bigger and better, so mark it on your calendars. There will also be another installment of the ever-popular Caltech Y **Boffo Bonecrusher Broomball** later this term, so start honing your ice skills. As always, if you're interested in **volunteering** in some of the community programs the Y participates in (remember, work-study students get paid!) or want more information about any of the Y's programs, stop by the Y. If you want more info on any of the Y's programs but don't have time to stop by, call Chris at x6163. He's also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at sundbergc@starbase1.

book worm.

by Daisy James

⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘	A Wonderful Work of Art
⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘	Slightly imperfect
⌘⌘⌘⌘	Pretty darn good
⌘⌘⌘	Decent
⌘⌘	Bad
⌘	Birdcage liner

The Fallen Man
by Tony Hillerman
⌘⌘⌘⌘

My only complaint about Hillerman's writing, from reading his earliest books, was that they were more action than mystery. However, in this his latest novel he seems to have moved past that and gives an authentic murder mystery. There is certainly action here, but the author has learned some moderation and how to provide

fair clues for the murder. The book features both of Hillerman's detectives, Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. Leaphorn is now retired from the Navajo police, where Chee has been promoted to acting Lieutenant.

The story is set on a reservation in New Mexico and begins with the discovery of a skeleton on rock ledge. It is connected with a missing person case of eleven years ago and the family hires Leaphorn

to find out what happened. Chee's personal life and the hunt for cattle rustlers provide the sub-plots. Altogether it is a very well crafted book, entertaining and hard to put down. It contains quite a bit of description of Navajo culture and reasons why they are superior to white people, ironic since Hillerman himself is white. For that reason and the fact that I don't know what real Navajos think of his writing I am a bit wary of Hillerman's analysis. Still, this is really a minor part of what is basically a good read.

The New Yorker Book of Cat Cartoons
by Various Contributors
⌘⌘⌘

A tiny (4"x5") book collecting the best cat cartoons that have run in the New Yorker over the years. Some are divinely true ("I've never seen him pause next to anyone longer!") others funny in their absurdity (a cat playing with a ball of yarn gets so tangled up that it knits itself a sweater) and others are just plain weird (a woman standing behind three risers of cats with the names listed below like a yearbook picture). You have to have or know a cat to really appreciate this book.

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MAY 20, 1996

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/23/97

Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Dave B., Kohl, Emily, Kara, Meeting starts at 10:14 p.m.

Officers' Reports

- Emily said that the houses that are planning trips to Star Wars will not be subsidized by ASCIT. Installations are at the end of February and hopefully at the MOSH's.
 - Kohl happily declared two of the three committees for the Student-Faculty Conference are established: 1) Honor System and 2) Student Life. Printed copies of the CLUE will be available soon.
 - Dave Bacon got a request from SAFCOM for the ASCIT BoD to respond to certain ideas voiced by the students. The BoD replied.
 - Maria said that the Open Business Meeting went well. Another bylaw change is going to come up in about a week.
 - Dave R., Heidi, Kristie and Andrew talked with the person that ASCIT would like to have as their bookkeeper. She's mulling it over.
- Meeting adjourned 10:59 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/16/97

Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Dave B., Kohl, Emily (over the speaker

phone), Kara, Andrew Strauss Meeting starts at 10:08 p.m.
• Andrew says that the publications area will be consolidated in about a month's time.

Officers' Reports

- Kara wanted Fleming's interhouse money. The UROH is a third done.
 - Alexis bought legal sized paper for the copier. Copier account request sheets are out.
 - Kohl says that the Student-Faculty Conference Committees will be formed this weekend. It will be an open meeting. The place is yet to be determined.
 - Kristie says ASCIT will not be in debt. Clubs, come get your money for this term. Sign up for Treasurer.
 - Dave brought up the idea of hiring a bookkeeper. ASCIT decided if they can afford a bookkeeper, they'll hire one 7-0-0.
 - Emily e-mailed Bill Penn.
- Meeting adjourned 10:45 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/9/97

Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Kohl, Alexis, Kara Meeting starts at 10:20 p.m.

Officers' Reports

- Kara says that the UROH will be started soon.
- Alexis hasn't heard anything about the van. She ordered paper for the ASCIT copier. By the way, if there is not paper in the copier, do not order any yourself.
- Kohl is done with the CLUE. It's on the web at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~clue>. The Faculty-Student Conference memo went out. Freshmen and Sophomores are especially encouraged to participate.

- Maria said that the Open Business meeting will be early the week of the 20th.

Meeting adjourned 10:31 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 12/5/96

Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Dave B., Kohl, Emily, Kara, Wes Meeting starts at 9:47 p.m.

- Wes came to request ASCIT funding for a CCF square-dance. He requested \$150 for a caller. ASCIT voted to give Wes \$100.75 for the event 7-0-0.

Officers' Reports

- Kara says that the UROH is getting along. She's getting suggestions.
- Kohl is going to advertise the CLUE beginning of next term. He went to the Faculty Board meeting.
- Maria is having another Open Business Meeting early second term. Topics of discussion are nullification and unanimous decision. She also recommended a change to the ASCIT bylaws. It passed 7-0-0.

Recommended change to the ASCIT bylaws

The BoC has made the suggestion of changing the bylaws. Currently, according to ASCIT bylaws, a defendant has the right to bring a member of the Caltech community to accompany them in the waiting room while the BoC deliberates. The bylaw change suggested would allow the defendant to bring a silent observer into the actual meeting. This suggestion would change the current bylaw from:

Article VII: Section 3 (1) A defendant attending a hearing of the full Board may

be accompanied by any one member of the Caltech community of his choosing, to keep him company during the waiting periods outside of the hearing. This person may not witness any part of the actual hearing, will be bound to secrecy as set forth in subsection (s) for all witnesses, and must not interfere with the normal proceedings of the Board.

to:
Article VII: Section 3 (1) A defendant attending a hearing of the full Board may be accompanied by any one member of the Caltech community of his own choosing. This person may accompany the defendant during waiting periods, and at any part of the hearing where the defendant is present. This person must not disrupt or interfere with the proceedings of the Board in any way, and shall be immediately removed at the Chair's discretion if such disruption occurs. This person will be bound to secrecy as set forth in subsection (s) for all witnesses, and must not interfere with the normal proceedings of the Board.

If you have any questions or comments, let Maria know (mariafs@cco). Meeting adjourned 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Yang
ASCIT Secretary

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



MINDSTALK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- ists we like.
- "terrorists" for guerillas we don't like.
- "downsizing" for mass layoffs.
- "mass layoffs" for mass firings.
- "war on drugs" for Prohibition.

Could someone who believes that illegal drugs should stay illegal please explain what difference there is between the modern 'war on drugs' and 1930's Prohibition, besides the chemicals banned? If there is no difference, then I think it incumbent upon the prohibitors to explain why they think the current instance of Prohibition should be less spectacularly unsuccessful than the first.

I suspect the answer will be "yes, the only difference is in the drugs, but these are *really bad drugs*." Which won't address the question of why we should expect Prohibition to succeed this time —arguably the more addictive the drug, the harder it is to eradicate, and why are there drugs in prisons? —and invites discussion of the effects of the drugs themselves. Illegality is a fairly recent phenomenon; were drugs made illegal to save society from an epidemic of abuse at the time? We seem to have survived a long time without worrying about the question.

Guerrillas in the Mist

Actually while my list above was accurate in usage, it reflected a common confusion of concepts. 'Guerilla' is best applied to unconventional militaries, employing 'hit and fade' attacks; 'terrorist' to attempts to induce random terror in a population. The two are independent terms. An established government can be quite terrorist in practice, and a guerilla movement with well-defined targets (and good aim) need not induce widespread terror. But bombing an enemy capital with an air force is normal warfare, while systematically shooting only legislators would probably be called terrorism.

(Credit to an *Economist* article for ideas.)

PASADENA IS FAMOUS FOR MORE THAN JUST THE ROSE BOWL



Committed to Excellence, Free Support.

We are committed to giving you a high quality, reliable system. All systems are assembled by us right here at our headquarter. Quality control is strict with every system being tested and burned-in 72 hours before delivery. All systems come with a one year carry-in parts and labor warranty, no questions asked. And our service personnel are trained to provide technical support at no charge to you.



Satisfaction Guarantee!

Most of our customers have been with us for a long time. We do all we can to make sure you're happy. If for any reason you have a problem with your system, we offer a 30 day money back guarantee & 1 year warranty covering parts and labor. We also have a GE 3 year additional warranty & Action Call Software support membership available as a an option.



About Pasadena Computer Center.

Pasadena Computer Center is located in Pasadena, CA with branches in New York. With almost ten years in the industry, Pasadena Computer Center learned how to serve its customers well. Some of our repeat customers include the Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL), GTE, U.S. Postal Service, Rockwell, Pacific Bell, UCLA, USC, Los Angeles Unified School District, Caltech, Edwards Air Force Base, Kaiser Permanente, Cal State LA and many community colleges. No matter if you're looking for a computer to use at home or a hundred computers for the office you'll get the quality and service you expect.



3D GAME STATION

- > Intel Triton Chipset, Intel Pentium CPU w/Fan
- > 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- > 32MB EDO Memory
- > 2.0GB Fast EIDE Hard Disk
- > 33.6 Fax/Modem/Voice
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > Diamond Stealth 3D PCI Video w/2MB(MPEG Playback Ready)
- > 17" 1280x1024 NI Digital SVGA Color Monitor
- > 12x Multisection CD-ROM Drive
- > Sound Blaster 16 P & P, Amplified Speakers
- > 104+ Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Mouse

PENTIUM 120MHZ \$1425 / PENTIUM 166MHZ \$1645
 PENTIUM 133MHZ \$1485 / PENTIUM 200MHZ \$1845
 PENTIUM 150MHZ \$1545 / PENTIUM PRO 200 \$2445

HOME/OFFICE STATION

- > Intel Triton Chipset, Intel Pentium CPU w/Fan
- > 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- > 16MB Memory
- > 1.6GB Fast EIDE Mode 4 Hard Drive
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > PCI SVGA Card w/1MB Memory
- > 17" 1280x1024 NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 33.6 Fax/Modem/Voice
- > 8X Multisection CD-ROM Drive
- > 16bit Sound Card, Pair of Amplified Speakers
- > 104+ Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Mouse

PENTIUM 120MHZ \$1365 / PENTIUM 166MHZ \$1595
 PENTIUM 133MHZ \$1425 / PENTIUM 200MHZ \$1765
 PENTIUM 150MHZ \$1495 / PENTIUM PRO 200MHZ \$2225

MOBILE MULTIMEDIA

- > 12.1" TFT Active Matrix Color Screen
- > PCI SVGA W/2MB Ram
- > 8MB EDO Memory, up to 40MB
- > 800MB EIDE Hard Drive
- > Built-in Touch Pad Mouse
- > Built-in 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > Built-in 8X Multisection CD-ROM Drive
- > Win 95 Keyboard
- > 16bit Sound Card, Microphone & Speaker
- > Two PCMCIA II & One PCMCIA III
- > NiMH Battery, Carry Case

PENTIUM 100MHZ \$2495 / PENTIUM 133MHZ \$2645



PERFECT MPEG 12X STATION

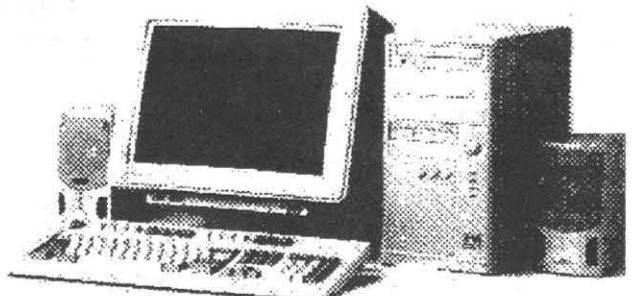
- > Intel Triton Chipset, Intel Pentium CPU w/Fan
- > 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- > 16MB Memory
- > 2GB Fast EIDE Mode 4 Hard Drive
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > Diamond Stealth 2500 Video w/2MB(MPEG Playback Ready)
- > 15" .28 NI "Power Saving" SVGA Color Monitor
- > 12X Multisection 900KB/sec CD-ROM Drive
- > 16bit Sound Card, Pair of Amplified Speaker
- > 104+ Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Mouse

PENTIUM 100MHZ \$1195 / PENTIUM 150MHZ \$1345
 PENTIUM 120MHZ \$1225 / PENTIUM 166MHZ \$1445
 PENTIUM 133MHZ \$1285 / PENTIUM 200MHZ \$1645
 PENTIUM PRO 200MHZ \$2245

INTERNET READY TO GO !!

- > Free InterNet Software Included: World Wide Web, E-Mail, Netscape Navigator, Browser
- > Intel Triton Chipset, Intel Pentium CPU w/Fan
- > 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- > 8MB Memory
- > 1.2GB Fast EIDE Mode 4 Hard Drive
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > 33.6 Fax/Modem w/Voice & Answering Machine
- > Free Condenser Microphone
- > PCI SVGA Card w/1MB Memory
- > 14" 1024 .28 NI "Power Saving" SVGA Color Monitor
- > 8X Multisection CD-ROM Drive
- > 16bit Sound Card, Pair of Amplified Speakers
- > 104+ Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Mouse

PENTIUM 100MHZ \$995 / PENTIUM 150MHZ \$1165
 PENTIUM 120MHZ \$1015 / PENTIUM 166MHZ \$1265
 PENTIUM 133MHZ \$1065 /



PASADENA COMPUTER (818)568-1088

1756 E. Colorado Bl., Pasadena, CA. 91106 (West of Allen Ave)

TECH (818)568-0439
 FAX (818)568-9132

Hours of Operation: (Mon-Fri) 9:00am-6:00pm (Sat) 10:00am-5:00pm. Prices, specifications, terms and conditions are subject to change without any notice. Prices do not include shipping. 30 day money back guarantee does not include shipping, return shipping and opened software. There are no returns for credit after 30 days. Returns are subject to a restocking charge. Prices above reflect 3% cash discount. No responsible for errors in typesetting. We accept personal and company checks and corporate purchase orders (OAC). Government sales & school districts P.O.'s welcome!



S. Adams



BAD NEWS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE REVIEW, WALLY.

EVERYONE PERFORMED THE SAME. BUT I'M REQUIRED TO RANK THE GROUP ON A BELL CURVE.

I HAD TO MAKE UP SOME FLAWS TO MOVE YOU DOWN THE CURVE. HERE'S A PEN. SIGN IT. "EMPLOYEE DOES NOT WASH HANDS AFTER USING THE RESTROOM."

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
WE'VE DECIDED TO LOWER YOUR BASE SALARY, WALLY.

I REALIZE THIS WILL BE A HARDSHIP. BUT IF YOU HAND ME YOUR NECKTIE I'LL SHOW YOU WHY THIS IS BEING DONE.

WHAT DID HE SAY WAS THE REASON?
"BECAUSE I CAN."

I CAN'T SIGN THIS PERFORMANCE REVIEW! IT'S FULL OF ALLEGED MISDEEDS THAT YOU INVENTED TO LOWER MY RATING!

YES, BUT I THINK IT REFLECTS THE SORT OF THINGS YOU MIGHT DO. I HAD TO MAKE ALL THE REVIEWS FIT A BELL CURVE.

I AM NOT SELLING CRACK FROM MY CUBICLE!!!

THE NETWORK WENT DOWN AND I LOST MY WORK.
THE SERVER CRASHED.

FROM NOW ON, I WANT ADVANCED NOTICE OF ANY UNPLANNED OUTAGES.

AND I NEED IT YESTERDAY.
I USED TO THINK THAT WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE COMPANY WILL NO LONGER ALLOW TIME OFF FOR THE DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER.

THIS "FAMILY FRIENDLY" POLICY WILL REMOVE YOUR INCENTIVE TO EXTEND VACATIONS BY KILLING RELATIVES.

AND MORE GOOD NEWS: WE'RE CANCELING YOUR LIFE INSURANCE SO YOUR FAMILY WON'T TRY TO SNUFF YOU OUT EITHER.

AS YOU REQUESTED, HERE IS A SCHEDULE OF ALL FUTURE UNPLANNED NETWORK OUTAGES.

I TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO INCLUDE A SCHEDULE OF ALL FUTURE SICK DAYS, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, EARTHQUAKES AND HURRICANES.

THIS IS THE POINT WHEN YOU REALIZE HOW STUPID YOUR REQUEST WAS AND WE HAVE A GOOD LAUGH.
DOES CNN KNOW ABOUT THIS?

DON'T MENTION ANY PROBLEMS WHEN YOU DO YOUR PRESENTATION TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT, ALICE.

THEY MIGHT TRY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS DURING THE MEETING. THAT WOULD BE A DISASTER.

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, EVERY LAYER OF MANAGEMENT EXISTS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF WARNING US ABOUT THE LAYER ABOVE.
ARE YOU SAYING THEY HAVE A PURPOSE?

A PESSIMIST SAYS THE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY. AN OPTIMIST SAYS IT'S HALF FULL.

DID YOU PUT YOUR LIPS ON MY GLASS AGAIN?

AND THE ENGINEER SAYS...
IT'S A GOOD THING I PUT HALF OF MY WATER IN A REDUNDANT GLASS.

I PUT YOU IN FOR A COMPLIMENT, ALICE.

IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC. THE APPLICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
WE DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK COMPLIMENTS ARE AN ENTITLEMENT.
I DON'T THINK SO.

THE MORE WORK I DO, THE MORE I'M GIVEN.

IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE A TALENTED AND HARD-WORKING EMPLOYEE.

HOW'S IT PAY TO BE YOU?
NOT BAD ON AN HOURLY BASIS.

THE RESULTS OF THE EMPLOYEE SURVEY HAVE BEEN TABULATED.

AS ALWAYS, EMPLOYEES SAY THEY ARE UNDERPAID, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, AND MANAGEMENT IS INCOMPETENT.

AND YOUR BIZARRE, UNWORLDLY RESPONSE WILL BE?
EVERYONE GETS A TRAVEL ALARM CLOCK WITH THE COMPANY LOGO!

ASOK THE INTERN:
I INSTALLED CALENDAR SOFTWARE ON OUR NETWORK.

NOW YOU CAN SEE EVERYONE'S SCHEDULE AND EASILY SET UP MEETINGS.

I SAY WE GRAB HIM AND APPLY SOME CUBICLE JUSTICE.
GOOD IDEA. BUT I'M IN MEETINGS UNTIL THE YEAR 3006.

I'VE HIT THE GLASS CEILING. I'LL NEVER BE PROMOTED AGAIN.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO "PLAY THE GAME." YOU HAVE TO LOOK AND ACT LIKE THE PERSON WHO CAN PROMOTE YOU.

OOO-LA LA!
THIS HAD BETTER WORK.

IT'S "PHIL, THE PRINCE OF INSUFFICIENT LIGHT!"
I SAW YOU TAKE THAT CHAIR.

I SUMMON ALL THE DEMONS AND TROLLS OF HECK TO COME FORTH AND PUNISH YOU NOW!!!

I'M ED, FROM ACCOUNTING. THE OTHERS ARE AT LUNCH.

MY IDEA IS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO USE SMALL FONTS. THAT WAY WE'LL SAVE DISK SPACE.

AND I'VE NOTICED THAT MANY PEOPLE USE ENTIRE COLONS IN SITUATIONS WHERE A SEMICOLON WOULD DO JUST FINE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT WAS FUN.
THE REAL FUN IS WHEN HE DESCRIBES HIS NEW IDEAS AT THE NEXT STAFF MEETING.

WHAT'S THE PENALTY FOR STEALING A CHAIR??

YOU ARE SENTENCED TO SIT IN THE BREAK ROOM USED BY THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT.

I LIKE TO TYPE THE NUMBER SIX.
CRIPES! THIS IS MY TUESDAY LUNCH BAG.

THE COMPANY ANNOUNCED THAT WE WILL "ABANDON OUR STRATEGY OF MAKING GOOD PRODUCTS..."

FROM NOW ON WE'LL "PURSUE A DESPERATE STRATEGY OF MERGERS, BUSINESS SPIN-OFFS, FRUITLESS PARTNERSHIPS AND RANDOM REORGANIZATIONS."

"AND WE'LL ACCELERATE OUR PROGRAM OF PAYING THE GOOD EMPLOYEES TO LEAVE."
STOCK PRICE?
UP THREE POINTS.

I'M WRITING A SHORT STORY FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH PATIENCE.

"BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. WHATEVER, BLAH, BLAH, ETCETERA, ETCETERA."

IF IT'S A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS, THE SEQUEL PRACTICALLY WRITES ITSELF.



"One Flame a Week - My Promise To You."

BY AUSTIN COLLINS

I'd like to begin this week's column with a thank you for the reply to my flaming of the seat belt law. The reply printed in last week's Letter to the Editors was intelligent, coherent, and pointed out a few issues I had failed to address.

With that acknowledged, I'd also relate a remark made to me in rebuttal of last week's flaming of *The X Files*. The quote was, "I don't understand what your problem with *The X Files* is. I arrange my whole life around *The X Files*." How can I argue with that?

Now on to this week's topic:

The Age of Excuses.

Somewhere around six weeks ago, I had occasion to watch an episode of *Dateline*

to in order to avoid admitting their own incompetence. This man's claim, however, actually left me with a strong desire to grab hold of the nearest garbage can and vomit into it.

He'd taken the test over thirty times, and in thirty attempts had failed to demonstrate even a passing proficiency in high school level mathematics. They made the test available on *Dateline's* web page, so I took a look at it. The math section was actually somewhat easier than the math section of the S.A.T. Instead of his simply being a moron, however, he chose to pin his failure on the test itself.

The "white man's math"....what a silly concept. The simple fact of the matter is that he did not know the mathematics well enough to qualify to teach it to other students. Suppose we changed the test, and he passed? Then he would immediately go to work teaching his impressive knowledge of non-culturally biased mathematics to our children. Whoopee.

The episode went to great length to demonstrate how hard he tried to prepare for the exam. You know, I really hate to be the one to break it to people, but if someone tries really hard and still fails an extremely basic test THIRTY TIMES, the word for that person is not 'oppressed', as he claimed. It's 'stupid'.

Yes, stupid. Not 'ill prepared', or 'not quite ready'. Stu-

pid. S-T-U-P-I-D. For one reason or another, the man simply lacks the mental capacity necessary to be a teacher. Tough break, but my sympathy for him does not extend to the point where I'll allow my children (or anyone else's) to look to him for as the source of their own learning.

I must confess, however, that I honestly wonder whether if he had hired a tutor instead of a lawyer he might have passed it in the first thirty times. He spoke at length in the episode about the shortage of black mathematics teachers, and suggested it was a cause for the lower math scores among blacks. You know, if I insisted that my children could not learn from a black teacher, I'd likely be branded a racist. This guy claims black children can't learn math from white teachers, however, and they put him on TV.

The interviewer for *Dateline* dutifully interviewed a group of minority children, who agreed with the 'educator' in question. The one who kept failing the math test. As one of them so succinctly put it, "How's he gonna teach me what I got to know less he's been where I been?"

It's easy. He teaches you the math, instead of trying to understand your home life. In turn, you learn the math, instead of complaining that he doesn't understand your culture.

People these days have it easy. There's any number of now mainstream excuses for your failure. If you're a minority, and stupid, the choice is clear...cultural bias. That *must* be why you didn't get the job/college of your choice, right? If you're white, and stupid, try affirmative action. That *must* be why you didn't get into the college/job of your choice, right? If it's your child that is stupid, and not you, I suggest Attention Deficit Disorder. Or, if your child is *not* stupid but you are, try hyperactivity to explain why you are so useless as a parent. Maybe you're a woman? Must be sexism. Or, what if you're just 100 lbs overweight? Must be genetics that explains your grotesque appearance....not the cheesecake on your plate.

If you're *not* stupid, however, then just shut up and learn the math. Then, teach it to your children. Why do you have to teach it to them, instead of leaving it to the teachers? Because that man finally did pass the test, and was immediately hired as an assistant principal.

It really is that simple.

"Cyrano: So, this is your revenge?"

Compte de Guiche: Take it to mean I serve my King, and vent my spleen."

—Rostand

Affordable Powerful Reliable

"If you're looking for a bargain-priced high-end machine, consider MaxTech's YesBook Model X753....The YesBook performed well on most of our benchmark tests." PC Magazine, 8/96



- YESBOOK**
We Took The "NO" out of Notebook
- * Intel Pentium processor, 256KB PB cache
 - * Max. 40 MB RAM (Use standard DIMM)
 - * 6X CD-ROM Drive
 - * 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * PCMCIA Type 4 slot
 - * Removable HD (Up to 2 GB)
 - * 16-bit sound card, 2 speakers & mic
 - * PCI accelerator w/2 MB video RAM
 - * 11.3" DS or Active 800X600 display
 - * Touch pad & Infra-red port
 - * Windows 95 keyboard
 - * Rechargeable NiMH battery
 - * 7 lbs. with battery
 - * Composite TV video output
 - * Universal AC adapter & deluxe carrying bag
- P-150 MHz, 24MB, 1.3 GB HD
12.1" ACTIVE COLOR
8X CD-ROM & WINDOWS 95 CD
Only \$2929
- P-133 MHz, 16MB, 1.08 GB HD
11.3" ACTIVE COLOR
8X CD-ROM & WINDOWS 95 CD
Only \$2479
- P-120 MHz, 16MB, 1.08 GB HD
11.3" DUAL SCAN COLOR
6X CD-ROM & WINDOWS 95 CD
Only \$2049

PCI MULTIMEDIA PRO

- * INTEL Pentium processor w/ fan
 - * 256K Pipelined Brust Cache, Triton chipset
 - * 32 MB EDO RAM expandable to 128 MB
 - * TEAC 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * 2.0 GB EIDE hard drive
 - * PCI Enhanced IDE HD controller
 - * Matrox MGA Millennium w/2 MB WRAM
 - * Viewsonic 17GS 1280X1024 monitor .27 dp
 - * Flat screen, Low-radiation (3 yr parts & labor)
 - * 2 high speed serial, parallel, & game ports
 - * Enhanced 104 key keyboard
 - * Medium tower case w/230 Watt
 - * Microsoft or Logitech mouse
 - * Sound Blaster 32 Wavetable PnP
 - * Super fast 12X CD-ROM drive
 - * 160 Watt Hi-Fi speakers w/DSP
- P-200 MHz \$2259
P-166 MHz \$2119
P-150 MHz \$1999
P-133 MHz \$1939
P-120 MHz \$1879

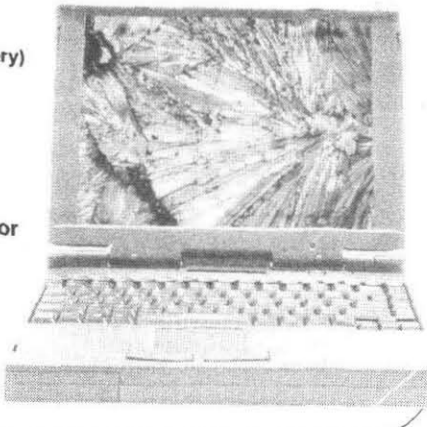
PCI MULTIMEDIA PLUS

- * INTEL Pentium processor w/cooling fan
 - * 256K Pipelined Brust Cache, Triton chipset
 - * 16 MB EDO RAM expandable to 128 MB
 - * TEAC 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * 1.6 GB EIDE hard drive
 - * PCI Enhanced IDE HD controller
 - * Stealth 3D w/2 MB EDO DRAM
 - * 17" 1280 X 1024 monitor .28 dp
 - * Flat screen, Digital control, Low-radiation
 - * 2 high speed serial, parallel, & game ports
 - * Enhanced 104 key keyboard
 - * Medium tower case w/230 Watt
 - * High resolution mouse
 - * Sound Blaster 16 PnP
 - * Super fast 8X CD-ROM drive
 - * 140 Watt Hi-Fi speakers
- P-200 MHz \$1799
P-166 MHz \$1659
P-150 MHz \$1539
P-133 MHz \$1479
P-120 MHz \$1419

SCEPTRE

Soundx 4000 SERIES
Featuring 128-bit accelerator & Li-ion battery

- * Intel Mobile Pentium processor (2.9V)
 - * Intel Mobile Triton chipset for better performance
 - * 64-bit 256 KB cache memory
 - * EDO memory upgradable to 40 MB
 - * Removable 6X CD-ROM (for FD or 2nd Li-ion battery)
 - * Removable 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * PCMCIA Type III slot
 - * PCI Enhanced IDE & Removable Hard drive
 - * 16-bit sound card, 2 speakers and mic
 - * PCI 128-bit graphic accelerator
 - * 12.1" TFT 800X600 display
 - * Touch Pad & Infra-red port
 - * High speed serial, EPP/ECP parallel ports
 - * Smart Lithium-ion battery w/ built-in indicator
 - * Only 6.8 lbs. w/ battery
 - * Universal AC adapter & Deluxe carrying bag
- P-133 MHz, 16MB, 1.08 GB HD
12.1" ACTIVE COLOR
6X CD-ROM DRIVE
WINDOWS 95 CD
Only \$3099



PCI MULTIMEDIA

- * INTEL Pentium processor w/ fan
 - * 256K Pipelined Brust Cache, Triton chipset
 - * 16 MB EDO RAM expandable to 128 MB
 - * TEAC 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * 1.3 GB EIDE hard drive
 - * PCI Enhanced IDE HD controller
 - * ATI Mach 64 or Stealth 64 w/1 MB DRAM
 - * Proton 15" 1024 X 768 NI monitor .28 dp
 - * Flat screen, Digital control, Low-radiation
 - * 2 high speed serial, parallel, & game ports
 - * Enhanced 104 key keyboard
 - * Medium tower case w/230 Watt
 - * High resolution mouse
 - * 16 bit sound card
 - * Super fast 8X CD-ROM drive
 - * 140 Watt Hi-Fi speakers
- P-166 MHz \$1469
P-150 MHz \$1339
P-133 MHz \$1269
P-120 MHz \$1219
P-75 MHz \$1159

PRO 200/180 MHz SUPREME

- * INTEL Pentium Pro processor w/ fan
 - * 256K non-blocking L-2 cache built-in
 - * 32 MB EDO RAM expandable to 256 MB
 - * TEAC 1.44 MB floppy drive
 - * 3.1 GB EIDE hard drive
 - * PCI Enhanced HD controller
 - * Matrox MGA Millennium w/2 MB WRAM
 - * Viewsonic 17PS, 1600X1280, .25 dp
 - * Flat screen, Digital control, Low-radiation
 - * 2 high speed serial, parallel, & game ports
 - * Enhanced 104 key keyboard
 - * Medium tower case w/230 Watt
 - * Microsoft or Logitech mouse
 - * MaxTech 33.6 Kbps V.34+ Fax/Modem
 - * Sound Blaster 32 Wavetable PnP
 - * Super fast 12X CD-ROM drive
 - * 240 Watt Hi-Fi speakers
- 200 MHz \$3099
180 MHz \$2749



(818) 795-6112
Fax: (818) 795-6320
M-F 9:30-6
SAT 10-5

One year parts & labor warranty
30 Days Money Back Guarantee
15% restocking fee on non-defective parts
On-site Service, Delivery & Setup, Training
Extended Warranty Available
Limited rights reserved. This ad is not an offer
Prices & specifications subject to change without notice.
Not responsible for typographical errors.

1154 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106 (between Lake & Hill Ave.)

STONE speaks on media

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

until 1986, when a British company finally decided to do the movie. No American studio ever attempted it.)

The remainder of the lecture revolved around Stone and his conflicts with the media. As one can imagine, his reputation as the man with a conspiracy theory has ruined his credibility. He insists that he is not a liar, and that it's better to be "hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

He deplores how corrupt the media has become, and how corrupt the American population has become because of its obsession with the media. "If you have a deep voice and look good on TV, you can sell anything," he said, referring to CBS anchor Walter Cronkite. Stone reflected on how America has poured itself into sensationalism, warning us that there are two things that need to be divorced from profit: the news and politics. He called the current state of the media "all the news that's fit to thrill."

In direct response to this disgust with the media, Stone released the film, *Natural Born Killers*, which he describes as a complete media regurgitation. "It was done in the spirit of throwing up." In the film, he targets the American landscape of the 1990's where TV is swamped with such events as

two stupid iceskaters, or O.J. Simpson, or the Menendez brothers.

He summarizes the chaos by saying that TV and the dollar bill have corrupted us. In fact, *Natural Born Killers* drew a lot of fire from conservative Bob Dole, who stated that Hollywood was killing people while opposing a ban on assault rifles. Stone reminded us that weapons kill people, not movies.

As far as his conspiracy theories go (such as Kennedy's assassination), he says that they exist in great quantities, and cites examples such as Caesar, various Popes and kings, and all men of power. "When you get it, people want it... Why not JFK?"

Stone's outlook for our future is bleak. He's afraid that conformity has already set in, and that issues are set by the media. Even arguing must be done within the paradigm that the media delivers. His latest film, *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*, showed how even one's right to speak is limited. Commenting on America's aggressive culture, he says "It drives people fucking bananas." His advice, essentially, is to choose your own path and act accordingly despite the opposition. Stone follows a quote from Dante: "In times of crisis, those who are neutral are condemned to hell."

... it's better to be "hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

Question of the Week

All the planets spin west to east, except one. Why does it spin in the opposite direction?

—Michael Dole Covina, CA

You're undoubtedly thinking of Venus as the planet that spins east to west. In other words, if you arrived on Venus in the morning, the sun would be in the west and would set in the east. The only thing is that it would set about four Earth-months later! That's because a day on Venus lasts for 243 of our Earth-days.

Actually, you should probably add Uranus to your list of planets in retrograde (or "backward") rotation, because it is tipped more than 90 degrees. The day would be a short one, because Uranus completes a rotation on its axis every 17 hours, which is a pretty typical time for all the gas giants. The Uranian year is 84 Earth years. Over that time there are large seasonal variations at the poles as they alternately point toward and away from the sun.

As a rule, the inner planets (the

solid ones) have much longer spin periods. Mercury completes three rotations every time it goes around the sun once because it is in a tidal lock with the sun, in a manner similar to the tidal lock that causes the

It's plausible that the spin rates date back to the formation of the solar system

moon to always face Earth. A day there lasts about 30 Earth-days.

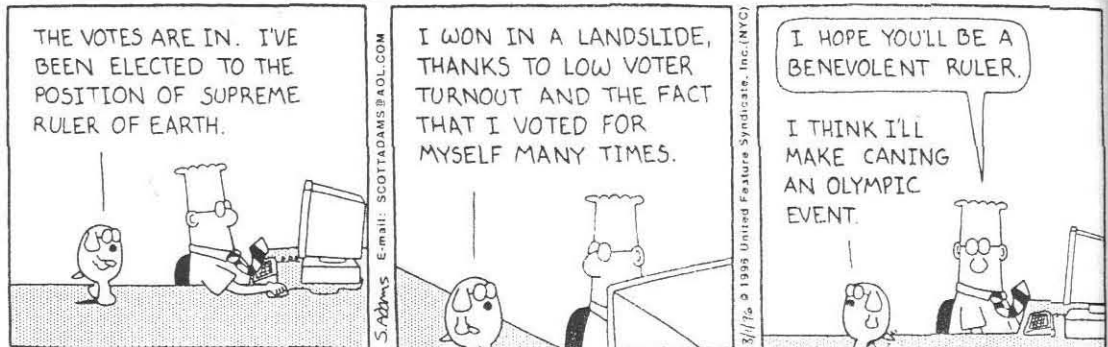
Mars has the same spin period as Earth, but the angle between its spin axis and the axis of its orbital angular momentum is predicted to vary chaotically between about 11 and 44 degrees on a time scale of millions of years. This is due to the gravity of the sun and other planets. So if you go to Mars now, the

sun would rise in the east southeast if you landed at a Southern California latitude during the summer. But if you wait a few million years, the planet might be so tilted that the sun would come up a few degrees north of east each morning while you were at that same latitude at the same time of year.

To get back to your question, nobody knows why the planets have the spins they have. It's plausible that the spin rates date back to the formation of the solar system, which began about 4.6 billion years ago and lasted about half a billion years. Because fairly big bodies were being gobbled up by the planets that we observe today, the inclinations of the axes as well as the spin rates are probably relics of these collisions.

Probably, both Venus and Uranus originally rotated from west to east, just like the other seven planets. Perhaps the collisions of other bodies with these two planets flipped them over permanently. In the case of Venus, the tidal effect of the sun's gravity also undoubtedly had a profound effect.

—Peter Goldreich
Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Physics at Caltech.



Sweets with the MOSH at Steele House

355 S. Holliston

Wednesday, February 12, 1997
9 - 11pm

Come Early



WOMEN: A response

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to foster the changes that Brown is anxious to see.

Her examples of women being forced to "tolerate or accept sexist behavior" are both flawed. In the first example, she uses the viewpoint of one individual to generalize to all men and society in general. I think very few people would hold that point of view, namely that Jon Benet deserved to be sexually assaulted. If the perpetrator were caught, he would be prosecuted for sexual assault and murder, and he could never convince any jury that a six-year-old girl was "asking for it."

"Even in gorilla clans, a male gorilla who attempts intercourse with an unwilling female is punished by the entire group." If this is being used to say that modern society is primitive in comparison to gorilla society, then it is a failure. Is Brown claiming that modern human culture does not condemn rape as a crime?

Throughout our history as a nation, the people and leadership of the United States have struggled with the question of equality. From apportionment of voting districts in the 1960s through the civil rights movements for both ethnic minorities and women, we see that problems are indeed present, but also that people have a commitment to seeking solutions. The key to solving problems of inequality is to work together towards common goals. Clearly it is important to address problems that women face, especially in science where women have historically been at a disadvantage. But the way this must be done is through cooperation, and hard work, not by reversing the same unproductive and closed-minded stereotypes on the other gender. Brown has many valid points about the perception of women in society, but her cause would be better served without an angry assault on the male gender, or Caltech men, specifically.



T E C H N O L O G Y

DE Shaw & Co

F I N A N C E

*"D. E. Shaw is the most
technologically sophisticated firm
on the Street." —Fortune*

D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. is a small (around 400 employees), highly capitalized (over 800 million dollars in equity capital), very successful Wall Street firm specializing in various aspects of the intersection between technology and finance. We are now aggressively seeking exceptional candidates in a variety of fields for positions in our offices in New York, Boston, London, Tokyo, and Hyderabad, and are prepared to compensate highly talented individuals at a level exceeding that of the market.

D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. is an equal opportunity employer.

We're recruiting at CalTech:

On-campus information session:
February 17, 4 pm in Room 13
of the Student Activities Center

Off-campus interviews:

February 18

Submit resumes by February 10 to
oncampus@deshaw.com or
(212) 403-8499 (facsimile)

Events

Voxfire will give a free concert on Sunday, February 2nd, at 3:30pm in Dabney Lounge. Voxfire is the collaboration of three of the area's most highly regarded interpreters of early and contemporary vocal music. The program will consist of **Medieval and Renaissance music**. For more information call x4652.

☞ The first movie to screen in the **German Film Series** for the Winter term is: **Zweikampe** (1985). This film will screen on Wednesday, February 5th, at 7:30pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. English subtitles. Admission is free. For more information call x3610.

☞ There will be a **candidates forum** organized by Councilman Bill Thomson. Meet the three candidates who are running the District 7 seat: Roy Begley, Sarah Smith Orr, and Sid Tyler. Forum will be held Wednesday, February 5th, 7:30pm at Allendale School Auditorium, 1135 So. Euclid, and Wednesday, February 12th, 7:30pm at Hamilton School Auditorium, 2089 Rose Villa.

John Michael Bishop, M.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology will be giving a William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization talk, **Plagues and People: The Battle Against Infectious Disease** on Thursday, February 6th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Baxter Lecture Hall, Baxter Building. Refreshments will be served following the seminar. For further information, contact Ingeborg Sepp at x4087 or isepp@cco.caltech.edu.

Caltech's annual **Research Directors Conference** will be held February 6th and 7th in Ramo Auditorium, with presentations and poster sessions from the Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Chemistry Departments. For schedule and more information call x6454 or look at our web page (www.caltech.edu/development/rdc.html).

Dr. Demento will be celebrating his 27 1/2 Anniversary in Beckman Auditorium, on Saturday, February 8th, at 8pm. The show will feature audio, as well as video, selections and guest appearances from Bill Frenzer (*Dead Puppies*), Henry Phillips (*Standing on the Shoulders of Freaks*), and a mystery celebrity artist. Ticket prices for Caltech/JPL faculty and staff are \$19.00, \$16.00, and \$13.00; the price for Caltech students is \$5.00. For more information call x4652.

The **Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet** will be performing at Beckman Auditorium, on Sunday, February 9th, at 3:30pm. This Coleman Chamber Concert features Schuller's Jazz Suite, Barber's Summer Music, Ligeti's Six Bagatelles, Quintets by Carter and Villa-Lobos, and Dedaglia's Brasilien Suite. Prices for Caltech/JPL faculty and staff are \$19.50, \$16.00, \$12.50, \$9.00 for advanced purchases. Beginning February 3rd there will be 50 free

tickets available for Caltech students at the Caltech Ticket Office. For more information call x4652.

☞ On February 21st, 1997, **Dr. Ned Block** Professor of Philosophy and Psychology New York University will give the lecture **Race and Genes: The Fallacy on Both Sides**. The lecture is in Baxter Lecture Hall at 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the seminar. For more information, call x4087.

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 dndenning@cco.caltech.edu.

Salsa classes with Richard Orozco of Let's Dance LA continue during February 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 796-1098 or showman@earthlink.gps.caltech.edu.

☞ The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club will offer free beginner **Waltz lessons** in Winnett Lounge 8-9:30 Wednesday evenings, Feb 5th, Feb 12th, and Feb 26th. A Viennese Waltz crash course will follow. Check out the club's new web page: <http://www.caltech.edu/ballroom>.

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? 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—

Mints

☞ denotes a new announcement.

only that he or she is willing to be supportive in this setting. 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.

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**.

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 a 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 assist-

ance 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**.

The **American Society of Naval Engineers** is offering \$2,000 scholarships for academic year 1997-98 to students who are interested in naval engineering. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, must demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering, and must be applying for either their last year as an undergraduate or for one year of graduate study (doctoral candidates not eligible). The deadline to submit applications is **February 15th, 1997**.

The **American Chemical Society** is sponsoring a scholarship program for qualified applicants who want to enter the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, or other chemically related fields such as environmental science, materials science, or toxicology. To be eligible to apply, candidates must be African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, or Alaskan Native, and must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents. Applicants must also be full-time freshmen, sophomores, or juniors, majoring in one of the above fields, and must demonstrate financial need. The deadline to submit applications and supporting documents is **February 28th, 1997**.

The **Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** will be awarding several scholarships of \$500-\$1,000 to female college students who will be juniors or seniors as of September, 1997, and who have lived in the San Ramon Valley, or have attended school there. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus or community involvement. An application package can be obtained from Mary Ann Osborne, 2530 Roundhill Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Completed applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, **April 1st, 1997**.

The **John Gyles Education Fund** is offering financial assistance to students who are Canadian or U.S. Citizens. A minimum G.P.A. of 2.7 is required for eligibility. Criteria other than academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. To receive an application, send a stamped (U.S. \$.32), self-addressed, No. 10 envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: R. James Cogle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing applications in 1997 are **April 1st, June 15th, and November 15th, 1997**.

The **Chinese-American Educational Foundation** announces its scholarship program for students of Chinese descent. Eligible students are graduate students or undergraduates who are juniors or seniors, and who will be enrolled full-time in Fall of 1997. Eligible students must also be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents. There are two \$1500 scholarships available for graduate students and seven \$1000 scholarships available for undergraduate students. The deadline to submit applications is **March 31st, 1997**.

☞ The **ACIL (formerly the American Council of Independent Laboratories) Scholarship Alliance** is offering scholarships for students majoring in the physical sciences: physics, chemistry, engineering, geology, biology, or environmental science. Awards are based on academic performance, career goals, leadership, and financial need, and are typically \$1,000-\$2,000. To apply you must be a junior or senior in undergraduate study, or a graduate student. Applications and all supporting documents are due **April 15th, 1997**.

☞ The **Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO)** is pleased to present an opportunity for students to apply for three \$1,000 scholarships and three \$200 runner-up awards. Applications and supporting documents are due **May 15th, 1997**.

Rag Time on Green
RESALE CLOTHING
for WOMEN
1136 E. Green St. • Pasadena
(818) 796-9924
Wed 10-6 • Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 10-5 • Sat 10-3

ACADEMY BARBER SHOP
27 N. Catalina Ave., Pasadena
Open Tues.-Sat., 7 A.M.-4 P.M.
(818) 449-1681

GOLDEN GLOBE PARIAN TRAVEL
Caltech Officially Approved
Most professional, courteous, economical and efficient service for your **official** and **personal** travel needs.
Free service to you. We deliver.
Airlines, Cruises, Tours, Hotels, Car Rentals.
Individual, Commercial, Groups.
(818) 577-8200
468 S Sierra Madre Blvd • Pasadena

OCEAN CORAL Restaurant
★★ Award Winner ★★

Mandarin Cuisine & Seafood
Cocktail Lounge
Lunch Specials \$4⁷⁵ 11:30-3 p.m.
Early Bird Specials \$6⁵⁰ 3-7 p.m.
Classic Dinners 3-10 p.m.
Food To Go Welcome
OPEN 7 DAYS
Tel: 449-8018
2475 E. Colorado • Pasadena
between Sierra Madre Blvd. & Altadena Dr.
Free Parking in Rear

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, California 91125

LAEMMLE THEATRES

ESQUIRE 2670 E. Colorado Blvd. (818) 793-6149 Winner—N.Y. Film Critics Circle	COLORADO 2588 E. Colorado Blvd. (818) 796-9704 Kenneth Branagh's
Breaking the Waves Daily 5:00, 8:30 p.m. Sat-Sun Bargain Matinee 1:00 p.m.	HAMLET Daily 1:30, 7:00 p.m. (No passes or discount tickets)