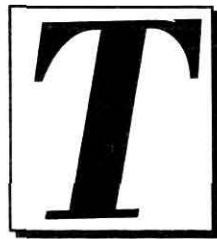




Tech Editors take a swing at Mason Porter. Death to baseball.

see page 6



The Big T is here! But not in the Tech Office!

see page 5

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 22

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998

April Fools: egg drop Lee Reavis: Resignation update

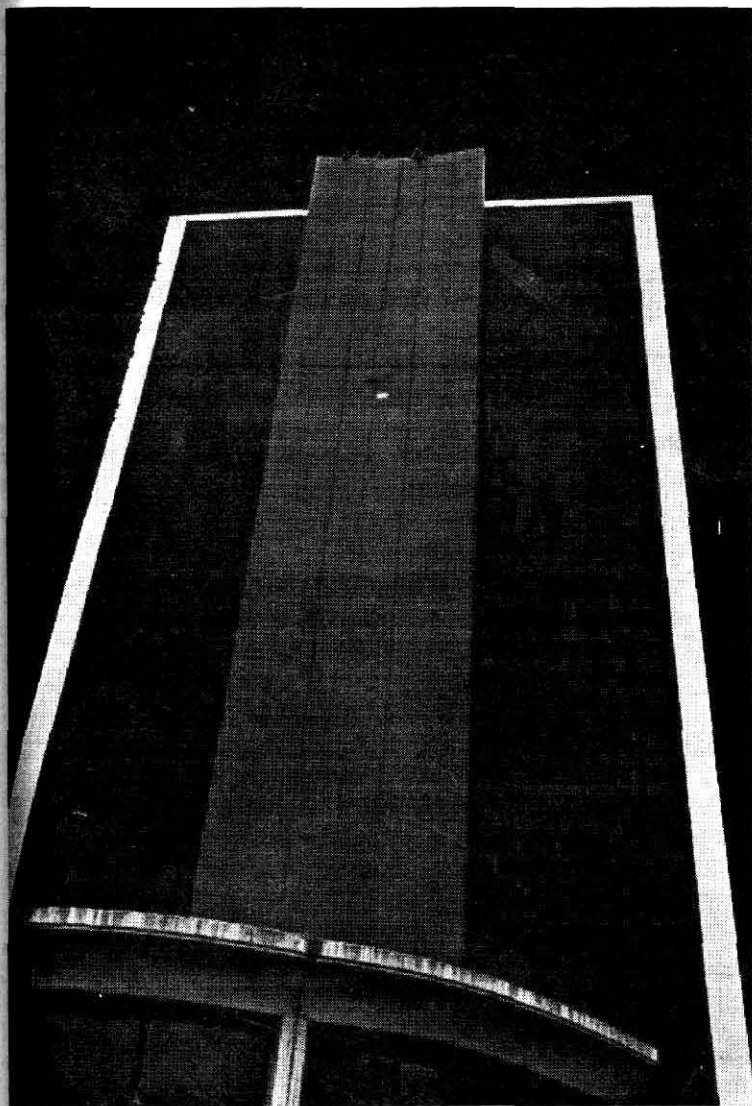


PHOTO BY TECH ARCHIVES

This april fools day ASCIT social event was no joke. From the west side of Millikan, students gathered for free candy.

ASCIT office moves, SAC congestion problems

BY SHANNON STEWMAN

Over Spring Break the ASCIT office moved from SAC room 64 to room 33. The move was done to give ASCIT a larger office, and make room for an office for Gina Armas, SAC Coordinator.

Alternatives to room 33 were room 25, and the soon-to-be vacant International Programs office.

The move has been anticipated since last term by both ASCIT and Armas. Unfortunately students using the room for gaming were dislocated to room 34, currently used Tuesday and Thursday nights by Physics 1c (practical) TA's.

Though none of the gamers have said anything, Armas has offered space at night to the dislocated gaming groups in the old Big T office, which is used in the daytime

by the Career Development Center (CDC).

Also dislocated were two of SPECTRE, the science fiction club's, bookcases. With SPECTRE's acquisition of roughly 3,000 books, the bookcases are sorely needed.

They were later found in SAC storage, room 50. Jim Panetta, of SPECTRE, commented "There was obviously a communication breakdown at some point—where is debatable." He added, "We're just happy that we know where

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ON PAGE 2

The Dean has been receiving comments on whether or not Frosh should be graded in the third term. Please keep the comments coming, because there are several committees paying attention to this topic. However it needs to be clear that any changes that might result will not affect this year's third term. To repeat, this year's frosh are on grades third term.

This information was provided by Lee Reavis. Caltech administrators are prohibited by California law from commenting on the matter, as it involves employee records.

On Thursday, March 12, Lee Reavis resigned his position as head of Caltech Food Services. Apparently, an unidentified individual filed a complaint that illegal aliens were working in food services and that Reavis both had knowledge of their immigration status and helped them to procure false documenta-

PLEASE SEE LEE ON PAGE 4

AVERY LOTTERY CHANGES

BY JAIDEEP SINGH

Spring Lottery are the room picks that determines who lives in Avery, Marks, 150 South Chester, and 1170 Del Mar. These places are considered Institute affiliated off-campus housing. Some Houses have special House affiliated off-campus housing. These spots as well as on-campus housing are dealt with by the Houses during their respective House roompicks.

In the past Houses would hold their roompick first. Anyone that did not get a room or did not choose to select a room in those picks entered into the off-campus roompicks. This roompick was held after the House roompicks. This procedure needed to be changed to accomodate for Avery.

This year the idea is to give people who have decided for sure that they want to live in Avery a better chance to pick into Avery. By now, everyone should have gotten a pink lottery card in the mail titled "Caltech Residence Life Office 1998-1999 Lottery Participation Card." Along with the card, there is a pamphlet with information about the Spring Lottery. On the lottery card, there are two deadlines and two checkboxes.

PLEASE SEE LOTTERY ON PAGE 2



PHOTO FROM TECH ARCHIVES

Lee waves goodbye

Award Winning Techers

CALTECH

Two Caltech under-graduates were honored at the end of last term. Kerwyn Huang 'has been named a Churchill Scholar and Jeanne Wilson has been named a Watson Scholar.

Kerwyn "Casey" Huang '98 has just been selected from a highly competitive national pool as one of 10 Churchill Scholars. He will spent the 1998/99 academic year at Cambridge University where he will earn an M.Phil. in Physics. Casey is a Physics/Math major at Caltech and a member of Page House.

Jeanne Wilson '98 has been chosen as one of 60 Watson Schol-

ars from a finalist pool of 193 nominees, one of the largest pool of nominees the Watson has had.

Starting in September, Jeanne will be traveling to England, South Africa, and Australia

to study botanic gardens. She will be abroad for almost a year doing her independent study and travel. The title of Jeanne's project is "Conservation Strategies in World Botanic Gardens."

The Churchill Scholarships are funded by the Winston Churchill

Foundation and provide ten awards to outstanding U.S. citizens for one

PLEASE SEE AWARDS ON PAGE 2

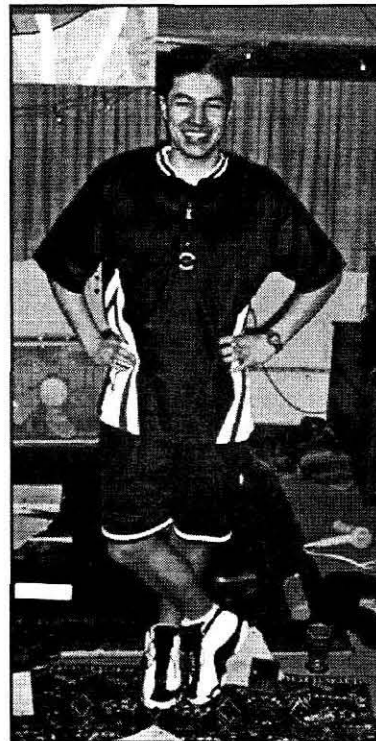


PHOTO FROM CASEY HUANG

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ASCIT

AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

[the bookcases] are and can get [them] back when we want to."

The space crunch in the SAC results from competition for rooms by student clubs, student services, and the CDC. The move of the CDC to Keck House in the next year will cure most of these space problems, and give the CDC a permanent base on campus.

With the move of the CDC and its fellowship offices, ASCIT hopes to move into its permanent spot, in one of rooms 25, 25A, 26, 26A.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year of graduate study in Engineering, Mathematics, or Science leading to a graduate degree at Cambridge University. Casey will be a member of the 36th annual class of Churchill Scholars. He will live in Churchill College, the prestigious science/engineering college of Cambridge University.

Jeanne is a member of Blacker House and is a biology major who has held an internship at the Huntington Gardens and done research with Prof. Elliot Meyerowitz on plant genetics.

AVERY LOTTERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The card has the following on it:

____ I wish to be assigned an Avery Lottery number and will participate in this early lottery process. Please return this card to the Residence Life Office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 1998, in order to participate in the Avery Lottery.

____ I wish to be assigned a regular Off Campus Lottery number. Please return this card to the Residence Life Office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 1998, in order to participate in the Off Campus lottery and be guaranteed housing.

If you know that you want to live in Avery, then you should check the first box and return the card by April 8. If you do this, you will receive an Avery Lottery Number. There are some things that you should keep in mind. First, you are under NO OBLIGATION to pick a room in the Avery roompick. Second, you will enter the Avery roompick not knowing your Off-Campus Lottery Number. Also some people will not know exactly where they stand in in their House roompick. Historically this has been an issue for freshmen becoming sophomores. If you pick a room in the Avery roompick, then you will sign a contract on the spot, meaning you are now obligated to live there next year. If you don't pick a room in the Avery roompick, then you will automatically be assigned an Off-Campus Lottery Number.

If you know for sure that you do not want to live in Avery, then you should check the second box and return the card by

the 23rd of April. (Note that this applies to those who are interested in an Off-Campus spot). You will then be assigned an Off-Campus Lottery Number.

At this point, after the Avery roompick and before the Off-Campus roompick, the House roompicks will be held. Then, towards the end of the term, there will be an Off-Campus roompick. The rooms available in the Off-Campus roompick will be Marks, 150 South Chester, 1170 Del Mar, and any spots left over from the Avery roompick. The people eligible for this roompick are ones who did not pick a room in Avery and those who did not pick a room in their House roompicks. These people, however, must have returned their card to the Residence Life Office by the 23rd of April to be involved with this roompick.

If you return the card, regardless of which box you checked, you are under no obligation whatsoever. Once you pick a room in any roompick (Avery, House, or Off-Campus), then you are obligated to sign a contract for that room and are expected not to pick a room in any other roompick. By picking a room, I do not mean getting a lottery number or entering a roompick. I mean actually selecting a room. You can enter into as many roompicks as you are eligible for, however, you can only pick one room.

I hope this makes things a little clearer. I strongly encourage every one to read the literature that is sent to them regarding the Spring Lottery and to respond to the deadlines on time. If you have any questions, please contact the Residence Life Office in Steele House (x6194).

OMBUDS TRAINING/ANSWER SESSION

Avery Library
Thursday, April 9th
12:15-12:45 pm
Bring your lunch

Tips: how to approach professors how to gain peer opinions
Discussion: How to be a more effective Ombuds What are appropriate channels for action What is being done with the campus wide class surveys Talk to Helen Hasenfeld, the Caltech Ombudsperson

Please bring your questions! For further information e-mail devi@cco.

Big T's Arrive!

It was a long winter. A sad, sad time of the year. With the end of the wispy days of autumn, the clemency of the weather disappeared in the fury of the cold November rain, and later the frighteningly sudden gush of rain in December. It was time for a change.

With the longing for an end to first term at a close, and the trepidation of a lengthy, possibly boring winter break, far from home, surrounded by no one but the Caltech ghosts. Not the usual sort, but the distant memories evoked through the halls: sixty five years of undergraduate excellence, tradition, and change.

Two lonely adventurers, in perhaps a fashion best not likened to that of Fractured Fairy Tales, but reminiscent of the Way-Back Machine, trod the halls of the great cavern we proclaim our SAC to finish a job long overdue. "The Big T," they said, "the Big T must be finished, for I, at least, want my copy!"

Long into the hazy days of second term, as spring approaches, with fresh hope, and other, personal undergraduate frustrations, the upperclassmen wait. Some with annoyance, some with hope, and perhaps some with a few tears. But wait! We have fresh news! The yearbooks are here!

Actual info here!

Meaningless poetry

They will be available to people who were registered for all three terms last year. If you flamed third term last year, yes, you will get a book. You may pick them up in SAC 25A (by the Fleming stairs, the interviewing lounge). They're available Thursday evening from eleven to midnight, Friday evening from ten to midnight, Saturday evening from eight to midnight, and Sunday from noon to ten in the evening. That's this April 2-5. Wren Montgomery is the main contact for the goods.

Anyone unable to make these times should mail her at wrenmont@ugcs. She accepts cream soda as a bribe, and will admit to being easily bullied. And don't take the comments about her social life versus yours personally.

People only registered one or two terms shouldn't weep over their loss, for after three this Sunday, and not before, Wren will start dispensing yearbooks to people here for only one or two term, on a first come-first served basis. Reservations for these yearbooks will be accepted earlier on Sunday, in person. Leave your name and email address.

Wren asks for your help to locate people who have since flamed, transferred, or are on leave, but deserve a yearbook. If you know anyone like this, please tell her their name, number of terms, and address, if you know it.

Important dates to remember:

April 8 - Deadline to turn in Lottery Card 5 p.m. with the first box checked off for the Avery roompick

April 10 - Avery Lottery numbers and charts 1 p.m. posted showing rooms available in the lottery.

April 22 - Avery Lottery, Residence Life 1:15 p.m. Office; Contracts Due for Avery

April 23 - Deadline to turn in Lottery Card 5 p.m. with the second box checked off for the Off-Campus roompick LATE CARDS WILL BE HELD UNTIL AFTER THE LOTTERY PROCESS.

April 27 - Post lottery numbers for Off-Campus Lottery

May 11 - House room pick lists due to 1 p.m. Residence Life Office

May 15 - Off-Campus Lottery, Residence 1:15 p.m. Life Office; Contracts Due (will continue until all singles are gone)

May 18 - Off-Campus Lottery, Residence 1:15 p.m. Life Office; Contracts Due (will continue until all spaces are gone)

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Clubwatch!

Caltech Anime Society
is holding weekly showings of Japanese animation for the Caltech Community on Friday and Saturday nights starting at 1900 in SAC 13. Everyone is welcome. The showing schedule can be found at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~anime/>

Caltech Club Soccer
the soccer season is coming to a close soon. However, the group intends to play friendlies and 5-a-side tournaments over the summer. They will continue to practice Monday and Wednesday nights on the south field from 6-7:30.

Caltech Qigong Club
is offering classes and practices in the art of Qigong, a number of Chinese physical and mental training methods. Introduction sessions for new comers are offered monthly. /Contact Chao-ping Hsu, cphsu@cco, x6085 or Luis Goncalves, luis@vision, x4880 or email cqc@cco. <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~cqc/>

Caltech Society of Women Engineers
is currently reestablishing its national charter. The club is always attending job fairs and conventions when possible. Slated for the near future are a corporate speaker pizza night, the annual student-faculty networking dinner, and an outreach to local Girl Scout groups.

S.P.E.C.T.R.E.
The librarians have finished processing the generous donation of three thousand volumes of science fiction/fantasy. The books were donated by Mrs. Christine Larrabee of Long Beach, California. The paperback portion of the donation will finally be available for checkout, Monday, April 13, 1998.

Taiwanese Graduate Student Association
is fresh off a slew of Chinese New Year parties with other Caltech clubs and neighboring schools. They are now looking forward to Internation Day on the 17th of April and the Farewell party to the graduates in June. A game party of VERY-MAN-AND-WOMAN with other schools' Taiwanese clubs is tentatively planned for July.

If your club did not make it into this week's club watch and you would like to update the campus on the news, please email us at editors@tech with a brief paragraph or two explaining what is currently going on.

A Toast to TA's

Have you thanked your Teaching Assistant lately? Have you used the Internet recently and remembered that it was developed, in large part, by graduate student researchers?

Been to the hospital and recognized that you benefit from the largely unpaid efforts of medical students working, and learning, there every day? Visited a museum or gallery and noticed how much of that which you enjoy was produced by those studying art at the time?

April 5 to 12, 1998, is national Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSA Week), a celebration sponsored by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) and designed to help the nation recognize the contributions of graduate & professional students to universities, the government and our communities.

With more than 2 million people studying for post-baccalaureate degrees in this nation, you wouldn't think that a whole week would be needed to recognize the contributions of these individuals. Not so, says Anthony Rosati, NAGPS Board Secretary and co-

founder of the GPSA Week concept.

"Grad students often work behind the scenes, as assistants to professors or researchers, quietly doing much of the work on some of our country's greatest achievements. Whether it be medical or defense research, teaching up to 40% of the undergraduate courses on many campuses, proctoring and grading exams, or simply studying for the joy of education, graduate/professional students are the unsung heroes of our nation's academic institutions. Without them, tuition would be higher, research wouldn't be as successful, our society wouldn't solve as many problems, and our lives wouldn't be as rich."

Dozens of campuses will honor graduate students with special awards ceremonies, research competitions, workshops, speakers, and rallies. A listing of events is being collected by NAGPS and is available on its website at www.nagps.org/NAGPS/. Gubernatorial proclamations are also listed on this web site. For more information, contact NAGPS toll free at 1-888-88-NAGPS, or through e-mail at nagps@netcom.com.

Prefrosh Weekend Rules

I. Preamble

The intent of these rules is not to provide a complete set of guidelines (as is done for rotation) for prefrosh weekend, but rather to outline some general rules and attitudes that are appropriate for interactions with prospective students. The majority of that interaction occurring during their four day period when the admissions office encourages all prospective students to visit the campus. During the time before a student decides to attend Caltech, he or she is primarily evaluating the school as a whole. Although this evaluation may include details about the houses and variations among them, prefrosh weekend should not be viewed as an opportunity to begin recruiting new members into an individual house.

II. Regulations

1. These rules are in effect for any contact with a student that has been accepted by Caltech until the deadline for acceptance, after which rotation rules apply. These rules more specifically apply to the four day period when all prospective students are invited, by the admissions office, to visit the campus. 2. Throughout these rules the term "House" refers to both the organization as a whole and any of its members. 3. Houses are authorized to do the following

during prefrosh weekend: a. have receptions and refreshments when prospective students arrive b. have planned social events anywhere available with the consent of the Admissions Office and the approval of the IHC c. serve refreshments at events without the restrictions of a small gratuity d. fairly bias a student toward Caltech 5. Houses are prohibited from doing the following during prefrosh weekend: a. having any public events without the approval of the IHC b. releasing any publication without the approval of the IHC c. spending money on an individual, prospective student, providing goods or services on credit or for no charge d. providing information about future or past picks e. serving alcohol to prospective students f. otherwise unfairly biasing a student toward an individual House 7. Houses are encouraged to: a. plan social events that involve some interaction between the houses b. seek help for such events from campus wide sponsors such as ASCIT, the Caltech Y, or other similar organization 8. The Houses may also do anything that the IHC approves in advance of the act. III. Penalties The penalty for violation of these rules are the same as those outlined in the rotation rules, section IV. (on the top of page 286 of this year's little T)

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

BRASILIA, BRAZIL - Rain has put out 95% of the forest fires which threatened significant portions of the savannah and jungles of the northern Amazon. Although there is still a risk of new outbreaks, Evaristo de Miranda, a Brazilian environmental researcher said, "We're out of the crisis phase."

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL - Israel accepted a 20-year old United Nations resolution Wednesday to withdraw from Lebanese territory, but only on condition that Lebanon take control of the territory and prevent use of the region for attacks on Israel. Lebanon argued that the United Nations resolution called for unconditional withdrawal.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Carol Bellamy of Unicef spoke for the United Nations in warning Afghanistan that it may lose aid unless harassment of international officials stops and women are granted more rights. The United Nations contributes the only significant aid which Afghanistan receives.

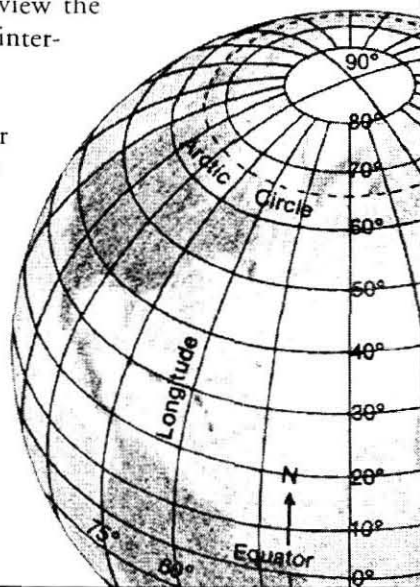
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - Thousands of Indonesians fleeing the economic crisis in their country have entered Malaysia as illegal immigrants. Malaysia is relocating them to detention camps and deporting them at a similar rate. Twelve Indonesian immigrants broke into the United Nations compound complaining of a breach of human rights after escaping from one such detention camp.

PHNOM, PENH, CAMBODIA - Hundreds of Prince Norodom Ranariddh's supporters clashed with supporters of the current Prime Minister Hun Sen while riot police attempted separate them. Hun Sen scheduled an election for July in an attempt to legitimize his power after ousting Prince Ranariddh, his co-Prime Minister, nine months ago.

SAHARA, EGYPT - Researchers have uncovered a complex of stones in southern Egypt which may be the oldest monument created with astronomical considerations. Parts of the complex are as much as 7000 years old and include a "calendar circle" which would give a rough approximation of the summer solstice.

UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council has placed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia to make President Slobodan Milosevic negotiate with ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. This is largely symbolic as both the Yugoslav Government and Albanian militants are well-armed. Despite international concern about violence in the Balkans, the delegates of China and Russia stated they do not view the unrest in Kosovo a threat to international security.

LOS ANGELES - Statistics for the first freshman class since Proposition 209 was approved show that the percentage of minority students at Berkeley and UCLA will be half that of previous years. Proposition 209 bans consideration of race, ethnicity, or sex, thus banning affirmative action which had been used throughout the UC system to diversify campuses.



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From the Editors' Desk

On Wednesday, I heard the words that make journalists wake up nights screaming about going into obscure branches of abstract math: "You can't print that." This was before I even knew what it was that I couldn't print. Unfortunately, this being a school of science and engineering, the person making this statement obviously was ignorant of a rather obscure government statute. For convenience, I shall quote it: "Congress shall make no law...abridging freedom of speech, or of the press." Obviously, this is a bit outmoded,

and does not begin to summarize the state and local laws regarding suitable material for print media. However, newspapers still retain the duty to report events and information which are pertinent and necessary elements of public knowledge. The legislation quoted, commonly known as The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, embodies the spirit of freedom which makes executing this duty possible.

As an editor of the California Tech, I was elected, along

with the rest of the editorial team, to provide the Caltech community with information vital to its survival. One of the unique, special things about this school is the potential for true community: a social group bound by common interests and concerns, rather than just proximity. Note the elements of common interests and concerns: both arise from knowledge of the joy and pain, triumph and defeat, of the whole community. Individuals come to Caltech because of an interest in pursuing science and engineering. Members of the community are born when they realize that having a stake in the collective life of people at Caltech benefits everyone. That means accepting the school for what it is, deciding whether that state is most appropriate, and assuming an active role in its improvement. Information is vital to this transformation.

Obviously, academic pursuits are the focus of Caltech life. This supreme intellectual dominance necessitates a conve-

nient, accessible, accurate source of information. Independent journalism remains the best venue for procuring and presenting this information. This ensures that information, both positive and negative, which is relevant to members of the community is made widely available in a form that is factual, accurate, and unbiased. When individuals state, "You cannot print that," I am obligated to reply, "No, I must print that," with the condition that it is relevant and necessary for the community to know.

In my short experience, the administration, and often stu-

dents as well, tend to overpolish Caltech's "Ivory Tower." Certainly there are infinite positive elements to extol. However, we must be even more rigorous about excising the blotches and stains. Without examining our negatives, it is impossible to improve. Especially when events affect a broad segment of the community, they must be brought forth so that everyone may evaluate the consequences

and work toward betterment. This sort of open dialogue is not facilitated by closed mouths and closed doors. Part of the purpose of a newspaper is to investigate events. Only after this investigation can the right of the community to know and the rights of involved individuals to privacy be ascertained.

When I decided to become involved with the Tech, I committed to journalism, not cheerleading. The difficult, controversial stories which are vital to the integrity of the community will be printed. Those who truly value this community will ensure that information is available to make these issues fair, accurate and coherent. Anything less would be irresponsible.

Eric

Lee:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion. Based on this information, on Wednesday the 11th, Reavis was given one day to resign or face termination. Reavis denies having any knowledge of employee immigration status. He did, however, realize that Caltech was very strict with illegal aliens, and during the transition of Total Food Management to Caltech advised all employees to either get their papers in order or remain with TFM. However, while he submitted a list of TFM employees to be hired by Caltech, he was not responsible for hiring under either organization. Currently, Reavis is attempting to regain his position.

- eds

YESS '98

Positions for the Young Engineering and Science Scholars (YESS) Program are available for Summer '98:

- 2 head counselors
- 6 program counselors
- 3 lab assistants/resource persons

YESS is a five-week residential program that exposes 40 high school students to the joys of intensive scientific investigation. The program runs from June 28th to July 31st.

There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, April 9th at 5 pm in the CAPSI Office (287 S. Hill). All students interested in applying should plan on attending this meeting. Dinner will be served.

Contact Athena at x3180 or email castroa@caltech.edu for more information.

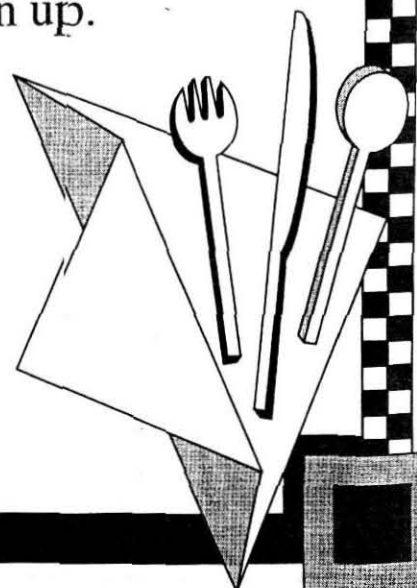
ATTN: Seniors

Dinner with the MOSH

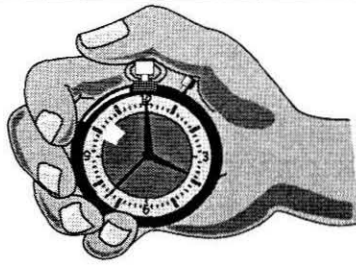
If you have never been to Dinner with the MOSH at Steele House and would like to go before you graduate, sign up ASAP in the office. If you have been to a dinner with the MOSH and would like to go one last time, you too can sign up.

Email (reslife@cco), call us(x6194), or walk on by to reserve your spot.

The dinners will be held Tuesday, April 14 & 21.



Excomm Minutes



The ExComm meets once again to resolve an election protest. It seems that during the recent election for VP/BOC chair, the ballots disappeared from Page House sometime before 11 a.m. Only 1 vote was cast in the Page House box.

At 11:14 p.m. the meeting is called to order with Myfanwy, Brandon, Baldeep, and Joe present. Joe thinks that Page was unfairly disrupted from voting, and should be given the same opportunity as everyone else. Myfanwy agrees. Baldeep argues that Page was no more disadvantaged than any off-campus alley. Page members could have (and possibly did) voted in another house.

Brandon notes that ASCIT did everything in its power to run a smooth election. He also mentions that

since the incident happened so early in the day, it could have easily been remedied. If anyone in Page had cared enough, they could have contacted the election chair for more ballots, or even taken a few from another house. The bylaws do not require ASCIT to provide ballots anyway.

An initial vote is taken and ties 2-2. After some convincing, Myfanwy changes her vote, but notes that stealing ballots is certainly an honor code violation, though it may not have been reason enough in this case to uphold the protest.

Final vote: 3-1 to dismiss the protest
Meeting adjourns 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandon VandeBrake



Hello,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is David Tytell and I am the IHC Food Committee Chairman. The purpose of this committee is to act as a liason between the students and Caltech Dining Services (CDS). It consists of the houses' food reps, Tom Mannion, Andre Mallie, and other staff members of CDS. The issues brought before the committee include off board requests, new menu ideas, changes to the existing menu, and most Caltech food concerns.

As chairman, I felt that it was necessary to have more student involvement and input in our board program. This column will discuss food concerns and

questions. Specifically, **if you have any question about CDS, the board program, or food at Caltech in general, please ask me.** I will address one or two questions every week.

Please send all questions by e-mail to tytell@cco.

Till next time,

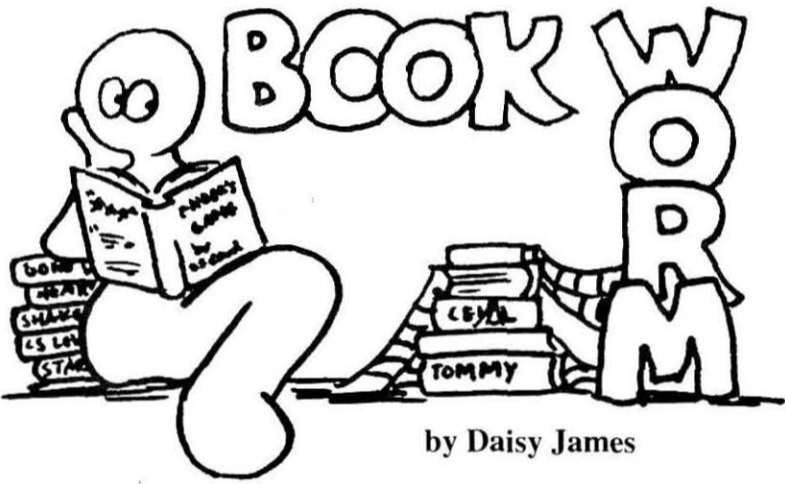
Dave

Food Committee meetings are in SAC 33 at 4:00 on Wednesdays. Come on by if you have any concerns! Food committee minutes may be obtained by e-mailing tytell@cco with your request.

FOOD

WITH
by Dave Tytell

FOOD



by Daisy James

In search of terrible, horrible, no good, very bad books

It's a lot more fun to write the reviews of the bad books than the good ones. There's so much more to say.

You can't just catalogue every aspect of the writing and extol the virtues of the author without having your readers slipping into comas. You need faults to make it interesting; vicious jabs to add spice to dull sweetness. If you ever want to be convinced of this, read the reviews of just about any bestseller on amazon.com.

Reams of stuff that advertisers would be embarrassed to use as copy seem to pour out of people who can barely spell and seem to have no clear idea of what the punctuation mark keys on their keyboards are for.

Besides, there's really nothing like finding all sorts of wonderfully awful things to say about people who can never get back at you and probably don't even know that you said it. Which brings me to my point, sort of. I've noticed that other columnists can get easy columns by asking people to tell them what ad, song, etc. they hate the most, so I'm going to try it too. Namely, I want to

know what is the worst book you have ever read, voluntarily or not. After some consideration I have decided that there should be two categories; Worst Book: Literature and Worst Book: Trash.

My pick for the second category is a book that I never man-

I stopped reading after 200 pages because I had yet to encounter a coherent plot.

aged to finish because it was so bad. *Message From 'Nam* by Danielle Steel does not, in my opinion even count as a book. I stopped reading after 200 pages because I had yet to encounter a coherent plot. As far as I could tell, the only point being made was, the Baby Boomers were the most important people ever. Everything that they did or happened to them was fraught with significance. It's boring as hell.

In the first category my mind is divided between *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner and *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy. At this point I should

probably add the disclaimer that I know these are great books and authors and that hundreds of people have written their doctoral dissertations on how significant they are. Be that as it may, I hated reading them. This is the main qualification for this category; that the book in question be one generally considered 'great' but you, personally could not stand it. For the former of my choices I have only two things to say:

- One chapter consists entirely of the sentence *My mother is a fish* and
- by that point it makes sense.

Jude was at least more coherent but the way Hardy piles misery upon indignity upon injustice upon more misery is enough to turn your stomach and no incentive to turn the page. These are just a few of the truly awful books in the world, and I am not convinced that they are the worst ever just because they are the ones I happen to have read.

Please e-mail the names of even worse books to me at marjorie@cco and I will announce the winner in a couple of weeks. Be as vicious as you can, I await your input with breathless anticipation.

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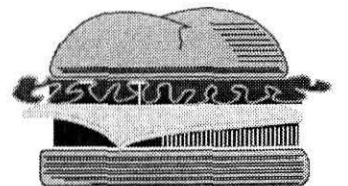
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It takes two to tango... or play volleyball

BY SCOTT VAN ESSEN

What if they threw a war and no one showed up? The Caltech Men's club volleyball team scored a disappointing forfeit victory over Mt. San Antonio College, who failed to make an appearance at the Saturday, March 14 game. It would seem that there is indeed a downside to having such an impressive, intimidating 10-0 record. Yes, just imagine how terrified opposing teams must be looking at the Beavers' undefeated record.

If you're looking to get pepped up for third term, be sure to see the team play Claremont-McKenna College at Claremont McKenna tonight at 7:30 p.m., or check out the next home game, vs Occidental April 18 at 3 p.m. in Brown gym. The record of past matches and the schedule of upcoming events can be found on the Caltech Men's Volleyball Club web page at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~vball/VB.home.html>

Hope Springs Eternal in New Baseball Season

BY MASON A. PORTER

The 1998 Major League Baseball season began on Tuesday. At this stage of the year, every team (even the Cubs!) still has a chance to go all the way and win the World Series. The offseason brought a flurry of activity, as the structure of the game again experienced drastic changes. The National League grew to 16 teams; the expansion Arizona Diamondbacks were added to the NL West, and the Milwaukee Brewers switched over from the American League to create a six-team Central Division. In the AL, The Tigers moved from the East to the Central Division, and were replaced in the East by the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays. See the accompanying article for a prediction of how the season will turn out.

Baseball's salary structure was again jolted. Pedro Martinez was traded from the

Expos to the Red Sox and received a six year, \$75 million contract. Other contracts also neared that price range. That, however, is just the beginning of another huge wave of increases in player salaries. Dodger catcher Mike Piazza may become the first \$100 million dollar player.

Several teams experienced some change as well. Arizona and Tampa Bay received new franchises, and Peter O' Malley sold the Dodgers for \$311 million. Expect new Dodger owner Rupert Murdoch to spend lavishly to improve the team. The sale of the Rangers

(for a projected \$250 million) and Blue Jays both await approval, and more team transactions may be in the works.

Baseball spent another offseason without a commissioner. A recommendation was supposed to be made at the march owners' meeting, but such an announcement was delayed until June. Do not expect Bud Selig to step down from his perch as interim commissioner any time soon. Indeed, he has the longest tenure of any "commissioner" since Bowie Kuhn.

The game of baseball experienced changes on a more individual level as well. Roger McDowell, Greg Gagne, Todd Worrell, Bret Butler, and Chris Bosio were among the players who retired. Dennis Martinez came out of retirement to earn a spot on Atlanta's opening day roster, and Lee Smith is still out there somewhere wanting to pitch. He refused a minor league assignment by the Royals and is attempting to hook on elsewhere. On a sadder note, baseball experienced a deep loss when longtime Cub announcer Harry Carey passed away.

This season should prove to be an exciting one. Though wild cards, interleague play, and a diluted talent pool taint baseball's sacred pasture, the game is always above such trivialities. The crack of the bat will be heard for another six months. Hope springs eternal: another season of baseball has finally arrived!

Dodger catcher Mike Piazza may become the first \$100 million dollar player.

Mason Porter's 1998 Baseball Forecast



Title Winners

- NL East—Atlanta
- NL Central—St. Louis
- NL West—Los Angeles
- NL Wild Card—San Diego
- AL East—New York
- AL Central—Cleveland
- AL West—Seattle
- AL Wild Card—Baltimore

AL Champion
New York

NL Champion
Atlanta

World Series Champion
Atlanta

Standings

- NL East**
- Atlanta Braves
 - New York Mets
 - Florida Marlins
 - Montreal Expos
 - Philadelphia Phillies

- NL Central**
- St. Louis Cardinals
 - Houston Astros
 - Chicago Cubs
 - Milwaukee Brewers
 - Pittsburgh Pirates
 - Cincinnati Reds

- NL West**
- Los Angeles Dodgers
 - San Diego Padres
 - Colorado Rockies
 - San Francisco Giants
 - Arizona Diamondbacks

- AL East**
- New York Yankees
 - Baltimore Orioles
 - Toronto Blue Jays
 - Boston Red Sox
 - Tampa Bay Devil Rays

- AL Central**
- Cleveland Indians
 - Chicago White Sox
 - Minnesota Twins
 - Detroit Tigers
 - Kansas City Royals

- AL West**
- Seattle Mariners
 - Anaheim Angels
 - Texas Rangers
 - Oakland Athletics

More Predictions

Teams on the Rise
NL - San Diego Padres
AL - Minnesota Twins

Teams on the Slide
NL - Florida Marlins
AL - Chicago White Sox

NL Manager of the Year
Bobby Valentine, New York

AL Manager of the Year
Lou Piniella, Seattle

First Manager Fired
NL - Jim Riggleman, Chicago
AL - Johnny Oates, Texas

NL MVP
Mike Piazza, Los Angeles
AL MVP
Chuck Knoblauch, New York

NL Cy Young Award
Greg Maddux, Atlanta

AL Cy Young Award
Pedro Martinez, Boston

NL Rookie of the Year
Travis Lee, Arizona

AL Rookie of the Year
Ben Grieve, Oakland

NL Rookie Pitcher of the Year
Carl Pavano, Montreal

AL Rookie Pitcher of the Year
Brian Rose, Boston

NL Comeback Player
Ron Gant, St. Louis

AL Comeback Player
Kevin Mitchell, Oakland

NL Comeback Pitcher
Kevin Ritz, Colorado

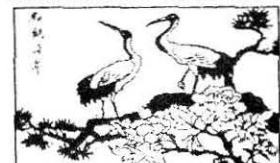
AL Comeback Pitcher
Jack McDowell, Anaheim

NL's Next Superstar
Jose Guillen, Pittsburgh

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Darin Erstad, Anaheim

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Caltech tennis team seeks victory (and love) in Hawaii

BY BRIAN WATKINS

Early last Monday morning, the athletic juggernaut that is the Caltech men's tennis team boarded a flight to Hawaii, ready to obliterate all competition en route to proving to the world that Tech is a tennis force to be reckoned with. Leading the team were fearless senior co-captains Ronak Bhatt and Jason Jenkins. Sophomore Matt "Play that Funky" Musick and junior Jeff "Shoot to Thrill" Custer were ready to lend their veteran skills to the cause. Explosive freshmen Eric "Bryce Drew" Sherer and Brian Watkins eagerly awaited their chance to prove themselves.

Rounding out the lineup was Stefan "the Bulgarian Wonder" Kazachki, who had the dual burden of doing his share on the team, as well as picking up lots of Hawaiian girls to prove to the rest of us that all his talk about being a chick magnet was more than idle

babbling. In the end, Stefan's quest to entice the fairer sex paralleled the team's results rather closely: he didn't really score, but he had fun all the same.

After landing on Oahu and settling into our hotel on Waikiki beach, we had our first match on Tuesday against Chaminade. After splitting the singles 3-3, the doubles came down to the wire, with the unfortunate result of a 4-5 loss. We were close, but we couldn't close the deal.

Our first recreational activity was a foray to the ubiquitous International Marketplace to buy souvenirs and experience authentic Hawaiian culture. Stefan lost no time, quickly approaching a cute Asian girl working at a jewelry stand and engaging her in conversation. Twenty minutes later he appeared to be doing rather well, but then the girl's somewhat overprotective mother came by to bring her lunch, rapidly bring-

ing the conversation to an end. He was close, but he couldn't close the deal.

On Wednesday we took on BYU-Hawaii. We were rapidly steamrolled 7-0 by a merciless

"These loops indicate sexual imagination," he said silkily, as she leaned over him.

group of Mormon tennis studs. We were unphased and optimistic about the future.

At dinner that night, Stefan approached another attractive young woman eating at a nearby table. She did not seem adverse to his advances, but soon a large Hawaiian boyfriend arrived on the scene and expressed in no uncertain terms that Stefan

should return to his table. He was unphased and optimistic about the future.

Thursday's match was against Skagit Valley, a junior college from Washington state. We won a tough match, 5-4. They were only a junior college, so it wasn't exactly success in the relevant sense, but it was a moral victory.

We hit a nightclub in Waikiki, where Stefan offered to analyze the waitress's handwriting. "These loops indicate sexual imagination," he said silkily, as she leaned over him. "Close your eyes and imagine a flower," he was saying a few minutes later. "Where did you learn this stuff?" she asked breathily as she moved closer. He didn't really score, but the rest of us were impressed. It wasn't exactly success in the relevant sense, but it was a moral victory.

On Friday we played Ha-

waii Pacific, the best team in all of Hawaii. They let their top four players have the day off and still punished us 7-0. It would probably be fair to say that we were out of our league.

We ate dinner at Hooters, a favorite hangout of Stefan and Jason. Stefan wolfed down his food and walked over to hit on a waitress on the other side of the room who looked like she could have pretty much any guy she wanted on the islands. "She said she was always working," Stefan was soon telling us bitterly. It would probably be fair to say that he was out of his league.

Saturday saw us pitted against Hawaii-Hilo, another of the strongest teams on the islands. A quick 9-0 beating awaited us. We never really had a chance.

Feigning interest in buying lots of expensive merchandise, Stefan tried his luck with a pretty department store clerk. When he subtly turned the conversation from watches to his desire to have coffee with her, she said in broken English that she was married. He never really had a chance.

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5-Year	4/1,218	5/207	N/A	N/A	4/445	4/1,218
10-Year	5/612	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

** These top ratings are based on TIAA's exceptional financial strength, claims-paying ability and overall operating performance. † Based on assets under management. ‡ Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1997. Lipper, Analytical Services, Inc., Lipper/Dierker's Annual Data, 1997 (Quarterly). CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account are distributed by TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842 2776, extension 5509, for the CREF and TIAA Real Estate Account prospectuses. Read them carefully before you invest or send money.

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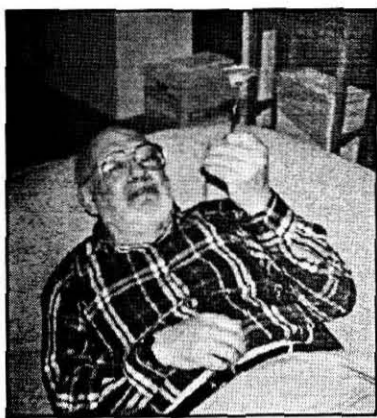
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Dean's Corner

*Spring has icumen in,
Lhude sing cuccu*

by Jean-Paul Revel

not be able to maintain our civilizations and our understanding of the world. Besides our parents and peers who show us how to behave, we also need teachers, whose specialized understanding of the world we use to build ours.

In fact, in many civilizations parents are held in great honor, but teachers are seen as Gods (say Confucius) or emissaries of God(s) (say Moses or Jesus Christ). They are mostly masters to be revered (Aristotle and all of the above for example) but if their ideas are threatening to the establishment, they can become feared and may even have to be eliminated (Socrates).

Ideally, of course, our teachers, wise and understanding in the model of the paragons just mentioned, know how to instruct us. That is the ideal, but it sometimes does not work that way. In our modern world, we have become less and less blindly accepting of our Professors, we have become more critical of not only what they teach, always a bone of discussion, but also how they teach.

Commenting about teaching effectiveness is often difficult to do, because it rarely is

I know, I know these verses are really about "sumer," not spring, but I love the poem and it evokes what spring feels like in this heaven we live in. The unknown author must have lived at the northern limit of the cuccu's range for the cuccus to start singing only in sumer! Here spring has arrived, the tulips are out and the narcissus has already lost its blooms, and if we had cuccus, they would indeed sing lhud. This year in particular, with El Nino boosting the greenery, spring is more spring-like than usual.

The last term of the school year, paradoxically the spring term, is about to begin. In this time of renewal, of fresh beginnings, I have been thinking about the difference between us Humans and Cuccus. In addition to the information passed on as DNA, which specifies the body structure of the next generation(s), and is a trait we share with cuccus, we also have to transmit to our followers whatever knowledge we have accumulated about the world.

Now bird song is also partially learned, but without extensive schooling, we would

to gather information about teaching skills, and there is also student based reporting on the quality of instruction. Superlative achievement is recognized and advertised in the form of Prizes presented in front of the assembled Faculty. On the other hand, less satisfactory teaching can be difficult to report, and the presently used mechanism is slow.

From my graduate student days I remember Fritz Lipman, a giant of Biochemistry, Nobel Prize Winner, who used to lecture in the Biochemistry course I took and eventually T.A.'d. His fame was based on elucidating the central role of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), as the basic currency that our bodies use to carry energy around, providing the thermodynamic incentive that allows unfavorable reactions to proceed. Lipman would mumble in a very soft voice, and even when he could be heard, he sure was hard to understand. But who would tell the Master to his face?

Things have changed since then. There are oodles of ways in which students can engage in a dialog with their Profs., not just to elaborate on substantive matters, but also to comment on the delivery and presentation. At Caltech at present, many Divisions have their own systems

to gather information about teaching skills, and there is also student based reporting on the quality of instruction. Superlative achievement is recognized and advertised in the form of Prizes presented in front of the assembled Faculty. On the other hand, less satisfactory teaching can be difficult to report, and the presently used mechanism is slow.

In an attempt to get more timely feedback to Faculty and TAs, we (a group of devoted ARC students, the Ombud's and the Deans' offices) are ex-

If comments are solicited after the first two or three weeks of the course... , feedback could reach faculty well before midterms.

perimenting with a recommendation made at a recent student-faculty conference: that of obtaining feedback early in the term.

As it stands now, questionnaires are handed out at the end of courses and end up as grist for the *Clue*. This may be useful for next year's students, but does not address immediate concerns that could be remedied if brought to someone's attention. The goal is to get statistically representative (to the extent possible considering the small class size common at Caltech), current, and informative data.

Our pilot last term was fairly successful, but the "Pencil and Paper" process turned out to be slower than we had hoped. One problem was that the pencilled-in responses had to be retyped to be both legible and anonymous, a time consuming and awkward affair.

Next term we are experimenting with another approach. We have prepared a questionnaire, similar to the paper distributed previously, but this time, to be placed on the web. We imagine that students, when instructed by the ombudspeople for the course, would fill out the questionnaire and e-mail it back.

The responses will be sorted, any data identifying the sender removed, and the information sent back to the instructors. If comments are solicited

after the first two or three weeks of the course, so that some history has been established, feedback could reach faculty well before midterms. If needed, a second set of feedbacks could be arranged to reach the faculty a couple of weeks after midterms. Another advantage would be that there could be very rapid information flow at any time during the term, since important comments could be sent on the spot.

And if it works, then Lhude sing cuccu!
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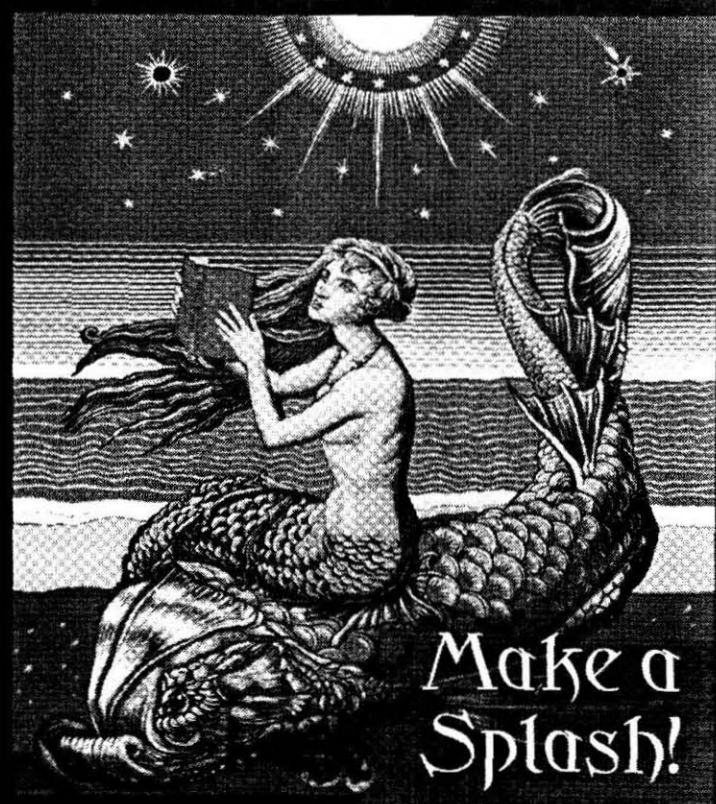
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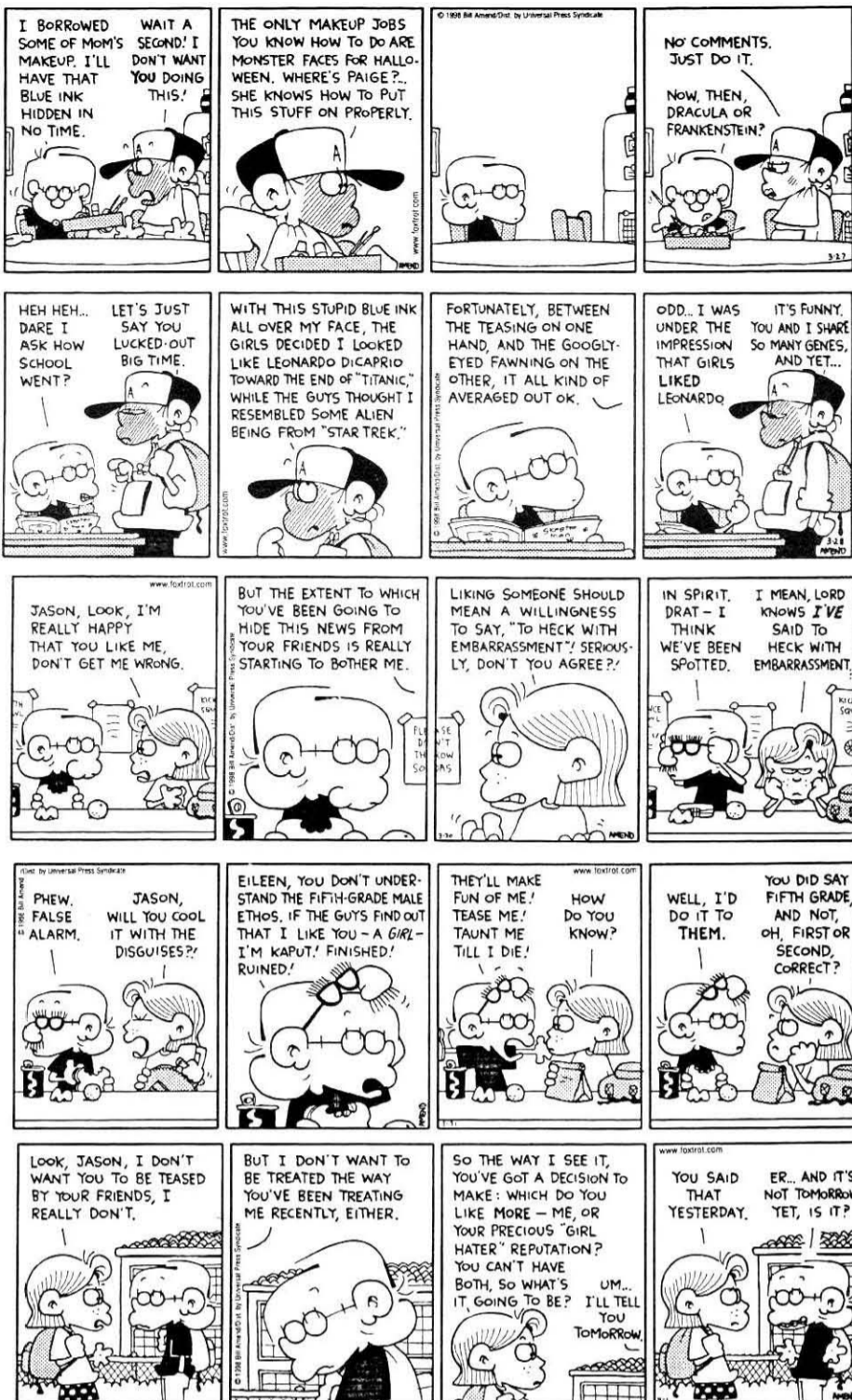
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- > PCI SVGA Card w/2MB Memory
- > 14" 28 NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 12X CD-ROM Drive
- > 3D Sound Card & 60W Speakers
- > 105 Key Windows 95 Keyboard & Internet Mouse w/3 Buttons
- > Microsoft Windows 95 CD & Best 10 CDs

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PENTIUM 166MMX \$ 995 IRA02
AMD K6 200 \$ 1035 IRA03
AMD K6 166 \$ 935 IRA04
6X86 200 \$ 995 IRA06

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Fred Drasner
Chief Executive Officer

An Open Letter to Students Planning to Attend Law School from *U.S. News & World Report*

Dear Student:

DON'T YOU JUST HATE TO BE GRADED? Well, by their shrill protests about *U.S. News & World Report* law school rankings, so do most of the deans of the law schools you are considering. However, as a law school graduate with both a J.D. and a LL.M. degree, I can tell you that these same deans will subject you to rigorous grading. You will be required to endure lectures from tenured professors who have not changed their class notes since the Battle of Hastings. Then, after attending class for a full semester, you will be given one exam to determine your grade. One exam, one semester, one grade. One roll of the dice to measure your performance.

At *U.S. News & World Report* we are far more equitable (to use a legal term). We have a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, sophisticated ranking system developed and evolved over many years to give you guidance on what may be one of your largest financial investments and certainly one of the most important choices for your career in law and perhaps beyond. While our law school rankings should not be the only criteria in your choice of a law school, they should certainly be an important part of the analysis.

Get your copy of *U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools* guide on newsstands now. Or, to make it easier for you to see the book that 164 law school deans would prefer you not see (notwithstanding their commitment to the First Amendment), call 1-800-836-6397 (ask for extension 5105) and I will arrange for a copy of the book to be sent directly to you at \$1 off the newsstand price.* This will also ensure that you have a copy of these important rankings because, as a result of publicity surrounding the deans' determination to have you ignore the rankings, they are a very hot item.

These law school rankings are a small part of our philosophy of *News You Can Use*[™]: information we bring you in each issue of the magazine to help you manage your life.

Good luck in law school and good luck on making the right choice.

Kindest Regards,

Sincerely,

* Shipping and handling charges additional.

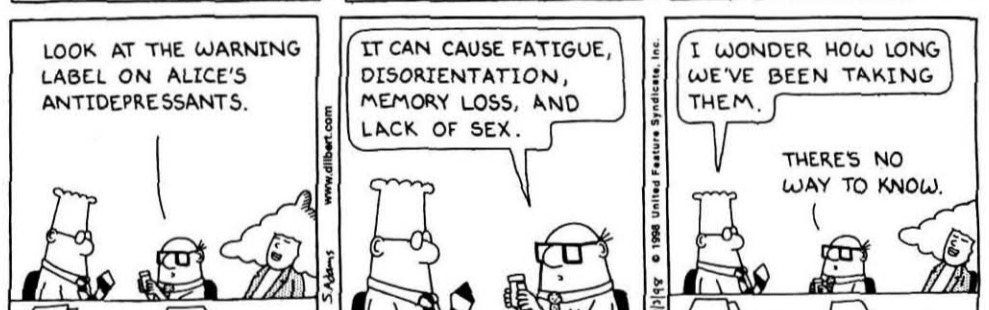
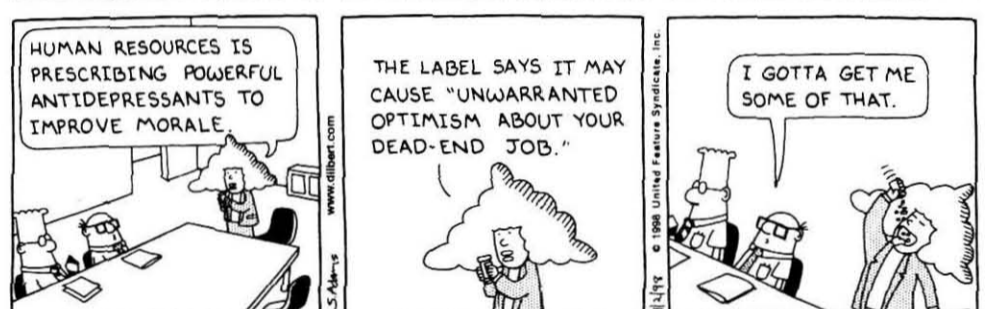
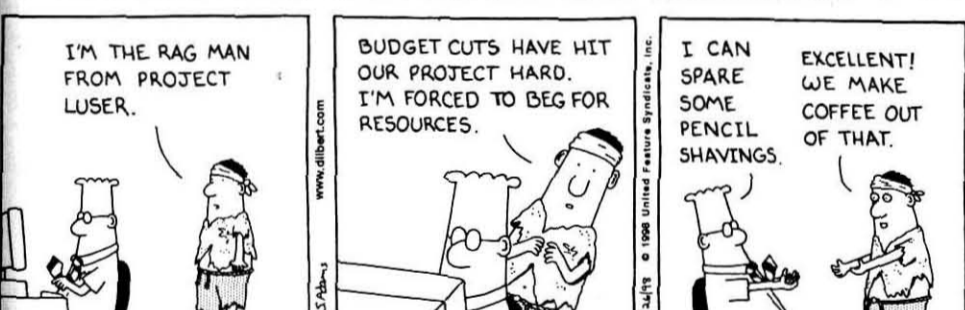
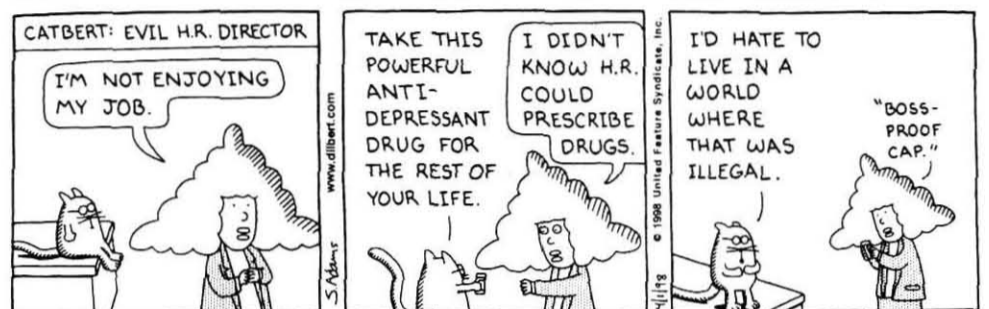
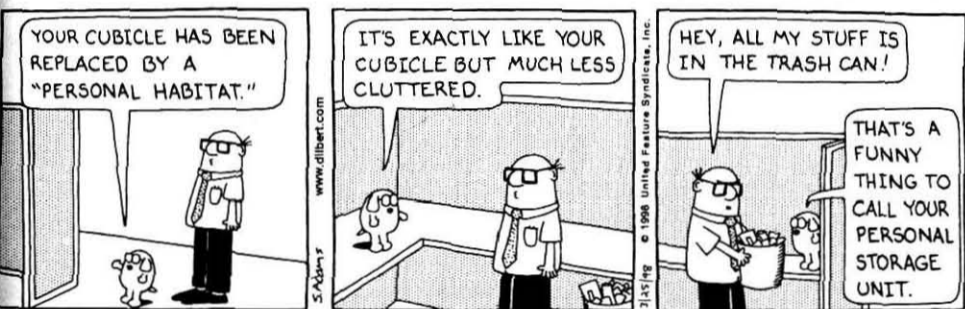
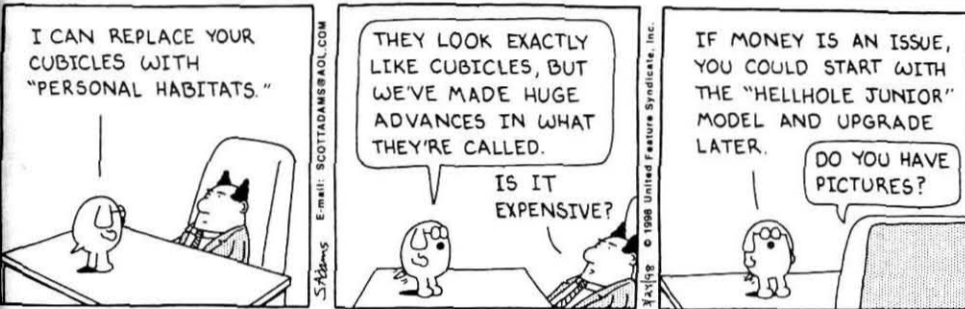
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Announcements

* **Beginner fly casting lessons** are being considered for third term. This class would be open to all students, faculty, and staff. The classes will be held on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m. beginning the second week in April. A limited number of rods and reels will be available. Basic fly casting techniques will be stressed. If you're interested, please contact Tom Perry, x4705.

* Caltech's spring term **Guitar Classes** begin April 7th and run on Tuesdays. The beginning class is from 4:30-5:30 p.m., the intermediate class from 3:00-4:00 p.m., and the advanced class from 5:30-6:30 p.m. All classes are held in SAC 1, and are taught by Darryl Denning. For more information, contact either ddenning@cco or call (213)465-0881.

The **Prefrosh** are coming! The Prefrosh are coming! Prefrosh Weekend 1998 will be held from April 16-19, 1998. If you have comments or suggestions for Prefrosh Weekend, or your club or organization would like to be involved with Prefrosh Weekend activities, please contact Dina Figueroa at dina@admissions.

Free anonymous HIV testing, using an oral HIV antibody test, is available each Monday evening from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena. Persons wishing to be tested may make an appointment by calling (888)488-9242. Walk-ins are also accepted. Both pre- and post-test counseling is provided, and results will be given the following Monday.

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group 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? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation - only that s/he 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 will be served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

Events

* **Scotland and the Scottish Isles**, an Armchair Adventures travel film narrated by Joe and Mary Liz Adair, will be presented this evening at 8:00 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are \$7-9.

* **The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats** will be performing in Beckman Auditorium on April 4th at 8:00 p.m. Student tickets are \$5; all other tickets are between \$20-\$26, though there is a youth discount, and student and senior rush tickets may be purchased 30 minutes before the performance for \$10.

* The twelfth annual **All Mozart**

Mints

* denotes a new announcement.

Concert will be held on April 4th at 8:00 p.m. and April 5th at 3 p.m. in Dabney Lounge. Among the featured works are a Piano Concerto in C minor, a Mass in C Major, and a Quartet in C Major for flute and strings. Admission is free.

* The Ernest C. Watson Caltech Lecture Series presents "**Can We Use Chemistry to Change the Way our Genes Work?**" on April 8th at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Admission is free.

* The first movie to screen in the **German Film Series** for the spring, 1998 term is "Romanze in Moll" (Romance in a Minor Key), 1943. It will screen on April 8th in Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30 p.m. This film features English subtitles. Admission is free. For more information, call x3610.

* Caltech is sponsoring a two-day **blood drive** which will be held in Dabney Lounge on April 9th and 10th. Appointment times on the 9th are between 12:15 and 5:30 p.m., and on the 10th from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please contact Vilia Zmuidzinas, either at Vilia.Zmuidzinas@caltech.edu or x6001 for an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series of Southern California** is moving into its second season. The events will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on five remaining dates, at 8 p.m.: Jean-Michael Cousteau will be speaking on April 8th, Maya Angelou on May 13th and Mark Victor Hansen on June 10th. For more information, contact (800) 508-9301.

For most Caltech events listed, further information can be obtained by calling 395-4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH, or through the Caltech website, <http://www.caltech.edu>.

Fellowships and Scholarships

The **National Institutes of Health's Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP)** is pleased to announce the availability of up to 15 competitive scholarships to support top undergraduate students who are committed to pursue careers in biomedical research. Awards are up to \$20,000 per year. To qualify, a student must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident, be enrolled in or accepted by an accredited undergraduate institution, and carry a GPA of 3.5 or better or be in the top 5% of his/her class. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate extreme economic need or come from a disadvantaged background. For each year of scholarship, the student will fulfill a 10-week summer research/mentoring program and after graduation, fulfill one year of full-time employment, both at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. UFA

Working or studying in **New York City** this summer? Educational Housing is a non-profit group that

helps students locate safe, reasonably priced New York housing. For more info, visit www.studenthousing.org FAR

Work in Britain this summer or next fall: The British Universities North America Club (BUNAC) offers a special student work permit for \$225, valid for 6 months, allowing U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age to legally work in Britain at any time of the year. Jobs can be prearranged; or students can just go to Britain and find jobs (most students find work within a week of arrival). BUNAC's program also provides participants with a helpful manual and a job hunting center in London. BUNAC can also prearrange your first 3 nights of lodging in London. Applications and further information are available in Fellowships Advising. Visit BUNAC's Work in Britain site at <http://www.BUNAC.org>. FAR

The **American Association of University Women** will be awarding scholarships (\$500-\$1000) to sophomore and junior female college students who will have junior or senior standing as of September 1998 and have lived in the San Ramon Valley, or have attended high school there. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus or community involvement. For more information and an application package, please send your request with a \$.64 stamped, self-addressed large envelope (9"x12") to: Mary Ann Osborne, 2530 Roundhill Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Applications must be postmarked by April 6, 1998. UFA

The **Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO)** is pleased to present the opportunity for six individual scholarships for the 1998-99 academic year. There will be three (3) \$1,000 scholarships, and three (3) \$500 scholarship awards granted. Applicants must: 1) complete and return the 1998 COHEAO Scholarship application, 2) be attending, or plan to enroll as an undergraduate or graduate student in a COHEAO member institution, 3) Include a 300-word essay on "The COHEAO scholarship will help me...", 4) Include two academic reference letters and an original transcript(s), and 5) meet the application deadline. Applications are available at www.coheao.com, or at the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be received by COHEAO no later than April 15, 1998. UFA

The **Asian Pacific American Association for Advancement, Inc. (4A)**

has launched its second annual 4A San Francisco Bay Area Scholarship Program. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. All Asian/Pacific students enrolled in a full-time undergraduate or graduate college or university in the United States are eligible to apply. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status in the U.S. and have the San Francisco Bay Area as their permanent home address. AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and NCR employees and their children are ineligible to participate. Prior award recipients are also not eligible. Candidates will be evaluated based on their scholastic discipline, personal achievement, and community involvement. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be received on or before April 15, 1998. UFA

A **travel grant** equal to the cost of a round-trip ticket between the U.S. and Sweden is available to women students who are 18 or older and U.S. citizens who wish to do study or research in Sweden. There is an April 15, 1998 deadline. FAR

Scholarship applications for 1998-99 are now available through the **Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and the Jewish Community Foundation**. The funds are intended to provide a limited amount of financial aid for needy college students who are legal and permanent residents of Los Angeles County. Scholarships are not available to college freshmen. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Applications can be obtained until March 1, 1998 from: Jewish Vocational Service, 5700 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Deadline for submission of completed applications is April 15, 1998.

The **American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society** is offering scholarships to undergraduate juniors and seniors and graduate students who are interested in careers in the electroplating and surface finishing industry. Undergraduates must be full-time and must be majoring in metallurgy, metallurgical engineering, materials science or engineering, chemistry, chemical engineering, or environmental engineering. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 1998. UFA

* The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the first Annual Hallett Smith Competition, honoring the finest **essay devoted to Shakespeare**. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double spaced, and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may

be one prepared for a humanities class, or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit their work to Professor Jenjoy LaBelle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 23, 1998. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. LaBelle, x3605, or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

The **John Gyles Education Fund** offers financial assistance to full-time students in Canada and the United States. Full Canadian or American citizenship is required. Awards are available for all areas of post-secondary study. A minimum 2.7 GPA is required. 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, please send a stamped, self-addressed, standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: R. James Cougle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B5G4. Filing dates for mailing applications in 1998 are June 1st and November 15th. UFA

The **Jewish Family and Children's Services** offers financial support for Jewish individuals and their families. Individuals may apply for up to \$5,000. Special scholarships are available for study in Israel. Eligible students must have financial need, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and be residents of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin or Sonoma counties, or the Bay Area. There are no deadlines—applications are accepted throughout the year and are available in the Financial Aid Office. UFA

For information on the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, or clarification of questions, contact:

FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.

For information, please contact lauren_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu. To make an appointment, call x2150.

UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.

For information, call x6280, or stop by 515 S. Wilson for an appointment.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.caltech.edu or Mail Code 040-058 by noon on the Monday prior to its inclusion. Submissions must be brief and concise, and the editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material.

THE CALIFORNIA **TECH**

Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

Is NASA Defacing Mars?

BY TED J. RIVETTE

New photos of the Cydonia region of Mars were released this Tuesday by NASA from its Mars Global Surveyor Spacecraft.

These photographs have provoked a stir in both the halls of academia and the lay press. Some controversy still surrounds the peculiar feature affectionately known to some as the Cydonia sculpture.

The original photo of this region, taken by the Viking Orbiter mission in 1976, displayed a remarkable likeness to that of a face. The new, "higher resolution" photo seems to portray an uncanny likeness to a non-descript landform.

Resident *Inside World* analysts are divided on the issue. However, both factions appear to be gloating, with the pro-Alien visionaries claiming interstellar debasement and the pro-NASA methodologists claiming indisputable scientific disproof.

Outside sources fall into similar camps. Though NASA's press release doesn't address the issue, and NASA's scientists were unavailable for comment, their position was made frighteningly clear in our correspon-

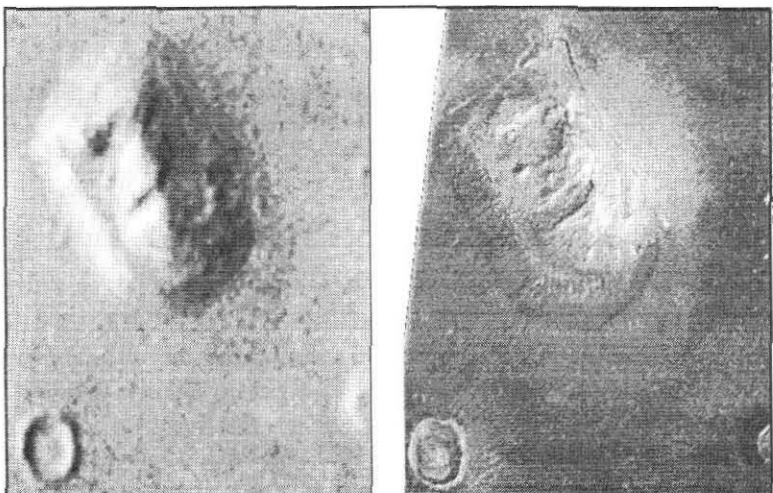
dence with high ranking officials in Washington, who also refused to comment on the matter.

Garvin U. Lible of the De-

partment for the Understanding of Planetary Entities (D.U.P.E.)

partment for the Understanding of Planetary Entities (D.U.P.E.) states that his organization is "officially stunned" by the pictures released this week by NASA. "I can't believe they [NASA] would have destroyed a major work of interplanetary art like [the face]... to commandeer the U.N.'s orbiting particle beam weapon platforms, transport them to Mars, and obliterate the Cydonia Sculpture is an act of unspeakable vandalism!"

Deep sources within Caltech's Department of External Affairs, requesting anonym-



The picture on the left, taken from JPL's Mars Observer web site, details the original, unscathed Viking photograph of the sculpture. The one on the right is NASA's own evidence of its planetary profanity

ity, could only say "That's preposterous! We can't get access to those orbiting weapons platforms! We'd have to go through Blacker for that!"

When questioned about the possibility of the currently operational seismic destabilization devices on the space shuttle, our source only stuttered "Where do you get your information? That's highly classified!"

When questioned about the possibility of the currently operational seismic destabilization devices on the space shuttle, our source only stuttered "Where do you get your information? That's highly classified!"

Damn it! I want my donuts!

Fire, security, and the preferred bribe

BY TED S. RIVETTE

I don't care if they're glazed or sugared, fried or baked. I want the donuts that are coming to me. It seems to happen all the time... somewhere in the South Houses, there's a fire crisis.

Maybe it's faulty wiring this time. Last time it was a Blacker social event. Maybe next time it'll rain and set the Dabney one off, but any way it happens, the result is the same. People wake up, roll over, mumble something about Blacker, and try to go back to sleep.

Now I know that Caltech has a pretty studly legal department, but it seems to me that they surely have to understand the legal quandary they'd be in if there ever was an authentic fire.

We're not talking about a single frosh getting scorched here. No, it's a real flaming. Not exactly the kind of thing Caltech would want on the front page of

the *L.A. Times*, or even the *California Tech*. It's a damned shame that we, as undergraduates, have become so immune to safety measures around campus. And the reason is that Caltech won't fix the alarms.

The scenario even gets worse. We're so immune to these raging klaxons that we not only block it out, but also we get severely annoyed whenever a member of security tries to usher us to safety.

Which brings me to the true point of my editorial: the infiltration of the administration into our lives. It's no longer stick-and-carrot diplomacy. They used to bribe us to come out on the days of specially scheduled fire drills.

No long are we treated as such. It's now Big Brother's weathered hands reaching down to soothe our fears with none other than the Officer Milam-type security guards banging on our doors, rushing through our halls, and acting as if they

owned the place. It's like they're actually serious: there might be a real fire.

Now, as undergraduates, that's actually the least of our problems. We could actually do with some second or third degree burns. What if you've got an AMa 95 midterm due tomorrow and still have to read at least three chapters, struggling to stay awake even through your caffeine induced coma? A trip to the hospital and a nice 'I' might just fit the bill.

Seriously, though, it's time the administration fixed the fire alarms and our wonderful rent-a-cops started helping, rather than acting like they're significant.

I know I'd certainly sleep better knowing I'd be safe from fire, and I'd surely sleep better without a raging false alarm in my ear at four in the morning. Some might consider it a healthy, routine drill. I think it's a wolf that's cried one too many times.

This year's first Inside World Contest

Sitting around the proverbial Student Publications office campfire, we found ourselves pondering philosophy. So we'd like to put this one to a contest... how many flaming corpses could fit in Millikan pond. Packing them in with a backhoe is perfectly acceptable.

Spankingly new courses!

We've received some new Caltech catalogue entries from an unusual location. Read about them on page 3!

A word about Fresh Meat

Tanya Tickel has been reported giving this valuable Prefrosh Weekend advice: "Don't pork the Prefrosh!" Thank you, Tanya.

Another one bites the dust?

In a suprising move, Ricketts broke its two year losing streak in a basketball game against Dabney Hovse this Thursday. Peanut McCoy, the Ricketts Ath Man, was promptly showered. He blames the game, whose final score was 58-38, on Michael Smulski.

From special correspondent Andy...

(Clipping from a Boston paper) Beginning next month, and effective every second Tuesday of the month thereafter, the street will run with the blood of the non-believers between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. The Boston transportation department has announced that no on-street parking will be permitted during the affected hours. Failure to comply could result in towing, fines, and clotting in and about the wheel-wells.

Inside World Correction

Regrettably, the Inside World made a mistake last issue on its scoreboard. We listed Fleming as having a 0 score. In fact, Fleming did not have a 0 score. It had a -1 score. Apologies.

THIS ISSUE'S SCOREBOARD

Grad Students	1
Blacker	1
Dabney	0
Fleming	0
Lloyd	0
Page	0
Ricketts	1
Widdock	1

Horrorscopes

Aries 3/21-4/20 Today you will develop a twitch in your left eye at noon. That means it's time to just look away, man, just look away.

Taurus 4/21-5/20 The death pebbles are especially slick after the rain; if you don't watch out, you can slip and fall and die. Be sure to carry a suicide note with you everywhere so that in this eventuality at least your roommate will get a 4.0.

Gemini 5/21-6/20 Highlight on sensuality, romance, enchanting evening involving Cancer native, possibly with letters K, I, R, A, N in name. Tonight could be your night: embrace your sexuality.

Cancer 6/21-7/20 Highlight on sensuality, romance, enchanting evening involving Gemini native, possibly with letters K, O, H, L in name. Tonight could be your night: embrace your sexuality.

Leo 7/21-8/21 Give into the voices and take 69 units. Go ahead and sleep with the Registrar if necessary and spread the good lovin' around.

Virgo 8/21-9/20 A crazy Frenchman will come up to you today and demand that you return his gramophone. Try to make yourself look as large as possible as you carefully back away.

Libra 9/21-10/20 Finally you realize that almost everybody hates you, and all the rest just pity you. Consider suicide, homicide, patricide as

options.

Scorpio 10/21-11/20 Your strength lies in your amazing ability to bullshit. If you play your cards right, you can shashay these skills into a job as a writer, lawyer, politician, or physics professor.

Sagittarius 11/21-12/20 When you're weary, feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, it's time to change majors. Go with SES. If Maria Satterwhite can do it, you can, too.

Capricorn 12/21-1/20 This is a good week for Capricorn. Your name is suggested as Ricketts God-Emperor, and Jamie Walls himself flies in from Berkeley to fight you to the death for the title. Of course, since it is incomprehensible that you will ever rival the great Jamie Walls, you feel serene as he beats you to death, screaming: "Take that little Suzie, you sick fuck! How do you like it in the ear, you fucking insolent shit!"

Aquarius 1/21-2/20 Next week in Chem 3a, you will discover firsthand what all those hazard ratings really mean. Your subsequent horrible disfigurement will inspire you to hide your grotesque visage from the world, inspiring a collective global sigh of relief.

Pisces 2/21-3/20 Flirtation, romance the focus of the day. She'll never go for you. Give it up and go for Kohl instead. He's there to serve.

ASCIT does IW?

<DOUGHNUTS, Washington, D.C.> In a statement from the Secretary of Defence, it was announced that Pasadena, CA, plans to remove Caltech from the city.

"The time has come," says Bill Paparian, the city's mayor, "for our fine law enforcement officers to have access to good DOUGHNUTS around the clock. Given Caltech's proximity to Old Pas. and valued residences, it's the perfect location for a DOUGHNUT shop palace."

Baltimore was appalled, "It was my understanding that Caltech is well known for its work in Biology, right?"

Jean-Paul Revel, Dean of Undergraduate Students, added, "Heh heh! Butthead! You have rocks in your head! I need T.P. for my bunghole! ...are you threatening me? Stick with me, Techies! Hey Butthead, did you know 'bunghole' has the Old English root, 'hole,' prefixed by 'bung?'"

In an interview with Kim West, Director of Residence Life, she admits, "It's a shame to see this happen, just when I was ready to let the Moles shove

Christmas trees up their fireplace, the Darbs organize an all-naked Olympics in the Rose Bowl, grant money for the sheep Fleming wanted to import from New Zealand, take back the money from Lloyd that Dr. Lloyd gives them every year and give equal shares of it to each of the houses, authorize the Page Boys to sponsor Tailhook-themed events, let Ricketts throw fireballs and hang babies, and have Ruddock destroyed and Avery renamed the seventh house. Oh well."

Instead of demolishing Caltech, Pasadena hopes to kill two birds with one stone: the City will paradrop Caltech with a contraband of Doughnutman DOUGHNUTS. The mayor added, "I will bury you! ...in DOUGHNUTS!" As Caltech rots in DOUGHNUTS, police officers will be able to swing by at any time of the day for a few DOUGHNUTS.

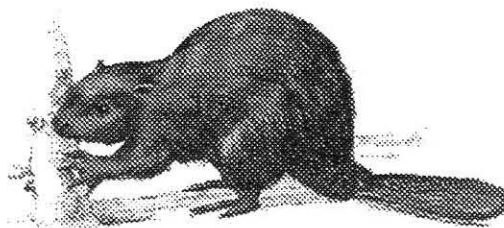
Before running off with the rest of the money, ASCIT hopes to play a large role in the bombardment, on the Olive Walk Thursday Night/ Friday Morning of Prefrosh Weekend, at 1AM.

Question of the Week

Does the Board Food really cause cancer in Beavers?

Where the hell am I going?

Send us answers:
editors@tech



Why Do People Hate Me?

What is Your Personality?

Sandy was bitter. She could not understand why life at Tech was so hard. She was so upset, she started thinking about transferring to another school.

She had no friends, no life, and her grades were falling. Our leading psychologist diagnosed Sandy with Social Deficiency Syndrome, or SDS.

Her high school years were sheltered and bare, and now that she's in college, she didn't have the social skills to handle interaction with other people.

Studies have shown that SDS is a common disorder at technical universities. Take this quiz and see how you fare. What kind of techer are you?

Note: Due to the sensitive nature of this disorder, all names used have been changed.

- Do you
 - dump your emotional baggage on other people?
 - go out with people no one else speaks to?
 - now have a different sexual orientation to deal with the ratio?

- Have you ever
 - publicly played loud, bad music and sung along?
 - made out in public with your skanky significant other?
 - invited yourself to an activity that people "forgot" to tell you about?

- Do you still believe that
 - your Tech education is supposed to be easy?
 - you are (and always will be) the smartest one here?
 - if you hang around enough, people will like you?

- To you, the ratio means
 - more sex.

- nasty sex.
- alternative sex.

- When people see you they



Bitter and Friendless?
Take this quiz and find out why!

- roll their eyes and walk away.
- suddenly stop talking and leave the room.
- scream and run.

- You are known as
 - the Crotch Tracker 2000™.
 - the Glom-o-Matic.
 - no one ever talks to me. I don't know.

- Do you believe it's appropriate to
 - have sex in public showers?
 - grope (yourself/others) in public?
 - wear a towel as your only garment?

- You make friends by
 - complaining to the RA.
 - stalking.
 - glomming every member of your alley in turn.

- Your mother would describe you as
- "sensitive and easily perturbed."
 - "accustomed to getting your own way."
 - "completely lacking in social skills."

- Your favorite topic of conversation is
 - your SAT score.
 - your computer.
 - your lack of a social life.

Scoring

So...you've read this far, and you still don't have a clue what your problem is? If you scored anything, you're pretty much guaranteed to be a source of pain for your House. If you answered more than 5 questions, the next house roompick will be rigged so you'll be guaranteed to live off campus. We promise. If you're mostly A's, or B's, or C's, we know who you are, and we hate you. Everyone else hates you too. Take a large dose of anti-obnoxion and submit to be beaten by large sticks. Trust us; your house members will enjoy it. Then, take to living in the steam tunnels. From afar, watch the actions of the people around you, and emulate them. Try to fit into the next graduating class. If it fails, which it probably will, tell your parents about this article and get yourself transferred. It's for the best. Believe us, we know.