

Just don't
bother



After reading the
super special media
guy, check out the
regular one...

see page 4

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 21

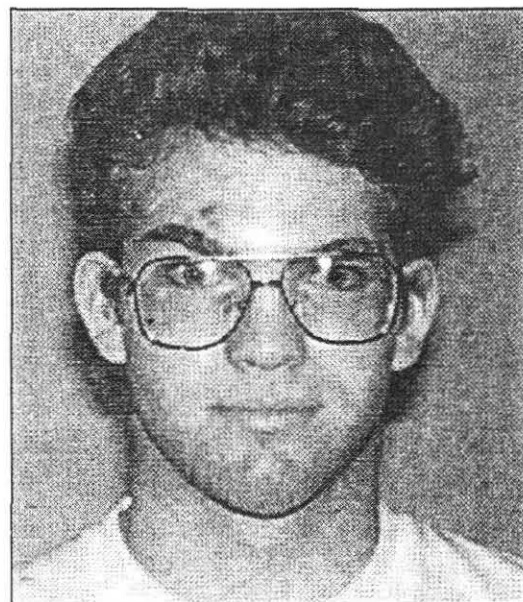
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1998

BRAIN DRAINED? WE ARE.

**THIS ISSUE 100%
CONTENT FREE**

**Adam Villani:
Media Guy:
Armageddon, Part II**



**Special Finals
Entertainment Edition**

With the Oscars coming up on Monday, the question is not whether *Titanic* will dominate the competition, but by how much it will dominate the competition. Looking at the nominations individually, I think *Titanic* has a decent shot to win in each of its 14 nominated categories except Best Actress (Kate Winslet). Even if there's a huge backlash against this 800-pound gorilla of a movie, it's still got Editing, Art Direction, Original Dramatic Score, Costume, Original Song, and Sound pretty much wrapped up and in the bag. While I think the 14 nominations represented the peak of its popularity, I think we should expect to see representatives of this very popular and technically outstanding film take the podium about 10 times the evening of the 23rd.

Analysis by Category

Best Picture—I don't think it's likely, but I think there's a distinct possibility that underdog favorite *Good Will Hunting* will pull the upset of the year and win the top honor of the year. Academy voters love sentimental favorites, and some may feel that *Titanic's* box-office success is reward enough. *Hunting* is my favorite of the nominated films, but on an open ballot I'd cast my vote for *Lost Highway*.

Best Director—Jim Cameron is more secure here than his film is for *Picture*. Gus Van Sant's direction of *Good Will Hunting* didn't really stand out, and a win by critical favorite Curtis Hanson (*L.A. Confidential*) would be truly unexpected. Without question, my favorite nominee here is Atom Egoyan for *The Sweet Hereafter*, but my open vote would go to the incomparable David Lynch for *Lost Highway*.

Best Actress—By all rights, this should belong to Helena Bonham Carter for *The Wings of the Dove* but I think this'll go to Helen Hunt by a nose over Judi Dench. *As Good As It Gets* and its director James Brooks are popular, Hunt's performance is charismatic and well-felt, and she's the only American nominated in the category. In my world, four-year-old Victoire Thivisol from *Ponette* ties Bonham Carter and Virginie Ledoyen from *La fille seule* (*A Single Girl*).

Best Actor—This one's a tough call. Peter Fonda's the comeback kid here and Jack Nicholson has a lot of friends, but I would put my money on Robert Duvall for singlehandedly carrying *The Apostle*. I liked Matt Damon, the un-nominated Al Pacino in *Donnie Brasco*, and the very un-nominated Nicholas Hope for the hard-to-stomach Australian satire *Bad Boy Bobby*.

Best Supporting Actor—Burt Reynolds has won every award under the sun for his *Boogie Nights* performance, but I can't really see what was so special there. I might place my money on a longshot chance of Robin Williams winning his first Oscar here, though I wouldn't be at all surprised to see Reynolds take it. Personally, I thought Robert Forster found precisely the right groove for his character in the otherwise tedious *Jackie Brown*.

Best Supporting Actress—This award could really go to any of the nominees, but I sure hope they don't give it to Gloria Stuart for *Titanic*. Significantly, the old-timer's sentimentality vote isn't as strong as it once was. I guess Kim Basinger may get the award to represent the great ensemble cast of *L.A. Confidential* but the great Julianne Moore's chances aren't too bad for *Boogie Nights*. My personal choice, Christina Ricci, was a victim of *The Ice Storm's* nomination blank-out.

Best Original Screenplay—While it may be something of a Hollywood-style ego piece, I think I'll agree with the Academy when they hand this one to Matt Damon and Ben Affleck for *Good Will Hunting*.

Best Adapted Screenplay—If there were any justice in Hollywood, James Schamus' adaptation of *The Ice Storm* would win hands down here—but

the Academy failed to nominate it. You can safely put your money on *L.A. Confidential*, but of the nominees I would cheer for *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Donnie Brasco*.

Cinematography—The sheer beauty of Martin Scorsese's marvelous *Kundun* may beat out *Titanic* here. Connoisseurs should check out *Maborosi* for a movie expressed almost solely through its cinematography.

Editing—*Titanic* wins, and is the best nominated. Errol Morris' documentary *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control* and Peter Greenaway's spectacular *The Pillow Book* were the true masterpieces of editing this year.

Original Musical or Comedy Score—I really don't know; I've only seen two of these films. Forced to guess, I'd say Hans Zimmer wins for *As Good As It Gets*. I think they missed an opportunity to honor *Waiting For Guffman* here.

Original Dramatic Score—Philip Glass' music for *Kundun* is his best since *Koyaanisqatsi* and easily the best of the year, but don't expect him to beat *Titanic*.

Original Song—Always the worst category, and as such we'll have Celine Dion belting out this year's winner "My Heart Will Go On," from (of course) *Titanic*. I thought the songs in *Wag the Dog* were biting funny.

Art Direction—Just look at the size of the damn boat. I thought the designs for *Gattaca* were more stylish and those for *Alien Resurrection* and *The Fifth Element* more effective.

Costumes—I can see why the Academy will go for the opulence of *Titanic*, but I think *Boogie Nights* really outdid itself using costumes to create atmosphere.

Makeup—I'd guess *Men in Black* wins, though I haven't seen it; what's so hard about making all those floating bloated bodies in *Titanic*? *Alien Resurrection*, *The Fifth Element*, and *Spawn* excelled here, although *Spawn* was absolute crap.

Sound—*The Fifth Element* and *Contact* were quite good in this regard, but I certainly won't protest when *Titanic* wins this one.

Sound Effects Editing—See above.

Visual Effects—For all the hype, the success of the effects in *Titanic* was more a case of getting their money's worth on the screen rather than much originality, and *The Lost World's* effects were obvious, recycled, and corny (How many times would they use that phony-lookin' T-Rex head? And why weren't any San Diego landmarks destroyed?) *Titanic's* not a bad choice, but I think I'd rather see *Starship Troopers* take home the statuette, and I wish *The Fifth Element* had been nominated here.

Foreign Language Film, Documentary Short, Animated Short, Live Action Short, Documentary Feature—Who knows?

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MINUTES

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

MARCH 11, 1998

treat as she will be out east looking for a job and other less savory diversions.

Devi - The CLUE will be out early next term. The libraries will be open until 04:00 during finals. Students working late will need to have their ID with them.

Jaideep - The IHC will be selecting a Secretary and defining the athletic manager this week.

Rob - Is looking at ASCIT's tax status. In order to file as 501C, ASCIT cannot advocate any form of legislative change. He will talk to Tech's legal counsel about what guidelines we should go by to maintain this status. At the beginning of the fiscal year, **Rob** will be changing over banks and investigating some corporate banking options. Clubs, last call to pick up your cash.

Mike - The ASCIT computer is now running NT Server and is named **Optimus**. We have gobs of letterhead so start writing stuff. The embosser is still not in. In the amendment election, only the Avery proposition was rejected. No legitimate protests are expected. There will be an election for BoC chair on Monday.

Alex - The new BoC Rep. At Large will be appointed on Friday. **Alex** won't be able to attend the Capra retreat. He has better things to do.

Baldeep - Thinks we should turn the issue of the Coffeehouse turnover to a committee. There is general agreement. **Kohl** thinks we should keep a log of speeches that ASCIT personnel give on the web page. **Baldeep** will be attending the Alumni Association meetings on Friday and Saturday.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary

Present (atsome point): BoD, **Tom Elling**

Meeting called to order at 22:39.

General Business

New Office - Tom Mannion offered to give ASCIT the International Student Affairs Office when they move out. It is perfect for our needs, however, **Lloyd** is just itching to get their hands back on those rooms. It looks like we will have to go with our second choice - SAC 33. We may move as soon as spring break. **Jasmine** and **Steve** will get the details from **Gina Armas**.

The meeting moves to SAC 33 to give it a test run.

Capra - Autumn is getting the details of the retreat from **Kiran**. It is asserted by **Rob** that no work will be done at Capra after sundown.

Logo - Jasmine and **Autumn** have designed a saucy new ASCIT logo. It may appear in the Tech sometime soon.

Business Cards - Do we need 'em? Should we get 'em? **Jasmine** - "We're a corporation. We need business cards." **Jasmine** and **Autumn** offer to make an appropriate design.

Officer Reports

Steve - Moore 070 has been reserved for the budget meeting on April 4. Funding request forms keep trickling in. The BoD will be eating dinner in Fleming tomorrow.

Autumn - The copier is OK.

Jasmine - Is giving Dabney their interhouse cash for the party this Friday. She will not be able to attend the Capra re-

The Tech
Minutes

MARCH 19, 1998

Present (at some point):**The Editors** minus **Terry, Myfanwy Callahan, Daisy James, Wren Montgomery, Rob Saliba, Liz Verschell, Mic Westcoat, Yin Yuen**

Present (via the phone): **Terry's Mom, The Printer, Vanessa Sih, Adam Villani**

(This week, **Erik S=Dr. Doolittle, Erik D=Roadkill.**)

Minutes open: 16:52:23

Myfanwy drops by. Can't take her plans for converting the Coffeehouse into a strip club home to her mother. Wonders how **Dr. Doolittle** spells his name.

Shay reveals his master plan to open a hit agency up. His first set of contracts are already on the table. In this case, it's personal.

Wren stops by briefly to give **Katy** a heart-wrenchingly felt apology about some biology thing. **Wren** claims her finals are "over." **Wren** has a ball mocking the new editors.

Stew contemplates Bi/Ch double. **Stew's** brain appears to be dripping. Emergency goo sucking device falls from ceiling. **Stew** realizes that the fish last week rusted out his iron stomach.

Wren and the Editors debate the **Mannion** plan of Pasadena conquest (MPPC). There's a vote to make the decision to move this to committee unanimous. Passes, 3-2.

Mic enters, begging to help. He's strong, silent type. He reads Dilbert

Saliba enters. The Tech fi-

nances are quickly glossed over, as the Editors realize that we need cash. Donations will be solicited. He reads the Dilbert and grapevines out.

Roadkill walks in. The front page has unanimous approval. Begins writing a corner of sorts.

Katy steals minute power from **Shannon**.

Pornos stops in. Drops a few photos and leaves.

Roadkill and **Shay** discuss Chem 41. **Shannon** wishes **Terry** was around. No need to get into depressing details

Katy notes that the filter doesn't work. **Shannon** wonders about rewriting the filter program. This jumpstarts a discussion between **Shay** and **Shannon** about programming languages.

The Editors try to decide what goes on the remaining pages, starting with the other **Villani** article. **Shay** reminisces about the really bad **Villani** heads we used to use in the Tech.

Liz shuffles in. She still has Bi 8 to do. She doubts our ability to get out 8 pages. **Katy** scoffs at her. She copy edits the minutes as **Katy** writes them. What a gal!

Shay crashes. Unrecoverable error.

Liz steals minute power from **Katy** who has decided to do some real work. **Liz** promptly finds she has nothing to say. **Liz** wanders away dejectedly. Minute power reverts to **Katy**.

Yin zips in and prints out a bunch of mailing labels. He is a pillar of efficiency.

Katy realizes no one has put the ads on the pasteboards. That would mean we're screwed. **Vanessa** is sought out. All attempts fail.

Daisy saunters in. She has a

Bookworm on disk. We turn our backs, and suddenly she was gone.

Myfanwy jogs back in to see what's going on. She talks of "random whacko psychotic religious spazzy hairspray/toothpaste" while we all discuss long hair. Also, ASCIT Excomm will be meeting too late for us to have a minute.

Vanessa phones, we have to paste ads. Suck.

Christoph trots in looking for business managers so he can get more money. He also has a snazzy green crayon which he has dubbed "a jolly green giant." The rest is left to Freud. Accuses **Vanessa** of embezzling Tech funds. Has racial problem. We suggest deoderant.

Katy can't find the clear roller. The world becomes a very dark place. She is too depressed (and too close to deadline) to continue minutes.

Minutes close: 21:47:52
Death to the beyond.

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Stories of The Fun Police

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

NEW DELHI, INDIA - The new Hindu nationalist government announced it may "induct nuclear weapons" into the military arsenal. This is the first time in India's 50 years of independence that the Hindu nationalist party has led the country.

many years of looting and raids have threatened southern Sudan with severe famine. For two months the government has banned relief flights to all but four airstrips in the region. Meanwhile, bombing to counter guerrillas fighting for an autonomous south has interrupted farming for this season.

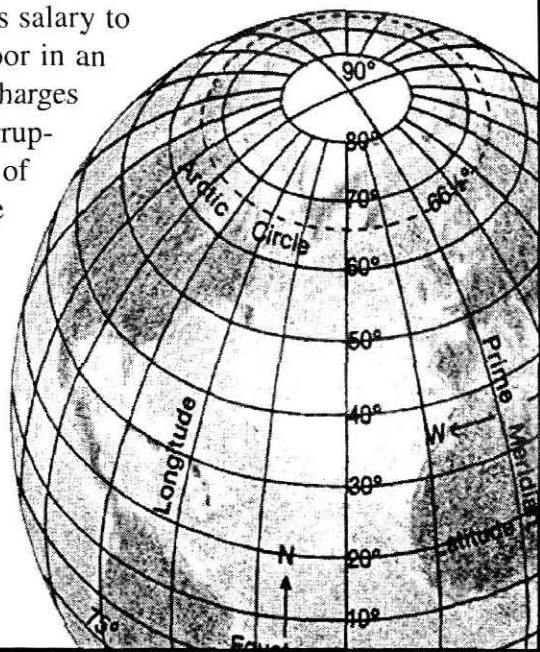
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND - Police arrested three inmates of Maze Prison for beating and strangling a fellow pro-British prisoner. They are members of the Loyalist Volunteer Force which has claimed responsibility for several recent killings and a bomb threat.

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled a dinner Tuesday with the British Foreign Secretary because he had met with Palestinians at the site of a disputed Jewish settlement. Foreign Secretary Robin Cook arrived in Israel as a representative of the European Union and intended the site visit to demonstrate Europe's opposition to Jewish expansion into occupied lands.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - Alger's Foreign Minister Ahmed Attif asked the United Nations Human Rights Commission to help combat terrorism in his country, but would not allow human rights experts to enter Algeria to evaluate the situation. Human rights groups estimate 80,000 people have died in the violence since 1992.

LOS ANGELES - A federal judge nullified almost all of the remaining provisions of California's Proposition 187 which denies illegal immigrants social services. Her ruling: the measure unconstitutionally usurps Federal authority over immigration policy.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA - President Suharto promised to donate one year's salary to a fund for the poor in an effort to counter charges of high-level corruption. Thousands of students continue to demonstrate in the capital for democratic and economic reforms.



ADET, THE SUDAN - Two years of drought and

March 13, 1998
5:00 p.m.

Loud noise reported on Olive Walk at 5:00 p.m. Source is unknown. Witnesses reported smelling gunpowder but was not confirmed by other students in the area.

March 14, 1998
10:00 p.m.

Investigated noises from robot in Prexy, Ricketts house. Long term investigation initiated.

March 13, 1998
8:00 p.m.

Suspicious person seen walking around student houses. When the Fun Police (tm) arrived nothing was found.

March 15, 1998
8:00a.m.

Stopped mad genius from destroying the world on Tech property. Suspect was heard saying "like it matters" as he was escorted off campus.

March 13, 1998
8:05 p.m.

God stops in for a visit. Shakes his head when he sees the stack of finals placed in front of him and says "Ouch." Was escorted off of campus by the Fun Police. Apparently God did not have proper identification.

Remember kids, when the bomb comes or any other disaster, natural or not, drop and cover! It is important to vaporize your arms first. Another helpful tip from the Fun Police.

March 15, 1998
9:00p.m.

Responded to a call of disturbing noise from student houses interrupting the wedding music from the Athenaeum. **What the hell is bagpipe music doing playing???**

March 14, 1998
10:00a.m.

Large robot was seen in Ricketts house. Investigation revealed a interesting spectacle. Needed to investigate for two hours. More investigation is in order.

March 15, 1998
11:00p.m.

Robot has, after intense investigation, been named "Pornos".

March 14, 1998
1:00p.m.

Stockpile of so-called 'Dean's Corners' is found. Area is secured for Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms assessment.

March 16, 1998
11:00a.m.

While eating donuts, suspicious character seen walking to UGCS.

March 16, 1998
2:00p.m.

Wandered around the campus looking forward to visiting the robot.

March 16, 1998
3:00pm

Used executive power to "sanction" funny little man. Claimed he was a school official and kept saying "Viva La France," beat into submission. Forced to correctly say "Chow-dar" instead of prissy French way.

March 16, 1998
4:00p.m.

Went to sleep on park bench until real police officer came. Note: sleeping across chairs is more comfortable.

March 16, 1998
8:00p.m.

Revisited the residents of Prexy to see if everything was ok. As the Fun Police, we live to serve.

March 17, 1998
9:00a.m.

Destroyed everything which might link the Fun Police to "Pornos."

March 17, 1998
8:00p.m.

Revisited the residents of Prexy to see if everything was ok.

March 18, 1998
8:00p.m.

Investigated "Pornos" as to its possible content problem.

March 19, 1998
8:00p.m.

Ditto on investigation.

Yearbooks

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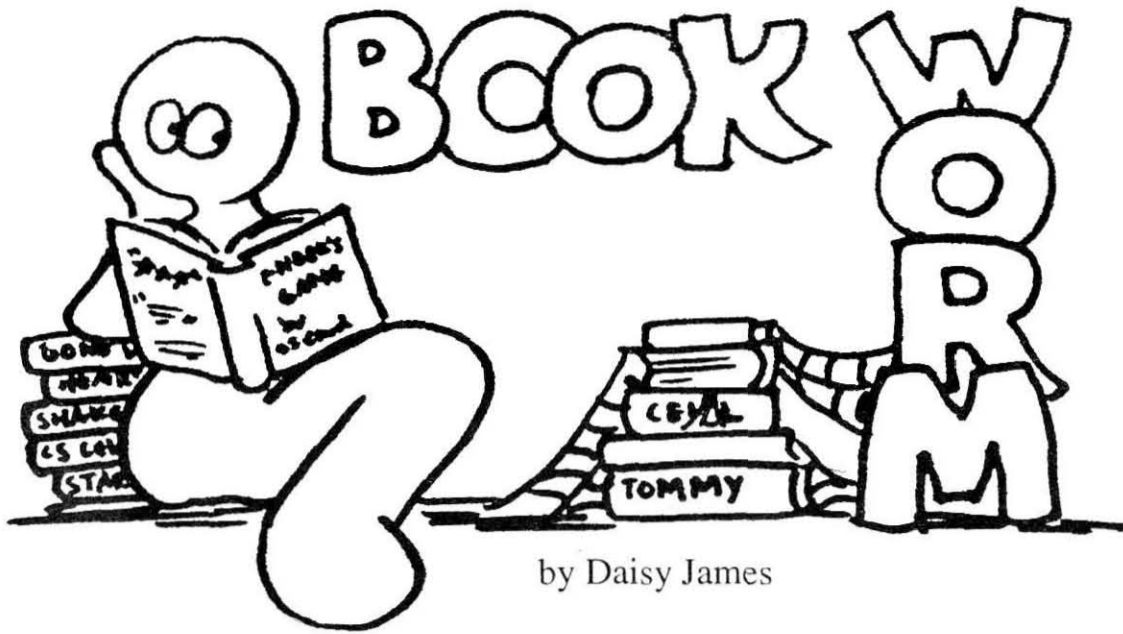
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by Daisy James

The Cat Who Tailed a Thief

Lilian Jackson Braun
**

Time has not improved these books. This is the eighteenth in Braun's series about a man and his two cats and the mysteries they solve, and it is no better than the first.

The plot is weak, the characters are unbelievable and the criminal might as well be going around with a shirt that says "Murderers Do It Against the Law". It is a mildly entertaining ride, light to the point of absurdity.

There are good points in the stories that the main character is collecting for his book; historical anecdotas about the fictional location. But everything is too sanitized and shallow, even in the "darkest" parts.

There isn't a lot of fun in reading about a vain wealthy man whom everyone adores as a hero; it lacks any semblance of the underdog element which makes a character sympathetic.

Maybe the next one will be better.

Slavery Time When I Was Chillun

Belinda Hurmence

When it comes to studying history, there really is no substitute for primary sources.

This is a compilation of some of the memories of former slaves, recorded by unemployed writers during the depression as part of the Works Project Administration (question: how do you tell if a writer is unemployed?)

The people represented in this book were chosen by various criteria; that their stories were clear and coherent, that they had been old enough to remember things before emancipation (at least 10) and that they be from a variety of states.

They are, of course, memories of old people. Even someone who was 10 in 1865 would be 81 in 1936. The past often seems better than the present, especially when the present is the Great Depression and you are a

member of a severely disadvantaged minority. So some of the people interviewed remember slavery with more fondness than might be expected. Some speak of good masters, or the parties they had, or how it was better not to have to worry about anything because it was all taken care of, however poorly. But to many that means nothing. The cruelty, violence and indignities left too strong of a mark to be erased by time and further hardships.

A powerful collection, though it's less than a hundred pages long.

The Scholarship Advisor 1998

Chris Vuturo

A massive book with every possible scholarship you could imagine, and some that I couldn't (did you know that you can major in turf maintenance?). Looks like a really good way to try and get enough money to stay here. I'd suggest buying one with a friend and sharing; twenty-three dollars is a lot for a one-use book.



Adam Villani: Media Guy

A Perfect Ganesh

After hitting hard with the abortion drama *In the House of the Lord* and letting it all hang out with *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, my co-worker Dave Barton's Rude Guerrilla Theater Company switches gears again with the thought-provoking magical realism of *A Perfect Ganesh*.

Written by Terrence McNally of *Love! Valor! Compassion!* fame *A Perfect Ganesh* is a conceptually daring work in which two rich white women from Connecticut travel to India in search of an elusive spiritual fulfillment, encountering the elephant-headed god Ganesha in many different guises along the way. The travel serves as a backdrop and catalyst for personal revelations on poverty, gay-bashing, racism, disease, communication, and forgiveness.

Rude Guerrilla's low-budget production makes wonderful use of a few Spartan props and the full interior of the beautiful Gem Theatre to evoke a wide variety of settings, and Susan Shearer/Stewart is a standout amongst the four-person cast, which does a wonderful job tackling the rich material (though Ganesha could have used a bit more gusto). While not 100% successful, this is an ambitious play that actually makes a trip to Garden Grove rewarding. Playing Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through March 29. For info call (714) 741-9555.

Mean Streets

Last week I caught a brand-new print of this 1973 Martin Scorsese picture at the Nuart, and man, I loved it! If you could have watched this early effort of his 25 years ago, it would have been obvious you had a major talent on your hands. This movie is on fire. A very young-looking Harvey Keitel plays Charlie, a low-level hood who wants to go straight, but can't sever his ties and responsibilities to his epileptic girlfriend and loose cannon boyhood pal Johnny Boy (an amazing Robert De Niro). This movie has a loose, raw feel to it, but still introduced much of the film world to the tracking shots, authenticity of setting, dramatic sense, and keen eye for human interaction that make Martin Scorsese one of the greatest directors of his generation. You can catch this movie on video, but I'd recommend seeking out its theatrical playdates.

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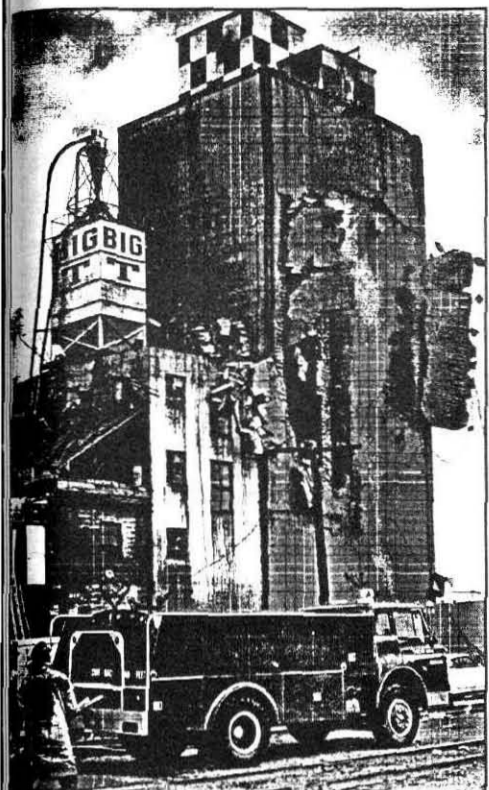
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Terry come home...
Your Mother

While you were trolling...

Remembering events from this term



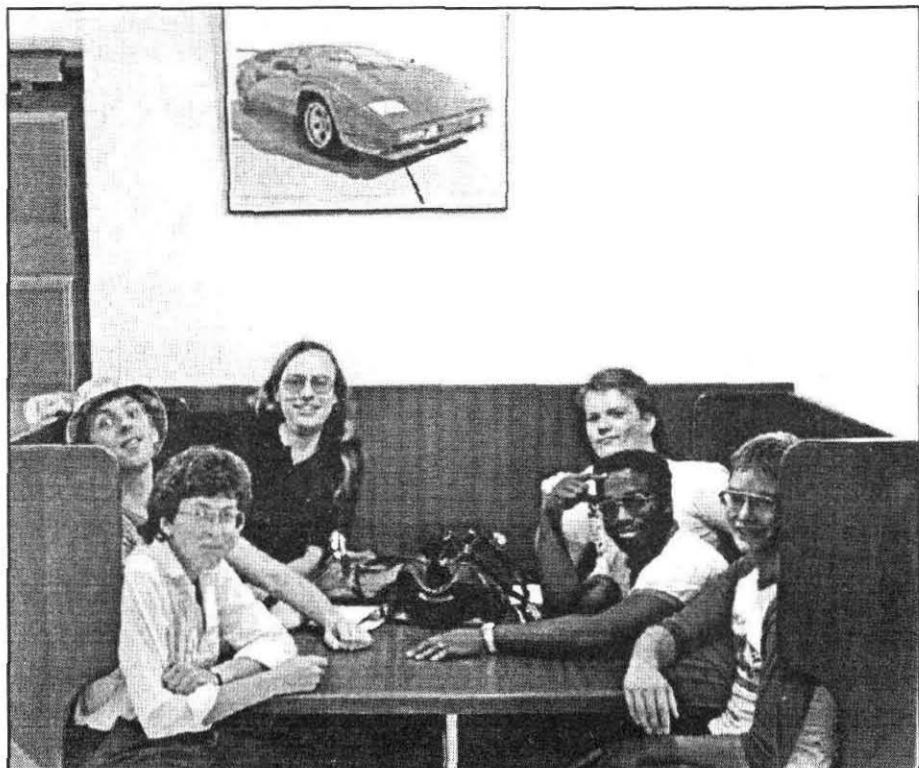
TECH ARCHIVES

... The Big T is coming ...



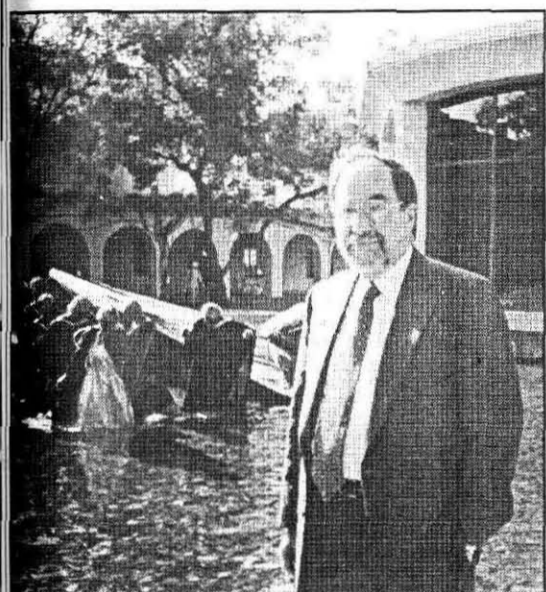
SHAY'S LAND OF GUMBY

... Editorial team flakes—
new regime takes control ...



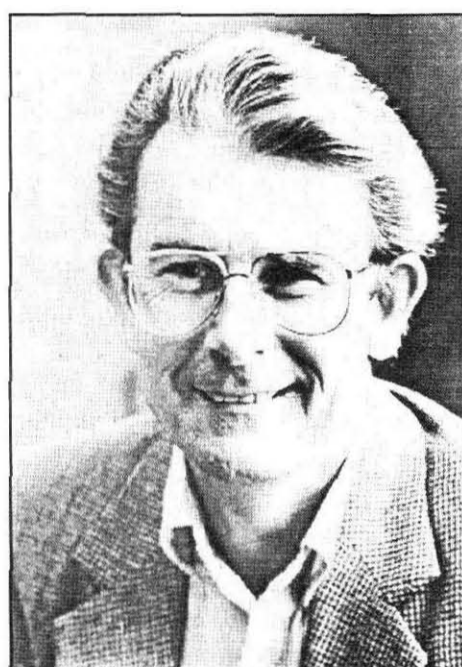
TECH ARCHIVES

... The Coffeeshouse coming under ASCIT management ...



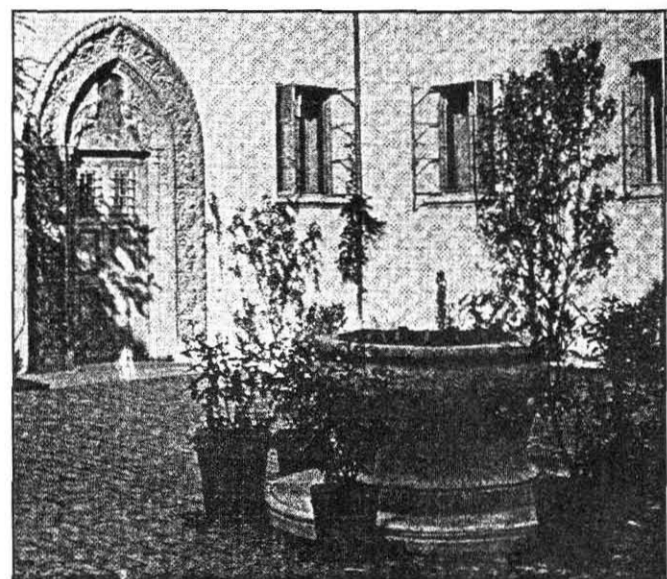
WREN MONTGOMERY

Alien greetings for Baltimore



BIG T ARCHIVES

... Chris Brennen new VP for
Student Affairs ...



BIG T ARCHIVES

... The Ricketts Pot?? ...

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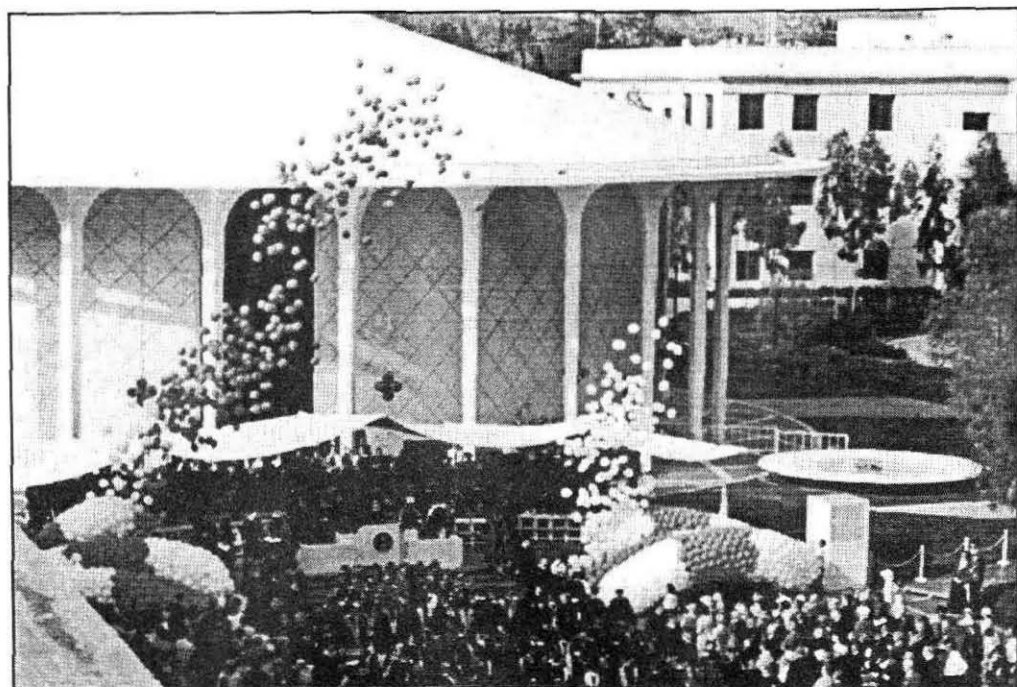
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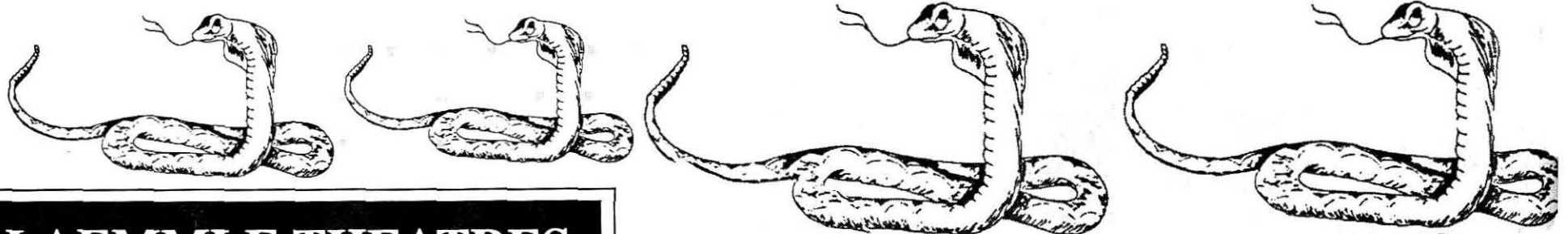
FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert Comics:

- Strip 1:** I JUST READ THAT THE AVERAGE WOMAN IS PAID 75 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR THAT MEN MAKE. IT'S AN OUTRAGE!
- Strip 2:** I'M THE HIGHEST PAID ENGINEER IN THE COMPANY.
- Strip 3:** THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THE ARTICLE SAYS "AVERAGE WOMEN" EARN LESS. SUDDENLY, THE PROBLEM COMES INTO FOCUS.
- Strip 4:** THIS ARTICLE SAYS MEN ARE PAID 25% MORE THAN WOMEN. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
- Strip 5:** ACTUALLY, IT SAYS WOMEN MAKE 75¢ FOR EVERY DOLLAR THAT MEN MAKE. THAT'S 33% MORE FOR MEN.
- Strip 6:** I SUPPOSE THERE'S ALMOST NO CHANCE YOU'LL PRAISE ME FOR MY MATH SKILLS RIGHT NOW.
- Strip 7:** ALICE, ONE DAY I HOPE WE CAN BE JUDGED BY OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NOT OUR GENDER.
- Strip 8:** I GOT MY FOURTEENTH PATENT TODAY. I'M ON MY WAY TO A LUNCH BANQUET IN MY HONOR.
- Strip 9:** AND YOU WORE THAT?
- Strip 10:** OUR USER MANUAL HAS A TYPO. OUR TECHNICAL SUPPORT CALLS ARE GOING TO A PHONE SEX PLACE.
- Strip 11:** COMPLAINTS ARE WAY DOWN.
- Strip 12:** CUSTOMER'S HOUSE. WELL, OKAY, BUT... HAS THAT EVER WORKED? NO COMPLAINTS YET.
- Strip 13:** I'LL NEED A LETTER OF REFERENCE TO APPLY FOR A JOB IN ANOTHER DIVISION.
- Strip 14:** ... FOR A MAN OF HIS HYGIENE, HE DOESN'T STEAL AS MUCH AS YOU'D THINK. I SUSPECT HE'S ON DRUGS.
- Strip 15:** AND THEN HE SAYS YOU'RE PRONE TO ANGER AND DENIAL. IS THAT TRUE? NO!!
- Strip 16:** CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR. MY BOSS IS PREVENTING ME FROM TRANSFERING TO A GREAT JOB.
- Strip 17:** THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY GREAT JOBS IN THIS COMPANY.
- Strip 18:** ONCE AGAIN, YOU'VE MADE A BAD SITUATION WORSE. THAT'S THE HUMAN RESOURCES PROMISE.

FoxTrot Comics:

- Strip 1:** LISTEN, EILEEN, GIVEN MY REPUTATION FOR HATING GIRLS, I WAS HOPING TO KEEP NEWS THAT I LIKE YOU SORT OF OUR LITTLE SECRET.
- Strip 2:** SAY, ISN'T THAT YOUR PAL MARCUS A MERE 300 YARDS AWAY WITH HIS NOSE BURIED IN SOME BOOK? HUH?
- Strip 3:** AAAAA! IT IS HIM! DON'T LET HIM SEE US TOGETHER! HIDE! HIDE! HIDE!
- Strip 4:** FRANKLY, I SEE EITHER OUR SECRET OR YOU BEING TOO MANY VERY SHORT-LIVED. MAN, THIS SCHOOL HAS WAY TOO MANY PRICKER BUSHES.
- Strip 5:** HI, MARCUS! HI, JASON!
- Strip 6:** I SAID HI, JASON.
- Strip 7:** HELLOOO, JASON... COME IN, JASON... JASON DO YOU READ ME?... CALLING JASON FOX... JASON?...
- Strip 8:** WHAT? - I DIDN'T AND I'M SURE YOU SUSPECT THERE WAS SOMETHING OF STONY GOING ON BETWEEN US! SILENCE THREW HIM WELL OFF THE TRAIL.
- Strip 9:** PETER, I NEED SOME ADVICE. ASK AWAY, GRASSHOPPER.
- Strip 10:** WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST SORT OF MINI, MICRO, TINY RELATIONSHIP WITH A GIRL, WHAT DID YOU DO TO, YOU KNOW, KEEP IT QUIET? KEEP IT QUIET?!
- Strip 11:** JASON, THE FIRST TIME A GIRL SAID SHE'D GO OUT WITH ME, I ANNOUNCED IT OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM, SENT PHOTOS TO THE SCHOOL PAPER, AND TATTOOED HER NAME ON MY BICEP WITH A RED MAGIC MARKER.
- Strip 12:** MIND YOU, IT WASN'T UNTIL SEVERAL YEARS LATER THAT A GIRL ACTUALLY DID GO OUT WITH ME. MAYBE I SHOULD WAIT FOR DAD TO COME HOME.
- Strip 13:** I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW IDIOTIC I'VE BEEN, EILEEN. OH?
- Strip 14:** I'VE SPENT ALL WEEK SCARED TO DEATH SOMEONE'S GOING TO OVERHEAR US TALKING AND FIND OUT THAT I LIKE YOU. WELL, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE MOVIE "TITANIC," WHEN (BOINK!) IT HIT ME...
- Strip 15:** THAT YOU SHOULD JUST IGNORE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK AND FOLLOW YOUR OWN HEART?
- Strip 16:** NO, NO - WE SHOULD JUST SECRETLY COMMUNICATE OUR RELATIONSHIP BY SEMAPHORE. MORE AND MORE I SEE THE WISDOM IN KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP HIDDEN.
- Strip 17:** JASON, I WISH YOU'D STOP ACTING SO WEIRD! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
- Strip 18:** WHAT DO I MEAN? YOU WON'T BE SEEN WITH ME... YOU WON'T SAY HI TO ME IN FRONT OF YOUR FRIENDS... YOU WANT US TO COMMUNICATE IN SOME SECRET CODE...
- Strip 19:** IS YOUR LIKING ME REALLY SO EMBARRASSING TO YOU THAT IT'S WORTH CRIPPLING OUR FRIENDSHIP JUST TO KEEP IT SECRET??
- Strip 20:** I'M WAITING FOR AN ANSWER. AND I'LL GIVE YOU ONE, JUST AS SOON AS THAT KID I MET ONCE TURNS HIS BACK COMPLETELY TOWARD US.
- Strip 21:** GIVE ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT? YOU WERE RIGHT, EILEEN.
- Strip 22:** IT'S OBVIOUS THE ROOT OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS IS MY OBSESSION WITH KEEPING THIS THING SECRET. THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO JUST GRIT MY TEETH, TAKE THE PLUNGE, AND ADMIT TO THE WORLD THAT I LIKE YOU.
- Strip 23:** YUP, IN EXACTLY 11 DAYS I PLAN TO SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS: "I LIKE EILEEN!"
- Strip 24:** THAT WOULDN'T BE APRIL FOOL'S DAY, BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD IT? DANG. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAUGHT THAT.



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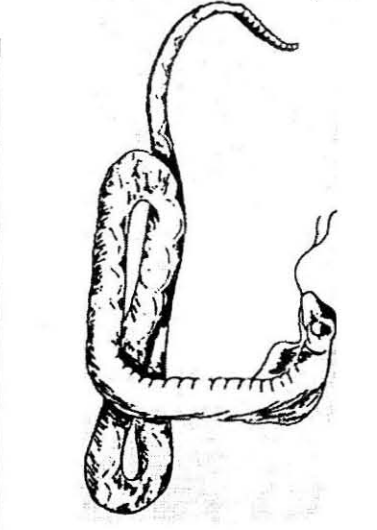
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Dill's Corner

Growing the grass

by Erik Dill



When you get right down to it, it's really resembles a forest. Towering foliage blots out the sun in an endless canopy of green. Moving here and there, we discover vegetation in endless variety covering the bare earth. Each plant strains upward to the sun, reaching for life and prosperity. Creatures roam around performing the great dance of evolution, though in a more civilized fashion than we humans. They eat, sending bits of reconstituted sunlight through their systems, reducing and oxidizing, building up in sheer spite of thermodynamics. They respire and expire, marking out the beat of an ageless, gearless metronome. And all is well in our little forest. Until someone cuts the grass, that is.

scrub. Now, we have a wedding cake auditorium, a phallic library, and seas of green that are perhaps even more unusual. In crossing a continent to build a new life, we seem to have brought the bricks with us. However, verdant fields of green look as out of place in a desert as the ivy-besieged brick battlements of Harvard Yard would look in our semi-Mediterranean stronghold. Perhaps we are still importing bricks, as the water which makes our finely manicured, though rather bland, green canvases possible is far from native. For that matter, many of the painters themselves are recent imports, trying to hew a new life out of nature as many pioneers before them did.

Grass is grass, perhaps, but it seems an inordinate amount of energy goes into keeping it from drying up and withering into oblivion. Endless gadgets and machines of all descriptions, more or less useful, have been conceived solely for raising, and sometimes resurrecting this

rather fragile patient. Not only that, but millions of tons of chemicals are produced each year to perform various lawn-primping functions. The fact that some of these products are also used by terrorists to blow up buildings and kill people seems to escape turfmaniacs. Perhaps this chemical obsession in the growers of grass is a crossover from the consumers of grass. Not only do we seek foreign landscaping, but we pursue further alienation from nature by making these plots into mortuaries for all that threaten, however remotely, the survival of our patient.

Horticulture is not brain surgery. It is not precise or well defined, and certainly not sterile. Undoubtedly, some of us probably yearn for a clean room for our lawns. A perfect, enclosed environment where each tender blade can receive the perfect amount of light, water and nutrients, and be sheltered from the harsh realities of slugs, fungus, and the heavy tread of a jaunt from the pavement. Fortunately for the rest of us, the world is not quite so boring. It would be a shame if the world was a huge sod farm, slug free

and liberally sparkled with "Keep Off Grass" signs.

Is this preoccupation with sterile perfection limited to grass, or is it symptomatic of a broader, more strung out social dysfunction? People tend to mow their mental lawns far too much. Rather than leave them in a free, natural state, they contort them into gross, torture aberrations. Especially in the warp 9 world of LA, there is perilously little room to fit a life among day planners, cell phones, digital assistants, fax machines, microwaves, TV dinners, and leaner, meaner computers. A microprocessor may be able to make 330 MHz on a good day, but humans are far more amicable at about a hertz or less. While technology advances, evolution keeps us on a fairly steady course. It still takes a lazy afternoon to have a picnic, and a few years prior to make worthwhile wine and cheese for the event. The clouds will still float by, the ants will still carry away your fallen crumbs in a wandering, meandering path back to their colony, and you will still get a burn that will leave you peeling for days if you are lulled to sleep in the sun. Life works through kite flying and finger painting, not through neurotic husbandry. Cutting your lawn with scissors and a ruler will wreck your

knees, pushing a lawn mower will wrench your back, and riding around on one of those "lawn tractors" will contribute to the air pollution that will eventual cause you to die when you contract pneumonia and slowly drown as your lungs fill with fluid. Let your lawn be a little wild, let your soul be free. It is just as unnatural, and detrimental, to place yourself in a vacuum of joy as it is to put grass in the desert.

The blinding pace of the world becomes horribly apparent finals week. In the midst of this frenzy of abuse, sometimes it's easy to forget the reasons why we were drawn to Tech, mecca of all things technical. Too often, we are drawn into the endless drudgery, proceeding without pleasure, numb to the pain. The weeks can drag on for an eternity, until you look back and see six months of your life disappear. However, sometimes the light breaks in like the sun coming over the mountains and flooding your room at the end of a seventy hour study session. The knowledge flows like falling rain, bringing peace and serenity known only in the silent beauty of our untouched forest, growing free.

Vale!

Erik

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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.

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Announcements

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club will be offering two new dance classes, starting on March 31st. Lindy Hop, a fast-paced variant of Swing and Charleston, will be taught by a professional instructor. It will be in Dabney Hovse's lounge on Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. The cost will be \$25 if the series is 5 weeks long, or \$20 for a 4 week series. For undergrads, the cost is \$15 and \$12, respectively. The free beginner's class will be Merengue, starting April 2nd and running for five Tuesday evenings, from 7:30-9p.m. in Dabney Lounge (NOT Dabney Hovse). The classes do not require a partner or prior experience. Refreshments and practice dance time follow each lesson. For more information, visit <http://www.caltech.edu/~ballroom>

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.

Beginning Monday, January 5th, free anonymous HIV testing, using an oral HIV antibody test, will be 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 will also be accepted. Both pre- and post-test counseling will be 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

* Creation Entertainment presents Grand Slam VI, a **Star Trek and Babylon 5 convention**, at the Pasadena Center on April 3-5. Guests scheduled to appear include William Shatner, Avery Brooks, Patrick Stewart, and Kate Mulgrew. The convention will also feature a full range of programming including previews of sci-fi television programs and motion pictures. A dealers emporium will feature sci-fi collectibles. Advanced tickets purchased from Ticketmaster are \$26 Friday, \$31 Saturday, and \$36 Sunday. Tickets purchased at the door are \$5 more. For further information, call (818)409-0960.

Mints

*denotes a new announcement.

* The Armchair Adventures travel film **Scotland and the Scottish Isles** will be narrated by travel lecturers Joe and Mary Liz Adair on April 3rd, at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Tickets to this film are priced at \$9 and \$7.

* The **Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats** will perform on April 4th at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Award-winning acrobatics are combined with colorful costumes, dramatic dance, and music. Tickets to this performance are priced at \$29, \$26, and \$23; youths 12 years and under receive \$4 off. Student and senior rush tickets will go on sale for \$10, beginning one-half hour before the performance (subject to availability).

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

Distant Lands, a local travel bookstore, sponsors **free budget travel workshops**. For more information, or to reserve a spot, call 449-3220. FAR

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

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans are offering ten fellowships for graduate study in professional fields and the academic disciplines anywhere in the United States. "New Americans" include green card holders, naturalized citizens, and children of parents who were both naturalized citizens. Each fellowship will be for up to two years, with the possibility of a third year. Applicants must be between the ages of 20 and 28. The awards will be \$20,000 annually for maintenance and half tuition. The deadline is March 30, 1998. Applications are available at the Office of International Student Programs (ISP), Lloyd House.

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 Cogle, Administrator, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B5G4. Filing dates for mailing applications in 1998 are April 1st, June 1st, and November 15th. UFA

The **National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)** is soliciting applications for three scholarships to be awarded for the 1998 academic year. Scholarships range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. In addition, a \$500 award will be made to the winners' colleges/universities. Students must be graduating seniors or current graduate students in Masters Degree programs. Eligible students must be U.S. citizens and be pursuing or planning to pursue a degree in engineering, biology, chemistry, business administration, or any other field which may lead to a career in the investor-owned public water supply business. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. UFA

The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the 52nd Annual **McKinney Competition for excellence in writing**. Prizes will be given in three cat-

egories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, with address and phone number included. The prizes are \$300. Contestants should submit their work to Professor Jenijoy LaBelle, 101-40 by no later than April 3, 1998. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. If you have any questions, contact Professor LaBelle at x3605 or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

The **Judicial Administration Fellowship** offers work in administrative or executive offices of California appellate or trial courts. There is no preferred major. Applicants must have received their B.S. by August 1997. Fellows earn a monthly stipend of \$1707 for the 11 months of the program. The application deadline is April 3, 1998. Please note that California also offers similar programs in its Assembly and other state administrative/policy areas. 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 resi Lent 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 **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.

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