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## News

## TTThe Outside Worlddd

by Cheryl Forest

**Tokaimura, Japan:** A nuclear accident occurred yesterday morning in this town's privately owned uranium-processing plant. Thirty-four workers were exposed to radiation, and of these, three had to be hospitalized. The official explanation for the accident is that through an equipment malfunction or other such event, a "criticality incident" had occurred - this means that an unwanted and unchecked nuclear chain reaction became self-sustaining. If there is a bright side to this entire situation, it is that "early estimates indicate that this particular accident will not rank above three on a seven-level scale of nuclear accidents" (BBC). The reaction was stopped early Friday morning.

**Stockholm, Sweden:** Guenter Grass of Germany won the Nobel

Prize in literature yesterday. He began his career in the wake of the Third Reich, and his writing has both explored and explained Germany over the past century. In an interview on Thursday, Grass said, "I was constantly a candidate for 20 years. That kept me young. Now, old age is irrevocably starting." The other Nobel prize winners will be announced in the coming weeks, with the medicine prize next Monday, the physics and chemistry prizes next Tuesday, the economics prize next Wednesday, and the peace prize October 15.

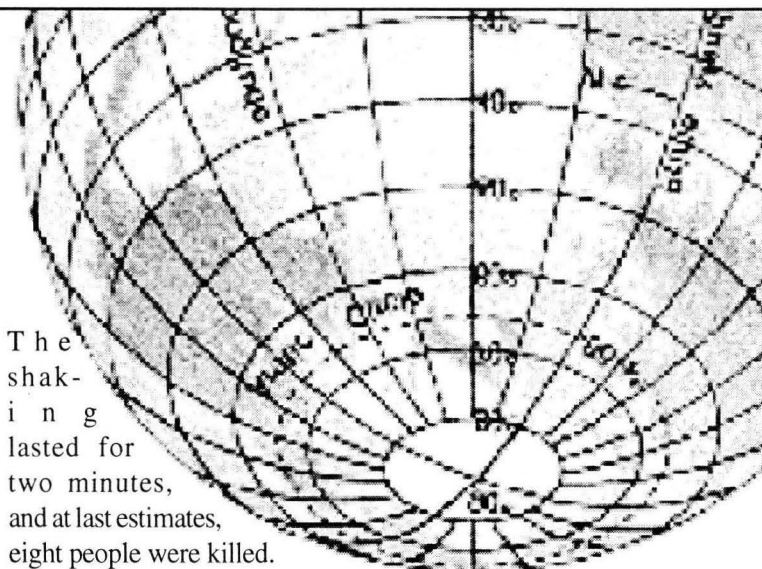
**Mexico City:** An earthquake of magnitude 7.4 hit Mexico Thursday at 11:30 AM. (For those of you who don't know, an earthquake is a movement of the ground associated with liquid hot magma.) It was centered in Oaxaca, which is located on the Mexican W. coast.

The shaking lasted for two minutes, and at last estimates, eight people were killed.

**Berkeley, CA:** Marion Zimmer Bradley died last Saturday four days after suffering a heart attack. Zimmer, a popular sci-fi and fantasy novelist, wrote such books as "The Mists of Avalon," "The Forest House," "The Catch Trap," "Lady of Avalon," "The Firebrand," and the "Darkover" series.

**Pasadena, CA:** Officials at JPL today concurred that the reason that

the Mars Climate Orbiter went crunch on the Mars surface last week was due to, ummmm, failure to complete the appropriate dimensional analysis conversions. In other words, Lockheed Martin uses the English system of units while JPL uses the metric system of units. Because the conversions weren't made, the spacecraft crashed when NASA controllers tried to put the MCO into orbit.



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## DEADLINES

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Announcements (Mints):	noon Monday
Letters to the Editor:	6 p.m. Tuesday
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## News

## Safety Office bans Couches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Safety Office in hopes of a compromise. The IHC proposes the presence of a third party to help mediate and to act as a second opinion in the query of what constitutes a fire hazard. In addition, several ideas are being tossed around to compensate for some of what is lost, such as a deck connecting Lloyd and Rud-

dock House or at least the return of couches which fit within the white-taped lines. Some of these ideas seem unlikely, others may be the only solutions. All that is definite is that the Safety Mascare has drawn more than blood. It has taken the life from many student hideaways.

## Mystery Surrounds Mars, Baffles Public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those that are Marsbound. For another year we can remain confident that the plans to put people on the surface of the red planet will continue.

But for now, Mars will only be seen through a camera, and not human eyes, noticeably so on December 3rd when the Mars Polar Lander arrives on the surface. In Pasadena there will be a large party, Planetfest, put on by the Planetary Society which will include a live watching of the landing. Despite the loss of communication with the Mars

Climate Orbiter (due to a simple navigation error), there is an air of confidence that this lander will succeed. When it reaches the surface, it will take pictures to be sent back to Earth and will use a small scoop to test the regolith of the Martian surface. In addition, two Deep space 2 probes will fall from high above the surface to impact the terrain and sink deep into the ground to take measurements, providing terran scientists with further information on martian composition.

The solar powered lander will function for one full day which, in the southern hemisphere near the pole and during the summer, is quite some time. This robotic mission to Mars will help answer many questions about the highlands in the area, the layered terrain, and several quirks about the surface. It will be yet another step to eventually sending a small group of humans through space for several months to eventually leave a footprint in the rocky, red, and windswept regolith of Mars.

## Shakespeare's Caltech

By Jeremy Tollefson

To play, or not to play: that is my question:  
Whether 'tis better in my mind to suffer  
The equations and diagrams of incomprehensible numbers,  
Or to ignore them and face my friends,  
And by opposing end them? To enjoy: to relax;  
No more; and by relaxing to claim we end  
The suffering and the thousand unnatural shocks  
That brains are heir to, 'tis the couch  
Devoutly to be want'd. To enjoy, to relax;  
To relax: perchance to sleep: ay, there's the catch;  
For in that relaxation in bed what sleep may come  
When I have disregarded all my horrid sets,  
Must give pause: there's the hitch  
That makes calamity of sleeping in;  
For who could bear the report card from Tech,  
The professor's comments, the TA's memory,  
The pangs of too many games, the UASH,

The heat from the office and the burns  
That many others of the worthy takes,  
When we ourselves might our efforts end  
With a single pun? who would problems bear,  
To strain and rack over a difficult proof,  
But that the horror of something outside Caltech,  
The protective Bubble from whose bourn  
No student returns the same, scares all  
And forces us to bear the classes we have  
Than escape to others that we know too much of?  
Thus intelligence does make cowards of us all;  
And thusly our original disposition  
Is sickly transfigured with the intense labor of <insert class here>,  
And courses of incredible importance and meaning  
With this in mind their subjects gain hilarity,  
And lost the fear they held.

## BLURB

Environmental  
Task Force  
*in short*

The Caltech Environmental Task Force's principle action has been pushing Caltech to adopt an Environmental Policy. In the past year, CETF members have met with Caltech administrators, trying to sell the idea that a environmental code of action would not only be **responsible but economical**. In addition to this campus action, CETF organizes the Earth Day Fair, invites various speakers to campus to speak on **environmental issues**, and organizes **various outings**, including Eco-home open houses and beach and LA River clean-ups (in collaboration with the Caltech Y.)

For this next year, CETF will continue to **lobby** for an environmental policy, which could include measures for better funding for **improved recycling**, and **water and energy conservation** for existing and future policy, which could include measures for better funding for improved recycling, and water and energy conservation for existing and future buildings. We also have a **speaker** lined up for October 6, Winnett Club Room, noon, **Bob Brister**, to talk about Saving the Sierra Nevadas, and a Beach Clean-up planned for October 23.

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*We're Number One!*

Welcome frosh! You've entered the wonderful world of Caltech — a magical place where all your wildest dreams can come true. This will be true for some of you, anyway. For the rest, life will suck big time! Nah, I'm being exceptionally harsh and not completely true to my own thoughts. As I've said in previous columns, I really do like Caltech and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else, but I have to complain about something!

There are many cool things about Caltech. Where else can you wake up at noon and go to sleep at 3 and be on a "normal" schedule? Where else can you finish all 20 hours of work one day and then talk to your friends about playing with Linux? Where else can your primary form of interpersonal communication be ICQ? Where else can you be a no-talent writer getting paid by a third-rate newspaper? [Editors' Note: We hate you, Jason.] And yes, where else can you see frozen pumpkins being dropped from a nine story building? Only at Caltech, of course! I'm sure you'll find plenty of other things to add to that list in your time here, depending on how wisely you use it.

Caltech is a good place to be at, but believe it or not, I actually like it better during the summer. This shouldn't be surprising because *there's no work*. [Sports Editor's Note: What are you talking about?] Sure, there's SURF, but unless you have a slavedriver mentor or only take 30 units per term, you won't do half as much work as you'll do during the school year — and you get paid for it! If you're really lucky, you can have a job that you're actually interested in, too. The best part about the summer is that there are lots of people around with lots of

free time. And because there are no House activities, there are many opportunities to interact with people you may have never met before. In fact, any of my close friends I've met during the summers at Caltech.

I am sure that the ratings people at U.S. News didn't consider these factors when they chose Caltech as their #1 school this year. They factored in our SAT scores, the money the Institute spends per student, the academic reputation, the student selectivity, and various other criteria. They didn't encompass the *je ne sais quoi* of Caltech — the essential strangeness that accompanies the Caltech experience. It's in the students, the classes, the professors, and the campus. There's something very different about the Caltech experience, far as I can ascertain. Perhaps it's the Honor System, or the Houses, or the fact that everyone here is really smart, but something's different from the typical college or university. Depending on who you are, it may be different in a good way or a bad way. That's something that everyone will have to figure out for themselves, of course. For me, I think it's been good so far (despite some regions of bad). [Copy Editor's Note: Regions of what?]

With that thought, I will end this pitifully short column and wish you well until next time! Hopefully then I will have more to write about.

*Innerspace is a recurring column in The California Tech. Jason Meltzer is a Junior. Questions, compliments, or other comments should be directed to jasonm1@its. Also, we the editors don't really have anything against Jason. He writes a regular interesting column.*

## Soccer, volleyball fall in close games

CHRIS HUGHES,  
DIR. MEDIA SERVICES  
CALTECH ATHLETICS

Caltech sophomore goalkeeper Craig Viereg (Wheaton, Ill./Wheaton Warrenville South) stopped 11 shots on the afternoon, including several at point-blank range, but the Beavers soccer team dropped a 3-0 decision at home to Occidental on Wednesday. Later in the evening, the Caltech women's volleyball team fell in three games to Whittier, 15-6, 15-5, 15-5.

In soccer, the teams battled scoreless on a hot, muggy afternoon until Tigers forward Jeremy Kelley found the back of the net at the 30:35 mark. Occidental added two penalty kicks in the second

half for the 3-0 decision.

The young Caltech volleyball squad continues to improve. Junior outside hitter Jennifer Fong (San Leandro, Calif./Redwood Christian) paced the Beavers with five kills on 10 attempts while sophomores Karen Lam (Seattle, Wash./Ballard) and Barbara Kraatz (Orange Grove, Texas/Orange Grove) tied for team-high honors with four digs apiece.

On Saturday, the soccer team hosts conference-rival Redlands at 11 a.m. on the Caltech North Athletic Field while the volleyball team hosts Occidental at 7:30 p.m. at Braun Athletic Center. Also that day, the Caltech water polo team will host the Caltech Classic beginning at 9 a.m. in Braun Pool. All Caltech ath-

letic venues are at the corner of California Blvd. and Wilson Ave. in Pasadena. Admission to all Caltech athletic events is free. Soccer: Occidental 3, Caltech 0. Goals - Occidental Jeremy Kelley (Dave Burke), 30:35. Occidental Rene Velado (PK), 66:51. Occidental Rene Velado (PK), 83:57. Halftime Score: Occidental 1, Caltech 0. Goalies: Caltech Craig Viereg (11 saves), Occidental Efrain Panigua (3 saves). Records: Occidental 2-3-1, 1-1-1 SCIAC; Caltech 0-5-1, 0-2 SCIAC. Volleyball: Whittier d. Caltech 15-6, 15-5, 15-5. Kill Leaders: Whittier (Bridget Tichauer 7), Caltech (Jennifer Fong 5). Dig Leaders: Whittier (Amy Reid 5), Caltech (Barbara Kraatz and Karen Lam 4). Records: Whittier 5-6, Caltech 0-9.

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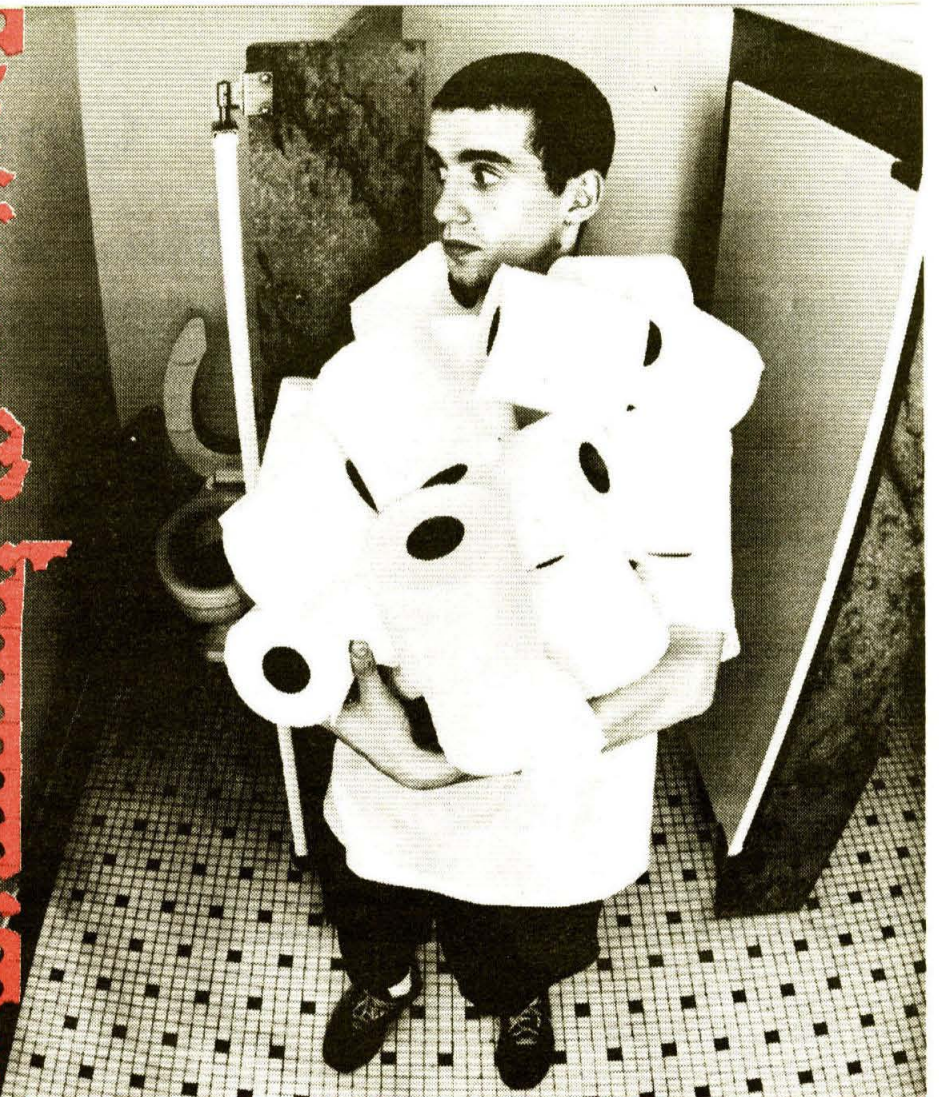
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## Opinion

## "When I was a Frosh..."

## Counterpoint

Let us speak, let us be free

BY JOHN OH

As long as we can remember, Rotation has been a crucial part of the Frosh initiation into Caltech. Along with Frosh Camp, rotation allows the incoming Frosh to check out the seven houses at 'Tech, while at the same time allowing for the upperclassmen of each house to interview the Frosh and find out a little bit about them. The many many many strict rotation rules, which in principle sound pretty good and fair, one must look at these rules in practice and it is clear to see that not only does it lead to frustration and confusion on the Frosh's part, it completely buries the true potential of Rotation week under heaps of bureaucracy and mindless statutes.

Rotation, in principle, is a great idea. What better way for the incoming Frosh and the existing hard-liner upperclassmen to meet and greet each other; find out about each other so that all parties involved may make the best choices once Saturday comes around. Its policies seem fair and unbiased, and seem to be in the best interest of everyone involved. This is of course, only in principle.

In practice, things are much much different. Rotation should be about communication. In all venues of life, and most certainly when meeting new people, we need to communicate our idea, opinions, and views. Sure, facts are great, but after the twelve gazillionth "Oh, I came here because of the people" and the seventy five quadillionth "Yeah, people are really diverse here," one begins to wonder just what exactly the purpose of rotation is. It is confusing enough to meet new people and find out about the houses without silly red tape rotation rules preventing people from expressing their opinions.

Sure, some rules are appropriate. We really can't have houses spending exorbitant amounts of money on rotation, nor can we have upperclassmen pulling special favors for the Frosh. But what we can have is a free and intelligent forum where everyone can

openly show their view without fear of repercussions. We are all intelligent and bright here; it is an insult to our intelligence to assume that we cannot be held responsible to make our own decisions based on our viewpoints of the houses as they were truly meant to be seen: without rotation rules hindering our way.

Rotation has become a water-down weakling of what it has the potential to be. We know that they are all fine houses, we know that all opinions are only those of the speaker, and we know that people will only speak about past experiences. What we don't know is what people think, what their true opinions are, and ultimately, what their experience can teach us. As one upperclassman so accurately put it, "I can't say much about my house, because I live here, but I can say things about other houses.. but that's against Rotation rules, sorry." We will be living in these houses for four years. We want to know the dirt, we want to know the special events they hold; what we don't want is to be told they are all fine houses. People excel in competition, and this holds true for Rotation. If the houses were given more freedom to compete, not only would we all have more fun, but the Frosh would be able to make a better and more informed judgment when ranking houses.

Caltech is a fine school, and rotation is a fine week, the rules are fine, and of course, they're all fine houses -- but there is so much more potential there that we are not fully using by the straitjacket rotation rules. Let us do what we do best. Let us compete, let us speak, let us be free.

Ω

## Point

Milk Rotation for all it's worth

BY JON FOSTER

Ah, Rotation. That wonderful and mystical process by which Frosh find the fine house that is perfect for them, and the fine houses find the frosh who will least disrupt the empires which the fine house members have been building since the dawn of time (or at least Caltech).

At least, that is what they would have you believe. The truth is that it is not perfect and not always enjoyable. But it is not that bad either, and with a little careful brainwashing perhaps you too will be able to see the good in Rotation.

Of course, I am restricted in what I can say on the matter. I doubt that many of my fellow frosh would mind being whisked off to the Moon at a fine houses expense, yet still we should realize that next year (if we don't flame) we would be forced to provide such escalating entertainment for next years prefrosh. And so, in my opinion, in the past, we have had Rotation Rules (although that is only to the best of my knowledge). And not only do such Rules provide a necessary safeguard against damage to the global economy, they are also a great source of private amusement. Where else would your first lesson of college be Newspeak 3.14a? Do not look at it as a restriction, but as a challenge to your ability to make meaningful conversation without imparting genuine

knowledge. Remember, the IHC is watching you.

Also, Rotation provides a wonderful chance for us to see upperclasspersons suffer. To us, the banal conversations that pervade fine house receptions are still somewhat new. Pity the poor super-senior who has been forced to endure thousands of such conversations. Or, if you so chose, do not pity, but mock. We are basically invulnerable during Rotation, between the fine houses trying to be nice, and the security blanket of pass/fail. We can corner those poor upperclasspersons in various corners and torture them all evening, as they realize their homework time as well as their sanity is slipping away.

Yet, for all my remarks, I truly believe Rotation is good. We can rely on our own poor judgment to chose where, and with whom, to live. We need not depend on the fickle favor of some Housing Office. We get free food at the receptions. We are practically forced to meet people, which is, in the long run, a very good thing. We have ample opportunity to postpone or ignore our work for the first week. It is even possible, is it not, that Rotation will actually allow us to find the fine house in which we'll live and happily suffer at Caltech for the next 4+ years.

Ω

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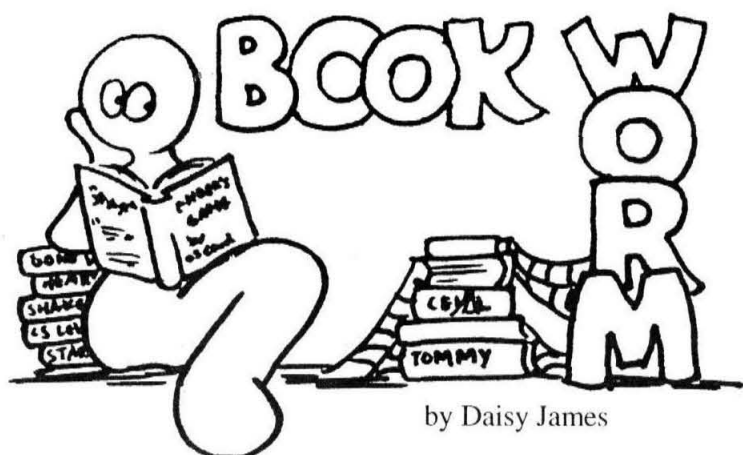
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### Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs

I loved all of this book, except for the ending. I hated the ending. I was going to talk all about the plot and the writing style, but that ending just made me too mad. Okay, I'll say a bit. You know the basics, boy raised by apes becomes a sort of jungle superman, falls for the first woman that he sees. There are details, mostly well handled, some believable. Really what this book is is unapologetic trash. Good trash, but light reading in the extreme. People with delicate sensibilities be warned, there is nothing politically correct about this book. Racism, sexism, class stereotypes, and maligning of endangered species are all here. You just have to remember when the book was written, and accept that none of these things will see the light of day in the Disney version. Other things will probably be dropped as well (the ending had better be) but it would be too bad if they lost any of the scenes between Tarzan and Jane. Not exactly acceptable modern romance, but undeniably readable. The whole book is very sexy while staying entirely G-rated, though it gets an R for violence; the action in almost literally nonstop and extremely bloody. I read the whole thing in about three hours and could not put it down to do my al-

most-overdue work, and that's about as good a recommendation as I can give. But I really hated that ending.

### Agatha Raisin and the Well-spring of Death M.C. Beaton.

Speaking of things I hate, this is about ten of them. An unremittingly ugly book, the only thing this has to recommend it is that the writing is above abysmal. That made it bearable to read, but just barely. I can only think of one character in this book who is even remotely likable, her far-too-infrequent appearances were a breath of fresh air in this tomb. Every other character was petty, nasty, cruel and/or generally unpleasant. The murders are almost inconsequential and the motives, even the red herrings, are too absurd to be seriously considered. What's more, the heroes are headed by one of my least favorite stereotypes, the idiot female sleuth. According to the formula, she bumbles her way through the case, finding no clues and making everyone hate her, while her more competent supporting cast solves the mystery under her nose. This is positively the last time that I pick a book at random off of the shelf at the store.

### The Ravens of Blackwater Edward Marsten

This is the second in Marston's series of mysteries based on the the creation of the Domesday book in medieval England, though the books are independent of each other. They follow the adventures of two agents of William the Conqueror as they try to unravel property and other disputes in order to create the elaborate census. It is a good premise for a mystery series, and well executed. Though I could ask for more in the way of support for the denouement, it is generally well plotted and fun to read. Marsten has clearly done his research, which is sometimes a little too apparent in the rather stiff speeches made by the protagonists, a Norman soldier and a half-Saxon clerk and lawyer. They represent their respective sides a little too perfectly and state them too much like a textbook. The research comes out a bit better in the settings and situations that the author creates for his characters. They are as true to the times as I can imagine, and give a better sense of the times than pages of exposition would have. The villains are villainous, the heroes heroic and the star-crossed lovers appropriately devoted. Not the stuff to shake the literary world, but a good way to pass an afternoon.

### Star Wars: Episode I- The Phantom Menace Terry Brooks

Imagine seeing the movie without the incredible special effects, gorgeous scenery or the charisma of the actors and you have this book. It is difficult to judge because it is so close to the movie that, having seen it, reading this is just like running through the movie in your head. I wonder what it's like being an author and not being able to control the characters, plot setting

or dialogue of your book. About the only thing that is unique is the insight he gives into the characters' thoughts, but even those are suspect. Considering the amount of control that Lucas is said to have, I can't help but wonder if he "directed" this too. Also new are a couple of scenes on Tatooine that add almost nothing to the story; we will probably see them when the movie is re-released in twenty years. The bookstore only had the ugliest cover (Anakin and Watto); if you are going to buy it I would recommend the Ewan MacGregor version (yum). Not that anyone is going to buy this, since everybody who wants to read it is just going to come and borrow my copy anyway.

### The Collected Writings of Marjorie L. James Ed. by Beaufort Frink

A beautiful little collection, following the writer as she moved through her lamentably brief career. Included are gems like the legendary amazon.com review of Tommy I&II and the response e-mails it elicited from clueless and humor-deficient people. In total, the book spans three years of work, from the early days when the author was so sure that she had no readers that she saluted her small audience of copy editors, to later times when the paper seems to have abandoned the idea of copy-editing entirely. Also included are a few feature stories, written with the single, selfless desire to "get to do cool stuff for free." Having won some small acclaim in here little community, she moved on to see what the great wide world had to offer. That lasted for about five minutes before she ran screaming back to hide under her bed, where she remains to this day. Goobye everybody, it's been fun.

### UPCOMING SPORTS CONTESTS

- 10/02 Cross Country  
@Stanford Invitational
- 10/02 Men's Water Polo  
Caltech Classic Tournament  
9:00am
- 10/02 Women's Volleyball  
vs. Occidental 2:00pm
- 10/02 Men's Soccer  
vs. Redlands 11:00am
- 10/03 Men's Water Polos.  
Cal Maritime 11:00am
- 10/05 Women's Volleyball  
vs. LIFE Bible 7:30pm
- 10/06 Men's Water Polo v  
vs. California Baptist 4:00pm
- 10/06 Men's Soccer  
@Whittier 4:00pm

### SEASON UPDATE

**Men's Soccer**  
lost to Pomona-Pitzer, 0-4  
tied Embury-Riddle, 2-2  
lost to Hope Int. 0-6

**Men's Water Polo**  
lost to Chapman, 1-16

**Women's Volleyball**  
lost to Pomona-Pitzer,  
0-15 6-15 4-15  
lost to Occidental,  
5-15 4-15 0-15

**Men's Cross Country**  
12th place,  
UC Riverside Invitational

**Athlete of the Week**  
Ian Shapiro (Sr., Cross Country) led the Beavers to a 12th-place finish at the UC Riverside Invitational last Saturday. His time of 22:38 (average pace: 5:39 for 4 miles) was good for 18th place, the best individual finish by a Caltech runner this season.

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## Advice for the new students about rotation

BY THE IHC 1999-2000

- If you missed a House lunch or dinner for whatever reason, religious, sports, or classes, then just inform a member of the IHC.

- Be sure to give every House an equal chance.

- Keep in mind that we've all gone through Rotation before and that we stick with it because it seems to work. Try to be yourself and try not to stress out.

- Try to rank your preferences as honestly as possible. Please don't try to play the system. The best policy really is just ranking your preferences honestly. If anyone tells you how to rank or if anyone gives you any advice on how to rank, then they are probably committing a Rotation Violation and this incident should be reported to the IHC as soon as possible. Remember the only objective information that the Presidents have to go on is your preference sheet.

- You have to rank at least 4 Houses, but you can rank up to all 7 Houses. Only under extremely unusual circumstances will you be forced to live in a House that you did not rank.

- Please do not rank two Houses the same unless you absolutely have no preference of one over the other.

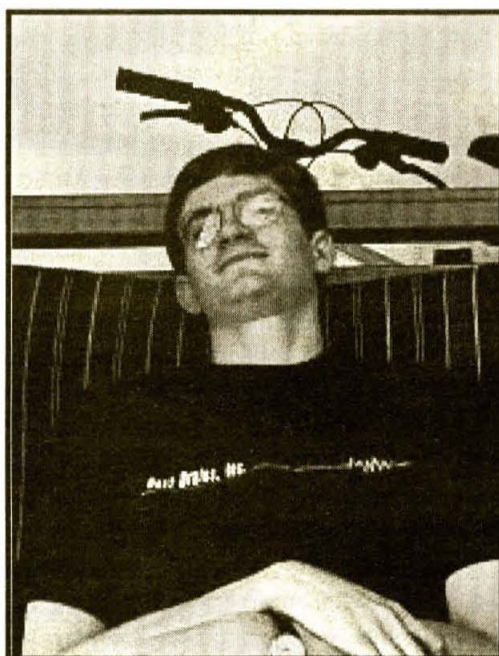
- Talk to the House President of the House that you really want to live in.

- Dinner is 1/2 hour early on Friday.

- Lunch on Saturday:

Blacker	11:50
Dabney	Noon
Ricketts	12:10
Fleming	12:20
Lloyd	11:50
Ruddock	Noon
Page	12:15

- If you are not going to be around on Saturday to rank your Houses, pick up a ranking sheet from the RA of the House that you are rotating out of ASAP.



*Blacker President Nicholas Breen*



*Fleming President Matt Musick*



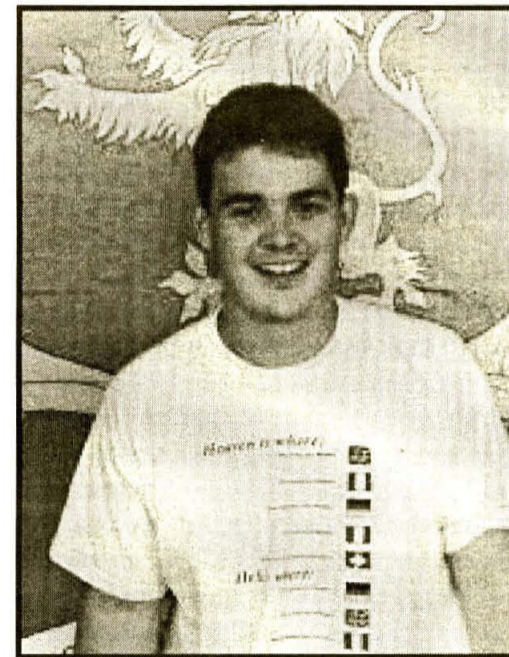
*Page President Marie Fox*



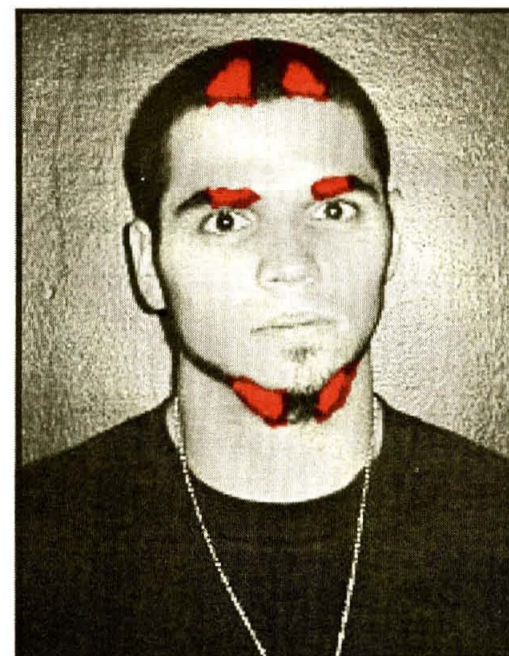
*Ruddock President Katie Noyes*



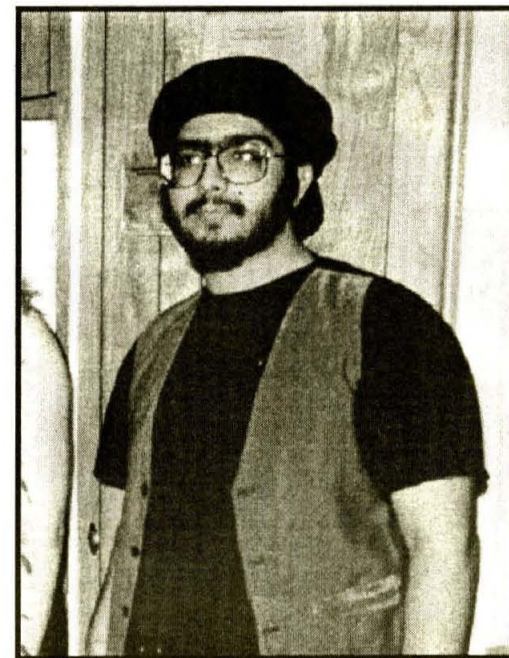
*Dabney President Sarah Milkovich*



*Lloyd President Matt Sullivan*



*Ricketts President Ishnaferitsu*



*IHC Chair Jaideep Singh*



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SUGAR TOWN  
Daily [12:15] 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:55

Jonathan Demme & Talking Heads  
STOP MAKING SENSE  
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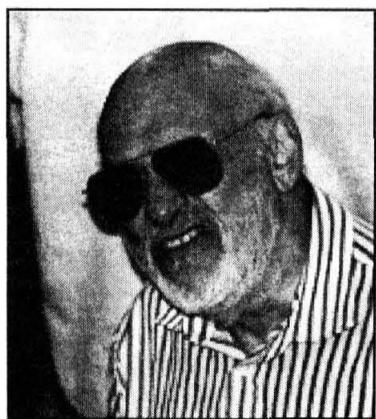
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## Dean's Corner

### From Camp to Campus

by Jean-Paul Revel

Well, Frosh Camp for the class of '03 is now history, and a great adventure it was. Camp was elevated to a much higher plane this year, and I don't mean just from sea level to 7100 feet. We broke with a few other traditions and, I hope, inaugurated activities which were successful enough to have a shot at becoming traditions.

It was quite a change to go from a near-desert corner on a dry island, overgrown with cacti and chaparral, to a place filled with towering conifers. On Catalina the lawn where we met was both maintained and destroyed by sprinklers which often drenched unwary outdoor sleepers, at least what passed for a lawn, was salted each morning with wild pigcalling cards, which had to be picked up before assembly. And then there were the goats, they of the iron palates, taking big bites out of the prickly cacti.... There also was a herd of buffalo abandoned by a movie studio, but they were rarely seen, acting more like Ghosts of Buffalo Past than flesh and blood creatures. The most tangible proof of the bovines' existence was that, at the airport (check "Flight Simulator" if you don't believe there is one), the specialty of the canteen was Buffalo Burgers.

Pine Summit is not dry (well, depending on what you mean by that), and is far from a wilderness of fearsome feral animals. Someone did claim to have seen a wolf, but it was later decided that said beast, waiting outside the meeting hall, was merely a dog with a wolf-like fur. Although a good imitation, it blew its disguise by obediently following an order to sit.

Other than that, the wildlife seemed to consist of squirrels (which were claimed by some to actually be furry cows with bushy tails), paintings of eagles (or were they owls?), blue jays, and a tiny baby mouse which found its way into the dining hall. It was cute and innocent looking, like all babies.... it does help baby mice to survive, to be cute, driving Mr. and Mrs. Mouse to squeal over it delightedly, like human parents, goo goo gagaing to their baby's gurglings.

Among the things that made Camp was the excellence of the facilities. Never mind that there were reasonably clean showers and bathrooms, closed cabins and edible, appetizing food, things were also helped by having good meeting spaces. On Catalina the acoustics in the dining room/meeting hall were so bad, it was hard to hear oneself think, let alone comprehend much of what was said, unless one sat in the first two rows. For the Frosh's edification let me recount some of the annoying features of the Catalina dining hall. Imagine an Avery dining hall without a carpet and not enough room to seat everyone inside.... Which reminds me.... I heard complaints about KP at Pine Summit, which consisted of bussing the dishes and utensils from one's table. On Catalina each group of students (the As & Bs, etc.) in turn had to get up extra early to

but then last year the dishwashers were broken... but let's get back to this year's Camp. One of the impressive things in Big Bear, which had nothing to do with the locale, was the incredible depth of talents, even nonscholastic talent, demonstrated by the incoming student body.

There were pianists, percussionists, reed and wind instruments including vocal cords and kazoo, guitars galore, graceful dancers, jugglers, both musical and physical, and even a raconteur, but he was not a student. All were incredibly (Oh dean of little faith!) good performers, many worthy of the professional stage, rather than some remote camp in the wilderness. Ah!, wilderness again.... Well I know, it was not so wild after all, there were enough fast food places visible from the speeding buses to give indigestion even to ravenous wolves. But then I was told that there is a Burger King (or is it a McDonald's?) in Beijing... and many

years ago now I walked by a then new-ish "Golden Arches" in Moscow, and saw the line at the newly established pizza joint there, snaking around the block in the subzero (centigrade) cold. So if the comforts of French fries and the delights of sour pickles on anemic tomato on lettuce wilting in the heat of a greasy patty, laced with mayo, mustard and ketchup, quickly managed to reach these (at the time distant) places, why should they not have invaded the local wilderness? Note that there is a Rock 'n' Roll Cafe and a Holiday Inn in as remote a place as Urumchi, Xinjiang, 2500 miles west of Beijing, tucked between Siberia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Among the new features at camp this year were the low ropes exercises, which turned out to be great fun. It was interesting to see how many lessons about life at Caltech could be illustrated by having people stand on a log. And the rewritten, revamped Challenges and Choices was better than ever.

Better than ever also was the ME contest, held not in a modest pool constructed by budding engineers, but in a large swimming pool. It was a great show, and for once, most people

could see what was happening, even though binoculars might have been helpful for some. Some of us also got to visit the BBSO - not the Boston Symphony, silly, but the Big Bear Solar Observatory (there is a picture of it, including the nose invisible from the causeway, on the first floor of East Bridge). The observatory is now run by the New Jersey Institute of Technology, but was part of Caltech until very recently. It is built on a jetty extending into the lake, because the cold air above the water leads to a very quiet air column above the observatory, improving daytime "seeing" greatly. When we were there, however, the visibility was zilch because of thunder clouds, but it was exciting to see the solar telescope - actually several telescopes all mounted on the same stand - and to hear about the work being done there. Yes, all of these things, and s'more added up to a historical Frosh Camp. A bientot

*Jean Paul Revel*

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## Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CS 237**, Compiler Design will be offered this term, Mon. 2 p.m., Thu. 4 p.m., Fri 1 p.m., in 301 Thomas.

**Caltech Guitar Classes** for the Fall quarter will meet on Tuesday, starting October 5, in Room 1 of the SAC (Student Activities Center) as follows:

Beginning: 4:30 - 5:30 PM  
Intermediate: 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Advanced: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Classes are free to Caltech students (and other members of the Caltech community, space permitting). Undergraduates can receive 3 units of credit if they choose. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording. The website is: [www.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html](http://www.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html). Mr. Denning can be contacted at: [ddenning@caltech.edu](mailto:ddenning@caltech.edu) or (323) 465-0881.

The **Dean of Students Office** needs tutors in all areas -- help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is \$8.50 per hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Dean's tutor, please stop by the Dean's Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

The **American Red Cross** is ready to respond to the disaster in Taiwan should assistance be requested. More than 1,500 people are dead and more than 3,732 have been injured. The American Red Cross San Gabriel Valley Chapter is accepting financial donations to provide relief to the victims of this disaster. Monetary contributions can be made by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW or mailing a check to American Red Cross San Gabriel Valley Chapter, 430 Madeline Dr, P.O. Box 91087, Pasadena, CA 91109-1087. At this time, the American Red Cross is not accepting in-kind gifts such as food, water or medicine. For more information, contact Lisa Derderian at 626-799-0841 x500.

**Case Practice Group** for people interested in practicing Business Cases and in pursuing Management Consulting, meet on Wednesday Nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Sherman Fairchild Library. For those who wish to join this group, send e-mail to: [Majordomo@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:Majordomo@cco.caltech.edu) with "subscribe cpg" in the body of the message. Also check out

our website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~mcp>

The **Caltech Juggling Club** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5-7pm on the lawn west of Church. Beginners welcome!

**Caltech Ballroom Dance Club** announces two events:

8:00-whenver Mon 4 Oct 99, in Winnett Lounge the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club will have a meeting describing the club, some of its activities and a demonstration of various dances. After the introductory meeting there will be a beginners East Coast Swing lesson followed by a Swing and Ballroom Party with refreshments until...

7:30-9:00 p.m. Wed 6 Oct 99, for five successive Wed: Beginning Salsa [taught by a professional dance instructor, \$30.00 except \$20.00 to Caltech undergraduates] in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. Refreshments and free dance time are provided after each class.

For further information: [www.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call 626/791-3103.

The Vice President for Student Affairs Office is looking for **readers to assist a graduate student** starting immediately. Computer Science or Engineering majors are preferred. A basic understanding of the subject matter, flexibility, and good communication skills are necessary. Hourly rate paid. Please call or e-mail Jerri Greene, [x6321\\_jerri@caltech.edu](mailto:x6321_jerri@caltech.edu)

**Software Engineering for Web Applications:** Learn to build web sites that really do something and get a chance to show MIT who is really #1. This course will teach you to build database-backed web applications, learn TCL, SQL, HTML/CGI and a host of resume enhancing skills. Final projects will compete against those from MIT's version of this course. Complete the survey at <http://nederland.caltech.edu/dbcourse/> before attending the

## EVENTS

**Water Polo Caltech Classic Tournament** (Braun Pool) Sat, Oct. 2

9 a.m. - Caltech vs. Chapman  
9:55 a.m. - Cal Maritime vs. Caltech Club Team

10:50 a.m. - Caltech vs. Occidental

12:30 p.m. - Chapman vs. Caltech Club Team

1:45 p.m. - Cal Maritime vs. Occidental

3 p.m. - Caltech vs. Caltech Club Team

4:15 p.m. - Chapman vs. Cal Maritime

5:30 p.m. - Occidental vs.

Caltech Club Team

11 a.m. - Men's Soccer vs. Redlands (North Athletic Field)

3:45 p.m. - Cross Country at Stanford Invitational (Palo Alto, Calif.)

7:30 p.m. - Women's Volleyball vs. Occidental (Braun Athletic Center)

Sun., Oct. 3, 11 a.m. - Water Polo vs. Cal Maritime (Braun Pool)

**Chemical research conference**, Sturdivant Lecture Hall, 153 Noyes, 4 p.m. Mon, Oct. 4 -- Topic to be announced. Dr. Madeleine Jacobs, editor in chief, Chemical and Engineering News. Refreshments.

**A tribute to Richard Feynman**, Beckman Institute auditorium, 7 p.m. Wed, Oct. 6 -- The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard Feynman, with Gregory Benford, professor of physics, UC Irvine; David Brin, author and Caltech alumnus; and Kip S. Thorne, Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics. Cosponsored by the Friends of Caltech Libraries and Vroman's Bookstore.

**Physics Research Conference**, 201 E. Bridge, 4 p.m. Thu, Oct. 7 -- "The Brilliant Gamma-Ray Bursts: Dying Cries from the Deep Universe," Shrinivas Kulkarni, professor of astronomy and planetary science and executive officer for astronomy, Caltech. Refreshments, 110 E. Bridge, 3:45 p.m.

The Los Angeles Public Library presents **"How Will Science Revolutionize the 21st Century?"** by Michio Kaku, an internationally recognized authority in theoretical physics and the environment. It will take place Sun, Oct. 3, 2 PM in the downtown Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00 and reservations are advised. For further information, please call (213) 228-7025.

Caltech Division of Humanities and Social Sciences presents **violinist Deborah Buck** who will be performing Mon, Oct. 5, 7:30 PM, at Dabney Lounge. Ms. Buck, a native of Altadena, plays with the Jupiter Symphony, the Orpheus Chamber

Orchestra and several chamber music ensembles at New York. She is also Concertmaster of The St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra in Los Angeles - with which she will be performing Prokofiev's 2nd Violin Concerto on Oct 1. The program is free and open to the public on a first-come first-served basis. Seating is limited. Contact Tom Neenan (626) 395-4072 or the Caltech Ticket Office at 1-888-2-CALTECH.

Kick in the new term with the **big grad and undergrad PARTY**. Cool drinks and music till morning, featuring DJ Mark. October 2nd 9 p.m. at Winnett center roof, sponsored by: GSC, ASCIT, Y.

## SCHOLARSHIP

THE **FINANCIAL AID OFFICE** HAS APPLICATIONS AND/OR INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS. ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 515 S. WILSON, SECOND FLOOR.

The **Hispanic Scholarship Fund** (formerly the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund) is accepting applications for scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of Hispanic heritage, full-time undergraduate or graduate students, and already completed at least 45 units of undergraduate work with a minimum 2.5 GPA. For further information about HSF, informative links, and tips for applying, visit their website at [www.HSF.net](http://www.HSF.net). Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted by October 15, 1999.

The **Jewish Free Loan Association** is offering interest-free student loans to qualified individuals for tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate study and have a 2.5 GPA or above. For further information, please contact the Jewish Free Loan Association at (213) 761-8830 or (818) 464-3331.

The **John Gyles Education Fund** is offering scholarship awards up to \$3,000 for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. Citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or above, and demonstrate financial need. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. To obtain an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attention: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 1999 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

The **Measurement Science Conference (MSC)** has established fund to grant scholarships to students in an Engineering or Science or Quality Assurance degree program. The scholarship program places emphasis on papers or projects that discuss the advancement of measurement science technology. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, have a overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher, completed at least 24 units of upper division courses in Engineering or Science degree or five courses in a Masters Degree Program in Quality Assurance. Current members of the Measurement Science Conference Committee are ineligible for this scholarship award. Also, applicants must be able to attend the Measurement Science Conference luncheon held on January 20, 1999, at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information regarding MSC Scholarships you may contact: Rick Careyette, MSC scholarships Chairperson, Teledyne Electronics Technologies, Marina del Rey Facility, 12964 Panama Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066-6534. Entries must be submitted by November 26, 1999.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@tech.caltech.edu) or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material.

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