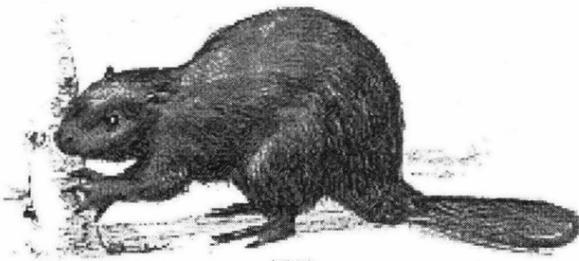


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The Matrix

# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 7

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 5, 1999

## CALTECH QUIZ BOWL TAKES FIRST, SECOND

BY JUSTIN KAO

Last weekend, eight Caltech students made their way to Berkeley to take part in the 1999 Western Invitational Tournament, an annual quiz bowl hosted by the UC Berkeley Quiz Bowl Club. Competing against nine other schools comprising sixteen teams in two divisions, Caltech teams managed to snag 2nd place in open division, 1st place in JV, and 1st place all-student team.

In open division, teams may consist of undergraduates, grad students, and non-student quiz bowl junkies. Caltech entered a team consisting of two grad students, Richard Mason and Maribeth Swiatek, and two undergrads, Brandon van de Brake and Jason Meltzer. Despite some close losses, they emerged with a 7-4-1 record, gaining second place over a Berkeley team due to raw points scored. Taking first place overall was Stanford, but the college varsity championship went to Caltech as one of Stanford's players was not a student. Among other highlights, Richard Mason placed second overall in individual rankings, scoring an average of 57.9 points per game. Also notable was Maribeth Swiatek in tenth place.

In the JV division, Caltech entered an all undergrad team consisting of Jay Catherwood, Josh den Hartog, Justin Kao and Kevin Costello. They took first place in JV over ten other teams, ending the tournament with a 10-3 record after easily defeating Occidental in a playoff for first place. Notable scorers on the JV team were Jay Catherwood, second place in JV individual points per game and Josh den Hartog, fifteenth.

The Caltech Quiz Bowl Team welcomes new members. Meetings are Wednesday and Thursday nights at 7:30pm, in or near SAC 35. Upcoming events include a major college tournament on November 12-13, a combination of Caltech's annual Technophobia tournament and National Academic Quiz Tournaments West Coast Championships. Email Richard Mason at [mason@robby.caltech.edu](mailto:mason@robby.caltech.edu) for more information.

## Economics rethought

*Caltech professor reevaluates theories*

BY TECH STAFF

How do modern economists predict market behavior? On what system is our current economic system and regulations based on? These are some of the questions elucidated by Caltech's very own Professor of Finance, Dr. Peter Bossaerts, in his presentation, *Of Bulls, Bears, and Crystal Balls*, second in the series of Watson Lectures, given last Wednesday at the Beckman Institute Auditorium. Contrary to traditional economic thought, Dr. Bossaerts and a small group of colleagues, mainly at Caltech, are approaching economic theory from a different viewpoint. They are trying to understand the basic core of economic theory, and have recently conducted several experiments of financial markets, many conducted here at Caltech. Modern conventional economic theories, since the middle of the century, have been meticulously constructed from sophisticated sta-

tistical analysis of historical data and records from large stock markets such as the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, and the NASDAQ index. However, the complex mathematical theories of finance have correlated very poorly with the evidence constructed from the data. Nevertheless, many economists and even government regulations continue to follow the inconsistent mathematical models. Born and raised in Belgium, Dr. Peter Bossaerts received a licentiate and doctorandus degree in applied economics from the University of Antwerp, the site of one of the world's first stock market. He received his Ph.D in finance management from UCLA, and has taught MBA, Ph.D., and executive classes in many institutions throughout the world. Dr. Bossaerts' lecture was part of the Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series, started in 1919 and opened to the public in 1922 by Dr. Watson of Caltech, who

## Distinguished Speaker Series



PHOTO COURTESY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

**Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick** will speak at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on November 10th at 8:00pm. Kirkpatrick gained national recognition during her four year tenure as U.S. Representative to the United Nations under President Ronald Reagan. For more info, call (626) 449-7360.

also gave his famous "Liquid Air" lecture as one of the first lectures at the then new Beckman Institute Auditorium in 1964. The lectures are given Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in

Beckman Auditorium, and admission is free. For more information, contact Rita Elshout, Coordinator Friends of Beckman Auditorium at 626-395-6400 or [fob@caltech.edu](mailto:fob@caltech.edu).

## Soccer Captures Second Conference Victory

BY DANIEL SONG

The Caltech soccer team may not be able to raise the dead, walk on water, open the eyes of the blind or multiply loaves and fishes. But what the team accomplished on the night of Wednesday,

November 3, 1999 was no less miraculous. In the final game of the season, Caltech managed to eke out a dramatic 2-1 victory over La Verne. For the first time in recent memory, the team may finish out of last place, depending on the outcome of the La Verne-

Whittier game today. If La Verne, who defeated Whittier 5-0 in their previous meeting, wins, the Beavers will wind up with 7th place in the SCIAC ranking. Caltech caught La Verne napping at the start as Nathan Flowers-Jacobs and Dale Parkes combined to set Tyler Kakuda free on the left side. With no defenders nearby and the goalkeeper rooted to his line, Tyler had no trouble whatsoever knocking the ball into the net to give Caltech a 1-0 lead in the 2nd minute. La Verne came right back with a series of attacks, desperately shooting from long range. They missed a golden chance to equalize when Nathan Chabolla bounced a shot off the left goalpost. From then on, frustra-

tion begin to mount for La Verne and they began to press too hard. Caltech took advantage of La Verne's poor play. Parkes and Flowers-Jacobs had excellent goal opportunities, only to be denied by fine saves from Robert Turner, the La Verne keeper. Caltech looked to be the team more likely to score as they went into halftime with a one-goal lead. The second half was a brutal, physical affair. La Verne was slowed down considerably, but managed to create several opportunities in the second half, twice denied by miraculous saves from Caltech's nationally-ranked keeper, Craig Vieregg. However, the Beavers were a bigger offensive threat, and Dale

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, PAGE 2

## Millikan Drop Zone



PHOTO BY ENIK DILL

On Halloween night, Dabney Hovse continued its longtime tradition of flash-frozen pumpkin drops off of Millikan Library. In addition to the standard "LN<sub>2</sub> Pumpkin" and experimentally observed Blue Flash, observers witnessed the tossing of dummies such as this one from the nine-story building intermixed with a humorous "Eye-in-the-Sky" soundtrack, cannon-launched glow sticks and frozen exploding pumpkins.

### Inside the Tech

#### The Usual

Letter ..... 2  
Outside World ..... 2  
Y News ..... 2  
Foxtrot & Dilbert ..... 6  
The Dean's Corner ..... 7

#### Features

Full Page Ads ..... 3, 5  
Eye of Animation ..... 4  
Ticket Stub ..... 4

## News

## SOCCER

## Caltech's a Winner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parkes was extremely unlucky not to score when Derek Ramirez made a stunning reflex save against the grain. La Verne equalized in the 85th minute. In the sequence, Vieregg made two more miraculous saves, only to see the rebound trickle to Sean Kennelly. He put the ball in the net to make the score 1-1, and La Verne immediately went on the attack again, nearly scoring the go-ahead goal. However, La Verne was overly aggressive and pushed too many players up for the attack. Four minutes later, Parkes was left all alone in front of the goal. With the goalkeeper out of the play, Parkes tapped the ball into the open net from 10 yards out. Caltech would have to endure a few nervous moments until the end, but would come away with

the 2-1 victory. The win was definitely a team effort, and virtually all of the players showed strong play to finish the season. A number of season-ending injuries in recent weeks forced several players to step up from the depth of the Tech roster. Cris Cornell, who had spent most of the year as backup goalkeeper, provided excellent two-way play at defender. Nick Guise started the game and provided solid play in the back. Robby Metcalf won a number of loose balls with his quickness and aggressive play. It was the unexpected contributions like these, along with the usual great saves by Craig Vieregg and the brilliant dribbling of Tyler Kakuda, that really pushed the Beavers over the top. But the day belonged to senior captain Dale Parkes, who put on a courageous performance. He came through in the clutch, punctuated by the game-winning goal with less than three minutes left. It was no less than what he deserved from a thoroughly scintillating performance.

## The Outside World

by Katharina Kohler

**NEWPORT, Rhode Islands (CNN)** After EgyptAir flight 990 crashed off the Atlantic coast on Tuesday, the Navy is still waiting for calm weather to start the dive to find the flight recorders which will hopefully reveal more about the crash of the Boeing 767. Rough weather and high winds have kept divers away from the site of the disaster that claimed 217 lives. The two ships are equipped with 30 experienced divers and cranes to lift objects up from the ocean's floor detected by equipment that can distinguish between natural and man-made objects in the water. The NTSB radar indicated that the airplane reached near supersonic speeds before it dropped

from 33,000 feet to 16,700 feet, then climbed back to 24,000 feet and shortly thereafter plunged into the ocean.

**PARADWIP, India (CNN)** Officials have ordered the cremation of the corpses of victims of the storm in India. This should keep the water from being contaminated and diseases from spreading out. Although some waterborne illnesses like diarrhea have already started spreading in areas flooded by the cyclone. Relief workers say that clean water and food for the survivors is their highest priority. Millions are homeless and haven't eaten in a week. There is no accurate death toll yet, as many areas could not be reached. The Associated press said that the toll could reach 10000 to 20000, while

some officials still only confirmed 799 deaths so far. More than 15 million people live in the area hit by the cyclone.

**SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (CNN)** Russian soldiers opened the key border between Chechnya and Georgia after letting thousands of people wait at the frontier for more than a week. Officials were allowing 100 people to cross every hour and for the first time men were allowed to cross the border - before only women and children had been able to leave the country. Chechnya won independence after the 1994-96 war, but Moscow insists it is still part of Russia.

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## Letters to the Editor

## Please Offer Sex 110abc

I must say I strongly agree with Vikram Dendi's proposal that we should offer "How to use ArsDigita's Product" for credit (and that product is free, so it must be OK, right?). I find that not only do most Caltech students want to be web monkeys and don't have the time, but they are missing out on something else too. An informal survey among undergraduates showed that about

99.9% would take a 15 unit lab course entitled "Better Sex Through Lots and Lots of Practice". Now clearly sex makes you happy, and happy people are more effective. Don't forget we'll need a lot of smart people in the world so we better procreate them. The logic is so simple here, why doesn't the administration see it? If people want to take courses they should be offered for credit.

Of course I'm sure one can make a lot of money using the ArsDigita software and we all know that colleges are obligated

to make sure that their students can make large chunks of money (well, MIT anyway). Clearly then the Chemistry department should offer "Fundamentals of Low-Cost High-Yield Smack Production". I'm pretty darn sure that no one has ever made one red cent off of Chem 1. I don't know what we're thinking offering that course.

And to close, in the words of Homer Simpson: "Oh, bye the way, I was being sarcastic."

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Walsh

Please send letters to the editor to:  
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Pasadena, CA 91125

or via electronic mail to:  
[editors@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:editors@tech.caltech.edu)

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

The editors reserve the right not to print any submissions for any reason.

## Y news

by Kenneth Kuo

The Caltech Y is responsible for coordinating community service activities for Caltech. However, we need volunteers to help us fulfill our obligations. At current, we are experiencing a shortage of tutors. We are getting more calls concerning our tutoring services than we can accommodate. So, if you would like to help tutor a middle school or high school student, please contact the Y at ext. 6163 for more information. It should be noted that if you are not currently a Frosh and have Federal Work Study, then you can earn \$12/hour for your services.

Our community service projects are not limited to tutoring, so if you are interested in contributing to the community in other ways, feel free ask us.

## This Week:

Project Angel Food will be occurring this week. The purpose of this program is to deliver food to housebound people living with HIV/AIDS. This project takes but one hour time on Friday and takes place roughly from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. For more information, please e-mail Ying Tian at [ying@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:ying@cco.caltech.edu).

Later tonight, the Caltech Y is hosting its first Broomball Tournament of the year. Unfortunately, it is a little late to sign up at this point. If you are interested in playing the game later, keep your eyes open for posters in a few months.

## Upcoming Event:

The Caltech Y will be pre-

miering its Social Activism Speaker Series on Friday, November 19th. Our first speaker in this series will be Dolores Huerta speaking on the topic "Political Organizing: Key to a Non-Violent Movement." Huerta is renowned for her co-founding of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) union with Cesar Chavez, who called her, "totally fearless, both mentally and physically." Her many accomplishments include collective bargaining for farm workers, the banning of dangerous pesticides, and an increase in the Federal Minimum Wage. Currently, Huerta holds the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

Huerta will be holding her keynote talk in the Beckman Institute Auditorium which begins at 7:30 PM. This talk is open and free to the public. A grassroots organizing roundtable will also be held by

Huerta from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Avery Library. Space for this roundtable is limited so please contact the Y at ext. 6163 to sign-up.

## General Info:

The Caltech Y holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Y Lounge which is behind Steele House. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about what the Y does or who wants to get involved. Bring your ideas, your friends, and your lunch.

If you would like to get e-mails about Y-events, Y-outdoor events, or Y-community service events, please e-mail Elisa Chiang at [polaris@cco](mailto:polaris@cco) with the e-mail mailing list you would like to be placed on. Also, if you have further questions concerning any of the activities mentioned above, feel free to e-mail me at [dogbert@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:dogbert@cco.caltech.edu).

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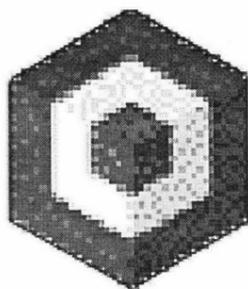
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**I n k t o m i**

## Cinema



## Mononoke Hime

by Katy Isaacs

Mononoke Hime has been called by many the greatest animated film ever made. At the time it was released in Japan, it was director Miyazaki Hayao's supposed last film (which has turned out to be a misinterpretation) and the highest grossing film in Japan ever (these days only beaten by Titanic).

It's not hard to see why the film is so popular. First of all, the film is absolutely gorgeous. The attention to detail in the backgrounds makes some wonder if they are photographs and not paintings. While many animations get away with simple backgrounds, especially when doing 'nature' scenes, Mononoke Hime is able to have rich complicated backgrounds that don't detract from the focus of the scene.

The animation is also done very well. People and animals in the background are often moving when many an animation would have had them still. Most notably are the dragonflies seen in the forest. They are delicately drawn and colorful yet not obtrusive. Also, the Kodama, the tree spirits, are unique and always

moving.

The soundtrack is wonderful. It was really nice to hear it in the theater with a sound system better suited to its grandeur. Eye on Animation was very thankful to already own the soundtrack.

The plot is complex and multi-themed. Though San is the title character of the film, it is really the story of Ashitaka, a young member of the hidden Emishi clan who sets off to find the source of the mysterious iron stone that caused a god of the forest to become a Tatarigami, a cursed god represented by some sort of wormed creature, and left him with a rather interesting scar.

Ashitaka's travels lead him to Tataraba (literally 'iron making place') where Eboshi Gozen leads. The town is rich in its iron producing. However, resources are drying up and Eboshi wants to expand outward into the forest. Needless to say, the forest gods are not so happy about this.

However, Mononoke Hime is not just a story of humans versus nature, despite the pro-nature anti-pollution

theme that runs through most of Miyazaki's films. The film goes to great lengths to show the viewer that Eboshi is essentially a very good person with different motivations. Also, the boar clan's pride and hate show that all of the animals are not so perfect. There are a couple of other parties involved, including a greedy Samurai who wants Tataraba for himself and a far off Emperor who wants immortality.

The name "Mononoke Hime" refers to San, the girl raised by wolves. The word 'mononoke,' while not easy to translate, basically means animal spirit. In Japanese culture, the mononoke are strange spirits that can get inside a person and make them act funny. It is the humans that refer to San as the Mononoke Hime. San, like the rest of her clan, is intent on killing Eboshi.

It is surprising that Disney/Miramax left in something as difficult to comprehend as 'mononoke' (considering it isn't explained too well in their dub), when they changed so many other things to make the movie easier to understand. In the Disney version, Tatarigami becomes simplified to 'demon,' Tataraba becomes 'Iron town,' Shishigami and Didarabotchi become 'spirit of the forest' and 'night walker' respectively. Ishibiya, which literally means stone-fire-arrow and had the basic meaning of 'hand held cannon' just becomes 'gun,' which seems a little out of

place for the time period. Miramax/Disney kept most of the other original names. Many of the names of the gods are shortened. Jiko Bou, the 'monk' is changed to Jigo (but at least it isn't 'Nicky').

Many of Miramax/Disney's changes seem to make the movie easier to understand or less vague than the original. It is kind of sad that they have so little faith in the intelligence of the people who would go to see this film. A lot of explanation is inserted in the form of epithets or off-hand comments that the characters make, sometimes without much reason.

The quality of the voice acting in the English dub, The Princess Mononoke, is pretty variant. Keith David, who was Goliath in Disney's Gargoyles series, does a very good job. He is the voice of both of the boar gods, Nagao and Okkoto. His voice is so good in the opening narration one forgets about the fact that most dubs are a poor comparison to the original... until Billy Crudup's Ashitaka comes along.

Crudup nearly destroys what is a likable and interesting character. Ashitaka, who sounded gentle yet serious in Japanese, comes off down right stupid in English. Crudup falls into the usual dubbing trap of speaking louder instead of emoting. It is unfortunate that the main character was cast so awfully.

Minnie Driver does a wonderful job as Lady Eboshi. She sounds

calm and responsible, yet shows more personality at just the right moments. It would have been nice if Gillian Anderson could have showed such subtlety and presence as Moro. Instead, she comes out as a sleepy Scully from the X-files.

Claire Danes' San slips in and out of passable. Unfortunately, she comes off as more of a whiny teenager than a girl raised by the wolves. Perhaps she should audition for a role in Viz's Ranma 1/2 dub.

Many people were upset with Billy Bob Thornton's interpretation of Jigo. It is true that some of his language made a bit stronger for American audiences. However, on the whole, he plays his role very well. Jiko Bou was always supposed to be a bit of comic relief, though he is one of the more crafty and knowledgeable characters. Thornton is able to slip between sarcastic and dead serious quite believably.

Perhaps one of the best performances was by Jada Pinkett-Smith, who plays the social leader of the Tataraba bellows girls, Toki. Pinkett-Smith is able to add in a lot of emotion and attitude while matching her mouth movements. Her inner city accent is sometimes a little too strong, but other than that, she, Thornton, and Driver are easily the best in the film.

Hopefully, Princess Mononoke will see wider release. It really is a movie that everyone should at least give a chance.



by Justin Ho

Boys Don't Cry (B+) rated R: for graphic rape scene and violence, much drinking and many hicks making fools of themselves.

I thought that this film was rather appropriate in anticipation of Friday's event, the most fabulous drag show contest. The nature of the participants just goes to show, however, the tendency of our definition of transgenderedness to be outlined by men wearing very contrived and outrageously feminine costumes and rarely vice versa. There, is however a famous precedent. In 1993, the life of Brandon Teena was violently cut short after bigots discovered the true sexuality of their acquaintance—that is, that Brandon Teena was actually Teena Brandon, a Lincoln native who taped back her breasts and stuffed a sock down her pants to appear authentically masculine. The film "Boys Don't Cry" focuses on Brandon's dissemblance in a small Nebraska town where she is able to exercise her greatest freedoms as a man but consequently meets her greatest anti-cruise of all: her mortality. Hinting at a much greater complexity to her psycho-sexual confusion

than simply that she was a lesbian, Brandon's guise as a man is portrayed not only as a cover for him/her to pursue females in a homophobic society. Rather, passing as a man is a fundamental part of her nature, and a feat she is willing to pull regardless of its consequences.

In her more naive state, protected by tolerance where she lives in Lincoln, NE, Brandon (Hilary Swank) cross-dresses with an almost playful recklessness. Partially in awe of her capabilities to pass as a man, but conscious of her cross-dressing shortcomings, she strikes a balance between egotism and insecurity—neither offensively machismo nor the wallflower. Still maintaining a sweetness rooted in femininity, while walking with a man's swagger and speaking of grand endeavors to travel around the country, Brandon is able to captivate the attention and affections of the delicate girls who see him as a potential way out (since they are in Nebraska). There is, however, an inherent flaw in her artifice. That being, although Brandon may be the best boyfriend some girls have ever had

there is naturally a limit to how physical the relationship can go before the secret is revealed. And often, the disguise is revealed prematurely and sparks a torrent of hostility, propelling Brandon to flee. This same complex leads the young derelict to Falls City, a quaint nook in the middle of nowhere where Brandon falls into the company of two ex-convicts and the girls who gravitate toward them.

As it turns out, Brandon is both a deceiver and a misdemeanor offender. Shedding off youthful innocence and perhaps becoming more the "boy" by acting as a "bad girl", she repeatedly steals cars and shoplifts, but also has an uncanny ability to get caught. Her pilgrimage to Falls City is as much an escape from court hearings as finding a new frontier to practice her guise. Quickly engaging in a bar brawl to assert her manhood, she catches the attention of John and Tom, two ex-convicts who become progressively more deranged and violent through the film, and their female coterie consisting of Lana, Candace, and Kate. There's a charm about Brandon which makes him the object of everyone's affection. Even John and Tom are drawn to him in some capacity, welcoming his presence even though he poses a threat to their monopoly of the girls in their circle. Another distinctive trait of the movie is the portrayal of the lengths people will go to subjugate their vapidness in a life which of-

fers no source of usefulness. Trapped in a town whose primary function is defined by a pea-canning plant, the vagabonds resort to physical mutilation for entertainment and to attest their masculinity, presenting an easy means of gaining trust in her new surroundings and a smart trade-off considering the prize at stake. Riding upon a circling pickup truck like a cowboy, Brandon falls repeatedly but with each personal injury comes one step closer to consummating the opinion others have that she is indeed a member of the male gender. In turn, Brandon's enthusiasm for embracing the morbid Falls City sub-culture draws the adoration of Lana, who is still tied to John by a patchy-pedophile relationship from the past but sees Brandon as a means of escaping from a life of drudgery and abuse and an indolent mother privy to driving herself into a drunken stupor.

As the relationship between Brandon and Lana progresses, the circle of friends slowly deteriorates, an indication of the stress that having an existence outside of society places. The growing interests Brandon and Lana share with each other forms a rift between them and John, and while he was a stranger to displaying affection towards Lana, he nevertheless feels the endangerment of his possession of her. Brandon also chooses to stay in Falls City indefinitely, causing him to miss court hearings which thus makes

him more prone to the authorities' attention. Ultimately, the duplicity is revealed, and while Lana is entranced whether or not Brandon does appear male or female, the remainder of the circle of friends prove less tolerant. While much of the movie is bathed in levity stemming from Brandon's euphoria of being able to pass as a man, the final climactic minutes turn disturbingly grim. Brandon only begins to realize the danger of taking his freedoms with an ignorant public, the harm in consecrating an existence unacceptable by the standards of the insular society in which he finds himself. It is in the face of an abomination that the circle begins to form again, though in hostility toward Brandon, and thus paving the way for a violently-staged rape and murder.

My opinion of the movie is somewhat critical due its highly graphic nature. Though the disturbing scenes are used very effectively, they are used almost excessive, even though the movie followed the true life drama closely. It is, however, a truly heart-wrenching film—an extreme case of the ubiquitous yearning to be someone you aren't. I would highly recommend this film to those who would not turn pallid at the sight of nudity or violence. I would also have to concede that Caltech can be an allegory to the self-mutilatory sub-culture as depicted in the film, though after mid-terms week we may be less insular.



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Room 13

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I'M GOING FOR A FIFTY-MILE RUN. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME?

NO.

I SIGNED UP FOR TWO TRIATHLONS THIS WEEKEND. DO YOU WANT THE ENTRY FORMS?

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NEXT WEEK A FEW OF US WILL BE LEAPING INTO GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT...

GAA!

ALL NEW LAPTOP COMPUTERS WILL BE OSBORNES.

THEY COME WITH SOMETHING CALLED A FLOPPY DRIVE.

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I LIKE YOUR INTERNET BUSINESS IDEA. LET'S DO IT.

I SENT YOU THAT IDEA A YEAR AGO. SINCE THEN, FIVE COMPANIES HAVE GONE IPO IN THAT SPACE.

CAN WE BUY ONE OF THEM?

IF BY "ONE" YOU MEAN ONE SHARE OF STOCK, YES.

HERE'S WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU JUST ASKED ME TO FOLLOW A PROCESS THAT HAS FAILED THIRTY TIMES IN A ROW

AND YOU KNOW IT.

AT WHAT POINT CAN THIS NO LONGER BE CALLED "OPTIMISM"?

WHEN IT SUCCEEDS?

SO, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

I SLAVISHLY OBEY THE INSANE COMMANDS OF A POINTY-HAIRED BABOON.

THE SAD THING IS THAT YOU'RE THE BEST CATCH AT THIS PARTY.

I WORK IN A BIG BOX.

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

MAN, IT'S TOO NICE OUT TO BE COOPED-UP STUDYING "HAMLET."

BUT I'VE ONLY GOT A SLIM "A-" AVERAGE GOING INTO THIS TEST. IF I SCREW UP AT ALL, I COULD DROP A GRADE.

TO "B" OR NOT TO "B," THAT IS THE QUESTION.

WOO-HOO!

SPLOOSH!

AAAA! WHAT KIND OF SICKO WOULD BOOBY-TRAP A LEAF PILE WITH WATER BALLOONS?!

OH, WAIT, THAT WAS ME.

SODJA HEAR I KNOW! ABOUT GREG CAN YOU AND MICHELLE BELIEVE HOOKING UP?!

IT?!

HMMPH, THE NERVE OF THAT LIBRARIAN TO KICK US OUT!

WE TOTALLY WERE AVERAGING A WHISPER!

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR LEAVING SOME FOR ME.

NO PROBLEM.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WRITING A PROGRAM TO HAVE THE COMPUTER DIAL A PARTICULAR PHONE NUMBER EVERY 30 SECONDS.

INTERESTING.

I GUESS YOU HEARD I WANTED TO GET A PAGER.

TRY TO FIND ONE THAT BEEPS REALLY LOUD.

I AM SUPERMAN!!!

BETTER MAKE THAT SQUISHED-SLUG-AND-SNAIL-MAN.

EW, GROSS! MY TURN!

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Daily [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

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# Dean

## Dean's Corner

### Can one truly become educated at a school like Caltech?

by Jean-Paul Revel



We are up to snuff for scholastics. That's clear to all now that we have been anointed #1, a fact that I am sure does not sit so well with the previous #1s. Sic transit gloria mundi! We didn't do anything special, we just went on doing what we had been doing well since the time of Noyes, Hale and Millikan. We came out on top without trying, only because the criteria by which we have been compared were changed. The result is that this little school far far West has been revealed to a surprised world. Even though we have been among the top players in science since the early 20s how often have I heard the comment... do you have a football team? We used to, but do not now. Thanks to US News & World Report, that does not matter any more, everyone knows that we have other claims to fame.

Now, excellence in scholastics is one thing. A fabulous Student/Faculty ratio is another. The superb GPAs of the students and the honors earned by our faculty are great also. But none of these

things are sufficient to make an educated person of the typical student. To achieve that we must inculcate all the things which, besides work, make up life and make it worth living. We must help our students develop, and not just intellectually. We must teach them to appreciate the things that make life enjoyable, the beauty that is all around us if we just look, the music of the masters and the paintings of the great, the photographs of the talented, the dance of the graceful, the poetry of the gifted. To truly enjoy one has to be prepared. The pleasure increases proportionately with the understanding bred by familiarity. And so we arrange for students to go to plays, concerts, and exhibitions. Several groups went to the Van Gogh exhibit last year, and it is easy to visit the local Art Museums (Norton Simon, Huntington and Asia Pacific Museum). Our students also have the chance to educate palate and nose so they learn to prize even those things that are mere physiological necessities, such as food and drink. Oh yes, this is an institution and

the food can be proverbial, yet right on campus one can dine and lunch on sushi, or tandoori chicken with hot Nan from the clay oven. Venture into the convenience store and gawk, if not sample, the collection of cheeses, which could make you think you were in France, if they were not in a case next to one filled with soda pop. Obviously these things are not there for everyday, but they are here, along with the gourmet coffee. And then there is also Old Pasadena and its many restaurants, all within reach of a free and short bus ride.

It can be argued that at Caltech we are narrowly technical, and we don't prepare for intellectual life outside of the lab. Yes it is true we do not have a Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, nor a School of Architecture. But that does not mean that our students have a lesser experience and that they leave without exposure to what our civilization considers the best in life. Witness all the courses our students have to take in non science areas. At least 108 of the

486 units required for graduation must be taken in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The great difference between Caltech and a liberal arts school, is that everyone here needs to take Physics, Math, Chemistry and now Biology, besides humanistic offerings.

So when our graduates walk the plank after their 12 statutory terms of toil, they have been exposed not just to Phys 2 (Statistical physics, waves and quantum mechanics), or Ay/EE 144 (Imaging at radio, infrared, and optical wavelengths by interferometric and adaptive techniques), but have also attended classes such as "Science, Ethics and Society," "Gothic Fiction," and "Music of Courts and Cathedrals." Surely we are too small to have a list of courses as extensive as those at offered at Harvard. But we have something else up our sleeves which is not attainable elsewhere. We are small, and last time I heard, had decided to remain so. We argue that it is better to do a few things superbly instead of spreading ourselves too thin. A consequence of being small is that our students have access to all kinds of things which are impossible at a larger school. Whether talented or not, our students can participate in the activities of their choice, rather than being marginalized because they are not Athletes, or accomplished Actors, all with big As. Yes we don't have a quasi professional football team, Rah

Rah, but when we had a football team, no one had to remain on the sideline, everyone who wanted to play could be included in the team. It is the playing that counts. In the same vein we have enthusiastic musicians, choristers and thespians and the small Wednesday afternoon groups discussing the acoustics of Dabney Hall. Everyone can participate, and learn as they enjoy.

Besides the ease with which any and all can participate, there is another thing we have, and that is learning about the beauty of the curve, the elegance of the well posed equation, the excitement of the pursuit of understanding and the joy in discovering the secrets that nature has so well hidden. A long time ago now I had just that conversation with my neighbor on a shuttle flight between Boston and New York, he a smug burgher who knew that science was oh so dull and dreary, telling me of going for an evening at the Opera. I argued that I too loved the "Marriage of Figaro" but even the finest opera is spectator sport. Every day, not just of an evening, I get to enjoy the beauty of atoms and molecules which make up everything in the Universe. And so yes, Caltech is a good place not just to become an engineer, but to become educated in all meaning of the word.

A bientot,

Jean-Paul Revel

## A.S.C.I.T.

### Minutes

OCTOBER 28, 1999

**Present:** BoD minus Alan and Jaideep, Marc Favata, Kartik Srinivasan, Tim Crosby, Barbara Green, Evan Dorn

Meeting called at 15:13.

#### Dealing with Guests

Tim picks up the check allotted to him for ASCIT movies this term.

Marc and Kartik - Comment on how they think is ridiculous that so much money is spent per ASCIT movie this term. They point out that with the same amount of funding we could take at least three or four times the number of people in attendance to the ASCIT movies and pay for their movie tickets at the local AMC.

Evan - As the treasurer of the student shop, he asks us which way would be best for reimbursing ASCIT members of the student shop since ASCIT

allocated \$700 to subsidizing ASCIT members' student shop fees. The BoD suggests simply discounting their membership and then asking ASCIT for reimbursement. He also asks for ways to better publicize the student shop, especially to undergrads. The BoD suggests talking to professors of project classes.

#### Project Reports

**Coffeeshouse** - Baldeep says it has been busy and business is going well.

**ASCIT copier** - Derek says that the brown box works if you enter the last eight digits of your social security number but only if you have already called Rachel Delgadillo and been added to her list. (You can contact her at x6706 or racheld@its and give her your social security number) Otherwise, he says that the card of-

face is going to replace the black box so that you will be able to simply use your ID to make copies again.

**ASCIT party** - Garrett says that there will not be an ASCIT Halloween party but there will be a party at the beginning of second term in association with the GSC. This is still being planned.

**Core Curriculum Committee** - Melvin asks Barbara Green about what would be the best way to bring large undergraduate classes such as CS 1, 2, and 3 and Ama95 under the jurisdiction of the Core Curriculum Steering Committee in light of the complaints about CS1 this year. She suggests that he talk to the faculty chair of the committee and find out what would be needed for an official proposal and then present it to the faculty board.

Meeting adjourned at 16:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim ASCIT Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group**: extends invitations to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 p.m. until 10:15 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation. The group usually discusses a particularly relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. For more information, call x8331.

The **California College Republicans** are currently expanding across campuses in Los Angeles County. It is a volunteer organization that works to get Republican candidates elected, while focusing on issues and putting on events that are of interest to college students. If you would like to start a chapter at Caltech in time for the 2000 election, email Amanda Gregory, Southern Vice Chair California College Republicans, at [agregory@usc.edu](mailto:agregory@usc.edu), or call her at (562) 425-8509.

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 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 email Jerri Greene, x6321 [jerri@caltech.edu](mailto:jerri@caltech.edu)

The **Caltech Ballroom Dance Club [CBDC]** will be starting their next series of classes, i.e. for the second half of the '99 Fall Quarter. For more information, see [www.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call 626-791-3103.

## EVENTS

The Human Resources, Employee Services office will sponsor a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on: Thursday, November 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Winnett Lounge. For an appointment please contact Diana

at ext. 6001 or by email at [diana@ape.caltech.edu](mailto:diana@ape.caltech.edu). Walk-ins are also welcome.

**Earthquake Preparedness Training** will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Tuesday, November 16th. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at 626-395-6727.

Free **midterm ballroom dance party** with refreshments 8 p.m. until midnight Sat., Nov. 6 in Avery; sponsored by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club. Refreshments start at 8 p.m., at 8:30 p.m. there will be an introductory East Coast Swing lesson with open dancing starting at 9 p.m.. No partners are required. In addition to swing there will be music for waltz, foxtrot, merengue, tango, cha cha, salsa and others as requested. For last minute changes see [www.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call 626-791-3103.

**Stressed???** Sign up for the Stress Management Workshop. This workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing primarily on basic relaxation techniques and time management skills. The 4-session workshop will meet on consecutive Mondays (November 8, 15, 22, 29) from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call x8331 to reserve your place in the group.

The **junior class** will hold a BBQ this Sunday. Come one come all.

**8th Annual Charles DePrima Undergraduate Lecture in Mathematics**, "How Math Might Save Your Life." Guest Lecturer: Cleve Moler, Chairman and Chief Scientist at The MathWorks, Inc. Learn how a Caltech undergrad became the Chairman and Chief Scientist of a major corporation and empowered people to make automobiles safer, compact discs better and Wall Street more stable. Please join us November 9, 1999. Tea at 3:30 p.m. in 351 Sloan Lecture at 4:15 p.m. in Beckman Institute Auditorium.

Caltech Folk Music Society presents **Chris Proctor**, Sat., Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m. at Winnett Lounge, \$12 general admission, \$4 Caltech students and children.

The Los Angeles Public Library presents "**How Can the Kind Survive?** - The Evolution of Morality in Humans and

Other Primates" by Frans de Waal, C.H. Chandler Professor of Primate Behavior and Director of the Living Links Center at Emory University, Sun., Nov. 7, 2 p.m. at the downtown Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00 and reservations are advised. Call 213-228-7025 for more information.

**The Living Better Expo** at the Pasadena Center, Nov. 9-10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for additional information, call 800-243-9774 or visit [www.RDPGoup.com](http://www.RDPGoup.com).

Caltech will serve as host school for the **1999 Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC)** men's water polo championships, scheduled for Sat.-Sun., Nov. 13-14, at Braun Pool on the Caltech campus in Pasadena. Tournament seeds will be announced Mon., Nov. 8.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Fellowship Deadline Dates Reminder:** NSF-11/4; Hertz-11/5; NPSC-11/5, Hughes 11/9; Ford Predctoral date extension to 11/29. Note that find more information and link to application forms via the Fellowship & Study Abroad Web site at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~fellowships/> Click on fellowship guide. Hard copies of forms for most of these are available in our office in SAC 25.

Dept. of Defense NDSEG-applications are available in Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad or on the Web. You can go through the URL in the announcement above.

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 se-

lection 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, Frederickton, 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 MCS 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 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 Nov. 26, 1999.

Students and faculty are invited to submit proposals to the **National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA)** by December 15 to fund student projects and faculty courses and programs that enable students to pursue the development and steps leading to commercialization of their innovations. Two types of NCIIA grants are offered: Advanced grants of up to \$20,000 to student innovators provide support for the development of new products and technologies with commercial potential and Course and program development grants of up to \$50,000 to faculty to provide support for the creation and operation of classes and programs. Please contact the NCIIA to obtain additional information at [www.nciia.org](http://www.nciia.org) or by phoning Phil Weilerstein, NCIIA Director, at 413-587-2172.

The **National Academy for Nuclear Training** is offering \$2,500

scholarships to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, or chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear or power options. Applicants must be U.S. citizen or U.S. national, considering a career in the nuclear power industry, minimum GPA of 3.0 as of Jan. 1, 2000, at least one but no more than three academic years of study remaining to graduation, and free of post-college obligations or active military service. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact: National Academy for Nuclear Training Scholarship Program, 700 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339-5957 or via e-mail at [nanteap@inpo.org](mailto:nanteap@inpo.org). Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by Jan. 29, 2000

**Glamour Magazine's 2000 top ten college women** competition has begun. This competition recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. It's an ideal opportunity for talented students to be rewarded for their leadership roles on campus and in the greater community. Winners receive \$1000, coverage in the October issue, and the opportunity to meet with top professionals in their field, usually during a few-day stay in the New York City. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by Jan 31, 2000. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the application.

The **Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity** announces the Elie Weisel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest 2000, a contest designed to challenge college students to analyze urgent ethical issues confronting them in today's complex world. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to compete for awards of up to \$5,000. Information is available at [www.eliewieselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org), or call 212-490-7777.

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. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

## THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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