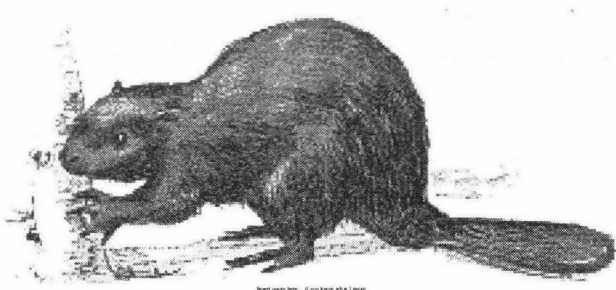


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COSGAA redefines justice

Committee expands student role regarding disciplinary cases, Honor Code

BY JAIDEEP SINGH

Introduction

In the fall of 1998, Dr. Christopher Brennen, Vice President for Student Affairs, charged a committee of student leaders, senior Student Affairs staff, and professors to examine the ways that Caltech deals with incidents that require investigation and action on the part of the Board of Control and/or the Student Affairs staff (see table 1). The scope of COSGAA was restricted to issues involving undergraduate students. COSGAA met almost weekly until October of 1999, when a report which was a result of nearly a year of analysis and deliberation was submitted to Dr. Brennen. The following article serves to summarize that report and also to elicit feedback from the student body at large. COSGAA has already met with the BoC, the IHC, and other select students via focus groups and has incorporated their suggestions already. In this article, there will be many references to acronyms that may or may not be familiar to you.

The following is a guide:
COSGAA - Committee On

Student Government and Administrative Action

CRC - Conduct Review Committee

RG - Routing Group

BoC - Board of Control

DRL - Director of Residence Life's Office

IHC - Interhouse Committee

Current System

Figure 1 is a flow chart diagram that represents how issues involving students are currently resolved. Initially a witness reports a case to one of the three major bodies that handles cases: Board of Control, Dean's Office, Director of Residence Life's Office. Before continuing, it is important to note that the following is just a general guideline that COSGAA has pieced together in retrospect. Some cases were handled using the following rubric, and others were not.

If a case is reported to the Board of Control, then there are four possible outcomes:

1) The BoC decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue and there is not a need to refer it to another body. (For example, a minor and transient

conflict between friends)

2) The BoC decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, but there is a need to refer to another body. (For example, a fairly serious Institute Policy violation)

3) The BoC decides that the case is a clear Honor Code issue; however, they do not feel that they are well equipped to handle it. Thus it is referred to the Dean's Office or the Director of Residence Life (DRL). (For example, a case involving a student who is mentally unstable)

4) The BoC decides that the case is a clear Honor Code issue, and the they choose to investigate it. (For example, an academic cheating case or a prank gone awry)

If a case is reported to an administrator, the Dean's Office or the DRL, then there are 3 possible outcomes:

1) The administrator decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, and the incident occurred near or around the Houses. The DRL handles the case. (For example, a Fire Policy violation in the SAC courtyard or a conflict between

cosgaa committee members	
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Kim West	Director of Residence Life
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roommates)

2) The administrator decides that the case is not a clear Honor Code issue, and the incident occurred away from the Houses. The Dean's Office handles the case. (For example, a D&A Policy violation in Millikan Pond or a fist fight between two members of the same House that ends up in the Court of Mann)

3) The administrator decides the case is a clear Honor Code issue. The administrator discusses with the BoC which body is best equipped to handle it. (For example, a prank gone bad involving highly flammable materials or an uncompromising noisy neighbor)

The current system finds a way to resolve each case; however, COSGAA has identified some problems in general with the routing and handling of those cases that are currently not handled by the BoC:

1) There are a fairly substantial number of cases that have little to no student input.

2) There are a fairly substantial number of cases that have input from only one or two administrators, which allows for a narrow viewpoint.

3) The task of determining whether a case is a clear Honor Code issue is left to the body to

SEE COSGAA ON PAGE 4

Innovation possibilities boom with Web program

BY VIKRAM DENDI

I have been here for about a month now. A few weeks earlier, as I was walking back from a lab after being shocked by the sighting of a strangely dressed person (the phenomenon was later explained to me as the infamous 'Millikan man') I was attracted to a flyer on a wall that said 'Beat MIT'. Well, it said something more than that, but that was the part that got my attention. So, I paid some attention and a few days later landed in a course that to my surprise isn't really known to many undergraduate students even now. But before we go into the details of this very interesting course, some background:

At first the web was a nerdy DARPA project that linked a

bunch of researchers together. Then the public got a hold of it and we got — hype and pictures of Bill Clinton's cat. Well the web has improved since the early 90's. Now the web will help you buy a computer, buy a book about a computer, or get directions to the nearest computer store. What more could a nerd want?

Quite a lot actually. The web is supposed to make information readily available to a wide variety of people - even people separated by time and space. Some large organizations have managed to put quite a bit of information on line - and even make it possible to search through all that verbage to find the few pieces of it that are of interest to you. That's fantastic - the Encyclopedia Brittanica and the entire

archives of Science magazine without having to build new bookshelves in your dorm room! But is it enough? What if you don't find everything you need there? What if you know that some of that information is out of date - or just plain wrong?

Is it possible to get more than just the information the webmaster had when the site when up? It is if the site supports interaction. Everyone has used Amazon.com so let's use them to give you a taste of what I am talking about. They have a large staff that puts up pages for all the new books they get into stock - dust jacket picture, basic info, cover blurb, for a big seller maybe a review. But they don't stop at that? No, they actively solicit reader comments

on the book. For a popular or controversial book, they may have an extensive list of reader opinions, almost like an online book group.

Reading the comments at Amazon gives you a flavor for some things that are possible on the web. But what if you push this idea of interactivity further - to its logical conclusion, an online community? Online communities have ex-

isted since the inception of email lists and UseNet News, but how do these translate into the new medium of the web? With this new medium can you do more? Or do the same thing better? How to build sustainable online communities was the subject that interested ArsDigita founder Philip Greenspun when he started building his personal website,

SEE VIKRAM ON PAGE 2

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News

WEB:

Learn online management skills, beat MIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

photo.net several years ago. His MIT thesis - chronicling what he had learned building and maintaining this (and other sites) - turned into a humorously insightful book, *Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing*.

Some of the issues that Philip struggled with sounded familiar to Aure Prochazka, a Caltech alumnus who has been designing and building cutting edge web sites ever since he and a few friends decided to have a contest to see who could get the most hits on their home pages in 1994. Aure decided he liked some of the approaches Philip and ArsDigita were taking and founded ArsDigita's Los Angeles (Pasadena) office about a year ago. High on his list of current projects is teaching "Software Engineering for Web Applications", a full-term course offered in conjunction with Caltech's Technology Learning Center. This course teaches students how to design and build interactive web sites using the ArsDigita toolkit.

The course consists of a series of problem sets that teach the tools used to build the ArsDigita Community System (ACS): the Oracle relational database, AOLServer and its TCL programming interface. The problem sets also begin to introduce the students to portions of the ACS - showing them how to leverage code built for different ArsDigita clients and incorporated into the company's open-source toolkit. ArsDigita's emphasis is on using fundamentally sound design and coding principles to build easily customizable modules that can be adapted to serve the needs of a variety of community sites. These modules are distributed from ArsDigita's web site to anyone who would like to use these tools as the starting point for their own com-

munity site.

The second half of the course will be spent on a project - building a database backed website using the concepts learned in the first part of the term. Teams of students will choose a problem that interests them, for example building an online version of the Technique. With guidance from the TA's they will decide what kind of interactivity will best serve the project, and design and build the site. The best of these projects will compete with similar projects coming

out of the MIT version of this course. ArfDigita (<http://arfdigita.org/>) was the best site to come out of last spring's MIT course.

Coming back to my point, it is now Caltech's turn to realize the significance of such a course in today's increasingly web dependent world. It would be pertinent to make this class more available to the undergraduate student community by giving it for credit. MIT has been offering this course for credit for a while now. In an impromptu survey I did among

a handful of undergraduate students about ninety percent felt that they would definitely want to take the course if it was offered for credit. The ever burdening load of classes will not let the average Tech undergrad to want to take this course when offered for no credit, even though he or she might learn a lot from it.

This article was written by Tech staff writer Vikram R. Dendi, in collaboration with (and with much help from) Cynthia Kiser.

Ω

This term's class is **full** but if you are interested in **teaching yourself** to build database-backed web sites, the **course materials** are available online. The "Home Study" section of <http://arsdigita.com/jobs.html> outlines what you need to do to set up **your own system** and contains links to the **relevant teaching materials**.

Questions? Comments?

Direct them to:

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More News

Y
news

by Kenneth Kuo

The Y is responsible for coordinating community service projects and various student activities. During this past weekend, an example of both occurred. On Saturday, we had our first Beach Clean-up session at Venice Beach. The event, as can be expected, was of great fun to both the student and faculty participants. The next day, the Y hosted a Day Hike to Mount Baldy traversing an 8.4 mile long trail. Another Y program of note is that we also organize tutoring sessions for High School and Middle School students in the Pasadena Unified School District. If you have Federal Work Study, you can receive \$12 per hour. Unfortunately, frosh can not work until their 2nd term. To keep track of the various activities being hosted by the Y, be on the lookout for various flyers and banners posted throughout the campus. Or better yet, come to the weekly Y meetings.

This Week

As usual, Project Angel Food will be occurring this week. The purpose of this program is to deliver food to housebound people

living with HIV/AIDS. Food is delivered during the lunch hour on Fridays (yes! TODAY!) and takes approximately one hour. For more information, please e-mail Ying Tian at ying@cco.caltech.edu.

The other exciting activity occurring this week is the Friday Noon Concert. This week, we host Annie Rapid on the San Pasqual Mall beside the bookstore. Annie Rapid is a solo performer in an acoustical "band."

On Sunday, October 31, the time shift from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time will occur at 2:00 AM PDT. Naturally, many people will be involved in the traditional Negative Time Tommy's Run (Frosh, if you don't know what this is, ask an upperclassman or find a copy of the *little t*). After having one's fill of food from Tommy's and a large amount of studying for various midterms, take a break and come to Mini-Decompression. Mini-Decompression will occur from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM in the Y Lounge (behind Steele House — a.k.a., the house where Compression occurred earlier this year). Various snacks will be provided along with a showing of the movie "Young Frankenstein."

Next Week

The Caltech Y is once again sponsoring a game of Broomball for interested people. Broomball is scheduled to occur next Friday night (Nov. 5) till about 3:00 Saturday morning. This event is open to all Caltech students — undergrads, grads, and post-docs. Broomball is a game very much like

ice hockey. The similarities are (1) it is played in an ice rink and (2) "sticks" are used to hit a "puck" into a goal. It is somewhat different from ice hockey in that (1) the "sticks" are actually brooms shaped with duct tape covering the bristles, (2) the "puck" is a baseball sized ball made out of duct tape, and (3) one runs around on the ice in tennis shoes (no skates allowed).

If you are a frosh and would like to get onto a Broomball team, simply ask the upperclassmen in your respective House; as many of the Houses submit either one or two teams depending on the interest level among their constituencies.

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.caltech.edu 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.

The Outside World

by David Guskin

HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Intended Presidential candidate George W. Bush has decided to skip out on the first televised national debate for GOP hopefuls, to the dismay of other candidates. He plans instead to attend a ceremony honoring his wife at her alma mater. Though he still intends to air a public excuse for his absence, other candidates such as Sen John McCain (AZ) claimed that "he's thumbing his nose at the people of New Hampshire".

YEREVAN, ARMENIA: Armenian President Robert Kocharian declared a day of mourning today, in memory of the nation's prime minister and seven others killed in Parliament by terrorist gunmen. The terrorists have been promised a fair trial, not yet scheduled, which could result in a ten to fifteen year sentence, or death.

YAOUNDE, CAMEROON: According to a survey conducted by Transparency International, Cameroon has been ranked the world's most highly corrupt country for the second year in a row. Cameroon's prime minister Peter Mafany Musonge expressed some shock and disbelief, commenting that "it has come as a great surprise." Despite efforts by Musonge and others in the Cameroonian government to crack down on corruption, the people of Cameroon still readily admit to massive corruption in their leaders.

SAN'A, YEMEN: American teacher of Yemeni studies Marta Colburn and her visiting parents were freed from captivity by kidnappers after intense negotiations for their freedom by Yemeni authorities. The kidnappers had apparently demanded the release of 25 fellow tribesmen detained in connection with an oil pipe explosion. Though Colburn and her parents were released unharmed, it is unknown whether the kidnappers' demands were met.

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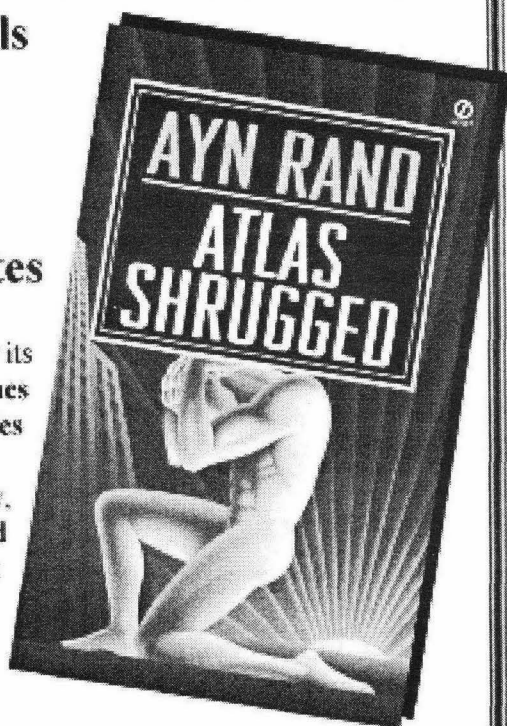
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You Might Want to Read the Disclaimer First

by Jason Meltzer

editors' note

Jason's opinions are his own - not this newspaper's. Unlike him, we don't hate all of you, so please please please don't kill us.

Ever get the feeling that the universe hates you? That there's some all powerful being watching over your life, and that he just loves to make you miserable? That when you're not looking, an ugly demon from Hell is rearranging space and time, just to get on your nerves? Guess what: there is. The universe does really hate you. Life is, at best, some random creation of the void, at worst a gameshow for some god-like audience that's laughing at us all the time. There won't be a heaven on the other side, and if we're really lucky, maybe there'll be a Hell in which we can all be tormented together for all eternity. That's the way I see things, anyway. It is in this mindset that I am writing this column, which will simply be about things that piss me off.

Let's start with the concept of working out. I understand that this is necessary for maintaining the quality of one's body, but my gripe is the ridiculousness of this

process. Who in their right mind would design a machine that becomes weaker the less it's used, and only becomes stronger with more abuse? To offend all you creationists out there: given this evidence (forgetting about everything else he's screwed up) I wouldn't trust your god to design a paper bag, let alone a human being and the entire universe! I think it's about time someone sicks Bob the Dinosaur on god and gets a real engineer filling the position. Even a math major would be an acceptable replacement at this point! Speaking of working out, my unfortunately designed body and I often go to the lovely Braun Gym here at Caltech. This summer I was up to two to three times a week, even, and every time I'd go I would present my ID to the amazingly rude woman who works at the front desk (a.k.a. "the card nazi"). One day, I wasn't thinking on my way out and forgot my ID in my room.

Now, I had never had any problems with the card nazi before, in fact I was under the impression that she was a very pleasant person who would even occasionally greet people who entered the building with a "hello." However, on this unfortunate occasion on which I forgot my ID, she gave me the most rude treatment I have ever suffered from (what I believe is) a fellow human being. First, she refused to let me enter the building and disregarded my claim that I was a Caltech student, even though she'd seen me every other day coming to the gym for weeks. She also ignored my friend, who did have his Caltech ID, who vouched for the fact that I was indeed a student (then she nearly confiscated his ID card because it didn't have a sticker!). First of all, there should be some minimum level of trust one member of the human race should have for another, especially at Caltech; we do operate under an Honor System last I checked. And seriously, this is Braun Gym, not CIA Headquarters; is it really worth possibly pissing off some prick like me — who will publish a column in the newspaper about it — just to keep one possible non-Techer (who's accompanied by a Techer with ID) out of the gym? Does this seem just a bit stupid to anyone else?

Speaking of stupidity, I recently read in Wired Online about what is perhaps the most ridiculous bill ever passed by our totally incompetent House of Representatives. The bill, pro-

posed by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-California; how shocking), is meant to attack — not poverty, not crime, not even the use of food stamps to buy child porn and condoms — foot fetishes! Yes, this is a terribly damaging phenomenon, completely dangerous to the safety of all decent, god-fearing Americans: the foot fetish. According to Gallegly: "People around the country are making 'crush videos.' These videos feature women wearing spiked heels crushing small animals with their feet. The videos are sold nationwide to people who enjoy this type of so-called 'foot fetish,' and sellers of the video are making millions of dollars." How can this man present this on the floor of the House and not be met with nothing but disdainful laughter? Even better: the bill passed the House 372-42! Where do we find these people? And who's voting for them? With all the issues facing this country, is this really the most important bill Congress could pass, or even discuss? Don't get me wrong, I'm not for cruelty to animals — in fact I think it's a generally nasty thing to do just for amusement — but it's a bit ridiculous to pass and entire bill about so trivial and relatively harmless a problem. Once again, my faith in representative government is shaken.

Here's one that doesn't piss me off, but simply amazes me: the stupidity of users of eBay. I'm all for taking advantage of stupid people, but there's a point at which it's just sad. The internet

is an amazing place when it comes to taking advantage of stupidity. For example, there was a period of time in which I repeatedly purchased a particular piece of software from uBid (another auction site), and resold it on eBay for a good deal of profit. Even better, you can now purchase a Palm Pilot IIIx from ValueAmerica, get a \$120 rebate, and then resell it on eBay! There are actually products available for auction there that sell for more than their retail value! Don't you just love the internet?

All this thinking about the nastiness and decay of the world makes me want to just give up on it sometimes. Steal a few million dollars and move to some secluded desert island where nobody (except, of course, my gorgeous island-mate) could possibly bother me. Bring a bunch of books, and an internet connection, of course, and just do nothing. Forget college, grad school, working — just bum on a deserted beach. But then I realize that if I do that, I'll never be able to take over the world with an army of evil robots. So I go back to doing my problem sets.

For those of you who actually finished reading this column, I commend you: you have more stamina than I could hope to. Or maybe you're just really bored. Either way, next time I promise to write something a bit more pertinent to life at Caltech. Until then, just remember that, on the whole, the world is really a terrible place to live.

Contact Jason at jasonm1@its.

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which the case is initially reported. Therefore, there is an inconsistent definition of what the jurisdiction of the BoC is.

4) Cases are routed by geography. Therefore, two similar cases, which happen to occur in two different locations, can have two different resolutions.

5) There is little communication between the different bodies regarding the resolution of cases. Therefore, a stu-

dent with a pattern of disruptive behavior can slip through the cracks.

6) The BoC is not well equipped to handle cases which

- a. are widely public.
- b. have no clear defendant.
- c. are not clear Honor Code issues, but are Institute Policy violations.

Proposed System
To address the problems listed in the previous section, COSGAA proposes a

formation of two new bodies called the Conduct Review Committee (CRC) and the Routing Group (RG). The Conduct Review Committee (CRC) is composed of two standing Co-Chairs and four other members selected on a rolling basis from a pool of students, faculty, and staff primarily from Student Affairs. The Student Co-Chair and a pool of qualified students are selected by the IHC. The other Co-Chair is the Associate Dean and the pool of non-students is selected by the Dean. The two Co-Chairs and four other members will hear each individual CRC case and will reach decisions by a 2/3 majority vote.

The possible outcomes of a decision of the CRC are similar to those normally exercised by Student Affairs.

The Routing Group (RG) is composed of the Dean, the DRL, the BoC Chair, and the Student Co-Chair of the CRC. The RG provides a centralized mechanism for the consistent routing of cases and facilitates communication between the different bodies that handle cases. Figure 2 depicts a flow chart diagram that represents how issues involving students would be resolved. Initially a witness would report a case to one of the four major bodies that handles cases: BoC, CRC, Dean's Office, DRL. That body will then communicate the details to the other members of the Routing Group for discussion and assignment of the case. Routing decisions will be made by consensus; if a consensus is not attainable, then the decision will be made by majority rule. Certain exceptions and examples of how cases would be routed are enumerated in Table 2. The operation of the BoC will not change much at all. Essentially only those cases that are not handled by the BoC will be handled differently. Thus, the CRC will handle a bulk of the cases that the Dean's Office and DRL currently handle. When the BoC, the CRC, or an individual administrator resolves a case, the RG will be apprised of the outcome. This feedback is used only for the purpose of helping refine routing decisions in the future.

The Conduct Review Committee's general philosophy is in the spirit of the Honor Code; also, its formal proceedings are modeled after those of the Board of Control. However, there are three major differences between the operation of the CRC and the BoC:

1) A concise statement of the CRC's charge will be: "The Conduct Review Committee will seek to make decisions in the best interest of the entire Caltech

community."

2) The CRC will have to handle cases that involve many students and more general problems that affect the community. As a result the CRC may, at times, be forced to operate more publicly than the BoC and therefore it will be difficult to come to a decision in total secrecy. Thus, the committee is given the power to set aside, on occasion, normally strict confidentiality standards.

3) The BoC, the CRC, the Dean's Office, and the DRL will also have access to each other's records when handling cases. The difference between the CRC procedures and BoC procedures is that the BoC takes a defendant's prior convictions into consideration only after they have established that there has been an Honor Code violation. Records of the BoC, the Dean's Office, and the DRL will be taken into consideration during the decision making process, and may have an impact on the committee's decision.

This proposal addresses the concerns raised before:

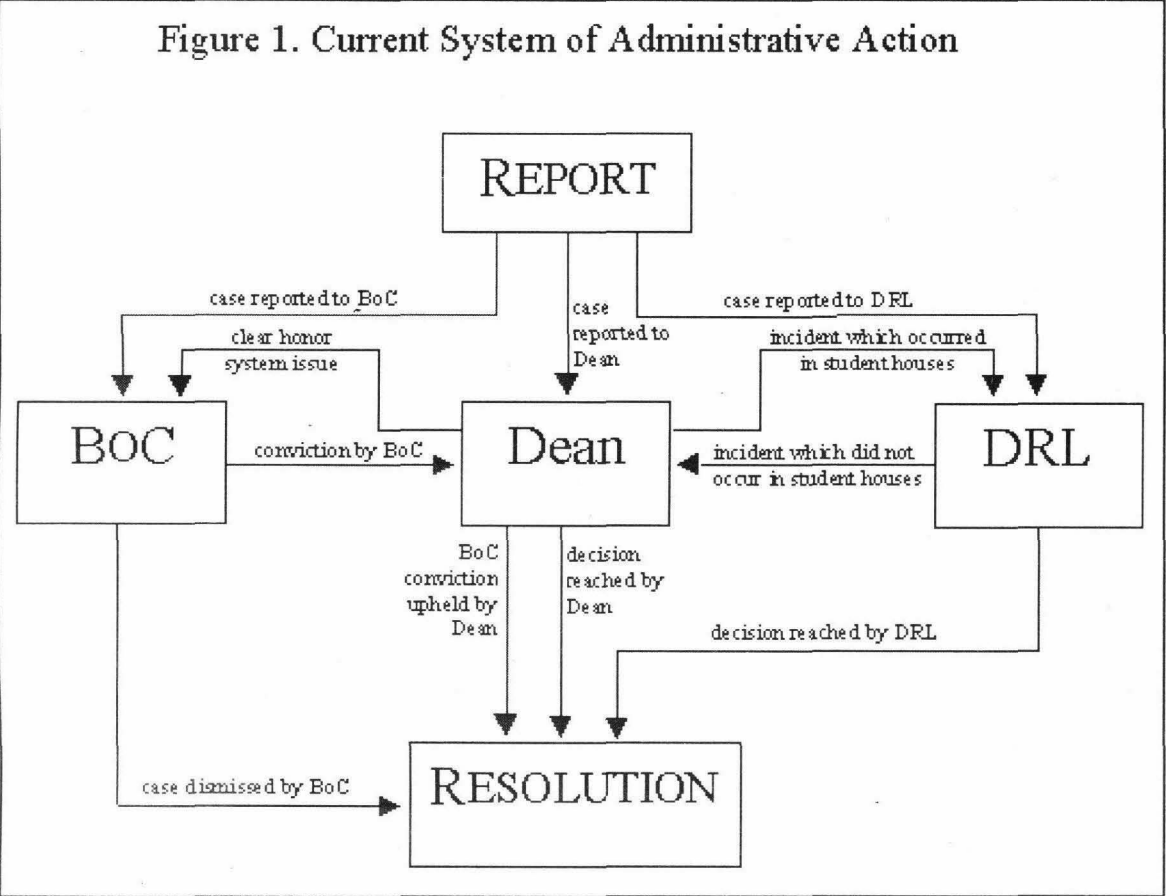
1) Many more cases will have student input from either the BoC or the CRC.

2) Many more case will be handled by committee rather than by an individual administrator.

3) The task of determining what is a possible Honor Code violation and what is not is left to the Routing Group.

4) Cases are routed by content rather than geography. Two similar cases regardless of where they physically occurred will be dealt with by the same body. This will lead to more consistent resolution of similar cases.

5) There will be much more communication between the different bodies that handle cases. Therefore, it is unlikely that a student with a pattern of disruptive behavior will slip through the cracks.



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COSGAA

6) The CRC is better equipped than the BoC to handle cases that

- a. are widely public.
- b. have no clear defendant.
- c. are not clear Honor Code issues, but are Institute Policy violations.

Vision for the Future

This proposal also includes changes that COSGAA would like to see occur gradually over the course of the next few years. The committee does not feel that these changes should be made now; however, the proposed system allows for the evolution of the BoC and the CRC.

1) COSGAA recommends that the Board of Control [note: no changes made until ASCIT Bylaw change]

- a. be trained to be able to handle the more sensitive cases.
- b. expand in size to distribute it's work load.
- c. perhaps allow faculty and/or administrators to sit in on hearings.
- d. evolve and become more comfortable dealing with Institute Policy violations

2) Issues of Harassment, particularly sexual harassment or sexual assault, will be handled by separate Institute procedures already in place. For now this means that the CRC as a formal committee will not handle such cases for two reasons:

- a. It would be better to wait until the CRC had a well established mode of investigating, deliberating, and making decisions before the CRC was allowed to handle such legally sensitive cases. Basically, COSGAA does not want to the CRC to handle such cases until the CRC is more well established and has more experience.
- b. The CRC is currently not listed in the Institute Harassment Policy as the mechanism by which such cases are investigated. In the mean time, however, the members of the CRC will get the specialized training necessary to hear such cases. It is also highly recommended that the Dean's Office use the CRC pool of students, faculty, and staff as a resource for such cases.

3) The selection of the Student Co-Chair should become a campus wide election in a few years after the student body is more familiar with the workings of the CRC.

Implementation & Information

In the few weeks before school started, members of COSGAA met with eight small student focus groups. The purpose of these meetings was to get feedback as well as to start getting the word out about the proposal to the student body. In the upcoming weeks, members of COSGAA will be visiting House dinners and will be available afterwards for a Q & A. COSGAA will also host a couple of open campus meetings to discuss any concerns or suggestions. Once COSGAA has gotten feedback on a campus wide level, then they will finalize any changes and start to implement the proposal. IHC's goal is to start the selection process for the student members of the CRC before the end of this term. The selection process will be similar to the way that IHC selects students for Faculty-Student Committees. A copy of the full proposal with all the details about the workings of the Routing Group and the Conduct Review Committee can be found with a local House President and on the Web at <http://optimus/cosgaa/>. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact COSGAA via cosgaa@ugcs and/or your local House President.

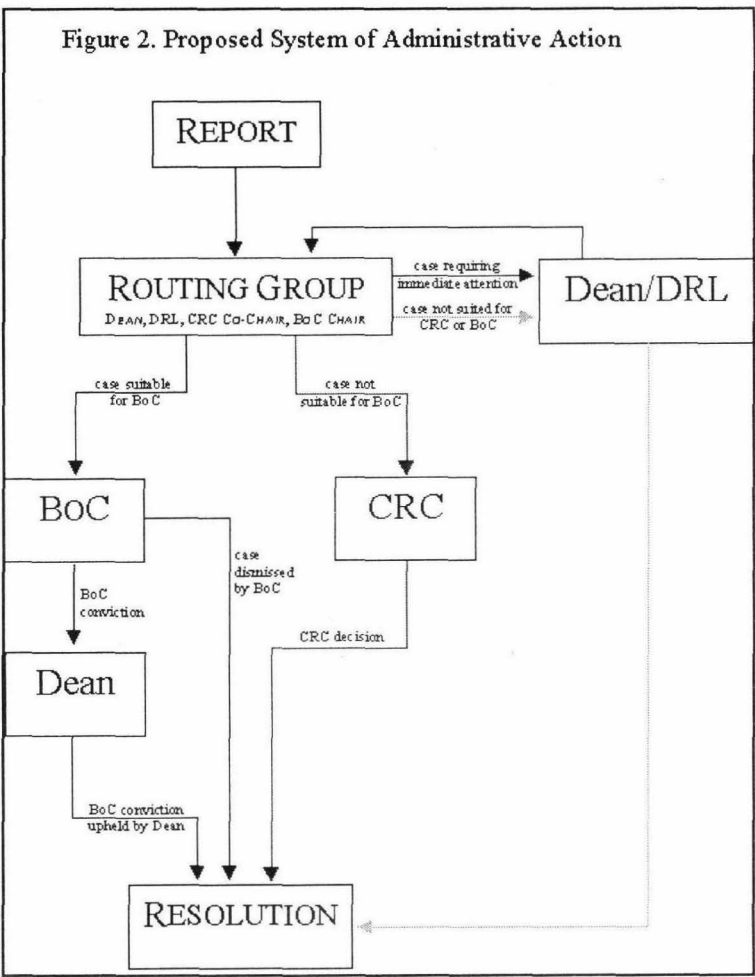


Table 2.

* - denotes cases that will be routed differently under the proposed system			
Example of Case	Type of Case	How the case is routed now	How the proposed routing would occur
Repeated unwanted sexual advances via email	Sexual Harassment/Assault	Institute Policy Procedures	Institute Policy Procedures
Racially offensive material is posted in a House	Harassment	Institute Policy Procedures	Institute Policy Procedures
Two students are violent towards each other	Requires immediate action	Dean or DRL, depending where	Dean or DRL. RG routes long term
Student cheats on a test	Academic	BoC	BoC handles case, RG informed
Room is entered without permission	Non-Academic (clear HC)	BoC	BoC handles case, RG informed
Prank is taken poorly by victim	Non-Academic (clear HC)	BoC	BoC handles case, RG informed
Roommates don't get along	Non-Academic (minor res life)	DRL	DRL handles case, RG informed
Student is playing music too loud	Non-Academic (minor res life)	DRL	DRL handles case, RG informed
*A mentally unstable student steals from students	Non-Academic	Dean or DRL, depending where	RG routes appropriately
*Student damages building by throwing rocks	Non-Academic	Dean or DRL, depending where	RG routes appropriately
*Dean-approved student bartender serves to frosh	Drug & Alcohol Policy	Dean or DRL (party sponsor)	RG routes to CRC
*House provides unsupervised beer keg at a party	Drug & Alcohol Policy	DRL	RG routes to CRC
*Frosh is forced to drink beer at a House initiation	Hazing	DRL	RG routes to CRC
*Student sets an olive tree on fire	Fire Policy	Dean	RG routes to CRC
*Furniture is blocking an exit corridor	Fire Policy	DRL	RG routes to CRC
*Student does speed then disrupts Hum class	Drug & Alcohol Policy	Dean	RG routes to CRC
*Student injured in House during fire related activity	Fire Policy	DRL	RG routes to CRC

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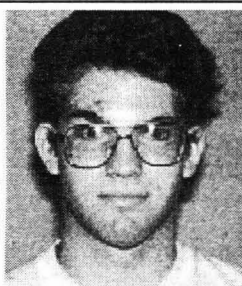
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Fight Club

Fight Club is a thrilling, kinetic, thought-provoking movie that has a whole lot more to it than just a bunch of guys beating each other up. Edward Norton continues his streak of excellent, edgy roles as a stressed-out corporate flunky who finds a new direction in life by discarding all of his possessions and devoting himself to establishing an underground bare-knuckles boxing club with his manic new soap-salesman friend, played by Brad Pitt. The screenplay explores existentialism, manhood, materialism, insanity, and fascism, but I never really bought into its premise

that the only way to feel alive is through violence and physical pain. Furthermore, it pulls the old Hollywood trick of entertaining you with something for most of the movie and then turning around and halfheartedly saying, "That's bad! Don't do that!" Nevertheless, director David Fincher (*Se7en*, *The Game*) succeeds in creating a world as viscerally stimulating as this past summer's *The Matrix*.

The Straight Story

Don't worry—despite the G rating and the Walk Disney imprimatur, this new film from the creator of *Blue Velvet* and "Twin

Peaks" is thoroughly Lynchian and unexpectedly moving. David Lynch's new movie is the true story of Alvin Straight (Richard Farnsworth), a 73-year-old Iowa man who rides his lawnmower hundreds of miles to visit his brother in Wisconsin. Instead of sexual obsession and criminal psychosis, Lynch this time puts his unique sensibility on themes like the importance of family and the beauty of taking a slow look at the world around you. Farnsworth is Oscar-worthy in a role that at first seems to be a typical old geezer, but is revealed to be a man of many personal flaws and pains; Sissy Spacek is also good as his slightly retarded daughter. Road movies are special things, indeed, unparalleled in revealing American character. Missoula, Montana native David Lynch shows that one can be folksy and sensitive while at the same time being a little bit weird

and maintaining your personal vision.

Briefly Noted

• The **Coachella Music and Arts Festival** out in the desert a few weeks ago was a wonderful antidote to the bad vibes of Woodstock 99. Despite the intense heat, concert promoters Goldenvoice showed that they actually cared about the comfort of the attendees, and the music went beyond the heavy-rotation playlists of KROQ or MTV, featuring bands and DJs that are actually creating vital, interesting music. Beck's performance was a highlight.

• The new **Staples Center** arena opened in downtown L.A. this month, and it's quite the impressive facility. The three levels of luxury boxes egregiously delineate the class distinctions between corporate ticketholders and ordinary fans, but it is unquestionably the place

to watch a hockey or basketball game.

• *Happy, Texas* is a fairly amusing yet mild film about a couple of escaped convicts (Steve Zahn, Jeremy Northam) who hide out in a small town as a gay kiddie-pageant organizer. The story goes in fairly predictable directions, and the humor is a little forced. It still works, though, and the characters are likable, particularly William Macy as the low-key sheriff.

• *For Love of the Game* is an uncomfortable fusion of a mediocre Kevin Costner romance and an excellent Kevin Costner baseball movie. The baseball action is some of the best I've ever seen (Vin Scully commenting helps), but the romantic side only really gets going once the Kelly Preston character's troubled daughter (Jena Malone) shows up. *Blue Durham* was a much more cohesive movie.

Sports Week in Review

BY CHRIS HUGHES

CALTECH ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Corydon Loomis, Men's Fencing - Men's fencer Corydon Loomis won the sabre competition at last weekend's season-opening tournament, held in Brown Gym. Loomis, last year's Caltech Co-Most Outstanding Player, defeated 14 other fencers from Cal State Fullerton, UC San Diego, UCLA and USC.

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW

Men's and Women's Cross Country

This Week: Sat., Oct. 30, at SCIAC Championships (9 a.m., Prado Park, Chino, Calif.)

Men's and Women's Fencing

This Week: The Beavers opened the season hosting an individual tournament in Brown Gym last Saturday. In the combined men's and women's sabre competition, Corydon Loomis won medalist honors with Nathan Stein earning a fifth-place nod and Zhao Huang taking seventh. In men's epee, Eric Tuttle finished in fourth place while teammate Anthony Sowinski finished in seventh place. In men's foil, Huang again finished seventh while Joseph Cook was 21st and Abraham Kuo took 23rd place. In women's foil, Sara Quan finished in seventh place while in women's epee, Kacie Shelton took fifth place.

Next Week: No events scheduled.

Next Up: Sat., Nov. 7, vs. UC-Santa Barbara (Brown Gym, 10 a.m.)

Men's Soccer (1-12-1, 1-8 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Julie Levesque

Last Week: Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 6, Caltech 1 ... Occidental 5, Caltech 0. Senior Dale Parkes

tallied the lone Beaver goal of the week, scoring early in the second half against C.M.S. The tally marked Parkes' team-best fourth goal of the season. On Wednesday, the NCAA's latest national goalkeeper stats placed Caltech sophomore Craig Viereggi tied for 12th in the country in saves per game. Viereggi made 10 saves in the loss on Saturday at Occidental.

This Week: Mon., Oct. 25, at Pomona-Pitzer (Claremont, Calif., 2:30 p.m.)

Wed., Oct. 27, at Redlands (Redlands, Calif., 4 p.m.)

Sat., Oct. 30, vs. Whittier (North Athletic Fields, 11 a.m.)

Women's Volleyball (1-16)

Head Coach: Dave Denham

Last Week: Life Bible d. Caltech 3-0 (6-15, 3-15, 6-15).

Jennifer Fong had five kills, five digs and two aces in last week's lone match, a three-game loss to Life Bible. Barbara Kraatz had nine digs, the most by a player on either team. Karen Lam added six digs and three kills in the loss. The Beavers close the season with Tuesday's match (Oct. 26) against Life Bible.

This Week: Tue., Oct. 26, vs. Life Bible (Braun Center, 7:30 p.m. - season finale)

Water Polo (0-7, 0-2 SCIAC)

Head Coach: Clint Dodd

Last Week: La Verne 18, Caltech 8 ... Redlands 13, Caltech 3.

The Beavers opened the conference season with a pair of losses on the road. Against La Verne, Peter Seidel tallied a hat trick while Tom Daula and Francisco Valles scored two goals apiece. Adam Thomason scored a hat trick in the loss at Redlands.

This Week: Wed., Oct. 27, vs. Pomona-Pitzer (Braun Pool, 7 p.m.)

Sat., Oct. 30, vs. Whittier (Braun Pool, 11 a.m.)

Sun., Oct. 31, at Chapman Tournament (Orange, Calif., times TBA)

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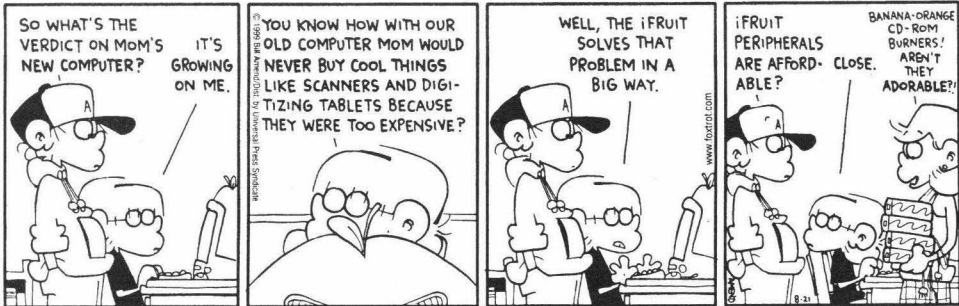
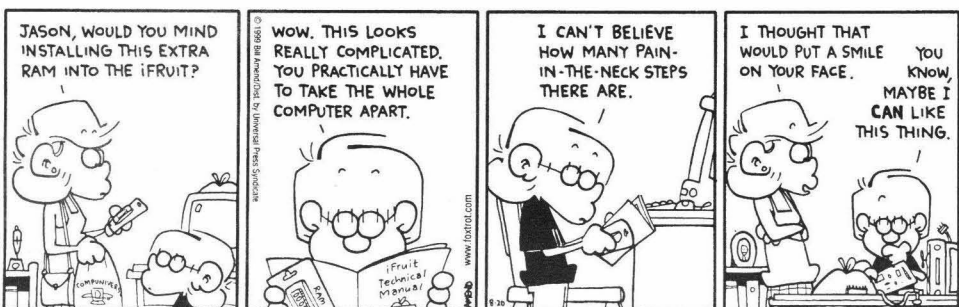
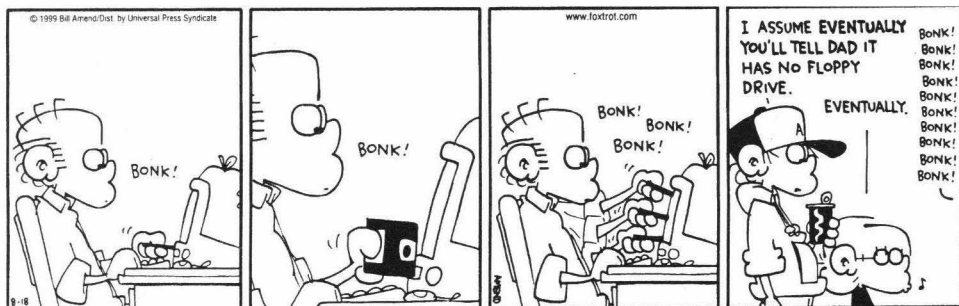
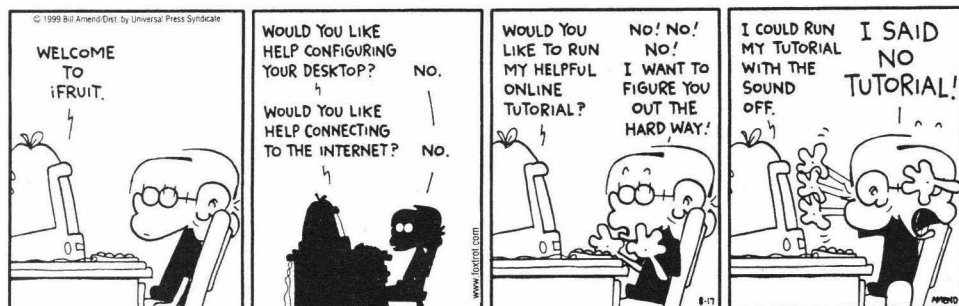
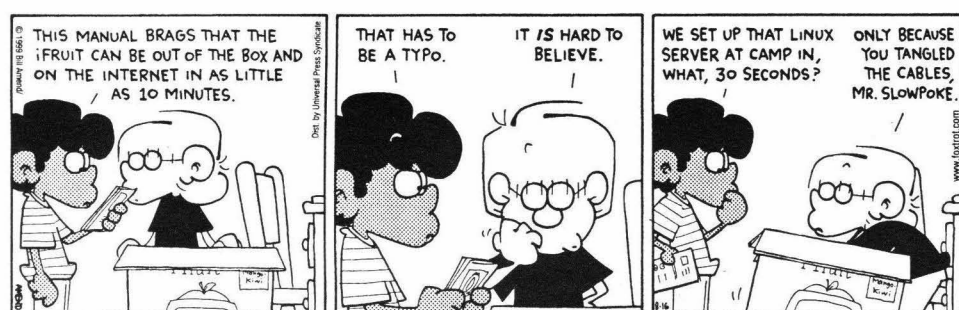
Student Activities Center

Room 13

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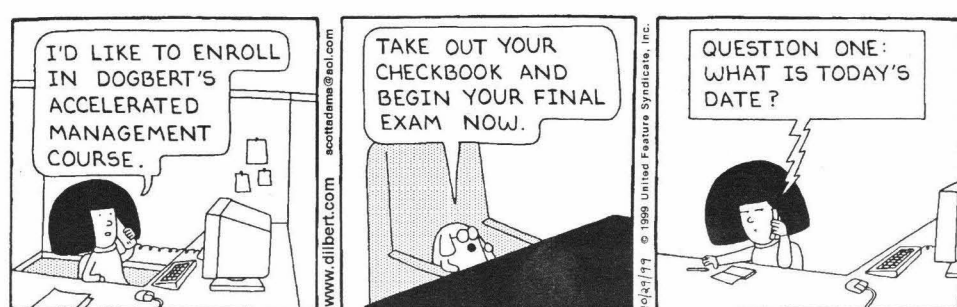
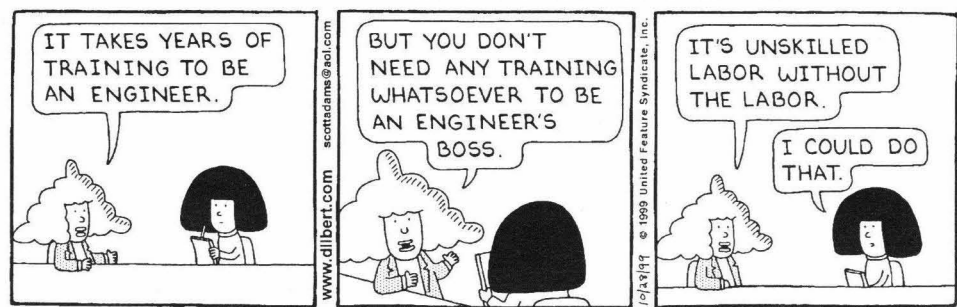
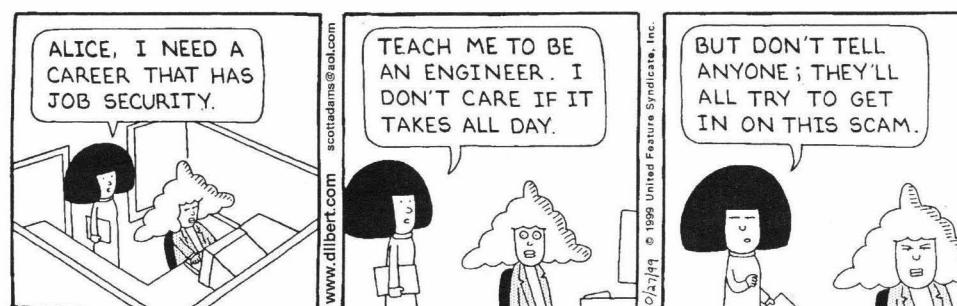
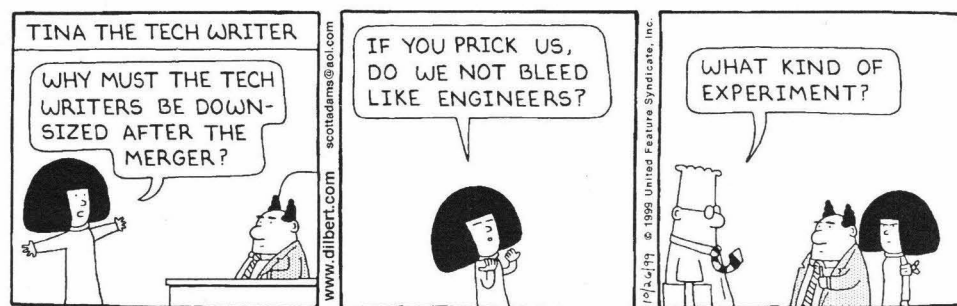
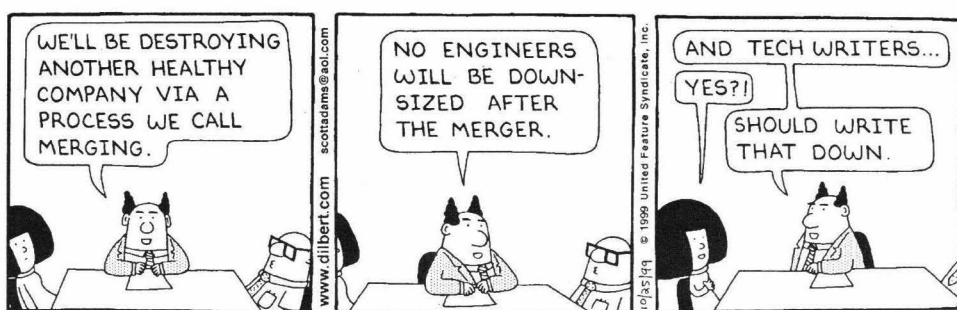
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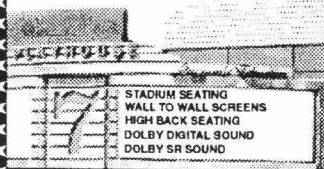
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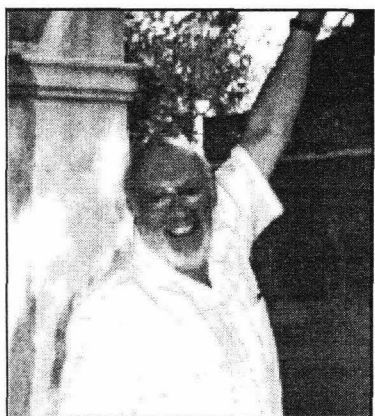
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Dean's Corner

*Bredelinbrededack,
frr, frr, bou, bou!*

by Jean-Paul Revel

There are childish things that please even in adulthood. I must confess, at the risk of seeming downright retarded rather than just childish, that I take an intense pleasure at turning on the radio in my car. Part of it is because the motorized antenna extends when I pull the "on" button. Part of it is that I love the sound, it envelops me so, I feel that I am in the best seat of a fabled concert hall. I can listen to Telemann and Palestrina, Mozart and Tchaikowski and Orff's Carmina Burana, almost anytime. I say almost because of course I am at the whim of the DJ. Yes I could use the tape player or even install a CD player and have whatever music, whenever I chose. Actually I am content with chance selections. It adds to the spice, not to know what will come my way. Rather peculiar to say, in this city of traffic jams, I sometimes wish my drive to work were longer so I could hear the pieces that are

played in their entirety. And to think there was a time when only the "upper crust" and maybe the faithful could enjoy such music. Upper crust I am unlikely to have been, but I think I might have become a church goer, just to experience Bach, had I lived 300 hundred years ago.

Although today we take music-at-any-time for granted, if one goes back little more than a hundred years there was only live music. "Mary had a little lamb", the song that launched the industry, was first recorded and played back on November 20, 1887 (www.si.edu/lemelson/centerpieces/ilives/edisonil.htm). With Edison's first machines one did not feel that one was in a concert hall. Fidelity has much improved since then. The recording medium has gone from foil covered wax to wax, to Bakelite platters running at 78 rpm, to vinyl discs spinning at 33 or 45rpm, and in parallel from steel wire to fancy tape, using steel needles, wooden points, then sapphire and diamond styli. Of course

by now it is done digitally with beams and mirrors. At each step of the evolution of recording, there was much ado and expectation about the coming "perfect" medium. Yet the only truly superior recording must have been John Cage's piece "Four Minutes and Thirty Three Seconds". It consists of 273 seconds of silence, the absolute zero noise performance.

Music has long been one of the most moving way for humans to express themselves. It presumably arose at the dawn of mankind, but references to music and musical instruments are lacking, along with data on the emergence of humans. But if birds and whales can do it, why not even the earliest of people? The one record of sounds older than 100 years is of course, the onomatopoeic bredelinbrededack, frr, frr, frr, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, track, track, trr, trr, trr, trrrr, on, on, on, on, on, ououououon, gog, magog... reported by Francois Rabelais (1493-1553), in his book on the bigger than life adventures

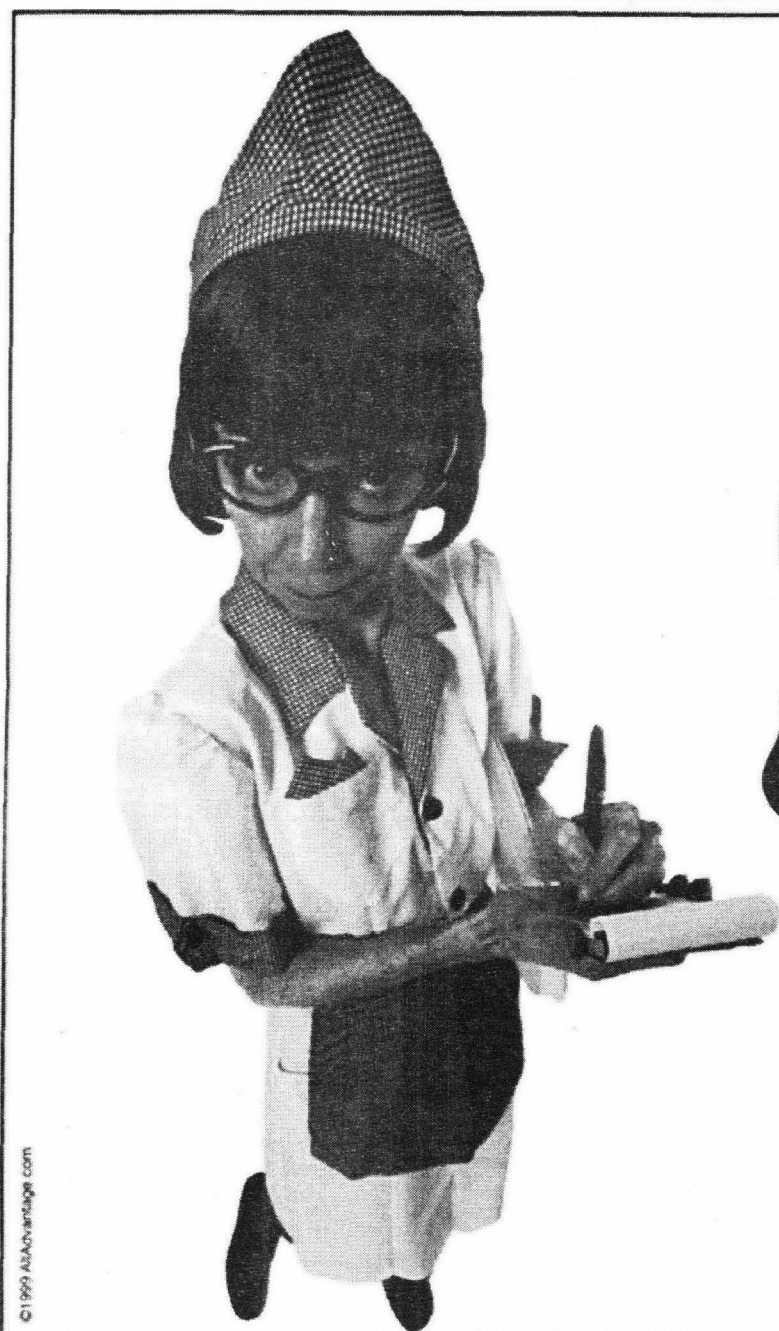
of Gargantua and his son Pantagruel. In Book 4 (1552), Chapter 55, we can read of "How Pantagruel, being at sea, hear(s) various unfrozen words." What? Quick frozen like fish? It turns out, the captain of Pantagruel's boat explains, that, yes, their boat was now "on the confines of the Frozen Sea, on which, about the beginning of last winter, happened a great and bloody fight...the words and cries of men and women the hacking, slashing and hewing of battle axes, the shocking knocking and jolting of armors and harnesses, the neighing of horses and all other martial din and noise, froze in the air; and now, the rigor of the winter being over, by the succeeding serenity and warmth of the weather, they melt and are heard" (www.worldwidescchool.org/library/; translated by Thomas Urquhart and Peter Motteux from nearly incomprehensible XVIth Century French). "Here...here are some that are not yet thawed. He then threw...on the deck whole handfuls of frozen words - of many colors!". Ah but that's only one tall tale related by Rabelais, that rabble rouser (sic). Of course there are no frozen words.

We don't know when music originated, but it seems that 3400 year old clay tablets from the Syrian city of Ugarit (the modern Ras-Shamra) represent a song and

matching musical notation, according to work by Prof. Kilmer and colleagues at Cal. There is also much older, if indirect, evidence for music. In 1997 in Lubljana, Dr. Ivan Turk a paleontologist from the Slovenian Academy of Sciences, discovered a 43,000 yr. old bear femur with two complete and two partial holes, the remains of what might have been a Neanderthal flute. Because it is missing both ends it can't be played. Not so for a 9000 year old flute from China discovered by Zhang and colleagues, as reported in the Sept 23 issue of Nature (Vol. 401, pp366-368, 1999). One of several found in a tomb, it had 7 holes. An extra hole had been drilled next to #7 presumably to correct the pitch of the instrument. Since there was no music to go along with the flutes, it was tried out using instead an old Chinese folk tune "My little Cabbage". You can hear it yourself on the web! (url:nature.com) To my western ear the "unfrozen sounds" are more like someone trying to whistle than playing the flute, but it is nevertheless moving to hear sounds which were last made some 9 millennia ago. It would have unrealistic, in fact childish, to expect a Mozart Flute concerto!

And so, bredelinbrededack, frr,frr,bou, bou to you.

Jean Paul Revel



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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. 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, 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. CS 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

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 (Nov 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 Human Resources, Employee Services office will sponsor a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on: Thu., Nov. 11, 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. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Earthquake Preparedness Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Dept. through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Tue., Nov. 16. 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.

Work for the TECH! Dave needs you! Yes, you!

EVENTS

Free mid-term ballroom dance party with refreshments, 8 p.m. until midnight Sat, Nov. 6 in Avery; sponsored by the CalTech Ballroom Dance Club. 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. For last minute changes see www.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call 626/791-3103.

Dr. Jean Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations will speak Nov. 3, 8 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 e. Green St., Pasadena, CA 91101, for tickets call ticketmasters at 213-480-3232.

Pasadena Community Orchestra October Concert, Fri., Oct. 29, 8:15 p.m., at the First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, Call 626-445-6708 for information.

Lifespan: Exploring and Celebrating the New Longevity presented by the UCLA Center on Aging and Skirball Cultural Center, Nov. 4, 1:00-2:30 p.m., \$5.00, call 310-440-4500 for information.

The **"Fans of X-Rated Entertainment Awards"** Sun., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Universal City Hilton, call 818-734-9898 or visit www.erotica-la.com for information.

The Los Angeles Public Library presents **"What is Africa's Legacy"** by Henry Louis Gates Jr., the W.E.B. Dubois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University, Tue., Nov. 2, 7 p.m., reservations by mail are preferred, call 213-228-7025 for more information.

"Successful Job Search Techniques" sponsored by Jewish Vocational Service, Mon., Nov. 2, 9:00-10:30 a.m., 22622 Vanowen St., West Hills, regis-

ter by calling 818-464-3222, \$25.00 cost.

Fairplex in Pomona will be holding a **Country Folk Art Show** and Sale in Fairplex 8 on Nov. 5-7, check the web site at www.fairplex.com.

Caltech presents **"Of Bulls, Bears, and Crystal Balls"**, Wed., Nov. 3, 8 p.m., Beckman Auditorium. Dr. Peter Bossaerts, professor of finance at Caltech, will discuss what mathematical theory can tell us about financial markets. Call 1-0888-2CALTECH, or 626-395-4652 for more information.

Fullerton College Community Band presents **"Autumn Serenade,"** on Oct. 29, 8:00 p.m. in the Campus Theatres. Tickets available through 714-992-7433. The Campus Theatre is located at 321 E. Capman Ave. in Fullerton.

SCHOLARSHIP

Fellowship Deadline Dates Reminder: NSF-11/4; Hertz-11/5; NPSC-11/5, Hughes 11/9; Ford Predoctoral 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/~felships/> 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.

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 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 Careyyette, 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.

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 pro-

grams. Please contact the NCIIA to obtain additional information at 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. 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.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact 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 specifies, all mints will run for two weeks.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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