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THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 12

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1999

CALTECH BEAVERS GO RABID ON LIFE BIBLE

BY GERALD PALMROSE

The excitement is already starting to build for this year's basketball team. There is something different. Something that smells like winning.

On Friday, December 11, the Caltech men's basketball team beat rival Life Bible 42-37, garnering their first victory of the season, and stopping their six game losing streak.

It was a magical day for Senior John Niccolai, who ended up with 22 points, and hit the clutch free throws that iced the game at the end. Niccolai was part of a 5-man set that succeeded in overcoming Bible's man-to-man defense, allowing the team to take numerous open shots.

On the other side of the ball, Matt Musick and Rajat Kongovi played "crazy good defense", according to Bruce Johnston. In fact, Tech almost relinquished their 20-14 halftime lead in a dry spell during the second half, but the defense came through and kept the lead in Tech's hands for the remainder of the game.

However, Bible was not about to give up. A few miraculous bombs from far past the three-point line kept them within hunting distance, but the consistent play of Tech, sans injured powerhouse Mike Kühlen, preserved the game.

It was Niccolai's night, but there were other forces that played large roles. John Estes battled down low and scored five, and Jay Henderson played with unwavering intensity all night.

So, is this the year of the Beaver? I'm no fortune-teller, and no team will win simply by destiny. But judging by the dedication of this year's crop, Caltech has a strong chance of winning their first conference game in a long time this year. Right now, they have one more non-conference opponent scheduled (Saturday vs. American Indian College), then on Wednesday, January 13, Caltech opens SCIAC play against Occidental at 7:30 P.M. Other than the SUPER BOWL on January 31, this may be the most anticipated sporting event in January. And hey, tickets are free!

Convenience store gains dry cleaning

BY MATT TISCARENO

The Caltech Convenience Store, located at the west end of the Chandler Dining Hall, added a dry cleaning service on December 7. The Convenience Store, which opened September 21 in the former site of the now-expanded Red Door Cafe, provides food items and personal items at competitive prices, just a few steps from the Student Hovses.

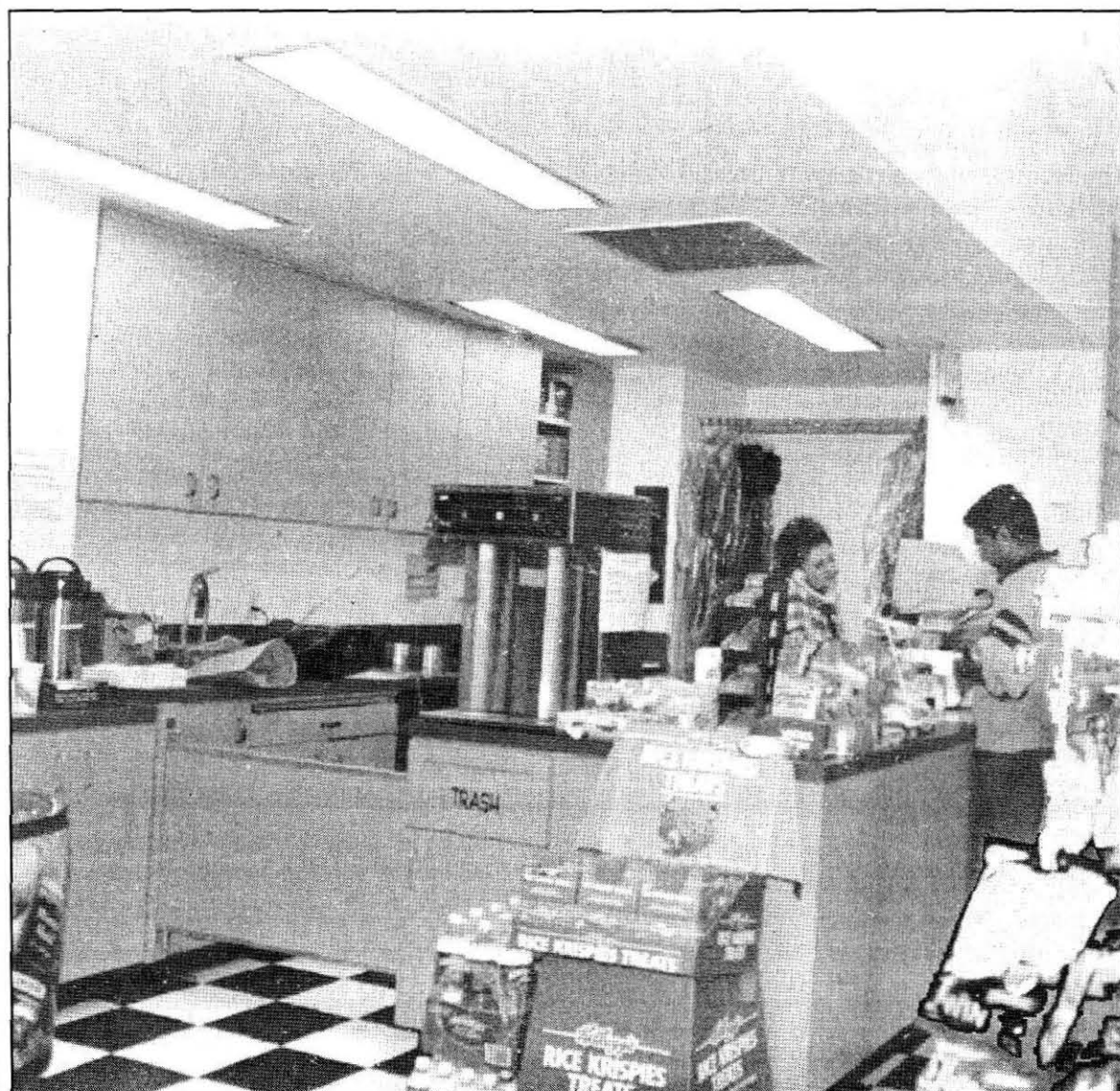
The newest member of the Caltech community is Talin Mangioglou. She is the proprietor of Tip Top Cleaners, which has been a fixture on South Lake Avenue for 48 years.

Originally from Turkey, Mrs. Mangioglou comes from a family with a dry cleaning tradition going back three generations. Her parents, grandparents, siblings and other relatives own several cleaning establishments across Los Angeles, the Valley, and Oxnard. Mrs. Mangioglou has been part of the Pasadena community for 18 years.

"I am truly looking forward to working more closely with Caltech," she says. "We have always put the highest priority on serving our customers, including many from the Caltech community. Since we don't advertise, our business primarily comes by word of mouth from satisfied customers."

Full dry cleaning services are now available, with pants at \$2.25, sweaters at \$3.00, sport coats at \$3.50, and laundry shirts at \$1.25. Coupons will begin appearing soon, as will a punch-card giving free dry cleaning after 10 visits. Office delivery may be available in the future, but for now all orders must be taken directly by Convenience Store employees. Mrs. Mangioglou, or an employee, drives on campus every weekday morning to pick up the day's

PLEASE SEE DRY CLEANING, PAGE 2



The Caltech Convenience Store was opened this past September to provide an on-campus location for food and basic goods.

ASCIT Coffeehouse understaffed

BY SHANNON STEWMAN

Of the many changes ASCIT has proposed for the Coffeehouse, only a few have actually happened so far. Menu additions, such as pizza delivery, and infrastructure improvements, like a new cash register, are currently on hold, though should be in place soon.

Although business has been good, staffing problems continue to plague the coffeehouse.

"We're in real trouble because of staffing," according to Jen Carron, interim Coffeehouse manager, who explains that "frosh can't work without the Dean's approval... the only people we can hire are upperclassmen."

Specifically, the second shifts (11 P.M. to 3 A.M.) are not staffed, and the Coffeehouse may be forced to close early because of this.

In addition to the shortage in staffing, ASCIT and Caltech

Dining Services are looking for a full-time manager to work forty hours a week from Sunday through Thursday (8 P.M. to 3 A.M.). Jen Carron, the current manager, is scaling back her hours for personal reasons.

According to Andre Mallie, Director of Dining Services, ASCIT and Dining Services will discuss ways to address the understaffing problem in a meeting this morning at 9 A.M.

Options, such as raising wages, have been proposed, but according to Chef Mallie, the actual hiring is the responsibility of the Coffeehouse managers.

Also to be discussed in the meeting are menu improvements, including menu expansion and including healthier menu items. Such improvements have been held up by the winter break.

The other major improvements, connecting to the bulk carbon dioxide and a new cash

register, will be in place soon. According to Mallie, the cash register arrived this Wednesday and should be in place sometime next week.

Other developments, such as reopening the SAC TV room, are also underway, as Autumn Looijen, ASCIT Upperclassmen Director at Large, is actively looking for a television to fill the spot. The musical selection, according to Jen Carron, can be enlarged if people bring CDs down for the Coffeehouse to play.

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Sport Shorts

Both **Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams** are 3-1! The Men's team lost its only meet by a single point to Whitter, who they will see again in a triangular meet on February 6.

The **Swimming and Diving Teams** travel to Occidental tomorrow morning for the first Invitational of the season.

The **Women's Basketball Team** faces off against American Indian College tomorrow at 5:30 in Braun Gym.

The **Men** look to continue their winning ways two hours later — fans are appreciated.

Interhouse Ultimate Frisbee starts Monday, and Interhouse Track and Field is next week.

Caltech frisbee team prepares to fly

BY GERALD PALMROSE

After a long winter break, Caltech's club frisbee team is now ready to leap into some action. Starting Monday, January 11, the "Frogs" will be playing against other club teams around the area, with one game a week for approximately ten weeks. Already there are confirmed players that will be playing in the first game, but the "Frogs" can accommodate any player who is interested in playing. Some facts to know:

(1) Ben Brantley, organizer

of the team, can be reached at ben@ugcs or x1476. He is the one to contact if you want to play.

(2) The team is coed and already includes four UCLA female frisbee players.

(3) In order to play, you have to be an Ultimate Players Association member. The UPA has insurance for these games, and you will get a newsletter from them all year long. The fee is \$15, which may be brought to Monday's game.

(4) The first game is Jan. 11 against Disney, 8 PM @ Balboa

Park in Encino. The team is meeting at 6:30 in the Fleming Lounge. Tell Ben you want to play, and whether you can drive.

Although anyone is welcome, a serious commitment is required. Finally, check out www.laout.org, where you can find all of this information and the schedule for the rest of the season.

CAMPUS DRY CLEANING...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

orders and drop off the finished clothes.

Andre Mallie, who is responsible for the Convenience Store as director of Caltech Dining Services, is excited about this new and innovative service. "The convenience will be fantastic for faculty, staff, and students. Our prices are also lower than our competitors. This is a big plus for the campus."

Fencers stab opponents with their steely knives

BY TIM RAUB

"Fencing is the art of poking someone with a sword when they don't want you to," testifies a Caltech swashbuckler.

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WORKIN' AT CALTECH: A 'WHEN I WAS A FROSH...' TALE

By second term last year, I was desperate for a job. Poor as only a tech student with a late night appetite and shopping addiction can be, I needed major money fast. There was one little problem, however—I'm not on work-study, and it seemed like all the labs and departments were looking for a governmental sugar daddy. So, to put it mildly, I thought that I was out of luck. I didn't know where to turn—all my 'hook-ups' turned up nothing and I resigned myself to a side job tutoring jocks at a local high school. Then one day, I was looking through my mail, tossing out the usual flyers and security bulletins, when a sheet of yellow paper caught my eye—all right, I'll admit it was because of the dollar signs. "Work for the Alumni Fund!" it said....and then "Make \$8.34 an hour!" D—m! I thought—that's some decent money! So I checked it out, and before I knew it, I was on my way...to paying my bills. But it wasn't all about the money—in fact, after the initial couple of weeks, I found myself enjoying the work. After all, all that I had to do was spend a few hours a week calling Caltech alumni, and considering how much time I normally spend on the phone, a couple extra hours a week was no hardship. Plus my boss was young, cool, and laid-back—and I got all my friends to work there too, so it was a very social job. Much better than Xeroxing papers for four hours, or trying to explain algebra to someone whose idea of number theory is the 12 on the back of his jersey. It wasn't a large time commitment either, unlike some lab jobs where the prof. wants you to work 20 hours a week. I spent like 6 hours a week (max) at the Fund Office. The most wonderful (and surprising) thing about the job, though was that in addition to the \$8.34 I got per hour just for showing up, there was a BONUS system! I couldn't believe it at first—for chatting with the Alums on the phone and picking up a few donations, I could make an extra \$5 an hour! Sometimes I even won stuff from area businesses. I loved the job, and decided that I definitely wanted to keep it up, so I stayed until the summer. This year, I rang up my boss and asked her if any jobs were available for the fall—after all, why waste time looking for other work when I already knew that this job was fun? And guess what—she hired me again...as a Manager. It was very cool. Mucho dinero, friendly coworkers, and advancement opportunities, all in one year and one job. It is possible at Caltech...so shopping mavens, next time you're at the Galleria and you see a pair of chunky shoes to die for, or that new version of Quake that makes you salivate, don't run and cut up your credit card—buy 'em all! Just make sure you have a job at the Alumni Fund first! -- Paula Whitten (whitten@its)

The Men's and Women's Fencing teams, generally among the most heralded and successful intercollegiate programs at Tech, have finished the first part of their season and are now preparing for the long haul to the finish beginning in February.

The teams have won some matches while losing others to UCSB, UCSD, UCLA, and USC. The most important tournaments occur later in February and March.

There are three different fencing styles used in competition — epee, foil, and sabre. Epee and foil are stabbing con-

tests, while sabers slash each other.

In epee, fencers may touch each other anywhere at all on their bodies, while foilers are restricted to the chest and back and sabers must keep their weapons above the waist.

Furthermore, in foil and sabre, whoever initiates an attack has "right-of-way" over the his/her opponent, whereas in epee either opponent can score a point for a "touch."

Matches are played to five of fifteen touches.

If you attend a fencing practice, you may hear random

Techers shouting "En garde!" (meaning, "get ready, I'm going to stab you with my weapon"), "Touche!" (meaning, "Take that, punk!"), or occasionally "Voila!" (meaning, "wow, don't I look dashing?"). Contrary to popular belief, fencers almost never shout these epithets when they fight, though, since it is against the rules to talk while fencing.

Also, you're not allowed to project your shadow onto the wall and you don't get any extra points for etching a "Z" in your opponent's butt. But it does look dashing!

Caltech Hillel invites you to experience the first Caltech Shabbat dinner of 1999!

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will be followed by a delicious kosher dinner.*

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take a break from your studies,
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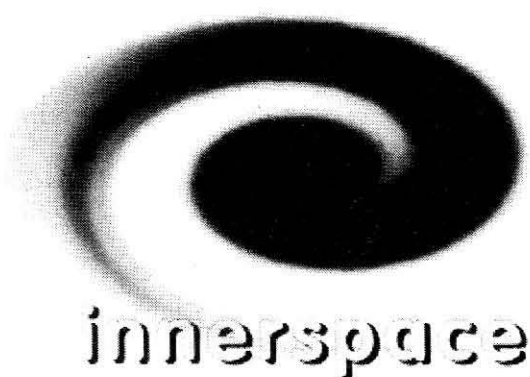
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Thank You Sir, May I Have Another?

by Jason Meltzer

Break is over. That's right... welcome back to another fun-filled term of bending over and — well, you know. Frosh, I hope you're not in despair yet. Even if you have 4 of your 6 E's already, that's OK. You can deal with it. Who the hell am I kidding? Transfer to the Hawaii University for Morons now, while you still have a chance! Think about it... easy grades, great weather, beautiful beaches, and lots of good-looking members of the opposite sex. That's my new goal. What more do you want?

Nah, I'm just joking. Even someone as cynical and bitter as myself must admit that Tech really is a great place to go to school. I wouldn't really want to go anywhere else, even if my GPA's a whole point lower than it could be at easier

schools, even if we can't throw a party better than a group of twelve-year-old retarded children, even if I feel like I'll rip the head off the next person who starts a conversation about Linux at the dinner table, even if I have less of a chance of getting a girlfriend here than if I lived aboard a Navy submarine — yes, even if all those things are true (and some of them are!), I still would rather be at Tech than any other school out there.

But that doesn't mean I won't complain about it, of course. Given that I'm writing this just after finals week, I wouldn't mind griping about that. Basically, the whole idea of giving finals at Tech seems rather absurd and sadistic to me. Most students here are very tired after an entire term of heavy work. Most classes

assign a problem set or other work each week, and most students take around 5 classes (some more, some less). That's about 40 assignments per term, give or take a few depending on the classes. Add to that tests, reading, lecture, and studying, and that's a hell of a lot of work, even for people taking relatively light loads!

By the end of the term, most people are tired and just want a break, but instead, they get a final for most of their classes, which would probably count highly toward their final grade (some classes 50% or more). It's like running a marathon, thinking you've got another lap until the end, then realizing that you really have another 10 miles to go! At this point, I have observed that many people just don't want to do much studying at the end. Many don't care all that much about grades, so they don't study enough, don't do as well as they could on their finals, and get a lower GPA. In fact, finals seem to be one of the primary causes of low grades at Tech. Does this happen to you? I know I've felt that way, as have others I've spoken to.

What is really the point of a final, anyway? I guess the answer is to see if stu-

dents have learned the material in the class comprehensively. That's certainly important, but there are other ways to accomplish this that are not so stressful on the students. My favorite is to give shorter tests throughout the term, each of which test cumulative knowledge in the course. By the end, the test would be like a "final" but it would not count toward so large a percentage of your grade, as there would be other, equally weighted tests in your average, as well.

This is much less stressful for students, as one test will not determine so much of your score, so there is less pressure to cram in everything from the course in the last week. I think such a system would also help students learn the material better. If they were tested a few times a term, instead of once, they would have more time to study for each individual class, instead of having to study for all of them at the end of a term. And if the tests are cumulative, they won't just study last week's material, but previous material, as well. By the end, they should really understand most of the material in a course. But this will never happen, so why delude ourselves?

On a happier note, I was

very pleased with the Physics 2 instructors, and discovered that feedback sometimes does get listened to! As many of you know, there was a strange policy in Ph 2a (apparently a long-standing one), that students could only use a set number of pages of hand-written notes to assist them on the test. It was some limbo state between closed and open book, and many people didn't think it was very fair. After last term's final, which did a good job of illustrating *why* that policy isn't fair, I sent an e-mail to my TA about it (and a few other things, but they're unimportant to this story). Instead of just ignoring my comments, which many core classes do, I got a real response from my TA, and we discussed the point some. Beyond that, the staff discussed it, as well, and decided to change the policy for Ph 2b! At that, I was happily surprised, as I am sure many others will be. The moral of the story: feedback is taken seriously, at least sometimes, so it doesn't hurt to give it.

With that, I wish everyone a good second term. Good luck to all!

Jason Meltzer is a sophomore. Comments can be mailed to Jasonm1@its.



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Cards

Background

by Ron Dollete

Well well well, it's a new year and a whole new edition of a column that refuses to do 1) the best of 1998 and 2) what to look for in 1999. Instead, I like to continue a tradition I call Ron's Resolutions.

In 1999, I resolve to wait until someone else buys a copy of Prince's 1999. Because I don't want to be stuck with it any other time.

I resolve to make fun of Vanilla Ice on principle. "Ice Ice I Suck." What is he trying to do, ride the recent wave of those hard-core metal-hip-hop bands like Rage Against the Machine and KoRn. It's old, Ice T did it long ago, the last thing we need is Yo Vanilla doing it now. It's a shame too, I finally memorized all the words to that awful song.

I resolve to look at what's playing in Europe, because it's usually tres chic to listen to, but not PC enough to play on the radio. "Horny" is a good example. Of course, Europe isn't the only place to hear cool tunes, but the wares from the Old Country are probably the most accessible, with Japan being next.

I resolve to update my collection of the classics. With *Paul's Boutique* by The Beastie Boys, *Automatic for the People* by REM, and *The Low End Theory* by a Tribe Called Quest all tucked away, it's time to add *Some Great Reward* and *Violator* by Depeche Mode and *Three Feet High and Rising* by De La Soul. Catelyn also probably wants me to listen to more Ani DiFranco and Hetha probably will suggest Liz Phair. Paul will add Soul Coughing and Pink Floyd to that list, but I certainly feel that some bands are more classic than others.

I resolve to increase my collection of broken relationship songs. Yep, it's that time of year again. People have time to go home and reassess things and then come back and create uncomfortable rifts. Welcome to January, folks. My favorite albums in this category include *Fashion Nugget* by Cake and *Little Earthquakes* by Tori Amos. "Ooh, these little earthquakes / doesn't take much to rip us into pieces."

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I resolve to listen to Y107 more than KROQ, because they're starting to get MTV-ized: the same ten songs fifteen times a day for three months. Man, funk dat.

I resolve not to buy the *Double Live* by Garth Brooks. My man Garth might be keeping it real for his homies on the street, thus becoming the best selling artist of all time. But that just means that he won't feel it when I walk right past the display. At press time, though, DMX's new album *Flesh of My Flesh Blood of My Blood* dethroned *Double Live*, only reinforcing the resurgence of rap on the music scene. By the way, you're sorely missing out if you don't have Lauryn Hill's album or Wyclef Jean's album. (Hill's you probably know, Wyclef Jean's album is entitled *The Carnival*).

I resolve to not skip any classes and get really good grades and go on to a distinguished career. Then again, maybe that Prince album isn't all that bad.

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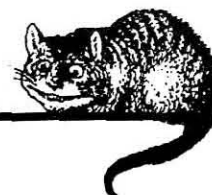
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Interviews: January 14

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A.S.C.I.T.

Minutes

JANUARY 4, 1999

Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting, 4 January 1999

Present: BoD (minus Devi), Michael Pruett, Aron Meltzner

Meeting called to order at 10:05. Danny and Derek were elected Treasurer and Freshman Director respectively in two closely disputed elections. Welcome to the occupation.

General Business Celery - Pruett is here seeking recognition for a vegetarian club. The aim of the organization is to provide a support network for campus non-meat eaters. He presents a roster and a statement of purpose. The BoD votes unanimously to recognize this organization.

Prank - Alan asks Michael for some details about the prank that went down during finals week. There was a fat man, lights, a mobile, and commentary on the spirituality of capitalism - the usual stuff. There are some reservations about spending \$350 on this project but the commitment was already made.

Rainbow Movies - Aron presents receipts for the recent movie night sponsored by the Caltech Les/Bi/Gay Union (CLU). As promised, Danny cuts him a check for \$65. Aron requests \$30 for an upcoming dessert and movie outing.

Meeting Time - It is decided that Mondays at 22:00 in SAC 33 are a good time and place to have ASCIT BoD meetings. You should come and say hi.

Officer Reports
Derek - The UROH is in the pipe. It should have been done by now but some personnel changes but the stops on the project. Mike issues

Derek a key to the office and executive washroom.

Hanna - One of the lights needs to be replaced.

Autumn - It is possible to get a big TV and a VCR for under \$2000. Look for such a pair coming to a Coffeehouse near you. Mail services is willing to help students out with postal pranks. You can leave material with them and they will distribute it for you. ASCIT can't have its own key to the mailboxes but we can use the one that Residence Life has.

Jaideep - The IHC will be looking at the Avery room-picks policy. They need a secretary.

Danny - We have about 5 or 6 thousand bucks in Bank of America and another 16 thousand in Sanwa. Those two will be fused in the coming days. Baldeep and Danny will be meeting with Patti (the bookkeeper) to cook the books.

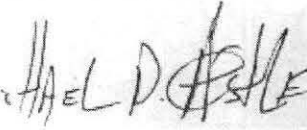
Mike - In the recent election, somebody stole all of Page's ballots. They were replaced when this disappearance was reported. Despite the incident, there were no protests. The new roster is done.

Alan - The BoC may eat lunch and allow you to bitch at them.

Baldeep - Our Leader took some time over vacation to update and revise the BoD resolutions. The revisions will be available soon. He has also put a start to a corporate manual explaining ASCIT and all of its tentacles.

Meeting closes at 10:52.
The BoD votes to approve \$30 for the CLU event.
Meeting adjourned at 10:53.

If you got a gun up in your waist Please don't shoot up the place,


Michael D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary

The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On December 19, 1998, the House of Representatives approved two articles of impeachment against President Clinton. The articles accuse Clinton of lying under oath to a federal grand jury and of obstructing justice. The Senate trial began January 7, 1999. The current "sticking point" is whether or not witnesses will be introduced during the trial. In other Washington news, Republican Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigned from his impending position amidst allegations that he had "on occasion strayed from [his] marriage." Unless there are any other surprises or scandals prior to the start of the new Congress, the new Speaker will be Dennis Hastert from Illinois.

IRAQ: U.S. and British forces conducted a series of "strong, sustained" airstrikes on military and security forces in Iraq starting around December 16, 1998. The airstrikes were designed to degrade Iraq's ability to develop and deploy weapons of mass destruction. The trigger for this particular show-

down was Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow the U.N. weapons inspectors unrestricted access to his country. The U.N. conducts these inspections in accordance with the terms of the treaty ending the Gulf War of 1991. As suddenly as they had started, the airstrikes ended a few days later.

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE: President Ahmad Ejan Kabbath announced on January 6th that he and rebel leader Foday Sankoh have agreed to an immediate cease-fire in the country's capital, Freetown. The announcement has been met with doubt by other top rebel leaders, as Sankoh is currently in prison awaiting a death sentence for his role in the 1997 coup that overthrew Kabbath. The few remaining staff members of international organizations such as the U.N. left the country January 5th.

MEXICO CITY: The government of Mexico has fought a public relations nightmare this past week as news of plans to eliminate subsidies on tortillas spread throughout the country. According to CNN, "the

government apparently underestimated the depth of sentiment aroused by potential price increases in what Mexicans have always viewed as the bastion of the diet of the poor." Commerce Secretary Herminio Blanco calmed reporters down in a speech last Wednesday by reminding them that programs already exist for low-income families to receive one free kilogram of tortillas a day.

LHOKSEUMAWE, INDONESIA: Violence erupted this past week in the "resource-rich" province of Aceh. The worst of the violence occurred last Sunday when 11 civilians were killed in a confrontation between the military and a mob of people attacking government buildings. Most of the people who were arrested during the unrest have since been released, and even though the establishment of another period of "military operations status" (military rule) is quite possible, the country appears to be returning to business as usual as the week wraps up.

FOOD WITH FOODS

Welcome back everyone,
This is Dave Tytell, IHC food chair here to report on all the goings on with the Caltech Board Program. Since this is the beginning of the term, there isn't much to report. However, here's what's going on.

First off, with Ramadan upon us, Caltech Dining Services would like to remind students that the kosher/hallal board plan is available for no additional cost. Contact Joel at kosher@caltech.edu to sign up and get more info. This is an optional plan, and you can join at any time regardless of your religion or religious beliefs.

Second, I thought I would

report on a survey I conducted this summer. I called around to other colleges to ask how much their mandatory board plans were. I wanted to see if Caltech Board costs were reasonable, or if they were high compared to other schools. Here's what I found out, but bear in mind that these numbers may have changed since August.

Cost Per Day:	
Yale	= 11.76
Oxy	= 12.70
Caltech	= 14.30
Harvard	= 15.39
Princeton	= 17.46
Stanford	= 17.52
UCLA	= 19.50
So much to my surprise,	

Caltech is VERY affordable, especially considering the fact that the menu here is so much more varied than what is found at most of the colleges I just listed.

So that is the scoop from here. As always, if you have any food complaints, comments, or concerns, email youeat2@caltech, or talk to your food rep.

Till next time,
Dave

IHC Food Committee meetings will be held in Winnett Club Room 1 on Thursdays at 3:00. Come by if you have any concerns.

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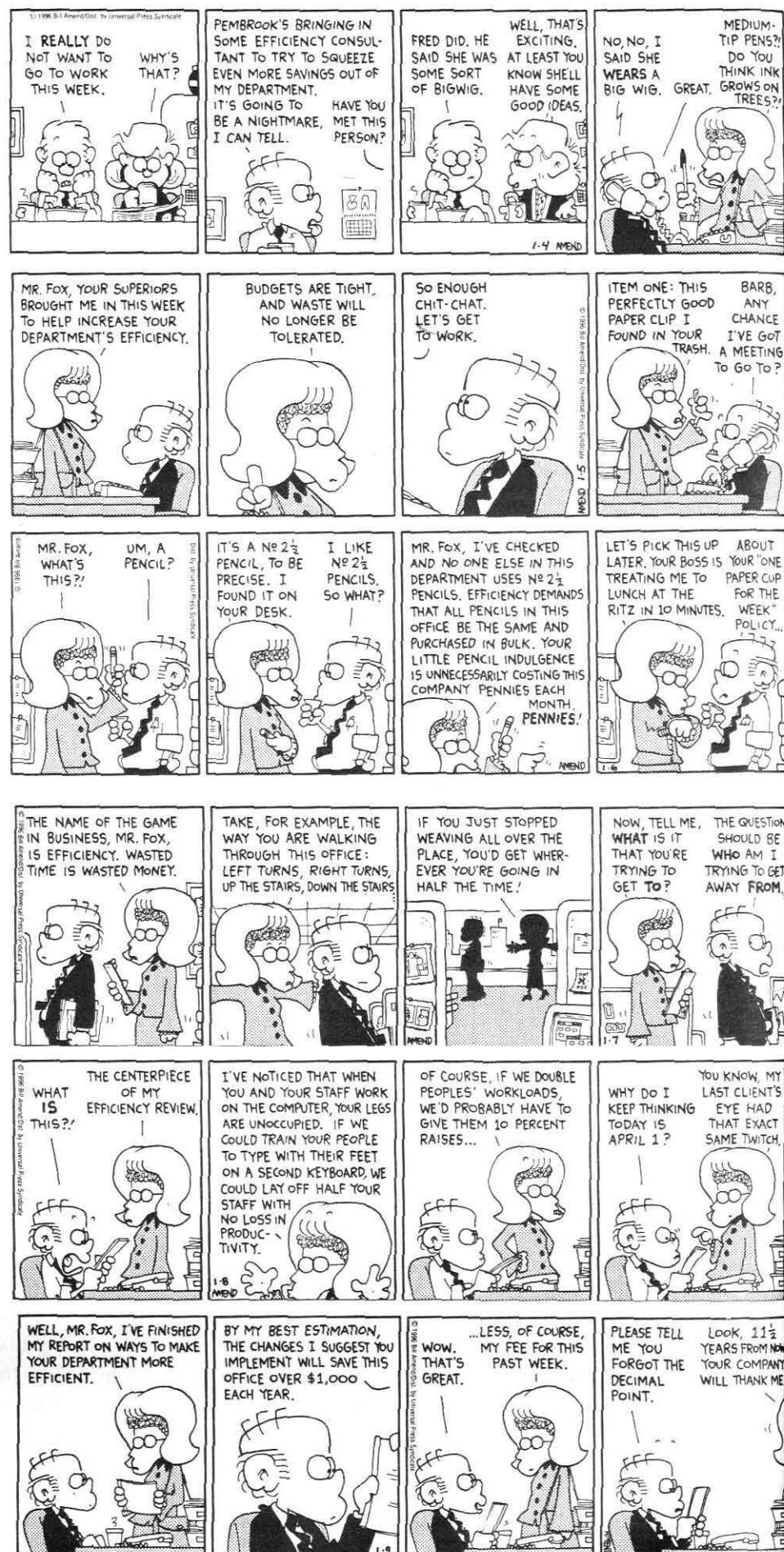


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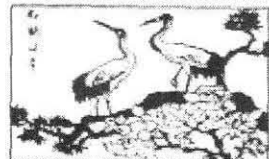
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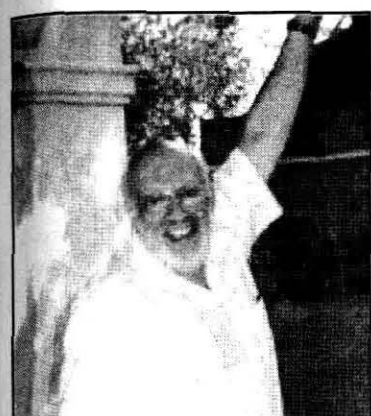
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Dean's Corner

Master of Revels

by Jean-Paul Revel

In the old days, starting let's say with the Saturnalia of roman times, but most likely earlier than that, this time of the year was marked by what one might call serious merry making. In medieval times, the riotous indulgence was led by the Lord of Misrule, also known as the Master of Revels. In fact the tradition continues in many ways, including the antics of the Mummers Parade in Philadelphia and it might be argued even as the oh! so sedate Rose Parade.

By now we have supposedly all had our jollies and race horses have had their birthday (that's right, by tradition on Jan 1). And now the winter term has started, and in spite of the terrible weather in most of the country only one student seems to be lost amid the

snowdrifts. And so with reinvigorated minds, we are, I hope, almost all ready to face the second term.

Now is the time to implement all the serious resolutions which we have made according to tradition. This is not just fun and games and mistletoe, this New Year stuff, but also a time of reassessment. So decide to smile more often, floss at least 5 days a week, loose weight, call home even if you don't need money, go to all your classes etc. etc.

Actually just in case you have run out of ideas for ways to improve yourself, there is a web site that has a ready made list of possible good intentions with which to pave your own private road to hell. I also found a site where you can deposit your resolutions, so that you may remind yourself of what they were, if ever you

should forget. I suppose part of it is that announcing your resolutions to the whole world (the Internet is growing furiously) might shame you into persevering.

Among promises so listed as awaiting fulfillment are those of Stella, in London, Ontario, who writes and I quote verbatim "I want to read one book the each month, I want to arrive in December and have read 12 different books." She continues (the spelling is hers) "I decide that I will go to the gyn 4 or 5 times a week and loose 5 pounds. I bought one small pants and I need entry it. This is my decision."

Sounds like a modest and reachable goal, certainly more realistic than Brandi's of Toronto who resolves "I want to weigh only 200lbs by December 31, 1999. That's 51 lbs to lose, and that's only 1 lb a week. I can do it!". Could it be that the year in Canada is shorter than it is here? At the high latitudes of course what

with the long summer day and winter night, the number of dark/light cycles is less. But Toronto is near the 45th parallel, far from the Arctic circle. But never mind, with such a positive attitude and the extra week Brandi may succeed.

It is peculiar however that both of these Canadians have real problems expressing themselves in the Queen's English, and also with spelling. And here I thought our schools were poor. The problem also exists in Quebec where "28% of adults are functionally illiterate!". A bit puzzling as to why this site turned up in my search. It turns out that it continues "Make a New Year's Resolution, become a volunteer literacy tutor".

My diligent research also indicated that Gary of Elk Grove, California has resolved to spend less time on the computer and be more patient with his kids. Great!! Also impressive is the determination of Gene from Boston who writes "I hereby pledge to return to the \$60,000 compensation level by the end of 1999", and Gene of Toronto who dreams of making "a monstrous (sic) amount of MONEY". I guess those Ca-

nadians really are hopeless when it comes to spelling. But I wish them all the best of luck in their quests.

As I read about all these fine daydreams I decided it would be better if this year, rather than making resolutions for myself, I would ask others to make suggestions. After all I think I am already perfect. Don't you think so?

Well may be you don't. So I'll give you a chance to tell me what I need to do to improve. This might well be a dangerous move, but there I go anyway, with the caveat that I reserve the right to accept or reject the suggestions. In other words if you tell me to go get lost in the Gobi desert, I might not go, even though that would be a fabulous trip, specially if I could see the Himalayas too. So send your ideas for New Year's resolutions that I personally, or the Dean's Office in general should take.

Bonne Annee et a bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

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Announcements

Winter term **guitar classes** will be held in Student Activities Center (SAC) room 1 on Tuesdays starting January 12. Beginning classes will run from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, intermediate from 3:00 until 4:00, and advanced from 5:30 to 6:30. These classes are free to all Caltech students and to staff if space allows. Private instruction is available. For more information contact Darryl Denning at ddenning@cco.caltech.edu or 626-465-0881.

Juniors and sophomores with a 3.0 or better G.P.A. may still apply for the **Cambridge Scholars Program**. If you missed the meeting on this new study abroad program in Cambridge, England you should come by the Fellowships Advising Office and pick up an application packet before you leave for the term break. Completed applications for either the 1999 Fall or 2000 Winter term will be due on February 12, 1999. Lauren Stolper, who initiated this program, would be happy to meet with you individually or have you email her with questions at lstolper@caltech.edu. The application requires two letters of recommendation, a transcript with this term's grades, an application form and a course proposal. Please note that it will be impossible to complete this proposal at the last minute as it requires that you understand the Cambridge Tripos system which is quite complicated. Sample proposals are available for review in the Fellowships Advising Office.

A **Caltech-Japan Internship Program Information Session** will be held at noon on Friday, January 15, 1999 in the Chandler Private Dining Room (in Chandler Cafeteria). Pizza will be provided. All students interested in participating in a summer work abroad program in Japan should attend. The 1998 interns will give a presentation. For more information contact Dr. Kayoko Hirata, ext. 4210, or hirataja@cco.caltech.edu.

Attention Caltech Clubs: The **Caltech Student Investment Fund** is now accepting applications for club funding. If your club would like to apply for money, you can download an application from: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~sif/disbursements>. Funds are limited and the deadline for applications is January 30. If you have any questions, please email sif@its.caltech.edu.

The **Career Development Center (CDC)** is looking for current graduating seniors to participate in focus groups to assess student career-related needs. Whether you've decided to go to grad school, get a job, don't know yet, or haven't even started thinking about it, the CDC would like to hear from you. Each focus group will last approximately 2 hours (refreshments will be served) and participants will receive gift certificates. Debi Tuttle, a Caltech alum and intern in the CDC, will conduct the focus groups. If you are interested in voicing your opinion and making a difference, please email Debi at debit@caltech.edu or call the CDC at x6261.

Attention Seniors: Hard copies of the **DOD Fellowship** application are available in the Fellowships Advising Office. You can also access applications on the Web at www.battelle.org.ndseg. The formal name for the DOD fellowship is the **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program** or NDSEG. It has noth-

ing at all to do with government service and those who applied for the NSF and have U.S. citizenship should apply. The application receipt deadline is January 20, 1999. Contact: Lauren Stolper, Director, Fellowships Advising and Resources Office, MSC 25-58.

You, too, can be a certified game show winner just by logging onto *The Station @ sony.com* (www.station.sony.com) and clicking on the **College JEOPARDY!** Online icon! Make it to the finals and you'll win VIP auditions to qualify as a contestant on TV's JEOPARDY! For more information contact Julie Mathis at 213-489-8250 or Bree Birnbaum at 212-453-2164.

Events

Join **Caltech Hillel** Friday, January 8 at 6PM in Steele House for the first **Shabbat dinner** of 1999. There will be a short learners service (no experience necessary) and ner to follow. This event is free and all are welcome! For more information e-mail Julia at hillel@caltech.edu.

Caltech SEDS will be holding its first **telescope construction meeting** beginning Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 pm in the SEDS lab (0011 Thomas). No prior experience is necessary. For detailed construction plans follow the Construction Instructions link from <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~sedts/telescope.html>. For other information contact Loren Hoffman at loren@cco.caltech.edu or Leon Torres at leon@ugcs.caltech.edu.

The Human Resources, Employee Services office will sponsor a **Red Cross Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Registration Drive** on Thursday, January 14, from 12:15 to 5:30 p.m. and, Friday, January 15, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Winnett Lounge. For an appointment please call Kim at ext. 6001 or by email at kim.goodfriend@caltech.edu. "The Red Cross is a light in the darkness, and it is the duty of all of us to see that it doesn't go out." -Albert Einstein

A **Winter Festival** sponsored by the **Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op** will be held on January 17 from 1:30 till 5:30 pm at the Scottish Rite Temple, 150 North Madison, Pasadena. With ethnic dancing of all kinds, elegant building, and lovely wooden dance floor, this annual event has become a Pasadena tradition. The co-op also offers weekly **folkdance instruction** for beginners every Friday at 7:45 pm at Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles (at the corner of Del Mar). For more information contact Sylvia Stachura at 626-300-8138 or Marshall Cates at 626-794-9493.

Join Jorge Mester and the **Pasadena Symphony** on Saturday, January 30 for the inaugural concert of the Explorer series **All Mozart**. Featuring Mozart's astonishingly beautiful Requiem Mass, this concert offers the perfect music to start a three-concert examination of one of music's towering geniuses. Tickets are available for \$7.50 with a student ID. For more information call the Civic Auditorium box office at 626-395-7132.

The **Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series** continues next term with a talk entitled "Is There Such a Thing as Pseudoscience? Lessons from the History of Mesmerism" given by Alison Winter, Assistant Professor of History at Caltech. The lecture will be held on

Mints

Wednesday, January 13, 1999 at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium.

Don't miss a **Lagerstrom chamber concert** by the **Debussy Trio** in Dabney Lounge on Sunday, January 10 at 3:30 pm. Especially not one which is free!

Fellowships and Scholarships

Applications for **National Security Education Program (NSEP) undergraduate scholarships** are currently available for study abroad in summer 1999, fall 1999, and spring 2000. Scholarships are available to U.S. citizens enrolled at two- and four-year institutions who wish to study abroad in critical world areas in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin and South America, and the Middle East. Scholarships are not available for study in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Sophomores and Juniors majoring in science and engineering may apply to study for a summer. This summer, Walt Ogburn '99 studied Russian language in culture in St. Petersburg under an NSEP Fellowship. During the summer of 1998, Jeanne Wilson '98, who is now on a Watson Fellowship, studied Turkish language and culture in Istanbul.

The maximum scholarship is \$8,000 per semester and \$16,000 per academic year. The campus application deadline for the 1999-2000 academic year is January 25, 1999. Turn all materials into the Fellowships Advising Office, Room 25 of the SAC. All applicants must undergo an endorsement interview with Lauren Stolper, Director of Fellowships Advising Applications will be available in Fellowships Advising by mid-October. Additional information on preferred geographic regions, languages, and fields of study and application procedures can be found at <http://www.iie.org/nsep> (FAR)

The **American Chemical Society Scholar Program** will award approximately 75 scholarship awards to undergraduate students interested in four-year degrees in the chemical sciences. Applicants must be African American, Hispanic American, and Native American; and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. These scholarships are valued at up to \$2,500 for the academic year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The **American Chemical Society/PPG Scholarships Plus** scholarships are for incoming freshmen interested in four-year degrees in the chemistry or chemical engineering. Scholarships are renewable if initial eligibility criteria are maintained throughout undergraduate study. Applicants must be African American, Hispanic American, and Native American, and be U.S. citi-

zen or permanent residents. These scholarships are valued at up to \$2,500 for each academic year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The **Korean American Scholarship Foundation** is accepting applications for scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Applicants must be full-time students of Korean American heritage enrolled in at least their second year of undergraduate or graduate school in the West Region. To apply, applicants must submit application form; a current academic transcript; two letters of recommendation; one picture of applicant taken within the last year; and a copy of the student's and parents' 1998 Federal Income Tax returns. Students can obtain additional information on the Foundation and download an application form from www.kasf.org or by writing to: Scholarship Committee, KASF Western Region, P.O. Box 486, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. The deadline is January 31, 1999.

The **Chemical Society/Bayer Scholars awards** are for incoming freshmen, sophomore, and junior students majoring in chemistry or biochemistry. Scholarships are renewable if initial eligibility criteria are maintained throughout undergraduate study. Applicants must be African American, Hispanic American, and Native American; and be U.S. citizen or permanent residents. These scholarships are valued at up to \$2,500 for each academic year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The **American Society of Naval Engineers** is offering scholarship awards of \$2,500 for undergraduate students and \$3,500 for graduate students for the 1998-99 academic year. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens and demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering. The scholarship award must be for support of the last year of full-time or co-op undergraduate program or for one year of full-time graduate study leading to a designated degree at an accredited college or university. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 15, 1999.

The **College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation** is accepting applications for scholarship and fellowship awards for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be female, U.S. Citizens, full-time undergraduate or graduate students, a sophomore or above, and must have a 3.0 or higher G.P.A. To apply, applicants must submit an application form; a one page, typed essay; a current academic transcript; and three letters of recommendations, preferably from professors familiar with the student's aspirations and achievements. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline is February 8, 1999.

The **Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity** sponsors an annual essay con-

test for full-time undergraduate juniors and seniors in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Essays must be submitted on behalf of a student by a college or university administrator, faculty advisor, or faculty member, and be accompanied by a completed entry form. No more than three (3) essays may be submitted from the same college, university, or campus in any one contest year. To obtain an entry form and further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 450 Lexington Avenue, Suite #1920, New York, NY 10017. No FAX submissions will be accepted. Entries must be postmarked by January 22, 1999, or be delivered to the Foundation office by 5:00 p.m., January 22, 1999. (UFA)

The **American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF)** is offering scholarships to upper-class undergraduate and graduate students for the 1999-2000 academic year who are interested in careers in the electroplating and surface finishing field. Undergraduates must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials science, materials engineering, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To obtain an application form and further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826-3298. The deadline is April 15, 1999.

Fellowships Advising and Resources has received information on a number of **summer undergraduate research fellowships**. Students receive a stipend and sometimes travel and room fees are paid. Research opportunities are at a number of universities and research institutes including the Mayo Clinic, the University of Georgia, and Princeton. Stop by our office and check through the summer fellowship files for information on these and other summer fellowship opportunities.

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

FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.

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

UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.

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

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.caltech.edu or Mail Code 040-058 by noon on the Monday prior to its inclusion. Submissions must be brief and concise. Please do not send Mints in difficult formats like binhex or word document. ASCII and rtf are best. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Solicitations will be referred to the business manager.

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