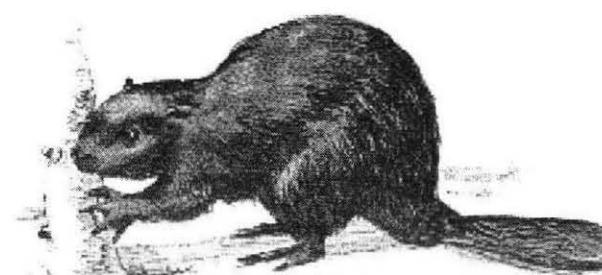


According to the Adult Literacy Service, 23% of Americans are functionally illiterate. Canada had higher functional literacy rates in adults ages 16-65 than the United States, with roughly 58%, 56%, and 56% able to cope, whereas the US was at 54%, 50% and 52% functional literacy, according to the International Adult Literacy Survey of '94-95. (from Kathryn Oseen-Senda, a Canadian citizen and Caltech undergraduate)



She's always because I like her that way.



The ASCIT Movie:

Das Boot

ASCIT Movies show every week at 7:30 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. in Baxter Lecture Hall

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 13

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1999

WELLNESS WEEK STARTS TUESDAY

BY TIM RAUB

Have you been feeling a little bit stressed lately? Been snapping your roommate's pencils in half when he's not looking? Or making rude gestures at Professor Wrinklebrau when he screeches the chalk against the blackboard? Don't worry — be happy! Wellness Week is coming to a college campus near you!

Next week is National Wellness Week, and the Human Resources and Student Affairs folks have been lining up speakers for months — whether you're a "weekend warrior" or a swingin' flapper, interested in alternative medicine or looking for consultation and support, looking for a musical interlude or just a whole lot of free food, you'll be glad to take advantage of the daily programs that are being offered.

Festivities kick off Tuesday at noon with an hour-long lecture entitled "Traditional Oriental Medicine" given by Dr. Paulette Y. Saddler. Saddler, a licensed physician, brings credibility and expertise to the subject of alternative medicine, which has been a hot topic in recent magazines ranging from *Time* to *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Her talk, always a popular one, promises to clear up misconceptions and present fascinating applications relating to Eastern therapeutic techniques.

If you're more interested in breaking bones than healing them, check out "Weekend Warriors," a multimedia presentation by April Reed and Kenny Ritchie, Caltech's athletic trainers, in Braun Athletic Center from 12 to 1 P.M. This talk will be geared to a wide-ranging audience, and absolutely no athletic experience is expected of attendees.

Tuesday night, "swing your pardner 'round an' 'round" in the Winnett Lounge! No, wait, wrong kind of swing — Tuesday night, West Coast Swing band "Dr. Evil" will cut a groove from 7 until 9 in the evening, and the floor will be open for dancing while student dance instruc-

BY ERIK DILL

On Monday, January 18th, the Caltech Community will celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. by looking back on the legacy he left, and forward to an increasingly diverse future. The theme of the celebration is "Race, Reconciliation and the Future." Several events are planned to reflect this idea.

According to Vice President for Institute Relations Jerry Nunnally, who heads the organization committee for the event, Caltech's observance of the holiday was designed to celebrate the life and ideas of Martin Luther King, Jr. In planning the activities, one of the goals was to move away from typical celebrations and encompass more of Dr. King's ideas, including the prob-

lem of disenfranchisement.

Jazz singer Joe Williams, who began as lead singer for Count Basie's band, will be performing in Beckman Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Saturday. After being invited to perform at Beckman, Williams agreed to schedule his visit so he could be a part of the King Day celebrations.

On Monday, the official holiday, a forum is planned which will bring together four individuals to speak about "Building the Multiethnic Future." This discussion will take place in Ramo Auditorium from 1-3 p.m.

At the recommendation of the President and Provost, the Faculty Board has declared an academic recess for the afternoon so that students and professors could attend the event. Su-

pervisors were also encouraged to allow their employees to attend. Nunnally stated that the purpose of the recess is make it easier for everyone to participate. In the past, forums have been held at noon, when few classes are scheduled. However, attendance was less than desired, possibly due to the harried nature of most Techers.

Speakers were selected to capture a broad cross section of ethnic groups and occupations. Leonora Barron is a social activist who is currently Executive Director of El Centro de Accion Social and was a founder of the National Latina Alliance in Los Angeles. Michael Scott, M.D., is a surgeon and urologist, currently serving as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Urology at USC. Diann Kim is a civil litiga-

tion lawyer specializing in antitrust and unfair trade practices on the state and federal level. Morgan Kousser is a Caltech Professor in the division of Humanities and Social Sciences. Kousser has done most of his work on minority voting rights and the legal and political facets of race relations in the last two centuries.

The panel will be mediated by last year's speaker, former professional basketball player and media figure Tommy Hawkins. Hawkins is currently Vice President for Communications of the L.A. Dodgers. Each speaker will talk about their experiences and insights on the topic for about fifteen minutes. The remaining time will be devoted to questions and answers from the audience.

Perpall Speaking Competition winners named

BY ERIK DILL

On Tuesday, January 12th, the final round of the Dorris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Competition was held in Spaulding Laboratory. Ming Chen, a Junior Chemistry major and Beckman Scholar, was declared the overall winner. David Tytell and Kartik Srinivasan, both winners last year, came in second and third. Other finalists were

Elizabeth Hong, Shayan Mookherjea, Daniel Levy, Jaideep Singh, and Russell Howe.

Chen's project, entitled "Exploring the Structure of the Enzyme Oligosaccharyl Transferase via a Novel Localized Cross-Linking Reaction," was mentored by Barbara Imperiali. The goal was to synthesize a peptide-nickel-biotin complex which would bind to the enzyme

oligosaccharyl transferase, thereby pinpointing its active site.

Several members of the Imperiali group are attempting to discern structural information about this particularly complex enzyme, though this approach is Chen's exclusive domain.

The SURF speaking competition was initiated by Bob Perpall, a Caltech Alumnus, in memory of his late wife, Dorris S. Perpall. All SURFers are required to give a talk and submit a paper summarizing the results of their project.

The first round of the speaking competition is SURF Seminar Day, when members of the Alumni Association, along with faculty, postdocs and graduate students, judge the oral presentations. This year, approximately 30 students advanced to the semifinals, which were held in November. Eight of the semifinalists competed in the final

round last Tuesday.

Finalists will also be attending the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, to be held from April 8-10 in Rochester, New York, at the University of Rochester. There, students from around the country will deliver original papers from all fields of discipline.

A second SURF-related contest, the Marcella and Joel Bonsall Prize for Technical Writing, is still underway. Students were nominated by their mentors for this prize based on the strength of their final papers. Judging is still underway, and should be completed by February.

Planning is also underway for the 1999 SURF season. An information session for students interested in doing summer research through the SURF program will be held in late January, and applications are due March 1st.

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Ming Chen placed first in the Perpall Speaking Competition

Second victory for Basketball

BY GERALD PALMROSE

Last Saturday, Caltech pulled off a remarkable double-header victory against American Indian College, as both the men's and women's teams dominated the cowering warriors.

The women did their part with a 65-42 victory in the opener. Led by twin towers Joanna Dodd and Erika Swanson, Tech raced off to a 35-16 halftime lead. Swanson dominated inside, using her size and touch to bewilder the AIC defenders.

With the big lead, Swanson sat out much of the 2nd half but still managed to score a game-high 20 points. Dodd also had a tremendous game, scoring 15 and cleaning up what seemed like every other rebound.

The Beavers, energized by their great playing, just kept playing better. They had numerous fast breaks, outhustled AIC, passed the ball precisely, and created many good looks at the basket. In a very balanced attack, Laurie Gagne had 12 points, Dominika Rytwinska 9, and Kim Vu 8.

After the game, the players could not hide their embarrassed grins as the Caltech crowd expressed their appreciation of their great play. Said Sarah Hunyadi, "We played pretty well, and we got to experiment with a variety of offenses. However, we still have things to work on."

Next the Men's team stepped onto the court, and perhaps they were inspired by watching the women play, because everything that I said about the women's effort can also be applied to the men's spectacular win.

Matt Musick sparked the Beavers with five quick points early in the first half, and from that point on the Beavers never looked back. Much of their success was due to their suffocating defense.

Their five-man set, which basically separates the team into two distinct units, produced an endless supply of energy, and although the Beavers were actually DOUBLING the score of AIC at halftime, 31-15, they could not keep up the pace for the entire game.

Rajat Kongovi led all scorers with 15, and Mike Kuhlen, seemingly recovered from his foot injury, had an absurd number of both offensive and defensive boards, and his presence definitely scared AIC away from their close-range offense. The final score wound up to be 59-38, thus completing the double-win for Caltech.

WELLNESS

WEEK++

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tors teach newcomers moves on the side.

On Wednesday, Linda Simon will lead a discussion called "Alzheimer's Caregiving: A Learning Experience" in the Avery Library at lunch. During the same hour, Janna Horowitz and Larry Resendez, the new interns at the Counseling Center, will hold an interactive seminar on stress reduction techniques.

Beverlie Conant Sloane, Caltech's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor, calls the duo "funny, low-key, but really smart." If you've got stress, they can teach you how to handle it with "sophisticated but simple, easy-to-do techniques" which you even can do in your chair! Attendance is limited to twenty people, but the pair will conduct another Workshop in February, so talk to them personally if you're interested in either session.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Caltech Community

Two recent events in my life—a broken bone and the passing of my father—have caused me to learn firsthand about what it means to be part of the Caltech Community.

About three months ago, I broke a bone in my foot, which required surgery. I was home for 2-1/2 weeks, during which I was blessed with cards and flowers from my friends at Caltech. Not only that, I received many visits, including dinners brought to us, at our home in Thousand Oaks (no small drive, as you might already know).

When I returned to work is when I really learned about the kindness of the people at Caltech. There wasn't one group of folks at this Institute that didn't help me emotionally—by giving me words of encouragement; and/or physically—by helping me down stairs, through doors, or transporting me all over the campus. And not one time did I ever feel they did it because it was part of their job. They did it because they are a wonderful, caring bunch of people. I must give special thanks to a few—my bosses and co-workers in the Division Office of Engineering and Applied Science, the folks in the Thomas Building, the staff of Physical Plant, the Athenaeum staff, the Security Department, the Editors of the Tech, the Business Manager of the Tech, the ASCIT Directors, and the graduate students of Humanities and Social Sciences.

But most of all, my family and I would like to thank the Caltech Community for all of their kind words and actions accorded to us after my father's recent passing. Prior to this event, I was feeling blessed, but after this event, I am truly amazed. The feelings of love and support given to my family and me during this difficult time will be treasured for the rest of our lives. The assistance that a small group of friends gave to us during the week preceding the funeral, and at the funeral, was greatly appreciated. Not one task was left undone or forgotten, mostly because of my friends at Caltech.

I close this letter by saying again, how truly honored I am to be a member of the Caltech Community. I thank each and every one of you for helping us to deal with the recent events in our lives.

Sincerely,
Patti Croke and family

Science and the Bible

Astrophysicist Dr. Hugh Ross will lecture on conflict between science and the Bible

Dr. Hugh Ross, who was a postdoc at Caltech, has come to the conclusion that modern science, particularly his own field of astronomy and astrophysics, gives dramatic con-

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firmation to the accuracy of the Biblical creation record as well as other parts of the Bible. He believes the Genesis Creation story is completely consistent with the scientific conclusion that the Universe began with the Big Bang around 15 billion years ago. He has caused significant controversy in some Christian denominations by his insistence on this. His opinion is dramatically opposed to the common Christian belief in 'Young Earth Creationism' which teaches that the Universe is only tens of thousands of years old and that much of modern science is erroneous.

Dr. Ross has done much research on the likelihood of earthlike planets existing elsewhere in the Universe, and has come to the conclusion that planets that resemble the Earth enough to support human life are incredibly improbable. He believes that this implies design of the Earth and Universe by an intelligent and caring supreme being. He did not come to these conclusions by first assuming that the Bible is true. On the contrary he first read the Bible as part of his plan to read the holy books of all major religions, assuming that none of them would have any real validity. He soon changed his mind.

Dr. Ross is here by the invitation of the Caltech Christian Fellowship. He will speak in Baxter Lecture Hall from 8pm to 10pm, Monday, Jan. 18. All members of the Caltech Community are invited. There will be refreshments and a question and answer time after the talk. I encourage anyone who is interested in the interplay between science, philosophy, and religion to attend this lecture. Even if you disagree completely with his conclusions, Dr. Ross's talk is sure to engender many lively and enjoyable discussions and arguments. You will also, of course, have the opportunity to question Dr. Ross directly about anything which you find inconsistent or illogical in his reasoning. If nothing else, we would like to emphasize that Truth, if in the absolute sense it exists at all, must be self consistent, and that if the Bible is true then carefully conducted science will agree with it. We in the CCF would also emphasize that many people see them as consistent, and that the acceptance of the glory and terror that is the Christian faith need not involve rejection of any of the careful and honest science which so many at Caltech have labored to discover.

Ari Heinze
Sophomore

ASCIT Bylaw amendment proposal

The following amendment to the ASCIT Bylaws has been proposed. Since this amendment involves the BoC, all undergraduates, not just members of ASCIT, are eligible to vote:

Article VII, Section III, item j:

Current text:

(j) If made necessary by subsections (g), (h), or (i) in order to maintain a full quorum of the Board, the Board shall reserve the right to ask any past members of the Board of Control to serve on a case, contingent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board

gent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board members. All those serving on a case are bound to secrecy as stated in subsection (s).

Replace with:

(j) If made necessary by subsections (g), (h), or (i) in order to maintain a full quorum of the Board, the Board shall reserve the right to ask any past members of the Board of Control to serve on a case, contingent on a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining voting Board

PRO

BY ALAN ROSENWINKEL

The Bylaw change presented here will allow the Board to call House Presidents to serve as their houses BoC rep if a quorum of the Board cannot be reached using all available current and former BoC reps. Currently such a case would be passed to the Dean of Students to be dealt with or be delayed indefinitely until a quorum could be reached. This bylaw change is designed to allow for maximum student involvement in this type of case while preventing it from being postponed for unacceptable lengths of time. House presidents are the highest ranking officers elected by the houses and thus are the best choice as a substitute for the house BoC rep.

There are two situations for which this change is helpful. The first, a case being heard over the summer could be put off for up to fourteen weeks until there are enough BoC reps on campus to hear the case. This has been a problem on multiple occasions in the recent past. With this bylaw change, it will be much more likely that such a case will be heard quickly. The second situation is when so many of the current and former BoC reps dismiss themselves from a case that there are not enough reps to hear the case. In this situation, the case would have to be sent to the Deans to handle. By allowing the Board to call House Presidents, this type of case could be handled by the Board.

It is important to note that it is very likely that only one or two presidents would be needed on any one case to get a quorum. House Presidents that have served on a case are not considered past reps and thus cannot be called back on a normal case. Also, House Presidents requested to serve on a case may decline.

ASCIT: Nominations for ASCIT President and VP/BoC Chairman are now open. Interested candidates may nominate themselves for these offices by signing up on the door of SAC 33. Nominations will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday the 19th. Photos and statements must be in to The Tech by midnight of the 19th for publication to be ensured. The election will be held on Monday the 25th. Members of ASCIT who will be juniors or seniors in the fall of the next academic year are eligible to hold these offices

CON

BY LEXI BAUGHER

The proposed bylaw change may not be in the best interests of a defendant in a BoC case because House Presidents may not make good BoC reps. A House President is chosen on the basis of his leadership abilities and political inclinations, whereas a BoC member is elected or appointed on the basis of his trustworthiness or ability to pass judgement fairly. It is certainly true that many Presidents are also trustworthy people who would do a good job hearing a BoC case, but there is no reason to expect that a President would automatically be a good BoC member just by virtue of his political office.

We do the defendant no service by bringing in House Presidents onto the BoC just to speed up the trial. While a defendant is guaranteed the right to a reasonably quick trial, he is also guaranteed the right to be tried by the best people for the job. If it means that a case has to be delayed a short time to accumulate a quorum, then it seems far fairer to wait this short time than to bring in politicians to do the job.

The problem of what to do when there aren't enough BoC members willing to participate in a case is a serious one that does merit attention. However, this bylaw may not be the right solution to this problem. While it is obvious that the current practice of indefinitely delaying trial or allowing the Dean's office to decide the case is not optimal, there may be a better solution than the proposed amendment. For example, asking each house to appoint summer BoC reps might solve the problem of cases that must be tried during the academic recess. Increasing the BoC's membership by a person or two might help for those cases where too many members dismiss themselves from the case.

The involvement of arbitrary people in BoC hearings is not a decision to take lightly. Vote No on the bylaw change.

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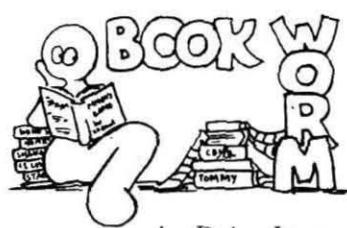
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by Daisy James

Into Thin Air
John Krakauer
★★★★★

It seems that some of the best adventure being written these days is *nonfiction*. Maybe it's the draw of the voyeur, or the intensity of experience, or just that the imagination can't come up with anything that nature can't do one better. Whatever the reason, this is an adventure to the core; intense and intensely readable.

The author admits in his introduction that he is writing it as catharsis, and that is a bad way to write a book. It does get a bit overemotional, and the one-sidedness of it has been enough to inspire at least one book written as a rebuttal. But it also lends a certain amount of raw emotion to the text; the author's perspective doesn't let the reader become detached.

The subject of the book is a disastrous expedition, or set of expeditions, up Mt. Everest in 1996. Five people died in two days. The author was on that trip, and was himself involved in the drama. He traces the history of Everest attempts, the events leading up to the disaster and the recent commercialization of "summiting" the tallest mountain on Earth.

The most disturbing theme is the callous self-centeredness that the characters begin to show when things turn bad. It is arguable that the situation was



ADAM VILLANI: MEDIA GUY

Grammy Nominations

They announced the Grammy nominations and, as usual, they're pretty bland. It seems like the secret to gathering multiple nominations (like Lauryn Hill's 10) is to have your music cross over multiple genres. If you really want to read something more about the Grammys, you can look in the *Tech* office archives from my column on the subject from a year or two ago.

Holiday Movie Guide

The Thin Red Line—This intense yet beautiful WWII movie from long-dormant director Terence Malick (*Days of Heaven*, *Badlands*) is much more psychologically complex than the Spielbergian simplicities of this year's other excellent war movie. I really appreciated this movie's viewpoint of romantic naivete. The story arc of the film is off-putting, but it's a candidate for my favorite film of the year.

Shakespeare in Love—Wonderful and sumptuous, this is one romantic crowd-pleaser that isn't dumbed-down. The chemistry of the two leads, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ralph's younger brother Joseph Fiennes, and the great screenplay by Tom Stoppard (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*) quickly overcome this film's tinge of self-important Britishness.

Central Station—The storyline of this Brazilian import—crusty old lady goes on a journey and forms a bond with a little boy—may sound cliché, but it never feels that way in the theatre. Fernanda Montenegro is Best Actress material in her lead role, and the genuinely humanistic tale has the feel of some of those Italian movies by the likes of Federico Fellini or Lina Wertmuller.

Hurlyburly—Sean Penn is a firestorm in his central performance

in this penetrating character study based on a play about cocaine-powered Hollywood executives ruminating on life, death, sex, relationships, purpose, etc. While the film is overlong and the dialogue sometimes stilted, the main problem I had is that it's all told from the perspective of a bunch of grade-A assholes.

Elizabeth—This film forms an interesting companion piece to *Shakespeare in Love*. It's much more serious and is very well-acted, but I found that I couldn't trust its simplistic view of history in which Queen Elizabeth is almost worshiped and all of her enemies, especially the Catholics, are absolutely beastly.

A Bug's Life—The script is kind of weak, but this very fun comedy makes the darker, PG-rated *Antz* (which was still a pretty good movie) look like a real misstep. The memorable character designs and lifelike animation in *A Bug's Life* are really what bring it to life.

Prince of Egypt—focusing on the conflict between Moses and Pharaoh Rameses in this biblical adaptation added to the drama, but detracted from the impact of the story. Nevertheless, the scenery and animation in this movie are quite impressive, and the story is exciting and entertaining, just not as good as it could have been without the weak songs and muddy storytelling. Inspired, I read the book of Exodus after watching the movie. Additionally, I would encourage you to see this at the newly restored and modernized Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. That theatre, to be used now by the American Cinematheque for their high-quality film retrospective programs, is a real treasure. It was built by the same guy who built the Chinese theatre down the street, and has now been modernized with a high-quality stadium seating configuration and excellent projection and sound capabilities.

desparate and no one thinking clearly with the altitude, but there is the fact that this is not war, it is a recreational activity.

Possibly because of the guilt he feels or the attacks he has undergone, the author stays away from this analysis. In fact, he avoids analysis almost entirely, except in a very general sense. This isn't terribly surprising, considering the cathartic nature of the material; if it is a choice, it is a good one because it keeps the book from moralizing or self-apology.

Of the many Everest ex-

peditions that May, one was an IMAX film crew. They were a few levels down the mountain when the storm hit and the lives were lost, but Krakauer describes their involvement. The movie that was made from their footage may or may not still be playing, but it complements the book very nicely and vice versa.

Eat The Rich
P.J. O'Rourke
★★★★★

After years of writing

about all of the stupid and absurd things he can find going on in the world (he doesn't seem to be short of material) O'Rourke decided to turn his satirical eye to the thing that seemed to be a major player in them all: money. Specifically, how do you get it, how do you keep it and why are some places so great and others so awful.

He is unabashedly pro-capitalist, and he probably won't seem nearly as funny if you strongly disagree with his theories. However, the chapter on economic theory is the only humorous treating

of the subject that I can think of, and he freely admits to being totally clueless (professional help was applied to the sections requiring clues.)

There are chapters on Good Capitalism (NYSE), Bad Capitalism (Albania), How to Make Everything Out of Nothing (Hong Kong), How to Make Nothing Out of Everything (Tanzania) and How (or How Not) to Reform (Maybe) an Economy (If There is One) (Russia), among others. The whole thing is highly entertaining, down to the acknowledgments.

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Notable independent films currently on screen

BY JUSTIN HO

This year is one of the most aggressive in terms of movie propaganda, especially among independent films. With the Academy Awards coming in a few months and with no shoo-ins, many movies have increased screen showings, most notably the small, indie movies like *Shakespeare in Love*, *Life is Beautiful*, and *Little Voice*. Among the memorable, small films that came out late last year:

GODS AND MONSTERS (****+, NR) With the release of "Saving Private Ryan" and a glimpse of war atrocities, it is easier to understand a veteran's depression and frustration in having to relive memories of horrible days past.

In his final days, James Whale (Ian McKellen), the subject of this sentimental and imaginative film, was plagued by visions of his WWI service, a result of an outpouring of memories precipitated by a stroke. But while his troubled past may have been responsible for his inner monsters, happier days from his former directing career appear, at the same time, the only thing sustaining the aging and lonely man. "Gods and Monsters," based on the speculative novel, "Father of Frankenstein" provides a deeply touching account of Whale's final days. While many would be surrounded by friends and family in their final days, Whale's acceptance of his longevity is accompanied only by loneliness.

Rather than finding true friends within the Hollywood society within which he was once revered for creating "Frankenstein" and "Bride of Frankenstein", he has discovered that if he is to be remembered it will be as a creator of monsters and not a fellow human being. Indeed, even before his retirement from directing, Whale experienced some degree of ostracism because of his homosexuality. In his loneliness, Whale crafted the monsters almost as representations of himself: physical anomalies feared and ostracized by humanity, likewise suffering from desolation.

Paralleling Frankenstein's friendship at the end with a blind-fiddler is Whale's relationship with the new gardener. Upon returning from the hospital, Whale is surprised by the presence of an attractive young man who ostensibly served in the military as well. Despite the age gap and some tension that builds as Whale asserts his sexuality to a degree that Boone (Brandon Fraser) finds perverse, their confrontations serve only to strengthen the friendship. In Boone, Whale finds a person with whom to share painful memories and nostalgia, and an occasional feeling of lust.

Interspersed within the film are vivid flashbacks-a youth stripped of his opportunity for an education because of the family's dire financial situation;

billows of smoke erupting from a factory smokestack that foreshadow the onset of WWI; accomplishment in making a scene from his larger-than-life comedy about death in retaliation to the morbid cruelty of war.

There is no exaggeration in stating that McKellan is phenomenal in this picture. His facial expressions evince subtle craftiness and dignity with equal effortlessness, and in the wake of his critical acclaim and title of best actor by the LA film critics, he is a shoo-in for an Academy Award nomination.

The movie as a whole is powerful and moving, but lacks the mass appeal and box office returns which winning films usually have. Nevertheless, with its blend of humor, gravity, and poignant recollections, "Gods and Monsters" is one of the best films of 1998.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (****, rated R for "boobies") Every writer has an occasional bout of writer's block, and despite an evidently prolific career, we can only imagine that Shakespeare too had moments of stage-play unworthiness. That is not to say that he had language block, for as the film suggests, William (Joseph Fiennes) was much disposed to surrounding himself with wordy conundrums and beautifully crafted verse which 16th century women just couldn't help going ga-ga for.

The Elizabethan audience for whom he wrote his plays isn't as cultured as we would assume. They are more heartily amused by men in women's roles, slapstick, dogs with clowns, and play fighting than anything else. Shakespeare's benefactor, Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush) is therefore imploring for some dramedy with many pirate skirmishes, and some silly kidnapping gone awry, something to the nature of Will's latest endeavor *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*. Threatened by creditors, Henslowe lacks any appreciation for play-writing as an art, and likewise, in the field of actors-to-be from which to choose, there is mere superficiality in their recitation of the lines chosen for audition.

In the company of those who feel stage production as but an occupation, or something with which to entertain the bitter, spinster, powder-puff faced Queen Elizabeth, William lacks a muse to motivate him to greater ends (a.k.a. Romeo and Juliet, not Ethel). Yet, as many of Shakespeare's plays do, there comes a twist. First, the presence of a mysterious actor with a goat-tee and a rather interesting audition piece, a sonnet from one of Shakespeare's works, piques Will's interest so much that he pursues the thespian through poop-ridden streets and across a channel, where a gate prevents his trespassing of an elegant mansion. His infiltration of a social gala occurring later at the estate un-

covers as yet, no Thomas Kent, the actor's stage name, but reveals an absolutely resplendent Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow), an elegant heiress quite learned and much in awe of Shakespearian lore.

Despite the fact that both are very attractive, the bond that forms between them transcends lust, for first and foremost is their mutual love of poetry. As Fate has dealt Shakespeare with his muse, the night's entertainment serves as the first incident in the classic tale of Romeo and Ethel, er. the name change for the moment is not imminent. Not that simply discovering his muse is adequate for completion of the play either. In its 2 hour running time, what the movie develops is a brilliant parallel between this "real-life" affair with the soon-to-be-married-and-sent-off-to-Virginia Viola and the engendering of "Romeo & Juliet". The originality of the story is really a take on his own life, though Shakespeare doesn't include the most clever tidbit of the movie, that being that the Romeo-in-rehearsing is really Viola.

Their ill-fated love affair, short-lived as it is, provides both the romance and heartaches of the Londonery version of the tale of star-crossed lovers in Verona, complete with sword fights, nurse humor, and the dead guy. The actual ending of the real-life inspiration diverges from the play's tragic ending, but as Viola finds the opportunity to cast away her cross-dressing histrionics once and for all before her trans-Atlantic crossing, the death of their relationship is sadder than the morbid death scene of Romeo & Juliet themselves. What separates this movie from the normal date flick for one thing is the unhappy ending.

But the movie is also blessed with a supporting cast which diverts the attention of a non-date-type viewer from occasional mushy stuff. Judi Dench, as the majestic Virgin Queen, is truly a vintage royal figure. Bitterly hilarious in a way that allows her to flaunt her power and seek amusement at the expense of others, she has the flair and eloquence, plus the power-puff face and spider-woman costume to inspire nothing but utter respect, both for the Queen and the actress. The sarcastic behavior she displays in her 8 minutes on screen is enough to spark that desire to watch the now overshadowed film in her name, just for a glimpse of the circumstances that led to her intriguing character.

Ben Affleck, with a slick goat-tee plays a fine actor recruited for the play, but a person who has to learn that his Narcissism must have limits. Likewise, his stage presence must be diminished for the greater good of the play. The dirty trick Shakespeare plays on him and his reluctance to accept his diminished role paints him as a dim-witted comedic presence. In every aspect, this film is totally awesome.

A SIMPLE PLAN (****, rated R for the bad sides of human nature) When three men enter a forest in search of a dog, there is little expectation of finding, per se, \$4.4 million stuffed in a duffel bag of a downed plane. But, as such an unforeseen fortune is a stepping stone to the American dream, the prospect of owning a large house, having a happy marriage, kids, a dog, and a white picket fence are anything but afterthoughts.

"A Simple Plan" appears patterned after the film noir, mega indie sensation "Fargo" with its icy, grip of winter eeriness, and the chain reaction of intensifying crimes. But while Fargo's kidnapper atrocities were juxtaposed with comedic verses of Northerner pronunciation, the gravity of the heinous crimes committed by the would-be criminals is not alleviated in any way. Rather, while the two brothers in the film resort to more and more duplicitous means to cover up their theft, the nature of their complex relationship becomes ever more tortuous. As the intelligent, central character in "Fargo", Frances McDormand's heroine was bound to catch the culprits. The deeds of the sinful never justified nor repented, the abductors earned their just reward.

However, the protagonists in "A Simple Plan" are the very criminals in the story. The line between good guy/ bad guy and the audience's favorite is blurred. Even prior to the discovery of the stash, strains in the "friendship" shared by the three men exist. Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton), a college-educated accountant is obviously at odds with Lou, the small town's drunkard with a strained marriage and no employment. Caught in the middle is Hank's brother, Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton), tied to his brother by blood but resembling the latter more in intelligence and social station. Their simple plan to wait for the spring snow melt to reveal the downed plane and perhaps any inquiries of the plane crash and the money inside is complicated by a succession of murders, cover-ups, and blackmail.

Central to this movie is the overpowering greed that turns even the most kind-hearted housewife (Bridget Fonda) into a vicious Ice Queen/Lady Macbeth. Money only strikes discord in their hearts, but the temptation of a better life seems so justified. In the climactic twist, Jacob makes a single choice that shows the dimmest character to be the most moral and knowledgeable of human nature. While Hank was initially the most cautious and seemingly the most righteous of the three discoverers, his change in character can be summarized by a comment his wife makes that "Everyone thinks of you as a good man. No one will suspect that you did anything that you've done.", interpreted in the worst possible way. For each of their

parts in the crimes, the characters suffer torment which is didactic in nature and squashes any hope of quick riches. The film therefore presents a wonderful reaffirmation of the evil effects of greed on the human spirit, and with this distinction, this wintry film far surpasses "Fargo" in stressing a lesson, but is also superior with its intricate characters and engaging story line. My favorite for an Academy Award this year.

HAPPINESS (***, NR) In spite of its disturbing content, the film noir "Happiness" has tweaked itself into practically every critic's top-ten movie list of 1998. While this may suggest the spiraling decadence of American society, directors, actors, and critics alike, there IS an irresistible pull to laughing at some of the wildly sordid, miserable predicaments of the New Jersey suburbanites around whom this film is developed.

Everyone in "Happiness" has some kind of problem which to some degree ruins their life. This begs the question of the movie's title, but then again, who would want to see a movie called "Desires and the Miseries of Unfulfilment"? There's one guy (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who can't stop thinking of shagging his neighbor, but resorts to initiating phone sex with arbitrarily chosen people out of his phone book because he can never get past a casual hello with the lady next door (Laura Flynn Boyle). While she may seem a victim of some creepy guy's pornographic fantasies, she is not altogether innocent either. Indeed, she craves some violent fling in order to write truthfully another bestseller about rape and abuse. The anchor character in the story is Joy (Jane Adams), the one who is outwardly the most miserable of them all. She is beset both by romantic difficulties (one guy she dumps commits suicide and his mother calls her up at work to curse her), and occupation anxiety (she's a struggling song writer on the side, and when she tries to supplement by replacing striking teachers, the newly-immigrated students verbally abuse her too).

However, the protagonists in "A Simple Plan" are the very criminals in the story. The line between good guy/ bad guy and the audience's favorite is blurred. Even prior to the discovery of the stash, strains in the "friendship" shared by the three men exist. Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton), a college-educated accountant is obviously at odds with Lou, the small town's drunkard with a strained marriage and no employment. Caught in the middle is Hank's brother, Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton), tied to his brother by blood but resembling the latter more in intelligence and social station. Their simple plan to wait for the spring snow melt to reveal the downed plane and perhaps any inquiries of the plane crash and the money inside is complicated by a succession of murders, cover-ups, and blackmail.

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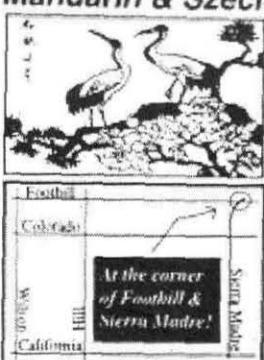
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Dean's Corner

When are news, News?

by Jean-Paul Revel

What passes for news (especially in the case of local news) on television is rarely news at all. That is, it is pretty repetitive, mostly car crashes and murders and abductions, and while no doubt of great significance to those involved, rarely surpasses even a modest criterion of importance. At best it is voyeurism, at worst ghoulish curiosity.

I suppose that the failure of so much of the "News" to be interesting is part of the attraction of programs such as "60 Minutes", or "20/20" which share with PBS that they consist of more than just sound bites, wailing sirens and yellow tape fluttering in the wind. The news magazines often give us an opportunity to participate by expressing virtuous indignation, shaking our heads in concert with the chidings of the reporter.

But all is not well. Not all that is presented as news, is news even there. I was taken aback last week end by the con-

fight for his country.

The draft board refused and turned down his deferment while he attended the London School of Economics. Threatened with the possibility of spending a year and a half in jail, Mr. King left for England. He is now a Professor at Lancaster University, successful and well recognized as a political scientist. But he lost his citizenship and, listed as a deserter, has not been able to return to the US.

Another person, one who managed to avoid the draft in England, has now been asked to have the case reviewed. It is possible that after 40 years, Professor Preston King will be allowed to return where Mr. Preston King was not welcome. A small thing, the respect and equal treatment that King was searching for, but life and life's pleasures are made of small things, and all of us, whoever our ancestors were, are entitled to them. So says the Constitution.

It is a coincidence of course (or is it?) that we are about to celebrate another King, who did so much to launch the Civil Rights movement. Dr. King was Pastor of Dexter Ave Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala-

bama, when Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of a bus. Impressed by Mahatma Ghandi's ideas of nonviolent action, and armed with a charismatic persona and personal courage he worked hard to improve the prospects of African-Americans. His vision, sad to say, was not always shared by everyone in US officialdom, but was recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize committee. Killed in 1968, his spirit has remained as a beacon through the ups and downs of African Americans' search for political and economic equality.

Caltech will celebrate Martin Luther King's 70th birthday by a symposium on Building the Multiethnic Future in Ramo on the afternoon of January 18. Come to hear about the world you will live in. Classes have been cancelled for the afternoon to allow attendance by students and faculty. Let this be a time to contemplate the road ahead. Lets make News we can be proud of! But lets also make sure that the promises of Freedom and Equality are fulfilled daily, and so stop being News.

A bientot

INDIES...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

each character's misery and the divide between external happiness and an unhappy self.

Emmy-award winning Camryn Meinheim ("The Practice"), plays the seemingly lonely soul in the apartment complex who appears to seek affection, but doesn't, in fact want any. And while her face depicts only peacefulness, she describes herself as a passionate woman, having murdered her rapist and chopped his body into little pieces for easier disposal.

The distinction between public and private existence, desire and unfulfilment escapes no one. Still, breaking conventions in the name of art does not necessitate greatness. In my opinion, the only truly great asset to the movie is Dylan Baker's portrayal of a family man's breakdown after giving in to pedophilia. Using the term "making love" as a euphemism for the process of child molestation, he painfully admits to his son that he would do it again, and as his son asks him if he would do the same to him, he answer "no". While the father saves his child from himself, it is in a sense a painful rejection to a child. As controversial as including such a topic in the movie may be, it is the best reason to see the film: strange but true. The rest of the film borders on absolute lewdness and gross impropriety, however entertaining.

Jean Paul Revel

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"Weekend Warriors"

12-1 pm Braun Athletic Center

April Reed, M.S., A.T.C. & Kenny Ritchie

Sponsored by Sports Medicine Staff

Swing Dance

7-9 pm Winnett Lounge

Featuring "The Band-Dr Evil," Food and

Student Dance Instructors

Sponsored by the Caltech Y

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20

**"Alzheimer's Caregiving:
 A Learning Experience"**

Linda Simon, M.A.

12-1 pm Avery Library

Sponsored by Staff & Faculty Consultation Center

"Introduction to Stress Reduction Techniques"

Janna Horowitz, M.S. Ed. &

Larry Resendez, M.A.

12-1 pm Avery Conference Room

Sponsored by the Counseling Center

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THURSDAY JANUARY 21

Stress Buster Concert

Caltech Chamber Music Students

12-1 pm Dabney Lounge

Lunch for first 100 attendees

Sponsored by Delores Bing & the Caltech Music Dept.

FRIDAY JANUARY 22

"The Facts About Depression"

Jon Pedersen, Ph.D. & Liz Shon, Ph.D.

12-1:30 pm Winnett Lounge

Sponsored by the Counseling Center

Health Fair

11-2 pm Winnett Courtyard

Balloons by Caltech Y

SATURDAY JANUARY 23

Day Hike

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Refreshments provided at all events.

For more information, contact Beverlie Conant Sloane (x2961)

Mints

Announcements

**Nominations for ASCIT President and VP/Board of Control Chairman are now open. Interested candidates may nominate themselves for these offices by signing up on the door of SAC 33. Nominations will close at 5 PM on Tuesday the 19th. Photos and statements must be in to the Tech by midnight of the 19th for publication to be ensured. The election will be held on Monday the 25th.

Winter course announcement: The H&SS Division is offering **Art 112 - A survey of English Art with an emphasis on the fine examples in the Huntington Art Collections. The lectures will be taught by Shelley Bennet and supplemented by field trips to the Huntington. The class will meet TTH 9:30-11 in 125 Baxter.

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 e-mail 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.

Events

Join the **Caltech Jazz and Swing Bands in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm on Saturday, January 23 for their **annual winter concert**. With guest soloist Wayne Bergeron, who has played trumpet for many leading jazz and pop artists, including Frank Sinatra, Billy Joel, and Neil Diamond, the Caltech Jazz Bands will once again play their great blend of music: something old and something new and everything in between. The Caltech Jazz Bands will be playing at Disneyland in February, and they'll preview some of the Disneyland music at this free concert.

Dabney Lounge will hold the term's first **chamber music concert at 3:30 pm on Sunday, January 24. The program will include music for strings and piano by Mendelssohn and Schumann, and a piano duet by Mozart.

**The Armchair Adventures travel film "Adventures Along the U.S.-Canadian Border," narrated by John Holor, will be shown in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm on Friday, January 22. Admission costs \$9.00-\$7.00. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

Singing jazz and blues legend **Joe Williams will perform on Saturday, January 16, at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium. This is a Caltech Celebration Event for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Tickets are priced at \$35.00, \$31.00, and \$27.00. Student and senior rush tickets will go

on sale for \$10.00 one-half hour before the performance (subject to availability). Tickets can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, and are also available at the Ticketmaster Ticket Centers. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652. Call Ticketmaster at 213-365-3500.

The **Caltech Christian Fellowship has invited **Dr. Hugh Ross**, an astronomer who was a postdoc at Caltech, to give a talk in Baxter Lecture Hall at 8pm, Monday, January 18. Dr. Ross will speak about the religious implications of recent scientific discoveries, specifically addressing the issue of whether the Bible is inconsistent with modern science. All members of the Caltech community are invited to attend. Dr. Ross's interpretations of some parts of the Bible differ from those of most Christian denominations, and his books and speeches have generated lively controversy in the past. This is sure to be an interesting talk.

The winter term's first **Seminar on Science, Ethics, and Public Policy will be held Friday, January 15 (today) at 4:00 pm in Judy Library in Baxter. Dr. Andrea Tone, Associate Professor of History at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will be speaking on "Devices and Desires: Uncovering the Lost History of the U.S. Contraceptive Industry." Refreshments will be served following the lecture.

The Third Annual **Avery House Swing Thing will be held this Sunday, January 17, at 8pm in the Dining Hall. Once again the famed San Francisco swing band, THE CHAZZ CATS, will get the joint jumping. Come try out your favorite swing moves or just enjoy the music for the evening.

On Sunday, January 17, at 7:30 pm, the **Caltech Folk Music Society presents **Bob Franke** in concert. This New England-based singer-songwriter is making a rare West Coast appearance, and Caltech undergrad and grad students can get tickets for only \$4 each. General admission is \$12 for adults, \$4 for children.

****Caltech SEDS** will be holding its first **telescope construction meeting** beginning Sunday, January 17 at 4:30 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/~segs/telescope.html>. For other information contact Loren Hoffman at loren@cco.caltech.edu or Leon Torres at leon@ugcs.caltech.edu.

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. To plan for a future summer work experience freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to attend, too. Please contact Dr. Kayoko Hirata, ext. 4210, or e-mail hirataj@cco.caltech.edu, if you have any questions.

A **Winter Festival** sponsored by the **Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op** will be held on Sunday, 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 as-

tonishingly 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.

Fellowships and Scholarships

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. 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 **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 contest 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 S15 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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