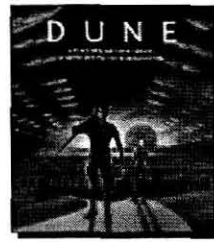


Drop Day was wednesday.

did you bring Gloria cookies?



ascit movie
DUNE

Baxter Lecture Hall
7:30 and 10:00pm
Friday

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 19

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1900

STUDENTS LUNCH WITH HEANEY

BY ERIK DILL

At Caltech, the male/female ratio may be slightly skewed, but the scientist/poet ratio approaches the infinitesimal. Yesterday, several students and staff members witnessed a temporary improvement in this situation, being treated to lunch with Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney.

Lunch with a Nobel Laureate tends to be just like any lunch, though one tends to pay attention more to what is being said. The discussion was highly technical, though technical in the sense of a poet who draws inspiration from the random encounters and events of daily life.

As was perhaps inevitable, conversation eventually moved to writing and poetry when Heaney was questioned about his own writing habits and foibles. Specifically, he was asked "Well, how do you write poetry?" The question hinted at the obscure arcana that poetry shares with higher dimensionality and space-time continua, but was answered simply. Heaney said the poems come somewhat serendipitously, as his mind works on other problems.

He said that finding the inner freedom to write has been somewhat difficult. Initially, he was fearful of rejection, as he noted many people are when beginning in any field. Despite that fear, two of his poems were immediately accepted on submission to local newspapers.

Thursday evening, Heaney demonstrated the product of serendipity, delivering a reading of his poetry in Beckman Auditorium. Hearing poetry as it sounds to the poet adds an entirely new dimension to the literary experience. In Heaney's mellowed Irish accent, his words flowed together in perfect rhyme and measure.

For a very short time, Caltech's literary community was less outnumbered by the scientific community. But over a normal lunch with a normal Nobel Laureate, it was clear that the same challenges are presented to both: uncertainty and serendipity and everyday magic, be it in sod or space-time.

Brennen restructures Student Affairs

BY DAVID GUSKIN

After a year under Dr. Chris Brennen, the department of Student Affairs will undergo a significant reorganization. The changes, scheduled for March 1st, will trim the reporting structure in a way that will alleviate much of the burden on the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Sharyn Miller.

Each department under the office of Student Affairs will be grouped together with other similar departments in an effort to improve communication and long-term goals with students in mind.

"[The old structure of Student Affairs] wasn't allowing us time to talk about the future needs of students and staff," remarked Dr. Brennen, arguing that the new structure will allow for better coordination among

related departments and less time lost on reporting bottlenecks. The restructuring itself has resulted from a coordinated effort by the involved Deans and Directors.

The restructuring of Student Affairs creates three new Associate Dean positions to handle a large part of the Assistant Vice President's responsibility. At present, twenty-one different departments report to Dr. Miller, including everything from Performing Arts to Admissions. The restructuring would replace this horizontal reporting scheme with a more manageable hierarchy, with each Associate Dean taking responsibility for a specific chunk of the Student Affairs administrative workload.

Barbara Green, current Associate Dean of Students, will assume responsibility for the Offices of Residence Life, Mi-

nority Student Affairs and Fellowships. Dr. Brennen believes that these offices have a significant relationship to undergraduate life, and thus fit well under the Associate Dean of Students.

Kevin Austin, the current Director of the Counseling Center, will assume the role of Associate Dean and handle the administration of counseling and support services. Austin will coordinate the efforts of the Counseling Center, the Career Development Center and the Health Center.

Graduate student affairs and related issues will be under the jurisdiction of a third Associate Dean, Parandeh Kia, the current Director of International Student Programs. As Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Kia will be responsible for coordinating graduate admissions. The selection of Kia for this position re-

sults from hopes to strengthen minority graduate student representation.

Dr. Miller will retain oversight of the remaining departments, including Athletics and Performing Arts. Student Affairs will bring in a new Director of Arts to facilitate this process and to slim down the number of art-related departments working separately.

"This is a big deal for the staff," commented Dr. Brennen, "and not so big a deal for the students."

Brennen added, "However, as things evolve, it may impact students as well, hopefully in a positive way."

Any questions regarding the restructuring of Student Affairs may be directed at Dr. Chris Brennen, x. 4117, or via email, brennen@caltech.edu.

LA Times joins Caltech to connect kids with science

BY DAVE TYTELL

Caltech and the Los Angeles Times have recently initiated a partnership to increase the visibility of Caltech in Southern California. This project has two major components, both of which will be seen nationwide in the Los Angeles Times on March 4th.

The first component of the partnership will be a four page pullout supplement highlighting Caltech research, alumni, and undergraduates. The second component, entitled "Caltech Connections For Kids," will combine the efforts of Caltech's Pre-College Science Initiative (CAPSI) and Caltech Media Relations.

Caltech Connections For

Kids will be published weekly in the LA Times science section and will focus on a 4-week cycle of interconnected articles. This column will be organized around science questions obtained from student readers. These students will be able submit their questions via a related web site, email, fax, or by regular mail service.

Professor of Biology and CAPSI co-director Jim Bower commented that "Caltech Connections for Kids will serve many purposes. It will encourage the involvement of students in grades 6-12 in science by providing examples of high quality science activities to teachers, students, and the general Southern California readership of the LA Times."

The column will center around Leila Gonzalez, a Caltech graduate with a doctorate in Biology from Harvard. Leila will act as the "contact person" and will be the Caltech scientist to whom the students address their questions.

Each published question will have along with it background information and a proposed experiment to try at home or at school. The background information will feature comments by scientists from the Caltech community while the proposed experiment will be designed by CAPSI.

Renee Rottner of CAPSI remarked that the purpose of the experiment, "is to illustrate the scientific method while deepening the student's understanding of the concepts being explained."

Student results, collected by CAPSI, will serve as the basis for the final column in the 4-week cycle. All of these components will be supported and extended through the project's web site.

According to Rottner, "We know of no other newspaper or scientific institution that has organized an interactive, inquiry-based science education column of this sort. It will send the message that children, when properly instructed, can use the scientific method themselves to answer questions important to them."

Rottner concluded by saying that "...furthermore, this column will present Caltech as an innovator in science education, directly indicating Caltech's support for our community's schools."

Pasadena holds mayoral election

BY TECH STAFF

On November 3, 1998, the voters of Pasadena decided to shake things up in city government by passing a charter amendment to hold city-wide mayoral elections.

As a prelude to the elections, set for March 9, a debate has been scheduled for March 3. The debate, sponsored by the

Pasadena Weekly and several religious organizations, will be moderated by KPCC's "AirTalk" host Larry Mantle and will have a three-member panel, including Caltech professor of political science R. Michael Alvarez.

The debate was scheduled to bring the candidates and their issues closer to Pasadena resi-

SEE MAYORAL ELECTION ON PAGE 2

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Holiday can be spent as one pleases

Dear Editors,

Although this correspondence is almost a full month after the issue in question, I still felt the issue to be strong enough to write. This is in reference to the article by Erik Dill "Panel discusses race and future". The article in itself is fine, however the very first statement that assumes that the whole NATION other than Caltech was watching T.V. on Dr. King's birthday was way off the line. As a African American post-doc here on campus, I chose to spend the day working on my research that had not been going well at the time. However, had I not, yes I may have been home resting watching T.V. After all, as a post-doc, I have been known to put in anywhere between 10 to 12 hours a day, and up to six

days a week. Dr. King, I'm sure, being as loving and compassionate as he was would not pass judgement on either of these choices.

I have often told my now 16 year old son, that if you have to put someone else down to make what you're doing seem right and/or better, then there's a problem there somewhere. Panels have their place in bringing about understanding between different people, however I have found that it is the direct interaction between people that makes the most difference. Also, it is what people do behind closed doors when decisions are made and no one is looking, or when a friend or colleague speaks out turn perpetuating negative stereotypes; These have more of a profound affect on peoples lives.

And finally, news radio and T.V. shared various celebrations for Dr. Martin Luther King's day that were nation wide. Still it is not up to Caltech and/or the sta-

tus quo to decide how anyone should spend any holiday. This is just to let you know that someone is reading what you write.
Dr. Shaune Edwards

A modest proposal

Caltech recently received a substantial grant from the Axline estate: approximately \$60 million earmarked specifically for financial aid (in the words of the Caltech press release, for "direct student support").

How can Caltech possibly spend all of this money?

Here's an idea: how about abolishing tuition forever? Such a move might just be possible.

According to US News & World Reports (which uses 1997-98 figures), the average need-based award package (that is, the total award excluding all merit, etc) is \$14,812, leaving an average of \$6,372 in tuition and board to be paid per undergraduate. Conservatively estimating a annual return of 10% on the new endowment, Caltech could make a cash grant of \$6,500 to

every undergraduate without ever touching the principal. This would more than cover the difference in tuition and current need-based aid levels.

This back-of-the-envelope analysis assumes that tuition is exogenous and fixed: the truth is more revealing. Caltech (like most major universities) intentionally sets the tuition high and has a policy of meeting all need. Thus, even when deciding the price of tuition, the institute expects to grant most students financial aid (two-thirds receive some form, according to the financial aid office). There really is no more reason for tuition to be \$30,000 or \$50,000 or \$0: Caltech "grants" (i.e., just changes the price) students whatever the government says they can't afford.

Caltech, unlike many other institutions, does not rely on tuition to support other operations. According to Peterson's, tech currently spends about \$45,000 on educational support per student per year, far exceeding even the "sticker price" of the education. If there were no merit-

based aid, then undergraduates would contribute approximately \$5.7 million per year in tuition*, which pales when contrasted with the \$87 million Caltech spends every year on research.

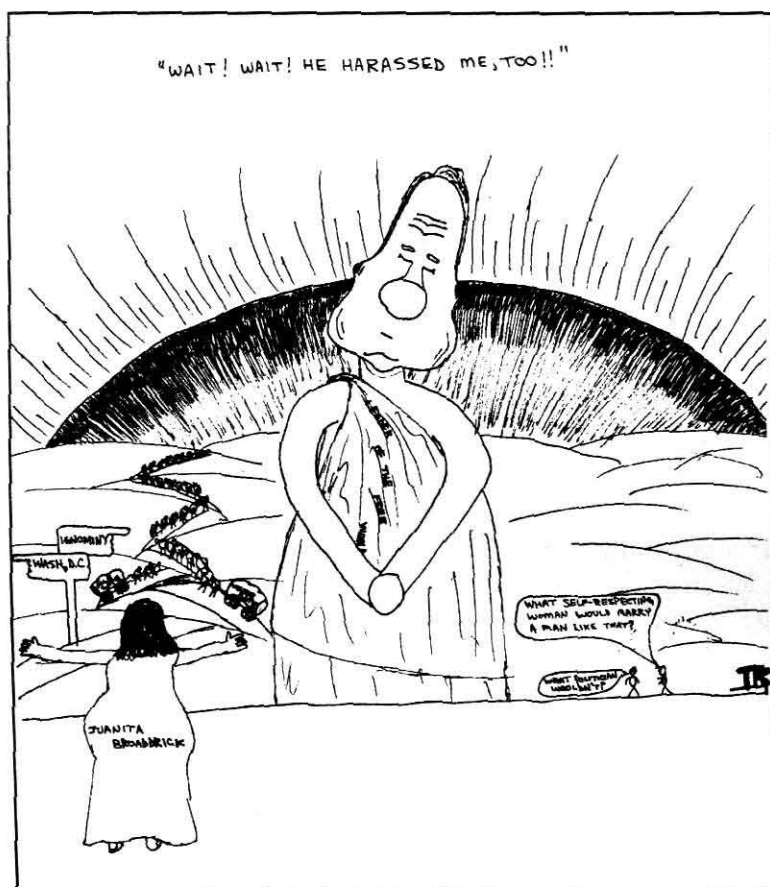
So how about it? Why not make Caltech tuition-free? Such a move could serve only to attract better talent and make our institution even more distinctive and renowned.

Sincerely,
Ryan McCorvie

*calculated by multiplying the number of students by the average discrepancy between financial aid and tuition

Referenced websites:
<http://www.petersons.com/sites/profiles/090090pf.html>
<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/>

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to:
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Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125
or by email to
editors@tech.caltech.edu
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MAYORAL ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents. At least one of the major candidates, Chris Holden, Pasadena's current mayor, has confirmed his participation, and the others have expressed strong interest.

The debate is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on March 3rd at All Saints Episcopal Church on Euclid.

The candidates will begin the debate with opening statements, then a set of questions will be asked from the panel, with answers and rebuttals from

the candidates. At the end, each candidate will be given up to one minute for a closing statement.

This is the first city-wide mayoral election in Pasadena, where the mayor has formerly been a member of city council elected by city council for a two-year term. In addition to making the position elected on a city-wide basis, the charter amendment extends the term of office to four years.

The election will be held on March 9th, 1999.

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Erik Dill
Dave Guskin
Katy Isaacs
Shannon Stewman

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Lexi Baugher

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COPY EDITORS

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Yuliya Ruvinskaya
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STAFF WRITERS

Cheryl Forest
Mohi Kumar

FEATURE WRITERS

Ron Dollete
Justin Ho
Daisy James
Jason Meltzer
Jean-Paul Revel
Dave Tytell
Adam Villani

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Astle
Elisa Chiang
Autumn Looijen
Shanti Rao
Tanya Tickle

MINTS

Loren Hoffman

ADVISER

Hall Daily

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Culture Shock

by Cheryl Forest

Danny Glover & Felix Justice "An Evening with Langston & Martin"

Friday, February 26, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. Beckman Auditorium

Glover and Justice bring to life the words of author Langston Hughes and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in an evening of performance and theatrical readings.

Richard III by TACIT

February 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. / February 28 at 2:00 p.m. Ramo Auditorium

Peter Feldman, Richard Greene, & Tom Sauber by the Caltech Folk Music Society

Friday, February 26, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. Dabney Lounge

LOVE SUCKS: a concert of bitterness

Saturday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. Dabney Hall (free admission and refreshments)

This now-annual concert will be presented by Caltech's Treble Makers and Ecphonema. The groups that will be appearing include the USC SoCal Vocals, the USC Hangovers, Pomona Women's Blue and White, and Tech's very own Out of Context. Come celebrate the fact that Valentine's Day, 2000, won't be here for another eleven months.

From The Dungeon

"The Rights to Your Work"

Are you aware, my helpless dungeon-workers, that once your days in the dungeon are over and you have finally distilled the essence of your discoveries into a publication or two, you will no longer own them? That you will have no right to post copies of those publications on your web site to illuminate the masses about your Earth-shattering findings? Well, Caltech is trying to do some-

thing about this. Something along the lines of retaining partial ownership over any research done at Caltech, chiefly to ensure perennial and inexpensive access to it by future generations of truth-seekers. A hyperforum on this issue, with participation of faculty, graduate students and staff alike, has recently finished, and the discussion, together with the recommendations that came out of it,

can be found at <http://mars3.gps.caltech.edu/lib/welcome/registration.htm>.

Enough said. The dungeon awaits.

- Alex Backer

If you have an issue that you would like to see discussed here or comments about those discussed, email alex@caltech

The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

U.S.: The United States trade deficit rose 53 percent last year to a record \$168.8 billion. Nations such as Japan that are suffering from financial crises are contributing the most to the trade imbalance. According to Charlene Barshefsky, the U.S. trade representative, "the deficit tends to reflect the falloff in U.S. exports rather than any surge of imports, and that is explained entirely by recessionary conditions in 40 percent of the world economy."

Rambouillet, France: The peace negotiations between the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians with respect to the issue of Kosovo continued this week. A NATO-imposed "immovable" Saturday deadline was moved forward to Tuesday after problems from both sides of the table; ultimately, peace talks were postponed until March. As of Thursday, fighting at Kosovo's borders had resumed.

Galtuer, Austria: Rescuers are still combing this area in search of more survivors from a series of avalanches Tuesday. At least 33 deaths have been reported so far. On a more positive note, rescuers were cheered by the news of "the Miracle of Valzur," which took the form of a small child named Alexander. The boy was frozen and lacked circulation after being encased in snow for two hours, but he is now in good health.

Lagos, Nigeria: Nigeria will hold democratic elections this Saturday, marking a return to democracy after years of military rule. Olusegun Obasanjo, a retired general who ceded power to a civilian administration in 1979 and has since become a businessman, is the clear front-runner. Olu Falae, a former finance minister and "technocrat," is the other main presidential candidate.

Iran: Iran will hold its first local election in twenty years this Friday. About 330,000 candidates, including 5,000 women, are running for more than 200,000 posts managing cities, towns, and villages. Moderate President Mohammad Khatami was quoted as saying that he hoped the local elections will blunt the power of conservative clerics.

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Raytheon

Volleyball season begins with spike to the head

BY SCOTT VAN ESSEN

The Caltech Men's Club Volleyball team, after a spectacular 16-2 season has had a slow, but classic Beaver start for the 1999 Season.

After making it to the semifinals in a preseason

tournament at Westmont, the team fought well, but inconsistently against Biola, losing its first home

game 3-1, in a very close match before a crowd of 30 cheering fans.

The team suffered from the loss of veteran outside hitter Andreas Masuhr and his rock solid game, losing to a rejuvenated USC team in three straight games. Driving down to sunny San

Diego, the team took a mere seven players to the most recent addition to the pool of Caltech opponents, San Diego State University, again losing in three games, but putting a good face on it and looking forward to their return over spring break.

Finally, the team lost a clincher in 5 games to LA City College on Tuesday night. Upcoming action includes a rematch at Biola on Friday

night, and the teams second home match and first match this year against Azusa Pacific University.

The Azusa Pacific game will be in Brown gym at 1pm on Saturday - come see an exciting game and get some free prizes, courtesy of Joel Jones and Gatorade.

After making it to the semifinals in a preseason tournament at Westmont, the team fought well, but inconsistently against Biola...

interhouse track & field

(event)	(champion)	(house)	(mark)
Men			
70m High Hurdles	Greg Fricke	Page	10.4
100m Dash	Chris Kurtz	Fleming	11.59
200m Dash	Chris Kurtz	Fleming	23.97
400m Dash	Paul Novak	Page	54.26
800m Dash	Ian Shapiro	Ricketts	2:05.90
1500m	Conrad Seymour	Ricketts	4:30.0
3000m	Ian Mendiratta	Ricketts	10:06.0
4x100m Relay		Page	48.11
4x400m Relay		Fleming	3:49.62
Shot Put	Aaron Kuzin	Fleming	
Discus	Aaron Kuzin	Fleming	
Long Jump	Craig Vieregg	Fleming	
Women			
70m High Hurdles	Corinne Gilliam	Fleming	12.09
100m Dash	Laurie Enne	Fleming	14.27
200m Dash	Julie Tingle	Page	28.09
400m Dash	Nalini Colaco	Page	73.80
800m Dash	Amy Kelly	Page	2:50.0
1500m	Amy Kelly	Page	5:41.0
4x400m Relay		Page	5:08.48
Shot Put	Julie Tingle	Page	
Discus	Amy Duello	Ruddock	

Chess Club competes in tournament

BY VICTOR HUANG

Over President's Day weekend, seniors Joseph Blitzstein, Victor Huang, Steve Na, and Ben Freeman, contested 6 games lasting 6 hours each at the US Amateur Team West Chess Championship. The team had an average rating of 1597, but performed at expert level to obtain 3 match wins and 1 draw out of

6 matches against 1900-rated competition. The team won chess clocks and trophies for best Under-1600 team, beating 20 other teams, and best college, beating UCLA.

Blitzstein, Caltech's highest rated player, justified his high-expert rating on top board. The other members traumatized opponents by playing at a strength three classes above their official

rating. This meant that opponents sat down with 85% confidence of winning, but really were in 85% danger of losing.

Within the team, Huang had the highest performance rating (2157), Na scored the most number of points (4), and Freeman was the "most improved player", undoubtedly due to hard work on the Free Internet Chess Server (www.freechess.org).

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CALTECH COMMUNITY!

Career Day 1999 was a tremendous accomplishment. Thank you to all who made it happen!

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Minority Student Affairs Caltech Bookstore

Everyone located in the Bechtel Mall area

Thanks also to all of the employers, students, faculty and staff who participated. We appreciate all of your hard work in making this event a success!

*The Career Development Center
and the
Career Day Committee*

YESS '99

Summer Positions Available

The Young Engineering and Science Scholars (YESS) Program is a four-week residential program for rising high school juniors and seniors. The program provides a select number of students of high ability and talent with an introduction to an engineering and science career. The program begins on July 10 and ends August 6, 1999.

The following positions are available for Summer '99:

Counselors (2 Head Counselors and 6 Program Counselors)

Counselors provide a stabilizing influence in the residence hall and provide additional guidance for students in conjunction with program coordinators. Each counselor is responsible for participants and their activities when students are not in class.

Instructors

Instructors will prepare and implement the curriculum for the following subjects:

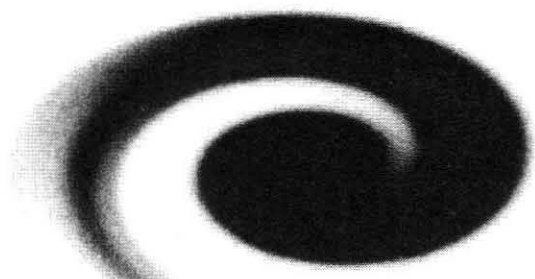
- * Molecular Biology
- * Physics
- * Geology and Seismology

Engineering Project Leaders (5)

Each project leader will work with a group of 8 YESS students to design and implement an engineering project.

There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 4:30pm in the CAPSI Office (287 S. Hill). All students interested in applying should plan on attending this meeting. Dinner will be provided.

Contact Athena at x3180 or email castroa@caltech.edu for more information.



innerspace

by Jason Meltzer

"Joys Impregnate; Sorrows Bring Forth"

For those of you who read my column regularly, I apologize that it's been a long time since I've written one. I have been trying for quite a while, which is the purpose of my quoted title (see William Blake's "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell"). My academic and personal life has been a bit distraught this term, and that has kept me quite busy all this time.

I am writing this column on St. Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is one of those terribly ambivalent holidays: everyone who has reason to celebrate it is happy, while everyone else is miserable. I, unfortunately, am of the latter group. So for me, like so many Techers, February 14th is nothing more than another day on the calendar. While many of my friends are out with their significant others, I am in my room, writing this column. I do not have a girlfriend, I never have (hell, I've never even been on a real date), and I do not foresee finding one in the near future. That makes me kind of sad,

but it also get me thinking about things like love and relationships at Tech.

First thing, Valentine's Day is really annoying to those of us who don't have reason to celebrate. For example, at the beginning of the month, I went to Hallmark to buy a card for my sister's birthday. "Only two weeks until Valentine's Day," the overly perky cashier told me. I politely thanked her, but I was sorely thinking "what the hell do I care when Valentine's Day is?" Basically, it's a reminder to everyone without a significant other that they are alone and that lots of other people aren't. It's depressing.

But I suppose I am not that depressed about not having a girlfriend at Tech. From what I've seen, I'm probably better off! The pattern that I have noticed is that two people get together and are together *all the time*. They do homework together, they go out together, they share friends, they share food; just about every wak-

ing (and sometime sleeping) moment is spent together. Most married people aren't around each other as much! It's not necessarily a bad thing, unless you don't mind losing your individual identity. And I'm not saying that this happens to everyone, but many relationships I have seen have become like this.

I have also noticed that the women in most Tech relationships have *all* the power. All of it. It should be fairly obvious as to why: if they break up, who's going to have an easier time finding someone else? The woman, of course, thanks to the ratio. Surely the women have other problems to deal with here, but I submit that they are not quite as bad. Most, if

they want to, can get a new guy in a day or two, while their old boyfriends are stuck with nobody. True, it can be argued that a world exists outside of Caltech, but in my experience not that many people here like to have relationships with others outside of Tech.

I am further disgruntled on this yearly festival of love because I have witnessed too many break-ups of too many of my friends here at Tech in the past year and a half. In some cases, it has affected my relationship with them, as well. It saddens me, for personal reasons, as my friends are very important to me, but also because it illustrates very clearly the painful, fickle, and sometimes destructive nature of love. People will

search for it no matter who they hurt and whatever the cost. Perhaps it's human nature, but in that case then I have problems with human nature. We are creatures too easily controlled by emotions and too often swayed by what we want. I do not claim exception from this, as I am, unfortunately, only human; but I see nothing wrong with pointing out the obvious.

So I have many reasons to be upset this Valentine's Day, and in fact this entire term. It hasn't been a good one. I wish you all better fortune than me; while I'm at it, more fun and sex, too! One day, we will look back and say: "College was the best time of my life!" Right now, I sure hope not.

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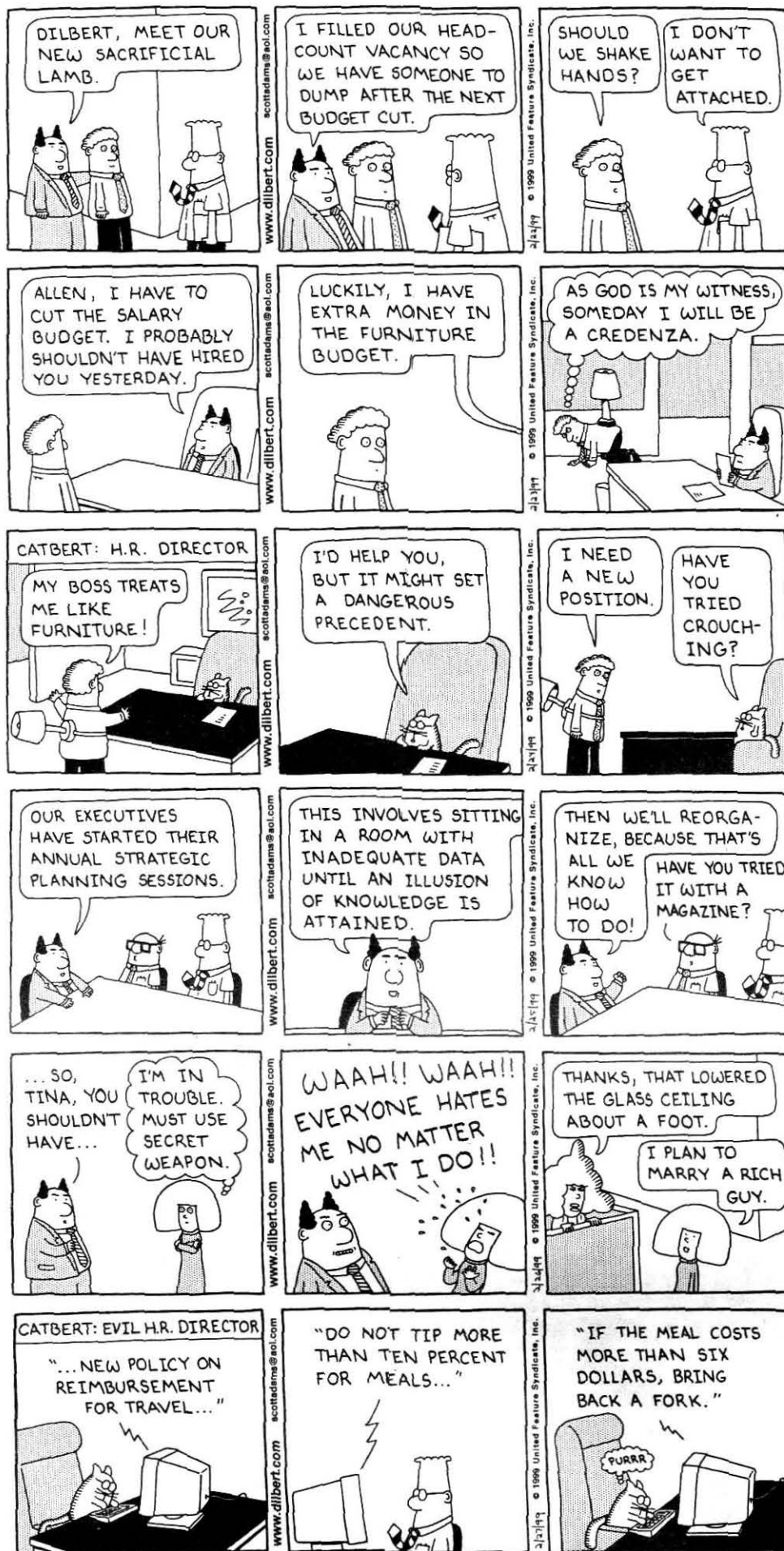
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THE LAST DAYS
Daily (12:30) 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50



Dean's Corner

It's about time

by Jean-Paul Revel

I heard on the news the other day, that a group of researchers led by Lene Hau at the Rowland Institute in Cambridge (Mass.) had succeeded in slowing light to a mere 38 miles/hr. This was achieved under rather peculiar conditions, in a Bose-Einstein condensate illuminated by a laser beam. Now let's see, I guess that means that cars on the freeway could be going at nearly twice the speed of light, how utterly thrilling. But then freeways are not a BEC, although one could argue that the atoms (cars) act in unison just as they are expected to, and at 293K at that! A room temperature BEC? Wow!

I hope that the physicists among you will humor my flights of unsophistication based fancy. I wondered about what would time be like in such an environment? My head spins trying to think about it! I must stop! It is a waste of time for me to ruminate along such fruitless directions.

To start with, there never is enough time. We all need more of it, more time to do the things

we have to do, and more time to look at the posies. In fact, learning how to deal with time is a kind of art form, and most of us, I guess, need to practice the art. One aspect of making time last is to make sure we use all the time we have to the hilt in a useful way.

So what's useful? I guess you have to ask yourself what it is you want to do, why you are in school, what you imagine being able to do in the future. There are so many things one could do (and has to do) in the available time, that it is important to determine one's priorities. One way to stick to the course one has decided on is to keep a good diary to warn us about what to do, when.

In the good old days, when the supply of time seemed more plentiful, I carried a small notebook in my shirt pocket. I always had it with me. The problem was that I needed a pen or pencil, not always at hand, to enter appointments, and also that there was not much room for each day's entries. Although things once entered, were there for good there were many times I could not decipher

my scribbles and woe for a month and more after I sent my diary through the wash.

Today this cellulose based notebook has been replaced by time saving widgets and techniques. I now have a silicon based calendar, which when properly massaged, audibly reminds me of my appointments, enters multiple occurrences and even tells me what my colleague's day looks like. But a computer is a bit large to carry around. When I contemplated that I realized I would also have a the problem of having to plug it in. I considered wearing a beanie with a propeller on top, attached to a dynamo. If I walked fast enough or lots of hot air blew by, I could keep my calendar going. But it got to be a drag, both in fact and figuratively. So I now also have a pocket electronic thingie that I can synchronize with my now stationary desktop, or at least that's what the advertisements claim.

Good synchs don't happen everyday. I often not only download my own appointments but those of everyone else in the office and then can't tell where to go, showing up for my colleagues appointments and going AWOL on my own. The neat thing is that

I don't need a pencil to enter new data, there is a stylus one can use instead. The bad thing is that, I forget to replace the stylus in its sheath and so am frustrated when faced with a new appointment. I feel like a knight who forgot to put his sword back in its scabbard. A good thing they sell styli (sty-luses?) in a little pouch of 3. An even better thing is that it is possible to operate the electronic diary pad with a finger nail instead of a stylus. Perhaps I could copyright a style of nail paring which would make it easy to tap on the screen.

As you can tell I spend enough time futsing with this device, that I might as well copy all the info on my desktop by typing it in directly. That's what my wife would like me to do in any case, she complains of being a computer widow.

The notion of time of course varies with what you are thinking about. There is cosmological time, geological time. Time to organize. There is a time for exams, and one for romance, lots of time for that, I hope. Time to think, time to play, time to listen to music or talk to friends, time to travel and time to sleep. Any of us knows all of this as well as the next person. And yet there are those who seem to know better, who have brains so quick, who are so organized, with or without their paper/electronic organizers, so methodical in their approaches that although the time as parsed

out by a clock is the same, they can achieve so much more. It is something that I truly marvel at. For them there seems to be more time, than for me. All of us have our own time and the sense of time for each of us is elastic. By that I mean that for each of us there are instances when time appears to run as slow as molasses, and others when it runs like He-3.

Obviously this subjective impression depends on what we are doing. Waiting for a friend to appear or desperately trying to finish an exam. Time also fluctuates with our physiological state. It takes me a long time to do things when I am tired or depressed. The same task can be accomplished in a jiffy when rested. I've always wondered about the Techers' traditions of sleepless nights. Of course it is because there are so many things to do that there is not enough time in a day. That leads to working through the night to finish it all. Of course then it is not possible to wake up or go to early classes, and then one needs to catch up, and the only time there is after 2 am. May be this time honored tradition, would merit reconsideration. Seems to me it is about time. Thanks for taking the time to read this A bientot

Jean Paul Revel



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Events

Mark your calendars! **Prefrosh Weekend 1999** is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th, through Sunday, April 18th. If you are interested in helping out with Prefrosh Weekend, please contact Dina Figueroa, Assistant Director of Admissions, at dina@admissions.caltech.edu.

It's time to SURF! Even though summer seems far off, now is the time to start thinking about SURFing this summer. If you're thinking about applying for a SURF, you should begin now to look for a mentor and ask for letters of recommendation. The SURF application deadline is Monday, March 1. Check out the SURF web site at www.its.caltech.edu/~surf/ to get information on the application process, look at announcements of opportunity from specific faculty members and JPL technical staff members, and download an application. For more information, contact the Student-Faculty Programs office at x2885 or sfp@its.

Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? The **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 8:15 P.M. until 10:15 P.M. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation -- only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to general discussion. Call x8331 for more information.

Free anonymous HIV testing is available every Monday evening using Orasure oral testing at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S Arroyo Parkway. Appointments by calling 888-448-9242 are preferred; walk-ins are welcome. Last appointment at 8:00 pm. For more information call Craig Petinak at 626-441-8495.

Looking for summer work in one of the nation's last examples of pristine wilderness? **Glacier National Park**, located in the northwest corner of Montana, is looking for students to fill more than 900 summer jobs in all segments of the hotel and hospitality areas. Positions range from hotel front desk clerks to tour guides to guest entertainment roles. For details on jobs and salaries call Glacier Park, Inc. at 602-207-2620, write to them at 1850 North Central, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924, or visit www.gpihr.com.

Announcements

****The Bustamante Antique Show and Sale** will be held at the Pasadena Center, 300 E. Green Street, from 12-8 pm on Thursday March 4 through Saturday, March 6 and from 12-5 pm on Sunday, March 7. This show includes a special exhibit featuring a medley of antique scissors and shears from the Robert & Dorothy Soares collection. Tickets are \$5.00 general admission, \$3.00 for seniors 62+, free for children under 12. For more information call 626-793-2122.

****The Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series** continues on Wednesday, March 3 at 8:00 pm in Beckman Au-

ditorium with a lecture by Steve E. Koonin, vice president and provost, and professor of theoretical physics at Caltech. Koonin will talk about "Computer Simulations: A New Tool for Science and Engineering." Admission is free. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4688.

****The Distinguished Speaker Series of Southern California** continues its successful encore season with **The Motley Fool** at 8:00 pm on Thursday, March 11 in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. As internet financial advisors and best-selling authors, brothers Tom and Dave Gardner use today's latest technology to revolutionize the way people obtain financial advice. Their wildly successful web site is consistently rated one of the best sites in cyberspace. In addition to three best-selling books and a nationally syndicated radio program, their column can be read weekly in the *LA Times*. Tickets may be purchased at the Pasadena Civic Box Office (626-449-7360) or Ticketmaster (213-480-3232).

****The Aeronautics Seminar Series** continues at 1:00 pm on Monday, March 1 in 306 Firestone with "Multidisciplinary Design Optimization (MDO) Applied to Wing Design." The lecture will be given by Dr. Sean Wakayama of Advanced Aircraft Aerodynamics, Boeing Phantom Works, Long Beach. For more information see the web site <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ichasiot/html/ael50.html>.

****Join Dr. Renu Malhotra**, staff scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas for a **geological and planetary sciences seminar** entitled "The Kuiper Belt: A Window on the Early Solar System" at 4:00 pm on Monday, March 3 room 155 Arms. Refreshments will follow the lecture.

****William Stockdale** will narrate the **Armchair Adventures travel film Pilgrimage Across Europe** on Friday, March 12, at 8:00 pm in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. One of America's foremost travelers and lecturers, Stockdale devotes all of his time to writing and lecturing. He has written for prominent national magazines and The New York Times, and his films have appeared on television and are available on video. Tickets to this film are priced at \$9.00 and \$7.00, and can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, or through Ticketmaster. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

****The Occidental-Caltech Symphony Orchestra** presents Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 17 in G Major, K. 453* and Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 in D Major*, with Daniel Rogstad on the piano. Allen Gross will direct the first concert at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 2 in Thorne Hall at Oxy, and the second at 8:00 pm on Thursday, March 4 in Ramo Auditorium at Caltech. Admission is free! For more information about the Oxy concert call 323-259-2785 or call 626-395-4652 for information about the show at Caltech.

****Join Jorge Mester and the Pasadena Symphony** at 8:00 pm at the Pasadena Civic Center on Saturday, February 27 for an **all-Russian** program with something for everyone. Thrill to the blood and thunder of Tchaikovsky's romantic tone poem, then be dazzled by Karen Gomyo's virtuosic violin playing at her West Coast premiere. Next, delight at Shostakovich's most humorous sym-

phony, and Liadov's "The Enchanted Lake." Student tickets are available for \$7.50 with ID at the door or for \$6.00 from the Caltech Y office. For more information call 626-793-7172, 626-584-8833, or Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

Earthquake Preparedness Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall on Tuesday, March 23. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at 626-395-6727.

Come to the 2nd annual **Love Sucks! concert**, a fun-filled a cappella fest to help you forget your post-Valentine's-Day blues. The concert features Caltech's groups the Treblemakers, Ecphonema and Out of Context, and a whole bunch of surprise guests with all new music. Admission and refreshments are *free* for members of the Caltech community. Be there: Saturday, February 27, 1999 at 7 PM in Dabney Hall! Contact rachels@caltech.edu with any questions.

Caltech SEDS will be holding its **fourth telescope construction meeting** beginning Sunday, February 28 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.

Fellowships and Scholarships

The **Beckman Internship** will be available for the summer of 1996. The internship, supported by friends of Arnold Beckman, will pay a stipend of \$4,000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician and to see the inside process of government. The intern is expected to make arrangements with the appropriate political persons. It is open to any undergraduate who intends to be a Caltech student next year. If interested, submit a brief proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend, to the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, by Monday, April 5, 1999.

Green Hills Software annually awards merit-based scholarships and fellowships to Caltech undergraduates who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude in computer science. The award for the junior year consists of a \$2,500 scholarship. The award

for the senior year may consist of either a \$2,500 or \$5,000 scholarship. In addition, one or two applicants are invited to become Green Hills Fellows. Applicants should be second term sophomores with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. The selection criteria include programming ability, academic performance, and faculty and peer recommendations. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, current academic transcript, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty or employers familiar with the student's work. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by April 16, 1999.

The **National Society of Public Accountants Scholarship Foundation (NSPA)** is now accepting applications for financial assistance for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. Citizens, full-time undergraduates, majoring in accounting at an U.S. accredited 2 or 4-year college, and have a "B" or higher overall grade point average. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. To apply, applicants must submit an official transcript and application form to the NSPA website at <http://www.nsacct.org> or write to: NSPA Scholarship Foundation, 1010 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1574. Entries must be submitted to NSPA by March 10, 1999.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program** offers scholarship awards to undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds that are committed to careers in biomedical research. In return, recipients are obligated to serve as paid employees in NIH research laboratories during the summer and after graduation. The scholarships pay for tuition and reasonable educational and living expenses up to \$20,000 per academic year. Applicants must be full-time for the 1999-00 academic year, have a 3.5 or higher GPA or be ranked within the top 5% of your class, and classified as having exceptional financial need. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. To apply, applicants must submit application form; official transcript; undergraduate institution certification form, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from professors familiar with the student's academic qualities. For more information, visit the NIH website at <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is March 31, 1999.

The **Dennis W. Cabaret Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for students whose permanent address is in Orange County. Applicants must have completed at least one year of college, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, be currently enrollment in an institution of higher education, and clear roots of activism in the Orange County lesbian and gay community. The applicant is advised

that the Scholarship Committee may call him or her for a personal interview. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications should be sent to: Dennis W. Cabaret Scholarship, c/o Thomas J. Peterson, 2821 Cassia Street, Newport Beach, CA 92660-3217. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, February 26, 1999.

The Deans' Office is accepting proposals for the **Monticello Foundation and the Robert and Delpha Noland Summer Internships**. Three to five Caltech undergraduate women (current freshmen, sophomores and juniors) will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside the Caltech-JPL community for ten weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a \$4,000 stipend. Applicants are required to identify the projects in which they wish to participate for a ten-week period. All arrangements with the principal researcher will be the responsibility of the student. Each applicant must describe her project in a short essay and submit it to the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, along with two faculty recommendations. Proposals are due Monday, March 1, 1999.

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

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. 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. To make an appointment, call x2150. For more information, please email lauren_stopler@starbase1.caltech.edu.

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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There were many orgies
this term, including ones
in Fleming

see inside

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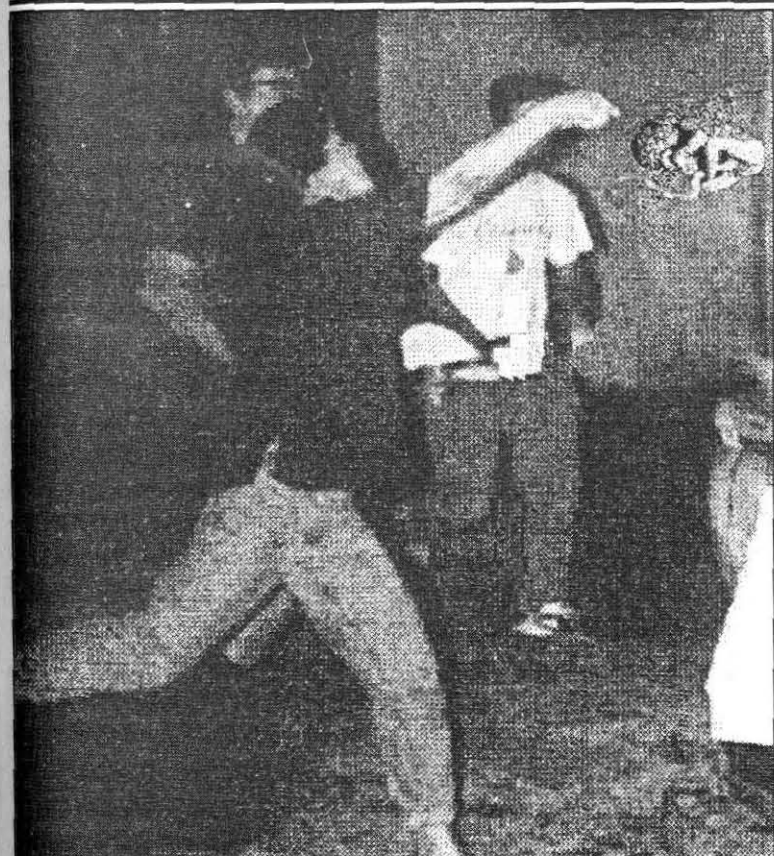
see page 5

THE INSIDE WORLD

VOLUME C, NUMBER 1

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999



Scurves aid needy Blacker residents with dead babies

Caltech Mars Society cult commits mass suicide

Thirty-nine members of a religious cult calling themselves "The Caltech Mars Society" committed mass suicide yesterday in their Southern California home.

The cult left a suicide letter before consuming a combination of vodka and barbituates and then suffocating themselves with a plastic bag. Many of the members also appeared to be castrated.

The members of the Mars Society were found in unisex black outfits, discount eyeglasses, and Nike shoes, and they all had packed traveling bags and placed them near their beds. Each member had a \$5 bill and three quarters. Each member was covered in purple felt shrouds.

The Mars Society cultists believed that when they committed suicide, they were not dying but simply leaving their "containers" or "vehicles" to pursue a better life at what they called

the "Level Above Human." They said, in their suicide statement, that they would be establishing a new branch of civilization on Mars.

According to the website set up by the group (www.its.caltech.edu/~mars), their mission "...is an opportunity for a noble experiment in which humanity has another chance to shed old baggage..." It goes on to warn, "Such chances do not come often, and are not to be disdained lightly."

The leader of this cult, who went by the name F-DAL, believed that he was sent by God to lead people to "The Kingdom of Heaven." According to the cult's webpage "...We are life's messenger. Alone of the creatures of the Earth, we have a ability to continue the work of creation..."

The members claimed to be "quite joyous" about "leaving this planet" according to their webpage.

Blacker stricken by fetus famine

Normally the cry of, "Donuts in the courtyard," is heard in Ricketts courtyard on Wednesday nights. However, last Wednesday, there was an interesting twist. The cry of, "Babies in the courtyard," brought Scurves scurrying out from their rooms, with the gleam of hunger in their eyes. Many thought the cry was for donuts. Instead of boxes of Far Foster's best awaiting them, there was instead a pile of fetuses near the fire pot.

Initially many people were taken aback by the pile of gooey, ex-fetuses in the court yard. A few tried tasting them, but they agreed that donuts were much sweeter, and that some cooking time would be needed to improve upon the taste. However, as cooking would require effort, someone

thought that maybe the moles would like to share some. With that comment, four scurves simultaneously yelled, "Fetus famine in Blacker," picked up a fetus, and hurled them over crud rooms into Blacker courtyard. Many more joined the initial four in throwing the bloody masses of tissue, which at one time had the unfortunate potential to be human children, into Blacker courtyard.

A few moles gathered by their libraries window to watch the resulting damage, as the dead babies "splushed" into their courtyard, leaving a pulpy mess. For a very brief instant, some of the moles talked about doing something back, perhaps attempting to throw the mess back into Ricketts. But, quickly they regained

their senses, and realized that they were much too lame to do anything other than watch, and perhaps complain to Ricketts' new Hovse president, Ishnaferitsu.

After some 50 bodies (one of which amazingly was still alive, well, alive until it landed in Blacker [giggles]), which had mercifully been spared the curse of life, were given their flying lessons, the scurves were left with 5 sole corpses. A few people muttered barbecue time, pallets were broken, and soon a fire was in Ricketts pot, and the barbecue grill was finally being put to use. Unfortunately, a bit of a damper was put on the evening when some Scurves started to physically fight during an argument of whether the correct plural of "fetus" was fetuses, feti, or simply fetus.

Bill Gates forgets to pick up name tag

Prefrosh too busy deleting Netscape from Fleming computers

On Wednesday, Prefrosh Bill Gates missed Rotation dinner in Page House. He reportedly spent the evening in the Fleming computer lab, purging all Fleming computers of Netscape products.

Jaideep Singh, IHC chairman, stressed the seriousness of this offense. "We cannot allow such blatant disregard for our long-established Rotation rules and traditions to go unpunished. Gates will forfeit his privilege of ranking the houses during Rotation. His fate is now up to the house presidents to decide."

Gates, who is rotating out of Lloyd House, said it was 'no big deal' and wanted to know what the problem was. "I don't understand why we have to go to dinner in every house anyway. I already know what house I want to pick into."

A passing upperclassman shouted, "They're all fine houses, frosh!" and was promptly beaten by other passing upperclassmen.

Gates was apparently wandering around the Student Activities Center while waiting for his laundry to finish drying when he discovered that the door to the Fleming computer lab had been left propped open. Gates

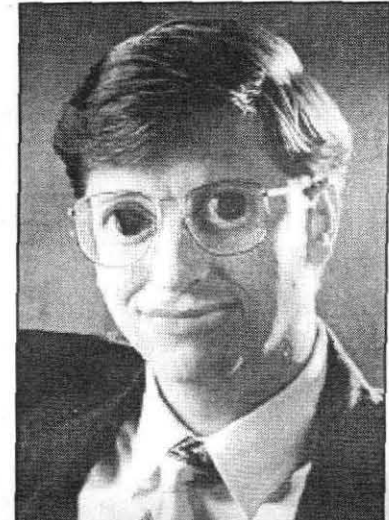
saw a Fleming upperclassman browsing the web using the popular Netscape 4.0 browser. He claims it was his 'moral obligation' to inform them about the error of their ways and proceed to uninstall Netscape from the Fleming computers.

"You know, I really thought that Caltech students were smart. That's why I came here, to go to school with other smart people. But I had to rethink that opinion after I saw so many of them blithely using an inferior browser. I can't just let this ignorance go uncorrected. It is my moral obligation to show them the One True Browser."

Gates spent well over an hour uninstalling the browser and attempting to install Internet Explorer 4.0. He encountered some difficulties with the installation on Fleming's new iMac.

Gates's roommate comments that Gates is 'out of his mind.' "I don't know why Bill is such a fanatic. Internet Explorer isn't worth a dead nun sticking out of a snowbank."

Gates insists that the IHC's decision is unfair. "I can't believe they're being so picky about this. It's just one dinner. I went to all the other dinners, and I even went to lunch in Page. I

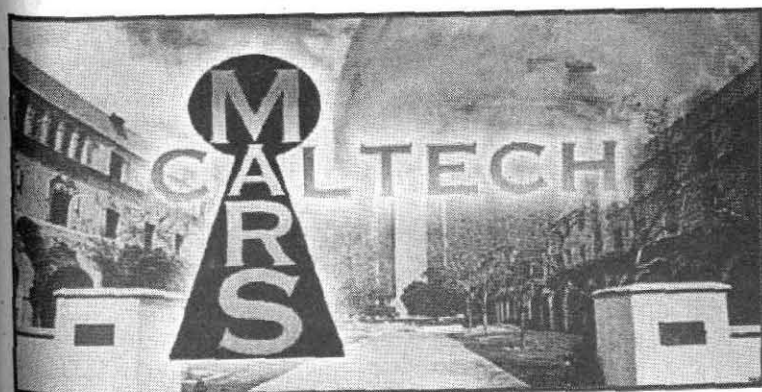


Bill Gates

don't see why missing dinner should be punished by taking away my rankings. I'll probably be forced into the wrong house and wind up with some drunken Pageboy roommate."

Page House President Marie Fox declined to comment on Gates's statement, but indicated that Page House would not pick Gates even if he came with a keg.

Gates indicates that he plans to double major in ECE and Physics. "I know that a double major is hard, but I had a 4.0 GPA in high school and a 1598 on the SAT. I'm sure I can handle it." He said he had much more to say about the unfairness of Rotation rules, but he had to go finish his Chem 1 homework.



Caltech Mars Society Banner

Hovse Election Results

Blacker

President: Nicholas Breen
 Secretary: Mark O. Barrett
 Treasurer: Clifford Hicks
 Veeps: Cheryl Forest, Todd Schuman
 Damage Control: Nathan Schara
 Historians: Walt Ogburn, Amy Peterson
 Librarians: Tim Crosby, Stephen Thrasher
 Social Team: Nate "Austin" Powers, Teodora Beloreshka, Kjerstin Easton, Nathan Flowers-Jacobs, Nick Knouf, Kacie Shelton, Tory Sturgeon, Jennifer Taggart, Christian Thomas, Celeste Yang
 Ath Team: Nate Austin, Garrett Blankenburg, Chris Elion

Dabney

President: Sarah Milkovich
 VP: Charless "Monty" Fowlkes
 Secretary: Ryan Simkovsky
 Treasurer: Vanessa Sih
 Social Veeps: Jordan Miller and Francis Macdonald
 Ath Man: Dana Vukajlovich
 Historian: Kudah Meshambi
 BOC Rep: Owen Aftreth
 Food Rep: Val Anderson
 Demolition Men: Alan Haynes and Alex Lippert
 Social Team: Dev Kumar

Fleming

President: Matthew Musick
 VP: Jason McIlhaney
 Secretary: Christopher Kurtz
 Treasurer: Puneet Newaskar
 Social VP: Adam Lawton
 Social Team: Nita Losoponkul, Shahram Ardan, Caroline Gibbs, Anthony Guerrero, Amy Vu
 Ath Man: Jon Ladd, Dan Daly
 Ath Team: Laurie Gagne, Brian Hardy, John Harris, Craig Viereg
 Librarian: Scott Payne
 BOC Rep: Alec Muller
 Food Rep: Stephen Wexler
 Historian-Elect: Carrie Bunce

Lloyd

President: Matthew Sullivan
 Secretary: Eleanor Park
 Superintendent: Anthony Griffin
 Treasurer: Sandip Darji
 Social Director: Megan Linnehan
 Ath Man: David Hiller
 Reps at Large: David Antonio, Pei-Hua Hung, Dan Liebling

Page

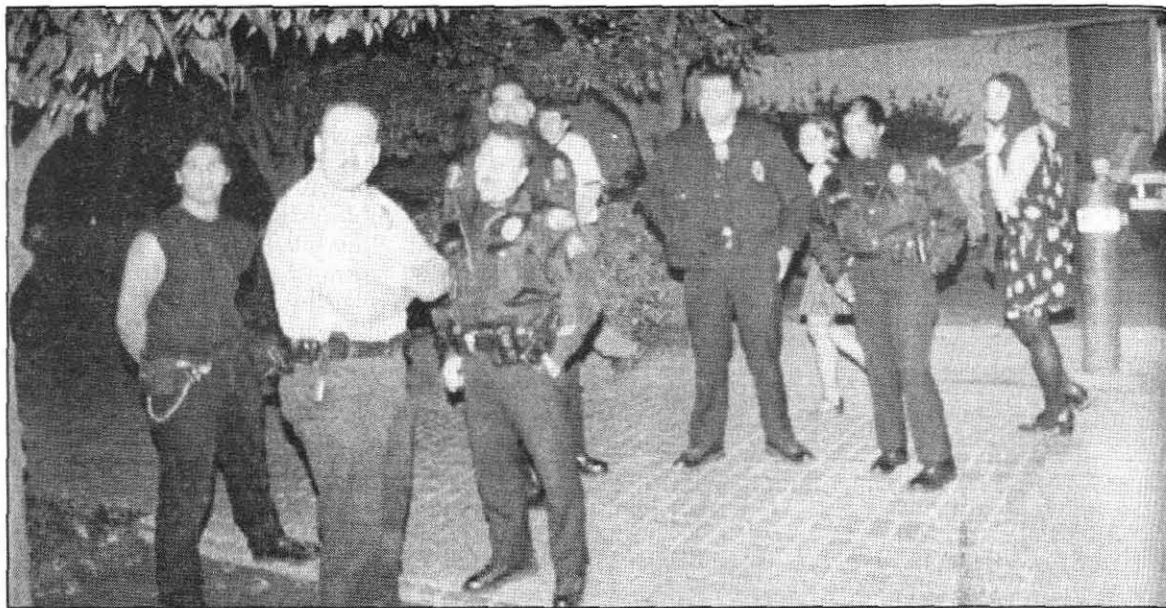
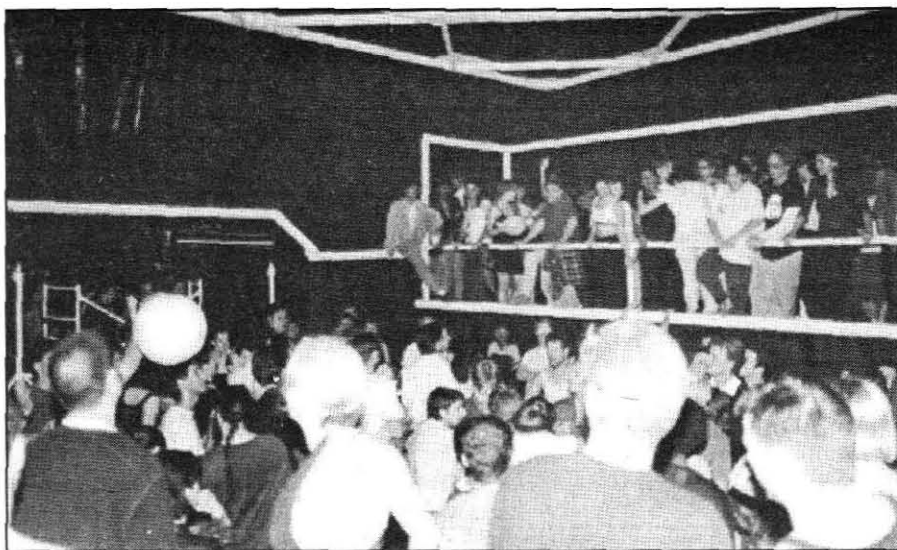
President: Marie Fox
 Vice President: Robbie Metcalf
 Secretary: Heather Graven
 Treasurer: Sean Pintchovski
 Athletic Manager: Dennis Fong

Ricketts

President: Ishnaferitsu
 Vice president: Kat Oseen-Senda
 Secretary: Shannon Stewman
 Treasurers: Lexi Baugher, Dinkar Gupta
 Social VP: Sarah Cooke
 Librarian: Kevin Babcock
 Athletic Managers: Jason McGibbon, John Estes
 Food Representative: Yuri Goldfeld
 Historians: Roger O'Brient and Richard Karnesky, Jr.

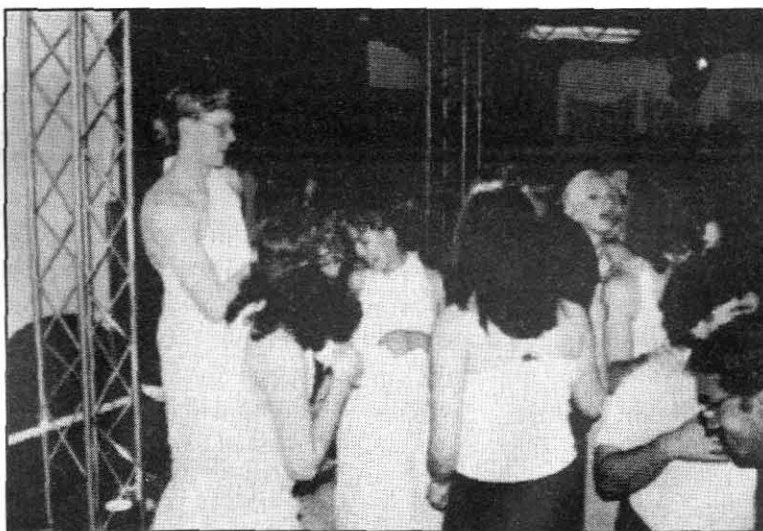
Ruddock

President: Katie Noyes
 VP: Amy Duello
 Secretary: Andy "Lefty" Tretten
 Treasurer: Hanna Kim
 Ath Team: Tom Daula, Gerald Palmrose, Sarah Hunyadi
 Social Team: Marc Favata, Danny abrams, Nathan Stein, Emma Kang, Dirk Englund
 Librarian: Nate Senchy
 Historians: Carl Anhalt, Tanya Tickel



POMPEII OPI

Russel built it and they came...



Jamie Bresson and a bunch of toga clad ladies at OPI



Audrey Lee and Kanwarp Kahlon enjoy the party.

Drop Day

THE INSIDE WORLD

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
 editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
 advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
 editorial email: editors@tech.caltech.edu
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EDITORS

I hate them all,
 and I will never
 forgive them.
 May they all
 decay into misery.

BUSINESS MANAGER
 She is "okay."

Scoreboard

Blacker	1
Dabney	2
Fleming	0
Lloyd	0
Page	0
Ricketts	6
Ruddock	1
Army of Darkness	1

DEADLINES

"They're all fine hovses"
 "Ditch Day is tomorrow, frosh!"
 "Ulick, UFlame, UASH!"
 "I have too much work to do"

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