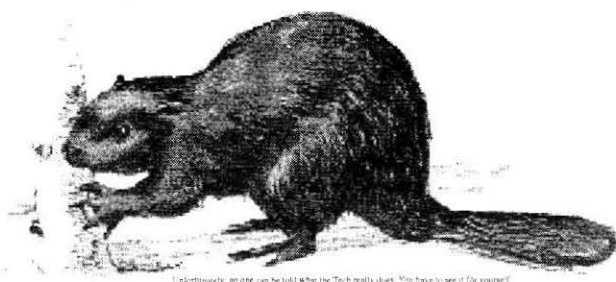


The Dean and Dr. Kevin Austin
tackle coping with loss
see page 7



Touch of Evil
"The Strangest Vengeance Ever Planned!"
baxter lecture hall
7:30 and 10pm
\$2 ASCIT, \$2.50 non-

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 23

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1999



William Jenkins

VP OF BUSINESS
AND FINANCE
APPOINTED

COURTESY PUBLIC RELATIONS

President David Baltimore has announced that William A. Jenkins, the vice chancellor for administration at Vanderbilt University, has been appointed VP for business and finance at the California Institute of Technology, effective in mid-July. "Bill Jenkins has done an outstanding job at one of the top academic institutions in the country," said Baltimore. "His dedication to the pursuit of excellence, his values-based leadership and his ability to create and implement positive change all bode well for the future of Caltech's critical business and finance operations."

"It is an honor to be selected vice president for business and finance and to become part of the Caltech community," says Jenkins. "Caltech's excellence is prominent and pervasive. I look forward to serving what is truly one of the world's premier research universities."

In 1990, Jenkins created the Vanderbilt University Leadership Development Forum, which provides leadership training for academic and administrative staff throughout the university. He earned his master's and PhD degrees from Purdue University, and his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt, he spent seven years at North Carolina State University as assistant and then associate vice chancellor for finance and business, and prior to that was business manager and assistant to the vice president for campus affairs at Cornell University.

Jenkins and his wife, Mary Ann, have one son, Jeff.

Campus24.com ventures online

Caltech alums start online auctions, classifieds for college students

BY KATY ISAACS

Campus24.com, a new internet company founded in part by Caltech alumni, launched April 1st, 1999. The company is currently focusing on the Boston area, but hopes to get the Caltech community involved as soon as possible.

Campus24.com is a classifieds and auction site devoted to the college community, specifically focusing on undergraduate and graduate students.

Although Campus24.com does not plan on a California roll-out for several months, the company is interested in the Caltech reaction now. They are hoping to get comments and critique from Caltech students about all facets of their site.

"I want to the Caltech community to get involved. It's a small controlled environment and Caltech students are very good and picking out small details and problems," said Wen Hsieh, a co-founder of Campus24.com.

Hsieh is currently a gradu-

ate student at Caltech in Electrical Engineering. He graduated in 1994 from Caltech with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Albert S. Lee, who graduated from Caltech in 1994 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Economics, and Leslie Lee, who

graduated in 1995 with a B.S. in Physics, are also part of the founding group, which also includes Harvard Business and Law students.

The group founded the idea for Campus24.com a little over a year ago. The project was completely self-funded, utilizing no help from venture capitalists.

The site currently features a standard on-line auction like that of eBay.com or Amazon.com. However, it also features a classifieds sections for selling items at a set price. Also,

Campus24.com has a "zoom" feature, which allows users to search within their school, town, region, and the entire nation.

"The benefit of that is to provide local students with a convenient channel to sell, advertise, and inform," said Hsieh.

*"We have a lot of plans.
But we need users."*

- Wen Hsieh

The site is completely free to students and college affiliates, while entities such as companies and other individuals must pay a fee to sell things. Because the site is designed around students, users do not have to be 18 years of age like at some other on-line auctions.

The site hopes to create a marketplace for things such as textbooks, furniture, computers, and jobs. "The daily life of a college student, that's what we're trying to cater to," said Hsieh.

Campus24.com primary sources of income are commission and listing fees from their auctions and classified and integrated (banner) advertising. They also plan to make money off of hosting merchant websites in the future.

The company is also making deals with various on-line merchants to get special student deals in affiliation with Campus24.com. Many of these companies are already running auctions as well.

Campus24.com also hopes to focus on the varying needs of different schools. "What we want to do is have a representative at each school and cater to that school," said Hsieh. However, he goes on, "We will not solicit to Caltech in any commercial manner."

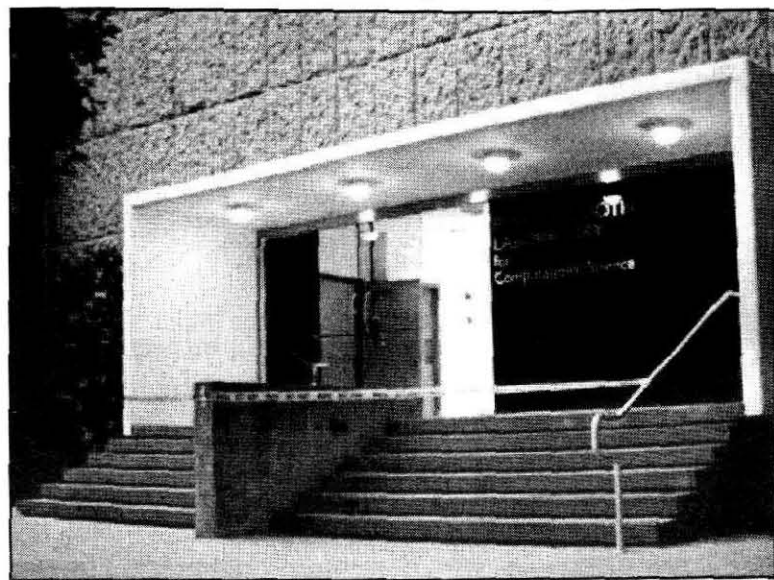
Later on, Campus24.com hopes to provide links in every campus directory on their site to things such as the campus library system and the registrar.

"We have a lot of plans," said Wen Hsieh. "But we need users."

The Powell-Booth Laboratory for Computational Science reopened last Friday after extensive renovation.

Left: Guests at the opening reception inspect new skylights in the Powell-Booth common area.

Right: Caution tape blocks the entrance as final preparations are made prior to the grand reopening.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Caltech sinks into decadence

Talking to Techers there is a sense we are living in the sunset of Caltech as a unique institution. Certainly as a research institution we are just as strong as ever but the spirit of the undergraduate experience seems to be dying away.

In any institution with as rich a history as Caltech the legends of the past will tend to overshadow the present. However, the problem seems to be deeper than this. What ties the past glory of an institution to the dreams of the future, is not merely the achievements but the passions and drive that qualify that institution and set it apart from a sea of mediocre copies. We pride ourselves on being the movers and shakers, but when push comes to shove, we opt to run with our slice of the pie rather than demanding

a better meal.

Is Caltech to be anything but a way to a nice job? Lets be blunt about it, if Caltech is to survive, as anything but another technical school we need a vision for which the students are willing to risk their futures, and devote their time.

Sincerely,
Amit Kenjale

Please send letters to
The California Tech
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Deadline for submissions
is Monday at 5pm.



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Culture Shock

by Cheryl Forest

13th annual All Mozart concerts

Dabney Hall Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.

There will be music to welcome the audience before the concert. Free food afterwards!

Guarneri String Quartet

Beckman Auditorium Sunday, April 11, 1999 at 3:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Jonathan Miller The Eighth James Michelin Distinguished Visitor Lecture

Beckman Auditorium Friday, April 9, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Richard Garwin "Ballistic Missile Defense Revisited"

Charles and Thomas Lauritsen Memorial Lecture

Beckman Auditorium Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.

The lecture is free; tickets are not required.

The Outside World

by Erik Dill

Utrecht, the Netherlands - On Monday, two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, arrived in the Netherlands to face trial. The suspects had been sheltered by the Libyan government, for which the United Nations had imposed trade sanctions against Libya. The UN removed these sanctions immediately, while separate U.S. sanctions remain in place.

Washington, D.C. - On Monday, the Supreme Court decided that police officers who had probable cause to

search a vehicle could also search the belongings of passengers not suspected of any illegal activity. Overturning a decision by the Supreme Court of Wyoming, Justice Antonin Scalia said that no distinction should be made, based on ownership, of containers in an automobile being searched without a warrant, and that passengers have a reduced expectation of privacy in such a situation.

Kosovo - Yugoslav officials in Belgrade declared Thursday that anti-terrorist activities by Serbian forces against the Kosovo Liberation

Army were over. There are several unconfirmed reports that Serb troops began laying land mines on the Yugoslav side of the border with Albania.

NATO continued the bombing campaign against Serbia, denying that it has caused appreciable damage to civilian targets. NATO officials expressed concern about 20-30,000 refugees near the borders of Kosovo who disappeared Wednesday. Negotiations for release of the three U.S. soldiers have halted, despite new efforts by a diplomatic contingent from Cyprus.

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The Ticket Stub

By Justin Ho

(In light of the freshman rite of passage to grades, film reviews will hereby take the form of letter grades.)

Analyze This (B-)

R: for naughty tumbles and wise guys stuff

Following in the footsteps of the HBO epic, "The Sopranos", which pioneered the concept of mobsters mentally disturbed with their lines of profession, "Analyze This" seeks to cash in on wise guys with its Hollywood high profile cast. The quintessential mobster presence Robert DeNiro assumes the respected throne of a major organized crime family, but unfortunately, a bit too much melodrama too. How many times have we seen Mr. Taxi Driver in this pivotal iconic role of American assimilation and been totally in awe of the stoic mastery, ruthlessness toward betrayers, and filial duty to relatives, which has defined the untouchability of the mafia? And in stark contrast is the blubbering, puppy-dog whimper fountain who is Paul Vitti (De Niro) having an anxiety attack because the increasingly perplexed Dr. Sobel (Billy Crystal) will not see him today.

Looking forward to his second marriage, Dr. Ben Sobel is nevertheless stuck in a dead-end job as a family counselor, which in the context of '90s separation culture, means confronting sexual frustration and tormented divorcees. Mid-life crisis frowns upon Mr. Vitti as well. Memories of his father's assassination, especially his own inability to prevent it as a boy, play a direct part in his assessment of the events on this, the eve of the second grand union of goodfellas. Someone is after him, ostensibly a rival mafia bad *ss, and it becomes quite evident that although Vitti's personal mortality is at stake, the main source of panic rests on his fear of making his child fatherless. Not that this precludes him from possibly engendering bastard children with his mistress. His inability to get his ups during one fateful rendezvous introduces one of the most humorous in-

terplays between Vitti and his psychotherapist, but such injections of humor are interrupted by long interludes of blandness. Billy Crystal, making bad movie moves ever since "City Slickers", is decent as the quiet, mild-mannered man too frequently threatened to consult his homicidal client, but his machismo turn at the end is far-fetched. A gun-slinging showdown is a nice touch at the end, but again, that rough core image of the mafia is shredded for a momentary lapse of admitting emotional problems. The mafia of John Gotti and Sammy "the Bull" Gravano is hardly one to kvitsh about behavioral inadequacies, and diagnosing goodfellas rage in the process of walking away from the business is preposterous! Ambivalence, questioning humanity when you've offed so many enemies, yes? But ex-communicated mobsters in line to talk about feelings with like an AA meeting is treading on faux pas. Not to downplay creativity in exploring film subjects, but then again "Analyze This" didn't command the market on that either.

Mod Squad (C-)

R: for sexuality and potty-mouths

Not many of us were alive in the late '60s or early '70s, let alone remember the ground-breaking "Mod Squad" TV series, running from 1968-1972. Certainly, there was no nostalgic importance to this latest installment of teensploitation, and no logic behind the insipid, cinematic snoozer either. The plot is out, the chic is in, but there's more potential in being an actor than just a Calvin Klein or Gucci clothes rack.

True to its small screen predecessor, the Mod squad in the movie is a motley threesome of post adolescent rebels-turned-undercover law enforcement, one black, one white, and one blond. Under the pretense of their ability to infiltrate mediums of the underworld, they dangle over their deserved pits of prison while investigating a new dark portal, a dance club, and the store of unknown bad deeds going on inside. As it turns out,

there will be a connection to a prostitution ring which introduces gratuitous nudity which just HAS to be included in the drug-smuggling operation with cocaine taken from the LAPD evidence locker. What is most peculiar about this feat is that while such a film would target young audiences with its non-complexity and dress codes, the iniquity introduced digs itself into an MPAA R-rating which would prohibit the mass of adoring My So Called Life fans. Anyhow, the Mod Squad consumes the Scooby-Doo type mystery structure where the criminals appear for two seconds at the commencement of the episode before the connections are revealed in the final moments. Not only are the villains hardly introduced, but the unmasking of n'er do-wells takes place courtesy of a covertly-taped message blared over a loud speaker. For lack of a better ending, "The Mod Squad" resorts to the prowess of fiction written for grade school children for want of a better way to identify the bad guys and arrest them.

Credit is due only to the trailer which is so convincing in its ability to foster a sense of fast pace in the movie. The eyebrow-raising image of Pete (Giovanni Ribisi) rolling out of a moving car taken at the right camera angle has now become the cynosure of an active poster child for Levi's Jeans, but it is extremely deceptive. Yes, he does roll out, but don't expect some action thriller. Choppy and nonsensical, full of awkward dialogue and overloading on Lauryn Hill's *Miseducation*, the trailer manages to squeeze out the otherwise best 20 seconds of the circa 100 minute-long film. The rest is brimming with dull characters doing clueless things. Julie, the blonde, is miserably manipulated by an ex-fling. Revenge has a tepid twists when she sets fire to his car, but it is done so matter-of-factly. It's hard to decide whether to feel sorry for her or shoot her for her histrionic misery. Professionalism in '90s culture goes out the window with the required on-screen romance between Julie under the influence of vulnerability and dim-bulb Pete. Rebounds make for strange bed-fellows and lines like "Could you just hold me?". Non-rebounding characters turn into sticks in the mud in techno dance clubs and awkward dancing partners for old music executives (Linc, the third member of the trio). Given, the three squad members get ample on-screen time and another credit on their resume, but it might not look kindly in the character assassination section.

The Dreamer's Disease

by Ron Dollete

Hope everyone's had a nice break. Springtime is kind of a nice time to just relax by yourself a bit, maybe create a little bit of breathing room between you and the people around you in an effort to come back and fully appreciate your surroundings.

Who knew that the music scene would be saturated by the new generation of New Kids on the Block? Sive, Backstreet Boys on one end, B*witched and Britney Spears at the other. I spent this break mercifully staying away from this scary new trend. Time to try something tried and true.

In my opinion, a lot of rap these days are a little *too* innovative. DMX and the acts from No Limit seem too abstract for my taste, as I prefer the intricate word play of New York lyricists, or even the laid back grooves from the West Coast. This is where The Roots seem to strike a beautiful balance. Their fourth album, entitled *Things Fall Apart*, depict a world not of pessimism, but of realism. Like the Chinua Achebe novel of the same name, the theme seems to be that survival and learning first comes from accepting the chaos of our world. The flagship song, "You Got Me", featuring Erykah Badu, is one of the best hip-hop songs in recent

memory, encapsulating the difficulties of a relationship. As one of rap's few live bands, their use of drum and bass is very striking on this track, as well as throughout the rest of the album. Other distinctive tracks include a nice lyricist tug of war, "Double Trouble" and the reverential "Love of My Life." *Things Fall Apart* is a must have. A+

I never thought I'd find myself supporting any of the new wave of alternative "modern rock" bands coming out. We all know how much I hate Matchbox 20. The New Radicals seem to approach songwriting from a different perspective than all the other me-first bands of the latter half of the decade. (There are some new bands I like, though Remy Zero is the only one that comes to mind right now.) *Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too* is a great example of what good radio rock should be. Gregg Alexander, the lead singer and songwriter, takes old fashioned catchy guitar hooks without any of the new teeny bop cheesy lyrics. The radio hit, "You Get What You Give" is pretty good, but the crown jewels of this album are "I Hope I Didn't Just Give Away The Ending" and "Crying Like A Church On Monday." Alexander's songs are disenchanting, but not depressing, yet seem to always find a way to be uplifting. A great album. B+

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A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

APRIL 5, 1999

Meeting called to order at 22:01.

Officer Reports

Derek - Organized the ASCIT budget meeting we had on Saturday, April 3, 1999 starting at 7pm. "It wasn't that big of a catastrophe."

Jeremiah - Cleaned out the ASCIT van last week. The title for it has yet to be located so it can not yet be sold. Jeremiah also replaced the battery and now the van drives like a dream. A brawl breaks out over the remnants of the van such as the 2

illustrious ASCIT license plates. Also, the copier broke and he fixed it.

Garrett - Held an ESC meeting today and basically delegated all of the work involved for the ASCIT Prefrosh party to the committee members. He also is planning out the large donut order for Prefrosh weekend. Garrett is still waiting to hear back from the Ritz Huntington as a possible location for the ASCIT formal and he also delegated members of the ESC to look into bands that have played

at Caltech parties to play at the formal as well as some other bands. Also, Dan Fain rented and returned the ASCIT lights.

Melvin - Will meet with J. Bower to discuss the Student-Faculty Conference (SFC) to be held next year during second term. It is likely that this will be changed to a Student-Faculty-Staff conference to include the staff members. This will be coordinated with the GSC. He will also find out more about the science writing graduation requirement at the next faculty board meeting. He is working on the student advisory system and he will be getting new ARC representatives soon.

Jaideep - The IHC met with the student members of UASH to see how their committee has been doing and they have been

doing a good job. Appointments for the student-faculty committees will be made between May 5-8. Student sign-ups from these committees will be posted at least a week beforehand. The IHC meeting time has been changed to Thursdays at lunch and will rotate through the houses alphabetically. Last week they met in Blacker and this week they will meet in Dabney.

They have also planned a meeting with C. Jurca, the faculty chair of the Housing committee to ensure upkeep of the student houses. A meeting with admissions is being planned as well to make sure Prefrosh weekend runs smoothly.

Danny - Wrote a bunch of checks and found out lots of people didn't pick up their checks from past terms. Re-

minds organization representatives to be sure to pick up their allocated money each term.

Hanna - Took some minutes and notes.

Alan - Did lots of things that cannot be discussed.

Baldeep - Is in the process of writing up bylaw amendments. He plans to "meet with" Tim Crosby, the ASCIT movies chair. Baldeep also plans to meet with Hall Daily to discuss the student publications.

Meeting adjourned at 22:30.
Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MARCH 29, 1999

Minutes
of the ASCIT BoD Meeting,
March 29, 1999

Present: BoD minus Alan, Danny and Nicholas Knouf, Angela Shum, Kartik Srinivasan, Katy Issacs, Erik Streed

Meeting called to order at 22:03.
Dealing with Guests

Nick - Requests money for the Blacker Interhouse party 9pm to 2am on April 10, 1999 with the "Inferno" theme.

Katy - Wants Anime Society for last term. She asks if the ASCIT meeting can be pushed back since most of the fliers publicizing it were not put up until this week and no e-mail notification

was received about it. Also, inconsistent dates are present on the form.

General Business

"I dare 20% of the corporation to dissolve my hairy a\$\$" - Jaideep

Baldeep will write up a bylaw amendment to propose the addition of a Publication Director to the ASCIT BoD. This amendment, if passed would be based on the condition of the elimination of the Upperclass Director-at-Large with this director's duties being passed on the Freshman Director-At-Large at the next BoD election.

Meeting closes at 22:17.

• Derek is abducted by aliens at

the same time.

• Iljie Kim is appointed the Totem Editor for next year.
• Interhouse Memorial funds are approved for Blacker's party.

Meeting reopens at 22:40.
Derek is returned to context as well.

Officer Reports

Derek - The budget meeting is at 7pm this Saturday, April 3. Mentions that the budget forms, which have been updated, can safely submitted by noon on Saturday. He will send out another e-mail to club representatives to inform them of this.

Jeremiah - The copier ran of paper . . . but he got more. 20 reams in fact. He drafted classified advertisement for the ASCIT van to be sold.

Garrett - All 3 Ritz Carltons have been contacted as possible locations for the ASCIT formal. The Laguna Niguel Ritz seems to be out of budget but the Marina Del Rey Ritz still seems to

be a possibility. The Huntington Ritz has not been directly been contacted yet but Garrett has talked to Tom Mannion who believes that the Huntington Ritz may also be a realistic possibility. Also, the date has been set as Friday, May 28.

He also met with the Executive Social Committee to discuss the plans for upcoming ASCIT party during Prefrosh Weekend and the ASCIT formal. He is also looking into renting a theatre for the opening of Episode I of Star Wars.

Melvin - Will write an article about the proposed student advisory system and visit the houses to get student feedback on the idea.

Jaideep - An alternative system for room picks has been agreed upon by the IHC and Avery. Also, nothing about the lottery had been decided at by March 8th so there was an error in his officer report for that date's ASCIT meeting. With the current plan, which is most likely

what will occur, but not guaranteed, people should be receiving housing cards in the mail this week. On these cards everyone will rank the four choices of: On Campus Housing, Marks, Avery, and the apartments (1170 and Chester).

Also, faculty-student interviews are coming up for the IHC and the IHC is also planning on changing their meeting time so it will be more accessible for administrators.

Hanna - We finished appointed officers and typed up lots of notes and minutes.

Baldeep - Has had discussions concerning the Coffeehouse. He was the driver of ASCIT BoD members to Capra.

Meeting adjourned at 23:12.
Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MARCH 13, 1999

Present: BoD minus Jaideep, Danny (Alan blades in and out)

Meeting called to order, 11:18.

Meeting closes intermittently for interview and discussion.

BoD appoints:

Movies Chair - Tim Crosby

Big T Business Manager -

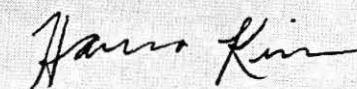
Katy Issacs

Big T Editor - Erik Dill

BoD also approves \$400 for last year's ASCIT movie during prefrosh weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53.

Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

I.H.C. MINUTES

BRIEF RECAP

Warning! These are not your ordinary IHC minutes. This is a compilation of IHC happenings since the Spring Break hiatus. Tune in next week for the play-by-play action of the latest IHC meeting.

Campus Lottery

The Avery Council and the IHC have met on several occasions over the break to come up with a solution to the headache of the Off-Campus Lottery. In order to maintain a sense of community in the off-campus houses (ie Avery, Marks, etc.) while pleasing as many people as possible, the picks procedure has changed. Keep a look out for the mailing of Lottery Cards.

Prefrosh Weekend

Obey the almighty Rotation Rules or else... Also, Housing will be sweeping the mess under the rug so to speak so expect loud noises at dawn.

Housing Notes

Now you can report maintenance requests on-line (link through housing home page). The sooner you report the problem the sooner it will be fixed. A word to the wise—be persistent.

Off-Campus Affiliated housing has recently experienced numerous vacancies. Housing poled the IHC to find out what improvements could make this housing more appealing. The Housing Office is working on providing ethernet and campus extensions to these rooms, but more severe improvements take time.

Committee Appointments

The IHC will conduct appoint-

ments on the weekend of May 8th & 9th. Currently the IHC is hosting committee members at meetings to compile a description of the duties of each of the committees. These results will appear in the Tech prior to committee sign-ups. For a complete list of members currently on the committees check out the IHC home page.

Items

Jaideep would like to conduct a House System Review since the last one was 30 years ago. Sounds like a summer project. Have you seen Blacker's flag?

With love,
Catelyn Gifford
IHC Secretary

ADAM VILLANI: MEDIA GUY

by Adam Villani

Tis Pity She's a Whore

1630s England was a turbulent, bloody place, and my co-worker Dave Barton's adaptation of John Ford's 1630s play of incest, treachery, and murder fits the spirit of the period to a T. In a certain sense, *Tis Pity* is a twist on *Romeo and Juliet*—but instead of feuding families, lovers Giovanni (Stephen Wagner) and Annabella (Lisa Layne Griffiths) are from a little too close in the same family: they're brother and sister. As with the Shakespearean tragedy, a substantial fraction of the cast ends up dead by the final curtain, and director Barton has definitely not skimped on the blood. The close-up staging in the round and fiery performances immerse the audience in a vigorous, exciting entertainment, with more violence, nudity, and sex than I've seen in any play before.

The two leads are exceptionally tender in their early love scenes, with Griffiths strong as the saner foil to Wagner's transformation from

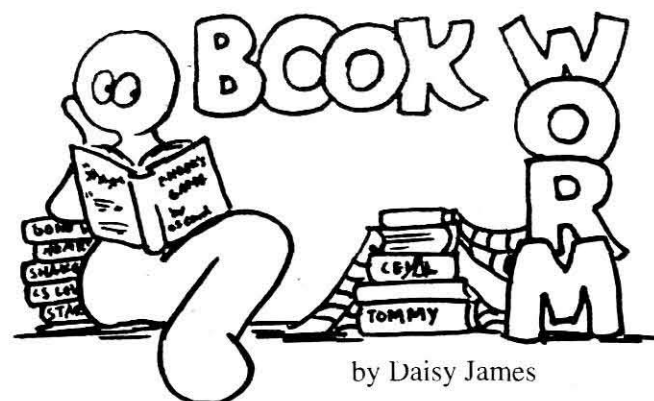
potato-faced dope to raving madman. Scott Caster and Jay Michael Fraley are excellent as scheming villains, and Chris Palmquist plays the leads' confessor priest with just the right level of fire and brimstone. Ralph DiFiore, as the patriarch, is more an orator than an actor, and while Frances Hearn is both powerful and natural as the scorned lover Hippolita, her character's role seems confusing and superfluous in Barton's adapted script. The rest of the cast, too numerous to mention here, is also very talented.

The modern, vaguely gothic-industrial set and costumes are complemented by occasional clips of music, which don't always fit in smoothly but were nevertheless appropriately chosen. The show runs weekends through April 18, and has become the Rude Guerrilla Theatre Company's biggest hit, so reserve your tickets now. Those making the trip down to Santa Ana won't be disappointed, and you may even get water-soluble blood splashed on your clothes. *Friday and Saturday nights @ 8:00 p.m., Sundays @ 2:30 p.m., the Empire Theatre, 200 N.*

Broadway, Santa Ana. \$12 general, \$10 students with ID. Reservations: (714) 547-4688

The Matrix

I wish all Hollywood shoot-em-ups were as good as this new thriller from the Wachowski Brothers (*Bound*). The special effects (especially the very-high-speed "bullet time" photography) are good, the costumes and lighting are cool, and the script is pretty freaky. It's not completely original—the most notable non-cinematic influences are the works of Philip K. Dick and comic books like *The Invisibles*—but the reality-bending story is executed well enough to make this actioner stand out from the crowd. The top-notch fight scenes are so good I didn't mind that they went on too long. Laurence Fishburne is great, as always, and Keanu Reeves can certainly carry a movie with his physical presence. Those of you who find Hugo Weaving's creepy, robotic secret agent eerily familiar may be surprised to realize he was one of the drag queens in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.



by Daisy James

A Taste For Murder by Claudia Bishop



This is one of those things that reminds me of why I do not pick books at random off of the shelf. It is a bland, dull mystery with one of the things that I hate the most: a stupid protagonist.

The setting, and premise, for the series is a small bed-and-breakfast in fictional Hemlock Falls, New York. The place is run by a pair of sisters, the older of which does the narrating while the other does the cooking and crime solving. There is the requisite supporting cast of screwball characters with deep histories, but they were not distinct enough for me to remember who everyone was, or even care. Part of the problem is that Bishop has made so many of

them so distasteful that you simply don't want to hear about their lives.

The murders are at least creative, if a bit hard to believe, and the story hangs together fairly well at the end. It's all a bit hard to swallow, but at least it's consistent. What I can't get over is this habit I keep seeing in new writers to make their hero/narrator a clueless, bumbling fool. Maybe having a character explain the crime to another character is just easier for an author when she writes the ending. It isn't a good trade. Arrogant characters don't tend to improve the experience for the reader. I could go on, but this book was too bland to merit a really scathing review. Tune in next week when I'll write about something I actually liked.

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Generous Compensation

by Jean-Paul Revel & Kevin Austin

Dear Students and others concerned.

It is a mark of our humanity that we are consciously aware of many aspects of our life. Unlike the sparrows which noisily visit me each morning, and who, I presume have little awareness of anything but their present, we humans have detailed recollections of our pasts and general expectations and maybe fears about our futures. Oh we might not think about it all of the time, but there are instances which jar our complacency and force us to look and register and often suffer anguish and pain. We can become especially distressed when a friend, an acquaintance, or perhaps just someone in our world, but whom we did not even know, dies, be it through disease, accident or even as now, their own hand. All of us have some troubles dealing with this, although to different extents. It seemed appropriate therefore to have Dr. Kevin Austin, the Director of our Counseling Center, to write about ways to cope.

Be good to yourselves and to each other.

A bientot.

Jean-Paul Revel

I've been asked to write some things to help people cope with the very sad and tragic loss of a former Caltech student, Michael Rhoads. My thoughts are not meant to take away the very real and necessary experience of loss and sadness people feel about his death. No words can or should do that. These thoughts are meant to help people to not feel so alone, helpless or confused by what they are experiencing. They are also meant to help those who may be concerned about how they themselves or others maybe reacting to his death.

The reactions to Michael's death have varied depending on how well the person knew him and what his death has brought up for them. Over the last few days I've had a chance to listen to some of Michael's friends as they've talked about who he was and what he meant to them. They expressed a variety of feelings: sadness, a sense of feeling numb or that his death seems unreal, anger, guilt. Some felt all these things at different times since they learned of his death. Some of his friends seemed to understand the reasons why he took his life. Others struggle with partial understandings. All of them talked with caring and respect for Michael.

I've also talked with people who didn't know Michael very well and they too shared feelings of disbelief and sadness, but they also talked about their uncertainty of having these feelings or express-

ing them. They weren't as close to him so why are they feeling so upset and sad? Do they have a right to feel this sadness when the loss of others' is greater because they knew Michael better? The loss of someone so young and by such tragic means can evoke feelings in anyone whether they knew Michael or not. It touches different chords in all of us, some feeling sadness connected with other losses in their lives, some the anxiety that comes with the realization that people they love can be taken from them. The death of anyone, especially by suicide, can leave us all feeling helpless.

The way to counter these feelings of helplessness, numbness, and unrealness is to talk about what has happened and it's effect on each of us. Reaching out to others is a very important way to do something about all the feelings people are experiencing, not to keep us from feeling sad but to keep us from feeling alone and helpless. Talk to friends, health advocates, ACME mentors, RAs anyone you feel will listen and you trust.

How do you know if your reaction goes beyond normal grief? Most people can expect to be effected by the loss of Michael for some time, closer friends for longer. Sleep, eating, and concentration can be influenced, tears will come at unexpected times or not at all. Some people will be preoccupied by Michael's life and some by his death, maybe experiencing thoughts or images of him that intrude when trying to do work or just talking with others. People can

have an experience of thinking they see or hear him. These are all normal reactions to loss. After a couple of weeks these experiences should start to diminish. If however after two or three weeks, you or someone you know is still experiencing difficulty sleeping, intrusive thoughts, an inability to concentrate, or sadness that prevents you from doing your work or just enjoying some things in your life then you should consider talking with a professional about these difficulties. We need to grieve but grief can be transformed into depression. Depression can insidiously take hold of a person, coloring their world so they can no longer see what is good. Friends and others can help by listening and recognizing that the state of hopelessness someone feels maybe the result of depression and should be treated. It's also the case that a person can become depressed at the loss of someone they don't know if it brings up a sense of sadness that has not been worked through about other losses in their lives. If you are concerned about your own reactions or those of someone you know please talk with us here at the Counseling Center (x8331) or let others know what you are experiencing.

The inevitable question is whether this tragedy could have been prevented. This question can bring with it feelings of responsibility. Is anyone responsible for Mike taking his life? No. Can we say with certainty whether Mike could have been kept from taking his own life? No.

What we can say is that most people who commit suicide are ambivalent about taking their lives, there is usually a part of them that struggles to find a way to live. Was Michael one of these people? We can't know for sure, and that is part of what is so hard about his death-the not knowing. If you are concerned that someone you know is depressed or thinking of suicide start with the assumption that given a chance, the person can be helped. Talk with them about what you see that concerns you. Affirm for them the value of living and what they mean to you. Encourage them to get help and if they won't, talk to us or anyone you trust about how they might be helped.

There is no way to avoid the grief that comes with the loss of someone you love, just as friends grieve now for Michael Rhoads. But his loss, even with it's unanswered questions, can confirm the value of human life for those he has left and the importance of the emotional connections with those you care about.

If you would like to talk about Michael or what his death has meant or brought up for you please come to a gathering on Tues., April 13th at 7:30 p.m. in Winnett Lounge. This will not be a memorial for Michael, that will come later, but a time for anyone, friends of Michael's and those who did not know him to come together to talk, answer questions, and give support.

- Dr. Kevin Austin

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Announcements

****The Caltech Progressive Coalition** welcomes students, faculty, and staff across a broad ideological spectrum who are interested in working hard for peace, human rights, and economic justice. For instance, we are active participants in the nationwide campus movement against the sanctions and bombing war in Iraq. For more information, contact Byron Philhour at byron@cco.caltech.edu.

****Catholic Big Brothers, Inc.** needs YOU to lend a child a helping hand in a non-school-hours program where children ages 7 to 14 and **volunteer mentors** work together to improve reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Sessions are located at the Northwest Pasadena Mentoring Center, Villa Parke Community Center, 363 East Villa Street. Catholic Big Brothers has been serving volunteers and children of all faiths since 1925. For more information call 800-463-4066.

****The University of Southern California Youth Sports Program** offers **summer employment opportunities** for the six-week period from Friday, June 28 to July 30. Mandatory training sessions will take place June 18 and 19 and June 23 and 24. USC is looking for senior counselors, counselors, specialists in athletic disciplines, and counselor aides. For more information, call Parker Jenkins or Justine Gilman at 213-740-5127.

Guitar classes will be offered by Darryl Denning third term beginning **Tuesday, April 6**. Classes will be held every Tuesday in Student Activities Center Room 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 for beginners, 3:00 to 4:00 for intermediates, and 5:30 to 6:30 pm for advanced guitar students. In-class instruction is free to Caltech students and staff if space permits. Private instruction is also available. For more information call 465-0881 or email ddenning@caltech.edu.

The last date to request any change to your 1998-99 Financial Aid Award is Friday, April 30, 1999. Requests for 1998-99 changes made after April 30 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 6280 if you have any questions.

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, dina@admissions.caltech.edu.

If you have the time we have the need. Goodwill Industries of Southern California is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of lives of people who have disabilities and other vocational disadvantages by helping them to become productive and self-sufficient through education, training, and job opportunities. Goodwill helps more than 2000 people each year and is nearly 90 percent self-supporting through its 24 retail stores, education, and job-training programs, computer recycling center and its Industrial Services contracts with local businesses. For more information on how you can help Goodwill help others through volunteering, call Robin Braislin at 323-

223-1211 ext. 230.

Are you bright, motivated, fun, and energetic? Do you want to make a difference on campus? Join the **undergraduate Women's Leadership Group!** This group is dedicated to promoting campus-wide, inter-house, leadership for undergraduate women. The group is forming now, and a planning meeting will be scheduled for early Spring Term. If you are interested in joining, contact Janna Horowitz in the Counseling Center, x8331 or janna@cco.caltech.edu, before the end of winter term.

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.

Events

****A Fluid Mechanics Seminar** entitled "The Simulation of Gravitational-Wave Sources for LIGO" will be given by Kip Thorne, Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech at 3:00 pm on Friday, April 16 in room 306 Firestone. Refreshments will be served.

****A Geological and Planetary Sciences Seminar** entitled "New Astrophysical Carbon Chains and Rings" will be given by Patrick Thaddeus, professor of astronomy and applied physics at Harvard University, at 4:00 pm on Monday, April 12, in room 155 Arms. Refreshments will precede the lecture at 3:45.

****The first movie to screen in the German Film Series** for Spring 1999 term is *Überall Ist Es Besser, Wo Wir Nicht Sind* ("Things are Always Better Elsewhere") (1989). It will screen on Wednesday, April 14, in Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30 PM. This film features English subtitles. Admission is free. For more information, call ext. 3610.

****The second lecture in the Chemistry 0.1 Seminar Series** will be held

on Friday, April 16, at 4:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. John Richards, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Caltech, will discuss "Chemistry, Catalysis and Life." This is the fourth in the 0.1 seminar series designed to introduce innovative research to a crosssection of the campus community. All lectures will be directed at a nonspecialist scientific audience, and no prior knowledge of chemistry will be necessary to understand them. A list of all Chem 0.1 seminars is available online at http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCE0_1seminars.html.

****Caltech SEDS** will be holding its seventh **telescope construction meeting** on Sunday, April 11, the first weekend of third term, 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/~seeds/telescope.html>. For other information contact Loren Hoffman at loren@cco.caltech.edu or Leon Torres at leon@ugcs.caltech.edu.

****The Carnegie Observatories Colloquium Series** continues Tuesday, April 13, at 4:00 pm in the Santa Barbara Street Lecture Hall, 813 Santa Barbara Street, with "The Mass, Shape, and Constituents of the Galactic Dark Halo." Dr. Rodrigo Ibata of the European Southern Observatory in Garching, Germany will deliver the talk. Refreshments will precede at 3:30. For more information call 626-577-1122.

****Come join SAGE (Sexual Awareness Group for Education)** in our next meeting on Thursday April 15, at noon in the health center lounge. We are strongly encouraging new members both male and female to join. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions or would like more information feel free to contact any of the following students: David Bernat, Karen Rantamaki, Paula Whitten or Ute Zimmermann.

****A Biochemistry Seminar** entitled "NMR Studies of Protein Interactions in Translation Initiation" will be given by Gerhard Wagner, professor of chemistry at Harvard Medical School, at 4:00 pm on Thursday, April 15, in Sturdivant Lecture Hall, 147 Noyes.

Caltech SEDS will hold this term's **general meeting** at 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 11 in the Winnett Center. We'll discuss the completion of the construction of our 8" Dobsonian telescope, the upcoming guest lecture series, this term's star parties at Joshua Tree, a rail gun project, telescope nights on campus, and anything else people care to bring up. This is your chance to bring to our attention any projects or activities you'd like to see happen, learn more about SEDS in general, and become active in the organization! For more information email us at seeds@cco.caltech.edu or

visit our web site at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~seeds>.

Richard Garwin, an IBM fellow Emeritus at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, and a senior fellow for science and technology at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, will give a **Lauritsen Memorial Lecture** entitled "Ballistic Missile Defense Revisited." The lecture will be held in Beckman Auditorium at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, April 14. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

The Viklarbo Chamber Ensemble will perform in Dabney Lounge at 3:30 pm on Sunday, April 18. Admission is free. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652.

The Caltech Chamber Singers will give their thirteenth annual concert at 8:00 pm on Friday, April 9, and again on Saturday, April 10 in Dabney Lounge. This **All Mozart** concert will feature the "Credo Mass," "Eine kleine Nachtmusik," "Sonata in D Major, K. 381," and "London Trio No. 3 in G Major." Admission is free, but come early -- concerts are always SRO!

The annual **FOCAL** (friends of Caltech Libraries) **Booksale** will be held on Friday, April 23 from 8:30 am till 2:30 pm in Dabney Hall Lounge and Gardens. The booksale is open to the public; everyone is welcome. Come and see what treasures there are to be discovered!

Fellowships and Scholarships

Each year, the Faculty Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid grants a number of **Upper Class Merit Awards** to the most academically talented of the Institute's Sophomores, Juniors, and occasionally, Freshmen. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional performance in formal classes and/or independent research and are not based on financial need. Last year, the Committee recommended a total of 53 Upper Class Merit Awards. Awards ranged from \$6,250 to full tuition, \$18,950. The number and caliber of the applicants determine the level of awards in any year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office at 515 S. Wilson. The deadline for submitting completed applications to the Financial Aid Office is 5:00 pm on April 23, 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.

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. Entries must be submitted to AESF by April 15, 1998.

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 \$25,000 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.

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 Binkhex 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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