

ASCIT

The Budget Struggle

see page 2



The Big Lebowski



Times like these call for a Big Lewbowski.

baxter • 7:30, 10pm
\$2 ASCIT, \$2.50 others

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 25

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1999

ASCIT Budget sparks protest

BY TIM CROSBY

ASCIT generally performs its appointed duties quietly, not attracting much notice. But last week the tide shifted dramatically with the publication of the ASCIT Budget for the coming year.

Many students and clubs were upset by the allocation of ASCIT funds as published in last week's Tech. Various organizations, including the Vegetarian Club, the Caltech Caucasion Club, and the ASCIT movies, demanded budget revisions. Many students had questions about the new archives project and web project initiative.

The most visible of the objections to the ASCIT budget was the Vegetarian Club demonstration during last Friday's club fair. The rally, led by Michael Pruett, involved a megaphone and signs proclaiming ASCIT as "facist". The rally then marched through the houses and to the Keith Spalding Administration

building where the protesters dropped ASCIT membership.

Budget questions also dominated last week's ASCIT BoD meeting. Over a dozen club supporters and concerned students attended the unusually long meeting.

The Caltech Caucasion Club again petitioned for funding after receiving none from the last meeting of the BoD. A club spokesman asked for money to attend events reflecting "white culture" — from monster-truck rallies to concerts. The BoD expressed reservation about the club's seeming frivolity and its overlap with preexisting organizations.

The BoD also dealt with the ASCIT Movies, for which it appropriated funding at requested level, \$3100 for this third term. Future funding for the ASCIT Movies will be decided based on the results of a survey sent to all students. Many of the other issues discussed at the BoD meeting are also on this survey.



Mike Pruett takes the battle with ASCIT to the Olive Walk, organizing a rally and rejection of ASCIT last Friday.

BY ROGER O'BRIEN



Margaret Thatcher

LADY THATCHER SPEAKS AT THE PASADENA CIVIC

BY TECH STAFF

Margaret Thatcher, Great Britain's first woman prime minister and one of the world's most admired and respected leaders, will speak at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Monday, May 3rd at 8 p.m. In this rare public appearance, Lady Thatcher will provide a forthright and insightful assessment of current world affairs and reflect on her own remarkable life and political career.

By the time she stepped down in 1990, Lady Thatcher had become one of her generation's outstanding political leaders, and perhaps the most powerful woman in the world. Possessing an iron will, she matched words with action in confronting the crises of the day in economic affairs, in the Falklands War, in Northern Ireland, in the great twilight struggle of the Cold War and in dealings with Europe proper.

In 1975, Thatcher became the first woman to lead a major British party and was subsequently appointed Prime Minister in 1979.

After her resignation in 1990, Thatcher was awarded the Order of Merit. In 1992, she was elevated to Baroness of Kesteven and later made a member of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. She continues to play an active role in the House of Lords and in politics at large.

Tickets are on sale now - less than 700 remain and the box office anticipate a sell-out. Tickets are available through the Pasadena Civic Box Office.



Ian Shapiro, number 2 above center, won his 1500m heat at the SCIAC preliminaries last Saturday. He ended up placing seventh overall in the conference finals.

Mark Shields speaks at Tech

COURTESY PUBLIC RELATIONS

Veteran political commentator Mark Shields will discuss a variety of topics during an exclusive appearance May 6th at the California Institute of Technology.

"An Evening with Mark Shields" is scheduled for 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium, on the Caltech campus in Pasadena. The free event will feature an interview of Shields by Los Angeles Times Washington bureau chief Doyle McManus, and will include a question-and-answer period with the audience.

Shields is a nationally known columnist and commentator who regularly appears on nationwide television as moderator of CNN's *The Capital Gang*, as well as an analyst on the PBS *NewsHour with Jim*

Lehrer each Friday, and CNN's *Evans, Novak, Hunt & Shields* each Sunday.

Shields has been described by one reviewer as "the wittiest political analyst around, and he is frequently the most trenchant, fair-minded and thoughtful."

In all, he has managed political campaigns in some 38 states.

Shields joined the editorial staff of the *Washington Post* in 1979, and began a column the following year that is now syndicated weekly by Creators Syndicate. He has been a political commentator on television and radio since the early 1980s, and provided political analysis of both the 1988 and 1992 presidential elections.

"An Evening with Mark Shields" is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't Let the Directorate Control You

Dear Editor,

On Friday, 16 April 1999, I participated in a protest against the directorate of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology. The 20 students who marched from the Olive Walk to the Bursar's Office in Keith Spalding have all withdrawn their ASCIT membership as a vehement vote of no confidence in our current ASCIT leadership.

Upon our return from Keith Spalding, we distributed over 50 'Request for Reversal of Dues' forms to students. When we were near to running out of these forms, one student (who was not associated with the activity) offered to photocopy the forms to distribute to his house. The march was a great success in my opinion since it has instigated discussion regarding the leadership of our student government.

ASCIT is not responsive to the needs of the students. With its annual budget totalling nearly \$60,000, it should be no surprise that this organization could become so out of control. A careful inspection of ASCIT's recently published budget sparks some important questions.

A hefty \$8000 is earmarked for ASCIT's mysteriously titled 'Web Project,' which has been mentioned briefly in some past ASCIT minutes. But only when questioned directly on this hefty line item did President Baldeep Sadhal explain his vision. Why have the students never been informed of the details of this plan? An even better question is, Why haven't the editors of the affected student publications been consulted?

Autumn Looijen, former editor of the little t and of the California Tech, remarks: "ASCIT has a lot of good ideas for the web versions of the CLUE and the little t. I only wish they'd suggested them to the publications' editors before hiring an outsider to do the job."

ASCIT's funding of clubs has no benefit for the majority of clubs. In order to receive funding, clubs are required by ASCIT to justify their budgets to the ASCIT Board of Directors, who decide these matters in a highly subjective process.

Baldeep Sadhal, when questioned regarding the board's decisions on club funding, claimed, "The philosophy of the BOD was to fund those clubs that actively improved student life, and didn't just provide services for their members." He continues, "What we like to fund are things that are low-cost and high-benefit—those activities that actually do bring people together."

With those guidelines in

mind, how much of the Mars Society's \$750 request should ASCIT have granted the club? The question doesn't factor in that ASCIT Freshman Director-at-large Derek Shannon and Treasurer Danny Abrams are among the club's small number of active members, with the former being the president of the group. The Mars Society's claimed membership is highly inflated relative to this core of actual members, but ASCIT's club funding doesn't take this consideration into account.

Most student organisations, even those which justify—by the metric of active membership—any substantial funding, have little chance of reclaiming the approximately nine dollars per member paid in dues to ASCIT.

As evidenced by ASCIT's 1999-2000 Budget, ASCIT's budgetary decisions are clearly not aligned with the needs and concerns of the students and instead serve only to support the narrow spectrum of interests supported by the directorate.

Thank you,
Michael Pruett

Spending Concerns

To whom it may concern:

I find the current budget as printed in last week's Tech unacceptable.

The presence of the \$8000 Web Project ditresses me for several reasons. First of all, many of the things proposed under the project are the duties of the editors of the publication. If not stated explicitly in their job descriptions, then implied. Secondly, no other member of ASCIT Publications is paid by the hour. If they were, ASCIT would be broke. At \$8000, the Web designer (who I'm given to understand, has already been chosen — shouldn't the job have been offered to the community?) will earn over 8 times the most the Big T Editor can possibly earn, for a lot less work. Finally, this plan was never discussed with the students. It just showed up on the budget.

I find troubling too, the brief mention of \$4000 allocation to pay someone to organize the ASCIT Archives and write a history of ASCIT. Again, the organization of the records are the duties of the officers. Secondly, scholastic integrity is impaired if the author of the history is funded by ASCIT. this seems like a vanity project, especially given that 2 years ago Andrew Strauss completed a SURF study of student government.

Lastly, I see that funding for the ASCIT Movies has been halved. As a sometimes projector, I recognize that that will effectively end the more than 20

year tradition of the movies. You have killed the last cheap, weekly, interhouse event that didn't involve doughnuts. Yes, the Movies lose money, but it's an opportunity to get together with a few friends and run into a few more friends and see something that might have merit, or might not, and to joke with the projectionists. Your proposed replacement, the Video Library, is quite possibly not legal (which you really ought to have checked before voting \$2500 to the project.) and will discriminate against houses with no DVD player or VCR. It will also encourage small groups of people who want to get together to stay in a small group, instead of meeting other people at the movies. It will also promote abuse of 070/060 Moore, which is a privilege, not a right.

This budget suggests to me that, while well-intentioned, the current ASCIT BoD has not given any thought to the wants of the students, but instead to itself, a fact which can also be seen in the \$600 increase in the "donuts" fund, which I am told is the fund for food for the BoD, BoC and IHC meetings.

Thank you,
Wren Montgomery

Why ASCIT is a good buy

Last Friday's spirited anti-ASCIT protests got me thinking about why we have a student government. I hadn't really given it much thought before. I joined because it was the default, I voted because I could, and I ignored ASCIT the rest of the time because it didn't seem to do anything but feed me doughnuts. After lots of thinking and plenty of arguing, I have come to the conclusion that although it works behind the scenes, ASCIT is important to student life at Caltech.

The fundamental purpose of ASCIT is to represent the students to the administration. Through ASCIT and the IHC, students are represented on a myriad of student-faculty committees, including Freshmen Admissions, UASH, and Academic Policies and Curriculum. These committees enable us to have some control over what goes on at Caltech. ASCIT also acts as a liaison to faculty, alumni, and other outsiders interested in the undergraduate community, and as an entity to receive donations intended for the undergraduates.

More importantly, ASCIT allows us to enhance the undergraduate community. The \$60 in dues is nominal compared to \$18,950 in tuition, is very competitive when compared to other institutions, and is easily refundable. By keeping your money in ASCIT, however, you are getting yourself a good buy. By

paying dues, we enable an elected board to distribute money in a more effective way.

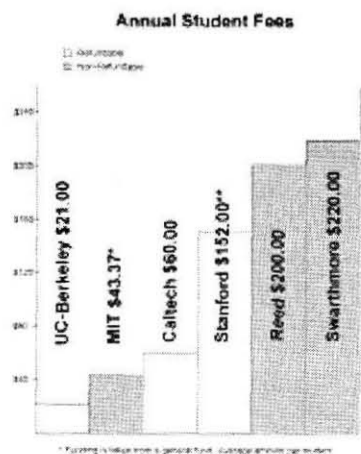
First, the student government is a centralized organization. New clubs with good ideas but small numbers can use ASCIT for money and public recognition. This gives them a change to get started, and in time to become strong contributing members of the community. It encourages new clubs which bring together people with shared interests and introduce people to interests they never even knew they had.

Second, student government encourages organizations to design activities that cater to many members of the community. ASCIT is most willing to sponsor organizations that give something back to the community; this encourages campus wide activities, and everyone wins. Organizations receive money to operate, and students are exposed to a great variety of activities without the need to plan or budget money.

Third, student government is able to finance expensive projects that would not be possible without the full support of the community. Whether it be weekly movies, a formal dance, or a World Wide Web project to take over the world, it takes a large collected sum of money to handle the costs. By putting money together, students create the chance for large events that would otherwise be impossible.

The decision to be or not to be (a member of ASCIT) is really a personal one. If you live in a black hole on Chester and only come on campus once a month, it's probably not your thing. But if you know what CCSA stands for, if you go to an interhouse party once in a while, I encourage you to think about what ASCIT does for you. And even if you can't find anything there that really appeals to you, I encourage you to be a member anyway, and wait, on the offhand chance that ASCIT does something really cool. Come on, wait with me.

Thank you,
Kevin Babcock



Caltech student fees vs. other colleges.

Letters to the Editor --guidelines--

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or by electronic mail to editors@tech.caltech.edu.

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The editors reserve the right to edit or refuse to print any letter for any reason.

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The Off-Campus Lottery Explained

IHC, Avery Council give answers to questions about new system

BY ANDREW STRAUSS

The following article is to answer any questions or confusion you may have regarding the new format of the 1999–2000 Housing Lottery. Also included are helpful suggestions on how to fill out your lottery card, based on your living choice and political status.

What happened to the old housing lotteries and why were they changed?

The past decade has seen a considerable change in the types of housing available to undergraduates at Caltech. Unfortunately the process of room selection had not changed significantly to meet the present day needs.

So after nearly three years of impasse, a few people from the Interhouse Committee and the Avery Council locked themselves in a room, determined not to leave until a new housing lot-

tery system had been devised. The whole process took less than three hours to complete—the plan was subsequently overwhelmingly endorsed by the Interhouse Committee and the Avery Council.

The 1999–2000 Undergraduate Housing Lottery now replaces the older On-campus and Off-campus Lotteries by combining both into an amalgamated system that allows people to pick their choice of living based on preference, rather than priority. The new lottery system ensures that a student thus has a greater probability of being able to live where they want.

Every student knows exactly where they would ideally live—given the opportunity. But this is not an ideal world—so we should all have a pretty decent idea where we would realistically be able to live. The new lottery system's priority is to first house as many students as possible based on their preferences before taking care of those who are less certain on their choice of accommodation.

After a little research, we have found that there are four possible sets of accommodation that Caltech offers:

- The Seven Hovses—on campus; on board; structured "fraternity" style social life.
- Avery House—on campus; on board; open house social life.
- Marks House—on campus; no board programme; dormitory style social life.
- The Apartments (1170 Del Mar & 150 S Chester)—off campus; no board programme; private apartment lifestyle.

We also found out that particular students prefer each of these particular living arrangements—thus it made sense to design a lottery system to give every student the best possible chance of being able to select their most favoured choice of living.

Okay—so what does that mean?

You will be asked to rank your preferred choices of living in Caltech owned housing from

these lists. Your relative ranking on each of the lists will be based upon the relative ranking on your submitted lottery card.

Shortly afterwards, the three "off-campus" lotteries will all occur simultaneously. Anybody who still cannot obtain housing by the end of these lotteries will be placed on a waiting list at Residence Life. The staff at Residence Life will then find accommodation for you as quickly as possible, according to availability.

Who has to return this lottery card to Residence Life?

Everybody who will be a student at Caltech during the 1999–2000 academic year is expected to return the card. It doesn't matter if you're going to live on-campus or off-campus, or not even in Caltech owned housing—please make sure that you fill out the necessary details on the card and return it to Residence Life. The data will be used for statistical purposes to assess the viability of the new lottery system.

How does my relative ranking of the four housing choices on my lottery card affect my relative ranking on the lottery lists published by Residence Life?

Each of the lottery lists is broken down into four tiers—Tier One through Tier Four. For instance—if you ranked the Apartments with a "1", then your name will appear in Tier One on the Apartments lottery list. The order of students within each tier in each list will be randomly generated.

An example—if you rank Marks House with a "1" and nineteen other people do likewise, your ranking on the Marks House lottery list will be anything between 1 and 20. Nobody who ranked Marks House with a "2" will be allotted a number on this list higher than 21. Nobody who ranked Marks House with a "3" will be allotted a number on this list higher than anybody who ranked Marks House with a "2". Et cetera. This ranking system applies to all of the lottery lists generated by Residence Life.

What if the above explanations don't answer all of my questions?

We suggest that examine the rules included in the 1999–2000 Undergraduate Housing Lottery brochure. If the brochure is insufficient, e-mail any questions to lottery@cco.caltech.edu. If you would like to see how to fill out your lottery card, please continue reading.

So how do I play the new housing lottery game?

After some consideration, we have discovered that there are six possible scenarios—if you're participating in the 1999–2000 Housing Lottery, you should fall into one of them. Each scenario is discussed below—you will also find our recommendations for filling in your lottery card to maximize your chances of getting your top choice.

The lottery card is double-sided. The first side asks you to fill in your name, address, affiliation(s), et cetera. This information will allow Residence Life to contact you if an extraordinary situation occurs. The second side of the card asks two questions, as shown to the left.

What if I am just looking for a single?

The reality of the situation is that almost every undergraduate would select a single if given

the opportunity. If you don't get the chance to pick a single during the housing lotteries, go and speak to Sue Chiarchiaro in Residence Life. Residence Life keeps a "Singles Waiting List" for this purpose. As soon as an off-campus single is available and you're at the top of this list, Sue will notify you. If you want an on-campus single, speak the house secretary concerned—they will place you on the appropriate waiting list.

Below is a list of the scenarios possible for Caltech students.

What if I still have questions or comments?

We've tried to explain the basics in this article. If any of your questions have still been left unanswered, we would be glad to answer them. Please send any correspondence to lottery@cco.caltech.edu.

CALTECH RESIDENCE LIFE OFFICE
1999-2000 HOUSING LOTTERY CARD

Question One:
Do you want Residence Life to guarantee you Caltech-owned housing (on-campus or off-campus) for the academic year 1999–2000?

Yes No *If you selected "Yes", please answer Question Two.*

Question Two:
Please rank your housing preferences—"1", "2", "3" and "4"—according to where you would like to live. "1" indicates your top choice; "4" indicates your last choice. Please rank every option and use each number exactly once. If you are unaffiliated, please rank "Seven Hovses" with "4".

Apartments Avery Marks Seven Hovses

Please remember to answer all of the appropriate questions on the other side of this card and return it to the Residence Life Office in Steele House before Tuesday 4 May 1999.
Any comments on the new 1999–2000 Housing Lottery? E-mail lottery@cco.caltech.edu

An example off-campus lottery card, in mailboxes today.

1 to 4—you may only use each number once, and only once. The four choices are: the Apartments; Avery House; Marks House; the Seven Hovses. Residence Life will then sort out the numbers and place you on the appropriate lottery lists.

How does the lottery system work?

The 1999–2000 Undergraduate Housing Lottery is roughly broken into two sections—the seven initial "on-campus" lotteries (Blacker through Ruddock), followed by the three "off-campus" lotteries (Apartments, Avery & Marks). Only those individuals who marked "Seven Hovses" on their lottery cards with a "1" will be allowed to participate in the "on-campus" house card picks where they hold membership. Subsequently these people will be allowed participate in the house room picks—these people may draw in any roommates who hold house membership.

What exactly do you mean by "living based on preference"?

At this point, Residence Life will publish the three "off-campus" lottery lists (Apartments, Avery & Marks). Any eligible students still requiring housing will appear on each of

The Six Scenarios and Strategies Check to see which one applies to you

Scenario One: What if I don't want to live in any Caltech owned housing?

Answer Question One "No" and send your card back to Residence Life.

Scenario Two: What if I'm a Hovse Officer?

Answer Question One "Yes". Rank "Seven Hovses" with "1" and the other three choices according to preference in Question Two. Send your card back to Residence Life. Please don't rank "Seven Hovses" with anything other than "1", because this would be extremely unfair to the other members of your house wanting to live on-campus.

Scenario Three: What if I'm unaffiliated?

Answer Question One "Yes". Rank "Seven Hovses" with "4" and the other three choices according to preference in Question Two. Send your card back to Residence Life.

Scenario Four: What if I'm an upperclassman guaranteed on-campus?

Answer Question One "Yes". Rank "Seven Hovses" with "1" and the other three choices according to preference in Question Two. Send your card back to Residence Life. Please don't rank "Seven Hovses" with anything other than "1", because this would be extremely unfair to the other members of your house wanting to live on-campus.

Scenario Five: What if I'm an upperclassman who wants to live Off-campus?

Answer Question One "Yes". Rank your off-campus choices ("Avery", "Apartments" & "Marks") with "1", "2" and "3" according to preference in Question Two. Rank "Seven Hovses" with "4". Send your card back to Residence Life.

Scenario Six: What if I would like to live in the Seven Hovses, but don't know whether I will get on-campus?

Answer Question One "Yes". The Seven Hovses can only house about 60% of all undergraduates. This means that 55% of all upperclassmen have to live off-campus. There are two paths you may attempt—either you can first try to get a spot on-campus (see Scenario Four) or you may choose to directly select a room off-campus (see Scenario Five). Either way, Residence Life is obligated to find you housing for 1999–2000. If you don't get the opportunity to pick on-campus, please make sure that you speak to your house secretary to be placed on your house waiting list—places in the Seven Hovses may become available at the beginning of 1999–2000. Send your card back to Residence Life.

Adam Villani, Media Guy

BY ADAM VILLANI

Dr. Akagi

Shohei Imamura's followup to his Cannes-winning *The Eel* once again explores "the lower part of the human body and the lower part of the social structure." In the title character's (Akira Emoto) struggle to fight epidemic hepatitis in a small town in Japan during the last months of WWII, he must fight military pig-headedness, lack of resources, and his own self-doubts while trying to maintain his personal connections to the townspeople who need him. Most significant is Sonoko (Kumiko Aso), a classic Imamura heroine seeking personal empowerment in a society that values virgins but pays whores.

Imamura, my favorite Japanese director, does a remarkable job of conveying Akagi's passion for his research while filling the screen with real human characters. Imamura's people are not the serenely passive middle class of Ozu nor the melodramatic samurai of Kurosawa, but common folk making their own rules in desperate con-

texts. While *The Ballad of Narayama* remains his best work, *Dr. Akagi*, with its relatively straightforward story, makes for an excellent introduction to Imamura's work.

SLC Punk!

This amusing but slight look at a couple of punks in mid-80s Salt Lake City stars Matthew Lillard (*Scream*) as the frantic, juvenile Stevo, a white kid with blue hair who graduated from a pre-law program, but prefers to get in fights and live in self-imposed squalor while preaching to the camera about anarchy and against poseurs. *SLC Punk!*'s position of punkhood as being basically adolescent folly may be more or less true, but the film remains as superficial as the poseurs Stevo hates. My friend Dave's stories about the early days of punk may not be as funny as this movie, but they're a lot more interesting and insightful about punkdom.

Media Guy Calendar

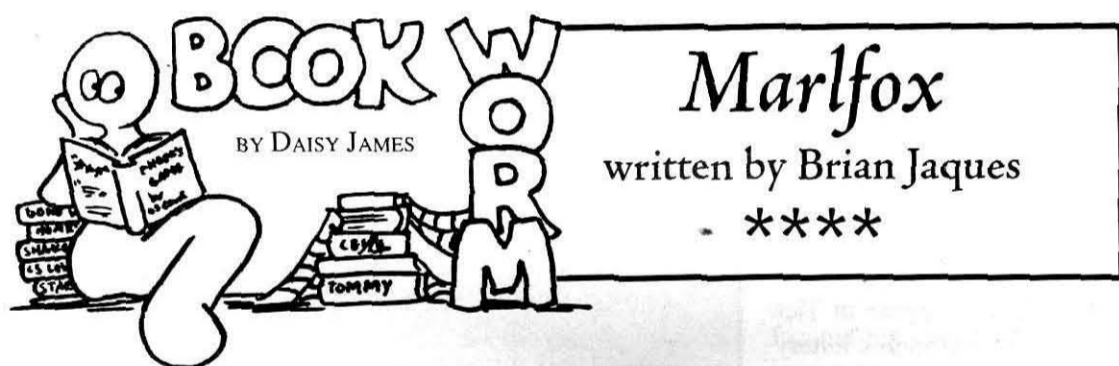
Universal Hitchcock Retrospective—The Nuart theatre in West L.A. is showcasing new 35mm prints of thirteen

Alfred Hitchcock films showing as double features for the next two weeks. It's not really a "greatest hits" retrospective (no *Rear Window* or *Strangers on a Train*, for example) but the sheer quantity of top-notch movies the Master of Suspense has made almost demands that you attend at least a couple of screenings.

The Residents—The Residents will bring their weirder-than-thou music to the House of Blues tonight and tomorrow. The tour's theme is "Wormwood: Curious Stories from the Bible." Friends tell me the show's pretty bizarre.

Underworld—Not only do the subdued techno guys who brought you "Born Slippy" from *Trainspotting* have a good new album out, *Beaucoup Fish*, but they'll also be playing live at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Saturday, May 1.

Van Gogh Mania—The L.A. County Museum of Art's exhibit of Van Gogh paintings from Amsterdam has become so wildly successful that it will remain open continuously its closing weekend, from 9 a.m. May 14 to midnight May 16. Adult tickets for the midnight to 7 a.m. periods are just \$10. Order your tickets now!



Brian Jaques has a talent for writing light, engaging fantasy. He should probably not be held to blame for the limitations of the world he has created; one where animals take the place of people in a semi-medieval setting. The problem is that, by this the eleventh in his Redwall series, he has gotten into a rut. Evil "vermin", represented by small, carnivorous mammals, come from some other part of the world to threaten Redwall Abbey. There is some sort of rhyming puzzle, and a quest, and several battles. All of these are fine elements, and in this book they are presented well. The problem is that having read the others turns what would have been a fine book on its own into something duller.

That said, there are some new elements here. The title refers to the book's villains, a family of foxes specializing in disguise and robbery. They come to the Abbey to plunder, not conquer, and are to some degree successful. One thing that this writer does well is villains, he doesn't waste any energy giving them any redeeming characteristics.

Accepting that it is probably reader demand, and not the

author's own initiative that keeps the series in it's rut, the worst thing in this book is its inconsistency with previous ones. And I don't mean insignificant details either. There is one point that is an essential plot element in the first book, that is blatantly altered without explanation in this one. Combine with that a radical change in geography and you

have signs of a writer who just doesn't care.

All that aside, the book is stand-alone readable. The description is vivid, the characters distinct and the action brisk. However, until Mr. Jaques gets his act together a bit more, I am going to have to say that if you've read one of his books, you've read them all.

ROOMMATE WANTED:

Metalhead, not so neat, a little short on funds, seeks same. Former roommate dumped me thanks to Springstreet, the personalized online service that helps you find and move into your perfect place without all the usual hassles. You know, like cleaning. www.springstreet.com Log on. Move in.

Academic couple seeks:

EGG DONOR 20-28

Right candidate compensated approx. \$10,000. Brunette hair, hazel/brown eyes, about 5'8" tall, even-featured, strong SATs, lean/athletic build, in excellent health. Pls describe backgrounds, education, and motivation, along w/ several [returnable] photos to: POB 425545, Cambridge, MA 02142. All serious replies answered.

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The Outside World

by Cheryl Forest

LITTLETON, COLORADO: Tragedy struck this affluent suburb of Denver last Tuesday. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, seniors in Columbine High School and members of the "Trenchcoat Mafia," entered the school at approximately 11 AM and began shooting. After making their way to the library, they took their own lives. 13 students and a teacher were killed, and many others remain hospitalized. The two gunmen planted bombs as they went through the school; given the number of these traps, authorities now believe that the two had accomplices.

THE BALKANS: NATO has inflicted damage on all four major routes from the Serbian heartland to Kosovo, which has cut supplies to Yugoslav forces in half, according to a statement issued by the Pentagon on Thursday. One of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's Belgrade homes was bombed during a NATO airstrike early Thursday morning; officials are defending this action as being a justified attack on a military facility and not an attempt to assassinate Milosevic and his family.

EAST TIMOR: Unfortunately, violence has become a mainstay of life here, as the July ballot deciding whether it should be an autonomous Indonesian province or an independent nation approaches.

A day-old cease fire was in effect Thursday, but pro-Jakarta militias ignored it.

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA: International organizations overseeing Bosnia's peace process said on Thursday they were returning staff to Bosnia's Serb half after withdrawing many of them last month due to NATO's air campaign on Yugoslavia. Their gradual return to the Serb Republic reflected an easing of tension there after a series of attacks against foreigners in the first week following the March 24 start of the West's air strikes on Yugoslavia.

IRAQ: U.S. warplanes launched a missile and laser-guided bombs at Iraqi radar and anti-aircraft sites in the northern "no-fly" zone Thursday, military officials said. The no-fly zones were set up in the aftermath of 1991's Persian Gulf War, and attacks on Iraqi air defense installations have been routine since then.

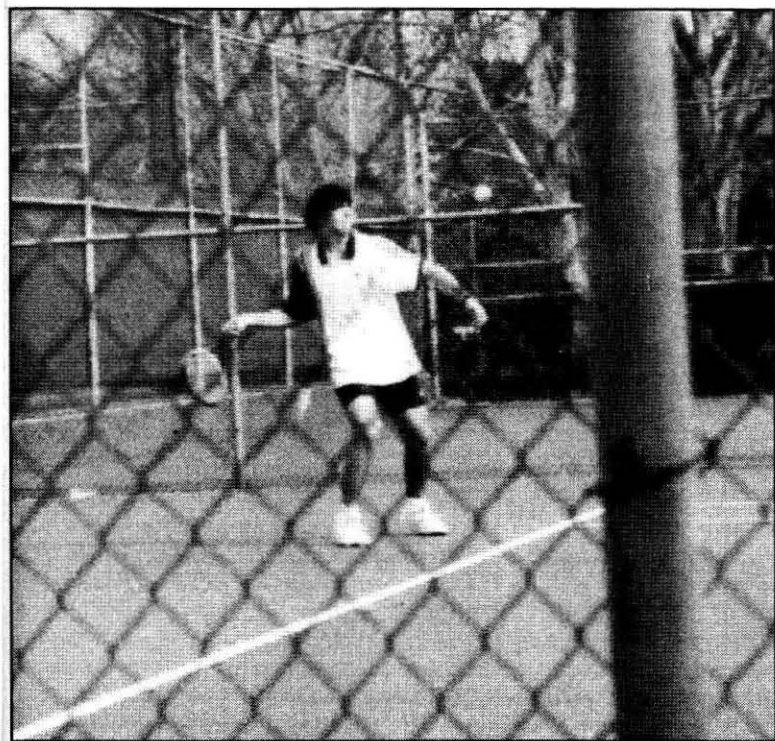
DODGER STADIUM: In what was apparently the only good news this week, the Atlanta Braves won 2 of the 3 games that they played against the LA Dodgers. The Braves routed the Dodgers Monday 11 to 3, and then continued the trend Wednesday night with a final score of 11 to 4. Wednesday's game was tied until the 12th inning, when the Braves scored 7 runs.

1999-2000 UPPER CLASS MERIT AWARDS

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 not a 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.

Mens and Women's Tennis Soar to New Heights



BY GERALD PALMROSE

The SCIAC Championships for tennis were held last weekend, and the Beavers definitely made their mark. The women with their fourth place finish had their best placing in CIT women's tennis history, while the men finished fifth after nearly beating #3 Pomona-Pitzer.

It was certainly a major achievement for the women to beat Cal Lutheran in the first round 5-2, a team they had lost to twice during the regular season, 2-7. Coach Karen Nelson, understanding the importance of doubles, devoted much of the last part of the season helping the women become better doubles players. The first two times playing Cal Lutheran, they

lost all three doubles matches, but at SCIACS, Caltech won 2 of 3.

Later in the tournament, Caltech was unable to beat #1 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, and then in the 3rd/4th place match they lost to Redlands. However, with the exception of perhaps our swimming teams, this is about as achieving as any of our Caltech sports teams have been this year. All in all, the women finished 8-13, with a SCIAC record of 4-6.

The men also finished with a SCIAC record of 4-6 after two impressive victories over LaVerne and Cal Lutheran at SCIACS.

They started the tournament playing Pomona-Pitzer, and energized by the fact that Pomona did not bring it's best lineup (they rested a couple top players), the Caltech Beavers almost pulled off the greatest upset in SCIAC history. They shocked Pomona in doubles by winning two of three matches, then played hard enough in singles to take two more matches. The final score turned out to be 4-3, but the attitudes of the two teams

were polar opposites. Whereas Pomona was sweating bullets, Caltech kept it's focus and played with much more confidence.

However, the Beavers did not let themselves down after the first round, as they crushed LaVerne 6-1 in the semis of consolations. The highlight of that match was Matt Musick's handling of La Verne's #1, Sergio Velaquez, 6-4, 6-4. Matt demonstrated to onlookers the skills that should have gotten him onto the All-Conference Second Team, for which he was overlooked. However, he is certainly the favorite to win the Caltech MVP award to be presented later this year.

In the final round of consolations, the Beavers played #5 Cal Lutheran for fifth place. Once again the doubles teams got the job done, and some players, like Chris Leapley, really got it done in singles. Leapley, who played #5 singles, won 6-0, 6-0 and lost only five games during the entire SCIAC weekend, an amazing feat considering he won 60 (doubles and singles)!

The rest of the team played

superbly, with three players, Eric Sherer, Jason Wong, and Gerald Palmrose all winning their singles matches. The two losses came from Musick and Team Captain Jeff Custer, who played the final match in his Caltech career. Custer, understandably frustrated by the result, failed to see how his character and leadership really had helped the team grow during the season. Said Coach Gillam, "Jeff has won big matches for me before, and has been available at every single match over his entire career." Custer will certainly be missed at practice next year.

The final score turned out to be 5-2, and later at the banquet Caltech was awarded the Sportsmanship Award for the third year in a row.

As a final note, Assistant Coach Lee Shiel has promised to come back next year. His contribution to the tennis team was simply amazing, and coupled with the masterful teaching of Wade Gillam and the commitment of all the returning players, could make next year "the Year of the Beaver" in SCIAC tennis.

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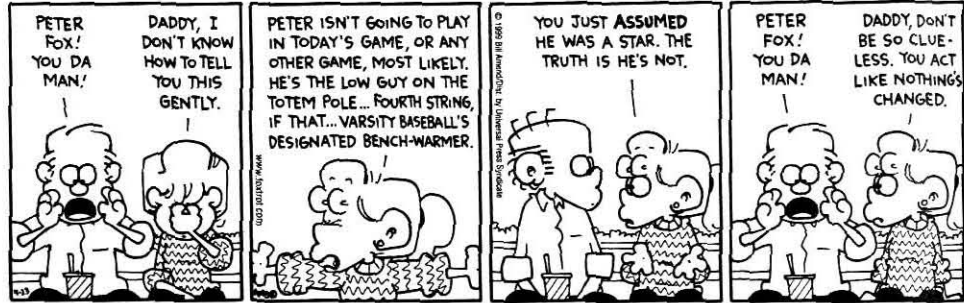
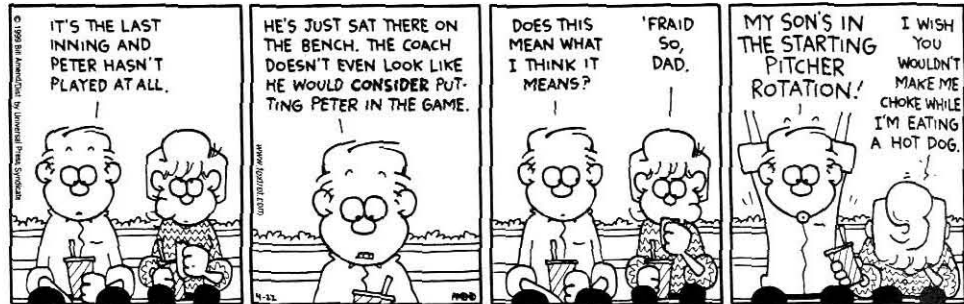
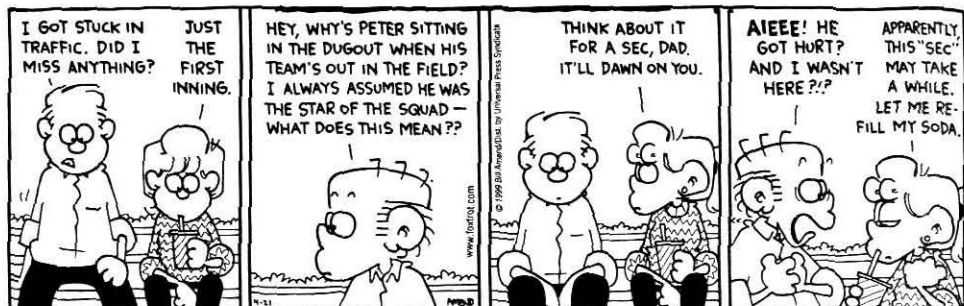
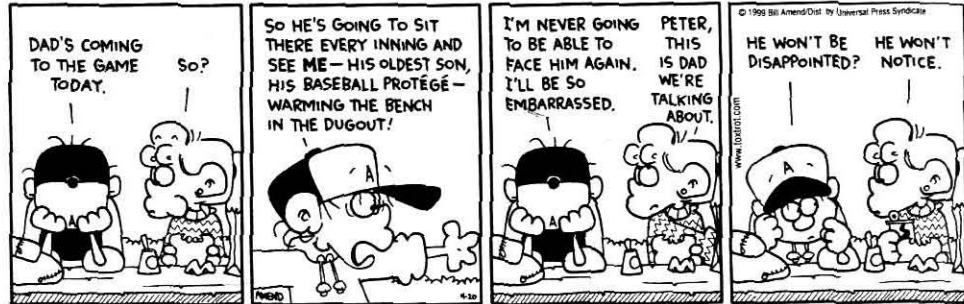
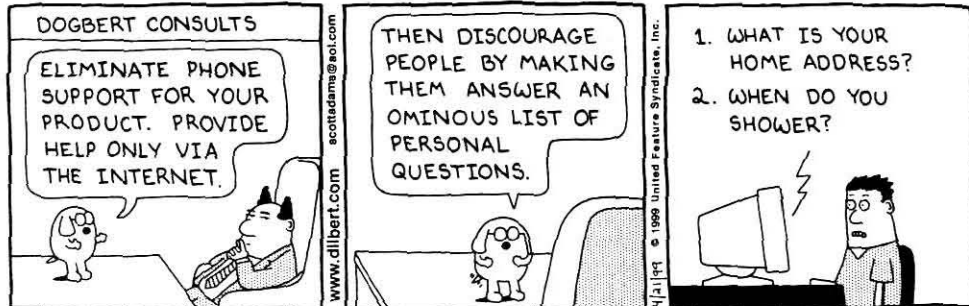
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Dean's Corner

A Big, Old Fish Story

by Jean-Paul Revel

h a b i t
you keep for the rest of your life. "Ahh," say you, "of course, of course..." It reminds me of when my Phys. Ed. instructor in high school asked me (and everyone else in the class, in turn, asked me) whether I would continue sports once I graduated. I was convinced that I would and so I answered, "of course, of course." It was a hopeful lie. I have not, sad to say, "had time" for regular exercise, even though my experience after spurts of sporty activity taught me that I did feel so much better when I did. I just don't have time. And when cardiovascular problems take me away earlier than my genes were programming me to go, it will be clear to all that I did not have time to spend on mere exercises. Hmmm?

So be serious about it and carry the sportmanship implied by the code in your heart, applying it not just to your interactions within Tech, but in dealing with the rest of your world. I was unexpectedly launched on this train of thought

by a recent story in *Science*, about the finding that the new group of coelacanths discovered in Indonesia in 1997 is actually a different species, distinguishable by its DNA from *Latimeria chalumnae*, the species found off East London, South Africa, and in the Comoro Islands near Madagascar. (The name *Latimeria* refers to Marjorie Courtney Latimer, the curator of a small museum, who was the first to get a good look at the first fish, which had been caught near the mouth of the Chalumna river on Dec 23, 1938).

Now, even though some 200 coelacanths have been pulled out of the water in the western Indian Ocean in the last 60 years, a coelacanth is still a big deal. After all, they are living creatures whose close ancestors were already around at the time of the dinosaurs! So finding another population of these creatures 5200 miles away, off the small volcanic island of Manado Tua in Sulawesi, Indonesia, caused a lot of excitement. In July 1998 a 65 lbs., more than 4 foot long Rajah Laut (King of the Sea), was brought to Dr. Erdmann, a biolo-

gist who had spent nearly a year hunting it down, interviewing fishermen, monitoring their catches and documenting conditions at fishing sites. The fish was still alive (although it expired a few hours later) and fresh samples of tissue were gathered and preserved while the rest of the fish given to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. Actually it was the second fish found in Manado. The first fish had been spotted by Erdmann's wife as it was being wheeled across a parking lot and barely seen by him as it was being sold at the market (I understand it tastes terrible, so I am not sure what it is used for).

Now I come to the sad part, the one that justifies the link to the Honor Code. Erdmann, the fish's "discoverer" sent samples to Texas to have the DNA sequenced, and compared to that of Comorian coelacanths. When the results came back, he and his collaborators analyzed the data and prepared a manuscript which was sent to *Nature* for publication. It seemed that in fact the Indonesian and the Comorian coelacanths were two different species, which last had a common ancestor maybe some 5 million years ago. As reported in the April 2 *Science*, what happened next is that a second paper arrived at *Nature*, also describing the Indonesian coelacanth's DNA. It appears that

this second paper originated from the laboratory of Dr. Pouyaud, who had been given a sample by the Indonesian organization to which Erdmann had given the fish. When *Nature* decided not to publish Pouyaud's paper he sent it out again, this time to the Comptes Rendus de l'Academie des Sciences, the Proceedings of the French Academy, which publishes very rapidly, if I am correct, essentially without losing time on reviews, revisions etc.... Erdmann's paper is still being digested by the journal's editorial process. With Pouyaud's publication, he is left without the priority which was reasonably to be his. Along with priority, the true discoverer also lost the opportunity to name the new species, which was called *Latimeria menadoensis* by his competitors. A bit of vainglory, this naming business, but it must hurt just the same. It is true, as Pouyaud insists, that he was as entitled as anyone else to sequence the DNA. It is also clear that Erdmann had done much of the work leading to the fish's capture, and had sent his results to the journal first, and should have been allowed to enjoy his champagne.

Ahh, would the Honor Code be recognized everywhere!

A bientot,

Jean Paul Revel

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Announcements

There is a **Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA)** meeting at 10:30 am, Saturdays at Las Encinas Hospital (2900 E Del Mar Blvd.) in the Inservice Room. This is a meeting for survivors of sexual abuse. Remember: You are not alone.

Go to www.JobMonkey.com for free information on many thousands of **summer work opportunities** around the world.

Information and applications for **1999 Summer Work-Study** are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 1999. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1 to be considered. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 1999.

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 progress@ugcs.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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Indus-

trial 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.

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.

Events

****The drummers of San Jose Taiko** will perform on Friday, May 7, at 8:00 pm in Beckman Auditorium. San Jose's contemporary music fuses the traditional rhythms and melodies of Japan with the beat of American jazz and the world music of Africa, Bali, Brazil, and Latin America. The company features both men and women drummers. Tickets are priced at \$29, \$25, and \$21; Caltech student price is \$5. Call 1-888-2CALTECH or campus extension 4652 for more information.

****The Fluid Mechanics Film Series** will continue at 3:10 pm on Monday, April 26, in room 306 Firestone with the film "Fluid Motion in a Gravitational Field," prepared by Professor Hunter Rouse of the University of Iowa.

****This term's SEDS lecture series** will kick off at 7:30 pm on Monday, April 26 with a talk entitled "New Spacecraft Design Tools" by Joel Sercel, visiting associate in mechanical engineering at Caltech. The talk will be held in room 151 Sloan, and refreshments will follow. The next scheduled lecture will be given by Kip Thorne on LIGO on Wednesday, May 12.

****The second lecture in the spring 1999 Seminar Series on Science, Ethics, and Public Policy** will be given by Dr. Peter Godfrey-Smith, associate professor in the philosophy department at Stanford University. The talk, entitled "Understanding the Adaptation Debates," will be held at 4:00 pm on Thursday, April 22 in Judy Library in Baxter Hall. Refreshments will follow the lecture.

****The Caltech Environmental Task force** will sponsor a talk entitled "The Hybrid Vehicle in History: Earth Day Observations about the future of some 20th-Century Technologies" at 3:00 pm on Friday, April 23 in the Winnett Lounge. The speaker will be David Kirsch, visiting assistant professor of decision sciences at the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA. For more information call Debbie Bradbury at 626-395-3630.

****Come watch grammy nominated Japanese Composer Isao Tomita** honor the 1000 year anniversary of **The Tale of Genji**, a sweeping story of romance and passion set in the Japanese Imperial Court, with a groundbreaking blend of live music and high definition video. The performance will feature a unique combination of an 88-piece orchestra, the traditional Japanese instruments of biwa, flute, shō and koto, along with a colossal video wall that dramatically presents

Mints

a digital film created exclusively for The Tale of the Genji. The event will be held at 7:30 pm in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. Tickets may be purchased at the Pasadena Civic Box Office, 626-449-7360, or Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

****The Solid State Sciences Seminar Series** continues at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 27 with a lecture entitled "New Quantum Structures and Microstructures for Future Terahertz Technology" by Professor Art Gossard of the materials department at UC Santa Barbara. Refreshments will precede at 3:30 pm in Watson foyer. For more information see www.cco.caltech.edu/~s5/.

****A Vintage Denim Apparel Auction** will be held in the Pasadena Center Conference Building at 11:00 am on May 8. A preview will run from 9:00 till 11:00 am. The auction features a variety of high quality denim apparel, including vintage Levi's, Lees, Wranglers western pants, name brand work gear, jeans, jackets, and related items. The event costs \$10 including a catalogue. For more information call 208-237-2002 or 626-793-2122 or email flying@nicoh.com or visit www.flying2.com.

****Caltech SEDS** will be holding its last telescope construction meeting on Sunday, April 25, at 2:00 pm in the SEDS lab (0011 Thomas). Completion and collimation of the mirrors and first will be held at a not-too-much-later date to be announced. No prior experience is necessary. For detailed construction plans follow the Construction Instructions link from <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~seds/telescope.html>. For other information contact Loren Hoffman at loren@cco.caltech.edu or Leon Torres at leon@ugcs.caltech.edu.

****Douglas Rees**, professor of chemistry at Caltech and full investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Stephen Mayo, associate professor of biology and assistant investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will discuss "The Chemistry of Life: Protein Machines" at the **Chemistry 0.1 seminar** on Friday, April 30 at 4:00 pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. Abstracts for this and other Chem 0.1 seminars are available online at http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/CCEO_1seminars.html.

****A theory seminar** on "Neutrino Masses and Oscillations" will be held in room 119 Kerckhoff at 2:00 pm on Friday, April 30. Petr Vogel, senior research associate and lecturer in physics at Caltech, will speak. Refreshments will be served.

Come watch "The Life and Times of Albert Einstein," a glimpse into the life of Albert Einstein as seen through the eyes of his secretary/watchdog, Ellen, on Sundays at 7:00 pm in the Fremont Centre Theater, 1000 Fremont Avenue. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 with student ID. For more information call 888-441-5979 or 626-441-5977.

The Pasadena Center, 300 East Green Street, will host the **Grand Slam Salute to Star Trek** on April 23-25 from 12:00 to 7:00 pm. This amazing Star Trek convention, featuring over 50 celebrities and spectacular special attractions, will unite fans from around the world. General admission tickets are available in advance

through Center Box Office, Ticketmaster (213-480-3232), or *Creation Entertainment* at 818-409-0960 or www.creationent.com. Advance ticket prices are \$21 for Friday and \$31 for Saturday and Sunday; at the door they go for \$26 and \$36. Preferred seating is available. Call 626-793-2122 for more information.

Have Christmas in April! Come help repair houses for federal work study money (\$12/hr) on Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 1 from 8:00 am till 4:30 pm. Dress comfortably in "work" attire. Breakfast, lunch, beverages, and transportation will be provided. You'll get a free T-shirt! If you're interested contact Athena Castro at the Caltech Y, castro@cco.caltech.edu or x6163.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series of Southern California** presents **Margaret Thatcher** in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 East Green Street, at 8:00 pm on May 3. In this rare public appearance, she will share her ideas and interpretations of world politics today and the challenges facing us in the 21st century. Tickets may be purchased at the Pasadena Civic Box Office (626-449-7360) or Ticketmaster (213-480-3232). For subscription information call 800-508-9301 or www.speakersla.com.

The **Capitol Steps** will perform on Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, at 8:00 pm in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The Capitol Steps are a group of current and former Congressional staffers who first began performing their musical satire as entertainment for a Capitol Hill office party. Tickets to this performance are priced at \$32, \$28, and \$24; youths 12 and under receive \$4 off. Student and senior rush tickets will go on sale for \$10 beginning one-half hour before the performance (subject to availability). Tickets can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, or through Ticketmaster (213-480-3232). For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Join **Jorge Mester and the Pasadena Symphony** for another **All Mozart** concert at 8:00 pm on Saturday, April 24 at the Pasadena Civic Center. This concert will include *Serenata Notturna*, K. 239, *Piano Concerto No. 21*, K. 467, and *Symphony No. 40*, K. 550. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster (213-480-3232) or the Pasadena Civic Box Office (626-449-7360). Student tickets are available for \$7.00 with ID, and can be purchased from the Caltech Y for \$6.00.

Lazer Vaudeville, a family show that combines the high-tech effects of lasers and black lights with the traditional vaudeville arts of juggling, comedy, and acrobatics, will perform on Saturday, April 24, at 2:00 pm in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, or through Ticketmaster (213-480-3232). For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH.

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

The **Ebell of Los Angeles Scholarship Committee** offers scholarship awards of \$2,000 to undergraduates attending Los Angeles County institutions. Scholarships are awarded for 3 years or when the student graduates, whichever comes first. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, be a Sophomore or above, have a 3.25 or higher GPA, carry a minimum of 36 units per term, live and attend a school in L.A. County, and be a registered voter in L.A. County. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, a personal statement and a Parent Financial Statement. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted by April 30, 1999.

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, Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 1999 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

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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