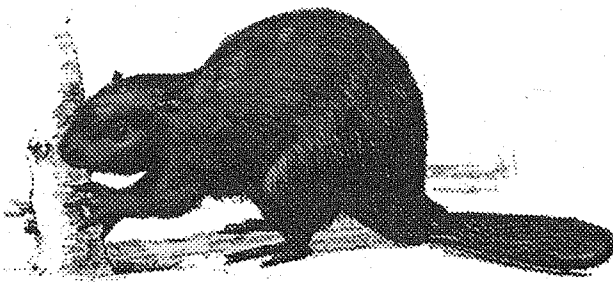


Campus crime wave: security reports a number of odd events on campus.

see page 3



Our Rave Reviewer checks out a club so hot, even celebrities get turned away.

see page 2

THE ^{Ditch Day} CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME C, NUMBER 28A

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DITCH DAY, 1999

FROM MAN TO MACHINE: NEW VIRUS PLAGUES S. CALIFORNIA

BY TECH STAFF

A disturbing rash of unusual fatalities has recently struck Southern California; their most distinctive feature of which has been the slow transformation of the victims into some sort of machine. There does not appear to be any effective treatment, but health officials warn against hysteria, pointing out that of the millions of people in this metropolitan area there has been a relative handful of fatalities. Doctors admit to being stumped by this new contagion, as we learned in our exclusive interview with a local physician.

"I have to admit, I'm stumped," said the doctor, who wished to remain nameless.

There is some hope, on the science front, at least. Dr. Moira MacTaggart, the famed Scottish geneticist who is currently in Pasadena to study the disease, has recently published her findings in a Letter in the most recent issue of the science journal "Nature". In it she describes the organism as a "techno-organic virus" and attributes it to a human origin.

Several minor celebrities have organized a charity sing-along to benefit research on the disease, but everyone agrees that they are just doing it for the attention.

Former Caltech Professor Missing

World-renowned Artificial Intelligence Expert is Presumed Dead

BY TECH STAFF

Professor Emilio Lizardo, formerly of the Computer Science Department here at Caltech, has disappeared under somewhat mysterious circumstances and is presumed dead.

Professor Lizardo was last seen at the headquarters of Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems, the multi-million dollar corporation he founded when he left Caltech in the 1970's.

Professor Lizardo was best known here at Caltech for his work on the SuperData computer system in the early 1970's. Employing experimental artificial intelligence technology, the SuperData was developed for the US government to act as an intelligent munitions control system.

Professor Lizardo also conducted the first SURF at Caltech, with a project researching the use of early local area networks to create intelligent computer viruses specially adapted to living within the confines of a computer network.

In the late 70's Professor Lizardo abruptly ceased work on the SuperData computer system and networked virus research, presumably due to funding issues. Shortly thereafter he left to found Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems, an independent Defense Department contractor.

Few specifics are known about a majority of the work Professor Lizardo did while at Caltech, as most of it has never been declassified.

It is believed that Professor Lizardo has no immediate or extended family.



Professor Lizardo

Chris Craft Donates Water-Soluble Plastic to Seniors for Ditch Day

BY TECH STAFF

What's fun, sometimes gooey, and environmentally safe? Ask Chris Craft Industrial Products, which donated several yards of its Monosol® water soluble film to the Caltech senior class for this year's Ditch Day.

"I'm really excited by Chris Craft's generosity," said Co-Senior Class President Autumn Looijen. "I thought asking for a donation was a shot in the dark. I never imagined we'd really get the chance to play

with water-soluble plastic. It's going to be a great Ditch Day."

The polyvinyl alcohol film, which is biodegradable, promises a lot of fun for underclassmen this year. Seniors have certainly had fun testing it.

When wet completely, especially with hot water, the film dissolves quickly; wet

it less thoroughly and you end up with a sticky, gooey, rather entertaining mess. Seniors went from initial confusion about the plastic ("What is this stuff?") to delighted glee as they incorpo-

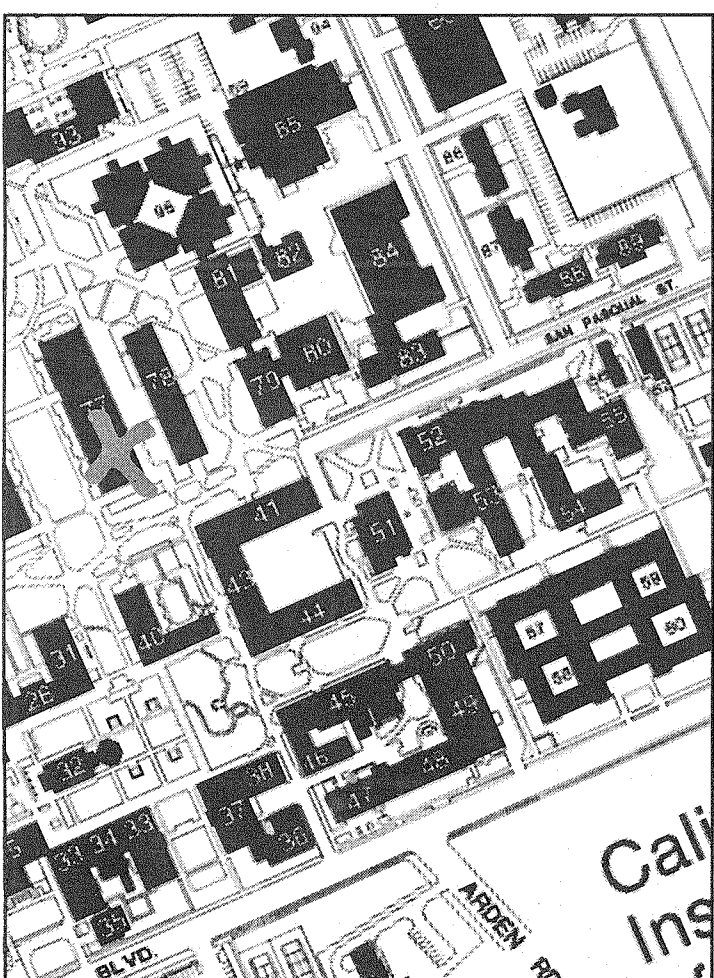
rated it into their stacks.

They have found uses for the material with characteristic creativity.

The water-soluble film looks much like ordinary plastic, so the best way for underclassmen to tell might be to take a Super Soaker to it (outside only, of course).

In the real world, the film is used primarily for packaging, embroidery, and hospital laundry bags that dissolve in the wash so workers don't need to handle so many soiled linens.

Scoress of common microorganisms can break the plastic's polymer chains down into carbon dioxide and water, so the plastic is even environmentally friendly. What more could one ask?



This might be a clue. Then again, it might not be.



Curious Dean's Corner

by The Curious Dean

37 Lecheries, But At What Cost?

Recently I was shocked to discover a little book that is rumored to be spreading like wildfire through the Caltech community. Although I have not had time to peruse it thoroughly, it seems to be an album of instructive chromolithographs, called *Die Sieben und Dreißig Wollüste*.

Careful research revealed that these words are in German, and upon further research I uncovered their meaning: The Thirty-Seven Lecheries. Are these the kind of values we want to be teaching our children? I urge you, before going out and attempting to emulate the acts of those (admittedly singularly well-formed) youths, to consider the ramifications of your actions.

And please, under no circumstances should you attempt the monstrosity known

as the "Lithuanian Type-writer." Enjoy the chromolithographs if you must, but keep in mind that the people (and animals) depicted are paid models, strewn together in pleasing packages without heed to real-world feasibility. It is simply not worth the extreme danger of serious death or injury, no matter how well-favored you think you are.

Keep in mind that your actions reflect on the entire Caltech community. Disporting yourselves on our fine greenery is not protected by the First Amendment which (I hope) we all cherish. So please, put those tempting images out of your minds and have a safe and happy Ditch Day.

A bientot,

The Curious Dean

Rave Reviews

STUDIO 54

Welcome to the Garden of Eden

Nowhere else in the world can you satisfy your mind, body and soul all under one roof. Sex, drugs, alcohol, and freedom—any kind you want—it's all here at 54. "Studio" is the epitome of the wildly free, flamboyant, decadent party lifestyle, and many will confirm, "Darling, it is faaaabulous!" Night quickly turns into day as 54-goers dance the night away to the feel good disco music that blasts at a deafening loudness. Studio is a mood, an atmosphere; a care-free, no-holds-barred, non-stop party of unseemingly uncountable indulgences and excesses.

So, what exactly is Studio 54? Well, Studio 54 is only the hottest, most elite and outrageous, one-of-a-kind "mother of all nightclubs." Studio 54 is like a real-life theatre, with a fasci-

nating cast of characters being selected for each night's grand cabaret performance party from the multitudes clamoring to get past the velvet ropes, the divider between Heaven on Earth and Earth itself. Celebrities galore make the VIP

guest list, and pose for the paparazzi, often disappearing from sight into the notoriously infamous basement of the club. Many others are turned away, dubbed by co-owner Steve Rubell as the "gray people", and gaining entry into Studio 54 has become an almost spiritual quest for many hungering to be a part

*Night quickly
turns into day as
54-goers dance the
night away to the
feel good disco
music...*

of the "beautiful crowd". Recording artist Cher was once shocked after being turned away from the glittering nightspot. She exclaimed, "But I'm CHER!" The sharp reply being, "I KNOW who you are!" Celebrity status itself does not guarantee entry into the exclusive party palace or inclusion in the inner circle of Studio's VIP list.

Where else can you find the likes of Andy Warhol, Liza Minelli, and Mick Jagger mingling with anyone and everyone? People from all walks of life enter through the gilded gates of the 54. Steve Rubell al-

ways looks for the perfect mix crowd and/or theme for any given evening, with no one group having precedence. He refers to it as "tossing the perfect salad."

Where can you find this last

great bastion for happiness beyond your wildest dreams? If you build it, they will come. Let the party begin, and let it never end!

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RED HEAD CONSPIRACY STACK

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is the following:

Three word title of a Red
Hot Chili Peppers song.

HINT: Not the building.

GOOD LUCK!

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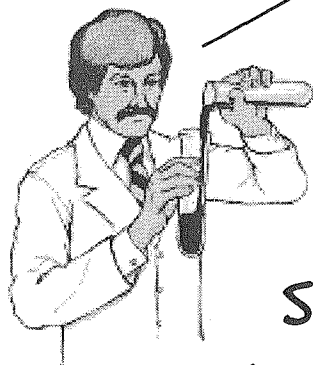
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place to buy Silly Putty!



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advertising email: adv@tech.caltech.edu
ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME C, NUMBER 28A
DITCH DAY, 1999

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Advertising: 5 p.m. Monday
Announcements (Mints): noon Monday
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

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It's
Ditch
Day!

It's
Ditch
Day!

The Original Ditch Day Announcement

as published in the 1921 *Big T*

KNOW YE:

That whereas we, the Class of 1921, have labored long, faithfully, and true under the domination of a case hardened faculty;

And That Whereas spring has come, and with it has come, also, a feeling of great unrest, a feeling of discontent, a feeling of perpetual lassitude and ennui which cannot be banished by classroom logic;

And That Whereas it is meet and proper for the kindred souls so afflicted to gather together, so that by recreation and enjoyment of nature we may better withstand the rigorous requirements of the ultimo mensis, and so that by a decent association with one another we may form a group of men capable of withstanding the tempestuous winds of fate which seek to scatter us upon our commencement day;

And That Whereas the Lord when his work of creation was almost finished, rested upon the Seventh Day, thus

Be It Ordained and Decreed that this Twelfth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, be a Day of Rest and the Senior Ditch Day of the Class of 1921, and

Be it Further Ordained and Decreed that this day be dedicated to the relaxation and amusement and recreation of the Class of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, in any manner in which it may decide;

And Further that this Day be passed on to the Senior Class of years to come as a tradition to be kept guarded and cherished faithfully and well.

So Be It.

The Class of Nineteen Twenty-one.

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