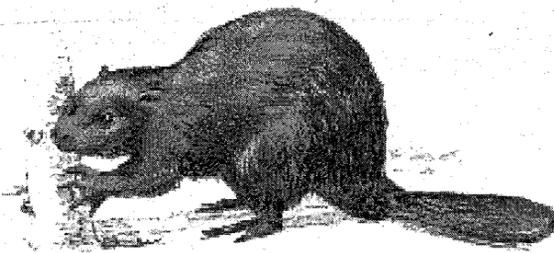


ASCIT MOVIE: CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Want free tickets? Find your favorite ASCIT movie rep.



The answer to the question on page 3, column 4 is: Caltech



Frosh mug-shots are forever.

Media Guy, the Tech's longest running columnist, returns in all his splendor on page 3

The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 7

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 3, 2000

SURF PERPALL SEMIFINALISTS ANNOUNCED

BY TECH STAFF

The morning of Saturday, October 1, SURF Seminar Day kicked off at 10 a.m. with talks by SURF students in a myriad of sessions. The speakers are evaluated for the Perpall Speaking Competition, with the highest ranked speaker from each session chosen to compete in a semifinal round held in November. The Perpall Semifinalists for SURF Seminar Day 2000 are:

- Rob Enright
- Jonathan Dama
- Justin Smith
- Loren Hoffman
- Gray Rybka
- Timothy Crosby
- Emilio Graff
- Molly Swanson
- Will Farr
- Tom Baehr-Jones
- Rick Karnesky
- Benson Muite
- Nicholas Guise
- Jane Garrity
- Katharina Kohler
- Erik Dill
- Rebecca Shafee
- Chris Hirata
- Ryan Simkovksy
- Elisa Chan
- Yingbing Wang
- Mark Rudner
- Mark Bilinski
- Caroline Gibbs
- Robb Rutledge
- Jialan Wang
- Ram Srinivasan
- Ronald Siu
- Florian Merkle
- Kathryn Todd
- Nicholas Gerovac
- Elaine Ou

Prince Andrew visits Caltech

BY JONATHAN FOSTER

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York and third child of Queen Elizabeth of England, visited Caltech Thursday afternoon during a week-long tour of America. Heavy security surrounded the event and meant that only a few students were able to catch a glimpse of the Duke as he strolled across campus. The Tech was asked not to publish his itinerary ahead of time, and our reporter was threatened with arrest and thrown out of his approved place in the entourage.

The first stop of the short tour was Mudd Laboratory, where the Duke met with various seismologists from Caltech and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Duke was then escorted by Kip Thorne, Professor of Theoretical Physics, and Hall Daily, Director of Government Relations, across campus, stopping briefly in front of the bookstore. He ended his tour with a visit to the prototype of LIGO.

The Duke has various engagements in America this week, many relating to science and technology. In New York earlier this week, he visited several e-

telecommunications and on Friday will tour Edwards Air Force Base and receive a briefing on the Joint Strike Fighter Programme, in which the Royal

Rockefeller Center, and in Los Angeles he will see both the new Disney Foundation Concert Hall and the Getty Museum when the latter opens an exhibition of Raphael drawings from the Royal Collection.

Prince Andrew was born on February 19, 1960, in Buckingham Palace, the first child to be born to a reigning English monarch in 103 years. After his schooling, he joined the Royal Navy as a pilot. He saw active service only six months into his naval career when the war for the Falkland Islands broke out with Argentina in 1982. Prince Andrew was created The Duke of York at the time of his marriage to Sarah Ferguson in 1986. This marriage resulted in two children, and a good deal of scandal for the Royal family when the two divorced in 1996.

The Prince currently serves as a staff officer for the Ministry of Defence, and balances his official royal duties with his military career.



Prince Andrew (at Kip Thorne's left) walks through campus.

PHOTO BY: JONATHAN FOSTER

commerce agencies and attended briefings on technology such as one by the New York New Multi Media Association. In Los Angeles, the Duke has already attended a conference on

Navy/Air Force is a partner with the United States military.

Of course, the Duke is not only attending these fairly serious occasions. In New York, he attended a reception at the

TACIT performs Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler'

BY MOHI KUMAR

Intrigue, deception, backstabbing. Seduction, blackmail, death. People don't DO such things...

TACIT's production of Ibsen's Hedda Gabler opens tonight at 8:00 in Dabney Lounge.

Under the direction and assistant direction of Shirley Marneus and Ruddock's own Robert Swinney, the complexity and grimness of the play is reflected very well in TACIT's production.

Set in the early 19th century, scenery and props suggest the lavish lifestyle of the bored and jaded. True to TACIT style, the costumes are exquisite, yet seldom vary from stark blacks and browns, giving a hint of the dark emotions that the play expresses.

The acting itself is excellent. Karen Kahler's interpretation of the lead is thought provoking and effective—you can't help hating Hedda for her fickle, petulant, and manipulative manner. Moreover, Kahler slips just a hint of dementia into her representation of Hedda: her interaction with her 'friend' Thea (Oana Tocoian) is marked by her constant, almost obsessive, stroking of Tocoian's hair and arms; her ultimate act of re-

venge is punctuated with her softly singing children's songs.

Tocoian's characterization of Thea is also very good. As the dramatic foil to Hedda, Thea is portrayed by Tocoian to have pure and genuine emotions; the inherent virtue and innocence of Thea shines through Tocoian's acting—her distress, happiness, fear are palpable to the audience.

The manipulative and arrogant Judge Brack is successfully played by Robert Parker: although Ibsen wrote the Judge as a shallow, two-dimensional role, Parker, with his arched eyebrows, grimly set chin, and at times Cheshire cat grin, evolves Brack into a dirty old man who earns the disgust of viewers.

Georgios Zamanakos believably portrays Jorgen Tesman, Hedda's husband, as a bumbling intellectual and clueless spouse. However, his thick accent and resonant voice often cause his words to slur together—an occurrence not helped by his tendency to rapidly voice his lines when his character is supposed to be excited.

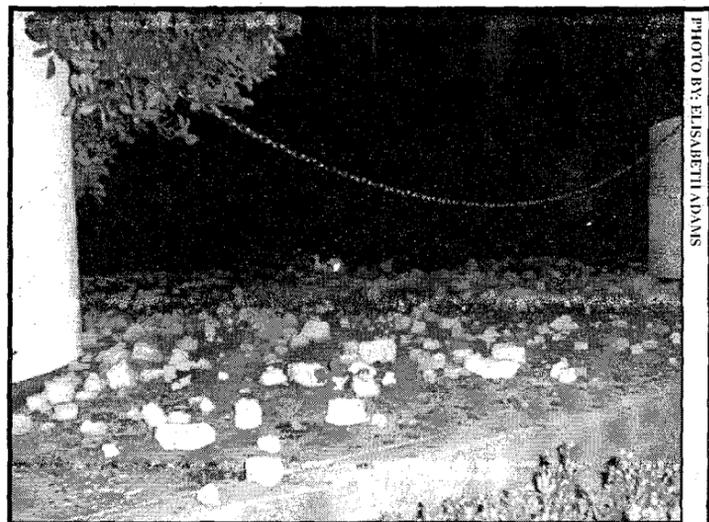
Other characters of note include Aunt Juliane (Marjorie Schmeltz), whose shock and shame at being snubbed by Hedda ranks as some of the best acting in the play, and

Ejlert Lovborg (Adam Burgasser), whose self-disgust and Byronic heroism further emphasize Hedda's destructiveness.

A couple of scenes also stand out for being powerfully and cleverly represented. At one point, Parker's musical abilities are employed when, as Judge Brack, he plays the piano, using musical moods to heighten his dialogue with Hedda. In another instance, Lovborg slaps Hedda—a stage command not written in the text—giving Hedda the motive for later rages.

However, there are times when actors onstage but in the background detract from the conversations of those who should be the center of attention, by fidgeting with props or making sudden movements.

TACIT's Hedda Gabler is definitely a play you should see—though slightly morose, it is perfect to share with your family for Parent's Weekend, or with your significant other as a date. Showtimes are Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 8:00pm or Nov. 5, 12, and 19 at 2:00pm in Dabney Hall. Ticket prices are \$5 for Caltech students, \$10 for other students, and \$15 for general admission.



The remains of liquid nitrogen pumpkins dropped by Darbs from the west side of the 9-story high Millikan library at midnight on Halloween. This decades-old tradition attracts a crowd of undergraduates every year to witness the wild pleasure of crushing the ever-famous Halloween fruit! This year, the new additions included the burning of a dummy and the use of chemicals like boric acid and ethanol in the pumpkins to enhance the lighting effects of the drop.

PHOTO BY: ELISABETH ADAMS

Inside the Tech

The Usual	Features
Letter to Editor 2	Yoghurt 2
ASCIT Minutes 4	Media Guy 3
Foxtrot 6	CD Review 3
Dilbert 6	
The Dean's Corner 7	

Culture and Opinion

Yoghurt

BY CANDIDE AND CUNEGONDE

Last week we told you about the LACMA exhibit "Made in California."

As a part of the exhibit, the LA Philharmonic is doing a "Made in California" concert this weekend.

This concert is also being billed as the "All Copland" concert. Now try to guess what they'll be playing.

That's right, the fabulous music of both John Tesh and Yanni. Jokes aside the Philharmonic will be doing four pieces of Copland: Symphonic Ode, Music for Movies, Old American Songs, and Appalachian Spring, Suite.

I'm not precisely sure how this concert ties back to California as Copland grew up in Brooklyn and the best known piece here is Appalachian Spring, but the LA Philharmonic is in Los Angeles which is in California...good enough. (She says: Copland composed some of these pieces while he was in Hollywood.)

As for the pieces, the first is the Symphonic Ode, which was the piece that really launched Copland's career.

It was written for the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and has all the hallmarks of a piece about the big city.

That is, there is a good deal of hustle and bustle and noise. Amidst the noise there are moments of the stillness of the quieter hours of the night.

Some have argued that the piece is meant to represent the city of New York that Copland grew up in, but he himself said that he tried to leave it ambiguous. It is the city.

Which one? Listen and find out. Music for Movies is precisely what the title implies, music written for film.

The allure of writing for Hollywood is, of course, the money. (Did you really think John Williams works with Spielberg for the thrill?)

Consequently, Copland's entry to the field was for the same reason.

The music that he took away from these films and put together in this piece are those that he thought could stand apart from the visual images that are so important to the medium.

The three movies he took the music from to make this piece were *The City, Of Mice and Men*, and *Our Town*.

Each of which is meant to give the impression of the wide open prairies that Copland is so known for. Old American Songs is yet another piece that is pre-

be.

It really takes a bit out of columnists' sails when the titles of the music are so helpful for discovering what the piece is about. Anyway the songs included are all older songs some in the minstrel tradition.

There is really not enough room to do the descriptions justice so let me say that the highlight is "I Bought Me a Cat" if for no other reason that that you see elegantly dressed people make sounds that seem like the belong in Old MacDonald.

This piece is special this weekend, because it is being sung by one of the great voices of our time, Marilyn Horne.

Though she has retired from singing opera, she still does songs and special events. Appalachian Spring, Suite other than being an awkward title is a suite from the ballet with the name that you are going to have to guess.

It's an absolutely beautiful

piece that you have undoubtedly heard before.

Critics argue that this one piece can be considered a microcosm of Copland's entire career. Whether that is true or not, I have no idea.

The suite is based upon the idea of a bride and her beloved married and settling down in the Appalachian Mountains in the spring.

The most memorable part is the "Simple Gifts" song that is also featured in Old American Songs.

Performances are Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2:30pm at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Tickets are \$5 with student ID and go on sale two hours before the show.

Don't forget to catch the pre-concert lecture one hour before the performance. This week's lecturer is Jack Kennedy, a local composer who was featured at last year's concert of new music on campus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I was amused by Jason Meltzer's article saying that ugly people are a disadvantaged minority group. He may have a point, but I wrote to call exception to his statement that affirmative action claims "that certain people, primarily because of their genetic makeup are put at a societal disadvantage."

Affirmative action is really targeted to individuals because of their cultural background, not their genetic makeup. There are many individuals who may class themselves culturally as Hispanic, for example, who may look indistinguishable from a European American. It is not a test of what is in their genes, but where they are from.

Since most people hear of job opportunities through direct referral, this makes it much more likely that a field such as science will be dominated by people from the same culture. Fellowships may draw attention to opportunities that people may not have heard of because people they know have never been there. If you would like to know if you socialize with a diverse or restrictive culture, ask yourself some questions. Do you socialize equally with women and men? Do you socialize with people from diverse backgrounds? Do you know a disabled person? What important opportunities in your life did you hear about from a friend or relative? Affirmative action programs offer incentives for individuals to bridge cultural gaps. If you really want to stop affirmative action, the best way is to try to make it unnecessary by expanding your personal circle of friends to include people of different cultures.

Rosalyn Hunter, Sr. Research Assistant Biology




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Reviews: life, music, theatre

The ambiguity of education

BY WILLIAM FONG

After attending Caltech for a little over five weeks, I have noticed some interesting trends. People stay up very late. The food, in politically correct terms, is not agreeable with the tongue. And, of course, classes are a bore? Not quite. How about nap time? Sitting at the top of the lecture halls and looking down, I see a substantial number of my peers taking a nice doze. At times, I even find myself in that situation, but, for the most part, I try to stay awake to listen to lectures on math, chemistry, and physics. After all, I am paying \$30,575 a year to attend this fine institution, so I should get my money's worth. However, a

greater concern is the process of education. If students are sleeping during the lectures or just not showing up, how can they expect to learn? I can envision those who automatically object and say they don't need to listen to the professor to learn the material. Well, good job. But for the majority of the students, including myself, learning something new involves a teacher of some form, whether it be a professor or a teaching assistant.

As I quote from Michael Hartl, a fourth-year graduate student (and my physics TA), "People learn from examples." Thus, if students are sleeping, how can they learn? Isn't that the point of coming here? While some will adamantly beg to differ with me, most will agree. Well, how can we improve the learning conditions here? From a workload standpoint, it is ba-

sically impossible to do all the required reading, problem sets, papers, quizzes, and midterms and still get eight hours of sleep, as recommended by many agencies. A method for solving this predicament which affects all students is to decrease the amount of work. As students run their eyes across the above statement, they're ready to praise me, but as other members of the Caltech community glance at my assertion, I can just imagine them coming after me to put an end to all this nonsense. Essentially, such a proposition would lower the expectations of this institution, which could be a good or bad thing, depending on your perspective.

One thing is certain: the sleep situation is ingrained in the educational system because of the large block of time demanded of us students to attend class and complete assignments. This con-

flict can be summarized as "the ambiguity of education." As we strive for a better academic atmosphere with a more rigorous pace, we are compromising the standard of education by depriving our students of sleep. Of course, others are quick to point out that the lack of sleep is not just due to the workload, but is also the result of the blatant profligacy of a commodity called time.

I beg to differ. First of all, people can't work 24/7, period. To maintain good health and a sense of sanity, it is necessary to relax with some type of stress-relieving activity, whatever may be your preference. Second, what is college without some fun? After all, students are probably more efficient workers when they take breaks rather than working straight.

To sum this up, we can view the ambiguity of education us-

ing the metaphor of a production possibilities curve: increasing one factor will decrease the other. Basically, raising the rigor of education decreases the effectiveness of education. But isn't the philosophy of this institution to defy the odds? In that case, I suppose the lack of sleep and the notorious dozing off of students in lecture at Caltech does not adversely affect the quality of education, as strongly proven by the success of the alumni of Caltech.

Eh, whatever. Well, the most important lesson you should learn is that the next time you go to sleep, whether at night or in class, approximately \$5.51 goes down the drain per hour (assuming a 11-week term that includes finals). If you would like to respond to the commentary found in this article, please feel welcome to e-mail me at william@its.caltech.edu.

'History of the Devil' thoughtful

BY ADAM VILLANI

The Devil feels he's done his time on Earth and is ready for a trip back to heaven. So a trial is held, and Satan maintains that he was not responsible for the world's evil—he was a mere spectator as a corrupt humanity dug its own grave. That's the premise of Clive Barker's *The History of the Devil, or Scenes From a Pretended Life*, an exciting and thought-provoking play currently being presented by the Rude Guerrilla Theater Company in Santa Ana.

Jay Fraley, the Devil, comes off as charming, conniving, and self-serving, sure, but brings new insight into the classic role by portraying Lucifer more as a person looking out for his own hide rather than as a malicious master of evil.

Everyone in the cast is excellent, but of particular note are Cynthia Ryanen as a creepy low-level demon, Susan E. Taylor as

the head prosecutor, and Sharyn Case as a prehistoric Russian with a retarded daughter and as an Inquisition-era woman accused of witchcraft. Sean Cox tackles two of the most interesting supporting roles, first as Lucifer's loopy recollection of Jesus, and then as Satan's only begotten son—a doomed robotic boxer.

Director Dave Barton is terrific with the large cast of actors and has a keen sense of pacing, which is essential for this long, complex play. *The History of the Devil* works both as a supernatural thriller and a philosophical study. While a foundation for the final plot twist is hinted upon from the beginning, I can't help but think that philosophically, that part's not really fleshed out.

The History of the Devil plays Fridays and Saturday evenings at 8:00, and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 through November 12 at the Empire Theater, 200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana.

Tickets are \$15 general and \$12 for students and senior citizens. Call (714) 547-4688 for reservations. Please note that the play contains violence, adult themes, and a long scene of male nudity.

Simon Singer's new 'Devil on my mind' plays strong

BY DUNCAN ODOM

Simon Singer, the hypercharged, cheesy-guitared group based in the Bay Area in Concord, released their second album, *Devil on My Mind*, in April, and it is one of the most addictive CDs I have ever owned. I found myself making a tape of it so I could listen to it in my car.

The first song, "Girl U Want," is a remade, highstrung version of the old Devo tune.

The video, which I really hope will be released a lot more widely, is a riveting, fun transformation of a guy into a gorgeous drag queen diva. "Dead On," is addictive and subversive.

How freaky is it to run into an ex and discover that they have a clone of you on their arm. I loved the song until I realized that I did that in high school, too. I hated it for a day, but now I love it even more.

"Last Girl in the World," "Summertime," and "When a Boy Meets a Girl" are also great

songs.

The group is weakest, though, when they slow down their style to try ballads, like "Hollywood Ending" and "Ain't it Strange." Decent songs, but after the intensity of the rest of the album, they are a letdown. "Fringe Authority" was recently used in the soundtrack to the movie *Diamonds*, and is the song most likely to be heard soon on commercial stations.

The band was founded in 1995 by singer Alicia Perrone and bassist Victor James.

You can visit them online at www.simonstinger.com. They are produced by Chicago Kid Productions here in LA.

Strangely, they are sponsored by Jaegermeister. Even though this has meant some free publicity, every time they play, they give away Jaeger-trinkets and the place where they play has Jaegermeister specials.

You can hear Simon Stinger at MP3.com, and buy their this CD as well as their first album at www.cdbaby.com/simons2.

Theater Arts at the California Institute of Technology presents

HEDDA GABLER

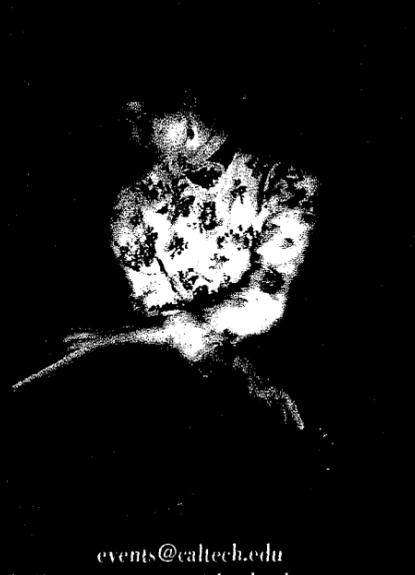
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ASCIT Minutes

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

OCTOBER 23, 2000

Present: BoD - Emma; Guests: Page - Anthony Salter, Joseph Vega; Donut - Jonathan Dama; Big T - Erik Dill; CRC - Mark Barrett

Meeting called to order at 10:10 pm.

Guests

Page requests Multihouse funding for the off-campus party they organized at the end of Rotation. The amount spent was \$556.33, corroborated by various receipts. They also ask for their yearly share of the Interhouse Memorial Fund for a party they will be having in November.

Jon's visit was transitory as he lingered only a moment to pick up the compensation for work completed for the ASCIT web project. Sean writes him a \$1000 check.

The ever-assiduous Big T editor, Erik Dill, assures us that he has everything under control and pledges not to graduate until the Big T comes out. Such ardor is exemplary and commendable.

The few items that still necessitate completion include group pages, faculty pages, and indexing. However, the exigent quandary to address is to fill the vacuous hole resulting from the lack of a business manager. Next year's editor and business manager, Jake West and Den Thap, respectively, will be cajoled into facilitating. Erik's next assignation with the publisher will be on November 11 and he will apprise us with the details (via Meghan) shortly thereafter. The Big T should be available at the beginning of second term. Martha-Helene and Laura will use their creative talents to fabricate a layout for the ASCIT pages.

Mark, the chair of the Conduct Review Committee (CRC), comes to discuss their appointment process. This judiciary body is comprised of student, faculty, and staff and handles student cases that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the BoC. All the members, including the chair, have been appointed as of the CRC's founding last year. Mark recommends switching the chair's appointment to an election process, but not until next year. The student members will still be appointed by the IHC. There has yet been

no specification for the number of student members. There are currently 6, which works well, though Mark ruminates that 8 might be the right number. Someone suggests including the CRC in the ASCIT bylaws, but Eric says that it does not lie completely within ASCIT's control, so maybe a BoD resolution would be more appropriate. After much discussion, the proposed changes to the CRC appointment process for this year are: CRC Chair appointed by: Old IHC, Old ASCIT President, Old BoC Chair, Old CRC Chair
CRC Reps appointed by: Old IHC, Old ASCIT President, Old BoC Chair, New CRC Chair, (Old CRC Chair present, but not voting) CRC Chair eventually elected by general vote Mark will run this by Barbara Green and report back to us next week.

General Meeting

The Coffeehouse is now open for business. Melinda runs over there to order us some cheese sticks and curly fries. Chris shows us the SNES he bought, but the controllers are broken so they need to be replaced.

Eric will get the official report of the tax audit from the Caltech lawyer, along with information about the endowment.

Dan and Ted are still shopping for ASCIT lights. The BoD will ponder over possibly raising

their budget, since decent lights are so expensive. Eric talked to Stan Bordinsky, who says there may be a room available in the SAC for an ASCIT social closet.

Meghan is working on liquidating the ASCIT van. Someone on the Caltech staff is in charge of selling it for us. If there was only one thing we would want to accomplish in our administration, it would be this. Future generations will remember us as the BoD that was finally able to sell the ASCIT van.

Melinda returns with food. My notepad becomes covered with oily cheese stick goodness.

Melinda reports that things are cleared up with the Ritz-Carlton Huntington. She still needs to pick up promised donations for the ASCIT formal from last year.

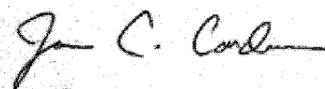
She is also still working on "double the ratio day" with Harvey Mudd.

After some deliberation, the BoD appoints Laura and Chris to the Core Curriculum Steering Committee (temporarily) and as alternates, Carlos Baldoceca and Jason Tran. The details of the vote will not be discussed.

The BoD approves \$300 reimbursement for Page's rotation party. They also received \$200 from the IMF.

Meeting adjourns at 12:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Cardema

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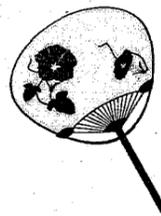
Information Session



Are you a freshman, sophomore, or junior who wants a meaningful, research-based summer internship? Are you interested in the Japanese culture? Then save the date for this presentation.

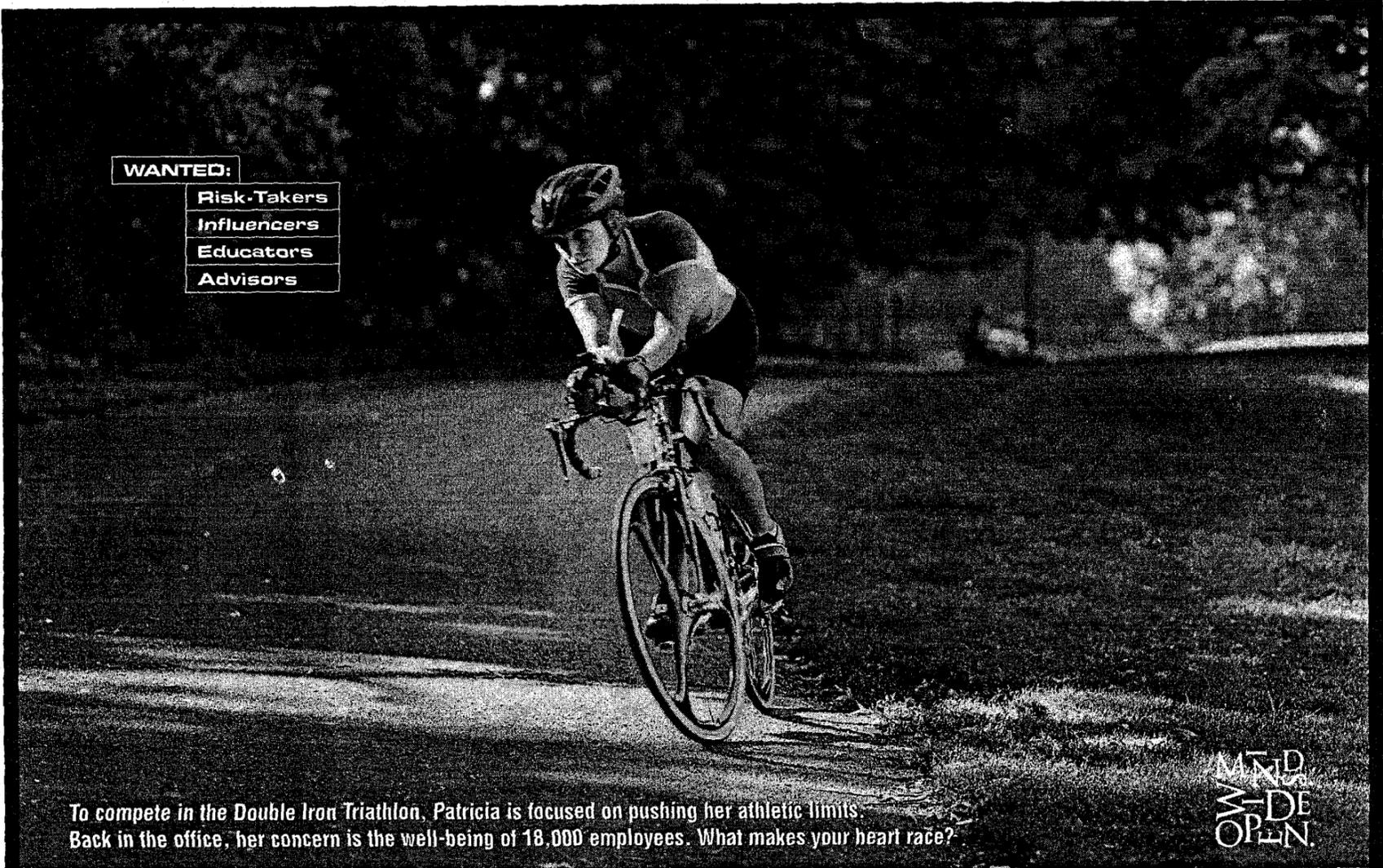
When: Friday – November 17, 2000
12:00 noon to 1:00 PM

Where: Career Development Center
414 S. Holliston Avenue
3rd floor conference room



*Space is limited to the first 30 people.
Light lunch will be provided.

Contact Angela Wood (ext. 6364)
at the Career Development Center
for more information.



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To compete in the Double Iron Triathlon, Patricia is focused on pushing her athletic limits. Back in the office, her concern is the well-being of 18,000 employees. What makes your heart race?

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Comics

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

MY SON IS FLUNKING ALL HIS CLASSES. I'M HOPING HE CAN GET A JOB INVOLVING COMPUTERS.

CARRYING THEM?

PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS IN THEIR STORIES.

TED, YOUR THIRTY-DAY DANCE OF DEATH BEGINS TODAY.

YOU MUST FIND A NEW JOB WITHIN THE COMPANY DURING THAT TIME.

IS THE SPRAY-PAINT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY?

THAT'S AN "L."

I NEED A NEW JOB WITHIN THE COMPANY BEFORE THE WINDOW SHUTS.

CATBERT IS ALREADY UP TO "O." NEXT WEEK HE GETS AN "S."

WHAT'S HE SPELLING?

HE WOULDN'T SAY, BUT IT STARTS WITH AN "L."

CATBERT SAYS I HAVE TO GET A NEW JOB WITHIN THE COMPANY.

COULD YOU FIND IT WITHIN YOUR HEART...

I'LL CHECK.

NOPE. NO JOBS IN THERE.

TODAY IS MY LAST DAY. I'M SAYING MY FAREWELLS.

WE'VE NEVER TALKED, BUT I WAS WORKING MY WAY DOWN THE ROW AND HERE YOU ARE.

SO... LET'S STAY IN TOUCH.

DON'T BE A STRANGER.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN INCURABLE ROMANTIC.

DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE OFF MY SHOE? I'VE GOT SOME SORT OF FUNGUS THAT NEEDS AIR.

I'M CURED!

I LIKE TO SCRATCH IT ON THE TABLE LEG.

OOPS. IS THAT YOU?

10 MORE STEPS AND YOU'LL BE HOME, ROGER.

6 MORE STEPS... 4 MORE STEPS... 2 MORE STEPS...

JASON, THE FIRE IS OUT! STOP SPRAYING THE HOSE!

1 7/8 MORE STEPS... 1 3/4 MORE STEPS...

GUESS WHO GOT AN "A" ON THE BIG MATH TEST?

AN "A"?

THAT'S GREAT! THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'M SO PROUD!

CONGRATULATIONS, SON!

DADDY!

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH TODAY?

LET'S SEE...THERE'S CHICKEN POT PIE, PIZZA PIE, CHERRY PIE AND APPLE PIE.

BASICALLY PIE, PIE, PIE AND MORE PIE.

YOU DO THIS JUST TO TORTURE THOSE OF US WITH OUR TRIG MIDTERM TODAY, DON'T YOU?

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE 3.14159TH PERSON TO ASK ME THAT.

MOM, IS IT OK IF PETER GOES OVER TO STEVE'S HOUSE TO PLAY GUITAR?

IS HIS ROOM CLEAN? UM, NO.

YOU TELL HIM HE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF HE TRIES GOING ANYWHERE BEFORE THAT ROOM GETS PICKED UP.

I CAN'T.

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE HE'S OVER AT STEVE'S.

UGGHH! FINALLY!

IT TOOK COOPING MYSELF HERE IN MY ROOM ALL NIGHT, BUT I FINISHED IT!

THE BOOK?

THE FIRST SENTENCE.

I THINK SHAKESPEARE MAY BE MY NEW FAVORITE SUBJECT.

OH, PHOOEY. THAT'S A COMMA, NOT A PERIOD.

I THINK MOM'S STARTING TO WONDER WHY HER SUSPENSION IS SCREWY.

NO, NO - THE OCTUPLE BURGER WAS WITH CHEESE.

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DANCER IN THE DARK (R)
Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 2:35 5:40 8:45

THE YARDS (R)
Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00

No One Under 17 Will Be Admitted

REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (NR)
Fri. - Thu. [12:15] 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:55

THE CONTENDER (R)
Fri. - Thu. [1:15] 4:05 7:00 9:50

DR. T AND THE WOMEN (R)
Fri. - Thu. [1:45] 4:30 7:15 10:00

VENUS BEAUTY INSTITUTE (NR)
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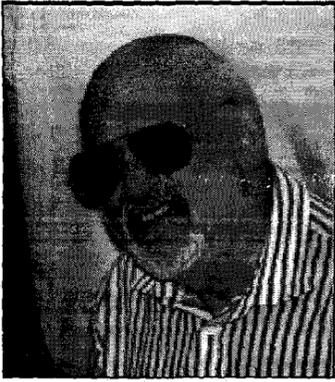
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The Dean's Corner



Dean's Corner

Snow White goes to Caltech

by Jean-Paul Revel

I'm sure you remember the jealous queen stepmother in the fairy tale inquiring "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the most beautiful of them all?" Well there recently was a beauty contest, again. Read all about it in US News and World Report. They have published their ranking of the best universities in the country and you know who comes out ahead? Well it is not us, this time. We come in behind Princeton, Harvard and Yale, just ahead of MIT. Being tops was fun, but then we already knew good we were, and still are.

It is interesting to examine what caused the change in the rankings. It turns out that US News and World Report made, as they write, "an additional refinement to our methodology." You re-

call, I am sure, that we got to be #1 because of just such an adjustment, last year. This time, says USNWR, "The change was suggested by members of our college advisory board, as well as some institutional researchers, who told us that one of our sixteen measures of academic quality was having a disproportionately large impact." That factor turns out to be "the amount of money schools spend per student on education." The argument is made that, in schools which have "sizeable" research programs, these funds will benefit graduate, not undergraduate, education. After fiddling to eliminate that advantage, Princeton, Harvard and Yale came out ahead. Obviously none of these institutions wastes money on graduate programs. Or

maybe they don't have sizeable research programs.

Actually I would argue that universities with large and, perhaps more important, excellent research programs are particularly well suited to undergraduate education. For one thing, top students will be often be attracted by the research opportunities. At Caltech anyway, many, if not the majority of, students spend a lot of time doing research in various professors' laboratories. In the Bi 80 class that I run with Prof. E. Schuman I am constantly impressed by the sophistication of the research students have done (or at least participated in) while here. Research is an important part of undergraduate education as indicated by, say, the popularity of the SURF program.

In spite of losing first place, we can be proud of how we come out in this survey. Our students' SAT

scores are the best in the nation, on par with Harvard's. We have the best faculty as measured by their research rank (they are #1 apparently, but I don't know the basis for that determination). Like Yale, which finishes just ahead of us, 78% of our classes have fewer than 20 students. Our student to faculty ratio still is 3/1, compared to 8/1 at Harvard, 18/1 at UCLA and 19/1 at UCSD. There is, however, a small blemish in this beautiful image (recall the saying that a small imperfection in fact enhances beauty). Caltech's beauty spot is in our graduation rates, given as 82%, comparable to that at UC Berkeley, Vanderbilt or UCLA. These schools, however, are ranked 20th and lower overall. Universities in the top ten (except for us) have rates better than 90%. With students as highly selected as ours, one would expect every last one to graduate. Just why we lag behind I do not know. Is it because the students leave early to escape the deluge of material they are exposed to (the fabled fire hose)? (Anecdotal, that does not

seem to be the case.) Is it because our students, in spite of their intrinsic ability, are under so much pressure that they are unable to perform at the level they are capable of? Perhaps so, but again, anecdotally, it does not look likely. However, if you should feel you are in either category please come in to talk about it. Most likely we know someone who can help. Rather than focusing on pessimistic scenarios, let's note that there could be upbeat reasons for our less than tops record: perhaps our students take up opportunities that are "too good to miss," joining (or creating) fledgling dot-coms, pursuing their bright ideas, and developing new inventions, i.e. getting some real life experience rather than staying in school to finish their formal education (anecdotally, not a rare instance, yet not common enough). Someone needs to look hard in that mirror.

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel



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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIT Guitar Classes for the spring quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on October 3 as follows: Beginning Guitar Class: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Intermediate Guitar Class: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Advanced Guitar Class: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive 3 units of credit. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore). Mr. Denning can be reached at (323) 465-0881 or by email at: ddenning@caltech.edu. The Guitar Home Page is at: www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club [CBDC] continues its offerings of dance classes and parties for the new term. **Beginning West Coast Swing** - taught by a professional dance instructor, five week series starting Mon 2 Oct '00: \$20/series for undergraduates, \$30/series for others. The lessons will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Mon in the Winnett Lounge with a 1/2 hr. practice period after each lesson. Refreshments will be provided, and no partner is required. For last minute changes see www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom, or call Don at 626-791-3103

Ballroom Dance Party, free: 9:30 to 11:30 pm Mon 6 Mar '00 in Winnett Lounge. On a trial basis the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club has started a series of weekly mini parties after our regular lesson on Mondays. The Viennese Waltz lesson ends at 9:00pm. You are welcome to join in the practice session which lasts until 9:30pm followed by the party and open dancing until 11:30pm. Refreshments will be provided and you need not bring a partner.

All members of the Caltech Community are invited to audition for the TACIT production of Shakespeare's Othello in Ramo Auditorium at the following times: Sat., Nov. 11, 2-5 pm; Sun., Nov. 12, 7:30-10:30 pm; Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30-10:30 pm; Sat., Nov. 18, 2-5 pm. See www.its.caltech.edu/~tacit for related information as it becomes available. Othello will be performed during winter term on three consecutive weekends beginning Feb. 16, 2001.

Two-time Emmy Award winner Heather Tom, Stacy Keanan, and Emily Kay star in

Jack Heifner's "Vanities" on Friday, November 3, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium in Pasadena. Tickets to this performance are priced at \$29.00, \$25.00, and \$21.00

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issue such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15pm 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 the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call ext. 8331

The Caltech/JPL Flying Club Fall Membership Meeting: The Aero Association of Caltech will hold its Fall membership meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 14, in room 201 East Bridge. Featured speaker Dick Rutan will be presenting the topic "Adventure Is The Essence Of Life". Dick Rutan set a world record in his unrefueled, non-stop flight around the world in the Voyager aircraft in 1986. Rutan has also attempted to fly a balloon non-stop around the World in 1998, and more recently made a flight to the North Pole in May, which ended with the AN 2 aircraft breaking through the ice after landing at the North Pole and sinking into the Arctic Ocean. Anyone interested in aviation, or in learning to fly is invited to attend the meeting. For more information about the club or the Fall Meeting, contact Elaine Ou at ou@its.caltech.edu.

EVENTS

Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Lecture Series for Fall Quarter 2000:

Dr. Myles W. Jackson, Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Willamette University, The Standardization of Aesthetic Qualities: Physics and Music in Nineteenth-Century Germany, Thursday, November 9, 2000 4:00 p.m. Room 25 Baxter Building

The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization presents Dr. Peter Galison, Professor of the History of Science and of Physics, Harvard University, Poincare's Maps and Einstein's Clocks, Friday, December 1, 2000 4:00 p.m.

Beckman Institute Auditorium Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-4087 or michelle@hss.caltech.edu.

For a complete list of SEPP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year visit our Website: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html>

The Aero Association of Caltech will hold its Fall membership meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 14, in room 201 East Bridge. Featured speaker Dick Rutan will be presenting the topic of Adventure Is The Essence Of Life. Dick Rutan set a world record in his unrefueled, non-stop flight around the world in the Voyager aircraft in 1986. Rutan has also attempted to fly a balloon non-stop around the World in 1998, and more recently made a flight to the North Pole in May, which ended with the AN 2 aircraft breaking through the ice after landing at the North Pole and sinking into the Arctic Ocean.

Anyone interested in aviation, or in learning to fly is invited to attend the meeting. For more information about the club or the Fall Meeting, contact Elaine Ou at ou@its.caltech.edu.

Music of the late 20th century to be featured in April 12 Dabney Lounge Concert. The Division of Humanities and Social Science will offer a free concert, open to the Caltech community, on Wednesday, April 12, 8:00 PM, in Dabney Lounge, as part of the division's music offerings for benefit of students enrolled in music courses and the community at large. Members of The St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Thomas Neenan, Music Director and Conductor (and Lecturer in Music at Caltech) will be joined by composers William Kraft and John M. Kennedy for an informal look at music at the turn of the new century. Featured will be conversation with the composers and Neenan about the music to be performed which will include Kraft's "Concerto for Percussion and Chamber Ensemble" and works by Kennedy, Tan Dun and others.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Financial Aid Office has applications and/or information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located at 515 S. Wilson, second floor.

***Green Hills Software** annually awards merit-based scholarships and fellowships to Caltech undergraduates who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude in computer science. The award for the junior year consists of a \$2,500 scholarship. The award for the senior year may consist of either a \$2,500 or \$5,000 scholarship. In addition, one or two applicants are invited to become Green Hills Fellows. Applicants should be second term sophomores with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. The selection criteria include programming ability, academic performance, and faculty and peer recommendations. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, current academic transcript, and three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty or employers familiar with the student's work. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by November 3, 2000.

***The National Academy for Nuclear Training** is offering \$2,500 scholarships to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power option. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, enrolled full-time in a four-year accredited institution, minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher, and interested in nuclear power careers. Additionally, scholarships will be renewed for current Academy scholars who maintain their eligibility. For further information on the National Academy Educational Assistance programs, please visit www.nei.org. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Please send completed application materials to: Na-

tional Academy for Nuclear Training, Scholarship Review Committee, P.O. Box 6302, Princeton, NJ 08541-6302. Entries must be submitted to the National Academy for Nuclear Training by February 1, 2001.

***The Measurement Science Conference (MSC)** has established scholarships to students in an Engineering or Science or Quality Assurance degree program. The scholarship program places emphasis on papers or projects that discuss the advancement of measurement science technology. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher, completed at 24 units of upper division courses in Engineering or Science degree or five courses in a Masters Degree Program in Quality Assurance. Current members of the Measurement Science Conference Committee are ineligible for this scholarship award. Also, applicants must be able to attend the Measurement Science Conference luncheon held on January 18, 2001, at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information regarding MSC Scholarships, you may contact: Rick Careyette, MSC Scholarships Chairperson, Teledyne Electronics Technologies, Marina del Rey Facility, 12964 Panama Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066-6534. Entries must be submitted to Teledyne Electronics Technologies by December 1, 2000.

***THE GLAMOUR MAGAZINE'S 2000 TOP TEN COLLEGE WOMEN COMPETITION** has begun. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2001. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates for the applications.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@ugcs.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

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