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Caltech v. MIT
PICTURES INSIDE!
See page 2

The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 12

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 12, 2001

Literature project wins Perpall award

BY ROBERT LI

Kathryn Todd, a senior majoring in Physics and Literature, won the 2000 Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking competition for her presentation on her SURF project entitled "Civic and Domestic Virtue: Jane Austen and the Reaction to the French Revolution."

In her project, Todd argues that the impact of the French Revolution on English society was so great that it "transformed an existing debate in England over the rights and moral obligations of men and women into a matter of national importance."

The effect was so "pervasive that it would appear in documents as disparate as conduct books aimed at young women, landscaping guides, and novels."

Todd finds evidence of "con-

cerns about the moral and political implications of class and relationship" in Jane Austen's work and believes that we must recognize how Austen "comprehended and modified the political and moral landscape of her time."

Kathryn plans to apply to a graduate school in physics but she adds that she will "always love books and thinking about them."

Second place went to Loren Hoffman for her project entitled "Natural Radioactivity Background Reduction for the KamLAND Neutrino Detector". The third place was a tie between Benson Muite, who studied "Particle Flows in Liquid Filled Hourglasses" and Robb Rutledge for "Primate Language Acquisition by Statistical Learning". Elisa Chan, Erik Dill, Will Farr, Curtis Pehl, and Ryan

Simkovsky received honorable mention for advancing to the final round.

The competition took place in the Beckman Institute Auditorium on January 9th and was attended by many members of the Caltech faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

The Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Awards were established by Bob Perpall, a Caltech alumnus and a member of the SURF board, in the memory of his late wife Doris, who, while working at Caltech and elsewhere, always encouraged students to express their ideas clearly and enthusiastically so that they can reach their full potential.

The aim of the SURF speaking awards is to encourage students to give excellent oral presentations on their SURF projects.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIK DILL

Recipients and the sponsor: from left to right, 1st place Kathryn Todd, 2nd place Lauren Hoffman, sponsor Bob Perpall, and 3rd place Robb Rutledge

Semi-finalists for the competition were selected from the over 220 SURF presentations during SURF Seminar Day last October.

Nine students were then selected after a semi-final round of competition for the final round.

A student has 18 minutes (including 3 for question and answer) to present his or her SURF project.

Prizes are awarded for presentation skill and the first, second, and third place winners receive \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively.

Construction for station all fired up

BY JANET ZHOU

Tentatively scheduled for January 29 or 30, 2001, the official groundbreaking for Caltech's new firestation on the southeast corner of Holliston Street and Del Mar Avenue is being anxiously anticipated. The new station, expected to be completed in October 2001, is being built to replace the existing one at 1138 E. Del Mar Ave, according to Mike McCallan, manager at the Caltech Engineering Office.

Detailed plans for the firestation are still being drawn up at the moment. "[I just went to a meeting about the firestation on Wednesday] and we discussed the project schedule and budgetary and design issues," said McCallan.

The original Firestation 34 was built in 1917 at 541 S. Oak Knoll. However, that site was no longer usable due to a magnitude 5.0 earthquake on the Raymond fault in 1988.

The current firestation was built as a temporary station until construction could begin on a new one. Now, a dozen years later, Caltech and the city of Pasadena have entered into a 50-year lease agreement for \$1.00 per year, by which Caltech will own the new site

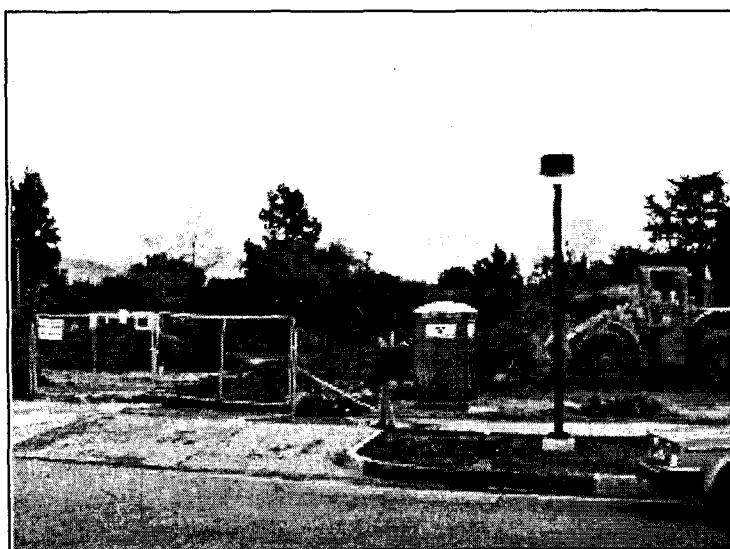


PHOTO COURTESY OF JON FOSTER

The new firestation will be completed in October of 2001.

of the station. The newer, larger facility will be the permanent location of Firestation 34.

According to Mark Fasik from the Pasadena Fire Department, Caltech has more calls to the firestation than any other school in the city.

While there are no plans as yet for any new equipment for the station, it will be a vast improvement over the temporary one currently in use.

The new facility will span an impressive 13,400 sq. ft, an over ten-fold increase on the 1200 sq. ft. of the current firestation, said Fasik. Between six and 30 workers will be building the station, depending on the phase of construction. There is yet to be a final con-

struction schedule from the contractor.

Segun Abegunrin, the project manager for the City of Pasadena Public Works Capital Projects Division, will be in charge of construction of the station.

The total cost of the facility is expected to total approximately \$2.5 million, estimates McCallan.

Firestation 34 will not have its own Fire Chief. The City Fire Chief, Ernest Mitchell, will govern the firestation as he does for all stations in the city. There is not expected to be any change in response times to Caltech or Pasadena, nor any significant increase in the number of jobs created.

Sci-fi film festival at Caltech part of city-wide exhibition on cosmos

BY JON FOSTER

Caltech is part of The Universe, a coalition of eight Pasadena institutions which will be joining together during the winter to present a unique view of the cosmos and our place therein. Caltech's contribution to this medley of activities will be "The Future of the Universe", a science fiction film festival, which opens with a showing of Contact this Sunday (January 14) at 2 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium.

This movie will be followed by three other classic works of science fiction imagination over the coming weeks, all of which will seek to explore the future of the universe in fact and fic-

tion. In fact, the movies will only be the inspiration for the panel discussion which will follow each film.

The panels will feature both scientists and science fiction writers; this week, Vivian Sobchack from UCLA, Anneila Sargent, professor at Caltech and director of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory, and Don Yeomans of JPL will lead a discussion on encountering other life forms in the universe.

Other films in this series will be: *Things to Come*, an adaptation of H.G. Wells' visionary story of the same name which will be shown on Tuesday, January 20; *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, a science fiction warning

PLEASE SEE SCI-FI ON PAGE 3

Inside the Tech

The Usual

Letters	2
Outside World	2
ASCIT Minutes	4
Comics	6
The Dean's Corner	7

Features

B-ball photos	2
Vanilla	3
Ticket Stub	5

From outside Caltech

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deregulation and Greed in California

Dear Editor:

There is no shortage of electrical power in California! What we have here is a surplus of greed. Does anyone really believe that in the short time deregulation has been in effect that demand increased to such an extent that these out-of-state power companies like Dynegy, NRG Energy, Enron,

Reliant, etc. could double and triple their profit margins? If so, I have a bridge in Brooklyn that is for sale. I read that a partnership of Dynegy and NRG Energy paid four times the book value for the Carlsbad power plant. They obviously expected to make a killing off deregulation.

The same thing happened in England when Margaret Thatcher deregulated the power industry there. The companies collude with one another and withhold power at times of peak

usage, driving the prices sky-high, and then they sell.

Like the unprofitable investments of utility companies in nuclear power plants, like the Savings and Loan debacle, like the bailout of corporations and foreign countries, the ones that finally pick up the tab will be consumers and taxpayers—not the capitalists actually responsible for the crisis.

I believe that a rolling black-out could have great therapeutic value for all those conservative Republicans who believe

that the market solves everything. They could be watching their favorite right-wing talk show host on TV (there are no real left-wing talk show hosts) and boom—they are plunged into complete darkness. It would give them time to reflect on their ideology and perhaps consider all the Third World people who have given up their lives protesting the privatization and deregulation forcibly imposed on them by the IMF and World Bank.

Sincerely,
Gary Sudborough
Bellflower, CA

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to

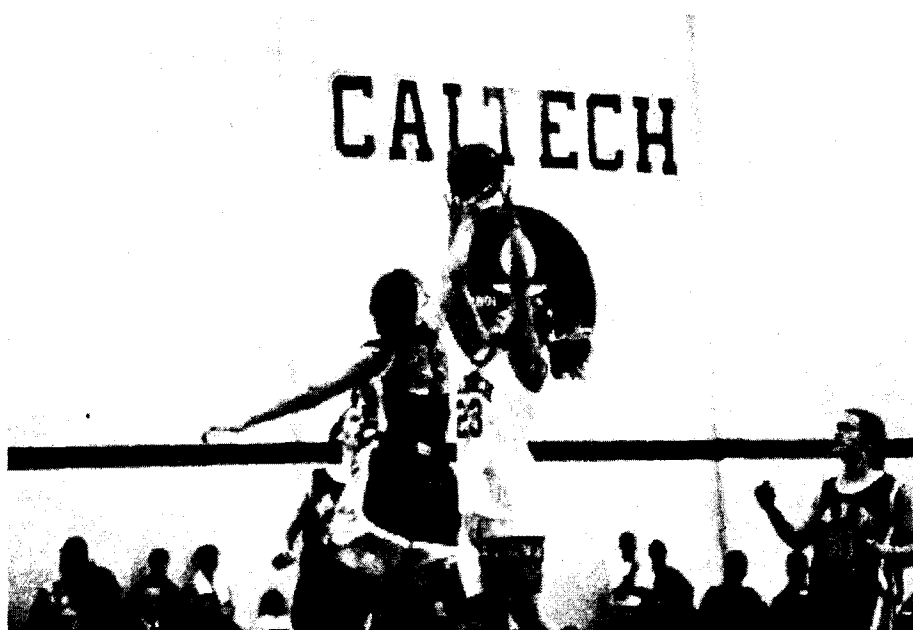
The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

or by electronic mail to

editors@tech.caltech.edu.

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

CIT v. MIT - January 5, 2001



The Outside World

By Iram Parveen Bilal

Power crisis

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: With California's power grid near the breaking point, utilities facing bankruptcy, and energy prices skyrocketing, the state legislature might now consider setting up state-owned and operated power plants.

WWII ship brought back home

MOBILE, ALABAMA: WWII was briefly brought back on Wednesday when, after a month-long trans-Atlantic crossing, veterans pulled a rusting U.S. warship into port.

Missing in action

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Clinton administration plans to change the status of the first American presumed to have been killed in the 1991 Persian Gulf War from "killed in action" to "missing in action." A review of information gathered since 1996, including interviews with Iraqi defectors, prompted the decision to change the status of Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Scott Speicher from killed to missing.

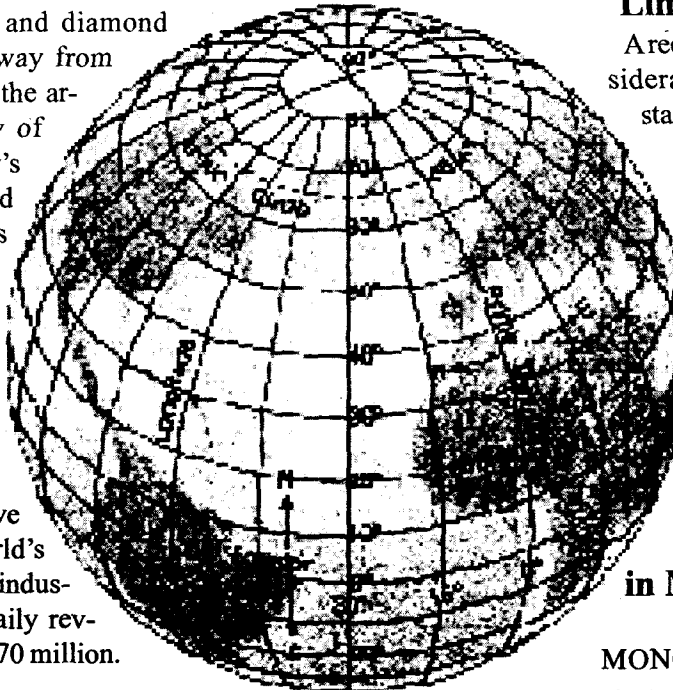
Worldwide Indian Diamond Trade halts

MUMBAI, INDIA: India's diamond trade ground to a halt Wednesday as thousands of merchants, dealers, and diamond cutters stayed away from work, protesting the arrest on Monday of one of the country's biggest diamond merchants. He is accused of having links to organized crime and of using dirty money to finance the film industry. The protest might prove costly for the world's largest diamond industry, which has daily revenues of nearly \$70 million.

Cole bombing brings fear of attacks

ADEN, YEMEN: Ever since the USS Cole was bombed in Aden harbor Oct. 12, killing 17 U.S. sailors, some fear that militants will target anything re-

garded as "Western" or associated with the Yemeni government. The Yemeni government is expected to bring to trial this month up to eight suspects in the bombing.



Crime in CA

NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA: Three people were killed and two seriously wounded after a man opened fire at a county services building on Wednesday,

concentrating on the Mental Health Department and a local restaurant, officials said. Police are still searching for the criminal.

Limit copyright?

A recent proposal under consideration by a technology standards organization lays the groundwork for content protection capabilities on your next hard drive and has privacy advocates crying foul. The proposal is called forth by the 4C Entity and is led by industry heavyweights Intel and IBM.

Winter disastrous in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, MONGOLIA: After intense snow storms plunged Mongolia into its second consecutive winter disaster, eight people lost their lives and half a million animals are feared dead, the State Emergency Commission said on Wednesday.

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We live for the One. We die for the One.

Vanilla

SCI-FI:

Science fiction festival hits Caltech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about nuclear war, on Tuesday, February 13; and the classic *Blade Runner* on Tuesday, February 27.

All of these three films will play in Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30 pm. All are also free of charge and open to the public, although tickets are required for the screening of *Contact*. Some of the other events in The Universe are underway currently. The Huntington is currently exhibiting "Star Struck: One Thousand Years of the Art and Science of Astronomy" featuring rare books, manuscripts, and sketches by some of the great astronomers of old.

The Norton Simon Museum is also showing 60 masterpieces of astronomical artistry in its "The Universe: Creation, Constellations and the Cosmos" exhibit. Most other events will start up on February 4th. The Armory Center for the Arts will be opening "The Universe: Contemporary Art and the Cosmos", which looks at the contemporary artist's view of space.

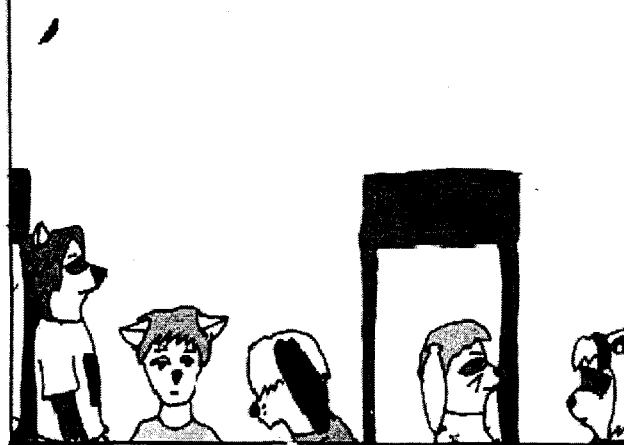
The Art Center College of design will open a gallery of art by Russell Crotty celebrating star gazing. The One Colorado complex will treat shoppers to photographs from the Hubble Space Telescope throughout the structure, and the Pacific Asia Museum will explore Asian-based religion's portrayal of the heavens in their "Constructing the Cosmos".

Finally, Southwest Chamber Music's season is entitled "The Universe: Music of the Spheres", and they will be performing at many of the above venues over the coming weeks. To find out about everything that is happening in The Universe check out Museums Magazine or call 1-800-726-7147.

Vanilla

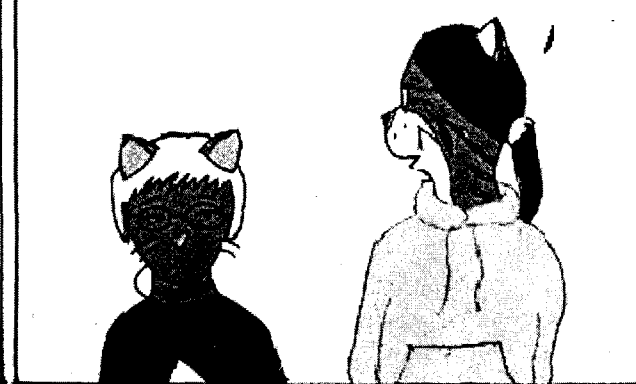
by Jason Mitchell

LOOK AT THAT MESS! YOU HAVE VINCE, SUMMER, AND HARRY WORKING ON A MATH SET. AND THEN YOU HAVE BEN AND KI OVER THERE WORKING ON A CHEM SET. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT NOW, TRAVIS?

MY DEAR AMY, I AM MERELY NOTING THAT THERE ARE FROSH HARD AT WORK ON A SATURDAY.



OK, FROSE, LISTEN UP. YOU'RE ALL STILL ON PASS-FAIL, SO THERE IS NO GOOD REASON FOR YOU TO DO YOUR WORK. I SUGGEST YOU GET OUT OF YOUR DORMS AND DO SOMETHING ELSE. . .



15 MINUTES LATER. . .

JUST SHUT UP.



DL-12-2001

(c) 2001, Jason Mitchell

thursday
april 19

friday
april 20

saturday
april 21

sunday
april 22

prefrosh
weekend

is on its way!

need more info?
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ASCIT Minutes

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

JANUARY 4, 2001

Present: BoD - Melinda;
Guests: Derek Jackson, Dan
Daly, Jonathan Dama, Wes
McCullough

Before the meeting gets started, Eric takes everyone on a quick tour of the newly refurbished SAC 35, the future Screening Room. It has been painted black with red carpeting. The Study Room has also been redone with tan walls and blue carpeting.

First Meeting of the Century called to order at 10:11 pm.

Our Social Director, Melinda Turner, has gone away to England to study for a term. We will miss her and will need to appoint someone to take over her duties.

Guests

Derek asks for both the Interhouse Memorial Fund and Multihouse Event Fund to cover costs for Ruddock's OPI. He also requests some funding that Ruddock never picked up last term.

Dan comes to talk to the BoD about a possible senior class gift.

General Meeting

ASCIT Movies - Wes says that James Burgess will finish the cabinets in the Coffeehouse for the DVD library this weekend, which means that they can start checking out movies soon. Jon says they've written a shell for BSD for the checkout system, but don't have a computer yet.

Advertisement: Do you have an old computer taking up much needed dorm space? Were you thinking about just throwing it away? Well, you don't have to! ASCIT is looking for a 486 or better with at least 8 MB of RAM, a 200 MB hard drive, and a monitor for their DVD Library checkout system. Not only do you get to recycle your old ma-

chine, you also get \$100! So, contact elion@its if you have what we're looking for. (Sorry, but Mac users need not reply.)

The DVD checkout limit will be 3 movies, each out for a maximum of 48 hours. Jon is thinking about adding a card reader, since the UID's are now entered manually. Wes will scan in all the DVD bar codes into the database by hand, because Eric told him to.

Martha-Helene asks about how clubroom scheduling works. We decide that donut.caltech.edu will eventually have online room signups for Clubrooms A and B, as well as the Screening Room. For the time being, she will put up clubroom signups on their doors.

For the Screening Room to be complete, we still need to buy couches, a sound system, and a VCR. Jason will look into a lockable cabinet.

Wes says that he would prefer not to show any more movies in Baxter since the money could be

better spent on DVD's. Out of the \$1000 originally allocated for projection movies this term, the BoD decides to use \$500 for more DVD's and \$500 for an event, which will be decided by Wes.

An ASCIT election extravaganza is coming up. Nominations for President and BoC Chair will open Wednesday, January 10 and end Tuesday, January 16. The election will be held Monday, January 22. Nominations for the rest of the ASCIT elected offices will open Wednesday, January 24 and end Tuesday, January 30. The elections for these offices will be Monday, February 5. (If you are thinking about running, you should start working on your personal statement.) Also, the Social Director position needs to be filled for the rest of Melinda's term. Signups will be put up on the door of SAC 33 from Friday, January 5 to Friday, January 12 and the replacement will be chosen by the ExComm. Signups for the CRC Chair will be up from Friday, January 12 to Wednesday, January 17. This

position will be appointed by the BoD.

All of the Faculty-Student Committee spots have been filled except for the one for the Library Committee, which we will skip. Martha-Helene and Chris will compile a complete list of all students on committees.

SAC Rooms - Blacker and Ricketts, envious of Fleming and Dabney, also want rooms in the SAC. The Music Department wants Club Room B. The ASCIT lights will go in the Publications' Closet.

Sean will talk to us next week about our yearly self-audit.

Meeting adjourns at 11:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Cardema

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

JANUARY 8, 2001

Present: BoD - Meghan, Melinda; Guests: Jonathan Dama, Jason McIlhaney, Michael Schein, Erik Dill

Meeting called to order at 11:09 pm.

Guests

Jon comes to pick up a reimbursement for DVD Library supplies.

Jason M. has an audiophile contact who may be able to get us a good deal on equipment for the Screening Room. He will email Eric the guy's phone number.

Mike, our Election Chair, will brush up on the Bylaws as he prepares for the ASCIT Election Extravaganza! Sign-ups for President and VP/BoC Chair go up Wednesday, January 10 at 8 am and come down Tuesday, January 16 at 5 pm. The election will be held on Monday, January 22. For those interested in running for these positions, personal statements will be due to the Tech (tech@ugcs), along with a flattering picture of the candidate, by Tuesday, January 16 at 7 pm. Sign-ups for all other ASCIT elected offices will begin in two weeks.

Sign-ups for the CRC Chair, who is appointed through a complicated process, will go up this Friday, January 12 and come down a week from then.

All current BoD members will write up a description of their office by the next meeting. They will be used for our election advertisement in the Tech next week.

Erik comes to talk to us about the Big T. He reports that the bulk of it has been finished, leaving only three sections (ads, student groups, index) that need to be worked on. (On a side note, ASCIT still has to submit their page, but Laura assures us that she can finish it in 15 minutes.) Erik expects the yearbook to be done by February 15. He will give us weekly progress reports, either in person or through email (to Meghan), until the Big T is complete. Erik would also like some additional help, maybe one representative per house, to do proofing. Chris will email the IHC about it this week. Erik will come to the meeting next week to give us a more detailed schedule.

In other Big T news, Jake West, next year's Big T editor, has already started working on his layout. Erik is getting him started. They have a meeting with the publisher tomorrow.

General Meeting

We need to clear some junk out of the Physics 1 TA room. There are piles and piles of old club books (many written in Chinese

and Vietnamese) that we need to get rid of and some tables that need to be moved to the new Study Room/Club Library. Martha-Helene will contact the relevant clubs (and maybe the ISO) about picking up the books. We will also place an ad in the Tech. If the books are not claimed by next Monday, we will either donate the books to a library or have a gigantic book sale.

The couches for the Screening Room should arrive in two to six weeks, which means we'll have to do the grand opening without them. Eric and Jason will be on the Audio Task Force, in charge of finding the best damn sound system we can fit in our budget. Jason will recruit little buddy Hsiang Huang as our audiophile consultant.

Sean will submit financial records to an outside accountant for our end of the year self-audit. He will look into how much that will cost. He also recently attended a discussion about club funding, sponsored by the Alumni Association. He said it went fine.

Martha-Helene is still working on the UROH. She is waiting for the web submission program to be completed, but if it isn't ready in two weeks, she will go to email submission. She also attended another alumni meeting as the ASCIT representative.

Chris will find out the status of the CLUE.

Emma is still working on the CS 1 survey. She has a web page up with all the comments she received. After the data has been analyzed, she will write an article for the Tech. She is also temporarily the student representative for the Library Committee. She would also like the ARC representative selections this year to be done at the same time as general house elections.

The BoD is reminded that in the future, the ARC will be in charge of appointing students to academic-related committees.

The question on everyone's mind is, "Will we ever sell the ASCIT van?"

After the meeting, the BoD will move the stuff out of the Physics 1 TA room.

Meeting adjourns at 11:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Cardema

CRC looking for a few good techers to chair

The CRC student co-chair has several responsibilities. Every time a case is brought up it is referred to the Routing Group, composed of the CRC chair, the BoC chair, the Director of Residence Life, and the Dean. As part of the Routing Group, the CRC chair must help decide what body will best deal with the situation. If a case is referred to the CRC, the student co-chair works with the Associate Dean to conduct a preliminary investigation and a full CRC hearing if needed. In the hearings the co-chair sometimes acts as chairperson and sometimes as secretary. The co-chair must help run the hearings, make decisions with the students, faculty, and staff on the committee, and report the decisions back to the affected people and the Dean.

The ability to work closely with administrators, students, faculty, and staff is very important for the student co-chair. The co-chair must be able to present and stick up for his or her opinions, and must be fair-minded and consider all the facts before reaching a decision. Experience working in committees is helpful, and experience with disciplinary groups such as the BoC or the CRC is useful, but not required. The position does require a serious time commitment, varying week to week from nothing to many hours.

—Mark Barrett

Any questions about the CRC should be directed to Mark Barrett (mbarrett@its).

Entertainment



The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

Bounce (B)

Just once it would be nice to have a romantic comedy which doesn't wind up with a happy ending for its protagonists, or an ending which doesn't push the two of them together in some fatalistic consequence of having starred in a romantic comedy. Few will remember or have even heard of a small film called "Next Stop Wonderland," in which the two main characters don't even meet until the last minute of the film, leaving their destiny to the imagination.

A universal statement that anything different or novel is good often falls far from its mark, but the film was refreshing and honest. Truly, two people who may seem destined for each other often never have the opportunity to exchange glances.

The chance encounter between the two protagonists in "Next Stop Wonderland" was a bonus, a guilty pleasure for an audience that has been groomed on stories in which the two attractive people automatically gravitate toward each other.

But the conclusion of the movie at that moment shrouded the budding friendship in ambiguity enough to escape the timeless question of why two people fall in love.

Further, while the characters had been delineated as martyrs almost, in an ocean

of sleazy love, there was that possibility that neither one of them was perfectly deserving.

The cessation of the movie when they first met covered up any possible friction between the two, and any imperfections which are so indelible in each and every human being, which most films gloss over.

In "Bounce," it's human weakness which entertains the center stage and it is quite effective in soliciting pathos. There's a nuanced perspective of the boy-meets-girl, boy-gets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl-back story because it turns out that the guy is a fraud.

His name even subtly points to his fallibility: Buddy Amaral, close to amoral. Yet he balances his cheeky schmarm with "Buddy," a term that hints at a deeper, more genuine character.

It turns out that Buddy is an ad exec, a position which is fitting for a guy who has to balance authenticity with manipulation.

At first, the manipulation dominates his character. Arrogant and self-centered, he waits with a throng of angsty holiday season travellers at an airport that is snowed-in.

He makes glances at a compliant blonde and fraternizes with a stranger who is hoping to return home to his wife and two kids. The

stranger, Greg Ginellow, is a struggling writer, daunted by an excoriating review of a play he recently scripted.

Yet his dejection is soon erased when Buddy gives him his seat on the plane. His thanks need not be so genuine as Buddy's own interest in fornicating supersedes any true act of generosity.

But Buddy's narcissistic bubble becomes topsy-turvy when the plane on which Greg left crashes, killing everyone on board.

One reaction could be that getting booty saved his life, but it's also true that a more decent man perished while Buddy's life was spared.

First stage of catharsis: self-loathing. Buddy comes face-to-face with his sordid occupation when his advertising firm launches a massive campaign for the airline company to sympathize with the lost, more an effort to curb negative opinion than true sympathy.

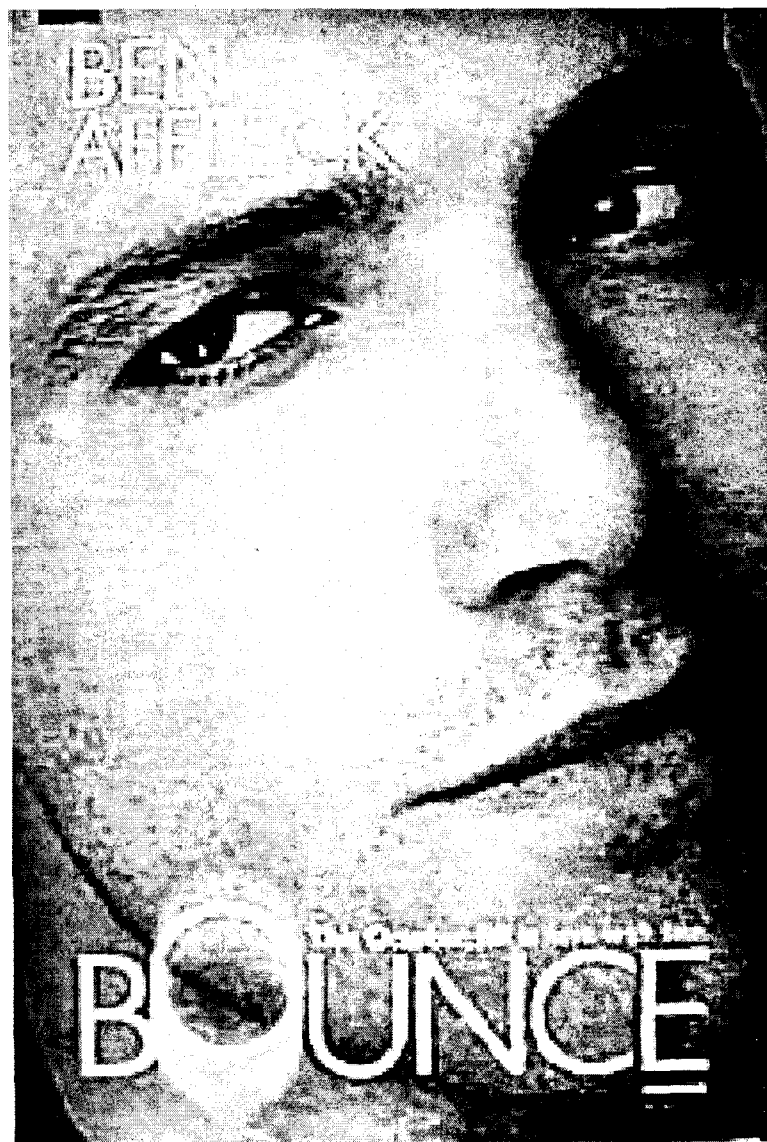
Again, the strained tension of authenticity and manipulation emerges, but since Buddy almost died, he now embarrasses the firm by pointing out the shallow commiseration.

Exploiting the deceased, it seems, isn't Buddy's thing, but what airline company would do such a thing? In an act of bad taste, even if the film means to be critical, it borders a bit on the absurd.

The campaign leads Buddy into an alcoholic tailspin only to be rescued by a twelve-step program safety net.

When Buddy recovers, he tries to check up on Greg's widow, Abby, who has re-established financial security as a realtor.

While advertising a space in a strip mall, her Rottweiler attacks Buddy in his designer duds, leaving her a bit indebted to him. A relationship soon develops. Buddy swings a lucrative



deal to her as the broker for a new swanky location that his firm is eager to acquire, and all the time they get cozier, while Buddy maintains incognizance of her history and Abby makes others believe that she is a divorcee and not a widow.

There's an understated strength in her character for doing so—she wishes not to be placed on a pedestal for being a widow. It allows her to judge others as they interact with a perception of her that is perfectly normal, unfettered by a feeling of guilt or special handle-with-care mentality because her life has been thrown asunder.

There's a certain violation, then, by Buddy's presence, because he is aware of these protective mechanisms. He is placed in the uncomfortable position of explaining whether his emotions are a product of sympathy or love.

Disregarding this clever philosophical question, the film remains extremely predictable and true to films of its genre. While Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow maintain an awkward chemistry which is fitting as the two characters grapple with the awareness and sensitivity of Abby's widow issue, there's a sadistic streak which almost begs for the two to remain as friends but not something more intimate. The scenario in which

Buddy seeks Abby is more replete with elements of seeking redemption than pure love. But by virtue of proximity, the two characters fall in love in fashion, while the film has elevated their intentions and personalities so that there seems to be no alternative to a happy ending.

As is characteristic of many romantic comedies, the characters appear so perfect and nice, and a bond appears simply automatic. By injecting human fallibility into the spin, Buddy's redemption becomes all the more ennobling.

The film has no novelty in explaining their affection for each other through little acts of kindness, like when Abby rescues a girl on her prom date from having toilet paper trailing from her shoe, or the camaraderie that Buddy, Abby, and her two kids share.

It's mawkish and superficially cutesy, and denigrates love as something that only pseudo-saints deserve, or as a by-product of lonely insecurity.

True, love is often disguised as such, which is why it is better not to broach the subject at all, or to portray love as something which is more selfish or impure. It is quite unbelievable that this strong emotion of love, not disguised as lust or companionship, can be engendered by a mutual niceness.

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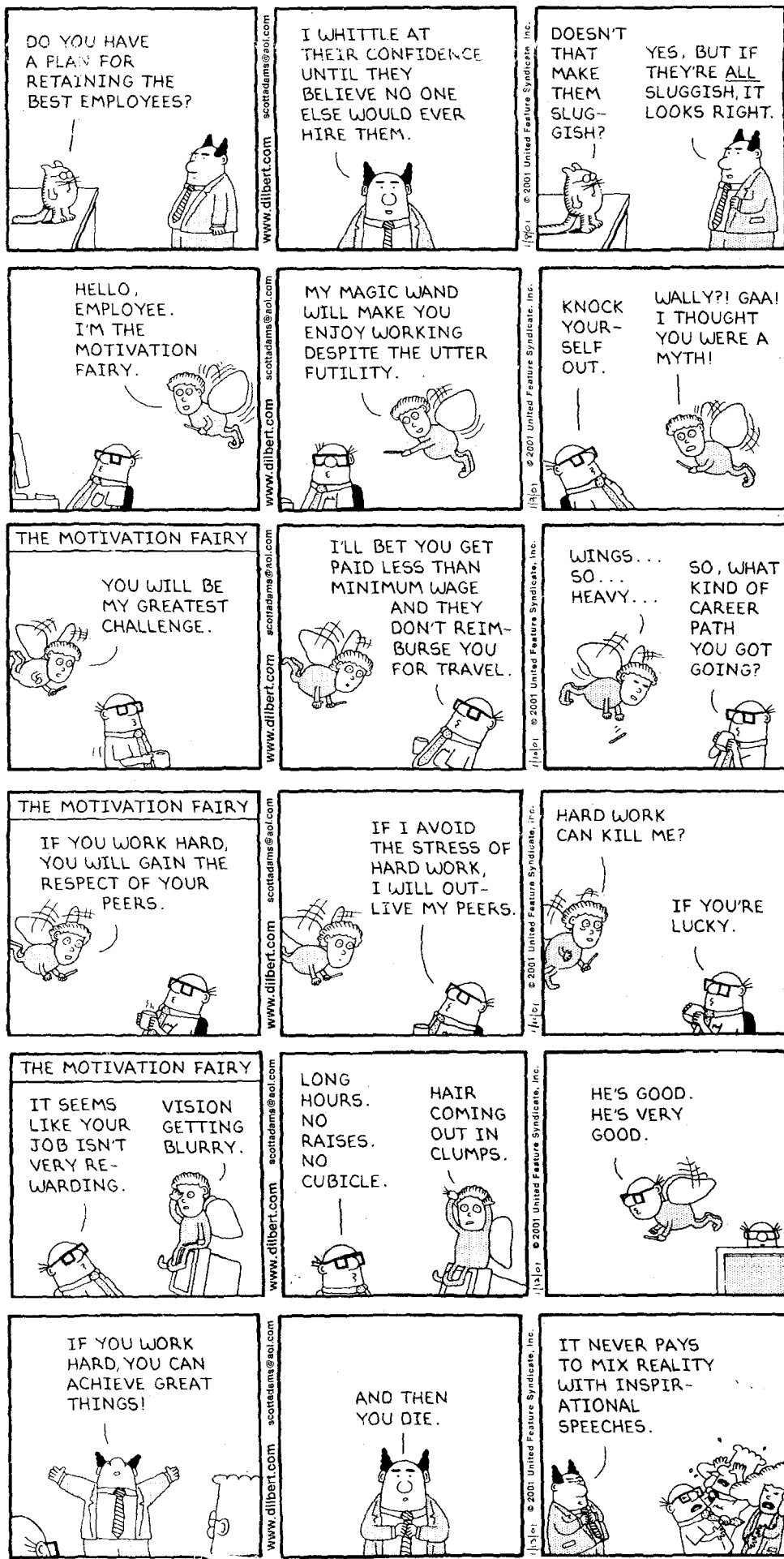
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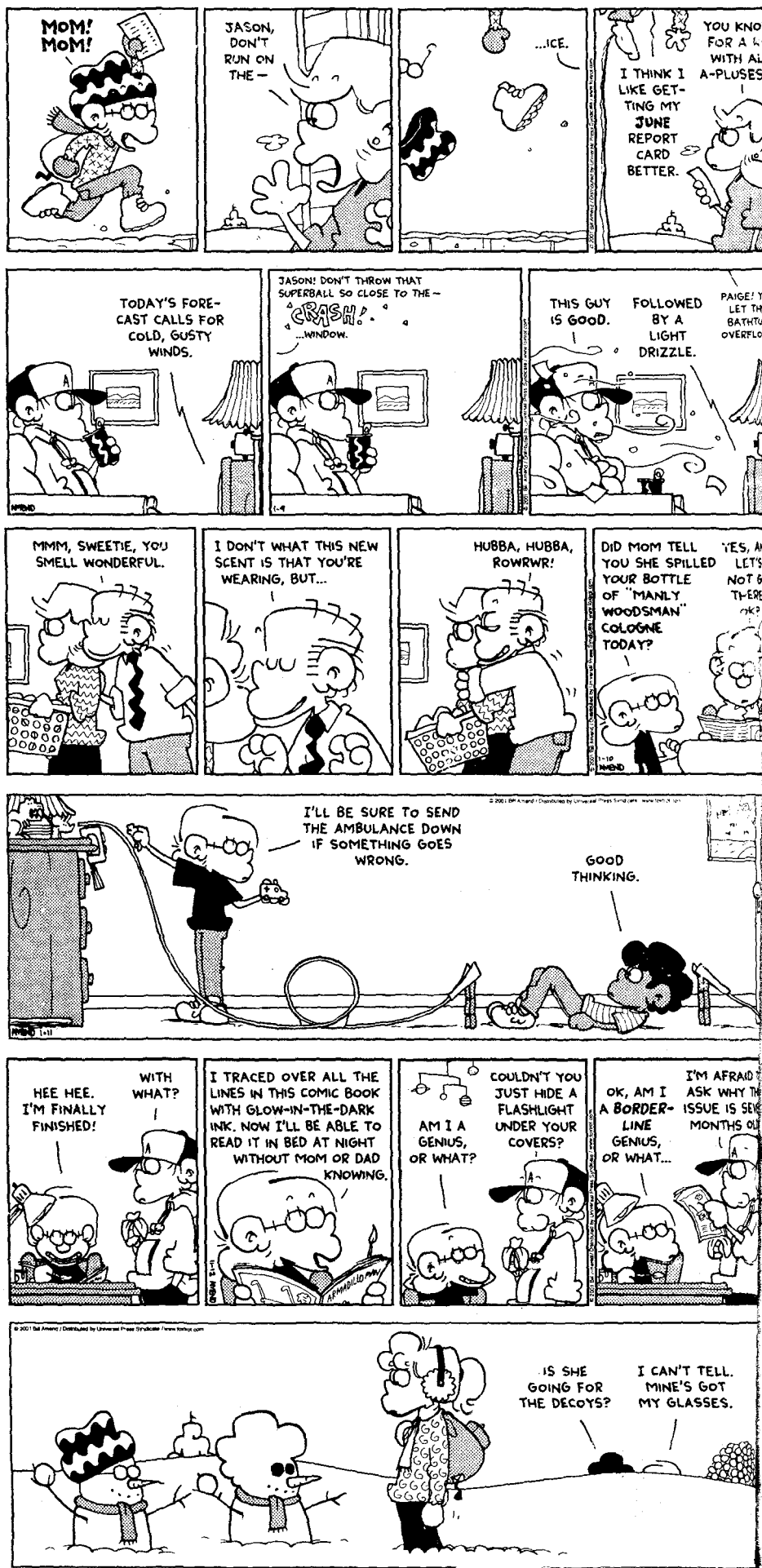
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SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE (R) Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00
QUILLS (R) Fri. - Thu. [1:00] 4:00 7:00 9:45
THE HOUSE OF MIRTH (PG) Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 2:35 5:40 8:45
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Dean's Corner

The week that was

by Jean-Paul Revel



The first week of classes this term seems to have gone by so very fast. It was, like, whoosh. Of course, the week was short a day, what with January 1 falling inconveniently on the Monday that should have been the first day of classes. Also, it was hard to break the holiday mood and buckle down to work on January 2! I even know of students who did not make it back to campus on time for that first day of classes. Next year you will get a lump of coal from Santa.

So it was a very short work week, only four days. If one takes the working day to be to eight hours long, this means 32 hours of work (check my fuzzy arithmetic). I was struck to realize that this represents less than the minimum Caltech students are allowed to register for without special permission! Our minimum load

is a 4.5 day equivalent, slave drivers that we are! The standard maximum course load of 54 units works out to represent nearly seven days in the working life of ordinary mortals. And to think that there are quite a few of our students who are eager to sign up for 60 or more units! That is bad enough if it is assumed that the courses are properly united. If the garden variety course demands 12 hours of work per week instead of nine, things can quickly get out of all reasonable proportions. There is no time left for the ordinary and necessary stuff of plain living.

Now here in the U.S., the 40-hour week is the standard. The comparison between a Tech week and ordinary work week is even worse when one looks elsewhere around the world. Not everyone believes that 40 hours is a reasonable work load. Take the Angel Inn,

with styles itself as a famous pub in Hetton, near Skipton, No., UK. They recruit workers by emphasizing the good working conditions they offer, in particular a 4 1/2 day work week. You also know, of course,

that, as of February 1 last year, a 35-hour week is the legal workload for large companies in France. This schedule will apply to all employers next January 1. The French were nearly one-upped by the U.S. Senate when it passed a 30-hour work week in 1933. Obviously that never became the law of the land, but there are many places in the world with relatively short work weeks. One international organization encourages the establishment of four-day weeks. Their motto is "Work less so all of us will have work and live better." Obviously Caltech (or at least Caltech students) could not, or maybe even would not, subscribe to this. By the way, it is the rare professor who keeps such a leisurely schedule. It does not leave time to read, write, publish

enough so as not to perish, direct research, and do all the other—whoops, let's not forget teaching—that professors are supposed to do. In fact, I suspect many professors think they would not be worth their salt if they did not work for 60 hours or more per week. At least we profs do not demand of our students things we are not willing to do ourselves.

I have been looking at petitions brought in by students who would like to overload, i.e. to sign up for more than 51 units for frosh or 54 for upperclass. I am very concerned about students registering for larger work loads. Attempting to take too many courses obviously will reduce the amount of time spent on each. And with less time spent, there will be not as profound an understanding as there could be otherwise. The idea is not just to pass, but to acquire a thorough working knowledge of the subject matter being discussed in class. You are here for an education, not only just a light once over. It is also important to have a life outside of the classroom, balancing it with academic pursuits. Your studies should be your top priority. That cannot be achieved if

you take too many courses at once. You need to have time to digest; you need to have time to sleep and eat and relax so as to be ready to absorb new information. This requires discipline, determination, dogged application, and enough time to do it all.

Last Friday an event took place which should be an excellent model for conduct. I speak of the women's basketball game between Caltech and MIT. It was disappointing that our side did not prevail—not by a long shot. I guess we are the best even at losing. No matter. The Caltech team members displayed willingness to keep ongoing and work hard, trying to catch up even in the face of a huge deficit. Also a marvel was the sustained enthusiasm of the crowd and the encouragement they gave to the team throughout the game. May you show the same pluck in your studies.

A bientot

Jean-Paul Revel

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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

H&SS Division offers the following Selected Topic and New Course for winter term 2000.

Law 133 Business Law and Economics This course provides an introduction to modern business organizations, from both the legal and social-scientific points of view. First we will examine the basic principal-agent relationship at the core of all organizations, from both a legal and economic stand point. We will then explore the governance of modern organizations, both public and closely held.

Topics covered will include corporate liability for employees' wrongdoing, managers' fiduciary duties, corporate opportunity, shareholder voting, shareholder suits, proxy contests, mergers and acquisitions, and a brief introduction to securities fraud.

The course may be taken more than once if the topics differ. Instructor: Arlen TTh 1:30-3pm BLH

SES/PI 133 Philosophy of Physics In this course, we will examine conceptual issues that arise within classical (i.e. non-relativistic) quantum mechanics. The mathematical formalism of quantum mechanics is well understood, and its predictions well-confirmed. There remains, however, the beguiling question of how the world could possibly be that way. In particular, we will examine two problems. 1) The standard formalism for quantum mechanics includes two different rules for the evolution of a physical system. One rule applies when the system is not being measured, the other when the system is being measured. This raises two fundamental questions: what is measurement, and why should a system behave differently when it is being measured? 2) In certain types of physical system, distant particles can coordinate with each other across a great distance -- so great that any signal sent from one to the other would have to travel faster than the speed of light. How is this coordination possible? A number of incautious thinkers have drawn outrageous conclusions from these features of quantum mechanics: quantum mechanics proves that we have free will, or that all things in the universe are interconnected, or that ESP is possible. We will not be discussing any of these claims explicitly, but students who take this course will acquire the resources to examine these claims critically.

This course presupposes no prior knowledge of quantum mechanics: all of the central problems can be raised using ery

simple exams. It will be assumed that all students have a solid grounding in basic mechanics (such as ought to be provided by a good high school education). The course will make use of some tools from elementary linear algebra: vectors and vector spaces, matrices and linear operators. Students who have not yet completed Math 2a may wish to consult with the instructor before enrolling. Students must also have completed their freshman humanities requirements before enrolling in this course. Instructor: Hitchcock - W7pm 127 Bax

*Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter. All other selected topic course descriptions are posted in Baxter.

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

Community Service Opportunities Abound! The Caltech Y offers students and staff a variety of ways to participate in community service. Opportunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Shelter, math tutoring (on or off campus), reading tutoring, and working at local hospitals. One-time community service events are planned each term and opportunities for service on a regular basis exist. Undergraduates with federal work-study can receive \$15/hr for their community service work. To be added to the community service interest email list, or for more information about the Community Service Program, please contact Kristin Abbott at kabbott@caltech.edu or call 626/395-3180. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

Paid Summer Internship in Silicon Valley Free room and board, \$1000 spending money for 8 weeks, paid for weekend trips, up to \$5000 for eight weeks of experience with a Silicon Valley startup. Check out www.uofdreams.com and if you have any other questions email melly@its.caltech.edu.

EVENTS

Science, Ethics, and Public Policy LECTURE SERIES Winter Quarter 2000:

The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization presents the following lectures:

Dr. Ute Deichmann, Genetics Institute, University of Cologne will discuss The Slow Start of Molecular Biology in Post World War II Germany: The Impact of the National Socialist Science Policy. Thursday, February 1, 2001 4:00 p.m. Room 25 Baxter Building

Dr. David Rowe, Professor of History of Science and Mathematics, Mainz University, Senior Fellow, Dibner Institute will discuss Einstein's Enemies: German Antirelativists, 1914-1920. Thursday, February 15, 2001 4:00 p.m. Room 25 Baxter Building

Dr. John D. Norton, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh will discuss Einstein and the Canon of Mathematical Simplicity. Thursday, March 8, 2001 4:00 p.m. Room 25 Baxter Building

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club presents a Professionally Taught Beginners' American Foxtrot dance class. This is a 5-week series held on the Caltech campus in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9:30pm, with practice continuing until 9:30pm on five successive Wednesdays: Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7. The cost for the series is, \$30.00 for the five lessons, single lessons are \$7.00 [\$20.00 and \$5.00 respectively for undergraduates] Everyone is welcome No partner is necessary.

Caltech Quiz bowl will be holding an intermural tournament on Saturday, January 13th, open to all members of the Caltech community. Information can be found at www.its.caltech.edu/~quizbowl/im2001.html or by contacting tournament director Jordan Boyd-Grabera by email at jbg@its.caltech.edu

SAVE THE DATE! Prefrosh Weekend is coming up!

Thursday, April 19th - Sunday, April 22nd, 2001 If you have any questions, please email Dina Figueroa - dina@admissions.caltech.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS

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 355 S. Holliston, second floor

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: National 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 American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF) is offering scholarships to upper class undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in careers in the surface finishing field. Applicants must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, materials science, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, statement describing career objectives, list of educational achievements, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or professors. Applications are available in the

Financial Aid Office. Please send completed application materials to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, Central Florida Research Park, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando FL 32826-3298. Entries must be submitted to the AESF Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2001.

The National Institutes of Health scholarship program, the Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (UGSP), targets students who are committed to pursuing careers in health research or basic biomedical science research. The UGSP offers up to \$20,000 per year in financial aid educational expenses. For further information and an application go to the Internet site at: <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>

The American Society of Naval Engineers sponsors a scholarship program to encourage students to enter the field of naval engineering. Programs of study which apply to the diverse field of naval engineering include architecture, marine, mechanical, civil, aeronautical, electrical and electronic engineering, and the physical sciences. Scholarship awards of \$2,500 for undergraduate students and \$3,500 for graduate students will be made for the 2001-2002 academic year. The deadline for receipt of scholarship applications is February 15, 2001. Call (703)836-6727 if you have any questions about this program

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. Submission should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editor 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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