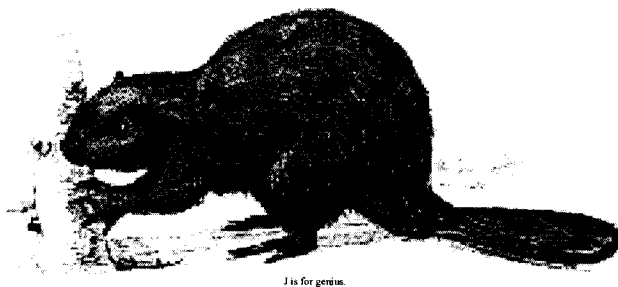


Career Day  
February 15  
Brown gym  
10:30am - 2:30pm



get ready for...  
**electionmania**  
pages 2-5

# The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 15

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 2, 2001

## BIOMED SERIES FOCUSES ON NEW RESEARCH

BY JOHN OH

The 0.1 Seminar series for 2001 focuses on the multi-discipline field of biomedical engineering. The seminars are held every Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall.

The series began Jan 12 with a seminar titled "Unsolved problems in biomedical materials engineering" given by Julia A. Kornfield, associate professor of chemical engineering, and David A. Tirrell, Ross McCollum-William H. Corcoran professor of chemistry and chemical engineering, both from Caltech.

Established in 1996 by Provost Steven Koonin, the Biology 0.1 seminar series is designed for audiences with basic scientific background and focuses on new research by scientists at Caltech, JPL, and other research clinics in engineering, computational science, chemistry, physics, and biology.

The series debut given by Kornfield and Tirrell focused on the complications and challenges of using medical devices and the introduction of foreign objects to the body during surgery, and current approaches to compensate for the problem.

Morteza Gharib, professor of aeronautics at Caltech, gave a general review of the mechanisms responsible for heart failure and some models describing the mechanisms of the heart muscle. Titled "Cardiac mechanics: new views and challenges," the seminar suggested different routes of treating heart failure stemming from these new models of the hearts.

The third seminar, to be given January 26, 2001, will focus on a model of secretion of parathyroid hormones that seems to be highly abnormal in some tumors. Donald S. Cohen, Charles Lee Powell professor of applied mathematics and William Goodman of UCLA will lecture.

Future seminars will included topics such as current advances in biotechnology to allowed longer manned space missions, gene therapy, and neural prosthesis to decipher neural signals from paralyzed patients.

## CURJ to focus on undergraduate research

BY JON FOSTER

Everyone knows SURF; not everyone knows CURJ. Now, a group of dedicated undergraduates are working to change this.

CURJ stands for the Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal. In previous years it published only the winners of the Bonsall prize, the written equivalent of the Peripall speaking prize; some years it didn't even come out. This year, the new and improved CURJ plans to make a bid for national prominence, featuring articles from SURF papers and Core lab reports.

The articles have all been edited for style to make this journal accessible and enjoyable to a wide audience. "We are producing this journal for science and engineering undergradu-

ates", explains Ram Srinivasan, editor-in-chief of CURJ. "This shapes how you edit, and what you accept."

When Srinivasan and his team were initially formulating their plans, they had many questions to answer. Does Caltech really need an undergraduate journal? Srinivasan's answer to that question is two-part.

First, undergraduate research is on a fundamentally different level from the research published in journals like *Science* and *Nature*. It is inherently short-term, and often lacks the same resources.

But undergraduate research is far from worthless, and CURJ's main goal is to promote this research. In Srinivasan's words, "Undergraduate publication naturally complements undergraduate research. A successful



Members of the CURJ staff

journal at once motivates creative work and stimulates engaging communication."

The key, of course, is success. When asked about the future of CURJ, Mike Russo said, "I'd like to see CURJ ...become respected enough that publication

in CURJ would serve to get an author noticed." Relevance outside of Caltech is a big goal for CURJ, and the first issue will feature articles from UCLA students who did SURFs here over the summer. CURJ also hopes to

PLEASE SEE CURJ ON PAGE 7

## Caltech Minority Student Affairs Office to celebrate Black History Month

BY JASON MITCHELL

February, as many may remember from elementary and middle school, is Black History Month. It is the time of year on which to look back on the achievements of African-Americans. And like your old school, the Minority Student Affairs office has fun events planned in honor of this month.

Black History Month started as "Negro History Week" in 1926. It was founded by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard. Woodson felt that the lies about black history that were spread by members of academia in and before that time needed to be combated.

He broke away from mainstream academia and devoted his life to studying the experience of the African race throughout the world.

Woodson's week revolved around lectures and meetings that hoped to educate people on the truth of the African race. I remember my school telling us about famous African-Ameri-

cans throughout history through class discussions and bulletin boards.

However, the Minority Student Affairs office has a slightly different view as to how to celebrate Black History Month, and it revolves around song.

For starters, on February 9th, there will be a band performing African music outside the Red Door Cafe at noon.

A week later on the 16th, you can see the JOOBA West-African Dance Troop.

JOOBA is part of UCLA's African Arts Ensemble, which is dedicated to the cultural enlightenment of all. They also offer dance workshops, so there might be a bit of audience participation.

And the grand finale comes on the 23rd at 7:30 PM, where a superb jazz band, "Black Drawz Jazz, Blues, and Boogie Band," will be playing with refreshments in the Student Services building.

To attend the jazz band concert, be sure to RSVP with Cindy Mesa at [cmesa@studaff.caltech.edu](mailto:cmesa@studaff.caltech.edu).

## Dr. Charles Elachi named new director of JPL

BY TECH STAFF

Dr. Charles Elachi was announced yesterday to be the successor of Ed Stone as the director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

President David Baltimore gave the press conference that revealed the conclusion of JPL's extensive search for a new leader.

Born in Lebanon, Elachi did undergraduate work in physics and engineering in Grenoble, France, and earned a master's and doctorate from Caltech. He also holds degrees in business administration and geology.

In his thirty years at JPL, Elachi managed radar development, led the radar remote sensing team, and served as director for space and Earth science programs.

"My commitment is to continue the tradition of excellence and boldness in exploring our solar system, understanding the origin of galaxies and applying



Charles Elachi

that knowledge to better understand the changes on our own planet," he said.

Elachi takes office May 1.

### Inside the Tech

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# ASCIT election statements

## Quantum resumes

BY JERRY HOUSER

You might as well face it; you've got to have a resume sooner or later. Probably sooner. It is required for graduate school applications, part-time jobs, fellowships, scholarships, on-campus interviews, awards, and many other introductions. So you might as well create a good one. Here's how:

**Resume Theory:** Simply put, your resume is a sales brochure. It's purpose is to let the reader know about your skills, experience, education, intelligence, personality traits, and any qualities the reader needs to know in order to make their decision whether or not you survive the first cut.

**Application:** Once you figure out what the reader wants to know, the rest is a matter of layout and wording. The key principles for using the right words are: highlight skill words, use active verbs, demonstrate results, cite accomplishments, use a telegraphic style (bullets are good), write in the third person, name drop when it helps, customize it to your reader, never mislead, and ALWAYS have it proofread.

**Layout principles include:** After your name and address start with your strongest attribute (whether it is education, experience or activities), use white space to draw the eye down the page, use text styles (bold, italic, capitals, etc.) to focus the reader, keep it brief (one or two pages), use cover letters to expand information, and make it easy to copy, fax and email. Try jobtrak.com or monster.com or rileyguide.com for examples.

Find a couple examples that you like and that follow the above principles. Then call the Career Development Center and ask to have it reviewed. Counselors and advisors will give you personal feedback for improving it.

This sounds simple, but it takes several drafts to get it perfect. Plan on a couple hours for the first draft and another hour for the second. Get feedback and shop around. Your resume can open or close many future doors to great opportunities, so take the time to do a good job now.

Announcing a new Caltech program: RESUMANIA! We have invited several employers who are Caltech alumni to review your resume on February 7, from 11am to 2pm in a tent on Olive Walk. Just bring the latest typed draft of your resume to the tent, and we will review it and give you suggestions for improvement. Then you have one week to fix it before Career Day on February 15, from 10:30am - 2:30pm in the Brown Gym.

## DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Ted Jou

So, I guess I'm running unopposed for the position of ASCIT Social Director. This is kind of surprising because I'm sure you've noticed while reading the rest of this page that there are more people running for ASCIT offices than there have been in a long time. As for me, all I have to do is to convince you not to vote for "No". Since I have no real opponent, I'll try to keep this short.

Now, it may be true that "No" has never thrown a crappy ASCIT party or spent all of your club's money on hors d'oeuvres for the formal, but I'll try my best not to do those things either. In fact, we just made it through a whole year without an ASCIT party and people have almost stopped talking about how much they sucked. If I'm elected, I will continue to not throw ASCIT parties, but instead of them just disappearing, I will encourage the Houses and the clubs at Caltech to organize more interhouse events to replace them. Currently there is \$800 per House per year in the ASCIT budget for Interhouse and Multihouse events. Other money for social events is spent on prefrash weekend, donuts, the ASCIT formal, and various other social events. I would like to take some of that money and give it to clubs or even to Houses for more social events that people would actually attend.

ASCIT will never be the driving social force on this campus, but its money can be; Its just a matter of giving the money to the right people. So, vote for me and not for "No" and your club, House, or Swiss Bank Account may be the beneficiary of some ASCIT funding.

## TECH EDITORS

Neda Afsarmanesh & Janet Zhou

Let's make this short and sweet. We're running for Tech Editors: Janet and Neda; Neda and Janet—same difference. Do you know anyone else who is running? Thought not. So vote for us. See how very efficient we are?! So just in case you didn't get it the first time around, vote for us!

## ASCIT SECRETARY



Justin Ho

I've had the benefit of working at the ATH for the past two years to happen on some great insights: there are ways to escape academic stress by piling on physical stress, food at the ATH is a hell of a lot better than in the hovses, professors aren't as scary as freshmen impressions, and undergraduates are still a lot cooler than grad students, but they try. I feel, however, that it is time to leave the role of observer. I can write and I can type, and my hand will not tire as the ASCIT Minutes give way to ASCIT Hours under La Presidenta Stapleton's regime. And even if the Minutes become so long as to fall under the heading of cure-all for insomnia, it will be representative of my dedication, if granted the opportunity to serve as ASCIT secretary, to keep the populace informed of the BOD's efforts to improve undergraduate-being. Please love the Ticket Stub,  
Self-proclaimed Justin

Elaine Ou



Hi. My name is Elaine, 19/F/CA. I'm a Scorpio. My turn ons are tight asses [uhh, am I allowed to say ass in here?], washboard abs, and guys who can wiggle their pecs without touching them. And fuzzy animals like Tux. But enough about me, let's hear from you for awhile. Let me be your secretary. Vote Elaine. Alright then...I'm out... One love... [What was THAT supposed to mean? Who knows. But see look, I can be coherent too when I want to be. So the point here is, Elaine is a perfectly capable ASCIT Secretary.]

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# RESUMANIA

February 7, 2001

11am - 2pm

Olive Walk

Prepare

for

Career Day

Caltech Alumni will be on campus to:

- review your resume
- give you advice & suggestions for improvement

Bring your resume to the tent on Olive Walk

Career counselors will be available to answer quick questions.

Sponsored by the Career Development Center ext. 6361.

# ASCIT election statements

## ASCIT TREASURER

### Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmadi

Hi, I'm Ayeh. I'm a junior physics and economics major, as well as a UCC and health advocate. Over the last couple years, I've been very involved with the Totem and Big T and have served on the Freshman Admissions and Institute Programs committees.

I'd like to be your treasurer because I want to be more involved with the decisions that affect students and organizations at Caltech. And because of my experience with different student activities and involvement in different parts of student life at Tech, I feel like I have a good understanding of what sorts of things techers value, and so I think I would serve everyone well.

In addition to serving on the ASCIT Board of Directors, the ASCIT treasurer's duties also include helping create the ASCIT budget and conducting prompt audits of ASCIT spending at the end of each fiscal year. The treasurer is also the person responsible for collecting all requests for ASCIT funding for clubs and student activities. Since I've done a significant amount of volunteer work for student organizations like the Totem and the Big T, and enjoy attending all kinds of campus events, I recognize how important student activities are at Caltech; I'd like to accommodate as many activities as possible, and think I could be unbiased towards them.

The ASCIT treasurer is also responsible for receiving and depositing corporation money, keeping records of all these transactions, and presenting them at weekly meetings. I have experience maintaining corporation accounts, so I understand how this system works and what this job entails. And as your ASCIT treasurer, I'd also like to make these reports on where ASCIT dollars go more readily accessible to students.

Finally, the ASCIT treasurer is specifically responsible for making sure that the ASCIT publications officers (those responsible for The California Tech, little t, Big T, Totem, CLUE, and Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook) know about and meet ASCIT's publication standards. In addition to keeping track of publication budgets and contracts, the ASCIT treasurer is the one to whom all unexpected budget problems for these publications must be brought. When the editors and managers have a problem they can't deal with, the treasurer is responsible for resolving them so that ASCIT publications come out on time. I'd like to make sure that what's happened with the Big T and little t in recent years doesn't happen with any other publications next year. And since I've been very involved in publication processes, both at Tech and elsewhere, I'm very capable of giving publications staff any help and support that they end up needing.

I hope you'll vote for me because I know the duties of ASCIT treasurer well, and I'm experienced enough and excited enough about it to do a good job. But in any case, please don't forget to vote.



### Koun Han

"After years of disappointment with get rich quick schemes, I know I'm gonna get rich with this scheme. And quick."  
—H. Simpson

#### Money

It can get you a Tutor  
But not an A (well...supposedly)  
It can buy you a Bed  
But not Sleep  
It can get you on Board  
But not Edible Food  
It can buy you a Position (except for ASCIT Treasurer)  
But not Respect  
It can buy you Sex  
But not Love  
So you see money isn't everything.



I tell you all this because I am your Friend, and as your Friend I want to take away your pain and suffering. So send me all your money and I will suffer for you.

A truer Friend than me you will never find.

CASH ONLY PLEASE.

Koun "I will make sure that I (...and you) get our money's worth" Han

### Scott Payne



Your vote for Treasurer is important. The Treasurer is not just a "giver" nor just a member of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is a representative to student clubs, a variety of off-campus organizations, faculty, and administration. It is for these reasons that you must select the right candidate for the job.

I've held positions that demonstrate my qualifications for the job. These include house librarian, ASCIT movies committee (in support of the DVD library), and ITS representative. Greater than this, however, is my experience with ASCIT, as a member and as a close friend of several officers including the current Treasurer. I'm informed of ASCIT proceedings and recent history. As crazy as this may sound to the frosh, I can even remember the time when "NO" was elected President.

To conclude, it is for the purpose of representing the student body that I run. Give me your approval and I will use my experience to serve as ASCIT Treasurer.

### Janet Zhou

Dilbert's Theorem on Salary states that engineers and scientists can never earn as much salary as business executives and sales people. This theorem can now be supported by a mathematical equation based on the following three postulates:

- Postulate 1: Knowledge is Power (Knowledge = Power)
- Postulate 2: Time is Money (Time = Money)
- Postulate 3 (as every Techer knows): Power = Work/Time

It therefore follows:

Knowledge = Work / Time  
and since Time = Money, we have:  
Knowledge = Work / Money  
Solving for Money, we get:  
Money = Work / Knowledge

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity, regardless of the amount of Work done.

Conclusion: The Less you Know, the More you Make.

This joke is posted outside my room, and I think it is indicative of my personality. I consider myself an easy-going individual who enjoys joking around with and teasing fellow students. I am amused by jokes like the one above, both by the fact that the conclusion is entertaining and that the theorem uses math and science postulates I actually know! Yet at the same time I'm hard-working, reliable, and dedicated. Most importantly, I have a lot of school spirit - I'm on the Caltech cheerleading squad! - and am enthusiastic about the opportunity to be more active in the Caltech community. I believe that I have the dependability and interest to fulfill the job duties of the ASCIT treasurer and hope that you believe so, too.



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Fri. - Thu. [11:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:05
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# ASCIT Election Statements

## BoC SECRETARY

**Andrew Coe**

A Candidate for Reform

The BoC is a secretive, intimidating, and badly designed organization that needs reform. If you think that just because you don't do anything wrong, you don't care about the BoC, think again. CENCE IS NOT ENOUGH. Because of the problems I see and I have for fixing them. If you what I have to say, then vote for work to make these changes.



have to  
I N N O -  
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some ideas  
agree with  
me, and I'll

1) No defense for the accused. In a BoC trial, the members have to be both judges and prosecutors, but no one is there to defend the accused. If you are a defendant, all you can do is answer the board's questions and hope for the best. My suggestion is to let the defendant choose a member of the board, maybe even a past member, to defend him.

2) No one actually knows how a trial works, what their rights are in a trial, etc. The BoC talks were intended to teach you how the BoC works and what precisely is a BoC-able offense, but they do only the latter. We need to make these talks more informative; they must advise students what they can and cannot do in case they are ever accused.

3) The BoC is very intimidating; questioning in a trial can get brutal because the board members have to act as prosecutors. There have been cases where the BoC badgered unknowing freshmen into admitting guilt by convincing them that they were going to be convicted regardless of their plea and that their punishment would be lessened by confession. In at least one such case, the Dean overturned the BoC decision because he realized what was going on. The suggestion of a defender for the accused would work well here; the defender could weather the BoC's rigorous questioning and advise the accused.

4) The BoC gets involved in too many cases that should be handled by RAs or the house leadership. For cases that are not academic in nature, the BoC should be a last resort, not a first resort.

**Dave Guskin**

I want to serve you as BoC secretary, because I think I have the experience and the character to do the job well. The BoC, like any other institution of government, requires someone or-and level-headed to ensure tions smoothly. I believe I qualified to handle the lo-side of things, having been tary of my house and editor publications. I'm also able to work well with people, especially in small groups, and I'd work hard with the BoC chair to investigate possible Honor Code violations fairly.



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In an office like BoC secretary, it's as important to be a fair and just person as it is to have this kind of experience. I treat the people I meet with respect, and I don't belittle or insult. I try to act in a way that lets people be comfortable rather than pressed. As Joe stated in his statement for BoC Chair, the BoC should be something students can trust. I would take that one step further and say that the BoC should be something with which students can be comfortable. People may dislike the BoC, and they may even complain about it, but they don't need to fear it. The role of the BoC is not intimidator; it's protector, serving us all by upholding the Honor Code. I hope you'll vote for me, because I believe I'll do the best job as a fair and understanding secretary for the Board.

**Elizabeth Stameshkin**



Hi! I'm Liz Stameshkin, a sophomore in Dabney House, and I want to be your Board of Control Secretary. I have been

Dabney's Board of Control Rep from November of 1999 through January of 2001, encompassing two boards and four terms of cases. Through this, I have gained invaluable BoC experi-

ence. I have helped to conduct preliminary investigations, sat on many cases, and have dealt with two boards with very different styles and ideas. I feel that Board of Control experience is very important in being the BoC secretary. Additionally, I am a responsible person who will work very hard for the board. I get along well with others and I believe strongly in defendant's rights. If elected, I would try my hardest to help form a new, less intimidating Board of Control. Remember - vote experience - vote Liz Stameshkin.

## DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Steven Hamed Hassani**

No statement provided



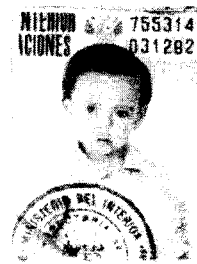
**Nick Knouf**

Hello! I would like to be your Director of Academic Affairs. While I have not been member of the Academic and Research Committee before, I do believe that I have the ideas and the drive to succeed as chair of the ARC.

As all of us know, academics at Caltech are not perfect; far from it. From my experience, students are dissatisfied by a number of things: graduation requirements; the (perhaps perceived) inability of professors to teach courses; and the fact that after four difficult years at Tech, we can get rejected from graduate schools merely because of a low GPA. These are all difficult problems, and I don't have any quick answers. But we can make a start. For instance, did you know that Physics majors (for their laboratory requirement) can take Aph 24 instead of Ph 6, but Astronomy majors cannot? That doesn't make sense. How about instead of having to take Chem 3a, students were given a choice between taking Chem 3a and taking Ph 3? How about giving the students the opportunity to receive a master's degree after four years of substantial coursework as an undergraduate (and with an involved senior research project), since we're taking graduate level courses anyway?

These are all things I would like to bring up in ARC committee discussions, and while students don't have the power to change the curriculum at Caltech, perhaps the faculty committee will listen to us if we make our voices heard loud enough. As well, as ARC chair I would ensure that the CLUE was published on time and was complete, since I know that for me it has been invaluable in the past.

In the end, it comes down to your vote. And while I don't have the experience with the inner workings of the ARC like some of the other candidates do, I believe that I nevertheless would be an effective and proactive chair. Vote for who you think would be best for the job, and if you vote for me, thanks.



**Al Valdivia**

During my time at Caltech I have held many positions which have taught me a great deal about how to work in committees to get things accomplished. First and foremost I have served on the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) for the past two years as a representative from Page House. Also, I am currently a member of the UASH and Educational Outreach Committees and this past summer I was on the SURF Student Advisory Committee and as a member of Challenges and Choices.

In addition, I've served one term as the VP of CLASES, the undergrad Latino organization on campus. Through this organization I learned a great deal about organizing and leading a large club. From debating with faculty members to counseling new freshman and non-techers to interacting with members of the surrounding Pasadena area, through all these experiences I have learned the importance of a strong group dynamic and how crucial to that is having an informed, responsible leader.

My time on the ARC has given me first hand knowledge of its inner workings which I believe affords me a very unique and valuable perspective. I have been able to observe what works and what doesn't, and over time I have seen several areas that call for improvement. The most important issue in my mind is that there is no continuity to the ARC, every year all of its positions are filled by new students which leads to very little progress being accomplished as each years committee has no experience to fall-back on. I believe the solution to this problem is finding a permanent faculty advisor so that there is a comprehensive source of advice for each years ARC to consult. Also, I would formalize a bi-weekly, publicized meeting schedule so that interested members of the community would know when they could drop in on meetings to give suggestions, critiques, etc. My experiences on this committee have given me a clear plan for reform and my time on other committees has made me well-known to various important faculty and administrators which I believe will help me actually bring about these reforms. As ARC Chair I will see to it that this committee realizes its untapped potential.

## UPPERCLASS DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

**Todd Schuman**

Vote for me for UD@L because I'll get the job done, and I'll get it done right. In the end analysis, that's all that really counts. I could harp on qualifications, or some grandiose sweeping program of change, but really all that matters is that I'm a hard worker, I can deal with people, and I'll get the job done. Being in government for a while has taught me that. Vote for Todd Schuman. Thank you.



**Derek Shannon**



I'm Derek Shannon, and I want to serve as your Upperclass Director-at-Large.

I served as Frosh Director-at-Large for a full term and a half, and was responsible for the Upperclass Director duties (like making sure the SAC copier worked) for part of that time after Jeremiah went to Cambridge. But beyond having proven my abilities and dedication as an ASCIT officer in the past, I think you should vote for me because my experience best allows me to contribute to our student government in the future. Any Upperclass Director can keep the copier running and not sell the uninsurable and therefore unusable ASCIT van—although Meghan did do a great job getting that beast fixed up. But it takes experience to turn the position into something truly useful, to have an Upperclass Director that has the know-how to deal with all the random crap that comes up, to help the other ASCIT officers fulfill their duties, and, most importantly, to help \*you\* get the most out of your time at Tech. And maybe even to sell that damn van, too—that would put at least \$5,000 in the ASCIT treasury, by the way. That experience (and cash dollaz to the tune of five g's) is what I'm offering, and I hope you'll accept it with your vote. E-mail me at dms@its. Or come by Fleming 34 and I'll \*really\* earn your vote. And one last thing: I WILL SELL THE ASCIT VAN WITHIN MY FIRST MONTH IN OFFICE, EVEN IF I HAVE TO THROW IN MY SOUL AND A KIDNEY TO SEAL THE DEAL. - Derek

# ASCIT Election Statements

## FRESHMAN DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

### Iram Parveen Bilal

Like almost any other frosh, at first, it seemed impossible to adapt to Caltech but after the long weeks of upperclassmen's advice of Pass-fail frosh, SP1 is impossible, don't waste your time on it!, enjoy your Freshman year and the one that personally kills me, it only gets worse, frosh, it all really seemed to unfold and get more manageable. Hence, now that all those early ten-



sions have been taken care of, I personally think that this is the best time to employ any abilities I have, in full force and commitment towards the student body of Caltech. Having led my High School Student Council and other

such offices before, I have hands-on experience of the responsibilities and duties of such posts. Now, I want to test all that I can do for you through ASCIT and I can only do that if you give me a chance, because all what we know about our abilities is infinitely less than that which still remains unknown. So Techers, come out, vote and give me a chance to serve you!

Take Care, Best Wishes and Keep Smilin!!!,  
Iram Parveen Bilal

### Ali Hassani

People may look at my candidacy and think to themselves, "Ali's not a serious guy and is always joking around." What people may not know is that when it comes to things I believe in, I can be a very passionate person and will fight until the end. Below are some examples:

Many of you received my email two weeks ago. The night before the elections for BoC chair, I found out that people were ganging up on Jacob Zasada. Loyalty and honor are very important to me, so even though I've only known Jacob for about a term, I was willing to put my name on the line and stand up for him. Speaking out may have made people my en-

emies, but I'm glad I did.

Also, Chem 1a Professor Nate Lewis failed several people with grades around 75%. Whether or not we deserved to fail is not the issue here. The grading policy and our final grades were never revealed, people with lower scores passed, and there is no policy giving students any rights



against the faculty. Most people would have stopped after being turned away by TA's and the

Professor. Others may have even stopped after talking with the Deans, UASH, and the Ombuds office. But I don't think anyone else would take it so far as to file a grievance against Professor Lewis accusing him of using his position to take advantage of us.

In summary I have only one thing to say. Would you rather have somebody like me who will empathize and actually wholeheartedly fight for you or somebody that only cares about his/her own self and gives up at the first sign of any red tape? Please email me at ali@caltech.edu if you have any concerns.

Thank you,  
Ali Hassani

### Joe Jewell

I'm running for Freshman Director-at-Large because I'm excited about the opportunity to serve the Caltech student body. And I do mean "serve," because I plan to work hard and really dedicate myself to all those menial tasks the upperclassmen see fit to assign the FDAL! I'm active on campus and I know a pretty wide cross-section of the Class of 2004—athletes, musicians, artists, actors, "other," "none of the above," "NO," and people of just about every interest—as well as students from the other classes. In short, I'll take the job seriously (but not too seriously!) and do my best to help ASCIT work for the continued improvement of student life at Caltech.



### Spencer Rarrick

In the past few weeks I have heard a lot of people complain that they feel the existence of ASCIT makes lives. It almost seems for their 30 or so dollar an occasional free agree that it's hard to membership are, and I that. I don't see any feel like they are wast—that is completely use- be able to use what at Large is given to their money's worth.



absolutely no difference in their as if students have nothing to show lars a term except a few donuts and movie. Personally I would have to tell what the benefits of ASCIT would like a chance to try to change reason why people should have to ing their money on a membership less to them, and hopefully I would little power the Freshmen Director help people feel they are getting

### Larry Stewart

I'm on a mission for the proletariat to improve working conditions, food quality, and exotic entertainment on campus. I plan to FedEx all left over CDS/TFM food to starving members of third world nations, to conserve power on campus by removing all light bulbs in passageways, and to save trees by requiring that all photocopiers only operate in duplex mode. Note: These jobs



require no real skill, just a time commitment (much as Frosh Director at Large). I'll spend the time to do it right.

## IHC CHAIR

### Chris Elion



During the past year, I've served as IHC chairman, and this year I'm running again. Being IHC chair requires a lot of hard work, but I like to think that I've done a pretty good job. No houses declared war on each other, the off-campus roompick was simpler (in my opinion) than the previous year, and Rotation ran fairly smoothly (except for a few surprises).

One of the major things that the IHC has been involved in through-

out the past year is the new board program. Upperclassmen now have the option of a declining balance plan, and eventually we'll be able to use our student accounts to buy food at off-campus restaurants. I also helped organize the ASCIT web project, which now contains the Bookmarket, CLUE, and DVD Library System.

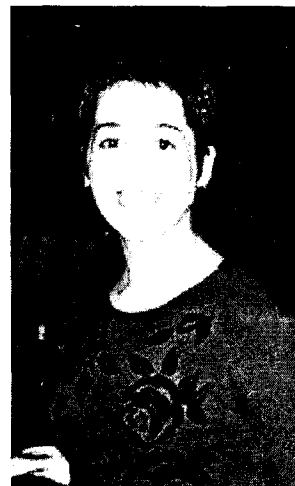
I'm not running to advance my own agenda, and I'm not doing this to try to get more power for my house. If I'm re-elected, I intend to continue with the work that I've started, as well as try to improve communications between the IHC, ASCIT, and the administration. So if you think I've done a good job this past year, please vote for me again.

And remember, you can't spell "Chris" without "I-H-C".

### Dana Vukajlovich

As the only student committee with equal representation from all the houses, the IHC is in a unique position to bring about fair change to students' lives. Its chair should be someone who will help the committee communicate your views to the administration. The chair needs to be someone that the presidents and the houses will have confidence in and who can help guide them to consensus.

After serving on the IHC for a year as Dabney president, I am sharply aware of the conflicts between the houses, yet I strongly believe in the cooperation that allows the IHC to function. As chair, I will recognize my responsibility to be a proponent of open discussions and cooperation. I hope to use the understanding I gained from working with all of the house presidents last year to guide the new



presidents. My experience with the IHC has also led me to feel very comfortable with staff and faculty, which will enable me to speak openly about our concerns as students.

I would like to make the chair a more accessible person - for comments or concerns from all houses. You deserve to have a chair that will listen to your complaints regarding board food or rotation rules - and who will ensure that these concerns come under the consideration of the IHC or ASCIT.

I have the qualities needed in the committee chair - objectivity, diplomacy, confidence, and experience - that will best serve you and your presidents. Please vote for me for the values I represent and my desire to be an impartial representative of all of the houses.

Dana Vukajlovich

### Jialan Wang

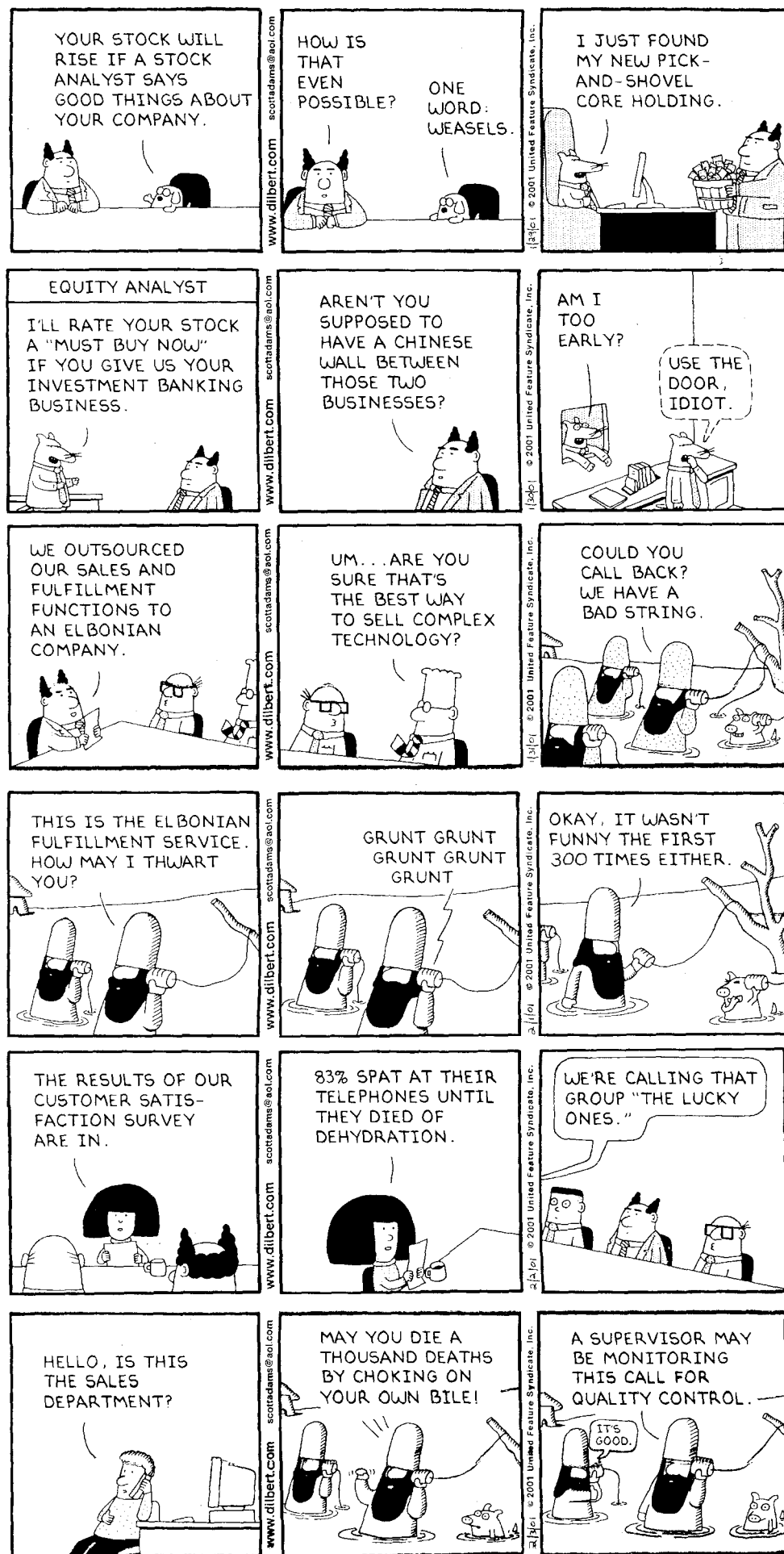


Ah ... another perky, dewy-eyed

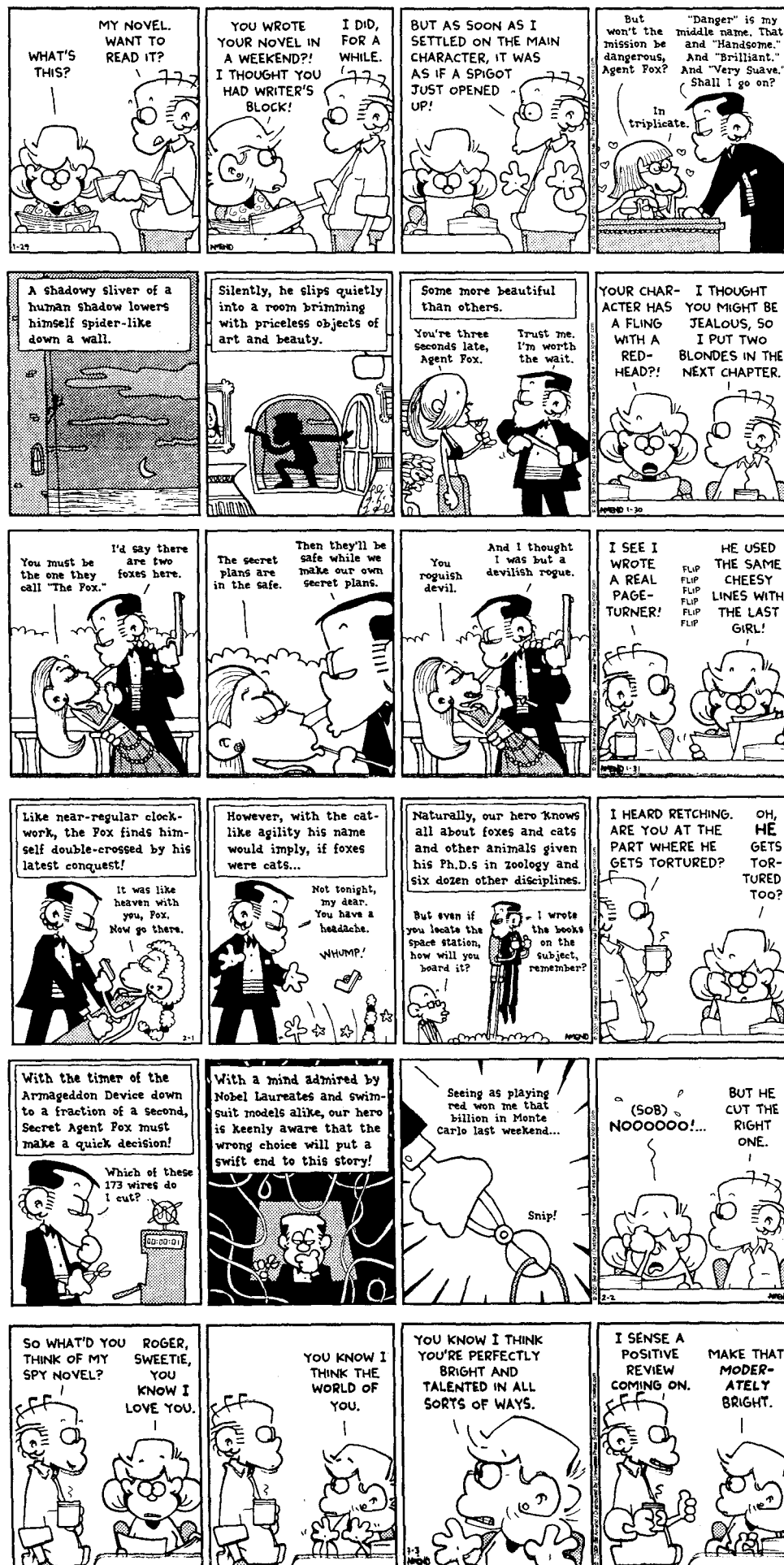
frosh running for the most useless of all of the myriad useless ASCIT positions. Many of you probably couldn't care less who becomes the Freshman Director at Large or even know what the FDAL does. Although the job might be a small one compared to other offices, the FDAL helps make life here a little more bearable. One of the great things about Tech is that any group of people with a common interest can start a club and get funding for it, and the FDAL can make that task either very easy or a pain in the ass. I see it basically as a responsibility position, and as Frosh Director I could be counted on to get stuff done. I would be more than happy to hear all your gripes and would go out of my way to help you and represent your interests in ASCIT. Hell, I'll help you out even if you don't elect me, because I'll just find some other way to be involved on campus. Laugh if you will -- I love this place, and I'm motivated to do a good job simply because I care.

## Comics

## DILBERT® by Scott Adams



## FoxTrot by Bill Amend



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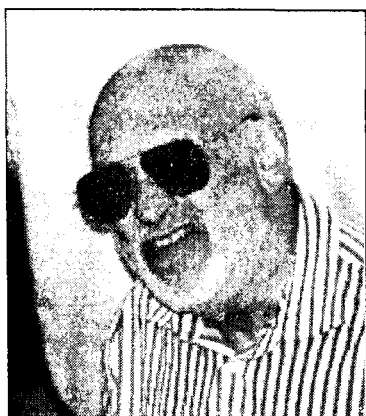


# The Dean's Corner

## Dean's Corner

### Seeing Red

by Jean-Paul Revel



January 19th was the first anniversary of the fire in the Boland Hall dormitory at Seton Hall where three students were killed and 62 more injured in an early morning fire. I have not been able to find out the results of the investigations about what actually happened. At the time the newspapers reported that a resident associate on the floor had to ask three people to leave the building just 45 minutes before the fire. It was suspected that these people were somehow involved. Who they were, what they were doing there, what led them to set the fire (if in fact they did so) was subject to speculation and so far as I can figure out, still not known. It is amazing however that barely three months after this catastrophe, again in the wee hours of the morning, there again was a fire in the same dormitory. This time a student was burned on the arm when a glass of alcohol was ignited, and set fire to the car-

pet. One would have thought that the occupants would have learned not to play with fire... Of course there is the indistinct possibility that this was a case of spontaneous combustion, rather than arson or just plain stupidity.

Actually an estimated 1700 fires take place each year on US college campuses with one out of six being set "on purpose". It is surprising, is it not, that college students would behave so irresponsibly, although, on the basis of age only, this should perhaps not be unexpected. In the population at large, half of those arrested for arson are men under eighteen years of age. The United States Fire Administration reports that young people who set fires do so as the result of peer pressure, or just because of pressure, pure and simple stress. There's plenty of that in any college environment, certainly at Caltech. Of course many fires are set accidentally. For example fabrics draped over a light fix-

ture are a common source of problems. I did that, when as a student away from home and by myself for the first time, I washed my things in the bathroom sink (the laundry, such as it was, was "too far away"). I made my mistake when I tried to expedite drying. A bad move...if you have not yet done this experiment, don't. I survived with minimal losses (just my socks and a T-shirt). Obviously an unintended candle will also serve to start a fire, and so will an overloaded extension cord. In an equally unoriginal approach to possible disaster, you can also put too much fat in a frying pan, or place the toaster too close to your drapes. Anyway, cooking seems to be the second most common cause of dormitory fires and smoking is number three, what? smoking! inside! And that is where colleges differ from the real world. In the outside world smoking is the major cause of fatal fires.

1700 fires a year is really an incredibly large number of incidents, especially in a environment populated by well educated and presumably sharper than most,

young people. Of course Frosh have not yet acquired the savvy but they represent only a quarter of the student population. For 1700 fires to be reported can you imagine how many more there must be which go largely unnoticed? Even if the school security logs list all of them, it takes serious damage, injury or death for an incident to make the newspapers. For 1700 fires to be reported there will be many more actual events including a whole slew of false alarms. Far from harmless, these compound the danger. Who wants to get out of their cozy bed or interrupt their breakthrough efforts on homework, simply to satisfy somebody else's need to display their power? Well may be the first few times, but no more after that. Repeated fake alarms dull the reactions of those exposed to them and so greatly increase the danger. Fires can quickly leap out of control, much faster than most people realize. In many instances people are killed not by the flames but by the smoke which can poison the air ahead of the fire, even several floors away. The three young men who died in the Seton Hall fire were killed by smoke inhalation. I do not know whether they were slow in responding to the alarm, but being even a little tardy in leaving the building can be very costly indeed. Anything which impedes fast exit, physically or psychologically, is dangerous. It may not be surprising that alcohol or drugs are often involved. Drinking presumably impair the judgment of whoever thinks it's funny to set the fires and also of potential victims, who will be slower at recognizing the

danger then they had been sober. A no-brainer don't you agree?

I wish I could say that, terrible as they are, such events take place only elsewhere, like at Bloomsburg University where there were two fatal Frat fires just a few years apart. Nothing of the sort would happen at Caltech. Our students are sophisticated, and very smart. They clearly foresee the consequences of their acts and thus are cautious and considerate of whatever could be a threat to others. Don't we wish that it would always be so? Unfortunately, over the years, I have become aware of some problems here also, apparently caused by a few, who cannot always be identified. A few is all it takes however. Other colleges resort to cameras monitoring the hallways, and other means of watching for trouble. Pranksters who pull fire alarms can be more readily identified and so made to face steep consequences. It is a criminal offense to tamper with fire equipment. That goes for alarms, detectors, fire hoses and for the bright red and so very enticing fire extinguishers. Playing with them can make them unworkable if needed. Who wants that on their conscience? Anyone who is curious as to what it's like to fire off an extinguisher, should call the safety office and sign up for one of their regular training sessions. Be careful with the red things, please

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.

**Quake Assistance Booth:** Set up by OASIS to collect contributions towards relief operations for the earthquake that hit Western India last Friday. It will be set up outside the Red Door Cafe during lunch (11:45am-1:15pm) every working day from Wednesday the 31st of January to Friday the 9th of February. All money collected will be forwarded to the American Red Cross for its earthquake relief operations. For further information on the booth or how you can contribute directly, look at [www.its.caltech.edu/~oasis](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~oasis).

**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. Instructor: Hitchcock - W7pm 127 Bax

**The Caltech Y** is coordinating Make A Difference Day on April 7th (the first Saturday of 3rd term). We are currently organizing several community service projects including helping the homeless, tutoring children, caring for animals, and cleaning up the environment. At the end of the day, everyone can attend a BBQ at the Y. Contact Kristin Abbott, ([kabbott@its](mailto:kabbott@its))

**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. 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. Contact Kristin Abbott at [kabbott@caltech.edu](mailto:kabbott@caltech.edu) or call 626/395-3180.

**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](http://www.uofdreams.com) and if you have any other questions email [melly@its.caltech.edu](mailto:melly@its.caltech.edu).

**SEDS (Students for the Exploration and Development of Space)** gathering Sunday @ 3:00pm in Winnett lounge, featuring a JPL astronomer and Caltech alumnus Dr. Karl Stapelfeldt! He will talk to us about what he did in SEDS in the 1980s and what it has lead to in his career. We'll also announce events for this term. Pizza served and everybody's welcome! SEDS also holds meetings on weekends for CCD-camera construction and an ambitious Lunar observatory project. Ask us any questions at [seds@its](mailto:seds@its).

## EVENTS

**Free-Mid-term Ballroom Dance Party**-Sat 3 Feb'01 8:00-11:59pm at Avery Dining Hall. Foxtrot and Cha-Cha music will be emphasized due to ongoing classes, followed by open dancing, feel free to make requests and/or bring your own music. Everyone is welcome (beginners, intermediates, Caltech affiliates, community members, etc.) No partner is necessary. Refreshments are provided at no cost. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom), or call Don at 626-791-3103

**A sculptural installation by Los Angeles artist Eric Wesley** will be held on February 3 at 5 p.m. at the Caltech Outdoor Art Space, located behind the Campus Recycling Center on Holliston Avenue. The work will be on view through March 31.

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

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]

**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](mailto:dina@admissions.caltech.edu)

The Caltech Y is coordinating **Make A Difference Day** on April 7th (the first Saturday of 3rd term). We are currently organizing several community service projects including helping the homeless, tutoring children, caring for animals, and cleaning up the environment. All volunteers will start at the Y in the morning where they can enjoy a quick breakfast. Then everyone will split into their own groups. At the end of the day, everyone can attend a BBQ at the Y. If you have a suggestion for a project or would like to help organize this event, please contact Kristin Abbott, ([kabbott@its](mailto:kabbott@its)) or join us for a Y excomm meeting Mondays at noon at the Y (Center for Student Services building).

On Saturday, February 24th there will be an **Open Discussion on Sexual Violence** at Steele House at 10am. All undergrads are welcome. The discussion will be determined by those who participate. The organizers hope for provide a place where such topics as sexual abuse, date rape, and sexual harassment can be discussed with respect. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact [discussion@ugcs](mailto:discussion@ugcs).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the 55th Annual McKinney Competition.** The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. [[Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition.]] This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typewritten and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number. In the poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words. Essays may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities. The prize in each category will be \$300. Each student is entitled to only one entry in each category. Contestants should submit their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, by no later than March 30, 2001. No entries will be returned. Each category will be judged by a committee from the Literature Faculty. Essays will be judged on the quality of thought and the effectiveness of the writing. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Committee may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Belle, extension 3605, or Barbara Estrada, extension 3609.

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 College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation** is accepting application for scholarship and fellowship awards for the 2001-2002 academic year. Applicants must be female, U.S. Citizens, full-time undergraduate and graduate students, sophomore or above, and must have a 3.0 or higher GPA. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, a one-page, typed essay, official academic transcript, and three letters of recommendation from professors familiar with the student's aspirations and achievements. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by February 9, 2001.

**\* The American Society of Naval Engineers** sponsors a scholarship program to encourage students to enter the field of naval engineering and to provide support to naval engineers seeking advanced education in the field. 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. Other programs leading to careers with both military and civilian organizations requiring these educational backgrounds are also included. Scholarship awards of \$2,500 for undergraduate students and \$3,500 for graduate students will be made for the 2001-2002 academic year. The candidate must be a U.S. citizen and demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering. The scholarships apply only to the last year of a full-time or co-op undergraduate program or to one year of graduate study leading to a designated degree in an accredited college or university. Starting this year, graduate student candidates must be ASNE members. They may join ASNE when applying. The deadline for receipt of scholarship applications is February 15, 2001. Call (703)836-6727 if you have any questions about this program.

**\* The Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO)** will award six scholarships to eligible undergraduate students for the 2001-2002 academic year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a 3.75 or above GPA; enrolled at a COHEAO member school; must be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year at the member school; and only one scholarship per family per academic year will be awarded. Further information about the COHEAO scholarship is only available via the web at [www.coheao.com/scholarframe.html](http://www.coheao.com/scholarframe.html). To apply, applicants must submit a typed application, 300 word or less typed essay response, academic letter of recommendation, and sealed official copy of your most recent transcript. Please send application materials to COHEAO Scholarship Committee, 809 S. Marshfield Avenue, M/C 557, Chicago, IL 60612. Application materials must be submitted by March 1, 2001.

**\* The Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** is offering scholarship awards ranging from \$500

to \$1,000 to female college students entering their junior or senior year of the 2001-2002 academic year. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus/community involvement. Female students must be residents of the San Ramon Valley (Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, or Diablo, CA) or graduate of its high schools with a junior or senior standing as of September 2000. For more information and application package, please send your request with a \$0.66 stamped self-addressed large envelope (9" X 12") to: Linda Elsdor, 61 Milano Court, Danville, CA 94526. Entries must be postmarked by April 2, 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 has strong mentoring and science enrichment components and offers up to \$20,000 per year in financial aid educational expenses. They provide housing during the summer and transportation, and their stipends for the 10 weeks are between \$2,500 and \$4,000. After graduation from college, recipients also "pay back" a year of service for each year of scholarship support, again through paid research training at the NIH. The pay-back can be deferred until after completion of graduate or medical school, and students are encouraged to defer their service pay-back until after receipt of their doctoral degree. For further information and an application go to the Internet site at: <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>

**\* The American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF)** 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 chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, materials science, metallurgy, or mechanical 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.

To submit an event for the Mints contact [mints@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@ugcs.caltech.edu). Email your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submission 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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