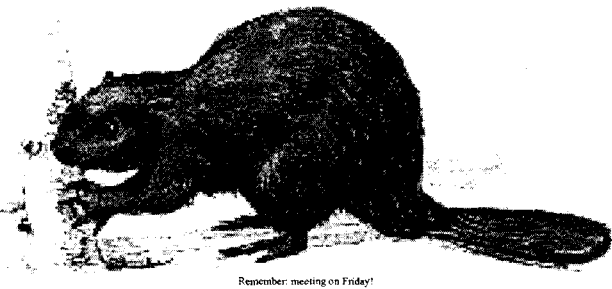


**Drop Day**  
Feb 23, 2001



We actually cover  
**SPORTS!**  
Check out page 5!

# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 16, 2001

## EINSTEIN'S ENEMIES

BY JON FOSTER

What determines how quickly new scientific theories are accepted? In the ideal scientific utopia, evidence and perhaps logical thought would be the only criteria, but scientists cannot escape from the real world and the quest to explain the universe must take place in that less than perfect place.

Dr. David Rowe, of Mainz University brought home this important point during his Seminar of Science, Ethics, and Public Policy on February 15. This was the third of four talks about Einstein and the development of his ideas (especially relativity). Entitled "Einstein's Enemies", the presentation focused mainly on the opponents to general relativity, but also included many of Einstein's supporters in the battle over these new ideas.

The list of famous scientists who played a part reads like a hit-list for Caltech physics or astronomy majors: Hilbert and Klein were a major supporters of Einstein's work, and he was in important contact with de Sitter, Friedmann, Heisenberg, and many others. But the people listed above were supporters, and the talk focused on the opposition. Although there was obvious resistance to the ideas of relativity (some of it well deserved at the time for there was not a great body of experimental support), this opposition was most stringent in Germany.

Antirelativists in Germany opposed Einstein and his ideas for many reasons. First, there was the lack of evidence, and the view that the principles were unphysical and counterintuitive. There were also two power struggles in German academia: between theorists and theoreticians experimentalists, and between traditional physicists and the mathematicians who were working on the theory of general relativity. There was further a sense that the theory of relativity was being bought far too quickly by the popular press, and was being spread too widely there before the scientific debate had been concluded. Finally, there was the rising anti-semitism and Einstein's personal weakness in post-war Germany as a Jew, a pacifist, and an inter-

PLEASE SEE EINSTEIN ON PAGE 3

## TACIT's Othello opens tonight

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

This winter, TACIT brings you Othello, a Shakespearean romantic tragedy. Directed by Shirley Marneus, the play's cast is comprised of Caltech students, alumni, JPL employees and others from the Caltech community.

Having rehearsed since January, the crew is now ready to open. The play runs from February 16th (today) until March 4th, 2001, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays in Ramo auditorium at Caltech.

Said Robert Swinney, a junior and the assistant director of the play: "I think that this is going to be a great show. Shirley has always wanted to do this...it is indeed a strong play."

Marneus herself added, "This is an extraordinarily exciting and challenging play because it gives a clear picture of attitudes of the time. It is about people who are driven by their own insecurities."

She particularly mentioned Iago, the character who moulds the whole sequence of actions in the play.

Most criticism and commen-

tary link the play to issues regarding racism owing to the fact that the lead character, Othello, is a Moor. However, the plot is not only about racism, as Marneus points out.

"It is amazing in its accuracy of depiction of 'otherness.' Othello is different not only because of his race, but also because of his position," she adds; because Othello is a powerful general in the military.

Shirley Marneus, has been working with TACIT since its inception thirty years ago and is constantly focused towards proving that acting is a talent that can never be hidden or suppressed.

She refers to numerous alumni who have taken up careers in entertainment despite having very focused degrees in science and engineering from Caltech.

Regarding the attitude of Techers towards theatre, she thankfully says, "They make an investment with time; they have imagination that is waiting to be tapped"

Allen Corcoran, (BS 1991) portrays Iago in the play. He has been with TACIT ever since his freshman year. Currently, he is working as a programmer with



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY KAO

Julia Greissl (center) as Desdemona in Caltech's Othello.

Disney. Adam Burgasser, a graduate student, has also been with TACIT ever since he started off at the institute and plays the role of Cassio.

Being one of the most dedicated and experienced actors on stage at the moment, he says in an admiring way, "TACIT has quality productions that are still amateur and easy enough to welcome everyone."

He went on to say that this is an ideal environment to grow as an actor because everyone is so encouraging and receptive to

ideas. About his character Cassio, the innocent scapegoat, he says, "[He] covers a range of emotions; he is caught up into politics bigger than himself!"

Amongst other noticeable characters, Georgios Zumanakos and Julia Greissl perform as Othello and Desdemona respectively. Georgios is a graduate student in physics whereas Julia is a sophomore, in also in physics.

Hence over the years, TACIT

PLEASE SEE OTHELLO ON PAGE 2

## Concert reveals truth about love at Caltech

BY MOHI KUMAR

@#\$\$% SUCKS!! When Love is a Four Letter Word

Valentine's day: A special time to shower the apple of your eye with presents from the bottom of your heart; a celebration of the love that completes you, warms you, and shakes your very soul-holy crap, this sound like a cheesy romance novel. Let's start over:

Valentine's day: a depressing time when you feel dirty over other people's saccharine cuteness, when the staged emotions make you want to hurl, when the pinks and reds give you the blues and the chocolates and flowers set off your allergies. Much better, don't you think? Tired of Valentine's Day syrup? Then the a cappella groups at Caltech have just the event planned for you: LOVE SUCKS, a

*Love Sucks, a Valentine's Day concert that tells love as it truly is - this Saturday at 4pm in the Avery Dining Hall.*

Valentine's Day concert that tells love as it truly is. This Saturday, at 4:00pm in the Avery Dining Hall, amid decorations of dead flowers and black streamers, seven premier college a cappella groups will sing their heart out about love, lust, and cheese.

The event features three Caltech singing groups-

Ecphonema, Out of Context, and the Treblemakers-as well as four other college groups: the USC Sirens and SoCal VoCals, the Stanford Fleet Street singers, and Brandeis VoiceMale. "Love Sucks started four years ago as a reaction to the sappy commercialism and schmaltzy crap surrounding Valentine's Day," explains Joseph Cook, a member of both Out of Context and Ecphonema. "It is intended to bring out the bitterness, sadness, angst and loneliness, as well as the silliness inherent in idolizing love."

In past years, the music sung has included everything from Weird Al's "Since You've Been

Gone" and "One More Minute" to the House Jacks' "Gone" and Lennon's "Yesterday". Some funny, some serious, some celebratory, but all about the lack or end of love. The song list is TBA, but Jessica Edwards of Caltech's Treblemakers assures us that "it is going to be a good concert. I'm excited about it," she adds with a wink.

So if you are depressed about a recent rejection, angry about how often you've been led on, frustrated by the ratio, or just in need of something fun to do over the weekend, come to the Avery Dining Hall at 4:00pm this Saturday, Feb 17. Try to wear black.

### Inside the Tech

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# News

## Job hunting advice: ideas on summer internships from CDC

BY JERRY HOUSER

It happens...the math genius, works as a janitor at MIT. Although movies usually aren't for real (except maybe the Matrix or The Lion King), it takes more than dominant math genes to find a good job.

I've been at Caltech for only one term and have already learned something important: very smart people get world class jobs...but ONLY if they play their cards right, which means advanced planning.

The greatest obstacle to landing that perfect job (internship, part-time, full-time, summer, etc.) is the dirty "P" word...Procrastination.

Over 8,000 science and technology jobs are listed at the Caltech Career Development Center each year. That doesn't even include companies that recruit on campus or non-techni-

cal jobs. But you need to apply early. So what should you do to land that perfect internship?

1. Go to the Career Development Center and talk to someone...TODAY. They will help you make a plan.

2. Sign up for our distribution list to receive announcements of really cool opportunities (just email us at [career@caltech.edu](mailto:career@caltech.edu) and ask to subscribe).

3. Start TODAY (did I already say that?). Some students already have offers for summer internships.

Deadlines are upon you. Register at the CDC and we will help you sharpen your resume, connect with alumni, apply for jobs, dress for success, negotiate sala-

ries, and find a date for Friday night (although even we have limits).

We have professional career counselors and staff advisors that know how to get you where you want to go.

4. Network. Talk to faculty, fellow-students, TA's, family members, Caltech staff and friends. You never know where a job contact will turn up.

It's no secret that Caltech students make good employees. That's why so many organizations like it when you apply. So start TODAY (did I mention that earlier?). We look forward to seeing you in our new offices in the Center for Student Services on Holliston Ave.

## OTHELLO:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has not only helped in polishing the talents of young and agile actors but has also helped them to develop contacts with Hollywood.

As proven by many alumni in the past, these amateur actors do indeed have prospective careers in entertainment.

This involvement of various parts of the student body at

Caltech is very encouraging. Lately, the group has been drawing greater numbers of undergraduates due to increased interest despite the overwhelming academic workload.

Swinney, being an undergraduate himself, addresses the issue excitedly,

"We have a large cast and surprisingly, loads of undergraduates this time!"

The Caltech community once again proves that through a combination and balance of intelli-

gence and hard work, they can produce quality projects. TACIT and its winter production Othello is just another one in the long string of these remarkable achievements.

For more information on the play and TACIT, see [www.cco.caltech.edu/~tacit](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~tacit).



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY KAO

Greissl and Georgios Zumanakos in the title role share a scene in Othello.

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**MALENA** (R)  
 [11:45] 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:45

**FAITHLESS** (R)  
 [11:30] 2:35 5:40 8:45

**SNATCH** (R)  
 [11:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:05

**2 Academy Award Nominations**  
**POLLOCK** (R)  
 [11:30] 4:00 7:00 9:50

**2 Academy Award Nominations**  
**O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?** (PG-13)  
 [11:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:05

**10 Academy Award Nominations**  
**CROUCHING TIGER** (PG-13)  
 [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00

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# News

## Political internship is worthwhile

BY ANDREW HAFER

This past summer, I worked on the State Assembly campaign for Sara Amir on a Beckman Political Internship. Immediately after I joined the campaign, Lynne Serpe, the campaign manager, took the time to explain the entire campaign strategy to me. Throughout my work, that knowledge served as a backdrop against which I could place the work I was doing and see how it fit into the overall strategy.

My first task was to research the positions of both Sara and her opponents in the race. This primarily entailed reading campaign literature produced during the primary season and then searching the archives of local papers for stories that mentioned the candidates.

Once we had a good comparison piece, I was tasked with designing the primary campaign brochure, intended to introduce Sara to voters who already had favorable impressions of the U.S. Senate and Presidential candidates in her party. The brochure, "Three Candidates Who Will Put You First," included brief biographies of each of the candidates, a slate of issues on which they agreed, and a more detailed examination of issues particular to the 42nd assembly district.

Later, after obtaining the detailed precinct results for the primary election and the registered voter lists, I analyzed the results to find the best places to target our voter outreach activities, both to already registered voters and to unregistered voters. I also used this data and data from the census department's online database to find where best to target our fundraising efforts.

Finally, I served as volunteer coordinator in preparation for a major fundraiser and a large (600 person) rally. The fundraiser required volunteers to call and personally invite about five hundred individuals who we felt would be able to contribute the requested amount. For the rally, I coordinated the volunteers publicizing the rally through the six zip codes closest to the rally site.

Throughout the experience I found that, given enough freedom and responsibility, working for a campaign can be an exciting, albeit demanding, experience.

The Beckman Political Internship will be available again this summer. The internship, supported by friends of Arnold O. Beckman, will pay a stipend of \$5000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician and to see the process of government from the inside. The intern is expected to make arrangements with the appropriate political persons. It is open to any Caltech undergraduate who intends to be a student next year. If interested, submit a proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend, to the Deans' Office, 102-31 or email to [deansofc@caltech.edu](mailto:deansofc@caltech.edu) by Monday, March 12, 2001. Go for the Beckman!

## EINSTEIN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nationalist.

The anti-semitic sentiment is at once the most disturbing and the most comforting. Just how open and fierce this debate was can be seen in Einstein's reply to a public campaign launched against him in which he stated that he would not have to put up with this if he were "a German national with or without swastika instead of a Jew with liberal international convictions..."

Today of course, we can at least imagine that we are mostly free of this sort of discrimination against theories because of their authors today- at least it is a problem that scientists can identify and try to overcome. On the other hand, the academic infighting and the fear to new paradigm shifts is a much harder influence to combat. Anyone following the creation/evolution debate may also recognize the language used by the "Leibzig 19", a group of antirelativists who circulated a pamphlet attacking Einstein's ideas. In it, they protested that relativity was "just an unproven hypothesis" and one which was making too many claims to answer the big question of the universe.

The snobbishness of physicists about the public press was also well highlighted in this historical incident. The thought that scientists would refuse to take a theory seriously simply because it has captured the public's imagination seems absurd- but it is a common sentiment.

The next talk in this series is presented by Dr. John Norton on March 8 in Baxter 25 at 4 pm.

## The Outside World

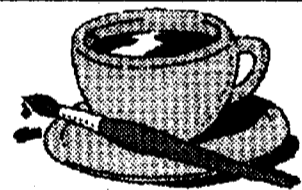
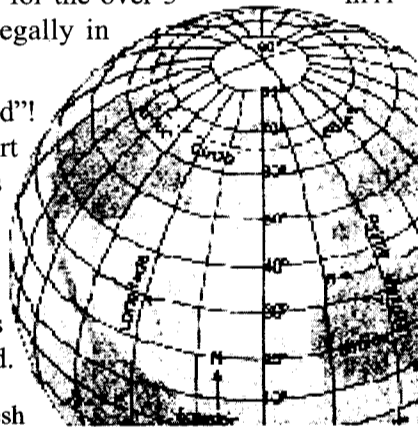
**Hawaii**-On Feb. 9 the U.S. nuclear submarine *Greenville* collided with the Japanese fishing boat *Ehime Maru* while resurfacing. Of the people on the fishing boat, 26 were rescued and nine are still missing (four of whom are high school students). Though it is unclear why the submarine did not detect the *Ehime Maru* before resurfacing, some blame the accident on the irresponsible attitude of the Navy. At the time of the collision two civilians were seated at the key control positions of the submarine, though the Navy proclaims that the accident is not their fault. However, on Thursday the Navy barred civilians from submarine controls during exercises. The captain of the *Greenville*, Scott Waddle, has been relieved of duties, until the Pentagon is done with its investigation which is due next week.

**El Salvador**-On Tuesday Feb 13 a 6.6 earthquake shook the small town of Tepetitán (pop. 3000). More than 276 people have already been confirmed dead, with another 40 missing and thought to have died in the landslides. The major concern now is the lack of food and fresh water. Though foreign aid is already helping out, international agencies declare that more resources and finances are needed to help earthquake victims. This earthquake comes exactly one week after El Salvador was shook by another high magnitude quake that killed 844 people.

**Mexico**-On Fri. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox will meet at Fox's ranch for a seven hour discussion about economic cooperation. At present, the U.S. considers Mexico second to Canada as a trading partner. The recent California power crisis adds to the importance of this meeting; Bush hopes to trigger more cooperation on the production of energy between Mexico and the U.S. However, some believe that Fox has other intentions in mind since he has stated that he wants a open border policy for the over 3 million Mexicans that live illegally in America.

**California**-Napster is "dead"! On Wed. U.S. Circuit Court ruled that Napster's actions are infringements on copyright laws and will have to be dissolved. However, have no fear; plans of an overseas Napster have already started.

compiled by Neda Afsarmanesh



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## Othello Pop Quiz

Which of the following phrases best explicates the expression "making the beast with two backs"?

- "An old black ram is tupping your white ewe"
- "Your daughter covered with a Barbary horse"
- "As prime as goats, as hot as monkeys"
- "Naked with her friend in bed an hour or more"

Review sections will meet in Ramo Auditorium on Feb. 16-18, 23-25, and Mar. 2-4.  
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.

EGG DONOR NEEDED.

Couple seeks egg donor with 1420 SAT or 33 ACT, 18-28 yrs old, 5'4"-5'10", attractive, athletic and healthy. Grandparents European and at least one Jewish. Compensation is \$25,000. Email photos and scores to [Nancykp9@aol.com](mailto:Nancykp9@aol.com)

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## Cal Tech Interviews

**Information Meeting:**  
February 21, 2001  
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February 22, 2001

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## Feature

# A.S.C.I.T.

## Announcement

BY ERIC TUTTLE

ASCIT Announces Opening of ASCIT Screening Room

ASCIT is pleased to announce the opening of a new entertainment room in the SAC.

The ASCIT Screening Room, located in SAC 35, features a 61" digital television, surround sound audio system,

DVD player, VCR, couches on raised platforms ("stadium style" seating), and on-line reservation system.

Attendance at ASCIT Movie screenings in Baxter Lecture Hall has been on the decline in recent years, rendering these activities highly cost-ineffective.

The ASCIT Board of Directors has been working for

some time to find alternative ways to provide entertainment to the student body.

We have cut back drastically on Baxter showings and have instead offered outdoor movies on the Olive Walk, rental of the Pacific Hastings Theatre on opening night of major pictures, and have acquired a DVD library for student use (available in the coffeehouse).

In recognition that not all houses have nice home theater setups and DVD players, ASCIT decided to create a

Screening Room in the SAC available to all ASCIT members.

To reserve the room, sign up by visiting the ASCIT website at: <http://donut.caltech.edu/dvd>

Access to the room is granted by a card-swipe that should work for all ASCIT members.

If you have difficulty getting into the room, please email the ASCIT Movie Chairman, Wesley McCullough ([wesley@its](mailto:wesley@its)).

Enjoy!

The YOGHURT competition resumes

\*look at the names of this week's Yoghurt column writers

\*send explanations of the clues to the Tech editors at:

[tech@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@ugcs.caltech.edu)

## Yoghurt

BY BARBER AND BEACH

"Igor, fetch me the brain! . . . It lives!!" Okay, not that Igor. This week we're in love with Igor Stravinsky and so is the LA Phil. I'm also in love with Esa-Pekka Salonen, but that's another story. (Man, is he cute! And the dimples!)

The Los Angeles Philharmonic is having a Stravinsky Festival Feb. 11 - March 12. The festival centers around a series of subscription concerts and discussions of Stravinsky's life and music and the influence he has had on modern composers and performers. Stravinsky lived in Los Angeles for 29 years so it is appropriate that we celebrate his music.

On February 22, 24, and 25, Esa-Pekka Salonen leads the Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, and guest soloists John Aler, tenor, and actor Holland Taylor, narrator, in a program of choral works highlighted by Symphony of Psalms and Perséphone. This will be the first concert in order to celebrate the music of Stravinsky put on by the LA Philharmonic. We'll remind you of later ones when they get closer.

On a special note, a pre-concert lecture one hour prior to the concert will be hosted by Christopher Hailey moderating a panel of musicians who worked with Stravinsky on local recordings and concerts. That should, at the very least, be interesting.

Until March 12, 2001 you can visit The Museum of Television and Radio for free to see any of

the 75 programs featuring Stravinsky and his music. Wednesdays through Sunday noon - 5 p.m.; Thursday noon - 9 p.m. We're not sure exactly what it would entail, but the music of Stravinsky has often ended up in very strange places.

This weekend the modern composer Donatoni will premiere ESA (In cauda V) (World premiere; LAPA commission) to go along with Schumann's Piano Concerto. It's not entirely certain which Schumann this is as it's believed that Clara Schumann wrote a lot of music under her husband's name.

Along with this there is Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, always fun and was released at the same time as his 8th. The only strange part is that the speaker an hour before hand is John Kennedy, he's apparently back from the grave.

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# Sports

## Men's basketball puts up a fight

Caltech Beavers lose to La Verne Leopards in a close game

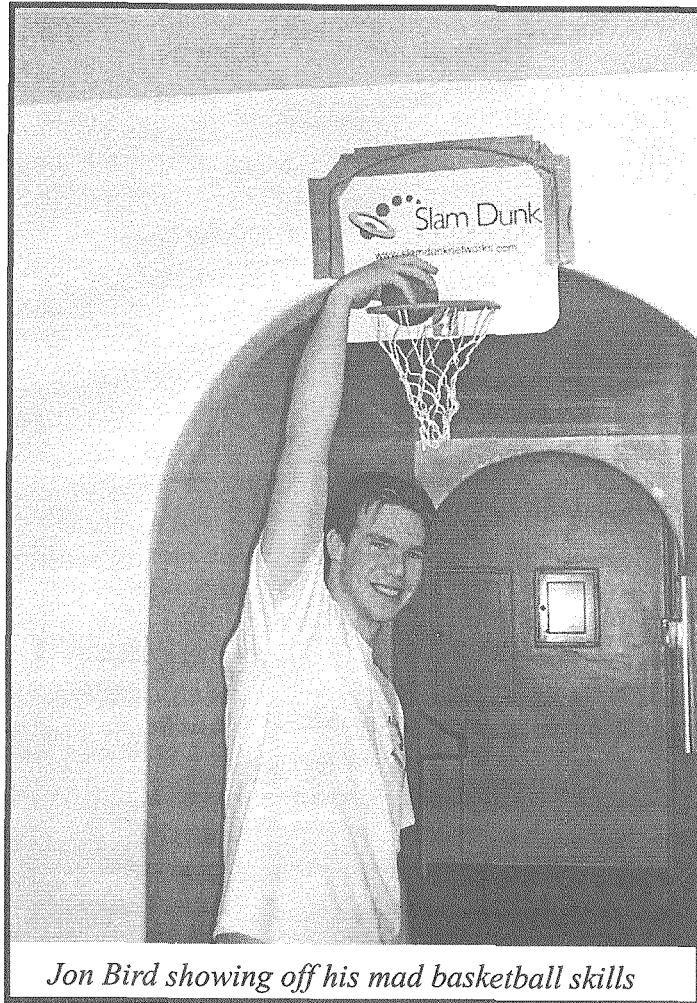
BY TECH STAFF

The men's basketball team has been playing well all season and with only a few games left, the team is performing at its highest level.

On February 14, the team lost a heartbreaker to La Verne; despite having lost by a large margin in their previous encounter with the La Verne Leopards, their second game proved much closer. Only down by five points with about five minutes left in the game, the Beavers were closing the gap, but they were not able to endure a late-game surge by the Leopards before losing by thirteen.

In particular, standout sophomore Jon Bird has been at the top of his game all season. With his incredible stats (4th in Field-goal percentage and 7th in rebounding among the nation's D III players), Bird received some well-due recognition last week, when he was named the SCIAC Athlete of the Week. Averaging 17.4 points per game, Bird has been invaluable as the scoring leader on the team.

With three games left in the season, there's still time to watch Bird and his teammates in action, so support the Beavers in their last few games.



Jon Bird showing off his mad basketball skills

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN HARDESTY

### Remaining Men's Basketball Games

February 17	7:30 pm	vs. CMS (Home)
February 19	7:30 pm	@ Redlands
February 22	7:30 pm	vs. Occidental (Home)

## Track team runs away from meet successful

BY TECH STAFF

As the men's and women's basketball teams are nearing the end of the regular season, the Caltech track team has begun its 2001 season with several meets. With regular team practices since the beginning of second term, the team has already shown great improvement since last year. With an enlarged men's and women's roster, Coach Julie Levesque has great hopes for the upcoming start of conference four-way meets.

The Beavers have already competed against some of SCIAC's best teams. The season began on January 20th at the Citrus College All-Comers meet where the main competition came from Azusa Pacific University as well as host Citrus College. Caltech performed well for the first meet of the season with several throwers and sprinters setting PR's in their events; for the numerous freshman and upperclassmen new to the team, their first collegiate track meet experience proved invaluable.

With the knowledge of what areas needed improvement, the Beavers worked hard for two weeks with heavy training and event practice before they hit the

road for this season's road trip. Traveling to the lovely city of Bakersfield after classes on Friday, February 2nd, the track team was ready for a full-day meet at Cal-State Bakersfield the next day. Competing against Division I powerhouse Fresno State as well as several other talented squads from other schools, Caltech made a great showing, placing numerous athletes in the top finishers of their events.

Also, this past weekend, the Beavers traveled to Whittier College for the inaugural meet to christen their new track. At this meet, Caltech clashed with SCIAC schools Pomona-Pitzer, Whittier, and Cal-Lutheran as well as several other teams. In a preview of the four-way meets which begin later this term, Caltech finished well in all events. Two first-place finishes were earned, in the 4x400 meter relay as well as in the 4x200 coaches/throwers relay.

Next for the Beavers is their one home meet of the season, the Caltech Invitational, on Saturday, February 17. The meet begins at 11am and continues into the mid-afternoon; be sure to come out and support the Beavers!

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Comics

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FoxTrot by Bill Amend

OUR CEO SAYS WE ARE POISED FOR HUGE GROWTH IN EARNINGS.

IN AN UNRELATED MOVE, HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL LEAVE THE COMPANY BEFORE ANY OF HIS STOCK OPTIONS VEST.

THE POOR GUY WILL MISS ALL OF OUR GROWTH.

IS THAT WORK? I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S ON THE SCREEN.

IF HE SEES ME I'LL PRETEND I'M IN MID-STRIDE, JUST PASSING BY.

THE SMALL FONT IS WORKING.

MUSCLES CRAMPING.

SMILE, ALICE. IT WON'T HURT.

GAAAK!!

I FOUND OUT I CAN KILL PEOPLE BY LOOKING AT THEM. I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE SMILING.

THE KEY TO HAPPINESS IS SELF-DELUSION.

DON'T THINK OF YOURSELF AS AN ORGANIC PAIN COLLECTOR RACING TOWARD OBLIVION.

I'VE NEVER HAD THAT THOUGHT... UNTIL NOW.

DON'T BLAME ME; I SAID DON'T.

I'M A NATURE LOVER. WHEN I FISH, I ONLY DO CATCH-AND-RELEASE.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU TORTURE FISH FOR FUN.

I WONDER WHY EVERYTHING I DO SOUNDS BAD WHEN IT'S PUT IN OTHER WORDS.

GOOD NEWS: THE DEADLINE GOT PUSHED BACK A WEEK.

GOOD NEWS?! I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR FORTY HOURS STRAIGHT TO FINISH ON TIME!

I JUST REALIZED I DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.

THE CHILDREN TELL ME THEY WANT TO COOK US A ROMANTIC VALENTINE'S DINNER.

I THINK THAT'S SO SWEET.

SHOOT. THIS THROWS A WRENCH INTO MY SECRET PLAN TO TAKE YOU TO A FOUR-STAR RESTAURANT AND SPARE NO EXPENSE...

THEY ALSO TELL ME IT WAS YOUR IDEA.

THIS IS WHY I ONLY PAID HALF UP FRONT, KIDS!

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE SPAGHETTI IS DONE?

I THINK IF IT STICKS TO THE CEILING.

WHAP!

OK, NOW WHAT? I MEANT THROW ONE NOODLE.

I'LL CHOP CARROTS FOR THE SALAD.

AAAA! I CUT OFF MY FINGER! CALL 9-1-1!

I REALIZE IT'D BE MORE CONVINCING WITH KETCHUP, BUT I'M SAVING THAT FOR WHEN I GRATE THE CHEESE.

HOW COME I ALWAYS HAVE TO GO SET THE TABLE?!

I PUT CANDLES ON THE DINING ROOM TABLE.

THE CANDLES ARE RIGHT HERE.

I USED THE YELLOW ONES FROM THE GARAGE.

THE CITRONELLA CANDLES? THOSE ARE FOR REPELLING INSECTS, YOU FOOL.

HAVE YOU TAKEN A WHIFF OF PETER'S SPAGHETTI SAUCE?

OK, GOOD POINT.

MOM AND DAD SAY THEY'RE HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT A HORSE.

OK, OK. HERE'S THE SPAGHETTI.

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T PUTTING MUSHROOMS IN THE SAUCE.

I DIDN'T. THEY JUST KINDA GREW ON THEIR OWN.

MAYBE WE OUGHT TO FIND A HORSE.

CALM DOWN. THERE'S A CHANCE I'M KIDDING.

PETER, THE SPAGHETTI IS WONDERFUL.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.

PAIGE, THE GARLIC TOAST IS DELICIOUS.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.

JASON, THE HEART-SHAPED PLACEMATS ARE, UM, INTERESTING.

YOU'RE DEFINITELY TOO KIND.

THE LEFT VENTRICLES ARE A LITTLE OFF.

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# Dean

## Dean's Corner

### Why houses don't fly

by Jean-Paul Revel

able in the field of your choice. No one is turned down.

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(xxx) xxx xxxx  
Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including Sundays and holidays.

As you can see the great news is that happiness and prosperity can be obtained not just at Caltech or other recognized universities, but also at "prestigious" if not accredited, institutions. At first reading I was amused by this self-serving offer. Obviously sharks are behind this, hard at work trying to make a quick buck. I imagine that if one answers, back will come a price list including "suitable for framing" diplomas. (by the way

I go to the same dentist for many years now, not just because of the excellent work he does, but also because he does not display his diplomas on the wall, but Hundertwassers, Hoppers and other favorite artists) So while I first cracked a smile, it did not take me long to become depressed, musing about the differences between the obviously fake diplomas offered for sale and the not so overtly unearned diplomas which are gathered by piecemeal cheating on homework or exams.

If one truly believes that "to obtain the prosperous future, money earning power and the admiration of all" requires only that a few letters be attached to one's name, then go ahead, pay a few bucks for the privilege. Anyone who wishes to know, will be quick to realize, that the BS after your name does not mean Bachelor of Science, but, well bs. There is no mistaking a

diploma mill for a bona fide school. Anyone attempting to pass falsely as the hard-worked graduate of a real school will eventually be discovered as the pathetic phony s/he is.

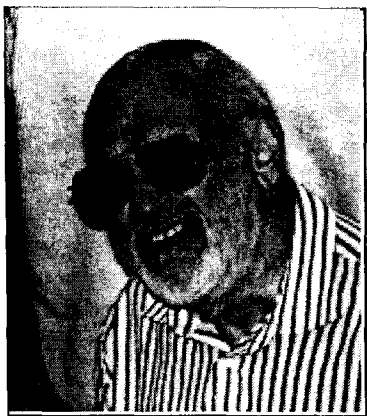
On the other hand a student at one of the prestigious, true blue accredited universities, who obtains a degree by cheating his way through, is, I'll argue, engaging in a much more despicable behavior. Such a person wants us to believe he earned his degree the old fashioned way. She pretends to be well trained, knowledgeable, competent, when in fact she has no more expertise than the holder of a degree from a fly by night outfit. Faking it, while it inevitably leads to no good, will unfortunately work some of the time. Cheaters and liars must think little of the rest of us to try and take advantage in this way. They place themselves beyond the pale, because for society to function, for the houses we live in and the airplanes we fly, to remain standing on the ground and soaring on high, instead of vice versa, depends on the honesty of most designers and most builders. A country of thieves and

cheats cannot in the end sustain itself, its planes and trains will crash.

It is interesting that when challenged, cheats often claim that they were led to their inappropriate ways because, say they, everyone else does it. In fact this cannot really be so. If everyone were to cheat, then doing so would provide none of the advantage the swindler is trying to gain. What makes cheating possible is that most people get their degrees the hard way, working to acquire the knowledge their diplomas are meant to certify. It is only because most people are honest that a few can obtain recognition (etc) under false pretenses. To cheat one must consciously want to gain unfair advantage, you know, do what the Honor Code asks us to refrain from. Or else your house will fly. I hope you had a happy Valentine's Day!

A bientot

Jean-Paul Revel  
Dean of Students



The following message appeared in my email box earlier this week. I reproduce it here just in case it was only sent to me. I don't know why I would be chosen for such an honor, but let me share the news (I removed the phone number, so as not to provide free advertisement.)

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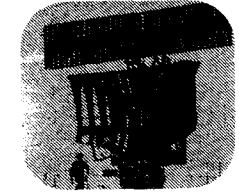
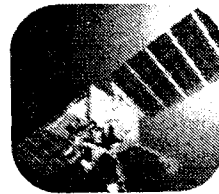
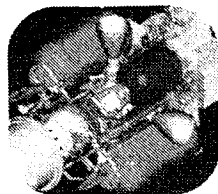
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# Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club presents a series of free mini-parties held on the campus of Caltech in Winnett Lounge from 9:00-11:00pm, on four successive Mondays: Feb 12, 19, 26, and Mar 5. The parties start right after the Hustle dance class, and music suitable for dancing the Hustle will be played the first half hour. After that, 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.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club presents a **Beginners' Hustle dance class**. This is a 4-week series taught by professional instructor, Sonny Watson. Classes are held on the campus of Caltech in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9:00pm, with practice continuing until 9:30pm on four successive Mondays: Feb 12, 19, 26, and Mar 5. The cost for the series is, \$24.00 for the four lessons, single lessons are \$7.00 [\$16.00 and \$5.00 respectively for undergraduates]. Everyone is welcome (beginners, intermediates, Caltech affiliates, community members, etc.) No partner is necessary. Refreshments are provided at no additional cost. The first lesson is reviewed during the second session at which time beginners are still welcome. After the second lesson new attendees should be familiar with the basic step of the dance.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club presents a **beginners' American Waltz dance class**. This is a 4-week series taught by a "volunteer amateur" instructor. Classes are held on the campus of Caltech in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9:00pm, with practice continuing until 9:30pm on four successive Wednesdays: Feb 14, 21, 28, and Mar 7. The cost for the series is, \$1.0/class, but free to freshmen. Everyone is welcome (beginners, intermediates, Caltech affiliates, community members, etc.) No partner is necessary. Refreshments are provided at no additional cost. The first lesson is reviewed during the second session at which time beginners are still welcome. After the second lesson new attendees should be familiar with the basic step of the dance. End-of-term Ballroom Dance Party-Free

**Ballroom Dance Party**, Fri 9 Mar 01, 8:00-11:59pm at Winnett Lounge. 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 and other inquiries to about these announcements of the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club, see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom), or call Don Trask at 626-791-3103

**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 Com-

munity Service Program, please contact Kristin Abbott at [kabbott@caltech.edu](mailto: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](http://www.uofdreams.com) and if you have any other questions email [melly@its.caltech.edu](mailto:melly@its.caltech.edu).

**The Caltech Alumni Association** has funding available for student organizations. We give preference to organizations that encourage interaction between students and alumni. To be considered for funding, an application form must be completed and returned to the Association ASAP. The form can be found on the web at [http://www.its.caltech.edu/~alumni/sfar\\_funding.html](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~alumni/sfar_funding.html) If you wish to receive an application in hardcopy form, please contact Kim Goodfriend at extension 6852 or by email at [kimberly@alumni.caltech.edu](mailto:kimberly@alumni.caltech.edu).

**Dreaming of Spring Break??** Make plans to join the Y for an alternative spring break trip to Tecolote, Mexico from March 25-March 29, 2001. We will travel as a group and volunteer at the local community center to do various service projects that include painting, laying tile, and general repair to the community center facilities. Watch for coming news about an information session, or please contact the Caltech Y for more information at 626/395-6163 or [kabbott@caltech.edu](mailto:kabbott@caltech.edu).

## EVENTS

### SEDS

On Wed. Feb. 21, 2001, Caltech's renowned string theorist John Schwarz will deliver a talk entitled "Superstrings and the Quest for a Unified Theory." The level of the talk will be aimed at Caltech undergraduates and a question and answer period will follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Location: Sloan 151; Sponsor: Caltech SEDS. For more info about the talk or other SEDS events email [seeds@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:seeds@cco.caltech.edu).

**Science, Ethics, and Public Policy LECTURE SERIES** Winter Quarter 2000: 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 Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-4087 or [michelle@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:michelle@hss.caltech.edu).

Tuesday, February 27, Noon: **"Business Resources"** This class will focus on business research strategies and methods for finding information on companies and industries. Tuesday, March 6, Noon: "Patents." Plus Speaker from Technology Transfer: This session will provide a quick review of the patenting process, searching for patents and patent equivalents, legal status issues, and current awareness techniques. Both classes will be held in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room, 328. For more info, go to: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>

**The Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series** will be held during the Winter Term on Friday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in Baxter Lecture Hall. Medical research and its applications today require tools and methodologies from a variety of disciplines. It is no longer enough to know only molecular biology and genetics or even their relation to complex physiologic systems. Scientists on the cutting edge of medical research are integrating modern biology with advances in computer modeling, materials science, imaging, micro machining, and telemetry. Caltech is an ideal environment to foster these kinds of integration, which can lead to innovative and different approaches to analyzing and solving fun-

damental problems in medicine. This series will highlight new research in engineering, computational science, chemistry, physics, and biology being accomplished by Caltech and JPL investigators, often in collaboration with clinical partners. Scientists and clinicians from elsewhere are also invited. The focus will be on the translation of fundamental science/engineering into clinical/medical devices, approaches, and cures. The presentations are geared for a generally literate scientific audience and not for the specialist. Seminars are open to the public. For information, contact Stacey Scoville at [staceys@caltech.edu](mailto:staceys@caltech.edu) or (626) 395-6320. A complete list of lecture and abstracts is available at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/biomed.html>

**Musical Event**, February 27, 2001 Harpsichordist Jennifer Paul, winner of the First Prize of the Erwin Bodky International Harpsichord Competition the Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge International Harpsichord Competition, will present a solo harpsichord lecture/recital entitled "Dancing through the Millennia" at Caltech's Dabney Lounge on Tuesday, February 27, at 8:00 PM. Ms. Paul, who has performed solo recitals at Carnegie Recital Hall, Town Hall in Hong Kong, and the Sydney Opera House, and has appeared as a soloist with Singapore and San Diego Symphony Orchestras, will perform Bach's English Suite No. 3 in G minor, music of the English Renaissance and Baroque, dance pieces by French composers of the 18th century and a mixed bag of works from the 20th century, including pieces by Bartok, Joplin and William Palmer. The concert is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Division of Humanities and Social Science for benefit of the students enrolled in the division's music courses and the Caltech and larger non-academic community. For more information, call 626-395-4072.

All members of the Caltech Community are invited to audition for the TACIT production of SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR by Luigi Pirandello. Auditions will be held in Ramo Auditorium at the following times: Mon., Feb. 26, 7:00-9:30 pm; Tue., Feb. 27, 7:00-9:30 pm; Sat., Mar. 3, 2:00-4:30 pm. See [www.its.caltech.edu/~tacit](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~tacit) for related information as it becomes available. The play will be performed during spring term on three consecutive weekends beginning May 25.

**Caltech Alpine club** and REI present the best films and videos from the 25th Anniversary of the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Exceptional mountain stories to life when they come to Caltech's Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30pm on March 28th, 2001. This year's selection includes: The Sahara's Secret Garden a film which explores a secret canyon in the North of Chad, in the heart of the Sahara Desert. This forgotten mountain massif shelters a flora and fauna of breathtaking beauty. Even today, access to the Ennedi Massif is difficult and only a few rare nomads have been privileged enough to penetrate the heart of this astounding massif; Quartzite's Fall: A Wilderness Tale traces the destruction of a calls V+ rapid leading to a federal investigation; and a variety of skiing, kayaking and rock climbing films. See our website for the full lineup: <http://www.events.caltech.edu/alpine>. Tickets are \$6 for Caltech students, \$8 advance,

\$10 at the door available through 1-888-2CALTECH or REI, Arcadia 626-447-1062. Come check out the exhibitors faire at the fest, with REI, the Sierra Club, Outland and others. Raffle for cool swag included with the price of admission.

**Love Sucks IV** Saturday, February 17th, 4pm -- Avery Dining Hall. The Fourth Annual anti-Valentine's Day a cappella concert is coming soon! Feel the pain, hear the music... some of southern California's best collegiate a cappella groups (including groups from USC, Stanford, and Caltech) will performing at the fourth annual anti-Valentine's Day concert. Remember, love sucks at Caltech!

**NCHIA 5th Annual Conference Technology, Products & Ventures: Creativity & Innovation in Higher Education** on March 6-9, 2001 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. <http://www.nciia.org/events/conf01.shtml> Join colleagues from colleges and universities across the country at the 5th Annual Meeting of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance Attend Experiential Sessions on: E-Team Curriculum Innovation- Technological Entrepreneurship-Team Based Product Design- Interdisciplinary Student Learning. Participate in Hands-on, in-depth workshops on: -Secrets to Success for Technology-Based Innovation -Strategies for Opportunity Assessment & Feasibility Planning -Kinetic Creativity -Hands-on Inventive Problem Solving -Sources of Start-Up Funding for Inventors -Network and share ideas about innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship in higher education -Learn more about the NCHIA's unique grants program, funding innovative courses and inventive student projects -Attend a full day of Pre-Conference Workshops. For more information: E-mail: [info@nciia.org](mailto:info@nciia.org) Phone: 413-587-2172

## 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 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. This 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)** is offering scholarships to upper class undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in careers in the surface finishing field. Appli-

cants 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 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.

**John Gyles Education Awards** are awards available to students in Canada and the United States. Awards are for all areas of post secondary study. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. Filing dates for mailing applications in 2001 are April 1, June 1, and November 15. Students can receive an application by sending only a stamped \*\*\* (US 34 cent), self-addressed, standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to the following address: John Gyles Education Awards, Attention: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4

**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 for the 2001-2002 academic year. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus or community involvement. Female students must be residents of the San Ramon Valley (Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, or Diablo, CA) or graduates 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 Elsdon, 61 Milano Court, Danville, CA 94526. Entries must be postmarked by April 2, 2001.

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

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