

Pauling Centennial

10:00 AM -- opening remarks

Session 1 -- Chair, David Tirrell

Session 2 -- Chair, Ahmed Zewail

3:20 PM -- closing remarks

Beckman Auditorium



Check out our new
weekly feature:

Music to my ears

see page 4

The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 19

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 2, 2001

RUSSIAN PROGRAM AT CALTECH UNDER FIRE

BY JON FOSTER

At the beginning of February, Professor Cheron, currently the sole member of the Russian department at Caltech, received a letter saying that the Russian program at Caltech was being phased out.

This sudden announcement shocked Cheron, who has taught at Caltech since 1982 and had just recently submitted a proposal to restructure the Russian program after the retirement of Valentine Lindholm last year. Caltech always provides one year notice to faculty who are being let go, so Cheron will be teaching Russian classes next year, but not beyond.

One of Cheron's classes, "Russian Literature in Translation" is one of the most popular classes offered at Caltech. It is currently capped at around 20 students, but the last time it was taught without a cap it attracted 91 students.

The language program has also proved popular. Due to the retirement of Lindholm no beginning Russian was taught this year, but in previous years there had been about ten students a term, a percentage comparable to language programs at other universities. Cheron's intermediate Russian had similar enrollment.

In view of these classes' popularity, and Cheron's popularity with the student body, a petition was started by members of his class, arguing that the program should not be discontinued. Over only one weekend, the petition received 145 student signatures and the support of two parents.

The petition states in part: "Eliminating the Russian Language program would destroy any possibility of students at Caltech learning Russian, a language intimately related with scientific progress and spoken by a significant fraction of the scientific community. American interaction with Russia... has been steadily increasing over the past couple years (since the fall

PLEASE SEE RUSSIAN ON PAGE 2

Alan Alda to portray Feynman

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

"Feynman was not only a great scientist but also a great person!" said Kip Thorne, when asked about his perspective on the man himself. Having talked to the minds behind the latest Mark Taper Forum production (a play, called QED, about the Nobel prize-winning Caltech physicist Richard Feynman), Thorne expressed great admiration for the understanding and motivation of the crew to portray the legendary scientist as accurately as possible.

The writer (Peter Parnell), director (Gordon Davidson), assistant producer (Susan Obrow) and the lead actor (Alan Alda) visited Caltech a few days ago

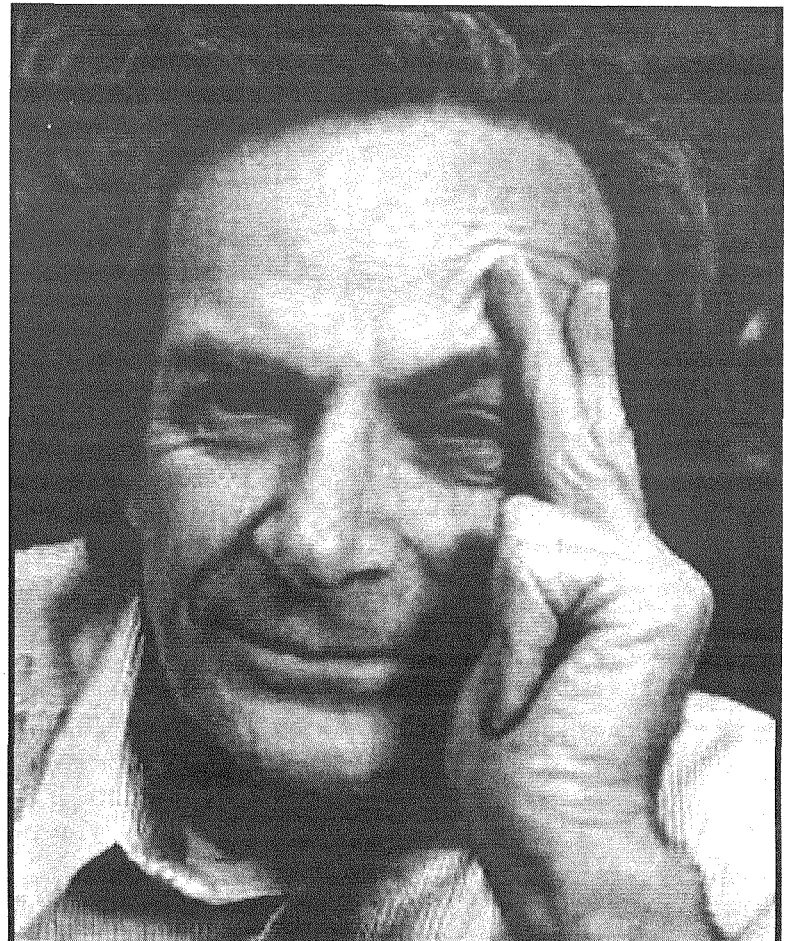
and talked to scientists, including Steven Koonin, Rochus Vogt and Kip Thorne, who have worked or are working in Feynman's major fields, namely Quantum Electro-Dynamics and Quantum Chromo-Dynamics. They also discussed relevant matters with the President, David Baltimore.

Rehearsals for the play have begun. It is inspired by the writings of Richard Feynman and Ralph Leighton's book, *Tuva or Bust!* Alan Alda, who plays the lead, is a famous actor who has appeared in popular TV shows like MASH.

He is joined by actress Allison Smith, who plays a university student. Smith has a recurring role on NBC's "The West Wing" and recently appeared in "The Education of Randy Newman" at South Coast Rep.

The plot fundamentally occurs in Feynman's office here at Caltech. Hence, the group visited the historical office and even talked to Helen Tuck, Feynman's former secretary, in an attempt to extract maximum information for making the play as close to reality as possible.

This play is special not only for the worldwide scientific community but for everyone because Feynman was gloriously eccentric.



Richard Feynman, one of this century's most revered and respected scientists.

He often even called himself a "curious character."

Known locally for his passion for drumming and internationally for such discoveries as the fact that frozen O-rings caused the Challenger disaster, he was

definitely not just any other scientist.

He was once referred to by the London Guardian as the "bongo-playing, Nobel prize-winning, safecracking raconteur and ge-

PLEASE SEE QED ON PAGE 2

Caltech seeks new beaver to replace aging mascot

BY RUMI CHUNARA

Caltech's Department of Athletics has initiated a design competition for a new image of our mascot, the beaver. Students and faculty alike might question the need for a new mascot.

The beaver has been the Caltech mascot since the early 1900's, although it was probably more widely used and recognized in the school's early days. It is, of course, those traits of hard-work and diligence that the beaver embodies that makes the it the animal of choice for Caltech's mascot.

The ad running in today's paper pictures an image of the mascot taken from a photograph of Caltech's 1929 baseball team. But where is the mascot today.

on today's jerseys and today's school paraphernalia?

One of the reasons that the Athletic Department has decided to look for a new mascot is the hope that a new beaver might inspire the student body and provide a fresh image that can be used widely without getting tired. If a new image is successfully chosen, you can look forward to seeing it plastered over many items found in the bookstore, from clothing to stationary.

"I only realized it was the school's mascot until two weeks after I got here," commented Blacker freshman, Andrea Smith. She added that "The only place I see the beaver is on top of the Tech."

While many students are unaware of the mascot's presence and even indifferent towards its future, some may object to this shift from tradition. According to Tim Downes, the Director of Athletics and Physical Education, the contest idea is in fact student driven, coming from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

The Department of Athletics hopes that a fresh look will affect the student body in a positive way, stressing a unified atmosphere. It is questionable whether or not a new mascot image will increase spirit and unity within the student body, however it certainly will increase the size of one creative student's wallet.

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RUSSIAN:

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of the USSR), and thus it would be a shame to put Caltech students at a disadvantage by cutting the Russian program". The petition also notes the popularity of Cheron's classes and states that: "Cheron is one of the most enthusiastic lecturers at Caltech, and is extremely familiar with and interested in the material."

John Ledyard, Chair of the HSS division, has refused to cite specific reasons for the elimination of this program- either to Cheron, or to the Tech. He responded only that: "Periodically, the humanities faculty reviews and evaluates all language and foreign literature courses. They also review and evaluate the faculty. Inclusion of a language in the program is based on many factors including scientific relevance, cultural significance, student demand, etc. A school the size of Caltech cannot afford to teach all or even many languages, so selectivity is necessary. Recently at a faculty meeting on 11/1/2000, the faculty decided not to continue Russian. They have also decided over the past 10 years to add Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish to the menu of languages. It is the considered opinion of the faculty that this is the appropriate thing

to do for the Caltech curriculum".

It is true that Russia's economy is ailing, and that its scientific strength no longer scares the United States (as it did so dramatically by launching Sputnik), but are these really a valid reason for phasing out Russian? Cheron relates the story of a chemistry graduate student who came to him just last week to tell him that he had found results in a Russian journal from the 1950s which were on much the same subject as his work and freed him from having to duplicate this work. Russian work is a vital part of many scientific fields, such as, for instance, the scientific collaboration with Russia on the International Space Station. The sizeable proportion of Russian and Slavic students at Caltech is further evidence that we, as scientists, cannot afford to ignore this area of the world.

Beyond this, the manner in which Cheron was informed of this cut, and his subsequent failure to obtain an explanation for this cut are disturbing. "The most hurtful thing was that I was notified through the mail," said Cheron, as he spoke of his 19 years of loyal service to Caltech and the students here. He argues that this decision, "could set a precedent; all languages could go just like that." When Cheron went in to see a copy of his fac-

ulty report it showed that his termination letter had been in the works for 3 months, all with no word to him, no hint that any such decision was being considered. He was also not allowed to make photocopies of this report.

In view of these circumstances and the strong student support, Cheron is filing a grievance against the chair. Concerned students plan to talk to the deans, and then possibly the provost about this issue. Students interested in expressing their support for the Russian program should get in touch with Leon Bellan (lbellan@its.caltech.edu) who organized the petition.

DEAN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

someone's behavior. In this case it may have helped change a reasonably normal young man, into a brutal killer. Don't think for a moment that it is the kind of thing that only happens to someone else. It is shocking to realize, but it can happen to anyone under the same circumstances. Overindulging can lead to pretty unpleasant consequences. Taking drugs, yes even seeming anodynes such as Aspirin or Tylenol should be used only when really needed; they can have serious effects, can even

ACCESS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

no ads in the webpages. Hostfiles that are updated frequently are available online at <http://www.ledgerlabs.com/adterminator/>http://www.ledgerlabs.com/adterminator/ and other websites.

In future columns of Random Access we will be looking at reviews of some very cool products including the Intrigo Lapstation (winner of best of show at CES 2001), Windows XP beta (aka Codename Whistler) and a sneak preview of the future of gaming consoles (Xbox, Gamecube etc).

Until a later random meeting, Ciao!

kill. Mixing booze and drugs, or taking different drugs at the same time (to enhance particular effects, or to neutralize some unwanted sensations) is incredibly dangerous. It is not always possible to predict the outcome of such experiments, and the gamble is one that not just you, might loose. Take good care, get help, don't play chemical roulette.

A bientot

Jean Paul Revel
Jean-Paul Revel

QED:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nus of quantum electrodynamics" as well as "the most brilliant, iconoclastic and influential of the post war generation of theoretical physicists" by the New York Times.

"QED" reveals a unique man whose intellectual curiosity and infectious enthusiasm for life and all its mysteries provides a profound insight into the creative and imaginative nature of the scientific mind.

The play opens on the 22nd of March, 2001 and runs through May 13. Previews for its world premiere begin on March 10. The good news for the Caltech student body is that the theatre has extended an exclusive discount offering for us. The discount is 25% off all available tickets for performances.

For more information visit www.TaperAhmanson.com and/or call (213)628-2772.

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[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00

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

THE CAVE MAN'S VALENTINE (R)
[11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

Academy Award Nominee- Best Foreign Film
THE TASTE OF OTHERS (NR)
[11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:10

2 Academy Award Nominations
POLLOCK (R)
[1:00] 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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Culture

Review: Othello meets with approval

BY SPENCER MORTENSEN

Imagine you could escape from the rain and worry and work of the daily routine, and discover yourself suddenly transported to a far-off land of excitement and romance. There's a sword at your side, money in your purse, and all around you are beautiful women and scheming rogues. You lurk in the darkened streets of Venice, brave the fury of an ocean tempest, fall in love on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, and wind up so deeply entwined in the malevolent plots around you that your very life is in utmost peril.

Impossible? Not so. The adventure is "Othello" and embarks three more times before its closing night. All you have to do is bring five dollars and a friend, and come to the Ramo Auditorium tonight at 7:30 pm, Saturday at 7:30 pm, or Sunday at 2:00 pm.

How good can the Caltech theater be? Ask everyone who swore the Moor was black... Under all the layers of painstakingly applied makeup, Georgios Zamanakos is Greek. There are thunder storms with lightening, badges ripped off, sword fights, blood-stained bandages. The actors sing, tease one another, dance, and boil with rage. The world of Shakespeare seems to come alive, and its easy to be caught up in the realism and fast-paced action.

There is, of course, the occasional problem: a smudge left on Desdemona's cheek from the Othello's makeup, a touch of histrionics, a badge stitched on too tightly or that falls off on its own, a hair clasp tangled up in its owner's hair. The thunder has a touch of graininess to it, and the lightning always seems to strike in the same place... But what is that compared to the thrill of the tempest and agony of jealousy?

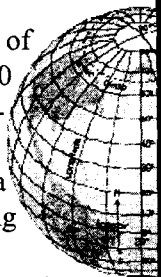
The Outside World

One liners (sorry--but this will have to be short and sweet!):

-Seattle Earthquake: at 10:54 am a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Seattle (epicenter 35 miles SW of Seattle). Around 200 people were injured.

-Bush's fiscal policy: released this week: the gist of the plan is a \$1.6 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years and a \$5.7 billion increase for military spending (surprise, surprise!)

-UK Train Crash: Feb. 28, a Land Rover pulling a trailer veered off course and hit a passenger carrying train. The crash is said to have killed 13 people.



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Yoghurt

by: Ben and Jerry

Where else but opera can you have women dressed as men, men singing like women, scenes with a gorgeous naked woman in a bath and still have it be called serious?

That's right we went and saw the L.A. Opera's production of Giulio Cesare (Julius Caesar for those of us who speak American) by Handel (yes, the Hallelujah Chorus guy). The highlight of the production is the gathering of three of the world's greatest countertenors to sing the castrati roles.

Okay, now you may be confused so here's a break for definitions. Castrati were UNIX, doh, I mean eunuchs. Though it was never actually legal to castrate a human male "boys with beautiful voices became—at least, officially—so accident-prone in these years that few Italian churches or theaters lacked neutered adult male sopranos or alto" —ouch. Obviously, there are no castrati at present, so music of the Baroque period that was written for castrati voices has fallen by the wayside. Sometimes productions are made casting female mezzo-sopranos for the castrati roles, but their voices lack the spark of a castrati and could you imagine Julius Caesar as a woman in drag? I didn't think so. Other times the music is transposed down two full oc-

taves and sung by bass/baritones. However, these low voices are not capable of the vocal gymnastics that the music requires.

Handel purposely avoided using countertenors in his operas. In his time countertenors (unaltered males (manly men) who sing in the soprano or alto range) sang in a sweet falsetto that had no carrying power and was only suitable for small halls or church music. However, modern countertenors have mastered the technique of projecting their voices and singing with a strong "chest voice" sound. The sound is very different from a woman's voice. In Giulio Cesare, you will here three wonderful examples of countertenor voices (and personally, I think countertenors are very sexy. Any woman who saw Chanticleer perform here two years ago will agree.)

The performance was excellent. The sets were simple, but interesting. Almost everyone is in whiteface with skullcaps, which gives the people a somewhat demonic presence. The singing was wonderful. Cleopatra was especially fun. Gorgeous (in an absolute, not just relative sense), her voice was as good as her appearance. The best part of the opera comes when she removes her towel and sings naked from a bath set into the floor. You can have the thrill of knowing that your \$20 student ticket goes towards the rose petals that decorate her bathwater.

A word of warning, however.

This is opera seria and does suffer from the things that composers like Mozart turned away from. It is a numbers opera. The basic pattern is: recitative (the speech-like part) that moves the action forward, solo da capo aria where a character reflects on what has happened so far, applause, repeat. It gets kind of old after a couple of hours. The plot is excellent but it becomes choppy feeling because every character must have a certain number of arias. There are a few good duets, but don't expect to see wonderful ensembles like the one in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro last month. By the way, a da capo aria is in ABA' form. The B section is similar to the A section but at a slower tempo and usually in the dominant key. The A' section returns to the tempo and tune of the first section, but is heavily ornamented. These coloratura passages are simply amazing. I guarantee you will be wowed by the vocal acrobatics, which really are the best feature of baroque opera.

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:
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Music and Squirrels

Music 20 years...

By: [Name]

The Group: Dream

The Album: *It Was All a Dream*

The Single: "He Loves Me, He Loves You Not"

You've heard their catchy debut single all over the radio. You saw the cute, pink video on MTV time and again. Now their album is finally out, and you are toying with the idea of buying it. Well, STOP! You need to think this over calmly and rationally before you act.

It is a common story of a manager forming a girl band and selling them to any willing record company. That is how Bad Boy Records mogul and rapper Sean Puffy "Shoot-em

Up" Combs signed *Dream* to his label. Everyone is eager to milk the boy band trend.

Puffy and Bad Boy groomed *Dream* and placed them through girl band boot camp. He gave them light, fluffy pop songs—but edgier. He procured the hottest dance moves—but badder. He designed for them an image with popular appeal—but more real. This is one tough group of 14-year-old girls! "The idea of having a pop group on Bad Boy Records is so oh my gosh. People are gonna check just because," one group member said of the experience.

Admittedly, the lead singer, Holly, has a strong singing voice. The other girls take the role of background dancers who occasionally fill in extra harmo-

nies. The album is a typical over-processed pop album. In an attempt to set *Dream* apart from other groups, this album crosses over into light R&B, though true R&B fans might balk at this suggestion. A few spoken interludes and rap breakdowns intermix with the music. The digitized songs have a harsh sound and lyrics that span the usual topics of love, loss and loser boy-friends!

For all their effort, very little sets this group apart from every other group looking for fame and glory. These girls are younger than the average band, and they are signed to a rap label. In every other way *Dream* follows the typical pop formula. Puffy writes several songs for this album, as do the songwriters



The four girls of Dream show their dance moves on their music video for "He Loves Me, He Loves You Not."

of Christina Aguilera and N Sync. Dream even covers New Edition's hit song "Mr. Telephone Man".

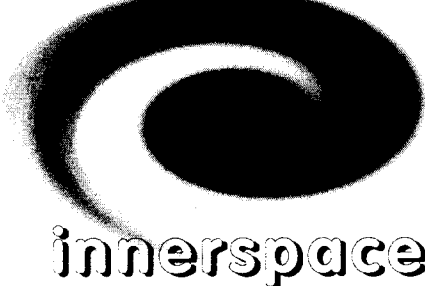
I would not recommend buying this album. For fans of "He Loves Me, He Loves You Not", I suggest waiting for a hits compilation which contains it. Prolonged exposure to this album may cause nausea or even sudden death.

You should buy this album if:

1. You are a teenybopper searching for the next fad group.
2. You are a male who was more attracted to Britney before she was legal.
3. You feel the urge to support Puffy's gun-purchasing habit.

Next time: Dave Matthew's Band: Everyday

I Brake for Squirrels



By: Jason Meltzer

I brake for squirrels and other small animals. Despite what you may think about my personality from reading my columns, I have a soft spot for furry creatures running across the road, and I cringe at the sight of roadkill. I think it's the idea of death that bothers me, and contributing to it by running down the unlucky animal that crosses my car's path seems a terrible thing to do. The people who really get on my nerves are the ones who *try* to hit animals in the road, as if it's a sport. I mean, how hard is it to hit a squirrel? If you have never encountered one, you may be surprised to learn that it's rather hard *not* to

hit them. When they see a car, no matter how far into the street they are or how close to the other side, they run back to the side from which they came, which typically lands them right underneath the driver-side tire. I have seen many an unlucky squirrel killed in this

way. That's why, when I come across a squirrel in the road, I stop (assuming it's safe) and wait for it to finish its trek across the asphalt. That is, unless I'm in a real hurry, in which case the little bastard better not do anything stupid.

Before you begin to think that I'm an animal rights extremist, I will start on the real subject of this column: vegetarianism. Despite my kindness to animals on the road, I am not a vegetarian or vegan, nor do I practice any other form of abstinence from eating certain types of food. In fact, vegetarianism, except for religious reasons, makes no sense to me whatsoever. Not only is it a totally inconsistent belief system, it is also a wholly unpleasant one. I cannot imagine denying myself from eating all forms of meat for the rest of my life, and I don't really understand why anyone would.

I think the main argument made by vegetarians is that people should not eat meat because it encourages breeding of animals for slaughter, a practice that is cruel and violent. Violence is bad, killing is bad, and eating animals is bad because it condones these actions. I agree with the claim that raising animals for people to eat seems a bit inhumane, but there are just too many holes in consistency to make vegetarianism a way of life (kind of like most religions, but I won't get into that argument in this column), besides the fact that it's just too darn hard.

It should be obvious that vegetarians are not one hundred percent anti-killing. They can't be.

Like it or not, their bodies kill many tiny organisms every hour of every day. It's the unfortunate truth of nature: living things are killed by other living things. Yes, one can make the argument that this example is silly because it's beyond their control. That's true, so here's one that's not beyond their control: the very nature of vegetarianism encourages the killing of plants to be eaten. Basically, most vegetarians draw the "inhumanity line" between the animal kingdom and all other forms of life. We kill far more plants every year than animals. If vegetarians thought of plants in the same way they think of animals, they'd probably call the Archer Daniels Midland Company the worst mass murderer in history. However, they're fine with killing plants, fungi, protista, and monera for sustenance, just not animals.

Why this distinction? Most likely it's because animals are like us. They move around, they have blood and eyes and legs and look cute when they're babies. Plants seem like part of the ground. It doesn't *seem* like death when one kills a plant, unlike when one kills an animal. The closer a species of animal is to humans, the worse it seems to kill them. Many vegetarians have no problem with trampling bugs that invade their houses, and many would probably call the exterminator if they had a rodent infestation. But they won't eat meat because of the thought that an animal was killed for that purpose.

The most amusing vegetarians are the ones that eat only certain kinds of animals. Fishes are often excluded from the list of sacred species. Why this is, I have no idea. One of my cousins practices (or at least used to practice) this form of vegetarianism. The way she put it: "I won't eat anything that has a face." I neglected to point out to her that many fish have faces; albeit ugly ones, but faces nonetheless. I encountered this once on a date, as well. I

went to a restaurant with a girl and she ordered some mussel dish and I ordered a beef dish. After the food arrived, I offered her a taste. She declined and said "I'm vegetarian." As I stared at the pile of mussels on her plate she said "oh, but I eat seafood." Of course, I made sure to check that this wasn't a religious thing, and, not surprisingly, it wasn't. We didn't go on any more dates.

I'm sure most "real" vegetarians probably deny that fish-eaters are vegetarians, and I imagine vegans, who eat no animal products whatsoever, think that normal vegetarians are hypocrites. I think anyone is a hypocrite who eats anything but synthetic, factory produced nutrients, and claims that they have some moral superiority over others because of what they eat, or believes that they are eating or not eating this or that for any reason other than emotional self-gratification. Don't get me wrong: I have no problem with people who choose not to eat meat for a large variety of reasons, including the emotional association with killing animals. It's the people who claim moral objections and believe that *everyone* should share in their beliefs that bother me.

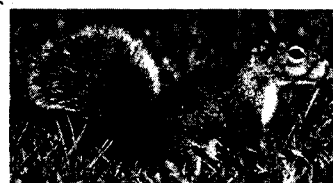
Now I know someone is going to say: "Jason, you're contradicting yourself. You said yourself that you don't like the idea of death or killing, but you condemn vegetarians because you claim that they're hypocrites." While it's true that I don't like the idea of death, there's no inconsistency in the fact that I eat meat. I simply don't *like* hitting animals in the road, or

squishing bugs, or hunting, or any other form of killing animals or plants. However, I have no problem with *someone else* killing things for me to eat. It is an emotional response and it is not hypocritical because I do not condemn others for acting differently. As I said, I have no

problem with vegetarians who simply don't *like* eating meat; I have a problem with the justification that it's *bad* to do so. There is also a big difference between raising and slaughtering animals for food rather than other forms of killing, like hunting. Animals and plants are killed for food because it is necessary for people to live, and if we are going to kill some living things to survive, we may as well kill all living things to survive. Equal opportunity. At least it's consistent. Hunting is simply a non-sport that allows people to shoot creatures for no good reason. I wouldn't go hunting for fun, but certainly if I were stranded in the wilderness with no food, I'd kill an animal to eat. And if I didn't like food so much, I would be very happy to survive on a totally synthetic diet, if it were available and healthy.

There is no inconsistency in my reasoning. One does not need to revel in an activity to perform it or believe that others can and should perform it. For example, I don't particularly like the subject of biology, but I took Biol my freshman year, and I think that people *should* study biology. In the same way, just because I don't like killing doesn't mean I should necessarily not eat meat or rally against those who kill with good purpose.

So yeah, I brake for squirrels, but I'm not a vegetarian. I don't like hunting, and I feel guilty after squashing a bug that has invaded my home, but I'm not a



vegetarian. I have a number of vegetarian friends, but I am still not a vegetarian. I don't condemn it, but I also don't understand how those who practice it can think it is a consistent belief system, and how some can want to force it on others. Mostly, though, I feel sorry for people who never get the pleasure of eating a nice, juicy leg of lamb.

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by: Vikram Dendi
 randomaccess@geekguru.com

Hi all!

This week's Random Access will focus on some excellent software utilities.

There are very few annoyances on the web that compare to pop up windows. Banner ads that have rotating animations come a close second. Here are a few utilities that will make your life much easier... and most of them are free!

Webwasher:

WebWasher is a browser add-on that simplifies and accelerates the navigation on the Web. It runs as a local proxy server. The software filters many kinds of advertising extremely well. WebWasher runs on PCs or on servers. Filtering is fully customizable. WebWasher goes beyond the traditional Internet filters that are designed to stop any surfing for unsuitable material. Instead, the software is billed as actually filtering out "unwanted material," including advertisements and banner images. Free for personal, home

usage and for educational institutions. A lot of privacy issues (webbugs, which are transparent images embedded into webpages that track your behavior online can be easily removed using this soft-

ware) can be addressed using this simple little tool. Its amazing how much cleaner the net looks without all those ads. Webwasher comes with an optional add-on that is not free, but is quite useful for the paranoid. Secretmaker is an add-on to webwasher that protects your identity online. It is similar to Freedom a much hyped service that was launched last year. This column will cover privacy issues and related software and services at a later date. Webwasher is available at www.webwasher.com

Junkbusters:

The Internet Junkbusters have been in news a lot lately, as an organization committed to protecting people's privacy and right to choose whether they want advertising or not. The Junkbuster proxy software that they make available at www.junkbusters.com. The software and its source code is released on GPL and is completely free. Its not as userfriendly as webwasher, but with a little configuration you

can achieve a lot of functionality. Junkbuster proxy works on many different operating systems.

The junkbusters website also has a plethora of useful information on how to stop telemarketers, bulkmail issues and so forth. Its a good bookmark to maintain.

Guidescope:

That brings us to Guidescope, which is a software compatible with junkbuster, which is a little easier to use. It uses a central database of ads and touts itself to be more accurate and up-to-date than a local proxy like junkbuster. On the downside, its not available for as many platforms yet.

Atguard and NIS (Norton Internet Security):

Atguard is a perennial favorite of the power user for its simplicity and excellent functionality as a firewall AND an ad remover. Although it is now no longer available from wrq which originally made it people still find some of its last versions online and use them. The software adds itself at the system level and monitors all packets of network data, and has an interactive learning system that allows the user to configure rules for different network protocols and ports. This also helps in removing web advertising, making webpages load faster than ever. For those who want a prod-

uct that is well supported, Norton Internet Security is nothing but a more customized version of atguard. Although I personally feel that there is too much bloat in that software, it does offer most functionality that atguard offers. A trial edition is available at www.symantec.com. For those who have atguard, an excellent support forum is available at <http://www.home.pages.at/atguard/>.

Proxomitron:

We've heard of shareware, freeware and even postcardware... ever heard of Shonenware? Here is what the proxomitron webpage says about its being Shonenware: ShonenWare is a concept dedicated to the support of the one-and-only world famous female power-trio from Osaka Japan: Shonen Knife - kawaii creators of the very best music in the world.

Anyway, inspite of that strange characteristic of this free software, proxomitron is extremely powerful and useful in controlling the advertising you wish to see and the information your browser passes on to websites. It works only on windows by the way. You can get it at <http://members.tripod.com/Proxomitron/>

Proxomitron/.

In many respects these software offer similar functionality. Some of them support anonymous proxy servers that might help out with your privacy concerns. In any case, using one of these software would almost certainly make your web journey more pleasurable.

A very basic webad removing strategy is to remove many webads is to use the windows hosts file (usually in the windows or winnt directory). Some sample entries in that file are as follows:

```
127.0.0.1 websponsors.com
1 2 7 . 0 . 0 . 1
bannervip.webjump.com
127.0.0.1 ads.iboost.com
1 2 7 . 0 . 0 . 1
www.clickxchange.com
127.0.0.1 pixel.theglobe.com #<-
-invisible(single pixel) gif for spying
127.0.0.1 ads.icq.com # I prefer
just the IM
127.0.0.1 geo.yahoo.com # these
geocities ones get rid of the ad
squares!
127.0.0.1 us.toto.geo.yahoo.com
#anti ad square
```

What we are doing here is telling the browser to look for the ads from these domains on the local machine (127.0.0.1 is the ip address from localhost). Since it won't find any there you get

PLEASE SEE ACCESS ON PAGE 2



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What:
 Design-a-Beaver Contest

Why:
 The Beaver has been the mascot of Caltech since the early 1900's. The Design-a-Beaver Contest is an opportunity for today's Caltech students to select an image that best represents the Caltech athletic program and will promote spirit and unity within the community.

Who:
 Entries will be judged by staff members of the Department of Athletics, the Book Store and the Alumni Association as well as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Rules:

- Contestants must be Caltech undergraduate students;
- Each contestant may submit only one entry;
- Entries must be submitted to the Department of Athletics, Design-a-Beaver Contest, Mail Code 1-2.
- Judges will review entries for image, concept, design, creativity and functionality;
- The winner will receive a \$250.00 cash prize;
- The winner will be credited with the design of the mascot; however, Caltech will have the sole ownership of the copyright of the design;
- If upon review by the judges, there are no suitable entries, there will be no winner.

Keep in mind:

- The Beaver portrays:
 - Work hard/play hard attitude
 - Technology
 - Ingenuity
 - Intelligence
- The teeth and the tail are two of the more prominent features of the beaver. The beaver is gender neutral.
- Please use attached design as a reference.

Any questions, please contact the Department of Athletics at 626-395-6148.

“QED”

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TWO: THEY MUST BE PUNISHED FOR THEIR ARROGANCE!

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FIND THE MORAL COMPASS AND DEACTIVATE IT.

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YOU'RE WORKING WEEKENDS!

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

TIM WILL DEMONSTRATE THE MANAGEMENT CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY.

I ADMIT IT DOESN'T SEEM VERY SPECIAL WHEN YOU KNOW HOW IT'S DONE.

HOW DO YOU LIKE BEING A MANAGER, ALICE?

DO ME A BIG FAVOR: SNEAK INTO MY HOUSE TONIGHT AND SMOTHER ME WITH A PILLOW.

I THINK SHE WAS KIDDING.

I'LL SEE IF SHE PUTS UP A STRUGGLE.

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

A History of American Farming

By Peter Fox

...who had a very rough time getting out of bed this morning and didn't eat breakfast and who pinched his left thumb in his gym locker and left his favorite pencil in the library and whose day got even worse when...

I'M ASSUMING THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A SYMPATHY GRADE. PAGE IS LONGER THAN YOUR ESSAY.

COOL. IT'S DAD'S OLD COLLEGE DIPLOMA.

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE ATTIC.

IT'S SO FORMAL AND IMPRESSIVE AND ACADEMIC-LOOKING. I WONDER WHY HE DOESN'T HAVE IT OUT WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE IT.

MAYBE OL' ROGER FOX IS MORE HUMBLE THAN WE THOUGHT.

AND I WONDER WHY HE USED TO SPELL HIS NAME "ORGER."

MAYBE THAT'S LATIN.

WHY DO YOU DIP YOUR TEA BAG UP AND DOWN LIKE THAT?

TO GET THE WATER TO FLOW THROUGH IT FASTER.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST HOOK UP A PUMP? IT'D BE A LOT EASIER ON YOUR ARM.

I'LL GO GET THE ONE OUT OF PAIGE'S AQUARIUM.

SINCE WHEN DID YOU SWITCH TO AFTERNOON COFFEE?

I'VE DISCOVERED IT'S MORE RELAXING.

DAD, CAN YOU DO THIS ONE HOMEWORK PROBLEM FOR ME? IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS.

SON, YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.

MAN. YOU AND YOUR STUPID CODE OF ETHICS.

YOU MIGHT CLARIFY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT.

IT'S NOT MY JOB TO INTERPRET FOR HIM.

THAT'LL BE \$159.27.

WHAT?!

YOU'VE GOT NINE CDS HERE, KID.

I KNOW, BUT I FIGURE WITH THE COURTS PUTTING THE SCREWS TO NAPSTER, YOU HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WIN BACK FORMER CUSTOMERS LIKE ME.

BY DOING WHAT?

LETTING ME HAVE THESE FOR FREE.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO BUSINESS SMARTS.

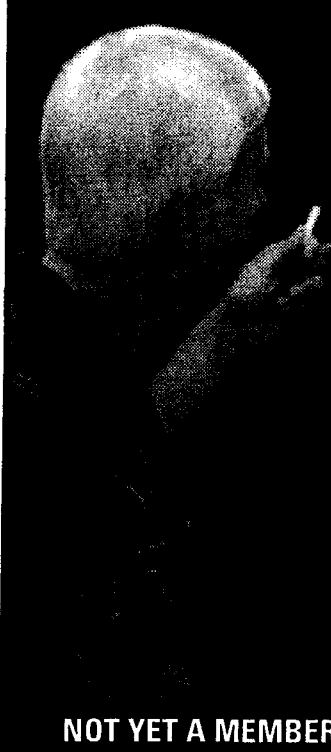
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TRYING TO LEARN HOW THEY DID ALL THAT STUFF IN "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON."

YOU KNOW, STUFF LIKE WHEN THE GIRL JUMPS AND TWIRLS 30 FEET INTO THE AIR.

BY THE WAY, WATCH WHERE YOU STEP. QUINCY THREW UP OVER THERE THIS MORNING.

YAAA! I MEAN, IT ALL SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE.



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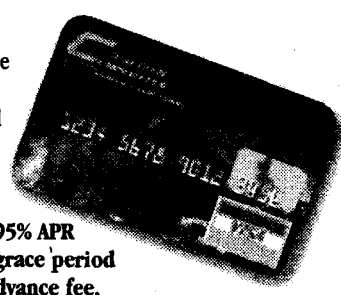
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Dean

Dean's Corner

*The good and the
absolutely horrible*

by Jean-Paul Revel

Today we celebrate one of Caltech's greats. Come and attend Linus Pauling's 100th birthday celebration at the Beckman Auditorium. Come and join in. Even as I encourage you to attend this exciting festival of ideas and remembrances I have twinges of discomfort. What gives me pause is the terrible accident involving college students, which took place last weekend in Isla Vista, next to UC Santa Barbara. Not much is known of the root causes of this catastrophe, so what I write is speculative and may not turn out to be accurate. The take home lesson is the same in any case.

There is nothing speculative, about the heart shrinking, cold and clammy horror, which the news must have brought to the families of both the driver of the car and those unfortunates who were in his way. As for us, far removed outside observers, we

couldn't be him who careened off parked vehicles, and was mowing down pedestrians?

Not the David they knew, it could not be! It is unimaginable that the impacts were so violent that people were ripped out of their shoes, out of their socks as reported on TV news. It is unimaginable that all those young people who were run down had been on the way to party, laughing and kidding one second and the next, well, gone, bags of crushed bones thrown through the air, landing limp and bloody on the pavement, leaking out their lives. At least one can hope that it all happened so fast that the victims had no time to realize what was happening to them. It is incredible to watch the video made by a bystander right after the impact. The driver, far from being shocked at what he has just done, is struggling with people standing around. Witnesses are trying to hold him, to stop him from punching and pushing, and he is there, running, wildly landing blows wherever he can. So here we are faced with a young man, appar-

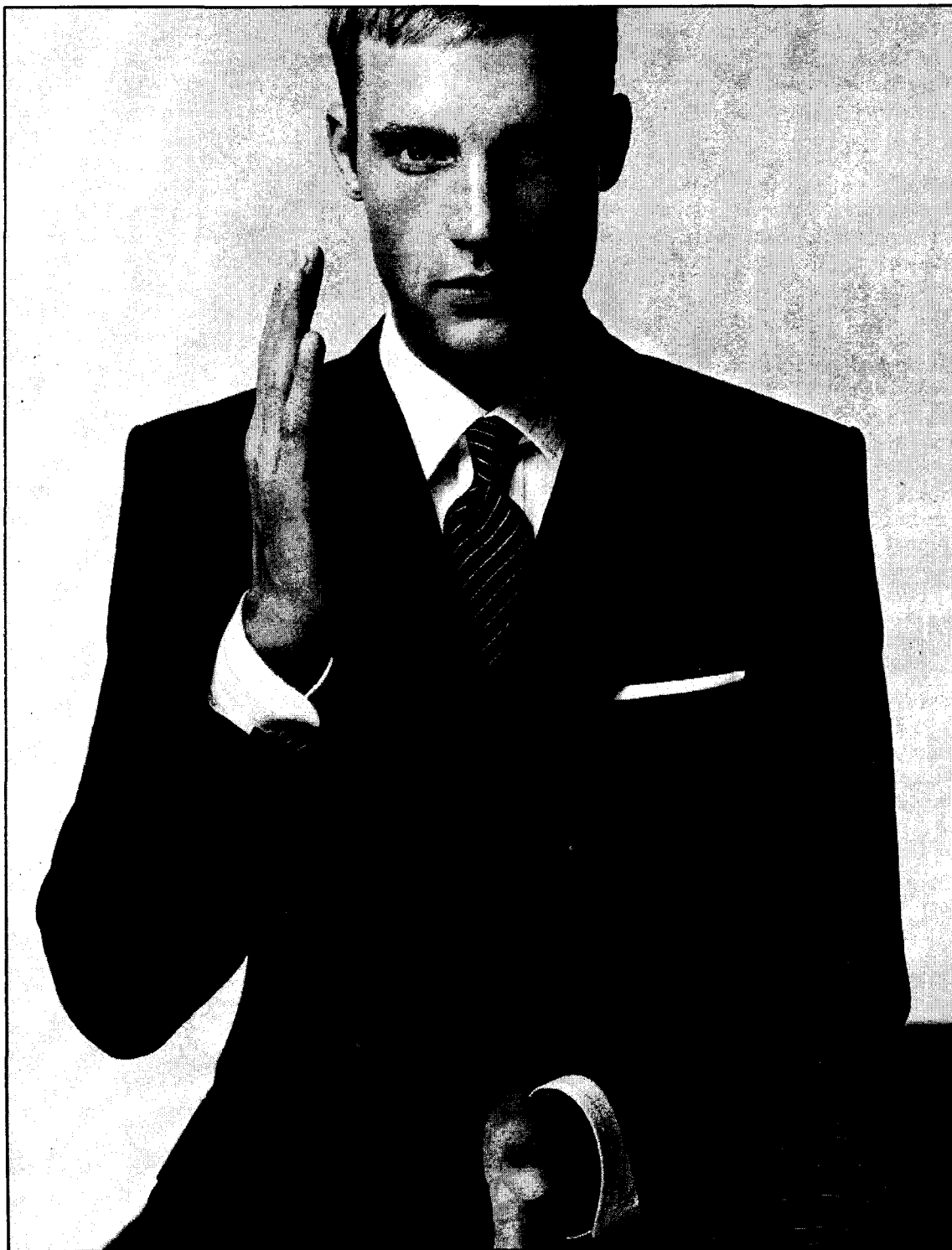
ently brought up in a well-to-do environment, having attended a private high school, praised by his teachers, a regular Joe with a sweet engaging mien, who suddenly seems to have gone completely berserk. How could anyone from such a seemingly sheltered and comfortable life have so much anger, so much hatred, so much of an "who gives a hoot about anyone else" attitude that he could let destructive impulses take over? Could it be that the speeding, hitting of parked cars and pedestrians on the crowded street, were "accidents", occurrences beyond personal check? The driver does not seem to have had a stroke, a heart attack, a seizure, or to suffer from some other condition which could have been the cause of an involuntary loss of control. I don't know if the car's throttle got stuck, snapping to the wide open position, or if there was an other mechanical problem behind this.

Even if that were so, it seems the driver cannot escape responsibility. After being tested, he was to be arraigned on 4 counts of murder, 4 counts of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, 5 counts of driving under the influence of drugs and causing great bodily injury (Cheryl Devall, The Mercury News, 2/27/01). His classmates and

friends report (ibid.) that he sometimes behaved in odd ways and so nicknamed "Crazy Dave". He was seen with some concern, but apparently not enough concern for anyone to do anything about it. The newspaper reports that the University authorities knew of no complaints about him. Yet it could be that the mildly idiosyncratic behavior was perhaps not just a ploy for attention but a cry for help. A cry too muted to be recognizable for what it was. But how could he, even if deeply troubled, if that's what he was, try to remedy his pain by attacking a bunch of innocent, random people? If he had been sober, well, then perhaps insanity could be invoked. But if behind all this there should just be a little too much to drink, perhaps mixed with drugs to enhance the buzz, what a price to pay for a moment of thrill an instant of apparent release. So many lives destroyed, including his own. Even if by some miracle or dint of skilful lawyering he is released, a dark shadow will hover over him and blacken his days. He will have to live all his life with the knowledge that he was responsible for taking 4 others lives.

It takes so little booze to alter

PLEASE SEE DEAN ON PAGE 2



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

H&SS Division Selected Topics and New Courses for spring term 2000: *Ec 101* On the Rationality of Irrationality - Hefetz MW 10:30-12 125 Baxter, *H 161* Medieval Knighthood - Brown Organizational meeting M 10am 33 Baxter, *H 161* Civil War and Reconstruction - Hacker T 7pm 237 Baxter, *Law 134* Law Technology - McCaffery TTH 1:30-3 128 Baxter, *Lit 180* Greek Epic and Drama - Pigman Organizational meeting M 2pm Judy Lib, *Lit 180* British Fiction of the 20th Century - Sutherland Organizational mtg. T noon 128 Bax, *Lit 180* American Fiction of the 20th Century - Sutherland Org. mtg. W noon 128 Bax, *SES/PI 169* Who Gets the Kidney? The Philosophy of Social Choice Theory - Hild Th 1-4pm Judy Lib. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter. Descriptions for all selected topic course are posted in Baxter.

Win great prizes and enhance your resume! Participate in the **Pocket PC programming contest**. Create a cool application for the Pocket PC platform and win a pocketpc. You will also be eligible for a national competition where you can win up to \$25000. All participants get free software (windows 2000, visual studio, wince devkit etc) and there will be lot of fun giveaways. Teams of upto three. Signup for the contest at http://www.studentdev.org/msr/ms_group.asp?gid=88887 by becoming a member of the Pocket PC club. The entries will be judged at Caltech level in the first week of April. Contact caltechmud@consultant.com for more info.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group: Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issue such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? We invite you to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15pm in the Health Center Lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation - only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call ext. 8331

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

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

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 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.

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 ay include painting, laying tile, and general repair to the communitycenter 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.

EVENTS

Caltech Celebrates Pauling Centennial: In honor of the 100th anniversary of the late Linus Pauling's birthday, the California Institute of Technology will host "Frontiers in Science," a day of presentations by world renowned scientists including three Nobel Laureates. The event will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 2, in Beckman Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

FREE: End-of-term Ballroom Dance Party

What: Caltech Ballroom Dance Party
Date: Fri 9 Mar'01

Time: *8:00pm Start of refreshments and warm-up dancing *8:00- 8:30pm Introductory East Coast Swing lesson *8:30-11:59pm Open Dancing
Where: Winnett Lounge

Feel free to make requests and/or bring your own music for the "open" section.. 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, or call Don Trask at 626-791-3103. Other on going activities of the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club for the rest of the term include [all are held in Winnett Lounge- Dance classes start at 7:00pm and the mini-parties at 9:00pm]:

1. Beginners' Hustle on Mon
2. Beginners' American Waltz on Wed
3. Mini-Ballroom Dance Parties on Mon.

Country-folk singer Katy Moffatt will perform in Dabney Lounge on Friday, March 16 at 8:00 PM. Katy is a transplanted Texan, now living Los Angeles. Constantly on tour, she seldom makes an appearance here in her own backyard. This concert is a great chance to hear her wonderfully expressive voice and her fine songs. Student tickets are \$4.00 and can be obtained at the Office of Public Events (395-4652) or at the concert.

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

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. 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 or (626) 395-6320. A complete list of lecture and abstracts is available at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/biomed.html>

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 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. 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.

NCIIA 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> At the 5th Annual Meeting of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance attend experiential sessions on: E-Team Cur-

riculum 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 NCIIA'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 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.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation administers a need-based grant program for Vermont residents. Vermont Grants can be used at colleges throughout the as long as the college is approved by the US Dept. of Education for participation in the Title IV student aid program. Students are required to file a FAFSA in addition to filing a Vermont Grant application. For eligibility requirements and an application call VSAC at 1-802-655-9602, in-state 1-800-642-3177 or see www.vsac.org

P.L.A.T.O. is offering scholarships up to \$5000. These scholarships can be used for tuition, room and board, fees or other education-related expenses. The scholarship program is completely web-based; no paper applications will be available. Any student enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college or university for Fall 2001 is eligible to apply regardless of status. There are no minimum GPA or standardized test score requirements. The application and additional information regarding the program will be available beginning February 1, 2001. All applications must be submitted by April 30, 2001. Scholarships will be awarded in August 2001. Visit www.plato.org

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 ser-

vice 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. Applicants must be full-time and majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, materials science, metallurgy, or metallurgical engineering. To apply, applicants must submit an application form, statement describing career objectives, list of educational achievements, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or professors. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Please send completed application materials to: AESF Scholarship Committee, American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society, Central Florida Research Park, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando FL 32826-3298. Entries must be submitted to the AESF Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2001.

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@tech.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.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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