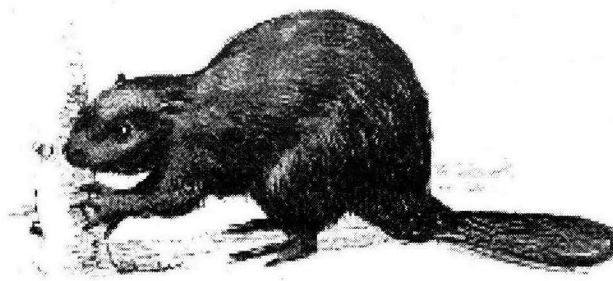


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The California Tech

THIS TIME THE REVOLUTION WILL (NOT) BE TELEVISED

BY JON FOSTER

True to NASA's words, we have not seen much of Denis Tito-space tourist-on NASA TV since we saw him float into the space station *Alpha* with a grin spread a mile wide across his face. "Due to the commercial nature of this mission, NASA's coverage of the *Soyuz 2* crew's activities will be limited to normal operational activities onboard the station," read a note distributed by NASA to several media sources.

NASA has been deeply miffed by Tito's flight, for a wide variety of reasons. They say that Tito's presence is a safety hazard, and a distraction for the crew. NASA has cut back a lot of the work originally scheduled for this week, partly because of computer troubles, but partly because of their visitor. Furthermore, NASA says that the trip creates stress and worry for the ground crew. Perhaps a little bit of pride is involved too-as Russia's space program has flailed, NASA has been footing more of *Alpha's* bill, and they surely don't like Russia telling them what to do.

NASA chief Daniel Goldin has threatened to make Russia give up some of the \$20 million as compensation for it's losses, although Russian officials say that they have yet to be asked for anything.

In the same remarks for the House of Representatives, Goldin said that James Cameron, director of *Titanic*, is planning on paying for a trip up, but apparently will wait for the station to be ready for tourists. He also used an odd choice of words to describe Cameron, saying that he was "an American patriot who understood how to do this." When exactly was it that the definition of an American patriot became someone who always followed the rules no matter how onerous and silly? It must have been sometime after 1776.

Still, even if it seems foolish

PLEASE SEE TITO ON PAGE 2

Semana Latina 2001 hits Tech

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

The early 1600s called for the making of a people now called "latinos" who were under the influence of Spain and Portugal until the early 20th century. Currently, they are effectively spread across all of America (except the US and Canada), the Caribbean Islands, the Philippines and Spain and Portugal themselves. Even though all these countries have their own local cultures and traditions, they have a common Latino essence to them. It is in fact this essence that Caltech's "Club Latino" and CLASES want to bring to people's attention. They will be holding a week-long celebration of Latino culture known as *Semana Latina* for the eighth year in a row. "Club Latino" is a graduate club led by Gustavo Joseph, a fourth-year graduate majoring in Mechanical Engineering whereas Caltech Latino Association of Students in Engineering Sciences (CLASES) is an undergraduate club led by Elisa Bueno, a junior majoring in

Mechanical Engineering.

Semana Latina translates to "Latino Week" in English, and the celebration should last from May 12 to May 17. "The two main goals of the festive week are, firstly, to bring Latino culture to the Caltech campus and secondly, to bring the off-campus Latino population into contact with Caltech and Techers as a whole," said Joseph. "In fact, in the past, high schools and grade schools have been invited to attend the festival and get a feel of the campus."

The week will be packed with music, food and dance presentations from the different Latin countries. The general structure is that there will be daily concerts at noon with different

styles of food (\$4 per head) in front of the Winnett Student Center. Among other highlights of the week are, the keynote speech on "The Construction of Latino and Latin American Identity" by Professor Beatriz Cortez of California State University-Northridge, a special movie session such that after showing an American movie set in Cuba

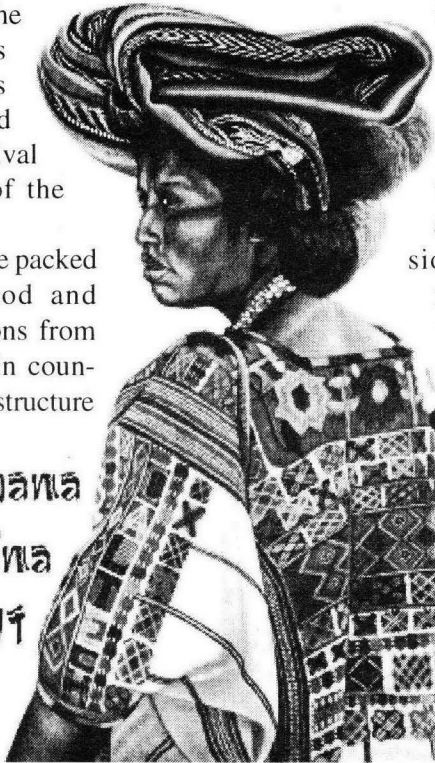
based on human rights, the actors of the movie will be present in person for a question-and-answer session on the making of the movie and other interesting details, and then, a final party on Saturday called "Sabor Latino"

in the Ricketts/Fleming courtyard starting at 9PM. There will be live music by Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca.

Both on- and off-campus organizations have funded *Semana Latina*. The on-campus sponsors include the Caltech Y, Minority Student Affairs, Campus Auxiliary and Business Services, the International Student Program, the Dean of Graduate Students, the Dean of Undergraduate Students, the Caltech Alumni Association, the Women's Center, Student Affairs, ASCIT, GSC, Avery House and CLASES and Club Latino themselves.

In a very commendable effort of organizing this rich, cultural week, it is the wish of its organizers that the Caltech community, especially the undergraduates, receives it in high spirits. So if you are bored, *Semana Latina* is here to rescue you!

Please see Page 2 for the *Semana Latina 2001* Calendar.



Technology pioneer selected as Commencement Speaker

BY JILL PERRY

Computer technology pioneer Gordon Moore has been named the featured speaker of the California Institute of Technology's 107th annual commencement ceremony which will begin at 10 a.m. June 15, on Beckman Mall on the Caltech campus.

An estimated 414 students will be receiving degrees: 207 bachelor's, 83 master's, and 124 doctoral.

Prior to the conferring of degrees, the commencement address will be given by Moore, who went through the same ceremony himself 47 years ago when he received a PhD in chemistry from Caltech.

A few years after graduating from Caltech, Moore cofounded Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation in Mountain View in the late 1950s. He managed the corporation's engineering department and later directed Fairchild's research and development when the company produced the first commercial integrated circuit.

In 1968, he and a few of his col-

leagues at Fairchild decided to create a start-up to focus on large-scale integrated products. They typed a one-page business plan, received \$2.5 million in venture capital in two days, and named the company Intel, short for "integrated electronics."

Their first commercial product, the 3101 Schottky bipolar 64-bit static random access memory chip, was moderately successful, but they hit their stride when they designed a general-purpose logic chip that could be programmed to take instructions. This meant that intelligence could be programmed by means of software; it didn't have to be burned into hardware, saving both time and money.

This chip changed history by making programmable intelligence so cheap it could be embedded into household appliances and so powerful that people could have computers of their own. Within a decade, the microprocessor was hailed as one of the top inventions in American technol-

ogy history, ranking with the invention of the light bulb, the telephone, and the airplane.

In 1974, Moore remarked of the chip's impact, "I'd like to think that we're the real revolutionaries in the world. Things are being revolutionized a lot more by electronics technology than by some political things going on."

Moore was chief executive officer at Intel from 1975 to 1987, and is now chairman emeritus. He is widely known for "Moore's law" which he formulated in 1965. The law states that the number of transistors the industry would be able to place on a com-

puter chip would double every year. In 1995 he updated his prediction to once every two years. While originally intended as a rule of thumb, it has become the guiding principle for the industry, which endeavors to deliver ever more powerful semiconductor chips at proportionate decreases in cost.

Moore, 72, has been a Caltech trustee for 18 years, and served as chairman of the board from 1993 to 2000. Moore's generosity to the Institute has included the establishment of a program for visiting schol-

PLEASE SEE MOORE ON PAGE 3

Inside the Tech

The Usual

ASCIT Minutes 4-5
 Dilbert/Foxtrot 6
 The Dean's Corner 7
 Mints.....8

Features

Semana Latina 2
 Commentary 2
 Letter to the editors 3
 Crippling Depression 4

News & Features

Death of Letter Writing

BY JIALAN WANG

In this era of Microsoft Word and Palm Pilots, penmanship is rapidly becoming obsolete. Even the word penmanship sounds archaic and scandalizingly un-PC. The only things we really write by hand anymore are class notes and homework, and some of us even do that in TeX. In any case, taking notes and doing homework are poor examples of intrapersonal communication. Even many of our professors have abandoned the chalk talks that have been the primary mode of teaching for centuries for the glamour of PowerPoint.

The innovation that has probably played the biggest role in the decline of handwriting, however, is email. Email has so revolutionized the way we communicate that many of us don't even have phones anymore, much less write or receive letters. Although the word email suggests that it is just a digital letter, I think that emailing is such an essentially different experience that it doesn't replace letter-writing so much as displace it. Although we gain speed and connectivity with our new forms of intrapersonal communication, we seem to be losing much of the person in communication.

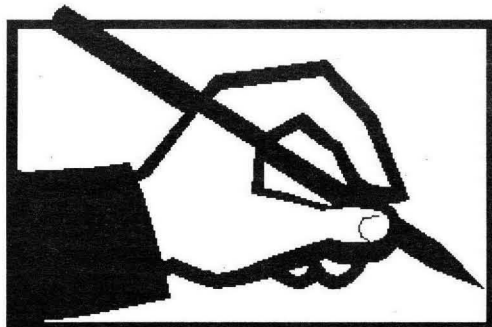
The act of writing is a very sensory experience. The scratch of a pen against paper, the feel of smooth Strathmore

Wove Finish stationary, and the precisely directed movement of hands to form words are all subtle but integral parts of the writing experience. When writing an email, these are replaced by the dull tapping of keys on a QuietKey keyboard, causing the display of anonymous pixels on our screens. Since hand writing is a slow process and erasing is much harder than pressing backspace, we more carefully translate our thoughts into words. Most email messages are haphazardly tapped out and sent out without even so much as a run through the spell-checker. But while emailing shares the grammatical inaccuracy of speech, it lacks all of the emotion and character that speech conveys. In fact, email seems to be the very limit of meaningful communication (the lower limit, that is), lacking both the coherence of a letter, and the emotion of speech.

Furthermore, not only is the content of email of lesser quality than that of letters, it lacks the physicality and personal character that make letters so much more than words. While typing conveys nothing more than the words themselves, handwriting is imbued with the spirit of the writer, creating a mood and a memory. The tilt and curvature of each character remind us that we are reading

words from the heart of a human instead of the manifestation of random bytes of ASCII.

I have always kept my letters in an old box under my bed, occasionally rereading them and recalling the times and people in my past, but I have never had the inclination to keep emails. Instead of a shoebox, I now have a "Deleted Messages" folder, to which I ruthlessly drag the approximately 30 emails I receive a day. Not only will my grandkids never discover a dusty old box in the attic full of secret love-emails, I myself



barely even read my emails once before deleting them.

In many ways, email is the most impersonal and impermanent form of communication, but it's also probably of the easiest. Email allows us to correspond at each other's convenience as well as discreetly ignore the people we don't want to correspond with. I am perhaps even more of an email junkie than most, but I can't help but wonder if we are losing more than we are gaining in the exchange.

TITO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to NASA to be displaying so much bad grace over this issue, hurting relations with Russia's space program and adding a decidedly sour note to a story which has captured the public's attention - it is necessary to understand where they are coming from. The *Challenger* disaster still looms large over NASA's future, a sober reminder of what happened the first time NASA tried to put a private citizen into space.

So while we try to be patient with NASA, NASA should try to be patient with Tito and with us. It's time to be in space. It's the 21st century and only a few hundred people have had the chance to see our world from above. The current pace of progress is simply not fast enough, and Tito's story reminds us of that. We are almost in space-anyone can get there with a couple million dollars. How much longer before the rest of us get our chance?

For those who have had to live through the towering hope that followed the original moon landings, and the dry wasteland of human spaceflight that followed, the wait has been particularly galling. As Eric Lipton wrote in an article at Salon.com, "If you told me, at age 8, that by the time I was 28, the closest I'd get to space would be that plane heading to L.A., I wouldn't believe you."

There is hope this time. This time the inspirational space story which has captured the public's imagination is different. It's not about some old hero returning

to space, or some cute little robot rolling around in the Martian dust. It's about real people, paying a price which, if a bit high, is imaginable. Real people, you and I, getting a chance to get into space.

The newspapers have been full of stories about companies which are planning to bring space tourism into reality. Even if the accommodations aren't quite as fancy as those Tito is enjoying aboard *Alpha*, the fares should be more less astronomical.

It's really too bad. After all the high hopes about space being colonized for the good of mankind and the richness of the stars, perhaps it will be reached because of a bunch of greedy tourists. But after waiting so long, we'll learn to live with it.

As long as they don't wear silly hats and fanny packs.

Denis Tito, space tourist, is scheduled to return to earth on Saturday.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday
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Semana Latina 2001 Calendar

Monday, May 7th

Andes: Sol de América
Winnett quad, noon - 1pm
Lunch: Pollo con Papas, \$4

ISP: Open House & Street Party
Center for Student Services, 4 - 6pm

Tuesday, May 8th

Los Angeles: Quinto Sol
Winnett quad, noon - 1pm
Lunch: Fajitas, \$4

Spanish Night: Clarita and the Arte Flamenco Dance Theatre
Avery Courtyard, 6 - 9pm
Free Paella and Sangría

Wednesday, May 9th

Brazil: Samba Lá Samba School
Winnett quad, noon - 1pm
Lunch: Feijoada, \$4

Movie & Round Table: *Libertad* ("Freedom") USA, 1997
A powerful film about a young Cuban artist turned political prisoner who escapes the island on a raft. Actors Oscar Torres and Tony Pacheco will be present to converse with the audience. 22 Gates, 7pm

Thursday, May 10th

México: Mariachi Esmeralda
Winnett quad, noon - 1pm
Lunch: Carne Asada, \$4

Keynote Speech: "The Construction of Latino and Latin American Identity," Prof. Beatriz Cortez, California State University-Northridge 24 BBB, 3 - 4pm

Bohemian Night & Club GUSH: Poetry and Guitar Players
Red Door Café, 6 - 9pm
All items \$1 each

Friday, May 11th

Caribbean: Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad
Winnett quad, noon - 1pm
Lunch: Ropa Vieja, \$4

Movie: *Tesis* ("Thesis") Spain, 1996
While doing a thesis about violence, Ángela finds a snuff video where a girl is tortured until death. 070 Moore, 7pm

Saturday, May 12th

Sabor Latino Party: Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca
Ricketts & Fleming Courtyard, starting at 9pm

News

Perscriptions available by mail!

FROM THE HEALTH CENTER

One of the newest benefits of your Caltech Student Health Insurance plan is the option of having prescriptions mailed directly to you. In addition to the convenience this service provides, it also significantly reduces the cost of maintenance medications — those that a student would take on an on-going basis; i.e., anti-depressants, asthma medication, etc. For a 90-day supply your co-payment is \$12 for generic drugs and \$20 for brand name drugs. For more information, including how to submit a mail order prescription, check out the Health Center's web page at <http://www.healthcenter.caltech.edu>.

Click on Insurance Policy, Prescriptions, and scroll down to "Through the Mail".

MOORE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ars, for fellowships, and for undergraduate scholarships; the funding of a professorship in engineering; and funding for The Gordon and Betty Moore Laboratory of Engineering, completed in 1996.

Moore is a director of Varian Associates, Gilead Sciences Inc., and Transamerica Corporation. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He received the National Medal of Technology in 1990 from then-president George Bush. Founded in 1891, Caltech has an enrollment of some 2,000 students, and a faculty of about 275 professorial members and 130 research members. The Institute has more than 19,000 alumni.



Caltech employs a staff of more than 2,100 on campus and 4,800 at JPL.

Over the years, 28 Nobel Prizes and four Crafoord Prizes have been awarded to faculty members and alumni. Forty-seven Caltech faculty members and alumni have received the National Medal of Science; and eight alumni (two of whom are also trustees, including Moore), two additional trustees, and one faculty member have won the National Medal of Technology. Since 1958, 13 faculty members have received

the annual California Scientist of the Year award. On the Caltech faculty there are 78 fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and on the faculty and Board of Trustees, 71 members of the National Academy of Sciences and 47 members of the National Academy of Engineering.

Letter to the editors

BY RICHARD KARNESKY

Although I was glad to see the correction in the last issue of the Tech, I was absolutely appalled by another "correction." The Prefrosh issue was the first since the first of the year to feature a credits box that was up to date. The others had had it pasted in from previous papers, so had given credit to a staff that had changed.

In the Prefrosh issue, Roger O'Brient, Christoph Baranec, and Rik Williams were finally given credit for months of hard work on the circulation staff. These gentlemen wake up at 5:00 AM every Friday morning to perform the thankless job of picking up, sorting, folding, labeling, and circulated thousands of issues of the

paper. Having worked this job, I can attest that it takes not only these early hours of Friday, but the rest of the morning and afternoon as you sleep to recover your hands smeared with ink from folding hundreds of papers.

The circulation staff has magically finished their grueling job in time to get the paper to ASCIT doughnuts except when the printing press broke or when the editors had gotten it to press too late. They have shown devotion to the paper, delivering it even when they hadn't been paid for months of work.

In last week's issue, the circulation staff was left out entirely. A minor grammatical error is one thing, but to deny credit where it is due is despicable!

ENGINEERS Don't Get Lost at a BIG Company!

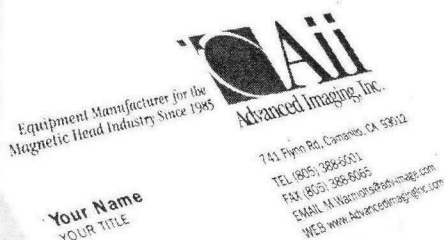


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 [12:00] 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
THE LUZHIN DEFENCE (PG-13)
 [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:05
THE GOLDEN BOWL (R)
 [1:00] 4:00 7:00 9:50
THE DISH (PG-13)
 [11:45] 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45
TAILOR OF PANAMA (R)
 [11:45] 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:05
CENTER OF THE WORLD (NR)
 [12:30] 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
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ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

APRIL 23, 2001

Present: BoD - 3 Moles who have to skip out a bit later. Guests: Kally Pan (Diplomacy Club); Dan Daly (senior class vice president); Mike Fleming (Ballroom Dance Group); Peter Plavchan (Jamroom manager); Karl Hammond (Glee Club King, or something to that nature); Mel Goodrich, Mona Sheikh, and Eric Tuttle are interviewees for positions on this year's Big T staff, in light of the resignations of the originally appointed students

Guests

Meeting called to order 5:23 p.m.

Before I begin my minutes, I would like to state that I happened upon an epiphany the other day: my minutes aren't funny. Heck, I'm not funny. While I would love to be one of the jocular pundits with his own TV show, flanked by politically savvy writers that have made late-night the most popular venue for getting news on government, I am boring. And that suits me fine, because ASCIT isn't incompetent. We're not swimming in embarrassing faux pas, and none of us looks like a monkey so don't expect Conan as you read this. I find my dullness its own reward.

Still some late-comer clubs asking for funding. Our slush fund piggy bank is starting to look anorexic. More on allocations to the Diplomacy Club and the Ballroom Dance Group listed later. The Ballroom Dance Group has an awesome logo by the way, but not cool enough to convince us to concede to their full request.

Peter Plavchan is the outgoing manager of the jamroom, and his intentions were to appoint a grad student to the position for next year. Little did he know...

Dan Daly proposed a resolution to the ASCIT by-laws to move the senior class office elections earlier, circa the ASCIT elections, to provide more time to snatch a commencement speaker. Stanford is probably laughing at us because we make our requests so late. Well, their mascot's a tree. In addition, it is of his opinion that the junior class offices should be abolished, as their jobs are of little significance.. muahaha. Then Joe Jewell chimes in, "But I want my 'eo'." At the time it sounded like "Eeyore" and I would have told him to go to the 100 Aker Woods, but then the context made sense again.

The Caltech glee clubs are holding a joint event with the glee clubs at Occidental. Note: their Carmina Burana concert is all the way at Oxy, and on May 4th, right before midterms. This shouldn't be taken as propaganda not to go, I'm just lazy and thinking out loud. Anyway, Karl Hammond, representing the Glee Clubs, is asking ASCIT to subsidize 30 tickets, coming to a total of \$225. Most people come to the Caltech Glee Club concerts because they're old and the concerts are free. What will this concert's attendance be like?

Mel Goodrich, Mona Sheikh, and Eric Tuttle come successively to be interviewed for positions on the staff for this year's Big T. That wraps up the end of the guests for this week. Hopefully less will show up less week so that I can have a place to sit and not be so cranky.

General Meeting

Previously on ASCIT: Via e-mail the members of the BoD voted by a 7-1 margin to approve Martha-Helene's executive committee comprised of Al Valdivia, Derek Shannon, Liz Stameshkin, and Dan Stick.

Three moles free themselves from the meeting before their votes can be cast regarding allocations to the clubs and new appointments to the Big T staff. After Eric Tuttle asserts "I trust myself in getting it out," he is granted the position of Big T editor. Mona Sheikh will serve as the assistant editor, and Mel Goodrich was approved as the new business manager. The three appointees were approved unanimously by the remaining members of the BoD, with the exception of Eric Tuttle who was approved by a 4-1 margin, with an impassioned dissent, "I dissent for not putting two unqualified Eric's into that office."

The Diplomacy club will receive \$35 towards purchasing a new board. However, they will be warned not to follow the precedent of the Card Club and the Pranks Club, who received substantial funding from ASCIT and later fizzled. So, if the Diplomacy Club dissolves, we're taking back the toy.

The Ballroom Dance Club will receive \$111.33 on the basis that some of us were acting rather tipsy and didn't realize how immature it was to give someone 33 cents when a nice round number would have been more appropriate. One person cast a dissenting vote. On a side note, Ballroom Dance counts toward PE credit, but under the self-designed fitness program. Speaking of self-designed fitness, Alan Rosenwinkel once walked for 40 hours to get credit.

The Carmina Burana concert at Oxy is the only performance in which the glee clubs will be performing along with the orchestra. A second performance will be given without the orchestra. Accordingly, the subsidizing of 30 tickets is reasonable, as long as the Glee Club makes contributions in planning for transportation. \$225 is dedicated to purchasing tickets and the resolution passes unanimously. And all the people in the village were happy to sing and dance.

The Jamroom membership has risen since the inception of the recording room. On the downside, the majority of the new members are grad students, which reflects the lack of advertising to undergraduates. The web page hasn't been updated recently, and GSC hasn't been too nice in funding the jamroom. As long as ASCIT is providing funding, we should be allowed to appoint an undergrad as manager, and accordingly, the BoD voted 5-0 to appoint an undergrad as a co-manager in addition to Peter's grad student choice for manager. We also voted to take

money for Ballroom Dance and the Carmina Burana event out of the Jamroom fund, with the expectation that the GSC would concede some funding.

Secretary pet peeve: Dabney Gardens will be holding a poster display, and ASCIT has been invited to have one as well. The event will be held May 18th which gives me roughly 3 weeks to create something aesthetic for the viewing audience. I wonder if the present ASCIT display in the glass case on the Olive Walk could be a substitute.

Now, back to Dan's resolution. We are in agreement with making senior office elections earlier. The By-laws presently state that students elected to the post must win by absolute majority, which complicates matters if they are running for co-president positions and we were to take the top two vote-getters as the winners. Therefore, we propose that the co-presidents will run as a team, thereby averting potential

difficulties in working together as the two should know each other ahead of time. Also, we're destroying the junior class officer positions and relegating 'eo' events to some other office in the ASCIT BoD. A more detailed resolution will be provided in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Evidently,

Justin

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

APRIL 30, 2001

Present: BoD - Dana, Joe Fassler. Guests: Melissa Soriano, coffeehouse/party girl

Meeting called to order at 5:29 p.m.

Guests

Melissa Soriano, manager of the coffeehouse, is planning on co-sponsoring a party on Saturday, May 12th with the 4 Elements club with free BEVERages. Party will be open to undergrads and grad students alike, except to all the creepy ones, and we're having a bouncer (j/k). Hip-hop will be playing outside, and dance music inside... (what, no moe British band music ?) There was supposed to be a party during Pre-frosh weekend initially, but it got rained out. Missy Soriano has already gotten the party cleared with Kim West, and she requests funding for alcohol. Not only from us, even though we're really generous. She'll be soliciting the GSC also. The more grad students there are at a party, the more alcohol is allowed. On another note, ASCIT allocated \$150 for comics and magazines for the coffeehouse, and the leader of the Graphic Arts

by Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee

CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

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ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS ARE NEEDED!

ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL WORK?



ASCIT

Form Appreciation Club (GAFAC), Aaron Esser-Kahn, has been busy keeping the collection organized and negotiating more acquisitions. That's frosh enthusiasm for you.

Joe Jewell was also technically a guest, representing Lloyd House with receipts from the Capture the Flag event/food stand from Prefrosh weekend. It falls under the Multi-house category of the ASCIT budget, and the board votes unanimously to pay \$200.

General Meeting

Todd had a meeting with publications people last week, though the only groups that actually had to show up that weren't members of the board already were the editors of the Tech and the business managers. i.e. Ayeh is in charge of the Totem, and Todd, well... Todd can just talk to himself about how the Big T and the Little T are going. The Tech is working toward 12-page issues, and they also recently received \$2400 from the GSC. Martha-Helene interrupts "Did anyone read my column from two weeks ago?" Awkward pause. Todd complains that there hasn't been an Inside World yet, one of those abrasive, fake news spreads that are distributed exclusively to the undergrad houses. Tradition has dictated one Inside World per term, but that hasn't been happening. Damn it, we won't fake news on crack.

Social Director stuff. We're thinking of making a survey to evaluate the ASCITness of the carnival. All of the clubs that had a booth will, hopefully, agree to repeat next year. It turns out that all that good-clean fun went under budget by \$100. Karaoke was a nice touch, and there were lots of pre-frosh in the bouncy castle, though it turned into a babysitting ground of some sort later. I wasn't there, but word is that par-

ents were using it as a toddler drop-off. We need to keep some paperwork about what worked, what didn't. Techers just weren't athletic enough to make the sticky fly wall work, bad move. Sumo wrestling suits may be more appropriate. A concern was also raised concerning the pig roast and rotting carcass. In the future, well need to know what some of the clubs are doing before they put stuff on display, in case it would be deemed offensive. i.e., no more rotting pigs. The general spirit of the Carnival was good—low maintenance and free food are big crowd pleasers, especially to houses which aren't so inclined to support ASCIT.

ARC Chair Nick. Preparations for the upcoming student-faculty conference are under way. A proposal for issues to be brought up at the conference will be sent to members of the faculty board. Nominations for the teaching awards will be extended, in light of low turn-out.. and we know that's not because the teachers were bad this year. Signups for faculty committees have been astounding. I pity the people on the ARC who have to go through all of those interviews, including me. The ARC webpage is in the process of being updated. Option representatives will be chosen by the ARC, pending support from the different departments. The Deans are also working to get the course evaluation sheets from the departments, ultimately to be molded into the CLUE. That said, cater your responses to those course evaluations as standard essays, avoid the use of expletives, use legible handwriting, etc. and brainwash frosh into taking masochistic classes.

Movie for this term?? No plans yet, and the returning Mummy happened to come back a bit close to

midterms. Pearl Harbor is a definite possibility although mass hysteria against the Japanese might not be so good coming just months after sinking their fishing boat. Martha-Helene brings up that Caltech doesn't actually reserve the theater before-hand through shady connections. Rather, the Movies chair and Tom Mannion wake up early and are the first ones in line and actually buy all of the tickets when the movie opens. Another thing about movies—we might be able, through the PR department, to get Caltech to be the location of the premier of some sciency film that pertains to Caltech life. p isn't re-releasing anytime soon, and with the possibility of an upcoming writers' guild strike and actors' strike, nerdy student movies probably aren't a priority for Hollywood at the moment... though, it probably never was to begin with.

Martha-Helene revised the resolution presented by Dan Daly concerning class officers and presents it to the board. Changes in the procedure for selecting officers include eradicating the junior class officers altogether... prepare for total annihilation, can you smell what the Martha-Helene's cookin'? This change is being made so that senior class officers can be elected during second term of the junior year to give them more time to narrow the field of potential commencement speakers and make the first inquiries. Also, to prevent hostility between the leading members of each class, we're stipulating class officers to run as a pair. The resolution passes unanimously, and self-congratulatory pats on the back ensue. Senior class officers for the

graduating class of '02 will be chosen in the near future—we'll ask Dan Daly to write an announcement in the Tech, including the changes that were made, calling for candidates.

In other resolution-related issues, ASCIT evaluates IHC control over freshman admissions. Close to 400 students live outside the 7 houses, but the undergrads on the admissions committee are chosen by IHC. A change is proposed to give power over selecting the student delegates on the admissions committee to the ARC, but Nick declines since the ARC is being inundated with so many new roles already... case in point, the turnout for student-faculty committee appointments is quite hefty. Too many changes in infrastructure may lead to snafus, such as a balanced ratio???

More work for the Web development team, but that's not really new. The clubs pages will be altered to include information regarding whether or not funding was picked up, for the first, second, and third terms. That way, clubs will not be punished for having treasurers or representatives who don't like talking to the ASCIT BoD before picking up their money. Members of the club will be able to see if their respective clubs have picked up funding and harass their superiors accordingly.

Joe brings up his committee of frosh for his freshmen executive committee. Potential ideas for the slaves are bounced around. Representation from the 7 houses is decent. Joe's froshcom is approved by a 4-1-1 vote.

Two of the musically-inclined board members leave for Carmina Burana rehearsal, dissolving quorum, but the meeting plays on.

Previously, on ASCIT, the board introduced the idea of a spirit fund to Dr. Baltimore and Dr. Brennan during a dinner. As a more detailed plan is drawn, including the very significant issue of cash dollaz, a rough estimate of \$15,000 is proposed. Cheerleading competitions cost \$100/person. The Pep band will have an initial cost for music. Alumni will need an incentive to donate, and since all of the BoD happened to see "Bring It On" recently, the possibility of spirit stick prizes is a no-brainer.

Random loose-ends. We're still developing ideas for advertising donut.caltech.edu. Getting reservations for formal online would be beneficial, and result in massive account creation. Martha-Helene is still trying to get UID info online, so that charges to student accounts can be checked on the web. Since the 'eo' events are dying because the junior class offices are being dissolved, we need to pass the duty to Joe's froshcom. Todd remembers that in junior high, there was warfare between the seventh-graders and the eighth-graders to develop class solidarity-- sorta crazy, but it might just work. We should try adding mud... for "wrestle-eo".

The effects of last night's all-nighter are rearing their ugly heads. Maybe if I pinch myself I can wake myself up... oh, that's not working ...ZZZZZZZZ

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. Evidently,

Justin

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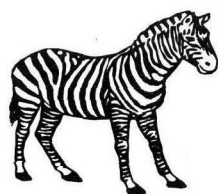
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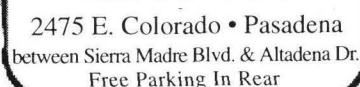
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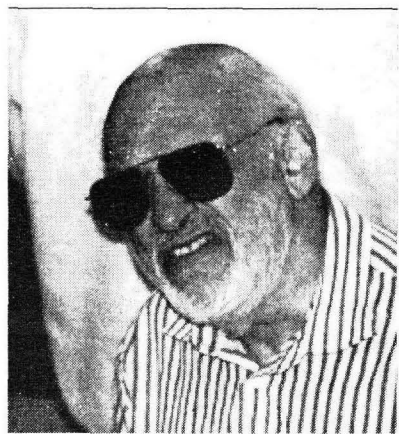
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FoxTrot by Bill Amend



DEAN



Dean's Corner

A worm at the apple's core

by Jean-Paul Revel

I have been hearing a lot of arguments about how much Core1 contributes to a Caltech education. Before being introduced into an already bloated curriculum, the communication requirement was intensely discussed by the faculty. A scientist or engineer must know how to express even complex ideas and results in a clear fashion, understandable not just to scientifically sophisticated colleagues but also to non specialists, members of the general public, government officials and others.

The verbal component of the science communications requirement ended up as the responsibility of the different divisions. The written component was deemed to require a specialized approach, a combination of writing and scientific skills, what we now call Core1, required of all and which turns out to be a lot of work for a one unit course. A comment that is heard very often is that our students will have many other opportunities to write scientific articles and so that yet another one is superfluous. Judging from my own experience, I firmly believe that getting help with writing skills from an expert is crucial.

The first time I received advice about scientific writing was while preparing my Ph.D. thesis, when I was encouraged to pepper my text with "however", in strategic

places. It was a long time before I received further guidance, except from journal referees who did not like how I said things, and expressed their dismay by none-too-useful tongue lashings. I progressed only when a colleague and I started making a conscious effort to prepare a flow plan before starting to write out our papers, aiming to lead the reader down an idealized thought path. All right you'll say, maybe it is useful to learn to structure one's papers, if one does not yet know to do this, but why should the core papers be "dumbed down" versions of the real thing?

What is hard to realize is that eliminating jargon and the mists of overly technical writing forces one to present ideas clearly, a great advantage even for "real" scientific papers. Why write if no one can understand what's being said? "Twas brillig and the slithy toves Did gyre and gimble in the wabe".

Another very important skill, one so basic that it is not always expressed overtly, is to make sure to properly give credit to others. I know by experience, having read many "research papers" prepared by students in my courses over the years, that this simple concept is somehow not so simple to realize. Our present understanding of the world depends on previous knowledge, our personal contribution is made possible by "standing on the shoulders of

giants". We need to reveal whose are the shoulders we stand on. This is important as a "courtesy", applying the golden rule. It is also one of the means by which to evaluate the background data, and thus to set limits on how much faith to have in our own results. Not making that background explicit will harm our understanding of the universe, and perhaps worse, cause bridges to collapse.

But it is not enough to apply the Honor Code in our dealing with others. I can hear you now, "Dean", you'll say, "we know. We read the honor code booklet every morning before going to bed and consult it as we go about our tasks. We are careful to acknowledge other people's work, and are dedicated to fight plagiarism". Listen, I'll answer, don't make light of this, listen, it turns out that even great scientists don't necessarily handle themselves well in this respect.

To illustrate, let me just tell you what happened when I decided to quote the originator of the "on the shoulders" statement, a saying so common as not to require a quote perhaps. A bit of computer work revealed that no lesser light than Newton wrote those words in a letter to Hooke, dated Feb. 5, 1676, before they fell out. My primary mission accomplished (perhaps I should have looked for confirmation elsewhere), I went on reading about Newton. I knew that Newton was a difficult man, not a gentle dreamer who enjoyed sitting in his orchard but I did not realize his short-

comings in the intellectual honesty department. Witness his behavior towards Flamsteed, the Astronomer Royal, whose catalog of stars, the work of 35 years, he appropriated and gave to his friend Halley to publish; (I hope against hope that this is all wrong, but you can go and read about it at <http://mfaraday.home.att.net/newtonbio.html>)

I am not sure this qualifies as plagiarism; After all I don't know if he passed off the work as his own, why he took it away from Flamsteed, how Halley got involved and so on. A topic for research another day. In any case it is so easy to plagiarize, sometimes even unwittingly! Look at what happened to me last week. Remember my column, "You are what you eat" (revisited)? Well, look for it if you haven't yet. "You are what you eat", is an old adage, for which I can find no attribution, but it also was the title of a recent article by Tech correspondent Jialan Wang. Considering how different our takes, I thought it would be fun to refer to her article.

A common (not the only) way to do that in a scientific paper, is to place a number in superscript right after the item we wish to quote. This serves to send the reader to the end of the article where references will be listed either in order of appearance or alphabetically. Somehow, although I had a little superscript, like that¹ in the manuscript I emailed off, the superscript disappeared from the printed version, how I do not know. And so the pointer is gone, but at the end of the article there is a "1." and a citation with no place to go. Did you find it? It gives the author's last name, her first name (it could have been initials instead), the year of

publication, the journal where it was published, the volume and the page(s). There is also an issue number because the pagination starts at 1 for each issue of the Tech, so Volume 102 has some thirty page 4s and the article would be hard to find without the issue number. So, sorry Jialan, I was not trying to pass off your title or ideas as my own. I also had problems with my reference number two: there was supposed to be superscript 2 in the text to indicate where I got my data. It's not so bad in this case because my text states that I would be using Gary Taubes' Science paper as my information base. Note however (sic) how sloppy I was in this second quote:

I am sure that the Core1 instructors would have commented on the fact that I was not consistent in the use parentheses for the year, and in abbreviating the first name, without a period after it, yet! I did a little better on number three, there, in the third paragraph the 3 after the word "lipoprotein" should have been a superscript. The way it came out it's hard to tell whether this is lipoprotein³ or what the three is doing there.. and insofar as number 4 is concerned oh, well.

The point of all this, is to watch for worms in the core of that apple, to strive for honesty, in all that we do.

A bientot.

Jean-Paul Revel

References:

1. Lewis Carroll see <http://www.globalnet.co.uk/~wills/poetry/jabberwocky.html>

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Mints

Announcements

Work-Study Opportunity at JPL: Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory Archival Data Analysis for Studying Temporal and Spectral Properties of Gamma-Ray Sources. This is an announcement of opportunity for 1 or 2 undergraduate students in physics or astronomy to participate in a part-time work-study research program to process and analyze archival data obtained by the Burst and Transient Spectroscopy Experiment (BATSE) onboard the NASA Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory. The major scientific objective is to study the properties of gamma-ray emission from cosmic sources including black holes and active galactic nuclei and neutron-star systems. For this research, it would be useful if the student had some experience with programming as well as working with the Interactive Data Language (IDL) package. Employment would be on a part-time work-study basis during the school year and possibly up to 40 hours per week during the summer. Contact information: Dr. James C. Ling, JPL 169-327. Phone: (818)354-2819. E-mail: james.c.ling@jpl.nasa.gov

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

Caltech Ballroom Dance Club offers Argentine Tango for beginners, taught by a professional instructor. A four-week series with lessons on Mon 7, 14, 21, 28 May '01; 7:30pm - 9:00pm in Winnett Lounge. \$7/lesson or \$24 for all four lessons. West Coast Swing for beginners is volunteer [non-professional] - taught. A four-week series with lessons on Wed 9, 16, 23, 30 May '01; 7:30pm - 9:00pm in Winnett Lounge. \$1/session. No partner or experience required. Refreshments are provided, and a half hour practice period will follow each lesson (9:00 - 9:30pm). Additionally, there is a free mini-ballroom dance party following Monday classes (9:30 - 11pm, Winnett Lounge). For further information, visit our web site at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom/index.html> or contact Megan Knight at knight@its.caltech.edu.

The **dance troupe** will be offering **FREE dance classes** Spring quarter. On Thursdays from 9-10:30pm, an introduction to modern dance series will be taught by professional instructor Liz Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell received her BFA and MFA degrees from The Juilliard School and the University of Washington, respectively. She has spent 30 years in modern dance, touring extensively throughout the US and Europe with several distinguished companies. Relocating to LA in 1994, Ms. Maxwell has been on the faculty of CalArts, CSULB, Moorpark, Loyola Marymount, and Scripps teaching dance technique, composition, and specializing in dance history. These classes will begin on April 12 and run through May 31 in the Braun multipurpose room. No prior experience is required, and no special clothing or shoes are needed. Free ballet classes taught by volunteer instructors will begin April 7. Beginning ballet meets from 1-2pm, intermediate ballet meets from 2-3pm, and advanced ballet meets from 3-4pm. For the beginning class, no special shoes are required. For more information, please visit our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe. To sign up on our mailing list or to reserve a place in the modern class, please send an email to troupe@caltech.edu.

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.

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.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html> for complete information on the following scholarships:

- * Dennis Cabaret Scholarship
- * The National Scholars Honor Society
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- * Win cash in EDFUND photo contest!
- * Windstar Environmental Studies Scholarship Program for 2001
- * Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- * P.L.A.T.O.
- * National Institutes of Health Scholarship Program
- * American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society (AESF)
- * John Gyles Education Awards
- * Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Summer Work Study: Information and applications for 2001 Summer Work Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2001. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1 in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the work study funding will begin with the July 2nd payroll.

Upcoming Events

The Jeff Hamilton Trio will perform a program of jazz works on Sunday, May 6, at 3:30 p.m. in Caltech's Dabney Lounge. This is a Paco A. Lagerstrom Chamber Music Concert. The Trio is made up of Jeff Hamilton, drums; Tamir Hendelman, piano; and Christoph Luty, bass.

Lasers, Lights, and Music...

At the annual Bendorama concert on May 12, at 8:00 PM in Beckman Auditorium, the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band will showcase the talents of its members in Handel's "Royal Fireworks Music". We've arranged for some special effects, including laser lights, to "accompany" the music, which will be conducted by Jason Chua, a Caltech senior. The band will also premiere a work for concert band and candy wrappers. Yes, that's right -candy wrappers. The jazz bands will play music by John Coltrane ("Impressions"), along with some favorites such as "Fly Me to the Moon" and Count Basie's "Cute". This is a free concert that's open to the public. Please call the Caltech Ticket Office at 6216 395-4652 for more information.

Every year the **SAAC (student-athletic advisory committee)** organizes a **volunteer day** for all the student athletes. This year's is this Saturday (May 5th), working in Solstice Canyon on trails. There will be several different things to do, such as cutting back brush and some light digging. There will also be an opportunity to hike afterwards (optional), since Solstice is one of the most beautiful canyons in the Santa Monica range. Transportation will be organized, work study will be paid to those who have it, and there will be food for those who go. We will be meeting at 7:30am at the gym parking lot to leave. Everyone is welcome, but drivers are needed (and will be reimbursed by the athletic department). A group did this on "Make a Difference Day" (with the Y) and it was fun. Email Paula Whitten (whitten@its.caltech.edu) to sign up and for more details.

All Juniors are invited to attend a **workshop about Watson Fellowship opportunities** on Wednesday, May 9th at noon in the Carriage House. Sandwiches from Eddie's Market will be served. Please RSVP to sstone@caltech.edu no later than Friday, May 4th and a menu will be sent to you for your selection.

Free Chamber Music Concert: Wednesday, May 9, 2001, 8:00 pm in Dabney Lounge. This event is Free & Open to the Public.

Event Highlights

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana and
Borodin's Second Symphony
May 4, 8-10 PM
THORNE HALL ON THE OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE CAMPUS

Mac OS X Technical Briefing
May 9, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
BECKMAN INSTITUTE AUDITORIUM
RSVP: SHAYES@APPLE.COM

Watson Lecture: "IN PRAISE OF PERMISSIVENESS: COAXING CELLS TO MAKE NOVEL MACROMOLECULES," by David Tirrell
May 9, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
BECKMAN AUDITORIUM

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. 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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