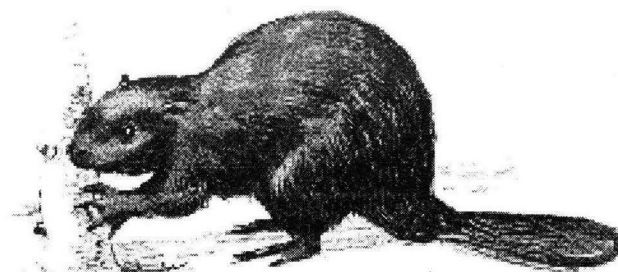


## SENIOR CLASS ELECTIONS!

STATEMENTS FOR SUBMISSION IN TECH  
DUE ON WED. MAY 23, 2001 BY MID-  
NIGHT!



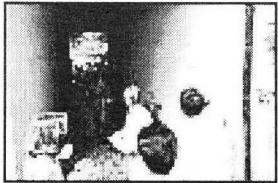
**Deadlines:**  
**ASCIT Formal Sign-Ups &  
Drop Day Are This  
Wednesday!**

# The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 26

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

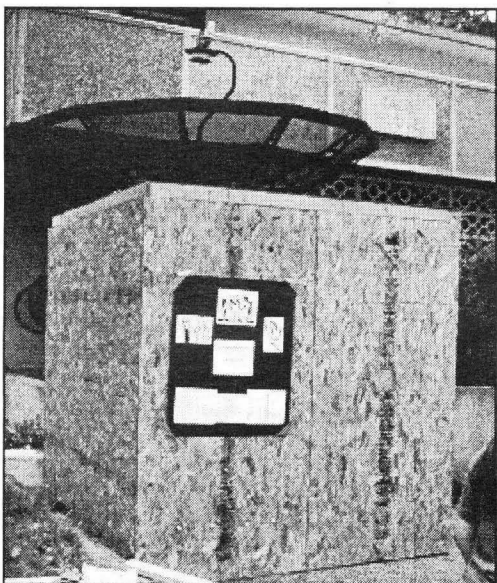
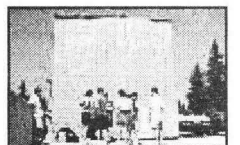
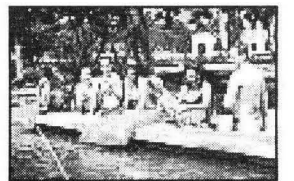
MAY 18, 2001



## It's Ditch Day

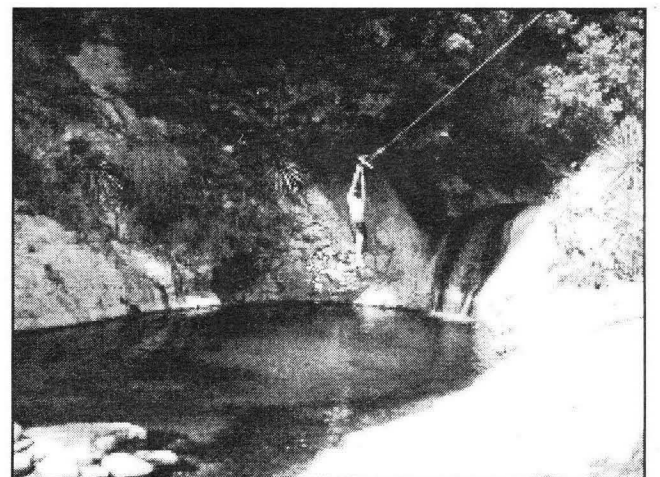
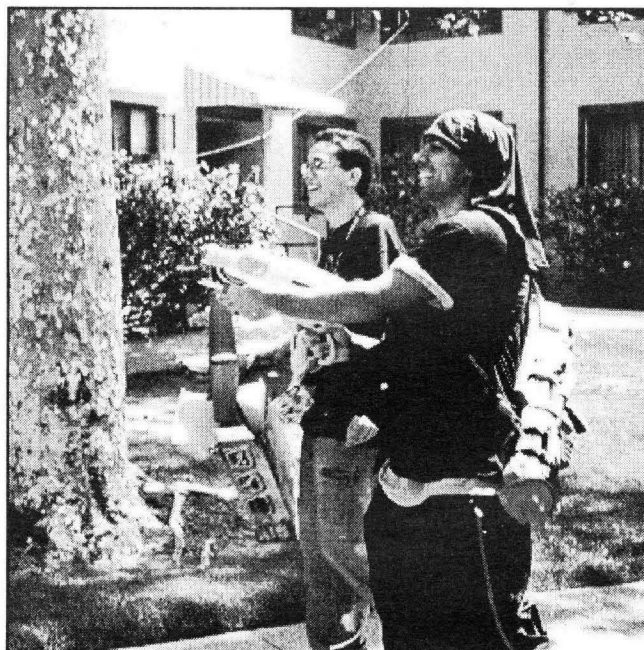
## Frosh!

## Making "Tomorrow" Yesterday



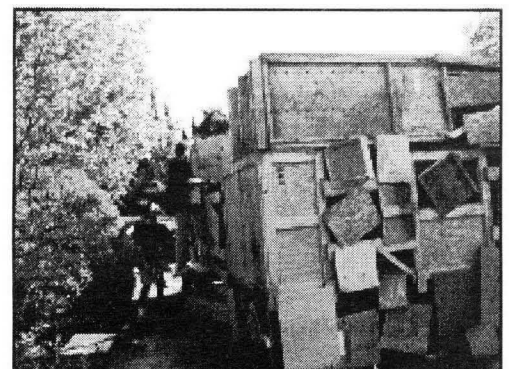
*In the early morning Ditch Day  
air, the shed stands  
menacingly...is it not nifty?*

*Ali Hassani and Cesar Del Solar squirt  
the living daylights out of innocent  
bystanders!*



*Rudds dive in and chill out far from the  
grounds of Caltech.*

*What looks like a pile of junk ends up being  
an a-  
"mazing"  
Blacker-  
Lloyd stack.*



*The Flems prove  
that canoes  
aren't just for  
rivers anymore  
as Kamilee  
Christenson and  
others pull out  
a clue from  
Braun Pool.*

### Inside the Tech

#### The Usual

ASCIT Minutes ..... 3  
IHC Appointments ..... 5  
Comics ..... 6  
The Dean's Corner ..... 7

#### Features

Ditch Day Pictures ..... 2  
Commentary ..... 4  
Ticket Stub ..... 5



## News

## INTERESTING STATISTICS about The Incoming Class of 2005

The Caltech admissions procedure is always termed as being rigorous. In fact, each one of us ought to have heard the phrase, "Admissions never makes mistakes!" at least once during our stay here. Thereby continuing its maintenance, the admissions office has chosen strong frosh for the class of 2005. In a comment about the class of 2005, Caltech's Director of Admissions, Charlene Liebau, said, "This class is particularly geographically diverse with a great amount of energy and varied interests."

### Applicant Pool Stats:

Number of applicants: 3365  
(received from every state, the District of Columbia, 4 US territories and 83 countries in addition to the US)  
Number of high schools represented: 2,194  
Number of home schools represented: 17

### Admitted Class Stats:

<u>Number of women admitted:</u> 177 (The greatest number admitted to a Caltech freshman class ever!)	<u>Number of pre-frosh attendees who have enrolled:</u> 161
<u>Number of applicants admitted:</u> 515 (admit rate of 15.3%)	<u>Total number of enrollees:</u> 214
<u>Number of high schools represented in admitted class:</u> 391	<u>Percent women enrolled:</u> 35%
<u>Number of states represented:</u> 48	<u>Of the students who decided not to come to Caltech, number of those going to:</u>
<u>Number of home schools represented:</u> 3	MIT: 48
<u>Number of international students:</u> 29 (representing 20 different countries)	Stanford: 38
	Harvard: 28
	Princeton: 17
	UC Berkeley: 11
<u>Number of pre-frosh weekend attendees:</u> 261	<u>Major reasons for rejection:</u>
	1) Lack of broad curriculum
	2) Location

-- COMPILED BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

## Can you KELROF?

BY JON FOSTER

The King's Eighth (Light) Regiment of Foot served in the North American colonies from 1768 to 1785. Surprisingly during this time, it never once ran a 24-hour relay race on Caltech's campus. Despite this fact, KELROF continues to happen at Caltech every year.

As it turns out, KELROF stands for Kellogg's (one of the founders) Eighth Light Regiment of Foot and started out at Caltech in 1977.

*Runner's World* magazine started the tradition of a 24-hour relay in 1970 with the magazine's staff running the first one and challenging readers to beat their time. The point is to keep one member of your team running at all times, and see how many cumulative miles you can rack up.

The first Caltech KELROF race actually occurred on May 20th, 1978, and the Caltech team finished 7th in the competition, ranking up 262 miles over the 24-hour period.

Nowadays, KELROF is taken somewhat less seriously. There are normally about 3 to 5 teams, but the race is more about surviving

the race rather than setting any new records.

Because of this more relaxed attitude even if you don't have a team already planned, you can simply come down to the track and join a team there.

Simply email Zach Medin at zachary@its.caltech.edu or Vanessa Sih at vsih@its.caltech.edu so that they can get a good idea of how many people will come, then show up at the Caltech track at 8AM Saturday morning, and be prepared to run for 24 hours.

KELROF is sponsored by ASCIT, Residence Life, the Caltech Y, and the Deans' Office.

### THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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#### DEADLINES

Advertising: 5 p.m. Monday  
Announcements (Mints): noon Monday  
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday  
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

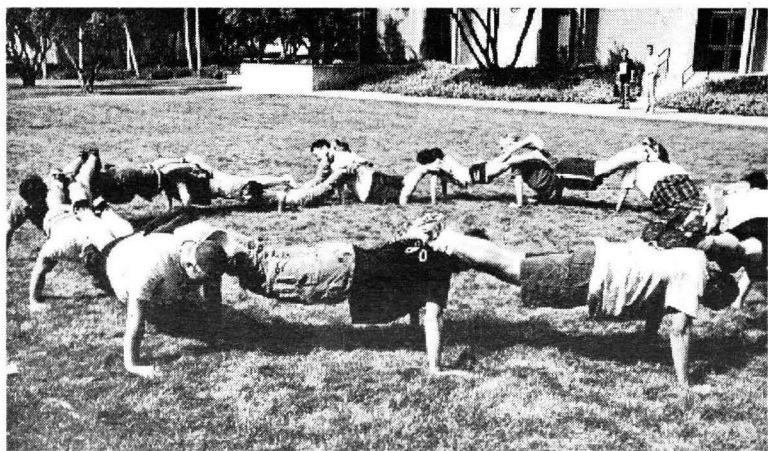
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We live for the One. We die for the One.



Is this Boot Camp? And they thought that Ditch Day was all about fun!

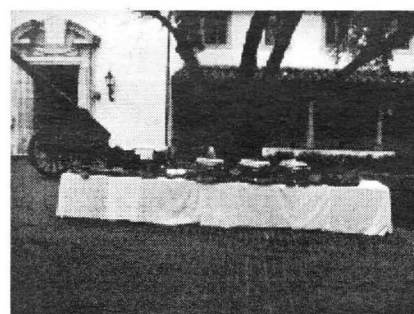


Karen Lam and Melissa Soriano wrestle over a water gun.

## DITCH DAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*Pinky & the Brain Stack: World domination one swing at a time.*



*Fed like kings and queens: breakfast is served on the Olive Walk*

**Next week in The Tech: Full coverage of DITCH DAY! With many more pictures and descriptions. So, if you want your stack or your pictures in the Tech, send us stuff at tech@ugcs.caltech.edu, or bring 'em by SAC 40 by WED. MAY 23 MIDNIGHT!**



## ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T.  
Minutes

MAY 14, 2001

Present: BoD, Joe Jewell until later (In-N-Out Burger Truck casualty); Guests: Tory Sturgeon (Blacker House president); Isaac See (Election Chairman); Al Valdivia (too many positions to list).

Meeting called to order at 5:30PM.

Guests: none

Tory came in to verify that stuff from one room in the SAC was successfully transferred into another so that Blacker House could procure one of the non-afore-mentioned rooms. It was the third time I'd heard about it, but it was still confusing to me.

Isaac inquired about the timeline for senior officer elections. Elections will be held the Tuesday following Memorial Day. As outlined in the recently approved BoD resolution, class officers will run as a pair of co-presidents. Candidates should

submit an article to the *Tech* editors by midnight Wednesday.

Al had serious concerns regarding the professionalism of last week's ASCIT minutes. I would like to apologize

for the acerbic flippancy that was taken as offensive and especially for failing to realize that it might be construed negatively. The opinion expressed in the Minutes regarding the BoD's decision not to fund the Athenaeum Student Waiters' Association for their party was certainly not personal, nor were we trying to prevent unionization. The Board was concerned that the organization would not attract enough non-waiters to events and that funding of an organization that had not met before would set a precedent. With that said, Al had another idea for a club, the Caltech Undergraduate Law Association. The interest level in this club is expected to be high, but funding for the new group was placed on hold until meetings are held and the number of members increased.

General Meeting:

The ASCIT Movie event for the term is tentatively scheduled for next week: a Friday showing of *Pearl Harbor*. The ASCIT formal happens to fall on that Saturday, and BFP is Sunday, so Memorial Day Weekend should be designated as "All-You-Can-Flick." In other movie news, movie chair Sarah Cooke has been extremely effective in hunting down DVD library rental violators. Live in fear.

Sadly, the beach trip was cancelled due to organizational difficulties and schedule overlap with KELROF. GSC is still interested in co-sponsoring an event, however, and the trip may be substituted with free tickets to the Pasadena Playhouse or a baseball game and tailgate party. But do we really have any interest in seeing the Dodgers?

At the recent Faculty Board meeting, Dr. Baltimore was informed of the ARC's desire to hold a student-faculty conference in February of next year. The ARC will work with the faculty to appoint committees that will address various aspects of undergraduate life and present their findings at the confer-

ence. Nick Knouf also met with the chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences departments regarding the cessation of the Russian Literature class. Undergraduate attempts to resuscitate appear futile.

Biomedical engineering will be a new option available for graduate students. Once this department is established, the option will most likely be available for undergraduates as well. In less grad student-centric news, the BEM option was approved for undergraduates and CS11, the 3 unit, "Do-It-Yourself CS class" was approved. For those of you who concentrate in something else, badger the ARC for news.

Registration for the ASCIT formal is now available in clickspace.

An idea to exhibit student art in the Club Library was proposed. The Club Library walls will give more students an artistic outlet, but please get permission from us before you try to draw stick figures on the walls. Also, if you are a club member who may have books in the library, please organize them. If you don't know whether or not books owned by your

club are there, now's a good time to find out. Good luck finding them because they're really disorganized.

Dana mentioned her concern that the ARC did not seek approval for its student-faculty committee appointments from the IHC. It was her understanding that the IHC would still need to stamp the appointments as a form of checks-and-balances. The resolution written by the old BoD did not specifically require the ARC to have any approval from other committees, and appointments were summarily published in the *Tech*. Other ASCIT board members interpreted the resolution as a transfer of power to the ARC over appointing students to the committees, and in that way the IHC relinquished jurisdiction to the ARC and ASCIT. It was determined that discussion with old BoD members, specifically Eric Tuttle and Chris Elion, regarding the specifics of the resolution and transfer would be necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM, conveniently before burgers leave.

Evidently,  
Justin

A lot less entertaining than cartoon BoC ninjas.

## ASCIT Resolution

## ASCIT Resolution III

Revised, BoD approved 5/1/01

## RESOLUTION III CLASS OFFICES

**SECTION 1.** Elections for class officers shall be held during the election of the general officers in accordance with Article VII. These officers shall be co-presidents; elected as a team during their junior year. It shall be clearly marked on the ballot that all registered undergraduates in the appropriate class may vote for the class officers.

**SECTION 2.** A class officer must be a student at the Institute, and a member of the class s/he represents.

**SECTION 3.** The class officers shall be responsible for setting the date of Senior Ditch Day and for determining the form of each year's commencement exercises. Both officers will sit on the commencement speaker committee and will begin the process of finding a commencement speaker immediately after the general elections. They shall also coordinate the seniors to ensure that no irreplaceable items are damaged as tasks of Ditch Day stacks.

**SECTION 4.** Within the term of this resolution's revision, only officers for the class of 2002 shall be elected.

## Senior class office changes explained

Presently, elections for senior class officers are held toward the end of third term of the graduating class's junior year.

It is our belief that officers do not have enough time in the period between elections and the end of the school year to narrow the field of prospective commencement speakers and make an initial inquiry whether or not s/he would be interested in speaking at graduation. In the past, the initial inquiry has been made during first term senior year. While this is still more than half a year before graduation, it has come to our attention as representatives on the commencement speaker committee that some requested speakers have already made prior commitments. In order to increase the likelihood of reserving a place in prospective speakers' busy schedules, we are proposing to push elections earlier in the school year.

In conjunction with the ASCIT Board of Directors, we have written a resolution to hold elections for senior class officers during second

term, concomitant with ASCIT elections. Also, in light of the small number of duties delegated to junior class officers, we have proposed phasing out these posts. The positions of President and Vice President of the senior class will be modified to Co-Presidents, recognizing that the duties of President and Vice-Presidents are essentially the same. After much discussion between current class officers and the BoD, it was unanimously determined that the two Co-Presidents run as a team. The primary reasons for this decision are compliance with the election procedure of candidate ranking and the difficulty in choosing the top two candidates in

the case of a majority and minority vote-pairing. We hope that this will encourage candidates to choose runningmates from separate houses.

The Co-Presidents will maintain responsibilities for setting the date of Ditch Day and determining the form of commencement exercises. Because it is too late in the year to perform these changes for the present junior class, the new resolution will take into effect for the class of 2003. We believe the modification will increase the likelihood of procuring the top choices for commencement speakers.

-Puneet Newaskar and Dan Daly, Senior Class President and Vice President

**Special Women Needed!**

There is a great need for egg donors! If you are interested in giving a wonderful gift to an infertile couple, please contact:

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(You must be healthy, 19-30 years old, intelligent, and responsible)

Compensation: \$5000 + \$150-250 (gas expense)  
**ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS ARE NEEDED!**



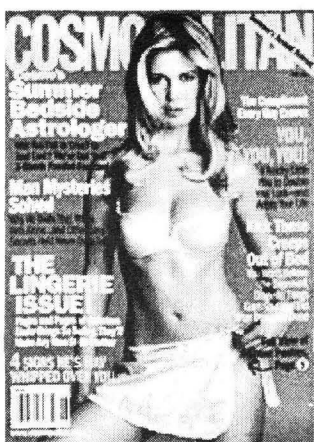
## Features

## Women, Beauty, and Fashion Magazines

BY JIALAN WANG

I confess. I am addicted to women's magazines. I disagree philosophically with many of the views they present and the way they reflect on our culture, but like almost every other woman in America, I can't stop reading them. The content of these magazines consists of little more than of pictures beautiful women, commentary on what Gwyneth Paltrow ate today, and, of course, and tips that will help you "Land that man, Ace that job, and Look your sexiest ever!" [this quote was actually taken from the latest edition of Cosmopolitan online]. In other words, it's porn for women.

The strange part is that even though most women's magazines make me feel bad about myself, I still want to read them. Not only do I need to Lose 10 pounds by June 18!, but I could also use tips on Making Your Crush a Reality and other such pressing matters. Finally, there are the 80 or so



pages of stylish supermodels and celebrities that manage to make me feel ugly, fat, short, and did I mention ugly? We always complain about guys who ogling attractive women, but it seems to me that we women spend much more time staring at other women – perhaps out of appreciation, perhaps out of jealousy, but definitely more than is healthy.

But we all know that it's what on the inside that counts, so why does any of this even matter? It seems that the more we try to convince ourselves that beauty doesn't matter, the more it hurts us in the end. Because we have all been raised to believe that discrimination based on beauty is wrong, we are unable to accept it when it does happen. I think that it all comes from one of the central tenets of our culture, that "All men are created equal."

While it's a very nice sentiment and the world would be a better place if it were

true, it simply isn't. We are all born with vastly different appearances, abilities, and opportunities, so we couldn't possible be equal, whatever "equal" might mean. We start off unequal in all arenas of life, and our differences only increase as we get older. Since disparity in beauty is the most obvious of our inequities, it is the one we focus most on, but we are just as unequal in all other respects.

By telling ourselves that appearance doesn't matter, we are only propagandizing something that everyone already knows is false, but that makes us feel better to say. We have come to think of our true "selves" as being our minds and souls for which our bodies are just conduits. Thus, we should only be judged by our true selves and not by the clumsy physical machinery in which we reside. But even if we believe that our abstract selves are our true selves, our physical being so influences our experience of the world that the two cannot meaningfully be separated.

Just as we have to deal with being taller or shorter than other people, we have to face the fact that we are more or less beautiful. Because we have decided that beauty should be disregarded in our view of others, it has taken on a special importance. Like a taboo, the more we try not to judge people based on appearances, the more we to magnify it.

Sure, it's not fair that some people are more beautiful than others and gain advantage from it, but every other aspect of life is equally unfair. There is nothing special about the beauty bias. Just as our obsession with sex probably stems from the rather antiquated taboo still associated with it, our obsession with beauty is a revolt against our attempts to deny its importance. Once we admit that what's on the outside does indeed matter, we can hopefully end our unhealthy obsession, deal with it, and move on.

## CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

BY MIKE YEH, TIM WAN, BEN LEE

ALL CHARACTERS ARE PURELY FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY PERSONS LIVING OR DEAD IS COINCIDENTAL. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, NOT THOSE OF THE NEWSPAPER STAFF OR CALTECH.



# JAPANESE

WOMEN NEEDED (NOW or this SUMMER) !

Physician is assisting a couple wanting to start family. PLEASE HELP!! Website "www.physician.yourmd.com", or toll free (800)862-5158. Inquire "donor program"



## Variety

## Caltech Music Concerts

FROM PUBLIC EVENTS OFFICE

Caltech students under the direction of Delores Bing will present two chamber music concerts this weekend: Friday, May 18, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 20, at 3:30PM in Dabney Lounge.

The Caltech Glee Clubs and the Caltech-Occidental Chamber Orchestra will present the annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 19, at 8PM in Caltech's Ramo Auditorium. The Men's Glee Club is directed by Donald Caldwell, the Women's Glee Club is di-

rected by Desiree LaVertu, and the orchestra is conducted by Allen Gross.

Featured works on the program will include Borodin's Second Symphony,

John Rutter's folk-song suite "The Sprig of Thyme" for chamber orchestra and chorus, and selections from Carl Orff's choral masterpiece *Carmina Burana*, presented in a version for two pianos, bass, and percussion.

These concerts are open to the public, they are free of charge, and no tickets are required.

## IHC Committees

## Freshman admissions:

Suhas Nayak, Karen Lam, Raajen Patel, Katarina Kohler, Elisa Chan, Randie Kim, Rebecca Stob, and Jialan Wang

## UASH

Full members: Juan Rodriguez, Janessa Link, and Tim Crosby

Alternate: Richard Karnesky

## Institute Programs

Full members: Ted Jou and Iram Bilal

Alternates: Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmadi and Laura Elliott

## Grievance Committee

Full member: Sean McHugh and Tim Crosby

Alternate: David McKeen and Jaime Ashander

## Upperclass Admissions

Full member: Anthony Nannini

Alternates: Vikram Mittal and Siddarth Madhav

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

Full Members: Janessa Link, Mona Sheikh, and Craig Countryman

Alternate: Basit Khan

## Caltech Professor Receives Roebling Medal

FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Former heavyweight boxing champion and dog-sled driver Peter Wyllie is adding a new accomplishment to his list of achievements—he has received the highest United States award in mineralogy. Wyllie, now a professor of geology, emeritus, at the California Institute of Technology, is the 2001 recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America's Roebling Medal, which is awarded for "scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy." The only other Caltech faculty member to receive this medal was Linus Pauling in 1967.

Wyllie is an internationally known authority on the formation of igneous rocks—those created when molten material solidifies. His research covered experimental petrology of magmas and volatiles. He was particularly involved in studying the origin of lavas like those erupted from Mount St. Helens in 1980; granites that form the core of mountain ranges such as the Sierra Nevada; kimberlites, which transport diamonds to the earth's surface; and carbonatites, peculiar igneous rocks that look like limestones and contain useful mineral resources.

In 1948, Wyllie joined the Royal Air Force. It was there that he pursued the sport of boxing, and earned the title of 1949 Royal Air Force (Scotland) heavyweight boxing champion.

After serving in the armed forces, Wyllie attended the University of St. Andrews in Scot-

land, where he earned his BS in geology and physics in 1952. Later in 1952, Wyllie drove a team of huskies through the frozen, unexplored mountains in Dronning Louise Land, serving as an assistant field geologist with the British North Greenland Expedition. For two years, from 1952 to 1954, including two long, dark winters without sunlight, expedition members were isolated in the frigid arctic. For his role in the expedition, Wyllie received the Polar Medal from Queen Elizabeth. He then returned to the University of St. Andrews, earning his PhD in geology in 1958.

Wyllie has taught at the University of St. Andrews, Penn State, and Leeds University in England. He was department chair at the University of Chicago prior to joining Caltech in 1983 as chair of the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences. In 1987, Wyllie returned to teaching and research, then was appointed division academic officer in 1994. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1999.

He has served as president of the Mineralogical Society of America, the International Mineralogical Association, and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. Wyllie has been elected as fellow or foreign member of seven national science academies, in the United States, the United Kingdom (Royal Society), Russia, China, India (Delhi and Allahabad), and Europe.

The author of three books, including two basic textbooks, Wyllie has published more than 300 scientific articles. He was chairman of the U.S. National

Academy committee that published the first national disciplinary survey of earth sciences in 1993, Solid-Earth Sciences and Society. This volume was described by the director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Gordon Eaton, as "a road map for the future of our science that should and will guide significant decisions concerning strategic planning for and funding in support of research, as well as long needed and overdue revisions of Earth-science curricula across the nation."

Wyllie has received numerous distinguished honors and awards throughout his career, including the Wollaston Medal of the Geological Society of London in 1982, and the Abraham-Gottlob-Werner Medaille of the German Mineralogical Society in 1987.

The Roebling Medal, established in 1937 by the Mineralogical Society of America, signifies the highest recognition of achievement mineralogy can bestow. The Mineralogical Society of America was founded in 1919 for the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, and petrology, and for the promotion of their uses in other sciences, industry, and the arts. It encourages fundamental research about natural materials, supports the teaching of mineralogical concepts and procedures to students of mineralogy and related sciences, and attempts to raise the scientific literacy of society with respect to issues involving mineralogy. The society encourages the general preservation of mineral collections, displays, mineral localities, type minerals, and scientific data.

## The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

The Mummy Returns (D)

Midterms delayed my diatribe against *The Mummy Returns*. But just as emotional depth and plot are inconsequential in blockbuster movies chiming the advent of the summer movie season, this review might be inconsequential too because most people don't hold blockbusters up to the same standards as regular cinematic experiences. And as far as blockbusters go, this film offers as much, if not more, of the same lack of emotional involvement and empathy. To compensate, *The Mummy* pours forth with a deluge

first scene evokes the grand-scale,

army clashing of *Gladiator*. The lengthy, choreographed duel between Egyptian concubine and princess is reminiscent of the artistic hand combat and weapons sparring between the two female leads in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. And the little impish characters who turn out to be deadly assassins look like nastier versions of the tree spirits from *Princess Mononoke*, dragging victims beneath the vegetation line of the shrubs in the same manner as the velociraptors from Jurassic Park. One may as well

of CGI graphics, with more battle scenes and elaborate gravity-defying, loud and obnoxious mummies than its predecessor. But the increase in quantity does not correlate with any original breakthroughs. The

construe the film as the amalgamation of pangs of nostalgia.

The characters that populated the first installment of mummy suppression appear again in this bloated sequel with some new biological additions: Rick, our generation's Indiana Jones with a penchant for tomb raiding and tongue-in-cheek non sequiters; his Egyptologist wife, Evelyn, who casually observes that she is the reincarnation of the Pharaoh's daughter and thus leads the family's actions as the voice for destiny; their son, Alex, whose birth appears to be a matter of convenience for the plot and channels the precocious brattiness of Home Alone's Kevin; and Evelyn's never-do-well brother, Jonathan, whose reactions to his family's perils are meant to provide comic relief but waft nauseating instead. The villain, Imhotep, makes his second appearance pining for his liquid dream, Anck Sum Namun, and world domination. Having been sent back into the hellishness from whence he originated be-

fore, Imhotep's modified plan is to usurp a demonoid army of wolf-headed soldiers from the Scorpion King, an ex-mortal who made a pact with the Egyptian analog of the devil many eons ago and lies dormant in a tomb in a secret oasis.

Despite Imhotep's ability to bring the ancient dead back into commission and throw an army of grateful living at Rick's family, there is never any sense of danger. Maybe it's because the mummies are pixilated and represent the latest in computer-mediated wizardry that there is no

sense of fear, simply because they are unreal on many levels. All the details of their movements are exact and the film leaves nothing to the imagination. The animators are so confident of their ability, as they should be, that nothing occurs off-screen. But so many horrors that fill our unconsciousness have not been delineated in horror films before, and some creatures that go bump in the night have not been accounted for. So, while the technical features are quite darling, the film suffers from a dearth of creativity. Don't accept what Hollywood feeds you.

## EGG DONOR REQUIRED

Couple seeks egg donor. Must be very attractive, have excellent health history. 18-28 years old, 5'5"-5'9". Preferences: R1500 SAT, athletic, brown hair. Compensation is \$25000. Email photos and scores to Nancykp@aol.com.

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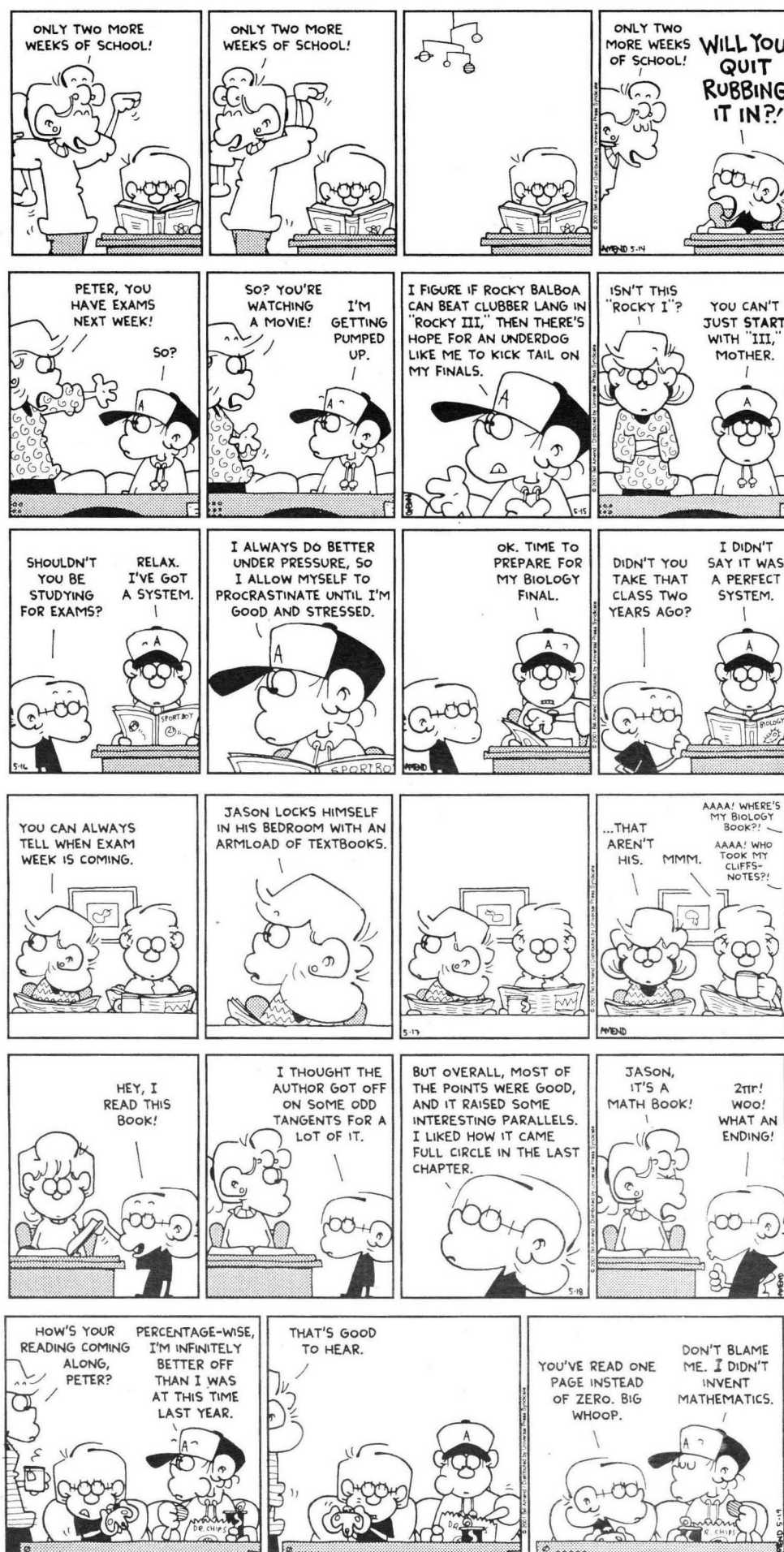


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[12:30] 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:10

**THE GOLDEN BOWL (R)**  
[1:00] 4:00 7:00 9:50

**WITH A FRIEND LIKE HARRY (R)**  
[1:15] 4:05 7:00 9:55

**TAILOR OF PANAMA (R)**  
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**MEMENTO (R)**  
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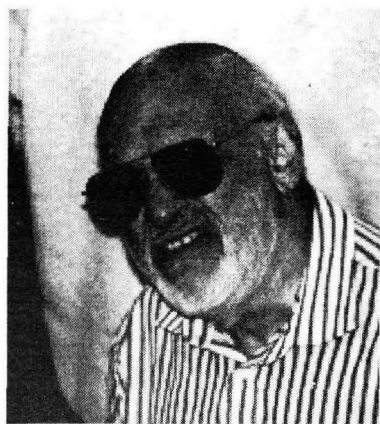


## DEAN

## Dean's Corner

Plop

by Jean-Paul Revel



The signs pointing to an immediately impending ditch day are so numerous that tomorrow could be today. Or may be it was yesterday. Whichever day this is, my thoughts have turned to the fate of the seniors. Leaving their stacks behind on Dday they will (have.. sorry for the confusion about tenses) discreetly disappear (ed), taking refuge at one of the local beaches, in order to avoid being tied to a tree. I can just imagine the poor fellows, exhausted from their exertions, having acted as building contractors, game designers, riddle writers, fairy tale spinners, movie directors, who knows what else, almost forgetting that they are students, with lab reports to finish, home work sets to do, campus jobs to continue.

By now I imagine that even they (after being well trained by Tech for the last 4 years), even they should be drained of all energy, and have probably not slept for the last three days. Here they are pulling off the freeway, into a parking lot in Malibu or even further up the coast. Momentarily invigorated by the fresh salt air, they stagger onto the beach, change, spread out their towels, placing stones or little piles of sand at the corners to keep them from flying off in the wind. Having unpacked their gear, they plonk themselves right there, gazing vaguely towards the horizon, deafened by the surprising roar of the sea, thinking worriedly about their stackees, racking their brains to imagine what is happening back on Campus, and then stretch out and snuggle into the sand.

I want to write that the sun beats on them, mercilessly. I can't do that since Sol has recently had some difficulty in piercing the fog, specially near the coast. We are close to June gloom, this unexpected feature of Southern California weather. Still, by going to the beach, they are in grave danger of exposing themselves to the harmful rays of our star. Now perhaps what I write is going to be too late since the "tomorrow" day at the beach might already have taken place for this year, but I know that in the months to come, all of you will be exposed to the same danger.

So I will share with you an article on "sunscreens" that I have just come across in the June 2001 of Consumer Report. You know, of course, that exposure to the sun is a major cause of skin cancer and according to the article I mentioned more than a million cases will be diagnosed this year. Of these, more

than 50,000 will be malignant melanoma, an often lethal cancer.

The damage is caused by the UV radiation between 315 and 280 nm. This so-called UV-B, is primarily responsible for skin burning and skin cancer. Radiation in this range is partially absorbed by the ozone layer, the thickness of which controls how much arrives at the surface. This is the basis for concern about the destruction of the ozone layer by fluorocarbon emissions. UV radiation in the range of 400 - 315 nm, (UV-A) is responsible for tanning and can also cause serious skin damage. Almost all of the UV-

A penetrates the atmosphere.

A very effective way to protect oneself is to wear clothing, long pants or dress, long sleeved shirt, and also a wide brim hat and UV absorbing sunglasses. Somehow the idea dressing up for the beach seems to be incongruous in these days of fashionable undress. Christine Gorman in Time magazine (151, no25, 1998) calls this slip, slap (on a shirt, on a hat). So if you don't like slip slap, maybe the solution for you is, as she says, slop, i.e. to use sunscreen lotion instead. They are designed to either absorb or reflect the nefarious radiation.

An idea of the effectiveness of the products available is given by their "skin protection factor", or SPF. To find out what that represents, you

first have to time how long it takes you personally to get sunburned. If you normally burn after five minutes, then rubbing on a sunscreen of SPF 15 the next time you go out, means that you will be protected for about fifteen times five minutes, i.e. 11/4 hours. A good shirt apparently has an SPF of fifteen.

While product with SPF as high as 65 can be found on the market, it makes not much sense to use a product with an SPF higher than 30 which already blocks nearly 97% of the UV B. One can not rely completely on the SPF number in estimating protection since factors such as perspiration, swimming, or drying off with a towel decrease protection available. Also to be effective, the sunscreen must be absorbed by the skin, and so must be applied at least fifteen minutes before exposure.

So seniors, and the rest of you too, stop at the drug store or go to the appropriate grocery store shelf and get yourself a supply of sunscreen

before exposing yourself. The Consumer Reports article details how to go about it. What is surprising is that that different products by the same manufacturer vary in effectiveness. Contrary to the common saying, you cannot trust the brand name. Nor is price a good indicator. One of the most effective lotions is the cheapest they tested. RiteAid sunblock, SPF 30, costs around \$0.5 /fl.oz. compared to sticks which cost almost 10 times more. I was disappointed that CR had not tested Bullfrog. I like the zany name and watching our Caltech frogs sun themselves in the pool by Thomas, I am sure they know something we don't; plop there goes one.

A bientot

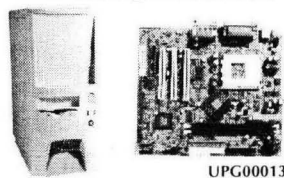
Jean-Paul Revel



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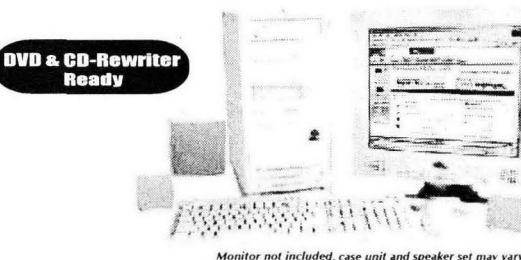


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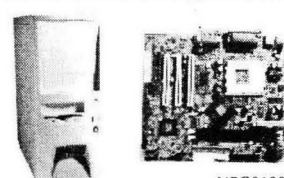


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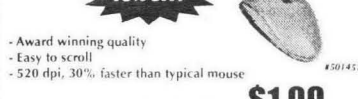


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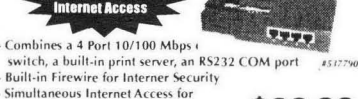


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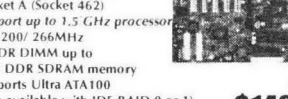


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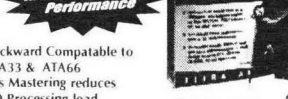


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## MINTS

## Announcements

**The Caltech Student Investment Fund** will continue to distribute funds to Caltech clubs. We are a non-profit group of people learning about the stock market and the art of investment, and having lots of fun along the way. If you would like to apply for a given amount of money for your club, you can download an application form from [www.its.caltech.edu/~sif/clubs.html](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~sif/clubs.html). Funds are limited and the deadline for applications is June 10.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ddenning@caltech.edu). The Guitar Home Page is at: [www.music.caltech.edu/guitar.html](http://www.music.caltech.edu/guitar.html)

**Caltech Ballroom Dance Club offers:** ARGENTINE TANGO for beginners: 7:30 - 9:00pm Mon. May 21, Winnett. This professionally taught class is the third of a five-lesson series - if you missed the previous lessons, still come if you know the basic figure- you can learn the new figures taught this session. \$5 per lesson for undergrads, \$7/lesson for others. WEST COAST SWING for beginners: 7:30-9:00pm Wed. May 23, Winnett. This volunteer-taught class is the third of a five-lesson series - if you missed the previous lessons, still come if you know the basic figure- you can learn the new figures taught this session. Free for Caltech freshmen, \$1 for others. No partner required. Refreshments and a half-hour practice period will follow each class. FREE MINI-BALLROOM DANCE PARTY after each Monday lesson; 9:30-100pm, Winnett.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kabbott@caltech.edu) or call 626/395-3180. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

## 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:

- \* Measurement Science Conference - (MSC) Year 2002 Scholarship Awards
- \* Scholarships sponsored by SHARE
- \* Windstar Environmental Studies Scholarship Program for 2001
- \* Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- \* National Institutes of Health Scholarship Program
- \* John Gyles Education Awards

**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 1st in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the work study funding will begin with the July 2nd payroll.

## Upcoming Events

California Institute Of Technology Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences **seminar on science, ethics, and public policy**. Dr. Mark Colyvan, Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Tasmania. "Is it a Crime to Belong to a Reference Class?" Room 25, Baxter Building, Thursday, May 24, 2001, 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-4087 or [michelle@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:michelle@hss.caltech.edu). For a complete list of SEPP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, visit our web site: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html>

**KELROF** is a 24-hour relay run that happens every year around the end of third term, down at the Caltech track. Participants form teams of 2-10 people and take turns running (or walking) around the track. The key is to have one person from your team going around the track at all times. KELROF is happening Saturday, May 19th, to Sunday, May 20th, from 8AM to 8AM. The event is open to everyone (undergrads, grads, faculty, staff,...). There will be free food throughout the event, and T-shirts for the participants. This is not a competition—you don't have to be a runner to participate!!! Form a team and come down to the track (the more people on your team, the more rest you get...), or come down and join a team when you get there. Or just come down and cheer on the other runners/walkers. If you have any questions, please email Zach Medin ([zachary@its.caltech.edu](mailto:zachary@its.caltech.edu)). Sponsored by ASCIT, the Caltech Y, Res Life, and the Dean's office

**Forum On Preventing Youth Violence:** May 29th, 2001, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Muir High School. Come hear youth talk about violence and how to prevent it. Issues of School Shootings, Gang Violence, Bullying, Relationship Violence, and others are open for discussion. Youth Representatives will talk about violence issues that affect them and possible solutions, and will ask questions of the panelists. Representatives will include: PUSD Elementary, Middle and High Schools, including Youth on Probation and Ex-gang Members. Leaders in our community will be there to answer questions from the youth, discuss existing programs and new ideas from the youth. Panelists will include: PUSD - Interim Superintendent - Dr. Edgar Seal, Interim Police Chief - Bill Saltzman Pasadena Police Department - Lieutenant Darryl Qualls Altadena Sheriff Department - Captain Ronnie Williams Community Non-Violence Resource Center - Ray Ramirez. Facilitated by the Coalition For Zero Violence. Sponsored by the Coalition For Zero Violence, the Community Non-Violence Resource Center (CNRC), Day One and the Human Relations Commission.

Caltech students will present three different **chamber music concerts** between May 18th and 20th:

- (1) Chamber Music at Noon: Friday, May 18 - 12:00 - Dabney Lounge. Piano trio by Granados, music for three flutes, and Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 59, No. 1 **FREE LUNCH FOR 100 PEOPLE**.

- (2) Caltech Chamber Music: Friday, May 18 - 8 PM - Dabney Lounge sonatas by Bach, Telemann and Schickhard; trios by Beethoven and Martinu; a string quartet by Schubert; and music for brass quintet by Malcolm Arnold.

- (3) Caltech Chamber Music: Sunday, May 20 - 3:30 PM - Dabney Lounge. Music by Haydn, Beethoven, Dvorak, and Bruch, plus a little Scottish music and a little ragtime.

## Event Highlights

Tomorrow:  
YESTERDAY

Drop Day  
WED, MAY 23  
LAST DAY FOR DROPPING CLASSES, ELECTING TO P/F  
A CLASS, AND OTHER USEFUL STUFF.

Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series:  
"THE COMING REVOLUTION IN PHOTOGRAPHY"  
BY CARVER MEAD  
MAY 23, 8:00 - 10:00 PM  
BECKMAN AUDITORIUM

To submit a Mint, e-mail [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto: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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