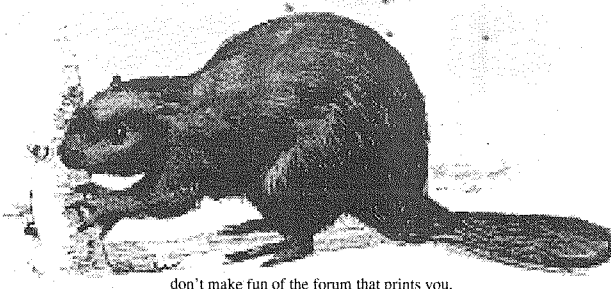


Battle of the Bands

Sat. 8 PM
South of Winnett



...if you didn't understand Jeff...

CANNON FIRES

SUN. 5 PM

Pre-frosh: find out which house you're in
Frosh: become Sophomores!

The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 2

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 5, 2001

The Outside World

Russian Plane Crashes in Siberia

A Siberian Airlines plane filled with 76 people crashed into the Black Sea Thursday morning on its way from Tel Aviv to Siberia. United States officials say the plane may have been shot down by the Ukrainian military, who were conducting surface-to-air missile exercises in the area. Both Russian and Ukrainian military sources have denied that a Ukrainian missile hit the plane.

Man Hospitalized with Anthrax

A man hospitalized in Florida with pulmonary anthrax is not related to any terrorist activities, said the U.S. Health Secretary on Thursday. Anthrax, a highly lethal disease, has been in the news recently as a potential biological weapon, but fortunately, this seems to be an isolated case and is not contagious.

New Antiterrorism Legislation

Attorney General John Ashcroft is making progress negotiating the new antiterrorism legislative package with members of both houses of Congress. Lawmakers are trying to tone down some of the most controversial measures of the legislation, such as giving the government expanded rights to detain immigrants suspected of terrorism. The concern is that they may violate constitutional rights.

Bonds Hits 70th Homerun

San Francisco Giant's Barry Bonds tied the Major League Baseball single season homerun record Thursday night when he hit his 70th homerun in the ninth inning against the Houston Astros. The record crowd at Enron Field gave him a standing ovation after he slugged a 454 foot shot to the upper deck in right field off rookie pitcher Wilfredo Rodriguez. Bonds shares the record with Mark McGwire, who set it just three years ago. He has three games left in the season to break the tie.

- by Janet Zhou

Alumni receives Apker Award

BY KEVIN BARTZ

No one, not even Kathryn Todd (class of 2001) herself, could explain it when a \$1000 lock-in detector in the physics lab miraculously began working again after she let it plunge to the floor. But for the flailing Caltech youth already "cured" of her biological and mathematical inclinations by the rigors of Bi 9 and Ma 1, the freak of nature was a clear sign.

This year's newest winner of the nationally acclaimed Apker Award, Todd went from what physics professor Steve Frautschi called the "least prepared section of Physics 1a" as a freshman to a one-hundredth order of magnitude on double-layered particle systems four years later. "This really shows how you can get from here to there in our program," said Frautschi.

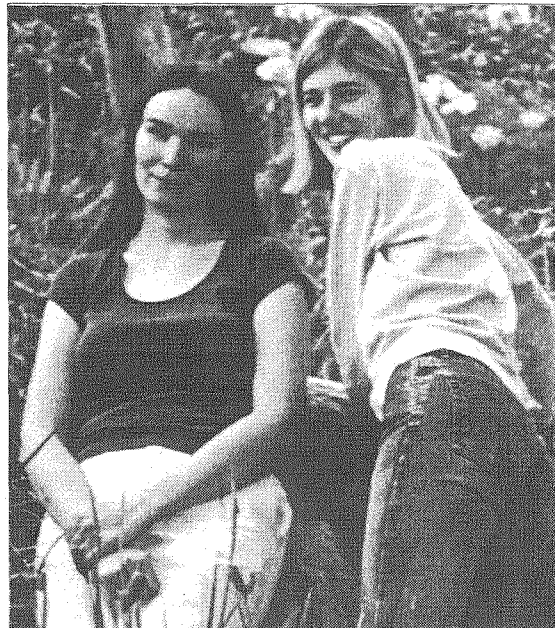
Todd's senior physics thesis "Studies of Two-Dimensional Electron Systems" survived a barrage of reviews from the American Physical Society that pruned out "students who have an excellent academic record and have demonstrated exceptional potential for scientific research through an original contribution to physics." Caltech's

nominee, Todd presented her findings last summer to a collective of judges at the organization's Washington, D.C. headquarters.

"She's a delightful person and an extremely good communicator," lauded fellow Physics Professor James Eisenstein. "She uncovered some neat things and did a spectacular job presenting them to others." Frautschi, who heads the faculty-based committee charged with evaluating physics theses each year, added that Todd's project "was decisively the best for that year."

Todd's 1000-word summary of her research detailed her experience "trying to measure signatures of delicate collective states of electrons." Past attempts had fallen short in terms of accuracy, she explained, because "the electrons' ability to form states is impeded" in such an experiment. But by creating a "smooth, clean potential," she managed to improve on past estimates by a factor of nearly 100, in the words of Frautschi, on "an I-V curve-current versus voltage at extremely low voltage in the presence of a large magnetic field."

It was some change for the girl once left waffling through a



Caltech Alumni Kathryn Todd ('01), on the left, is the winner of this years Apker Awards.

jungle of core courses in her first year. In fact, it was none of these but Ph 10, an experimental class focused on current research in the field, that first sold her on what she now nonchalantly refers to as "2DEG"—two-dimensional electron gases.

"I was in this Ph 10 class where different professors gave talks on what they did," she recalled, "and I heard Professor Eisenstein talk about 2-D electron gases and just really thought it was fascinating." From there, she sought out a research opportunity in Eisenstein's lab, where she spent the summer doing "measurements to make im-

provements and learning how to use the tools in the lab."

Still, as Eisenstein observed, Todd was "very inquisitive, with a broad range of interests" and pursued literature as a double major. Over three years, she took home first and second prizes in the campus-wide Perpall Speaking Competition as well as an award for another summer project studying the work of novelist Jane Austen. "We knew she was a very effective speaker," praised Frautschi.

But in the end, Todd returned to her Ph 10 roots and began re-

PLEASE SEE AWARD ON PAGE 2

One last year for Russian at Caltech?

BY JON FOSTER

It is fairly rare when an organizational meeting (OM) for a class is anything more than a tedious and futile attempt to reconcile completely incompatible schedules which ends only when the class is scheduled for 6 in the morning. Recent events rendered the OM for the two remaining Russian classes much more interesting. The OM included the mandatory scheduling and background about the classes, but it was also replete with confusion about the courses' renaming and renumbering and concerns about one of the more popular classes at Caltech which, unless something drastic happens, is in its last year.

The story began last year when Professor Cheron received a letter informing him that the Russian program at Caltech was be-

ing discontinued and that he was being let go. This announcement came as an unpleasant shock and as complete surprise to Cheron, and he has since been fighting to uncover the reasons of his termination in light of the popularity of his classes, especially "Russian Literature in Translation". John Ledyard, Chair of the HSS division, was unable to provide the Tech with specific reasons for the decision, saying only that. "Periodically, the humanities faculty reviews and evaluates all language and foreign literature courses. They also review and evaluate the faculty. Inclusion of a language in the program is based on many factors including scientific relevance, cultural significance, student demand, etc."

Since that time, the fight to save Russian at Caltech has continued, with a student-organized petition arguing for retaining

both Cheron and the Russian program at Caltech. Cheron has also filed a complaint with the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (AFTC), alleging that Ledyard has a personal bias against him and has singled out the Russian language program for unfair treatment.

Thus it was in an aura of some sadness that nearly 40 students crammed into Baxter 125 to have one last chance to take a class from Cheron. Previous enrollment caps have been

dropped by Cheron, who referred to the classes this year as his "farewell lectures" and said he wanted to give as many people as possible a chance to take his classes. It was not only the controversy surrounding the program that drew such a crowd, Cheron is a favorite among students at Caltech, having been awarded the ASCIT Lifetime Achievement Award this past June. This award is one of the

PLEASE SEE RUSSIAN ON PAGE 4

Inside the Tech

The Usual

Outside World 1
Ticket Stub 4
Comics 6 & 7
The Dean's Corner 7

Features

Commentaries 2 & 3
Caltech Y News 3

Features

Older and Wiser America Becomes a Sophomore

BY JIALAN WANG

There is nothing like a horde of young, dewy-eyed frosh to make a sophomore feel old. To frosh the world is a simple place, and they are its rulers. But like pass-fail, that innocence and arrogance so characteristic of frosh will soon disappear and never return. For the great majority of us, Caltech is our first taste of independence. Although it is still more sheltered than even many high schools in America, Tech's unique freedoms and responsibilities make us do a lot of growing up in a year.

At the brink of adulthood, most of us cannot yet bury our lost childhoods. Raised indoors with books and pixels as our only friends, we now find hundreds of others like ourselves. Finally, we have a chance to play, to blow things up, to drink milk until we puke. Some might think rotation charades, pre-frosh weekend games, and our assorted jokes and pranks are immature, but they're meant to be, and there's a purpose behind it. We do these things because it's the last

chance in this life to live purely in the moment without risking the future. Compared to most other college students, Caltech students have it made in the freedom-without-responsibility department. Either mom and dad or financial aid covers the bills, Caltech dining serves up healthy and nutritious meals every day, and we even get our rooms cleaned every couple of weeks.

But coexistent with the freedom to be immature are academic responsibilities greater than most adults would consider sane. Of course, these are mostly self-imposed. As a freshman you know everything. You are math/physics double majors, bedecked with the trophies of prodigal success. You overload, do sports, become a member of five different clubs — you are up to any challenge Caltech can put forth. It's a trap we all fall into. But sooner or later you discover that anything you can do, Caltech has seen a thousand others who can do it better, and that wisdom is always hard-won and. But pride and discipline won't allow backtrack, so hence begins a strenuous but rewarding four-

year struggle.

The juxtaposition of childish society and activity and adult workload makes for a very bizarre experience of growing up, but perhaps there's a parallel to what America is going through right now. Young and extremely successful, America was that freshman in graduate level classes who always corrects the professor at the board. We knew everything and thought anyone else would die to be us. But sophomore year has a distinctly more serious flavor. We discover that we actually know nothing. The novelty and unlimited license fade, we move off campus, and we start paying our own bills. Older and more modest, we have touched the limits of our power.

And after the terrorist attacks of September 11, America too is entering the thick of sophomore year. We thought that being the richest, smartest, and most powerful country in the world gave us the moral authority and sanction to decide the fate of other nations. No one could or would dare challenge us. For America now, frosh-like arrogance must give way to wisdom. Before we act in haste and indignation, we must understand whom it is we hate and why they hate us, or better yet, resolve the hatred instead of multiplying it. Innocence is ignorance, and ignorance is bliss, but it's about time to grow up.

AWARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

search on her senior thesis the year before under the guidance of Eisenstein and former physics post-doc Michael Lilly.

Lab work had always been her primary interest—"I only bothered to learn something when I saw how it was relevant," she mused—and under their guidance, she went a long way from dropping that lock-in detector her first year. "Not everybody was so lucky," she reminisced. "Everyone in the lab spent hours in the physics clean room teaching me. And if I were to go back, I would spend less time in classes and more in the lab."

After Frautschi's Physics Undergraduate Committee nominated Todd's thesis from a full slate of theses submitted by physics majors campus-wide, the Apker Award Committee chose Todd as a finalist and ultimately the grand prize winner, good for a cash prize of \$5000 on the basis of "outstanding achievements in physics so early in [Todd's] career," according to George Trilling, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researcher and president of the award's judges. She was one of only two Caltech winners in the last decade and the first since 1998.

For now, Todd has moved on to graduate work at Stanford, under the hand of prominent scientist Terry Manohari's elite 2DEG research group, one responsible for "really cool work with scanning tunneling microscopy"—her latest dream. Daily bombardments of problem sets and graduate student qualifying exams still keep her busy on a regular basis, but Todd can rest assured that her past accomplishments cracked a new dent in the field.

"She made a big improvement over the measurement of this particular quantity," extolled Frautschi, "but what's as important is that she did publishable work—and that she made such a notable improvement over past efforts."

Relationships 1a: Guest Lecturer Candance Rypisi, Director of the Women's Center

BY JULIE NORVILLE

"Two things are essential for a healthy relationship: established boundaries and good communication," stated Candace Rypisi, the new director of the Caltech Women's Center. But those parameters are often the very things that we don't do well, especially in a first relationship.

A bad relationship tends to exhibit certain characteristics. Usual warning signs include power imbalances (where one person has control over the emotional, physical, or monetary aspects of the relationship), a lack of respectful communication, or any violence whatsoever.

A typical problem in relationships is the notion of love-at-first-sight—not only will you and your beloved know instantly that you are in love, but after those first few moments you are expected to anticipate that person's needs and desires as well as expect the same from them. Unfortunately, simply looking at your partner is seldom an effective means of communication; verbal communication

is usually required as well.

A relationship also depends on the developmental stages of the individuals involved. Self-esteem, self-worth, and level of experience will often affect the dynamics of the relationship. More experienced individuals already have an image of what being in a relationship is like, and they tend to understand the need for talking, listening, and boundaries.

"I hope that all of the individuals forming their first intimate relationship at Caltech will take the time to explore all the other opportunities available," expressed Rypisi, a concern with which many upperclassmen would probably agree. "Meeting and forming a community of friends is important, as is taking part in your areas of interest regardless of whether they include a community service organization or a snowboarding club."

Typically, keeping one's time (and options) open, rather than spending all of it exclusively with one person, will tend to make you a more rounded person who is satisfied with relationships in general.

To avoid miscommunication, one should always try to be clear

and then verify that the partner understands by asking him or her to repeat what they perceived you said back to you. This way you can make sure that you were heard correctly.

Partners often exhibit some gendered communication patterns. Women often don't want to be perceived as being too mean or too tough. To correct for this, they sometimes water down or self-censor their messages. This can cause others to think that they are not serious and thus lack credibility. Men are often more firm and direct in their statements and worry less about immediate emotional impact. Often both partners may be afraid that they will be embarrassed if they open up communication. However, Rypisi doesn't always agree with this stating, "My mother always told me that if you can't talk about it, then don't."

This advice has many applications even for people who are interesting in dating someone for the first time. "Hanging around your love interest's room for a few weeks until they get the picture isn't usually the best course of action," advised Rypisi. So if you can't ask them

out in the first place, then don't hang around. It is also the responsibility of the person who is subject of the attention to establish boundaries and not let their fears of appearing mean violate their right to privacy and having their own space.

Though first relationships everywhere are often traumatic, Rypisi says that "Caltech is a perfect place where students can learn from their elders—whether they are upperclassmen, faculty members, or the staff of the counseling center." People here are very open, and will often readily offer advice if you ask.

As your relationship develops, it is important to remember that both the relationship and the people involved will change. In fact, the very existence of change is healthy for the relationship. "I doubt my parents' relationship would have lasted for 50 years if it was still the same today as it was 50 years ago," stated Rypisi. "It is not unusual for people to have a three to five year career plan. It's perfectly okay to view your relationship the same way, constantly evaluating where you are and where you wish to be."

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Features

Commentary: Arsenic Contaminating Drinking Water

BY AMY KELLY

Plain and simple, arsenic in drinking water causes cancer. The public health service (PHS) recommended way back in 1962 that the arsenic standard be lowered from 50 to 10 parts per billion (ppb). This past January, the EPA finally issued this new standard, though President Bush's EPA Administrator quickly withdrew it in March. Because of this withdrawal, the current guidelines are based on data from 1942. Comparing the US to countries around the world, it seems as if we are a little behind in protecting our people. In Australia, the standard is 7 ppb. In the European Union and Japan the standard is 10 ppb, in Canada it is 25 ppb, and in the US, Mexico, Bangladesh, Bolivia, India, Vietnam, etc, the standard is 50 ppb. We have the same standard as most third world countries and yet we pride ourselves in research and in the protection of the health of Americans.

Arsenic is a known carcinogen, and other conditions it may

cause include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and developmental, reproductive, immunological and neurological effects. Long-term exposure to low concentrations of arsenic in drinking water can lead to skin, bladder, and lung cancer. The National Academy of Sciences found in its 1999 report that:

-The 1942 arsenic standard does not achieve the EPA's goals for public health protection.

-Drinking water at the 50 ppb standard could easily result in 1 in 100 people getting cancer, a risk 10,000 times greater than the EPA allows for contaminants in food, and 100 times higher than the EPA has ever allowed for tap water contaminants.

-The academy recommended the standard be lowered as quickly as possible.

Most arsenic does occur naturally, but the mining industry's operations contribute by polluting our drinking water with arsenic and other toxic metals. Unfortunately, some areas are much more heavily affected because of their natural soil. A 10 ppb standard would be easier for

most of the East and Midwest to comply with, but tougher for the West where arsenic is common in the water. It naturally occurs in the soil in Nevada, where there have been some real difficulties in keeping the level of arsenic down. Fallon, Nevada has big problem, with an arsenic concentration of ~100 ppb. Interestingly, the city also has 11 teenagers with leukemia. EPA toxicologist Bruce MacIer said there may be a link between the high arsenic content in local water and the leukemia cluster. However, according to the Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, a new water treatment system would cost \$10 million to build for a 6,400-person town, plus \$1 million a year to run it. That is a big burden on a little town, thought the effects would be worth it if it could increase the

possibilities of a longer healthy life for the entire town. Fallon is not alone in its troubles; around 95% of the areas that would be affected by a change in standard to 10ppb have a population of less than 10,000. Hopefully, the government will help the communities that must build new plants. Senator Reid and Ensign made a bill that has already been passed in the Senate, making grants available to towns that would have trouble adapting to the new standard.

The standard should be at least as tough as the January 2001 standard of 10 ppb. Even at 3 ppb, the risk of bladder and lung cancer is 4-10 in 10,000, higher than the EPA maximum level of 1 in 10,000. President Clinton had initially wanted a standard of 5 ppb, but industry pushed for 10 ppb, and weighing health and

economic costs, 10 ppb makes more sense. A standard of 10 ppb would cost \$600 million a year after \$5 billion up front according to the spokesman for the American Water Works Association, and a standard of 5 ppb would cost \$1.4 billion a year after \$14 billion up front according to the same source. Obviously, 5 ppb is financially unfeasible at this time.

Christine Whitman, head of President Bush's EPA, is asking for comments on having standards of 3, 5, 10 or 20 ppb. I will have a booth up Friday the 5th from 12-1pm in front of Winnett where you can sign under whichever standard you see fit and I will send off these lists to the EPA. I have included a chart below to help you make your decision. Hopefully together we can make a difference.



by Gustavo Joseph

The beginning of this academic year marks a very important date for the Caltech Y: the celebration of our 85th birthday! Eighty-five years that have shaped the Caltech Y—eighty-five years of service, eighty-five years of making a world of difference.

This past Saturday we held a day of service during which two different groups of volunteers worked on the Habitat for Humanity and the Rebuilding Pasadena projects. We had a good turnout for both projects.

At noon on Sunday we held our third annual "Compression" cookout. It is our way of saying 'Welcome!' to both returning students and the new class. A couple hundred students enjoyed the Salvadoran chicken, steak, grilled bananas, beans, rice, and fruit salad (which, contrary to what its name may suggest, is a quite refreshing fruit punch) while watching the Ballet Folclórico perform traditional dances from various regions of Mexico.

The year is only starting and more—many more—activities and projects will be announced in due time. Meanwhile, come join us this Sunday, October 7th, from 3 to 5 p.m. for ice cream, a movie, volleyball, root beer floats and relaxation in general. What could be a better way to spend the hours leading to the end of rotation? We hope to see you all there!

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Entertainment

The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

Ghost World (A)

"Ghost World" was the single flight into uproariously wicked humor that I had to indulge a second time in order to appreciate the gravity and subtleties of the film and its elegant satire. After having been pleasurably assaulted by catty prose, the understated ending was such a jarring finale that I walked out feeling like I hadn't understood the context leading to the tragic ending, and then only because having been weaned on Hollywood fare, I haven't made the transition to expect sad endings in dark comedies.

Enid (Thora Birch, of American Beauty fame) and Rebecca are two contemptuous, passive-aggressive buddies from high school. There are little fractions like them within any institution of adolescent confusion—the intelligent iconoclasts who aren't very sure of what they want, but are certainly aware of what they don't want, which includes the attention of a very phony mainstream majority. And so it is that Enid and

Rebecca distance themselves from the rest of the student body at graduation, dropping splendidly sardonic lines such as "I liked her a lot more when she was a crack addict and an alcoholic. She gets in one stupid car accident and all of a sudden she's little miss perfect." There are few things in their vapid desolate wasteland of Everywhere, Suburbia that escape their scrutiny. Everything is ridiculed: the Taj Mahal of faux '50s diners, an aspiring actress who displays every bit of sugary goodness that they despise, a white-washed hip-hop celebratory number by fellow graduates, and an art teacher who never lectures on the aesthetics of objects but seems preoccupied by far-fetched representations. It can not be stressed how scathingly perfect their criticisms are, and how their witty Enid-isms and Rebecca-isms are a way of controlling their own destiny, of maintaining some semblance of control in a world where choices are increasingly limited, corporatized, and stripped of value.

Upon graduation, Enid and Rebecca choose the anti-college route and promise each other to become gainfully employed for the purpose of paying rent and living together. The prospect of entering Capitalist structure poses a greater problem to Enid, however, whose latest interest

involves befriending a hapless, psoriasis-afflicted, middle-aged man named Seymour. Maliciously answering a "missed connection" ad in the paper, they lure him to the diner and watch him get stood up, at first amused but later tormented by their mischievous act. As Rebecca holds her end of the bargain and enters the workforce as a corporate, coffeehouse barista, Enid ingratiates herself into Seymour's company, posing as a sycophant to Seymour's passion for 78 rpm record-collecting. It is little surprise that the bond that forms metastasizes into a budding friendship, as Enid and Seymour are so similar, having sworn off the majority of humanity. They're soulmates, but share the ungratifying distinction of being social pariahs.

"Ghost World" soon chronicles the unraveling of the friendship between Enid and Rebecca once they lose a common enemy. As Rebecca gradually relinquishes her embrace of indie-counter culture, her unity with Enid suffers. One subtle interplay is initiated when Rebecca expresses her frustration at having to serve "creeps and losers", to which Enid responds "But those are our people" with nary a tone of irony. It evinces the struggle between being functional and retaining a sense of self-identity.

Rebecca obviously tires of being dependent on her parents and making tirades about how lame and phony the vast majority of people have become, and in becoming financially secure and relying on the mainstream culture she loses her sarcastic aloofness and acknowledges Enid's immaturity. Enid meanwhile, finds a mentor to her iconoclastic penchant in Seymour, but even he is painstakingly self-aware of his philosophy's limitations. True, the mainstream offers little authenticity and anyone who doesn't realize their dispossession is simply blind, but collecting fetishes is a self-destructive interest that hinders his ability at interpersonal relationships. Enid and Seymour are perfectly made for each other, distant enough from yuppie, McWorld, consumerish culture to be the sole occupants of a niche so extreme in the culture spectrum, but to each individual his share of inveterate problems that weeks of effort can not overcome. For its ending, "Ghost World" stays true to anti-Hollywood endings and uses a minor character's closure as a signal to the other characters to bring their episodes to an end. Note: Enid does not take the prestigious scholarship to an art school, nor does she live happily ever after with Seymour, choosing rather to compose her personal anthem to alienation.

RUSSIAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ASCIT teaching awards which serve to "recognize both teachers and TA's who excel in inspiring and motivating their students, are approachable, and are effective and efficient communicators of course material." The Lifetime Achievement Award in particular is designed to recognize professors who students nominate year after year.

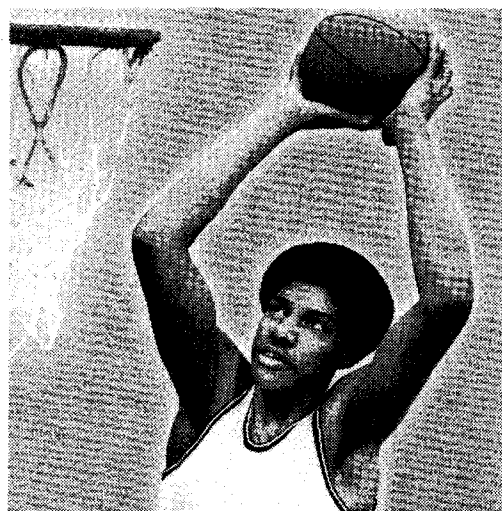
The confusion at the OM resulted from the series of hoops which Cheron had to jump through to register his classes this year. Both of Cheron's classes, which used to be called Language/Literature 165 and 166 were moved several times by the HSS department before finally ending up as two sections of Language 101: "Selected Topics in Language". Cheron explained that these moves had been against his will, and had resulted in a great deal of confusion among students who were trying to find and register for his class.

The result of Cheron's grievance petition rests largely in the hands of the new chairman of the AFTC, Professor John Bercau. As it currently stands, this will be Cheron's last year. In fact, he was offered the chance to take a year's pay without teaching for this year, but as he explained at the OM, "I teach, I am here to teach you."

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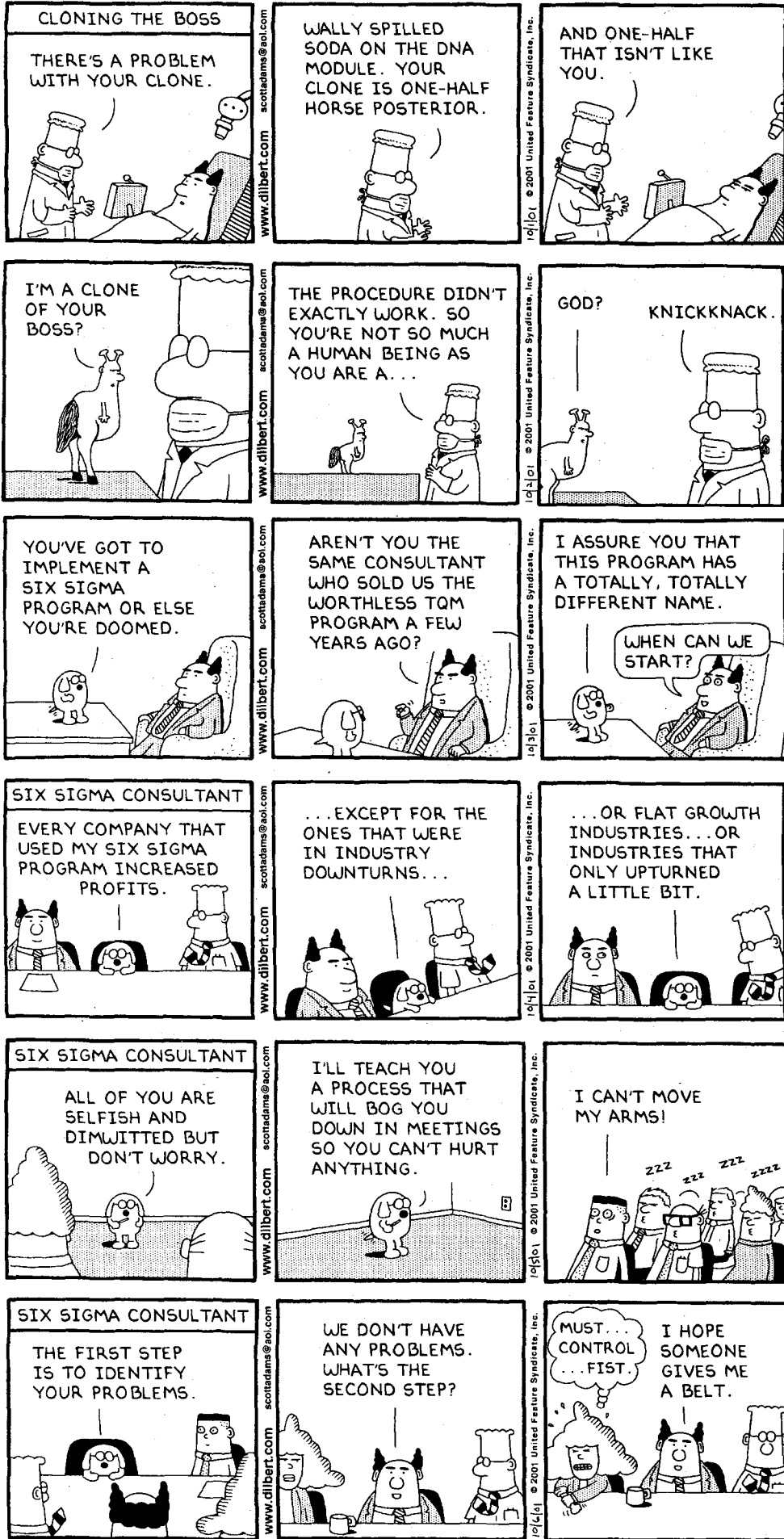
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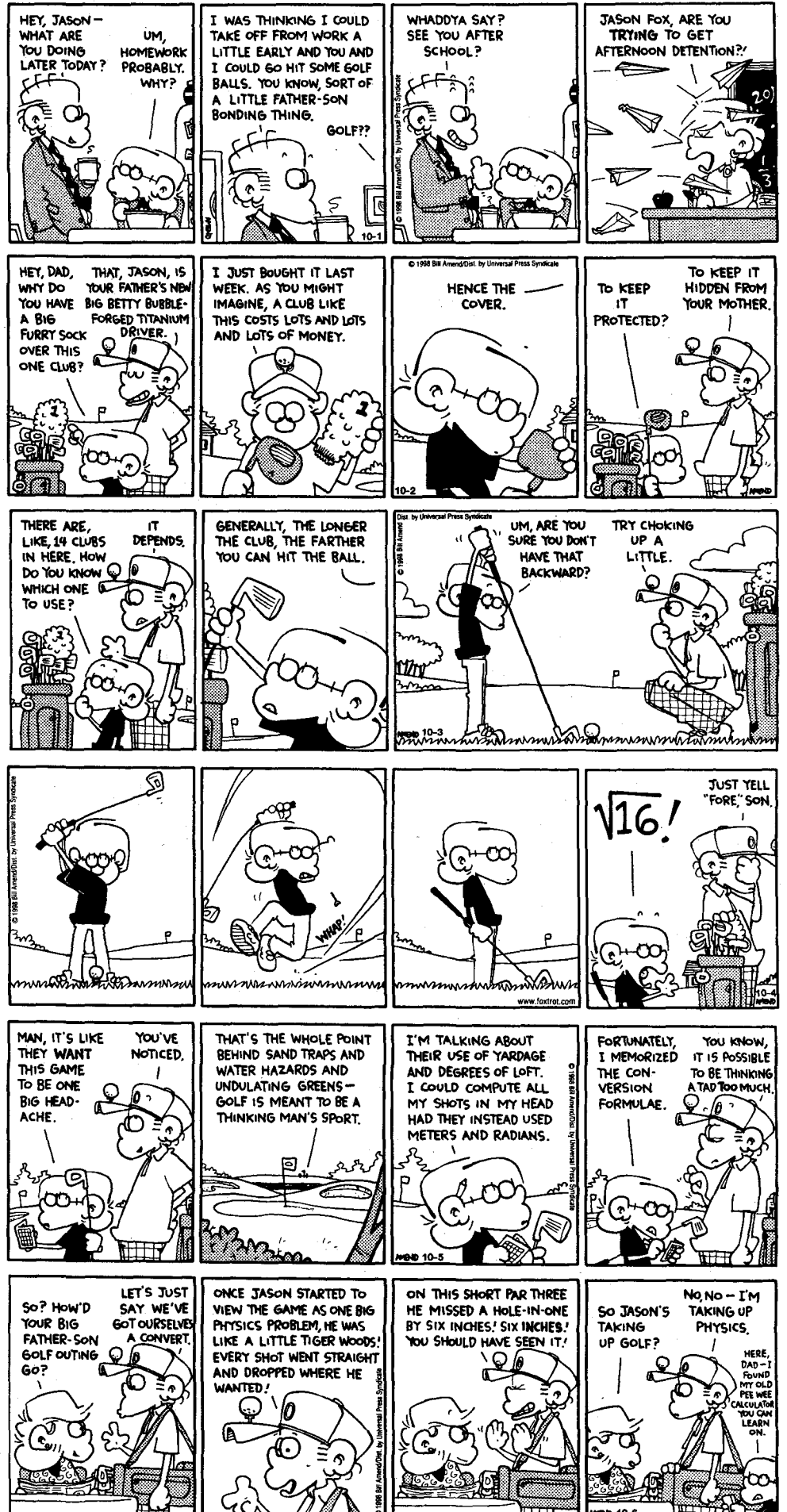
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[12:00] 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
TORTILLA SOUP (PG-13)
[11:30] 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
LIAM (R)
[1:05] 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
HAPPY ACCIDENTS (R)
[12:00] 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
TOGETHER (R)
[11:45] 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45
VA SAVOIR! (PG-13)
[1:00] 4:30 8:00

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Dean's

Dean's Corner

The Egret

by Jean-Paul Revel



The events of September 11th have brought so much disruption to nearly all our lives that I end up surprised at how normal things seem to be. The markets are open, there are lines at the banks (could that be a bad sign?), and the restaurants are crowded (that's good). I understand Paseo Pasadena, the shopping mall/apartment complex which replaces Plaza Pasadena, has been successfully launched, with people buying as if there were no tomorrow (ouch, that could be bad). I don't remember what the Dodgers are doing but there was a football game at the Rose Bowl, thankfully (oh ever so small a silver lining, since I live under the flight path) without the usual noisy carousel of planes towing advertising banners.

Of course most of us have only been exposed to the terror in NY and Washington, through a narrow window, a 2 dimensional screen, 36 inches when measured diagonally. The constant reporting and ceaseless replay, although riveting, has also dulled our feelings by its very repetitiveness. Seen over and over on mostly smaller-than-life displays, the horror of the collapsing buildings was hard to understand. They looked like flowers with petals opening wide, not like a lethal rain of steel and cement. The smoke and the dust rolled down the street like an alien creature en-

gulfing the puny humans in a sci-fi movie. We had to be constantly reminded that this was reality, not a production starring Schwarzenegger or Stallone.

Although we know of the horrific events intellectually, here in Pasadena we have not smelled the smells, or really heard the sounds, or breathed in the dust, or had to try to wash it all out of our hair and ears and clothes. Some local residents did loose their lives in this, yet few here were obviously personally affected, losing dads, moms, lovers, sons and daughters, dear aunties or cousins or neighbors who would never come back, and might never even be found.

In spite of the remoteness we all feel deeply that we are Citizens of New York, paraphrasing in our minds Kennedy's famous declaration "Ich bin ein Berliner." We are American and proud of it. We are proud of the courage of those who died in the planes and on skyscraper stairs, we are proud and touched by the messages wafted by cell phones by the victims to their loved ones. We are proud of the courage, dedication, abnegation of the police, firemen and Joe and Jane civilians who helped others so often paying with their own lives.

We can express our solidarity by displaying the flag, or wear ribbons. Many use Old Glory, or

jazzed up versions of it as material for dresses, blouses or neckties. For my taste that would be OK on the 4th of July but not as a serious, somber and sober expression of grief for all those who died at the end of fanatics. I am all for expressions of patriotism but somehow find many of the uses of the flag as shallow as expressions of support for the Lakers. Were there not almost as many (perhaps even more) cars sporting Lakers pennants, just a few weeks ago? Is that patriotism, waving flags from car windows or wrapping oneself in one? I would feel better if I could believe that all these proclaimed patriots had participated in that most basic of patriotic duties: vote?

I keep wondering whether all of the flag wavers respect the basic belief that we are all equal under the law whatever our race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic origin. Forget wanton use of the flag, is it truly patriotic and worthy of our nation's proud endorsement of human values to threaten, and maybe even carry out our own Holy War? How can we blame, even look askance at self immolating murderers when, just as them, we too are willing to murder innocents in revenge? Will all who suffer from our retaliation have been proved guilty or did they just happen to have been born there instead of here? Would maintaining a dignified reserve and using international channels really open the door to more dastardly deeds against us or others who share our principles?

We are big and brave and strong and wise and we should show by example what it means to be a civilized nation. Lets not hark back to brutish mentality put to a modern sauce (using planes as instruments of destruction rather than flaming arrows). I watched in fascinated horror one of the self righteous preachers whom we have all heard vituperate against those who do not believe like him, recant on national TV for having blamed abortionists and gays for bringing down the wrath of the Lord on us. Where is the patriotism in giving in to an easy, but so inappropriate, unlawful and damaging, type of racial profiling?

And then we were also shaken by another tragedy, that one cutting much closer to home, with the news of Steve Craver's passing. The loss of one so near can jar us as no far away horrific event ever can. When he was a student here Steve had been associated with several houses. Although he had not attended classes since the fall of '99, he lived close to campus and had many friends. His friends and his family, all of us will miss him. The distant loss of more than 6000 lives, whose shortcoming was that they were our compatriots and so became the victims of the holy war waged by the terrorists, and the much closer loss of a past student, whose classmates just graduated last June, are now commencing their lives, make us ask again about the mysteries of life and death

I have no answers, except to realize that this is a time to lean on each other, to talk, to discuss our fears and our sorrows. Oh yes we are beginning to understand something about the biology of death, at least at the cellular level. Progress is even being made at the level of the whole organism, what with Caltech's Benzer's work on the Methuselah

gene, which significantly prolongs the life of flies. But biology does not explain the snuffing out of lives unfinished.

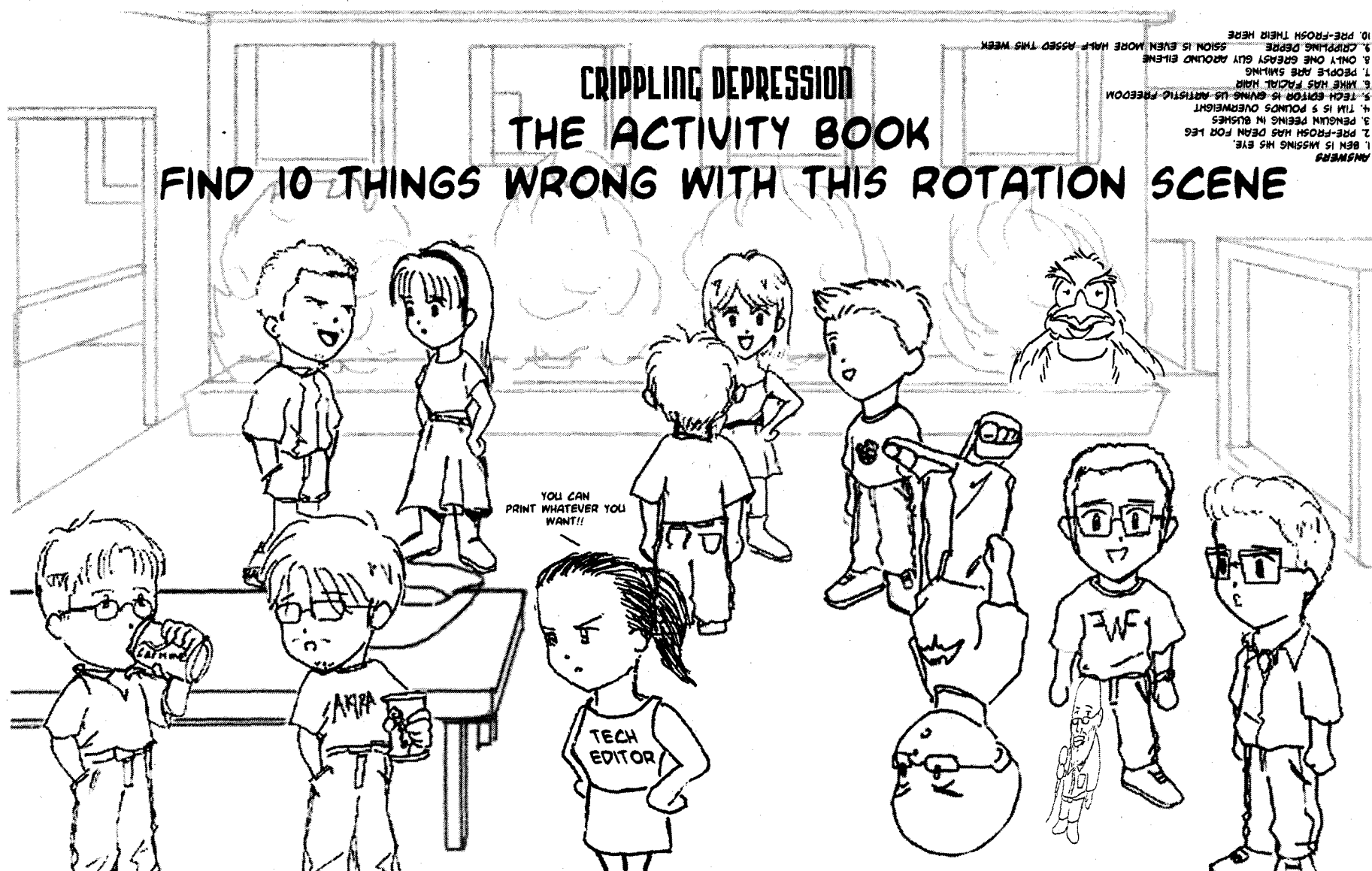
I did get help, late Friday afternoon, when I met a covey of newly branded frosh exploring the campus. They were down at the foot of the Court of Man, near the lily ponds, where so many little kids get initiated in the pleasures of catching frogs or crayfish and watching turtles, live statues sunning themselves on manmade rocks... Well the students said they were puzzled by a smell they had been following, the scent of lemon grass...now lemon grass was far from my thoughts right then, lost as I was in gloomy ruminations, but the remark brought a wave of feeling for all that is good and graceful and beautiful, and just then, and I am telling the truth, all those undergrads are my witnesses, I became aware of a presence on the edge of the BBB pond, that of our mascot the egret, intently eyeing a chance to have a snack, deliberately placing one long leg forward and tilting its head. Its grace, reserve and serious mien helped me appreciate how important it is to enjoy, to celebrate the beauty all around us. What would beauty be without someone to see it?

What I find beautiful may not be what you perceive as such, but there is beauty for all of us. So don't give in to despair, instead share your world and your thoughts with us, your friends, your teachers, advisors, counselors. Take a deep breath and smell the lemon grass all around.

A bientot

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students



Mints

Announcements

Women in Science is a new group on the Caltech campus. It was started by a group of concerned female graduate students, and we are now looking for new members. Our first event will be a lunch and round-table discussion with Prof. Janet Hering and Prof. Marianne Bronner-Fraser on Oct. 16 at noon at the Carriage House. To sign up for the lunch, please email cynthiac@its.caltech.edu.

Our second event will be an Open Forum on Nov. 1 at 7pm at the Women's Center. The discussion topic for this forum will be "Treatment of Women at Caltech: Past and Present". This event is open to all members of the Caltech community. If you would like to learn more, please email Cynthia at cynthiac@its.caltech.edu.

The Caltech Recording Studio would like to announce a short non-credit course intended to introduce Caltech Community musicians to modern techniques of electronic recording. The first class will be Saturday Sept. 13 at 2:00 PM. Please contact Matt Ashman (ashman@its.caltech.edu) soon if you would like to attend this session. The attendance to this session will be limited so e-mail Matt soon to reserve a spot.

The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club is offering two four-week class series this month: Lindy Hop and Chacha. Lindy Hop, taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson, takes place on Mondays (Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29). Classes are \$20 for the series or \$6/lesson for all Caltech students, \$28 (series) / \$8 (per lesson) otherwise. Chacha (Wed. Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31) is amateur taught and costs \$1/lesson (free for frosh and students taking it for PE credit). All classes are held in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9pm, followed by a half-hour practice session. Refreshments provided; no partner or experience is required. Additionally, on Mondays from 9:30-11pm we offer a mini-ballroom dance party - request or bring your own music! For more information, contact Megan Knight at knight@its.caltech.edu or visit our web page at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom/>.

Caltech Quiz Bowl is having practices every Wednesday and Thursday in SAC 65 at 7:30. We are a group of graduate and undergraduate students who get together and participate in competitions consisting of trivia questions on everything from science to literature to sports. The Wednesday practice in particular is meant for new players. For more information see our website at www.its.caltech.edu/~quizbowl.

Come learn to dance like your favorite music stars!

The Caltech Dance Troupe will be sponsoring Beginners' Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9-10:30pm, Braun multipurpose room beginning October 9. No experience is needed and no special clothing or shoes are required. There is a \$2 fee for the introductory class. This fee will be credited to the fall quarter fee if you decide to join the class for the rest of the term. The term fee for students is \$10 and for non-students is \$20. To register, email troupe@caltech.edu.

Free ballet classes sponsored by the Caltech Dance Troupe start Saturday, October 6. No special clothing or shoes are required for the beginners' class. All classes meet at Braun multipurpose room. Beginners meet from 1-2:00pm, intermediate from 2-3:30pm, advanced from 3:30-4:30pm.

For more info, see our website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe>.

Questions or comments? Email: troupe@caltech.edu.

Guitar Classes At CIT

CIT Guitar Classes for the fall quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on October 9 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

Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Discussion Group

Whether you are out and proud, exploring your sexual identity, coming out, or anywhere in-between, we invite you to our Discussion Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15 pm in the Health Center Lounge. The group is a great place to meet new friends and the atmosphere is generally very relaxed; at the same time, more personal and "serious" discussion topics can be addressed. This is a confidential meeting and attendance does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation; supportive students and staff are welcome as well. And refreshments are served! For more information call ext. 8331. To find out about LBGT events on campus, please visit the Caltech Student Pride Association (CSPA) calendar at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cspa/>.

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 information on available scholarships.

Upcoming Events

Caltech Library System Presents: A Quick Review of Information Resources - 2001

Tuesday October 9, Wednesday Oct. 10, Thursday Oct. 11 or Friday Oct. 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Sherman Fairchild Library, 3d Floor, Room 328 (Southeast corner)

New on campus? Want to know about available databases? Updating your CV and need to quickly find a citation? Looking for a proceedings paper? Want to find out if the library subscribes to an electronic journal? Let us show you the most effective ways to use library services and resources! This session is designed especially for graduate students, post-docs and research staff, but all are welcome. This FREE class is being held on a walk-in basis.

For more information, contact: Kathleen McGregor, x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>

Upcoming Caltech Hillel Event

Saturday, October 27, 3:30 p.m. The Caltech Hillel will be having a catered BBQ to kick off the new year, in Tournament Park. The BBQ is open to all Hillel members and we will have a bouncy castle and a Havdallah service.

Get certified in Adult First Aid and CPR by the American Red Cross.

Adult First Aid and CPR classes will be held the week of October 15-19.

The classes are schedule as follows:

Monday, October 15, 9am-4pm

Wednesday, October 17, 9am-4pm

Friday, October 19, 9am-4pm

Tuesday and Thursday, October 16 and 18, 6pm-10pm (Must attend both days to be certified)

If you are interested in attending one of these classes please contact the Environment, Health, and Safety Office at extension 6727 to reserve your place. Class size is limited so reserve your seat today.

On Saturday October 13th is **Reading to Kids**. Go to an inner city elementary school (MAGNOLIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL) on Saturday and read books to children. We are going to leave from the Caltech Y at 8:00 AM. If you want to come, please email me (niki@its.caltech.edu) so I can save you a seat in the van and sign up on the Reading for Kids web-page (www.readingtokids.org). If you have never volunteered for them before, there is an application you have to fill out. All volunteers need to register to go the Magnolia Elementary School this Saturday. We usually get back around 12:30 in the afternoon. In addition, this does count for work study.

Caltech Y Ice Cream Social

Sunday, Oct 7th, 3-5pm

Join us at the Y for Ice Cream floats, music, movies, and volleyball.

Event Highlights

COMPUTER SCIENCE 0.1 SEMINAR

OCT. 5, 4 - 5 PM

BAXTER LECTURE HALL

[HTTP://WWW.CCO.CALTECH.EDU/~KOONIN/CS.HTML](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~koonin/cs.html)

RESUMANIA

OCT. 11, 11 - 2 PM

OLIVE WALK

GET YOUR RESUMÉ REVIEWD BY CDC STAFF

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER-WRITING MEETING

OCT. 9, 7:30 - 9:00 PM

THE ATHENAEUM RATHSKELLER

WRITE LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN-RIGHTS CASES

PROFILED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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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