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**FINALS!**

**Dec. 10-14**

# The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 10

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 7, 2001

## RICKETTS STILL STRUGGLES TO KEEP FIREPOT

BY PHILIP WONG

More has come on the line as a result of the ban of the Ricketts's House firepot. Not only is a major house tradition in danger, but the student faith in the administration has also been questioned due to its recent actions.

While the Caltech administration cited safety concerns as a justification for the firepot ban, student accounts of the Oct. 7 firepot incident have conflicted with security reports. Student witness claim that the fire reached a height of roughly two feet as opposed to the ten foot flame described in the security report.

In order to establish the facts, a meeting was arranged last Monday with the Chris Brennen, the Vice President of Student Affairs. Ricketts House representatives, including Ricketts President Rick Kamesky and other house members, presented letters from the Blacker President Tory Sturgeon and Fleming President Sean McHugh stating that the pot has been used responsibly. A pledge signed by Ricketts House as a whole was also presented arguing that the firepot has been and will be used properly. The administration, however, fears that the safety of the student body is at risk.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, an agreement was reached four years ago after a fire related accident badly injured a student. Ricketts House kept its firepot as a "barbecue" station with a grill that would operate with flames limited to a maximum of two to three feet.

A change in the social atmosphere of Ricketts House is already noticeable, only one week after the Ricketts flame was extinguished. According to Kamesky, "There has been less [social] interaction in the house as a result of the moratorium." House members have also begun to view agreements made by the administration with students and faculty through more cynical eyes.

At the present time, there have been no advances in resolving the issues involving the Ricketts firepot. The safety concerns of the administration are now being respected in the Ricketts courtyard even though the House is perhaps the most fire conscientious house on campus. Nonetheless, both Scurves and other members of the student body hope that a just agreement will be reached: one not resulting in the loss of such a long standing tradition.

## Dabney dominates ME 72

BY MICHELLE GIRON

Crowds were cheering in a packed auditorium on Thursday, December 6, as small robots attempted to push hockey pucks up an increasingly steep slope. It was the culmination of ten weeks of hard work by the thirty students of the ME 72 class. For the whole of the fall term, these students, working in teams of two, had been constantly and creatively designing, building, modifying, and testing their inventions in preparation for the final competition.

On the first day of class, students were given a box of "junk," the only materials that they could use to make their robotic creations. In addition, the students also received a thick packet of rules and guidelines that would gov-

ern their task. As it was last year, the control of robots would be "wireless." The goal was of the project was clear: competing robots would attempt to score the greater number of points by pushing as many of the pucks as

possible into the higher portions of the slope while also preventing their opponents from scoring. Living, sleeping, dreaming in the lab, students created fully functional robots in time for the ME 72 En-

gineering Design Competition. Many students even took lighter course loads, projecting the large amount of time they would be spending on their project.



Marcus Williams (l) and Alastair Kusack take home the 2001 ME 72 trophy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY SCOTT

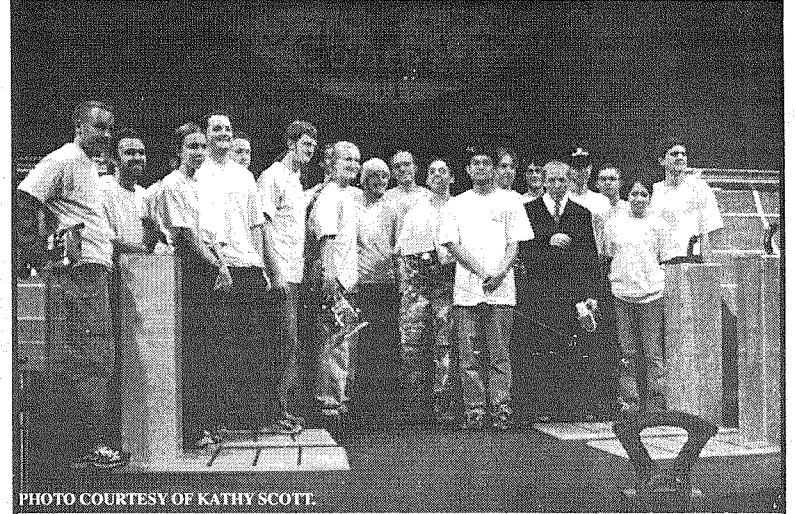


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY SCOTT.

This year's ME 72 "family" performed admirably at yesterday's contest.

In its 17th year, ME 72 challenges students to use their knowledge for a creative purpose. The importance of this is that these future engineers will need to use their creativity and improvisation, as well as knowledge, to achieve their desired goals in their work. The contest guidelines for ME 72 have varied in the past, but the overall essence of the class has been unchanged: to provide an engineering experience that utilizes the

student's innovative capabilities.

The class is indeed unique. "The class is a blast," according to runner-up Morgan Venable. Venable suggests that other departments design similar classes in their own contexts. What is also unique according to the instructor, Professor Erik Antonsson, is that the students, while knowing that they will eventually compete against each

PLEASE SEE ME 72 ON PAGE 3

## CURJ on verge of second edition

BY KEVIN BARTZ

The Poincare-Hopf Index Theorem doesn't mean much to the average student. And among the less physics-inclined; who would've guessed that supercavities don't come from crazed dentists? And just where does an "ALH84001 Mars Meteorite" fit in?

This year's second issue of the *Caltech Undergraduate Research*

*Journal* bears safe haven for it all—whether it's topology and carbon nanotubes or Ebola and "Cat Eyes." After a summer-long treatment of editing, pruning and tuning, the journal's latest edition hit the shelves last week in libraries from Caltech to Harvard under its stated goal of presenting scientific research to a perhaps not-so-scientific audience.

"Our mission is to be the focal point of the best undergraduate research in the world," affirmed *CURJ* founder and Senior Ram Srinivasan. "With attention to detail in writing and design, we strive to produce a gem of a journal that is truly enjoyable to read."

A startup publication from last spring, the *CURJ* has carved a quick niche in nationwide academia. "The current leadership has very high standards," said Junior Paul Choi, incoming con-

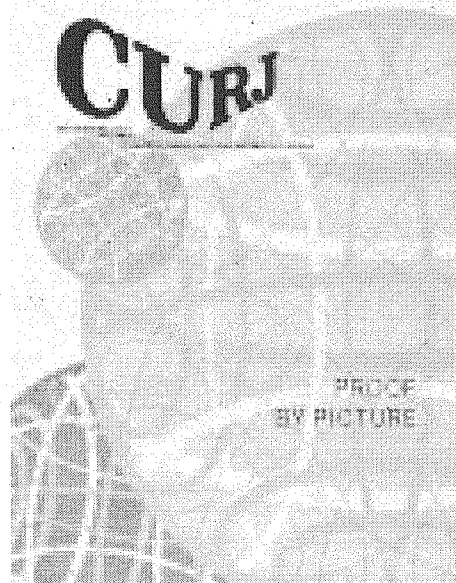
tent editor. "It's already comparable to something commercially printed." Slated to publish twice yearly, a barrage of editors had ample time to fine-tune their work, and the result is a fifty-page full-color compilation of quaintly illustrated and thoroughly documented undergraduate research.

"The second issue has no pitfalls," declared Srinivasan. "It is a beautiful journal to read and collect. With the second issue, we've reached new standards with original research, lucid writing, stunning design, and an international distribution network." It's not often that an editor stakes his

credibility on perfection.

But despite an inarguably elegant production, readability has long been the *CURJ*'s trademark. "The approach lies somewhere between a scientific journal and an everyday magazine," explained Senior Michael Russo. In fact, the issue's lead article takes a novel look at research in pure math through the eyes of an ant crawling on a ball, searching for the winds' doldrums. Will he succeed? Eventually, yes, asserts author Junior Steve Paik, by the properties of a sphere; but on a

PLEASE SEE CURJ ON PAGE 2



### Inside the Tech

<i>The Usual</i>	<i>Features</i>
News ..... 2-6	Opinions ..... 7
Outside World ..... 4	Reviews ..... 8
Comics ..... 10-11	Marcus in Macedonia ... 9
The Dean's Corner ..... 11	Random Access ..... 9

## News

## CURJ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

donut, definitely not. Interesting?

Enough to make even a Lit major give math a glance. "[Paik] did a great job of intuitively explaining it," lauded Russo. "It's abstract math that's actually really appealing." Other highlights include a vividly narrated piece on the Ebola virus and a student-developed algorithm to beat the options market. Warren Buffet, beware. "We're publishing professional-quality research, not some fifth-grade science project," said editor Jon Foster.

The approach has worked. Just under a year old, the *CURJ* has grown from one of many Caltech sidewalk publications to a potent issue with a distribution field over 20 schools strong. And those not lucky enough to reside in one of the magazine's three publishing continents can peruse the latest issue online, where the *CURJ* website is itself a work of art "which includes full archiving, PDF reprints, and HTML enhanced text of articles," according to Srinivasan.

Yet between nitpicking the ins and outs of layout and verifying finer scientific details, biannual publication is a painstaking process for a magazine still waiting for its first birthday. In the eyes of Paik, it all begins and ends with hard work.

"We take the submissions, have a big meeting to look them all over and pick the best," he explained. "Then we get permission from authors, split the tasks between the editors and make sure the format of the articles fits the artwork." In the meantime, writers collaborate with editors to boil down their research to the lowest common denominator, accessible to a general audience but still intriguing—in other words, fit for publication in the *CURJ*.

Daunting, but possible. And despite the workload, perfection is the only option. "Everything had to be just right; it's incredible the amount of effort put into it," said Paik. In one case, the crew spent hours ironing out a copyright issue with a publisher in Germany—no doubt a reflection of what Srinivasan termed the "talent, dedication, management, planning, smart work, and hard work from each one of our staff members."

But underneath both the grittier and glossier sides of editors' day-to-day tasks, the *CURJ* holds true to its stated mission: highlighting the golden eggs of undergraduate research. "Great scientists have done great work as undergraduates," said Foster. "Whether we have the next Isaac Newton remains to be seen."

## Hidden Wars of Desert Storm: what CNN never showed

BY DON LY

The Caltech Peaceful Justice Coalition in conjunction with the Caltech Y presented the documentary *Hidden Wars of Desert Storm* by Gerard Ingerman and Audrey Brohy in Baxter Hall on Thursday, November 29. From the title you can probably guess that this is not the film for most conservative, flag-waving, unquestioningly patriotic Americans (unless Dolph Lundgren was somehow involved). The film questions the actions of US activities in the Middle East, analyzes the effects of the trade embargo in the 10 years after the war and the examines the origins of "Gulf War Syndrome."

The first part of the film is dedicated to the rise of US interests and activities in the Middle East. It states quite accurately that the US supported Saddam Hussein's initial rise to power. As Hussein became less obedient (and supported the nationalization of oil supplies) the US viewed him as an enemy instead of an ally. Fast-forward a few years and Hussein attempts to invade Kuwait (they are effectively "undercutting" Iraq in oil sales). At this point the film makes a bold claim about US intentions. The hypothesis is that the US had chances to negotiate a peaceful agreement with Iraq but instead used the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait (and implied aggression on Saudi Arabia) as a springboard for setting up military bases in Saudi Arabia. Testimony is given that the supposed threat on Saudi Arabia was completely fabricated (by a news reporter that states she was never allowed to see photos of Iraqi supply build-ups). With the ever elusive Middle Eastern military bases in place, the US then savagely attacked Iraq, bombing

civilian targets in an attempt to cripple the country economically and socially in order to protect its own oil interests.

This is very disturbing news, especially when much of it comes from a respectable source like former US Attorney General and now head of the International Action Committee Ramsey Clark. But what type of source is he exactly? Clark has a history of being diametrically opposed to the activities of the US government, including participating in such activities as "consulting" Slobodan Milosevic and voicing support for Rwandan warlords. This by no means immediately invalidates Clark's statements. However, one would be hard pressed to believe Clark's statements without concrete evidence backing it up.

Video footage of targets, which looked like civilian structures, being blown up was shown. What cannot be divined strictly from the footage was the importance of those targets. Did the Iraqis purposely place equipment in sensitive civilian targets assuming they wouldn't be bombed? Without further evidence (which unfortunately may never be known to us) it is hard to make an informed decision.

What is intriguing is the suspicious failure of the US to support opposition groups that could have possibly overthrown Saddam Hussein. Former General Norman Schwarzkopf describes orders from command to stop fighting right when he felt he was ready to take Hussein out. Was it mere coincidence that the orders to stop fighting occurred at the same time that rebel uprisings were taking place around the country? Probably not. The cease-fire allowed Hussein to crush the rebels easily. Again, the US government's

agenda cannot be fully known, only theorized about.

The next section focuses on the aftermath of the war: US sanctioned trade embargoes. Iraq has suffered undeniable economic devastation since the embargoes have been enacted. Despite the fact that the embargoes have been designed to hurt Hussein and not the people (as official statements proclaim), it is the people of Iraq that have been hurt the most. In the documentary at least, Hussein looked as plump as ever. Prior to the embargoes Iraq was one of the richest and most developed areas of the region. Children now die frequently of starvation and from lack of access to common medical supplies. The embargoes have also acted to strengthen Hussein's demi-god status among the people as they grow to depend on the government for the little aid they receive. This section raises important questions about the intentions of the embargoes and what costs the US will overlook to achieve its goals.

The last part of the documentary takes a bit of a turn and examines the link between depleted uranium (DU) weapons and supposedly unexplained Gulf War syndrome. There have been a non-trivial number of cases of deaths among previously healthy soldiers from unknown causes and a proliferation of cancer cases amongst Iraqi children. The fact is that depleted uranium-238 has been used extensively by NATO nations throughout Desert Storm and the conflict in Kosovo. The theory is that the radiation from the debris of these weapons has poisoned friendly troops and the native populace; the government knows about this and is suppressing further research about it. NATO's official stand-

point is that the DU weapons do not carry sufficient radiation to cause deleterious effects to the populace. Again, it is hard to make an informed decision without conclusive research since existing studies are conflicting. There may have been other factors that may explain the increase in cancer (chemicals, other bomb ingredients besides uranium, etc...). That being said, leaving radioactive waste around the countryside while stating that civilians were never to be harmed seems contradictory. The BBC states that it is highly likely that DU munitions are still being employed in Afghanistan. An interesting point is that interviews with official government spokespeople, while very vocal on many issues, are completely silent on this one. Whether they were not asked, refused to answer, or gave unsatisfactory answers are not known.

PLEASE SEE WARS ON PAGE 3

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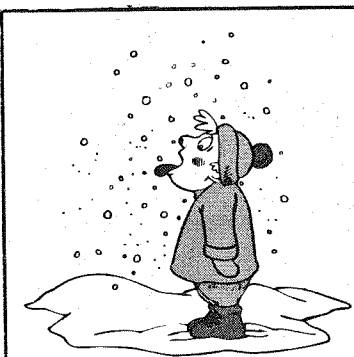
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## Graphic Arts

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News

ME 72

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other, aid each other in their designs by offering advice and critiquing designs to their classmates. Also unique is the crowd that the competition attracts. The annual ME 72 competition is attended by a sizeable portion of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies, students from nearby secondary and elementary schools, friends and family of those involved, guests invited from everywhere, and others from the general public, making it the largest of any Caltech event save graduation most likely.

This year, the crowds saw machines that sprung pucks up the slope, impeded other machines with a license plate frame, and dug their metal extensions into the other machines to prevent movement. The competition was

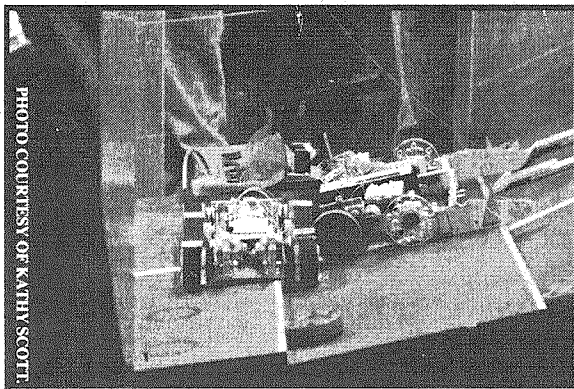


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY SCOTT.

A "dynamic" look at the machines that started this year's contest off.

run in a double-elimination format—after losing two trials, a team would be eliminated from the competition. The physical setup of the competition seemed to work well in the beginning, though later on one of the scoring tables started to malfunction, causing a halt in any movement of the machines on it. Other minor technical difficulties caused some irritation all throughout the contest, but it ran efficiently for the most part.

The highly prized ME 72 competition trophy went to a team of juniors, Alastair Kusack and Marcus Williams, whose designs managed to push pucks into the steepest and highest levels

of the slope. Williams comments that all his work and long hours in the lab definitely paid off on the day of competition. And what befalls him now? All the work he missed for the last couple weeks. Well, for someone who knew he wanted to take the class from his pre-frosh weekend, the trophy is enough consolation.

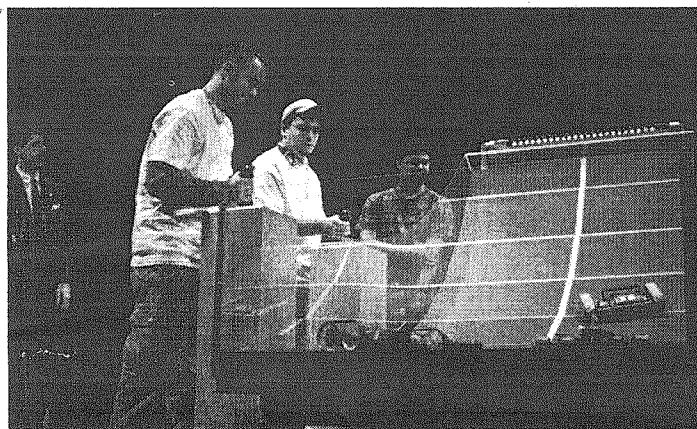


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY SCOTT.

Gabriel "G" Post and Sam Yeager compete against time and their opponents, putting their robots to the test.



by Nathan Wozny

What's new at the Y?

- **Noon concert.** David Harris will perform today outside of the Red Door Café.

- **Decompression!** This Saturday and Sunday on the second floor of Winnett starting at 7:00 pm. Lots of free food! Live entertainment! Saturday's performances are Out of Context (7-8pm) and Sexhamster (8-9pm). Sunday's performances are Ecphonema (7-8pm) and The Donkey Show (8-9pm).

- **Union Station.** Prepare and serve food for the homeless next Saturday, Dec. 15. Contact Niki ([niki@caltech.edu](mailto:niki@caltech.edu)) for more information.

- **Backpacking trip.** Bid farewell to finals with a 3-night hike in the San Gabriel Mountains. The group will leave Sunday Dec. 16 and return Wednesday Dec. 19. Further details to be determined. Contact [jedlund@caltech.edu](mailto:jedlund@caltech.edu) if you are interested. Estimated cost: \$15.

Did you know?

Decompression began in the 1970's as an opportunity for students to relax and take a much-needed break from the stress of exams. In addition to feeding hundreds of hungry students, it offers a chance to talk to old acquaintances, watch movies, and listen to music. Decompression is now a Y tradition, taking place each term from 7 pm to 10 or 11 pm on the Saturday and Sunday evening before finals week.

The Y ExComm meets every Monday at noon in the Y Lounge to plan upcoming Y events. If you are interested in what we do, please stop by! The Y is located on the first floor the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.

WARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This film raises important issues not addressed in mainstream media and presents thought-provoking criticism of US foreign policy. Whether the sources or theories that are presented are convincing is debatable. However, I would strongly urge anyone, regardless of political leaning ( or more likely at Caltech, apolitical leanings), to view the film because it forces you to think about actions the government is engaging in that you may not be aware of. In light of September 11th, it is more important than ever for the common person to be aware of US foreign policies and actions and not just accept the official credo that "they hate our way of life" or "they are evil."

The *Hidden Wars of Desert Storm* website is at <http://hiddenwars.org>.

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MICHAEL FRAYN'S *COPENHAGEN* PAYS OFF HANDSOMELY!

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## News

## BoC Bylaw Changes

## Pro

Today, undergraduates at Caltech may vote on several proposed amendments to the ASCIT Board of Control by-laws. One of the issues at hand is the proposed introduction of a post for an Avery/off-campus representative on the BoC committee. This position needs to exist, both for just representation of students not living in the undergraduate houses, and to ensure a fair upholding of the Honor Code for the entire Caltech community.

At present, each of the seven houses has one representative on the Board of Control. Two other "at large" members are appointed by the board. There is no guarantee that any of these members will be from Avery House or an off-campus housing facility though. Approximately half of all undergraduate students do not live in any of the seven houses; and many of these students are not being fairly represented in the current arrangement. There are many issues that uniquely affect these individuals which may not be heard if there isn't anyone on the Board of Control who is a member of this group. Having an Avery/off-campus BoC representative would ensure that there would always be someone who could provide information and opinions for those not living in the houses.

It is important that students have access to a BoC representative. If a student is being charged with an Honor Code violation, the only people with whom they may discuss the matter is a current or former BoC representative. As it stands now, there is no particular person to whom Avery and off-campus residents should speak; there needs to be a BoC position created to fill that role.

Part of a house BoC representative's job is to convey information to the members of their house. Although this may at times be done via e-mail, it is often accomplished through dinner announcements and house meetings. Students no longer living in one of the seven houses frequently miss this information. Part of the role of an Avery/off-campus BoC representative would be to keep these students informed on Board of Control issues through e-mail.

Creating a BoC representative to represent students not living in the houses is an important change that should occur. However, whether you, the reader, agree with this opinion or not, be sure to vote in today's election. Voting can be done online at <http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/>. Remember, every vote counts!

-- Jim Pugh, Avery House  
Mona Sheikh, Del Mar Apartments

## Con

The main purpose of the proposed bylaw amendments is to increase the number of students who feel that their views are represented on the Board of Control by including an additional off-campus/Avery representative. However, in their current form the amendments merely compound an existing problem.

The BoC includes seven elected members (one from each student house) and two appointed at-large members. Contrary to popular belief, BoC reps do not represent a house or any specific group of people. They are elected to uphold the Honor Code and to render decisions without bias. The houses merely serve as a convenient vehicle through which elections can be held. A problem arises when a student who is not active in his or her house (yet who may still be an excellent candidate) wishes to be a BoC rep. The at-large positions were established to help remedy this situation, but the solution is insufficient at best. The at-large reps are not elected by the student body and thus do not actually increase the level of representation felt by students.

Rather than deal with this problem, the proposed bylaw amendments merely create an eighth group of students (off-camps/Avery) whose views are somehow 'represented' by the BoC, when in fact the goal of the BoC should be to represent the entire undergraduate population as a whole. A more effective solution would allow for the at-large reps to be elected by the entire student body (rather than be appointed by the BoC). Adding an elected off-campus rep will also not contribute to the diversity of viewpoints on the BoC given that two or three members of the BoC usually live off-campus already.

-- Todd Schumann

## The Outside World

by William Fong

## U.S. Soldiers Killed By Friendly Fire:

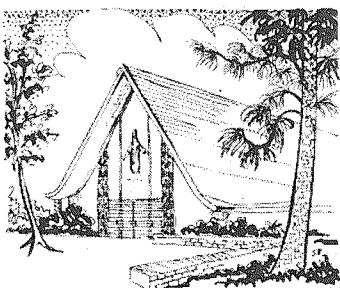
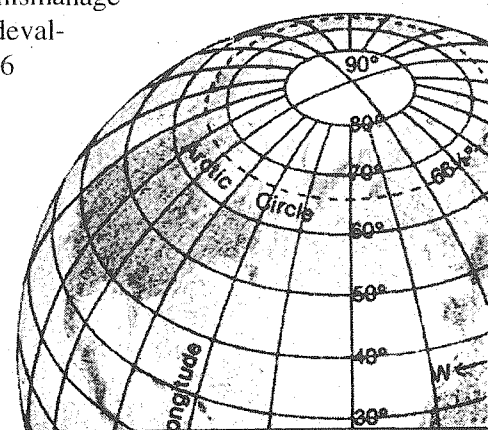
On Wednesday, a satellite-guided U.S. bomb missed its intended target near Kandahar, Afghanistan killing three U.S. Special Forces soldiers and five Afghan opposition fighters who were allies with U.S. Special Forces. Many others were wounded by the explosion including 20 U.S. soldiers. The bomb was intended to attack the entrenched Taliban fighters in the area but, due to an unknown cause, the bomb went astray. Meanwhile, the four major Afghan factions signed a power deal in Germany that named Pashtun tribal leader Hamid Karazi as the interim administrator for the new government. This agreement paves the way for the formation of a 29-member interim cabinet headed by Karazi. The transfer of power from the Northern Alliance to this cabinet is scheduled for December 22. On Thursday, reports from sources suggest that anti-Taliban forces have control of the airport in Kandahar and that the Taliban are expected to surrender Kandahar to the Northern Alliance on Friday. Elsewhere, intense fighting has broken out in eastern Afghanistan at the base of the Tora Bora mountains between opposition fighters and the al-Qaeda. Osama bin Laden may possibly be situated in this area due to its extensive number of caves and tunnels and high-tech defense system.

## Terrorist Attacks on Jerusalem:

Over the weekend, three suicide bombers killed 25 Israelis in Jerusalem and Haifa. In response, Israel retaliated with military strikes in the West Bank and Gaza. President Yasser Arafat's helicopter was destroyed along with many other Palestinian targets. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that Arafat must begin cracking down on Palestinian terrorist groups by arresting 36 people suspected of being responsible for Israeli deaths. However, Arafat has yet to respond to this request. President Bush said that Arafat must find these terrorists that are trying to disrupt the peace process.

## Enron Goes Bankrupt:

On Sunday, Enron filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy making it the largest company in history to file for bankruptcy. With assets valued at around \$62.8 billion, Enron easily surpassed Texaco who had \$35.9 billion in assets (\$56.4 billion adjusted for inflation) when it filed for bankruptcy in 1987. Once a leader in the energy industry, Enron was hit particularly hard with accounting inconsistencies and financial mismanagement that resulted in its stock being devalued from \$90 in August 2000 to \$0.26 last Friday. Enron's neighbor, Dynege, had plans of buying Enron for \$9 billion but after S&P reduced Enron's credit rating to junk bond status and Enron rolled up \$690 million in unexplained debt in one week, Dynege pulled out of the merger. Enron was once ranked seventh among the Fortune 500.



The end is near.

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"survival pack"  
from Knox.

*Knox Presbyterian Church offers a peaceful hour of worship and reflection. Immediately following the service we enjoy Fellowship (coffee, tea and thee!) on the patio. If you like to sing, our Choir welcomes all singers and has soloist spots available. We look forward to seeing you!*

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship 11:00 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsals 11:15 a.m.  
(Every other week after worship.)

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Knox Presbyterian Church  
225 South Hill Ave.\*  
Pasadena, California 91106-3402  
Phone 626.449.2144  
E-Mail [connect@knoxpasadena.org](mailto:connect@knoxpasadena.org)  
[www.knoxpasadena.org](http://www.knoxpasadena.org)  
Jane Newstead, Minister



\*Northwest corner of Del Mar & Hill. We're within walking distance :-)

## News

## ARC ANNOUNCEMENT

## Student/Faculty Conference Preparations

Preparations for the Student/Faculty Conference are well underway. On Monday afternoon, Martha-Helene Stapleton and Nicholas Knouf presented the latest update to the Faculty Board. The committees have been finalized and are: Academics — Core Curriculum; Honor Code; Quality of Life Outside the Classroom; and Quality of Life — Women in Science. You can find much more information about these committees at the Student/Faculty Conference website at <http://sfc.caltech.edu>. There you can find the presentation made to the Faculty Board, the questions that each committee is expected to discuss, and discussions regarding the committees.

We are now looking for faculty and students who are interested in serving on these committees. If you are a student who is interested, please send an e-mail to [sfc@sfc.caltech.edu](mailto:sfc@sfc.caltech.edu), with the following:

Your name, year, option, Committee you are interested in, and why you are interested in the committee.

If you are a faculty member who is interested in serving on one of these committees, please e-mail [sfc@sfc.caltech.edu](mailto:sfc@sfc.caltech.edu).

Be sure to have read the general questions that each committee will discuss at <http://sfc.caltech.edu>.

Nicholas Knouf Director of Academic Affairs, ASCIT

## EXCOMM Announcement

The Executive Committee recently held interviews to select the new ASCIT Vice President (ex officio Board of Control Chair) and I am pleased to announce Katharina Kohler as the new Vice President. The Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in the position. To see our ruling in this case please visit our committee's website at <http://donut.caltech.edu/~excomm>. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to the Executive Committee Chair at [al@its.caltech.edu](mailto:al@its.caltech.edu).

Al Valdivia  
Executive Committee Chair

## THE COPENHAGEN INTERPRETATION Exploring Science on Stage

Monday, December 10, 2001 • 8 p.m.  
Caltech's Beckman Auditorium

Why did Nazi Germany fail to build an atom bomb? This roundtable discussion will explore a pivotal, yet ambiguous, 1941 meeting between the founders of quantum mechanics, Werner Heisenberg and his mentor Niels Bohr. The panel will consider the broader scientific, historical, philosophical, and artistic dimensions of this encounter and its dramatization in Michael Frayn's play *COPENHAGEN*, currently showing in L.A.

A panel discussion of the play *COPENHAGEN*, followed by a question-and-answer session.

### Moderator

**Steven Koonin**

Provost and Professor of Theoretical Physics, Caltech

### Panel

**Diana Barkan Buchwald**

Associate Professor of the History of Science, and editor and director of the Einstein Papers Project at Caltech

**Hank Stratton (Werner Heisenberg)**  
*COPENHAGEN* cast member

**Robert Christy**

Institute Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, Caltech

**Marge Leighton**

Close friend of the Bohr family

**Jay Labinger**

Administrator of the Beckman Institute, Caltech and an expert on the historical, cultural, social and literary aspects of science

FREE, no tickets required.

Call 1 (888) 2CALTECH or (626) 395-4652 for information.

Tickets are now on sale through Ticketmaster for the play *COPENHAGEN*, which runs through January 6, 2002 at the Wilshire Theatre.

## ARC MINUTES

Minutes of the ARC Meeting November 28, 2001

Present: Nick Knouf (Chairman), Jonathan Lee (Dabney), Veasna Sok (Ruddock), Clinton Conley (Lloyd), Larry Stewart (Rep-at-Large), Justin Ho (Rep-at-Large)

### General Meeting

CS1 Info. Nick presented some enrollment statistics from Gloria Brewster in the Registrar's Office comparing the number of students who dropped CS1 this year vs. the number of students dropping in the previous years. 98 students have dropped this year, as compared to 50 last year, and 31 two years ago. Accordingly, the remaining number of students enrolled, 103, is much lower than normal. Hopefully, these statistics will be used to convince faculty that an alternative CS class with an emphasis on programming should be developed.

Library Committee. The Library Committee will make the recommendation to construct a new central library if the Provost decides to move the collection out of Millikan and use the building as administrative space.

Student-Faculty Conference. Nick has developed a website specifically for the committees that will be presenting at the Student-Faculty Conference. Each of the committees will be meeting extensively before the date of the conference, and will be required to place updates on the website.

The topics that will be addressed will be divided between the Undergraduate Quality of Life Committee, the Honor Code Committee, an Academic Policies Committee, and another committee as yet to be determined.

### Faculty/Staff recommendations.

A brainstorming for suggestions to faculty about academics: restructure problem set due dates, especially within the Core, so that multiple homework assignments are not due on the same day coordinate class times more effectively to minimize overlap re-evaluate the number of units required for graduation and for each major; in comparison to other universities on a trimester system, taking even four classes is excessive, yet it appears to barely meet the minimum number of units required per term here; reduce repetition of material between classes, especially within the Core math classes persuade each of the departments to publish course evaluations together, similar to the "Teaching Quality Feedback Report" that the Geology and Planetary Sciences Department sends to students. The GPS department has published these evaluations based on student comments from questionnaires that are more descriptive than those used typically. These feedback evaluation books could serve as a supplement to faculty advising and option books. allow professors outside the math

departments to teach Ma 1 and Ma 2. Presently a problem is finding professors in the Math Department who are enthusiastic about teaching these core classes, which are not related to the research that math professors do anyway. Also, many students are not especially happy about the quality of lectures. A possible solution is to allow members of the E&AS department, or outside the Math Department in general, to teach these classes. hiring lecturers, possibly visiting faculty, for the sole purpose of teaching classes and not to perform research, in hopes of increasing the quality of teaching.

In addition, the advising system as a whole is not very satisfactory. This appears to be a problem at universities around the country and not solely at Caltech. With more effort into the undergraduate option books, students can be less reliant on bad advisers and make better class-selecting decisions. As preparation for the Student-Faculty Conference will be substantial, however, work on the option books in this administration will be secondary.

Faculty member possibilities. In the last few minutes of the meeting, the representatives named faculty members who may be interested in serving on a committee for the Student-Faculty Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin Ho

AmCyte, Inc. is focused on the transplantation of microencapsulated insulin-secreting cells (islets of Langerhans) with the objective of alleviating diabetics of their need for supplemental insulin. This proprietary technique of protecting the islets within a membrane or microcapsule has allowed the Company to develop a procedure whereby diabetics may be cured of their need of supplemental insulin by a simple injection of the encapsulated cells into the abdominal cavity without the need for lifelong immunosuppression. This product (BetaRx™) is expected to be the first widely available, effective, long-term therapy for diabetics.

We are currently seeking the following candidates:

### Senior Director / Director

AmCyte, Inc., a leader in cell / tissue transplantation, is seeking a highly qualified individual to direct the Molecular Cell Biology Group. As a key member of leading scientists focused on proliferated islet cells, the candidate will be responsible for advancing our research in cell proliferation and differentiation.

### Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology or a related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.

### Senior Scientists

Conduct cell biology, molecular biology, and biochemistry research related to the growth and differentiation of pancreatic  $\beta$  cells. Contribute to the development cell therapies for the control of diabetes and its complications.

### Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in cell biology, or related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.
- Biotechnology or biopharmaceutical company experience and/or tissue engineering experience highly desirable.

### Research Associates

Research Associate will be involved in cell and tissue culture, immunocytochemistry, DNA cloning, and RTPCR.

### Qualifications:

BABS degree in Life Sciences. 2 years experience desirable.

AmCyte is privately held and well financed. The company operates in a modern, spacious and well-equipped facility located in Santa Monica, California. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package. Interested candidates should contact us via email at [hrcode123@AmCyte.com](mailto:hrcode123@AmCyte.com) or by fax at (310) 453-6178.

## News

A.S.C.I.T.  
Minutes

DECEMBER 3, 2001

Present: BoD- Marcus;  
Guests: Tech Editors Neda and Janet, Kevin Bartz Meeting called to order at 5:09 pm.

Guests Neda and Janet, the Tech editors, wanted to change the publication date of the newspaper from Friday to Monday, since its typical publication date coincides with the most inconvenient homework night. In the past few years, freshmen/sophomores have served as editors, and completing the paper on Thursday nights have not been conducive to finishing homework for the Core classes as well. The Tech is also hoping to procure a new computer and printer, but lack the financial resources. ASCIT earmarks \$5100 to the Tech, but this money goes to Patty for accounting and bookkeeping duties. The BoD suggests that the editors apply for money for purchasing new equipment at the next BoD's Budget meeting.

## General Meeting

UROH updates soon, hopefully. Joe Jewell distributed fliers about the UROH to faculty. Responses concerning undergraduate openings in research positions will, hopefully, be appearing online at donut shortly.

Faculty-Board Meeting and Student-Faculty Conference related matters. At the Faculty-Board Meeting, Martha-Helene and Nick finalized the date of the Student-Faculty conference, now scheduled for Monday, April 15th. Two sessions will be held in the morning, followed by lunch, and two more sessions in the af-

ternoon. At the meeting, Martha-Helene presented the historical context for the Student-Faculty Conference and its purpose of curbing student discontentment. Students are worried about administrative decisions that have been made without student consent. Also, while a recent article in Ms. Magazine criticizing the social atmosphere was inaccurate, there are certainly aspects of the social life that could be improved and faculty may have a direct or indirect role in doing so.

The Proposed Committees. The Student-Faculty Conference will address topics headed under four Committees: (1) an Academics Committee tackling the Core curriculum specifically and detailing the subject matters that should be covered by the end of the Core sequence. There are also some classes, in which the general sentiment is to weed out students rather than to inspire them, that deserve some recourse. This committee will also aim to determine how the curriculum serves students who decide later in their undergraduate careers not to pursue science. (2) an Honor Code Committee that will assess the effectiveness of the Honor Code and address the growing distrust among the departments over student dishonesty. Recent allegations have caused members of the faculty to give in-class tests. Ways of maintaining the Honor Code will be proposed, in addition and the committee will review the procedures of the BoC and the Graduate Review Board. (3) a Quality of Life Outside the Classroom Committee to seek ways of improving the housing system and the social aspects of Caltech. (4) a Quality of Life -Women in Science Committee to address gender-specific issues that affect the undergrads in a setting

with an unbalanced male:female ratio. One of the reasons that has prompted the formation of this committee is the recent publication of the Ms. Magazine article, written by a former graduate student, which paints a very negative picture of the social environment for females. While there has been much criticism of the article from undergraduates for being exaggerated, there may be related issues that can be addressed in an open forum. There is also concern that while the campus population is small, some females feel uncomfortable attending research symposiums and colloquia where the gender ratio is also highly skewed.

Each of the committees will hold meetings up to the date of the Conference, and the committee minutes will be readily available on a website that Nick has developed. The website will also encourage online posts and discussion from the campus community at large. The committees will be headed by student and faculty co-chairs, in addition to members of the faculty (4), undergrads (4), and other administration or graduate students (5). The conference is meant to serve as a springboard for more discussion between students and faculty.

Letter to Dr. Baltimore. Joe Fassler, AyeH, and Martha-Helene co-authored a letter to Baltimore containing general concerns that undergraduates are being kept in the dark about important issues affecting them and calling for more attention to undergraduate student voice. A tuition hike is one of the subjects of student discontent. A decision about the tuition increase is imminent and while no formal number has been publicized yet, it will be significantly less than the \$5000 which has been rumored.

BoC Resolution. Joe Fassler

also scripted a new resolution calling for staggered elections for representatives to the BoC. In order to prevent the possibility of having an entirely new board that isn't familiar with the BoC proceedings, the new resolution calls for spreading BoC elections over the course of three terms to maintain some consistency. Blacker, Dabney, and Lloyd will hold elections third term. Page and Ruddock will hold elections during second term, while Fleming, Ricketts, and Avery (should the new BoC By-law pass) will hold elections during first term. In a second related resolution, Joe proposed establishing orientations for new representatives elected, which are currently performed but lack formality. The two resolutions pass unanimously 7-0.

Movies Chairman. Sarah, the Movies Chairman, will be away for the month of January for a field trip in Geology. Accordingly, she will be temporarily unavailable as Movies Chairman. The BoD decided that as long as the DVD library is up and running before her departure, and that there is a student who will be maintaining the library in her absence (i.e. to bang on the doors of delinquent DVD returners), there is no need for her to resign.

Master of the Student Houses. The Task Force on Undergraduates that traveled to different universities last year came to the finding that more faculty presence in non-disciplinary roles and in proximity to undergraduate residential settings does not have negative effects, in general. Accordingly, the presence of the MOSH can't hurt. Dr. Frautschi's term as the MOSH will soon be drawing to a close and the search for a new one will begin, with the possibility of an expanded role. The BoD is open to sugges-

tions for how undergraduates envision the role of the MOSH. At the meeting, the BoD brainstormed a few features of the MOSH's duties that would be amenable: 1) keeping the dessert nights 2) increasing the amount of the contact between the MOSH and the Faculty-Board so that he/she could serve as an advocate for undergrads, or as an adviser for student leadership groups. 3) coordinating networking events between undergraduates and industry and alumni. 4) increasing his/her visibility among undergrads by residing in Steele House. 5) holding more dinners with the undergraduate houses. 6) serving as a financial resource and helping to subsidize formal undergraduate events. These options are a work in progress, and the BoD invites undergraduates to make more suggestions of how the MOSH should be integrated into undergraduate life.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Joe Fassler resigned as BoC Chair and ASCIT Vice-President since he will be crossing the Atlantic to be a Cambridge Scholar, eat scones, and be English. In his letter, he adds that he ran for the position initially to be the Chairman of the BoC, and not to be VP, finding also that the meetings were a bit of a nuisance in the beginning. However, as is evident in his efforts to open dialogue between students and administration, Joe has greatly advanced his position beyond serving as the BoC Chair to become a respected advocate for undergraduates. The BoD expresses its gratitude to Joe for serving the undergraduate community and providing much-needed entertainment at the meetings, and wishes him the best of luck in his term overseas.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Evidently,  
Justin

## Ricketts frosh speaks out on firepot issue

I am confused about the recent decision of the administration to ban the use of the firepot in the Ricketts courtyard. It seems to be an arbitrary decision with little justification, a flagrant violation of the previously agreed-upon policy as presented to me just weeks ago. When I became a Scurve, I was told that the policy on the firepot allowed us to have fires as long as we obeyed the law and did nothing to endanger our safety.

So why have they taken it away?

I have been in our courtyard during the vast majority of fires this term. I can

personally guarantee that nothing that violates the fire code (available at [http://ordlink.com/codes/pasadena/\\_DATA/TITLE14/Chapter\\_14\\_28\\_FIRE\\_PREVENTION\\_CODE/index.html](http://ordlink.com/codes/pasadena/_DATA/TITLE14/Chapter_14_28_FIRE_PREVENTION_CODE/index.html)) has been done during ANY of these events. I also have seen no evidence of unsafe activity related to the fire. Indeed, the only activities I have seen promoted by fires in the pot are conversation, relaxation, and house bonding - none of which could possibly be considered dangerous.

I've learned that tradition is an important part of life as a Caltech student, from the

Fleming Cannon to the Ride of the Valkyries. The firepot is the tradition that defines Ricketts, the symbol of the house I've already come to think of as a home. I've been here only a few months; nonetheless, the thought of losing this most central emblem is devastating. I hope the administration realizes how important the pot is to the Scurves, and that the pain caused by its destruction would far outweigh the benefits.

--David Griswold  
griswold@caltech.edu

## Correction to last week's Tech

It was incorrectly stated in last week's *Tech* that tuition was to be raised by \$5,000 next term. The tuition increase being considered by Caltech administration is for the 2002-03 academic year, and will not be as large as \$5,000. Sources report that top administration officials met last Friday regarding tuition, where they considered suggestions made by the Faculty-Student committee on scholarships and financial aid. The proposal from that committee was comparable with the modest tuition increase that occurred this past year, and it is not expected that the administration will deviate far from that recommendation. The *Tech* apologizes for any anxiety the article may have caused.

## Opinions

### The Very BIG Stupid

"The Very Big Stupid is a thing which breeds by eating The Future. Have you seen it? It sometimes disguises itself as a good-looking quarterly bottom line, derived by closing the R&D department." —Frank Zappa

If you've been reading the Tech for the past few weeks, you've probably noticed a trend. Recently, the administration seems determined to get rid of the few things that make Caltech unique and tolerable. Parking spaces, health insurance, and little things like course catalogs have all been targeted. In a few weeks, the Task Force on Undergraduate Residence Life will present its proposal for changes to the House system, and some of these will certainly be changes for the worse.

One of the frequent justifications given for these recent changes is that many other universities do things a different way. Other schools don't let freshmen park on campus, so we

don't need to. Other schools don't provide health insurance to their undergrads, so we don't need to. They have a high tuition, so we should raise ours too, even though we just received the largest donation in history.

While the administration is busy getting rid of benefits that other schools don't have, they seem to be forgetting a few of the bad parts that are unique to Caltech. At other schools, more than 30% of the students are women. At other schools, students don't consider taking "only" five classes to be a light courseload. Life at Tech is so terrible that crippling depression is a perfectly appropriate name for a comic strip, not a reason to see a psychiatrist.

If the current trends continue, I predict a pretty bleak future. All of the positive things that differentiate Caltech from the alternatives will be gone, but the

tons of work and frustration will still be here. Why, then, would anybody want to come here? I don't know about anyone else, but I'll be telling the brutal truth to all of the prefrish this year. Donations from alumni is sure to take a huge hit too. If Tech didn't give anything to you (besides emotional scars), why should you give anything back to Tech?

Now, I'll admit, some of this is overreaction. The outcry over health insurance has prompted the administration to rethink its decision, and some students are now on the committee that will decide the final policy. But this sort of thing is likely to continue, and we need people to complain every time that they try to sneak something by us. So speak up, or else the efforts to make Caltech like "other schools" will make us worse than all of them.

-- Chris Elion

### Burning Issues: Taking the Student out of Student Affairs

Last week's article that cited "fireballs, flaming sawdust (and) ten-foot bonfires in the (Ricketts) house fire pot" was certainly sensational. The stock picture of the fire was quite impressive. Those forgotten activities of the past are a lot more visually dramatic than anything the pot has been used for in the past four years. Ricketts RA Jessica Edwards said the recent "10 foot" fire was only "about 2 feet high."

Indeed, the administration has said that "Ricketts has, more or less, honored the agreement" that allowed fires for the past four years. This agreement, and the Caltech Fire Policy which

allows fires in the pot, were made with the involvement of students, faculty, and staff. If a small group of administrators chooses to dissolve the agreement and change the fire policy, it would be far more sensational than any fire—whether 2 feet or 10 feet high.

The Student Affairs mission statement claims that "in collaboration with students, faculty and staff, we serve our community by responding to the issues, ideas and needs of all students."

I hope they continue to take these agreements and policies as seriously as we do.

—Rick Karnesky,  
Ricketts President

## Task Force on UG Residence Life Initiatives

In December 2000, President Baltimore charged the Task Force for Undergraduate Residence Life Initiatives to review the overall conditions of the current Houses and system of undergraduate residence life at Caltech, assess the need for infrastructural renovations and systemic changes in the Houses, and formulate recommendations based on the findings. The key recommendations of the task force are to:

#### I. Renovate and reconstruct the existing undergraduate houses.

The task force unanimously recommends that a major rehab and renovation of the existing undergraduate Houses should be undertaken. The extensive renovation and restoration of the south Houses and the tear down and reconstruction of a set of 4 north Houses constitutes a reasonable, ambitious plan that would meet both student needs and institutional imperatives. The task force recommends the construction of a "swing house" featuring apartment style units to house displaced undergraduates during construction. The new residence could serve Caltech graduate students

and visitors in the long run, as well as provide some additional apartment options for undergraduates.

#### II. Create a mixture of singles, doubles, and some suites in the south and north Houses.

The task force recommends that attention be paid to the mix of residential styles and new social common spaces to meet student preferences. The task force emphasizes that any suite style options should not be isolating and could be modifications of alley layouts. The Institute should also explore the creation of a women's residence off campus and/or a women's suite or alley on campus.

#### III. Act on immediate physical infrastructure needs.

The plan to renovate and reconstruct the student Houses is necessarily a long-term Project. The Task force recommends that the Institute explore the short-term physical and fire/life/safety upgrades in the Houses that need to be pursued in the immediate future. The task force further agrees that activities that destroy Caltech property are unacceptable, and individual students and Houses must be held

accountable for such damage. Enforcement of this policy should not wait until expensive renovation or new construction is undertaken.

#### IV. Reconsider Rotation

The task force unanimously recommends that Rotation be seriously reconsidered, and agrees that there is sufficient evidence to call for relatively swift, substantial changes to the existing system. The task force supports alternatives to the current rotation process that still ensure the distinctiveness of House personalities. One option is to assign students to Houses prior to their arrival on campus, with Rotation being replaced with an Orientation week. The Orientation week would include introductions to all the Houses as well as welcoming activities in each House.

#### V. Increase interaction across houses and lower inter-house barriers.

The task force unanimously recommends that the Institute and Houses should work to lower social, communication, and membership barriers between Houses and to increase the opportunities for greater inter-House interaction, without weak-

ening the sense of community in individual houses. Students should be comfortable visiting Houses in which they are not members, whether for dinner or other House activities. The task force recommends the creation of new common spaces that would facilitate interaction among students of different Houses, such as a new dining patio area connecting the north and south Houses.

#### VI. Reexamine House traditions.

The task force realizes that many House traditions provide an important source of pride and camaraderie for Caltech students and alumni. We also recognize that some House activities are troubling, that the Honor Code is not recognized by many students as addressing such concerns, and that change is needed. The task force recommends that house practices (especially initiation activities and dinner rituals) that cause considerable distress to even small numbers of students be carefully reviewed, perhaps by a group of students, administrators, and faculty. Student self-governance must be responsible and ac-

countable.

#### VII. Ensure equity in institutional treatment across different residential populations.

The task force unanimously recommends that the Institute ensure equity in institutional treatment and access to campus information and participation (including in the selection of students to Institute and Faculty committees) to all undergraduates, those living in or affiliated with the Houses and those who are not. In addition, we suggest the establishment of an easily accessible lounge in the planned Campus center or elsewhere on campus for off-campus students. This space could serve as a "House" for off-campus students as did Throop Club in previous decades.

#### VIII. Explore Instituting a Faculty in Residence Program in the North or South Houses.

The task force recommends that the Institute explore the creation of faculty apartments for the north and south Houses in order to create increased opportunities for faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

## Features

## Paseo Colorado: a closer look

BY TAMMY MA

Since it's opening on September 28 this year, Paseo Colorado—Pasadena's newest mall—has served as a trendy hangout and place to shop. With its three blocks of shops, dining establishments, and a movie theater, located between Marengo and Los Robles Avenues, Paseo Colorado has become a hub of activity in the center of Pasadena. Paseo can serve your purposes from Christmas shopping to a place to take your date for a night out on the town.

Beautifully maintained flora and several fountains in Paseo's open-air setting greet the visitor to Paseo Colorado. Evening visitors also get to experience the colorful and decorative strings of lights. A few murals on the walls feature scenes familiar to us—paintings of the Caltech campus.

Paseo Colorado is host to a variety of different stores, from the traditional Macy's and Sam Goody, Kay-Bee Toys, and Bath and Body Works to the more eclectic stores of Leather Town, Japanese Weekend Maternity, and Yankee Candle Company.

PASEO COLORADO  
PASADENA

While many visitors complain that stores border on the expensive side, this can partly be explained by the fact that there are certain specialty retail stores that are often not found in normal malls (such as Quicksilver Boardriders Club). Paseo Colorado also features Brookstone, Eddie Bauer, DSW Shoe Warehouse, Sephora, Bombay Company, Coach, and Lucky Brand Dungarees—all great places to pick up quick gifts for friends and family.

Paseo is also home to the new Pacific Theatres Paseo 14. Movie tickets are a pricey \$8.75, with no student discount. However, the price is justified if you want to enjoy the plush stadium seats with armrests that can be removed, allowing you and your date to get just a little bit closer.

And finding a good restaurant at Paseo Colorado to take your date may pose somewhat of a problem. "P.F. Chang's [China Bistro] is the only restaurant to sit down and has good enough food for a date. It has a good range of Chinese food, for reasonable prices. It also has a good

atmosphere for taking a date because it has small intimate tables, and there's outside patio seating. How-

ever, the other restaurants at Paseo don't work as well because Tokyo Wako is too expensive for college students, and Island's [Fine Burger and Drinks] is too informal. But after dinner, you and your date could share a banana split at Cold Stone," says Vi Tran. Other places to grab some quick nourishment are Rubio's Baja Grill, California Crisp, Juice It Up!, and the all-famous Starbuck's Coffee.

Parking is also a bit of a hassle. The Paseo Colorado parking structures are expensive. The first hour is free, but thereafter, prices average around a dollar per hour. Make sure you get validation! A better bet may be to park at City Hall, use the parking meters, and take the little stroll to Paseo.

No matter if you're the romantic, the busy shopper, or the stressed-out Techer looking for a break by mingling with the real world, Pasadena's Paseo Colorado is worth a try.

## Poe haunts Roxy

BY TERRY YEN

The silent anticipation of the audience was overwhelming. Eyes fixed to the stage, senses tuned to the keenest mode, they waited for any sign of her. The intense darkness was soon pleasantly interrupted as nothing but the blast of the *Star Wars* theme was heard. Resonating throughout the small and cozy Roxy theatre for what seemed like an interminable five minutes, the unexpected melody finally warped into a powerfully strange vehicle for Poe's breaking entrance onto the stage. Dressed uniquely in a frilly jean jacket, a bright green cotton-spandex top, and a black spangled mini skirt, Poe welcomed her exploding audience with a befitting "Hello, Hello."

Her performance was mind-blowing; her talent awe-inspiring. The interlacing of her full, husky, assertive voice with hypnotizing background was breathtaking, especially when added to her poignant stage allure. The longing, pain, and anger expressed in her songs became incredibly tangible as she danced, twisting her arms, her hands, her body, and her head. Her enthusiasm and passion were coupled with such power and personality as she dashed from one end of the stage to the other. At one point, as she was singing "Haunted," the title track of her latest album *Haunted*, she leapt off the stage and mingled fervently with the audience, asking random people to sing along with her. At various

other times, she also encouraged people to come up on stage and dance or sing with her. Essentially, the Roxy became a wild dancing party.

All in all, she sang eleven songs—four from *Haunted*, her famous hit "Angry Johnny," and various others from previous albums. Though a few of them ("Walk the Walk", "Beautiful Girl", "Fly Away") had trite lyrics and overworked beats, her charisma as a performer proved to be more than enough compensation. A little before her electrifying closing act, Poe explained a little about the origin and motivation of *Haunted*. Several years after her father's death in 1993, she found a box of tapes her father left behind for her, in which he recorded himself conveying diverse assertions about life. The male voice that talks periodically in *Haunted* is from these tapes.

Poe attempted to depart with an apt version of "Wild" from *Haunted* that included an extensive trance dance mix. However, this only increased the zeal of the audience, as after she left, they chanted in unison her name repeatedly for two to three minutes. It was like partaking in a tribal ritual. Poe answered the rhythmic calls of the crowd by performing two encores with her opening band, Think of England, and then leaving, this time permanently. Her performance that night at the Roxy was extremely magical and truly haunting.

## Albright speaks to Pasadena community

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Madeleine K. Albright, the first female Secretary of State and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government, appeared live at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at 8:00pm for a 40-minute talk as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. A statesman of rare diplomacy and wit, she made comments about today's global headlines, the challenges facing democracy and about her own eventful life.

Even though Albright started off by saying that she had restructured her talk to focus more on the September 11th attacks and their aftermath as she thought that this was not a time for her to be commenting on her personal life and concern, she still did throw in her witty remarks regarding her career and her experiences every now and then. For instance, she commented on having been off the job for around ten months now by saying, "Instead of managing foreign affairs, I am babysitting my grandchildren nowadays and you will be surprised to know

that they are very similar!"

On a more serious note, Albright referred to the fact that she considered herself to be very lucky to have represented the greatest country of the world. She said that America was a land that vowed for "freedom or death" and a land where everyone had opportunities regardless of race, religion, color or any other so-called aspect of discrimination. The fact that the first-ever female Secretary of State is followed by Colin Powell, the first black Secretary of State said something about the US with respect to its levels of freedom, she thought.

A country loving freedom to such levels, the US is now confronting terrorism. Albright discussed this from both a political and social standpoint. "We feel closer to one another and more conscious of our responsibilities after the attacks... The attacks have not changed life as much as people seem to think but yes they have made us more alert... We will not be intimidated."

From a political point of view, she mentioned that the US should not to repeat history in Afghanistan when it pulled out

after a decade in 1989 after being allies with the country against the Soviet Union. She said that currently she was very thrilled at the results of the bombing in Afghanistan as now one could see women and children playing.

Back on her witty track, she mentioned that there was even a boom in the demand for razor blades and cosmetics now!

Women are a big part of Albright's concern and she made it really clear that she wanted them to be taken more seriously in economic and political decisions in Afghanistan. She exclaimed, "When Afghanistan's future is decided, their women must not just clear the dishes off the table, they must be at the table."

However, she cautioned the current government that even the Northern Alliance might not be what they seem. They might turn out to be more than just fighters. She congratulated Bush's government on its political moves and confirmed that the US was also considering the



else in the world. It is, she agreed, probably the most fluid and dynamic point in foreign policy ever since the Cold War.

Once on the subject of the Cold War, she commented about US-Russia relations and said that she did not view them to be facing a new dawn as everyone else did but that she thought that Putin, the current Russian president, was being "conspicuously energetic" because Russia's infrastructure is rotting, and hence he wants Russia to be an ally of the US. She asserted that he knows clearly, though, that the US and Russia do not have the same standing on the Balkans.

Other foreign issues, like those of Kashmir and Palestine, were mentioned. Albright admitted that the US must encourage and help Pakistan and India to solve the conflict of Kashmir as it is probably the most effective way of decreasing tension in the region of South Asia. On the Israel-Palestine issue, she remarked that the root of the problem was each side's fear of the other. Israel's stubbornness to be

human standpoint of people in Afghanistan by providing food and humanitarian aid.

Albright admitted that the attacks had shaken the sense of security that every American once felt and that now everyone feels scared of what tomorrow's breaking news will be. However, she reasserted that the US needed to maintain calm and most of all its stance against terrorism by detecting and dismantling al-Qaeda not only in Afghanistan, but also everywhere



## Features



# Random Access

BY VIKRAM DENDI

Lately the amount of junk email I have been getting in my mailbox has almost tripled. After intensive detective work I realized that the culprit was just one of my many email addresses. Some how, during the times when I didn't know enough about spam and the web, I had given out my email address to some popup box that asked for it (me being the naive trusting kind at that time in my life). Now the collector of that email address seems to have sold it along with many others to a mailing list company, that has promptly been selling it to everyone who could pay about anywhere from a penny to a buck for each address. Suddenly I know very important things... stuff that I had no idea I needed to know like: How to rebuild my horrible credit history.. and where to find cheap herbal viagra, etc, etc.

I can't get rid of this email address once and for all since its the only way some of my long lost friends can contact me, but after I set some filters in my email client this unwanted barrage of information stopped.

People who have read my columns before (here and online) and have emailed me asking me if there were effective ways to

counter Spam (as junkmail is often called, see inset as to why it is called thus). I will outline in this column one way of doing this, and suggest a few al-

**SPAM: Unsolicited Commercial Email.** Monty Python gets the credit for popularizing the slang term spam for UCE. One of the Monty Python skits has the Vikings singing "SPAM, SPAM, SPAM..." in an increasing crescendo drowning out other conversation. Similarity in how it drowns out internet discourse made UCE spam.

ternatives too.

The way I counter spam these days is pretty simple and very effective. I own a few domain names. When I registered my domain names I enabled an option on them where I got a 'catchall' email address. For example, say my domain name is foo.com. A catchall email address would catch every email that came with the email address looking like "something@foo.com" and forward it to my real email address. This func-

tionality is available from your domain registrar, and if it isn't is quite easy to setup at your DNS service provider. There are free DNS service providers like

[www.mydns.com](http://www.mydns.com) which enable this functionality.

Every time I now give out my email address on the internet (especially at webstores and mailing lists) I make up an email address specific to that site. For example when I create a profile at amazon.com I enter my email

address as [amazon@foo.com](mailto:amazon@foo.com) (where foo.com is my domain). Suppose I get an email to that address from a party not related to amazon.com, I will certainly know that amazon.com sold my email address (or a hacker stole it from amazon.com). Armed with this knowledge I would approach amazon.com, and quite often they comply by taking me off the list, initiating legal proceedings against perpetrators, etc. This is an extremely effective way of keeping track of how

your email addresses are used.

While researching this article, I happened upon a few guys who had realized how powerful this tool could be. So for those of us who might not have a chance to get our own domain name, a few intrepid volunteers got together to start a service that does exactly this. Its free and quite useful. Of course, it being free, its tough to predict how long it will remain that way (or in service), but it does look like they are committed and wellmeaning providers. Oh and, here is the link: <http://sneakemail.com>. Here you can generate a new email address of the type [2fg15cl001@sneakemail.com](mailto:2fg15cl001@sneakemail.com). One of the cool things I found in this service is that when an email comes to you through the sneakemail servers, the email address and reply-to fields are modified so that you can just hit reply and not worry about giving out your real email address to the recipient. Head out and give it a shot.

There are other resources online. Here are a few:

Gaznet Anti-Spam: A list of about 40,000 spammers that can be used with Microsoft Outlook to stop spam. (Its a text file that you unzip into the Outlook data

directory). The link: <http://www.garyjb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/spam/>.

Spamhaus Project: This database tracks known Spam Gangs, Spam Support Services, and lists providers who keep organized spamming alive by hosting stealth spamming services on their networks. The link: <http://www.spamhaus.com>.

Spamcop: A paid service (pretty cheap) that has gotten good reviews about filtering spam. Not only does it flag spam, it also helps you complain effectively. The link: <http://www.spamcop.com>.

SpamCombat: A site that has a large number of web based utilities to track spammers, etc. The link: <http://combat.uxn.com/>.

I wish you all the best for your finals and a very merry Christmas.

Your own domain name: Its not as difficult or as expensive as it seems on the outset to get a domain name. Head out to [mydomain.com](http://mydomain.com), [godaddy.com](http://godaddy.com) or [joker.com](http://joker.com) to register domain names for less than 15\$ a year. If you want DNS service as well, it might be a few dollars more.

--<http://randomaccess.geekguru.com>

## Marcus in Macedonia: Skopje Scoop

I've become fond of spending my weekends in Kosovo, which is a short 20 miles from Skopje and accessible via a free United Nations shuttle bus. It is a nice change of pace after a week of routine life in Macedonia where the electricity is always on and ethnic tensions are only occasionally expressed violently. Recently, I have been probing the situation of Kosovo's remaining Serbs.

I visited a village called Grachanica, not far from the city of Peja, where one thousand Serbian farmers live quiet farmer's lives under the protective watch of NATO tanks. Reading histories of Yugoslavia, it is easy to hate the Serbians who have shown hardly a nod to human rights as they've sniped civilians in Sarajevo, executed the men of Srebrenica, and cleansed Kosovo of its Albanians. Maybe Kosovar Albanians

can be excused for wanting to eliminate every Serb in Kosovo, but walking through a Serbian town puts a stop to such notions.

What I saw in Grachanica is not murderers with beady eyes waiting for the day when Greater Serbia returns. I saw children playing in the road before they ran up to me, the interesting foreigner, and asked in a funny way, "Hello. How are you? What is your name?" I saw a farmer walking his cattle through town, staff in hand, smiling when I asked if I could take his picture

I heard the calls of a family motioning me over to join their party. They were slaughtering a pig, and with Lou Bega's "Mambo No. 5" playing in the background and *rakia* in glasses sitting on the table, they showed me how the whole process is done.

"Where are you from?" one

man asked.

"From California" I responded, and he smiled broadly because he saw I knew some Serbian.

"Ah, California," he replied dreamily, and talked about what a big beautiful country America must be.

I couldn't understand how he could be so pleased to meet an American after our bombs created the situation where he can no longer leave his village, but maybe he was enlightened enough to see the distinction between a person and their government, or maybe he recognized that NATO's current protection is what is keeping his village alive. But he spoke without a hint of resentment.

I visited another Serbian enclave, the northern part of Mitrovica, one of the few places where Kosovar Serbs can live in an urban environment. There was a store in this city that sold anti-

American postcards with lascivious slogans and images such as the defiling of Mickey Mouse. It was windy and snowing outside and I was happy to browse through the warm store, run as a cozy operation. *Rakia* was offered freely to browsers and shoppers alike, and I had a nice chat with the lady who ran the store.

When she heard I was from America she was excited and showed me with a laugh all the different American-oriented things I could buy, such as a F\* the USA t-shirt. It was as if all the war and politics was one big joke. There was something very comfortable about being in the Serbian enclaves where the people were pleasant and acted oblivious to their precarious situation, and I grew to have great affection for these people who I disconnected from the crimes that history notes.

## ALBRIGHT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

tough and Palestine's to be strong has not worked in these past years. She said about the issue, "Each time both sides want to approach each other, they are jerked back by an explosion or an assassination."

Restating America's role in the world, she said, "From Nixon to Clinton, we have always called for peace, democracy and freedom." Towards the end of her talk, she remarked that she had traveled millions of miles and to around 120 countries all over the world and from her experience, she grouped them into three kinds. "The first are those where one works hard all day but still does not get enough to eat. The second are those where one barely scratches up enough to eat and the last are those where diet books are bestsellers! The US has a big responsibility towards the rest of the world because it is obviously in the third category and also because it has personal interests."

Comics

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE WEEK INCLUDE SCHEDULING A MEETING.

BUT SOME PEOPLE WERE USING THE CONFERENCE ROOM SO WE MILLED AROUND FOR A WHILE AND GAVE UP.

YOU COULD HAVE USED ANOTHER ROOM.

WHAT PART OF "GAVE UP" IS CONFUSING YOU?

CAROL, RESERVE THE CONFERENCE ROOM EVERY DAY FOR THE NEXT YEAR IN CASE I NEED IT.

YOU'RE TOO LATE. SOME OTHER SOCIO-PATH HAD THE SAME IDEA AND BEAT YOU TO IT.

I HATE BEING THE SLOWEST SOCIO-PATH.

I CAN TEACH YOU TO MANAGE YOUR TIME MORE EFFICIENTLY.

PUT ALL OF YOUR HIGH PRIORITIES ON ONE LIST AND YOUR LOW PRIORITIES ON ANOTHER.

THEN DO EVERYTHING ON BOTH LISTS EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU, OTHERWISE YOU'RE A FREAKIN' LOSER.

THANK YOU, BUT-I CAN ONLY ACCEPT GIFTS UNDER \$25. HOW MUCH IS THIS?

\$26

WELL, THANKS ANYWAY.

RULES ARE RULES.

YOU'RE VERY NICE FOR A SALESPERSON. BUT HOW MUCH IS THIS WORTH?

\$26. WHY?

THE GREAT THING ABOUT FREE SPEECH IS THAT I CAN CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

I'D FIRE YOU.

I MEAN OUTSIDE OF WORK.

I'D FIRE YOU FOR THAT TOO.

MAY I EXPRESS ENJOYMENT OF MY PASTRY?

SURE. IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.

I'M SO DEAD.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I HAVE TO READ THIS 280-PAGE BOOK IN THREE DAYS! THAT'S LIKE 70 PAGES A DAY! NO WAY CAN I DO THAT!

I'M DEAD. I'M DEAD. I'M TOTALLY DEAD.

ACTUALLY, IT'S 93 PAGES A DAY.

I'VE NOTICED YOU NEVER GIVE ME MATH HELP WHEN I WANT IT.

POINT THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE.

YOU NEED TO HIRE PEOPLE WHO WON'T BE A THREAT TO YOU.

THE DOGBERT RECRUITMENT AGENCY SPECIALIZES IN THE PLACEMENT OF CLUELESS PEOPLE WITH BAD HAIR.

I DON'T KNOW... THEY STILL LOOK THREATENING.

PERHAPS I CAN INTEREST YOU IN OUR CADAVER PROGRAM.

IT'S EVIL! IT CORRUPTS! IT WAS FORGED IN THE CRACKS OF DOOM!

IT MUST BE DESTROYED!

DESTROY IT! DESTROY IT! SAVE MIDDLE EARTH!

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

I WONDER IF ANYONE ELSE PLAYS "LORD OF THE RINGS"?

UM, JUDGING BY THE STARES WE'RE GETTING...

COMMANDER RIKER, PLEASE NEGOTIATE A SECURE CONNECTION TO THE INTERNET.

AYE-AYE, SIR.

MR. LAFORGE, PLEASE PLOT A COURSE FOR MY PERSONAL HARD DISK SECTOR.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

COUNSELOR TROI, PLEASE UPLOAD DATA, UTILIZING FTP PROTOCOL.

DID YOU MEAN COMMANDER DATA, SIR?

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT THIS BEING A "NEXT GENERATION" OPERATING SYSTEM.

WESLEY, EMPTY THE TRASH.

GRUMBLE.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

OH, JOY.

HOLD ON. NEITHER NET CONGESTION NOR DROPPED PACKETS NOR ROUTER FAILURE NOR INFECTED ATTACHMENTS STAYS THIS COURIER FROM THE SWIFT COMPLETION OF HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS, AND ALL I GET IS "OH, JOY"?!?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "THANK YOU"?!?

...OR DID YOU NOT WANT THESE 7,526 MESSAGES FROM THE XXX-HOT PSYCHIC MORTGAGE CORPORATION?

HEY, DADDY, WANT TO PLAY CHESS?

SURE! YOU BET!

YOU KNOW, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED BY YOUR OFFER. YOU'VE NEVER SEEMED MUCH INTERESTED IN BATTLING WITS WITH ME BEFORE.

PAIGE! GET UP HERE AND CLEAN THIS ROOM!

I GUESS I PREFER TO DO IT WITH MOM.

NOT NOW, DEAR. SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME.

I'M SO DEAD.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I HAVE TO READ THIS 280-PAGE BOOK IN THREE DAYS! THAT'S LIKE 70 PAGES A DAY! NO WAY CAN I DO THAT!

I'M DEAD. I'M DEAD. I'M TOTALLY DEAD.

ACTUALLY, IT'S 93 PAGES A DAY.

I'VE NOTICED YOU NEVER GIVE ME MATH HELP WHEN I WANT IT.

POINT THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE THREE.

OH, YEAHHH...

SO THIS IS WHERE ALL THE SHAMPOO GOES.

AAAA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SHOPPING!

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IN THE BEDROOM (R)  
[1:00] 4:00 7:00 9:55

THE ENDURANCE (G)  
[12:00] 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40

BUSINESS OF STRANGERS (R)  
[12:45] 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (R)  
[1:30] 4:15 7:00 9:45

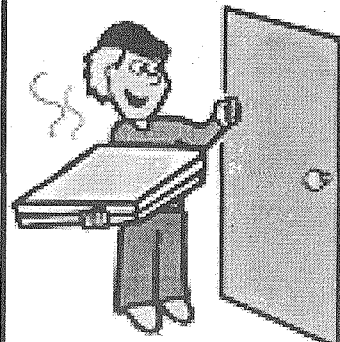
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NOVOCAINE (R)  
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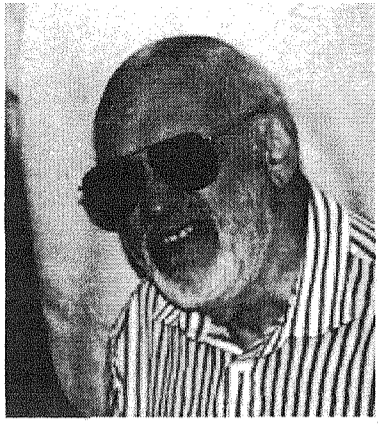
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## Dean's

## Dean's Corner

## And a happy new year

by Jean-Paul Revel



Our lives are bound with traditions, which provide historical or esthetic landmarks to the passing of time. It is easy to assume that the strict observance of traditions is characteristic of cultures in which social, emotional and/or religious considerations are prime. Yet traditions play a large role even here at Caltech. One would think a priori that in a community such as ours, logic and rational behavior would guide our actions rather than the unthinking rote of tradition. Apparently the logical patterns of thought we assume as scientists and rational intellectuals do not eliminate the need to have fuzzy warm traditions. We stick to traditions not because we necessarily believe in what they stand for, but as a way to keep us connected with the past and with others in our community and beyond.

Many of the traditional things are learned from our families when we are small. Later, new customs are formed in cooperation with, or are adopted from, people in our ever widening circles of acquaintances. The aggregate of the traditions we keep is important in defining what we are. Traditions can be a positive force, helping us to overcome the disturbing disruptions, the hazards that every day dishes out to us. Living by tradition is a bit like going on autopilot, relieving us momentarily from having to decide ourselves what to do, or how to think about things. In times of stress even traditional gestures which somehow have fallen into relative disuse, like flying the flag, provide comfort and reassurance. But traditions are not always to the good. There are many occasions when they can become real obstacles to progress, to safety, to rational understanding of the world.

One of the appeal of traditions is the link to others that they provide. This is true for local traditions as well as for the grand traditions, so pervasive that we think of them as universal. Never mind that the universal traditions are actually composed of a myriad of quite different separate customs. The celebrations in different parts of the world this time of the year all have elements in common, yet there are many forms specific to a particular region. I might have

been naive and insular, but, visiting the Soviet Union many years ago in midwinter, I was very surprised to discover Father Frost, a figure clearly in the same mold as St Nicklaus, Santa, Pere Noel and Babbo Natale, comfortably and prominently ensconced in what was then a most secular of societies. Although Saint Nicholas's persona is based on an early Christian Bishop in Myra in what is now Turkey, I would not be surprised (although I have not researched that point), to find that, when the Christian version of midwinter festivities was being created as an antidote to pagan celebrations, there was already in the lore of the day a jolly bearded guy meting out presents or punishment, as the case required. Actually these figures, although similar in appearance, play different roles in various societies. St Nicklaus makes his appearance on Dec 6, his feast day, inaugurating the Xmas sea-

son. Father Frost is part of New Year's celebrations. The point is that, although a continuing thread, a tradition, can be recognized, it has not remained unchanged. Practices with an obviously common origin, differentiate from each other depending on location. Also today's tradition is different from that even a few years ago.

If tradition changes with time, and adapts to new conditions or geographic location, then can it really be considered a tradition? Well, just go ask the residents of the Southern Hemisphere if celebrating Christmas in what for them is midsummer, crimps their style. The tradition is preserved even though many of the features we "Northerners" assume is characteristic of the celebration are non-existent. Snowflakes, icicles, cold etc obviously have nothing to do with the Nativity. So a tradition really is not the repetition of identical behaviors. Traditions evolve, new things, new ways come to be introduced, and to become part of the tradition. So, surprisingly, change itself is a

feature of tradition.

One might imagine that any change must be gradual, so as not to wreck the historical continuity that is part of the tradition. Yet features can be dropped or added with near impunity. Music is associated with Christmas, take the custom of caroling for example. It is a tradition that the crowded apartments in the big modern apartment houses of urban environment make it difficult to maintain-but the tradition continues in the form of Christmas concerts, of CDs and nostalgic tapes offered for sale in lengthy TV ads etc. Even the introduction of new elements does not necessarily wreck the preexisting tradition. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, came into existence in 1939 as part of an ad campaign for Montgomery Ward in Chicago, and popularized by the singer Gene Autry in 1949, but Christmas would not be the same today without him. Kwanzaa has become part of the end of the year celebrations over a very short period of time.

New customs, new ideas, to become established, need to provide something positive, to at least some of the people involved. Why else would the practices be continued and become traditional. That is just as

it is in biology, where particular traits become enshrined in the genome, because of advantages, sometimes arcane, which they confer. As long as they provide some positive value, even dangerous traditions become established. An apparently benign and esthetically rewarding practice, such as displaying trees and boughs, presents grave fire dangers even when not combined with a crackling fire in the hearth. Luckily these days, electric lights are used instead of candles in decorating the tree, but even they are not absolutely safe. Another obviously negative tradition is the custom of shooting in the air to celebrate the incoming New Year. Every year there are fatalities.

So lets enjoy the traditions but not surrender thoughtful control of our actions. To all of you the traditional greetings of the Season, and warmest wishes for all success and happiness

A bientot!

Jean-Paul Revel  
Dean of Students

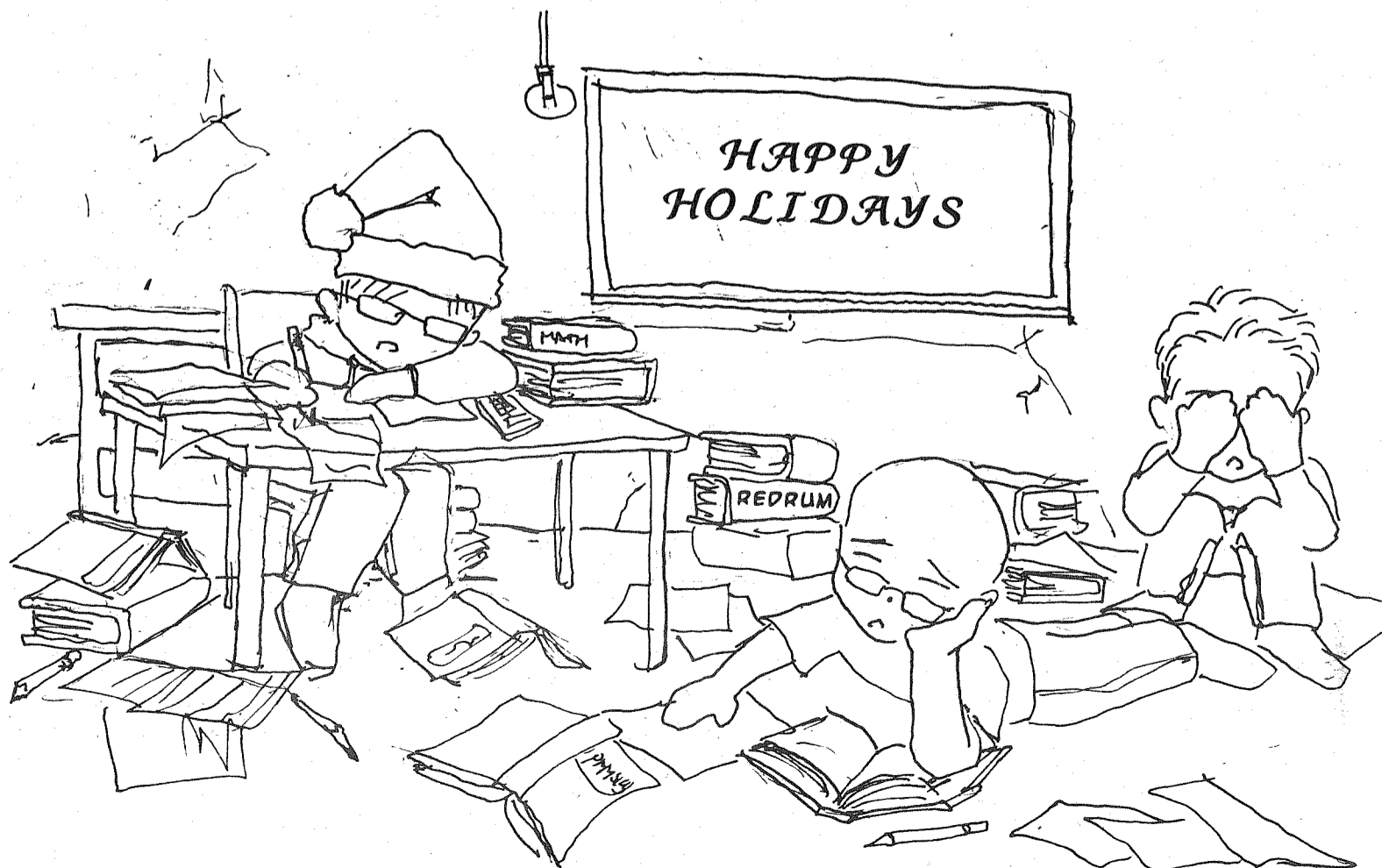
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# Mints

## Announcements

**Piano Player Wanted!** The Caltech Swing Band is looking for a piano player. Must be able to read music, and have some knowledge of chords and jazz styles. If interested, please contact Bill Bing [wbing@caltech.edu](mailto:wbing@caltech.edu)

**The Glamour Magazine's 2002 Top Ten College Women Competition** has begun. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2002. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the application.

**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 one or two 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. If interested, or for further information, contact Dr. James C. Ling, JPL 169-327, (818)354-2819, [james.c.ling@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:james.c.ling@jpl.nasa.gov).

To ensure that everyone has a safe and merry holiday the **Environment, Health and Safety Office** (EH&S Office) has put together some helpful holiday decoration tips that are useful for work and home. Find out where to get a flame-retardant tree, what kind of lights to use, and how to hang the tinsel! Go to the EH&S Office web site at <http://www.safety.caltech.edu> to get more info. Happy Holidays!

As a result of **Irvine Foundation** funding, Caltech has a limited amount of money available for diversity programs related to underrepresented minorities and women for academic year 2001-2002. Proposals from students, faculty, and staff are welcome and should clearly address how the program relates to issues of diversity. Proposals should also include a description of the event, including purpose, audience, date, location, and budget. Application forms can be picked up at the Caltech Y. An Institute committee will review the applications and make the awards. For more information, contact Athena Castro ([athena@caltech.edu](mailto:athena@caltech.edu)) or Greg Fletcher ([gregf@caltech.edu](mailto:gregf@caltech.edu)) at ext. 6163.

**Student Programming Board.** The Caltech Women's Center invites you to be part of the new and exciting changes taking place in our office. Our new staff is interested in working with you to develop programs and services that meet your needs and interests. Get involved now! Take on a leadership role in deciding how the Women's Center addresses the issues you are interested in. Be a part of designing, developing and implementing programs and events focused on women's and gender issues. Undergraduate and graduate students, women and men encouraged to get involved. Contact the Women's Center at ext. 3221 or stop by our office in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

**The Caltech Dance Troupe** will be sponsoring Beginners' Hip-Hop Dance Classes on Tuesdays, 9-10:30 pm, 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](mailto: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 1-2:00 pm, intermediate from 2-3:30 pm, advanced from 3:30-4:30 pm. For more info, see our website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~troupe>. Questions or comments? Email: [troupe@caltech.edu](mailto:troupe@caltech.edu).

**Athenaeum Tennis Ladder.** All Athenaeum members, ages 18 and older, are invited to join a new managed tennis ladder. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players call each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. The ladder includes both men and women, but matches will be formed between players within a few ladder rungs of one another. Each of year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time. For more information, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6798 or email to [athennis@caltech.edu](mailto:athennis@caltech.edu).

Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the **Intercultural Discussion and Support Group** provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of cultural adjustment and relating across cultures. The group will meet every Monday beginning October 22 from 12-1 pm in the Women's Center Lounge. (265-86, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services). This group is facilitated by the Counseling Center and International Student Programs, and is open to ALL Caltech students, graduate and undergraduate, American and international. Drop-ins welcome. Since lunch is provided, please contact Jim at [endrizzi@caltech.edu](mailto:endrizzi@caltech.edu) if you plan on attending one of the meetings, this will guarantee that we have enough food!

**The Dean of Students Office needs tutors** in all areas--help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is \$10.00 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans' tutor please stop by the Deans' Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

### 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 Greg Fletcher at [gregf@caltech.edu](mailto:gregf@caltech.edu) ext. 6163. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

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.

### 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/>.

## Scholarships

**Josephine De Karman Fellowships** - students in any discipline, entering Senior Undergraduate year and graduate students entering the terminal years of a Ph.D. Program in the fall of 2002. For information and application forms, mail request in envelope postmarked no later than December 15, 2001 to: Fellowship Committee, Attention: Judy McClain, Secretary, Josephine de Karman Fellowship Trust, P.O. Box 3389 San Dimas, CA 91773.

**The Evalée C. Schwarz Charitable Trust for Education** is a trust created to give 0% interest loans to deserving graduate and undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:

- be an American citizen, enrolled at an accredited institution.
  - be a resident of the state of the school in which you are attending.
  - clearly demonstrated excellence in academic achievement as evidenced by a strong GPA and outstanding performance on national standardized undergraduate and/or post doctoral admission tests.
  - you must otherwise qualify for financial aid in the form of government grants.
- At present, this Trust is not accepting applications from foreign students, or from students seeking to complete a law degree. It is not the policy of this Trust to accept applications for theses, dissertations, internships, residencies or affiliations. Regarding repayment, this Trust offers a 12-month "grace period" following graduation to all students. Repayments of the loans shall begin one year following graduation or with in one year of the time a student discontinues good faith pursuit of his or her scholastic career prior to graduation. The Trust determines the repayment schedule and time frame. Please contact Ed Robinson at 410-897-9600 or email: [info@evalée.org](mailto:info@evalée.org) or visit the website <http://www.evalée.org> for more information.

**2002-2003 National Academy Scholarships.** For 2002-2003, new scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power option. Please note that electrical and mechanical engineering majors without nuclear or power options are eligible disciplines. For additional information on nuclear industry career opportunities and the National Academy Educational Assistance Program, visit [www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org) "Careers & Education". Brochures and applications are available at the Financial Aid Office, 355 S. Holliston, 2nd floor. Complete application packages must be postmarked by February 1, 2002.

Introducing the **Bank of America Financial Aid Sweepstakes!** Yes, we're giving away scholarships. One of them could be yours. In case it hasn't registered, you could win one of the \$1000 scholarships to put towards your college education. In case you haven't registered, check out our Web site at [www.bankofamerica.com/studentssweeps](http://www.bankofamerica.com/studentssweeps). Bank of America. We make students and banking click.

For more information on available scholarships, please visit the Financial Aid web site at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html> All qualified students are encouraged to apply!

## Upcoming Events

**End-of-term Ballroom Dance Party** - Join us for a fun-filled ballroom, swing, and latin party! All of your favorite music for dancing, plus feel free to bring your own. There will be a beginners' Polka lesson from 9 - 9:30 pm. Plenty of refreshments. Free as always! Beginners are especially welcome. Friday December 14, Winnett Lounge, 9 pm - ??.

The **James Michelin Seminar Series** presents Stephanie Day Iverson, Design Historian and Ph.D. Candidate, The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture and her talk on "Elegant Solutions and Sybaritic Delights: Bonnie Cashin's Life in Twentieth-Century Design." On Broadway, in Hollywood, and most famously through Seventh Avenue, Bonnie Cashin (1908-2000) was foremost among twentieth-century designers. With innovative functionality and a sensuous infatuation with color and texture, she chose an uncharted and non-conformist route to fashion. Close friend and official Cashin archivist and biographer, Stephanie Day Iverson, outlines Cashin's unique understanding of clothing design as "a coming to terms with changing times, a kinetic art of sorts, a means of expression, and a kind of joy." This talk will take place at the Beckman Institute Auditorium on Monday, January 7, 2002, 4 pm. This seminar is part of an on-going series, which augments the James Michelin Distinguished Visitor's Lecture series. Both are designed to foster a creative interaction between the arts and sciences. For questions please contact Heather Guyett, [heather@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:heather@hss.caltech.edu).

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