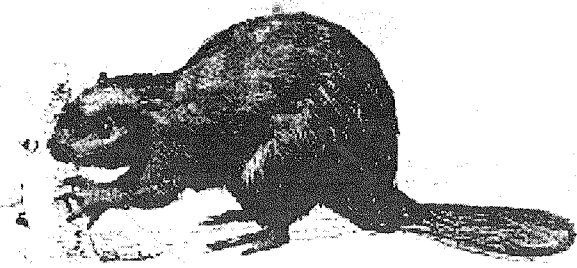


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The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 18, 2002

OUTSIDE WORLD

By William Fong

First Cloned Cat Born:

This week an announcement from Texas A&M University detailed the first clone of a cat. Named Cc, for "Copy cat", the two-month kitten is the first successful clone after 188 attempts. The goal of this research is to allow people to clone their pets according to Texas A&M University sources. With this success, the cat joins the sheep, pig, cow, and mice as animals that have been cloned. The funding for this project came from a grant by philanthropist John Sperling.

Middle East Unrest Continues:

On Saturday, Israeli forces entered a refugee camp in central Gaza with tanks and bulldozers. According to sources, the troops were conducting searches and had imposed a curfew. Earlier on Friday, F-16 fighters fired three missiles at the Palestinian National Security Headquarters. This is in response to a Palestinian bombing of an Israeli tank with an anti-armor device that killed three soldiers and injured another.

Olympic Figure Skating Controversy:

Early in the week, the Olympic figure skating pairs competition was held and the Russian pair of Berezhnaya and Sikharulidze beat out the favored Canadian pair of Sale and Pelletier for the gold medal in a 5-4 decision despite a minor mistake by the Russians. Upon investigation, the French judge, Marie-Reine Le Gougne, was found to have been "pressured to vote in a certain way". After review, a second gold medal was awarded to the Canadians and Le Gougne was suspended.

PLEASE SEE WORLD ON PAGE 2

CLARIFICATION:

The Tech would like to remind readers that all final decisions, including publication of letter to editor or choice of headline are made by the Editors. Headlines are not chosen or approved by reporters.

Thank you,

The Editors

Elections: results and protests

BY KEVIN BARTZ

Amidst results muddled in protest, record-setting turnout and an exact tie, ASCIT's Election Committee announced last Wednesday the unofficial winners of this year's Board of Directors elections, poised to open a one-year tenure under incoming President Ted Jou '03.

But three protests lingering on the table of ASCIT's Executive Committee may delay the new BoD's inauguration. In addition, a second election for Freshman Director-at-Large stands postponed until Tuesday after the first vote produced a number-for-number tie unprecedented in ASCIT history.

The most prominent of the protests involves an election-day outage in Ruddock House's Internet access. Submitted by a failed candidate for Academic and Research Committee Chairman, the protest cites unilateral Internet loss in Ruddock from 5:30 p.m. until well past the 10 p.m. online ballot submission

deadline.

"It is unjust that Ruddock did not have the option of online voting," said Abe Fetterman, the Ruddock candidate for ARC Chair who submitted the complaint.

"Most people tend to vote in the afternoon and that was just when the network went out." Pointing to disenfranchised constituents, Fetterman, the only candidate living in Ruddock House, called for a re-vote with equal online opportunity.

But even Ruddock House President Robert Kern wrote off such concerns. "Most people check their e-mail before 5:30 and would've voted online before these times," he asserted. "It

didn't affect the election in any significant way, to the best of my knowledge." Jou added that "I'm hopeful the results of this election will stand."

Among other complaints, a

potential protest raised by CRC Chair pundit Nicole Eber '03 asked whether write-in votes cast on variations of

ballot for ASCIT Secretary, although Yeager plans no immediate action. "I was extremely disappointed about this, but I'm not going to protest the election," he said.

ASCIT By-Laws give the ExComm no stated procedure for handling such protests, with no precedent for valid complaints. With regards to Fetterman's charge—by all accounts, the first valid protest in ASCIT's history—ExComm aims to make public its decision before Tuesday's FDAL election.

Meanwhile, ASCIT's new directors await steeling themselves for a one-year term at the fore of Caltech's student government. Foremost in Jou's plans are health care reform and administrative awareness. "Before the start of the next school year, I'd like to get answers from administrators on the issue of health insurance," he said. "They've made decisions and

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS ON PAGE 3

Remember:

Run off election this Tuesday for FDAL:

- * Alice Lin
- * Andrea Vasconcellos

Stars which eat their planets

BY JON FOSTER

If you're like most Caltech students you've spent at least one sleepless night worrying about what will happen when the Sun evolves into a red giant and swallows up Mercury. Although there is no comfort for those particular worries, scientists have been learning more about stars which swallow planets.

On Tuesday, Feb 5th, Garik Israelian from the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias (Institute of Astrophysics at the Canary Islands) gave a joint Planetary Science and Astronomy seminar on using Lithium 6 to test if stars had swallowed planets.

Astronomers have now discovered roughly 75 star systems with planets. This is a large enough sample to say with confidence that stars with planets are significantly more metal-rich than stars without planets. Metal-rich in an astronomical context means stars which contain more "metals" (anything

except hydrogen and helium) than the sun. Why this should be is uncertain. Perhaps a star forming from a metal-enhanced gas cloud is more likely to form planets, or perhaps stars routinely swallow their planets. In this last scenario, a metal rich planet is swallowed by the star after the star has formed. The metals stay in the top layer of the star (for a wide variety of stars the upper layers of the star do not mix with the interior), and thus the star appears metal-rich.

It appears it will be possible to distinguish between the formation and capture theories. Israelian's team observed the spectra of a star with two known gas giants (HD82943) and saw that it had a large amount of Lithium 6. This is curious because Lithium 6 is destroyed in stars at a relatively low temperature. During formation of a star, models suggest that all the material in the star is heated enough to destroy all the Lithium 6. The implication is that Lithium 6

must have been added to the star some long time after formation when all the original dust and gas would be bound up in planets. A planet must then have been captured, and its metals strewn throughout the upper layers of the star.

Israelian's work is quite new, and the audience had a lot of questions for him and problems with his results. The point was raised that adding metal to a star would significantly cloud the upper levels, preventing energy from escaping well. This process tends to cause more of the star to become more convective

(since convection is the only other process by which energy can escape). So why would the metals added by the planet not increase mixing in the star and mix the Lithium 6 deep enough to destroy it? Others questioned the time-scales Israelian assumed for the evolution of stars and planet formation.

So far, Israelian's team is "one-for-one" in discovering Lithium 6 in planet-bearing stars. More observations are needed to conclude if a general pattern emerges, and thus find out how common it is for stars to swallow their planets.

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News

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

FEBRUARY 4, 2002

Present: BoD Martha-Helene, Marcus, Katharina ; Guests: only in our heads. Meeting called to order at 4:11 pm.

General Meeting

Jamroom. Previously on ASCIT, Ted revised the resolution concerning the Jamroom to officially recognize it under the jurisdiction of ASCIT. With that said, Spencer, the current manager requested to pick up his funding for the term to make some equipment additions. Those interested in becoming members of the Jamroom, for music practices, etc. can contact Spencer Rarrick @ rarrick@its.caltech.edu.

DVD Movies Credit Card. To facilitate movie purchases for the DVD Library, the BoD will be acquiring a credit card for the Movies Chairman. The DVD Library is still in the process of being secured, as Jon Dama is setting up a new computer terminal for automatic locking purposes. Frequent the Coffeehouse for the latest updates.

ASCIT Van. Congratulations are in order to Todd and Martha-Helene for the recent selling of the ASCIT van for

\$500. Martha-Helene was charged with the responsibility of selling the van following the UDAL donut switch-over. In light of relinquishing this former ASCIT asset and keeping the Donut Man strawberry donuts faith, the BoD considers the swap a job well-done.

Auditing, etc. Ayeh negotiated with the outside accounting firm to prepare the auditing paper-work sometime during Spring Break. Accordingly, a few members of the BoD will need to remain during that week for answering questions, and checking the inventory.

Rotation Survey controversy. Jon Dama posted the results of the IHC Rotation survey due to a perceived misrepresentation in the Tech about one of the results. The IHC was not aware of the nature of the results that were being posted, and summarily requested that all results be removed from the website, fearing that personal comments would be included while there was no indication to survey-takers that comments would be made public. The BoD was worried that automatically making surveys public would set a precedent and discourage clubs or other organizations from setting polling on the donut website. The miscommunication has since been resolved, and the website includes the Rotation Survey numerical results, excluding any comments. Orga-

nizations that will have access to the comments will be restricted to those with substantial affiliation with rotation and undergraduate life, such as the Student Affairs and Res. Life offices.

Modem connections. In the near future, students will be charged \$5/month for dial-up service into Caltech, which has not been required in the past. ITS is in the process of integrating new services, but members of the community accessing Caltech remotely will not be given the new functions in the package. It has come to the attention of the BoD that students were not selected as delegates on the committee that made this decision. Consequently, more information on this matter is still lacking.

UID charging. Ted is communicating with the Bursar to continue UID charging online for the ASCIT formal. Many clubs would also prefer that UIDs be charged as a means of securing dues, but this would create a substantial amount of additional paperwork for the Bursar. Summing all the student organization charges and combining the transactions once per term for each student is a possibility that will be explored, hopefully to mutual benefit.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Evidently, Justin

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

FEBRUARY 6, 2002

Present: BoD Joe Jewell Martha-Helene's last official meeting called to order at 9:16 pm.

General Meeting

Student-Faculty Programs Office news. Fiona Barry is compiling an updated list of professors and students on the various committees, which has been obsolete at times, and organizing the minutes of each group. A frequent complaint has been the lack of communication between these groups and other organizations. Henceforth, the proceedings of these committees will be sent to the BoD for uploading to the Donut website.

MOSH committee. The committee making recommendations for changes to the role of the MOSH will be publishing the final version of its suggestions shortly. The committee recommended that the MOSH act to convey student concerns to faculty, in the way that the Vice President of Student Affairs does toward administration. The role of the MOSH should be more public in light of these powers.

Elections. On Tuesday, Ted Jou was elected ASCIT President and Vikram Mittal was elected ASCIT Vice-President/BoC Chair. As Vikram is studying in Cambridge presently and will return at the

start of third term, an interim BoC Chair will be appointed by the Ex-comm.

Farewell. Today was Martha-Helene's last official meeting, and as a send-off that was very indicative of the temporal difference between the end of the school year and the end of the BoD term, we had no yearbooks in which to write happy comments. As a substitute, we wrote each other farewell messages on a sheet of notebook paper, which was still enough to elicit more than a single emotional response. As a sign of having been more than casual acquaintances in our tenures, there weren't any neutral Have a nice summer comments, which appear so ubiquitously and superficially in high school yearbooks. On top of thanking the undergraduate populace for electing us to serve students, we also thank our supporters for giving those of us on the BoD the chance of working together.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Evidently,
Justin

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WORLD:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This incident follows from a recent trend in figure skating where judges from particular countries form voting blocks thus determining the winners before they take the ice; however, this Olympic controversy has been, by far, the most prominent and notorious case.

President Bush Goes To Asia:

President George W. Bush is preparing for his three-nation Asian trip as he plans to make stops in Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo to discuss various issues. In China, the president is expected to meet with Vice President Hu Jintao, the supposed successor to present Chinese President Jiang Zemin. Next, Bush is expected to discuss economic issues in Japan, where they have been experiencing their worst unemployment in history. Last, after naming North Korea as a part of "the axis of evil", President Bush goes to Seoul to clarify the position of the U.S. on North and South Korea. This trip was originally scheduled in October but was cancelled after the September 11 attacks.

**Upcoming Events**

- **SPEAKER** (2/20, 8-9:15p, Baxter Lecture Hall). Tim Wise - leading social critic and a leader in the anti-racism movement speaks on Racism, Terrorism and Global White Supremacy after 9/11.

- **SPECIAL GUESTS** (2/20, All Day, CIT campus). Caltech students will host a group of high school students from New York City Boys & Girls Club interested in learning about college life. Undergrad shadow/guides sought, sign-up required. Contact Greg (gregf@its).

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** (2/22, 2:30-5p, Pasadena).

Join a small group of students as they coordinate games, crafts and science demos for kids at the local Boys & Girls Club. Sign-up required. Contact Joy (joyjoy@its).

- **CELEBRATION** (2/22, 7:30-9:30p, Student Services Bldg on Holliston). Come celebrate Black History Month with the Lermon Horton Band and their jazz stylings. Performance will be in lobby.

Factoid The Y maintains various interest lists by which relevant announcements are made for activities and projects. Among them: y-outdoors, for those interested in hikes, camping, etc.. y-commerv, for those interested in community service y-interest, for those interested in any general Y events (e.g. concerts, etc). *If you are interested in being added to (or removed from) any list(s), please contact the Vice President (y-veep@ugcs).*

Y Not Join Us? There are many opportunities to help the Y continue to serve the CIT community. All meetings are OPEN to students, staff, and faculty.

- **ExComm:** every Monday, NOON

- **Community Service Cmte:** every other Thursday, NOON, Next Meet: 2/21

- **Outdoor Cmte:** every other Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Next Meet: Contact Katie (homann@its)

All meetings take place in the Y Lounge. The Y (x6163) is located on the first floor of the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.

If you are, in any way, interested in getting more involved with the Y or have questions about the Y, feel free to e-mail the Vice President

(y-veep@ugcs).

Features

Body image: how do you measure up?

How do you feel about your body? Are you satisfied with it? If your answer is "no," there are many others who feel the same way. Body image is the term used to describe your complex relationship to your own body—your perception of it, your thoughts about it, and how you feel living in it. Your body image begins to develop at an early age and is influenced by a number of people and factors, including your parents and other caregivers, peers, the media, and life experiences.

Body image has been typically viewed as an issue that impacts women more than men. Recent research suggests that men are affected in greater numbers than previously believed. Many researchers point out that men are increasingly evaluated on their appearance and subjected to media images of the male ideal. For example, department store male mannequins have changed from the industry standard of size 38 regular to 42 long. While it has often been noted that American little girls are exposed to the unattainable physical proportions of Barbie, American little boys have their own unrealistic figure to contend with. Over the past 20 years, GI Joe has transformed from a fairly normal, average soldier's body to a muscular extreme more akin to Arnold Schwarzenegger, unattainable for most men.

These arbitrary, changeable,

and culturally based standards of attractiveness alone do not create problems with body image. Many other factors can contribute: low self-esteem, perfectionism, adherence to cultural beliefs about thinness and attractiveness, and participating in activities or communities that emphasize weight and appearance, such as body conscious sports like gymnastics or wrestling. When does body image become problematic? Negative body image is characterized by unpleasant feelings such as shame, anxiety, and self-consciousness about one's body. There is a primary importance placed on physical characteristics, and often there are significant attempts to change one's body through exercise, dieting, supplements, or cosmetic surgery. People with negative body image often have a distorted perception of their own size and shape. For both women and men, this may mean perceiving one's body as larger and flabbier than it is in reality. Some men also experience the opposite distortion; they perceive their bodies as smaller than they really are. While almost everyone experiences some of these symptoms at one time or another, when they are ongoing, intense, or when they interfere with your daily functioning (taking needed time away from doing academic work, for example), then they may be part of a body image dis-

turbance and you may need to seek help from a professional in order to reduce the impact of negative body image on your life. Left untreated, negative body image can increase your risk of developing an eating disorder, depression, anxiety, social isolation, and other problems.

Even if you struggle with negative body image, positive body image can be achieved. Positive body image is characterized by a sense of confidence and comfort in one's body. People with positive body image are accepting of their bodies and have an accurate perception of their shape, weight, and features. They do not over-emphasize physical appearance and weight, knowing that their true value as a person lies within the body. If you want to increase your positive body image, here are some suggestions:

- * View yourself as a whole person without focusing on specific parts.

- * Appreciate all that your body does for you; for example, your thighs allow you to dance.

- * Remember that thinness and other physical characteristics do not equal happiness.

- * Remember that beautiful bodies come in all shapes, sizes, and colors.

- * Be critical of negative media images and messages that promote unrealistic standards of attractiveness.

- * Check out websites that pro-

mote healthy body image; see the Counseling Center web page for a few good links.

- * Find and read books on positive body image; the Counseling Center and the Women's Center both contain these books in their libraries.

- * Attend a program for women and men designed to increase your body esteem on Monday, February 25, from 12:00-1:00 pm at Avery Library. For more information about "BodyLove: An Interactive Workshop to Explore Body Image Issues," contact the Women's Center at x3221 or the Counseling Center at x8331.

- * Celebrate Eating Disorders Awareness Week from February 24-March 3. Go to www.edap.org and read the list of things to do during this week. You can also visit the Women's Center web site to see what other programs are happening this week.

If you are or someone you know is struggling with negative body image or related problems, such as disordered eating or over-exercising, consider coming to the Counseling Center to talk with one of us. We are happy to provide you with consultation.

by Deborah Southerland, Ph.D., Student Counseling Center

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST DAVIDSON DIES

PRESS RELEASE

Norman Davidson, whose groundbreaking work in molecular biology at the California Institute of Technology led to a better understanding of the genetic blueprint of life, died at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena on Thursday, February 14, after a brief illness. He was 85.

Davidson was the Norman Chandler Professor of Chemical Biology, Emeritus, at Caltech, where he had been a faculty member since 1946. He took emeritus status in 1986, but served as executive officer for biology from 1989 to 1997 and remained active in research until his death.

"It was with the deepest personal regret that I heard of the death of Norman Davidson," said Caltech president David Baltimore. "Norman was a friend long before the prospect of my being president of Caltech arose, and he symbolized for me the essence of the Institute.

"His movement into biology from a background in chemistry allowed him to play a special role in the development of molecular biology. He saw imaginative ways that structural understanding could illuminate functional questions. He trained some of the finest and most imaginative people in the field. And he was deeply loved by all with whom he came in contact because of his unalloyed commitment to pushing the frontiers of understanding.

"Caltech is diminished by the loss of this great man who, undaunted by infirmity, almost to the end drove himself around the campus in his cart, asking questions, making suggestions, and still fully contributing to the institution to which he had given so much of his life," Baltimore said.

Davidson was known in the scientific community particularly for his innovative methods in bridging the gap between the physical and biological sciences. He pioneered new methods in physical chemistry and electron microscopy, the latter proving especially useful for genetic mapping and exploring the information properties of DNA and RNA.

In 1996, when he was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Clinton, Davidson was working on new methods for studying electrical signaling in the nervous system and the ways in which the system changes during learning and memory formation.

ELECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been receptive of complaints but no action has been taken and I'd like to see that before the start of the next school year."

Important also is the administration's long-touted housing reform. "Caltech's administration is trying to make major changes," he said, "and ASCIT needs to make sure that the students' opinions figure very highly."

And the incoming BoD is largely sympathetic to Jou's agenda. Inter-House Committee Chairman Marcus Williams listed fighting proposed housing reform among his top priorities in the coming year.

"My first goal right now is to resolve all these issues, being very involved in the Town Hall meetings and trying to make sure there are very free lines of communication between the administration and the students," said Williams. And as the former president of Dabney House, he may be well fitted to that role, according to Jou. "I find him to

be a very level-headed, very friendly individual," he said of Williams.

Social Director-to-be Jialan Wang added her own note of support for House traditions in a cultural context, pointing to her plans as ASCIT's next social queen. "Prefrosh Weekend is a big thing, and I want to make it extra fun," she explained. Jou, who worked with Wang throughout his own tenure as Social Director, expressed "utmost confidence" in her position.

Janet Zhou steps in as ASCIT's next Treasurer with her stated goal of ironing out ASCIT's budgetary responsibility. "I want ASCIT to have a good record and clean up the old record," she maintained. Jou enumerated Zhou's multifarious record of service—ranging from Fleming House's Social Team to Tech editorship—as evidence that Zhou just may be ASCIT's financier extraordinaire.

On the academic side, Basit Khan takes over ARC's chairmanship fully planning to live up to outgoing Chairman Nick

Knouf's standard for academic activism. "Among the ideas that will be put forward is the proposal to have a consolidated Masters program," Khan outlined. "We will also discuss methods to improve Caltech's core." For his part, Jou tagged Khan "very hard-working," pointing to Khan's past accomplishments as part of Avery House leadership.

Neda Afsarmanesh succeeds Todd Schuman as Upperclass Director-at-Large charged with overseeing campus publications. "I want to make sure all publications are timely and have all the resources they need," she offered. Recently restructured to include management of publications, the UDAL spot gives Afsarmanesh the perfect chance to "get publications back to their former prominence," in Jou's words.

Joseph Jewell moves in as ASCIT's next Secretary, jotting weekly minutes and aiming to "improve communication between ASCIT and its members." Last year's FDAL, Jewell has proven himself as "someone

who has stayed very involved and who cared deeply about student government," according to Jou.

In the Conduct Review Committee, Jessie Kneeland aims to bring her devotion for student affairs to her new post as Chairperson. "My main goal is to try to encourage interaction between undergrads and faculty," she explained.

Kneeland's new Board of Control counterpart, Liz Stameshkin, hopes to further such fairness. "I believe in fairness and making sure every defendant has a right to an unbiased and timely trial," maintained the former BoC representative.

Combined, ASCIT's incoming BoD boasts a multifarious cast elected by a consensus framed in one of Caltech's highest historic turnouts. "On paper, it is significant that voter turnout is very high," Jou maintained. "Hopefully, before the start of the next school year, we'll get some answers from administrators."

Letter to the editors

ITS charges dial-up fees

Dear Editors,

My sense of humor could not get to campus today. It tried to dial up, but the 33K connection was too slow to let it fully download. Then the connection broke. Now my sense of humor is really sick. What should I do? Logout.

Total login time: 3 min 5 sec. Billing amount: \$2.85 Bill to: Discover

All joking aside, I hope you have all heard by now about the decision made by the Institute to start charging for dial-up access. If not, let me tell you about it. Some time in the last few months, ITS examined its budget and saw the need to reduce expenses by charging end-users (that would be the Caltech community) for "less essential" services. Dial-up was labeled as one of these "less essential" services and, upon consultation with the Computing Advisory Committee (CAC), which was student-free at the time, reached the decision to start charging a "nominal quarterly fee" — to the PTA (research account) or credit card of your choice. I direct you to read the dry de-

tails (http://atcaltech.caltech.edu/tech-today/subpage.tcl?story_id=722) for yourselves.

Having made the decision, the administration sent out a notification by e-mail, but by some oversight, it was only sent to faculty and staff. So this is where we — graduate students, undergraduates, and postdocs — basically the lowest paid echelons of the Caltech community, come in. As a graduate student, I would never have found out about this decision until the bill came in, if not for the Graduate Student Council finding out and taking care to inform my fellow grads and I. Perhaps the undergraduates found out in much the same way — that is, through no fault of the administration. It is still hard to tell how many of the postdocs know.

So why should you care? Well, let me list a few of the main arguments against charging for dial-up. I would like to thank Florian Gstrein and Alex Backer for compiling them in the GSC newsletter.

1. Caltech is an educational and research institution. Work does not stop when you leave

campus and the ethernet network. Many people dial in not for the simple pleasure of it, but in order to communicate with professors and colleagues, look up journal articles, and look at class webpages, for example. It is ridiculous to imply that dial-up connections are less than essential in this respect. Frankly, the quality of the dial-up connection is not up to the task of fun browsing.

2. Caltech is not AOL — why should the Institute try to make money off of students and employees? It is tantamount to a decrease in pay. Most universities and even private companies allow their students and employees to connect to their networks for free. Caltech is on the wrong cutting edge in this matter.

3. The ITS budget went to improve the campus network in certain areas — and now the (poorest) people with the most basic and basically worst connection (dial-up) are going to get charged? How does this fit in with the CITnet mission statement, to "adopt a baseline level of connectivity that the Institute will support, at no direct cost to the end user"?

4. Consider the negative so-

cial impact of such a decision. Taken by itself, this one fee might appear minor, especially if your research account or department is willing to foot the bill, but it is part of a highly unpleasant pattern that has been developing lately: a pattern of new fees to students. New fees for health insurance — we now have to pay the deductible as well as pay for emergency room visits — we have to buy the Caltech catalog (!) — and now this. And we are the poorest section of the Caltech community, as I mentioned before.

5. Now consider the negative impact to campus network security. How long will it be after such a fee is imposed before some enterprising soul sets up his or her own dial-up server, something unregulated and quite unsecure? This would prove to be much more expensive to ITS in the long run.

6. Last but not least, who is that \$600 million going to? How large of a "nominal fee" is going to be charged that even a very tiny fraction of a percent of this donation — the largest ever, I will remind you — could not take care of it?

These are some of the argu-

ments that I, as the new graduate student representative on the CAC, will be making at the next meeting of that committee. Upon hearing the complaints from the graduates and undergraduates, the administration is making an effort to include us in deliberations. Thus there is some hope of reversing the decision.

However, to achieve that, we all need to stand together. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this matter. You can e-mail me at ileana@caltech.edu. I am also currently circulating a petition (see <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ileana/dialup/petition.pdf>) that you can sign if you are in favor of keeping dial-up free. In order to facilitate response, I am going to be out in front of the Red Door during lunch next week (Feb. 19 to Feb. 22, noon-1pm) if you want to drop by and sign the petition, and I am taking electronic signatures — just e-mail me with your name, department, extension, and year or position at Caltech.

Ileana Carpen
Graduate Student
Chemical Engineering



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In Motion

Position Title: Digital Hardware Development Engineer

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Requirements

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Requirements

Successful individuals will have a BS or MS in Computer Science, Math, or Electrical Engineering, or a related field (degree/experience vary depending on position level). Coursework and/or experience in MS Visual C++/MFC Library or Unix/Linux is a must.

Position Title: Analog Hardware Development Engineer

Responsibilities

The main focus of this position is analog hardware development, including gigahertz+ signaling systems, power supplies, and design for signal integrity.

Requirements

BS in Electrical Engineering or higher (degree/experience vary depending on position level). Coursework in and/or experience with control theory required. Additional coursework in design-based analysis, power electronics a plus.

Letter to the editors

Dear Dr. Baltimore, Ms. Feldblum, and fellow students and alumni:

I have read the recommendations of the Caltech Task Force on Undergraduate Residence Life and the attached appendices (available at <http://turl.caltch.edu>). I am glad to hear of the proposals that the physical infrastructure of the student houses be updated and improved. However, I feel that many other recommendations, as well as the methods used to arrive at them, represent a betrayal of the undergraduate student body by the Caltech administration. A number of factors lead me to this opinion: the composition of the task force; the purported "survey" upon which the task force report was partly based and the clear discrepancy between undergraduate student opinions and survey results; and finally, further discrepancies between the body of the task force report and the recommendations themselves. I hope you will consider the points I raise below.

Composition of the task force

The task force committee does not represent the undergraduate student body fairly. Two of the five student members of the committee were appointed by Ms. Feldblum in her capacity as the chair of the task force. The IHC chair was also expected to serve on the task force, as an ex officio member, even though she requested that another IHC member replace her. Furthermore, the other two students on the task force were selected by Ms. Feldblum from lists of suggested students prepared by the IHC and the ASCIT Board of Directors.

In other words, the chair of the task force appointed 40% of the student members of the committee, and had a significant part in the selection of the remainder. It seems hard to be sure that the committee chair did not unconsciously allow her biases to drive her selections, or that the students were not influenced by the circumstances of their selection. In fact, it is impossible to be sure, because task force meetings were held in the utmost secrecy. (Please note that this is in no way a criticism of either Ms. Feldblum or of the student members of the committee; I am merely pointing out that they are all human.)

Most importantly: In the words of one IHC member, "None of these people were put on the committee due to any vote of the student body that they should represent the students on this issue, and it certainly isn't in their job description."

If selection of the task force could be done over, I would suggest that the student members be chosen by nomination and an election at large, voted upon by the entire student body. If this was impractical, then the students'

elected representatives — members of the ASCIT BoD and the IHC — could have appointed student task force members. There is no reason why the chair of the task force committee, or for that matter, any other member of the administration, should have been involved *at all* in their selection. I welcome any valid rebuttal of this remark. As stated in Appendix D, "The best scenario is one in which the students arrive at the solution themselves" (pg 10).

I am also disturbed that not all of the non-student members were as familiar with the traditions and social aspects of the student Houses as they ought to be. The committee members were given a walk-through tour of the houses, but had little opportunity for student interaction. At Blacker House, for instance, I understand that of the 17 committee members, only Laura Elliott and Ms. Feldblum ate dinner at Blacker House during the task force's time in session. Presumably the other Houses experienced similar situations. Nevertheless, these 17 people are making recommendations that may affect Caltech undergraduate life profoundly.

Methodology of the survey

The housing survey results do not necessarily represent the views of the undergraduate student body. I do not believe that conclusions arrived at from a survey based on essay questions, with only a 25% response rate from the student body, can possibly be trustworthy. Certainly any scientific peer review board would have ripped this study to shreds. As mentioned in previous letters to the *California Tech*, an annual survey taken by the IHC shows consistently higher support for the House system than was found by the task force.

To begin with, a response rate of only 25% makes it probable that respondents were self-selecting based on their degree of concern about the House system. As a hypothetical case to illustrate the problem, let us assume that 50% of undergraduates are mostly satisfied with the current system, 10% are not, and 40% are ambivalent. Naturally, very few of the ambivalent students will bother to waste their time filling out the survey. It is quite likely that most of the dissatisfied students — say, 80% of them — will do so, for they have the most to gain.

With these numbers, the total rate of dissatisfaction expressed on the survey will be $10\% * 80\% / 25\% = 32\%$, an inflation of a factor of 3 from the truth. (Suggestively, this is in fact the approximate rate of dissatisfaction noted on the first page of Appendix C.) The proportion of mostly satisfied students will also be inflated, from 50% to about 65%. (Note further, for instance, that an email from the Ricketts House president influenced survey return

rate from that house significantly.)

It is mentioned that the survey was collected by email. Were respondents assured that their responses would be anonymous? Even if so, how could they be sure without using an anonymizing remailer? This probably also influenced survey responses to a degree, although it is impossible to tell in exactly what manner.

But even if it were possible to compensate for the distorting factors mentioned above, the entire methodology of the survey is questionable. To the best of my ability to tell, the survey consisted of six essay questions. (It is very difficult to determine the exact wording of these questions from Appendix C, since they are not collected anywhere.) Yet the results of the survey were expressed as percentages of students who were satisfied / dissatisfied with given aspects of the House system. How is this possible? In many cases, the committee appears to have performed some sort of divination from students' responses to one question in order to guess their opinions about a different issue. It is also unclear exactly who performed this "analysis"; was it Eric Tuttle (listed as the author of the survey analysis), or was it some larger subset of the task force?

If a second survey is taken, which I *highly* recommend, it must be multiple choice to have any statistical meaning, perhaps with a free response section at the end. The analysis classified survey responses into the five categories of "Satisfied," "Somewhat Satisfied," "Not a Concern," "Somewhat Dissatisfied," and "Dissatisfied." The obvious step is to make these be the five possible responses to the multiple choice questions. The questions themselves should be reviewed by an objective third party to ensure that none of them are leading.

Furthermore, the survey should be divided into sections, each section covering one aspect of student life (e.g. a section for Rotation, one for physical infrastructure, one for board, etc.). Unlike the essay format, this would allow students to see exactly what issues the survey was trying to address. It must be made clear to students that their responses to the survey will remain completely anonymous, even to the members of the task force. (Group data such as house membership, current residence, and gender should of course still be tabulated.) Finally, students should have some sort of incentive to complete the survey, in order to get a high enough response rate to have any statistical significance.

Problems with individual task force recommendations

I am pleased to see that the first recommendation is to improve the quality and physical infrastructure of student housing. I also have

no particular objection to Recommendation VII, which requests more equitable treatment for students living outside the House system. (But I caution that this may too easily become discrimination against students who are active House members.)

The other recommendations are all flawed. Recommendations II, V and VIII appear to have been made without any real factual support for them. Recommendation III suffers from ambiguous wording. Worst of all, IV and VI are based on the incorrect assumption that everyone can be made happy. They suggest tearing down social systems that work for the majority of students in order to satisfy a vocal minority. Is there any doubt that a vocal minority could be found to oppose just about any system? The current systems, unlike any proposed replacements, have at least been working and improving for decades.

II. The task force recommends the exploration of a women's residence off campus and/or opportunities to create a women's suite or alley on campus.

This recommendation has no basis in the survey findings, even if we take them at face value. Appendix C states (pg 13):

There does not seem to be an appreciable difference between the two groups [men and women] in the overall house life category. If anything, women are slightly happier with the system.

III. 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.

This sentence can be interpreted in many ways. Does it extend, for instance, to forbidding the time-honored tradition of painting murals on the walls of student housing? As Appendix D mentions, this is also a tradition at MIT (pg 11), even for new residences (compare with Avery House). What about Ditch Day, during which it is a given that some small amount of accidental damage will occur? Even for actions that are unarguably damage, the Houses already have damage funds, paid for by student House dues, to cover the costs of property damage which may occur during the year. Thus, students and Houses are *already* "held accountable."

IV. 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.

Even among task force members, I am told that this recommendation was *not* in fact unanimous, and that the strong language of this recommendation was written by a more radical segment of the task force. Of course, since the task force meetings were

utterly secret, it is impossible to tell whether the objectors ever spoke up about this issue.

I do not see the "sufficient evidence" claimed by this recommendation presented in the task force report. While it is true that many students refer to Rotation as a "necessary evil," the majority are satisfied with the final results, particularly the opportunity to become acquainted with a lot of other students in a very short time. Indeed, the task force, having expressed its concern for inter-House relationships in Recommendation V, should be aware that Rotation is one of the best times for students to make friends with others who will not be in the same House. I do not think it will be possible to find a good alternative to Rotation which will still maintain most of the positive aspects of the House system. It should be a telling point that the current system was instituted after a task force similar to the current one researched the exact same issues of student housing.

V. It should be possible and relatively easy for students to change House affiliation or acquire multiple House memberships.

It is already possible for students to do so. As for being easy, I do not see why it should be any easier than it is to get into a specific House during Rotation. The main point raised at House meetings when deciding whether to grant membership to a student is often, "Would you be willing to move off-campus for this person?" Until there is adequate space in the Houses for every person who wants to live there, this will continue to be the reason that it is hard to change House membership.

This recommendation also calls for greatly easing the fiscal costs of House membership. This is not really possible, given that the membership costs pay for House events, social activities, and so on — unless the Caltech administration is volunteering to fund these activities instead. Nor are the membership costs prohibitive: about \$60 per term, I believe. This is much less than the additional costs of living off-campus would be.

I do not think the bulk of the task force was aware of the option of "social membership." Since social membership in a House does not give the option of living in that House, the Houses will grant social membership to anyone who asks for it. Social membership is also significantly less expensive than full membership.

VI. We recognize that it is difficult to reach consensus on what should be labeled as inappropriate activities. The student Honor Code is apparently not considered by many students to be applicable to these concerns.

My experience to the contrary, as a Caltech student, is that stu-

Comics

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

Strip 1: CAROL, I NEED TO RESERVE THE GLASS-WALLED CONFERENCE ROOM BY THE MAIN LOBBY.

Strip 2: THE "FISH BOWL" IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO ATTRACTIVE EMPLOYEES. WE DON'T WANT TO SCARE VISITORS.

Strip 3: I WANT A SECOND OPINION. VERY WELL. I'LL CON-VENE THE TRIBUNAL OF ADMIN ASSISTANTS.

Strip 4: THE TRIBUNAL OF ADMIN ASSISTANTS WILL HEAR THE CASE OF...

Strip 5: THE MAN WHO IS TOO UNATTRACTIVE TO USE THE GLASS-WALLED CONFERENCE ROOM VERSUS HUMANITY.

Strip 6: YOU PUT THE VERDICT IN THE NAME OF THE CASE! WE'RE EFFICIENT.

Strip 7: THE TRIBUNAL OF ADMIN ASSISTANTS HAS REACHED A DECISION.

Strip 8: DILBERT IS NOT ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO USE THE GLASS-WALLED CONFERENCE ROOM NEAR THE LOBBY.

Strip 9: CAN I APPEAL? APPARENTLY NOT.

Strip 10: I'VE REDUCED OUR DEVELOPMENT COSTS BY OUTSOURCING THE PROJECT.

Strip 11: DOES THE PROPOSAL HAVE A HUGE HOURLY RATE FOR ANY WORK NOT SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT?

Strip 12: STAY OUT OF IT. WHY DO YOU ASK?

Strip 13: WOW! YOU FINISHED THE PROJECT BELOW YOUR ESTIMATE AND ON TIME.

Strip 14: ALL I NEED ARE A FEW CHANGES AT YOUR HOURLY FEE, WHICH WAS NEVER SPECIFIED IN OUR CONTRACT.

Strip 15: WAG!

Strip 16: YOUR TRIP IS CANCELED.

Strip 17: WE USED UP THE TRAVEL BUDGET RENAMING OUR CALL CENTERS TO "CONTACT CENTERS."

Strip 18: BUT I NEED THIS TRAINING. ISN'T THAT ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING YOU'RE IGNORANT?

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Strip 1: LET THE JASON AND MARCUS WINTER GAMES COMMENCE! FIRST EVENT: CROSS-COUNTRY SKEDADDLING.

Strip 2: THEY'D HAVE TO DO BLOOD TESTS FOR HELIUM, THOUGH.

Strip 3: YOU KNOW, UPHILL RACING WOULD BE A COOL SPORT, TOO.

Strip 4: ACTUALLY, I THINK THEY HAVE TRIED JAI ALAI AT THE OLYMPICS. SUMMER OR WINTER? WHOEVER IS PELTING ME WITH SNOWBALLS, CUT IT OUT!

Strip 5: UH OH, DAD, LOOKS LIKE THE RUSSIAN JUDGE WAS NOT IMPRESSED. WILL YOU TWO STOP FOOLING AROUND AND HELP ME SALT THE STUPID DRIVEWAY?!

Strip 6: HA! YOU DARE CHALLENGE THE KING OF ICICLE FENCING! CURSES! DE-FOILED AGAIN!

Strip 7: IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO END OUR WINTER GAMES WITH FIREWORKS. YOUR MOM'S VERY COOPERATIVE THAT WAY.

it's coming...it's coming...it's coming!!!



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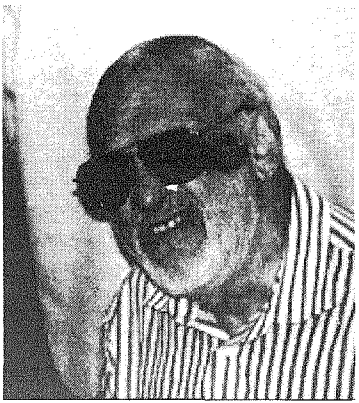


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Dean's

Dean's Corner



LOTR

by Jean-Paul Revel

A few evenings ago, I watched on TV a screening of "Lord of the Flies", the early sixties movie, based on William Golding's novel of the same title. You remember it I am sure, (after all it is no 41 in the Modern Library listing of the best novels of the 20th century). If you don't you can get the gist of things at lordoftheflies.org. To see which novel is no 1, search for "100 best novels" on Alta Vista. "Lord of the Flies" is the tale of a group of adolescents being evacuated from England, and are stranded on a desert island when their plane crashes. The movie depicts the dynamics of their interactions as cliques form in the original group of stranded young people. The movie has some oddities, like the fact that although 15 or so kids escape absolutely unharmed from the crash, not even disheveled to start with, members of the plane's crew are found dead, their parachutes still attached. Also somehow, there are only boys, no girls, among the evacuees who end up on the

beach. But such details are minor oddities. More important is the gripping although not specially flattering picture of human nature that emerges. The fictitious events described feel so very realistic, so right, so possible. Rivalries develop among the stranded kids and eventually the interactions degenerate into murderous chaos. Two of the kids, Piggy and Ralph, behave in rational, civilized ways, while Jack and all the others descend into savagery. It is a chilling tale, as well I might have guessed had I realized that "Lord of the Flies" translates to Beelzebub in Hebrew (www.occultopedia.com/b/beelzebub.htm), you know that Beelzebub, the very acolyte of Satan himself. And I had thought that the title literally referred to flies, like those crawling on the pig's head displayed to propitiate the local spirits and to insure the success of future hunts—guess they already had lost it that early in the tale!

The show being on educational TV, it was followed by a documentary on a reunion which took place 10, may be

more years after the filming, between Peter Brook, the director, and a number of the actors, all revisiting the location where the movie was filmed on Vieques Island. My reaction was one of surprise seeing what the little savages of the movie had become. They were transformed into pretty normal men, back slapping, hugging, laughing away. Even the arch villain was now a very likable and personable grown up. In fact it was hard to remember that LOTF was only a movie, an imaginary tale and that the kids had been playing roles, that they were not really behaving in the beastly way portrayed. (I must remark however that in the notes made at the time of the shooting in 1960, the film makers express surprise by how deeply the young actors had slipped into their roles, or perhaps how closely their personalities fitted with the roles they ended up playing).

Watching the movie got me to muse about the interactions of people in real life, how we pick, or accept, some from among us as leaders, how the rest of us come to follow, and sometimes surrender our personal good sense to the will, may be the whim of the mob. So what is it that the leaders

have to offer? One important factor in Jack's success over Ralph, was that he was the head of the hunters, and so provided food for his followers. He had started out as the leader of the choir boys who formed the nucleus of his cohort.

But there were other reasons as well: Ralph's style as a leader early in the tale was to hold a sober intellectual discourse, taking measured advice from thoughtful kids like Piggy and democratically allowing everyone the time to speak their minds while they held a conch shell in their hands to indicate whose turn it was to speak. Jack the choir boy and hunter on the other hand had a much more direct and personal mode of interaction: he provided food, promised to furnish more, gave everyone the feeling they belonged to a group, what with the war paint, the whoops and the excitement. He also physically punished the dissenters and so discouraged internal rebellions. The members of his group knew that they belonged, believed that they were better than the others (well there were only 2 of "the others", but still).

Also those sticking with Jack believed they would be protected from the much talked about BEAST, waiting in the bushes—a beast, made up, one suspects, as a means to ensure that the crowd would support him as their leader. The one

skeptic, who dared to go find the truth about the beast, is killed, I am not sure whether by accident (because he was mistaken for the beast), or because those in power (Jack) realized the danger of having him tell the truth.

In most segments of society as it exists here, in this day and age, the same interactions take place, the same cogs grind, if less openly. Oh we can see them clearly in the violent interactions between gang members, or Mafiosi, defending their turf, providing mutual support to members of their cliques and protecting their source of income (nourishment), never mind fighting for control. We can also recognize the same behaviors being played out in more stylized fashion in the struggles among politicians vying for the top positions. And unfortunately even among our very own here at the Institute it is easy to see besides the Ralphs and Piggys, the Jacks and even the Rogers (the meanest of all the beached kids). May we all, like the remaining kids at the end of the movie, be rescued by a party of sailors in immaculate white uniforms.

A bientot.

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

Letter:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

dents understand that forcing individuals to participate in undesired activities is an Honor Code violation. This may include initiation activities, House newsletters, "ponding," any of the dinner traditions that are specifically singled out by this recommendation, and for that matter anything else. (I would like to point out, incidentally, that food throwing is already banned by the dinner rules of most Houses, and that "floating" is the generally accepted consequence of *breaking* this rule. Even so, an individual may throw food at dinner and then refuse to be floated.) For support of my claim, see, for instance, the fifth paragraph after "Hazing Guidelines" at this URL: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~reslife/info/policies.html>

Another quote from Recommendation VI:

The task force recommends that house practices ... that cause considerable distress to even small numbers of students must be examined and discussed, perhaps by small groups of students, faculty, and administrators.

This is already done; the groups in question are called the Board of

Control and the Conduct Review Committee. Should a particular activity be in doubt, any person may bring the matter to one of these bodies. If something considered "inappropriate" by the Caltech administration is not seen as such by the BoC and CRC, the administration may wish either to reconsider its opinion or to specifically forbid that activity. They should not, however, claim that it was forbidden due to being an Honor Code violation.

This recommendation is labeled "Reexamine House traditions," but the scope of the above quote also refers to matters that have nothing to do with the House system. In particular, alcohol abuse and pornography are mentioned several times in the body of the task force report. Nowhere is the assumption that these are consequences of the House system justified. I do not think the assumption *can* be justified; both problems will occur with some frequency among any institution composed largely of 18-22 year olds.

VIII. The task force recommends that the Institute explore the institution of faculty apartments for the north and south Houses....

Why? Who would this benefit? Students are unlikely to want to see professors in class all day, and then again when coming "home" for the

evening. The same is probably true for professors. From the survey results (pg 6):

No one mentioned a desire to live with grad students or faculty; one student mentioned that he did not like doing so in Avery.

Conclusion

I hope, Dr. Baltimore and Ms. Feldblum, that you will consider these points. My worries about the validity of the task force recommendations are probably representative of those of numerous other alumni and undergraduates, many of whom I am sure have contacted you already. Given the popularity of the House system (as reflected, for instance, in the survey results) among undergraduates and alumni, I think it is possible that this issue, especially recommendations IV and VI, may influence alumni donations to Caltech in the future. I would urge you to move with caution.

To respond to me directly, email me at kmccarty@princeton.edu. Please be aware that this is a public issue of concern to many people, so I hereby reserve the right to make public any responses sent to me regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarty Caltech Class of 2000

Editors--

First off, I enjoyed CDS's Mardi Gras dinner—especially the shrimp creole. Wednesday I went for lunch at Chandler and on the salad bar was a selection of shrimp which I quickly decided would be the best choice. To my horror when I started unpeeling them it turned out to be the same ones that were in the shrimp creole the night before—how you ask do I know that they were the same ones? Well from a distance they appeared to be clean, freshly boiled shrimp, but while peeling them, I found that the 'legs' of the shrimp were cluttered with the creole sauce I had consumed the night before. It gets even more disturbing, Thursday, CDS did not even bother hiding the fact that they were serving leftovers—the pacific rim station openly stated the entrZ'e as 'shrimp creole' È

So, CDS apparently overestimated the amount of shrimp

that the undergraduates would consume—that's perfectly understandable. They, however, planned for and bought food for Tuesday's event using our board money. In other words, we paid for all of the food that was to be consumed on Tuesday. CDS is charging other people to eat food that has already been paid for. What right does CDS have to cut an extra profit by selling our leftovers to Chandler's patrons for two days following? Why weren't these items put in the student kitchens so the rightful owners could eat them?

The clear answer is the bottom line comes before Caltech's pledge to not 'take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community.'

Larry Stewart

Mints

Announcements

It's time to SURF! If you're thinking about applying for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, you should begin now to look for a mentor and ask for letters of recommendation. The SURF application deadline is Monday, March 1. Check out the SURF web site at www.its.caltech.edu/~surf to get information on the application process, look at announcements of opportunity from specific faculty members and JPL technical staff members, and download an application. For more information, contact the Student-Faculty Programs office at ext. 2885 or sfp@its.

Soroptimist International of Los Angeles is offering its annual fellowship to an outstanding woman graduate student. You must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of California and either a graduate student now or planning to be by the fall of this year. This award of \$3,500 is for the 2002-2003 academic year. The field of study is open, but consideration will be given to the student's potential contribution to society. Finalists must be available for a personal interview in May, 2002. The deadline is March 15, 2002 and applications are available from the Fellowship Office.

Feeling STRESSED??? Sign up for the **Stress Management Workshop** offered by the Student Counseling Center. This workshop will include a mixture of informal lecture and experiential exercises focusing on basic relaxation techniques and stress management skills. The workshop will meet on Monday, February 25, 2002 from 3 pm to 5:30 pm in the Health Center Lounge. Space is limited, so please call ext. 8331 to reserve your place in the group. The workshop will be facilitated by Anna Morita, M.A., and Evelyn Novello, M.A.

Attention Writers! The Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the **56th Annual McKinney Competition**. The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number. In the poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words. Essays may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities. The prize in each category will be \$300. Each student is entitled to only one entry in each category. Contestants should submit their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, by no later than March 14, 2002. No entries will be returned. Each category will be judged by a committee from the Literature Faculty. Essays will be judged on the quality of thought and the effectiveness of the writing. Winners will be announced in May, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The Committee may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Belle, ext. 3605, or Barbara Estrada, ext. 3609.

The Literature Faculty is also pleased to announce the Annual **Hallett Smith Competition** honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 16, 2002. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. La Belle, ext. 3605, or Barbara Estrada, ext. 3609.

Monticello Foundation Internship and Robert and Delpha Noland Summer Internships 2002. The Dean of Students Office is accepting proposals for the Monticello Foundation Internship and the Robert and Delpha Noland Summer Internships. Three to five Caltech undergraduate women will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside of the Caltech community for ten weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a \$5,000.00 stipend (same as the SURF stipends). Applicants are required to identify the projects in which they wish to participate. All arrangements with the principal researcher will be the responsibility of the student. There are no restrictions as to where the research can be done, except that it must be outside the Caltech-JPL community. Other universities, commercial labs, or any industrial facility in which the student can arrange to conduct or participate in a research project can be the site for the experience. Each student will be asked to submit a short synopsis of her report to the Deans' Office at the end of the summer. Interested? Identify a sponsor for your experience at a research facility for a ten-week period. In a short essay, describe your project, and submit it to the Deans' Office in Room 102, Parsons-Gates along with two faculty recommendations. We would like to know for whom you would be working, where, and if possible some specifics concerning your proposed research topic. The Deans' Office has sample proposals from past years for your review. Please stop by to review them or to discuss your proposal with one of us before the deadline date. Proposals must be received by Monday, March 4, 2002.

The Ballroom Dance club is now offering two new class series: Nightclub Two-Step and Ceroe. Nightclub Two-step, danced to slower, romantic songs, will be taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson. Lessons will be on Mondays (11, 18, 25 Feb., 4, 11 March). \$25/series or \$6/lesson for all Caltech students; \$35 (series) / \$8 (lesson) for others. Amateur-taught Ceroe, a fast-paced swing/hustle variant, will be offered on Wednesdays (13, 20, 27 Feb; 6, 13 March); \$1/lesson (free for frosh and those taking it for PE credit). If you missed the first lesson, come this week! All lessons take place in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9pm, followed by a half hour practice session. No partner or experience necessary. Refreshments provided. On Mondays after class, we have a free mini-ballroom dance party - open dancing, request or bring your own music.

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.

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Friday. 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://rainbow.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 meets every Monday 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 if you plan on attending one of the meetings, this will guarantee that we have enough food!

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) or Greg Fletcher (gregf@caltech.edu) at ext. 6163.

Latin Tutor Wanted. Job Qualifications: Enjoys working with AP high school level Latin, ability to create "mock" tests and to coach and motivate the student. Location: Students' home in Pasadena or at Caltech. Work Schedule: Flexible hours -- approximately two hours/week, after 3 pm, evenings and/or weekends. Salary: \$35/hour. Contact Tina at (626) 585-8656 if interested.

Scholarships

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

Caltech Library System Presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.

Tuesday, February 26. Noon "Copyright for Researchers in Academia" presented by Kimberly Douglas, Director of the Sherman Fairchild Library, and Peggy Luh, Office of the General Counsel.

In the scholarly community researchers are active authors and readers, producers and consumers. This seminar will discuss the rights and responsibilities of these roles as governed by U.S. Copyright Law. Issues of photocopying, fair use and scholarly publisher copyright agreements will be included.

View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at ext. 6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology) will be hosting two upcoming Lunch With Faculty events. These events are designed to give female students the opportunity to meet female faculty role models in an informal setting. On Feb. 20, the invited faculty will be Pamela Bjorkman and Judith Cohen. On March 12, the invited faculty will be Fiona Harrison and Mary Kennedy. To RSVP for either lunch, please send an email to westclub@caltech.edu.

The Pasadena Symphony will present "Masterful Encounters" with Jorge Mester as Conductor and Elmar Oliveira on the violin Saturday, March 9, 2002 at 8 pm. (Pre-Concert Lecture by musicologist Byron Adams, 7 pm.). The program is as follows: Billy the Kid, Copland; Violin Concerto, Brahms; Jeu de Cartes, Stravinsky. The theater: Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA. Ticket Prices: \$64, \$52, \$40, \$24, \$22, \$10; \$5 children ages 5 to 17; \$10 senior/student rush. For tickets or more information: Single Tickets (626) 584-8833; Subscriptions and Group Sales (626) 793-7172. www.pasadenasyphony.org.

"**Classical Conversations**," a free "Behind the Scenes" series of events presented by the Pasadena Symphony and Vroman's Bookstore, continues on Friday, March 8, 2002, 4:30 pm. These are Friday afternoon programs prior to six concerts throughout the season featuring Pasadena Symphony Music Director Jorge Mester and guest artists offering unique perspectives on classical music. "Classical Conversations" programs are open to the public, and reservations are not required. Vroman's is located at 695 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. For additional information about "Classical Conversations," please call (626) 449-5320. For Pasadena Symphony concert tickets, please call (626) 584-8833; for group sales or season subscriptions, please call (626) 793-7172 or visit www.pasadenasyphony.org.

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