

you know you've been waiting all year for this...

DROP DAY Party

Saturday in Dabney

The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 17

Pasadena, California

EBRUARY 25, 2002

OUTSIDE WORLD

By William Fong

Abducted Reporter Dead:

On Thursday, it was announced that Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter that was abducted on January 23, had been killed by Pakistani militants. A senior U.S. official said that a videotape showed Pearl speaking when a militant cut Pearl's throat. The Interior Minister of Pakistan, Moinuddin Haider, claims to know the militants' names and said that "the strongest possible actions" are being taken to bring those responsible to swift justice.

U.S. Helicopter Crashes:

Early Friday morning, a MH-47 Chinook went down off the coast of Dumaguete in the Philippines. A joint U.S.-Philippines search-andrecovery mission has found three bodies. However, there were ten U.S.Army members on the helicopter taking part in a routine mission. Although the others are presumed to be dead, the rescue efforts are continuing. Early investigation into the crash suggests that the helicopter was not brought down by hostile fire

Bush Wraps Up Asian Visit:

Starting off in Tokyo where he discussed economic recovery and then visiting the DMZ separating North and South Korea urging the union of the two countries, President Bush ended his trip with a visit to Beijing. After meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Bush gave a speech to students at Beijing's Tsinghua University urging religous tolerance, liberty, and freedom. He also reinforced the United States' position on Taiwan by suggesting that the U.S. would support Taiwan if any military action was taken on the island, but, on the other hand, the United States recognizes Taiwan as a province of China.

Violence Escalates in Middle

During the week, many acts of violence broke out as Palestinians attacked Israelis with bombs and shootings to which Israel countered with military action highlighted by the attacks on some of Arafat's offices. On Thursday, Sharon announced plans to create security buffer zones along the borders of Israel. However, a few hours after the speech, top Israeli and Palestinian security officials met to discuss the recent escalation in violence, according to a statement from the Israeli Defense Ministry. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers pulled out of Gaza on Friday after entering on Tuesday following an ambush killing six Israeli soldiers.

Heightened Turnout Marks Record Election

BY JON FOSTER

Students are moving from paper ballots to online voting at a rapid clip according to turnout figures released last week by the Election Committee. In ASCIT's second year of Webbased balloting, more than two-thirds of voters cast votes online in what emerged as ASCIT's highest turnout ever.

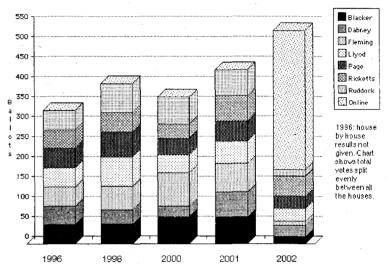
ASCIT implemented online voting in the class elections in the spring of 2001, but it was in the 2002 general and presidential that online voting first became a major part of the Caltech political process.

Unfortunately, ASCIT does not have a central repository of past election figures, so previous issues of the *California Tech* were searched to find published election results for previous years. Because of this, information from previous elections is sometimes incomplete. The 1996 results published only total numbers voting, issues of the

1997 California Tech were unavailable for search, and the California Tech appears to have failed to print the numerical results of the 1999 general election

Online voting does diminish one aspect of voting analysis. Since people no longer vote in house ballots, house by house breakdowns are no longer available for all votes cast. In some cases, this information has been extremely interesting. For instance, in the highly contested 2001 vice-presidential election houses voted nearly entirely as blocks for one candidate or the other.

In this year's election as well, the vote for Director of Academic Affairs revealed similarly house-based splits. In the hotly contested ARC Chair election, Khan received 29 of 45 Ricketts votes and Fetterman earned 10 of 15 Ruddock votes. Also, some houses are traditionally more or less politically active, although total numbers are a bit mislead-



Turnout for this election was the highest ever, with increasing numbers of students turning to voting online.

ing.

Dabney, the smallest house, for instance, should be expected to have low total turnout. Presidential elections also appear to bring a less even mix of house members to the polls, probably due to the fact that in a general election most houses have at least one member running for some office.

On the other hand, online vot-

ing has improved voter turnout. Turnout for the general election was the highest in history, and the turnout for the presidential election was significantly higher than previous years', with the notable exception of the 2001 election. Online voting may not be the only issue, though; troubles with the administration this year may have brought out

PLEASE SEE RESULTS ON PAGE 5

Caltech Flying Club Takes to Safer Skies

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

Last weekend, from Saturday, February 16 to Sunday, February 17, 2002, the PCIFA SAFECON Aviation Safety Competition was held at Chino Airport in Chino, California. Elaine Ou and sophomore David Armet of the Aero Association of Caltech (AACIT) represented the school at the competition. They competed in such events as power-off landings, navigational precision and the preflighting of an aircraft.

Some of the other schools were Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona and the US Air Force Academy in Colorado, both known schools in flying competitions. SAFECON is an annual intercollegiate competition. The two top schools emerging from the competition will go to the national competition, being held in Ohio in late May.

"Caltech's team was way too small to survive in comparison with, for instance, Embryriddle, which had thirty members and two mechanical engineers!" commented Armet. Armet went on to stress the need for more undergraduates in the club, explaining that it was a shame that student participation was so low, especially because Caltech has such good flying deals.

"There are 150 members in the Caltech-JPL flying club, most of them being staff, faculty and graduate students. It would be great to have more undergraduate students because one can fly airplanes for cheap! Caltech owns three to four planes and are leasing two more. Hence, it currently has six different planes that are available at affordable prices. To top it all, students get discounts!"

With only two students participating in the face of other colleges who had teams with tens of students, Caltech still managed to take part in some of the events. Both Armet and Ou are comparatively inexperienced fliers but they still took part and emerged fairly successful in the afore-mentioned events.

"The SCANE (Simulated Computational Aircraft Navigation Event) and IFR (Instrument Flight Rules Simulator Event) were particularly tough because one has to experimentally calculate variables such as the amount of fuel and time required to land suddenly in light of particular circumstances. Moreover, since the weather was foggy, events like the precision landing were not very easy," said Armet, reminiscing about some of the past flying contests in which he and Ou took part.

He emphasized that he enjoyed the trip fully despite limited preparation. In contrast to the thousands of dedicated hours often spent practicing by other top fliers, Armet tagged only 100 hours to his name.

"Flying up in the air is pretty and especially when it is dark. he explained. "I think that more people should make use of this facility. I have flown to places just to have coffee because the plane rentals are so cheap!"

The other participant, Elaine Ou, on a similar note, commented on the lack of enthusiasm on the part of undergraduates.

"It was a lot of fun," she ex-

"It was a lot of fun," she exclaimed. "The Caltech Flying team didn't participate last year but they did the year before that, and a lot more people went, so they actually did pretty well and won some events." Her closing comments focused on the club's future.

"It's a shame that more people don't participate, because the Caltech/JPL flying club subsidizes all the training/flying, and we get a lot of funding, so it's practically free. So a lot of people are missing out on this opportunity!"

Election Results

Director of Academic Affairs

House	NO	Fetter.	Stewart	Wang	Country.	Khan	Other	Total
RU	1	10	1	- 1	1	0	1	15
RI	8	0	4	1	1	29	2	45
LL	6	0	7	6	4	. 1	. 0	24
FL	1	1	0	0	8	1	0	11
DA	4	0	18	2	. 0	2	3	29
BL	4	1	0	3	-5	3	1	17
PA	13	4.	0	3	3	1	2	26
Web	19	32	29	54	51	98	3	286
Total	56	48	59	70	73	135	12	454

Round	NO	Fetter.	Stewart	Wang	Country.	Khan	Other	Total
1	56	48	59	70	73	135	12	454
2		49	59	70	76	136	12	402
- 3		50	59	70	76	136		391
4			62	79	85	138		364
5				82	91	. 144		317
6					121	156		277

CRC Co-chair

House	NO	Kleeman	Kneeland	Other	Total
RU	3	2	3	2	10
RI	.5	1	4	40	50
LL	2	10	13	1	26
FL	0	5	3	1	9
DA	2	1	23	3	29
BL	4	4	5	4	17
PA	11	3	9	3	26
Web	42	61	93	57	253
Total	69	87	153	111	418

Round	NO	Kleeman	Kneeland	Eber	Total
1	69	87	153	105	418
2		92	154	106	352
3			189	111	300

BoC Secretary

House	NO	Findley	Stamesh.	Other	Total
RU	6	3	. 1	0	10
RI	10	2	27	3	42
LL	4	19	8	0	31
FL	4	1	4	0	9
DA	2	2	22	3	29
BL	. 6	8	3	1	18
PA	10	5	7	4	26
Web	48	90	88	5	231
Total	89	130	160	16	395

Round	NO	Findley	Stamesh.	Other	Total
1	89	130	160	16	395
2		137	165	16	318

FDAL

House	NO	Lin	Vascon.	Other	Total
RU	1	8	3	0	12
RI	15	14	12	1	42
LL	2	26	3	0	31
FL	0	2	9	0	11
DA	7	3	8	5	23
BL	6	3	6	0	15
PA	8	5	12	2	27
Web	36	95	101	5	237
Total	75	156	154	13	398

Round	NO	Lin	Vascon.	Other	Total
1	75	156	154	13	398
2		159	157		316

Treasurer

House	NO	Bilal	Zhou	Other	Total
RU	4	0	8	1	13
RI	9	15	21	1	46
LL	5	3	18	0	26
FL	0	1	10	0	11
DA	7	9	8	7	31
BL	7	1	9	1.	18
PA	9	-11	6	2	28
Web	30	70	171	7	278
Total	71	110	251	19	451

IHC Chair

NO	Williams	Other	Total
84	339	11	434

FDAL Runoff

			~
House	Lin	Vascon.	Total
LL	26	4	30
RU	6	8	14
RI	4	2	6
FL	3	18	21
PA	6	10	16
DA	. 2	3	5
BL	3	7	10
Web	96	106	202
Total	146	158	304

Social Director

NO	Wang	Other	Total
157	236	39	432

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ASCIT



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Joe Jewell, Secretary Janet Zhou, Treasurer Marcus Williams, IHC Chairman

Basit Khan, Director for Academic Affairs

Jialan Wang, Director for Social Activities

Neda Afsarmanesh, Upperclass Director-at-Large Andrea Vasconcellos, Freshman Director-at-Large

Minutes of the BoD Meeting February 20, 2002

Present:

Old BoD: Martha-Helene, Katharina, Justin, Ayeh, Marcus, Nick, Ted, Todd, Joe. New BoD: Ted, Joe, Janet, Marcus, Basit, Jialan, Neda, Andrea. (Vikram absent, in Cambridge)

Guests: Jessie Kneeland (CRC Chair), Sarah Cooke (ASCIT Movies), Shane Arney (IHC Ath Man), Merc Chasman.

Meeting called to order at 9:06 p.m. The annual BoD "transition" meeting convenes with introductions all around, led by Ted, and a reminder to attend tomorrow's installation dinner at the MOSH house. Rumor has it that Tom Mannion will be personally cooking for us. Joe will be sending out an email soon to determine the best meeting time for the new officers.

Guests:

Merc picks up club funding,

then leaves. Sarah Cooke is welcomed back from her term away for a geology trip, filled in on the progress of the new secure DVD cabinet, and implored to keep the pressure on the web guys and Marcus to finish the setup by the end of welcomed back from her term finish the setup by the end of the term. Shane informs us that four seniors will be requesting letter jackets this term. The jackets cost \$90 each, of which the Athletic Department covers the first \$50. The BoD agrees that we can likely pay for all of the other \$40 for each student. In the future, we will be covering all the jackets third term to ensure equal distribution of available funds. Joe points out that it will be up to the BoD following the new BoD to budget this for the first time under the new system.

General Meeting:

Joe requests \$200 multihouse funding for the Lloyd/Blacker capture the flag and barbecue social event next weekend. Over 100 people attended last year's event (approved, 6-0). requests interhouse funding for Apache (approved, 6-0).

Ted informs us that Jon Dama has requested that we move the Donut server into the ASCIT office, because the publications office has been experiencing mysterious power outages that result in Donut going offline. The BoD

Martha-Helene urges the new BoD to fight to protect ASCIT and other student rooms in the planned campus center building, as cutbacks have forced the elimination of several rooms already. The Alumni Association wants our recommendations for honorary alumni. We brainstorm for a little bit and come up with Steven Frautschi, Barbara Green, and Bill and Delores Bing. They may already have been so honored, so M-H will

check this out.

Ayeh says that the audit will cost around \$4500. \$5000 had been budgeted. There will be forms for the old BoD to fill out in connection with the audit. Credit cards (one for general use, one for ASCIT movies) will be coming soon, as soon as money is transferred from BOA to the Caltech Credit Union.

Legislation:

Marianne Bronner-Frasier (Chair of the Faculty) and the rest of the Faculty Board Steering Committee requested a meeting with Martha-Helene recently, and they have since been talking extensively. In order to bring the ASCIT bylaws and resolutions in line with Faculty Board requirements regarding faculty committee appointments (since they have final say over who sits on their committees, both faculty members and students), some revisions are necessary, which M-H presents at this time. Essentially Faculty Board bylaws have long stated that ASCIT has final responsibility for appointments to the committees (contingent, of course, upon approval of the Faculty Board itself). In recent years the IHC has acted as a nominating body to ASCIT for these committee positions, with the BoD granting final approval and bearing the responsibility for the appointments—an arrangement that ASCIT seeks documents in order to avoid conflicting statements and ensure that student-selected committee members can continue to sit and vote on faculty committees. Revisions to the ASCIT Bylaws, Article XII, Sect. 5 are approved to be put to the ballot, 6-0. A full outline and rationale will be presented in the Tech soon. Amendments to BoD Resolution XXI are passed 6-0. Changing the word "shall" to "may" in BoD Resolution V, Sect. 2, is approved 5-1. (Full text of all resolutions and bylaws are available on Donut).

Since the CRC bylaw amendment passed, BoD Resolution XXII (interim CRC appointment guidelines) became superfluous and is stricken (other resolutions re-numbered accordingly) by a 6-0 vote.

Nick Knouf presents an

amendment to Article VIII of the bylaws, which would move the date that new ASCIT directors take office to the beginning of third term. After debate, it is not approved for the ballot (1-5). He next presents an amendment to the bylaws, Article XII, Sect. 1, providing for the ARC Secretary's nonvoting and appointed position on the ARC. This is more housecleaning in the ASCIT Bylaws, as they appear to actually mandate that ARC Secretary is a campus-wide elected position, although an election has never been held in our memory and the office does not seem to be important enough to require this. The amendment is approved for the ballot, 6-0.

At this point, after a flurry of legislation, both BoDs take a moment to reflect on the idyllic magnanimity that was the Eric Tuttle presidency. We resolve to follow his shining example in all our actions. With quiet longing for times past, Martha-Helene gently moves us back to the agenda. (Yes, that's right, incredibly enough, Ted came up with an agenda for this meeting.)

As per the aforementioned new CRC bylaw, the old BoD needs to come up with four representatives for the joint CRC rep appointing committee (with the IHC). After agreeing that Marcus will likely be selected as one of the IHC representatives for the committee, the BoD agrees upon Martha-Helene, Katharina, Joe, and Todd by consensus.

We return to regular business and officer reports as the meeting winds down.

Todd in his farewell message reports, "The van is finally sold, and oh yeah, the copier is broken." Martha-Helene remarks that this is par for the course, but Todd will go down in history as the UDAL who finally sold our albatross of an ASCIT van (although, serendipitously, it was actually M-H who did it, having traded her donut duties to Todd-he credits his "mad negotiating skillz" for this coup). We're keeping the California license plates, because they say "ASCIT" and look really cool. Joe wonders what exactly fu-

ture UDAL aspirants will promise to do in their election statements, now that the van has been sold.

Martha-Helene reports that ASCIT received a letter from an alumnus (Tom Fisch) with comments on the recent issues facing the student body. She will forward it to the new BoD soon. The old BoD will be having a luncheon with the Development Team (a.k.a. "the web guys") on March 5. Joe will take care of the Ath reservations.

Nick is the undergraduate student rep on the Computer Advisory Committee, which deals with various issues affecting computing on campus. It meets in March, and anyone with comments is advised to contact him to pass them on to the committee.

Joe reports speaking with a prefrosh student who stayed in Lloyd House this weekend. She is one of the Caltech Merit Scholars that President Baltimore wishes to see better success in recruiting (reporting at the Ruddock town hall meeting that only 7 of 30 offers for the class of 2005 came to Caltech, although the numbers were much better for the class of 2004). Interestingly, the biggest black mark against Caltech in the prefrosh's opinion was the fact that she would not be able to get a parking permit next year under the new parking policy. She feels that bringing her car is essential to her overall college experience, and wishes to choose a school that will allow her to do this.

Justin will email to Joe various passwords, account numbers, and directions for uploading revisions to the Documents section of the ASCIT Donut web site. He also promises to revise the UGCS and Donut BoD mailing lists.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54

Respectfully submitted,

ASCIT Secretary

Secretary

House	NO	Jewell	Other	Total
RU	6	4	2	12
RI	13	16	16	45
LL	1	24	4	29
FL	0	2	- 8	10
DA	8	6	14	28
BL	6	10	1	17
PA	2	2	23	27
Web	70	130	95	295
Total	106	194	163	463

Round	NO	Jewell	Other	Total
1	106	194	163	463
2		204	169	373

IIDAI

NO	Afsarm.	Other	Total	
109	289	17	415	

Tech Editor

NO	Ma/Bartz	Other	Total
92	303	12	407

Wanted: Venture Capital Analyst

- engineering undergrad
- 2-4 years work experience in financial/business sector
- -submit resume to jack@missionventures.com

Commentary

Restrictions Only Encourage Underage Drinking

BY JIALAN WANG

America is a very curious place. On one hand, it is perhaps the world's most decadent, materialistic, and consumeristic nation. At the same time, our historical Puritanism is very evident in our laws and cultural morals. To most people at Caltech, attitudes like racism, sexism, and intolerance of homosexuals and taboos against sex and alcohol are clearly ludicrous and counterproductive, but they are enduring parts of the larger culture.

In particular, America has had a long history of discomfort with alcohol. After the complete failure of prohibition, the government now limits the prohibition to young people. California law makes it illegal for persons under 21 years of age to drink alcohol as well as for anyone of age to buy or serve alcohol to a person under 21 years old. Although it is tenable to advocate laws against selling alcohol to very young children, I have not yet heard a good argument for preventing older teenagers from drinking. What is

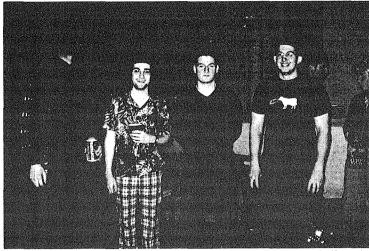
more absurd is that people can buy tobacco, three years earlier than they can buy alcohol, which when used moderately causes few if any negative effects to health, whereas tobacco can have many detrimental health effects. Haven't we learned yet that prohibition is not the answer?

To me, the laws against underage drinking represent the worst kind of policy-making. As we all know, this law is widely broken, and the taboo it creates only encourages minors to drink recklessly. Thus, not only does the law not work, but it actually encourages the irresponsible and dangerous behavior it aims to prevent, while at the same time preventing responsible people from enjoying themselves.

Nowhere are these failures more evident than on college campuses, where the population is split between those over and under 21. The occurrence of underage drinking on college campuses is very well-documented. According to a 2000 survey (http://www.siu.edu/departments/coreinst/public_html/ recent.html), 72% of students reported drinking alcohol within 30 days prior to the survey. This percentage only drops to 69% when applied to underage students.

Knowing these facts, people responsible for the welfare of college students must make tough decisions when dealing with illegal drinking. They must decide whether to directly follow the letter of the law or to take a more reasonable approach that discourages irresponsible drinking and is more lenient toward moderate drinking. These decisions are much like the ones police officers must face every day when dealing with petty crimes. Is it better in the long run to arrest a small-time pot smoker and throw him in jail with hard criminals or to simply give a warning? Is it better to allow moderate, supervised drinking, or to effectively ban all drinking on campus knowing that many problem drinkers would engage in more dangerous private drinking?

For many years Caltech had taken the former approach, but recent changes in enforcement of the alcohol policy have very much leaned toward the latter. While most universities have stricter policies than we do, the circumstances here are also very different. Not only are the students much more responsible and mutually supportive of each other than in the vast majority of other colleges, but they also simply don't drink very much. According to the Princeton Review, Caltech ranks second in the nation in the category "scotch and soda, hold



The recent administrative crackdown on alcohol use has jeopardized Apache and other Ricketts House traditions.

R. Karnesky

the scotch" for least consumption of hard alcohol, sharing the category almost solely with such religious universities as Brigham Young University in Utah (http://www.review.com/ college/rankingsparties.cfm). Perhaps this is the reason that Caltech didn't even have an alcohol policy before 1990.

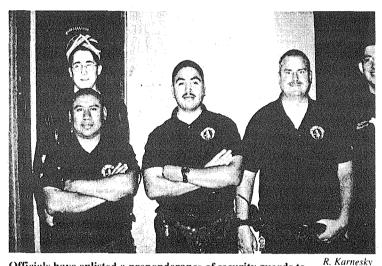
Recently, however, several houses have had run-ins with the administration concerning alcohol. Several "happy hour"-type events have been shut down, in particular an event held in Ricketts House called Thursday Night Drinking (TND). Of-age people bought and served alcohol to a small group of friends in a room off the Ricketts breezeway. Moreover, the event attracted many people who didn't drink at all and simply came to enjoy the company. The event was not endorsed or sponsored by Ricketts House, and people from several houses regularly attended.

Unlike the professional bartenders that are now required for all registered social events, the bartenders at TND have vested interest in making sure people drink responsibly. They could get into very big trouble with administrators for allowing excessive drinking, but more importantly, they are friends. Friends don't need the threat of expulsion to care about each

Those of us who enjoyed TND have lost a wonderful way to socialize with friends, but what have we gained? Thursday nights have become much quieter in the weeks since TND's demise, but drinking has not stopped. It has just gone underground, continuing in a much less fun and much more dangerous way.

While shutting down events such as TND certainly removes all legal culpability for Caltech in terms of student drinking, moral culpability is another matter altogether. Clearly it is not the fault of any administrator that some students have drinking problems, but it is irresponsible to make decisions they know would cause people to shift from safer social drinking to more dangerous isolated drinking. While it may be prudent and indeed, necessary, to cover Caltech's legal rear end by making drinking unfeasible for all but the biggest events, prudence and necessity do not make these policies right.

In a sense, administrators are caught in an impasse. The threat of lawsuits and pressure from funding organizations call for tough policies, but policies that put legal security and funding before the physical and social welfare of students threatens to undermine all that is good about Caltech. TND and other social events involving alcohol may seem like minor losses, but in a place with so few social events. even fewer of which are worth attending, the losses are devastating. Furthermore, the low incidence of drinking makes harsh policies seem rather gratuitous. For the sake of our safety and spirit, maybe it's time Caltech took a risk.



Officials have enlisted a preponderance of security guards to enforce alcohol regulations.



Upcoming Events

Contact Greg (gregf@its) for additional info on any event.

- SPEAKER (3/5, 7pm, Lo-Indigenous Spiritual Elders".
- Women's Center

(3/9, 9am-1pm, Downtown LA). Help promote reading among inner-city elementary school children in Downtown LA. Transportation is pro-Contact Anita vided. (anichoi@its).

HIKE (3/10, 12-5pm,Rancho Palos Verdes Beach). 2-3 mile easy hike along coast. Transportation provided, space is limited. Contact Justin (jkao@its) by 3/7.

Factoid

The Y began Make-A-Differcation TBA). A well-traveled ence (MAD) Day in April and experienced expert on Na- 2001. This year, we are plantive American spirituality, ning a sequel for Saturday, Harvey Arden presents "Wis- April 6, 2002. This is a great dom Keepers: Encounters with opportunity to get out of your room and impact the world - DISCUSSION (3/6, 8pm, around you. Transportation Baxter Lecture Hall). Women and food are provided by the Shaping the World. Discussion Caltech Y as groups of volunpanel sponsored by Social Acteers flock to various agencies tivism Speaker Series & the around Pasadena, working on various service projects. Keep - COMMUNITY SERVICE an eye out for a registration card, coming to your mailboxes in the next few weeks.

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 Committee: every other Thursday, Noon, Next meeting: 3/7
- Outdoor Committee: every other Tuesday, 7:30pm, Next meeting: 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 Pres (y-veep@ugcs).



The Caltech a capella group Ecphonema performs at the annual Love Sucks concert.

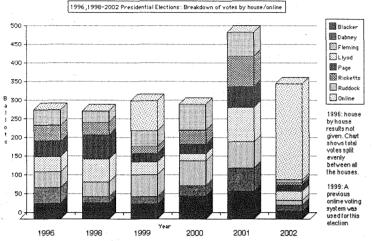
Features

RESULTS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the political side of more Techers.

A few more notes concerning the graphs: the 1996 figures did not include a breakdown by house, so the chart depicts the votes split equally between all houses. Online voting was implemented in 1999 for the presidential elections, but was not used in subsequent years. As a point of historical interest, "NO" won the 2000 presidential election. Paper ballot boxes for the 2002 presidential were also placed in Marks, Avery, and 150 S. Chester, but only seven total votes were cast in these locations (this number has been lumped with "online" in the chart).



In contrast to ASCIT's general elections, this year's presidential contest showed a marked decline in voter turnout.

Sign-ups for IHC, CRC Offices, Senior Class Presidents

IHC Offices

Signup sheets for IHC offices are now up outside SAC 33. The officers being appointed are IHC Secretary (Dinkar Gupta, dinkarg@its), Food Committee (Rachel Dexter, dexter@its) and IHC Ath Man (Shane Arney, srainier@its). Those interested should sign up before 8pm, Friday, March 1. Interviews will be conducted the week of March 4. If you have any questions, please email the IHC Chair (Marcus Williams, rawfrog@its). Descriptions of the mentoned offices will posted outside SAC

CRC Student Representatives Signups for CRC Student Representatives will be up outside SAC 33 through Sunday, March 3 at 5pm.

The Conduct Review Committee (CRC) is co-chaired by

the Associate Dean of Students and a student elected by the undergraduate body. It deals with a wide range of issues, including personal disputes between individuals, cases involving mental illness, and issues that involve a large number of students. For each CRC case, four representatives are selected. At least one is always a faculty member and at least one is always a student representative. These representatives are selected on a rotating basis out of a pool that will be selected from those who sign up by the deadline. Each candidate will be interviewed and between 6-10 representatives will be appointed.

Senior Class Co-presidents

Signups for Senior Class Copresidents will be up outside SAC 33 through Wednesday, March 6. Candidates should sign up as a team of two and prepare a statement for the *California Tech* by Friday, March 8. Only members of the class of 2003 are eligible to run for this position.

The Senior Class Co-Presidents are charged with various tasks associated with Ditch Day and Commencement. They serve on the Commencement Speaker (Convocations) Committee and are responsible for polling their class for a list of suggested speaker candidates to invite for delivering the commencement address. The Copresidents also help decide questions pertaining to the form of Commencement and the activities for students and parents in the few days surrounding it, do their best to make Ditch Day run smoothly, and work with the Senior Class Committee and representatives of the Alumni Fund to organize the Class Gift.

Learning to Live More Efficiently (Without the Sun)

BY YULIYA RUVINSKAYA

It startled her on her way out from the sub-basement of Moore to grab a quick meal (description dependent on the time of day, which she, a permanent resident of the EE5X labs, can never be certain of). Alarmed by her prolonged absence, her labmates reported her missing to their TA, who shared their concern. It caught him at eight o'clock in the morning, when you were on your way to drop off the long physics set he stayed up all night to do, but his half-closed eyes, a result of lowered metabolism, saved him from sure demise. They saw it from the narrow window of the classroom, where it crawled in stealthily, in spite of the artificial lights and thick windows, dead bolted shut to keep it out. Graduate students from two doors down reported a wild throng of students and singing in strange tongues dancing toward the exit, headed by their professor, a man of most respectable reputation, a Nobel prize laureate, and a father of three. The weather, the sunny, warm, blossom-scented February air with a slight tint of smog filled the campus, wreaking havoc, and if you are not careful, it will get you, too. There is a simple and effective measure that you can observe to keep away the insanity—staying out of the outdoors. To observe this precaution, the following methods were found to be the most effective.

One of the ways of keeping temptation at bay is to not be faced with the temptation at all—not being awake during the

day light hours. A hefty percentage of undergraduate students are already diligently observing a nocturnal schedule, particularly those with heavy workloads, a strong dislike for board food, and good video cards. Since an overwhelming majority of the undergraduate (and probably graduate) students have at least one of the above three, they will find that a transition to a nocturnal schedule will greatly improve their quality of life. Those with lots of classes will find that not going to class will give them more time to do homework, as well as more time to sleep and eat. Those who prefer to eat out or to make their own food, will find that supermarket lines are significantly shorter between the hours of midnight and 5am, and restaurants are almost empty at this time. Ralph's supermarket is conveniently open 24 hours a day, and there are several fast food establishments within reasonable distance (excellent thinking, planners of Pasadena!). Owners of good video cards will find that there is no annoying glare from the sun at night, and will be able to take advantage of the wonders of modern technology for hours at a time, uninterrupted by having to move their screen every few minutes away from the sun. If at first not seeing the sun seems strange to you—persevere. You will likely find peers, whose company you will enjoy, who will support your efforts. And since moonlight is so much prettier than sunlight, anyway, your chances of forming a romantic relationship with one of them will be greatly increased.

If, for some reason you are unable to keep to a nocturnal schedule, the next best damage prevention weapons are computer games. Most techers have years of experience with advanced role playing games, and will have no trouble finding a game that they like, but for those, who have had a limited exposure to the world of virtual reality, it is never too late to start. Most Windows machines come with Minesweeper and several varieties of Solitaire. These games have a simple user interface and clearly defined rules, making them especially appropriate for beginners. They are also surprisingly addictive and will keep you clicking for hours, as evidenced by the following conversation, often heard in student dorms. For MacOS owners, there's Snood, which can be downloaded from the Internet. Snood has a prettier interface more levels than MInesweeper or Solitaire and is suitable not only for beginners but also for those who have mastered Solitaire though may not be ready to face the 3-D games. Those, who like to interact with other players will find a variety of MUDs (multi-user dungeons) on the internet, with and without graphics, which can make them forget about the existence of the outside world. Players of all levels will find that the sun may try to thwart their efforts to avoid the outside by introducing glare. They can reduce its effects by turning t he monitor away from the sun, and sitting with

Environment control is yet another solution to the problem. Investing in a set of heavy

their back to the window.

drapes, preferably black, and painting the walls a dark color, also preferably black, will distance the inside world from the outside world, making the presence of light seem like a figment of the imagination. Research shows that reduced light helps the brain relax. Therefore do not worry if you find yourself sleeping at all times in your newly painted room. Perhaps you will attain enlightenment and solve the problem of world hunger. Turning up the thermostat past the point where it's comfortable tremendously reduces the problem of going outside. Who would be tempted by the warmth of the sun when it's 90+ degrees where you are!?

If you still find yourself wanting to leave the building, a small box of fertilizer immediately outside your window may help get rid of such a self-destructive desire. Several times a year, when the grass gets fertilized and the olive trees get sprayed, the odor that permeates the campus keeps large numbers of people from going outside.

While the grass does not need to be fertilized more than a few times a year, there is no reason not to keep the smell around for the benefit of the community. Small boxes of fertilizer can be made available for individual purchase, and should be given out free of charge as part of snake kits/final support kits, as exam time is a time when such products are most needed. The smell can be made available in air freshener-type containers. Just a few sprays of this smell in public areas will effectively prevent the community from going outside and getting affected by sunlight.

Maintaining a nocturnal schedule, playing videogames, and drinking copious amounts of hot liquids in dark, hot, odorous rooms will let you finish your term, keeping you studying diligently and on track to graduate in four years. And remember, especially during the weekend, if you must be awake during the daylight hours and you are hungry, don't go out—call for delivery.



Two Caltech students revel in nocturnal gaming.

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Comics

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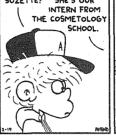






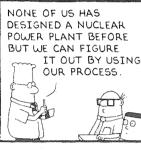


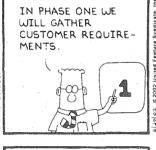














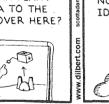














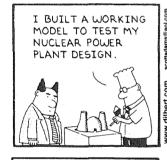


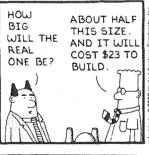












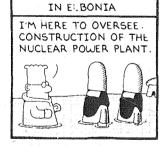


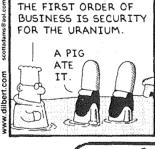




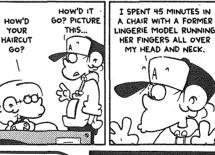






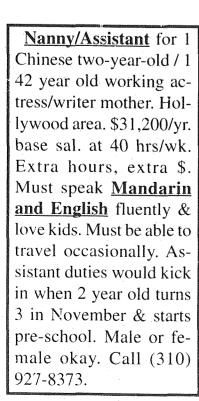














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Dean's

Dean's Corner

President's Days

by Jean-Paul Revel

Even before the assault of Sept 11, we, the US, had been at "war" fighting a shadowy enemy. After being brazenly provoked we have increased our efforts against these dangerous mosquitoes. True, we have not yet reached our goal to capture the major culprits, perhaps better to say, instigators. But by making good on our warnings to the Taliban we have demonstrated that we mean business, that we won't allow terrorists to dictate. Unfortunately demonstrations of the sort may not do much good since the other side is not listening, convinced that whatever they have to endure will insure for them a place in their heaven. It is not a new problem. We are now in a position a bit like that of the Romans, and "they" are like the early Christians. The latter were the martyrs in those days, willingly, well, at least resignedly, being devoured by lions for the sake of their beliefs. I am not sure I like the answer to the question as to who won and who lost that battle, if anyone can be said to have been victorious. In the fullness of time the Romans kind of petered out and the Christians are still doing well. Translating that in today's terms is not specially

encouraging. Now, on top of having to continue dealing with that knotty problem, we seem, at least our President and his advisors seem, inclined to rattle our swords some more. Perhaps taking a cue from President Reagan's declaration that the USSR was an evil empire, and combining that with phraseology of World War II era we are sending signals to an axis of evil nations (paralleling the 3 states which formed the original Axis, Fascist Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan). Note that the 3 members of that Axis were working cooperatively, whereas the new axis is only a rhetorical grouping. The countries against whom the rhetoric is used are known or suspected to have, or to be developing, missiles (and other weapons) which could threaten the security of the US or our allies. We have had our problems with Iran and Iraq in the past, and either could become involved in a Holy War

against the US. The third member, North Korea is "opaque", meaning we don't know much about what's happening there, even though a recent photo-op had the president looking across the border with powerful binoculars. What we do know does not amount to a very pretty picture. The North Koreans are said to be passing out glossy catalogs offering to sell missiles. I suppose that missile building and export by the such regimes can be considered to fall under the rubric of terrorism, but by and large it is terrorism yet unfulfilled, with no assaults having yet taken place using these weapons. Should we not consider parties innocent till proven guilty? It is difficult to keep to the moral high ground when the stakes are high and include our own welfare.

So perhaps offering an olive branch (President Bush has been saying we are always willing to talk) while threatening with a big stick is a valuable approach, even though positive enticements did not work when trying to deal with the Taliban. As was said above, one must take into account the different world views: we want to minimize if not avoid altogether loss of life, but martyrdom-seeking fighters willingly send themselves toward their vision of Paradise. I was struck by the claim, made in an MSNBC article by Robert Windrem (Feb 19, 2002), that none of the states which form the newly defined axis have at present, nor are likely to have in the near future, missile capabilities which would allow them to reach the US mainland. They could hit some of our overseas bases, and allied countries. According to the article it would take at least till 2015 for either North Korea or Iran to develop such a capability. Iraq could join the fray only if UN sanctions were lifted altogether. Well, we don't want our allies threatened or hit. And even if the direct danger to us does not materialize till 2015 that would still not be great. I hope to still be alive, and you almost certainly will be around at that time. I would hate being on the receiving end of Taepo-Dong 5 missiles (the Taepo-Dong 2, which is believed to become operational in the near future,

has a range that allows it to reach the easternmost tip of the Aleutian Islands, off the Alaskan mainland). Lets hope that between now and then the world will change for the better.

On March 4th more than a century and a third ago, another president, Abraham Lincoln, delivered his second Inaugural speech. Six weeks later he was dead, victim of the first presidential assassination in the US, killed by a homegrown "terrorist" trying to ad-

vance the fortunes of the Confederacy. While Lincoln's speech obviously deals with emancipation, and with the civil war which was drawing to an end, his words are relevant to today's concerns as well. I was struck in particular with his bewilderment at the fact that both side in the conflict "read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other." Well, in the present conflict, while different Holy Books are used by the opponents, each side is convinced that they are fighting Evil. Each side believes in a God that is with them. Of course there is nothing new there. "Gott mit uns" said the Kaiser,

and when God is not invoked. She is replaced by Right, or by Justice, the Emperor, all on "our" side. Lincoln recognizes that opponents in a conflict each hold the conviction that their cause is just and anguishes about it. His remedy is to be "With malice towards none; with charity for all...may (we) achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations." Perhaps it will be so if we strive for peace, not war.

A bientot

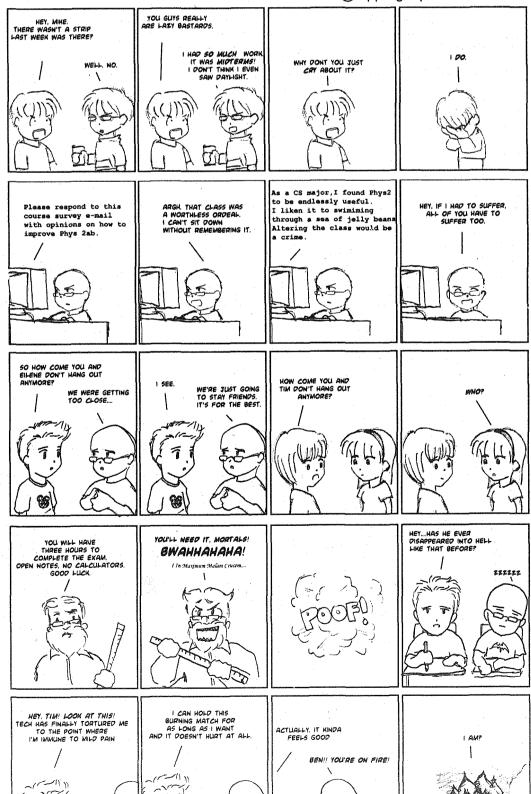
Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel Dean of Students



By Ben Lee, Tim Wan and Mike Yeh

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to anybody is purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff.Contact feedback@cripplingdepression.com



Mints



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.

The Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International - American Youth Hostels (HI-AYH) is seeking candidates for its 2002 Travel Grant. The grant, a \$500 award, was created to assist a deserving student between the ages of 17 and 26 to realize an educational goal through travel. Candidates for the grant should be planning to travel this summer, and be willing to share experiences with Hostelling International upon their return. To receive an application, call the HI-Travel Center at 310-393-3413. In addition to the application, you need to submit a proposal with your travel itinerary detailing what your educational goals are for the trip. The typewritten proposal should be about two pages long. The selection committee will consider the following media in awarding the scholarship: writing, photography, film, art or theatre. Within ninety days following the completion of travel, the award winner will share his or her travel experiences in the manner previously approved by the selection committee. The deadline for submission is March 15th. The recipient will be selected by April 30th.

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.

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 fulltime 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 Bell, 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 Ceroc. Nightclub Two-step, danced to slower, romantic songs, will be taught by professional instructor Sonny Watson. Lessons will be on Mondays (25 Feb., 4, 11 March). \$25/series or \$6/lesson for all Caltech students: \$35 (series) / \$8 (lesson) for others. Amateur-taught Ceroc, a fast-paced swing/hustle variant, will be offered on Wednesdays (27 Feb; 6, 13 March); \$1/lesson (free for frosh and those taking it for PE credit). 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. roposals 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 an dmake the awards. For more information, contact Athena Castro (athena@caltech.edu) or Greg Fletcher (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.

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

The Caltech Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences and The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization presents Dr. Fritz Stern, University Professor Emeritus Columbia University, "Einstein and the German Question." This seminar will take place at Beckman Institute Auditorium, Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 4 pm. Refreshments will be served. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-3563 or michelle@hss.caltech.edu. For a complete list of SEPP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, visit our web site: http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html.

Caltech Library System Presents: The following session is approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred. Tuesday, February 26, Noon in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). "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 ktbps://kibrary.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm.

WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology) will be hosting an upcoming Lunch With Faculty event. This event is designed to give female students the opportunity to meet female faculty role models in an informal setting. 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.pasadenasymphony.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. These 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.

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