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# The California Tech

VOLUME III, NUMBER 19

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 11, 2002

## Lasers Beam Cataract Patients Beyond 20/20

By JON FOSTER

In her March 6 Watson Lecture, Prof. Julia Kornfield explained that the first recorded therapy for cataracts was by a fifth century B.C. Hindu physician. He advocated strapping the patient down to a couch and using a rod to push the lens of the eye back into the eye. This cured the cataract (which is when the lens becomes cloudy, obscuring sight), but also prevented the patient from being able to focus on anything ever again.

Luckily, medicine has advanced significantly since then, and there is now an extremely common surgery in which the old lens is removed and a new intraocular lens is inserted.

The procedure is common, and works well, but has one major drawback. The implanted lens is carefully produced to be the right shape, but following the operation the eye heals around the lens in an

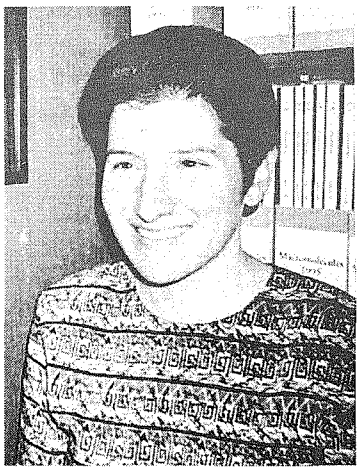
unpredictable way, moving and stretching the lens. Because of this, many cataract patients require glasses or contact lenses after the operation.

It was an optometrist, Daniel Schwartz, who contacted Kornfield about solving this problem. Kornfield, who studies the physics of polymers, agreed to take up the challenge, and contacted Robert Grubb, an expert in polymer synthesis. Together, the three of them came up with a plan to make the perfect replacement lens, one which could be adjusted easily after the operation to correct for any distortions produced by the healing process.

The three decided to try to use the phenomena of photopolymerization, in which laser light can be used to stimulate small molecules to assemble into larger ones. They planned to imbed monomers in a silicone lens. Shining light on the lens would stimulate the monomers to join into larger molecules which could change the refractive index of the lens. If they could selectively control where these long polymers would form they could delicately tweak the focusing properties of the lens.

A cataract operation using the new lens would involve three visits to a surgeon. First, the traditional operation would be performed, using the new adjustable lens as the replacement. A few days would elapse in which the eye would heal around the new lens, deforming it. The patient would return to the surgeon who would determine how the lens needed to be adjusted. If he wanted to increase the index of re-

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Courtesy of J. Kornfield

Julia Kornfield oversees optometric research that may improve eyesight for cataract patients.



Courtesy of I. P. Bilal

Female undergrads from Caltech's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers enjoy dinner at the group's annual gathering.

## SWE Conference Draws Caltech Women Engineers

By IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), which is now celebrating 50 years of leadership, held its Region B conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 28 to March 3, 2002. Region B, one of the ten regions in the US, brings together the SWE Sections of five states: California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. The conference primarily consisted of seminars on teambuilding, leadership, and entrepreneurship with engineering, tours around Albuquerque and informal sessions of student-professional intermingling. From a political standpoint, it was also a time of electing the new student Regional Representative and the new Student Regional Newsletter Editor.

This year, Caltech was represented by six SWE members, namely President Emma Kang '02,

Vice President Kelly Klima '03, Secretary Mona Sheikh '03, Treasurer Cindy Tang '03, Kristin Shantz '04 and Iram Parveen Bilal '04.

In the general student meeting, Bilal was elected as one of the two Regional Student Newsletter editors. She will be responsible for the winter edition of the Newsletter in 2003 for the whole region.

The National President-elect for the 2002-03 term, Rachel McQuillen, graciously took some time to speak with us about the conference.

"It is nice to come to regional meetings like this. In other conferences like the national ones, we don't normally get time to talk to people and especially students on an individual basis," she said while also referring to the national con-

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## KOONIN WARNS U.S. SENATE OF 'DIRTY' THREAT

TAGS AMERICA 'UNPREPARED'

Speaks Before Helms, Biden in Foreign Committee

By KEVIN BARTZ

In his testimony last Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Provost Steven Koonin warned lawmakers that America is unprepared to recover from potential "dirty bombs," conventional explosives specially designed to disseminate radioactive waste.

Would-be terrorists have fairly easy access to materials for building dirty bombs. Just scrounge for residue from any old X-ray machine, hospital lab or nuclear power plant, said Koonin, and half the job is done. From there, a terrorist inserts the radioactive sample into an explosive shell and detonates it with conventional gunpowder.

However, any such dirty bomber would have a hard time accumulating anything more than an infinitesimal amount of the readily available forms of toxic material, specifically iridium and cesium isotopes. And even with a liberal estimate of three Curies—nearly a whole gram of radioactive isotopes—Koonin foresaw only four more cancer deaths to the annual total of 20,000 in a population of 100,000 people.

Due to the relatively small toll caused by such a device, Koonin fingered fear as the true culprit. "We are talking about a weapon of mass disruption more than destruction," he said. "These weapons are not about terror. They are about psycho-

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

## Davis, Simon Win State Primaries

By ROBERT LI

On Tuesday, March 5, thousands of Californians went out to the polls to let their opinions be known in the gubernatorial primary elections and on six balloted state propositions. Results are as follows:

### Governor

Political newcomer Bill Simon captured the GOP nomination and won the right to challenge Democratic incumbent Gray Davis next fall in the California gubernatorial election. Davis won the Democratic primary, by an overwhelming 80.9%, beating out three little-known opponents. For the Republicans, early favorite Richard Riordan, former Mayor of Los Angeles, lost to the more conservative Bill Simon by 31.6% to 49.4%. In the last ten weeks, Simon, a conservative Los Angeles businessman overcame a 40-point deficit. He also took advantage of a \$9 billion advertising campaign Davis launched against Riordan.

### Proposition 40

Passed with 56.9% in favor. This proposition authorizes California to sell \$2.6 billion in bonds for conservation of natural and historical resources. It will allot tens of millions of dollars to protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin, San Francisco Bay, and other such places throughout the state of California. State parks and reserves would get nearly \$225 million, while other neighborhood and regional parks will share over \$800 million.

### Proposition 41

Passed with 51.7% in favor. This proposition, which grew out of the 2000 presidential vote count controversy in Florida, authorizes the distribution of \$200 million to counties for modernization of current voting systems.

### Proposition 42

Passed with 69.0% in favor. This proposition requires that all gasoline taxes be spent for transportation purposes only.

### Proposition 43

Passed with 71.5% in favor. This proposition explicitly amends the California Constitution to state that every legally casted vote shall be counted. The measure ensures that vote-counting will not be stopped because of lack of time.

### Proposition 44

Passed with an overwhelming 79.6% in favor. For a chiropractor who is convicted of insurance fraud a second time, this proposition will require the state Board of Chiropractic Examiners to revoke that chiropractor's license for ten years.

### Proposition 45

The "Term Limits Act" was rejected with 57.7% against. This proposition would have relaxed current term-limit rules by allowing lawmakers to run for extended terms if they gathered signatures from 20 percent of the voters in their districts. California's term limits are currently the toughest in the nation.

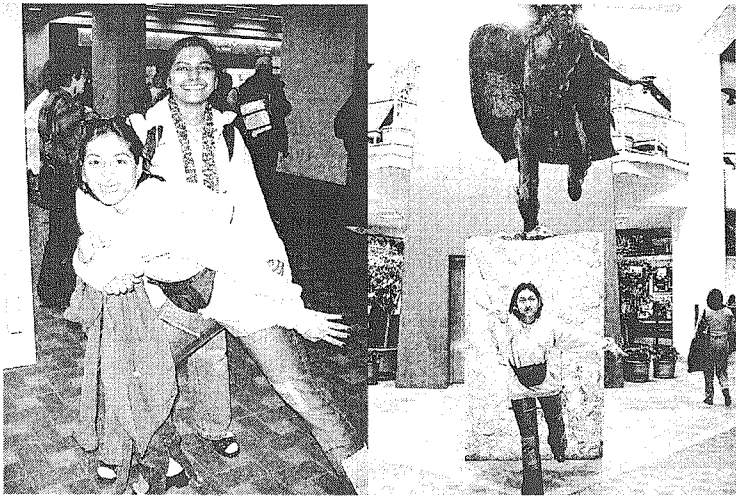


The California Tech Archives

Provost Steven Koonin urged the Foreign Relations Committee last week to prepare for the "mass disruption" that a radioactive "dirty bomb" could potentially bring.

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Courtesy of I. P. Bilal

Being a women engineer doesn't mean all work and no play. Here, Iram Parveen Bilal '04 and Mona Sheikh '03 enjoy themselves on the way to this year's annual Society of Women Engineers conference.

## Annual SWE Meeting Highlights Engineers

*Continued from Page 1, Column 4*  
ference, which will take place this October in SWE headquarters in Chicago.

McQuillen is a Civil and Transportation Engineer with a Bachelors and Masters Degree from the University of Iowa. Apart from volunteering for SWE, she has her own professional job. She is very much a family woman too and a full-time mother, with two sons, ages 5 and 12.

Her major goals for her term are firstly, to recruit as many members as possible and more importantly retain members in the society, "We would like our students to become life members."

Furthermore, she wants to specifically try and increase the opportunities for professional development for all levels of membership.

Very relevant to our section here at Tech, she wants to support the Section Vitality Task force (SVTF) that is focused on strengthening sections. For instance, we need much more attention and participation at Tech and this might be fixed with standard ways that the SVTF suggests.

In addition, McQuillen wants to work on the SWE website and make certain features like online membership payments available soon. She also thinks that SWE should have

archives and engineering and professional information available on its website so that it can serve as a resource to women nationwide and even internationally, if possible.

She admits that through her years in SWE, she has found the society to be excellent in career guidance and counseling. She comments on this, "It is interesting to reach the status of President and look back and see the personal touch and reference. The successful formula to leadership, I think, is to put the right skill in the right job and within SWE, we try excellent at that."

She goes on to comment that strategic planning has allowed SWE to work as a group. There is now a certainty in pursuing tasks with changing terms because now the goals are long-term ones. However, she admits that it is a huge responsibility to steer these goals.

"Sometimes it feels a little overwhelming to manage a 5 million plus organization!" SWE is the most funded engineering society on a nationwide basis.

The mission of SWE is to concentrate on stimulating women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders, to expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life and to demonstrate the value of diversity in their lives.

## LOOK OUT FOR 'DIRTY BOMBS,' SAYS PROVOST

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

logical fear and they are about economic destruction, not casualties."

Hospitals would be ill-equipped to handle the worried hordes and concerned businesses would move out of town. Legislators would throw vast sums of money to speed up what would already be a multi-year cleanup effort. "The psychosocial effects would be enormous," Koonin said.

In the end, Koonin pointed to mass hysteria as the more substantial end result—albeit a mass hysteria the nation's medical staff is likely unprepared to handle. "There are enough screwballs out there willing to risk or even give their lives to use [dirty bombs]," said Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. Joe Biden.

## Optometrist Outlines Path to 'Perfect Vision'

*Continued from Page 1, Column 4*

fraction for the center of the lens, he would shine a laser light on just this section. The light would stimulate the monomers in this region to form into polymers. Over the next few days diffusion would occur, and the remaining monomers would spread evenly throughout the lens. The final visit would involve shining laser light on the entire lens, locking all of the monomers into a polymer grid. The center lens now has an increased density of material, and thus an increased index of refraction. The laser light does not provoke a healing response from the eye, so modifications are not destroyed.

In what Kornfield called "one of those wonderful fortuitous discoveries in science," the group found that their method was even more powerful than they had planned. Diffusion of the monomers caused the lens to change shape, dramatically increasing the power of the effect. With this increase in power,

## Dengue Virus Thwarted?

PASADENA—Scientists have determined the fine-detail structure of the virus that causes dengue fever.

Reporting in the March 8 issue of the journal *Cell*, Caltech biology professor James H. Strauss, lead author Richard J. Kuhn, and M. Rossman and T. Baker, all three of Purdue University, describe the structure of the virus they obtained with a cryoelectron microscope. The map shows the inner RNA core of the virus as well as the other spherical layers that cover it. At the surface is the glycoprotein scaffolding thought to allow the virus to interact with the receptor and invade a host cell.

This is the first time the structure of one of the flaviviruses has been described, Strauss says. The flaviviruses are a class of viruses enclosed with a glycoprotein outer layer that includes minor projections out of the lipid layer due to the geometry of the scaffolding.

The surprise was the unusual

manner in which the glycoproteins are arranged. The computer-generated images show a highly varied structure of glycoprotein molecules that are evenly dispersed, but with a surprisingly complicated pattern.

The structural domains of the glycoproteins that have been false-colored blue in the image are thought to be involved in receptor binding. The ones coded yellow are thought to be responsible for holding the scaffolding together.

The new work could lead to drugs that will bind to the virus to prevent it from entering the cell, or perhaps from reassembling once it is already inside the cell.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-spread disease that is found throughout Latin America, the Caribbeans, Southeast Asia, India, and is currently at epidemic levels in Hawaii. The related dengue-hemorrhagic fever is a leading cause of infant mortality in Thailand.



The California Tech Archives

Provost Steven Koonin briefed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week on threats posed by nuclear "dirty bombs."

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## Caltech Astronomer Hunts 'Hot Jupiters' With Commercial Camera

PASADENA—In an age when nearly all astronomical work requires really big telescopes, David Charbonneau is something of an anomaly. The Caltech astronomer will soon begin a multiyear survey for extrasolar planets at Palomar Observatory—not with the 200-inch Hale telescope, but with a tiny desktop-sized device he and JPL researcher John Trauger assembled largely from parts bought at a camera shop.

Basing his instrument on a standard 300mm tele-photo lens for a 35mm camera, Charbonneau will begin sweeping the skies this spring in hopes of catching a slew of "hot Jupiters" as their fast orbits take them in front of other stars. Admittedly, the charge-coupled device (CCD) at the camera-end of the lens is a good bit more costly than the lens itself, but the total budget for the project, \$100,000, is still a paltry sum when one considers that the next generation of earthbound telescopes will likely cost upwards of \$400 million apiece.

Charbonneau, a recent import to the Caltech astronomy staff from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, is one of the world's leading authorities on the search for "transiting planets," or planets that should be detectable as

they pass into the line of sight between their host star and Earth. In November, Charbonneau and his colleagues made international news when they discovered the first planetary atmosphere outside our own solar system.

But that work was done with the Hubble Space Telescope. The yet-to-be-formally-named telescope at Palomar Observatory will certainly be more modest in cost, but every bit as ambitious a program for searching out other worlds.

At the fore-end of the new instrument is a standard 300mm camera lens. Charbonneau settled on a tele-photo lens because he reasoned that the optics have been honed to a fine degree of precision over the years and that the lens would be robust enough for the duration of the three-year project.

The CCD, a standard imaging tool in astronomy for the last couple of decades, is a \$22,000 item that accounts for the largest part of the instrument budget. The CCD will be mounted in a specially constructed camera housing to fit at the back of the lens, and the entire device will be fitted onto an equatorial mount.

Meanwhile, the Palomar staff has stored away a 20-inch telescope so Charbonneau will have a small dome for his new instrument, and

are also doing other preparations to mechanize the actual observing

Palomar Observatory engineer Hal Petrie says the mountain crew is currently busy linking the new telescope with an existing weather-monitoring system at the nearby 48-inch dome, where another auto-

*Continued on Page 3, Column 1*



I. P. Bilal/The California Tech

Kings, queens, constables and clowns adorn the stage in this term's final performance of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* last Saturday by the Theatre Arts at Caltech drama troupe.

## From Narcissus to Echo: Hotornot.com and the Power of Self-perception

By JIALAN WANG

As everyone knows (or should know, at least), the correct answer when a girl asks if she is fat/ugly/otherwise unattractive is always "no." While most of us have a desire to know how we are viewed by others, this desire is overwhelmed by the crippling fear of the truth. Reality is harsh, unfair, and unforgiving, so all of us labor under illusions and false hopes that help us get through our daily lives. Our self-perceptions are governed by illusions of who we think we should be and how others will accept this.

One of these illusions is that we are physically agreeable. By illusion, I don't mean that the notion is necessarily false, but that it is independent of reality. No matter what our actual appearances are, we all need to know that we are not hideously ugly. In order to face human interaction, we need to believe that others are not constantly thinking or observing our negative physical attributes. People without a healthy self-delusion about their appearances are prone to such afflictions as anorexia and the collective self-hatred that many modern women (and men) share.

Glimpses of reality such as photographs and home videos are often strange and startling. After seeing myself on tape, I often catch

myself wondering, "Is that really what I look like?" For those of us not beautiful enough for primetime, turning off the television is never so relieving as when we are on it. Thus, it is perhaps very fortunate that our eyes are positioned such that we rarely see ourselves except in controlled situations when we are purposefully staring into the mirror.

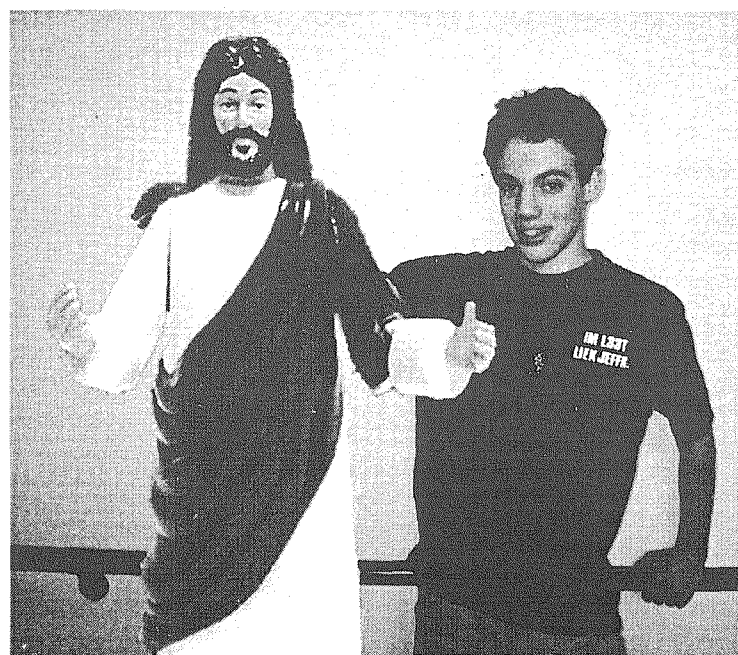
Mirror-gazing itself is a very curious activity. In image-centric America, mirrors are everywhere. From locations ranging from elevators to gyms, our reflections beckon us with lurid appeal, like a car wreck painted on silvered glass. A mirror image is much more than dispassionate photons bouncing off of our faces and feet and thighs. In the split second between perception and consciousness, all objectivity is lost, and the image in our mind's eye is a collage of what we are, what we want to be, and what we fear being. We stare intently into the eyes of our reflections admiring, searching, trying to reconcile our internal perceptions of ourselves to external reality. How can I make myself look better, and how can I change myself to better fit in with society?

Recently, a new twist has been added to the mystery of self-perception in the form of a website: [www.hotornot.com](http://www.hotornot.com). The website allows people to submit images of themselves for the judgment of millions of bored teenagers across the globe who rate attractiveness on a scale from 1 to 10. On one side, this website finally allows us to find out what people really think of how we look while retaining the option of rejecting any unfavorable result, or at least a rough estimate of this. On the viewer's side, the site allows us to compare our standards of beauty with popular opinion, and compare our own looks to others. *Hotornot.com* not only directly addresses our deepest insecurities and shallowest vanities, but it is also a strangely and powerfully addictive game.

Finally we can have one of our most burning

questions in life answered—to a certain extent anyway.

So does *hotornot.com* solve all of our self-image issues once and for all? Unfortunately not. For one, it doesn't really add any new information. In the deepest corners of our consciousnesses, all reasonably perceptive people have good ideas of what others think of them. We also have ideas for what we think we should be and not be. Our self-perception is a composite of all of these images, forming the core of our illusions. For the most part, we just assimilate any new information into our existing images of ourselves, interpreting liberally as necessary. When it comes to what others really think, we are better off not knowing.



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Abe Fetterman '05, failed candidate for ASCIT's Director of Academic Affairs, pins his loss to the so-called "Jesus Christ Principle."

## Jesus Christ, Election Reform And Your 88-year-old Grandma An Insider Doubts ASCIT's Polling Legitimacy

By ABE FETTERMAN

These days, everyone and his 88-year-old grandmother are talking about election reform (especially the losers of elections, and their respective grandmothers). This led me to wonder: How in the world did I lose my last election for ARC Chair?

The obvious answer was that I wasn't nearly as qualified as my opponents, but I did not cave into such logical answers. No, I sensed something deeper, something... inexplicable.

Much later, attending one of my humanities lectures, I learned of the "Jesus Christ Principle." That is, in a voting system such as ours, everyone votes for himself first and for Jesus Christ second. Good ol' JC, however, votes for someone else first. Clearly, then, he is the first to be eliminated, despite being the preferred candidate.

Could such a thing have happened to me? Has our complicated voting system joined the ranks of ineffective democratic methods such as butterfly ballots and that game where you have someone's name on the back of your head, and you have to guess who it is? Sadly, it may be so.

This insight led me to question whether a group of voters really knows what it needs. Sound ridiculous? Not to my parents, when I told them that I really really need them to buy me a Porsche 911 Turbo, even when I explained to them that it passed by unanimous vote. It doesn't sound ridiculous, either, to modern-day doctors, looking back to medicines sure to cure the sick in days gone by, such as blood-letting or limb-removal.

*"This led me to wonder: How in the world did I lose my last election for ARC Chair?"*

This leaves us with two options: to optimize the people's happiness, or to figure out what the true necessities of the populus are. As we are at Caltech, the prior alternative is out of the question.

But who would know what the people really need? Only people from *the future*. Well, folks, according to AOL advertisements and a quick search for "the future" on

Google, the *future* is *now*! That said, I present myself as a highly qualified person from *now*.

But unfortunately for my plans for world dictatorship (and fortunately for the rest of democracy), everyone, even Mr. Bartz, our illustrious *Tech* editor, can also present himself as a qualified person from *now*.

The conclusion should by now be painfully obvious. Any decisions requiring the preference of the people should be based on the passing comments of any nearby person or persons, and no more. Should some sort of voting procedure, perhaps any sort, take place, we will be relying on the uninterested, uninformed knowledge of the peoples of yesteryear.

Our great fore-fathers predicted such a dilemma--so was the creation of the Electoral College. They expected that some smarter men would act as a futuristic leader committee to decide what people really needed. Then the whole thing was violated when Alexander Hamilton got into a duel with Henry Ford over who he voted for in the electoral college (George Washington, I think), and so the Party System, hence inherently unstable "democracies" based on what people think, was formed.



Courtesy of J. Wang

Personal beauty has long been a mixed blessing in society's view. How one is viewed may not always be how one views herself.

## 'Hot Jupiters' Caught Cold

Continued from Page 2, Column 3

mated telescope is located. The system monitors the atmospheric conditions to determine whether the dome should be opened.

"The new telescope is a very good use of space," said Petrie. "The potential for results is very exciting."

Charbonneau will be able to photograph a single square of sky, about 5 degrees by 5 degrees. That's a field of view in which about 100 full moons could fit. Or, if one prefers, a field of view in which an entire constellation can be seen at one time.

With special software Charbonneau helped develop, he will compare many pictures of the same patch of sky to see if any of the thousands of stars in each field have slightly changed. If the software turns up a star that has dimmed slightly, the reason could well be that a planet passed in front of the star between exposures.

Repeated measurements will allow Charbonneau to measure the orbital period and physical size of each planet, and further work with the 10m telescopes at the Keck Ob-

servatory will allow him and his colleagues to get spectrographic data, and thus, the mass and composition of each planet.

"Once you get the mass and size, you have the density," he said.

Weather permitting, Charbonneau will be able to get up to 300 images during an ideal night. Assuming that he can have 20 good nights per month, he should have about 6,000 images each month show up in his computer.

The ideal time will be in the fall and winter, when the Milky Way is in view, and an extremely high number of stars can be squeezed into each photograph.

"It's estimated that about one in three stars in our field of view will be like the sun, and that one percent of sunlike stars will have a hot Jupiter, or a gas giant that is so close to the star that its orbit is about four or five days," he says.

"One-tenth of this 1 percent will be inclined in the right direction so that the planet will pass in front of its star, so that maybe one in 3,000 stars will have a planet we can detect," Charbonneau added. "Or if

you want to be conservative, about one in 6,000."

Compared to other research programs in astronomy, the search for hot Jupiters is fairly simple and straightforward to explain to the public, Charbonneau said. "An amateur could do this, except maybe for the debugging of the software...It's easy to understand what's going on, and cheap to build the equipment. That's why everyone thinks it's an ideal project-if it works."

The new Palomar telescope is the final instrument in a network of three. Of the other two, one is located in the Canary Islands and operated by the National Center for Atmospheric Research; the other is near Flagstaff, Arizona, and is operated by Lowell Observatory.

The large span in longitude of the three-instrument network will allow Charbonneau and his colleagues to observe a patch of sky with one telescope while the patch is above the horizon in the night sky, and then pass it off to the next westward telescope as the sun comes up.

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## Counseling: We're Here to Help

By KEVIN AUSTIN, Ph.D.

Most undergraduates think of the second term as a particularly tough term and the numbers of students seeking help from the Counseling Center does increase during this time. There are a number of reasons for this term being particularly difficult including the sense of excitement that comes with the new school year has worn off and it's a long while until the end. Students come to the Center now for all the same reasons as they do other terms (e.g. relationship issues, cultural adjustment, and uncertainty about their desire to continue in science) but concerns about stress and depression increase noticeably.

One of the things the Counseling Center does to help students cope is to offer workshops on issues that students face. This term the Counseling Center offered programs on stress management, body image and relationships. We will be offering another program on relationships next term.

Because a number of students experience depression for the first time at Caltech we are providing training to groups of students on "How to Help a Friend Who May Be Depressed or Suicidal." The focus of this program is to help students identify the signs of depression and suicide and how to be of help. If you are concerned about a friend who may be depressed or is experiencing any kind of emotional problem, our website offers specific information on how to help: <http://www.counseling.caltech.edu/>.

Here are some other services we offer that you may find valuable:

International Student Programs and the Counseling Center offer an ongoing group that helps International Students with the challenges of adjusting to a new culture and both American and International student on relating across cultures. The group meets at the Women's Center Lounge on the second floor of the Center for Student Services from noon to 1 p.m. on Mondays. The Center for Student Services is located on Holliston near the parking structure.

The Staff, Faculty Consultation Center and the Counseling Center offer a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual and Transgendered Support Group

## KLEEMAN, RAINIER, DELIGNE PICKED FOR WILLIAMS' IHC

The IHC would like to thank everyone who volunteered to for the positions of IHC Secretary, Ath Man, and Food Committee Chair. From among a very qualified applicant pool, the following officers were chosen:

**IHC Secretary:** Elise Kleeman  
**IHC Ath Man:** Shane Rainier  
**Food Committee Chair:** Natalia Deligne

for staff, faculty and students and those who share an interest in their concerns. A good source of support, the group meets at the Health Center's conference room on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 8:15 p.m.

The Counseling Center also has resources on our website that cover a wide range of issues Caltech students face: Overcoming Excessive Worry and Anxiety, Depression, Internet Addiction, Procrastination, Shyness, Panic Attacks, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Overcoming Post-Quals Let Down. It's common for students to read something about a concern they have on our website and then come in to talk with us about it.

As you can see, help for the stress of second term comes in many different forms. You may always consider coming to one of the programs being offered or come talk to us—we are here to help.

## A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

MARCH 8, 2002

### Present

BoD: Ted, Joe, Janet, Marcus, Basit, Jialan, Neda, Andrea. Absent: Vikram (Cambridge)  
Guests: Kevin Bartz (*Tech* editor), Krista Ehringer, Ryan Samson, Dee Datta

Meeting called to order at 4:37 p.m.

### Guests

Krista picks up Blacker's Multihouse funding for the term. Marcus (for Spencer Rarrick) and Ryan, respectively, pick up the Dabney and Page Interhouse funding for the year.

### General Meeting

The Capra retreat is set for the weekend of April 12. This multi-day budgeting and fun session will set the tone for the rest of our terms. One need only look at how a single viewing of "Bring it On" defined the last BoD for confirmation of this.

The BoD also decides to eat dinner in a different house each week, possibly holding our weekly meeting afterwards in that house. We will also include Avery. The idea (it was Ted's, and a good one) will increase exposure and allow us to get input from many different segments of the student body.

ASCIT is getting a pretty sweet deal from the Caltech Office of Financial Services (OFS) and Caltech Auxiliary and Business Services (CABS—let's hear it for Tom



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Led by President Ted Jou '03, ASCIT's Board of Directors debates an election holdup sparked by the sudden withdrawal of one candidate from the Senior Class President race.

Mannion). Essentially, they are going to keep all of our books and manage our various payrolls, for free. We maintain control over our own finances of course, but they take care of the paperwork, including filing taxes. It doesn't get any better than that. We're also getting a credit card (finally), which will be connected to a Caltech Credit Union account. A system will also hopefully be setup whereby clubs will once again be able to charge dues through UID's, with ASCIT as the middleman.

A rumor that the *Tech* business managers are still paying themselves 10% each (rather than 10% between both of them) surfaces, despite the BMs being directed to do the latter by Martha-Helene and the 2001-2002 BoD. This will be investigated. We're going to be running a tighter ship with regards to publication finances in general this year, since all the necessary records will be on campus and close at hand. Article XIV of the Bylaws gives the ASCIT BoD "ultimate" control over all publication salaries.

In another signup controversy, one person running for Senior Class Co-President wishes to switch running mates (with the running mate's consent). The BoD is inclined to let this happen only with the approval of every other candidate in the same race, since any change obviously affects them.

Continuing a disturbing development, various people announce plans to go to Copenhagen, Cambridge, Uzbekistan, Mars, etc. sometime during the next school year. Marcus surmises that by halfway through next year, there won't be any voting BoD members left (appointed replacements can't vote).

### Officer Reports

Ted has scheduled the big interview-and-appointment BoD meeting for this Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Joe reports that signups for the various aforementioned ASCIT-appointed offices

will be coming down at 5 p.m. (sharp) Monday. He will email the people who have signed up to schedule interview times for Wednesday.

Marcus reports that the joint ASCIT BoD-IHC meeting to appoint CRC reps will be sometime on Tuesday, because that's when outgoing CRC Chair Aaron Robison is available, and the appointments need to be done soon. Marcus has also located a drill with which to create the final hole necessary to have a working DVD cabinet. Please, please finish it.

Basit reports that there are still no ARC Reps from Page or Ricketts, but that the rest of the houses have elected their representatives.

Jialan reports new members of the Executive Social Committee: Alan Somers (Dabney), Xiao Peng (Fleming), Elaine Gee (Blacker), Alice Lin (Lloyd), Raajan Patel (Ricketts), Joanna Cohen (Page) and Megan Kennedy (Ruddock). Spencer Rarrick (Jamroom Manager) is also on the committee, and Jialan will try to find someone from Avery, too.

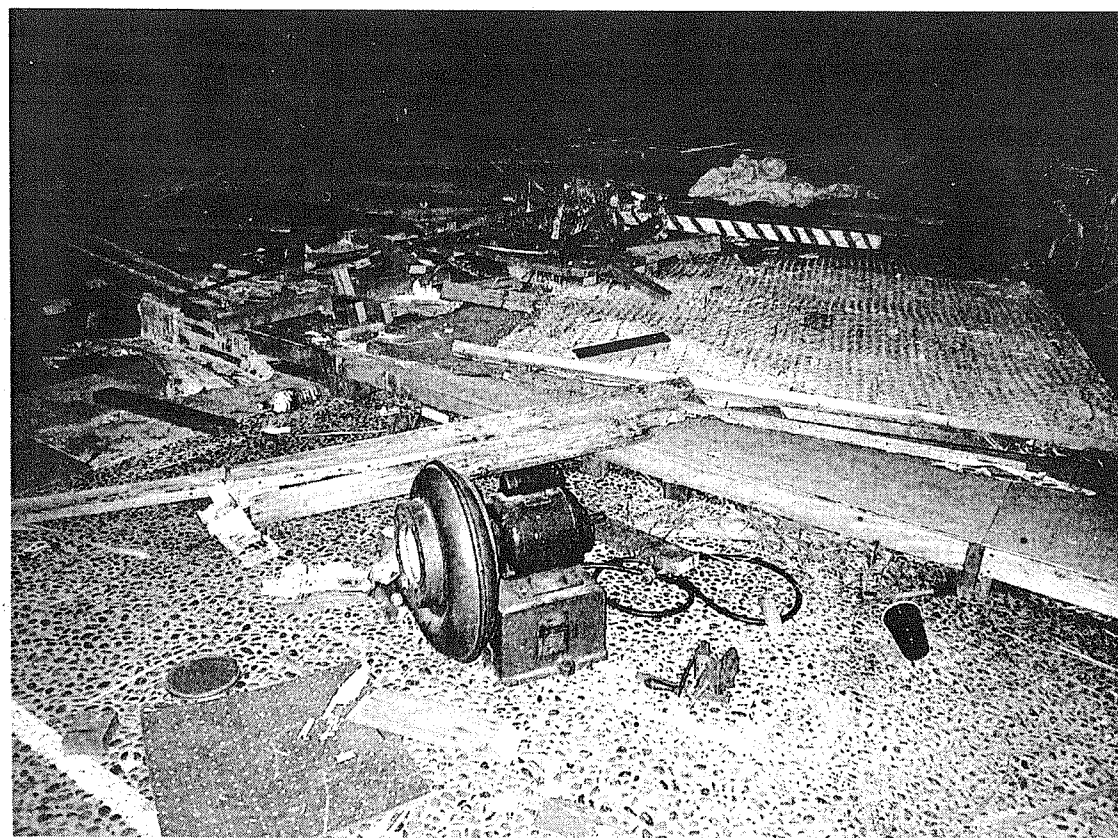
Andrea put up signs advertising the upcoming survey on March 15. Clubs, don't forget to register with Donut in time to be included on the list! The results of the survey will have some bearing on funding for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ASCIT Secretary

## IN LIKE A MAYAN, OUT LIKE A...



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Power tools, plastic bags and broken planks lay strewn about in the aftermath of Ruddock's "Mayan Temple" party, which drew throngs of students the Saturday before last.

## Y news

by Abel Bourbois

### Upcoming Events

Contact Greg ([gregf@its](mailto:gregf@its)) for additional info on any event.

**Symposium** (3/13, 7 to 9 p.m., BI Auditorium). Discussion on the history, mechanisms, and current significance of the proposed International Criminal Court. Presented by Peaceful Justice Coalition ([peace@caltech](mailto:peace@caltech)).

**Community Service** (3/15, 2:30 to 5 p.m., Pasadena). Volunteers desperately needed! Come spend time with kids at the Pasadena Boys & Girls Club. Contact Joy ([joyjoy@its](mailto:joyjoy@its)) for more details.

**Community Service** (3/16, 6 to 9 p.m., Pasadena). Cook dinner for ~50 recovering homeless people at Union Station. Transportation and meal included. Contact Abel ([boubois@its](mailto:boubois@its)).

**Decompression** (3/16 & 3/17, 6 to 10 p.m., Winnett Lounge). Come enjoy the tradition! Tons of FREE

food, fun and acapella music. Volunteers wanted! Sign up in your house or e-mail Susan ([ayer@its](mailto:ayer@its)).

### Factoid

The Y began Make-A-Difference (MAD) Day in April 2001. This year, we are planning a sequel for Saturday, April 6, 2002. This is a great opportunity to do some positive service for the Pasadena community, meet new people with similar interests, and learn about new service opportunities. Signups sheets will be posted at Decompression.

### 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. Contact: [niki@its](mailto:niki@its).

**Outdoor Committee:** every other Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Contact: [homann@its](mailto: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 ([yveep@ugs](mailto:yveep@ugs)).

# Just the Two of Us...

## Marc Popkin-Paine & Joy Qiu



T. Vanesian/The California Tech

The position of senior class president requires responsibility, dedication, and trust. We have all of these qualities oozing out of our ears. We are both very active inside and outside of our houses. Joy has organized community service events through the Y and helped plan various house events; and Marc has been an Ath. frosh and Assistant Athletics Manager for Fleming and is currently the secretary. We have shown our exceptional work ethic and earned the respect of our peers.

If you vote for one candidate this election, then your vote will be thrown out. But if you vote for two, vote for us. We have known each other for a long time and have formed a friendship that crosses house lines. With our wide network of inter-house connections and our passion and integrity, we will best represent the entire senior class. Furthermore, our signatures are hard to forge, so you can be sure that your voice will be heard in the commencement speaker selection.

## James Tong & Wingho Yu



Courtesy of W. Yu

First of all, we just want to say that we are honored to run for Senior Class Presidents. We understand that the position comes with a lot of responsibilities, but we are ready to take on the huge challenge. We believe that senior year is all about fun. By now, I'm sure you are all tired of staying up late and stressing about homework. That's why we want to make senior year a little less torturous. If we are elected Senior Class President, our mission will be to bring fun (e.g. sex, drugs and rock and roll) to Caltech. We also believe in democracy, so anyone with any suggestions can feel free to e-mail us. Thanks for reading our mission statement.

## Julia Salas & Mona Sheikh

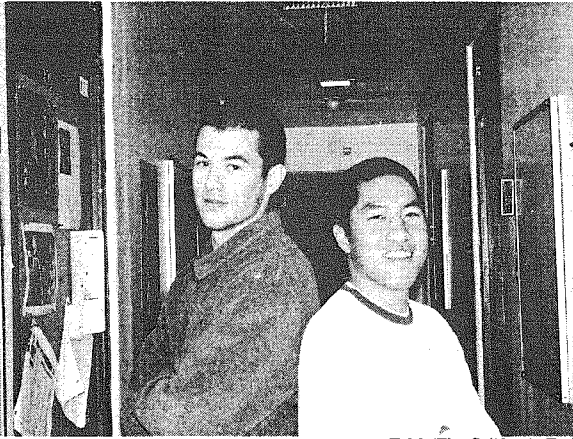


I. P. Bilal/The California Tech

When we graduate, we want to remember not the hard times, but the friends Tech gave us, and the fun we had with them. We are running as Co-presidents to make sure we all have great memories of our last year at Caltech to take with us when we leave. In view of the recent history of Commencement, it is particularly important that the concerns and preferences of the administration do not drown out the voice of the Graduating Class of 2003. We will work towards making sure our collective choice is the Commencement Speaker. For us, Ditch Day epitomizes much of what sets Caltech apart and makes our experience that much more unique. As Senior Class Presidents, we will work extensively with the undergraduates and the administration to ensure that our Senior Year culminates in a truly memorable Ditch Day, bringing back freedoms of Ditch Days past. The Senior Class Gift is a Caltech tradition that has lost its significance. As senior class presidents it will be among our top priorities to make ours a meaningful, useful and long-lasting contribution.

We earnestly hope that you will give us the opportunity to serve as your Senior Class Presidents. Thank you.

## Tony Nannini & Kevin Tse



T. Ma/The California Tech

Yeah, you know us.

We're the two guys walking on the Olive Walk always towards our next activity. It might be an IHC meeting, a BigT or CORE curriculum meeting, or probably just a plain old soccer practice. But we're also never too busy to stop and say hi to everyone along the way. We've both continued to shoulder some pretty heavy responsibilities throughout our years at Tech, but if you ask most people they'll say we've done a pretty good job.

We'd like a chance to do so much more for our class, and if elected Senior Class Co-Presidents we will continue to excel. As organizers of Ditch Day and commencement (and the Senior gift) we'll do our best to make sure that your experiences associated with these events will be memorable. We possess both the leadership and the communication skills necessary to reach out to the Caltech community and make the voices and ideas of the Senior class heard and taken to heart. We've actually already had a great deal of experience organizing some large scale events both on and off campus, and have dealt with members of the administration on a variety of occasions.

Together, we will make your senior year kick ass.

## Robin Mayes & Marcus Williams

For co-presidents  
Robin and Marcus are good.  
Campaign with haikus.

No Alan Alda  
To give commencement address.  
Hunter S. Thompson?

To schedule Ditch Day:  
We can do that, no problem.  
It is tomorrow.

## THE OUTSIDE WORLD

By William Fong

### Operation Anaconda Under Way

Earlier this week, Operation Anaconda began with the goal of neutralizing hard-core al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters that had gathered near the city of Gardez to supposedly coordinate an attack on the interim government of Afghanistan. However, this operation was announced when a Chinook helicopter was taken down by enemy fire at the beginning of the week and seven soldiers were killed when the helicopter was ambushed on the ground. As of Friday, eleven allied fighters, including eight Americans, have been killed with 70 more wounded and 450 enemy fighters have been confirmed dead. The U.S. and allied forces have gained control of high ground using an aerial assault and ground troops, but there are no signs of surrender from the al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

### Violence Escalates in Middle East

Over the past week, more than 100 Palestinians and Israelis have died in acts of violence. The latest includes a shooting at a Gaza settlement by a Palestinian gunman on Thursday; the shooting killed five Israeli men who were studying at a religious school and wounded at least another 20. Hours after the shooting, the Israeli military responded with attacks on several Palestinian targets in northern Gaza City as well as a strike on Khan Younis killing 32 Palestinians according to Palestinian sources. However, amidst this escalation in violence, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called for ceasefire talks after international criticism and sharp words from President George W. Bush. This was a change in his position from a week ago when Sharon said that a week hiatus in violence was necessary before ceasefire talks could begin. Also, President Bush has sent special Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni to the region in an attempt to calm the violence.

### Kmart Closes Stores, Cuts Jobs

After filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 22, Kmart has decided to close 284 stores and cut 22,000 jobs in an effort to emerge from bankruptcy. It also plans on liquidating more than \$1 billion in inventory through sales. Kmart's bankruptcy was brought on by competition from Wal-Mart and Target as well as poor business decisions in the 1990's.

### Signs of Economic Recovery

During the Federal Reserve monthly meeting, Chairman Alan Greenspan decided to leave interest rates unchanged after 11 rate cuts in 2001. This along with encouraging signs from the manufacturing sector and consumer spending have fueled a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones Industrials posted nearly a 500-point gain during the first two sessions of the month and is positive for March. However, uncertainty in the war on terrorism and instability in the Middle East may limit potential economic growth and the return of a bull market.



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

We are currently seeking the following candidates:

#### Senior Director / Director

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

#### Qualifications:

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

#### Senior Scientists

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

#### Qualifications:

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

#### Research Associates

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

#### Qualifications:

BA/BS degree in Life Sciences. 2 years experience desirable.

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

**DILBERT®** by Scott Adams

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY EVERYONE IS ALWAYS LATE FOR MY STAFF MEETINGS?

BECAUSE THE FIRST TEN MINUTES ARE ALWAYS STUPID STUFF LIKE "WHY ARE PEOPLE LATE?"

ALICE. THAT WAS SOME OF YOUR FINEST WORK. THANK YOU FOR NOTICING.

WHAT'S OUR CURRENT SEVERANCE PACKAGE?

I TRANSFER YOU TO A BAD JOB AND YOU QUIT WITHOUT GIVING NOTICE.

I HATE YOUR PACKAGE. I HEAR THAT A LOT.

TINA, WE'VE GOTTEN SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOUR HOSTILE BEHAVIOR.

AT A RECENT MEETING YOU CROSSED YOUR ARMS. THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE BODY LANGUAGE.

MAYBE I WAS COLD. EYEBROWS! EYEBROWS!

SOMEONE ACCUSED ME OF HAVING HOSTILE BODY LANGUAGE.

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO CROSS MY ARMS OR STARE OR MOVE MY EYEBROWS OR FROWN.

HAVE A NICE DAY. TOO LATE.

CAROL, THIS IS URGENT.

I'LL ADD IT TO THE COMPOST DRAWER.

I HOPE THAT MEANS THE SAME THING AS "URGENT."

EVERY EMPLOYEE WILL WEAR A BUTTON THAT SAYS "I'M EMPOWERED."

I DON'T WANT TO. YOU HAVE TO.

THAT WAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN ONE PACKAGE.

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

THIS AUDIO CD IS UNPLAYABLE. BUT I JUST BOUGHT IT.

I'M SORRY. DON'T TELL ME THIS IS ONE OF THOSE STUPID NEW "COPY-PROTECTED" CDS THAT WON'T WORK IN A COMPUTER!

CURSE YOU, RECORD LABELS! CURSE YOU STRAIGHT TO HADES!

NO, NO - I JUST DRAW THE LINE AT PLAYING VANILLA ICE. BUT HE'S "V-ICE" NOW...

HERE'S THE GYNN PROPOSAL, SIR. FOX, YOU LOOK AWFUL!

DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE HERE ALL NIGHT PREPARING THIS JUST FOR ME! POOR GUY!

GO HOME! TAKE A SHOWER! SEE YOUR WIFE AND KIDS! HECK, TAKE THE DAY OFF!

FOX, YOU'RE DREAMING AGAIN. AND DID I MENTION YOU LOOK AWFUL?

HEY, PAIGE, WATCH THIS!

QUINCY, SIT!

HE WAS SITTING BEFORE YOU SAID IT, DOOFUS. WHAT'S THAT PROVE?

THAT HE'S OBEДИENT AND PSYCHIC!

WHY DO I ENTER THIS ROOM?

HELLOOOO, GOOD LOOKIN'!

BE STILL MY HEART!

HUBBA, HUBBA, ROWRRRR!

(BONK! BONK!) PETER, WILL YOU STOP TALKING TO YOURSELF? I NEED TO BRUSH MY TEETH!

(WINK) CATCH YOU LATER, BABE.

LEGOLAS FIRES HIS BOW OF ELYVISH ACCURACY. A HIT! HE PIERCES THE PROFESSOR'S BEAUTIFUL MIND!

GIMLI SWINGS HIS AX OF DWARVEN MIGHT. A MASSIVE HIT! THE FRENCH DANCE HALL IS STAINED A MOULIN BLOODY ROUGE!

THE BALROG CRACKS HIS HUGE, FLAMING WHIP. AND GOSFORD FLEES THE PARK AND RUNS SCREAMING INTO THE BEDROOM!

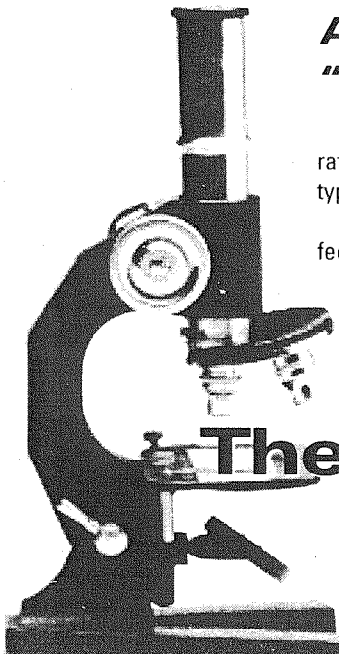
THIS IS HOW WE'D GET A LOT MORE "TERMINATOR" AWARDS SHOULD MOVIES THAT BE DECIDED. WAY, I BET.

IT'S A NEW PERFUME I WANT TO TRY. WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S SPECIALLY FORMULATED TO ATTRACT HIGH SCHOOL MALES.

UNLIKE TRADITIONAL PERFUMES THAT FEATURE FLOWERY SCENTS, THIS ONE IS DESIGNED TO WORK ON A MORE PRIMAL LEVEL.

PIZZA TOPPINGS. MMM... SAUSAGE AND MUSHROOM... BASED ON PHEROMONES?



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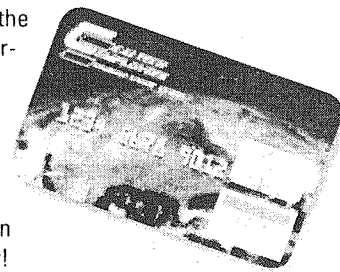
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# Dean's Corner

## Ring Ring Ring

by Jean-Paul Revel



PR: This is Susanna (fictitious name) in Public Relations.  
Me: Hi!

PR: Hi! We have a request from a national newspaper (purposely left unnamed). Would you be willing to be interviewed on the topic of how Caltech deals with Honor code violations, and disciplinary matters?

Me, to myself: Just what I need! I'll talk to them and spend half an hour on the phone, and an article will come out which will be read everywhere, with the facts all twisted up. On the other hand we have such a unique way of doing thing, what with the major role of the students and our wish to educate rather than punish. May be I'll postpone this to Monday, that's is far away, good way to not have to deal with something unpleasant (Jimmy Cricket, in my ear: You are procrastinating, procrastinating-do it NOW, NOW and get it over with)

Me, to PR: Yeah I'll do it Monday at 9 a.m., yes noon Eastern Time. Is that OK? Sure sure, I'll talk to them then. Bye!

Me, to you: And so, having freed myself from the burden of having to answer queries cold (that's the charitable way to rationalize my actions, but I am sure you can recognize the fallacy) I go back to dealing with the IMPORTANT things on my desk and after dealing with a humongous (what else) pile of stuff, eventually saunter off for a well earned, restful weekend.

The peaceful feeling does not last very long. Even that Friday evening, watching Glenn Iffil and her colleagues discuss the events of the past week, my attention is diverted. Scenarios for the interview play over and over in my mind. I regret postponing the interview. I feel sheepish, remembering all the times I have been talking to students about the consequence of putting things off till tomorrow. All through Saturday the postponed phone call haunts me and takes away the relaxing pleasures of the week-end. I am distracted. I make mistakes in

simple tasks, like assembling a garden bench backwards (the finished part of the bench top is on the wrong side), and having to disassemble it again.

Now let's see? Right! We have this unique system at Caltech, starting way back when? Hmm I'll have to look at my notes. Anxiety attack was it 1920? This little thing gets so big I leave the garden benches and other domestic tasks undone and drive to Caltech. Two hours later I emerge with my notes, and a copy of the little T of March 1, 1944 (Vol. XXIV), prepared under the auspices of the Caltech YMCA (that's what it was called then) which states that "In 1920 (relief) Herbert B. Holt, then ASB President for the second time," (ASB was the predecessor of ASCIT, I believe) "initiated an institution which has since become Tech's most sacred tradition: the Honor System. Based on the thought that the happiest manner of living at college is in mutual trust of your fellow students, the Honor System is more than merely a code applying to conduct in examinations; it extends to all phases of campus life. Not only does it permit men" (remember that was written in 1944) "to take examinations in rooms without faculty supervision, but it also allows a person to leave belongings anywhere on the campus with the knowledge that his fellows will not disturb them, and to be treated in his dealings with the faculty with utmost confidence in his honesty." Having gotten this far, I realized that although it was nice for us insiders to know about who did what, when, the cursed journalist responsible for this turmoil would probably not care-it was all wasted time to dig up this.

I could just say in a nutshell that the Honor Code consists of the conscientious application of the idea that none of us at Caltech take advantage of others. It is taking advantage of others to present ideas as one's own when they are not (i.e. not referencing authors,, plagiarizing books, notes, and of course simply copying another Techer's exam). It also extends to breach of copyright by distributing music or

films. Doing so may end up in abridging the prerogatives of everyone on Campus, and so is interpreted as taking advantage of other Techers

I have to say I imagined that right then the reporter would stop me and ask how did I know that the rules were being followed? Of course there is no way to know with absolute certainty, but we do have mechanisms in place to make sure that the Honor System is upheld. When something suspicious happens the person discovering the alleged violation reports it to the chair of the Board of Control, a group of trusted students elected by their peers, or to the Conduct Review Committee, led by the Associate Dean and an elected student, and composed of Students, Faculty and Staff. The BoC deals mainly with possible academic problems and the

CRC, with other problems. The decisions are reviewed by the Dean, and can be appealed. They are not meant as punishment, but as educational tools. The BoC aims at nullifying the advantage gained by the defendant, by removing academic credit wrongfully gained, and to protect the rest of community by taking action which will help prevent recurrences. Of course if these remedies have no effect, then the student may be asked to leave the institute for an indefinite (i.e. possibly permanent) basis. The CRC's decisions, while not couched in the same terms, also aim at education, and preventing recurrences.

Yes that's what I'll say to that reporter, and it is all packaged in a very few words. Oh it does not mean that we don't need elaboration and "outside" help and guidelines. The students are given a first glance at the Honor Code, at Frosh Camp. The Honor Code Handbook, is given to all students when they arrive on Campus, and also sent to Profs. The same material can be found on the web (<http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~ascit/boc/UGHSBook.html>), or by following

the trail started by typing in "Honor Code"). Other help can be found in the pages on "Intellectual Property" which contain a copyright tutorial and a statement of Caltech's Policy in this regard. From there one can also reach an excellent U. Texas site (there are other sites too, like the U. of Rochester site recommended recently by a colleague) Of course there are also less formal places like articles in the Tech-the Student paper, where some of these problems were discussed as recently as Jan 28. Yes and there is a BoC rep to consult in each house--we live and we breathe the honor code.

Me: You know what? Monday 9am passed, and so did Tuesday and Wednesday-the reporter did not call. But it was not a waste of a week end-we all should have to look at this stuff once in a while.. Do so before finals? A bientot!

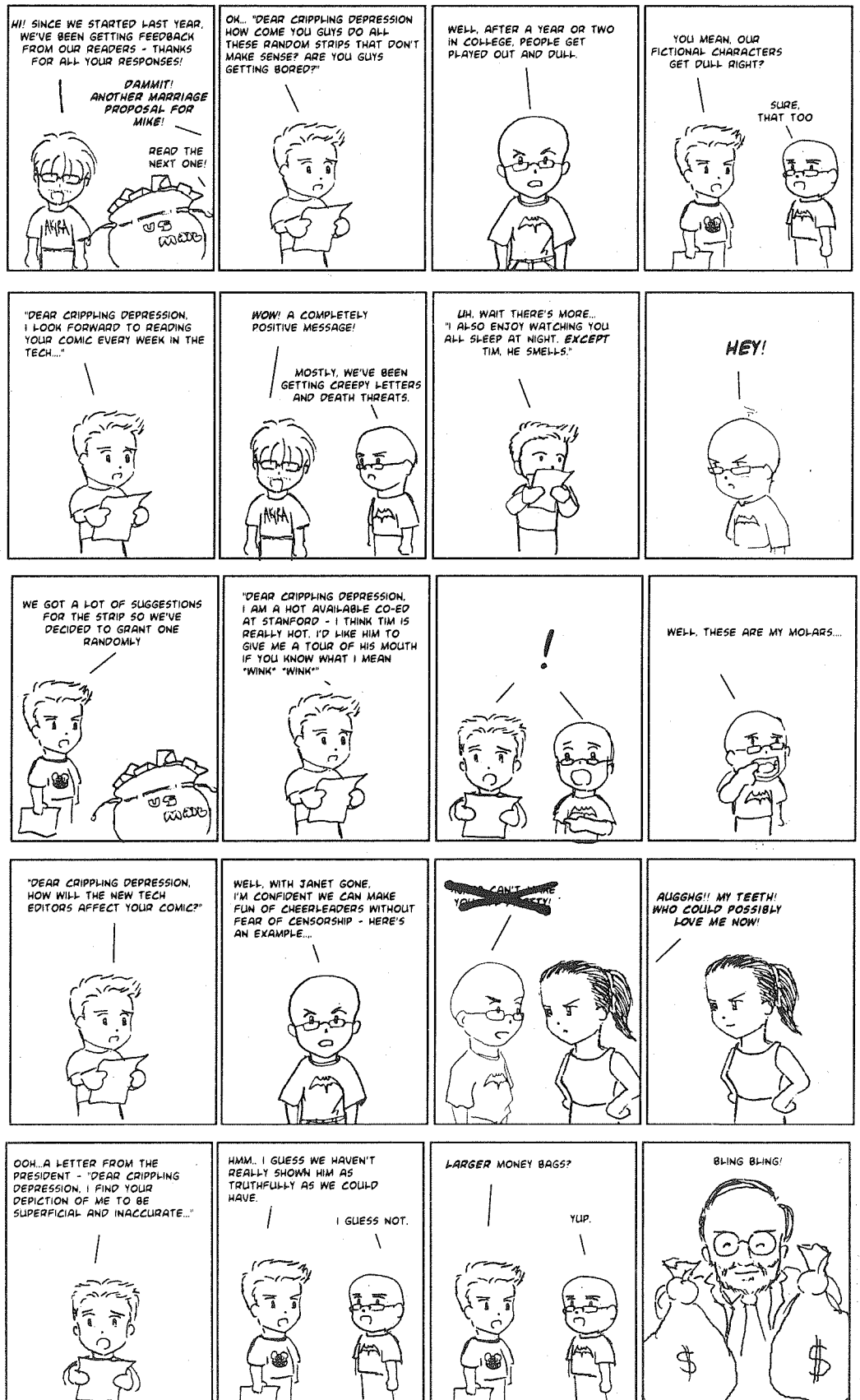
*Jean Paul Revel*

Jean-Paul Revel  
Dean of Students

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By Tim Wan, Mike Yeh and Ben Lee



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## Announcements

One of the newest benefits of your **Caltech Student Health Insurance plan** is the option of having prescriptions mailed directly to you. In addition to the convenience this service provides, it also significantly reduces the cost of maintenance medications — those that a student would take on an ongoing basis, (i.e., anti-depressants, asthma medication, etc.) For a 90-day supply your co-payment is \$12 for generic drugs and \$20 for brand name drugs. For more information, including how to submit a mail order prescription, check out the Health Center's web page at: <http://www.healthcenter.caltech.edu/>. Click on Insurance Policy, Prescriptions, and scroll down to 'Through the Mail.'

**Information on New Tax Benefits.** Looking for information on the new tax benefits of paying for your Caltech education? The Financial Aid Office has several publications to assist you in preparing your income tax returns. Stop by our office if you would like copies of the materials. The Caltech Financial Aid Office does not offer tax advice and you should not rely on the publications without consulting a competent financial professional, reading the actual tax regulations, or contacting the IRS Tax Questions Hot Line. These materials are for informational purposes only and may help clarify some of the most commonly asked questions. Although the published materials are believed to be accurate, no guarantee is made with respect to accuracy or applicability to your financial situation.

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 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.

**The Caltech Dance Troupe** has free ballet classes every Saturday in the Braun Athletic Center multi-purpose room. Beginners meet from 2:30-3:30 pm and intermediate dancers from 1-2:30. We also have a professionally taught jazz class on Tuesday evenings, 10-11 pm, for a small fee. For more information, please see our website: <http://troupe.caltech.edu>.

**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 (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 (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 LGBT events on campus, please visit the Caltech Student Pride Association (CSPA) calendar at <http://rainbow.caltech.edu>.

**Biology Tutor wanted** for High School student. The tutor's main responsibility would be to create mock tests & review them with the student. This can be done via the e-mail. Rate of pay is \$30 per hour. Approximately 1.5 - 2 hours per week. Contact Tina [JJYX@aol.com](mailto:JJYX@aol.com) or 626-585-8656.

To submit a Mint, e-mail [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@tech.caltech.edu) or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Friday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

Attention all undergraduate students on Financial Aid: The last date to request any change to your 2001-2002 financial aid award is Wednesday, May 1, 2002. Requests for 2001-02 changes made after May 1 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 6280 if you have any questions.

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](mailto: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](mailto:athena@caltech.edu)) or Greg Fletcher ([gregf@caltech.edu](mailto:gregf@caltech.edu)) at ext. 6163.

## Scholarships

**Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO)** offers annual scholarships to qualifying students at COHEAO member schools. (Caltech is a member.) The eligibility requirements for applicants are as follows: -Applicants must be U.S. citizens; -Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; - Applicants must be attending a COHEAO member school; - Only undergraduate students, who are entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year, are eligible to apply; freshmen are not eligible; - Only one scholarship per family per academic year will be awarded COHEAO members and their immediate family members are not eligible for COHEAO scholarships. Further information about the scholarship is only available via the Web at: [www.coheao.com](http://www.coheao.com).

Applications for the **USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships** are now available. Program details and applications are available online at [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org). The deadline for application is April 15, 2002. This year's program will award scholarships of \$1500 each for full-time undergraduate students, based on documented financial need. All applicants must have an adjusted family gross income of \$35,000 or less. Up to 50 percent of the scholarship awards will be targeted to applicants who, in addition to having financial need, are members of an ethnic minority or are physically disabled.

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 session is approximately one hour of formal instruction beginning at noon, meeting in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room, 328. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred. Tuesday, March 12, Noon "Patents." You may register for this and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or [kathleen@library.caltech.edu](mailto:kathleen@library.caltech.edu).

**WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology)** will be hosting a Women's Art Exhibit, Wine and Cheese Social on April 26 in Dabney Hall from 3-6 pm. We will be featuring the art of Caltech women (undergrads, grads, post-docs, faculty, and staff). If you have an artistic side that you rarely get to show off and would like to submit your work, please contact [westclub@its.caltech.edu](mailto:westclub@its.caltech.edu) by April 5. All types of art work will be accepted, including (but not limited to) painting, poetry, pottery, sculpture, photography, drawing, silk screening, clothes design, jewelry design, ceramics, woodwork, and anything else you'd like to share. All members of the community are invited to view the showing on April 26.

**WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology)** will be hosting an upcoming Lunch With Faculty event. Female students are invited to attend an informal lunch with Profs. Fiona Harrison and Mary Kennedy to learn about their individual pathways to success, current research projects, and thoughts on women in science. This event will be held March 12 from 12-1pm in the Carriage House. Please RSVP to [westclub@caltech.edu](mailto:westclub@caltech.edu) if you would like to attend.

**Shades on March 15.** Watch for the time and place of this free performance on the Caltech campus. Shades is Yale's youngest a cappella group, formed in 1988 at a Yale freshman minority orientation program. Shades was conceived in order to bring a fresh and unique sound to the Yale music scene based upon the rich ethnic backgrounds of its founding members. Shades sings and performs music primarily from African-American traditions, including traditional music, Gospel, and Soul as well as R&B, Jazz and Contemporary popular music. Shades received the National Collegiate A Cappella Association's highest distinction, Number One Group in the country as well as the award for Best Male Soloist on a recorded CD.

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