



Griessl, Sheikh Coast to Big Victory After Sign-up Battle

By ROBERT LI

Mona Sheikh '03 and Julia Griessl '03 were elected Senior Class Co-presidents last Wednesday in a controversial election involving a pair of pointed rulings from both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

The trouble began on the Tuesday before last, when Martha-Helene Stapleton '03, Sheikh's original running-mate, abruptly abandoned her partner, citing a lack of time as the major reason. However, the information did not reach Sheikh until four p.m. that afternoon, one hour after ASCIT's stated nomination deadline.

When she did receive word of the her partner's withdrawal, however,

Sheikh asked Jou whether she would be allowed to select a new running mate, a request that sparked a whirlwind of controversy between ASCIT's legislative bodies.

Jou sympathized with Sheikh's request, but considering a similar issue regarding the legitimacy of last month's Secretary election, he pushed the case cautiously. "There is no explicit procedure on the books, so I tried to poll the opinions of all parties involved," he said.

In the end, the question went before the BoD and the ExComm, both of whom approved the measure by five-to-two and three-to-one margins, respectively. Sources indicated that the main opponent of the decision was incoming Secretary Joe Jewell '03, who refused to

expound on his decision citing doubt over whether his views would be portrayed accurately.

After the decision was approved by the committees, Jou gave each of the other candidates a chance to veto it. However, none did so by Sunday so Jou made the change official on the ballots.

For the future, in response to the lack of specific rules for resolving the issue, Jou has proposed a new bylaw. "Caltech is a place that is generally very open to giving extensions and being flexible with rules, and I think any new Bylaw should reflect that," he explained. "I personally like the idea of simply giving each of the other candidates a chance to veto the addition of a name on the ballot." The BoD is slated to vote on the amendment early next term.

When asked about the whole controversy, Sheikh insisted that "there really is no story here" and that she and Stapleton were "still good friends."

Meanwhile, as newly affirmed Senior Class co-presidents, Sheikh and Griessl have three main goals. First, they want to ensure that the Commencement Speaker reflects the choice of the senior class rather than that of the administration.

Next, they would like to ensure that Ditch Day brings back the "freedom of Ditch Days past." And finally, they aim to make a "meaningful, useful and long-lasting contribution" for the Senior Class Gift.



T. Ma/The California Tech

World renowned physicist Stephen Hawking departs a sold-out Beckman Auditorium audience after lecturing on string theory.

Hawking Maps Out 'Brane New World'

By TAMMY MA

On March 15, Caltech was host to one of the most renowned theoretical physicists in the world, Stephen Hawking, who gave a lecture open to the public entitled "Brane New World." His lecture was taken from the seventh and last chapter of his latest book *The Universe in a Nutshell* and described the new theory on the formation of our universe.

The Big Bang Theory, which has dominated the debate for over 50 years on how the universe evolved, has always presented several puzzles that could not be explained --that is, until now. The new

Ekpyrotic Universe model describes the current universe as a four-dimensional membrane embedded in a five dimensional space.

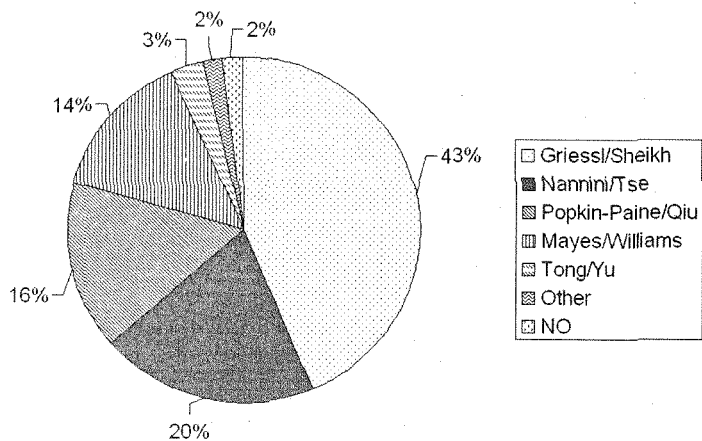
"Brane New World" is a clever term for how our universe was formed from the cataclysmic collision of two three-dimensional worlds moving through another hidden dimension. These membranes, or "branes" are pictured as floating sheets of paper, one parallel to another. A single membrane bounds one end of the fifth dimension, while the membrane destined to become our universe bounds the other end. Other membranes float about in the middle. When one of them slams into our membrane, our universe is born.

In contrast to the conventional Big Bang Theory, this Ekpyrotic Universe model says that collision is taking place very slowly over extended periods of time. Because of this, said Hawking, "the only source of short gravitational waves would likely be black holes."

Furthermore, the creators of this idea say that there is no "edge" to our universe. Instead, it is one single large brane that has been hit that is heating up and expanding.

In modelling a collision of branes, scientists say that the resultant universe would fit very neatly with the predictions of the Big Bang. Similar temperatures would be produced that would allow the universe to grow in much the same fashion, while creating matter with the same uniformity. The laws of conservation of energy would be preserved. Commented Hawking, "Because of the extra dimension, the energy is the same, just more spread out."

To put into perspective how little we know about the universe, Hawking brought up M-Theory, that there are several theories of the universe. He even made a comparison about how little we know ourselves: "Maybe we are all characters in the computer game played by aliens. The important point is that we can have several different descriptions of the universe, all of which predict the same observations. We cannot say that one description is more correct than another, just that it may be more convenient for a particular situation."



Julia Griessl '02 and Mona Sheikh '02 waltzed to an easy victory in this year's Senior Co-presidential election, chalking up more than double the tally of their nearest competitor.

CODING TEAM PREPARES FOR WORLD FINALS

'INTENSE' COMPUTING AWAITS

Squares Off With 63 Others in Hawaii Showdown

By JON FOSTER

Hawaii: land of surf, sun, and international programming contests. Over spring break a team of three Caltech students will brave the dangers of Hawaii in an effort to win glory for Caltech at this year's ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals.

Caltech's team is composed of David Stafford '04, Leo Polovets '03 and Po-Shen Loh '04, with Miroslav Dudik serving as coach. This team was one of three from Caltech which went to the regional competition. They came in second at this competition, good enough for them to be one of 64 teams to proceed to the World Finals.

The ICPC, sponsored by IBM, has grown increasingly well-known since its inception in 1977. The last few years in particular have seen dramatic growth, with 3,750 students participating in the contest in 1997, and more than 17,000 in 2001.

The competition is best described as intense. The team of three students are given one computer and

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Alumni Draw Online Masses To 'Porn Gremlin' Indexing Engine

By KEVIN BARTZ

On a special day, Barry may turn to his hydroponic soy garden for lunch, or Dylan may run to campus for a bite to eat with Page House. Other than that, they subsist each day on ramen noodles—breakfast, lunch and dinner—all the while living in an old school bus.

No, life is anything but simple pleasure for Barry Shapira '98 and Dylan Owens '02. Besides couches, yellowing magazines and a fresh coat of paint, the old "Dabney Bus" now houses the code behind the Web's fastest-growing pornographic image indexer—not to mention two soon-to-be-rich alumni poised to cash in big on an idea they first conceived one Friday night in Dabney a year ago.

"This story hits home for people from so many houses—Dabney, Lloyd, Page," said acquaintance Matthew Gregori '02. "It's a true story of entrepreneurialism, defiance, commitment, and porn."

It began as a problem of pictures. Between popup ads and broken links, Shapira's friends had trouble finding the photos they craved. But in the end, the Chem major-turned-computer-scientist had the million-dollar idea they needed.

"About a year ago I was working at a company doing media search," he reminisced, "and I saw how inefficient it was doing everything by hand." Precedent in mind, he stayed up one night coding the backbone of the automated image indexer they lovingly named "Gremlin."

A so-called Web scraper, the original Gremlin recursively

scoured Internet links in search of selected images. Word spread, popularity grew and before long the unlikely duo had a marketable commodity on its hands.

"It all started small and really just grew from there," Owens recalled. "From the beginning, we were consistently suprised at how accurate the results were," said Shapira.

From there, the Caltech duumvirate, who found early on that "the working world wasn't for us," set out to replace their day jobs. After configuring it to search exclusively for Internet pornography, the pair moved the Gremlin to a commercial server last summer under a newly purchased domain.

Since then, *porngremlin.com* has

drawn over 500 visitors each day, in addition to one 100,000-per-day spurt sparked by a link from a top adult site. Already, the Gremlin has indexed over 2.5 million illicit images, well on its way to the 60 million Shapira envisions by the year's end.

And yet, as Gregori remarked, "these guys aren't just smut peddlers." Shapira and Owens promise to open the subscription-based Gremlin to the public as soon as it is financially feasible, and they are currently scouring campus for interns this summer.

"We could conceivably be the biggest porn site on the Web," laughed Owens, with a wink. "We're limited only by hardware."



K. Bartz/The California Tech

From left, Barry Shapira '98 and Dylan Owens '02 own and update the popular *porngremlin.com* from inside the refurbished Dabney Bus.

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K. Bartz/The California Tech

Programming team member David Stafford '04 slaves away at practice problems for the upcoming worldwide coding competition in Hawaii.

Loh, Stafford, Polovets Steeled for Hawaii Run

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

eight problems to solve. They have five hours to complete as many of the problems as possible. According to Stafford, who was on Caltech's team at the World Finals last year, the gold medalist for 2001 only managed to solve 6 of the 8 problems, so it is essential to be able to accurately guess which problems will be possible to complete within the strict time frame.

Loh calls the team's approach to the problem a "rather ad hoc" strategy. They do not have set roles for the individual team members before entering the contest. "We look at the packet and whoever knows how to do part of something gets up to do it," he said.

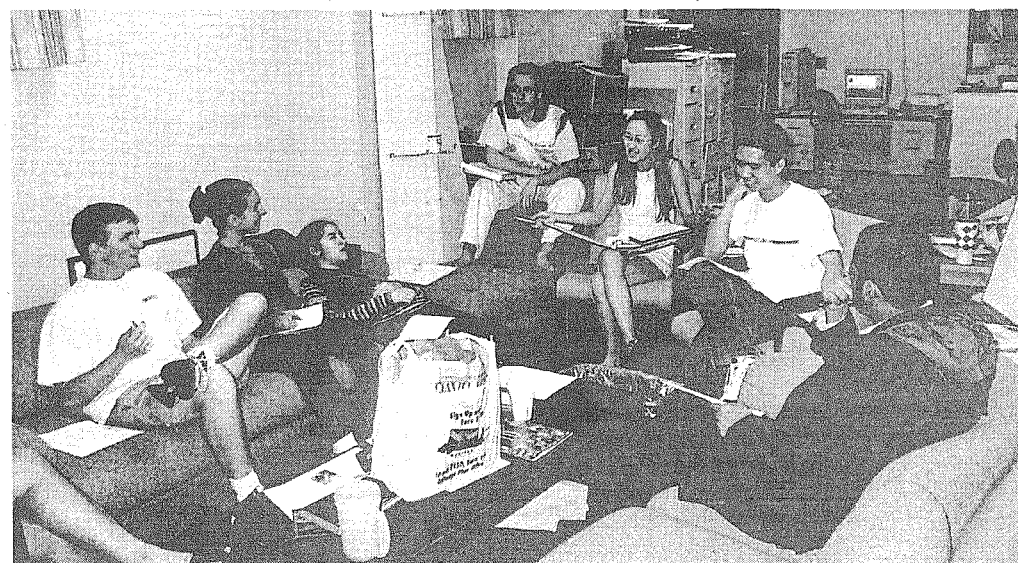
Part of the difficulty in the contest is knowing exactly what they need to do for each problem. The teams are given test data but do not have access to the judges' test data or acceptance criteria—and each incorrect solution is penalized.

The Caltech team is hopeful about this year's competition, but also realistic about their chances. Caltech has historically been a strong contender, and has won the world finals twice (in 1986 and 1988). The team has reasonable expectations, and hopes to do at least as well as getting 4 of the 8 problems.

The contest starts on Saturday, March 23 at HST 8:30 a.m., with an online scoreboard streamed at <http://icpc.baylor.edu/icpc/>

default.htm.

And will the Caltech team spend all their time crouched around a single flickering monitor, or will they get to soak up some sun and kick back a bit while in Hawaii? Not a chance—at least according to these workaholic programmers. "For us," said one, "it's just one three hour tour of something or other, and then work the rest of the time."



K. Bartz/The California Tech

ASCIT's illustrious Board of Directors stages a marathon three-hour meeting last Wednesday to interview candidates for newly opened Executive Committee positions.

Activists Demand Global Criminal Justice System

By MICHELLE GIRON

After the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II, the General Assembly of the United Nations acknowledged the need for an international body to rule over crimes of a global concern. In 1998, the United Nations formulated a treaty in Rome that would establish an international court to rule over criminal acts, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This International Criminal Court (ICC) would have legal authority once 60 nations ratified the Rome Statute and would be composed of eighteen judges elected by members of the Statute. Currently, only fifty-two nations have ratified the treaty, and included in the nations that have not are the United States. On Wednesday, March 13, activist Marvin Schachter and lawyer Daniel L. Magel spoke at the Beckman Institute Auditorium regarding the International Criminal Court and its potential role in the future of the United States.

Magel, who specializes in international law, noted that the idea of an international court of law is nothing new; the functions of the court deal with international laws that are in current use, and recent tribunals have been initiated by the UN Security Council to investigate such atrocities in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. What is different about the ICC is our need for a permanent institution devoted to prosecuting committers of certain serious crimes of international interest. Far from being an abstract body of justice, the ICC would be real and practical for countries.

According to Schachter, this struggle for international law is not unlike America's struggle to carry through the ideals of the Constitution. The US's involvement in the United Nations shows their commitment to worldwide democracy and justice, so why, then, is the U.S. not taking part in this monumental international court? The Bush administration steadfastly opposes the ICC as did the Republican-dominated Senate of Clinton's administration. Reasons for opposition include a concern for overseas American troops and a fear of politically motivated allegations directed at the U.S. Also, as Magel conjectured, the U.S. is fearful that this international legal system will fail. However, a number of revisions in the treaty were aimed at meeting the demands of the U.S. For example, the treaty provided a means for the UN Security Council to veto the actions of the ICC. Nevertheless, the U.S. still has not signed the treaty.

Despite the relative significance of the proposed ICC on the global scale, the issue remains a minor issue in the U.S. However, in Schachter's opinion, the issue of the ICC is a "hobby" of the far-right, who treat the issue with significance, as evidenced by their critical literature on the subject.

Schachter recognized that the ICC could be very useful in America's current war on terrorism because the ICC can meet the standards of an effective trial: An effective trial must be just and appear so to the world as well as to the nation from which the accused have come from. The Statute of Rome of the ICC will doubtless be ratified by the remaining number required of nations in the very

near future, and the court will begin exercising power over a jurisdiction of specific crimes. The involvement of the U.S. in the ICC will depend on the current administration and efforts by interest groups.

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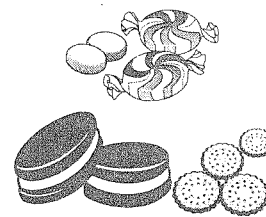
Question of the Week

Whom will Ted Jou '03 select to replace outgoing ExComm Chairman Alvaro Masias '02?

Senior Class Co-president

Round	NO	Tong Yu	Mayes Williams	Popkin. Qiu	Nannini Tse	Griessl Sheikh	Other	Total
1	3	5	23	26	33	72	3	165
2	--	5	23	26	33	73	3	163
3	--	--	25	26	35	75	--	161
4	--	--	--	26	37	85	--	148

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K. Bartz/The California Tech

Outgoing Director of Student Affairs Chris Brennen, pictured here at last Thursday's reception, has earned a solid reputation as both hands-on administrator and dynamic professor.

Those Who Can, Teach The Cheapening of Pedagogy at Caltech

By NEIL TIWARI

Those who attended the informal panel of faculty members describing the life of a Caltech professor heard a confirmation of what every student comes to realize during their academic stay at Caltech: the research professor's stigma against good teaching.

Caltech is a research institution more than it is a university, and consequently, research will always stand as a greater priority for the faculty than teaching does. There is even a reputation of being a bad scientist if one is labeled a good teacher. "Those who can, do; those who cannot, teach" seems to be the motto among research professors.

The result of poor teaching at Caltech can be captured in a scene of frustrated students struggling over a problem set late at night. It can be captured in the stupidity of learning organic chemistry in a general chemistry class. It can be captured in the disbelief of a nine unit class taking up over twenty hours per week. It can be captured in the look of confused students listening to a professor babbling about some strange topic or seats empty of students who felt that it was pointless to go to lecture and learn nothing.

It seems that what was promised as the world's greatest playground for science with first-class academics is not so fun when one is stuck in a whirlpool of confusion and

misunderstanding which could easily be remedied by good teaching. There is probably a misunderstanding between the Admissions Office's brochures and the students' interpretation: the playground is for researchers (not students) and the professors are the first-class academics (academics in the sense of higher learning was not what they meant).

Of course, you could always reason that being forced to look up stuff on your own, working with others on difficult problems, or being independent of the professor is good preparation for being a scientist. Truly, developing collaboration skills and independence is great, but the reality of the situation is that Caltech students are already overworked. Couple this with poor teaching, students do not have enough time to finish problem sets and develop a thorough understanding of the material. It boils down to time for one or the other, and with grades looming, finishing the problem sets is the obvious choice.

Poor teaching causes students to miss out on a crucial aspect of learning: inspiration. We remember those wonderful teachers who could make a certain subject come alive, who could make us excited and want to learn. Instead, at Caltech, students often have tastes ranging

Continued on Page 4, Column 1

Sex and the City of Pasadena? Caltech, Meg Ryan and the Myth of the Romantic Comedy

By JIALAN WANG

According to a 1998 Nielson survey, the average American watches tv for three hours and 46 minutes a day. Add a few movies, and the result is several hours a week of canned fiction. Besides making us lazy and fat, watching TV and movies has a large effect on our perceptions and expectations of the world. Once-serious subjects from heroism to hatred are been warped and drained of meaning in bad action and dramatic movies. And in a much more devious and subtle way, romantic comedies have perverted our most sacred emotion – love – into a commercial ideal that is neither attainable nor meaningful.

Admittedly, I myself am very have squandered way too much of my life watching romantic movies and television shows such as Ally McBeal and Friends. The heroine is always a beautiful, clever (but not too smart), quirky woman who either has a respectable and moderately interesting job (e.g. writer, journalist, lawyer).

Yet although they seem like every man's dream, they always seem to be unlucky in love. Our lovable ladies always luck upon handsome, sensitive, and equally quirky men at the grocery store, at a wedding, or some other implausible place, often by literally running into them as a result of their klutziness (a common quirk, to show that they have flaws, too).

Then a series of accidents and debacles threaten the perfect pair (which are greatly drawn out on television), but in the end, the music swells, the couple embrace and kiss passionately, and life is peachy. In most movies' attempts to portray love, they only manage to go through the motions. People kiss with tongue and make googly eyes at each other, so therefore they must be in love, right?

In a culture as cynical and materialistic as ours, why do we still consistently buy into such cheesy,

implausible ideas of romance? I often catch myself expecting things to happen as they do in the movies. Although I am usually a rather rational person, I cannot help but succumb to the rosy promises of romantic comedy. The siren song of perfect romance beckons, and we cannot help but fall for Meg Ryan and Julia Roberts every time.

And wandering the streets of Old Pasadena, I get little reassurance that life is not must-see-TV. Everyone is coiffed in an expensive but carefully casual way, dressed in designer jeans and leathers, and nonchalantly stylish. I could almost imagine myself as protagonist Carrie Bradshaw of Sex and the City strutting down Colorado Boulevard instead of 5th avenue. And although the possibility is absurd beyond improbability, I half-expect to bump into a handsome businessman on my way to the movies. At the Macy's after Christmas sale, I half-expected to meet a bumblingly dreamy John Cusack at the glove counter.

So are romantic comedies just

harmless entertainment, or are they false advertising for impossible ideals that are designed to make us unsatisfied of our own love lives, thus increasing consumption of more romantic comedies? It is obvious that Americans are romantically displeased, but the reasons behind this are complex.

But just as advertising makes us make bad decisions about what to eat and what to buy, I think that it also leads bad decisions when it comes to romance. Romantic comedies are advertisements more powerful than any other, because we are sold before the ad even starts, and we believe we are being sold something we need.

The result is that we demand too much of our lovers, and give up good things in chasing a stupid ideal. Although shows like Ally offer more flawed and realistic portraits of romance than most movies, they are still highly dramatized. What these programs portray is not love, but glamour. Although real love is much messier, the results are more beautiful in the end.



Courtesy of J. Wang

Romance is sometimes comic, but real life is no romantic comedy. Late-night sitcom stars do not frequent Paseo Colorado.



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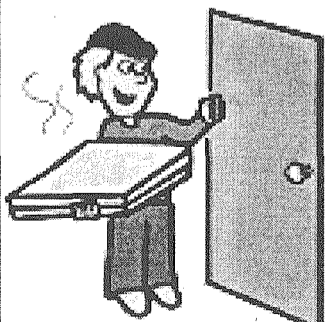
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Hit the Road, Big Oil 'Plastic': Not a Dirty Word

Alternative Fuel in America's Coming Oil Crisis

By DAVID GOODSTEIN, Ph.D.

From the *Los Angeles Times*

This is a singular moment in our history. We are rushing toward a calamity that may very well bring our way of life to an end. It is entirely predictable and almost inevitable. It is not the doing of terrorists, but the terrorists may have given us a unique chance to do something about it. The calamity I speak of is the end of the age of oil.

Here is the basic physics: Life on Earth exists because of radiant energy from the sun, plus a small amount of nuclear fuel that condensed with the Earth when it was formed billions of years ago. Over the eons, a tiny fraction of that sunlight was converted by natural processes and stored in the form of fossil fuels. In the course of a few generations, we have nearly used up the Earth's entire supply of accessible petroleum.

When that and the other more-difficult-to-use fossil fuels are used up, we will have nothing left to live on except the light from the sun and whatever nuclear fuel on Earth we haven't burned. Even nuclear fuel is a finite resource. How much oil is left in the ground? Even if we knew how to answer it, that would probably not be the right question. A better question is: How long can we go on increasing the rate at which cheap oil is pumped out of the ground?

We in the United States had a clear preview of what will happen when conventional oil supplies start to decline. Extraction from wells in the Lower 48 peaked in 1970 at 9.4

million barrels per day. That number is now down to 5.8 million barrels and declining rapidly. Americans consume about 20 million barrels per day. When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries took advantage of that situation by reducing supplies in the early 1970s, the result was immediate and drastic.

The most reliable source of information about how much oil is left may be retired oil geologists, no longer beholden to their employers, privy to confidential data and possessing the technical skill to make use of the

POINT

"The alternative is to go on hunting terrorists while our civilization slides into oblivion."

data. Their estimates of when conventional oil supplies will peak (found in various obscure journals and Web sites) range from 2007 to 2016. In his recent book, "Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage," retired geologist Kenneth S. Deffeyes' estimate is 2004. After that, we will have no

choice but to learn to live on less oil.

For as long as we have the sun, we have at our disposal a steady stream of energy amounting to about 300 watts per square meter, averaged over the face of the Earth. The sunlight falling on our country amounts to about 10,000 times the electricity we Americans consume. Each of us also consumes 30-plus barrels of oil each year.

We already use little bits of solar energy in the form of hydroelectric and wind power, biomass (wood from trees, alcohol from corn) and photovoltaics, in addition to the fossil fuels we use up. We could learn to live within our energy "income," but that would amount to a technological and economic revolution of historic magnitude. That revolution is precisely what President Bush should challenge the nation to accomplish.

Last May, a task force under the leadership of Vice President Dick Cheney issued a now-notorious report on energy that was heavily influenced by testimony from oil and energy company insiders. The report urged increasing the rate at which we pump oil as rapidly as possible. That may have seemed the best solution for next quarter's bottom line and for popularity in the next election--provided the peak doesn't occur by then--but it was never the best solution for our future.

The Sept. 11 terrorist acts have made it politically possible to do what is really needed. A president with courage and vision, particularly one who is himself a former oilman, could seize the moment and challenge the nation to devise the means to kick its fossil fuel habit over the next decade. With all of our industrial might and scientific talent applied to the effort, we might be able to accomplish it.

That is the way to win the real war. The alternative is to go on hunting terrorists while our civilization slides into oblivion.



The California Tech Archives
Vice Provost David Goodstein has long condemned the country's petroleum use.

Media Scare Tactics in the 80-year War on Oil

By ABE FETTERMAN

Granted, things do not look good for the oil industry. However, we should be reminded that the human race is incredibly clever and adaptable, and already has the capability to cope with many of the problems Dr. Goodstein is talking about, should they even rear their ugly heads.

It seems that the media today are taking a brute-force approach to finding interesting news on the next big calamity: they name every single thing that could conceivably go

wrong and turn it into the apocalypse. They will claim that computers kill you, or that driving cars give you cancer, or that playing video games causes seizures. I am happy to report that I was able to check my e-mail, drive to the store, and walk by a Nintendo controller today all without suffering heart disease, birth defects, coughing, bleeding, death,

or even an increased heart rate. It seems that every five years (since World War I) a new oil crisis has been only five years around the corner. "Watch out!" they say. "Save your oil, tomorrow it will be worth more than gold!" Let's get real: even Goodstein knows that after oil production peaks, it will take some time before prices become prohibitive, and significantly longer before we see any sort of "shortage."

Just because wolf has been cried before doesn't mean there really won't be one around the corner this time. Fortunately, there is not as much dependence on oil as there was in the past, either. Twenty percent of the power of the United States currently comes from nuclear power, and another ten percent comes from other "clean" sources such as hydroelectric power. Nuclear power plants can be constructed and online within five years--plenty of time in the overall scheme of things. The hazards from such plants are much less than the public has been led to believe. American and Western European power plants are several orders of magnitude safer than those built a few decades ago.

This is all well and good for the U.S., but, considering we're more dependent on other nations than Chewbacca is dependent on Hans Solo, we must consider the effects of any oil shortage on the global economy, not just our own. Consider our biggest trading partners: Canada, Japan, China, Germany, France and the UK. Most of these countries (with the notable exception of China) have less dependence on fossil fuels than we do! The real threat of petroleum shortages is clearly to the third world. We weaned them on cheap power from the then-seemingly-unlimited oil, and left them in the dust as far as cleaner technologies. So, taking a good supply-side (read: republican) economic view, what should be done? Economic incentives should be offered by American, European, and developing nation governments in

order to lessen the reliance on questionable oil reserves. Not only is it a humanitarian and environmentally safe alternative, it is a sound investment in the infrastructures of these nations.

Two more points relating to Goodstein's article should be mentioned. For one, of course the American oil reserves have been pumping out less oil since 1970, when one of the big oil panics occurred. Since then, we have realized that it is still nicer to take other peoples' limited resources than our own, at least while it's cheap. Secondly, if there were

COUNTERPOINT

"The media today are taking a brute-force approach to finding the next big calamity."

any time that would be best to eliminate our oil usage, it was two years ago during the economic euphoria of the dot-com revolution, not now. The war we're fighting against terrorism is not about oil; it is about the tragic events of September 11. These, too, were brought about not because bin Laden didn't

like our oil fetish. In fact, Afghanistan is not even a member of OPEC, although his buddy nations Libya and Iraq are. I altogether fail to see how the terrorist attacks have made it more attractive politically to reduce petroleum intake.

I hope that, by now, it is clear that the American economy will not be devastated or revolutionized by changes in oil production, and that life, as always, will go on. It is not to say that changes do not need to be made; in fact, the face of energy will probably look very different ten years from now. There is not, however, some impending demon named oil that will eat your babies. Things are more under control than they may seem to be at a first glance.



K. Barz/The California Tech
Ruddock House pundit Abe Fetterman '05 supports unfettered oil consumption.

TO TEACH OR NOT TO TEACH

Continued from Page 3, Column 2

from dislike to disgust in subjects which they were not previously interested and forced to endure through graduation requirements.

The questions every student is bound to ask themselves at least once during their stay at Caltech is why did I come here and did I make the right decision. Caltech has much to offer outside of the academic world, from research, to culture and tradition, to honor system.

However, it still stands that learning and academics are the cornerstone of a student's undergraduate career. Good teaching can make students feel great about coming to Caltech. Perhaps the great shame of Caltech is that the poor teaching here can be remedied by professors caring more about teaching, for it can be just as challenging and rewarding to discover something new in science as it is to make new minds understand and enjoy.

Letter: Maintain Freshman Parking

Dear Editors,

At the January 12th meeting of the Caltech Alumni Association Board of Directors Martha-Helene Stapleton reported that the Institute is considering, banning cars for freshman. Although times have changed since I was a student, I am not sure this would be an improvement for freshmen.

I was one of a group of maybe 20-40 freshmen who had cars and I was in the minority of those who would not lend their car to other students. I arrived at Caltech driving myself from my home in California. I lived off campus for the first 1-1 quarters as a "non-resident associate" because the Institute did not then have housing for all freshmen.

The role of these few cars in the life of freshman was really beneficial. My car allowed us to get off campus easily to blow off steam; partake in cultural events (I liked stage theatre.); it carried us regularly to the midnight food haunts;

it allowed us to explore the LA area and surrounding schools and helped transport the freshman waterpolo & swimming team. I stress the "us", for while I was the prime beneficiary, you rarely went anywhere alone. While upperclassman had cars and could help with transport, their priorities and interests were already different from those of freshman. I felt "our" band of cars served a special need. And this was at a time when the houses provided meals 7 days a week.

I would strongly urge ASCIT and the Institute to find a mechanism to provide for freshman to have cars on campus. The incremental independence provided to all freshmen through these few cars is well worth it. The freshman benefit particularly from ease in exploring the Southern California area.

Best wishes for a successful outcome here.

Sincerely,
Tom Tish
Caltech BS 1961



by Abel Bourbois

Upcoming Events

The Second Annual Make-A-Difference (MAD) Day is planned for Saturday, April 6, 2002. Each project has a slightly different schedule, but transportation and meals will be provided (breakfast, sack lunch + post-event BBQ). Here is summary of this year's projects:

Amberwood Convalescent Home - Visit a nursing home and talk to elderly, read to them, write letters for them, etc...

Boys & Girls Club Pasadena - Help staff maintain the facilities at the center

Hillside Home for Children -

Visit a home for abused children and help them build racecars from Popsicle sticks, wooden dowels, and an air rocket for power

I Have A Dream Foundation - Project involving 4th graders at Franklin Elementary (Altadena), includes a read-aloud, flower planting, and some fun games.

MACH 1 - Move A Child Higher - Help children with disabilities use horseback riding as an enjoyable way of improving physical and cognitive abilities.

Rebuilding Together - Help repair a home for a needy Pasadena resident by painting, paneling, tiling, cleaning... no experience required.

Trail Maintenance - Visit a trail in the Santa Monica mountains and make it a more pleasant place to hike.

Union Station - Provide assistance to one of the local shelters helping homeless people.

For more info, e-mail the Vice Pres (y-veep@ugcs) or visit www.caltechy.org.



The student a capella group *Out of Context* performs to a packed Winnett crowd at last Saturday's long-awaited Decompression party.

T. Ma/The California Tech

With 'Distinguished Record,' Ensminger Named HSS Chair

PASADENA, California- She has traveled alone in a war-torn area of Africa and listened to lions pad around her tent at night, but now Jean Ensminger, a professor of anthropology at the California Institute of Technology since year 2000, takes on a different challenge, as the new chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In making the announcement, Caltech provost Steve Koonin commented, "Jean brings a distinguished record of teaching and research, fine judgment, and demonstrated management skills to an important position of academic leadership within the Institute. We are very fortunate that someone of her talents is willing to take on this important responsibility."

Ensminger will be the first woman to serve as division chair at Caltech, and will take the helm on June 15, 2002, replacing John Ledyard, a professor of economics and social science and chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences for ten years, who will be returning, he says, to "the best

position in the world: full professor at Caltech." He will redirect his energies to his research in market and organization design, or focus on a new, unrelated area, or "go sailing," he says, "if my boat is still afloat."

For her part, Ensminger is enthusiastic about the prospects for the division, and hopes to build on its successes over the last two decades. "The division has transformed the study of political science and political economy in ways now emulated and dominant in virtually every major university in America," she says, "and is currently incubating several areas of expertise that have the same potential for transforming disciplines as we know them today."

Specifically, she notes that the absence of disciplinary boundaries at Caltech is spawning research that will "reshape the philosophy of mind, behavioral economics, and the frontier between neuroscience, psychology, and economics, while the division's uniquely seamless boundary between literature and history, together with proximity to the Hun-

Continued on Page 7, Column 4

Caltech Y: MADD As a Hornet

How often do you get to help people? Get off campus and mingle with people from other houses? Especially all on one day?

Would you like to be involved in the local community? If you are from someplace else, making this connection can be a daunting task. The Caltech Y would like to help. We are always a resource for connections to local community service agencies, but on the first Saturday of third term we're making getting involved especially easy.

The Caltech Y is proud to announce our second Make A Difference Day. This is an invitation for all Caltech students, staff, and faculty to spend April 6, the first Saturday of third term, participating in projects that make our community a better place to live.

The idea is simple. You choose a project and volunteer your time. The Y provides the meals, transportation to the site, a T-shirt, and an end-of-the-day volunteer fair and barbecue. The projects include working with homeless people, children, kids and animals, and for the environment.

At Caltech, it's difficult to find a balance. Part of the goal of the Y is to help students learn about themselves and their place in the community by providing opportunities that

we can't get from classes or house events.

To achieve this goal, we offer ways to get involved in various service projects in the community. However, we also realize that not everyone is ready to make a big time commitment, and not everyone is certain what kind of community service is best for them.

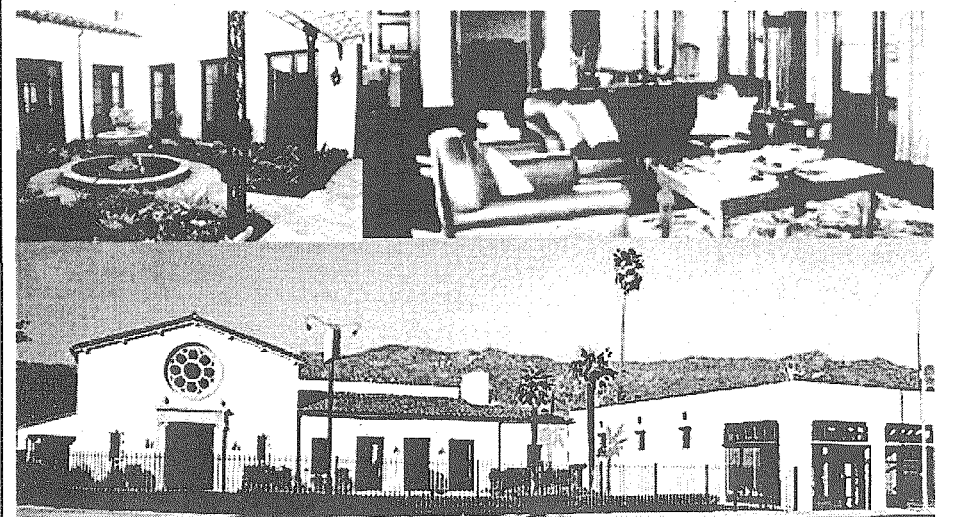
We hope that Make a Difference Day serves as an opportunity for you to contribute to the Pasadena and Los Angeles communities. Does the idea of helping handicapped kids ride horses appeal to you? Fixing up the home of a needy Pasadena resident?

What about talking to an elderly woman in a nursing home who doesn't often get visitors? Working on a trail in the Santa Monica Mountains for all people to enjoy?

Choose a project from a list of at least eight, none of which require any experience. Groups leave Caltech between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and return between 1 and 3 p.m. All it takes to participate is a simple e-mail in response to a postcard the Y plans to distribute early next term.

Over 70 people participated last year, making the event a great joy. We look forward to another incredible day!

From the Caltech Y ExComm



Courtesy of Union Station

Union Station hosts the Family Center in greater Pasadena, one of the places Caltech students may serve on the Caltech Y's upcoming Make a Difference Day.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD

By William Fong

Six-Month Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks

Monday, March 11 was the 6-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. It was marked by silence, prayer, and the dedication of a sculpture, "The Sphere," damaged in the attacks, as a temporary memorial. As night fell, two beams of light were projected into the sky as a second memorial to the victims of the attacks.

Andrea Yates Found Guilty

The housewife accused of drowning her 5 young children ranging from 6 months to 7 years old was unanimously found guilty by a Texas jury on Thursday after less than 4 hours of deliberation. Yates had a history of mental illness and pleaded insanity as her defense. On Friday, the jury took less than 1 hour to sentence her to life in prison with parole in 40 years.

Arthur Andersen Indicted

On Thursday, a federal grand jury indicted Arthur Andersen for obstruction of justice in response to allegations that the company shredded tons of Enron documents last fall. Arthur Andersen, one of the top five auditing companies in the US, has been under fire for allegations of cover-up and document shredding regarding its recent audit of the no collapsed Enron. A conviction carries a \$500,000 fine and a five-year ban on auditing public companies.

Ongoing Mideast Violence

Early this week, Israel sent large numbers of troops and tanks into West Bank cities in response to terrorist attacks last week. Dozens of Palestinian and Israelis were killed. The operation drew strong criticism from President Bush who has suspended a \$200 million aid package to Israel. On Thursday, just before the return of US envoy Gen. Zinni, Israel withdrew from the West Bank territories.

Bush Nominee Rejected

The Senate Judiciary Committee rejected President Bush's nominee, Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., to the 5th Circuit Appeals Court. Pickering was Bush's first confirmation fight and his first defeat. Senate Democrats said that they wanted to send a message to Bush that they have the power to block his judicial choices and that Bush should consider this when nominating judges and Supreme Court justices.

Zimbabwe Elections Marred by Fraud

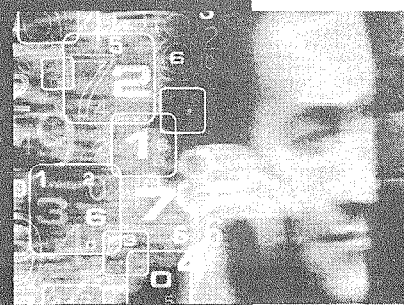
The March 9-11 presidential elections in which current President Mugabe was re-elected were not fair and free according to the Electoral Commissions Forum of the 14-nation South African Development Community. According to the commission, the elections was marred by political violence and legal and administrative manipulation. Mugabe has been president since Zimbabwe's independence from Great Britain 22 years ago but has recently become unpopular to do economic collapse and political violence. In response to the election, Canada and Germany cut off aid to the government of Zimbabwe.

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L.W.F.? LYING WEASEL FACTOR.

I'D LIKE PERMISSION TO HOLD DAILY PRAYER SERVICES IN A CONFERENCE ROOM.

I'LL DO IT BEFORE WORK AND OF COURSE I'LL CLEAN UP ANY BLOOD.

SO FAR I'M THE ONLY MEMBER OF MY RELIGION BUT I HAVE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR BRAIN-WASHING.

MEET YOUR NEW CUBICLE NEIGHBOR. HIS NAME IS MEDICAL MEL.

MEL WILL BE MAKING LOUD PERSONAL PHONE CALLS ALL DAY.

IS IT SUPPOSED TO MAKE A SQUISHY SOUND? LISTEN TO THIS...

MEDICAL MEL ... THE NEEDLE WAS FOUR FEET LONG AND THICK AS A PENCIL.

I TRIED TO RUN BUT THE DOCTOR HAD BEEN AN OLYMPIC JAVELIN CHAMPION.

MY NEW NICKNAME AT THE HOSPITAL IS BOB - SHORT FOR SHISHKABOB.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SKILLS INVENTORY?

I'M SUBMITTING IT NOW.

THEY USE THAT INFORMATION TO TRANSFER YOU TO JOBS YOU DON'T WANT.

YOU'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS YOU DIDN'T CHECK ANY OF THE BOXES IN THE HAZMAT SECTION.

OUR NUMBERS ARE WAY DOWN. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

REORGANIZE THE DEPARTMENT SO THERE'S NO VALID HISTORY FOR COMPARISON.

THEN WE'LL FIRE A FEW PEOPLE AND GIVE OURSELVES AWARDS FOR SAVING MONEY.

EL DTABLO

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

THAT'S REALLY ANNOYING, PETER.

WHAT IS? MY LOUD CHEWING OR MY READING OVER YOUR SHOULDER?

YOUR LOUD CHEWING.

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

NOW IT'S EVEN MORE ANNOYING.

JASON, I THINK YOUR IGUANA ATE YOUR HOMEWORK.

ALL OF IT??

WOOHOO! YESS! WHAT LUCK! YIPPEE!

DON'T GET TOO EXCITED. I TRIED THAT EXCUSE ONCE AND MY TEACHER MADE ME DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.

OR IS THAT WHY YOU'RE EXCITED?

NOW IF I CAN JUST FORGET HOW I DID THAT ONE WORD PROBLEM...

Pop! Pop! Pop!

SOMEDAY YOU'LL HAVE BEARD STUBBLE, TOO, BUBBLE BOY.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES.

KISS YOUR FLESH-EATING ALIEN ARMY GOODBYE.

KISS YOUR ACID-SPEWING ALIEN TANK BATTALION GOODBYE.

KISS EVERY ONE OF YOUR MIGHTY WARRIORS GOODBYE.

DREAM ON! YOU HAVE NO WEAPONS!

THIS GAME IS RATED "M"!

BWARE THE EYES OF MARCH! WOOOOOOO!

IT'S "IDES," YOU GEEKS.

"BWARE THE IDES OF MARCH."

SHEESH. GET A CLUE.

CHECK ONLINE. MAYBE THERE'S AN EYES OF APRIL.

(OOFF) HOW'D YOU GET YOURS OFF?

Jason Keep out!

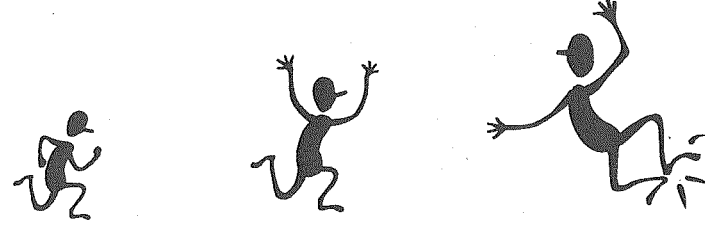
Jason do not enter!!

Jason go away!!!

AND I THOUGHT IT WAS ANNOYING WHEN PAIGE HUNG THESE THINGS AROUND HER BEDROOM DOOR.

I'LL GET THE ONES AROUND BACK.

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



CALTECH Prefrosh Weekend 2002

Thursday, April 18th - Sunday, April 21st

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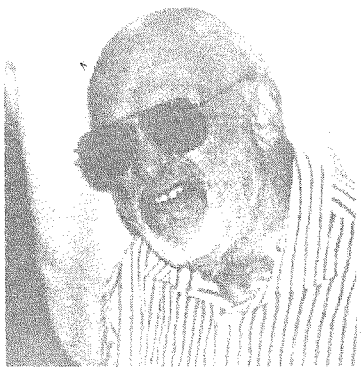
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Dean's Corner

Beat of the Drum

by Jean-Paul Revel



When Frosh arrive at Caltech we try to make sure they know that, although

we keep a very fast pace, dramatically described by some as near murderous,

there are in fact places to turn to when the going gets tough. Just a few

days ago students and staff assembled on the Olive Walk to celebrate Chris

Brennen, one of the people to whom students have been able to turn for help in their times of need. A vaunted Prof., a prince among all these people that make up the denominator of our 3/1 ratio.

Now what is meant by that title, a Prince? Those of you who just took Hum 3b (and I hope others as well) will have read Niccolo Machiavelli's instructions (anno 1513) as to how to be an effective prince, a leader of nations. The book describes in chilling detail how a sovereign could control his subjects and his ministers and work "effectively" towards the aggrandizement of the state (and that of the sovereign).

Actually, it is not clear why anyone would listen since the manual was written while the author himself had been banished from his position of influence. The picture of a prince that emerges is that of a "ruthless despot" (the words of Daniel Donno, the translator, in the "Introduction" to the "Bantam Classic" edition (1981) of "The Prince"). But that is not the right kind of prince I want to talk about, not the kind we celebrated with those nimblest of taco chips which could be prevented from displaying stunning aerial acrobatics only by loading them with guacamole. I speak of another kind, a prince of a man, someone endowed with noble motives and lofty qualities, someone dedicated to work unselfishly for others.

In our daily affairs at Caltech we follow our own version of the Golden Rule, doing all we can to avoid taking advantage of each other. Reaching the princely state,

of course, requires one to go further than just being considerate, politically correct à la Caltech sauce. It is not just a question of avoiding doing harm to one's colleagues, but rather to actively work to make things better. For us in Student Affairs, that means better for the student body. Students and their education are one of the major raisons d'être of the Institute, and the only raison d'être for Student Affairs.

Seeking to better conditions for the students can be a frustrating pursuit. One reason of course is that there is no "the students" monolith; the denomination "students" encompasses people with all kinds of needs and desires. The pursuit of student welfare cannot always be carried out in a way that will satisfy all, even if there were no other impediments. Besides the diversity of the student body which leads to multiple, sometimes conflicting demands, there are winds, sometimes hurricanes, powered by the pressure differentials of competing needs. The path to help the students requires one to clamber over blown down trees, felled by the demands of research and other concerns of the Institute.

As a result the road can be arduous. The leader must help his troops over these obstacles, guiding the progress, showing the path. Chris whose retirement from the VPship of Student Affairs were marking last week, did as Thoreau (whom he quotes in his essay "A different Pilgrimage" (The Far Side of the Sky; www.dankat.com/mstory/brown.htm)) recommended: "Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away" (H.D. Thoreau, "Walden; Conclusion")

Chris has been following such a beat, advocating in the interest of our students. As he said to those assembled that windy afternoon on the Olive Walk "I voice my continuing conviction that the very best investment this institution can make is in its students. In continuing to recruit, nurture and graduate the very best young people in the land indeed the world. In treating them better than any other school." His

efforts have been so in tune with the needs and desires of his "constituents", that many take him to be a "native" Caltecher.

How could he empathize so with the aspirations of Grads and Undergrads, without having himself experienced "drinking from the fire hose"? How did he come to understand the students feelings for their Houses, if he never lived in one? Yes, his brogue gives him away, but his actions and attitudes show him keenly attuned. He may not be a native, but he has an innate understanding of the community.

So braving the cold and the wind one student leader after another came forward to praise Chris and his dedication to their well being. Their words echoed those expressed earlier in *The California Tech* when the news of his illness originally reached Campus. Now as then, student after student presented testimonials about how easy he made it for them to communicate, how comfortable they were talking to him, how closely he listened and how he inspired confidence and promoted effective interactions.

No wonder that Chris is the only person to have been Mosh, Dean and Student Affairs Vice President, all three. It is hard to take the dimensions of a prince. All I can do is once more to say thank you, thank you Chris for your advocacy, it has been an honor to serve under you.

A bientot

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students



Even in her formative days as a young social scientist in the field, Jean Ensminger, right, shared the same love for society she now brings to the Humanities and Social Sciences department as chairman.

From Africa to Baxter, Veteran Fills HSS Chair

Continued from Page 5, Column 2

tington Library, affords us another opportunity to blossom in the humanities."

Ensminger is an uncommon anthropologist: Her line of research is in an area known as experimental economics, a field, she notes, that the division has played a pivotal role in shaping. As an experimental economist, Ensminger is interested in how people make economic decisions. It involves running experiments--described to the participants as games--that use real money in order to learn something about real behavior. Unlike most experimental economists, however, Ensminger takes the method out of the university laboratory to African and other small-scale communities.

The simplest game she uses plays for fairly high stakes, usually a day's wages, whether the game is

played in Hamilton, Missouri, or Wayu, Kenya, two places where she has conducted her research. Ensminger will bring a group of people together to play in pairs. Player one is told he or she has, say, \$50 to divide with the other person; both will remain anonymous to one another, and player one can give player two any amount or nothing. How is the money divided? More fairly than one might guess, often as high as a 50-50 split.

Even more counterintuitive to conventional economic theorizing, says Ensminger, is that the more involved a society is in a market economy--that is, working for wages, or raising something (crops or cattle) and selling it in order to live--the fairer people tend to be. Across 16 small-scale societies studied around the world, the United States is the most fair-minded reported to date, while hunter-gatherers are the least.

For almost 25 years, Ensminger has traveled to Africa, living and studying with the Orma tribe, partially nomadic cattle herders in northeastern Kenya, near the Somali border, where she will return this summer for five weeks. In the beginning, she would live in a tent (on the grounds of a local school), in a place that was frequented by roaming lions at night. Now she stays in the compound of the local chief, but there is a greater danger--banditry.

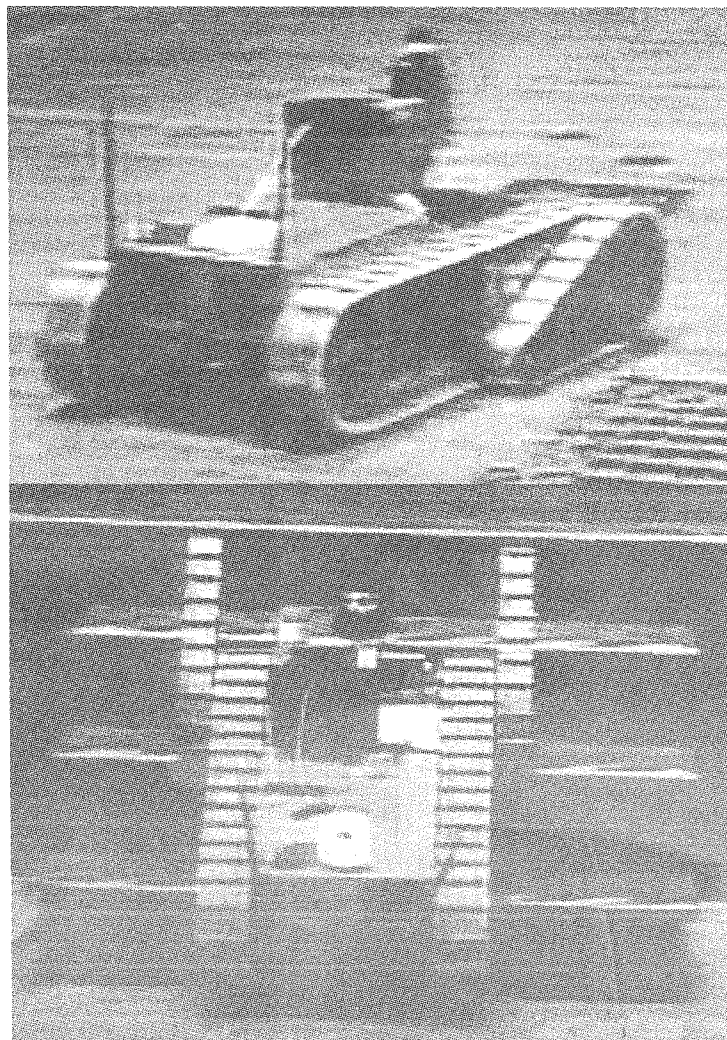
"My field site became very dangerous in the 1990s because of the collapse of the Somali state," says Ensminger. "There is an ethnic conflict between the Orma and the Somali, who want to take over Orma territory. A phenomenal number of people I know have either been shot or killed by the bandits. It's not a war; it's like the Wild West with armed bandits on the loose."

As a woman traveling alone, carrying cash, and in one of the few cars in the area, she is obviously a target for bandits. And while she feels safe in the Orma villages, she admits to being "unabashedly terrified whenever I go on the roads in and out of that area." Still, that is where 20 years of her research is, and she is not willing to give it up.

It is that kind of perseverance she intends to bring to working with her colleagues as Social Science and Humanities division chair. "I'm honored and delighted to have the opportunity to work with faculty of the extraordinary quality found here, and I look forward to the possibilities and challenges that lie ahead."

From Caltech Media Relations

BETTER THAN 'IT': BOTS PROWL ROADS



K. Bariz/The California Tech

Last Thursday's "Urban Robots" demonstration at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory showcases the latest in city street crawlers.

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Announcements

Attention: Current Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors! **2002-2003 Upper Class Merit Awards.** Each year, the Faculty Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid grants a number of Upper Class Merit Awards to the most academically-talented of the Institute's Sophomores, Juniors, and, occasionally, Freshmen. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional performance in formal classes and/or in independent research, and not on financial need. Last year, students were awarded Upper Class Merit Awards in amounts ranging from \$15,678 to \$27,447. The number and caliber of the applicants determine the level of awards in any year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office at 355 S. Holliston or online at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu>. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. The deadline for submitting completed paper applications to the Financial Aid Office is 5:00 pm, April 12, 2002. No exceptions will be made to this deadline.

Save the Dates! **Prefrosh Weekend** is coming - Thursday, April 18th Sunday, April 21st, 2002! If you have any questions or suggestions, please e-mail Ashley Sim at asim@admissions.caltech.edu.

Attention all undergraduate students on Financial Aid: The last date to request any change to your 2001-02 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.

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 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.

Do you remember participating in **Odyssey of the Mind**? Did you know that you can still compete in college? New problems have been created that are less of a time commitment. However, due to some legal issues, OM has recently become Destination Imagination. CalTech will be competing next year at the collegiate level in Destination Imagination. Come to an organizational meeting for the 2002-2003 year: When: come either April 2 or April 4 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm; Where: Club Room A in the SAC: Who/Why: We're looking for team members, coaches, and volunteers of all ages. If you're interested in trying Destination Imagination or seeing what it is, come see! Your attendance is crucial to get funding for next year's teams. Questions, contact Kayte Fischer, kathleen@caltech.edu.

The Caltech Dance Troupe has free ballet classes every Saturday in the Braun Athletic Center multipurpose 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, 10-11pm, for a small fee. For more information, please see our website: <http://troupe.caltech.edu>.

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>.

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. Proposals from students, faculty, and staff are welcome and should clearly address how the program relates to issues of diversity. Proposals should also include a description of the event, including purpose, audience, date, location, and budget. Application forms can be picked up at the Caltech Y. An institute committee will review the applications and make the awards. For more information, contact Athena Castro (athena@caltech.edu) or Greg Fletcher (gregf@caltech.edu) at ext. 6163.

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 or 626-585-8656.

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.

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.

Applications for the **USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships** are now available. Program details and applications are available online at 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.

The **John Gyles Education Awards** are available each year to students in both Canada and the United States. Full Canadian or American citizenship is a requirement. Awards are available to both male and female students for all areas of post secondary study. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Selected students will receive up to \$3000. Filing dates for mailing applications for 2002 are April 1, June 1 and November 15. Students can receive an application by sending only a stamped *(US.34), self-addressed standard letter size (No. 10) envelope to the following address:

John Gyles Education Awards
P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canada E3B 5G4

Desk and Derrick Educational Trust Full-Time Study Scholarship for 2002-03 year. The Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs sponsors a scholarship program through the Desk and Derrick Education Trust for student citizens of the United States and Canada who have completed two years of undergraduate studies with a minimum 3.0 GPA (computed on a 4.0 scale). Applicants must be pursuing a degree in a major field of study related to an energy industry with the objective of obtaining full-time employment in the petroleum, energy and allied industries and have need of financial assistance. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be received at the office of the Desk and Derrick Education Trust on or before April 1, 2002. All information must be furnished.

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 *presents* the **Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series**. On April 3, David Charbonneau, R.A. Millikan Postdoctoral Scholar in Astronomy, Caltech, will be presenting *Planets Orbiting Nearby Stars*. The question of whether or not the stars of the night sky are encircled by families of planets similar to our own has intrigued astronomers and the general public alike for centuries. However, it is only in the last decade that we have direct evidence for planets outside our solar system. Ongoing searches now deliver newly-discovered planets by the dozen, and many of these are far more strange than anyone had imagined. Charbonneau will introduce our neighboring planetary systems, and describe how the detection of those elusive, small, Earth-like worlds may be closer than you think.

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 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.

Tickets are on sale now for the **Banff Festival of Mountain Film!** Featuring films from around the world, he show's variety of mountain stories- from mountain sports, to mountain culture and environment, will amaze, inspire and captivate you. Included in this year's lineup are spectacular films from around the world, featuring skiing, mountaineering, base jumping, climbing, and wildlife. Tour highlights include: Unizaba, in which unicyclists explore Mexico in an adventure that ends with a descent of a volcano; Desert Friction, in which world class climbers tackle a 500' granite slab in the Namibian desert; and Gelada Baboon--The Battles of Braveheart, in which a camera team follows a male gelada as he defends his harem from a precocious and aggressive band of bachelor baboons. Last year's festival sold out, so get your tickets early! March 27, 2002 7:30pm, Ramo Auditorium on the Caltech campus in Pasadena. Tickets are \$8 advance/\$10 at door/\$5 students. Available through Caltech box office 1-888-2CALTECH, or Ticketmaster outlets. Presented by the Caltech Alpine Club and REI. <http://www.events.caltech.edu/alpine>

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