

K. Fischer/The California Tech

Actors perform at last Saturday's matinee showing of *Lakeboat*, the first of TACIT's two spring-term productions.

'Explosive' *Lakeboat* Molds Male Persona

By KAYTE FISCHER

The scene opens to the sound of a stray helicopter and distant traffic as the hodgepodge Caltech actors move boxes around the loading dock and begin to interact as sailors would. *Lakeboat*, an explosive play written in 1970 by David Mamet, explores the relations of working men who virtually never leave their isolated boat. Performed by eight Caltech/JPL men on the loading dock for Central Shipping and Receiving, the play portrays life through the eyes of seven seasoned boatmen and the new night-cook as they discuss life, women, gossip, and nearly everything else that crosses the male mind.

Though there is no central plot line, *Lakeboat* focuses on issues relating to the conventional male persona—the ultra-sex-oriented, swaggering, strong and confident

outside shell—and the men who pattern their lives on this image. Truly, the play is a tragedy, showing that the veneer these men try to maintain is indeed transparent, revealing deeper issues such as loneliness, boredom, and the failure of their dreams.

Though at first, the crass language and commentary are quite offensive, particularly to women, one soon realizes that these aspects are crucial to the underlying themes of the play. The crude language re-

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RECORD YIELD SPURS SUDDEN ROOM CRUNCH

OVER 250 INCOMING FRESHMEN

Two to Four Extra Freshmen Per House

By ROBERT LI

Over 250 new faces will be seen at Caltech next year - far more than the 200 to 215 desired and the most since the class of 2002, which had 254 people plus a few transfers. With this influx comes massive headaches as many Houses find that they cannot offer rooms to anyone but officers and freshmen.

To administrators, this crisis is simply a hiccup in the traditional admissions process. According to Director of Admissions Charlene Liebau, the number of acceptance letters sent out each year to get a freshman class of the desired 215-220 is based the acceptance rate of the previous year. Last year, as well as the year before, approximately 40% of the letters were accepted and thus with this in mind around 550 letters were sent this year. Furthermore, the admissions committee reasoned that with the poorer economy, the current student discontent arising from certain administrative decisions that were made

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Koonin Axes Library Town Hall Meeting

By JON FOSTER

What is the future of the library system on campus? Chances are you don't know and finding out may be difficult, since a Town Hall meeting on this issue, originally scheduled for May 20th, has been cancelled by the administration.

Bypassing the normal Faculty Library Committee, Provost Koonin in November 2000 commissioned an ad hoc Library Task Force (LTF) to study Caltech's library system. This committee consisted of faculty, librarians, students, and administrators, and studied the issue in great depth, including a wide-ranging survey of the Caltech community, which elicited about 1100 responses. It released its finding in March of this year.

The original charge to the LTF asked whether the increasing availability of materials (principally journals) in electronic format would have a significant impact on the use of libraries. The committee was specifically instructed to consider the limited resources, both financial and spatial, available to Caltech, the implication being that electronic avail-

ability of materials might reduce the need for library space.

The committee recognized that a library, such a staple of universities across the country, served as more than location for journals and books. Citing especially the needs of students, they noted the need for "quiet places to study, to take exams, and sometimes, to just con-

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K. Fitch/The California Tech

The future of Milikan Library remains a mystery after administrators cancelled a planned public meeting on the matter.

UNDERGRADS TO PITCH, CATCH AT DODGERS GAME

By IRAM BILAL

This June 1, the Dodgers have invited Caltech and JPL to a special LA Dodgers-Arizona Diamondbacks game at 1:10 p.m. in the nearby Dodger stadium.

The game will be preceded by a carnival for Caltech from 11 to 1:30 p.m. at the stadium, with attractions running the gamut from slides and wall climbing to concession stands.

Two Caltech students, Eric Peters '04 and Isaac Gremmer '05, are slated to throw and catch the game's honorary first pitch.

This type of Caltech-oriented sporting event has taken place at JPL in the past but this time the Dodgers wanted to include the entire community. Human Resources and Public Relations orchestrated campus participation.

So far, turnout has been low, despite efforts from Director of Campus Auxiliary and Business Services Tom Mannion to encourage undergraduate attendance. "Usually we sell all the tickets in the last week but this time we have already sold half of them in advance—that is, 1500," he explained. "We wanted to get the warning out to the undergraduates to get their tickets before it is too late!"

As of Friday, Tech Express, the game's primary ticketer, had 3000 remaining seats marked for \$10 apiece in addition to \$3 vouchers for a round-trip bus service.

Fencers Take Bronze at Sectionals

By ABRAHAM KUO

In its first-ever appearance at the Pacific Coast Sectional championship, the Caltech Fencing Club took home a bevy of awards in a landmark weekend marked by a strong showing from graduate student Cedric Anen, who led the men's foil team to its first championship medal.

The club entered a men's foil team, a men's saber team and a women's epee team in the PCS championship for the first time this year. The contest took place in Las Vegas, from May 4 to 5.

The highlight of the tournament for Caltech was graduate student Cedric Anen, who pulled the men's foil team to Caltech's first PCS Championship medal, overcoming a 32-40 deficit in the final leg of the bronze medal match by going on a personal 13-0 run against No Fear Fencing Club of San Diego. The team of Anen, staffer Randy Paffenroth, graduate student Joe Nemanick and Abraham Kuo '02 defeated Halberstat B in the first round, lost to Stanford, which took second,

in the second round, and then defeated No Fear in the bronze medal match.

The men's saber team of Tiago Wright '02, Paffenroth and Kuo did not fare as well, losing in the first round to Spartak B of San Diego. The team was trailing through the first five legs until Wright caught the team up at 30-29 after the sixth leg out of nine, but the team was unable to finish the job, scoring only one touch in the next two legs to fall behind 40-31, and eventually lost 45-37. Incidentally, Spartak B eventually went on to take third place at the meet.

The women's epee team of senior Sara Quan, junior Andrea McColl, and sophomore Melinda Owens drew a tough first round opponent in Fortune Fencing, which eventually took third in the meet and featured an 'A'-rated fencer and a former Division I national champion. The team lost to Fortune, despite fencing well against considerably more experienced opponents.



Courtesy of A. Kuo

A few members of the Caltech Fencing Club poses at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, where fencer Cedric Anen led the men's foil team to its first championship medal.

VECTORS PROJECT INCITES PROTEST AMONG STUDENTS

SERRA WALL TAGGED 'ABOMINATION'

Discussion-centered Meeting Set For Tuesday

By KEVIN BARTZ

Administrators opened a Pandora's Box of student sentiment last week by announcing plans to spend over \$2 million in art-tagged funds on a wall sculpted by Minimalist artist Richard Serra to be placed in a zig-zag pattern across the long-empty Beckman Lawn.

If the purchase is approved, Serra, whom the *New York Times* once named "greatest living sculptor," will be the recipient of the latest 1% of campus construction costs set aside for buying artwork by the 1989 Caltech Master Plan. A meeting among students and administrators to discuss the matter is slated for next Tuesday.

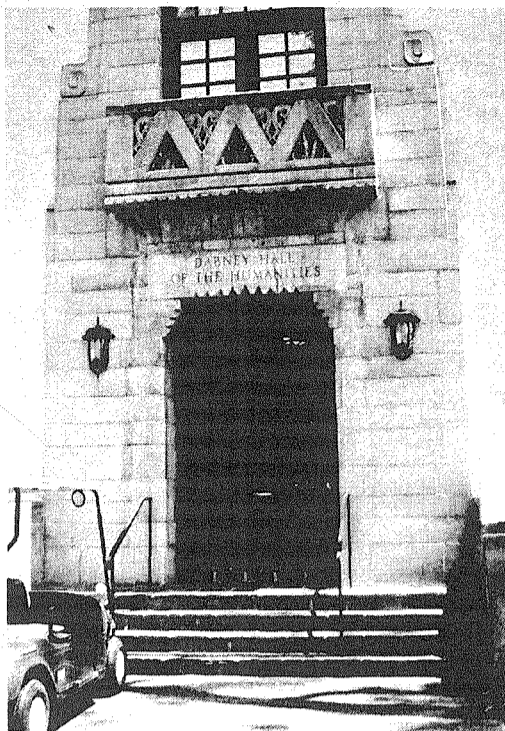
Named "Vectors," his artily crafted wall cuts an angular streak across the lawn between Beckman Institute and the new Broad Center, rising from ground level to seven feet tall in a gradual incline. But despite its height, the artwork will not block pedestrians' view of Beckman, according to administrators.

Students concerned about the lawn's future, however, have opened fire on the *Vectors* project. Some cite safety, pointing to the possibility of ambushes from miscreants perched just behind the wall. "The wall will serve as a haven for thieves," said one opponent.

Others decry its perceived ugliness. "The nearly unanimous opinion seems to be that this 'monument' is a complete eyesore," said one. "The Berlin Wall was not built around aesthetics, yet this new monument seems very reminiscent of that structure."

Adversaries have opened a petition against the *Vectors* wall.

Petioning Effort Afoot to 'Address Concerns'



Among the Library Task Force report's recommendations is a re-adaptation of the quaintly furnished Dabney Concert Hall.

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template." They also found that while digitization offered many advantages (especially for journals), "printed journals and books provide the most robust known method for accessing what exists and preserving what is new." They also cited at least eight examples of reading rooms and small division collections which had been eliminated in recent years. Because of these considerations the committee recommended against shrinking the amount of space available for libraries.

In studying Millikan, however, the LTF concluded that it was "not well-designed from either an architectural or a human factors perspective for use as a library." Thus, they recommended the construction of a new central library, modelled more closely on Sherman Fairchild than Millikan. This recommendation is in line with the results of the survey in which 97% of the respondents felt that a central library with all materials available for browsing was an acceptable solution. This contrasts with only 32% acceptability for storing less frequently used items in (possibly off-campus) storage, or 45% acceptability for storing all materials in an off-campus library.

It now appears highly unlikely that any of the Task Force's recommendations will be implemented. The current plan for the Caltech Library system is to move the Humanities and Social Sciences materials out of floors three to five in Millikan and into the basement of Millikan and a concert hall in Dabney, which will be converted into compact shelving. As a result of this move the HSS division would reclaim the space in Dabney Hall currently occupied by Development (fund raising), as these offices would move to the vacated floors of Millikan. The LTF studied this proposal as envisioned at the time of their report and found it contrary to the wishes of the Caltech community as a whole, 62% of whom rated centralized organization of materials as more important than the proximity which division libraries might bring.

Nonetheless the administration appears determined to pursue this plan. The task force, unhappy with this, requested a community-wide town hall meeting, and one was scheduled for May 20. On May 13 however, Provost Koonin sent an e-mail to Dr. Charles Peck, chair of the LTF, in which he cancelled the town hall meeting. His reason was "a deafening silence on LTF matters." He further claimed that the question came up only

once at the Student-Faculty Conference and that the questioner "seemed satisfied with my response." That questioner, Elliott Karpilovsky '04, disagreed with this assessment, saying that he was "completely unsatisfied" with Koonin's response, and "did not feel that his [Koonin's] point that the Task Force represented only one end of the spectrum was valid."

Dr. Kousser, whose classes rely heavily on being able to access the HSS collection in Millikan Library, characterized the perceived lack of interest in the Library issue solely as the result of silence on the part of the administration. "There has been no forum, no way to find out what the administration is doing. If this doesn't get discussed in the next few weeks it will be fait accompli." He maintains that even the library staff doesn't know exactly what is going on.

Students similarly see a lack of information. Mike Russo '02 is circulating a letter among students, addressed to President Baltimore and Koonin, which protests that "any overt silence on these issues is not due to lack of interest but rather reflects the fact that decisions ... have not been adequately communicated to most of the community." This letter further notes that while smaller meetings could be useful, a community-wide meeting is essential since the issue affects all members of the community, a sentiment echoed by Dr. Peck who, after the cancellation of the town hall meeting, declined to hold a purely faculty meeting saying that this would be "disrespectful, even insulting to other segments of the community."

Hopes, Fears and Macho Men

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flects the men's poor quality of vocabulary and inability to express themselves.

Director Shirley Marneus noted, "The men are mute- they cannot speak because their vocabulary is crippled and inhibited by conventional male expectations." Comments, such as "You understand what I'm saying? I don't always express myself so good," uttered in a nonchalant yet helpless manner, reiterate the conscious lack of communication skills.

Throughout the play, the men maintain superficial, boastful relationships with each other, though some attempt a deeper relationship with the new night-cook. One man, who has had his heart broken by his ex-wife, advises the young man that "the way to get laid is to treat them like shit... truer words have never been spoken." The language and implications are offensive, but necessary to contrast with the conversation the man has later about how he loves his daughter, implying that he never got over loving his "wife... ex." At some point in the play, the fact that all the talk is a façade becomes clear and the commentary withers from offensive to pathetic.

A subplot—the progression of a story as to why the old night-cook was late to board the boat—demonstrates attempts to maintain the male image, and in doing so completely losing touch with reality. As the audience learns in the end, the usual night-cook missed the boat because he overslept. However, throughout the play, stories proliferate, including tales of the mob beating the night-cook within an inch of his life and the drunken night-cook being robbed by a whore. Successive rounds of the originally incorrect rumor get more exaggerated, eventually becoming as fictional as a comic book or action movie. Each man projects his particular fears onto the story: the man who has chronic problems with women creates the story with the abusive whore, whereas the man who owes the Mafia money worries that they caught and

beat the night-cook. Because the men cannot actually express their troubles to each other, the issues seep out as horror stories.

The relationship to the 18 year-old night-cook, an English major in Boston, further clarifies this phenomenon. The kid, who does not attempt to maintain the male image, contrasts the macho façade of the men to whom he talks. The paternal relationship which several men attempt to build demonstrates the wistful feeling they have towards youth.

Another crucial concept is that of loneliness and isolation. On a boat, far from land, these men live in a microcosm, disconnected from normal relationships. They lack dynamic relations and variety in society; instead the men live in a static environment, often relating to absent members by functions, i.e. "the cook" and "the fireman." The warped interactions further the feeling of isolation.

Mamet is known for his realistic dialogue. According to Marneus, it sounds "as if he just turned on a tape recorder" near the conversations of these men. The actors and director agree that the topics of discussion in the play are indicative of real male conversations. However, the director comments that this play is an exploration especially for Caltech guys who have not experienced environments and dialogues like these.

The play was performed as a workshop May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 at the loading dock of the Central Shipping and Receiving parking lot. The choice of stage was prompted by the lack of budget and available performance space. According to Marneus, major drawbacks of this stage included traffic and helicopter sounds, unusual use of the student shop before ditch day and the ME71 project, and the necessity to put up and take down the set every night they rehearsed or performed. However, she notes, "these guys are driven and wonderful to work with. They are responsive and perceptive about the subtexts and subtleties of the play."



Ryan Olf '05 confronts a fellow actor before a washing machine in *Lakeboat*.

IN LANDMARK YIELD, OVER 250 FRESHMEN PLAN MATRICULATION

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this year, and the impact of September 11 among parents and students who might decide to choose a local college, the acceptance rate would be even lower. So it was to everyone's great surprise that 45% of the students accepted in an over-enrollment of 253.

Contrary to rumors, the number of acceptance letters sent was not increased nor was the wait list dropped. According to Ms. Liebau, "[We] did exactly what we did for the past eight years." She speculated that the increase in enrollment might be due to a demographic fluctuation—many other schools are overenrolled as well—are just a statistical fluke. In response to the overenrollment, Admissions plans on lowering the number of acceptance letters sent out next year. Furthermore, it is expected that "summer melt" will result in 10 to 12 canceling or deferring by the end of the summer.

The composition of the new class is similar to that of last year. Females account for 29%, down from 36% for the last two years. The number of African Americans, three, is unchanged from last year but the number of Hispanics, 20, represents a rise. The total number of applications went down 20% from last year but according to Ms. Liebau, the new class is nevertheless very strong, with many having significant research experience.

For the most part, the Houses are resigned to the fact. Treasurer Eugene Cheung '03 of Page House said, "Caltech guarantees freshmen on-campus housing and it's our responsibility to make that happen. We leave open enough rooms for the freshmen and the upperclassmen fill in the rest." Robin Mayes '03, president of Dabney, added that "all we can do is take them and hope that in 2003 admissions will realize that accepting fewer freshmen...is better for the Institute." With an increase of two to four freshmen per House, most of if not all non-officer upperclassmen will be forced to move out. Ruddock President Robert Kern remarked, "the real question is not how we deal with the freshmen...[it's] how to deal with everyone who couldn't get a room." He also said that Ruddock is currently floating ideas on how to implement changes to make it easier for off-campus house members to participate in on-campus activities.

The reaction from ASCIT was negative. In last week's meeting, Secretary Joe Jewell '04 stated that "Admissions really dropped the ball on this one, and it's causing problems all over campus."

Student reactions in general were of a more positive note. Will Fong '04, an ACM major, explained that "it is my belief that we should not be holding the admissions office responsible for this unexpected predicament; rather, we should be investigating the impact of Prefrosh Weekend. With midnight donuts, various house activities, a carnival, and a campus BBQ, combined with the reputation of this school, who can resist?"

Question of the Week

Will Provost Steve Koonin reconsider his rejection of the proposed town hall meeting on the future of the library?

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Narrow View Clouds Religion

Wang's Generalizations Ignore Faith-based Love

By MICHELLE GIRON

As a practicing Catholic, educated in Catholic schools for 13 years, I feel I should respond to last week's article, by Jialan Wang, entitled "Religion, Hatred, and Intolerance." Not only did the article make broad, false generalizations about the religious and their institutions, it also seemed to contradict itself.

Opening, Wang conjectures "how religious doctrines that center around love and kindness toward fellow man" could cause conflicts such as the scandals in the Catholic Church, discord between Israel and Palestine, and the September 11 attacks. However, is it really these righteous doctrines that have been causing such conflicts? If the people involved had truly been following these doctrines, why would these conflicts have occurred? It must be, rather, that the virtue in such doctrine was not followed.

Wang goes on to ask why religion seems to "foster so much hatred, violence and prejudice." What does she mean by religion? Is it the doctrines, the central dogma of the religions? Is it religious institutions as a whole? What type? Religious communities, schools? Or is it religious families, the clergy, religious people? Who or what is fostering hatred, violence and prejudice? In most cases it is individual people or individual factions that are religious who are sources of this violence, hatred and prejudice.

Later, Wang asserts that "although most major religions include noble principles, the *de facto* beliefs of followers do not reflect these principles." What a sweeping generalization! "Christianity is supposed to teach tolerance and fairness. But in fact, people use it to justify all manners of intolerance and injustice." Returning to religion as an institution, her example is alleged discrimination against homosexuals. I do agree that this discrimination is a real problem as some institutions firmly set a stigma against homosexuality. But although there are

varied views on the matter, I know, for one, that discrimination is not "routine" and "blatant." If it were, then the Catholic newspaper of my archdiocese would not have lauded a priest who had been serving gay and lesbian families for many years. A church bulletin would not have advertised a meeting for a group of lesbian and gay Catholics.

Wang then focuses on the Catholic Church's hypocrisy. Supposedly, the whole religious institution of the Church is deeply hypocritical. But Wang mentions only members of the priesthood who have recently been accused of child molestation. Of course, this is a problem and to a certain extent it is understandable when the clergy is then cast in a negative light. However, reasonable

"Some people, the non-religious included, let religion divide us."

people must look beyond this and see that only a small fraction of clergymen is responsible.

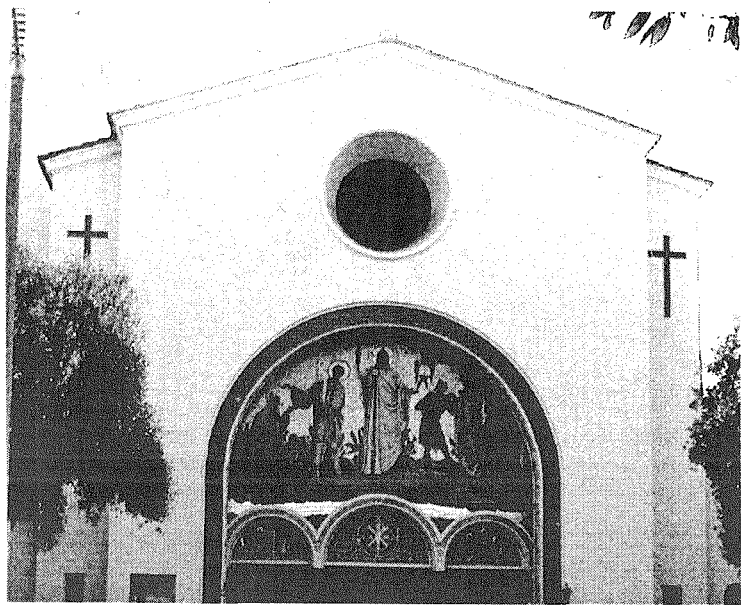
Next, Wang considers other Christian religions which engage in hypocrisy but goes on to cite individual groups and people who are hypocritical. She describes her own experience growing up in the South with religious people, who used religion to "justify racism, xenophobia, homophobia and misogyny." In her experience, teachers who taught evolution were fired and the Protestant religions in the region did not get along with each other. "Many of the same kids who breathed God in every breath also were first to have premarital sex and drunken car accidents," she writes. Should there be a causal relationship here or is it simply that most of the population in the South, miscreants included, is religious? It is evident that these hypocritical actions can be attrib-

uted to people or groups of people as opposed to whole religious institutions. Even the forbidding of teaching evolution can be attributed to fundamentalist groups who could not separate science from religion.

Wang then tries to justify this: "Whether the hypocrisy of followers was the result of personal choices or something more cultural, the churches are doing nothing to address these problems." Another broad statement. If she means the religious institutions of the churches, I must say that personal sins are very much addressed in these Christian religions. In my church we have something called reconciliation in which one repents for sins and avows to improve oneself in the future. In regards to the prohibition of teaching evolution and the other social problems, most churches I know now address them.

Wang closes with her claim that "religion has been an obstacle of egalitarianism and scientific discovery and education." To say this ignores the contributions religious groups, people and churches have made toward social justice and education. It ignores the many hours I spent studying social justice and world religions at my Catholic high school. It ignores the many institutions of higher learning that have a religious affiliation. I do not deny that every religious group, save Protestantism, has been discriminated against in one way or another during the history of America and I do not deny that other people have had religious experiences that were different from mine, but to say that religion as a whole has been a force for inequality is unfounded.

The article ends: "[O]rganized religion in general has neglected the rampant hypocrisy of its followers...as long as religious lines divide us, neither peace of mind nor peace of body will ever be attained." Some people, the non-religious included, let religion divide us. It is up to *all* to achieve the peace; we cannot blame our global problems on religion.



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Religious institutions like this Hill Ave. Catholic church have been arms of both progress and intolerance in the eyes of some.

Don't Fight Intolerance With More Intolerance

Mutual Intolerance Threatens Progress

By TONY LEE

In a *Tech* column last week, Jialan Wang suggests that religion is the breeding ground of hatred and the root of major world problems. Although she is correct that "people use religion to justify racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and misogyny," the narrow-sighted approach to the issue makes the same mistakes that Wang attributes to religion.

The sweeping generalizations seem to arise from a cursory examination of the situation. The assertion that religion "has been an obstacle of egalitarianism and scientific discovery and education" is readily refuted with history. Since Christianity was the target of attack, it should be the basis of rebuttal.

Yes, some Christian conservatives lobby against granting special privileges to certain groups, but devout Christians spearheaded the abolition movement. Yes, fundamentalists hate evolution, but Newton studied astronomy to see God's nature manifested in the elegance of the universe. Yes, some Christians want vouchers, but many leading universities today began as Christian seminaries. Religion has both impeded and fostered the arrival of (post)modernism, and Wang overlooks the latter aspect.

Religious writings are cited by some violence-apologists, but clearly, these people constitute only a portion of the religious West. To generalize that churches do nothing [sic] to address hypocrisy, based on wayward priests and adolescents is a failed syllogism. And as the cliché goes, Christians aren't perfect; nor do they profess to be.

Wang also characterizes Christians as obviously hypocritical and hateful. Instead of recounting personal stories of Christian good will, I offer this psychological indicator: suppose you're walking down a dimly-lit street alone at night, and you see a group of ten men approaching. How relieved would you be if you learned that they're coming back from a Bible study group?

But while the article exhibits symptoms of intolerance, it maintains civility. Wang does not explicitly call for the abolition of religion. Nor does she advocate bombing churches or rescinding anybody's civil rights. Yet, saying that an individual's faith in God spells doom for the global community does not encourage a friendly discourse.

In the debate of the role of religion in public policy, both sides suffer from intolerance, and consequently remain resentful and unsatisfied. Individuals from both sides must examine their views and realize that original constructivist assumptions of open-mindedness are illusory and that such an ideal can be attained only through constant self-scrutiny. When that is achieved, we will have eliminated the true obstacle to a peaceful global community.

Letters: Utsav, Religion, Ugly BoD

Wang's Claims Wrong

Having spent many of my formative years in rural Arkansas, I can sympathize with the religious intolerance and hypocrisy that Wang illustrated in her May 13 article. I must, however, take issue with her characterization of religion as a blight on society.

While religion has been at the core of many of the conflicts in our history, most of them have had economic or purely cultural roots apart from their spiritual veneers. American Jingoism and cultural imperialism are more to blame for our current predicament than a fundamentalist jihad, and a culture that represses human sexuality is as much to blame for molestations and coverups as the admittedly culpable American Catholic Church. Even though I too am non-religious, it would be myopic for us to overlook the positive impact that religion has had on our culture.

Organized religion has been the bedrock on which many educations have been built. Kepler, who encoded the basis for modern astronomy was moved to uncover the artistry of God in the heavens, Gregor Mendel looked for the same symmetry and balance in his monastery gardens, and Blaise Pascal certainly wouldn't bet against the existence of God.

Organized religion can inspire as well as stifle. Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot are perfect examples of people who used the resources of a staunchly atheist state to terrorize the masses and prevent the devel-

opment of science and the growth of the human spirit. Social organizations are as imperfect as the people who are their members; the same evil could just as easily spring from a godless scientifically-minded organization.

In the end, however, I feel that religion does more good than harm. It provides a social net in many communities where there would otherwise be suffering through innumerable outlets: schools, shelters, kitchens, and simple friendship. These things can be provided by other institutions, but religions are often more effective than secular institutions because of their intrinsically selfless mandate. Moreover, religious organizations of every possible stripe often take the lead in humanitarian efforts around the world. Truly, angels rush in where pragmatists fear to tread.

Jordan Boyd-Graber '04

Utsav Piece Misses Point

Dear Editors,

This is to bring to your attention that an article about the OASIS cultural show (Utsav) in your latest edition completely missed many pertinent points regarding the performance. We do appreciate the fact that our program found mention on the front page of the *Tech* but we have serious objections about the article. The article emphasizes certain aspects of the program while ignoring many others and contains many inaccuracies. Had the reporter

talked to a cross section of participants/organizers, we feel the portrayal of the event may have been more balanced.

Perhaps the most important point that we would like to bring to your attention is that this show was the result of the efforts and talents of more than 50 people working continuously for two months, and not just that of certain individuals as the article would have us believe. Our whole organization was mobilized to put this show together.

The OASIS committee believes that the following facts should also have found mention in the article.

The show was attended by approximately 200 people *excluding* the participants. It would have been very nice to include the reactions

from some of them.

The show lasted approximately two hours. The first 30 minutes were devoted to 'Scenes from a Sub-continental Wedding' and the rest to an enactment of an ancient Indian play 'The Signet Ring'.

The program was followed by a dinner featuring Indian cuisine which proved very popular.

It was sponsored by ASCIT, SIF, the Student Affairs Fund, the Caltech Y. GSC and OASIS.

The California Tech is a medium for disseminating information to a very large audience. Our show was attended by only 200 people; the rest of the 2500-odd Caltech community would learn about it from this article. We are worried about a misrepresentation of the facts because the sponsorship which OASIS gets for such an event is contingent on

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K. Bartz/The California Tech

Dancers perform at the Utsav festival the Thursday before last, which was directed and organized by many OASIS members.

Dabney Grievances: The President Strikes Back

The BoD wants to raise dues while sitting on tens of thousands of dollars in surplus.

ASCIT President Ted Jou: Although Professor Bellan is strongly encouraging it, the ASCIT Board has not made any formal decision on raising dues. Any changes that will affect the near future will likely be focused on funding particular aspects of ASCIT, such as the publications. Regarding the ASCIT surplus, I have felt it unfair to splurge on the leftover surplus from many years ago because current students have no more right to that money than future students. Thus, we will be placing that money in an endowment that will earn interest to benefit students for years to come.

The BoD inconsistently reports to the student body actions of the Faculty Board that directly affect students.

TJ: A lack of a reliable avenue of communication has been a concern of mine for a long time. I have tried to inform the *Tech* about important issues like the Library Task Force report, the new ME option, and the new grade of "W" but the newspaper has space constraints and the announcements often get delayed. That is part of the motivation behind the development of newsgroups on donut. They should be a place where information can be disseminated reliably and students can voice complaints like these.

ASCIT lacks an easily accessible budget.

TJ: The budget is available online at <http://donut.caltech.edu/about/budget/0203budget.php> and I have instructed the ASCIT Secretary to place a copy in the display case on the Olive Walk.

ASCIT mustered a poor student faculty conference.

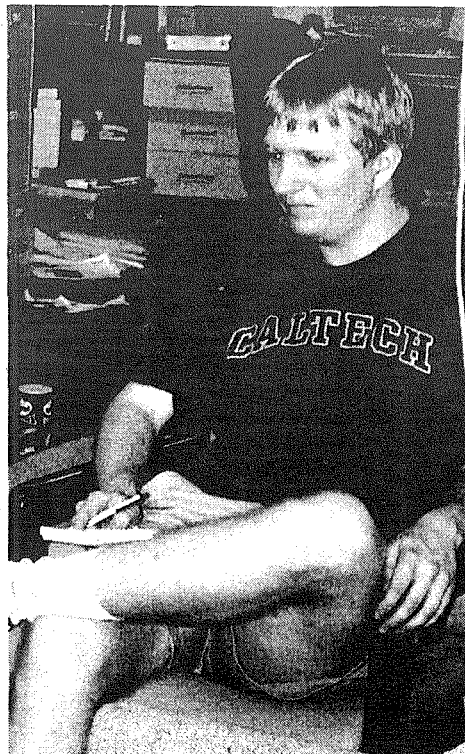
There was definitely not as much put into the SFC as there could have been, but much of that had to do with the fact that it was the first one in five years and there was nobody around with any experience. The ASCIT Board will start earlier and recruit more help in organizing the next conference.

BoD members push their own agendas.

TJ: Unfortunately, those are the only agendas the BoD knows. If students voice their concerns to me, I promise to help push those agendas as well. You can also talk with any other BoD member as well – each member of the ASCIT Board represents the entire student body and should be receptive to your concerns.

Not everyone benefits from donuts. Student government should concern itself with representing the students, not quibble about when to provide donuts or even provide them at all.

TJ: This is basically the only issue where a significant number of people have actually complained to me. The only reason this is an issue is because the student body has presented it to me as a very large concern. The number of e-mails I have received concerning donuts far exceeds the number of e-mails I have received concerning student depression, alcohol, or fire policy.



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Couched in controversy, the hotly contested election of ASCIT Secretary Joe Jewell '04 is still a source of concern among members of Dabney House.

Most of the budget goes toward a few people; the government does not provide services for the majority of the students.

TJ: Out of a \$67,106 budget this year, \$13,206 (19.7%) is going directly to clubs and student organizations independent of ASCIT, \$13,700 (20.4%) is going towards publications distributed to all ASCIT members, \$6,200 (9.2%) is going directly to Houses for social events, \$15,700 (23.4%) is going towards social events open to the entire undergraduate population, and \$7,250 (10.8%) is going towards public resources like DVD's, the Screening Room, and ASCIT Lights. This leaves only \$11,050 (16.4%) that is specifically earmarked for particular groups like the IHC, BoC, Web Development Team, and Varsity athletes. There are no barriers to taking advantage of any of the public services that ASCIT offers; all you need to do is show up. If what you want to do falls outside of everything ASCIT has funded, you can start a club and it's very likely that ASCIT will provide financial support. If you don't like the ASCIT social events, please suggest ones that you would like to see. Please feel free to complain to me about any part of the budget that you feel is unfair.

Freshmen should not be members by default. It should be easy to add and drop membership.

TJ: Freshmen need to be automatically enrolled in ASCIT as they are automatically enrolled in a House. Otherwise, this would result in much fewer people voluntarily joining ASCIT simply because of apathy, and the student government would not function when it represents a small fraction of the population. Adding and dropping membership all goes through the Bursar's office and I don't know that ASCIT has direct control over that process.

ASCIT should not appoint offices.

TJ: I'm not sure exactly what this refers to, but most of the offices that ASCIT appoints are associated with publications, some aspect of social functions, or the bureaucratic function of ASCIT. These positions are generally appointed for one of two reasons: either they receive a salary, or the job is small enough that an election would be superfluous.

There's unnecessary hierarchy and no reason for it to exist.

TJ: ASCIT has exactly two levels of hierarchy: There is the student body and the Board of Directors that represents them.

The Executive Committee is made of the President's friends.

TJ: Although a recent failed amendment tried to change this, the ExComm is appointed by the President himself and required to "assist the President in coordinating activities of the Corporation." This is certainly conducive to appointing your friends, but I hope that my ExComm, announced this week, will reflect a greater diversity.

As a 900-person school, referendum is easy. Why does the BoD have power?

TJ: The BoD actually has very little legislative power. The main responsibility of each ASCIT officer is generally an administrative one, such as maintaining the finances or discussing academic affairs. The BoD simply follows the instructions laid out in the Bylaws, which were all approved by referendum.

There should be no closed meetings of the Executive Committee.

TJ: Meetings are only closed in two cases. When the BoD discusses individual students, as happens during appointments, the door is closed to protect peoples' privacy. Also, meetings are closed during votes of the BoD to allow BoD members to vote honestly and without undue pressure.

No U.S. energy drink or rock star should exist.

TJ: If you elaborated on this, we might be able to do something about it.

How does one person or group of people make decisions for others?

TJ: Many things at Caltech are shared by the entire student body, and sometimes a single decision must be made for the entire popu-



The California Tech Archives

Vegetarian Club and Caucasian Club activists decry the "fascist ASCIT state" after ASCIT's 1999 budget allocations. Since ASCIT's inception in 1935, discontent with the Board of Directors has traditionally been hot among students.

lation. There are many ways to try to attack this problem, but recent world history suggests that a representative democracy is one of the most successful solutions. One person or a group of persons, like the BoD, makes decisions for a larger population after being elected by that population to represent them. That person or group will take the entire populations' views into account because he/she will need to run for re-election and in ASCIT's case, is always under threat of a recall election.

There are problems with Joe Jewell: the fact that he was "elected" and the way he was "elected."

TJ: No comment.

ASCIT's corporate structure is unnecessarily complicated.

TJ: Although I have not had much time to devote to this yet, the recent failed amendments were an attempted first step to simplifying the Bylaws. Over the summer, I will be devoting more time towards eliminating unnecessary complications.

There is no accountability in ASCIT.

TJ: The requirements to have a recall election under the ASCIT Bylaws are not extremely difficult.

Government controls the student paper, so there's an inherent conflict of interest.

Tech Editors Kevin Bartz and Tammy Ma: Thankfully, you can rest assured that neither of us feels any familial pull to the ASCIT Board of Directors. In fact, we've fought off numerous attempts on their part to censor so-called "slandorous" material; in one case, a BoD member went so far as to chide us for printing articles "detrimental to the BoD." So for now, you needn't worry. And while we definitely agree that the government's authority over the *Tech* indeed makes for a bizarre situation, it's the prerogative of ASCIT to step back and allow editorial freedom—and for us to fight back when they don't.

The ASCIT minutes are inaccurate, biased and incomplete; see the grievance about Joe Jewell above.

TJ: With our meetings on Fridays and the deadline for the *Tech* on the same day, I rarely get a chance to read the minutes before they are sent in for publication. I will make an effort to do this more from now on.

ASCIT does not effectively use our money.

TJ: Specific examples of ineffective use of ASCIT funds and suggestions for better uses would be greatly appreciated.

Student government fails to take action against oppressive administration policies. The student body is clearly

against the fire and alcohol policy, while ASCIT does little.

TJ: I was under the impression that there were many students taking action with administration on these policies, so I have stepped back and allowed House Presidents and other students to take the lead on fire and alcohol policy. However, if the student body would like ASCIT to put more effort into these areas, I will do my best.

The ASCIT Bylaws do not reflect the collective will of the student body.

TJ: If there are problems with the Bylaws, I would like to hear suggestions for changes. Once put up for a vote, they should eventually reflect the collective will of the student body.

Why do Features writers like Jialan and Abe Fetterman who write terrible columns get paid? Why do editors who write "Their Here" get 10% or whatever? This is a huge waste of money. I like reading a few things in the *Tech* but why is my money paying these people?

KB and TM: We agree; it would be ridiculous if a substantial portion of your dues paid such incompetents. Luckily, nearly all of the 10%--\$6--of your ASCIT dues set aside for your annual *Tech* subscription goes to printing the paper and restocking operating supplies. Most of the payroll money comes from advertising and faculty subscriptions. To put things in perspective, if Jialan Wang were to write in every issue of the year, her total pay would draw about seven cents of your ASCIT dues--in other words, almost nothing.

Why doesn't the ASCIT copier ever work? That's something that's actually useful.

TJ: This has never been my direct responsibility, but I will investigate this further.

IHC is more representative of the student body than ASCIT.

TJ: This may be true, and I'm sure a vast majority of the students feels it can get more out of its Houses than it can out of ASCIT. This fact I think is reflected in the higher level of dues each student pays toward their house as compared to ASCIT. However, the IHC and the House governments are kept very busy by the issues closest to the current students: Housing, rotation, athletics, and residential life policies. ASCIT generally takes on the issues that will affect students for the future: health insurance, parking, the honor code, academics, and keeping relationships with outside organizations. Representing the students is not something over which any one body should have a monopoly. ASCIT and the IHC have shared this duty for many decades and I believe each body can play its own part and effectively serve the students without having to quibble over who is above the other.

Bad Art Meets Abnormal *Vectors*

Outsider Serra Can't Capture Quintessence of Caltech

By O.J. CARLTON, IV

Until today I didn't appreciate the subtle difference between good modern art and bad engineering, but now I know. For one of them, you flame out of Caltech, and for the other, they pay you two million dollars.

I'm starting to notice a pattern here. I spend the prime of my life trying to hold on to the last few remaining scraps of sanity, and then I find out that we have yet another previously unheard-of faculty committee has been tirelessly working to solve a nonexistent problem. Instead of finding practical solutions to ever-present woes, the current administration prefers to discover hidden ones. These problems assigned to committees of overeducated people with too much time on their hands, who then set about trying to outdo the other committees in their race for a panacea.

This week it's the Institute Art Committee. What's funny is that, while I am an artist at this very Institute, I hadn't heard of this committee until today. The committee's task, according to its first chairman, is to "bring scientists and artists together in a dynamic, informal relationship and see what happens." In the present case, they've found a renowned sculptor, Richard Serra, and allowed him to survey the lawn connecting the Beckman Institute and the Broad Center.

For those readers unfamiliar with Serra's work, he can be described as a *minimalist maximus*. He takes a simple idea, finds a ton of steel

and applies as much force as necessary to mangle it until it's a work of art. Whereas some artists are content to take a mere canvas or twelve-foot statue to get their points across, Serra takes a modicum of inspiration and a heap of steel or lead and creates something. His gimmick is shear size and power put into the production, and the eventual result is of only secondary importance. Speaking on the nature of his creative process, Serra stated, "you don't become involved with the psychology of what you're making, nor do you become involved with the after image of what it's going to look like." I wish I could design with that kind of freedom, but lawyers tend to file more malpractice suits against engineering firms than art studios.

The great thing about having such a gigantic canvas is that the work, once created, is impossible to ignore. While passers-by may not like it, they're stuck with it. Since the structures are stationary, neigndestructible, and critically acclaimed as art, poor unenlightened critics are forced either to praise the work with vague sentences with big words, or risk sounding ignorant by voicing displeasure at something that can't be changed.

Don't get me wrong here. I get as excited as anyone about huge pieces of metal, especially if they're shiny. The only complaint I have about the proposed structure is that it isn't anywhere near big enough. For two million dollars, the thing ought to be visible from space. People shouldn't be complaining about not

being able to traverse the Beckman lawn; they should be more concerned that the new sculpture blocks out the sun entirely for miles around. The neighbors should cringe in fear of the mightiness that is the Sculpture, and it should inspire future generations to wonder what god-like creatures could have erected such a sublime object.

This artist is, disappointingly, not as ambitious as the pyramid designers. Knowing that Pasadena, while on the whole an art-loving, open-minded group of well-read citizens, would likely disapprove of anything more spectacular than the Rose Parade, compromised and scaled down the project. The result is a lightning bolt-shaped wall sloping diagonally across the lawn, trying to bridge the distinct architectural styles of BI and the Broad Center. In trying to please everybody, it has ended up with a rapidly growing contingent which vows to fight the thing. Even as you read this, dozens of members of the long dormant guardian society Teachers for the Eradication of Really Random Iconoclastic Big, Long EyeSores (TERRIBLES) have staked themselves to the Beckman lawn in order to prevent the wall from scarring the natural beauty of the scene.

If the art committee truly wanted a sculpture to capture the essence of Caltech life, they shouldn't have looked this hard. I feel personally slighted as an accomplished theoretical engineer and artist (in residence, come to think of it) I was not consulted to assist in the design or building of one of these things. What better preparation for abstract sculpture can there be than mechanical engineering, jazz, and ADHD? Caltech students have a legacy of constructing site-specific works of art that increase the enjoyment of the space around them and add entropy to the system, and I'm perturbed that the Art Committee thinks we need outside help in shaking things up.

On the other hand, elements among the higher-ups have been slowly depriving the students of the freedom necessary for art and science to thrive. The music department has seen cuts in funding and the art department has made cutbacks as well. It just doesn't make sense to me to take money given for public art and contract an out-

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sider to do our sculpting for us. I suppose the prevailing theory is that the two pursuits are mutually exclusive. Mr. Serra may be an excellent artist, but he isn't one of us. He doesn't know the torments we put ourselves through, or the reasons we're willing to go through them. He's never had the joy of falling asleep in 22 Gates or the pain of hitting his head on the dryer door in the laundry room. He's never been run down by a Daihatsu, had to register for a course three times before getting noticed by the Registrar, tried to write a working program in a language that hadn't been fully written, let alone tested. I don't imagine he's fought off scores of underclassmen for strawberry donuts or been unwittingly made a California resident by guilt-tripping signature-mongers outside of Target.

While I'm off the subject, I'd like to point out that the Broad Center is one of the coolest buildings I've ever seen. It's all new-fangled, smooth on the sides but with sharp corners everywhere, and shiny to boot. What makes the Broad Center a masterpiece is that its complex and intricate form doesn't preclude it from its function; its walls are aesthetically pleasing while still supporting a roof. As far as I'm concerned, the building itself is more than artistic enough to meet the public art requirement in the Master Plan for which *Vectors* is proposed. People will be fixating so much on its splendor that they'll trip over the sculpture.

Now if Serra could build us some *eigenvectors*, then he'd be an artist worthy of Caltech.

OUTSIDE WORLD

By William Fong

Indian Heat Wave Kills 600

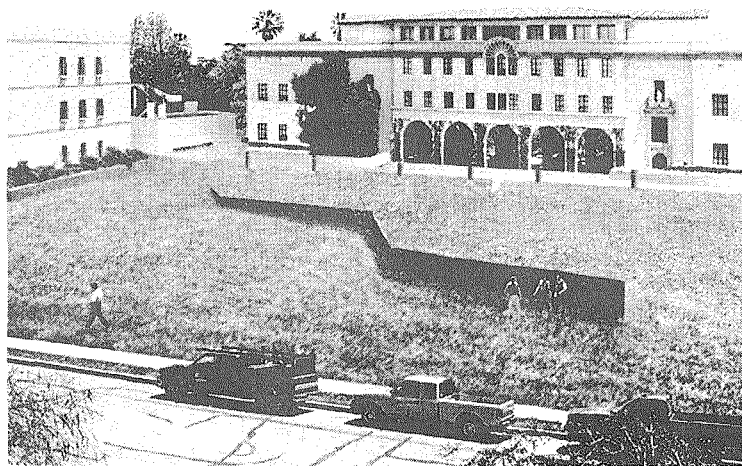
During the week, an abnormal May heat wave struck the southern coast of India with temperatures soaring over 120 degrees Fahrenheit in some areas. While temperatures have started dropping, reports of deaths from rural communities have only begun to stream in. As of Friday, more than 600 have perished.

Jimmy Carter Visits Cuba

Ending a six-day visit to Cuba on Friday, President Carter became the most prominent political figure to visit Cuba since the revolution of 1959 that saw Fidel Castro rise to power. The visit's highlights included throwing out the first pitch to a Cuban baseball game and giving a speech on Friday to the Cuban public denouncing the undemocratic parts of Cuba's government and the US embargo.

Grave of Pearl Found

On Friday, a grave was found at a nursery in the deserts of Pakistan that is presumed to be that of Daniel Pearl, the kidnapped Wall Street reporter who was killed in January by Pakistani militants. Nine pieces of the body including a severed head were found leading to the belief that it is the body of Daniel Pearl.



Courtesy of caltech.edu

The planned *Vectors* art project has raised criticism among students.

Letter: Stop the Photos

the large number people who participate and attend our events. It's with these concerns that we have been forced to submit our complaints in a rather formal way.

OASIS Committee

BoD Pictures 'Ugly'

Dear Editors,

As students here, and believers in the many advantages a student government such as ASCIT can provide, we appreciate the work that ASCIT does, even when we may not agree with its actions or decisions. We understand that it is to the advantage of all students to have the ASCIT minutes published in every edition of the California Tech. It is through such publications that one can learn what is going on what might otherwise be a secretive and mistrusted process. Only through such knowledge is ASCIT truly capable of being a government of the students.

But now to our point. We are writing for the purpose of letting it be known that readers of the *Tech* do not need to see a picture of a Board of Directors, or subset thereof, in every issue of the *Tech*. And we most definitely do not need two of

them. It has been noticed for several weeks now that we cannot look through the paper without being assaulted by the faces of the BoD again and again. One photo per term would be more than enough. We understand that you may need space-fillers in the paper but that is not a sufficient reason to degrade the quality of the paper in this manner. We are not editors, nor do we pretend to be, but we imagine that there must exist better content to fill this space. The past editors did not engage in such atrocious wastes of space. Honestly, we would rather see a blank square than these ugly pictures every week. Perhaps ads can fill this space, or more comics, but *real* news would be best. Poorly taken photos of people sitting on couches are not worth the cost of ink it takes to print them, nor the energy required to process the signals in our brains. Therefore, we kindly request that this practice of publishing pictures of the BoD in every issue of the *Tech* be discontinued.

Thank you for time, and we hope that you heed this request, as we are not alone in the feelings presented here.

Nicholas Piro '04
Eric Lin '04

FRIDAY DONUT BYLAW PUSHED BEFORE ASCIT

WOULD RESTORE AXED DONUTS

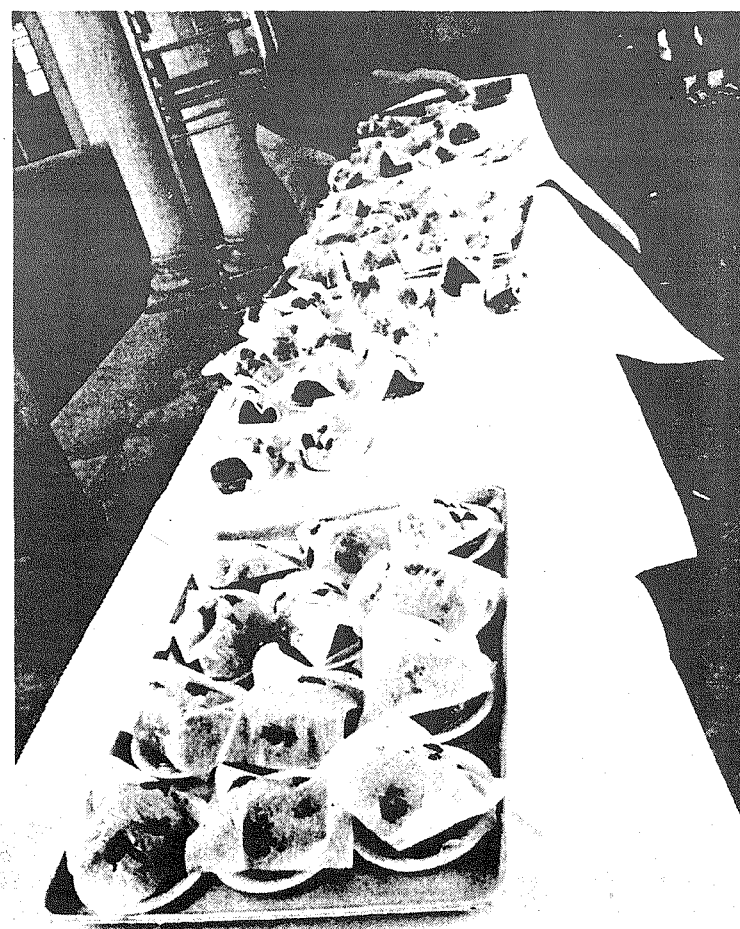
Add Article XVII, "Friday Donuts";

ARTICLE XVII—FRIDAY DONUTS

SECTION 1. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to provide donuts from the "Donut Man"—Far Foster's of Glendora—free of charge to all ASCIT members every Friday morning of each term at eight a.m. in the Ricketts-Fleming Breezeway, except during final examinations, Rotation and vacations.

SECTION 2. The direct task of purchasing and making available the donuts shall be foremost the duty of the ASCIT President, though he may seek assistance.

SECTION 3. In the event that Far Foster's of Glendora goes out of business or stops selling donuts, the ASCIT President shall immediately select a new donut vendor and continue to provide donuts every Friday under the provisions of Section 1.



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Strawberry donuts await takers on In 'n Out Day last week. A proposed bylaw would return the treats to their Friday morning schedule.

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

DILBERT COMICS:

- Panel 1:** OUR CEO IS VISITING NEXT WEEK. DISCONTINUE ALL REAL WORK IMMEDIATELY.
- Panel 2:** WE HAVE FIVE DAYS TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF PRODUCTIVITY.
- Panel 3:** HERE'S THE DIVERSITY SIGN-UP SHEET. WE STILL HAVE A FEW OPEN SLOTS THAT ONLY REQUIRE A HAT.
- Panel 4:** WALLY, OUR CEO IS VISITING NEXT WEEK. I WANT YOU TO HIDE IN THE RESTROOM.
- Panel 5:** IT'S TOO SOON. IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO START A DREAM ASSIGNMENT.
- Panel 6:** HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR "POWERPOINT" SLIDES FOR THE CEO'S VISIT?
- Panel 7:** YES. I'M FOCUSING ON ALL THE THINGS WE DO WRONG, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE NEEDS TO FIX.
- Panel 8:** JUST KIDDING. THERE'S NO USEFUL INFORMATION. DON'T JOKE!
- Panel 9:** THE CEO VISIT. WOULD YOU LIKE A TOUR OF OUR CUBICLES?
- Panel 10:** WHY WOULD I WANT TO SEE A BUNCH OF BOXES FILLED WITH PEOPLE PRETENDING TO WORK?
- Panel 11:** UNLESS THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU PLANNED FOR THE FIRST THIRTY MINUTES OF MY VISIT.
- Panel 12:** THE CEO VISIT. AND NOW DILBERT AND ALICE WILL GIVE YOU A PRESENTATION.
- Panel 13:** I'M CURIOUS TO HEAR WHY THAT REQUIRES TWO PEOPLE.
- Panel 14:** OUR DEPARTMENT MADE IMPRESSIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN... EFFICIENCY!
- Panel 15:** THE CEO VISIT. THANKS FOR THE PRESENTATION. YOUR DEPARTMENT SEEMS BLOATED.
- Panel 16:** I'LL ELIMINATE HALF OF YOUR GROUP IN THE NEXT BUDGET MEETING. THANK YOU.
- Panel 17:** WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? NOTHING. I TOLD HIM WE'RE THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT.

FOXTROT COMICS:

- Panel 1:** WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WAITING ONLINE TO BUY "STAR WARS" TICKETS.
- Panel 2:** THIS NEW PAVILIONPLEX WEB SITE IS GREAT! YOU CAN ORDER TICKETS A WEEK IN ADVANCE!
- Panel 3:** THEIR SERVER MUST BE FLOODED WITH REQUESTS, THOUGH. IT'S AS SLOW AS MOLASSES.
- Panel 4:** GOOD THING YOU HAVE THAT LAWN CHAIR AND SLEEPING BAG. HEY, I'M NO ROOKIE.
- Panel 5:** HOW LONG WILL YOU HAVE TO WAIT ONLINE FOR TICKETS? HARD TO SAY.
- Panel 6:** THE PAVILIONPLEX'S WEB SERVER IS RUNNING SLOWER THAN A BANTHA ON HOTH. FORTUNATELY, I HAVE LOTS OF FELLOW "STAR WARS" FANS TO KEEP ME COMPANY.
- Panel 7:** UM, YOU'RE IN A ROOM BY YOURSELF. WE'RE INSTANT MESSAGING.
- Panel 8:** JABBA2741, HOW'S THINGS? PRETTY GOOD. MY MOM JUST MADE COOKIES.
- Panel 9:** YOU'RE STILL WAITING ONLINE FOR TICKETS? YUP.
- Panel 10:** I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T JUST RIDE YOUR BIKE TO THE THEATER AND GET IN THE TICKET LINE THERE.
- Panel 11:** PAIGE, PLEASE. ALL THE PEOPLE CAMPED OUT AT THE MOVIE THEATER FOR OPENING-DAY "STAR WARS" TICKETS ARE GEEKS.
- Panel 12:** YOU'RE CAMPED OUT ON THE THEATER'S WEB SITE. WHAT'S THAT MAKE YOU? A SUPER GEEK. NOW APOLOGIZE.
- Panel 13:** YEE-HA! IT ACCEPTED MY ORDER! I'VE GOT "STAR WARS" TICKETS!
- Panel 14:** "ATTACK OF THE CLONES" HEAVEN, THIS ANGEL IS READY FOR ENTRY.
- Panel 15:** I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW LONG I HAD TO WAIT ONLINE, THOUGH. THE MOVIE THEATER'S WEB SERVER MUST'VE REALLY BEEN SWAMPED.
- Panel 16:** JOHNSON, I SAID TO WASH OUT THE BUTTER SERVER! OOPS.
- Panel 17:** YOU'RE LOOKING AT A BOY WITH EIGHT TICKETS TO "STAR WARS"!
- Panel 18:** CONGRATULATIONS. WHO'S GOING WITH YOU? MY FRIEND MARCUS.
- Panel 19:** WHO ELSE? WHO ELSE?
- Panel 20:** START OVER. YOU'RE LOOKING AT A BOY WITH TWO TICKETS TO FOUR CONSECUTIVE SCREENINGS OF "STAR WARS"!
- Panel 21:** SO WAS "ATTACK OF THE CLONES" ANY GOOD? PAIGE, WHAT A SILLY QUESTION.
- Panel 22:** I MEAN, WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF A DIE-HARD FANBOY LIKE ME SAYING ANYTHING NEGATIVE?
- Panel 23:** PROBABLY ABOUT THE SAME AS GEORGE LUCAS LETTING A CARTOONIST SEE THE FILM THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE SO HE CAN WRITE ABOUT THE MOVIE WHEN IT OPENS IN MORE THAN VAGUE, NONCOMMITTAL TERMS.
- Panel 24:** WELL, I WOULDN'T QUITE GO THAT FAR. OK, SO THERE'S AN ATOM-SIZED CHANCE YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT.

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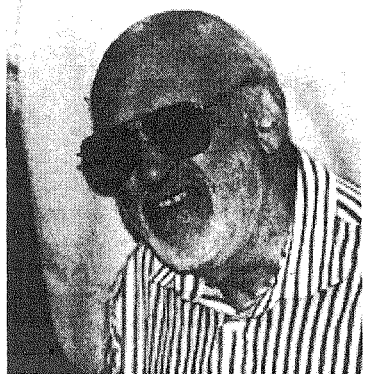
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Dean's Corner

Watch Your Step

by Jean-Paul Revel



The Faculty Board meets once a month to conduct the "business of the Faculty" mostly to make decisions about "educational operations" and other matters. Attending are the top Institute Administrators, Deans, the Chairs of all departments of instruction along with two and a half dozen elected faculty members. There usually are also guests, people who have a special interest in the presentations of the day, and of course representatives of student government. An eclectic bunch. Once in a while matters brought to the board are the subject of heated discussions, but the proceedings are normally pretty sedate and decorous. There are occasional bombshells, in fact there was one just a few weeks ago, when the President made the stunning announcement about the resignation of the Executive VP for Administration. You have heard about it for sure by now. If not look at Caltech 336. Even the *Star News* had a front-page article last Thursday with the headline "Caltech VP resigns after flap over staff." Now you know about as much as I do about the matter.

I bring it up only because it is only the very last in an absolutely unheard of series of changes at the Institute. I am not a betting person, but if I were, I certainly would have turned down any bet that in a period of less than six months, five top administrators at Caltech would lose their posts, leave their posts or announce their plan to step down.

This extraordinary string of departures started of course with Physics Professor Chris Brennen's illness and resignation, followed by Jerry Nunnally's decision to leave his position as the vice president for Development and Alumni Relations. And then of course the master of student Houses, Physics Professor Steve Frautschi, decided to return full time to physics, followed shortly by Dean of Graduate Studies Rod Kiewiet, not to physics but to political science and now the resignation of the executive vice president for administration, Bill Jenkins. So many departures will surely affect the feel and look of the Institute.

While some events are the culmination of slowly accumulating stresses, in some instances, like most of the ones listed, all the premonitory events take place out of view, or take place so fast that the event they lead to cannot be predicted very far ahead. In the case of a car crash one may not anticipate the event except perhaps over the last few milliseconds. Of course predictions of trouble can be made, I suppose, if a driver is speeding, intoxicated or otherwise has impaired judgement. In the end, nothing should be as expected as the unexpected, a truism that the personnel turmoils of the past few months have once more emphasized. One could take a fatalistic view, accepting the unforeseen and choosing to believe, as a corollary, that there is no point in fighting back fate, the future accident that is just now preparing to happen,

since obviously que sera, sera. But it is not quite true, is it, that que sera sera. In many instances our behavior, attitudes and actions before the fact will affect what can happen. Many car accidents that could take place can be avoided by prophylactic care and vigilance. We have, in fact, some control over destiny and with the right moves we can avoid the steam roller of fate.

This column is obviously not the place to discuss the specific details and ramifications of any of the dramatic set of resignations mentioned above. Instead I would like to draw some lessons about how to conduct one self in general, and so avoid being squished. It is a precarious toe hold we have in this life, yet it is the only thing between us and the abyss. Estimates of how solid the footing seems to change with time (for most people). In youth and even to middle age many of us have

few concerns about the future. The young are "invincible" or rather think of themselves as such. The footing is good, there usually is little worry about possible loss. This attitude of course changes with time and eventually most of us will turn into much more timorous elders. I remember landing in NY for the first time, foreign bumpkin that I was, not so savvy about the ways of the New World. Someone (the immigration officer if I recall) told me about the YMCA, and that one could get a room for the night there, more cheaply than at a hotel. Sick with worry about my trunk which some gruff and efficient stevedores said they would ship to Boston (my destination), I feared that I would never be reunited with my stuff. I had a terrible first night in my small Spartan cubicle. By five a.m. I was also ravenous (the rich food on board ship had been quite habituating) and I went to look for some place to eat, but the Y cafeteria was still closed. Outside I passed by an eatery, a few steps down from the sidewalk level. I could observe the goings on by leaning on the balustrade over the stairs. I shuddered. The customers were having french

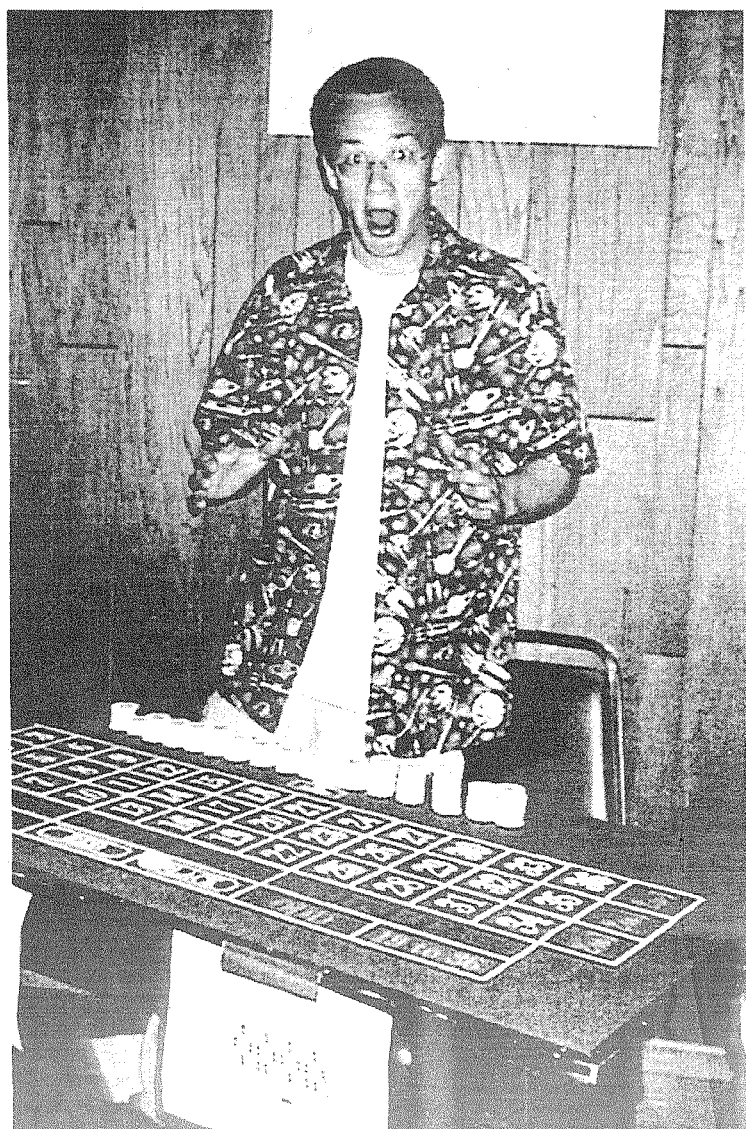
fries with breakfast! Where I came from pommes frites were part of a leisurely Sunday lunch. The stairs leading down were marked by a big sign saying "watch your step." Okay, okay; I'd watch...I was young in those days, you see, and invincible. Only that business with my trunk had started to give me pause. Watch your step said a burly customer leaving the premises. watch your step. I made it in and although the odors made the juices flow, I found I could not stomach the FF at that time of day, nor the spittle loaded "watch your step" by which a waitress greeted me as I reached the bottom of the stairs...I fled. But that's right, watching one's step is a recognition of how small our toe-hold in this world. Watch your step lest you find yourself in the path of that stream roller or those bike riders I spoke of last week.

A bientot

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

SPEAKING EASY AND ROARING TWENTIES



Silas Hilliard '05 mans the Roulette table at last Saturday's Rud-dock-hosted "Roaring Twenties" party. Organized by Michael Priolo '05, attractions ranged from gambling and dance to free milk shakes.

CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

By Ben Lee, Tim Wan and Mike Yeh

www.CripplingDepression.com

<p>DAMMIT, WE CAN'T BOTH BE OBI-WAN</p>	<p>HEY, MY LAST NAME IS WAN.</p>	<p>I'M NOT CHANGING</p>	<p>ALRIGHT, BRING IT!</p>	<p>TIME FOR YOU TO LOSE A HAND!</p>	<p>BEGIN, THIS LOSER WAR HAS.</p>
<p>IT'S KINDA WEIRD SEEING ALL OF TECH IN ONE LINE.</p>	<p>HM, IS THAT THE CS PROF OVER THERE?</p>	<p>I HAVE SOMETHING I'VE GOTTA TRY...</p>	<p>YOU DON'T WANT TO TEACH CS ONE ANYMORE.</p>	<p>YOUR MIND TRICKS DON'T WORK ON ME!</p>	<p>MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!!</p>
<p>ARGH, IT'S HOT IN HERE THEY SHOULD TURN UP THE A/C</p>	<p>I SHOULD HAVE CUT SOME AIR HOLES IN THIS MASK.</p>	<p>I JUST HOPE NO ONE YELLS THINGS DURING THE MOVIE. I REALLY HATE THAT.</p>	<p>THE LOVE DIALOGUE WAS MORE Cliched THAN A HIGH-SCHOOL MELODRAMA</p>	<p>IT WAS GOOD, NOT GREAT... AND WORST OF ALL I'M RIDICULOUSLY DRESSED FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.</p>	<p>I LIKED THE ENDING BUT IT'S STILL NOWHERE NEAR EMPIRE.</p>
<p>YOU WANT TO DRAW EILENE IN A PRINCESS LEIA BIKINI...</p>	<p>FOR THE LAST TIME YOU DON'T HAVE JEDI POWERS.</p>	<p>AND EILENE'S NOT A FAM. SHE'D NEVER DRESS UP I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT.</p>	<p>CAN YOU JUST DRAW IT FOR MY UN... PRIVATE USE?</p>	<p>BEST MOVIE EVER!!!!</p>	<p>YOU'RE A SCARY MAN, TIM.</p>

K. Bartz/The California Tech

Announcements

Last Day for Dropping Courses and Changing Sections is Wednesday, May 22, 2002. For further information: contact Linda King lindajk@caltech.edu, or call 626-395-6354.

The Aero Association of Caltech and the Caltech Flying Club are hosting a free barbeque at the El Monte Airport on June 15, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. All members of the Caltech community are invited to come down and see the club's fleet of six single-engine aircraft. Club members and flight instructors will be giving FREE flight tours over the Pasadena area. Come see what Caltech looks like from a mile in the air!! For more information, please visit <http://aacit.caltech.edu> or contact Elaine Ou at ou@caltech.edu.

Summer Work Study: Information and applications for 2002 Summer Work Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2002. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1st in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the work study funding will begin with the July 1st payroll.

The EH&S Office in conjunction with the American Red Cross will be offering **First Aid/CPR training**. Adult First Aid/CPR classes will be held on Monday 6/17, Wednesday 6/19, and Friday 6/21 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the Brown Gym Classroom. Adult/Child/Infant First Aid/CPR training will be held on Thursday 5/9 and Tuesday 5/14 from 8 am - 5 pm, and also a separate class on Tuesday 6/18 and Thursday 6/20 from 5:30 pm - 10 pm in the Brown Gym Classroom. You will need to attend both nights of the class to be certified. The fee for the materials is \$15.00 and must be paid prior to taking the class. If you have questions or would like to register for the class, please contact the EH&S Office at ext. 6727. Class size is limited.

The **Ballroom Dance club** is offering two new class series starting next week: Foxtrot and Argentine Tango. Foxtrot, taught by professional instructor Melissa Atkinson, is held on Mondays from May 6 - June 3. \$25 for the 5 week series or \$6/lesson for all Caltech students; \$35(series)/\$8(lesson) for others. Amateur-taught Argentine Tango is offered on Wednesdays from May 8-June 5; \$1/lesson (free for frosh). All lessons take place in Winnett Lounge from 7:30-9pm, followed by a half hour practice session. No partner necessary, refreshments provided. On Mondays after class, we have a free mini-ballroom dance party - open dancing, request or bring your own music!

The **Caltech Dance Troupe** will have three dance classes for spring term. All classes meet in the Braun multipurpose room. Beginner's Hip Hop - back by popular demand! Instructor: Joey Dowdy; Mondays, 10-11:30pm starting April 8. Trial class fee: \$5; Caltech students full term fee: \$20; Non-Caltech students full term fee: \$30; (For those of you who like to schedule ahead, there will be no hip hop class on Monday, April 22.) Intermediate Jazz; Instructor: Collette Sibal; Tuesdays, 10-11pm starting April 9; Trial class fee: \$5 Caltech students full term fee: \$20; Non-Caltech students full term fee: \$30; Intermediate Ballet; Saturdays, 1-2:30pm starting April 13, free! For more information, see <http://troupe.caltech.edu>.

Would you like a sounding board for an essay or report that you're writing? Need help with a statement for a research proposal or a grad school application? Visit the **Hixon Writing Center**. The Center's Consultants Service offers free and confidential writing conferences with an English instructor or peer writing tutor. A writing consultation can benefit writers at all levels of ability. Consultants provide supportive, informed feedback at any stage of the writing process - from brainstorming and drafting, to editing and revising. They can also help with writer's block or second-language issues. Consultants do not merely proofread papers or provide remedial grammar instruction, but help writers develop methods for improving their own work. For more information, go to <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~writing/>.

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

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

Scholarships

The **Windstar Foundation**, a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, co-founded by John Denver and Thomas Crum, and headquartered in Snowmass Colorado, has consistently sought ways "To inspire individuals to make responsible choices and take direct personal action to achieve a peaceful and sustainable future" is pleased to announce the Windstar Environmental Studies Scholarship Program for 2002. With this mission in mind, the Windstar Foundation is awarding three \$500 scholarships to qualified college students. Eligibility Criteria: The applicant must be enrolled as a student in an accredited college or university Environmental Studies or Environmental Engineering Program and be entering his or her junior or senior year in the fall of 2002. The applicant shall have a college GPA of 3.0 or better in his or her major field. Visit www.wstar.org for more information. Applications are due June 1, 2002.

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. No attachments, please. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Friday.

Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

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

Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations. As you may know, the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO) offers annual scholarships to qualifying students at COHEAO member schools. (Caltech is a member.) The eligibility criteria and the application procedure have been changed for this academic year. 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.

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

Asian Pacific Heritage Week will be held May 19-24. Join the Asian Pacific Student Union (APSU) for a week in celebration of Asian Pacific culture. The week starts off on Sunday, May 19 with the Iron Chef cooking contest from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and Chinese cultural performances on Monday, May 20 during lunch.

Caltech Library System presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction followed by an optional hands-on practice. All classes begin at noon and meet in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred. Tuesday, May 21, Noon: "Patents." View details and register for these and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/default.htm>. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

"Einstein at Caltech: Publishing the Collected Papers of Albert Einstein," Beckman Auditorium, free parking located at 332 south Michigan Avenue, Pasadena (south of Del Mar Boulevard). Wednesday, May 22, 2002. 8 p.m. Dr. Diana Buchwald, professor of history, and editor and director of The Einstein Papers Project at Caltech, will give this Earnest C. Watson lecture. Admission: free. Call toll-free 1 (888) 2CALTECH or (626) 395-4652. Persons with disabilities: (626) 395-4688 (voice) or (626) 395-3700 (TDD). Sponsored by Caltech presents.

Caltech/JPL Day at Dodger Stadium. Time is running short, but you can still get Dodger Day tickets! Saturday, June 1. Dodgers vs. Arizona Diamondbacks. Caltech/JPL Carnival starts at 11 a.m. Join in the fun: activities for kids, including wall climbing, slides, clowns, and face painting. Game starts at 1:10 p.m. Tickets available at: Caltech Ticket Office, Tech Express, Human Resources.

Sensory Systems for Security Workshop, Monday, May 20, 2002, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Beckman Institute auditorium. This one-day workshop will explore critical needs facing government agencies and other organizations in detecting and averting terrorist and other security threats, and how Caltech and industrial researchers affiliated with the Center for Neuromorphic Systems engineering can contribute to this effort. Information: www.erc.caltech.edu/calendar.html. Requires Reservations.

Caltech Architectural Tour. May 23, 2002 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Location: Athenaeum. An architectural tour of the Caltech campus led by members of CATS (Caltech Architectural Tour Service), a special service of the Caltech Women's Club. Meet in the entry hall of the Athenaeum. For further information: contact Susan Lee suze@caltech.edu phone: (626) 395-6327. Requires Registration: call (626) 395-6327 or email suze@caltech.edu. Sponsored by Public Relations

Japanese Tea Ceremony and make-your-own Sushi. May 23, 2002 4:15 p.m. - 6 p.m. Location: Avery Library. Ms. Matsumoto, one of the few Japanese ladies who still conduct tea ceremonies in LA, will perform the tea ceremony at Caltech. After the tea ceremony, you will learn how to make your own sushi. For further information: contact Asian Pacific Student Union APSU apsu@its.caltech.edu. Sponsored by ASCIT, Asian Pacific Student Union, Women's Center and The Caltech Y.

Hawaiian Luau. May 24, 2002 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Location: Winnett quad. Grab dinner from your houses and come out to celebrate the Hawaiian LUAU with fantastic Polynesian performers -- including a fire-eater, knife juggler, and hula dancers. For further information: contact Asian Pacific Student Union APSU apsu@its.caltech.edu. Sponsored by ASCIT, Alumni Association, Asian Pacific Student Union, Student Affairs, Women's Center and The Caltech Y.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
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