



## NEW WEB SITE DRAWS PRAISE FROM STUDENTS

EFFICIENT DATABASE BACKEND

### Designed to Cut Download Times

By PHIL ERNST

On September 30, the new home page at [www.caltech.edu](http://www.caltech.edu) was unveiled to the Caltech community. The new site, which replaces the old one created in 1997, was developed by the staff of Electronic Media Publications, programmer Aurelis Prochazka (a Caltech PhD alumna of Aeronautics) and graphics designer Gail Anderson.

In the eyes of many, the new home page represents a marked improvement on the previous Caltech homepage. The site, which departs from the old site's subpage motif, uses a streamlined approach, enabling news stories, links and Caltech databases to all appear on a single page. This feature makes browsing easier for all users.

A second advantage is a new database backend constructed by Prochazka. The database permits site administrators to quickly add news stories and edit links, ensuring that the posted information is always be up-to-date. The new database also allows for dead links that were previously hidden in the subpages to be easily noticed and edited.

The Web site was designed to function such that the user spends a minimal amount of time downloading files. Therefore, instead of featuring numerous URL's, there are links instead. According to Prochazka, this greatly improves

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# Student Affairs: 'A New Era'

By KAYTE FISCHER

After a summer of interviewing by students and faculty, Margo Marshak today steps in as Caltech's first female, full-time Vice President for Student Affairs.

### The Job

The Vice President for Student Affairs oversees a broad range of high impact programs, including the student health center, the athletic program, undergraduate admissions, the creative/performing arts and the minority student affairs office. She chairs a group called the Deans and Directors, which consists of leaders from each of the sixteen student affairs departments. Additionally, the vice president is part of the President's Management Council that, along with other vice presidents and administrators, advises President Baltimore.

Marshak's responsibilities also include strategic planning and assessment of the Student Affairs department which is composed of 38 professional staff members, nearly 100 part-time and full-time support staff, the Deans and the Master of Student Houses. The Vice President also deals with issues such as student health insurance, tuition and fees, individual crises and undergraduate academics.

According to Gary Lorden, acting Vice President for Student Affairs Marshak's "greatest challenge is to improve student morale." David Goodstein, the chair of the search committee that chose Marshak, believes the vice president's ultimate goal is "to help students flourish, not just survive."

Most importantly, the Vice President is an advocate for student needs and opinions at the highest level of administration.

"It was in this role that the two recent Vice Presidents, Chris Brennen and Gary Lorden, became much admired among undergraduates, for their steadfast and passionate defense of the students' interests," noted ASCIT Secretary Joe Jewell.

Additionally, if students have problems with decisions made by the Dean's office, the the vice president is the next step in the appeals process.

Another crucial area of Vice President involvement is in the academic program. Until now, the faculty has controlled the curricu-

lum. In contrast to other schools that change their general requirements as often as once a decade, Caltech's core has barely changed since 1922. The most major changes came around 1996, when a term of biology, a menu course and the core science writing requirements were added after a term of math, physics and chemistry were removed. Though most faculty members acknowledge that the major problem with academics is that the students work too hard, changes in the curriculum are very slow.

Goodstein, who has worked with Caltech students for over 35 years, notes, "The faculty members want to teach the students everything they know. [Studying here is] like drinking from a fire hose."

In an effort to keep current with changing undergraduate needs, one of Marshak's first duties will be to create and fill the position of "Dean of Undergraduate Studies." This new dean will be charged with having a broad, deep understanding of the curriculum and researching necessary improvements.

In the past, the Vice President for Student Affairs has been a part time position, filled by current faculty members. At the recommendation of a professional committee hired to assess Caltech's needs in the Student Affairs department, the job has become a full-time professional post. Historically, the position has taken amazing effort and an exhausting time commitment from the faculty involved, so the change to full-time will alleviate pressure on Marshak helping her to be more thorough than previously possible.

Student Affairs, created from a hodgepodge conglomeration of necessary student facilities, has evolved over the past thirty years. The first vice president was Dr. Ray Owen, who pioneered the post in 1975. Since then, divisions such as the Fellowships and Study Abroad program and the Women's Center have come under the awning of Student Affairs. Because Student Affairs has grown in such an unplanned way, the infrastructure of the department has potential for improvement. Part of Marshak's duty is to assess its growing needs and produce a more coordinated and cohesive organization.

In the words of Dr. Kevin Austen, Director of the Counseling Center and a member of the search committee, "It feels like a new era for Student Affairs."

### The Person

According to her colleagues, Margo Marshak has many qualifications for the job

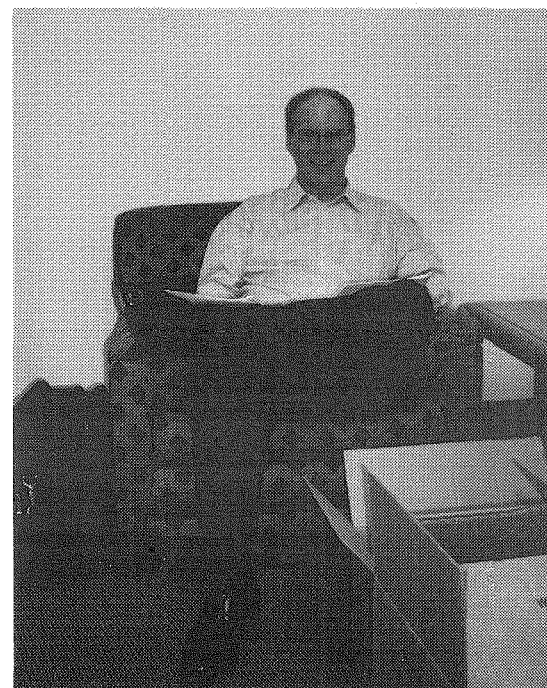
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## 'Flourish, not Just Survive'



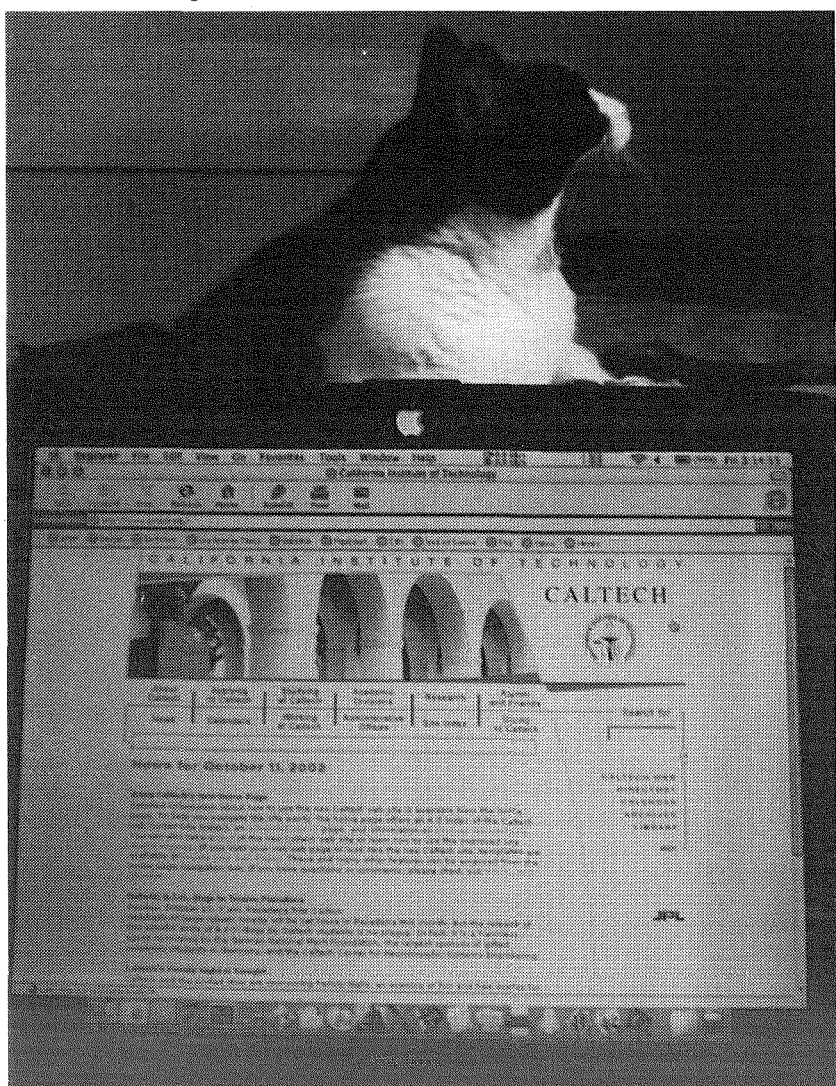
Courtesy of caltech.edu

Margo Marshak smiles, poised to take the reins at Student Affairs starting today.



E. Adams/The California Tech

Instructor in Mathematics Gary Lorden will soon relinquish his interim vice presidency of Student Affairs.



E. Adams/The California Tech

The new Caltech Web page has impressed some, but left others unmoved.

## Armed With Steel, Folk Duo Rocks

By KEVIN BARTZ

Italy and Kansas, long hair and short, deep voice and high—together, around their man-made "campfire."

On the right, there's the thick-accented, slick and suave Italian, his wavy hair bobbing to eccentric tunes, perhaps the last piece you'd expect from a singer who prides himself on his "classical" Italian roots.

And on the left, a tall, black-hatted Kansan—of rural roots, of course—with a worn T-shirt visible beneath his well-fitting black vest, strumming his guitar to an old-style Bluegrass melody.

But this is not just any guitar; it's steel-stringed and you can almost make out the glint in the distance. The sound is sharp, crisp, abundantly clear. And as this unlikely folk duo, strumming faster than a drummer could drum, polishes off its own hand-crafted "Rolling in my Sweet Baby's Arms," you can see just why their music tops lists from Pasadena to Prague.

After all, it's this sort of meet-

ing-of-extremes that made folk guitarists Dan Crary and Beppe Gambetta famous—and that's what a jam-packed audience of students and locals saw last Saturday night in Dabney Lounge.

"When people get together and play traditional music together, that's the real 'campfire,'" said Crary. "It's the only place in America where an overalls-wearing farmer-boy and a full-blown Vietnam-era hippie can get along without breaking into a fight."

In fact, it was only recently that Crary first met Gambetta and while Gambetta is far from a hippie, his quintessentially European upbringing didn't exactly fit the mold of Crary's Bluegrass flatpicking outfit. "It was hard," said Gambetta. "I was taught only in Europe. I had to pick up the rest by listening to my stereo and radio."

But with a drive for diversity underpinning his musical career, it didn't take long after his 17-year-old stint as a Doc Watson fan for Gambetta to discover the quickly popularizing flatpick guitar. "I try not to follow stereotypes," he explained. "I try

to focus on music that's undiscovered across many cultures." Crary traces the rise of the flatpick to the '70s, immediately following a mid-century doldrums—right around the crack of dawn in Gambetta's musical career.

And it was then that Gambetta met Crary, who'd been strumming away in his Kansas City hometown since 1952. Sporting a burly, sturdy figure, the trim-cut guitarist nonetheless specialized in "little lonesome songs, those that sound like cold wind from the cosmos, like the middle of a hailstorm on a frigid winter night."

"I don't know what draws me to that cold," he mused. "It's something that brings me closer to my brothers around the fire." In fact, what originally drew him—or, in his own words, "relentlessly hooked him"—was the sheer sound of the guitar. It's a sound, when turned over to his and Gambetta's gentle hands, that can be sagaciously soothing or choppy and churning. It's the "sound of the world," says Crary and a sound no doubt en-

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

# 'Head and Shoulders Above the Rest'

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

of Vice President for Student Affairs. Most recently, she was the Vice President and Dean of Students at the University of Chicago.

"Perhaps most telling of all is that my friends at the University of Chicago say that they are genuinely sad to lose her and feel that she was their best administrator. She was only there for a year, so for her to have had that kind of impact, she must be truly effective," notes Joe Jewell.

Before that, Marshak was Vice President for Student Affairs at New York University for 10 years. She instituted major changes, leading the school to a more favorable status. Additionally, she was involved in a massive overhaul of the student living quarters. Administrators believe that these successes will help her redefine the Caltech Student Affairs department. She also brings substantial experience from vice and assistant deanships at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of San Diego School of Law.

Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel notes, "She has a lot of experience at prestigious places. She will be able to rapidly learn our special culture."

In addition to her experience in administration, Dr. Marshak brings a wealth of personal qualities to Caltech. People who have met her respect her knowledge and capability as well as her ability to be articulate about issues important to students. Those who meet her find her likable, smart, responsive and thoughtful, with an overall wonderful manner.

"It's a really potent combination," Dr. Austin remarks. Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Sharyn Slavin Miller, says of meeting Marshak for the first time, "She stood out as a person. The role is critical because at the Vice President level, one needs understanding of students and the ability to articulate it to the president and be respected."

The search committee feels confident that she will be able to adapt to the Caltech environment and culture quickly. Already, Marshak has attended a September administrative retreat, freshman orientation and the first-year graduate student orientation. According to Dr. Goodstein she made it clear that her first priority is to adapt to the Caltech atmosphere by interacting with students and other community members. Though there are no scheduled events for her to get to know Caltech undergraduates, plans for an event including students, faculty and staff are underway for November.

"She seemed very enthusiastic about Caltech and conveyed that feeling very well in her speech to the frosh," observed ASCIT President, Ted Jou, who met Marshak at freshman orientation.

### The Process

The search for a Vice President for Student Affairs started after Chris Brennan stepped down from the post in January of 2002. Before hiring a new Vice President, Caltech employed an external com-

mittee to review its needs in Student Affairs. A committee of four professionals, chaired by Tom Anderson, wrote a report recommending the change to a full time professional Vice President for Student Affairs and the addition of a Dean of Undergraduate Studies to oversee the academic curriculum.

The Caltech search committee, chaired by Dr. David Goodstein, was composed of representatives from each academic department; Martha Helene Stapleton, an undergraduate; Chip Sumner, a graduate student; Dr. Kevin Austin, the associate Dean of Health and Counseling services; Carolyn Merkel, Director of the Student Faculty Program Office; Dr. Miriam Feldblum, Special Assistant to the President; and Sharon Patterson, Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller.

After Baltimore approved the change of Vice President to a full time post, Caltech hired a professional executive search firm to search for potential candidates. The position was also advertised in publications for people in student affairs. Candidates came from all over the United States. Additionally,

search committee members got suggestions for internal candidates from members of the Caltech community.

In late June, the candidate pool was narrowed to six people who were interviewed off campus to avoid embarrassment. From these interviews, the search committee chose four candidates and further interviews were conducted on campus. Many members of ASCIT, the IHC, the GSC and other student organizations interviewed the candidates and submitted evaluations. Finally, the search committee reached a decision.

"Margo was head and shoulders above all others. We offered her the job and she accepted," says Dr. Goodstein.

The final candidate pool included several other strong competitors, mostly including student affairs professionals at universities of comparable prestige, but of larger size. There was one candidate that came from Caltech.

Though there has been a lot of excitement about the fact that Dr. Marshak is Caltech's first female Vice President, the search was blind to gender.

"We did not choose her because she is a woman but rather because we felt that she was the best candidate, the one with the greatest experience and the right attitude of concern about student life at Caltech. However... it is healthy for the campus that the search brought us the first woman to be a Vice President at Caltech," remarks Baltimore.

Dr. Margo Marshak, Vice President for Student Affairs, commands respect and admiration in all arenas. In the words of Dean Revel, "If one judges by the past, we can expect her to be a superb Vice President."

# BUSH CALLS BARRY BARISH TO US BOARD

PASADENA, Calif.- Barry Barish, an experimental high-energy physicist at the California Institute of Technology, has been nominated to the National Science Board by President George W. Bush. The White House made the announcement Thursday, October 17.

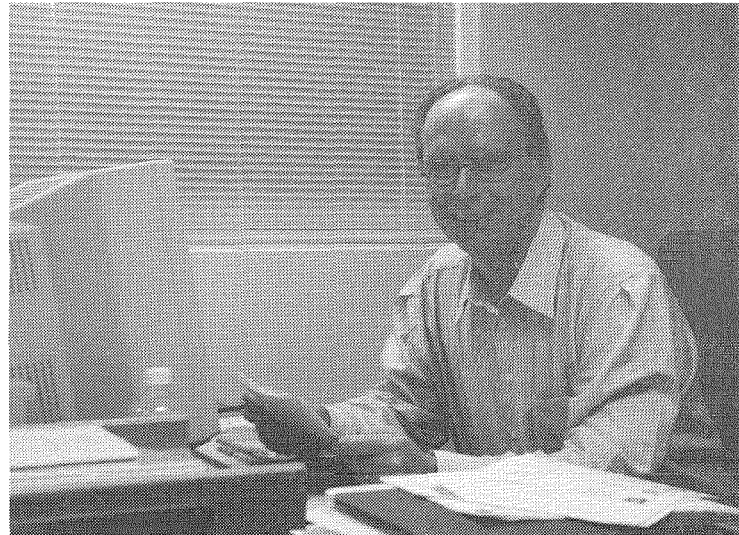
Barish is the Linde Professor of Physics at Caltech and since 1997 has been director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave (LIGO) project, a National Science Foundation-funded collaboration between Caltech and MIT for detecting gravitational waves from exotic sources such as colliding black holes. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

The eight new appointees must be approved by the U.S. Senate. If they are accepted, Barish will help oversee the National Science Foundation and advise the president and the congress on a broad range of policy issues related to science, engineering and education. The 24-member board initiates and conducts studies, presents the results and board recommendations in reports and policy statements to the president and the congress and makes these documents available to the research and educational communities and the general public.

The board meets in Washington, D.C., at least five times a year, with individual members also serving on committees. The board also publishes the biennial Science and Engineering Indicators.

As a high-energy physicist, Barish has been involved through the years with some of the highest-

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E. Adams/The California Tech

Gary Lorden, outgoing vice president of Student Affairs, is set to hand over Student Affairs to Margo Marshak, freeing up more time for his duties on the faculty, such as his Ma 112a course.

## World News: Terror, Indonesia, Zimbabwe

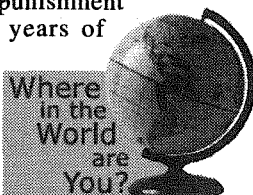
By SAM HSIUNG

### Golf Courses Terror Targets

Intelligence officials warned US senators last week that they may be targets of al Qaeda snipers at golf courses. Security officials have also been notified about the threat, but it is not known which agency notified them. However, FBI agents have interviewed a suspect from al Qaeda who boasted about al Qaeda training snipers. This news comes at a time when a sniper killed 9 people around the Washington DC area during these past two weeks. The FBI has not yet confirmed any direction connection between the Washington sniper and al Qaeda terrorists.

### Indonesian 'War on Terror'

In the wake of the Bali night club bombing last week, which killed over 183 people, Indonesia has enacted a new decree designed to combat terror. Indonesia, the most populous Muslim nation in the world has finally responded to months of calls by the US to crack down on terrorist activities. The decree includes new restrictions that sentence anyone who commits an act of terror to punishment ranging from four years of prison to death by firing squad. The use of any biological or chemical weapons would be punishable by death.



### France Welcomes US Iraq Offer

France has cautiously agreed to a US compromise offer on Iraq Friday, though officials say there are still some issues concerning the language of the offer that remain. French President Jacques Chirac said discussions of new Security Council resolutions were moving steadily ahead and that there is no longer any "opposition between French and American positions." These comments strengthen signs that the five members of the UN Security council are moving ahead on how to handle the situation in Iraq.

### Ivory Coast Violence Lingers

After a month of fighting and a broken stalemate government troops and rebels have agreed to a ceasefire again. France who currently has troops in the region, said it would monitor the truce. The US State Department still urges all Americans to leave the Ivory Coast however.

### Starvation Looms in Zimbabwe

6.7 million Zimbabweans are in danger of starvation after the World Food Program has suspended all food aid responding to direct threats from ruling Zimbabwean party activists.

## THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
 editorial desk: (626) 395-6153  
 advertising desk: (626) 395-6154  
 editorial email: tech@ugcs.caltech.edu  
 advertising email: business@tech.caltech.edu  
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## "Did you know ...?"

Overall, Caltech students do not drink in excess.\*

- ◆ 33% abstain from drinking alcohol
- ◆ 55% drink moderately
- ◆ 12% overindulge

### When does overindulging = poisoning?

Occasionally, **alcohol poisoning** is the result of heavy drinking and can have negative effects on your physical well-being and academic work. Some students have asked for more information about the topic. So, I invite you to:

- ◆ Take an opportunity to post your questions about alcohol poisoning on the **writing wall** over the next few days in front of Tech Express on the Olive Walk.
- ◆ Stop by and get the answers to your questions from **Dr. Kalter, Medical Director** Huntington Hospital Emergency Room **Thursday, October 24, NOON** The amphitheater on the east side of the Sherman Fairchild Library.

Just follow the ... feet.

◆◆◆◆◆  
**Jane Curtis**  
 Health Educator  
 x 2961, SAC, Room 64

\* Caltech Alcohol and Drug Survey data, Spring 2000

# We've Been Working Like Beavers to Move Our Campus Branch Office!

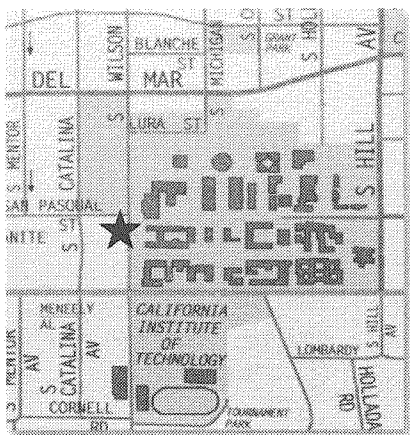


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# The Undeposable Hussein?

*Critique of Feasibility of the President's Planned Iraq Attack*

By MATTHEW WALKER

The year is 1990. In early August, the forces of Iraq invade Kuwait after a dispute involving the debt that Iraq incurred during the Iran-Iraq War and after the war during reconstruction, as well as an accusation that Kuwait was pumping oil out from under their border. Iraq easily takes over the country, posing as a liberator of the Kuwaitis from their tyrant ruler, but eventually has to install a puppet government when that ploy does not gain support of Kuwaiti democrats. Quickly, however, a coalition is formed opposing the Iraqi military to protect Saudi Arabia and ultimately free Kuwait, led by the United States, whose President is George H.W. Bush.

Iraq makes several attempts to split the coalition, whose forces soon muster over 600,000 troops. He eventually convinces two members of the coalition, Morocco and Syria, to withdraw military support. Meanwhile, the United Nations and the United States are making diplomatic overtures to end the Kuwaiti occupation, but to no avail. The UN sets a deadline of January 15, 1991 for Iraq to leave Kuwait. The deadline passes and the coalition begins an airborne assault on Iraqi positions in both Kuwait and Iraq that lasts for over a month. In late February, the coalition evicts Iraq from Kuwait with a 100 hour land campaign that forces Saddam Hussein to accept a cease-fire. Hussein is also forced to accept economic sanctions until such time that all weapons of mass destruction are destroyed, inspectors verify this action and Iraq assumes responsibility for damages. The war results in economic, military and political losses for Iraq, though Saddam Hussein manages to hold onto his power by putting down two rebellions and manages to not lose any territory. So begins the struggle between the Saddam Hussein and the Bush family.

Move ahead to 1998. After 7 years of sanctions, American and British air forces conduct a 4-day campaign against Iraqi military targets after receiving reports that Iraq has heavily interfered with weapons inspections. Hussein responds by kicking the inspectors out of Iraq indefinitely. Meanwhile, support for the American led coalition has dwindled. As such, continued action against Hussein is not possible

and domestic support for American action is weak at best. Saddam Hussein succeeds in regaining his privacy with regard to continuing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs. It is widely believed that these programs have taken steps forward since Hussein booted the inspectors.

Jump again to 2002. In a heavily contested 2000 election, the Bush family regained control of the United States Presidency. After the September 11 terrorist attacks of 2001 caused the United States to oust the Taliban leadership of Afghanistan and run out the terrorist group Al-Qaida, President George W. Bush has once again turned his eyes to Saddam Hussein. Alleging terrorist connections and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons development, Bush declares that Iraq will be the next target of the United States' "War on Terror." Facing international criticism for taking unilateral action, Bush calls on the

*"Hussein's solid hold on power... means that any Bush campaign to defeat him will likely fail."*

United Nations' Security Council to pass a resolution calling for Iraq to readmit weapons inspectors or face the consequences. Unfortunately, disagreements in methodology lead to a de facto filibuster as progress on the resolution bogs down. In a surprise move, Hussein announces that he will give inspectors unfettered access to Iraq. He later stipulates that presidential palaces will be off limits.

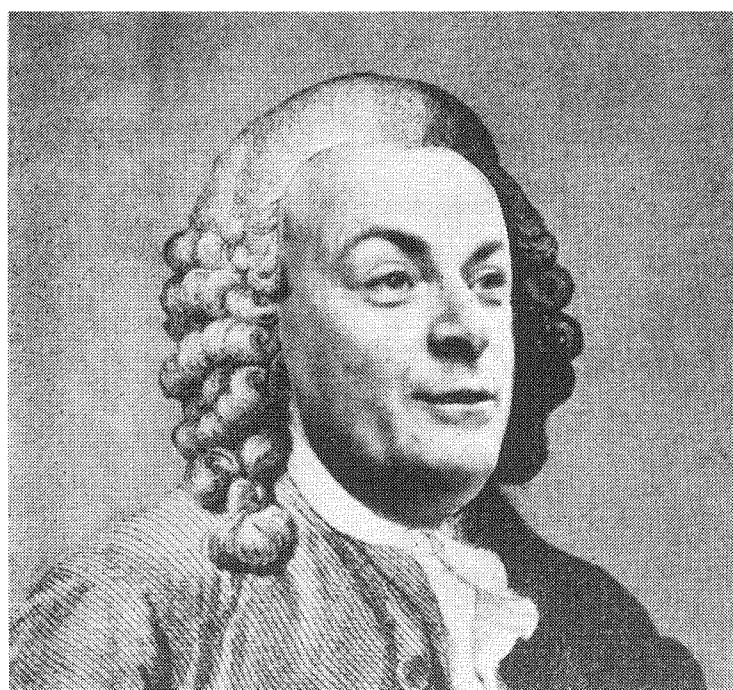
Saddam Hussein enjoys a solid position. He has widespread Iraqi and Arab support. Despite economic woes since the Persian Gulf War, Hussein has constructed at least 50 new presidential palaces around the country and upgraded seven of the 21 palaces he had before the war. Potentially, these palaces could be used to research, build and store weapons of mass destruction. By agreeing to allow weapons inspectors to re-enter the country, Hussein effectively eliminated any reason that could cause the United Nations to authorize the use of force against him. His later exemption of presidential palaces from inspection

virtually eliminates the chance that any weapons will be found and there is little that the United Nations can do to counter this immunity. Additionally, Hussein enjoys the protection of France, Russia and China in the Security Council.

George Bush, on the other hand, has a much weaker position. He faces enormous international resistance. So much, in fact, that the United States will almost certainly be forced to act with the support of only a few nations, such as the United Kingdom and Qatar and perhaps Turkey and Israel. Bush also faces immense domestic pressure to give evidence of Iraqi wrongdoing that is costing him support to wage a war. To his advantage in the domestic arena, Congress has passed a bill giving the authority to use force against Iraq and economic trouble encourages people to blame their troubles on Hussein rather than themselves. Besides making any military operation logistically difficult, Bush's lack of international support forced him to try and encourage the United Nations to back him. Unfortunately, Hussein's welcome of weapons inspectors robs Bush of his excuse to move into Iraq. In addition, there is no Iraqi opposition faction strong enough to challenge Hussein, so any attempts to unseat him will have to be done almost exclusively by American forces. The United States does, however, have the military power to defeat Iraq, should Bush decide to act unilaterally, though high casualty rates are to be expected.

Despite early defeats at the hands of the United States military, Saddam Hussein managed to hold power. He has managed to completely evade weapons inspections for the past four years and probably fairly well for the preceding seven years. Hussein has managed to temporarily sidestep the renewed Bush assault by expertly playing the international community against US led action. Though a military campaign against Iraq seems imminent, if not immediately so, Hussein's almost certain possession of weapons of mass destruction likely means that he will be able to credibly threaten any invading force and country. His solid hold on power, evident through his recent stunning victory in the polls even among minority groups, means that any Bush campaign to defeat him will likely fail.

## TODAY IN CALTECH HISTORY



Richard Feynman stands in his former role with the Board of Control in a photo doctored in a previous edition of *The California Tech*.

## History: Honor Code

By TED JOU

In the coming weeks, the Board of Control Representatives in each House will entertain their freshmen with BoC talks. Soon, the frosh will also take their first midterms and in doing so will be fully entrusted with Caltech's Honor Code.

For the frosh and the upperclassmen as well, it might be useful to learn a little about where the Honor Code came from. Perhaps a little history will help us understand more about what the Honor Code means, which isn't as simple as it seems.

We know the Honor Code today by the phrase, "No one shall take unfair advantage of a member of the Caltech community." It sounds like an adage passed down from the ivory towers of Caltech's past. However, that phrase did not enter the Caltech vernacular until 1980. Before that, Caltech simply had an honor system with no formal axiom. The 1970-'71 little t editors claimed, "Because one of the main benefits of the Honor System is a vast freedom from rules, attempts to state it explicitly are futile. Just respect the rights of others and expect them to respect yours."

So how long has Caltech had an honor system? According to early records, the honor system was es-

ablished at Throop Polytechnic Institute in 1910. In 1913, the school was renamed the Throop College of Technology and the Associated Student Body created a committee called the Board of Control.

The Board of Control was given "Complete jurisdiction over the conduct of all students according to the rules." In 1913, there were exactly 5 rules and they were listed in the Associated Student Body Minutes: no unnecessary disturbances in the buildings during recitation hours; any damage to property shall be compensated for by offender; there shall be no smoking about the buildings or quadrangle; conduct unbecoming a gentleman or an engineer; examinations: The honor system is in vogue, with all it implies. Violations shall be dealt with accordingly by the Committee with the right of appeal for the offender to the student body.

It's interesting to note that maintaining the honor system is only one part of the duties entrusted to the Board of Control and that the honor system applied only to exams at that time. Over time, the Board of Control became synonymous with the honor system. It was not the BoC taking on more responsibility, but the honor system slowly adopting everything that was under the BoC's control.

From 1913 to World War II, the honor system expanded to all academics, including problem sets, lab reports and essays. After the war, with perhaps some influence from the military, the treatment of Institute property and the theft of personal belongings became an important part of honor at Caltech. After women arrived in 1970, many aspects of personal behavior and interpersonal relationships became part of the honor system. Courtesy towards other students, pranks and initiations all became part of the honor system in the 70's, setting the stage for the catch-all phrase of "unfair advantage" to be coined in 1980.

Today, the honor system applies to every aspect of behavior on the Caltech campus. Most simply, this means not cheating on exams and not stealing from others, but that is a far too narrow view. The honor system means we can pull pranks as long as we leave a note, we can have wild initiations as long as the participants feel comfortable, we can take food and drinks from the kitchen at our leisure as long as we don't bottle it and store it away and we can trust our student leaders to work in the best interest of the student body, for it would be taking unfair advantage of my positions if I did not.

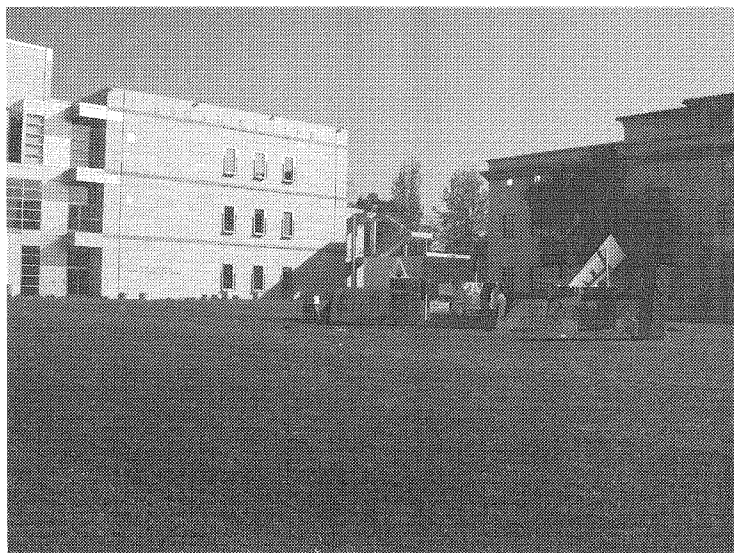
## Letters: Guns, *Vectors*, *Vectors*

Training Under Fire

Dear Editors,

I am writing to respond to the "Caltech Conventional Wisdom Watch" from the October 14, 2002 issue of the California Tech, which was attributed to you by another editor. The text that brings me to this is as follows: "Brady Bill, anyone? ASCIT plans to embrace a gift for "firearms training"-whatever happened to the Assault Weapons Ban? Somebody call Dianne Feinstein!"

Not a single one of the entities you invoke has anything to do with the donation of well over \$28,000 of training. First, the Brady Bill applies to handgun purchases and waiting periods. As the training sessions will not require any firearms to be bought, the Brady Bill is not applicable even in the most remote interpretation. Second, the "Assault Weapons Ban" is in place to limit the sale and possession of "assault weapons," and would have to be followed by the training institute in question, which they almost certainly are, considering the fact that they have not been shut down. I regret to inform you that the



Courtesy of B. Beel  
The Broad Lawn stands adorned by what one physics instructor termed "Ghetto Vectors." Students decorated the lawn last week in a last-ditch effort to stave off the unpopular planned *Vectors* installation.

submachine gun courses are not available this time of year. Third, you call on Dianne Feinstein to remedy the situation. Fortunately, this cry is in vain because the training institute is in Nevada, where she has no power of any kind. If you choose to pour such inane and baseless comments on paper in the name

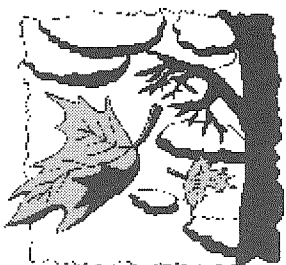
of Caltech Conventional Wisdom, at least have the courage to put your name on it.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cox

*Continued on Page 8, Column 1*

Falling Leaves, Falling Temps



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## Formula 51: 'Fun Romp'

The Critic Says: Entertaining but Depthless Film

By JOE ESCALADA

Elmo McElroy (Samuel L. Jackson) has transcended any need for firearms by mastering explosives and crippling laxatives that incapacitate his adversaries. Be they inept skinheads or fat druglords, no one can withstand Elmo's awesome chemical prowess. And that's the way it should be because he's Samuel L. Jackson, damnit.

*Formula 51* is the story of Elmo McElroy's emancipation from the drug racket. On the day of his college graduation he is busted for possessing marijuana, for impersonating Chong poorly, for DUI and for the wrongful deaths of California Condors strangled by his oversized afro. Tragically, these criminal charges render him ineligible for employment as a pharmacist. Elmo is forced to use his pharmacology degree to make illegal designer drugs like ecstasy instead of making an honest living as a pharmacist by distributing ridilin to kids and getting grandma her morphine fix. Thirty years after his fateful graduation day, Elmo (who now braids his hair) blows up his boss, The Lizard (Meat Loaf) and flies to England to peddle the formula for his super drug, POS51, all the while wearing a kilt. Unfortunately, The Lizard survives the explosion and sends an assassin Dakota (Emily Mortimer) after Elmo. A Liverpool hood named Felix (Robert Carlyle) teams up with Elmo to help make a deal!

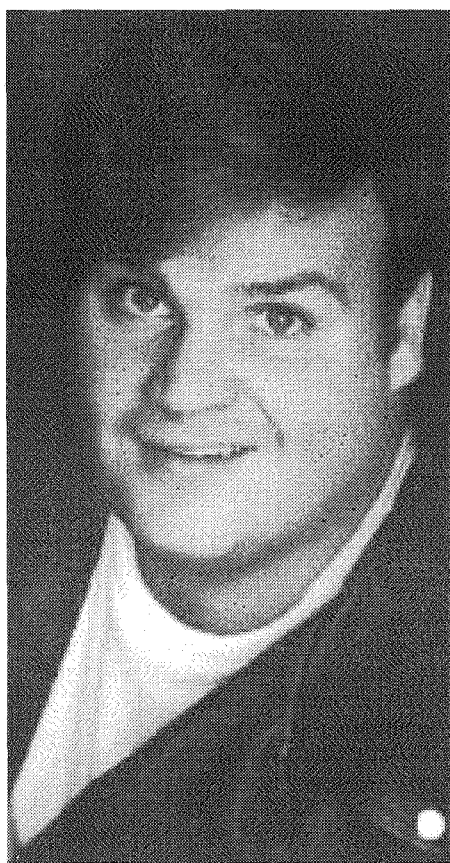
For the super drug, rival forces vie for the master chemist and his formula and by the end of the film Elmo once again dons an afro before getting naked.

Yes, *Formula 51* really is that wild. There is foul language of both American and English varieties, a slew of ridiculous characters and even up-kilt humor.

Some critics have naively identified this movie as a terrible combination of *Pulp Fiction* and *Snatch*. This is a superficial conclusion. Though *Formula 51* shares locales, subject matter and even actors with these two movies, it lacks the seriousness of either. This movie is a farce, plain and simple. It is fun to watch, but is not a gripping drama. *Formula 51* is

not in any way a serious movie. If you didn't gleam that from my synopsis, or from Elmo's glib rhetoric like "Rest in peace, [fool]" then you obviously lack a central nervous system. However, those of us who are competent to be tried in a court of law understand that this movie was made solely to entertain and that not every movie must be deep or meaningful.

*Formula 51* is entertainment, not art and that's not a bad thing. It would be horrible if it tried to be art, but it thankfully refrains from doing so. Instead, this movie focuses on style and on showcasing that baddest of men:



Courtesy of J. Escalada

Fun but ludicrous, *Formula 51* has earned only one Happy, Dead, Fat Comedian from roving critic Joe Escalada '03.

Samuel L. Jackson. In what other movie can you witness this great actor declare, "Get ready to kiss the sun and taste the [damn] rainbow?" Isn't it worth forgoing depth in a film just to watch Elmo beat skinheads with a golf club? It was for me.

*"This film succeeds in entertaining audiences with flair, but does not attempt anything more."*

If there is an underlying theme in *Formula 51*, it is one of freedom from oppression. Many crime bosses are killed in the course of the movie, thereby freeing those indebted to them. Hitmen, prostitutes and underworld chemists alike labor

for the profit of their crime bosses in exchange for protection from other racketeers and thugs. *Formula 51* shows what happens when they operate as free agents away from their former masters and the dangers of doing so.

This film succeeds in entertaining audiences with flair, but does not attempt anything more. Because *Formula 51* is a fun flick but not a cinematic achievement, I give it one Happy, Dead, Fat Comedian:

(Minimum Rating: 3 Sad, Dead, Fat, Comedians. Maximum Rating: 3 Happy, Dead, Fat Comedians.)

## Bush Expels Weapons Inspectors From Area 51

By LIBIN ZHANG

Citing reasons of national security, United States President George W. Bush has expelled all United Nations weapons inspectors from inspecting Area 51 and other top-secret U.S. military installations. Despite massive worldwide outrage at this unilateral defiance of the U.N., Bush has declared that the United States is a sovereign nation and will not tolerate foreign agents in its borders.

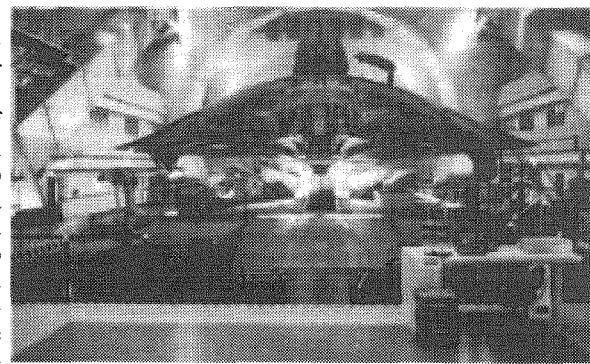
The system of U.N. inspections of all American military sites was established due to growing concerns over the aggressive behaviors of an increasingly rogue nation. The United States has embarked on wars of expansion against its neighbors, massive genocides of ethnic and religious minorities, disenfranchised civilians and other oft-persecuted groups. It is extremely unpopular in the world community, often taking a hard-line stance and dismissing the opinions of other nations. Almost all of its political leaders are members of the Protestant sect of the militant religion known as Christianity. The US has aided and abetted terrorism and rebellion in almost all South American countries. Growing suspicions that the U.S. has acquired or manufactured weapons capable of mass destruction has led to a mandated program of inspection of American arms.

Recent inspections have discovered immense caches of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in hidden storage locations across America, capable of destroying the entire world. Such terrifying tools were deemed too risky to belong in the hands of a minority-elected government and were scheduled to be removed to a safe place outside the United States and destroyed. Upon learning that his grip on the populace would be loosened with the removal of these weapons, Bush dissolved the Senate and removed all U.N. personnel from

the United States.

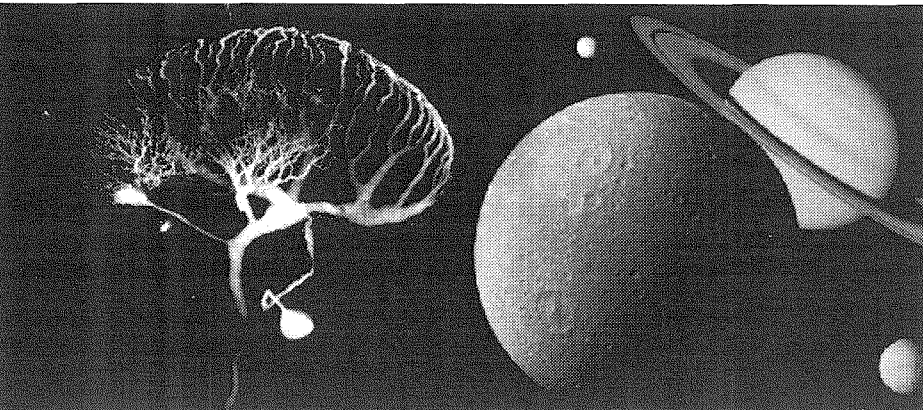
Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed concern and dismay at the uncooperative attitude of the U.S. and has asked for trade sanctions that would increase the American cost-of-living by 2% next year. Democratically-elected President Saddam Hussein of the Republic of Iraq, citing fears his people would be attacked by American terrorists, called for preemptive air-strikes at all civilian sites and a few military sites in the U.S. to remove the weapons and the terrorist threat. To increase regional instability, propaganda will soon be disseminated to American minority groups calling for them to rebel against their oppressors, but they should prepare to be totally annihilated and not expect any sort of foreign aid whatsoever. Tech correspondents have discovered more clues that war is imminent between the US and All Countries Besides the US, most notably the increasing number of oil barons and their heirs joining the Texas Air National Guard.

The expelled U.N. weapons inspectors are currently right outside Las Vegas and are awaiting deportation. They are interned in a concentration camp built during World War II.



Courtesy of L. Zhang

Many Tech spies have died acquiring these pictures of the prototypes of American biological-chemical-nuclear warfare programs.



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9 a.m. to noon

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Presenter: CHRISTOF KOCH, Traubitz Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology and Professor of Computation and Neural Systems

Panelists: Steve Quartz, Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Jean Ensminger, Professor of Anthropology, Chair, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Colin Camerer, Axline Professor of Business Economics  
David Anderson, Professor of Biology

### Session 2: The Earth and the Universe

Presenter: ANDREW LANGE, Goldberger Professor of Physics

Panelists: Kip Thorne, Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics  
Annela Sargent, Professor of Astronomy; Director, Owens Valley Radio Observatory  
Kerry Sieh, Professor of Geology  
Paul Wennberg, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry and Environmental Engineering Science

A question-and-answer session follows each panel.  
For information, call (626) 395-4652.

## LET'S GO FOR A 'RIDE'



J. Mao/The California Tech

On October 17, Caltech students got a chance to meet Sally Ride, the first American woman in space. Here she gathers with other women to dispense advice, encouragement and stories.

# DILBERT<sup>®</sup> by Scott Adams

**POINTY-HAIRED CONVICT**  
I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO BUST OUT OF THIS JOINT.

TRY WALKING BACKWARD.

WELL, THAT DIDN'T WORK... OH, I GET IT: THIS IS A LITTLE JOKE YOU PLAY ON ALL THE FRESH MEAT.

WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IN JAIL?

MORALE SKYROCKETED, PROFITS SOARED, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, LIFE HAD MEANING.

IT'S JUST MY LUCK THAT I'D MISS THOSE TWO DAYS.

HERE'S THE TEMP YOU REQUESTED.

**GAAA!!! NO HANDSHAKE! I'M AFRAID OF COMMITMENT!!**

I WON'T NEED A CHAIR. I LIKE TO STAND IN THIS POSITION.

I AM ROGEOLUS, GOD OF THE LEAF BLOWERS.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY ISLAND, YOUNG PETYSSEUS?

I'M ON MY WAY HOME TO ITHACA.

AH, A CORNELL MAN! WHICH DORM?

NO, NO - GREEK ITHACA.

FRATS, DORMS, WHATEVER. SO, I BET YOU GET A LOT OF LEAVES IN NEW YORK.

I'M NOT FROM NEW YORK!

I'M A TEMP WITH A FEAR OF COMMITMENT. I KEEP ONE FOOT OUT THE DOOR.

WHATEVER. JUST TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR ME. IT'LL TAKE TEN MINUTES.

BE CAREFUL. THIS ISLAND LOOKS DANGEROUS.

HOLY COW! IT'S GAMBIT! AND STORM! AND JEAN GREY!

ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T REMEMBER ANYONE BY THOSE NAMES IN "THE ODYSSEY"...

KAZZAP!

HI, I'M CYCLOPS.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS MY DREAM.

IS WOLVERINE HERE?!

I'VE DEVELOPED A NEW THEORY OF INTELLIGENCE THAT I CALL "DROP-BY I.Q."

IT'S A MEASURE OF HOW LONG A DROP-BY VISITOR WILL STAY IN YOUR CUBICLE WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO WORK.

ONE HOUR AND COUNTING.

...AND THAT'S WHY I'M AFRAID OF BANANAS.

I AM PETYSSEUS. WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A SIREN.

BEWARE MY SONG. MEN WHO HEAR IT CRASH THEIR BOATS INTO THE ROCKS AND PERISH.

WHAT SONG DO YOU SING?

IT'S SORT OF A BACKSTREET BOYS, 'N SYNC AND 98 DEGREES MEDLEY.

HEAD FOR THOSE ROCKS, MEN! RAMMING SPEED!

WAIT! I HAVEN'T EVEN TURNED ON THE KARAOKE!

DON'T GIVE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS ON TIME.

WAIT UNTIL AN EMPLOYEE SCREWS UP SOMETHING BIG, THEN PONCE!

...I FORGOT TO UN-PLUG THE DEMO UNIT AND IT BURNED DOWN OUR CUSTOMER'S HEADQUARTERS.

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

PENELOPE! YOUR HUSBAND PETYSSEUS HAS RETURNED AFTER 20 LONG YEARS!

WHAT AN ODYSSEY IT'S BEEN GETTING HERE! COME! LET ME HOLD YOU! KISS YOU! LOVE YOU!

YOU LOOK DIFFERENT THAN I REMEMBER.

HOLD ME. KISS ME. LOVE ME.

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU BOLT OUT OF BED SO QUICKLY, PETER.

I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT.

# FoxTrot by Bill Amend

YOU'RE LOOKING AT A GENIUS.

OH?

I HAVE A TEST ON "THE ODYSSEY" TOMORROW, SO I GOT THE BOOK-ON-CD VERSION SO I CAN LISTEN TO IT TONIGHT WHILE I'M SLEEPING AND ABSORB IT SUBCONSCIOUSLY.

IS THAT BRILLIANT, OR WHAT?!

JUST KEEP ME OUT OF YOUR DREAMS TONIGHT.

I HEAR SIRENS. WERE WE SPEEDING?

I SAID...

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE MY MEN?

RELAX, PETYSSEUS. THEY ARE BEING WELL CARED FOR.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THEY ARE FEASTING ON ALFALFA SPROUTS, EGGPLANT, AND GARBANZO BEAN STEW.

WHAT SORT OF INSANITY HAS GRIPPED THEM? WHAT DEVILISH PLACE IS THIS?!

SOY BURGER?

AAAA! THE LAND OF THE TOFU EATERS!

PUT SOME KETCHUP ON IT AND YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL.

HERE'S THE TEMP YOU REQUESTED.

**GAAA!!! NO HANDSHAKE! I'M AFRAID OF COMMITMENT!!**

I WON'T NEED A CHAIR. I LIKE TO STAND IN THIS POSITION.

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I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT.

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- 10/26: Women's Volleyball vs. Cal Lutheran @ 7:30 PM in Braun

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## BARISH POISED FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

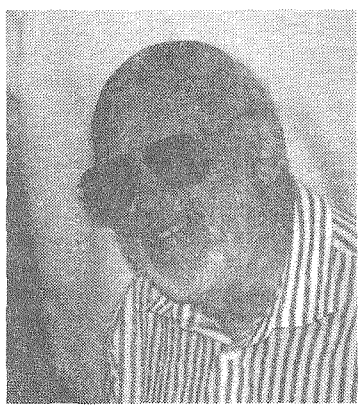
*Continued from Page 2, Column 5*

profile projects in the United States and abroad. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Barish has been at Caltech since 1963. He was leader of one of the large detectors for the Superconducting Supercollider before the project was cancelled, searched for magnetic monopoles in the underground experiment below the Gran Sasso Mountain in Italy, performed several experiments at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and is presently involved in the neutrino experiment on a new detector inside the Soudan Underground Mine in Minnesota.

The National Science Board was created by an act of congress in 1950. Its official mission is to "promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity, and safety; and secure the fu-

# First Day at Work

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL



Today is the beginning of a new era at Caltech. If this sounds to you like one of those empty statements thrown around by politicians everywhere, you have another thing coming. Today is the first day at work of a new leader for Student Affairs. The very first VP for Student Affairs at Caltech, Prof. of Biology Ray Owen, was named in 1975 out of the belief that "students should have an influential advocate at the highest level of the Caltech Administration" (briefing document for the External Visiting Committee, 2/7). Since then, Student Affairs has become the centralized home for a whole slew of separate entities dedicated to the welfare of students. They include Undergraduate Admissions, Athletics and Physical Education, the Offices of the Bursar, Registrar, Financial Aid, the Health and Counseling Centers, the Fellowship Advising and Study Abroad Office, Performing and Creative Arts, the Office of Multicultural Education and Student Affairs, the International Students program, Residence Life and the Mosh's Office, the Women's Center, the Career Development Center. How many is that? Oh! I forgot offices of the Dean of Graduate Studies and of the Dean of (undergraduate) Students, all striving to help the students to "flourish, not just survive" (Sharyn Miller, quoted anonymously in the Report of the External Visiting Committee, Feb 7, 02).

It is less than a year ago that Professor of Mechanical Engineering Chris Brennen had to step down. Professor of Mathematics Gary

Lorden who actually had been Brennen's immediate predecessor in the job, was recalled to lead the ship, while a search for a new Vice President was being organized.

A tremendous amount of work was done in a very short time, starting with a self examination of Student Affairs functions and a visit by an External Visiting Committee which made recommendations towards improving the support of the undergraduate population. Up to now, all the Vice Presidents for student affairs (and the Graduate and Undergraduate Deans) have been Profs who were supposed to juggle half their time between administration and professorial duties. One of the suggestions of the review committee was that the VP be full-time. Armed with the recommendations of the Visiting Committee and taking into account the ideas of the locals too, a search committee made up of Faculty, Staff and Students began to consider both internal and external candidates. After interviews and consultations with his advisors and after the Student Affairs' Deans and Directors had had the chance to express their opinions of the candidates, President Baltimore offered the position of VP to U. of Chicago Dean Margo Marshak who has an enviable record of achievement in the field, first as a Law School Dean and then at NYU and later at Chicago. Dean Marshak has a warm, inviting personality and a wonderful smile. There is a great picture of her (standing next to her successor at Chicago), which can be seen on the net. Considering the peculiar angle at which the buildings in the background of the picture are leaning, I have concluded that she has been practicing what to do in an earthquake in preparation for her Pasadena arrival.

A news release from the University of Chicago last August 26, announcing the appointment of her successor in what we call the windy city but I notice they call themselves the second city... who wants to be second? No wonder she has opted to come to what the Throop Institute of Technology Bulletin of April 1910 describes as "one of the most beautiful of cities, with a climate of unapproachable equality

and healthfulness, also noted for the morality, refinement and culture of its citizens." As I was saying, an announcement praises her work in establishing closer ties to students, working on improvements in housing and in dealing with problems of medical insurance and other aspects of student life. In an interview granted when she joined the University of Chicago she explained that she wanted students to take away from their college experience what was needed for them to lead a full life, what it took to be successful in their careers. As we would say here, allow them to flourish.

So on this first day of the rest of our lives we thank Brennen and Lorden for all the wonderful things they have managed on behalf of the students and send kudos to the hard working and well organized Search Committee as we look to a bright future under new management.

Here we are, Vice President Marshak, I present to you "my" students, all 951 undergraduates among them. They represent the best of the best from here and abroad. How good they are is reflected in the fact that nearly 50% graduate with Honors and is perhaps revealed even more tellingly

on SURF seminar day, when students present the result of research done over the summer. I am always astounded at the scientific sophistication of these Jrs or Srs, at the poise so many of them show and the understanding that they display. These people aren't just nerds, good at doing homework and excelling at taking exams, they are superlatively good and show all the signs of creativity and understanding which promise bright futures.

You have already met some when you joined us at Frosh Camp a few weeks ago and from listening to the presentations there, you have heard about some of the things that make a difference in their lives, particularly the importance of the Honor Code in student life. What may not be as obvious is the extent to which the student body is self governing. Each of the student houses has a great deal of autonomy and ASCIT, the student body association, is a free standing non-profit organization registered in the state of California. ASCIT controls many of the student's activities, including implementing the Caltech Honor System (whose decisions are ultimately brought to the Dean). Caltech students work hard, actu-

ally they probably have to work too hard. They also play hard, very very hard. "Caltech teaches, encourages, nurtures and promotes ingenuity, creativity and innovation" recollect Alums (preface, "Legends of Caltech", 1983). Much of what they do for fun has a Till Eulenspiegel flavor, showing ingenuity and humor in many of their endeavors, including such zany enterprises as building a pedal powered mechanical elephant and a decades long pursuit of the "blue flash", supposedly observable as pumpkins frozen in liquid nitrogen hit the ground from the top of Millikan library. (I have been told that novel techniques this year will make the flash more visible, to even the most critical observer). Some of the flavor of this tradition is captured in "Legends of Caltech", tales of pranks and high jinks lovingly assembled by a group of Alums.

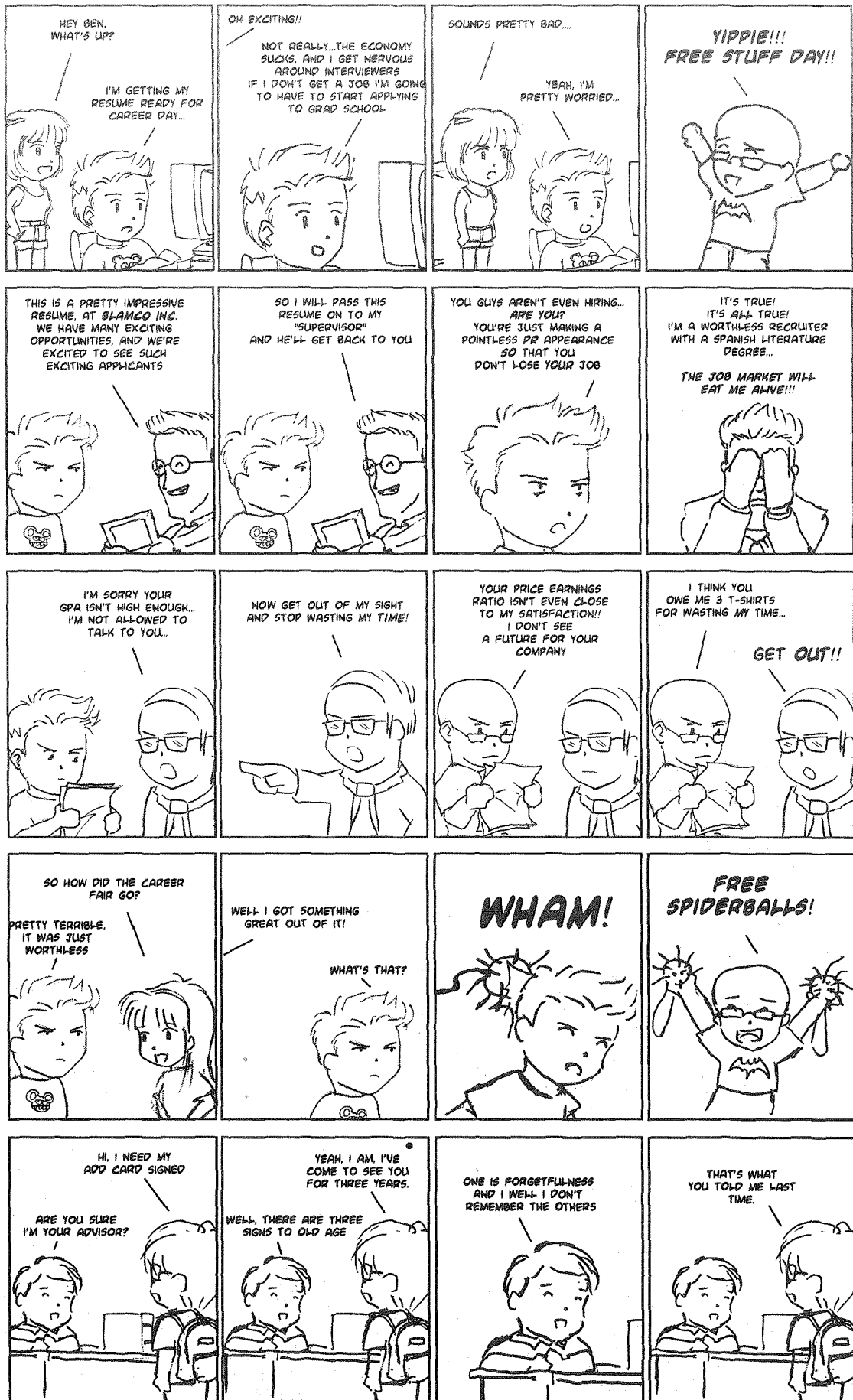
Welcome to Caltech and an extraordinary group of students (never mind the profs and administrators)!  
A bientot

*Jean Paul Revel*

## CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

www.CripplingDepression.com feedback@cripplingdepression.com

All characters are purely fictional. Any resemblance to any persons living or dead is coincidental. The views expressed are those of the authors, not those of the newspaper staff of Caltech.



J. Mao/The California Tech

Folk duo Dan Crary and Beppe Gambetta strum steel-stringed guitars to a packed Dabney Lounge audience.

## Strong, Steel-stringed

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

hanced by the careful hum of the steel string.

He and Gambetta don't sing quite as often as their folk contemporaries, but what they lose in loquaciousness they gain in style. And according to Caltech Folk Music Society head Nick Smith, it's their distinct fusion of old with new, of folk with flatpick, of Europe with America that sets this pair apart.

"Dan Crary has been a legend in the flatpick guitar," lauded Smith. "And Gambetta—he brings a unique blend of European classical training with Crary's very American style."

But then again, on a schedule dense with everything from rural tours world tours, everywhere from the rolling hills of Wichita Falls to the Music World Falkenweg in Augsburg, Germany, the praise couldn't come as much of a surprise.

"They say our music is good for the country people, the heartland of America," says Crary, turning to his Italian comrade. "But it's good for city people too," smiles Gambetta in his characteristically thick accent, "and Italians and Americans and everyone." And with a quick turn of the head, it's time for "Mozart in Hell."

# Letters: *Vectors* Protests Loom The Sight of the Site

Continued from Page 4, Column 3

## A New Plan for Vectors

Dear Editors,

The Lawn has finally been planted. Is it just a matter of time before it's defaced?

We've already seen that letters and protests and Eigenvectors haven't made much of a difference towards preventing the installation of Vectors and so I propose an alternative approach to the problem: use the Lawn.

We can't just sit on our posteriors and write complaining letters. We need to show the administration that, if the Lawn remains unspoiled, it will be used and used well.

And so, I call upon all of you to help me with this task. Take your lunch out to the Lawn (especially if you're eating at Broad - it's only a few more steps). Take your homework. Take your family. If you're a TA, consider holding office hours out there. If you're tossing a disk around your Hovse courtyard, go walk the extra few feet and toss it around the Lawn instead. Hovse Social Teams, plan a Hovse event over there; it doesn't have to be fancy - just think about, for example, how much fun a 50-person game of freeze tag would be. While the weather's still nice, musicians, how about an outdoor concert? Or

you can simply go over there and frolic.

Just, please, do something before it's too late.

Andrea McColl '03

## Vectors: Alumnus' View

Dear Editors,

I'm a Caltech alum who just saw the plans for the new Serra sculpture and I'm afraid I just don't get it. Perhaps it's the lack of an art degree, a failing I share with the unfortunate, unsophisticated majority of Caltech's population.

The project bears a striking resemblance to Serra's famous Tilted Arc. That sculpture, a \$175,000 curved metal wall running across Federal Plaza in New York, was designed to obstruct movement across the open space. It was so unpopular that it was destroyed by court order within ten years. Given the playful nature of Caltech students, I worry that the same fate (minus the court order) might await this sculpture.

It would be a great honor for Caltech to own a work by a famous artist, but Caltech is struggling with an \$18 million deficit. Can the administration, as responsible stewards of Caltech's future, justify paying \$1.2 million of its own money

for it? (Pasadena only requires \$200,000 be spent and \$1 million buys a lot of lab equipment.) I'm sure that the sculpture is a work of genius, but we all have to make sacrifices when we are in debt.

Rather than spending a lot of money for a piece that few at Caltech would appreciate, may I suggest another approach to campus art? Would it be possible instead to get something, well, fun?

Fun art does exist. Check out the famous public art exhibition held in Munster, Germany once a decade. Last time, it included a redwood pier with whiteboards inside by Jorge Pardo, a talking streetlamp by Tony Oursler and a clear funhouse by Dan Graham.

Or look at Canadian artist Rodney Graham, who wants to build a walk-in camera obscura that focuses on a growing tree (to be planted at installation). Inside the camera, the upside-down image of the tree canopy will look like roots extending into the soil.

There is a lot of artists out there who are both famous and willing to do work that people would enjoy — work that might tempt young (and old) scientists into an appreciation of modern art, rather than into hostility.

Thanks for your time,

Autumn Looijen Caltech alum  
(and former Tech editor)

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

the efficiency of the homepage. He also noted that Caltech's website, in comparison to other major university websites that utilize the streamlined approach, is remarkably effective.

Another important benefit to the Caltech community is that the homepage templates are available for download. The Caltech community is being encouraged to use the templates to create web pages with the new website look. In particular, academic departments who feature the old style look are being encouraged to upgrade to the new style.

Prochazka, while thrilled by the opening of the new site, admits that it is by no means error free. Like the last site he created in 1997, he plans to learn more about its potential flaws through its maintenance. While he foresees no short-term problems, he does predict that the new site will eventually will be made obsolete by advances in computer technology. However, Prochazka feels that it contains enough modularity to remain functional for some time at least.

The general consensus among students, faculty and administration in regard to the site is overwhelmingly positive. Many students think that the new site has made searching for information regarding classes significantly easier. Jay Yang '06 said that "the homepage

is much more user-friendly than the previous one." Alan Chang, a senior in electrical engineering, commented that the website is also making a good impression on the non-Caltech community. "A good website is probably the best advertisement that a school can make to the outside community," he suggested. Prochazka has also felt a sense of a high approval rating. "We had a rough opening day due to some technical problems with the server," he said, "but since that has been resolved feedback has been very positive."

According to Prochazka, the project took five months to complete. Although changing the old website into its new, streamlined counterpart involved an enormous time commitment, he feels that it was well worth the effort. "Given that I was replacing a page I created and loved, launching the new page was a big event for me and I am very happy with what we created." Prochazka also pointed out that the web site's new design would "not have been made possible" without the efforts of graphics designer Gail Anderson.

The new Web site has offered a new feel and look to the Caltech online community. All who were involved in its creation have the greatest confidence for its future.



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## Announcements

The Glamour Magazine's 2003 Top Ten College Women Competition has begun. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2003. Contact the Dean of Student Office, Room 210, Center for Student Services Bldg., for the application.

ASCIT has received a donation of 27 free passes to attend a 4-day gun training course in Las Vegas from December 6 to December 9! This exciting opportunity includes all expenses for attending the training as well as hotel rooms on the Las Vegas strip for the stay. Food, incidentals, and transportation costs should be provided by the participants. Please visit <http://www.frontsight.com> for more information on the course. To sign up or for more information, please contact [jialan@its](mailto:jialan@its). Spots are going fast!

Take your Professor out to lunch at the Athenaeum! Come to the Board of Directors meeting and tell us your plan. Then find your favorite professor, and take him/her out to the Athenaeum! Contact [bod@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:bod@donut.caltech.edu) if you're interested. Sponsored by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology and the Master of Student Houses.

The Intercultural Discussion and Support Group creates opportunities for you to meet students from all over the world and have meaningful discussions about experiencing a different culture. Whether you are from India or Indiana, this group will provide you with an opportunity to explore some of the challenges and frustrations associated with cross-cultural encounters, as well as to discuss the importance and rewards of successfully managing these encounters. If you have an interesting story to share about your experiences meeting someone from a different place, or if you would just like to discuss some of the challenges that you have faced adjusting to your "new Caltech home", you are welcome to join our group. Meetings are open to all Caltech students and take place every Monday beginning October 21 from 12 - 1 PM in the Common Area outside of International Student Programs (250-86, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services). If you plan on attending one of these lunch meetings, please contact ISP at [ois@its.caltech.edu](mailto:ois@its.caltech.edu) - this will guarantee that we have enough food for everyone!

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://writing.caltech.edu/>.

Caltech Library System Presents: The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (328). Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.  
October 22, Noon: "Web of Science for Science and Engineering"  
October 24, 2:00pm: "Life Sciences Information Resources"  
You may register for these and other upcoming classes at: <http://library.caltech.edu/learning/>  
For further information, please contact Kathleen McGregor at x6713 or [kathleen@library.caltech.edu](mailto:kathleen@library.caltech.edu).

THE CALIFORNIA TECH  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91126