

D. Korta/The California Tech

A longtime member of Women in Engineering, Science and Technology lays out her research to bystanders at last week's two-day WEST-sponsored science symposium.

## WEST Science Symposium Bridges 'Cross-section of Women Engineers'

By TAMMY MA

Caltech women converged on Beckman Institute last Tuesday and Wednesday for the first-ever Caltech Women's Science Symposium organized by Women in Engineering, Science and Technology. The program included scientific lectures by Caltech faculty, professional development seminars and scientific poster sessions.

The goal of the science symposium was to "bring together a cross-

section of women scientists from many disciplines and at various stages of their careers, building a community and encouraging the formation of mentoring relationships and support networks."

Melany Hunt, instructor in mechanical engineering and faculty advisor for WEST, gave the welcome for the program early on the morning of last Tuesday. Said Dr. Hunt, "Since being at Caltech, I don't remember ever having such an event. It's so unique. It's a neat

idea and so terrific to see. It's wonderful because this was organized by students, who set up a science forum to share their work with each other. The talks were all very good, but unfortunately there's always too much going on and it's hard to get students out because they're so busy at Caltech."

Graduate student Magdalena Bak, one of the organizers for the event, agreed. "I was a bit surprised at the attendance of the seminars," she said. "We presented a mixture of practical talks and science talks to give everyone a perspective on how our professors present science and what they can tell us to help us succeed as well as to give everyone a perspective on some of the history

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## One Year Later, TURLI Pursuits Remain in Flux

By MATTHEW WALKER

Nearly a year after their initial unveiling, the recommendations of the Task Force for Undergraduate Residence Life Initiatives, ranging from a full-scale renovation of the student houses to a restructuring of the yearly Rotation ritual, have finally begun to take shape.

President David Baltimore first created TURLI last December in response to student and alumni concerns. TURLI sought to ensure that the "house system [was] enabling most students to flourish," said the group's coordinator, Miriam Feldblum.

After studying the concerns,

TURLI published a report with its recommendations, which ran the gamut from renovating or rebuilding the houses with a mixture of room types—such as singles, doubles and suites—and immediately initiating short-term upgrades in handicap accessibility and safety in the houses to examining the Rotation tradition, increasing interaction between houses, investigating house traditions, ensuring equity of

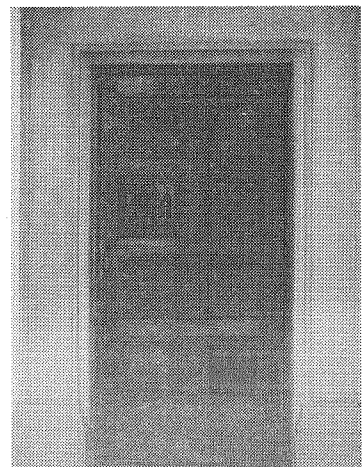
opportunity between students living on and off campus and considering a "faculty in residence program."

### Obstacles to Renovation

However, a slate of practical, physical obstacles—foremost among them the question of student relocation—may hinder the plans. The full breadth of the group's recommendations would amount to a time-consuming construction project that couldn't avoid moving students to a so-called "swing house" in the interim.

Although there is not yet a clear list of options for the swing house, the chief suggestion would build a "Catalina IV" south of the other Catalina residences. Vice President of Business and Finance Al Horvath—who has been examining the feasibilities of possible sites—

Continued on Page 2, Column 2



D. Korta/The California Tech

Many parts of the South houses linger in desolate disrepair.

## Baltimore Axes Vectors Plan; Students Applaud Last-minute Decision

By ADAM SEARS

Caltech President David Baltimore ended months of controversy and weeks of speculation by announcing early Friday that Richard Serra's widely discussed *Vectors* proposal would not be accepted.

The decision, which came at the heels of several new rumors sweeping the campus, is decisive yet difficult to interpret. Dr. Baltimore made it clear that the rejection was based on "the needs of the campus" and not "the quality of the proposal."

The sculpture, which was to have cut across the Beckman Institute Lawn, has been plagued with opposition since its introduction to the Caltech community through a graduate student newsletter. The sixty-foot-long, nearly \$2 million steel structure came under quick criticism by students who felt left out of the decision-making process. Later, the campaign against the piece strengthened as the wall became a symbol of the administration's indifference to student concerns.

After an initial wave of resistance, the Institute sponsored several discussion panels to address reactions across campus. At these meetings, faculty on the campus Art Committee often found themselves explaining the democratic methods for selecting art and artists, which was of little comfort to students once such a decision was made.

Other round-tables with students were more successful in communicating the various positions on the subject. "The focus group earlier this year was the most productive part of the process," said Ted Jou '03, president of ASCIT. "I think everyone came out of that meeting with a clearer understanding of the issues." But in the end, these conciliatory meetings did little to ap-

pease the growing unrest among students.

The magnitude of opposition to *Vectors* varies widely across campus, but is certainly directed more towards the administration's seemingly shady decision-making. Several recent pranks had addressed the wall, its cost to the campus and its perceived aesthetic value.

In particular, students felt offended by the symbolic nature of the wall. Not only was it internally divisive, they said, but it restricted outsiders as well. The wall may very well have commanded attention and controlled the space around it—certainly a characteristic of important art—but this space once belonged to Caltech students playing frisbee and soccer and was suddenly to be the territory of some distant landlord.

Another major objection among undergraduates was the price tag. Students wondered how such an expenditure was justified when campus budget woes are well publicized and dining services have noticeably cut back on costs. Not all of the \$2 million cost would come from the Caltech coffers, much of it being fronted by familiar philanthropist Eli Broad, but few students wanted their beloved field held hostage for such a king's ransom.

Still others focused on Serra's choice of sculpture for the proposal. Many faculty, staff and students expressed a sincere appreciation for many of his other works, involving either more innovative walls or torqued ellipses.

Despite the bulk of student reactions, there has always been a vocal minority that supported the artist's proposal. At the various symposiums, many faculty, local citizens and art critics refused the political objections and instead fo-

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## EX-INSPECTOR RITTER DECRIES PLANNED WAR

### LABELS BUSH 'WARMONGER'

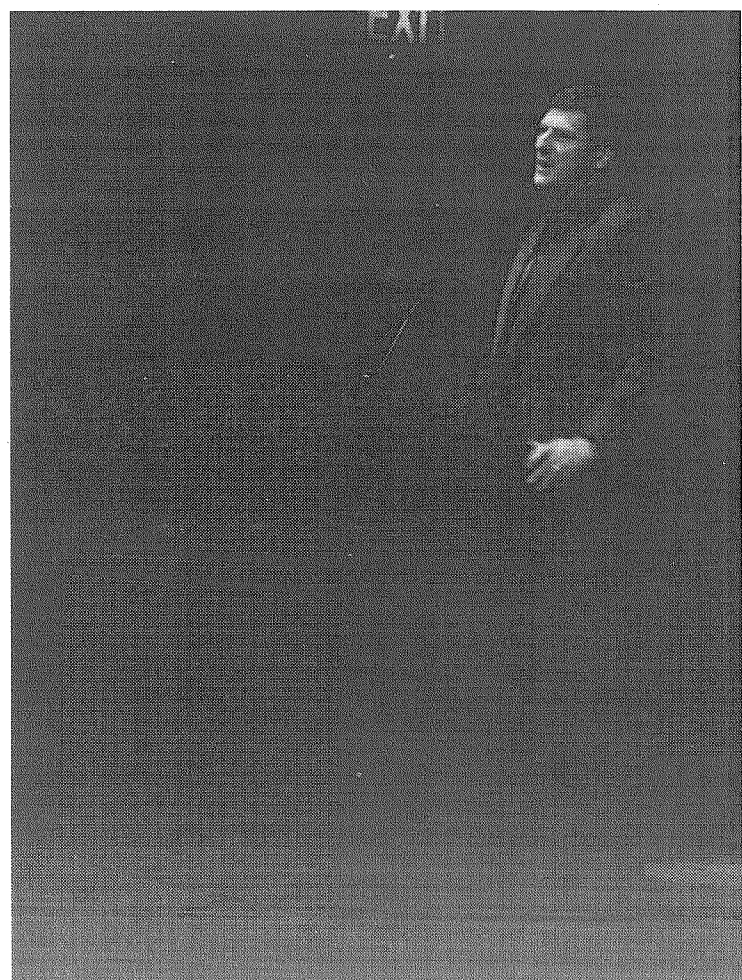
## Former UNSCOM Chief Draws Mass Audience

By ROBERT LI

Buoyed by an overflowing auditorium and a supportive audience, former UN Chief Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter spoke on campus last Thursday night to criticize the Bush administration's policy on Iraq. During his nearly two hour speech, Ritter repeatedly emphasized the need for new weapons inspections in Iraq and attacked the current administration's plans to depose Saddam Hussein.

The event, sponsored by Caltech's Social Activism Speaker Series, was held at eight p.m. last Wednesday night in Ramo Auditorium and proved to be wildly popular. Even before doors opened at 7:30, a line of several hundred

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J. Mao/The California Tech

Speaking to a packed Ramo Auditorium last Wednesday, former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter questioned the President's Iraq policy.

## GENE EXPRESSION CASTS DOUBT ON 'PATTERN' THESIS

VERTEBRAL COLUMNS REVEAL THE SECRET

### 'Cellular Choreography' Focus of Team's Attention

By ROBERT TINDOL

In a study that combines state-of-the-art biological imaging with gene expression analysis, scientists at the California Institute of Technology have uncovered a fundamental insight into the way embryonic cells and tissue move about to form key structures along the vertebrate axis. The study, which could lead to a better understanding of human development, takes advantage of the accessibility of chick embryos to embryonic manipulation.

The study by Caltech biologists Scott Fraser and Paul Kulesa, appearing in the November 1 issue of the journal *Science*, centers on segments known as somites, which form along either side of the future spinal cord of an embryo. Somites give rise to mature structures such as ribs, individual vertebrae and even skin. The key role of somite segmentation in the patterning of the nervous system and the vertebral column has been long known. But the question of precisely how an individual somite buds off from a block of tissue in a pattern that is repeated all along the animal's torso, from head to tail, is poorly understood.

"Developmental biologists have had a difficult time getting a handle on how cell movements and gene expression patterns are coordinated to form complex structures, in this case the segmented units called somites," said Kulesa, a postdoctoral scholar in Fraser's lab and lead author of the paper. "The problems have been due to limitations in obtaining cellular resolution of tissue deep within living vertebrate embryos and difficulty in coordinating the cell movements and tissue shaping in living tissue with gene expression patterns typically obtained at one time point from fixed, non-living tissue."

The new insight of the paper is that the factors that determine the embryo's ultimate form as well as the eventual position of its cells involve a complicated set of motions of the cells themselves. Previous models of embryonic patterning had suggested that there was a molecular prepattern that subdivided the tissues, somewhat like a "paint-by-numbers" piece of art. The study thus shows the action of a more complex coordination between physical forces within the tissue and gene expression patterns that determine where an embryonic cell will go and what type of structure it will help form.

Kulesa's and Fraser's study is made possible with a new culture technique combined with confocal time-lapse microscopy, an advanced form of imaging that allows the tissue of a living, developing embryo to be studied in intricate detail at the cellular level.

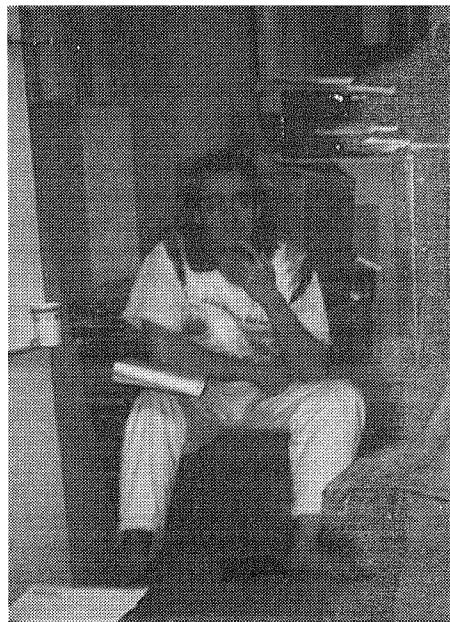
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## House Traditions, Rotation Touch Debate On Two-year Student Residential Life Plans



"The space north of Avery doesn't look particularly attractive, but [there are other] options that have promise."

**Albert Horvath**  
Business and Finance



"We want to make a system, ideally where everyone is happy."

**Marcus Williams**  
IHC Chairman

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

also said that the space north of Avery "doesn't look particularly attractive," but that Catalina IV, space near South Wilson parking and space on Chester north of Cordova are all "options that have promise." He emphasized, however, that there is not yet any formal plan. The cost of the project will likely be in the tens of millions.

So far, students have been quiet on the matter because there is no final list of options.

### Preserving House Traditions

Preserving the house culture and traditions is another major concern of the project. Director of Caltech Auxiliary and Business Services Tom Mannion has been examining this problem. The purpose of the construction is to create an environment in which students can flourish and house culture is preserved; as Mr. Mannion puts it, his bill is to create something that "everyone can feel proud of."

One part of his plan is to save some popular house murals by cutting them out and putting them back afterwards or by creating an electrostatic image and contracting an artist to recreate them.

Other ideas include trying new ways to increase food quality with the waiter system. He gleaned some ideas from an alley design contest held last year, including ways to creatively fit more beds in, redesigning courtyards so only house rooms face the house courtyard, installing decks on the roof and building fewer, but better bathrooms.

Mr. Mannion also stressed that the group is talking to as many people as possible for suggestions. TURLI visited several other universities for a first-hand look at renovations, including Vanderbilt, MIT, Harvard, Byrn Mawr, Swarthmore and Yale.

### Physical Improvements

Physical improvements are a key component of the TURLI report. Since the houses date back to the era before the Americans With Disabilities Act, they are "grandfathered" and need not be handicap accessible. However, "when you do substantive renovations, [accessibility is] required by law," said Dr. Feldblum.

A review in 2000 uncovered the necessities, including elevators, bathrooms and rooms, to make the houses handicap accessible. Mr. Mannion noted that it will be much easier to put elevators in the North houses, since at least a dozen elevators are necessary

to make the current South houses accessible.

Along with the accessibility upgrades, needed upgrades include utilities such as plumbing, electricity and Ethernet connections. There is also a possibility of introducing central air conditioning and heating to the North and South houses. The idea of suites and room varieties in both houses is under consideration but it will, according to Dr. Feldblum, "have to be open to a lot more student input."

### Rotation Concerns

Concerns about Rotation also stemmed from discussions with students, according to the TURLI report. For many, the secrecy of the process was alarming. TURLI members looked at several options, including random selection, used with success at Rice University where there is a similar house system, but ultimately decided to stage a series of "town meetings" to discuss the problem.

In the spring of 2002, Instructor in Humanities Catherine Jurca hosted nine town meetings—one for each house, one for Avery and Marks and one for other off-campus residences. There, several concerns came under scrutiny which the Interhouse Committee addressed for this year's rotation.

In the past, comments during upperclass meetings about freshmen had been largely negative and judgmental, so house presidents strove to keep this year's civil and positive.

Although some students felt that they had been misled in not knowing that upperclassmen had a say in picks, the idea of dropping outright the influence held by upperclassmen in selection was considered and rejected. Still, this year the IHC tried to make clear the upperclass component in selection.

Now, although many students still dislike the secrecy of picks, Rotation is "structured to be a fair process," said IHC chair Marcus Williams. "IHC decided it is better to keep it secret." He added that no student can take advantage of the system if he doesn't know how it works.

For his part, Williams praised the process of town meetings, saying that the ability for the IHC to understand and respond to comments and dispel rumors was a "refreshing aspect and should serve as a model for future changes."

Students' general feeling about TURLI is that it will act to better involve them in the process of improving their infrastructure and traditions. "We want to make a system," offered Williams, "ideally where everyone is happy."

## EARLY WINS KICK OFF ANTICIPATED FENCING SEASON

USC, UCLA, UCSB, UCI ON OPENING DOCKET

By ABRAHAM KUO

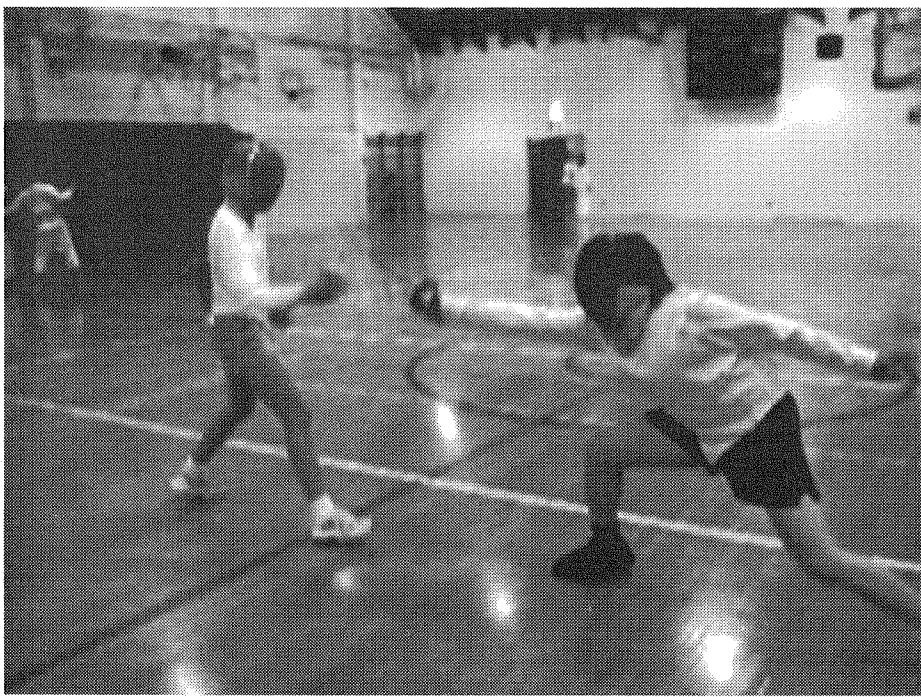
The Caltech women's fencing team kicked off the intercollegiate season the week before last with wins over USC, UCLA and UC Santa Barbara for a three-and-one start, with a loss to UC Irvine. The men's team weighed in at two-and-two, winning against UCLA and UCI, but losing to USC and UCSB.

Individually, team captain Serina Diniega '03 led the womens saber squad with a perfect 12-0 meet and was supported by Gwendolyn Ong '05, who won eight-four, and Vanessa Heckman '06, who won nine-three, for a clean sweep in the women's saber event.

Matt Jones '03 and Tony Gross '06 posted 10-2 records, leading the men's saber squad to a three-and-one record on the day, supported by Ghee Lai '04, who won nine-three.

The women's epee squad of Melinda Owens '04, Stephanie Chan '06 and Julia Ma '06 also posted a four-nothing record on the day.

In men's foil, Stephen Underwood '05 and Haomiao Huang '05 led a team with six freshmen to a two-and-two meet, while the men's epee team of Eric Cady '05, Jesse Escobedo '05, Jesse Liptrap '06 and John McNamara '06 got a win against UCI.



Abraham Kuo '03 spars with Serina Diniega '03 at a practice session of Caltech's fencing team the week before last. Courtesy of A. Kuo

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## Water Polo, Volleyball, Soccer Post Winless Week

By REGER BRENTON

### Athlete of the Week

This week's Athlete of the Week designee is men's soccer extraordinaire Stuart Ward '06, who was named Second Team All-Conference in the SCIAC this week. Ward scored three goals this season, leading the Beavers in this category. His strong play all season gave the Beavers a lift throughout a tough season. Coach Uribe stated that "there are many great things to come from this true freshman."

### Men's Water Polo

Caltech (2-14) ..... 4  
REDLANDS ..... 15

Caltech ..... 7  
WHITTIER ..... 14

Redlands, the best team in the SCIAC conference had a solid showing against the Beavers. The team played hard but Redlands speed took its toll. Scoring for the Beavers were Ben Solecki '03, with two; Hans Smith '05, with one; and Jim Robesco '05, with one. Paul Wali '05 added 11 saves. Against Whittier Erik Grandstedt '04 played his best game of the year with four goals, drawing three kickouts. Scorers for the Beavers were Grandstedt with four, Solecki with one, Issac Hilburn '04 with one and Marko

Cetina '04 with one, while Wali and Phil Zulian '03 had nine and four saves, respectively.

### Women's Volleyball

Caltech (5-23) ..... 0  
LA VERNE ..... 3

Caltech ..... 0  
CLAREMONT ..... 3

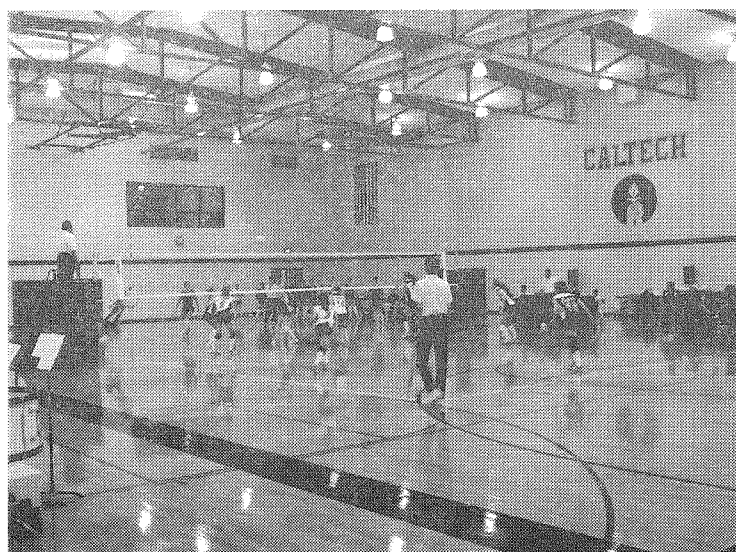
Caltech ..... 3  
ALUMNI ..... 0

The Beavers finished up against National Champion La Verne and 21-7 CMS. It was a valiant effort as the Beavers dug ball after ball until the barrage of hits became too much for the women to handle. The alumni game was a blast as the alumni team was represented well by quality players from the past.

### Men's Soccer

Caltech (0-20) ..... 0  
CLAREMONT ..... 2

Caltech finished up the season against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on the road. Despite a hard fought battle the Beavers dropped the game two-nothing to 14-5 CMS. However, the Beavers held the Stags to two goals and goalie Christian Peressin had nine saves.



J. Mao/The California Tech

Women's volleyball takes the floor against Claremont earlier this week, where the Beavers padded a 5-23 season with one final loss. Men's soccer closed 0-20; and water polo, 2-14.

## Fertilized Embryos, Eggs Key in Gene Breakthrough

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Time-lapse imaging involves, first, labeling the tissue so that it will fluoresce when exposed to laser light, then passing a laser through the tissue, then reconstructing the fluorescent patterns of individual cells to form a three-dimensional microscopic image. The laser scans over the tissue of the developing embryo every minute or so, which allows the researchers to gather the hundreds of images taken during a several-hour run into a time-lapse video.

Using fertilized eggs, the researchers placed an embryo into a specially designed chamber to allow for high-resolution time-lapse imaging and afterwards performed gene expression analyses on the same embryo. Thus, they were both videotaping cell movements for six to 12 hours as well as analyzing the expression of several genes, including EphA4 and c-Mesol, both thought to play a role in determining future somite boundary sites.

The results showed that the straight-line patterns of gene expression, which were thought to

correlate with a simple, periodic slicing of the tissue into blocks, did not predict the complex cell movements. Time-lapse imaging showed that a ball-and-socket separation of tissue takes place in a series of six repeatable steps.

"It turns out that a somite pulls apart from the block of tissue and cells move in anterior and posterior directions near the forming somite boundary," said Kulesa. "This is contrary to many models of somite segmentation which assume that gene expression boundaries that correlate with presumptive somite boundaries allocate cells into a particular block with very little cell movement.

"This study tells us that we have to be careful about assuming that gene expression patterns strictly determine a cell's fate and position."

Kulesa says the next step is to do the work in mouse embryos, which pose considerably more difficult challenges for developmental imaging, but have a tremendous advantage over chick-embryo imaging in attempting to isolate the role of key genes through gene manipulation.

Who  
says  
there's  
no  
such  
thing  
as a  
free  
lunch



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# Why Pay Jou's Dues? Serving You: ASCIT

By TED JOU

Without really thinking about it, every undergraduate who is reading this article paid his ASCIT dues this term. If you dropped your ASCIT membership and are reading this, I'll have to ask you to stop reading now, because you don't have a subscription to this newspaper.

Besides a subscription to this illustrious publication, paying your ASCIT dues earns you a number of different privileges. With free doughnuts, access to DVDs, discounted tickets to ASCIT Formal, usage of the Screening Room, a *little t* and a *Totem*, ASCIT dues are much like house dues: they pay for services that you can take advantage of. I know what you're thinking: there's no way you get \$60 worth out of those things and unless you eat a whole lot of donuts,

you're probably right. But in my opinion, worrying about the value you get back is not the right way to think about ASCIT dues or house dues.

When you think of paying tuition, you should probably make the calculation of how much you're getting back. Can that dinner really cost \$11? Is a Caltech degree worth that much? Caltech is providing you a service and you're the customer; that's not the case with ASCIT. The Associated Students of Caltech, Inc. is a corporation whose mission is to benefit the undergraduates of Caltech. You are a shareholder in this Corporation and have thus pledged \$60 a year toward that mission, which is not to help each member eke out a benefit, but is to serve the needs of a community of 950. Paying your ASCIT dues is a

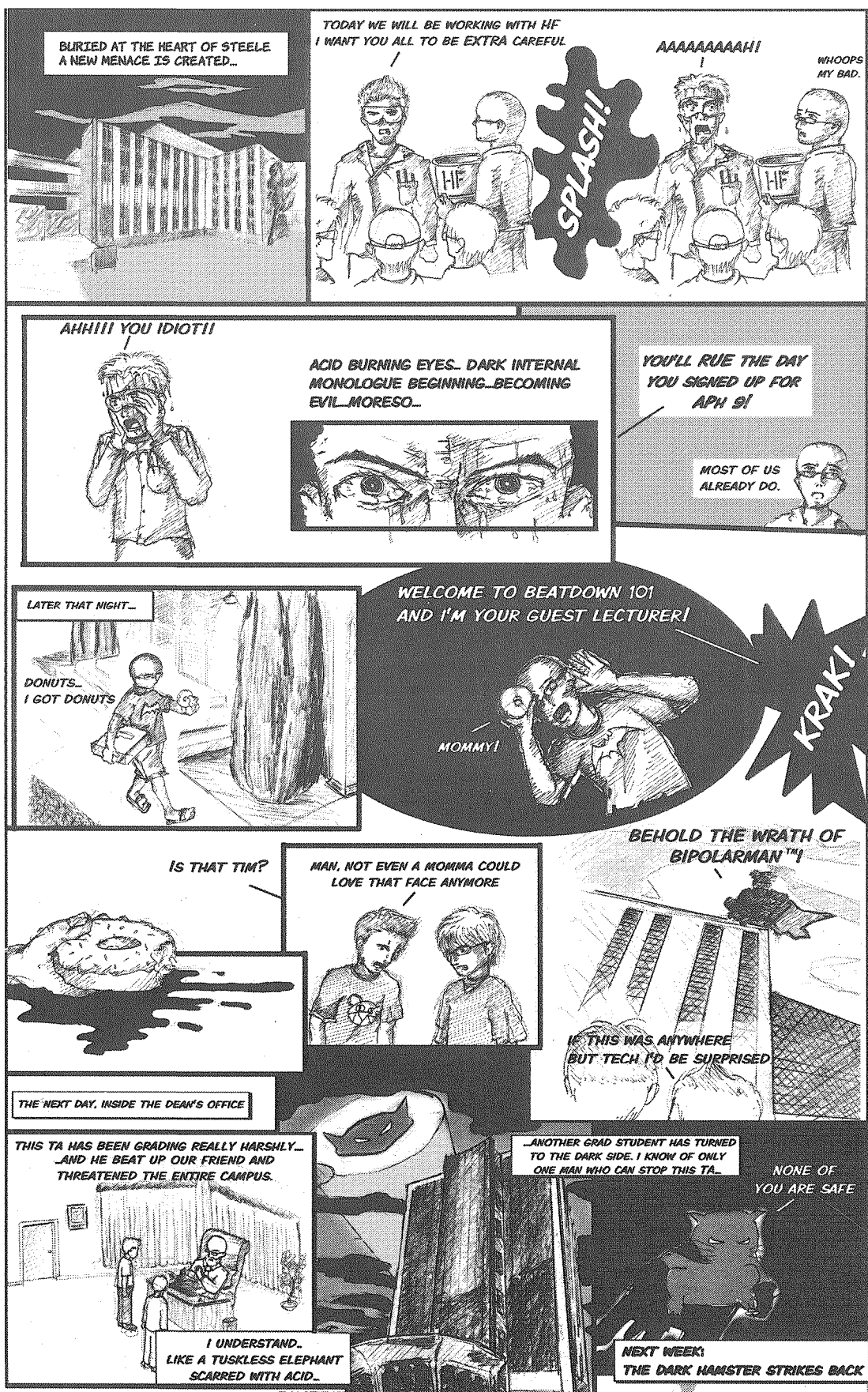
Continued on Page 7, Column 3

by Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee

# CRIPPLING DEPRESSION

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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 or Caltech.



# Liquor Mart: Convenience, Great Deals Connoisseur of Fine Alcohol, Escalada Critiques Liquor Mart

By JOE ESCALADA

Contrary to the lies of public television, the highest aspiration of every scientist is neither receiving a Nobel Prize nor grasping the most elusive of nature's secrets. No, these are mere distractions. The true crowning achievement in any scientific career is using institute funds to pay for alcohol. Tragically, unlike our distinguished professors, we undergraduates are barred from getting accounts at the Athenaeum. Caltech's exclusive clubhouse discriminates against us, forcing us to scour the Pasadena wasteland for precious booze.

Whether spending your own money, or in my case the *Tech's* money, I recommend shopping at Liquor Mart. It is superior to the local drug stores and supermarkets and located less than a mile east on Colorado Boulevard, it is just as convenient.

Liquor Mart's appearance doesn't do it justice. Its faded green paint job and burnt-out red sign probably

date back to the '70s. Judging from multiple layers of beer stains, the linoleum floor has endured several decades of use. Every inch of the store stinks of cigarettes and spilt liquor. Years of hard living are etched on the faces of Liquor Mart's derelict cashiers. Unlike the Athenaeum, this isn't a good place to mingle with professors or ask for SURF recommendations, unless you don't mind "gravity" being misspelled and used in the term "high grafity malt liquor."

*"Though modest in appearance, Liquor Mart surpasses other purveyors of alcohol."*

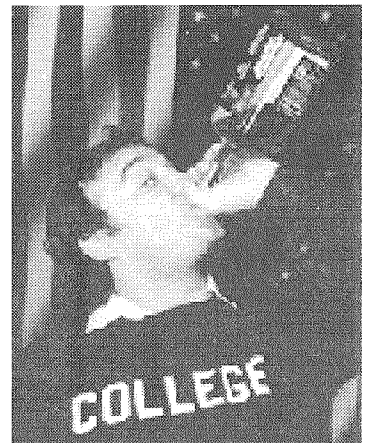
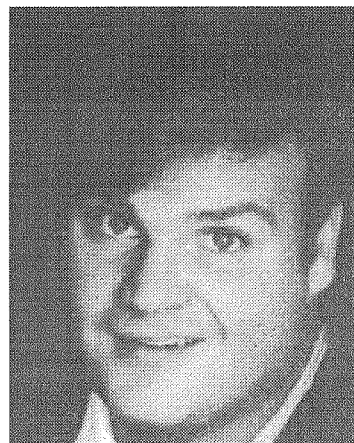
These shortcomings matter little, as no one lingers for hours in a liquor store except to buy votes or harvest internal organs. Rather, the measure of a liquor store is the price and selection of its alcoholic beverages.

Though modest in appearance, Liquor Mart surpasses other local purveyors of alcohol. Its sale prices on medium-priced beers like Dos

Equis, Rolling Rock and Heineken put Ralph's and Vons to shame. By focusing on alcoholic beverages, Liquor Mart can offer a greater variety than supermarkets and drugstores. Counted among its inventory are Steel Reserve, St. Ives, Mongoose, Schlitz, Cobra, Magnum and other distinguished malt liquors enjoyed in stolen limos everywhere. If you condemn malt liquor as being too "pedestrian" or "vagrant" there is always the classier Miller Genuine Draft, you bourgeois prick.

Liquor Mart is only slightly inferior to the greatly esteemed and remote Beverages and More (BevMo). The Shangri-La of beer and hard liquor alike, BevMo is located in distant Brea and is most efficiently reached by freeway. Frequent travel on California freeways makes death more likely by car accident than by liver failure, indeed a frightening prospect. Stay alive by driving to BevMo only for huge purchases and shopping more frequently at Liquor Mart for smaller orders. And never drink and drive. Not even for sex.

Liquor Mart is a fine purveyor of alcohol—one of the many drugs that fueled the careers of John Belushi and Chris Farley. Therefore, I give it two Happy, Dead, Fat Comedians.



Courtesy of J. Escalada

Local critic Joe Escalada '03 grants *Liquor Mart* two Happy, Dead, Fat Comedians. In his system, the minimum rating is three Sad, Dead, Fat Comedians and the maximum, three Happy, Dead, Fat Comedians.

# Death Cab Album Wins Mixed Praise From Critic

By JOHNATHAN CHANG

Artist: Death Cab for Cutie  
Album: *You Can Play These Songs With Chords*  
Label: Barsuk

Emo is dead. So sayeth Rivers and Mr. Cuomo could hardly tell a lie. But I must confess that I've got a soft spot for a few bands which fall under the umbrella heading of Emo. After all, who among us doesn't engage, every now and then, in the guilty pleasure of a melancholic listening to Sunny Day Real Estate?

Death Cab for Cutie is distinctly emo, but unlike their so-called peers, Dashboard Confessional or the Get-Up Kids, DCFC doesn't suck. Yes, all of the trademarks are there: the simple pop hooks, the whiny voices, the lyrics which revolve around adolescent love or lack thereof. But Death Cab for Cutie has always had a knack for making songs that transcend the juvenile rants of other like-minded bands.

Their success is probably due in large part to the talent of front-man Ben Gibbard, whose great sense of melody drives most of the songs. Furthermore, he's an accomplished drummer, which makes for songs with rhythm sections that are more than mere backing. Also, he's got an endearing gift for awkwardly

cramming far more syllables into the verse than it could possibly hold: "I saw the scene unfold on a rainy Sunday, creases indicating folds that kept four walls from caving in."

You've, no doubt, already heard that song, "President of What?", on their earlier release *Something About Airplanes*. About half of the songs on the new album have, in fact, been previously released on *Something About Airplanes*, albeit in alternate versions.

The rest of the songs are an eclectic mix of b-sides, demos and other rarities. As with most albums of this sort, there is a lack of flow and cohesiveness and the awkward transitions between songs of decidedly disparate styles can be genuinely disconcerting. Consider for example, the way "New Candles," a radio-friendly alternative song segues into "Tomorrow" which is an '80s synth-pop/dance number that sounds as though it was done as a collaboration with New Order. Immediately following that song is "Flustered/Hey Tomcat," a kitschy house number.

These jabs at musical experimentation by Ben Gibbard and Chris Walla are interesting at best, but they stink of errant filler material. It's clear that those fellows over at

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## OIL-STARVED KURDS EXPECT BUSH TO HELP

Need Aid to Create Free Kurdi State of 'Kurdistan'

By LIBIN ZHANG

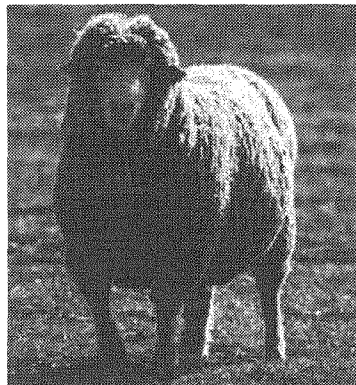
Most Kurds, an ethnic minority in northern Iraq, believe that the United States government will assist them in their next bid for independence from Saddam Hussein, despite the total lack of oil in Kurd territories. Ignoring decades of broken American promises, Kurdish leaders hope that George W. Bush will be a champion of popular self-sovereignty and overlook the fact that oil companies will not profit in the proposed nation of Kurdistan. The Iraqi Kurds are even idealistic enough to believe that America might offer military assistance without a promise of oil in return.

About 20 million Kurds are scattered in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. The most famous Kurd was Saladin, defender of the Holy Lands against Christian crusaders, but the Kurds' struggle for national self-determination has been unsuccessful. After World War II, American rulers have either doled out aid with an eyedropper to Kurdish nationalists, or abruptly cut off this backing, depending on Washington's friendliness with the Baghdad and Tehran regimes. A courageous Kurdish uprising in March 1991 against Saddam Hussein was brutally crushed by helicopter gunships and heavy armor, while the promised assistance from the United States never materialized. U.S. President Bush Senior felt helping oil-rich Kuwait and Saudi Arabia was more worthwhile.

Over a decade later, with the United States gearing up for another war with Iraq, Kurdish nationalists eagerly expect American aid for their independence. Unfortunately, their territory has very few oil deposits, nor are they living on a future oil pipeline site as in Afghanistan. The rocky and landlocked terrain discourages construction of refineries and tanker harbours. Oil companies and consequently the U.S. government, have shown little interest in wasting money to help the Kurds.

The Turkish government opposes Kurd nationalism, fearing that its Kurds might agitate for separation in time. Until recently, Turkish Kurds were denied the right to speak their own language and are still denied the right to read, write or learn in Kurdish. In 1992 the Turkish government mounted a concerted attack on its Kurdish minority to destroy nationalist guerillas, killing more than 20,000 and creating two million refugees, adding to the millions of Iraqi Kurd refugees. Since the terminus of a major oil pipeline from Azerbaijan into Turkey, George W. Bush is expected to appease the Turkish government in order to not interrupt the

Continued on Page 6, Column 5



Courtesy of L. Zhang

Kurd scientists are working on extracting crude oil from sheep, a major Kurd resource.

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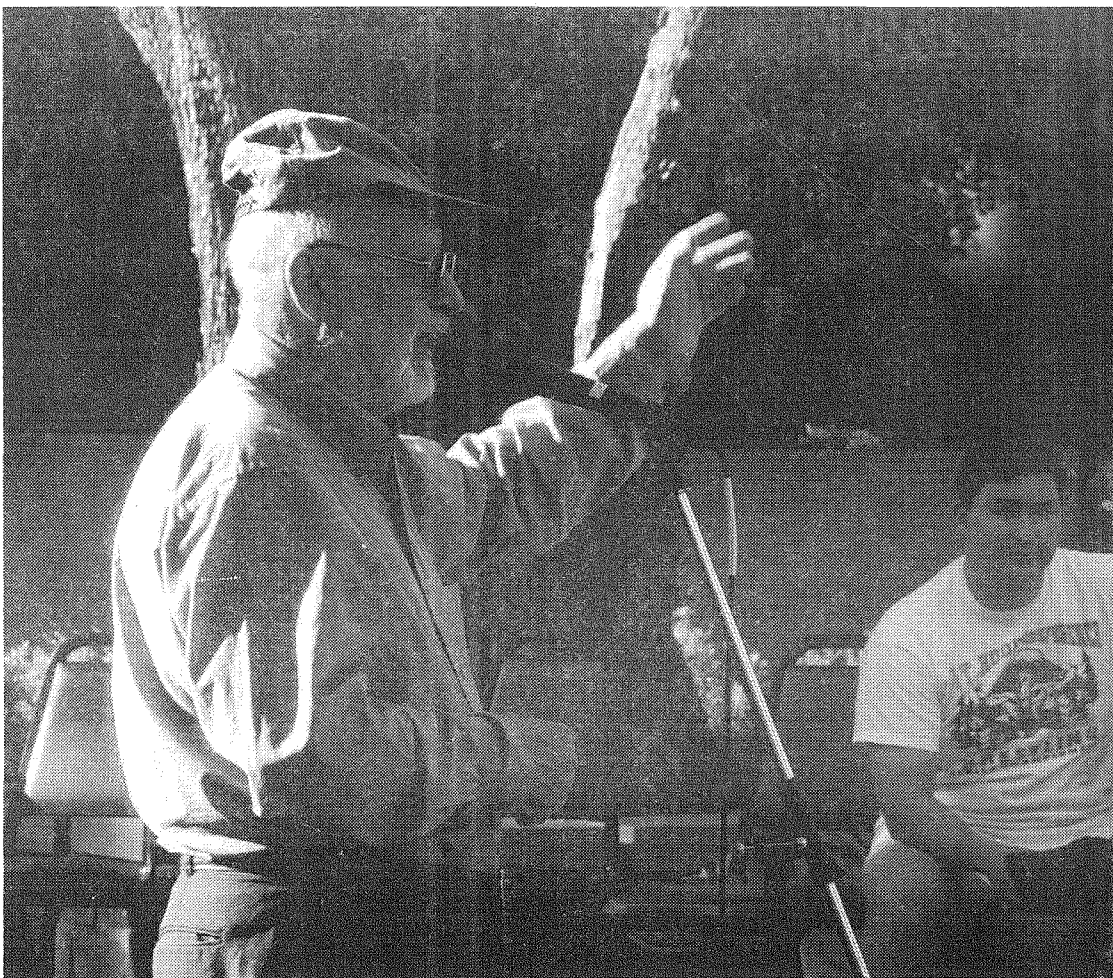
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D. Korta/The California Tech

Dean of Undergraduates Jean-Paul Revel speaks at last Saturday's "What I Love About Caltech" event on, among other things, his broader views on the Honor Code.

## 'Taking Advantage': Revel on Honor Codes

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

A little while back the *New York Times*' Kate Zernicke wrote that "with cheating on the rise more colleges are turning to honor codes." According to her, "the once-clear lines that define cheating have faded. Some colleges and universities have resorted to sophisticated search engines to ferret out cheats. But an increasing number are turning to something decidedly more low-tech: their honor codes."

The same article cites surveys like the one carried out by the Center for Academic Integrity to the effect that while 91% of the professors thought that cutting and pasting from the internet was unacceptable just a couple of years ago, today half of the profs queried do not object to the practice.

There have been plagiarism scandals galore and not only about cribbed homework by college students. Perhaps one can take it as a good sign that there is indignation at the sight of such lapses. Historian Doris Goodwin had to resign from the Pulitzer Prize committee and also forego receiving many other honors and kudos after it was discovered that she had what can only be described as a habit to borrow other author's words without attribution. She even secretly paid off one of the victimized authors.

And there is the case of Professor Michael Bellesiles whose book contending "early Americans did not own or use firearms in great numbers" has come, if I may say it so, under intense fire. Curiously, when his thesis was challenged, the data on which it was based, consisting of 11,000 probate records dated between 1765 and 1790 were claimed to have almost all been lost, destroyed in a flood.

While there are unfortunately more cases involving academics, there are similar scandals in other arenas, even some in the *Fashion* world. *ChicHappens* reporters Horacio Silva and Ben Widdicombe last March 27 spoke of the "Wong" turn by the head of Balenciaga, the couturier Nicolas

Ghesquieres, who seems to have lifted the design of a quilted vest from the 1973 collection of Kaisik Wong, a Bay-area designer who had died years ago. The Web site shows both original and copy. My reaction on seeing a picture of the garments in question: who would want to copy that, let alone wear it? But then again, what do I know about fashion anyway?

And then, at the center of a recent scandal in science there is this young researcher at Bell Labs, he of extraordinary findings and incredible productivity, publishing some 90 papers in three years. He had been tapped to take on the leadership of a prestigious Max Planck Institute and was, wrote L. Cassuto, "in contention for the Nobel prize... less than five years

after finishing grad school." The findings were too good to be true and true they were not.

It is hard to imagine doing all this work and writing it up too. Most researchers do well when they publish two to three papers a year. Jan Hendrick Schön had, it turns out, used some shortcuts. Nothing pretty about that! The same graph had been used over and over in describing the results of several different experiments. A committee set up to investigate the possibility of scientific misconduct found that "virtually all primary, raw electronic data files" had been erased, "reportedly because the old computer available... lacked sufficient memory." But enough of these cheats. Let's not even look into the sagas of politicians or examine the unsavory behavior of other public figures, be they movie actresses, arbiters of taste or high-flying financiers.

The take-home lesson is that the righteous finger-pointing at the shenanigans these people were involved in, might well be complemented by strong and widely followed codes of honorable conduct.

Well I guess we are lucky here at Caltech; we already have an honor code, which has served us well for many years now. We believe, that because the responsibility for proper behavior is placed on the students themselves, they are inspired to rise to the occasion. I have never understood what makes horses run and compete; surely it's not just the jockey. But we all understand well what makes people run. Most of us strive mightily to be the first, to be

king of the hill.

In doing so one is unfortunately quickly faced with the temptation to cut corners, to do whatever can be done to gain the advantage. The Honor Code, which we agree to live under when we join the Caltech Community, enjoins us against taking such unfair advantage and largely succeeds in restraining unacceptable behavior. However, taking advantage of others does not mean only cheating on exams or stealing from the grocery shelves.

Things sometimes get confusing or, I should perhaps say, people get confused. So while being impeccably honest about how much time we take to finish time-limited exams, some may thoughtlessly break the precepts of the Honor Code in other ways.

Just a couple of weeks ago posters appeared on Campus poking "fun" at women and members of minorities. Such demonstrations of insensitivity make it very unpleasant for those that are being debased for being different. The atmosphere of deprecation and belittlement

which results, is a form of taking advantage, unfair advantage and so is a breach of the code we live under.

Besides the personal hurts they may cause, such acts compound the problems of achieving equitable diversity on our Campus. Who wants to submit themselves to a thoughtless gauntlet of unjustified insults, for the merriment of thoughtless louts?

*The Pasadena Star News*, *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, CNN and KPCC in an ad during its broadcast of *The Prairie Home Companion*, all have commented on what is seen as Caltech's problems in achieving the diversity which we strive for.

The thoughtless posters emphasize how vigilant one must be in defending one's professed values. The abusers do not speak for most of us, but all of us nevertheless suffer the consequences of the actions of a few. No, it is not cheating as the word is normally used, but it results in cheating us all by potentially depriving us of the contributions of half or more of our future colleagues. If that's not taking unfair advantage what is?

A bientot

*Jean Paul Revel*

## Red Cross, United Way, Salvation Army, ASCIT

Continued from Page 4, Column 2

fundamentally selfless action and it should not be done with the selfish thought of profiting from the corporation.

This selfless spirit is likely why ASCIT, Inc. is categorized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. This is the same designation reserved for charities like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army or the United Way. When you pay \$60 in ASCIT Dues, you are really contributing to a charity that, rather than trying to help needy children, works to help Caltech students. Did you know that if you don't feel as though you get \$60 of benefit back from the dues you pay, you can write off the difference on your 1040, Schedule A?

But what about the talk of raising ASCIT dues? This topic has come up because dues haven't been raised in almost two decades. It's not something ASCIT is worried about this year because we've saved some money on accounting and also invested ASCIT's savings in an endowment. However, the fact re-

mains that ASCIT dues have been constant since 1984, while Caltech tuition has more than doubled. Oddly enough, it is Caltech facing budget crises while ASCIT has done just fine with its smaller income. In fact, ASCIT supports more clubs now than it ever did before and is still printing a weekly newspaper, a yearly student handbook and an annual yearbook. It may be difficult to imagine what ASCIT would do with more money, but a brief tour through ASCIT history reveals some interesting things.

Many years ago, ASCIT supported a large fraction of the athletic program at Caltech. In 1949 this accounted for more than half of the ASCIT budget. Back then, the students had a lot of say in which varsity sports teams Caltech had and what sorts of sports facilities were maintained. Nowadays, this is completely controlled and paid for by the institute, but as an artifact of the past, ASCIT still subsidizes athletic awards and letterman jackets. At one time, ASCIT also had complete financial responsibility for the Coffeehouse, with the managers offered an on-campus room in the SAC, but that has since passed on to Dining Services. In the late '60s, ASCIT started an undergraduate research board that offered grants for summer research. The heir to the ASCIT Research Project is the present-day SURF program. In the recent past, ASCIT provided the majority of funding for all clubs, but today, that is not the case. The Student Affairs Department has taken a larger role in club funding over the years and now many clubs get a large portion of their money from Institute funds.

On the surface, this seems like a great thing—Caltech is dedicating more of its money towards student activities. However, if you stop and think about where that money came from, it likely has its roots in the higher tuition we're paying. In the same way we pay ASCIT dues, we are pooling our money in the Student Affairs fund for clubs. Except that now, rather than students deciding which causes to fund, the decision lies in the hands of administrators. So by allowing tuition to grow at a faster rate than ASCIT or House dues, we may be trading away our decision-making power.

So if you ever question the value of ASCIT dues, take a moment and compare it to tuition. Caltech takes more than \$27,000 from you each year to create the kind of school environment that the administration wants. Is it so much to ask that \$60 of your money goes toward doing what students want?

## TODAY IN CALTECH HISTORY



The California Tech Archives

Students revel in a bonfire in the streets of Pasadena in 1976 after a victory of Caltech's football team. Bonfires like this propped up student morale, an issue brought to the fore in last Saturday's "What I Love About Caltech" forum.

# Presentations, 'Poster Sessions' Underscore Two-day Symposium

*Continued from Page 1, Column 3*

and issues related to women scientists. I honestly think many people greatly missed out on some really good presentations."

However, those that were able to attend the talks felt they were of great benefit. "Janet Herring gave a great presentation on how to give scientific presentations to both technical and non-technical audiences," recounted graduate student Lauren Webb. "They're both very different in style, so she gave some good tips on how to communicate scientific information to the public."

Herring, a professor in environmental science and engineering, entitled her lecture "Talking Science: How to Communicate Your Research Effectively to Scientists and Non-Scientists." Other development seminars included "Tapping into a Mentoring Network," by Candice Rypisi, director of the Women's Center; "How to succeed in Graduate School and Beyond Without Really Trying," by Raymond J. Deshaies; and "Life at the Bench: Unimagined Outcomes," by Alice Huang, councilor for external relations. There were also a variety of other presentations done by women professors on their research in the fields of biology,

physics and chemical engineering.

Each day, there was also a poster session, in which women presented their research, done either as graduate students or doctoral candidates, for ongoing studies, or as undergraduates, for their SURF projects over the summer. Said Stacey Boland, graduate student and poster presenter, "Posters are real science. It shows that the science women do is not any different from the science men do. That's the good thing about science—you either do good work or you don't. The caliber of research is the same."

Added Magdalena Bak, "we got over 40 poster presenters and gave them an opportunity to talk about their work and also to make a poster and have a chance to win a \$500 award to go to a meeting or in some other way help further their professional careers. It was so encouraging to see people talk with one another across different disciplines."

Sarah Heilshorn, another coordinator for the event, said, "throughout the day, a very diverse audience was able to view the posters and speak with the presenters. I think everyone involved was able to learn something new and to meet other scientists from all over campus."

Other attendees felt the same way.

"I think it's great for the students to do this kind of stuff. It lets other people in the Caltech community know they're doing these wonderful things," commented Sandy Karhu of International Scholar Services.

Overall, the organizers of this event felt extremely proud of its success. "Altogether, I think that the people who came to the event went away inspired and learned something, met someone new and got a feeling of a community of women at Caltech," explained Bak. "This last point is very important I think since many of the issues we face become easier to recognize and deal with when we encounter and share them with our fellow scientists. It was also very encouraging to see men come and check out the symposium. Our hope was to have them be very much part of this event."

Heilshorn concluded by pointing to the inclusivity of the event. "I was especially pleased by the large attendance of men at the poster sessions," she said, "because men obviously play an integral part in helping to create a supportive sense of community for their female colleagues."

WEST hopes to hold this event every one or two years.



J. Mao/The California Tech

Record-setting crowds turn out to see ex-weapons inspector Scott Ritter last Wednesday.

## In Ramo, Ritter Talk Wins Converts, Critics

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

people stretched from Ramo all the way to the Beckman Auditorium waiting to get in. Seating was extremely tight in Ramo and between 100 and 150 people were forced to listen to an audio simulcast of the speech outside of the Beckman Auditorium. In addition to Ritter, social activist groups such as Amnesty International as well as anti-war groups set up tables in front of Ramo to publicize their activities.

In his speech, Ritter warned that, left unchecked, the Bush administration's policy on Iraq will bring only needless death and destruction. Accusing the Bush administration of warmongering and deliberately sabotaging the upcoming round of inspections, Ritter stated that "there is no intention of letting weapons inspections work in Iraq because our policy is regime removal." In particular, Ritter argued that with only two months to work when at the minimum six are needed, the UN weapons inspectors are being sent in merely to provide a reason for later deployment of US troops.

Speaking poignantly on the horrors of any war with Iraq, Ritter then asked the audience, "Are you willing to have your brother die, your father die, your sister, your friend? If the answer is no, then why, in God's name, can you sit back and have others die for you?" Ritter went on to say that any war with Iraq is not worth the pain and suffering he believed it would

bring to both Americans and Iraqis.

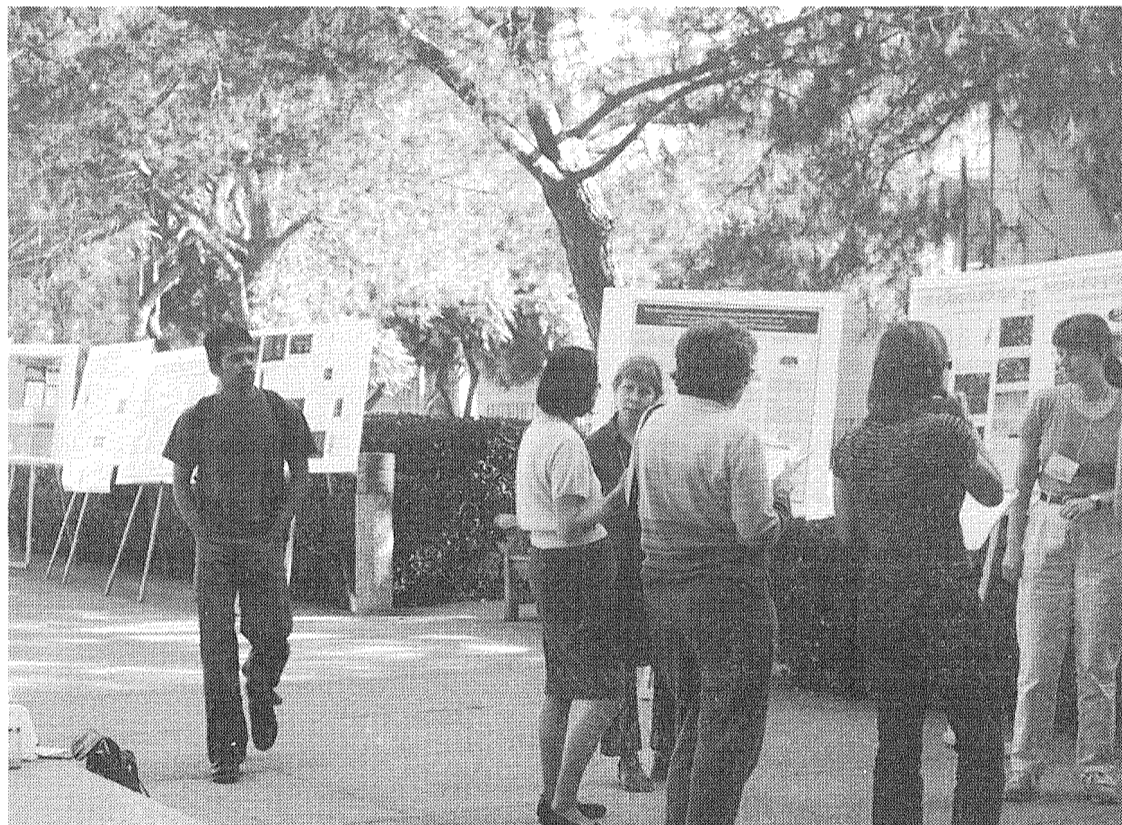
Changing the subject to address the current political climate regarding the Iraq issue, Ritter argued that it was his patriotic duty to question the policies of the Bush administration.

He slammed the administration for suppressing any discussion of our Iraqi policy under the guise of patriotism and accused the administration of misleading the American people regarding the purported link between Saddam and Al-Qaeda. Indeed, Ritter at one point flatly stated that the well publicized meeting between one of the September 11 attackers and a top Al-Qaeda official in fact never happened.

Instead of preparing for war, Ritter argued that the solution to the current crisis is weapons inspections held under international law and free from US interference.

Ritter's comments were very well received by the audience of students, faculty and non-Caltech attendees. Throughout the talk people both inside and outside the auditorium enthusiastically applauded Ritter's words.

However, there was some muted dissent in the swelled ranks. "Ritter has not been in UNSCOM for four years and doesn't know what's going on in Iraq today," said one junior afterwards, who wished to remain anonymous. "He's just saying these things for political gain."



T. Ma/The California Tech

Women and men chat about the posters lined up outside Beckman Institute during the two-day seminar.

## In Wake of Vectors Pullout, Replacement Pick Looms

*Continued from Page 1, Column 5*

cused on the prospect of bringing world-class art to Caltech. Few editorials published in mainstream newspapers could understand students' objections to obtaining such a piece.

Regardless of any rivalry that may have existed between those who supported and those who attacked the proposal, it is clear that the issue has fostered increased communication between all members of the Caltech community. Students who once may have shied away from decisions on campus life have had a chance to get involved and discussion everywhere of matters relevant to the future of Caltech has become more commonplace.

In the eyes of many, the next step for both sides is to take these lessons learned and apply them towards wrapping up the art crisis. The student body seems more ready than ever to accept a position on the Art Committee, which will certainly be more attuned to the preferences of the student community this time around.

Pasadena city law requires that all buildings of a certain size have funds set aside for public art, but this is as specific as it gets. "Public art, can be many things, as long as it's open to the public," according to Hall Daily, assistant vice president and director of Government and Community Relations.

With the combined imagination and resourcefulness of all those who care for our campus, it's easy to believe that a creative solution to this requirement will be found soon and that the lessons from *Vectors* will still apply the next time the administration and student affairs cross.

Concluded Jou, "I hope it will help the undergrads see that they are being listened to. Maybe this decision will encourage more undergrads to speak up and get involved, because we really can accomplish things when we put effort into them."

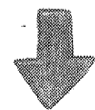
### CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH



**Vectors no more:** After months of debate and controversy, undergrads no longer have to worry about the steel structure that almost blocked our view of beloved Beckman.



**TURLI Fries:** Caltech's Master Plan has got some great ideas for house improvements, but are we going to even see any of the action before we leave Caltech?



**Caltech Sports:** How come we don't hold bonfires anymore? Maybe we should let ASCIT start taking over our athletics program again.

## Question of the Week

What will President David Baltimore select to replace *Vectors*?

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