

D. Korta/The California Tech

Humanities chairperson Jean Ensminger has rejected a second, last-ditch, Hail-Mary student petition to reinstate dismissed popular Russian literature and language professor George Cheron.

## Ensminger Dismisses Second Cheron Petition

By ROBERT LI

A petition to reinstate George Cheron, the popular Russian studies lecturer dismissed under contentious circumstances last year, has been rejected by Professor in Anthropology Jean Ensminger, the current chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). According to Ensminger, "There are no plans to rehire him."

Cheron taught intermediate Russian language and Russian literature in translation for 20 years until June 2002, the last term Russian was of-

ferred. One year earlier, in February of 2001, Cheron had received a surprise letter from Professor of Humanities John Ledyard, the HSS Division Chair at the time, informing him that the Russian studies program would be discontinued.

The sudden termination came as a great surprise to Cheron as well as the Caltech community because the classes Cheron taught, especially his Russian literature course, were extremely popular among students. At one point, 91 students

Continued on Page 4, Column 1

## Despite Invitation, Students Absent in Post-Vectors Meeting

By PHIL ERNST

Students won a major victory last month when Institute Art Committee chairman Pietro Perona approved an ASCIT-led motion to seat a student representative on the committee charged with selecting a replacement for *Vectors*.

However, despite an explicit invitation, student leaders cited miscommunication in their failure to send a representative to last week's first IAC meeting, raising concerns among students that the snub may further deafen administrators' ears to student concerns.

The invitation came at an auspicious time, just after students graduate and undergraduate broke Caltech's longstanding tradition of apathy to campaign successfully for Caltech President Baltimore to reject a sculpture proposal by renowned modernist Richard Serra that would have placed a lightning-bolt-like "wall"—*Vectors*—across the center of Beckman Lawn.

A majority of undergraduates spoke out staunchly against the proposal. For many, it was not the nature of the artwork that disturbed them but a feeling of disenfranchisement that ultimately encouraged them to take action. The IAC, which reviewed *Vectors*, convenes monthly to speak about issues relating to public art at Caltech, but included no student in its prelimi-

nary meetings.

To students' delight, Dr. Baltimore ultimately rejected *Vectors*. Meanwhile, students sought to right past wrongs and this time around insert a representative in the meetings of the IAC aimed at selecting a replacement for *Vectors*.

ASCIT President Ted Jou '03 asked Pietro Perona, the temporary chair of the IAC, if he would consider the possibility of allowing a student to serve on the committee. Dr. Perona, after debating Jou's suggestion and receiving a unanimous vote in favor of the proposal, instructed each of Jou and Graduate Student Council chairman Chip Sumner to select a student representative.

The decision was a triumph for the constant student campaign to assert itself in administrative decision-making processes. Jou, however, was unsure of how to proceed in selecting an appropriate student representative. He believed that it was important to involve the Interhouse Committee in the decision-making process, stating that "it was unclear where the responsibility lay for appointing students to such committees."

However, because progress screeched to a halt between ASCIT and IHC to establish a unified procedure, Dr. Perona sent an e-mail to Jou again on November 20 asking for a representative. Feeling that

the issue could wait no longer, on November 26th, Jou sidestepped the ASCIT-IHC standstill to hand-select Ryan McDaniel '03 for the position. There were sufficient votes from the ASCIT BoD in favor of McDaniel to confirm his selection.

Last week, however, the Institute Art Committee reconvened for the first time since Baltimore's cancel-

Continued on Page 4, Column 1

## VP MARSHAK STRIVES TO REPRESENT

'INTRIGUED' BY HOUSE TRADITION

Professional Administrator Brings NYU, U. Penn.

Experience to Caltech

By MARK POLINKOVSKY

"My job is to represent the interests of the students," said incoming Student Affairs Vice President Margo Marshak about her new post.

After spending more than 20 years in high-ranking student-affairs positions,

Dr. Marshak comes to Caltech as the first full-time vice president of Student Affairs. Besides voicing students' views in meetings with other administrators, Dr. Marshak directs the extensive department of Student Affairs.

Selected for the position out of a large field of highly qualified candidates, she has extensive experience in the field, with experience in similar roles at such prestigious universities as New York University, the University of Chicago and the Law School of the University

Continued on Page 8, Column 1

## FIRST-PLACE CODERS AIM FOR WORLD

TAKES FIRST PLACE IN SO. CAL. ICPC

D'Angelo, Burnim, Paymer Prepare For Showdown

By TAMMY MA

Known for possessing many and varied talents, Caltech students for the second year in a row have also proven themselves among the top programmers in the world. Caltech swept the Southern California Regional competition of IBM-sponsored ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) as two Caltech teams took first and second place.

Caltech's first-place team is composed of Nate Paymer '03, Adam D'Angelo '06 and Jacob Burnim '06, with Ben Brantley serving as coach. This team will move on to the World Finals in March, where 64 teams from around the world will converge in Beverly Hills.

The ICPC is a worldwide competition established close to 30 years ago to "gather the world's brightest computer whiz kids for an all-out 'battle of the brains.'" Each team, composed of three undergraduates led by a coach, faces a series of six to eight complex, real-world programming challenges, all within a five-hour time limit.

Each team has just one computer to work with, so the problems test not only programming skill but also teamwork and creativity. The teammates must collaborate to rank the

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

## Philosophy, Robotics and Fun Highlight Annual ME 72 Bout

By ADAM SEARS

Deadly hand-to-hand combat. Spectacular explosions. A mysterious duo that appears from the shadows and a grizzled veteran who takes newcomers under his wing. These are all things that go into making a good Steaven Seagal movie.

Of course, they worked just as well this Thursday afternoon, when 24 students fought to the end in a nearly packed Beckman Auditorium, less than an hour away from Hollywood. There, Caltech's own collection of elite mechanical warriors gathered from across the United States, met to decide once and for all who was the better engineer this year.

The annual ME 72 contest, one of Caltech's most anticipated events, has deep roots in tradition, but has also evolved with the university. First conceived in 1985, the debut competition took place in the Thomas Laboratory, with few more than a dozen participants. Subsequent events graduated in size and audience, through Baxter and Ramo auditoriums, until finally settling in at the current venue.

In preparing for the contest, each team of two students—typically junior or senior mechanical engineering or engineering and applied science majors—must spend hours in the lab, constructing, scheming and testing several mechanical robotic prototypes. In fact, though already an intimidating 15-credit course, students usually allocate even more time. Their creations must be designed to carry out sev-

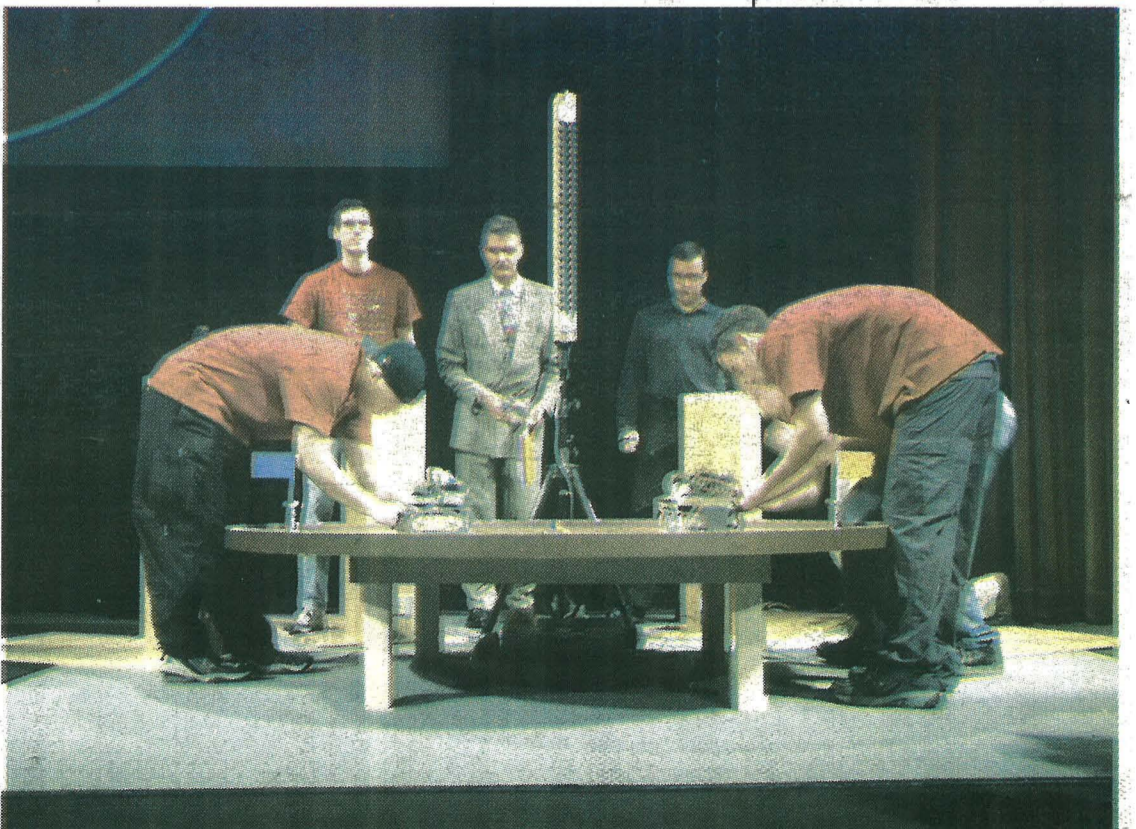
eral delicate tasks, while remaining rugged enough to rout other robots.

Specifically, this year's task was to remove a flag and plant it halfway across a raised table in another team's receptacle. Although occasionally this feat was accomplished, more often a simple points system centered on smaller tasks decided the victor.

Nearly everyone agreed, however, that even when compared to other such campus-wide events as ASCIT doughnut nights, this contest stands out. Its uniqueness makes it special and its topic brings in a sizeable cross-section of the Caltech community.

"There's nothing else like it for the rest of the year," noted Joy Qiu.

Continued on Page 2, Column 1



J. Mao/The California Tech

Student-engineers face off at last Thursday's annual ME 72 mechanical engineering contest. From "bags of junk," competitors hand-crafted robots over the course of the term to play a game akin to capture-the-flag.

# Capture-the-flag Game Sorts Winners, Losers in Bot-battle

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

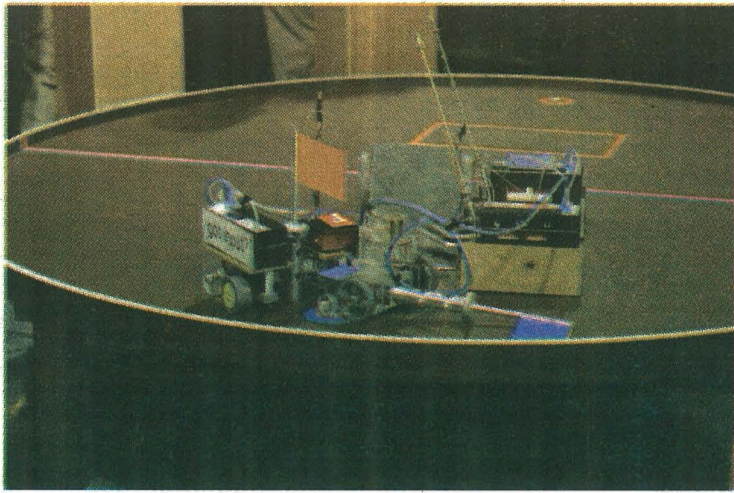
'03. "And even the professors go. It's like our school sport." Indeed, the event drew in everyone from alumni to athletics coaches and undergraduates to graduate students. About the only time when such a diverse group of Caltech students seems to be congregated is at graduation.

To some, this year's action was more exciting than that of past years. While nearly every competition has involved remotely controlled robots of some sort, it's the rules that make each year different. Several students noted that usual team rivalries proved more interesting in the most recent contest. "This year's is better, because some of them actually designed theirs to go and womp on other people," commented Binghai Ling '05. "It's like Battle Bots on TV, except it's live and I know everyone who's in it."

Just like an action movie, this tournament had its share of heroes. Several teams came back swiftly from initial defeats and disappointments, one even making it all the way to the finals. "There's an incredible amount of luck in it," mused second-place champion Sal Trujillo '04. "There's no connection between our grades and the outcome."

Both Trujillo and another competitor, Chad Kessens '03, acknowledged the support of staff behind the scenes, however. The senior shop mechanics, John van Deusen and Rodney Rojas, were on hand to find spare parts, answer more open-ended questions and switch components between rounds.

At times the action in the individual battles, which made up rounds in the competition, was



Courtesy of K. Scott

**Crafted from a "bag of junk," a hand-made robot captures the flag in last week's rendition of the annual ME 72 engineering contest. The ethos of the long-anticipated bot-bout touched on larger notions of mechanics of philosophy.**

hard to distinguish from similar professional programs shown on such respectable networks as Comedy Central and PBS. Granted, restrictions in parts and rules eliminated much chance of flame throwers or huge power drill weapons and a less-than-Hollywood

*"It's like Battle Bots on TV, except it's live and I know everyone who's in it."*

Binghai Ling '05

budget meant that the "spectacular explosions" were more in the form of "tendrils of smoke" leaping from competitors' rat sized robots.

Still, as the afternoon progressed, the crowd often surged forward in their seats whenever a cornered cre-

ation was about to be tossed off the table, with the mechanical equivalent of hands or just a really aggressive wedgie.

The mood also heightened each time a new team of competitors would enter the stage, from the hidden depths behind the curtains where repairs were made and reinforcements forged as noblemen and women made the race of machines their slave.

Some might be tempted to philosophize about the conflicts between man and machine in the contest. At times, the vehicles started and stuttered all on their own, a problem quickly attributed to "radio noise" in the arena. Robots frequently seemed to disregard or misinterpret their masters after being recklessly rammed at their opponents. They used rationed power, provided at the flick of a switch only by their human operators.

Trujillo, however, who spent hours toiling on his project, can attest that his creation is nothing more than the sum of its parts. Regarding the chance of its sentence, he admitted only that it's possible the electronics hated him. After many quick rounds lasting less than a minute, including some very entertaining matchups and guest appearances from Doctor Placido, the competition escalated into a final match between the rovers created by Trujillo and his partner Tyler Kakuda '03 and those by Euan McLeod '04 and Brian Hefelfinger '04.

In a heart-wrenching technical victory, the McLeod-Hefelfinger devices triumphed in what ultimately boiled down to a game of endurance. Despite frequent heckling and the occasional more pointed cheer, the crowd was mostly excited just to be there at the heart of the action—not to mention sorry that it had ended so soon. But one anonymous freshman noted that it's only another year until violence and machine oil once again descend upon the peaceful town of Pasadena. "I'm already geared for the event," he said.

# Caltech Study Describes Workings of 'Deep Ocean'

By ROBERT TINDOL

Scientists know quite a bit about surface conditions during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), a period that peaked about 18,000 years ago, when ice covered significant portions of Canada and northern Europe.

But to really understand the mechanisms involved in climate change, scientists need to have detailed knowledge of the interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere. And until now, a key component of that knowledge has been lacking for the LGM because of limited understanding of the glacial deep ocean.

In a paper to be published in the November 29 issue of the journal *Science*, researchers from the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University report the first measurements for the temperature-salinity distribution of the glacial deep ocean.

The results show unexpectedly that the basic mechanism of the distribution was different during icy times. "You can think of the global ocean as a big bathtub, with the densest water at bottom and the lightest at top," explained Jess Adkins, assistant professor of geochemistry and global environmental science and lead author of the paper.

Because water that is cold or salty—or both—is dense, it tends to flow downward in a vertical circulation pattern, much like water falling down the sides of the bathtub, until it finds its correct density level. In the ocean today, this circulation mechanism tends to be dominated by the temperature of the water.

In studying chlorine data from four ocean drilling program sites, the researchers found that the glacial deep ocean's circulation was set by the salinity of the water. In addition, a person walking on the ocean bottom from north to south, 18,000 years ago, would have found that the water tended to get saltier as he proceeded, within an acceptable margin of error, accounting for the fact that both north and south waters were the same temperature. Taking that into consideration, the water in the north would have been noticeably less dense than it is today.

The exact reverse is true today, with the waters at low southern latitudes being very cold and relatively fresh, while those in the high northern latitudes being warmer and saltier.

Dr. Adkins claimed that there is a good explanation for the change. The seawater "equation of state" dictates that the density of water near the freezing point is about two to three times more sensitive to changes in salinity relative to changes in temperature, as compared to today's warmer deep waters. And so, the state equation demands that the resultant density-layering of the so-called ocean "bath tub" be determined by the water's salt content at the most recent glacial maximum.

Meanwhile, temperature is still crucial, in that colder waters are more sensitive to salinity changes than warmer water, but Dr. Adkins' results show that the deep water circulation mechanism must have operated in a fundamentally different manner in the past.

"This observation of the deep ocean seems like a strange place to go to study Earth's climate, but this is where you find most of the mass and thermal inertia of the climate system," Dr. Adkins said.

The ocean's water temperature enters into the complex mechanism affecting the climate, with water moving about in order for the ocean to equalize its temperature. Additionally, the water and air interact to further complicate the weather equation.

Thus, the results from the glacial deep ocean shows that the climate in those days was operating in a very different way, Dr. Adkins said. "Basically, the purpose of this study is to understand the mechanisms of climate change."

In addition to Dr. Adkins, the study's other authors include Katherine McIntyre, a postdoctoral candidate in geochemistry at Caltech and Daniel P. Schrag of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University.

## CALTECH GETS NEW FIVE-YEAR JPL CONTRACT

By JILL PERRY

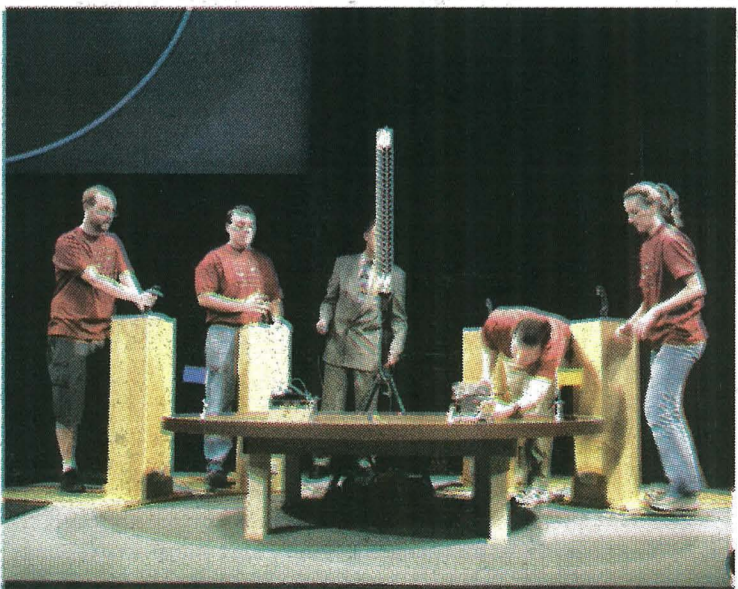
Caltech has been awarded a new five-year contract to operate the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It is estimated the contract will cover over \$8 billion worth of work. The contract extends for five years the JPL agreement between Caltech and NASA for management of JPL beyond its current expiration date of Sept. 30, 2003. Consistent with the agency's "One NASA" initiative, the new contract will more closely align JPL's policies and procedures with those of other NASA centers.

JPL is NASA's only federally funded research and development center.

## 'SPECTACULAR EXPLOSIONS'



Courtesy of K. Scott



J. Mao/The California Tech

### CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH

**Caltech Coders Impress Judges:** For the second year in a row, Caltech will send a team of student programmers to the ACM International collegiate Programming Contest.

**ME 72:** It's not quite Battle Bots, but this live action technical war is just as entertaining. Should we be proud or sad that our 'school sport' is not football but robots competing?

**Miscommunicated Meeting:** The undergraduates won a victory with the rejection of the *Vectors* proposal, but failure to show at the Institute Art Committee meeting seems to reflect badly on the student body.

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## Life After Caltech in Mind, Mannion, Jurca Plot Wine-tasting, Cooking Courses

By JON FOSTER

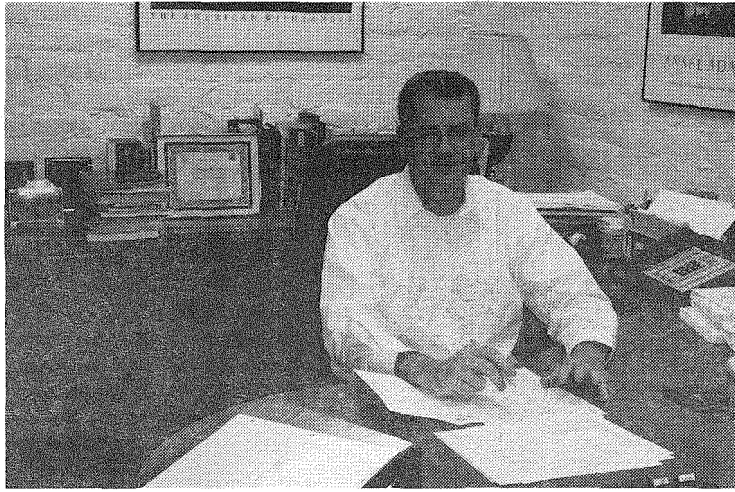
"The big transition in your social life after college is dinner parties," explained Dr. Catherine Jurca. "It would be really nice to have a class where students can learn some basic good cooking skills."

In aid of this, Jurca, who is also Master of Student Houses and Tom Mannion, director of Campus and Auxillary Business Services, are currently discussing plans for two courses, one in the culinary arts and one in wine tasting. The cooking class would be the first one implemented and Mannion is meeting with the registrar to find out what getting this class added to the catalog would involve. This would be a for-credit course, probably listed as a chemistry or performing arts class.

A wine-tasting-for-credit class is further off in the future, but Jurca has plans for an informal series of wine tastings for seniors and faculty in the spring term. "A course would never be able to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend," said Jurca. For spring term she envisions something like 6 afternoons of wine tasting at the MOSH's house, with each senior invited to one afternoon. "Everyone would get a chance to go to one. We would introduce students to basic information about wines: nose, glasses, nationalities..."

Faculty attendance at these wine tastings is something Jurca would be particularly interested in harboring and not just because her MOSH budget includes money for faculty-student interactions. "I would like to invite faculty, I've actually been to some wine tastings with some junior faculty members." Mannion also mentioned that there were several faculty members with a strong interest in wine who might be willing to contribute a bottle or two of their personal collection. To accompany the wine, Jurca and Mannion envision some little parcels of food, although probably not the stereotypical accompaniment of wine, cheese. "Cheese was created to mask the taste of bad wine," said Mannion, "snacks to accompany wine tasting should not cover the palate."

If the cooking class works out well and the MOSH wine tasting sessions are a success, both Jurca and Mannion hope eventually to introduce a for-credit class in wine-tasting or wine chemistry. Mannion already has a possible textbook



D. Kortal/The California Tech

Director of Campus and Auxillary Business Services, Tom Mannion, wants to share his passion for wine with Caltech students.

picked out called "Wine Chemistry". "Our major partner in such a course would probably be UC Davis," he added, "which is a hub of wine tasting and wine development."

Such a class would have a few extra issues to address, including the participation of underclassmen who would not yet be 21. Mannion notes that this might not be such a big issue, "In professional courses you will taste a lot of wines and in general you never swallow". He also notes that Cornell University offers a wine tasting class through its hotel school and they simply have students who are under 21 sign a promise not to swallow.

So what is the real likelihood that Wine Tasting and Culinary Arts will fairly soon become classes at Caltech? Mannion contends "There are really no road blocks to this," and notes that his research indicates that 90-95% of the student body would be interested in such classes. ASCIT is also in favor and has already passed two resolutions, one in favor of each class. The wine-tasting one reads: "Whereas the art of wine tasting is culturally significant, Whereas the Institute does not currently offer many classes intended purely for entertainment or cultural purposes, Whereas participation in such classes can be fun, relaxing and offer a welcome respite from the Institute's intense academic pressure, Be it resolved by the ASCIT Board of Directors, on this day November 15, 2002, that: It is the sense of the Board of Directors that an Institute-sponsored wine tasting class is desirable and further, would be beneficial to and in the best interests of the

Caltech student body."

And it would also grease the wheels of our future social lives. In the words of Jurca, "It would also be about giving students an entry into the world of good wine lists, dinner parties and business lunches."

## ZHANG, TIVOL MARK LETTERS

### Tivol Not Alumni Head

Dear editors,

On the third page of the last issue we read, "Tivol, who led the alumni organization for years..." Although I have been active in the alumni Fund for years and have served as regional and decade chairs—a position of some leadership—I have not been the leader of the Fund and I have had no leadership in the Alumni Association. My observations, which follow the phrase I quoted, were based on my position as decade chair for the Fund.

Yours,

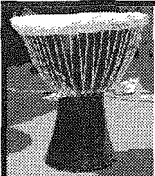
Bill Tivol

### 'Kurds' Facts Faulty

Dear editors,

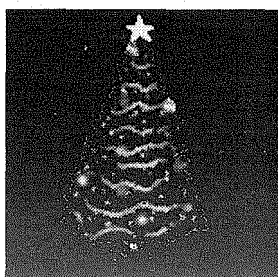
I have read the article "Oil-Starved Kurds Expect Bush To Help" by Libin Zhang in the issue before last. In the fourth paragraph of this article, it reads that "In 1992 the Turkish government mounted a

Continued on Page 4, Column 4



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The California Tech wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!!



E. Adams/The California Tech

Master of Student Houses, Dr. Catherine Jurca hopes to convince administration to support a course in the culinary arts. She also plans to host a series of wine tastings for seniors and faculty in the spring term.

## Marshall Award Winner Mittal Heads to Oxford

By LAUREN STOLPER

Vikram Mittal '03 has won the Marshall Scholarship, which will finance two years of graduate work in mechanical engineering at Oxford University in England.

The Marshall Commission announced yesterday the names of the 40 winners of the Marshall Scholarship. Over 1000 seniors compete yearly for this prestigious award and scholars may attend any university in Great Britain.

Former ASCIT President Eric Tuttle '01 is now a Marshall Scholar studying neurosciences at University College London. Likewise, Mittal now serves as ASCIT's vice president and chairman of the Board of Control. He spent last winter in Cambridge as part of the Cambridge Scholars Program.

At Cambridge, Mittal resided in Pembroke College and played for the college's rugby team. His Caltech experience abroad whetted his appetite for living in foreign lands and his Marshall Scholarship will allow him to reside in England for two years after graduating from Caltech this June. At Oxford he

plans to pursue his interest in the design of helicopters and will earn a master's degree.

The Marshall Scholarship was commissioned in 1953 and endowed by the British government as a symbolic thank-you to the United States for aid given under the Marshall Plan. The scholarships are named after General George C. Marshall, who originated the post-World War II program for European recovery. The Prince of Wales is "honorary patron" of the Marshall Scholarships and the British Ambassador is "honorary director."

Former Caltech president Tom Everhart was in the first class of Marshall Scholars. Other Caltech faculty who won Marshall Scholarships include professor and alumnus Steryl Phinney '80 and professors Jonas Peters, Edward Stolper and Stephen Quake.

Among other well-known Marshall Scholars are U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer, *Time Magazine* senior editor Nancy R. Gibbs and scientist Ray Dolby, inventor of Dolby sound systems.



K. Bartz/The California Tech

Vikram Mittal '03 is this year's winner of a Marshall Scholarship that will finance two years of graduate study at Oxford.



## teaching tip 3

### Give specific guidelines for show-and-tell day.

Save your spot at the next information meeting – Tuesday, January 7, 7 p.m.

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# Cheron, Russian Lit. Program Gone, Says HSS Chair Ensminger

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

were enrolled in his "Russian Literature in Translation" class.

Once news of Cheron's dismissal became known, students and faculty circulated petitions in an effort to get Cheron reinstated. However, Dr. Ledyard rejected these petitions and refused to change his decision. Fighting back, Cheron himself pushed for reinstatement and publicly stated that Ledyard was "personally biased" against him and that he had been "inhumanely" treated.

In response, faculty chairperson Marianne Bronner-Fraser appointed a committee to investigate Cheron's case. The committee found no evidence of personal bias on Dr. Ledyard's part but did conclude that "the Caltech faculty is accustomed to having its colleagues treated with compassion and sympathy...the handling of Dr. Cheron's case fell short of meeting these customary expectations."

The committee further stated that Cheron deserved an apology and mandated that measures be taken to prevent such a situation from reoccurring.

Then, on June 15, Professor of Anthropology Jean Ensminger replaced Dr. Ledyard as the chairperson of the division. Again swelled with hope, a group of students petitioned once more for Cheron's reinstatement. However, Dr. Ensminger upheld her predecessor's rejection.

According to Dr. Ensminger, budget limitations force the faculty to pick courses that best suit the needs of undergraduates. "We have added many new language classes in recent years," said Dr. Ensminger, "and we obviously need to make choices based upon the

level of demand for each language. The enrollments indicate that there is more demand for each of the languages we currently offer—Spanish, French, German, Chinese and Japanese—than there was for Russian language."

Moreover, she emphasized that it is not the division chairperson but rather the faculty who wield the final power in hiring decisions and curriculum changes. The decision to end the Russian program, she explained, "was a unanimous vote of the humanities faculty."

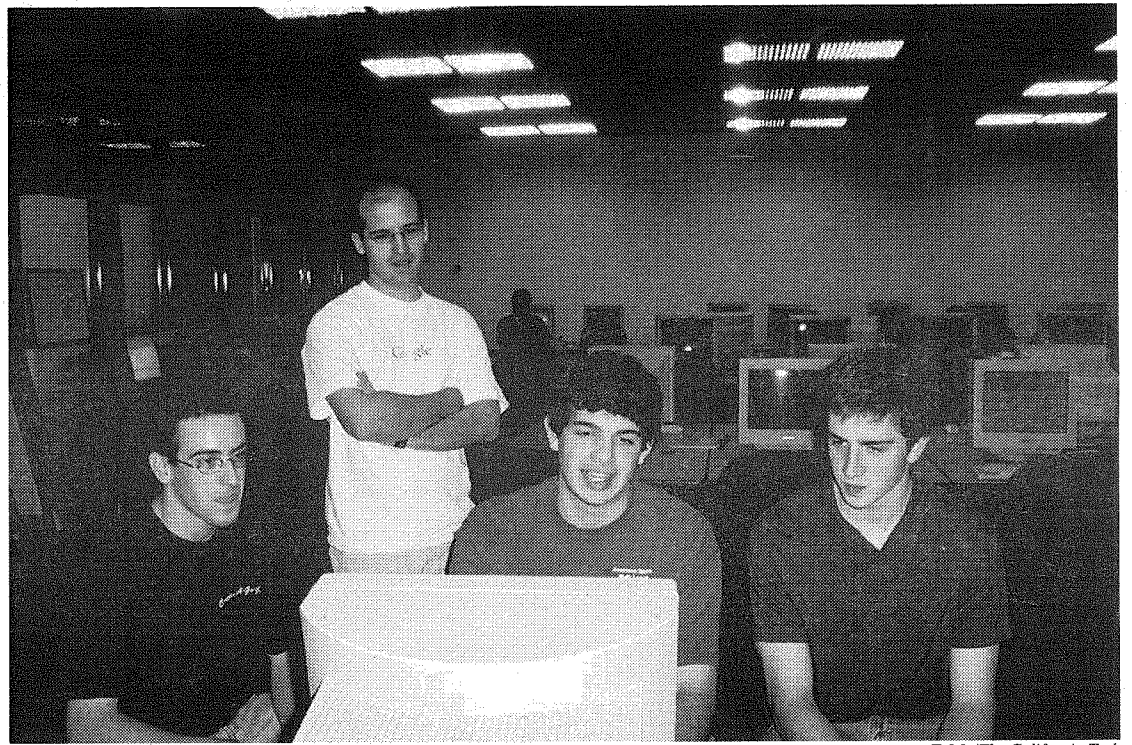
On the issue of Russian literature, Dr. Ensminger responded that "we generally use the full-time tenure track faculty to teach literature classes." As for the future, Dr. Ensminger said that HSS is currently evaluating and reshaping the curriculum. She plans to seek student input during the winter term on what new courses they would like to see. Already, Dr. Ensminger says that there is strong interest in psychology, sociology, physical anthropology and human evolution.

As for Russian, it seems that, for now, it is *da svedanya*.



Courtesy of caltech.edu

As chairperson of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ensminger aims to flesh out Caltech's slate of psychology and anthropology courses as part of a general effort to "reshape the curriculum."



T. Ma/The California Tech

Caltech's programming team of Nate Paymer '03, Jacob Burnim '06, Adam D'Angelo '06 and coach Ben Brantley slave away at a practice session in preparation for their upcoming World Finals.

## Creativity, Precision, Speed Propel Coders To World Championship

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

difficulty of the problems, deduce the requirements, design test beds and build software systems that solve the problems under the severe scrutiny of expert judges.

For a well-versed computer science student, some of the problems require precision only. Others require a knowledge and understanding of advanced algorithms. Still others are simply too hard to solve—except, of course, for the world's brightest problem-solvers. The team that solves the most problems correctly, with the fewest attempts in the least amount of time, emerges as the champion.

Burnim commented on the difficulty of the competition. "There's lots of time pressure," he said. "Even if you're going to finish everything, you need to finish it before the other teams."

In the last few years, the competition has grown to over 17,000 students worldwide participating in the contest. This year's Southern Cali-

fornia Regional competition was held on November 16 at Riverside Community College. Seventy teams represented 25 different universities in the area.

For its part, Caltech had a great showing, with its three teams coming in first, second and 13th places. The second place team was formed by Po-Shen Loh '04, Leo Polovets '03 and James Mao '06. Also turning heads by beating out teams from University of Southern California, University of California at L.A., Cal. Poly. and Brigham Young University was the 13th-place team of Brandon Moore '05, Joe Johnson '06 and Vanessa Krause '06.

Each team was given one warm-up problem, followed by six contest problems, all with ominous names such as "PCM Frame Construction," and "Skew Binary."

The first-place team members called their experience "pretty exciting." According to Paymer, there was "some time in the middle where we had problems and we felt

the pressure there," but other than that, the team didn't experience too much stress or trauma. Although the competition was fierce from all directions, Paymer said, "I was most afraid of the B team [also from Caltech]." Nevertheless, Team A achieved an impressive and rare feat by solving correctly all six problems posed to them. Observed Jacob, "It was kind of surprising how big a margin we won by."

Said coach and CS staffer Brantley, "Caltech has a tradition of producing the best and the brightest. The opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities in the ACM Programming Contest is a great way to showcase the strengths of our computer science undergraduates... the students who participated did so mostly out of self-motivation—they enjoy the heat of the competition and fast-paced problem solving."

Generally, the top two teams in the Southern California region advance to the finals. Unfortunately, because the contest does not allow two teams from the same school in the world championships, Caltech's second team will not get the opportunity to go. Instead, the third place team, composed of members from the University of California at San Diego will advance.

To prepare for the intense competition, the teams practiced once per week for two hours during first term and held one weekend mock competition. Students had the option to receive credit through CS 11 for their effort. The champion team will continue working hard throughout second term to keep their problem-solving skills sharp.

"Since the team receives six hours to solve problems, but only one computer, they'll also continue to work on their resource-sharing and task allocation skills before the contest," commented Brantley.

Caltech has historically been a strong contender and has won the world finals twice, in 1986 and 1988. Last year, Caltech also sent a team to the world finals, which took place in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Coach Brantley is hopeful of this year's team. "You should definitely look for results early third term from the contest," he said. "Caltech has a great chance of winning the US, North America and quite possibly even the world competition! We have two strong freshmen fresh off the United States' high school IOI team and Nate brings an enormous amount of experience and skill to round out the bunch."

And with just a hint of smugness, D'Angelo concluded by pointing to the team's success over its traditional rivals. "MIT didn't make it to the finals this year," he said.

## 'Miscommunication' Leads To Student Absence at IAC Meet

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

lution of Vectors—and, to their chagrin, watched as no undergraduate showed, leaving some administrators unsure as to whether their decision to allow students to serve on the committee was indeed worthwhile.

Hall Daily, vice president of Government and Community Relations and a sitting member on the Institute Art Committee, was surprised that no student attended the meeting. "I have always thought it was important that students, especially undergraduates, be represented," said Daily, "and seeing that they expressed anger with Serra's proposal, I was quite surprised they did not take advantage of their new opportunity to be part of the committee."

Daily further noted that students should try to take more advantage of every privilege offered to them, arguing that a student position on the Institute Art Committee was a "monumental step in achieving better student-administration relations."

Daily also called this new student privilege "a watershed opportunity for students to participate in decisions whose ramifications will last long beyond their years at Caltech."

Professor of History Robert Rosenstone, who is currently working at the Getty Museum on his sabbatical, was also eager to comment.

Dr. Rosenstone, who chaired the Institute Art Committee for many years, mused about how he had wished that students had cared more about the institute's public artwork.

"There was a sculpture garden for three years right near Avery House that drew attention from the *Star-News* and the *L.A. Times*," Dr. Rosenstone said. "Although many tourists would come to Pasadena to see it, I don't think many students even knew about it."

Dr. Rosenstone also said that Caltech offers many art programs for which students have shown little interest. Thus, when Dr. Rosenstone was informed of the hundreds of e-mails that students sent to administrators about the *Vectors* plan, he was quite pleased.

"I have always thought that it was important for students to be involved in the institute's decision-making processes," he maintained. "Luckily, we have not had campus wars about public artwork displays, but because we value students so much, we must hear their opinions."

When notified that a student had been appointed to the Institute Art Committee, Rosenstone commented, "although I never had thought of appointing a student to the committee, I am glad the action was taken."

Naturally, then, he was also disappointed that the student had not showed at the meeting, calling it a "missed opportunity."

Asked to comment on the appointment, students agreed that they were quite satisfied. Ernest Yeung '03 called the appointment "an important step on behalf of the administration to accommodate student demands."

However, Yeung also noted that regardless of the administrations decisions, students should give their full support to Dr. Baltimore Baltimore, seeing that the past year has been a financially difficult one for Caltech. "I feel that Baltimore has done a great deal to help keep the school financially afloat," he noted, "and I respect him for that."

With students backing the move for the IAC representative, Jou cited a lack of communication for the absence. "I honestly did not know that there was a meeting scheduled for that date," he said.

McDaniel '03, when contacted about his absence, also expressed that a lack of communication had occurred. "I was not informed of the meeting," McDaniel said, "but I am planning and have been planning to attend the one this month."

The next Institute Art Committee takes place on December 18 at 4 p.m.

## ZHANG 'UNFAIR'

Continued from Page 3, Column 3

concerted attack on its Kurdish minority to destroy nationalist guerrillas, killing more than 20,000 and creating two million refugees, adding to the millions of Iraqi Kurd refugees." This statement is absolutely incorrect! Turkish government has never ever attacked on its own Kurdish people. They attacked the terrorists (not the nationalist guerrillas) who have been killing from babies to old people, from school teachers to soldiers for years and years. This terrorist organization, called PKK, which the U.S. government recognizes as a terrorist group is responsible of more than 35,000 dead people in Turkey including Kurdish people as well who were opposed to this terrorist group. Another important point I would like to make is that during the Gulf War, lots of Iraqi Kurdish people came to the border of Turkey to be able to escape from Saddam Hussein. And the Turkish government opened its borders and allowed Iraqi Kurdish refugees to enter Turkey where they were safe. During this time, lots of newspapers reported that if Turkey had not opened its borders to Kurdish people, there could have been another mass killing of Kurds by Saddam Hussein! I think that this part of the article by Libin Zhang is very unfair.

Sincerely,

Tamer Inanc  
Postdoctoral candidate

# MOCKERY OF RICH PEOPLE 'POOR TASTE'

## Tables Turned As Ruddock Moves On Dabney

By MATTHEW WALKER

The world's 225 richest people have a combined wealth of over \$1 trillion, equaling the combined income of the world's 2.5 billion poorest people. The three richest people have assets greater than the combined GDP of the world's 48 poorest countries.

Besides the huge responsibility required of those that are richer than whole countries, these rich people face oppression from the wide-spread use of institutions that reduce the wealth disparity. Progressive tax systems around the world punish rich people with tax rates of 40% and higher. Vandals steal the Mercedes and Jaguar hood ornaments. Replacements go for \$1200 and higher. In some countries, being wealthy subjects you to threats of death. Hoodlums break into your house and take you hostage until you give them your money.

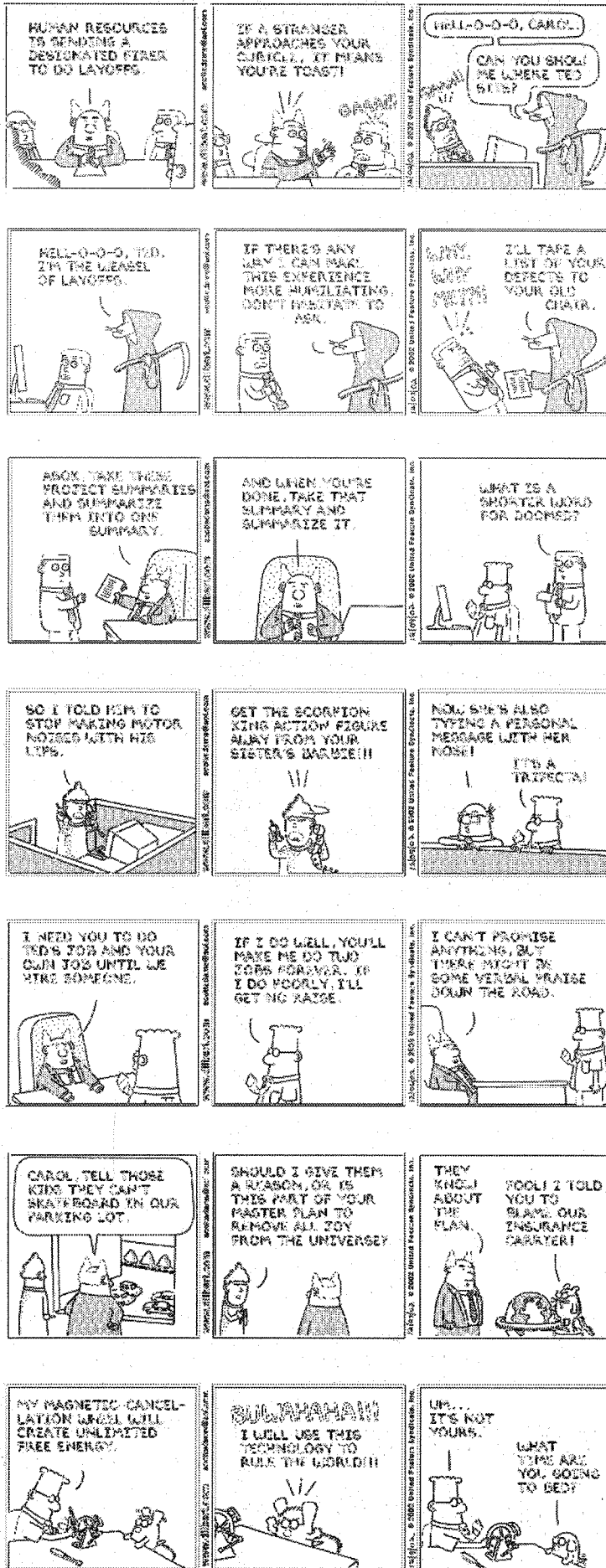
Luckily, the rich have taken control in many countries, leading to sweeping tax cuts and reducing the poor even further to diminish the threat they represent. Rich men have mastered the system, using their superior resources to prevent the discrimination they face. In time, they will eliminate the disadvantages they feel. Unfortunately, however, the persecution of the rich is still pervasive throughout the world. For this reason, it is not funny at all to mock them.

This brings us to the unfortunate example of Ruddock House. Last Wednesday, dressed as "snobs," the Rudds rudely disturbed the Dabney dinner. Shouting nonsense into their cell phones and talking in arrogant tones, they attempted to imitate the behavior they think rich people exhibit. Many chose to wear attire that they perceived to be characteristic of rich people, such as sweaters over the shoulders, slicked-back hair and sports coats. Several carried tennis rackets, as if though rich people do nothing but play tennis.

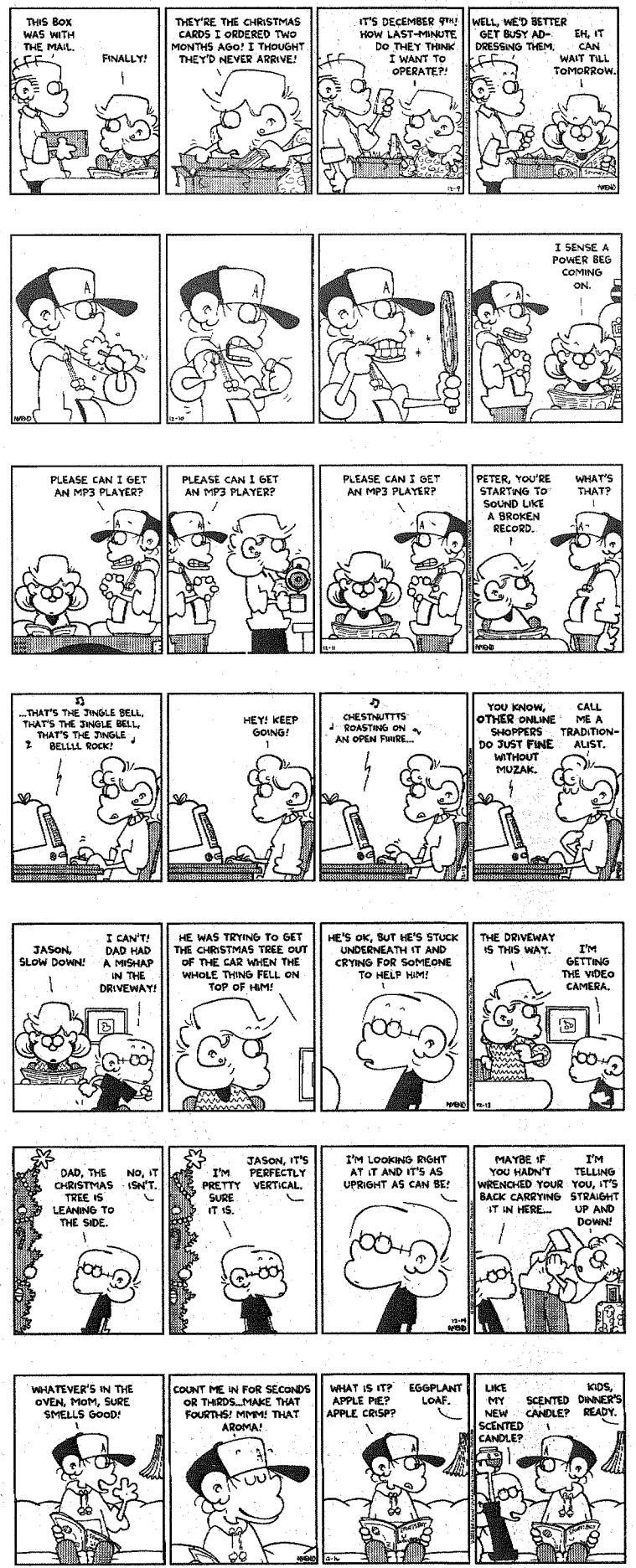
Some of the Rudds were making fun of CEOs of huge corporations. These CEOs slave for America and uphold our prosperity. This mockery is not funny and should not be allowed in the Caltech community.

Continued on Page 6, Column 2

### DILBERT® by Scott Adams



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# The Meaning of 'Forgiveness'

## A Supporter Responds to All Wings of 'Don't Attack Iraq' Crowd

By ABE FETTERMAN

I opened up last week's *Tech* to find an interesting letter: "Forgive 9/11." In this letter, there was a plea to readers to forgive the terrorists who carried out the attacks that killed thousands on September 11 of last year. I am still trying to figure out why someone would write such a letter, or if they simply never learned in kindergarten what "I'm sorry" meant.

You see, we forgive people who did something they regret. We forgive people when we believe that they would not commit the same act a second time. We forgive people for crimes that were out of their hands. The intentional murder of thousands of people, that members of the Al-Qaida would gladly do a second time given the chance—as evidenced by recent attacks on Israeli citizens and statements that we "have not learned [our] lesson"—do not fall under this category.

I certainly hope that this author does not represent a common viewpoint among American or even world citizens. But are there not equally ridiculous beliefs about the situation floating about the American public much like the not-marshmallow pieces that float about my Lucky Charms Cereal?

Perhaps the most pervasive, although least ridiculous, of these ideas is that anti-war stance "Don't Attack Iraq." But what do these people believe? Generally, I have found two classifications of people.

The first does believe Iraq poses some threat, but says that secret forces should be sent in to do the dirty deed. Ironically, these are the people that have the least faith in Washington. Despite my outstanding faith in the US military, I do not believe that these would be successful. In fact, they have a distinct history of being unsuccessful. We might recall the Gulf War, the baby of Bush Sr. and the helicopter crash that killed four "black ops" members... while returning to base. Honestly, I respect these guys a whole lot, but it seems that half of the danger of the job is in getting to and from hostile territory.

Additionally, it's much safer to declare your intentions rather than to sneak around. Consider the following conversation.

President Saddam: "You have guys sneaking around my country blowing things up. Do you not trust me?" President Bush: "Of course we trust you. We would never attack a nation that we are not at war

with. That would be dishonest." President Saddam: "I have pictures of your men wearing flags and blowing up civilians and children and farmers." United Nations: "United States, we denounce you." President Bush: "Oh no!"

As you can see, this is not something we want to have happen. Here is a better scenario.

President Saddam: "You have guys sneaking around my country

*"I simply think that an affront now will save innocent lives in the long run."*

blowing things up. Do you not trust me?" President Bush: "Of course not. That is why we are at war with you." United Nations: "Oh no!"

This is a more honest way to go and I think if you are going to be president of a big world power you should be an honest man and that is why Bush is president.

Honestly, the only way to find these well-hidden weapons caches is a brute-force method. Saddam's regime is not a stupid one and looking from a satellite or asking a secretary where they are is probably not going to work.

The second case of people is those who believe that Iraq is not a threat

and is just trying to get along. These issues are essentially too long to discuss here in the *Tech* and you are probably too steadfast in your ways to listen to the pleas and arguments of some random pundit from Rud-dock house.

As such, I suggest you read the ramblings of a more skilled writer and more masterful debater than myself. Don't get me wrong: I don't want any more needless bloodshed than anyone else. I simply think that an affront now will save innocent lives in the long run. President Saddam knows what he is doing and is playing the system and buying time.

The only way to catch such actions before they lead to something more devastating than I wish to imagine is to go in now and put a stop. To imagine a more extreme case, imagine if the world was able to catch Hitler before he had enough power, when he was creating the illusion of bringing massive military into the Rhineland when in fact it was the same trucks moving the same people across the border. Would that not have been a worthwhile endeavor? Did not the same people not say that he was simply putting up for himself, not a major threat to anyone?

If there is a .001% chance that this is of similar magnitude, is it not worthwhile to lay down the law? I leave you with these questions, for only you can provide yourself with the answers.

# From Rags to Riches

Continued from Page 5, Column 1

Let me outline some of the reasons that you Rudds have no idea what it is like to be rich.

You have a 15x12 room that you share with your roommate; rich people dwell in cavernous rooms the size of a small house. You have time to go to college; rich people must spend much of their time on the golf course to keep their reputation. You can wear your clothes more than once; rich people must often discard their clothes after one wearing to maintain their image.

Rich people often suffer from great tragedy, such losing millions of dollars in the stock market; the greatest tragedy you suffer through is bearing the smell of the "fertilizer" that Caltech uses on the lawn.

You don't have to work to sustain your existence; rich people have to go to the office or to meetings at

least once a week. How many of you have to worry about spending more than several small countries combined?

You never had to fight to defend your country; 94% of the world's richest 225 people are old enough to remember the Vietnam War. Incidentally, few had any choice in the matter. Their parents simply decided that they needed to have a child in the early '60s. If you weren't born when your parents wanted you to, that was tough luck for you. You couldn't be one of the world's 225 richest people.

Finally, rich people have professional chefs prepare their meals; you can barge into Dabney house and have a fine cafeteria meal guaranteed. So next time you're going to make fun of somebody, think about it first.

# Publications From Top To Bottom, First to Last

## Jou Recounts ASCIT Publications History

By TED JOU

On December 5, 1913, the Executive Committee of the Associated Student Body of Throop Polytechnic University passed the first amendment to its newly rewritten Constitution that decreed, "the students shall publish a college magazine to be called 'The Throop Tech.'" Eighty-nine years later, this student publication still exists and is the only weekly newspaper distributed throughout the Caltech campus.

The fact that the *Tech* was established through an amendment is indicative of a long tradition of close relationships between student government and student publications. Created the same year as the Board of Control, the independent student voice of the *Tech* has been as essential to student self-governance at Caltech as any other part of the student government.

In 1917, the student body elected the third different editor of *The California Tech*, Frank Capra, who also served as the student body secretary that year. Following this invaluable experience, Mr. Capra went on to direct some classic American movies, including "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Capra's three Academy Awards are still a record among *Tech* alumni, but perhaps another *Tech* editor will challenge that mark one day.

In 1919, the "Editor of the Annual" was listed as an elected student body position. At that time, the yearbook was known as "Orange and White," but in 1921, after Throop Polytechnic changed its name to Caltech, the yearbook was renamed the "Big T."

Ten years later, a conflict involving the *Big T* precipitated a major event for the Associated Student Body. In May of 1934, the Associated Student Body (ASB) was sued by Mitchell & Herb, the printers of the 1932 *Big T*. To get a lower price, the business manager of the 1932 *Big T* had signed a two-year contract with the publishers.

However, when a new business manager took over in 1933, he found the contract to be unsatisfactory and printed with another company. Mitchell & Herb then sued the ASB for \$3,000 for breach of contract. Luckily, one student had a father who was a lawyer and the suit

was settled out of court for a much smaller amount.

The lawyer suggested that the Associated Students become a corporation in order to protect individual students from liability in the case of another lawsuit. When the ASB was not incorporated, the courts could have ordered all students to pay out of their own pockets. However, with corporation status, the judgment would be limited to the assets of the corporation.

The ASB officers completed a thorough revision of the Constitution and submitted Articles of Incorporation to the State of California. On January 24, 1935, the Associated Student Body became the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Incorporated.

With this newfound legal status, the Associated Students adopted another publication. A student handbook, which had been published yearly by the Caltech YMCA, came under the control of the Associated Students. As a companion to the yearbook, the student handbook was named the "little t." Unlike the other publications of the Associated Students, as they were not originally part of the student government.

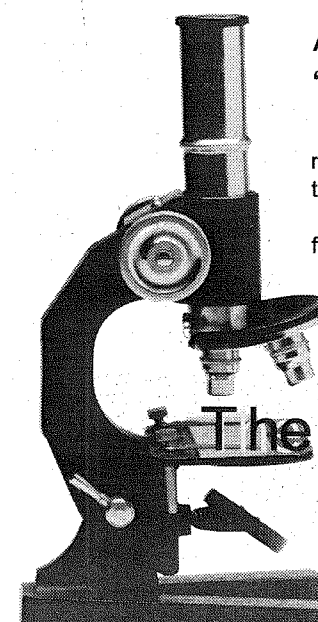
In 1957, creating an outlet for students' creative writing, ASCIT took on a fourth publication: a literary magazine known as the "Totem."

In 1973, before there was any systematic method for evaluating undergraduate teaching at Caltech, ASCIT's Educational Policies Committee began publishing a Teaching Quality Feedback Report (TQFR). In 1981, this was renamed the "Course Listings for Undergraduate Education" (CLUE) and is still being published annually today, evaluating the quality of all course offerings at Caltech.

The CLUE actually doesn't exist anymore in paper form and neither does the *Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook* (UROH), first published in the '80s. The CLUE and the UROH now exist only in online form as part of the newest ASCIT publication, [donut.caltech.edu](http://donut.caltech.edu).

The donut Web site is now the platform for online voting, club registration and e-mail communications for the undergraduate student body. It is the latest example of how student publications and student government at Caltech have a long common history.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY! WANTED:** undergraduate work study students to participate in gamma-ray astronomy research project at JPL. The job requires data processing and research on gamma sources using data from the BATSE experiment on-board the NASA Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory between 1991 and 1997. Employment would be full time (40 hours/week) during the summer and part-time during the school year under the Caltech Work-Study program. Salary will be between \$14 and \$20/hour depending on the experience of the student. If you are interested in applying for the position, please call Dr. James Ling at (818) 354-2899.



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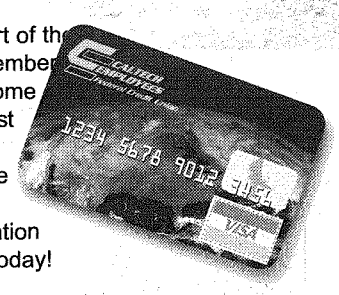
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# New Year's Resolutions for 'Shu'

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

Well, this is it for the year—'02, I mean—enjoy the symmetry while you still can, after 2002 it will not reoccur until 2112; 2020, of course, will be a different kind of occasion.

The fall term is in its last throes, there are just the finals to go and you can all run, fly, drive or hop-scotch home for a few days or perhaps go visit a friend in some exotic place, away from here. Isn't here exotic enough for you?

'Tis the season to be merry, as the song goes, but more to the point, I think, 'tis the season to make decisions: you know, New Year's resolutions, even if, in all likelihood, you will—all right, all right, I'll include myself—we will eventually ignore them. At least there will be this vague but oh-so-familiar sense of guilt to remind us that there are things we could be doing better.

Returning to our topic—decisions—here goes: no more procrastination no, no more; from now on all work will be done right away, not at the last minute or when the pressure has really built up, after it is due.

Well, one can always dream. What other resolutions might be appropriate? I guess a major one would be to live a "clean" life, with plenty of sleep, plenty of exercise, plenty of...

Of course all those things will come as a direct result of the anti-procrastination self-promises you have just made. There is no need of a special effort, if one does not procrastinate, the "clean" life is an automatic corollary. Being on time—that's what no procrastination boils down to—is so important... remember even otherwise despised fascist dictators were praised and are still mentioned because they made the trains run on time.

Besides timeliness, another valuable resolution is to undertake a major effort to apply the golden rule, that ancient and very venerable version of the honor code. To quote Confucius the golden rule is about "shu"—reciprocity: "Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you."

However, what strikes me as extraordinary is how difficult it is to achieve "shu," even though we all know very well what it is we have to do. A factor which surprisingly gets in the way is that we are social creatures. Most of us work better when part of groups—nations, Hovses, schools and the like—

which are held together by applying the golden rule within the group.

In a larger sense, the golden rule works as glue for any group, even for street gangs, those hordes of raving savages which roam our streets shooting any one they please. A group is a sort of family, whose members have selected each other—not like a biological family in which one finds oneself without having any choice about it. It's a family where members support each other, where they reciprocally encourage each other. This encouraging behavior within the group

*"In a larger sense, the golden rule works as glue for any group, even street gangs."*

exists even if the group itself is up to no good—which brings me back to my previous remarks on "street gangs."

While "shu" holds each group together there is less of it between the groups—perhaps even none at all, making war possible. Furthermore, individuals within the group may behave in a reprehensible way towards society at large yet still be valued by the group. Mutual encouragement by peers in the group may lead individuals to abdicate healthy self-criticism. Our social nature gets in the way of behavior.

As such, it is important that each of us, even when encouraged by the approval of the other members of

our group, remember that we are individually responsible for our actions.

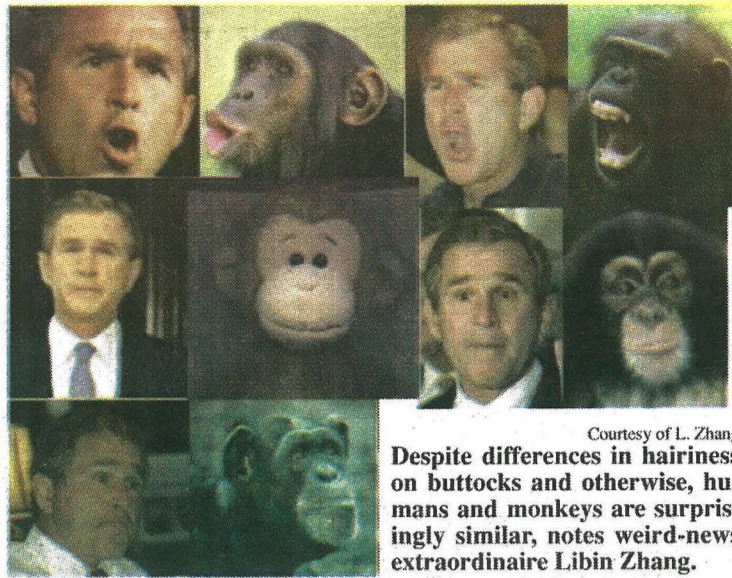
But enough of resolutions. Let me wish you all the very best in the coming year. May you have all success and happiness! May you have peace in your life and may we all have Peace on Earth.

Yesterday was 61 years since Pearl Harbor and once more the beast is growling. Let us wish that peace will prevail, that the tears of so many around the world will be dried, that all this suffering will cease. It is always a curious thing to hear so many declare their search for peace, while in one way or the other preparing for, or waging, war.

There is a version of the golden rule in the philosophical backgrounds of many peoples on earth, including Bah'ai, Indus, Jews, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, Christians and Muslims all. So let us apply it, consistently, persistently. I wish that all of you will realize the dreams of "partridges and pear trees, that my true love sent to me!"

And, to arrive at this exalted state let's emulate the... ants, or, at least, the ant species *Linepithema humile*. G.E. Robinson writes in *Science*, "this creature, normally a highly territorial species in its native habitat in South America, has in some parts of Europe become quite tolerant of individuals from other nests, forming a loose confederation that extends at least 6000 kilometers and consists of millions of nests comprising billions of workers." Not only politicians but also the rest of us would do well "to consider the way of the ants."

A bientot



Courtesy of L. Zhang

Despite differences in hairiness on buttocks and otherwise, humans and monkeys are surprisingly similar, notes weird-news extraordinaire Libin Zhang.

## Weird News Around The World With Libin

By LIBIN ZHANG

In honor of finals week\*, the following weird news from around the world are provided for the readers' enjoyment. The integrity of this piece of journalism is not guaranteed.

Police in Mansfield Township and Hackettstown, N.J., charged Emmanuel Nieves, 23, with aggravated assault after he allegedly slashed the face of his friend Erik Saporito, 21. The two men fought a vicious battle after a heated argument over which one had more hair on his buttocks. It is unclear if the two were trying to impress some member of the female sex. This comes from the November 15 *Express-Times* of Easton, Pennsyl-

vania.

Faithful readers familiar with illegal organ trafficking might be interested to know that the average price of a black-market human kidney has fallen precipitously. University of Pennsylvania researchers found that in India its cost declined from \$1,603 to \$975, despite overwhelming demand and limited supply. They postulate that 'wealthier, kidney-needing people have learned how to put the squeeze on impoverished donors,' perhaps through price-fixing. From the October 2 *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The ARO Campulung auto plant in Romania is on the brink of bankruptcy, so conscientious workers offered to pay off part of the debt by selling their sperm. A nearby fertility clinic in the city of Timisoara is willing to pay the equivalent of fifty American dollars a session. Claimed the plant's union leader, "We have found (a solution) that even the best economists have never thought of." Unfortunately, paying the \$20 million debt completely would require 400,000 sessions, or 400 sessions for each of the 1,000 males at the plant. Since Caltech is facing a budget crisis, we recommend that conscientious students donate their sperm to alleviate the financial shortfall. From Reuters on November 5.

Apparently, escaping from prison is not a crime in Mexico (nor is running away from police or lying about guilt). As one Mexican Supreme Court justice put it, Mexico respects the individual's "basic desire for freedom." Mexico's sincere respect for civil liberties, even for people with dark skin, stands in sharp contrast to American racial profiling and anti-minority police brutality. From the November 15 *Washington Post*.

Terry Hubbell, 38, of Hampstead, N.C. and his driver Jared Poindexter, 24, of Wilmington, N.C., were caught by state troopers for attempting to steal a candy dispenser from the county courthouse, while Hubbell was single-handedly trying to put the dispenser in his car. Stealing from a courthouse might not be a good idea, due to the constant presence of deputies, but Hubbell's timing couldn't have been worse. Sheriff Sid Causey took the oath of office at the Law Enforcement Center near the courthouse earlier, so there were more police officers present than any other day of the year. Hubbell decided to steal after the machine allegedly ate \$1.25 of his quarters, sadly a common experience for many people. From the December 4 *Wilmington Star News*.

\*I will be too busy and lazy to respond to fan- and hate-mail.

## Album Review: Slanted And Enchanted, Luxe and Reduxe

By JONATHAN CHANG

Album: *Slanted and Enchanted: Luxe and Reduxe*

Artist: Pavement

Oh indie world, rejoice! Those Stockton boys are at it again! From the annals of indie rock history comes *Slanted and Enchanted!*

No, this is not the 1992 release that brought that fantabulous fivesome to fame, but a re-release that is bound to make both completists and poseurs alike giggle with glee. So now you too can listen to all of your favorites: "Summer Babe," "In the Mouth a Desert," "Zurich Is Stained," in all of its Grado-gilding glory.

But all right, let's face it: if this album were just *Slanted and Enchanted*, remixed and remastered, then it would be worth just about as much as one of those tacky Fleetwood Mac re-releases copiously advertised on late-night television.

But it's not. It's *Slanted and Enchanted* plus an additional 48 other relatively unheard-of tracks and if even half of the songs are *craptacular*—and craptacular by Pavement standards is still better than most of the sonic debauchery that passes for music these days—then you've still got yourself 24 tracks of pure gold *soundz*.

And I'm here to tell you that the gold-to-crap ratio on this album is even higher than the male-to-female ratio in the EE major. Among the whopping set of songs is an alternate version of "Here" which is an upbeat Trigger Cut-ish song instead of the mellow lament-fest it originally was.

Along with the original album and the unreleased material, you get the "Watery Domestic" EP, the "Trigger Cut" and "Summer Babe" and complication tracks from the same

period. And then there's that live concert at the Brixton Academy which spans the latter half of the second CD—yes! There are two CD's! Wowie Zowie!

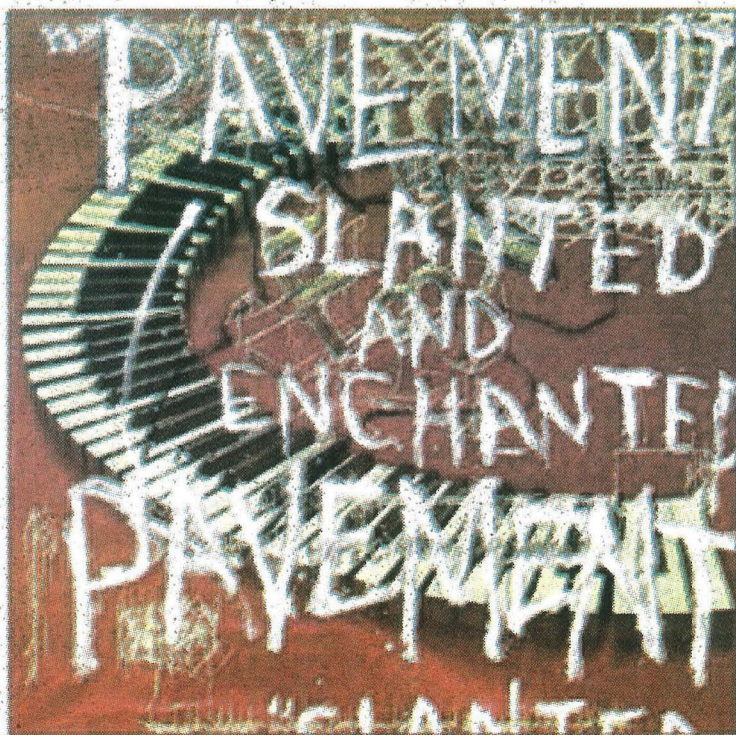
So get yourself westing on over to your local record store. You won't regret that Watery, Domestic EP tucked away at the beginning of the second CD, or those two John Peel sessions, or that huge 62-page booklet filled with scrawls of the Malk's witty non-sequiturs, tons of never-before-seen photos and pictures from the period, along with liner notes from bandmembers.

Oh, that clever, irrepressible Malkmus... who else would have the wonderfully bratty audacity to write a song entitled "Dry Root Sex-

tant: Carson City Reservoir on a Saturday"? Who else would even conceive of writing a song about a Baptist who had left him at Damascus? Who else could come up with a line as brilliant as "between here and there is better than here or there"?

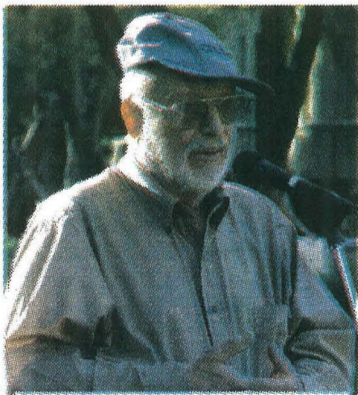
To summarize: get it; it's good; it's *Luxe and Reduxe*. Ten years on, *Slanted and Enchanted* is aging like a fine wine and as Malkmus shouts right before playing Box Elder: "you can't beat the old ones."

P.S. While you're in the spending mood, you might as well lay down a few more dollars for the delightfully slipshod *Pavement Slow Century* DVD as well, so that your adventures in Pavement can also be accompanied by visuals.



Courtesy of www.matadorrecords.com

The *Slanted and Enchanted* double CD set ushers in a new era of early '90s nostalgia. Along with the original album comes 24 new tracks, unreleased material and a 62-page slip-case booklet.



## Question of the Week

In the new year, will you make the effort to stop procrastinating? Also, will Saddam Hussein adopt "the way of the ants"?



Courtesy of donut.caltech.edu

Athlete of the Week Lisa Seeman has set a new school record in the 100 breaststroke.

## Diving, Basketball Crews Post Mixed Records

By BRENTON REGER

### Men's Diving

CALTECH .....	184
Whittier .....	14
CALTECH .....	167
Chapman .....	47

Against Whittier in the 200 Medley Relay event, Caltech's top team was Will Farr '03, Kai Sung '03, Phillip Zukin '06 and Neil Miller '06, at 2:10.57. For the 1000 Free event, it was Marko Cetina '04 at 11.29 and Erik Grandstedt '04 at 13.11; in the 200 Free, Jason Lee '05 at 2.00; in the 50 Free, James Rebesco '05 at 22.65 and Farr at 25.63; in the 200 IM, Bertrand Lui '05 at 2:26 and

Zukin at 2:34; in the 100 Fly, Haomiao Huang '05 at 57.45, Lee at 1:00 and Cetina at 1:03; in the 100 Free, Rebesco at 50.97 and Grandstedt at 1:02; in the 100 Back, Hans Smith '05 at 1:05 and Lui at 1:08; in the 500 Free, Lee at 5:32 and Sung at 6:00; and in the 200 Free Relay, the team of Rebesco, Smith, Cetina and Benjamin Solecki '03 at 1:40.

### Women's Diving

CALTECH .....	144
Whittier .....	46
Caltech .....	99
CHAPMAN .....	115

In the individual rounds against Whittier, Caltech's top team in the 200 Medley Relay

was the team of Kamilee Christenson '04, Rebekah Eason '06, Lisa Seeman '06 and Jennifer Hsiao '06 at 2:14.70; in the 1000 Free, Shannon Lewis '05 at 12.54; in the 200 Free, Jacquelyn Wilbur '04 at 2.09; in the 50 Free, Saskya Byerly '04; in the 100 Fly, Wilbur at 1:08; in the 100 Free, Byerly at 59.95; in the 100 Back, Rachel Thessin '03 at 1:20; in the 500 Free, Wilbur at 5:57 and Lewis at 6:26; in the 100 Breast, Seeman at 1:20; and in the 200 Free Relay, the first-place team of Byerly, Kurk, Grant and Dorman at 1:54.

### Men's Basketball

CALTECH (1-2) .....	67
Cooper Union .....	66
Caltech .....	47
LA SERRA .....	64
Caltech .....	41
LA SERRA .....	42

The men started off their season with a bang, defeating Cooper Union in overtime 67-66 at the Caltech Hi-Tech Tournament. Three players scored in double digits, Jon Bird '03 with 17, Jordan Carlson '06 with 15 and Kenneth Ly '04 with 10 and the Beavers went to the line 47 times, converting 27.

Day Two proved to be a little different as the men were outmatched by La Sierra. Despite the size difference Caltech put up a good fight and pulled within 10 points late in the game but couldn't seem to pull past their opponent. Statistical leaders included Bird with 12 points and nine boards, Carlson with nine points and five rebounds and Matt Mayernik '04 with nine points and four boards.

Then, the men dropped one to La Sierra. Jeff Lamb '04 was the leading scorer for the Beavers with 14 points, including three three-pointers. Bird grabbed 13 rebounds and posted 10 points.

### Women's Basketball

Caltech (1-3) .....	41
SOUTHWESTERN .....	42
Caltech .....	21
LEWIS & CLARK .....	121
CALTECH .....	37
Southwestern .....	29
Caltech .....	41
SIMPSON .....	42

The lady Beavers dropped a close one to Southwestern this weekend. It went down to the wire as Ada Yu '04 drove in sinking her lay-up but not drawing the foul to give them a shot at overtime. The first half started out slow as Caltech shot only 19% but came back in the second, outscoring Southwestern 25-17. Yu led the Beavers with 18 points and 4 rebounds while Shelby Montague '06 dropped in 12 and grabbed 10 boards.

Then, the lady Beavers lost big to Lewis & Clark from Oregon but turned around to get a win against Southwestern in the first round of the Women's Tournament. In the finals the women lost to Simpson, which proved to be the better team. From Caltech, Yu was selected to the All-Tournament team.

### Athlete of the Week

This week's Athlete of the Week is Lisa Seeman '06. Seeman set the new school record in the 100 Breaststroke at the CMS Invitational. Kathy Kirschvink, sister of Professor Joe Kirschvink, set the old record in 1982. Seeman's time was 1:15.08.

## School's 'Unique Atmosphere' Piques Delight of New Student Affairs VP

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

of Pennsylvania. With virtually any door open to her, then, why Caltech?

"The quality of the students is tremendous and I like the close-knit atmosphere of Caltech," she mused, smiling. "It felt like an unbelievable opportunity." Dr. Marshak cited her intrigue in Caltech traditions, as well as in the unique student culture of self-governance. All this served to secure for her this position at Caltech.

In her first month at Caltech, Dr. Marshak has worked tirelessly to adapt to Caltech. Each day, she attends several meetings with administrators of other departments, as well as with those working under her. Attending such meetings helps her get accustomed to Caltech's unique social and academic atmosphere.

Similarly, Marshak speaks regularly with student leaders to better understand the needs of the student body. She has attended many campus-wide events, as well as formal dinners, at some of the undergraduate houses to better understand the Caltech culture. Marshak feels that she must learn how Caltech functions so that she does not impose her past experience, but uses it only to help her.

Asked about her goals, Dr. Marshak stressed that she is still growing acclimated to the institute and has thus not yet fully developed specific goals on which to direct her focus. Still, she does have a general goal: "to make Student Affairs as good as it can possibly be."

Further, Dr. Marshak stresses communication between Student Affairs and the student body. Because she sees herself as a strong advocate for the students to the administration, this, she says, is especially important to her.

*"To resolve the [budget] situation, all members of the community will have to make sacrifices."*



D. Korta/The California Tech

Dr. Marshak has wasted no time since arriving. Already, she has attended meetings with other administrators and had dinner with several of the undergraduate houses.

One of her major duties, for instance, is informing students of decisions that affect them. Yet, Dr. Marshak also wants to hear also from students about their experiences. She explains that it is impossible to represent students' views if students do not communicate with her.

Thus, reaching out to the student body is a major focus for Dr. Marshak. In leading such a large department as Student Affairs, she must deal with many issues and at the forefront are the major problems facing Caltech and its students.

Along this vein, Dr. Marshak has met with

other administrators on minimizing the impact of budget cuts. "To resolve the situation, all members of the Caltech community will have to make sacrifices," she noted. Some of these sacrifices might be parking fees and increased health insurance costs. Still, Dr. Marshak emphasized that similar problems are affecting all of higher education.

She has also begun to address the oft-mentioned low student morale. She described the ASCIT-led "What I Love About Caltech" event, held two weeks ago, as instrumental in her understanding the social issues facing the Caltech community. In this regard, Marshak sees one of the main purposes of Student Affairs as working to make students feel satisfied with their education and life at Caltech.

As vice president for Student Affairs, Margo Marshak has an important job in the administration of Caltech. Not only does she direct many departments, but also represents students in the administrative structure. Coming to Caltech after years of experience at other colleges, Dr. Marshak promises to address the many issues plaguing Caltech students. She ultimately chose Caltech because of its unique culture and hopes to maintain this atmosphere and help students enjoy it.



E. Adams/The California Tech

With a stunning smile and ample experience from her previous roles at NYU, University of Chicago and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, Margo Marshak hopes to make the Student Affairs at Caltech, "as good as it can possibly be."

### The California Tech

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