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Usha Lee McFarling, a science writer for the *L.A. Times* was one of three panelist speakers at last Monday's science writing symposium.

Panelists Analyze Art Of 'Explaining the Science'

By TAMMY MA

Albert Einstein said, "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." This was the quote Steven Youra, director of Caltech's Hixon Writing Center, used to open last Monday's Science Writing Symposium in Baxter Lecture Hall.

He was, of course, applying Einstein's words to how communicating science through writing should be done—simply and more clearly and in his words, "not as an act of dumbing down but of explaining the science."

The event, co-sponsored by the Hixon Writing Center and the division of humanities and social sciences, was designed to address the challenges of communicating technical information to general audiences. The featured panelists were *Los Angeles Times* science correspondent Usha Lee McFarling, Alan Lightman of MIT and Caltech's David Goodstein. Russ Rymer, writer and former Core 1 instructor, was the moderator.

The symposium began with an introduction of each of the three panel speakers and their experiences in scientific and technical writing. Each spoke about his career choices and gave the audience insight into his life as a writer.

Usha Lee McFarling trained as a biologist at Brown University. She then worked at the *Boston Globe* before returning to graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently a science writer at the *L.A. Times*. She calls her job "the greatest job in the world," which gives her opportunities to experience everything from whaling with Eskimos to visiting the observing room at the Keck telescope. She explained that she is one of a four-person team at the *L.A. Times*. Two of the science journalists focus on medicine, one on biology and Ms. McFarling covers pretty much everything else that happens in the science world.

She calls the job of a science journalist "extremely challenging" due to a number of limitations. The first is space constraints. Newspapers still do not put a high priority on scientific research or discoveries, so oftentimes little space is put aside for science news.

Ms. McFarling brought examples of science articles from various newspapers including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *U.S. News*, with the science sections for any one day ranging from a couple pages to a column to several paragraphs. She further cited the difficulties of singling out

the most pertinent information to place in the article, which also giving enough background information to allow the reader to understand the science.

McFarling also mentioned the constraints of language involved in newspaper writing. Newspapers are generally written for the seventh-grade level of reading and comprehension. Therefore, the challenge exists in trying to describe nuclear physics in a manner simple enough that the common layperson can understand. Said McFarling, "The goal is not to dumb things down but

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

SFC Aims to Raise Broad Slate of Concerns

By MATTHEW WALKER

In a day of cancelled classes this Wednesday, students and faculty will meet to discuss a variety of academic concerns from the broad to the specific in this year's Student Faculty Conference.

Committees featured at this year's SFC run the gamut from groups assessing particular academic departments to those addressing larger student concerns such as the core curriculum and workload. Each has already met to investigate issues in the divisions that it represents; pre-planned presentations, followed by discussions will be held in every section.

According to Elizabeth Felnagle '03, chair of the Humanities and Social Science Committee, "the HSS committee originally conceived to address the concerns of HSS majors, chose early on to broaden its focus to include issues relevant to the entire student body."

Besides looking into option issues and requirements, the committee has also discussed adding minors and hiring new faculty to broaden course selections. Hard-to-read humanities requirements and an over-prevalence of game theory were points of displeasure among students who posted to the committee's online forum.

Additionally, the Academics and Research Committee recently considered combining introductory social science courses into a survey course. Felnagle, who is Ricketts' ARC representative, adds that the committee will present the results of the HSS student survey at the conference.

The Core Curriculum Committee, headed by ARC Chair Kathryn Hsu

'03, examined, according to its mission, "whether core is appropriate for every major and whether the material covered in each class is suitable for the undergraduate to whom it is taught."

A major concern brought up by students is the lack of support in some core classes for students who don't have a strong background in the subject, specifically Ch 1ab and Bi 1, although Bi 1 has since added a section that covers basic biology topics. One suggested solution is to add more sections of this type. Online, users also broached questions on specific menu courses which the committee has since considered.

Jim Pugh '03, head of the Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science Committee, attributed the committee's purpose as "examining problems with the EE and ECE majors and with EE and CS classes."

The committee also evaluated CS major requirements and was "for the most part satisfied with the newly proposed CS major, with some concern expressed that the major may not have enough requirements and that many classes which are critical for different focus tracks of the major do not fulfill any requirement." The discussion forum turned up instances where important topics can be avoided in the majors or there was a lack of sufficient course work available in others.

The Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering Committee has already made a series of recommendations that will guide discussion at the conference. These recommendations, posted by com-

mittee chair Sarah Hendrickson '04, include changing the CS 1 requirement, hiring more faculty, creating a schedule to reduce conflicts and addressing the creation of an aeronautics option.

Students have also voiced concern about the lack of advanced engineering electives and the fact that E 5, a freshman engineering lab, hasn't been offered in recent memory.

The primary discussion in the Engineering and Applied Science committee, headed by Jessie Kneeland '03, regards the removal of E&AS as an option because many faculty see it as a major for lazy students.

The alternative would be to maintain options for each of the constituents without a general engineering option. Students oppose the idea, saying that while the major has a reputation for being easy, that it is the only alternative for students who want to take courses in several areas or aren't sure where their interests lie.

Headed by Jenny Fisher '05, the Geology and Planetary Science Committee will be addressing several issues. Among them are scheduling conflicts, specifically lunch-time classes and classes not offered every year and problems uniting courses.

There will also be a presentation during the conference about Ge 109 that focuses on gleaned suggestions for improvements for the course. There will also be discussion about "restructuring and standardizing the curriculum" of Ge 11, said Fisher.

The Biology Committee, led by Elizabeth Stameshkin '03, has fo-

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

Health and Worklife Fair Hosts Vendors, Activities

By ADAM SEARS

This year's annual Health and Worklife fairs combined powers on Friday afternoon at Caltech in a bid to combat disease and bring balance to the region in an event sponsored and contributed to by a host of Caltech organizations and more than 60 local vendors.

Though the fair was officially open only from 11 a.m. to two p.m., the day's activities got off to a bang early as off-campus sophomore Binghai Ling '05 woke up at eight a.m. to direct visiting professionals to the parking structures.

Ling was one of several undergraduates on the event's planning

committee, which according to lead coordinator Jane Curtis was very helpful this year. "We had great participation by students, both on the planning committee and at the fair volunteering," Curtis explained.

In addition, Curtis noted that this year's offerings covered more territory, including nontraditional health options. Chiropractors and representatives from the Buddhist Tzu Chi Free Clinic were on hand to counsel students and faculty alike.

Many students were surprised at the number of tables with activities at them. Many vendors offered ser-

Continued on Page 7, Column 4



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

Two attendees of Friday's Health and Worklife Fair brave the climbing wall outside of Winnett Center.

Iraq: Bombing For Peace? RAWA's Faryal Responds

By LEA HILDEBRANDT

A few weeks ago, the United States went to war with Iraq. The alleged primary objective in the bombing of Iraq is the liberation of its people from the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. Sounds familiar? Not too many months ago, the U.S. started bombing Afghanistan to free its people from the control of the Taliban. How successful was this operation and, consequently, how much success can we expect from the current operation in Iraq?

This was the major question Tahmeena Faryal, one of the leading spokeswomen of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), addressed in her lecture in Baxter Lecture Hall last Tuesday.

According to Faryal, the U.S. failed miserably in the liberation of Afghanistan. The idea was to end the rule of the Taliban and to then establish a democratic government. But, the government that the U.S. installed is not democratic. Afghanistan is now ruled by the Northern Alliance, yet another group of religious fundamentalists. Tahmeena Faryal blames religious fundamentalism for the destruction of Afghanistan.

A brief overview of the history of Afghanistan can explain this, said Faryal. From 1979 to 1989, the country was occupied by the Soviet Union. In 1992, after all of the Soviet troops had withdrawn, the Jahadi Period began. Until 1996, many different fundamentalist groups engaged in a civil war over religious issues as well as control

of the country. Through their fighting, they destroyed much of the country, including historic places like the temple in Kabul.

Faryal went on to pinpoint the beginning of the fundamentalist rule as the beginning of the tragedy of Afghan women. Even though much attention has been given to the restrictive rules women had to obey under the rule of the Taliban, which lasted from 1996 to 2001, women did not fare much better under other fundamentalist regimes.

Thus, when the U.S. allowed the fundamentalist Northern Alliance to come to power, liberals in Afghanistan were shocked and disappointed. As Ms. Faryal phrased it, "[The U.S.] destroyed the dream of the people of Afghanistan, the dream of a democratic government."

Recently, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld asked, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if Iraq was just like Afghanistan?" If Iraq were just like Afghanistan, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" would be a complete failure, said Faryal, since the lack of democracy in Afghanistan today is blatant. The National Democratic Front, the democratic political party in Afghanistan, has already been named illegal by the government.

Faryal also recounted an incident from last November, when students at the University of Kabul held a peaceful demonstration, asking for food at the end of a long day of fasting, electricity so that they could study and the right to

Continued on Page 7, Column 1



Courtesy of A. Hsieh

Andrew Hsieh '04 listens as horn player Lynette Wehmer and a pianist rehearse his horn concerto before Wehmer's senior recital in Michigan.

From Caltech to Michigan, Composer Dazzles Crowds

By JON FOSTER

Many students escape from the rigors of a Caltech education by turning to music. Most often, this means joining one of Caltech's many instrumental or vocal organizations. For one Caltech junior, however, it meant composing a horn concerto.

Andrew Hsieh '04 has never had a formal class in music theory or composing. The horn concerto is his first major composition; the only other thing he has ever written is a really short duet for violin and viola, of which he says he is not very proud.

He first started playing around with writing music during his sophomore year in high school. "I started to think about composition then wrote out some notes," he recalled, "but none of it ever amounted to anything."

Then, at the beginning of July this past summer, he was cleaning his room when he came across these notes that he had written earlier. "I just decided that I should really try to finish something," explained Hsieh. Those notes ended up being part of the main theme of the first movement of his concerto.

The horn had always been one of Hsieh's favorite instruments, even though he does not play it. His involvement in other instrumental groups at Caltech is quite broad, though. He plays viola for the Caltech/Occidental Orchestra, viola, piano and violin for the Caltech Chamber Music program and euphonium for the Concert Band.

Hsieh originally planned four movements for the horn and orchestra. But shortly after beginning work, his plans were influenced by what is probably a welcome offer for any new composer: the offer to have his work performed publicly.

Lynette Wehmer, from Hope College in Michigan, was at Caltech doing a SURF. She asked Hsieh if she could perform his horn concerto for her senior recital. Hsieh agreed and from there on he experienced the joys of composing for a deadline. "I don't know if I was ever expecting to have it played," he said.

But since it was, Hsieh first tackled the slightly less ambitious task of writing the piece for horn and piano accompaniment. By the time the deadline rolled around for Wehmer and her accompanist to have a final piece to practice on Hsieh had finished the first three movements and Lynette performed the first and third at her senior recital over Spring Break.

The reception was quite enthusiastic and Lynette's horn teacher sent a copy to some professional horn players around Michigan and a few small music publishers, although Hsieh wryly notes that he has yet to hear back from any publisher.

Hsieh is currently working on finishing the rest of his concerto, both finishing the fourth movement and going back and adding orchestral lines for the first three movements. He says that most of the time composing is a way to relax, but the

commitment of working for a deadline meant that it wasn't always very stress relieving.

He works about two to three hours per week, writing mainly by hand, using a computer only as storage and for generating nice output. When composing on the computer, he confesses that he "tends to get distracted" and spends hours just experimenting with various tangents on his themes.

What does the future hold for Hsieh's composing? He is fairly certain that composing is not something he would ever want to do professionally, mainly because of his difficulty with finishing big projects. He does, however, plan on trying to get a second Bachelor's Degree in music when he goes to graduate school.

In the meantime, Hsieh has a few more compositions he is playing with—although at this stage they are nothing more than sketches. Mainly, work continues on his "Concerto for Horn and Orchestra," ambitiously labelled "Opus 2."

Eleven Committees to Present at SFC

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

ocused its energies on topics brought up by a recent Biology Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee survey. According to Stameshkin, the most important topic is "the quality of the introductory courses in biology must improve, as this is the first real glimpse any freshman sees of the department."

The committee has also discussed ways to improve the undergraduate biology experience, such as obtaining more lab space and hiring more instructors to teach new classes. Student response on the discussion forum primarily brought up problems with professors, citing a lack of enthusiasm and delays in returning work or communications.

When the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Committee meets, it will discuss "the newly revamped chemical engineering curriculum and the proposed changes in chemistry classes and curriculum," according to committee chair Megan Greenfield '04. Possibilities for new classes include an introductory inorganic class and physical chemistry labs.

Notes posted online from Chemistry Club meetings provided a plethora of student comments on a variety of classes. Discussion about the changes in the chemical engineering option will include the new tracks, new courses and of course, new requirements.

The Math and Applied and Computational Math committee, headed by Abel Bourbois '03, has already moved forward in identifying problems in the math and ACM departments. According to Bourbois, "In the math department, a central issue was concern about the consistency of teaching in the core courses of Ma 108 and Ma 109."

The lack of TAs in a number of courses, including Ma 5, 108 and 109, troubles many students. By the same token, the committee has already decided to implement an anonymous feedback system that

allows students to send anonymous comments to professors about improving their class.

The ACM department is dealing with problems its majors have with Ma 5 as a requirement. ACM Professor Niles Pierce has advocated a solution to this problem: introducing Ma 108 as an optional alternative. Currently, some students switch Ma 5 with Ma 6.

The committee is also pushing for standardizing class times to prevent conflicts between core classes.

A final issue is adjusting ACM 95b to simply review Ma 2b "so that the course would still be self-contained and not monotonous for sophomore ACM majors taking Ma2b and ACM 95b at the same time," said Bourbois.

The Workload and Student Morale Committee, chaired by Marcus Williams '03, is charged with examining the effects that the Institute curriculum has on morale. Among the committee's foci, according to a statement, are "standardizing Institute policies such as midterm's week, the study period before finals, canceling classes on Ditch Day, returning midterms before Drop Day and respecting extensions from the Dean's office."

The discussion forum turned up issues related to teaching standards, specifically the lack of effective ways to get feedback from students to professors and pass/fail, including questions about possible misuse by taking hard classes on pass/fail to take advantage of it.

The Past

Historically, Caltech had a Student-Faculty Conference every two years. Then for a while in the late '90s no one bothered to plan one. Finally, in 2001, then-ARC Chair Nick Knouf '02 began planning a new SFC, the first in five years, which commenced last spring to widespread fanfare heralding the revival of student-faculty commu-

nication.

Still, the results of that conference fell short of expectations because, in the words of former ASCIT President Ted Jou '03, "many people expected the 2002 SFC to be some sort of silver bullet that would solve all of our problems and inevitably they were disappointed."

A meeting among organizers of the first conference with Dean of Students Jean-Paul Revel revealed that there should be another conference, in part to help make up for the lack of conferences for the several previous years.

Thus it was with battle plans drawn and a year of hindsight behind them that coordinators drummed up public excitement for this year's conference. Donning high expectations, students universally see SFC as the path to panaceas for their individual academic concerns.

Former ARC Chair Basit Khan '03 warned, however, that Wednesday's conference, although it aims to correct last year's wrongs, will not position itself as Jou's fabled "silver bullet."

"I wish to emphasize that it would be ridiculous to assume that things will change overnight," he said. "The SFC is only a step in the right direction, which must continue after the conference."

At the very least, students will enjoy the opportunity to find out how these problems are going to be solved. "I'm really looking forward to being able to look at the results," said Hsu.

ASCIT President Tom Fletcher '03 concurred. "I consider the SFC vital to the Caltech community and implore everyone to attend," he said.

In a larger sense, the conference will restart the tradition of having this level of student-faculty interaction every two years. "I feel like this week's conference will finally complete [Knouf's] original vision," mused Jou.

Curtis, Bautista Ready Campus Amidst Global SARS Scare

By KAYTE FISCHER

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has risen to the top of world health concerns during the last month. With 2722 cases and 106 deaths in 16 countries, SARS is a new, fast-spreading, respiratory illness with a fatality rate of nearly 4%.

Of the 149 cases in the United States, seven have been in Los Angeles. Though the campus has had no reported cases of SARS, Caltech has a specific protocol in place to use in the event of a case.

Health Educator Jane Curtis expressed, "I always want to be as prepared as possible." The first step was a preventative campaign, including a directory staff e-mail from the campus physician, Stuart Miller, last Tuesday. Students can also contact health advocates with questions. If a possible case is reported, the health center staff has specific questions aimed at determining whether it fits the Center for Disease Control (CDC) criteria.

Nurse Practitioner Divina Bautista feels confident that Caltech is prepared. "If a case occurs here," she said, "we know how to handle it."

The primary symptoms include a dry cough, difficulty breathing and a high fever greater than or equal to 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit. The onset of SARS may feel similar to that of a cold, allergies or the flu; SARS cases, however, can be differentiated early on by investigating patients' recent activities.

Most cases have arisen in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Hanoi and Singapore. Thus, individuals who have traveled to

those areas in the last 10 days and exhibit the above symptoms are at the highest risk.

If a person fits all the above criteria, he or she should call the Caltech Health Center or his or her primary physician so that the condition can be properly assessed. In no case should a possibly infected person visit a clinic, as this may expose others unnecessarily.

SARS usually spreads by "droplet transmission;" a person can contract the disease if they breathe in the droplets from an infected sneeze or cough. It may also spread through air or by contact with contaminated objects. The incubation period ranges from two to seven days, though it has been reported to be as long as 10 days.

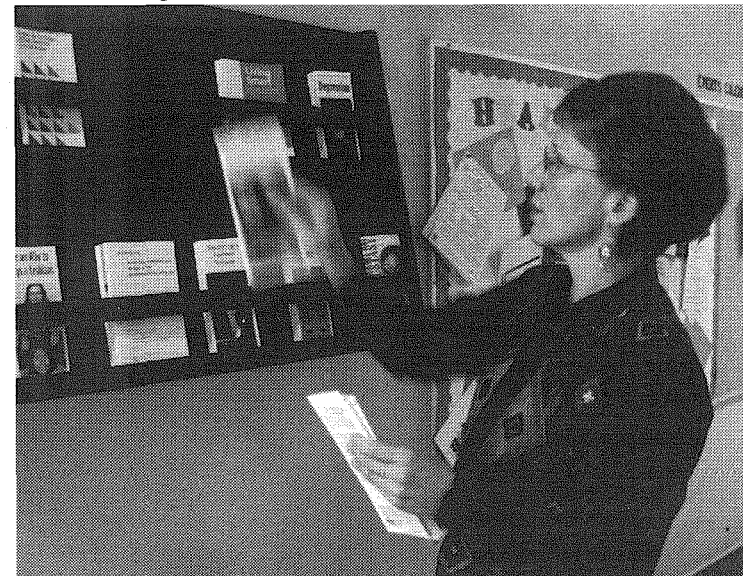
Since little is known about SARS, prevention methods are similar to those of a common cold. Washing hands, covering the mouth and nose

if one sneezes or coughs and disposing of used tissues can substantially reduce the chances of contracting any respiratory illness, including SARS.

A person is advised to monitor his symptoms for 10 days and stay out of contact with others if their case fits the CDC specifications. If the symptoms get worse, Caltech can refer the patient to a local hospital with appropriate life support measures and health care professionals.

By far, the most cases of SARS come from China—2269 as of April ninth—with the United States, Singapore and Canada taking second, third and fourth ranks, respectively. China, including Hong Kong, also has the highest number of deaths: 92.

The CDC has instituted several policies to decrease the spread of SARS in the United States. They have distributed 15,000 health alert



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Health Educator Jane Curtis and the Health Center prepare the campus in case of SARS contamination by distributing information.

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President Baltimore's 'Abuse of Power': Unaccountable, Unresponsive, Shameful

Too Much Authority: 'This Little Brother's Watching You, Too'

By TOM FLETCHER

Makes You Want to Holler

Thursday night, I saw power abused.

President Baltimore hosted student leaders at his house for an annual dinner to communicate with the student body. The sheer folly of the affair—meeting *once* a year to stay abreast of student issues?—made the dinner uncomfortable to start with. Baltimore tried to begin the after-dinner conversation with a joke about how we never had any questions and were nervous to speak up. Well, I guess he hadn't met me yet—to be fair, he hadn't; I had a list of questions I'd been working on for a couple weeks waiting to pounce on him at this, my one chance to get a straight answer. So I spoke up.

"Could you please comment on the proposal from Ricketts House to redesign their courtyard with a new fire pot that your management council is considering on Monday [today]?"

I'm pretty sure he wasn't expecting the question. I have a hunch he was hoping for some nice, easy questions about parking and then an early exit. Well, I wasn't going to waste this opportunity, so I threw out the most difficult, most emotionally raw question I had. His response was shocking.

To bring everyone up to speed on the situation—of which I am only partially informed: In the wake of the fire incident in Ricketts, Ricketts apologized to the community. A couple of weeks afterwards, Tom Mannion helped Ricketts through a safe, responsible bonfire that was a huge success with students from every house. He also began work on helping Ricketts redesign their courtyard to make it comply with the fire code; there is nothing illegal about a fire pot, it simply must have a certain radius around it that the Ricketts courtyard did not provide. I do not know the details of this work, but they completed the proposal to redesign the courtyard and submitted it to the administration for approval. Margo Marshak appraised me of the situation a week ago to tell me that she and Provost Koonin would be presenting the proposal to the President's Management Council for discussion and evaluation.

Well, that isn't happening. The proposal, which was to be on the

agenda of today's meeting of the President's Management Council, was quashed by fiat last week. He said as much at the dinner; how I wish I had my tape recorder so that I could present his exact words. In Dr. Baltimore's opinion, there will never be fire in a house again, even if it complies with the law. He railed on the dangers of living "at the boundaries of the law," he squirmed when students asked about how a legally compliant firepot was different from a fireplace and he demonstrated exactly how little discussion matters to him.

I could understand having the proposal presented, talking to the students who helped prepare it and then having reservations about it. Maybe he is right, maybe we are tempting fate by living on the edge of the law. But to decide this, without even consulting his own cabinet of advisors? To destroy the hard work of a number of students and administrators without even hearing them out? I haven't been around the block as many times as he has, but I think I know a hideous abuse of power when I see it. This is definitely one of those cases.

"I am out to fight these kinds of abuses to my very last breath of air... He cannot ignore the people."

Unfortunately, he is the president. We can't veto him. We don't pay his salary. His word is law, as anti-democratic as that may be. To loosely quote Woody Guthrie, whose minstrel ghost blesses our protest, I am out to fight these kinds of abuses to my very last breath of air. He does have a mailbox. He does have an office. He has an e-mail address. He cannot ignore the people to whom he should ultimately be answerable. I feel that Dr. Baltimore has behaved in a way that is *shameful*. He has buried the hard work of his staff, to whom we are grateful for trying and many students.

These two groups of people believed that we could reconcile the differences between the administration and the students. They looked at Ricketts; they saw that there have

been no other illegal fires. They saw how successful the bonfire was, of which Baltimore was not aware. They saw how happy, even joyful, it made students on campus. I personally feel that Ricketts House has shown that it can uphold the honor code, a sentiment you may not all share, but I think many of you do, too. If the students didn't trust Ricketts, I don't think the other houses would have issued statements that said they wanted to help Ricketts learn how to live within the guidelines of the administration. If the students didn't trust Ricketts House, I don't think we would have Scurves as both our BoC chair and our CRC co-chair. In my mind, the student body and the administrators that have spent many hours working with Ricketts House believe that the Scurves can live within the rules of the institute.

I can understand and accept that he has a different set of opinions on the issue. What I cannot accept, what I find completely *sickening*, is his refusal to even let the other side be heard.

*How much do I know
To talk out of turn
You might say that I'm young
You might say I'm unlearned
But there's one thing I know
Though I'm younger than you
Even Jesus would never
Forgive what you do*

That Which Pales in Comparison

The ASCIT BoD set the budget for the year over the weekend.

The SFC is on Wednesday. *Faculty*: Please come to the conference; without your involvement, the conference is a *failure*. You are members of the Caltech community and we need your help to make it better. *Students*: This is the one forum where our voices are equals. It is our one opportunity to get our grievances aired. If we don't show up, if we don't contribute, we don't have a right to complain.

With Tom Mannion's generous help, we are trying to get Pacific Hastings for *Matrix: Reloaded*, if they let us buy out the theater opening night.

Indignantly,
Tom Fletcher

P.S.: The excerpt is from Bob Dylan, "Masters of War." The title is from Rage Against the Machine, "Voice of the Voiceless."

Students Have a Voice but No Say

Student Concerns Too Often Fall on Administrators' Deaf Ears

By ANNA SZCZANIECKA

Margo Marshak made a comment during the student leaders' dinner on Thursday night that really struck me. She said that students at Caltech are less trustful of the administration than the students at other universities. Margo Marshak also stressed that both groups need to work together in order to move forward. Sadly, her pleas for honesty and cooperation strongly contradicted the general atmosphere of the student leaders' dinner.

Most, if not all, of the students looked visibly upset as they left Baltimore's house last Thursday night. The student leaders' dinner had started pleasantly enough; Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served as students mingled with Margo Marshak, Jean-Paul Revel, Erica O'Neal and others. It was not until after dessert that the mood became hostile. Baltimore stood up and encouraged students to introduce

themselves by asking him a question. He was willing to call on everyone, which was no great concession, since of course he could respond in any way that he pleased.

From the point of view of many students, the true purpose of the question and answer session was not to provide the students with answers but to demonstrate the almighty power of Baltimore. It was a game of politics and of power. When asked about the Ricketts firepot, Baltimore made generalities about the foolishness of traditions that involve fire.

He went on to inform us all of the dangers of fire and tried to avoid responsibility for the removal of the Ricketts firepot. Baltimore continued to give roundabout answers and even say things that were blatantly false. He placed the blame on the fire department, saying that they had made the decision to remove the fire from Ricketts.

At this point, the former Ricketts

president Juan Rodriguez stood up and announced that he had spoken to the Pasadena fire department and that they had stated the firepot was in fact legal. In response to this, Baltimore declared the matter settled and encouraged students to switch to other traditions that do not involve fire; later in the evening Baltimore contradicted himself when he said that the administration was in no way trying to eliminate specific traditions.

Many times during the course of the evening, I felt tempted to walk out. I stayed, not because of Baltimore, but because of what students had to say. The lack of student representation was a universal grievance among the student leaders.

Since the campus-wide protest a year and a half ago, a little progress has been made but not as much as students deserve. Committees are still being formed without student representatives, like the committee

Continued on Page 5, Column 3

Letters: Caltech Supports Iraq, Prefrosh Continued

Aim of Prefrosh Weekend

come to Caltech.

Dear editors,

Every year, in late April, several hundred high school seniors from across the country come to Caltech. These are some of the lucky few to be admitted here and they want to see for themselves what this place is actually like. They come to visit because Caltech is a prestigious institution and they believe they have a passion for math and science. They also may have heard of the interesting, unique population of students and their infamous creativity.

I keep hearing that Prefrosh Weekend 'scared away' prospective students last year and that the behavior of the current students was unacceptable and rude. I would feel bad if any of my actions last year had scared away someone who would have come to Caltech, fit in well and enjoyed the environment here. Prefrosh Weekend is supposed to give the opportunity to the prefrosh to make an educated decision about whether or not they want to join our community, as both fellow students and our future neighbors.

Caltech's culture is not for everyone, but it is a direct product of the academic stress, the size of the school and the eccentricities of many of the students. It's also the reason that many of us have actually stayed here. In addition, Caltech saw more than 250 of its admitted students enroll in the class of 2006. Those who are upset about students being 'scared away' ought to think about what their statements imply. Either they feel that we should have had a larger freshmen class, which would have caused an even worse housing crunch, or that the particular students they wanted to come did not enroll.

That Caltech may want to court top students is understandable, but considering we always have far more qualified applicants than we have spots for, we should be most thrilled when we find students who say, with a passion, "I want to come to Caltech!" This year's freshman class is filled with exuberant, involved students, most of whom have embraced house life, extracurricular activities and their studies.

When prefrosh come to visit, they may be surprised by some of the traditions and events they witness. House dinners are not always calm and polite. Life here is not always happy. Yet, we're all here and as much as we like to complain, many of us really do like being here. That message does get across to the prefrosh — trust me.

I think it is reprehensible to tell the current students to pretend that Caltech is something it is not and cannot be. Perhaps the prefrosh will appreciate seeing what life might actually be like if they choose to

Liz Stameshkin '03

Letter to Baltimore: Iraq

Dear Dr. Baltimore,

With much pain and frustration in my heart and amidst a war ravaging the people of Iraq, I write to you today to voice my embarrassment over Caltech's association with the Bechtel Corporation. I've known since I was a student at Caltech that the Bechtel family was not only a Caltech benefactor, but that Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr. is also a member of the Board of Trustees. However, it was only after the United States preemptively and unilaterally attacked Iraq that I learned of Bechtel's involvement in the war, both as a supplier of weapons material to Iraq and developer of nuclear weaponry for the United States. Throughout the 1980s, Bechtel supplied materials to Iraq for waging war against Iran (idaho.indymedia.org/news/2002/12/484.php).

Ironically, Bechtel Corporation has also been designing and developing earth-penetrating nuclear weapons for the United States military to destroy the weapons Bechtel created for Iraq (San Francisco Chronicle, March 23, 2003). Bechtel may also profit from rebuilding a post-war Baghdad, as it has been bidding for billion-dollar contracts with the United States administration for reconstruction (Chicago Daily Herald, March 23, 2003).

Although Bechtel Corporation is a construction firm with projects that benefit our society and those of many impoverished nations, for which it should be commended, its involvement in an unjust war is deplorable and deserves criticism from institutions with which it holds association. As a Caltech graduate, I urge you to recommend Stephen Bechtel's removal from the Board of Trustees, as well as the renaming of the Bechtel Mall on campus. This will send a strong statement to Caltech's associates that war profiteering is not aligned with Caltech's mission "to expand human knowledge and benefit society through research integrated with education and to educate outstanding students to become creative members of society" (my emphasis).

Uncritical toleration of war crimes perpetrated by the American military-industrial complex will allow further travesties of justice to occur in the years to come. We must root out the evil we deplore from our own government, corporations and institutions if we are ever to find true peace and security.

Sincerely,
John Christensen, '98

Caltech Advice: Cash, Humour, Glomming

By LIBIN ZHANG

Dr. Libin is available to help people with a wide range of personal, work and familial problems. He dispenses morals, values, principles and ethics weekly. Feel free to send your moral dilemmas and other questions to libin@ugcs.caltech.edu.

What are some easy ways to make some money?

Cash Poor Woman

Dear CPW,

There are plenty of ways to make money around campus, such as ushering for the Office of Public Events (<http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~ope/>), waiting at House or Ath dinners, working in a laboratory or at The Coffeehouse, doing SSEL experiments (<https://www.ssel.caltech.edu/ssel/Calendar>), TAing a class, etc. Most of these activities pay around \$10 an hour, with no benefits and some require Federal

Continued on Page 5, Column 1



ASCIT Minutes

April 9th, 2003, 10:47 PM, SAC 33
Present: Joanna Cohen, Tom Fletcher, Kim Hiscox, Kathryn Hsu, Galen Loram, Jeremy Pitts, Anna Sczaniecka and Andrea Vasconcellos, & Corinna Zygourakis.

Guests: Will Coulter, Jonathan Dama, Katie Mack, Raman Shah, & Elizabeth Stameshkin.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Raman Shah requests \$200 for the Blacker Interhouse Party, which is going to take place the Saturday, April 19th, 2003. Vote: 8-0-0, approved.

3. Will Coulter requests funding to replace the Ethernet cable in the Coffeehouse that is being used for the DVD computer. Vote: 7-0-1, approved. Jonathan Dama adds that the donut development team will soon provide the BoD with a list of names of possible people to replace them.

4. Liz Stameshkin requests \$500 instead of the usual \$400 to take the BoC out to dinner. Vote: 7-0-1, approved.

5. Katie Mack requests funding for the Feral Cat Club. She says that the primary costs will include cat food, aluminum foil and gas money. The fees to spay and neuter cats are already covered by a separate organization. No decision is made at this time.

6. Jeremy says that student interviewers for the Moore Gift Committee will consist of three IHC members (Natalia Deligne, Jason Schadewald and Kristin Zortman), three BoD members (Galen Loram, Kim Hiscox and Andrea Vasconcellos) and one member of both (Jeremy). The IHC will also select people for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Institute Size committees (one person each). Sign-ups for these committees will come down on Friday, April 18th at 5pm and the interviews for these positions will take place on the night of April 22nd.

Officer Reports/Weekly To-Do List

Tom says that the Budget Meeting will be held this Saturday at Tom Mannon's house. We also need to establish guidelines for determining which clubs receive funding. Corinna says that we need to decide whether we should fund clubs that exaggerate their costs. Student Affairs, GSC, the Caltech Y, the Student Investment Fund and the Alumni Association will not fund clubs, which inflate their expenses. Joanna says that she will provide us with information regarding last year's budget, including what portion of the allocated money was actually spent. The BoD agrees to meet at 8:00 am on Saturday.

*Note: The meeting began at 8:00 am and continued until 6:30pm. The total budget was approximately \$60,000, down \$7,000 from last year with many clubs requesting amounts several times greater than the amounts received in previous years. Approximately 65 clubs applied for funding, double the number from last year.

Galen says that the number of BoC cases have decreased for now. The new OC BoC Rep is Matt Patterson.

Anna talked to Joe Jewell and she now knows how to update the ASCIT information online. *Note: The minutes are now online and the officers and directors page has been revised. Anna will also update the information in the ASCIT display case as soon as some of the BoD members submit their photos.

Joanna needs to get the exact budget numbers from Math Brewer (Matt from Finances) for Saturday's Meeting.

Kathryn says that Basit Kahn assured her that the brochures would be out early this week, but they are not out yet. On the morning of the SFC, there will be breakfast for the first 100 people on the Baxter Patio at 8:15 am.

Lunch will also be hosted on the Court of Man and students will need to swipe their cards. The menus are TBA and the South Kitchens will be closed.

On another note, Page finally has an ARC rep: Kathryn Fitch. The ARC Secretary and Rep at Large sign-ups will come down this Friday, April 11th.

Kim says that *We Are Scientists* is still coming to play this coming Monday, April 14th. They will be in the RF courtyard dur-

ing lunch. On another note, the ASCIT Formal will be held the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Kim is looking into two possible locations for the formal, one of which is the Ritz Carlton in Pasadena. She hired a DJ and is trying to keep costs for students as low as possible.

Jeremy says that the IHC is asking for extensions for students during Prefrosh Weekend. The BoD also needs to get approximate numbers of prefrosh, so that we know how many donuts to purchase for midnight donuts. Joanna says that we should know the numbers next Monday, April 13th. On another note, the new traffic posts around campus are very annoying and security is has been slow to remove them for students.

Andrea says that sign-up forms for publications need go up before midterms.

Kudos to Corinna for doing such an excellent job with Club Interviews.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Sczaniecka
ASCIT Secretary

Attention all undergraduate students on financial aid: The last date to request any change to your 2002-03 financial aid award is Monday, May 19, 2003. Requests for 2002-03 changes made after May 19, will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at extension 6280 if you have any questions. NOTE: graduating seniors must request any change by May 5, 2003.

Summer Work Study: Information and applications for 2003 Summer Work Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 2, 2003. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 2nd in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the work study funding will begin July 1st.

Are you stressed??? Find relief at the stress management workshop. Come enjoy an evening of relaxation while learning ways to reduce stress. When: Tuesday 4/15 from 3-5 p.m. Where: Health Center Lounge. The workshop is open to all Caltech students. Please RSVP to the Counseling Center #8331.

Library Classes. The following sessions are approximately one hour of formal instruction in the Sherman Fairchild Library Multimedia Conference Room (Room 328). Walk-ins are welcome for the Electronic Theses session.

Tuesday, April 15, 12 PM: "Quick Review of Information Resources"
Thursday, April 17, 2 PM: "Quick Review for Electronic Theses"

You may register for these and other upcoming classes at library.caltech.edu/learning. For further information, please contact Kathleen Mcgregor at x6713 or kathleen@library.caltech.edu.

Boston Area Undergraduate Physics Competition. Enter for fun, fame and cold hard cash! Top prize is \$300! This four-hour exam will consist of six challenging problems. The only prerequisites are frosh-level physics and math - the problems will require little expertise, but lots of ingenuity! For info and registration, see <http://liquids.deas.harvard.edu/oleg/competition/>. Previous years' problems are available on the website. Repeat Caltech's 2001 and 2002 triumphs over MIT, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and UC Berkeley! Questions? Contact inna@caltech.edu, charlene@caltech.edu, or mschulz@theory.caltech.edu.

The Dance Troupe has three dance classes for the spring term. All classes meet in the Braun multipurpose room. **Advanced Beginning Hip-hop**, Instructor: Collette Sibal, Wed. 9:30-10:30 p.m.; Starts April 2, 2003; Trial class fee \$5, Caltech students full term fee: \$30 (only \$3.75 per class!). Non-Caltech students full term fee: \$40. **Intermediate Jazz**, Instructor: Collette Sibal, Tues. 9:30-11 p.m.; Starts April 1, 2003; Trial class fee: \$5, Caltech students full term fee: \$30. **Intermediate Ballet**, Sat., 1-2:30 p.m., Starts April 5, 2003; FREE!

The Mathematics Department is pleased

to announce two categories of prizes to be offered again this year to Caltech undergraduate students.

The E.T. Bell Undergraduate Mathematics Research Prize. A cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for the best original mathematics paper written by a Caltech Junior or Senior. Contestants for the Bell prize must be nominated by a faculty member familiar with their work. Students who wish to be considered for this prize should contact a member of the Mathematics faculty prior to the end of the second term to discuss the nature of the research. If the entry is sufficiently worthy, the faculty member will nominate the contestant and act as sponsor. Each student is entitled to only one entry. All contestants nominated must submit their papers in final form to their faculty sponsors by May 2. A faculty committee will then judge the papers and announce its decision before the end of the third term. The committee may award duplicate prizes in case of more than one outstanding entry. The name of the winner (or winners) will appear in the commencement program.

The Morgan Ward Competition. Any Caltech freshman or sophomore may enter this contest. An entry may be individual (submitted by one student) or joint (submitted by a group of two or more students). Each student is entitled to at most three entries, of which two may be individual. An entry is to consist of a mathematical problem, together with a solution or significant contribution toward a solution. The problem may have any source, but this source should be stated in the entry. The entries may be judged on the basis of the nature of the problem, originality and elegance of the solution. Any outside references used should be indicated. Entries from each contestant or group must be placed in an envelope and delivered to the Mathematics Office, 253 Sloan, by May 2. The names of the contestant, or the names of all participants in the case of a joint entry, must be written on the envelope only, not on the entry. The Judging Committee will consist of three undergraduates. The judges will select a group of finalists and submit their entries to the mathematics department faculty who will make awards to the winners. Prizes will ordinarily be awarded for the 2 to 4 best entries, the value of each prize being \$75. Prizes for individual entries will be limited to one to a contestant and no group may receive more than one prize.

"April," said T.S. Eliot, "is the cruelest month" so it is fitting that April is also **Mathematics Awareness Month!** The April 2003 issue of *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, celebrates the occasion with the article "Artful Mathematics: The Heritage of M.C. Escher." H.W. Lenstra, one author of "Artful Mathematics," lectured on "Escher and the Droste Effect" at Caltech on Mar 7. If you missed this talk, visit <http://escherdroste.math.leidenuniv.nl>. For more information on Mathematics Awareness Month, see <http://mathforum.org/mam/03/>.

The Aero Association of Caltech/JPL Spring General Membership Meeting will be held in 114 E. Bridge on April 23, 7:30 pm and will feature guest speaker Dan Wolfe from Wolfe Air Aviation. Pasadena-based Wolfe Air Aviation specializes in aerial cinematography and has won numerous Academy and Emmy awards for work on films such as HBO's "Band of Brothers" and Schwarzenegger's "True Lies." For more information about the meeting or how to join the Aero Association and learn to fly, please contact Elaine Ou (ou@caltech.edu).

California Institute of Technology Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences **Seminar on Science, Ethics and Public Policy** presents Dr. Michael Friedman, a Fredrick P. Rehmus Family Professor of Humanities at Stanford University who will give a talk entitled "Physics, Philosophy and the Foundations of Geometry: Einstein and the Logical Empiricists." Beckman Institute Auditorium, Thursday, April 17, 2003 at 4 pm. Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Clare Brown at (626) 395-4067 or clare@hss.caltech.edu. For a complete list of SEPP seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic year, please visit our website: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html>

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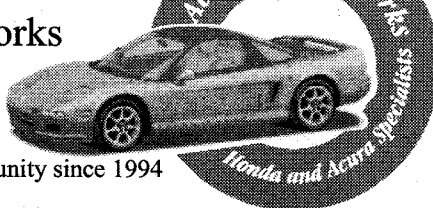
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Zhang's Advice: Jokes, Voluntary Sterilization

Continued from Page 3, Column 5

Work-Study.

However, I assume that you want a quick and easy way to make money that does not require a lot of effort. If you're male with the appropriate socioeconomic and racial background, donating sperm is an excellent source of periodic income. Women like CPW can receive \$200 dollars if they agree to be sterilized by the non-profit organization CRACK (Children Requiring A Caring Kommunity). Funded by wealthy conservatives such as Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Richard Mellon Scaife, the organization now has chapters in 22 cities and has already given out \$100,000 in cash rewards to 500 clients. You can learn more about modern day eugenics at their website, <http://www.cashforbirthcontrol.com>. Good luck!

I try to tell jokes at dinner, but the other people don't like them and end up showering me. What should I do?

I'm Wet and I'm not Going
Take It Anymore

Dear IWIGTIA,

The problem with most jokes is that people have already heard

them. George Ade once remarked, "There are only three basic jokes, but since the mother-in-law joke is not a joke but a very serious question, there are only two." So what you have to do is be original. Don't try to come up with puns, but find a joke source that is not stale. For example, there are not many 21st century German avant-garde cinema cognoscenti, so you can use this joke from the film *Das Experiment*:

Why do women watch porno until the end?

Because they think they're getting married.

I'm willing to bet that most people haven't heard that, so feel free to try that next dinner. Personally, I prefer the type of joke known as the henway. What's a henway, you ask? About ten pounds.

I want to thank you for the advice you gave me last week. It worked great. Not only did all the girls leave my room, but my roommate left with them.

Basking in the glory of a single,
Matt Walker

Glad to hear I'm making a difference.

With 'Musical Command,' Sing the Sorrow Refreshing 'Spectrum of Sound' Highlights New Album

By TERRY YEN

Since 1991, A Fire Inside (AFI) has been rocking the Bay Area with heavy punk reminiscent of early Offspring. But with their sixth album, *Sing the Sorrow*, this quirky quartet proves that it has finally grasped musical command and developed a refreshingly unique sound.

AFI welcomes you to their beautiful hell with "Misericordia—The Beginning." Ominous white noise crackles faintly in the background for a couple of seconds be-

fore being suddenly broken by swelling cymbals, thundering drumbeats and the crisp, rhythmic tolling of a bell over buzzing guitars and doleful strings. A chorus soon howls, "You! Are now! One of us!"

"Sing the Sorrow" is a blended spectrum of sound spanning from hardcore punk rock to moping melodious ballads. Lead singer Davey Havok, decked in sexy Goth gear, makeup included, demonstrates his sense of discipline and innate talent to match the vocal requisites of each variety with toiled smooth and tidy switches between soft, deep, poignant croons and loud, pure, heartfelt, high-pitched wails.

Co-producers Butch Vig (Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins) and Jerry Finn (Rancid, Green Day) let the band experiment with other instrumentation as chamber strings, cymbals and bells along with a choir, but still keep the feral pulses of previous albums.

The two radio hits, "Girl's Not

STUDENTS LEFT WITHOUT SAY IN DECISIONS

SECRETARY ON BEING HEARD

Students Fighting 'Uphill Battle' With Admin.

Continued from Page 3, Column 3

to discuss the creation of an office of a Dean of Undergraduate Studies. We were informed that this committee had been meeting without any of the ASCIT appointed student representatives that Tom Fletcher had been assured would be involved.

Some of Caltech's other endeavors also severely underrepresent student opinion. An example of this is the alumni fund investment video, which is 11 minutes long but includes only several seconds of student footage. Baltimore even had the nerve to blame the students for their lack of representation, by claiming that students assigned to committees frequently did not attend meetings. Galen Loram was quick to refute this comment. He noted that on all of the committees that he has served on, students have faithfully attended. He went on to say that most often it was the faculty who skipped out.

It became clear on Thursday night that reputation and funding are the primary concerns of Baltimore and any student who thinks otherwise is being naive. Rather than leaving me with a feeling of working toward a common goal with the administration, I was left the fear that students are fighting an uphill battle.

The undergraduates are still being excluded from some committees that center on student life. Even when students are allowed to serve on committees, their opinions can be overruled. The Caltech community demands a lot from its students and they deserve better representation. As of right now though, students have a voice, but no say.

Grey" and "Leaving Song Part II" are certainly the most pop punk songs. The former, sounding like a heavy "Unwritten Law," has Havok softly intertwined with nippy drums. In the latter, however, Havok screeches and snarls in a call-and-response with the chorus and exquisitely fingered electric guitar solos. Upbeat and catchy heavy beats disguise the dark, intelligent and contemplative lyrics.

This is an album that begs to be listened with the lyrics in hand. Havok haunts the tracks with spooky phrases as "somber resplen-

Problems of 50 Years' Past Still Face Caltech Presidents From the Past and Present Speak

By TED JOU

The Caltech student body, faculty and administration share many assumptions about Caltech. These beliefs are common to most of us. Caltech is a good educational institution. Caltech produces a top quality scholar. The quality of the entering freshman is increasing. Though minor research modifications might be necessary, the basic research structure and orientation of Caltech will still attract future large-scale Federal support. Caltech is an intimate and personal college. The gradual erosion of the freshman's zeal marks his intellectual maturation. The healthy emotional and personal growth of the majority of Caltech students is possible in spite of the obvious social limitations of the Caltech experience. If any changes are required we have plenty of time to effect them.

It is my sincere conviction that all of these views are complete myths, lacking any foundation in fact. Though these beliefs may not all represent the verbal positions of the Caltech community, they certainly reflect the operational tenets reflected in the workings of the Institute. At this point, I would like to deal with just one of these myths and examine its validity.

Is Caltech a good educational institution? Freshmen who come into Caltech, excited, enthusiastic and eager leave this place largely emptied. In many sad ways going to Caltech is tantamount to committing intellectual or scholarly suicide. This freshman energy is not channeled into experiences designed to enhance it. Freshmen learn that science, something once loved as a sparkling orb, light and exciting, becomes the daily routine drudgery of physics lab and math assignments. Even more distressing, many freshmen try to convince themselves that the drudgery is in fact, what they came for. After all, science is tough.

Continued on Page 6, Column 5

The Caltech student body, world known for its academic competence, experiences education as an external process. Little real responsibility for developing scholarly self direction falls on the student. The emphasis seems to be on the substance rather than the structure of information. If the Caltech education is supposed to prepare students so that they can do without Caltech it is not evident from our undergraduate program.

It may surprise you to know that the preceding four paragraphs were written almost 35 years ago by Joe Rhodes, the recently re-elected ASCIT President and published in the *California Tech* on April 25, 1968. The words are eerily resonant today and this Wednesday, we will attempt to address many of these issues in a day of meetings and presentations. As we take a hard look at the curriculum this week, I would like to point out that these are not just current problems, but may be as old as Caltech itself.

Rhodes was certainly not the first to speak out. Bernard Shore wrote in the March 10, 1949 *Tech*: "A lightening of the academic load would provide students with an opportunity to satisfy the intense intellectual curiosity that is so characteristic of them; the student is cut or stretched to a preconceived pattern that ignores individual differences, needs, abilities and interests."

These complaints have always been there and over time, the faculty has responded to these complaints by diversifying the core curriculum, expanding humanities offerings, mandating pass-fail grading for freshmen, offering more different majors and reducing the number of units required to graduate. Nowadays, our graduation rate is improving each year and is dramatically better than a



Courtesy of www.aftribute.com

dence," "writhing in sickness," "raise monolithic statues so fragile," and "plastic fame." On "Dancing through Sunday," he roars over heavy beats and guitar riffs, "Will you join me in this dance of misery, cradled in impossibility? / Will you lend yourself to beauty that will horrify?" then to moan tenderly on "The Great Disappointment" with siren strings and a menacing bass line, "I can remember, dreamt them so vividly, soft creatures draped in white, light kisses gracing me / I can remember when I first realized dreams were the only place to see

them / While I waited I was wasting away / Hope was wasting away / Faith was wasting away."

Despite the underlying grave theme of the lyrics, the varied delivery allows the songs to never descend into banality and cheesiness. Somehow, AFI makes abandoning all hope so inviting and cathartic. With clear and captivating tunes, you join in their dance of misery as A Fire Inside, feeding on your anguish, whirling with power you never knew you possessed, razes your soul pure.

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On Food, Wine and Winning Wars

Dean Revel Contemplates the Boundaries of Political Correctness

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

The war in Iraq is not over yet, but who would have believed in their heart of hearts that we would witness the scenes we saw on TV last week, such a short time after the bombers first unleashed their torrents of exploding ammunition on Baghdad. We still don't know the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein and we already have come against the problem of the lack of an organized cadre of civil servants. Something will have to be done to restore administrative services and man the utilities with locals untainted by their behavior in the past. And we need to deliver on all those promises that the Iraqis and many through the world, have heard us talk about. Few signs of WMDs have been found up to now.

We have to watch out lest Saddam look as a persecuted hero or has the chance to present himself as a martyr while we look like downright bullies, ready to use the most undemocratic of ways while wrapped in democracy's flag. Both Saddam and Osama have aspired to be considered as modern day Saladins, the 11th century Kurdish hero who revenged Islam from the humiliation brought on by the Crusaders. Well yes, the Kurds and Saddam's Iraq were not in particularly good terms, but let's not quibble details; and did you realize that Saddam and Saladin were both born in the same town, Tikrit! That might be taken as a sign by some, for sure.

Our leaders, like so many of us— that includes you, dear student— could profit from a review of Dale Carnegie's book of 1936 on "How to win friends and influence people." The first recommendation for successfully "handling people" is "don't criticize, condemn or complain." It sounds simple but it can be hard to do, I know all too well. But it is an important approach for effective interpersonal as well as international relationships.

Take the example of our government's handling of France right now. Marianne, who personifies France like Uncle Sam personifies the US, Marianne is entitled to differ from us without us going off in a huff and abjuring from French wines. Should that extend to wines made from French vines? I hope not since that would leave us only Manischewitz to drink. Ok, I know the wines mean little to those of you younger than 18, but then think of a boycott of French cheeses. And maybe we will have to do without Moutarde de Dijon, Mayonnaise or French toast and instead have to learn to enjoy those new fangled freedom fries. I don't think that our criticisms of the French—and Russian and German etc.—attitude to-

"So here we are, paragon of civic correctness that we proclaim to be, at war."

wards war on Iraq, our stamping of feet and complaining because they don't want to play the game our way, condemning those we have a beef with, none of these things will serve us well in the end. Oh dear, can I use the word beef? Do we need to forego beef altogether? After all it is a Norman boeuf. Curious isn't it that the Anglo Saxon delicacy, roast beef, became French rosbif? Of course other bovine products, like Hamburgers and Frankfurters might be still be OK, not that the Germans have particularly pleased us. Think of it! Instead of baguettes we might have to have to restrict our diet to English muffins and Wonder Bread.

Anyway, we need to listen to others, take their opinions and ideas into account. There have been too many unilateral cancellations of

treaties. There has been too much going off on our own even though we need to submit to the decisions of the UN, like once at Caltech, we must follow its rules.

Perhaps things are already worse than I thought. I met an old colleague a week or two ago in front of the Red Door. After a few pleasantries he said, "perhaps he should not be seen with me, you know, a Frenchman." Come to think of it perhaps the *Tech* will not publish my weekly "A bientot." Already in the issue of 3/17 I was supplanted by Libin Zhang's impersonation. Pretty funny that, specially when I discovered that many readers just did not notice his byline. Thanks Libin, I needed that.

So here we are, paragon of civic correctness that we proclaim to be, at war. The first installment will cost some \$6.5*1010, 65 billion dollars. American Billions, not European ones which are 1012. Funny thing is I don't know whether we can say that word, billion. Russ Rowlett from Chapel Hill points out that the two "systems are actually of French origin." The system where Byllion and Tryllion represent 1012 and 1018 was introduced by one Nicolas Chuquet, although in the 1600's "French mathematicians used billion and trillion for 109 and 1012." Eventually the definition of a billion as 109 was retained only in the US, while it means 1012 everywhere else. Maybe in the ridiculous spirit which might deprive us of Camembert, we should also use the words "a thousand million" to be PC. Lets see, there are 2.81*108 Americans, so taxes will have to be lowered by negative 2.31*102 per head, \$925.27 per family of four. I can sure imagine spending a \$1000 for causes that are closer to home.

In the meantime, back home, here, things are nearly normal. The baseball season is underway, with un-Dijon mustard on those franks, the economy putt putts along, the

stock market drops when, well you know and perks up a bit when, well, you know. Oh yes and classes have started, there are homework sets due ... remember to make sure that you are informed about the collab policy for the courses you are taking!

But back to the war on Iraq. Far from everyone in the world agrees with us. Even some of our staunchest usual allies do not have any taste to follow us and as a result are the butt of official ire. You know, I guess we could switch to Bourbon, the local product, or Scotch. Now I can't remember if Scotland is with us or against us. I guess that even though they have their own parliament the Scots are one with Britain in so far as foreign policy.

At least I have not yet heard of excesses such as the French engaged in to protect "the purity of the French language." There was a time when French scientists could present their work only in French for example during de Gaulle to mark the beginning of our campaign to have a change of government in Iraq. I guess it might be significant that the first thing we did, was to follow a tip given by an insider and try to bomb Saddam Hussein out of his life and failing that, at least out of one of his hide outs. Maybe we were trying to scare him out of his wits, although that would seem unnecessary since I guess if he had any we would not be there. Depending on one's leanings that of course may be seen as an inappropriate comment; I guess it can be argued that if we had any we would not be there either. We began operations in Afghanistan also by attempts at getting rid of enemy numero uno, at that time Osama and/or his top acolytes. It does not seem to have worked either time, although by now we have made progress against Osama's hierarchy. In both cases there is the danger of giving both an aura and the more our bombs don't succeed in achieving their goal, the taller their legends grow.

I don't dare say "A bientot," so... see ya later, alligator.

'CALTECH MYTH' STILL PLAGUES STUDENT LIFE

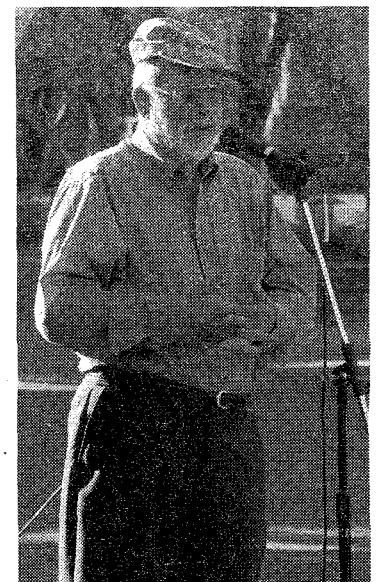
HOPES FOR SEC TO SPUR REFORM

Continued from Page 5, Column 5

few decades ago. However, we are still far behind our peer universities in that respect and the same criticisms of the Caltech academic program are still being voiced today.

The Student-Faculty Conference on Wednesday will identify and characterize some of our most pressing problems. The committees will also provide simple solutions for many of them. However, the most important work will come in the weeks and months after conference. We should not expect to solve decades-old problems in one day. Some reforms will require significant additional work and changes will likely need to be made at the highest levels.

The conference is the most ambitious event of its kind that Caltech has seen yet and I have high hopes that Wednesday, April 16, 2003 may be the day we start making Rhodes' "Caltech Myth" a reality.



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Certified shaker

Certified no more mac & cheese

Certified acceleration

Certified rush

Certified freedom

Certified bring it on

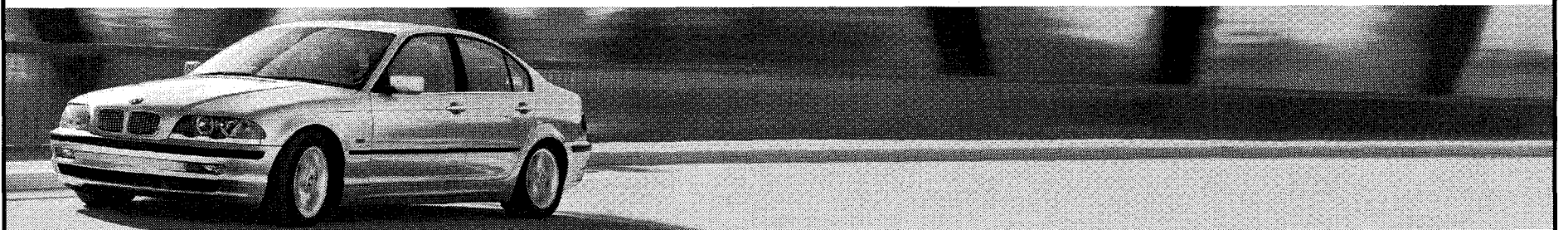
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Fair Urges Balance Of School, Body, Family

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

vices right on the spot, from skin and blood pressure exams to measurement of body fat and 10-minute massages. Although Ling himself was looking out for a med kit, he thought the services provided were more important than the goodies most tables had on hand. Other items in demand included earplugs, sunscreen samples and the ever-present promotional pen.

The health fair started more than a decade ago with Stuart Miller at the Health Center. The mission this year continues to be to encourage a balance in the demands of life, school and family, though Friday's event was weighted more towards the commercial side of things. Undergraduates who don't have much of a chance to get off campus were introduced to some of the opportu-

nities for health and wellness in the area. Several fitness and outdoor stores were in attendance.

The fair was widely publicized across campus, but many students either chose not to attend or just briefly passed through. While some cited reasons of laziness or indifference, others were unimpressed by the rock wall or put off by the long lines at the massage chair.

Others found that classes and the fair took up conflicting time slots. With lectures both before and after lunch, time for the event was short-changed by other necessary errands.

Still, those who did attend found useful presentations from a variety of vendors. Cat owners could find information from the local SPCA and students who recently found out they had excessive blood pressure could relieve some of it at the accompanying Blood Drive in Winnett Lounge.

The institute's ability to generate student-faculty communication has had a less-than-perfect record lately and many saw the success of this event as a positive sign of things to come. The fair also showed that the improvement of student and employee life is an important concern of administrators.

In any case, most students enjoyed their brief diversion and no doubt will reminisce once midterms and finals roll around. With this Friday's resounding success and the long history of the Health and Worklife Fair, one thing is for certain: the chiropractors will be back next year.

dergraduates, graduate students and staff at Caltech as well as community members. The committee works closely with other groups on campus such as the Caltech Y and Peaceful Justice at Caltech, a student action group established in response to the events of September 11, 2001.

The 2002-2003 series was made possible with the generous support of the President's Office, The James Irvine Foundation, The Mellon Foundation, Graduate Student Council, Student Affairs, Campus Auxiliary & Business Services, the Graduate Office, Women's Center, Avery House, Jack & Edith Roberts, the Alumni Association and ASCIT.



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

This year's Health and Worklife Fair featured a host of Caltech organizations and more than 60 vendors, who offered everything from free massages to body fat measurements.

Faryal Depicts 'Greatest Forgotten Tragedy'

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

protest over both. Police and soldiers opened fire, however, and beat the students with clubs and rifles, killing several students and injuring dozens.

But perhaps one of the most shocking aspects of Afghan life that leaked through to western countries, Faryal theorized, was the way the women are treated there. Under the rule of the Taliban women were forced to cover their whole bodies with a burka. They were not allowed to leave the house without being accompanied by a close male relative.

Now that the Taliban is not in power anymore, these rules are officially void. Still, many women in Afghanistan today still wear the burka. When Faryal asked a few of

these women why, they responded that they felt more safety and security that way.

In that light, the people of Afghanistan today suffer just as much poverty, oppression and other hardships as under the rule of the Taliban. The example of Afghanistan, said Faryal, demonstrates that we cannot bomb a country into peace.

Ms. Faryal's lecture was followed by a short lecture by Anne Brodsky, author of the book *With All Our Strength: The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan*, which will soon become available in bookstores. Brodsky is a United States citizen and has long been a supporter of RAWA.

She spoke about RAWA and her observations about this organiza-

tion. To her, one of the most important aspects of RAWA is their principle of "work over name." It is not important to the members of RAWA that their name be associated with the work they do; they just want the work to get done.

Dr. Brodsky also pointed out that all of the work RAWA does involves "sacrifice, benefit and service." The presentation of the two speakers was followed by a question-and-answer period, during which the audience showed itself very interested.

Faryal's appearance was part of a nationwide tour to raise awareness to the fate of Afghanistan and its people, which has progressively drifted out of the picture as the spectre of September 11, 2001 fades and the conflict with Iraq has escalated. This in mind, Faryal's tour aims to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming "the greatest forgotten tragedy."

Her tour is organized by Afghan Women's Mission (AWM), a U.S.-based organization working in solidarity with RAWA.

This was the last lecture in this season's Social Activism Speaker Series (SASS). The Speaker Series is organized by a committee of un-

CTO Shares Experience, Business Advice in Talk

By ROBERT LI

Last Monday, the Caltech Entrepreneur Club sponsored a talk by Mark Foster '82, Caltech alumnus and the senior vice president and chief technology officer of NeuStar, Inc. Mr. Foster, who earned a BS in Physics and Computer Science at Caltech, has over 25 years of entrepreneurial experience.

In his hour-long talk, Mr. Foster focused primarily on his employment history and how he came to be CTO of NeuStar. During high school, Foster was already consulting for a local computer company. After high school graduation, Foster was offered a job at the company and worked there for several years before coming to Caltech. In the years following the earning of his BS, Foster did more consulting and gradually gravitated toward the telecommunications industry.

During the early '90s, Foster became involved with a project at Sprint for a voice-activated calling-card and voice-mail system. The project was planned to be rolled out nationwide but was canceled for unrelated financial reasons. Following this development, Foster left Sprint and was hired in the mid-'90s to lead a division within Lockheed to develop solutions for telephone number portability, then a hot issue in the telephone deregulation debate. Telephone number portability is the process by which you can keep your telephone number even if you decide to switch local telephone companies.

At Lockheed, Foster developed the technology for a nationwide telephone number portability sys-

tem. Due to the superiority of Foster's design, Lockheed was awarded a contract as the sole administrator of the telephone number portability system by the FCC and then by the Canadian and Mexican governments. When Lockheed decided to go into the satellite communications business in the late '90s, Foster's group was spun off to form NeuStar.

Currently, NeuStar operates the Number Portability Administrative Center Service Management System (NPAC SMS). The NPAC SMS is connected to all the 5000 telecommunications carriers in the US and routes virtually every call in North America. Aside from managing the number portability database, NeuStar has also entered the domain name registry business and operates the .us, .biz domains and handles all non-Chinese registrations in the .cn domain. NeuStar is also exploring areas such as directory services for IP telephony and is participating in the Liberty Alliance to develop digital identity services.

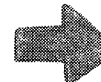
At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Foster offered some advice for aspiring entrepreneurs. The most important thing entrepreneurs need, Foster said, is to have a good network and to always be honest and build trust with other people.

The event was attended by around 30 people, most of whom were graduate students. The Caltech Entrepreneur Club has held events since 1994 to help Caltech entrepreneurs get started.

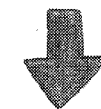
CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH



Health Fair: Complete with a climbing wall, wellness rocks Winnett in a *fling* of an event as a new, healthy spring gets off to a Bing.



SFC: Last year's fell below expectations. So hsu me. But this year's aims much higher, even if it's run by a khan man. A full day long, the event should be long knouf to fix a few problems.



SARS: It's bad. Really bad. Fortunately, we have divina intervention. Jane and Nurse Bautista, whom you might call the SARS tsars, now appear to have things under control.

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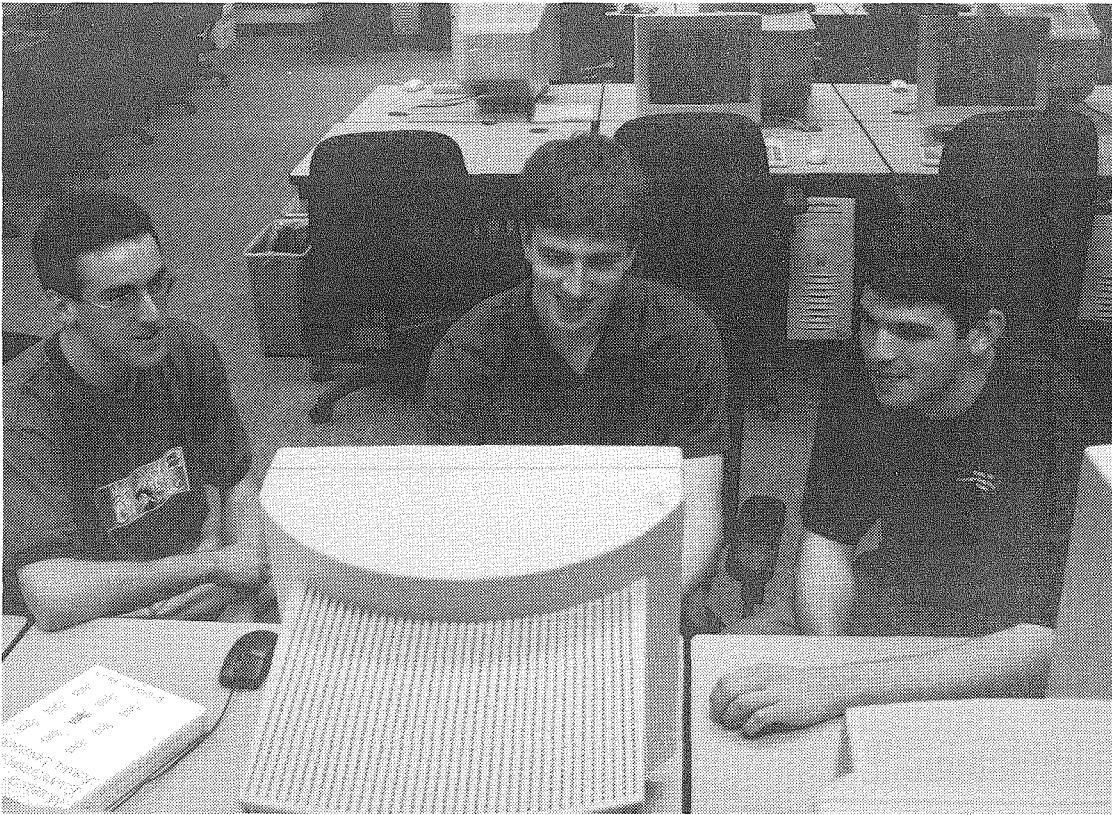
Biotechnology or biopharmaceutical company experience and/or tissue engineering experience highly desirable.

3. Research Associate:

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D. Korta/The California Tech

Caltech's programming team of Nate Paymer '03, Jacob Burnim '06 and Adam D'Angelo '06 placed first in North America in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest held March 25, 2003.

Coding Team Places 13th in World

By JENNY IOFINOVA and ARTHI SRINIVASAN

The Caltech programming team of Jacob Burnim '06, Adam D'Angelo '06 and Nate Paymer '03 achieved world ranking in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals held over spring break.

The three-man team named Caltech A placed 13th in the world—tied with eight other schools including University of California, Berkeley—and first in North America by correctly solving six of the ten problems presented to them. The five-hour competition was held in Beverly Hills. The primary round of the competition had over 1300 universities from 68 countries represented.

Caltech had three teams in compete in the regional round. Interested students started preparing for the competition during the first term, in a special section of CS 11. The twelve people who were interested spent several weeks taking practice contests and eventually the Caltech A, B and C teams were formed. The A and B teams placed first and second in the Southern California Regional competition held over first term. Normally, the top two teams receive an invitation to the World Finals, but since the

INTERNATIONAL WEEK TO SHOW OFF CULTURES

By IRAM PARVEEN-BILAL

International week kicked off yesterday with the start of a week-long international film festival aimed at expressing the cultural diversity present on this campus.

"We are excited about the fact that this year, we have two lunchtime discussions, a local trip to the Japanese-American National Museum and country tables exhibiting information about their countries," said Jim Endrizzi, assistant director of the International Students Program. "This is an addition to the normal music, food and dance that are always present during international fairs."

Some of the most awaited attractions of the week are the Traditional West African Dance from Senegal by Aziz Faye at noon today in front of Red Door and the Student Culture Show on Friday, which will feature colorful and artistic performances showcasing various countries' cultures.

top two were both from Caltech, only the A team went on.

Second term, according to Burnim, "[the team was] pretty much on [its] own." He then added, "before [the final round], we practiced for about 20 hours, as soon as finals were over." The team members individually tried their hand at practice contests and they all participate in TopCoder, a programming contest for college students. In preparation for the actual competition that was held on Tuesday, March 25, the team drove to Beverly Hills on the previous Saturday and participated in the various activities that had been arranged for them by the competition sponsor, IBM.

While at Beverly Hills, the teams also participated in a side Java Challenge competition, in which the teams wrote a Java program to control a car. The competition was held in real time during dinner directly in front of the competing teams. Burnim recalled, "We got fourth place in that and we sat next to [Louis State University], who got second and together we were probably louder than the rest of the place."

During the actual five-hour final, each team shared one computer to solve ten problems. In order to be as efficient as possible, the Caltech team used a rotation system by which one person typed up code and the other two looked at other problems and wrote code by hand, then took a turn on the computer to type it up. Since each team also had a printer, the team members were also able to proofread code without using up valuable computer time. According to D'Angelo, "the limiter is generally typing speed, since we can figure out what to type faster than we can type."

The competition is scored based on the number of problems correctly solved, as well as the time taken and the number of incorrect submissions. A team that correctly solves more problems than another team will receive the higher score, but if two teams solve the same number, the tie is broken by deducting penalty points based on the number of previous incorrect submissions.

Burnim commented on overall strategy, "it's very important you do the shorter ones first; the top ten teams had all solved at least seven problems and teams 11-25 had all solved six, so that ranking was completely [based on] who had done them faster." D'Angelo added, "there's a lot of luck in general."

All of the teams had their own table in a large conference room

during the competition. After a team correctly solved a problem, a balloon was hung at their table. By looking at the numbers of balloons at different tables around them, the Caltech team knew they were doing well; however, according to D'Angelo, "we weren't sure we were going to do as well as we did, although we knew we had a shot at first in North America."

The team members commented on the fact that this year the competition was significantly different than in the previous years. Before, there were eight problems with a range of difficulty. This year, according to D'Angelo, "there were ten easier ones; it was enough for the Caltech team to read the problems once to develop an overall strategy for solving them and the trouble was coding and debugging."

The contest itself, however, was not any easier. Overall, he noted, "the level of competition has been increasing" from year to year. Both Burnim and D'Angelo are freshmen, which bodes well for next year's team. Burnim remarked, "Hopefully Adam and I will make it again, so a lot of people on the team will have gone to worlds before. We should have a strong team next year and we'll hopefully get up a few places." If that should happen, however, both Burnim and D'Angelo will be disqualified for future years since all finalists have only two years of competition eligibility.

The members of Caltech's team have each been programming for many years, generally since elementary or middle school and participating in computing Olympiads through high school. Burnim remarked, "we're just really into programming. It's neat to solve problems, especially under time pressure, which makes it more exciting." Despite the upcoming graduation of team member Nathan Paymer, Caltech's chances in future computing competitions look excellent.

Panel Details Challenges, Goals of Science Writing

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

you really have to... strip away the jargon."

She gave the example of interviewing a physicist at Stanford University, in which after the entire interview, there was only one full sentence he had said that she could use in her article. She therefore described her job not just as a journalist, but as a translator.

Another example of the difficulties of science writing she spoke about was filtering through the massive amounts of information that now exist in the information age.

The last obstacle is the increasing infiltration of the business world into the scientific world. Science writers and journalists especially have the responsibility of writing for laypeople who need to make informative decisions about things such as stem-cell research and environmental health. "As a society, we need to keep a level of technical literacy," remarked McFarling.

The next speaker was Vice Provost David Goodstein. As a physics professor for over three decades, he has also become an influential critic and ombudsman of science.

Dr. Goodstein observed that "communication has been a problem since the invention of modern scientists." Galileo remains one of the greatest communicators of science to this day. He wrote in Italian, the common language, rather than Latin, so that any common person could read his thoughts and discoveries and in doing so, created huge controversy over his heliocentric versus geocentric theory.

Dr. Goodstein further remarked that science often is like a secret. Research and findings are published publicly, but in hundreds of dialects—one for each subfield of science. Oftentimes, we are not even aware we are using jargon when explaining science to others.

He compared writing about science to teaching science. "To teach science well, we must remember what it was like not to understand," and that we must go back and remember what it was like to learn science each step of the way.

The famed Mechanical Universe series was also used as an example to how science is communicated. In

preparation for it, TV scripts had to be written that would clearly convey the physics. Dr. Goodstein relayed with a chuckle "that it was much easier to learn to write the T.V. scripts myself than for the script writers to learn science," and so ended up doing much of the writing himself.

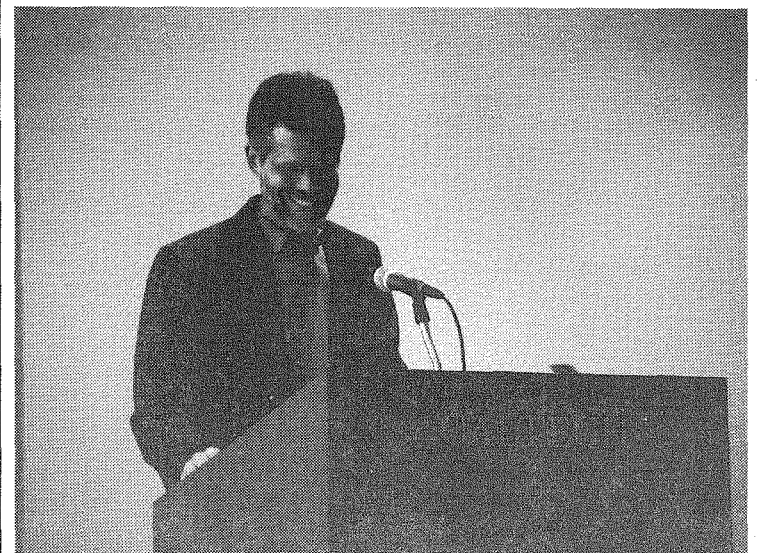
Alan Lightman was the last of the panelist speakers to talk. He has published four novels, including Einstein's Dreams and The Diagnosis. Lightman received his Ph.D. in physics from Caltech and now is a professor of science writing and a senior lecturer in physics at MIT.

Lightman described his entry into the world of science writing to fulfill a need for individuality and to connect to people on a more personal level. "Science raises philosophical, emotional and human questions," and so he began writing to try to address these issues. And as he eloquently put it, "science writing is not just about explaining it to other people, but about connecting, what it means to be a human."

The panel then opened the floor to the audience to ask questions. On being asked to offer advice to young scientists wanting to enter science journalism or writing, McFarling simply said "just write, get published." She added that "science is ever more daunting" and that the writing world needs more people from Caltech with a rigorous science background.

This symposium had originally been scheduled for February, but was postponed due to the recent Columbia tragedy, which required some of the panelists to be called to duty. It was the first of what the Words Matter program hopes to be an annual event, to foster literary activity and interest in the varied forms of writing and to aid with the Core 1 Science Writing Requirement. With a smile, Steven Youra commented "We have a goal highlighting writing and communication, because science done is only as good as it can be communicated, right?"

Words Matter is funded by the President's office and guided by a committee of students, faculty and administration.



D. Korta/The California Tech

Steven Youra, director of the Hixon Writing Center, opens up what is hoped to be an annual Science Writing Symposium last Monday.

The California Tech

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