

# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 18, 2000

## TAKING ISSUES OF GENDER INEQUALITY TO HEART

BY DANA SADAVA

On a day when most young beaus bought bouquets and chocolate to make women feel appreciated, Dr. Alan Johnson reminded his audience that "our good intentions mean nothing if we're silent."

Johnson was speaking on the reluctance of both men and women to address issues of gender inequality. In his Valentine's Day seminar, he said that sexism has become "more subtly and more intricately woven" into today's society, giving the false impression that the battle of the sexes is nearly over.

One of the fundamental ways in which sexism is still readily apparent, Johnson claimed, is the fact that society is highly patriarchal.

"Maleness itself is valued...the male way of doing things has become standard," he said.

He pointed to examples of "male-identification" such as the way words like "mankind" and "brotherhood" are used to generalize about the human race.

Also, more recently, girls and women refer to each other as "guys" with increasing frequency.

Though they may embrace such practices, Johnson asserted that females are not to blame for most issues of gender inequality.

What Johnson said was at the root of sexism was not the relationship between a man and a woman, but the relationship between men.

He claimed that men are driven to control women mostly to assert their power to other men who may suspect them weak. In order to avoid being termed "whipped" by his peers, a man will choose a dominating role over a more equal one with his partner.

Johnson warned that such

PLEASE SEE JOHNSON ON PAGE 3

## Career Day brings opportunities, goodies

BY DAVE GUSKIN

Here at Caltech, most of us are average Techers. We stay up late nights to finish problem sets and we complain about bad grades on midterms. On Caltech Career Day, however, we discover that being "average" in Caltech's eyes is "best of the best" in everyone else's.

"I felt like a big hunk of meat," commented one sophomore EE major, loaded down with free stuff gleaned from attending businesses soliciting the employ of Caltech students. Almost a hundred companies attended, ranging from the scientific (Lawrence Livermore Labs and NASA Ames Research) to the internet.com's (idealab! and Excite@Home) to the more mundane (Disney Imagineering and Applied Materials). Endless opportunity abounded in Brown Gym, the site of the Career extravaganza. However, as many students discovered, most companies were looking for commit-

ment in the form of full-time employees. In fact, many of the software and computing companies were exclusively interested in those with a strong CS and/or EE background. Add to that the necessity for graduating Seniors to fill long-term employment contracts, and the route to summer job looked difficult indeed. Here's an example of a conversation between a Techer named Bobby and a representative from a prestigious Internet company:

Bobby: Hi!

Rep: Hi!

Bobby: So, what kind of people are you guys looking for?

Rep: Are you a CS major?

Bobby: Uhhhh... no.

Rep: Are you a ... EE major?

Bobby: Uhhhh... no.

Rep: But you're a graduating senior, right?

Bobby: Uhhhh... no...

Rep: Hmmmm....

Bobby: Ummm... can I give you my resume?

Rep: Sure...

Bobby: Hey... can I have some



PHOTO BY ERIK DILL

Senior Jeremiah Smith, left, speaks with one of many company representatives at Career Day

free stuff?

All was not lost, however. Techers like Bobby still have the competitive advantage over other applicants, and especially over other college students. Our Honor Code, extremely rigorous coursework and numerous experiences with research give us an edge that other, more "liberal

arts" students don't necessarily have. The event, organized by the Caltech Career Development Center, is held each year to allow students to sample the "real world" and investigate job opportunities. In addition, it provides students a chance to work on their resume and interview skills.

## Excomm appoints Tuttle

BY JUSTIN KAO

*"In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors due to 'NO' winning the election, the Executive Committee may appoint an individual to fill the office and perform all of its duties, until the end of its term or another individual is elected under the terms of section 12." -ASCIT bylaws, article 8 section 9*

In January's election, NO won for ASCIT President for the first time in known history. Following ASCIT bylaws, the Executive Committee consisting of Clifford Hicks (Chair), Puneet Newaskar, Abraham Ankumah, Nicholas Breen and Baldeep Sadhal appointed Eric Tuttle, a junior from Lloyd House, as new ASCIT President.

According to past president Baldeep Sadhal, "No winning the election for a BOD position is, as far as I know, unprecedented. The Excomm didn't have any set procedures to follow, and the Bylaws aren't much of a guide... we wanted to be sure that we chose the best-suited candidate in an impartial and efficient manner. The method we decided upon was a combination of written applica-

tion and oral interview. The idea was that we would be able to make a rough selection based on the written responses, and then do a more in-depth interview for the remaining candidates to make the final selection."

Among the factors considered were each candidate's "hold on reality, their interest in the position, and their ability to succeed in it," with application questions on previous experience, familiarity with students in various houses, why they did not run in the election, and time to do the job, among others.

Said Baldeep, "Similar experience played a crucial role in selection," as he remembers being "pretty much clueless" when he took on the position. In addition, it was important to select a president who would perform well as an "ambassador" for the students. According to Eric, "the selection committee was pretty thorough in the interviews," while Baldeep noted that "The Excomm was impressed by his experience working with organizations and in group situations."

On applying for the position, Eric commented "I was really disappointed with the vote for NO..."

PLEASE SEE TUTTLE ON PAGE 5

## So you want a job?

BY BRYCE ENGELBRECHT

Want a job? Chances are you will be interviewing on campus if you do. I was a techer (once upon a time)- now I sit at the other end of the interview table. Use what I tell you below and you will significantly improve your chances of getting your foot in the door for that job you really want.

Give yourself an advantage in the beginning by signing up for an early interview slot. Most interview schedules run from nine in the morning to five in the evening, and your best play is to get in before the later afternoon starts, around three. Any interviewer will be tired by the end of the day- imagine repeating the same conversation up to fourteen times, back to back, all in one day. Put yourself in the enviable posi-

tion of having an alert, interested interviewer by grabbing him or her early. As interviewers, we come into the late interviews with less enthusiasm and greater expectations of the candidate- we're less apt to facilitate when we're tired. Do yourself a favor and get in early- right away you put your best foot forward.

Know your concerns before you show up for the interview. When you are armed with some questions about qualifications or demands, you show us that you know what you're looking for, and when you voice your concerns, you give us a chance to respond to them. You may be concerned about your qualifications (your GPA, forexample). As Caltech students, you are reminded time and again that your GPA could be

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## ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T.  
Minutes

FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Present: New BoD; Old BoD members: Baldeep Sadhal, Hanna Kim, Melvin Leok, Garrett Heffner, and Derek Shannon; Guests: Christian Thomas, Tim Crosby, and Erik Dill

First meeting of the new BoD called to order at 11:30 pm.

Gurt reports that new officer installations will probably be on Thursday, February 24 at the MOSH's house.

Guests:

Christian and Tim bring us up to date on the projector Mann's Theater donated to Caltech. Tim reports that it has not been tested yet, but he is confident they can get it to work. They request funding for third term and first term of next year, saying that the new equipment will increase attendance at the weekly showings. Most of the costs are for the licenses to the movie reels, which are about \$3000 a term for 10 movies.

Erik "Mr. Publications" Dill reports on the progress of the little t and the Big T. He answers

the question: "1999 little t, where the hell is it?" It is "on the road to getting printed," according to Erik. He estimates that cost will be \$4-\$5 per book for an order of 1100 books, 300 pages each. As for the Big T, it is "underway and well in hand." Erik reminds us that senior submissions are due February 22, which is next week. He also proposes a monthly meeting with ASCIT and the publications staff to give updates and report on their progress and financial status. Erik is also developing a guidebook entitled "How Not to Screw Up the little t."

Quote from Erik: "According to Baldeep, publication directors hide in their office and ASCIT only finds out when things go horribly, horribly wrong." General Meeting: Eric begins with the subject of ASCIT appointed offices, which include Tech, little t, and Big T Business Managers; little T, Big T, and Totem Editors; and Election and Movie Chairs. The Social Director also needs to nominate an Executive Social Team (usually the Social Director from each house) and the President needs to choose an Executive Committee.

Laura reports that the BoC does not have all the house representatives yet, but they will be chosen by Thursday.

The BoD starts talking about money and the little t. Baldeep says that the cost to ASCIT is usually small since the delta between money received from advertising and the money spent on publishing is very small, in theory. What if the little t is not published this year? Chris suggests putting out a "smaller t." Another solution is to hand out copies from previous years to just the freshman or to have a PDF version online. Baldeep tells Sean that he has complete control over the finances of the publications.

Laura comments that this is the first year that the BoC bylaws will be printed in the little t. She also mentions that the BoC is going to propose a change in their bylaws concerning the appointment of BoC reps. They would like to have staggered elections to solve the problem of having too many new BoC members at the same time. Baldeep tells her that a two-thirds majority of the voting population is required for a by-law change.

The BoD goes back to the subject of officer appointments. Eric notes that interviews will take a LONG time. We decide that the sign-ups will be announced this Friday, February 18 and will be taken down next Friday, February 25. The sign-

ups will be on the door of the ASCIT office, SAC 33. Martha-Helene proposes splitting up the BoD to conduct interviews, which most people agreed was a good idea. The old BoD members bring the new BoD up to date about the ASCIT movies. Baldeep brings up several pro-movie arguments: they promote social interaction, there is nothing else to do Friday night, and it is the only opportunity to see old movies in that format. The BoD also considers having a DVD video library and/or movies in Moore.

Meghan brings up the subject of the ASCIT van, which is too expensive to insure. She is determined to sell the van (possibly on eBay), though Baldeep notes that he has heard the past three Upperclass Directors say the same thing.

Eric brings up the Budget Meeting, which will probably be scheduled for the second week of third term. He proposes setting up a Club Funding Committee to help conduct interviews. Chris suggests turning funding of ethnic clubs over to the ISO (International Student Organization) and ASCIT will just contribute to ISO. Baldeep says that there might be potential problems with that and suggests having reps from different funding organizations meet bi-weekly to

discuss club funding. The new BoD will leave details of the Budget Meeting for the next meeting.

Chris reports that the Housing surveys have been received, the data is in, but has not yet been analyzed. He also reports a meeting between the IHC and Chris Brennen to discuss admissions, since Caltech is admitting the same number of students though the yield is expected to be much higher.

The time for the weekly ASCIT meetings has been set for Mondays at 10:00 pm for the rest of the term.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Cardema

## Correction:

In last week's article, "Sampling the Universe: the Future of Exploration," we incorreced reported Titan as one of Jupiter's moons. Titan is a satellite of Saturn, not Jupiter. We the editors deeply regret this error.

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ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 17  
FEBRUARY 18, 2000

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Announcements (Mints): noon Monday  
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday  
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

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# ASCIT WANTS YOU!

## JOHNSON:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

actions have serious consequences.

"It isn't exactly a coincidence that most violent crimes are committed by men...and in schools today, girls are not the ones getting guns and going on shooting sprees," he said.

He cited that men are generally more disgruntled and uneasy than women. In a statement analogous to the unexplicable emotional pain of women in Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique*, Johnson attributed men's anxiety to the pressure of living in a society where they are encouraged to seize power.

The solution, Johnson said, is "for men to take responsibility" for their actions and to try not to succumb to the competition fellow men pose to them.

Johnson is the author of the book *Gender Knot* and is a frequent lecturer at many universities around the country.

## Editorial: A Woman's contribution to sexism

BY DANA SADAVA

When I left the Women's Center on Valentine's Day after attending Dr. Alan Johnson's seminar entitled "The Struggle for Gender Equality Doesn't Have to Be a Battle Between the Sexes," I was very disappointed.

My disappointment stemmed not from the material presented by Johnson, who spoke quite thoroughly and eloquently on the topic of sexism, but rather from the behavior of his audience.

Naturally, the attendees were almost entirely women. What bothered me was that, when it came time for a question-and-answer period, they acted as women for hundreds of years have acted: like they deserved to be dominated.

When they raised their hands to pose a question, the tips of their fingers barely reached eye level. When they spoke, they began with phrases like "I don't know..." and ended them with "...I guess." They giggled and smiled their

way through their sentences as if to say, "Don't worry. I don't need to be taken seriously."

Men, as Johnson said, may be the root of the sexism problem, but no matter how much they change for the better, issues of gender inequality will not be resolved until women behave like they want to be treated fairly.

No woman deserves to be the victim of sexism, but if she exuded the attitude that she wouldn't tolerate it, men would have no choice but to comply.

Too many women claim to aid the women's movement by discussing men's faults without realizing the subtleties of their own actions that contradict their stated desire to be on par with men.

Women have come a long way in the last century and no one is expected to change in an instant. But if women today were just a little louder, a little less giggly, and a little more obnoxious about what they want, perhaps they would not be the kind of people men love to dominate.

## ASCIT WANTS YOU!

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FOR THE OFFICES OF

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**Tech Business Manager**  
**Big T Editor**  
**Big T B.M.**  
**little t Editor**  
**little t B.M.**  
**Totem Editor**  
**Election Committee-Chairman**  
**Movie Chairman**

\*\*\*

Details about these offices are be available on the ascit webpage (<http://www.its/~ascit>). Sign-ups come down on Fri Feb 25th at 5pm.



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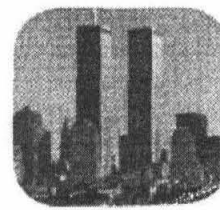
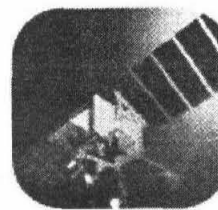
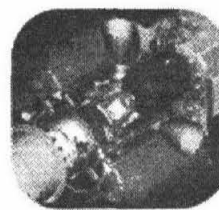
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## Sports Update

# CALTECH ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Nita Losoponkul, Women's Tennis (Junior/East Hills, N.Y.) - Junior women's tennis player Nita Losoponkul's three-set win at No. 2 singles last Friday clinched a 5-4 victory for Caltech against Occidental.

The women's tennis team is currently 4-0 on the season, tied for the best start in program history.

Losoponkul is undefeated in singles competition during those four matches and is 3-1 in doubles play.

She has dropped only two sets in her four singles matches thus far.

## Baseball (3-4, 0-3 SCIAC)

The Beavers were swept last weekend by Pomona-Pitzer (1-13, 1-12, 1-21) to open the conference season.

Senior left fielder Matt Sullivan hit safely in all three games, going 4-for-11 (.364) with a double, a run scored and an RBI. Junior catcher Tim Buschman also collected hits in all three games, batting 3-for-10 (.300) with an RBI. Junior Eric Tardiff pitched four innings of relief in game two of the series, scattering six hits while allowing just two earned runs.

## Men's Basketball (1-20, 0-10 SCIAC)

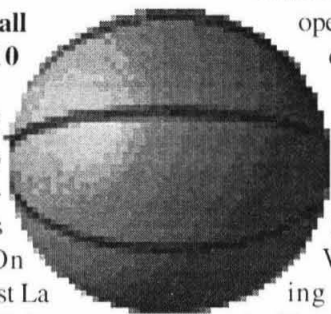
Caltech dropped a pair last week to La Verne (39-62) and Redlands (54-88). On Wednesday against La Verne, Jonathan Bird came

off the bench to notch game-highs of 14 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Arnesen scored seven points and grabbed four boards off the bench while Paul Updike tallied four points and nine rebounds in his first collegiate start. He followed that performance with a 15-point, seven-rebound effort on Saturday at Redlands.

Jonathan Bird added 10 points and a team-best nine rebounds while Jay Henderson came off the bench to tally 10 points.

## Men's Tennis (2-1, 0-1 SCIAC)

Caltech dropped its SCIAC opener on Friday at Occidental (2-5). The Beavers won two of three doubles matches, with the teams of Matt Musick / Arjun Narayanan and Jason Wong / Eric Sherer helping Caltech earn the doubles point. Chris Leapley



was the lone singles winner for Caltech, earning a 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 decision at No. 4 singles.

## Women's Tennis (4-0, 1-0 SCIAC)

The women's tennis team swept Occidental (5-4) and Biola (6-3) last weekend, improving to 4-0 and tying the school record for the best start to a season.

Caltech also opened 4-0 in the 1994 and 1997 seasons. Against Occidental, the Beavers swept the three doubles matches, but Oxy rallied back to tie the score at 4-4 with one match remaining.

Caltech's Nita Losoponkul needed three sets, but pulled out a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 victory at No. 2 singles to secure the 5-4 team win (see athlete of the week).

Losoponkul and Susan Sher each earned singles wins against both Occidental and Biola while the doubles teams of Nalini Colaco / Dominika Rytwinska and Sher / Caroline Lim won twice.

## Men's Track and Field

The annual Caltech Invitational was held last weekend at Fox Stanton Track and Field.

Ian Shapiro won the 800 meter (2:05.2) and 3000 meter runs (9:06.5). Adrian Seymour took second in the 1500 meters and fifth place at 800 meters.

Aaron Kuzin finished second in the discus, throwing 134'4". Nathan Flowers-Jacobs took ninth place in the 100 meter dash and sixth in the 200 meter dash.

## Women's Track and Field

In the women's competition of the Caltech Invitational, Serena Eley finished second in the 400 meter dash, third in the 200 meters and fifth in the 800 meters.

Amy Kelly took third in the 3000 meter run and sixth at 1500 meters while Amy Duello finished third in the javelin and fifth in the discus.

Submitted by Chris Hughes, Director of Athletics Media Services

# Y news

by Kenneth Kuo

Not many new things are being planned by the Y currently. However, one item is that Ying Tian, who is in charge of Caltech's contribution to Project Angel Food, is once again requesting assistance with his weekly runs. The purpose of this program is to deliver food to housebound people living with HIV/AIDS. The time commitment lasts but 1 hour from 2:00 PM to 1:00 PM on Fridays. For more information, please e-mail Ying at [ying@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:ying@cco.caltech.edu). As a reminder, students who are eligible for Federal Workstudy can get paid for performing com-

munity service. Various activities which the Y offers in which Workstudy funds can be made available include Project Angel Food, tutoring middle/high school students through the Y, and Alternative Spring Break.

## Alternative Spring Break

For people who are planning to stay at Caltech during Spring Break, consider doing a community service activity in one of two locations away from Caltech. The first location is Earthtime Ranch in Arizona. This trip will take place from March 16-20 and will be limited to 7 or 8 students. Later during Spring Break is the March 23-26 trip to Tecolote, Mexico which will be limited to 15 students. Interested students should contact Annette Cady ([cady@caltech.edu](mailto:cady@caltech.edu)) at ext. 6163.

## Getty Trip

There will be a trip to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles on February 26, 2000 from

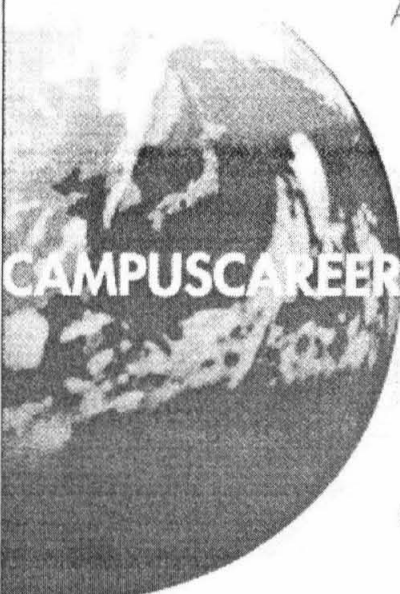
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost of admission is free and transportation will be provided. Spaces are limited. Contact Athena Castro ([castroa@caltech.edu](mailto:castroa@caltech.edu)) or ext. 6163 for more information.

## General Info

The Caltech Y holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Y Lounge behind Steele House. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about what the Y does or who wants to get involved. Bring your ideas, your friends, and your lunch. If you would like to get e-mails about Y-events, Y-outdoor events, or Y-community service events, please e-mail Andrew Hafer at [hafer@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:hafer@cco.caltech.edu) with the e-mail mailing list you would like to be placed on. If you have further questions concerning any of the activities mentioned above, feel free to e-mail me at [dogbert@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:dogbert@cco.caltech.edu)


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### JOB: EX-TECHER'S INTERVIEW HINTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much higher if you were at a different school. Don't take for granted that we know this. If you don't list your GPA on your resume, be prepared to explain what it is and don't be surprised to get questions such as "Why isn't your GPA higher?" Some companies aren't even concerned with your GPA- when you walk away from four years at Caltech with a diploma in your hand, you've answered any questions we may have had about your abilities.

Sell yourself by being memorable. When we as interviewers walk away from a full day of interviews, we may be shelving resumes and interview notes until the following week or even later. To counteract the possibility of your impression fading with passing days, take advantage of opportunities to expound your qualities and convey some charisma. Let us know that you are an interesting person with much to offer our company. Unless a one-page resume accurately describes everything you want us to know about you, you have to step up and tell us about what makes you a good candidate.

Groom yourself. An unkempt appearance makes you immediately questionable in our eyes.

You are only hurting yourself if you don't make an investment in a clean, well-kept appearance. Proper interview attire is well documented in the Career Development Center- if you don't have a jacket, tie, suit, et cetera, chances are that you can borrow one. What do you possibly stand to lose by strolling in to your interview groomed and carefully attired? Keep in mind that this is protocol- some interviewers (including yours truly) come from companies where casual attire is the norm, but don't be fooled. Professionalism is everything. We expect you to be in standard business attire for your interview unless we tell you explicitly otherwise. Believe it, and you won't shoot yourself in the foot with poor preparation. Know the company you're interviewing with. You don't have to know the company's fiscal history for the last seven years- just be familiar with any literature they provide to the CDC, and definitely spend a few minutes or more visiting their web site, if they have one. There is nothing more frustrating to an interviewer than a candidate with no clue about the company he or she is interviewing with. It's inexcusable and you should be embarrassed if you show up so

unprepared. It's a \*good\* bet that if a company left some literature, they want you to pick it up and read it. Get down to the CDC and get some help if you don't understand. If you have acquaintances who work for the company you're interviewing with, grill them for information. You may know many people who work for the company, so leverage input from all of them.

Be friendly. Ultimately, you are talking with another person- your interviewer - whose task is to decide whether you are someone that his or her company might be interested in hiring. Clear, direct communication is key- stern, sharp responses make you look like you're defending yourself. Put yourself in our shoes, as interviewers: we expect a pleasant demeanor in a candidate, so an unfriendly interviewee sticks out in our mind when we decide who we want to continue talking with. good luck on your journey. Preparation is your best weapon, so make it easy on yourself and put some time into it.

*Bryce Engelbrecht is a 1996 alum of Caltech and a senior manager at TenFold. He will be interviewing candidates on Feb 25.*

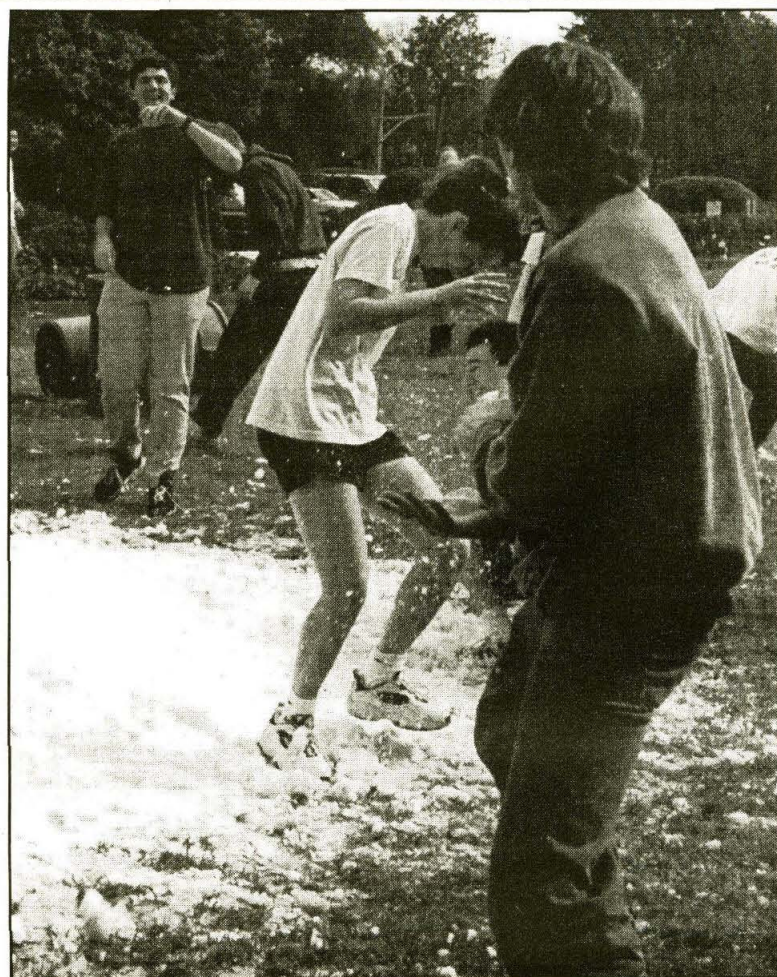


PHOTO BY DANA SADAVA

*Freshman Nitzan Roth and others romp in the snow in celebration of Inuit Freedom Day*

### TUTTLE: NEW PREZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that there had been a situation in which the student body felt that no one qualified for the job was running...I figured that rather than whine... I should run." During his

presidency, he hopes to "get ASCIT's accounting under control" and "increase communication with Publications," as well as maintaining a "good working relationship with IHC."

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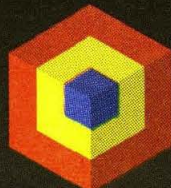
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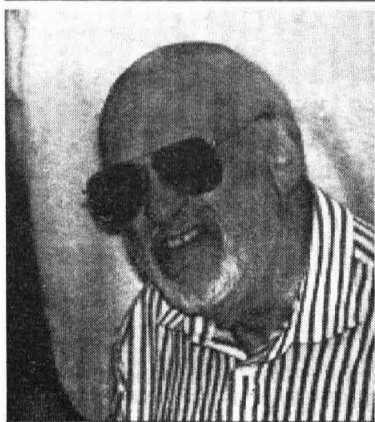


## Dean

## Dean's Corner

## Tin Man's Valentine

by Jean-Paul Revel



Parents are always hungry for news of their children away at college. But the students, while they love their family, are mostly relieved to be semi-independent and often find it hard to say anything. This week, however, there was a ready made topic— Valentine's Day. You did write to Mom and Sis, did you not? Or has your heart already been hardened by all that physics or biology? You love them, yes, but there was a math homework set due. Love is a very complicated and unfathomable thing. It has been put more elegantly, but I'll let you read Donne, Shakespeare, or one of many other poets who all wrote red be-ribboned verse about this great day. Even NASA, not usually renowned for its romantic propensities, celebrated by placing a space probe, NEAR (Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous), in orbit around the asteroid Eros on the morning of the 14th! And wouldn't you know, Eros, when seen from the right angle at least, looks a bit like a heart.

I tried to figure out where the Valentine tradition came from. It seems to be very old and the accounts of its origin are mostly mysterious and confused, I suppose as befits anything so romantic. One version of how Valentine's day came to be says that there was a Roman feast on Feb 14th. The celebration was to propitiate the god Lupercus, who protected shepherds and their flocks from packs of hungry wolves. A Christian martyr, St. Valentine, also fits in by being executed on that day, and so gave his name to the occasion. Eventually, Church authorities sought to capture the pagan festival, and turned the day to a more inspirational celebration. There was also the belief that birds chose their mates on that day. Chaucer says "...this was Seynt Valentine's Day when every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." My spell checker overheated on old English, I hope it is not broken. Somehow, the tradition was established that like birds, young people would be paired, boys pulling the names of girls from an

urn. Again I got confused, there being as many traditions as there are possible combinations of participants. So I'll let you fill in the blanks. In the end what counts is what we do today. I hope you had a happy Valentine's day.

As part of the iconography of the day, besides all manners of hearts, there are winged babies flitting about, the little cupids (here go the Romans again) stalking their as yet unloving preys. But soon, those pierced by the cupid's arrows find their hearts beat faster and more strongly, as love comes over them. But have you recently thought about what makes the heart beat? To be quite unromantic, the heart is a muscle, generally similar in many respects to other muscles in the body. It contracts about 70 times a minute so that in a life time of 80 years it would beat 2,943,360,000 times— not too shabby a performance for something purported to be so fragile and tender! Of course, a heart might well skip a beat or two at particularly emotional moments in a person's life, but that is still a pretty good performance. And now of course the real question once more: how does it work? We don't have the

answers for love, but we know a little about the heart. Each cell in the heart, each muscle fiber, is long and thin. It is replete with contractile elements piled up on top of each other. Each of these contractile subunits, when stimulated, shortens by about one micron, and it is the contraction of 50,000 or so of these subunits, arranged in series, which lead to a gross movement of about 5cm. The contractile subunits consist of arrays of two sorts of threads, made respectively of the proteins Myosin and Actin. In the presence of ATP, which the body uses to transfer energy where it is needed, the Actin threads are ratcheted along Myosin threads, so the whole structure becomes shorter.

So I was amazed the other day when I had the chance to look through a microscope at a nanofabricated motor. It consisted of two comb-like structures with interdigitated tines, just like actin and myosin! During an operating cycle, the tines are first pulled towards each other just like in a muscle. Presumably, one set of tines was made positive and the other negative. They are pulled apart again by another set of combs which become active when the juice to the first one is cut off. The in and out movement turned a wheel which spun some cogs and voila! the heart of a nanofactory. I wondered if the designer had been inspired by biology—the device looks so much like the basic design of the con-

tractile subunits of muscle! An artificial muscle! Actually, the making of artificial muscles has fascinated bioengineers for a long time now, but progress has been slow. Robots need actuators and the Tin Man (remember him?) had to go around without a heart. Rejoice Tin Man, this very month there was a paper published in Science Magazine announcing a spectacular advance toward that goal. A group of researchers at Stanford Research Institute, led by Ron Pelrine, has developed a device which may yet prove to be the basis for an artificial muscle. It consists of a parallel plate condenser with a film of elastomeric material as the insulator. Placing a high voltage across the flat electrode regions on the two side of the elastomer causes an attraction which squeezes the elastomer, and so forces it to thin out. This "contraction" is enhanced by the fact that like charges on each of the sides repel each other, forcing a further stretching of the material, and further "contraction". A ratio of the change in length/ initial length of 215 % was found using an acrylic material. And so in a few years, perhaps, the Tin Man will be able to celebrate Valentine's day with the rest of us! A bientot

*Jean Paul Revel*

Jean-Paul Revel

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# Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mark Your Calendars!** Admissions, Prefresh Weekend will be held Thursday, April 13th through Sunday, April 16th. For more information email [dina@admissions.caltech.edu](mailto:dina@admissions.caltech.edu) or [ryan@admissions.caltech.edu](mailto:ryan@admissions.caltech.edu).

**Ride your bicycle to Caltech?** Register with Caltech's CYCLOCOMMUTERS. Website: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cyclocom> or email: [cyclocom@caltech.edu](mailto:cyclocom@caltech.edu). Monthly random drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate to a local bike store and free tune up and extras at the Commuter Fair Day, on May 19th! If you are a distance rider, log in your miles for an extra chance to win additional prizes every 6 months.

**H&SS Division** offers the following Selected Topic Courses for spring term 2000: H 161 Race & Ethnicity in Modern America, H 161 Women and the Family in the US before 1900, Lit 180 British Fiction of the 20th Century, Lit 180 American Fiction of the 20th Century, SES/PI 169 Causation & Causal Inference, Ec 101 Experimental Economics in Principle&Practice, Psy 101 Seminar in Cognition, SS 200 Social Choice Theory: Consistency, Strategy and Dynamics. Note: Contrary to the catalog listing - SES/H 159 Science and Society will be offered in the spring by Professor Kevles on T 7:30 p.m. in 128 Bax. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter.

**Beginning American Viennese Waltz** offered by the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for four successive Mon starting Feb. 14: [taught by a professional dance instructor, \$24.00 except \$16.00 to Caltech undergraduates] in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. No partner is required. Refreshments and free dance practice time are provided after each class. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call Don 626/791-3103.

**International Folk Dancing**, Tuesday night in Dabney Hall, Lesson 7:30 p.m., dancing 8:30 p.m.

**Congressman James Rogan** seeks to fill two internships with Caltech students for service during this exciting election year. These would be paid jobs, and would share in the joy and labor of the political campaign. To apply or for information email [vvveysey@its.caltech.edu](mailto:vvveysey@its.caltech.edu) or phone x9570.

**Be a part of the earthquake team.** The U.S. Geological Survey (on campus) is looking for a part time intern for ongoing monitoring and programming of an automatic, web-based system for gathering post-earthquake shaking and damage data (see <http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/ciim.html>). Summer work also possible. More info thru Carrer Center. Email [wald@gps.caltech.edu](mailto:wald@gps.caltech.edu).

**Caltech guitar classes for the winter quarter** will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on January 11 as follows: Beginning Guitar Class 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.; Intermediate Guitar Class 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Advanced Guitar Class 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive 3 units of credit. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore). Mr. Denning can be

reached at 323-465-0881 or by email at [ddenning@caltech.edu](mailto:ddenning@caltech.edu). The guitar home page is at [www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html](http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html).

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## EVENTS

**The Merchant of Venice**, Ramo Auditorium, Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 13, 20, 27 at 2 p.m., presented by Theater Arts at Caltech. Admission to be determined, for more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

**The vocal ensemble Anonymous 4** will perform on Fri., Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The program for this concert is entitled *The second Circle -- Love Songs of Francesco Landidni*. Anonymous 4 is renowned for its astonishing vocal blend and technical virtuosity. Tickets to this performance are \$25, \$21, \$17; youths 12 and under receive \$ off. Students and senior rush tickets will go on sale for \$10 beginning one-half hour before the performance (subject to availability). Tickets can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office and all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

**The Caltech-Occidental Concert Band**, directed by William Bing, will perform in Thorne Hall at Occidental College on Saturday, February 19, at 8 p.m. The concert will feature a variety of music for the entire family. Admission and parking are free. For further information about the band concert at Occidental College, please call (323) 259-2785.

**Join Avery House, the Durfee Foundation, and Entrepreneur Club** for the Avery House Entrepreneur Series on Wed., Feb. 23. The speaker for the evening will be BRUCE BURROWS, Founder and President of Hydrotechnology, Inc. Mr Burrows has a unique story to share about his path in entrepreneurship. All are welcome for the talk at 4:45pm in the Avery House Library. For more information, contact Sue Friedman at x6194, or email [suef@caltech.edu](mailto:suef@caltech.edu)

**Soweto Street Beat Dance Theatre** will perform on Sat., Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. This all-mail South African dance company melds African contemporary, neo-African, modern African, Afro-fusion, and new traditional dance. Tickets are priced at \$25, \$21, and \$17, youths 12 and under receive \$4 off. Tickets can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office and all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

**The Student/Faculty/Alumni Relations Committee** of the Caltech Alumni Association and the Career Development Center are sponsoring: "Lunch with Alice Huang." Mon., Feb. 28 12:00 noon at the Athenaeum main dining room. It will be an open discussion on "Women's Career Developments" in the sciences. Space is limited, so please make your reservation by emailing Kim Goodfriend at ext. 6852 or email to [kimberly@alumni.caltech.edu](mailto:kimberly@alumni.caltech.edu) Please mention special requirements when you make your reservation.

**Earthquake preparedness training** will be offered by the Pasadena Fire

Department through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Thu., Mar. 9. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at x6762.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**The Literature Faculty** is pleased to announce the Annual Hallett Smith Competition, honoring the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double spaced, and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a humanities class, or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit their work to Professor Jenijoy LaBelle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 21, 2000. This year's prize will be approximately \$300, though the judging committee may divide the award in the case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Prof. LaBelle, x3605, or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

**The Jewish Loan Association** is offering interest-free student loans to qualified individuals for tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate study and have a 2.5 GPA or above. For further information, please contact the Jewish Free Loan Association at 213-761-8830 or 818-464-3331.

**The American Meteorological Society** is pleased to invite applications for the 2000-01 AMS/Industry Undergraduate Scholarships in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. Prospective candidates from the fields of earth sciences and related fields who intend to pursue careers in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences are encouraged to apply. The award is based on merit and awarded to students who demonstrate potential for accomplishment in these fields. Applicants must have successfully completed two years of study by August 2000 at an accredited institution with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status. The scholarships are available to students who will be juniors in the fall of 2000. The award is renewed for the senior year based on the recipient's performance and recommendation of a faculty advisor. Applications can be obtained from the AMS web site at [www.ametsoc.org/AMS](http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS). Any questions may be directed to Donna Fernandez, 617-2272426 x246, [dfernand@ametsoc.org](mailto:dfernand@ametsoc.org); or Stephanie Armstrong, 617-227-2426 x235, [armstrong@ametsoc.org](mailto:armstrong@ametsoc.org). Applications must be submitted by February 25, 2000.

The Dennis W. Cabaret Scholar-

**ship Committee** is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for students whose permanent address is in Orange County. Applications must have completed at least one year of college, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, be currently enrolled in an institution of higher education, and clear roots of activism in the Orange County lesbian and gay community. The applicants is advised that the Scholarship Committee may call him or her for a personal interview. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications should be sent to Dennis W. Cabaret Scholarship, c/o Thomas J. Peterson, 2821 Cassia St. Newport Beach, CA 92660. Entries must be postmarked by February 29, 2000.

**The Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations** (COHEAO) will award six scholarships to eligible undergraduate students for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a 3.75 or above GPA; enrolled at a COHEAO member school; must be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year at the member school; and only one scholarships per family per academic year will be awarded. Further information about the COHEAO scholarship is only available via the web at [www.coheao.com/scholarframe.html](http://www.coheao.com/scholarframe.html). To apply, applicants must submit a typed application, 300 word or less typed essay response, academic letter of recommendation, and seal official copy of your most recent transcript. Please send application materials to COHEAO Scholarship Committee, 809 S. Marshfield Ave. M/C 557, Chicago, IL 60612. Application materials must be submitted by March 1, 2000.

**The Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund** will award five \$10,000 and fifty \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate women in the fall of 2000. Applicants must be women currently residing in the United States who plan to return to an accredited four-year college or university and plan to enroll part-time or full-time to complete an undergraduate baccalaureate degree. Eligible applicants must have completed at least one semester of college a minimum of five years prior to September 30, 2000 and not have enrolled for more than one college course per semester since September 30, 1995. For further information and application materials, you may contact Elizabeth Tuma, Program Manager at 507-931-0439. Only the first 1,000 applications received will be considered for an award. Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2000.

**The Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs**, through the Desk and Derrick Educational Trust, is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, completed at least two years of undergraduate work, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, demonstrate financial need, and plan to pursue a career in the petroleum or allied industry. Awards in the amount of \$1,000 annually will be made to full-time students. Part-time students qualify \$400 annually. Appli-

cations are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information, you may contact: Evelyn Black, Desk and Derrick Clubs, 4823 S. Sheridan, Suite #308A, Tulsa, OK 74145 or email at [evelyn.black@labatt.com](mailto:evelyn.black@labatt.com). Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2000.

**The SAE Foundation for Science and Technology Education** will award an \$2,000 scholarship at a rate of \$1,000 per year to a college senior or graduate student for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be citizens of North America (U.S., Canada, Mexico) and pursuing a course of study or research related to the conservation of energy in transportation, agriculture & construction, and power generation. Applications are available by contacting Connie Harnish, SAE Educational Relations at 724-772-4047, email [connie@ase.org](mailto:connie@ase.org), or via the web at [www.sae.org/students/yanmar.htm](http://www.sae.org/students/yanmar.htm). Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2000.

**The Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** is offering scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to female college students entering their junior or senior year for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, achievement, educational goals, financial need, and campus or community involvement. Female students must be residents of the San Ramon Valley (Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, or Diablo, CA) or graduates of its high schools with a junior or senior standing as of September 2000. For more information and application package, please send your request with a \$0.66 stamped self-addressed large envelope (9" X 12") to: Linda Elsdon, 61 Milano Court, Danville, CA 94526. Entries must be postmarked by April 3, 2000.

**The JVS Jewish Community Scholarship Fund** announces the availability of applications for the 2000-01 academic year. The funds are intended to provide a limited amount of financial aid for needy Jewish students who are legal and permanent residents of Los Angeles County. Applicants must be full-time at an accredited educational institution and have a 2.5 GPA or above. Recipients are also eligible to apply for loans from the Meltzer Undergraduate Student Loan and the Becker Graduate Student Loan Fund of the Jewish Free Loan Association. For further information you may contact: Jewish Vocational Service, 5700 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite #2303, Los Angeles, CA 90036, or phone 323-761-8888, extension 122 or 132, or via email at [jgaynor@jvsla.org](mailto:jgaynor@jvsla.org). Entries must be submitted by April 15, 2000.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [tech@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@ugcs.caltech.edu) or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

## THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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