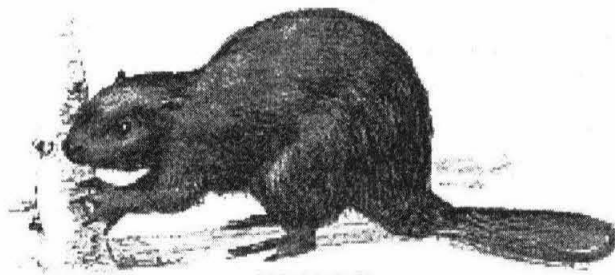


ASCIT NOMINATIONS

General Elections

see SAC sign-ups



TECH EDITOR

Run early • Run often

look left

The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 14

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 28, 1999

TECHERS ENJOY HEALTHY WEEK OF WELLNESS

BY MAYANKA PRASAD

A bright orb shines brightly over head. A confused student gazes into the sky, wondering where this phenomenon came from, and what evils it represents...

Akin to vampires, Techers do have a tendency to avoid daylight. This week, however, provided students with a reason (better than TFM) to get up for lunch. It was Wellness Week, full of instructional seminars and other activities.

On Monday, Episode 2 of Challenges and Choices, sequel to the Frosh Camp event, kicked off the week. These student-written skits were intended to clue in the Frosh about common second term blues. Whether it was because many could relate to the chirpy characters, or because of the power of desserts, the Olive Walk drew a nice crowd of curious freshmen and hungry upperclassmen. Actually, kidding aside, Challenges and Choices confronted several issues that Freshman often face.

On Tuesday, students attended a stress-buster concert in Dabney Hall Lounge, sponsored by Delores Bing and the Music Department. In addition to a little bit of fun on a Tuesday afternoon, this event also provided a tasty lunch. Other events this week included: *Commonly Seen Athletic Injuries* sponsored by Scott Stetson and Della Lee, *Good Nutrition for the New Year* by Karlyn Cobb, *Vegetarian for Life* by Harold Lyman, *The Importance of Breast Feeding Infants During the First Year* by Carol Ann Friedman, and *The Psychology of Optimal Experience* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi.

This week's events were a good way for students to break their normal Dracula routine and maybe even learn something having nothing to do with math or science. Students, there are still some activities going on today and Saturday - don't miss out on the fun!

Wellness Week is sponsored by Human Resources & Student Affairs. Call Deborah Southerland (x2961) or Sue Friedman (x3345).

Clinton speaks of science, technology *Caltech receives Chief Executive, promise to refocus efforts on science*

BY DANA SADAVA AND JOHN OH

Last Friday morning a confident President Clinton confessed to his audience in Beckman Auditorium: "in preparation for this day I've been spending a lot of time trying to get in touch with my inner nerd."

Clinton jovially addressed Caltech as he revealed his plans for science and technology spending in his remaining time as president, while lightly dropping jokes here and there, some at his own expense. "With just a click of a mouse I ordered Arkansas smoked ham and sausage delivered to my door," quipped Clinton. "So I think the twenty first century has more for me than I had originally thought." President Clinton announced a two point eight billion dollar increase in the twenty first century research fund, aiding research pertaining to information technology, the environment, biomedicine and nanotechnology.

Organizations like the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation will benefit, receiving one billion and 675 million dollars respectively. The increase in funding for the National Science Foundation doubles the largest funding increase the organization had ever received. President Clinton stressed research in universities as top priority, with increase of over a billion dollars in funding. He also announced a five hundred billion dollar nanotechnology initiative.

The importance of a "broad research agenda" was stressed as the President discussed current research-interests in a variety of fields, ranging from genetics to mechanical engineering to the environment. He warned that scientific advances in areas like cloning must be analyzed seriously to "ensure that science serves humanity—always—and never the other way around."

Education was an integral part of the President's agenda. "I



President Clinton

was determined to leave the office saying we had opened the doors to college to all American," said Clinton as he announced several measures to

boost student loans, increase federal financial aid, and targetted at making college tuition tax deductible. He tied this

PLEASE SEE CLINTON, PAGE 2

Cronkite reveals career secrets, wisdom, opinions

BY ELISABETH ADAMS

Work for the Tech, and you might become the most trusted person in America also. At least, it was at his college newspaper (The Daily Texan) that Walter Cronkite began his career in journalism and broadcasting that

has lasted over sixty years.

In the latest installment of the Distinguished Speaker series talks at the Pasadena Civic Center, CBS broadcasting legend Walter Cronkite spoke to a full crowd for over an hour and a half. As Cronkite has covered pretty much every major news

story since World War II for either radio or television, he had a great wealth of subjects to draw upon, and the audience was treated to an enjoyable discourse ranging from chimpanzees, to JFK, to his low opinion of current local news stations.

One of his more amusing moments in broadcast journalism, he related, came when he was working on a documentary at a chimp rehab center in Africa, to highlight the story of young chimps who are sold abroad as pets or lab animals while young and then abandoned when they grow older. As part of his planned opening, Cronkite at one point described the chimps as "so adorable they even seem

to love us [humans]." This was the cue for one of the cute, lovable chimps (mankind's closest relatives, after all) to come over and slap Cronkite on the face, hard — something that it repeated, twice, when they tried to refilm the scene. They decided to cut the line.

Much of Cronkite's speech was devoted to answering questions about his career and opinions that had been submitted from the audience before the speech. Predictably, he was asked about reporting JFK's assassination. "Journalists are like policemen or firemen or emergency room workers," he said; "they have to keep their heads

PLEASE SEE CRONKITE, PAGE 2

ASCIT ELECTION RESULTS

President

Crosby	57	Write-in	19
Shannon	59	Abstain	1
NO	170		
Total	306	Abs.Majority	153

BoC Chair/VP

Brogoch	182	Writein	20
NO	86	Abstain	18
Total	306	Abs.Majority	148

What if NO wins?

If NO wins an election for ASCIT office, the Bylaws state that, barring a petition for a new election (by 20% of those eligible to vote), the ASCIT Excomm appoints someone to fill out the reminder of the term.

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CLINTON:

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focus on education to science when he said that "It is our responsibility to open the world of science to more of our fellow citizens." President Clinton stressed the increasing dropout rate from college and introduced measures to determine the cause. He also called for support of mentoring programs and aid for minority students. President Clinton

also called out for larger investments from the corporate and industry sector. He laid credit for America's current strong economy on "the exponential growth of information technology and how it is rifling through other sectors of our economy." He strongly emphasized America's initiative in starting the internet

boom and the resulting economic boom created by this technology, and announced a thirty six percent increase in funding for information technology research.

Clinton changed the tone of his speech somewhat when he introduced the dichotomy of blossom-

wise as we advance," he warned.

President Clinton was introduced by Caltech President David Baltimore and Gordon Moore, Chairman Emeritus of Caltech Board of Trustees and Co-founder of the Intel Corporation. Clinton's speech drew an unusual crowd to

Caltech, including U.S. Representatives from California, Secretary of

Energy, and the Science Advisor to the President. The last such audience was seen at graduation of 1991, when then President George Bush visited Caltech. "However we are a part of a network of research universities that span America," Baltimore said, "And it is appropriate that President Clinton decided to unveil his new

President reaches inside and finds his "inner nerd"

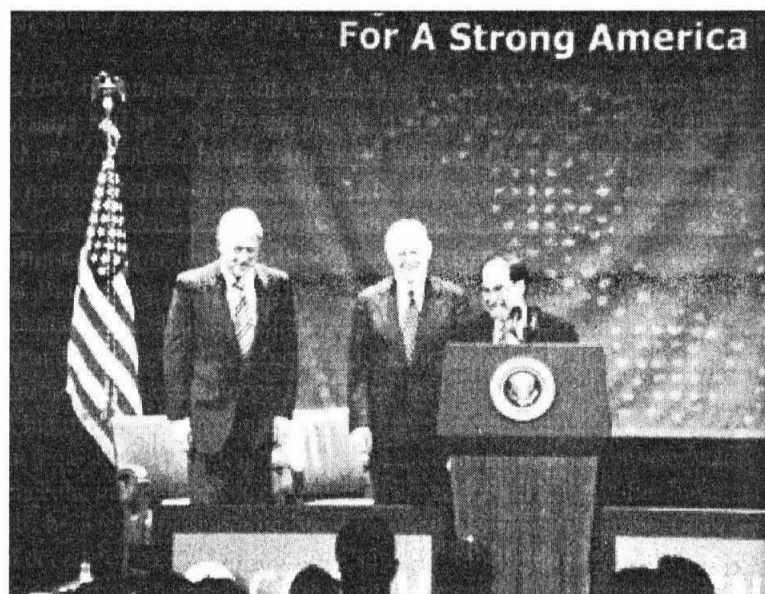
"With just a click of a mouse I ordered Arkansas smoked ham and sausage delivered to my door," quipped Clinton. "So I think the twenty-first century has more for me than I had originally thought."

ing technological advancements existing concurrently with evils like racial injustice that still cause considerable problems in this country. Clinton suggested that the two are not unrelated but that "every single scientific advance confirms over and over again the most important facts of life—our common humanity." "We must be

programs of science and technology at Caltech." Dr. Baltimore praised President Clinton and his administration on their work in advancing scientific research and education.

Gordon Moore, introduced by Dr. Baltimore, reviewed some of Caltech's major research breakthroughs, including Dr. Zewail's

Nobel-Prize winning research in chemical bonds and Dr. Anderson's research in stem cells. He stressed the necessity of continuing funding for research, saying "What our nation's economic future depends on is technological leadership, and that requires wise investments by the government in science and technology."



CRONKITE:

Distinguished journalist enchants audience with experience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while there is terror all about." The full impact of the story didn't hit him until he was on the air and "actually had to say the president was dead". He also gave his opinion on conspiracy theories: based on his long years of watching the government, he found it "almost impossible" that any such plot could have stayed hidden so long without any leaks. The recent movie *JFK* "offended" him for the way it distorted history to the younger generation.

The most impressive interview Cronkite ever made, in terms of "sheer brainpower", was Jimmy Carter, who evidently possessed an "incredible" intellect and had a phenomenal ability to absorb and recall information. During the only radio call-in show ever to the White House, Cronkite claims that his role as moderator was quite unnecessary; one lady called up to discuss milk price supports, and Carter began, "Well, you have to understand the history..." — and then proceeded to go into great depth, starting from the early 1920s.

According to Cronkite, the story of our century is not necessarily the most important scientific discovery, because many of these — penicillin, transistors, DNA — have already long been absorbed into our culture. Rather, he chose the moon landing as the one event that will be remembered and taught to children 500 years in the future, the story of man's ultimate escape from his environment.

His discussion was not limited to the big stories of the past, however; Cronkite evidently re-

mains quite current in world events, in spite of having been officially retired for nearly two decades. He spoke for several minutes about the recent events

system.

Another major topic of the evening was his opinion of news reading (local news not generally being considered "report-

is" came from a desire to have wrap up each broadcast with something distinctive, but lack of time to say anything more.

American coverage of foreign news also came under criticism. The general pattern is for there to be almost no foreign coverage at all until some remote "bonfire turns into a mushroom cloud" — and then the area (such as Kosovo) is inundated with investigative reporters who know almost nothing about the background of the area, and are thus often misled by local sources or come to erroneous conclusions on their own.

Cronkite repeatedly displayed the humor that has endeared him to generations of television viewers. Before he had come onstage, the audience was shown a short video clip of some of the more memorable news clips of Cronkite over the last half century; he later referred to it as a "documentary on the aging process". Later, after having to ask the MC (Al Rantel) to repeat a question, he first apologized for his hearing, then added, "I've got a reputation for integrity: I'm not hard of hearing, I'm deaf as a post." In response to a question about his well-known hobbies of dancing and sailing, he even danced a few steps onstage.

At the end of the speech, many commented, "He's losing his voice;" "Well, yes, he is 83." But even after so many years in the public eye, Walter Cronkite was still able to do what has made him so popular to generations of Americans: talk about the news, and tell it the way it is.



Walter Cronkite, guru of journalism, poses for the camera. Cronkite spoke for the Distinguished Speaker Series.

in the presidential campaigns of both parties and gave his assessment of the relative strengths of the candidates of both parties (Bradley will have a hard time contending with Gore's political support; Bush may not be invincible after all, having been forced to take a stand on abortion). He also commented on the Clinton scandal briefly, saying that part of the reason why the American public believed Clinton for as long as it did was because there was great disgust at the abuses in the grand jury

ing") today. In the 1996 presidential campaign, the average sound bite from the candidates was only 9.5 seconds — something Cronkite called "incredibly irresponsible". He also stated that people who get most of their news from television are not well informed enough to be able to properly exercise their franchise. He related his own difficulties in summing up the news in the fifteen (later thirty) minutes he was allotted during his time at CBS; his own trademark phrase "that's the way it

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More News

The Tech discovers the story behind the man: David Epstein

"He looks shattered!", "He's grown a beard!", "He's fired", "He's quit!"... I heard so much speculation about the man until then that when I heard him call out to me after yet another CS2 class, I was quite relieved to see him smiling. David Epstein, the infamous professor of CS1 had by then made for himself quite a reputation among the students. After a quick word with Richard Covington (the CS2 professor) Epstein led the way as we walked towards his office, myself bombarding him with questions.

The Tech recently had published a short article on his whereabouts, but there were many other questions nagging me in my mind, that needed some quick answers. Right in the middle of first term, with JJ getting a lot of resentment, I had interviewed Epstein and Dr. Chandy from the CS department to give our readers a perspective from the other side. The issue wasn't closed with CS1, and I felt obligated to push till the end for answers.

Epstein, as always was in a friendly and approachable mood. He told me about how he felt the need to concentrate on his fledgling JJ software because of which he couldn't teach CS2. I wasn't there for too long but there were questions he promised he would answer over email. A transcript of that session follows. It was obvious that he was somewhat rankled by (some of) my questions, but was sporty enough to answer me candidly as I had requested.

Vikram: Here we go. I would like it a lot if you were as candid as possible.

Vikram: What is the 'real' reason behind your dropping out of CS2? In my earlier interview with you and Dr. Chandy, you had been quite passionate about your teaching, and how you wanted to bring about a change in the way CS was being taught. Even Dr. Chandy said that exactly was the idea behind hiring you. What happened to all that now?

Epstein: The reason I am not the CS2 lecturer is purely a matter of time and energy. The time for JJ is now and I am putting everything I got into it.

As for your second question, my passion for education continues to grow. All my energy is going into JJ and since JJ is an online educational system we are looking at an initial audience in the tens of thousands with a potential audience of something huge. Unfortunately, creating C material for CS1 took most of my time and energy and I fell behind on JJ. C++ is even trickier to teach than C. Putting together CS2 C++ material would have taken my complete focus, push-

ing JJ even further behind schedule.

V: How do you perceive CS1 to have gone. What has been the majority opinion among faculty as to how the course went? How do you think the students felt about it?

E: These questions are difficult to answer. Personally, I know the class could have gone better (something I say after every class). The switch to C left no time for preparation. I remained positive until realizing how little computer science the students actually were learning while dealing with the distractions of C.

Learning C, however, is also quite a valuable skill. I cannot speak for the faculty or the students.

V: One major complaint from students seem to be that your course wasn't well planned. It seemed like there were too many changes in a short time. Do you think so?

E: The first time material is presented is always tough. Changing direction during week two does not make it any easier. I had plenty of time, over a year from initial discussions with the CS department, to prepare for six weeks of JJ and twenty four weeks of Java. Of course, life is what happens when you are busy making other plans

V: There has been a huge furor among the students about using JJ as the introductory language. Being the 'father of JJ,' how do you feel about it? What do you think went wrong? You feel strongly about how useful JJ is... but why was it rejected by many students? What are you going to do to change that?

E: Computer science is changing, regardless of JJ or Caltech. I do not take attitudes personally because if it is not JJ it will be something else. I hear there was quite a stir at Caltech when Fortran was replaced (ironically, re-

placed with C) in CS1. It is not clear exactly what went wrong and what was rejected. For example, a few ideas unrelated to JJ were new to CS1 such as limiting the number of compiles and modifying another student's program.

The fact that people were upset with a limit of three compiles a minute says a lot for the "guess and press" generation of programmers. Dozens of faculty members encouraged such an approach for CS1. As for having

Computer science is changing, regardless of JJ or Caltech. I do not take attitudes personally because if it is not JJ it will be something else.

students read and modify each others code, the sooner the better. On this one, however, faculty members accused me of being "mean" (but they were smiling when they said it).

In general, exercises such as swapping code have lasting benefit but will not win popularity contests. As for a JJ specific answer, many cool features are being added. JJ will continue to improve and people will continue to like or dislike it. One measurement of improvement is movement from dislike to like. Every programming language has its lovers and haters.

V: Are you planning to teach any courses next term? Do you plan to take over CS 1,2 and 3 next year? Will you still use JJ for that?

E: Nothing has presented itself for next term. As for next year, I expect that there are many candidates for CS1, 2 and 3 and I may be one of them. Yes, I would want to use JJ for the first half of CS1, but not if the second half uses C. It is more likely that if I were to teach next year and use JJ that it would be something new, something other than CS1.

V: You are at Caltech as a lecturer, a position that is reviewed every year. What do you think are the chances that you will get a positive review if your first ever course here wasn't a big success? (If you DO think it was a success in what way?) How do you rate your chances of being at Caltech next year?

E: I would like to offer a valuable class next year. As mentioned, it would have to be something new. I cannot predict the chances of this happening.

V: What are you doing these days? Future plans? What is the future for JJ?

E: We are announcing JJ soon. My plans are to follow JJ as long

as it is enjoyable.

V: Is there anything you would like CS students to know? Any comments to those who were somewhat disgruntled with CS1?

E: Today's CS students are entering at an exciting time. There are incredible opportunities for programmers and practically anybody creative who uses a computer. Beware of anything old (like me) or limiting (like this sentence).

Those disgruntled with CS1 hopefully have already talked to me or are hopefully enjoying CS2.

V: You don't need to answer this if you don't want to. Did all this controversy (if it was one) have anything to do with the change in your appearance - the beard and so forth?

E: Absolutely. With all that controversy, I somehow misplaced my razor.

V: Thank you.

And that was it. David Epstein, straightforward and humorous. The interview did put a few things in perspective: It does have a story to tell about Fortran and C on the Caltech campus. It would be an interesting wait, to see if JJ does the same thing to C. And as you can safely bet, your own 'Tech' will be there to put it all in perspective.

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Justin



The Ticket Stub

By Justin Ho

Being John Malkovich (A+)
Rated R: it's a crime to make Cameron Diaz look that bad.

For 15 minutes per psycho-physical transportation, the characters of this wildly inventive story-line are given the chance to inhabit the mind of John Malkovich and temporarily escape from their otherwise dreary lives. And even though John Malkovich borders closer to obscurity than to anyone stalker-worthy or to any icon of pop culture (he's appeared in *The Glass Menagerie*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *In the Line of Fire*, and *Of Mice and Men* but hardly anyone would remember that), following him from a vantage point behind his eyes while he goes about his mundane chores, gets into a cab from his swanky, uptown Manhattan pad, or reads the morning paper before rehearsing on-stage, presents a transient reprieve they are most willing to take.

Craig Schwartz (John Cusack) disappears eerily behind his greasy, long-stringy hair and (of all possible occupations) displays puppet pornography, in the form of wooden characters from the tragic love story of Abelard and Heloise, for a living. After a very one-sided confrontation with disgruntled audience members — on a New York City street corner, no less — he is coerced to trade in his puppet strings for filing paperwork as a more conventional 9-5 day job. But in the topsy-turvy world crafted in this film, even the most ordinary is atypical. Craig begins to work in an office on the 7 1/2 floor, a vertically-challenged space between two real floors that is only accessible via a crowbar and an elevator emergency stop button. While stooping to and fro across the floor, Craig falls madly head-over-heels for Maxine (Catherine Keener), an office-mate femme fatale, though heinous b*tch seems more appropriate in the ensuing hour. The other female figure in Craig's life happens to be a detached, frumpy spouse (Lotte, played by Cameron Diaz), who is rather prone to subjugate her affections for Craig below those for the me-

lange of furry and not so furry creatures scurrying about their apartment, one of which is suffering from ulcers as a manifestation of post-capture trauma. But one day, Craig finds a little door behind a filing cabinet which leads through a slick, muddy tunnel that transports him into the brain of the forementioned though still obscure Malkovich. In essence, his personality and voice is layered on top of Malkovich's and the surreal effect of overlapping mental states in a single physical entity is represented by an endearing, blurry halo effect, so that movie in all its originality doesn't even feel like cinema any more. When Craig and pretty soon afterwards Lotte take the plunge into Malkovich's psyche, there's as much wonderment in their reaction as someone watching the drama unfold, and that may be why this fantasy, metaphysical journey that is so far-fetched nevertheless draws out attention and feels semi-authentic—Craig and Lotte are as bewildered by the experience of being as we are.

Lotte also takes a turn for vying for Maxine's affections, in what ensues as a bizarre love square. Lotte's mental transport even convinces her that she should become a transvestite. Being John Malkovich allows her to explore the more masculine side of human nature, and in a weird twist she and Maxine start having sex with each other through him. Meanwhile, Craig, shunned from spouse and the object of his affection contrives to satisfy his puppet fixation (another form of being someone) by controlling Malkovich completely rather than in short bursts. The effect, coincidentally, relegates others trying to enter the celebrity's head to the sub-conscious. Of course this

sounds random, but if you're willing to concede that monkeys can have flashbacks, anything in this movie is possible.

Being John Malkovich is brilliantly inventive and perfectly blends levity and gravity. There is after all, a monkey's coming-to-terms with his inability to save his parents from chimpanzee-nappers. Seriously though, living vicariously through another person introduces both a fulfillment of personal desire and the imprisonment of another, though the struggle usu-

In essence, his personality and voice is layered on top of Malkovich's and the surreal effect of overlapping mental states in a single physical entity is represented by an endearing, blurry halo effect, so that movie in all its originality doesn't even feel like cinema any more.

ally falls in selfishness' favor. Though Malkovich is the one manipulated, Craig remains an anti-hero by association with being pathetic. It's kind of icky that we take pleasure out of Malkovich's enslavement to watch someone else controlling his physical body with jerky movements and the vocalization of acts performed during foreplay. Nevertheless, it's the one chance Craig has of being a fake somebody (borrowing from *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and such). An invitation to interpret this film as more than tickling entertainment is intimidated by a collection of sullen, introspection-inducing songs that surface when the characters are lost in deep thought. Indeed, by being both mature and comic, it is simply sublime.

Magnolia (B-)

Rated R: for use of bad language, and much frog brutality.

In the "Magnolia" trailer, we are introduced to a gamut of stern, stoic-looking faces reciting their names before the scene shifts into a frenzy of clips and

back to a different character, seemingly disjoint. After sitting for 3 hours, I still see a gamut of faces, still seemingly disjoint. The film works via weak associations to find the derelict, the repressed, the embittered, the dysfunctional, and the angsty, and maybe it's just a dirty trick that in the trailer, it is mentioned that in the end everything will make sense because nothing really does. There are so many different themes popping up and even in the course of 3 hours, it only scratches the surface of each and feels faintly disorienting. The two patriarchs in the film, one terminally ill and nearing the end of his cessation of being and the other only just coming to grips with his mortality, serve respectively as the head of a production company and the host of a kids' game show. Granted, the two men never come into contact over the course of the film, but they have both had a share of planting bad seeds, and the film-makers do so love to indulge in human misery.

"Don't confuse children with angels," say both the newly-crowned child prodigy of the quiz show and his middle-aged predecessor, now past the age where his braininess is endearing and struggling to put his life in order. The phrase seems to imply that children mistreated come back with a vengeance, or that they are

perpetually warped by the sins of the father. There is no love at the end of the tunnel of answered quiz show questions, there is no end to low self-esteem after a childhood of sexual abuse, and there is little room for a pardon from a grown child asked to forgive a formerly evil and sinister dying man. The production company head attempts to reconcile with his estranged son after having had abandoned him and his dying mother (how contrived) nearly a decade and a half before, negotiating a meeting on his deathbed through a caring, though somewhat naive, caretaker. As a twist of fate, the abandoned child turned his hatred toward the female gender, promoting phallic supremacy in his "seduce and destroy" seminars. Brimming with erotic energy, Frank T. J. Mackey runs the whole spectrum of emotions. Prosthetizing with complacent confidence, and then collapsing with vulnerability under the deceptive scrutiny of an interviewer, and finally overcome with a passionate hatred at his father's death bed, the mood swing is

enough to steal the entire show and yet again turn the movie into chaos. Granted, Tom Cruise (Frank T.J. Mackey) deserved a Golden Globe for his most dramatic turn, but it does little to carry the movie's message, which remains inscrutable through the end. Another memorable performance, though characterized solely by its short bursts, is given by the production company head's young wife — naturally a gold-digger, judging by the age discrepancy between the two and their absolute lack of chemistry. The one interesting facet is, however, that while she admits to her purely selfish reasons for marriage, she is the one character who experiences a genuine catharsis. And perhaps her only true role in the film is to add another example of messed up people.

On the other quiz show hosts' side of dysfunction, we are introduced to his cracked-out daughter, her unlikely suitor in the form of a needy police officer, and the new and old quiz show mega-stars, both asocial and at relative impasses in their lives. Though winsome, intelligent, and seemingly ever-willing to make the genius of children cute, the host nevertheless has a darker side, though we don't realize that until the end of the film when he appears ambivalent when questioned about the state of his former relationship with his estranged daughter. An altercation with his daughter, in turn, attracted the attention of a wayward police officer, desperate for a date and imbued with an eerie gentleness. He's so nice you almost wished that he did finish last. On the small screen, the new brainiac answers obscure question after obscure question while battling his anxiety that he is victim of yet another form of child abuse, and that even for knowing all the facts in the world there will be no genuine affection from his father. This precocious insight fell silent on deaf ears about 30 years ago when the quiz kid from that era appeared on the show, now disheveled, watching the interplay at the local bar, and dreaming of orthopedic surgery to share something in common with the hunky bartender.

The only feature of the movie which really held my attention, out of its sheer wackiness, was the ending straight of Exodus with a ribbit factor. In some weird Biblical way, the sordid San Fernando Valley is punished or cleansed by amphibians, lots and lots of hippity, hoppity frogs which clog up the streets and wind-shield wipers and freak everyone out. Still, the torrent of bizarre meteorological activity is too little, too late for this tortuously confused hodge-podge of a day in the lives of Prozac-needy people.

Newsy News News

Noted Vegetarian Author and Activist Howard Lyman Speaks at Caltech

BY MICHAEL PRUETT AND
STEPHANIE KOVALCHIK

On Wednesday, January 26, vegetarian, environmental activist, and author Howard Lyman spoke to a packed room during a noontime lecture organized by the Caltech Vegetarian Club.

The event, held in the Winnett Lounge, was also sponsored by the Caltech Y, the Wellness Week Program, and ASCIT.

Lyman is the author of *Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat*. A former fourth-generation cattle rancher from Montana, he is perhaps an unlikely advocate of an organic, plant-based diet. Yet few would deny his familiarity and understanding of the cattle and farming industry; and based on his nearly 40 years of experience in agriculture, he now states that current agricultural practice is not sustainable.

Citing the facts that 16 pounds of grain are required to produce 1 pound of beef and that the same amount of grain could feed 32 people per day if they ate the grain directly, Howard made the point that a diet based on animal consumption is not efficient nor environmentally sound.

Based on years of research on the matter, Lyman asserted that people with a vegetarian

diet have longer and healthier lives than those who do not. He makes the case for a plant-based diet based on health concerns. He stated that women who consume dairy products are seven times more likely to develop breast cancer than women who don't and that vegetarians are less than half as likely as non-vegetarians to develop heart disease.

Lyman rails against the modern agriculture industry practice of factory farming, in

vited by Oprah Winfrey to discuss food safety in America on an April 1996 show. There, he affirmed that practices which led to the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) are still in place in America and that rendering only makes such an outbreak more likely: even one infected cow can place thousands of cows at risk through the rendering process. His remarks made Oprah swear off hamburgers on the spot.

As a result of his appearance and Oprah's remark, Lyman and Winfrey were sued by a group of Texas cattle ranchers under a Texas law which forbids anyone from "knowingly making false state-

ments" about agricultural products. In 1998, Lyman and Winfrey won the suit in a Federal court in Amarillo, Texas, in the heart of cattle ranching country.

Lyman is the president of EarthSave International, a non-profit organization which "promotes food choices that are healthy for people and the planet." The organization was founded in 1988 by John Robbins, author of the book *Diet for a New America*.

As he told the jury in Amarillo, he stated again on Wednesday, "The thing I am most proud of is that no animal has to die for me to live."

Lyman rails against the modern agriculture industry practice of factory farming, in which animals are injected with antibiotics and hormones to increase yield.

which animals are injected with antibiotics and hormones to increase yield. The dangers of this approach, according to Lyman, are legion. A 1999 study by researchers at the state Health Department in Minnesota and published in the New England Journal of Medicine offers strong evidence that humans contract drug-resistant bacteria from chickens treated with antibiotics on feedlots.

The practice of rendering, or feeding cows and other animals to cows, is of particular concern to Lyman. Lyman is an expert on food safety and mad cow disease and was in-

Present: BoD minus Danny, Stephanie Kovalchik, Marcel Gavriliu, Tim Crosby

Meeting called to order at 22:07.

Dealing with Guests

Stephanie, representing the Vegetarian Club, requests \$100 to fund Howard Lyman, the cattle-rancher turned vegan, to speak on February 26th at Winnett as part of Wellness week.

Marcel requests \$130 for another Coffeehouse party for the Saturday, January 29, 2000.

Tim discusses the movie situation with us. Financially, adding up the money in the Bank of America account and in the cash boxes and subtracting the money owed to Caltech, the movies account is approximately +\$600. The BoD discusses with him the details of moving ASCIT movies to showing videos in Moore. Gurt is responsible for starting

to show these movies in Moore. We also plan to move forward in making the Video/DVD library available to all ASCIT members.

Project Reports

Copier - Chris says that the copier works on ID cards. Instructions for use are posted in the mail room.

Meeting closed at 22:41.

BoD approves \$100 for Vegetarian Club speaker H. Lyman to come during Wellness week.

BoD approves \$130 for a second Coffeehouse party with the condition of increased attendance for further funding.

Meeting adjourned at 22:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanna Kim
ASCIT Secretary

Ynews

by Kenneth Kuo

As the length of daytime becomes progressively longer, the Y is organizing various events for the spring. At current, a few activities are being planned for the forthcoming months. One upcoming event is volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization which builds and/or rehabilitates houses to allow people who can not otherwise afford a house obtain one. Volunteers to this program will assist in the construction of the homes. Another event is Alternative Spring Break. As implied by the name, this event occurs during Spring Break. At current, the plan for this year is to have one group of students go to Mexico and another group of people go to Arizona. During Alternative Spring Break, participants will perform various services for the communities to which they are going. Stay tuned for more information concerning the above events as dates and arrangements are confirmed. Now, I will direct your attention to events which will be occurring in the near future.

Today: To end what has been Wellness week, the Caltech Y is hosting a Latin Dance Extravaganza tonight at 8:00 P.M. in the Avery Dining

Hall. This dance session will feature a special performance and dance instruction by Salsa champion Laura Powell and her partner Eko Budinugroho. A Latin dance party and refreshments will follow.

The Tigger Movie: The "Tigger Movie" is currently playing at the El Capitan Theater. We have obtained tickets for the Sunday, February 13th 12:00 P.M. performance and the Sunday, February 27th 2:30 P.M. performance. Tickets are only \$4.00. For more information, please contact the Caltech Y at ext. 6163.

General Info: The Caltech Y holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 12:15 P.M. in the Y Lounge which is 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 Elisa Chiang at polaris@cco.caltech.edu with the e-mail mailing list you would like to be placed on. Also, if you have further questions concerning any of the activities mentioned above, feel free to e-mail me at dogbert@cco.caltech.edu.

The Outside World

by Katharina Kohler

Washington: President Clinton opened his State of the Union address by touting economic prosperity and social background, implying that the state of the country is stronger than ever. He gave credit for this to the American people. He called for a higher investment in education, especially for low-income children, better teachers, more internet connections in schools and a tax deduction to "make four years of college affordable for all." He also talked about medical insurance for low-income parents and their kids.

Beef - It's What's For Dinner. Japanese scientists have successfully cloned a clone of a bull. This is the first time a large animal has

been cloned. American scientists have cloned clones of mice. The effort is part of a study determined to look at the health and aging of cloned animals, as there has been speculation that cloned counterparts may not live as long. The purpose of the study? Better beef. "Our objective is to produce good cattle consistently. If there is a stud that's of the highest quality, we want that bull to be available more widely," said Norio Tabara of the Kagoshima Prefectural Cattle Breeding Development Institute. The cloning procedure could accelerate breeding, as bulls can be cloned as early as 3 months, while it typically takes about 14 months for bulls to mate on their own.

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ASCIT BoD,
January 17, 1999

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Daily [11:30] 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

Directed by Pedro Almodovar
ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER
Daily [12:30] 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:20

Based on the novel by Jane Austen
MANSFIELD PARK
Daily [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:00

Starring Ed Harris
THE THIRD MIRACLE
Daily [11:30] 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:10

Directed by Tim Robbins
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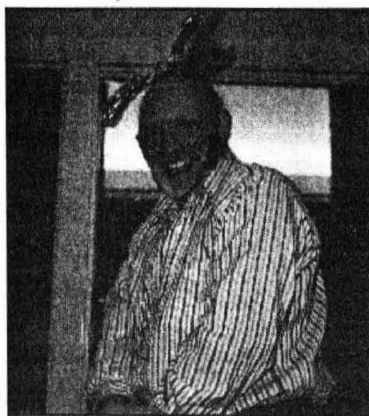
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Dean

Dean's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen,
the President of the United States

by Jean-Paul Revel



Well! quite a week was the week that was, what with the sudden visit of President Clinton to Caltech. Whatever your political inclinations, a visit by the head of state is a rare and exciting occasion. Most students won't know, but the last such visit was one by Pres. Bush, who spoke at Graduation in '91. That was when he was hugged by a graduating Senior, Jack Prater, to the surprise and consternation of the Secret Service. This was also the occasion when many sported a sprig of broccoli for which the President had expressed an aversion. Considering the logistics of making a presidential visit proceed smoothly, especially on very brief notice, one can only praise all those involved in making last Friday's a go. From my peripheral perspective, everything went as expected from a well oiled, if rarely used, machine.

The President's visit was a great honor for Caltech. Of course, we will be cocky enough to declare it was a well deserved honor, but nev-

ertheless one that was not quite expected. There could arguably have been other venues for announcing planned budget increases for science. But then the President reported that science maven Al Gore himself approved of his coming, even though, as a Harvard man (Gore received a degree in government with honors from Harvard University in 1969), he could have been upset that Caltech beat Harvard as #1.

Not only did the President come across the country for his announcement, he also brought along dignitaries such as Energy Secretary Elliott Richardson, Neil Lane, his Science Advisor, and Rita Colwell, the director of the National Science Foundation. There were also representatives (both Dems. and Reps.) from districts in the area (Juanita Millender-McDonald, Joe Baca, and David Dreier). Surely this was a clear indication of the importance of the occasion in the President's mind. Caltech reciprocated by solidly

packing Beckman Auditorium with students, staff, professors and trustees.

The day before the ceremony, rumor had it that the President would be introduced by a "common" person. It turns out that this rumor was inaccurate. There is nothing common about either David Baltimore, Caltech's own President, or the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Gordon Moore. Mr. Moore gave the audience a tidbit of his own when he confessed that, at the risk of disillusioning the audience, he had not expected "his law" to be accurate, or predictive past a decade or so.

I believe that all present were impressed by the depth and breadth of the President's knowledge about Caltech, the achievements of its faculty and about science in general. Not bad for someone who claims to be scientifically "challenged". Even if the speech was written by others, his vivid and animated presentation made it obvious that the President did indeed

have a deep interest and concern about the topics he discussed. I was a bit puzzled by how little hard data was proffered. 2.8 billion increase for science in general, including a 1 billion increase for the NIH budget, 675 million for NSF, 500 million for nanotechnology (with a salute to Richard Feynman), and unspecified increases for information technology, space exploration, cleaner sources of energy etc. If my notes are correct, that was it. The rest was a collection of anecdotes, and humorous gossip about hilarious lunches with Al Gore and what Einstein said when sent back to earth for the Millennium (an IQ of 40 suffices for a political career). There were general statements about what would be important, wise, appropriate. Making education more affordable, increasing help as costs increase, making college tuition tax deductible, supporting the entry and retention of minority students into education. Doing more to explain better why we need research. That it is the basis for our future. As an example, early support of the Internet, when it was an esoteric way of communications between a favored few, led to today's explosion in "ever e-thing".

E-nough! Perhaps it was just as well to leave out details. They are hard to follow on the fly. It would have been necessary to distribute a breakdown so people could follow on paper what was being said. One must also ask about the importance of such pronouncements by the

President. He is going out of Office next January, and the Budget is likely to be extensively reworked by his successor, starting the day after the election. So, in fact, going into great detail would have been a futile exercise. In fact the whole visit makes more sense as a way to compliment Caltech's achievements, rather than a true pronouncement of a definite plan for support of science. Without casting doubt on the sincerity of the plans, one must surely look at them more as a statement of the general wishes of the present administration, than a real effort at outlining a budget. The best outcome of course would be that, whatever administration follows the present one, it will want to do even better in the support of science in general.

So we can thank President Clinton, for the signal honor to have taken the time to come here to state his warm wishes for science. We must also express thanks for the opportunity that our students (and faculty and staff) had, to see, hear, for many to talk personally and even shake hands with the leader of the nation. It was an exciting experience. Thank you Mr. President.

And to all of you,

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The California TECH is experiencing technical difficulties. Please forward all mints to tech@ugcs.caltech.edu. We the editors apologize for any inconvenience.

CORRECTION: Last week, U.S. Geological Survey contact Mr. Wald's email was incorrectly printed as walk@gps.caltech.edu. The correct address is wald@gps.caltech.edu.

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 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.

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. The guitar home page is at www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html.

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EVENTS

Special Biochemistry Seminar, Sturdivant Lecture Hall, 147 Noyes, Fri., Jan. 28, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. - "Life on CO: Structural Studies of Carbon Monoxide Dehydrogenase from *R. rubrum*," Professor Catherine Drennan, department of chemistry, MIT.

Camber Music Concert, Dabney Lounge, Fri., Jan. 28, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. - Directed by Delores Bing, performance includes music by Telemann, Couperin, Beethoven, and Khachaturian. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH, or visit <http://tickets.caltech.edu>

Wellness Week Latin Dance Night at Avery Dining Hall, Fri., Jan. 28, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., special performance by salsa champion Laura Powell and Eko Budinugroho, refreshments served.

Patrick Ball, Sat., Jan. 29, 8:00 to 10:30 p.m., Dabney Lounge, features a one-man performance of *O'Carolan's Farewell to Music*, \$12/\$4 admission, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Eth-Noh-Tec will present a family program on Sat., Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Eth-Noh-Tec means the weaving of cultures, East and West, to create new possibilities. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, call 1-888-2CALTECH for 626-395-4652 for more information.

"Britain's Offshore Islands" to screen at Caltech, Fri., Jan. 28, 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Rick Rosefield will narrate this Armchair Adventures travel film. Tickets are \$9.00 and \$7.00, and can be purchased at the Caltech Ticket Office, 332 S. Michigan Ave, Pasadena, and also at Ticketmasters. Call 1-888-2CALTECH or 626-395-4652 for more information.

The Super bowl Alternative Concert IV, Sun., Jan. 30, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., performance of music by Dvorak, Mozart, Holst, and Schumann, call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP

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 National Academy for Nuclear Training is offering \$2,500 scholarships to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, or chemical electrical, or mechanical engineering, power generation health physics, for chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear or power options. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals, considering a career in the nuclear power industry, minimum GPA of 3.0 as of January 1, 2000, at least one but no more than three academic years of study remaining to graduation, and free of post-college obligations or active military service. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For

further information you may contact: National Academy for Nuclear Training Scholarship Program, 700 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339-5957 or via email at nanteap@inpo.org. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by January 29, 2000.

The Southern California Chapter of Women in Cable & Telecommunications is offering a \$1,000 Jeanne Cardinal Grant to one outstanding female undergraduate residing in Southern California. Applicants must plan to pursue a career in the telecommunication field, be a junior or senior by January 1, 2000, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and be active in at least one school approved campus organization or in community service. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications are to be completed and sent to: The Southern California Chapter of Women in Cable & Telecommunications, c/o Pamela Drake, Avenue TV Cable Service, Inc., P.O. Box 1458, Ventura, CA 93002. Entries must be submitted to the Southern California Chapter of Women in Cable & Telecommunications by January 31, 2000.

The Asian and Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) is proud to announce that applications are now available for the 2000-2001 APAHE Scholarship Program. Applicants must be California residents currently attending a California college or university, plan to enroll at least half time in the Fall 2000 term (the award year), and maintain satisfactory academic progress. Additionally, applicants must be 21 years old by September 1, 2000, have undergone special life circumstances and unusual hardships, have a 3.5 or above GPA, and demonstrate active community involvement or volunteer work with Asian and Pacific American populations. To apply, applicants must submit and APAHE Scholarship Application and Statement of Candidacy to the Financial Aid. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Applicants materials must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by February 4, 2000.

The College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for scholarship and fellowship awards for the 2000-2001 academic. Applicants must be female, U.S. citizens, full-time undergraduate and graduate students, sophomore or above, and must have a 3.0 or higher GPA. To apply, applicants must submit and application form, a one page, typed essay, a current academic transcript, and three letters

of recommendation, preferably, from professors familiar with the student's aspirations and achievements. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by February 8, 2000.

The American Chemical Society Scholars (ACS) Program will award approximately 100 scholarship awards to undergraduate students interested in four-year degrees in the chemical science. Applicants must be African-American, Hispanic, or Native American and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. These scholarships are valued at up to \$2,500 for the academic year. To apply, applicants must submit a application form, a current academic transcript, and two letters of recommendation. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be submitted to ACS by February 15, 2000

The American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) is offering scholarship awards to \$2,500 for undergraduates and \$3,500 for graduate students for the 2000-2001 academic year. Applicants must be an U.S. citizen and demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering. Selection criteria will be based on the candidate's academic record, work history, professional promise and interest in naval engineering, extracurricular activities, and recommendations of college faculty, employers and others. Financial need may also be considered. All graduate students must be members of ASNE or SNAME. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact: The American Society of Naval Engineers, 1452 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314 or phone 703-836-6727. The website address is www.navalengineers.org/. Entries must be submitted to ASNE by February 15, 2000.

The Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) is accepting applications for scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Applicants must be full-time students of Korean American heritage enrolled in at least their second year of undergraduate, graduate school or professional school in the Western Region. To apply, applicants must submit application form; a current official transcript; two letters of recommendation; one picture of applicant take within the last year; and a copy of the student's and parent's 1999 Federal Income Tax returns. Applications are available upon written request by writing to

Scholarship Committee, KASF Western Region, 3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 2450, Los Angeles, CA 90010 or via the web at www.ksaf.org. Entries must be submitted to KASF by February 15, 2000.

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. Any questions may be directed to Donna Fernandez, 617-2272426 x246, dfernand@ametsoc.org; or Stephanie Armstrong, 617-227-2426 x235, armstrong@ametsoc.org. Applications must be submitted by February 25, 2000.

The Dennis W. Cabaret Scholarship 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.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact 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 specifics, all mints will run for two weeks.

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