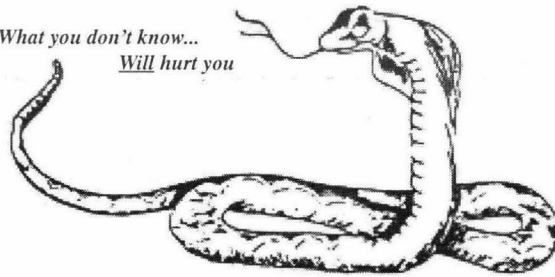


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# The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 10

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 3, 1999

## APPLICANTS SURGE TOWARD #1 COLLEGE

BY ELAINE OU

It's that time of year again, when early applicants are active, early applications are submitted, and early decisions are made. Only this year, the Caltech admissions committee received an unprecedentedly high number of applications for early action.

This year's applications for early action are up approximately 50% more than last year, which is three times as many early applicants as there were in 1996. Of course, a larger applicant pool should be expected for the year 2000 for a number of reasons, besides the fact that the collegebound population is clearly growing. Colleges across the nation are seeing a general increase in the number of early applicants, moreso than the increase in regular decision applicants. However, not all colleges are seeing their applicant numbers grow at quite the rate as Caltech's has in just one year. A probable reason for the increase is the *U.S. News and World Report* which came out this past August, giving Caltech sudden and widespread publicity.

While *U.S. News and World Report*'s new college rankings really indicate no more than a modified set of standards in comparing schools, even President David Baltimore admits, "This ranking validates Caltech's goal of being world-class while still caring about the whole student experience... This will help remind people that Caltech is doing something really unique in American education."

It is very possible that the increase in the volume of applicants really isn't as great as it may first seem. The early action program implemented at Caltech and some other national universities allows for students to apply to Caltech two months early in a non-binding process (not to be confused with early decision programs, which are binding), and find out about their admission status as early as December. More and more high school students are being encouraged to apply early to competitive schools in hopes of hav-

PLEASE SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 2

## Kumar, Chung win ME72 15th annual mechanical design contest draws crowd, cheers

BY JUSTIN KAO

Cheering crowds of students, the school mascot, cameras, a giant video screen, cheerleaders in facepaint, spirit posters and the national anthem. At any other school, this would be strong evidence for a football game. Not at Caltech - here, engineers are the stars and the scrimmages occur on-stage between their inventions.

An annual tradition at Caltech, the ME 72 Engineering Design Contest was held for the 15th

time on Thursday, December 2. Presided over by Professor Erik Antonsson, the free event drew over eight hundred Caltech students and faculty and even a few children to the Beckman Auditorium where they watched twelve teams duke it out for first place in a triple elimination competition.

This year's competition, dubbed "Hooks and Loops," involved building devices to attach scoring items to a velcro wall. Each team's final score

PLEASE SEE ME72, PAGE 8

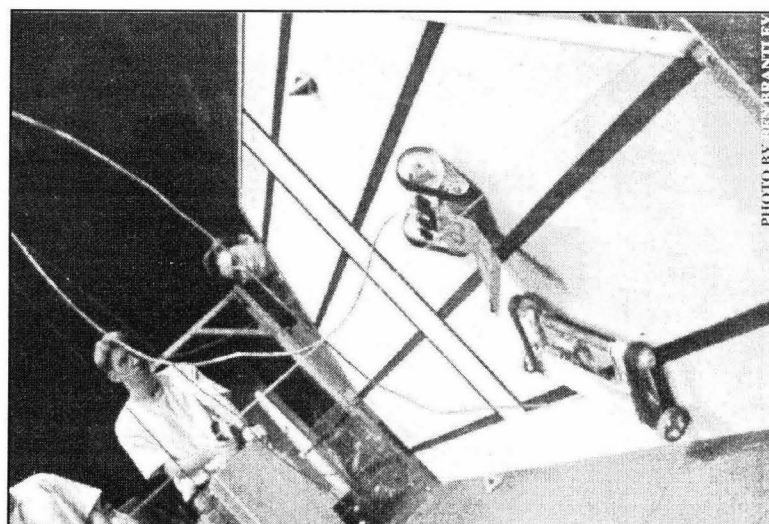


PHOTO BY JEFF BRANTLEY

ME72 machines duel to the death for the title.

## Citizens protest unfair corporate control of the WTO

BY ANNE KELLY

On Friday, November 26, Brendan Crill and I left for Seattle. We were on our way to join the tens of thousands of activists dedicated to protesting the World Trade Organization meetings being held in Seattle from November 29 to December 3.

The WTO is an organization of government officials and corporate leaders who create trade laws between the 150 member countries. The laws they make supercede national and local laws. Although the WTO's reso-

lutions must be ratified by the US Senate before they are official, the WTO is seen as highly undemocratic since no members are elected to represent their countries and their decisions are made quietly behind doors closed to the public. The WTO requires that all member countries be treated equally, but with Chinese membership imminent, this will mean the prevention of human rights laws being created by the WTO. The WTO Ministerial is the largest meeting since the WTO's creation, and will be the largest meeting for many

years. After the "Millennial" round of negotiations are over, the meetings in the future will be smaller and quieter.

One national law superseded by the WTO is the ban on fish caught from fishing nets which kill endangered sea turtles. A country can now sue the United States for not allowing the import of these fish. Similar such lawsuits have occurred between Canada, the US, and Mexico.

Almost none of the protesters in Seattle are against free trade. Instead, they are pushing for a more accountable trade organization. The individual interests of the protesters are extremely diverse; Mexican Zapatistas, American union members, environmentalists, feminists, human rights advocates, anti-capitalists, people against genetically modified food, economic justice activists, anti-corporate protesters, Students for a Free Tibet, and dozens other interest groups were gathered to raise their voices and even shut down the WTO meetings being held all this week. A dairy farmer from Wisconsin told a reporter from *The Nation*, "I think they thought they could put this meeting in the U.S. and nobody

would care. But they're going to find out a lot of us do care."

Friday, November 26

We arrived in Seattle and looked around downtown. Christmas was in the air; cheesy music blared over loudspeakers in a square while shoppers hurried from Borders to Starbucks to Gap. (I think each of those stores was on every block.)

Saturday, November 27

We woke up early and headed to the Direct Action Network to attend some workshops. The DAN is an anarchist center where people could meet to organize, create signs and puppets, learn about non-violence, find a place to sleep for the night, or whatever else needed to be done. DAN had no leaders but instead people who organized groups around the principles of anarchism and non-violence. The building was full of mostly dreadlocked twenty-somethings, but all kinds of people were there, around a few hundred. Everyone was busy making signs, organizing child care, forming jail support groups, and preparing for November 30 and beyond. The atmosphere was energetic and jovial.

PLEASE SEE INCIDENT, PAGE 4



Marching against the WTO, demonstrators walk through downtown Seattle in protest of unilateral corporate tyranny.

## Caltech tops ACM CS contest

BY VIKRAM DENDI

The Caltech (White) team took the top honors at the 1999/2000 Southern California Regional of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. This year's win is special, coming on the heels of Caltech be-

ing ranked the number one school by *U.S. News* (and subsequent hullabaloo). Sixty teams from twenty-seven schools participated this year, making this the largest playing field for Southern California ever.

Each team had three people

PLEASE SEE ACM, PAGE 2

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# Letters

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Human rights abuses continue in Innerspace

A few short comments on the latest Innerspace articles:

Jason's recommendation to take advantage of "stupid people" (November 12) is essentially an argument for the well known theory of "Might makes right." Anybody who needs examples of why this is a really ludicrous idea should look up any one of the following: the Frost Giants in Norse mythology, the character Jack in "The Lord of the Flies," Chapter 1 of "The Republic," Hitler and the Holocaust, Napoleon, or the European colonization of Africa, America, and Asia.

While I'm on my soap box, the need for exercise that Jason bitterly complained about in his November 5 column is actually quite reasonable from the evolutionary viewpoint. All life evolved under subsistence con-

ditions, so it is designed not to waste energy on any process that isn't critical to survival. If one doesn't stress one's muscles regularly, then they must not be critical, so it's better to store excess energy as fat for use when things get really tough. If we were in our natural state of subsistence, we would be stressing our muscles regularly, so we would never notice the issue, and things would often get really tough, so we would appreciate the fat reserves.

One might wonder why a person who admits to not being very strong physically would advocate the theory of "Might makes right" ...

Sincerely,  
John Lindal

P.S. Innerspace is actually a ploy by the Tech editors to shock us out of our apathy and force us to generate copy, right?

*ed's note: Actually, no. Although it is a pleasant side effect.*

### Life beyond science integral to Tech

The Dean made it a point to mention that Techers spend lots of time doing things that take time away from doing the things they originally came to Caltech to do. This is technically true, but I think I learned more from those things (and by interacting with people in the process) than I did from any textbook, professor, class, or research project I had as an undergraduate. I won't presume to speak for anybody else here, but in my estimation what people do outside of class at Tech ultimately turns out to be far more important than what we do inside it. (The people who deal with me beyond a professional level really don't care too much about how much science I know or don't know.)

This is not meant to belittle the science we learn at Tech—that's very important too. Nevertheless, science is not life (even at Tech).

(Take what I'm saying with a mound of salt, however. I

haven't been gone from Tech that long, so maybe I'll eventually eat crow.)

Sincerely,  
Mason Porter  
B.S. 1998

Ghost of Tech Editors Past  
(4 years ago and still not completely recovered!)

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Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. on the week of publication.

The editors reserve the right to edit or refuse to print any letter for any reason.

If you have questions, please email us.

## ACM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with whom to answer the contest's six questions. There were five hours in which to solve the problems. Last year, three teams solved all six within the five hours (a Caltech team was one of the three, but came in third based on time spent, which is used as the tie-breaker), so the judges tried to make the problems more involved this year. Sure enough, only two teams solved three of the six problems.

The Caltech group consisted of three teams, nine students total. Only one Caltech team could advance to the World Finals, and that goal was achieved. Benjamin Mathews, Miroslav Dudik and Christopher Chang, along with 'coach' David Epstein will represent Caltech at the Finals in Orlando early next year.

Congratulations to all the members and faculty of the CS department involved with the programming contest, the best of luck at the world finals.

## ADMISSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing a higher likelihood of admittance. Caltech does indeed admit a greater percentage of early action applicants than regular decision applicants, but generally because more students who apply early tend to have stron-

ger applications than those who don't. In effect, the applicants seeking early admittance may simply be the highly qualified and highly motivated students who would otherwise apply at the regular deadline anyway.

As for now, the staff, students, and faculty members in the admissions office are industriously

reading and evaluating the applications for early action, with decisions due out in late December, when the next batch of regular decision applications will begin coming in. While it is still impossible to tell just how many more aspiring students will be applying, the admissions office has hired three new staff mem-

bers - Ray Prado, Leslie Maxfiend, and Ray Tarpley - to help handle the anticipated influx. Perhaps the worst is already over with the early applications, or perhaps there's far more to come. After all, who wouldn't want to apply to the number one school in the nation?



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Letters to the Editor:	6 p.m. Tuesday
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## ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T.  
Minutes

NOVEMBER 11, 1999

**Present:** BoD minus Jaideep (Danny in at 15:17), Professor Steven Frautschi, Barbara Green, Bryan Tiedemann, Yang Xu, Angela Shum

Meeting called to order at 15:04.

**Dealing with Guests**

Yang requests check for this term for the Caltech Karate Club.

Bryan picks up a check for this term for the CEVC (Caltech Electric Vehicle Club).

**Project Reports**

**ASCIT Movie Library** - Alan shows us a list of about 30 videotapes and 35 DVDs he proposes to buy for this movie library. The BoD approves it.


**Board Food Pricing** - Baldeep reports that on Tuesday he, Jaideep, Tom Mannion, Andre Mallie, Patrick Gannon, and [Food Chair] Ian Swett met to discuss alternative pricing for board. They are looking into having a declining balance system for everyone on board (including in the houses) for lunch so everyone on board can use their ID cards to eat at any of the food venues such as Chan-

dler and Avery. Other ideas being considered are closing the South House Kitchens at lunch and contracting outside vendors. Jaideep, Baldeep, and Ian will be forming a committee to analyze by February how this system might work out and what types of systems might work best.

The BoD requests to see an actual budget of the board system to see how the costs get broken up, since overhead costs are said to be the majority of costs. Also, others mention that it seems that many people on the Avery board declining balance system are concerned because they have more money than they can spend during the rest of the term left in their accounts. Baldeep says he will bring these points up with the committee.

**Junior Class BBQ** - The Junior Class officers requested money last week for this BBQ which was held Sunday, November 7. The BoD approves \$300 to cover their costs pending receipt of the actual cost breakdown.

Meeting adjourned at 15:37.  
Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Kim  
ASCIT Secretary

A.S.C.I.T.  
Minutes

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

**Present:** BOD minus Hannah, Melvin, and Jaideep hold a meeting without quorum. Guests are grad students Marcel and Claude (of GSC), Dean Revel, MOSH Frautschi, administration guy Hall Daily, Movies Director Tim Crosby, and Jam Room guy Rory.

GSC folks want the lights for the party in the Coffeehouse this weekend (some are not yet back from Page), and the BOD gives unofficial approval for approx. \$100 for external light rental.

Gurt is looking into pooling party equipment into one centralized location. Stinkin' Commie!!

Hall Daily discusses Big T: Editor Erik Dill should have a contract signed around early December. Daley recommends giving last year's editor, Wren, full stipend even though it was three weeks late. The biggest reason it was late was not Wren's fault—it was mostly LATE HOUSE PAGES. Daley says: ALL YOU @#\$(?!& HOUSE HISTORIANS GET THOSE HOUSE PAGES IN ON TIME!

There are also issues with the commission for the Big T Business manager, since the job was largely taken over by Katy

Isaacs. Finally, the goal of 5-10% reserves is close to being met, and this allows purchase of equipment without loans from administration.

Alan will start buying the ASCIT DVD/VHS movies TONIGHT! This will be the first of many such purchases, so if your favorite didn't make it, don't freak. E-mail him at alanr@is.baldeep.bitch.com, or just alanr@its if you don't want to have to type out that long one.

Jam room gets a check, and Rory complains about Jam room insulation asbestos. He hocks up a convincing wad of blood for emphasis. Issue of improving sound insulation material in Jam Room to be looked at in the future.

Danny learns that "beta" can also stand for two 's's in German, which is called an "ess-zet."

ASCIT SAC Copier. Derek stopped by the Card Office in person to find out what the hell is going on, and why the card swipe still is not hooked up. The Card office is lazy, and they won't fix the old card swipe (which is missing some one of a kind wire—yeah, right) because it will just be replaced in the next two or three weeks as all the card swipes are replaced. In the meantime, you can still use the copier with the last 8 digits of your Social Security #, BUT you

must first submit your name and full (9 digit) SSN to Rachel Delgadillo in Graphic Arts, e-mail racheld@its, or extension x6706.

**Newspaper Audit:** Hall Daily discusses Tech audit. The cause of the misunderstanding seems to be that the IRS is stupid (and thinks that ASCIT does not put any money into the Tech, and so gets all the advertizing \$\$ as profit rather than loss mitigation), so hopefully once we set them straight the auditors will crawl back under their rock.

Danny: Will renew our non-profit status, and will change the status of the ASCIT bank account from "student" to "non-profit" to avoid fees.

Finally, Derek will begin working on the UROH (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handjo—er, book), since he sucks. Feel free to e-mail him love poems, your credit card and PIN numbers, and ideas for how the UROH might be improved: dms@its.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek Shannon  
Low Class Director-at-Large

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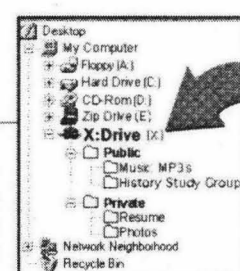
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## News

## Food Troubles Ache Rudd Stomachs

BY JOHN OH

Ruddock house was struck by an bizarre epidemic following their formal dinner held Wednesday, November 17th. This usually joyous

event was marred when over twenty three people, all who ate the salmon main entree, exhibited a wide range of symptoms of varying degrees of seriousness, from mild dizziness to severe diarrhea and gastrointestinal cramps. Those affected included Ruddock RA Mark E. Duttweiler and guest Dr. Stephen D. Quake. The epidemic was localized to only those who ate a salmon.

None who ate the other entree, beef, exhibited any signs of sickness.

Most of the people exhibited symptoms similar to stomach flu

and food poisoning. These included upset stomach, indigestion, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Almost everyone who

showing signs of sickness the following Saturday. Most of those afflicted recovered after one or two days.

When questioned about the

*"[At dress dinners] the dishes that we serve are usually much higher in fat."*

possible contamination of the food, Patrick

Gannon, Associate Director of Resident Dining replied thru email, "[At dress dinners] the dishes that we serve are usually much higher in fat. If you're not used to this type of food, your body can react to the high fatty mixture giving you not only indigestion but cramps. You say

that you experienced this directly following dinner, which would suggest the above reasoning. It usually takes more

*'This usually joyous event was marred when over twenty three people, all who ate the salmon main entree, exhibited a wide range of symptoms ... from mild dizziness to severe diarrhea and gastrointestinal cramps.'*

Friday. The vast majority reported experiencing sickness beginning mid Thursday, while only two felt sick immediately after. About a third reported still

than 6-15 hours for a food poisoning to take place."

A definite answer has yet to be found, although investigation at this point seems unlikely.

WTO Relived *continued from page 1*

The Direct Action Network was organized the way Spanish anarchists organized themselves before and during the Spanish Revolution. Small groups of about ten to fifty people, called affinity groups, would meet together and decide what to do. Within the affinity groups, there were no leaders, but instead a spokesperson, a media person, a legal contact (in case some people are arrested), a discussion facilitator, and whatever else was needed. All decisions were made by consensus. When necessary, the spokespeople from all the affinity groups would meet together to make sure the mass organization was on track.

Our affinity group decided to help blockade the Conference Center to prevent delegates from getting in. The blockades were organized into sectors by DAN. The area of downtown around the convention center was divided into pie slices. Affinity groups would choose a slice to blockade, but not be any more specific than that, due to police infiltrators in DAN.

Our first workshop at DAN was a class in nonviolent activism. We practiced role-plays such as calming down motorists angry with our demonstration and dealing with cops trying to force us from our position. Within the participants, people covered a wide range of beliefs and political views. It was wonderful to see how well-thought and articulate each person was and how accepting people were of each others' different opinions.

We headed back to DAN after dinner for a class in jail solidarity. We learned how to peacefully stop the police from dragging away a fellow protester, as well as how to be dragged safely and peacefully while causing the police the highest amount of difficulty. The DAN legal team taught us how to bargain with police officers and city prosecutors and methods of dealing with police questioning. It was wonderful to realize how much power people still have even when locked in a jail cell.

Sunday, November 28

Returning to DAN, we joined an an-

archist march through Capitol Hill on a street much like Colorado in Old Pas. The steelworkers union took the lead, and giant puppets were surrounded by dancing and cheering colorfully-dressed people. The march had an atmosphere of a street festival. We passed a Gap store and the procession stopped. We chanted against their sweatshops and a couple of people stormed inside. They returned outside with a pair of khakis and set them on fire. People adorned the logo on the outside windows with stickers, and turned the word GAP into CRAP. When the police were called in, everyone continued on with the procession.

Monday, November 29

On Monday we went to the spokescouncil meeting at DAN of all the affinity groups associated with the blockade. We organized by city sector to be sure that each sector had enough people and resources. Unfortunately our sector had the fewest people and the most dangerous task. Anarchist rule by consensus takes a long time, and the meeting dragged on for hours, so I left to visit the human chain forming around the King Dome.

Over 15,000 people made a human chain that evening for Jubilee 2000, a campaign to cancel third world debt. Debt to other countries and the World Bank keeps countries in extreme poverty. Most of their GNP goes to paying of interest rather than feeding people, even though in absolute terms their debt is nearly nothing compared to the United States'.

Tuesday, November 30

We met near the DAN at 6am to organize and rally. The rain was cold and the sun hadn't yet risen. Impassioned speeches fired everyone up, and we began to march towards downtown. Affinity group clusters carried colored flags, and every once in a while, one would break away on its own to barricade a different street. Our cluster of about two hundred broke off from the march at the corner of Pike and Boren, three blocks east of the convention center.

About ten people linked arms through cement-filled pipes. They sat down in the center of the intersection; the way their arms were linked, they arms would be broken if the police tried to force them to move before unlinking them. We allowed two school buses through our human blockade, and the other cars were blocked. After the traffic had finally gone, we made a human chain on only one side of the intersection by linking our elbows. We then prevented WTO delegates from passing through.

The police formed a wall behind us. They had full riot gear, but no gas masks. They would not allow us any closer to the convention center, but that was fine because we didn't want to move. They parked metro buses there in case of mass arrests, so we could all be loaded on and driven away. We chanted and sang and danced and jumped up and down to keep warm, maintaining our chain. People would attempt to pass through and our chain would squeeze together.

There was a moral dilemma in our barricade. Do we allow no one through, or everyone but WTO delegates? Some people lived in the apartment complex directly behind us, and some people pretended to be. We tried to stop as many people as possible, and especially people in suits. The media was there to document this, though our barricade (as we later found out) was one of the most underpopulated and uneventful.

One block away on Boren, another group had made a similar blockade which we could clearly see. In addition to the circle with pipes on their arms and a human chain, they had erected a giant tripod with a man sitting at the top, about thirty feet in the air. At some point, the cops decided to break through their chain. They slowly rode their motorcycles through the chain and ran over the circle sitting with their arms in pipes. Two of these people were run over by these motorcycles; we saw it happen again on the evening news. My outrage was mounting; no one sitting with their arms immobilized deserved to be run over by a motorcycle. No one

## Tech-Oxy Concert good

BY DANA SADAVA

In the comfort of Beckman Auditorium, spirits were high as the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band performed a rich selection of pieces on November 19.

Guest conductors Paul Asimow and Jason Chua led the band in the first half of the concert, along with William Bing, at whose hand the performers seemed most comfortable.

An uncanny softness closed the third piece, Yarik Machman's "The Match of Hope," which demonstrated the control Bing and the performers had over several lyrical passages throughout the program.

Asimow carried the band through the Nocturne of Gustav Holst's "Moorside Suite" especially well as he moved the band to flow with direction within the slow tempo.

Chua's exuberant presence made his job seem easy, even while leading the difficult Hoe-down from Copland's "Rodeo."

The only section that was noticeably weaker than the others was the brass, namely the trumpets. A particularly good wood-

winds section was highlighted by excellent flute solos by principal Jora Jacobi.

Performance level was at a peak during the highly entertaining second half.

Tuba soloist Brad Dooley captured the audience's attention through two technically exciting cadenzas of Frank Benciscutto's "Concertino for Tuba and Band."

Another highlight of the evening was "Blue Shades," a work by Frank Tichelli that is, as Bing put it, a "wonderful blend of classical and jazz." Many soloists were featured in this piece, and among them principal clarinetist Craig Countryman was impressive.

Visual media made an amusing appearance in silent movies accompanied by the band.

As the conductor acknowledged during the concert, he shifted performers within a section often to maximize everyone's chances of having a solo or leading their group. However, the frequent shuffle between pieces as the players switched positions was a little distracting.

could be more peaceful! The police almost tipped over the tripod as well.

After standing for five hours in our barricade, my feet were dying and my hands were ice. The police had backed off a bit and did not look as though they would charge us or arrest us. The metro buses remained, but their engines had finally been shut off. Smells of pepper spray and tear gas wafted up Pike Street from barricades on the other side of the Convention Center. People walked down our chain and fed us pizza; loaves of bread and water bottles were passed up and down the line. The sun began to shine and we knew our blockade had been successful - the time of the WTO welcoming meeting had passed by a couple of hours and no delegates had gotten through.

I was antsy to move and stretch my arms and legs. Knowing our blockade was successful so far and under no immediate danger from police attack, we decided to leave and see the other things happening in the city. We walked toward downtown and began to realize what how big the day was. Our small, quiet barricades were dwarfed by a line of metro buses parked end to end. In front of the buses, a van was blasting techno music and hundreds of people were dancing. One block over, a Teamsters semi was blasting 60's protest music, "...C'mon, get together, try to love one another right now..." Everywhere, people were costumed and carrying signs and puppets. In every direction there was either a blockade or a streets full of exuberant people.

Making our way closer to the center of downtown, we saw more of the same. Dancing, chanting, costumes, smiles, banners, and barricades. It was about 1p.m. now and tens of thousands of union members were marching through the streets. They had permits issued by the city, so they were given no harassment. As we passed a Starbucks, we watched a metal garbage can go flying into the window. No one ran inside to steal things. Instead, people surrounded the perpetrators and scolded them and shouted. The vandals were anarchists

who did not adhere to the DAN code of non-violence and non-destruction of property. Not one policeman was to be seen; they were all manning the barricades. We wandered to all the barricades to see if they needed help. Though some protesters were very energetic, no one was violent. Most barricades involved people standing arm-in-arm with a wall of policemen behind them.

We saw some graffiti, mostly consisting of anarchist circle-A's or the slogans, "We are winning," or "Fuck the WTO." Some windows were cracked on stores like The Gap and Old Navy, stores that rely on sweatshops. We took a break in a square on Pine and 4th to rest our feet. Around 2p.m, we were chatting with a nice woman from Montreal and watching the labor march when we saw smoke and someone was shouting "Tear gas!" In this particular square, many people there were just bystanders, not protesters. There were a few hundred college students and high school students who were taking the day off (school was cancelled most places anyway) to check out what was going on.

Brendan and I ran towards the intersection, at Pike and 4th, to see what was happening, to make sure our friends were okay, and to stand down the police. We had wet handkerchiefs over our faces to help us breathe, but gas masks would have been nice. The crowd in front of the attacking policemen grew bigger. No one was violent. I heard someone say the trigger was someone had been pulled away from the human chain to be arrested, and the chain pulled the person back. This has been confirmed by the media; the police said they had to clear a path for the delegates.

Some people had pushed dumpsters into the intersection. They were overturned and people stood on them. There were probably a thousand people in that intersection and thousands more down the adjoining streets. Rubber bullets were fired into the crowd, as well as rubber pellets, plastic bullets, and plas-

*continued on page 8*



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## Flow

Y  
news

by Kenneth Kuo

The end of first term is finally upon us. So as people fantasize about going home after finishing their finals, the Caltech Y would like to say "Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year." For the frosh, keep in mind that as of next term, you are eligible to work and thus able to receive Federal Work Study. One avenue that you can consider is

tutoring middle/high school students for the Y. With Federal Work Study, you will be compensated at \$12/hour for your services. Please contact the Y at ext. 6163 for more information. If you're interested, you can ask about other service activities which we sponsor. For those who are planning on going camping over Winter Vaca-

tion, keep in mind that the Y rents out various forms of camping equipment.

**This Week**

As usual, Project Angel Food will be occurring today. The purpose of this program is to deliver food to housebound people living with HIV/AIDS. This project takes but one hour time on Friday and takes place roughly from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. For more information, please e-mail Ying Tian at [ying@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:ying@cco.caltech.edu).

**Decompression**

Decompression is occurring this coming Saturday (12/04) and Sunday (12/05) starting at 7:00 PM on both nights. On Saturday, we will be featuring Swing Dance lessons (starting at 7:30 PM) with the Caltech Ballroom Dance Club. The band Dr. Evil will be accompanying the CBDC. Sunday night will feature Curtis Pehl hosting "The Roommate Game." A prize will be given to the pair of roommates who give the best responses. For those who have never attended Decompression before, Decompression is an

event held immediately before finals week where the Y serves free food to all undergraduate and graduate students who attend. The various food items consist of hamburgers, hot dogs, bagels, fruits, condiments, chili, and drinks. Aside from the featured entertainment mentioned earlier, some movies will also be shown for those who prefer the quiet atmosphere of watching a film.

**General Info**

The Caltech Y holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 12:15 PM 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](mailto: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](mailto:dogbert@cco).

## Adam Villani: Media Guy

BY VILLANI

**Corpus Christi**

*Corpus Christi* premiered in New York last year to death threats, bomb threats, and scads of picketers and other protesters, and now my friend and co-worker Dave Barton's Rude Guerrilla Theater Company has brought Terrence McNally's gay passion play to Southern California. In *Corpus Christi* a gay son of God named Joshua is born in a Texas motel, leads his group of apostles against an unaccepting society, and is finally crucified as "King of the Queers."

While the play is unquestionably moving and its concept valid territory for exploration, at its core it doesn't really have a great script. Most of its power comes from scenes adapted directly from the original Gospels,

and the rest of the translation from asexual Nazorean to gay Texan is either by-the-numbers or campy and haphazard. Furthermore, there are numerous theological cheese-jobs from the blatant (no Resurrection) to the subtle ('love God and love your neighbor' becomes 'love God by loving your neighbor'). In essence, McNally wished to create a "Buddy Christ" who would tell him what he wanted to hear.

Dave Barton does a pretty good job with the material, and has shown to be an expert at getting his actors to feel strong emotions, particularly the violent ones. This is complemented by the immediacy of the small Empire Theater and the wrap-around seating; hearing the nails being pounded into the cross as Jay Michael Fraley's Joshua cries out in pain is a harrowing experience indeed. Fraley stands

out as the best actor in the bunch, and Sean Cox is understatedly sinister as his lover and betrayer Judas. The rest of the cast does a pretty good job playing multiple roles, though things may be a little confusing at first.

More successful unconventional interpretations of the Gospels can be found in socialist Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Gospel According to Matthew* film or in Chester Brown's serialized back-up stories in his *Yummy Fur* and *Underwater* comics. *Corpus Christi* plays through December 19 at the Empire Theatre, 200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00, Sundays at 2:30. Tickets \$12.00, \$10.00 for students with ID. (714) 547-4688.

**Coming Soon:**

*Media Guy's Holiday Movie Spectacular!*

**The Outside World**

by Katharina Kohler

SEATTLE—The police in Seattle kept demonstrators away from the area surrounding the World Trade Organisation conference for the second day. The protests began on Thursday and several demonstrating groups said that they will continue their marches. They also declared the "curfew" invalid because of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and assembly. It is the first curfew since the army told Japanese citizens to stay off the streets during the Second World War. The demonstrations were mostly peaceful, but one group threatened to shut down the WTO by any means, so the police started to use tear gas.

WASHINGTON—The United States and Russia linked their command centers for the nuclear reactors by video. This was done to oversee both countries' atomic reactors in order to prevent a mishap during the change to the year 2000. No major complications are expected and the Russian reactors might even have less complications, because they don't rely on digital technology as much. Over \$6 million are budgeted to upgrade the systems and help the Russians to do the same with theirs.

PASADENA—A poll taken by the British journal "Physics World" surveyed over 130 physicists all over the world and lists the most important physicists ever:

1)Albert Einstein 2)Isaac Newton 3)James Clerk Maxwell 4)Niels Bohr 5)Werner Heisenberg 6)Galileo Galilei 7)Richard Feynman 8)Paul Dirac 9)Erwin Schrodinger 10)Ernest Rutherford. Feynman is the only physicist who did the important part of his work in the second half of this century. His work revolutionized the whole area of quantum mechanics and simplified the interaction calculations by using his famous diagrams of interaction trajectories. Several physicists were not happy with the ranking, they said that Feynman should have been higher on the list or that "you don't place great people in order." Some also mentioned Enrico Fermi, who should be included in the list.

BY TECH STAFF

Need a passport, holiday stamps, change of address kit, or register to vote? Or maybe you want to be informed on postage rates, obtain shipping information, or learn how to access zip codes and other postal resources from your office computer, then mark your calendar and come to the Caltech Postal Expo. The Expo will be held on Friday, December 10, 1999 from 11:00a.m. to

2:00p.m. on the second floor Winnet center patio. There will be drawings for prizes and lots of information. Mail Services staff will also be on hand to answer your questions.

The Expo will feature information about Caltech and JPL issued Postal stamps. There will be representatives from U.S., Caltech and JPL mail services. Special guests Pasadena Postmaster Bob Mysel and the Caltech Beaver will make appearances.

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## Bond

## The World is not Enough

a review by  
Andrew Casteel

Oh for the days when Bond was something more than a cheap excuse to make Denise Richards, of Starship Troopers fame, into a nuclear physicist. Like any Bond film it held to the standard formula of gadgets, villains, love interests, and witty reposts. Here's the breakdown.

## Gadgets

Ever since he lost his Aston Martin, Bond has been nothing but a corporate billboard. This year was no different. Brosnan at least lost his BMW 750I, a midsize sedan that seats 5 and is conveniently priced at \$92,000 so that any well off father of 3 can tell his kids he drives the same car as a secret agent, and picked up the BMW Z-8 roadster, a pricier convertible that is sporty enough to satisfy any man's mid-life crisis. An improvement in my opinion, as Bond should never drive the same car that yuppies in Westwood use to take their kids to soccer practice.

The car and other gadgets are introduced by "Q's" replacement "R" played by Monty Python's John Cleese. The old "Q" makes his last appearance to introduce the rather clumsy "R". I'll miss "Q". He was the

only element of the original Bond that's survived this many sequels.

The rest of the gadgets were just as blatant. His Omega grappling hook watch, his x-ray Calvin Klein specs, his lockpicking VISA card all get nice close-ups during the film. The rest of the product placement is just as blatant, especially the boxes of Smirnov's vodka stacked in the middle of an otherwise clean office of a corrupt casino owner. At least if you can't afford the car Bond drives, you can afford the vodka Bond drinks.

The best gadget by far is the boat you've probably seen in the commercials. Bond has an incredible chase scene with it through the Thames right before the traditional credits and naked women scene at the beginning of the movie. Just in case you were wondering, the boat is also available from Bentz in Lewiston, Idaho. I wonder how much it cost them to make their boat Bond's boat.

## Villains

The new Bond villain, Renault, did not impress me. He had a nice background. An ex-KGB agent who went freelance terrorist, 009 attempted to kill him but botched the job. This left a bullet in his brain, which leaves him without the ability to feel pain but will eventually kill him. This villain disappoints you from the start till the very end. He only seems to use this ability for two purposes. First, to injure himself in a pathetic attempt to add impact to the usual Bond Villain "you've

him to kill a billionaire oil mogul. In order to find them, he trails the mogul's daughter, who they suspect to be his next target. The usual Bond mating dance of flirting, saving from assassins, and playing cards in a casino ensues. I'd say more about this woman, but she really isn't that interesting and I'm very happy when she finally buys it.

He then moves on to everyone's favorite nuclear physicist, Denise Richards, perhaps the only nuclear physicist to wear a cut off tank top and short shorts under her

radiation suit. She delivers her lines with the same lack of passion that has plagued her throughout her career. She's almost tolerable

after juggling plutonium around the whole movie and fighting in the reactor core of a nuclear sub.

## Witty Reposts

You've already seen the best in the commercials. The rest are all downhill. He even lets off a few premature "villain killing" remarks. I thought he had matured enough not to have that problem anymore. As bad as they get, nothing prepares you for Bond's final remark, which makes you want to forget that the holidays are approaching.

All in all, it was a disappointing Bond movie. If you really want to see a Brosnan Bond movie, go and rent Tomorrow Never Dies or Goldeneye. Better yet, rent a Sean Connery Bond; a good one like Goldfinger or From Russia With Love.

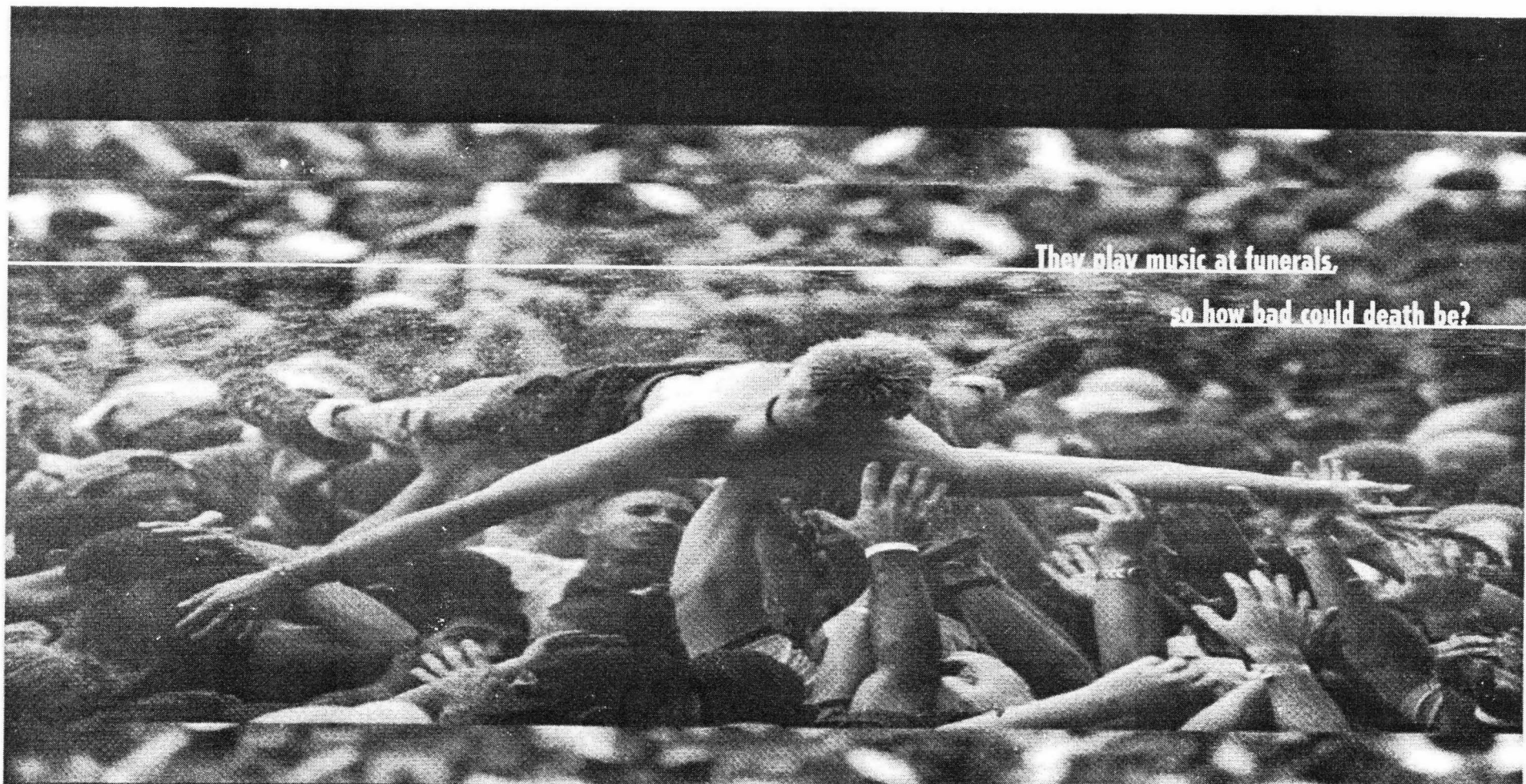
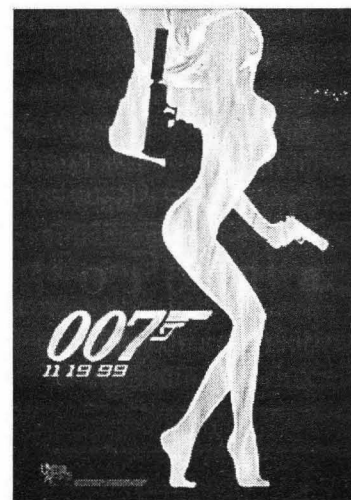
*At those moments, she [Denise Richards] bears a striking resemblance to a cat when it is coughing up furballs: it has no idea why such horrible things come out of its mouth but it continues to spit them out*

disappointed me" monologues to minor villains. And second, to whine to his girlfriend about how he can't feel her anymore. When Bond's kicking his butt, Renault never really plays it off as though he can't feel it. Later on you find that he isn't the real villain, but the real villain didn't really impress either.

## Love interests

Bond begins the movie in the search of Renault, who used

when she's not trying to explain the latest in plutonium weapons. At those moments, she bears a striking resemblance to a cat when its coughing up furballs: it has no idea why such horrible things come out of its mouth but it continues to spit them out anyway. She seems to serve two basic purposes in the film. First, to deliver the "....somebody's gonna have my ass" line in the commercial. And second, to explain why Bond is still alive



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## Mech E-xtravaganza!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was based on the number of scoring items on their side of the wall and the location of their scoring items. A significant change in the rules this year was the team aspect. Last year teams built a single device; this year each person built an individual device and the two entries worked together, allowing each individual device to be more specialized.

To build their devices, teams were allocated two materials kits (one per person) and ten weeks. According to Professor Antonsson, the 12 unit class gives students 120 hours to work in. However, many enthusiastic contestants spent far more time, and their dedication was clearly reflected in the creativity of the entries.

Among the designs were extensible arms, several vehicles that drove up the wall, defensive vehicles that interfered with the other team's scoring, and *Doctor Placebo*, an eighteen legged walker built by last year's champions and this year's TAs, Eric Hale and Nathan Schara. Defen-

sive strategies came in all varieties - one vehicle climbed the wall to take down opponents' scoring items, another placed a venetian blind on the opposing side's wall to stop wall climbers, several rolled around bumping into and trapping opposing devices, and one effective defender unleashed webs of velcro, tangling up wheels.

At one point, Professor Antonsson stepped in to call a rematch. *Doctor Placebo* was accused of competing more than a placebo should have. In response, Eric and Nathan turned over the driving of *Doctor Placebo* to Antonsson, whereupon the placebo lost handily.

In the end, Dev Kumar and Steve Chung defeated all comers and took the trophy without a single loss. Steve Chung attributed their success to their design and drill, describing their entries as "simple and hard to break" and their tactics as "fast and aggressive." Certainly, their control of their vehicles was precise and effective. The first time they competed, in fact, many in the audience were surprised to see

Dev's vehicle placing an item in the top scoring area while everyone had been distracted by the melee initiated by Steve down below.

Additional awards were given in the form of mugs by the Caltech chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. "Best Team Work" went to Jim Chang and Sueanne Lee, "Most Time In Shop" to Russel Howe, "Most Ambitious Design" to Greg Detweiler, "Most Unique Design" to Brian Platt, and "Übermechanic" to Dev Kumar.

Of the various entries, Professor Antonsson commented afterwards that he knew their capabilities, but "had little idea how they would have fared in the heat of battle." However, in general, he noted that "quality has improved dramatically" over the years, both from better materials but also in large part to "students looking back at previous years" and setting ever higher goals for themselves.

Congratulations all the entrants. In the words of Professor Antonsson, "truly astounding!"



Dev Kumar and Steve Chung crush their opponents like veritable insects to score big in the competition. Kumar, Chung and their machines were undefeated.



Amy Duello beams with glee as her machine brings the Scorable Item to bear and wins the match. Contestants enjoyed seeing the fruits of their labor in the field.

A complete log of competition pairings and results is posted at [www.design.caltech.edu/Courses/ME72/](http://www.design.caltech.edu/Courses/ME72/).

## WTO Relived *continued from page 4*

tic bullets full of pepper spray. The police continue to deny that they fired on this crowd, but we met a couple of people just minutes afterward and they showed us their welts. Also, two men in front of us picked up the bullets off the ground and saved them for the media. One pepper-filled bullet popped in their hands.

We stood our ground, chanting at the police, "Non-violence! Non-violence!", "Shame on you! Shame on you!" and "The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching!" Suddenly, canisters flew low over our heads and exploded violently and loudly. Later we learned that these were concussion grenades, designed to scare people. When these flew, everyone began to panic and run. The anarchists who had gone to DAN training and other wonderful people began to scream "Stop! Walk! Don't run!" which calmed everyone and a stampede was prevented.

Tear gas canisters were fired almost immediately afterwards, or maybe at the same time. Our eyes were streaming and burning and snot was pouring. Instead of running, people were angry. They sat down in defiance.

No one wanted to fight the police; people were simply angry that they were nonviolent protesters and innocent bystanders being fired on and tortured. In response, we had to stand firm and show that we couldn't be intimidated.

A canister of pepper spray flew towards Brendan and me. We saw it, and tried to get away. I saw it was about to hit him, and it exploded by his back foot. Since he was facing away, he was horribly affected, but my face got it full force. My eyes were on fire, but I couldn't cry. I couldn't open my eyes, and when I could just barely do it, everything was blurry and shaky. My nose and lungs were searing. I sat down and Brendan poured the last of his water on my eyes. We had used most of it when the tear gas hit a minute earlier.

After I could see again, we moved to the upwind part of the intersection. We stood for a while. We then heard that another barricade was in trouble, and

we headed over there. The labor march was still going and most other streets were calmer. The intersection rumored to need support was looking fine.

People stumbling in front of us running from gassed streets would happily accept our offers of cold water poured on their faces. People were almost universally calm and reasonable. A NikeTown store had been completely trashed on the outside, but anarchists and environmentalists made a human chain around it to prevent looting.

As darkness fell, people began to disperse. It had been a long day of standing and yelling and running and high adrenaline. Police continued to gas people. And people continued to be gassed out of defiance. The government declared martial law and ordered everyone out by 7pm.

The pattern of the remaining protesters became: block an intersection, be gassed, shot at, and have concussion bombs thrown at your head; throw gas canisters back at the cops; stand until you can no longer breathe; move to the next intersection; repeat. This continued for the reason that people were angry for being gassed for nonviolently protesting while vandals were ignored.

Downtown Seattle had an eerie, post-apocalyptic mood to it. Orange light from the sodium lamps illuminated clouds of gunpowder smoke and tear gas wafting through the streets. Explosions and shots could be heard in many directions, and the remaining people were running and shouting. All the businesses were dark, some had graffiti and cracked windows. We were completely exhausted and decided we'd served our purpose: shutting down the WTO meeting that day.

On our way out of downtown, we came across one last large intersection full of people. A wall of policemen in full riot gear were supported by a wall of police on horses, who all had gas masks. Behind them were a few armored personell carriers. People were chanting "Non-violence! Non-violence!" and "The whole world is watching!" same as before. The police finally spoke up. They said "If you do not clear

the streets in five minutes, you will be violating city and state law." Maybe a dozen people of the few hundred walked away. Three men behind us in business-casual wear were chuckling about how crazy this was and saying "Gee, hope we don't get gassed." We tried to tell them we were going to be gassed any second, but they didn't pay attention.

Tear gas canisters were lobbed from high overhead, from the side. It landed between us and our escape route. We walked quickly away, and some of the people like the business-casual guys were panicking, so we shouted "Walk! Walk! Don't rub your eyes!" It did seem to calm people down. Brendan caught a big whiff of tear gas and he was blinded for a while, so I had to lead him out of there. I was cheering that we were tear gassed and not pepper-sprayed, but in doing so I got a lungful of gas. Most of the crowd stayed in that intersection, but we make our way up the hill, towards our car. We were too tired to fight more that day.

About two blocks up the hill, we turned back to watch the scene. The crowd remained, several hundred strong. Someone began to play Jimi Hendrix's "Star Spangled Banner" very loudly. It was a beautiful, horrible scene to see these peaceful, angry people being tortured by their own police as their national anthem played. And, with timing of a cheesy movie, when the song got to the line about "bombs bursting in air", concussion bombs and tear gas were launched over the crowd and exploded.

Feeling like that was the grand finale, we went home to sleep before we returned to Pasadena the next morning. We won; we shut down the WTO ministerial for at least one day, we even didn't allow Madeleine Albright to leave her hotel. We showed the world we will endure torture to voice our outrage against the police force whose mission is to "Protect and Serve" and the injustice of the WTO.

After Tuesday, N30

The protest is continuing in the streets of Seattle. An unconstitutional ban on

protests went into effect the following day. The National Guard enforced a dusk-till-dawn curfew in downtown Seattle; anyone not with the WTO will be arrested on sight, and questions are asked later. The National Guard is barricading and occupying all of downtown Seattle until the protesters desist.

On Wednesday, a few hundred protesters returned to the Convention Center illegally to resume their demonstrations. Protesters on the periphery of downtown are being pushed by police into residential neighborhoods to be gassed and arrested there. Residents are furious with the police for forcing this into their neighborhood and some are joining in with the protesters.

N30 in Seattle was a mass uprising of a diverse people who were united against the growing influence of global corporations and other powerful undemocratic institutions. While the violent actions of a small number of protesters may create some backlash, the issue of the globalization of capitalism has been vaulted into the public consciousness. In addition, the myth of apathy amongst the American public has been dispelled. The anarchist theory of direct democratic organization proved to be very effective in facing heavily armed and trained police. As a slogan scrawled on a wall in downtown Seattle states: "Don't forget: we are winning!"

# ATTENTION

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# Liquid Hot

## The Ticket Stub

By Justin Ho

**Dogma** (B) rated R: for violence and much crudeness, the spiritual corruption of a nun, and many a naughty sexual innuendo

Even without a degree in theology, it is quite obvious the extremity to which the writer contorts religious commandments for the sake of cinematic coherence. The premise of the movie hinges on the designation of two arches in a church in New Jersey as the absolute pillars of God-granted forgiveness, a move sanctioned by the Pope for the sake of promoting Catholicism which God must also honor under papal infallibility. Yet, being granted forgiveness is equated with an automatic stairway to heaven, thereby giving two fallen angels a chance to regain their place in celestial bliss though reprimanded by God personally with an eternal-life sentence to the Cheese State (Wisconsin). By chance, Loki and Bartleby (Matt Damon and Ben Affleck) receive a newspaper clipping highlighting the route to salvation, and though God is omnipotent and supposedly omnipresent, they imagine themselves beyond God's ability to prevent their peregrination to Jersey, careful though not to reveal their true identity (with feathery wings and such) to God or a heathen populace.

Formerly servants in Heaven, their already critical minds made them question God's purpose in His vengeful Old Testament phase. Once relegated to a more humble state, they evince a hunger for the period before their fall from grace out of their disgust of being in the company of human irreverence to their Creator. They

find themselves as living testers of Christian faith, posing questions to those who appear the most religiously devout and essentially accentuating their doubts which uncover their corruption. But on a whim, and perhaps subconsciously believing that God condones actions done in His name, Bartleby and Loki begin to rid the world of sinners, ironically precluding their victims' chance of atonement and forgiveness even though Bartleby and Loki desperately seek it themselves. Knowing that forgiveness is guaranteed once they pass the Church pews, they justify their deviations from model behavior as wrongs for which they will be forgiven anyway, turning to a dark side that belies their angelic identity.

Bartleby's and Loki's re-entry into Heaven, coincidentally, precipitates God's fallibility and thus the end of all creation. Before purging His domain, God specified that the two renegade angels would never find a place in Heaven again, and therefore, their success in reaching the pillars would contradict that statement. The loophole was carefully calculated by yet another fallen angel, spiteful of his sentence to hell, and preferring the destruction of the Universe rather than further torment in the Netherworld. God, in his omnipotence, turns out to be MIA in these episodes, which draws a flurry of activity amongst his heavenly minions and a few clueless mortals sent to stop Bartleby and Loki at all costs. The netherworld-demon mastermind likewise sends a small regiment to block the mortals, introducing

a trio of nasty, mute adolescents and a blob which can only otherwise be described as a poo-poo monster.

The theological climax takes place after a rather un-dramatic initial confrontation between the two angles and their mortal nemeses. Realizing for the first time the potentially end of the world consequences of their re-entry into Heaven, Loki's motivation diminishes but Bartleby becomes confrontational. Bartleby holds an expectation of forgiveness; he reasons that given the frequency of rejection of religion among humans and God's capacity for the salvation of mortals regardless, angels, with their eons of faithful service, must also be granted forgiveness. But rejected by God, Bartleby's spite is a metaphor for the jilted lover's angst — the affection quickly rankles and in some cases leads to dementia. Thus, even at the cost of the end of the world, Bartleby seeks forgiveness and re-entry as a means of personal justice.

During its conception and now that it is in theaters, 'Dogma' has been furiously picketed by religious advocates for a disheartening portrayal of Catholicism. Indeed, though the film seems to reinforce the cathartically pleasing effects of embracing religion, the film seems to blast institutionalized religion. Certainly for someone contemplating conversion to Catholicism, the film would appear gloomy. But if Christianity is a living faith which demands that one should continuously question their belief to reinforce it, the film should not be construed as anything more than a mildly corruptive influence. Indeed, the film is by no means a true testament of religion, Catholics should not be challenged by the content of the film in terms of their personal faith, and the movie does provide the basis for a religious forum. For clarification,

however, the movie does warp some elements of religious doctrine and has a good share of inconsistencies. In addition, it is cinematographically ugly and has some moments which stall and simply do not jive, but it should be the thought that counts. *Sleepy Hollow* (C) rated R: for much blood and gore, beheadings, a sword spearing a head like an olive, and other things that go bump in the night.

In Washington Irving's original "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the psychosis of the town's inhabitants assumed the primary focus of the story. In a location surrounded by fog, a natural element which blurred the distinction between reality and silhouettes, the question was whether the headless horseman was indeed a physical entity or simply a figment of the imagination. Indeed, with a name like 'Sleepy Hollow' and its enervating atmosphere, people would be inclined to do as the name of their town implied, to sleep and perhaps to dream, creating visions of real or not so real scary creatures. In Tim Burton's gothic moving picture version, however, the headless horseman is undeniably a physical reality—a symbol of both mere invincibility and castration simultaneously. But though the movie derives its primary adversary and the name of its cowardly protagonist from the original, there is little distinction between this movie supposedly based on an American literary classic and a straight-forward slasher film set in a place long ago. With the exception of extremely stylish and technically challenging chase scenes, whereby the camera has to smoothly follow a galloping swordsman, the movie lacks anything truly unique. Like many a horror film before it, the motive for the madness is revealed (in all its cheesy entirety) in a monologue by the villain in the last five

minutes, during which the protagonists stand around like paralyzed scarecrows before the hero gains an upswing to win the war. Unfortunately, the villain delegated to spew on and on is a very accomplished actress (Miranda Richardson of *The Crying Game*, and the best thing in *Merlin* and *Alice in Wonderland*).

At the onset, Ichabod Crane (Johnny Depp), a rather skittish New York City constable and perhaps the predecessor of the father of forensic science, is shipped to an isolated hamlet to investigate three murders by beheading. Hoping to seek the killer by modern scientific techniques, he is soon overwhelmed by the sheer fantasy and mystique behind the serial killings. The murders continue even while he is there, though his thoughts drift to rather non-criminal endeavors as well, wooing the local rich girl (Christina Ricci) and trying to control his propensity of becoming terrified by spiders and other small intimidations. Trying to come across as more knowledgeable than he is, Crane immerses himself in useless toys and devices in his revolutionary crime "detection," bringing a comical side to balance the otherwise ghastly film. With an under-developed plot, it is hard to determine who is indeed guilty of ignominy, and after a while, the ominous music which precedes any re-surfacing of the headless avenger removes an element of spontaneity or surprise. Of course, the truth is that there is a rather contrived method to the pattern of killings. With a finale which belies Ichabod's cowardly and certainly wimpy image, the ending is positive, which deviates from Washington Irving's conclusion — the disappearance of Crane into the night and into oblivion. Knowing that even the biggest losers of us all can save the day, maybe we can all go to sleep happy.

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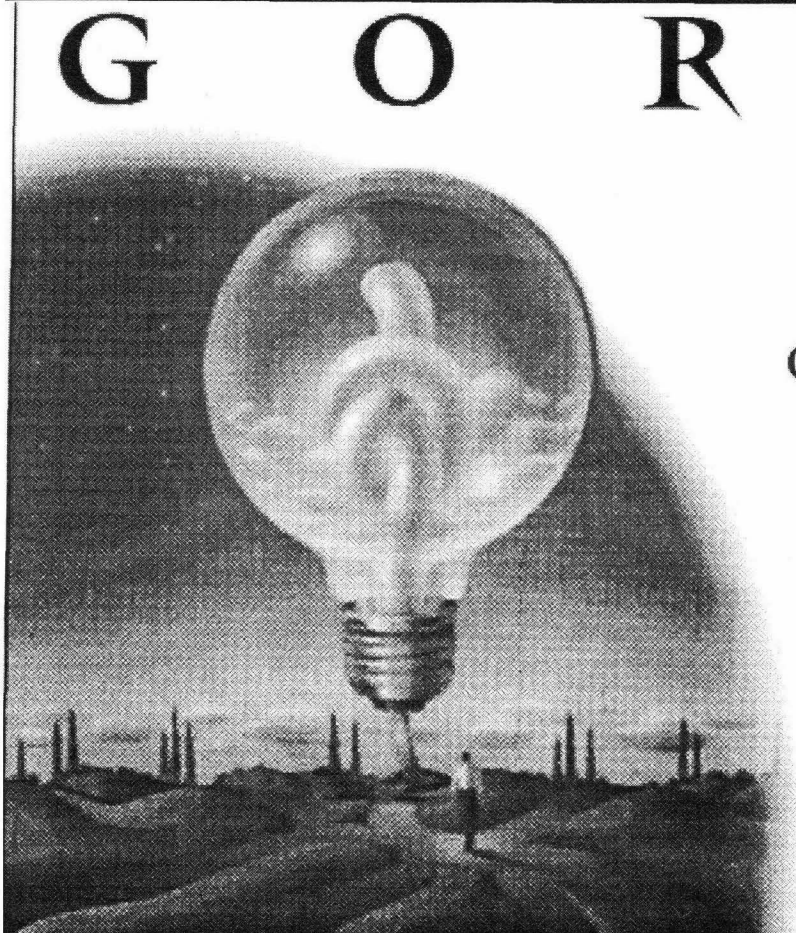
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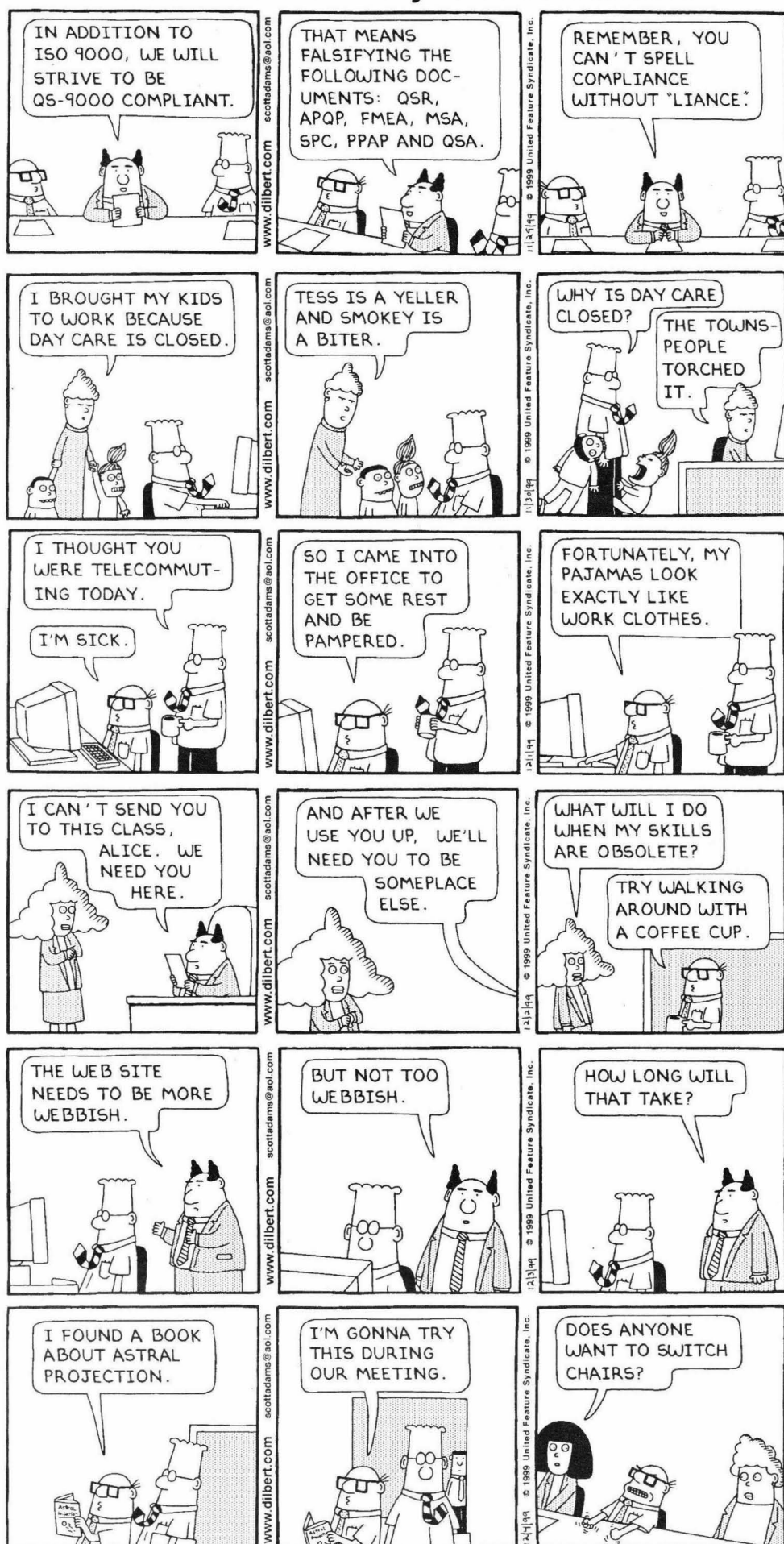
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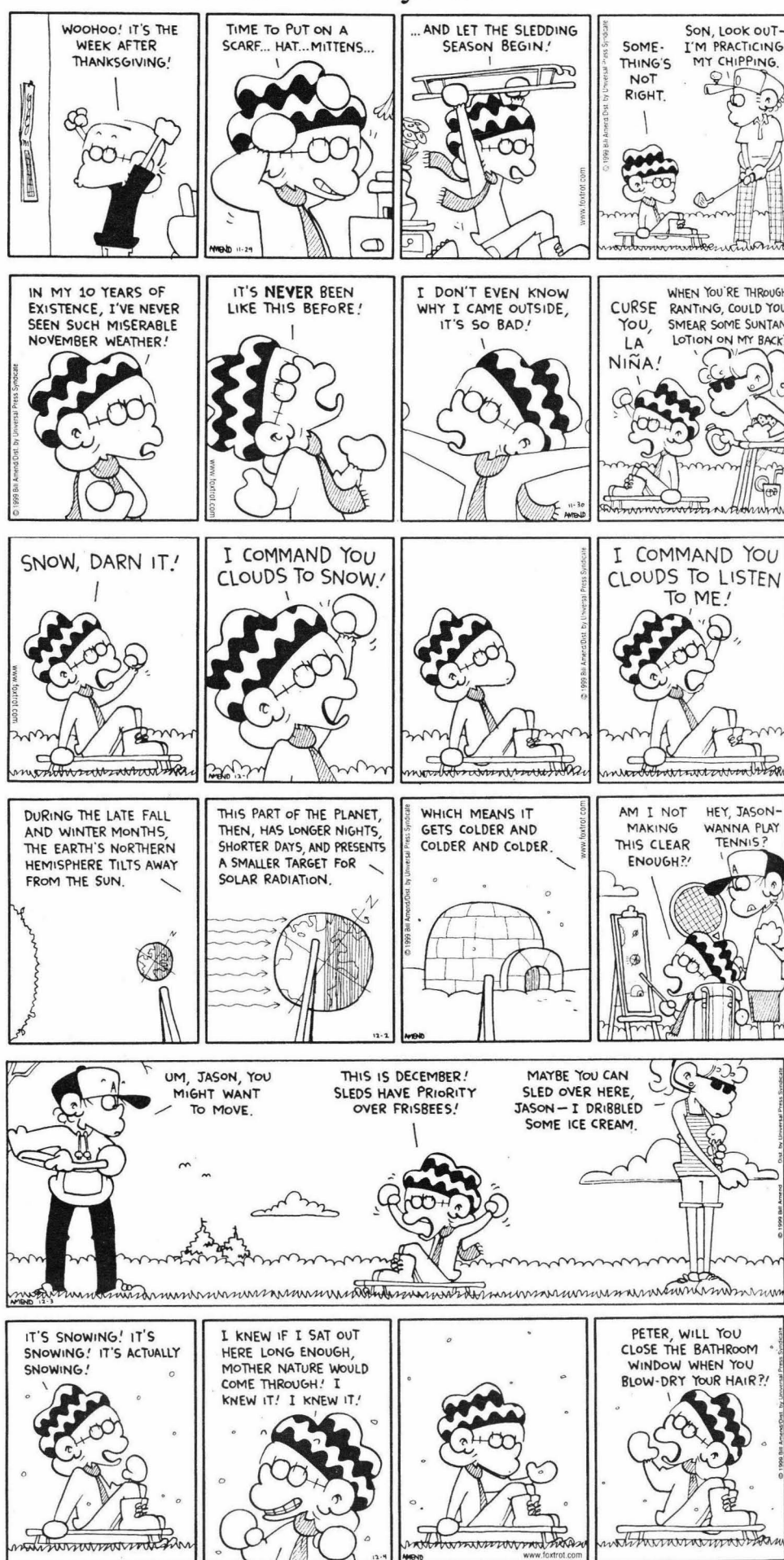


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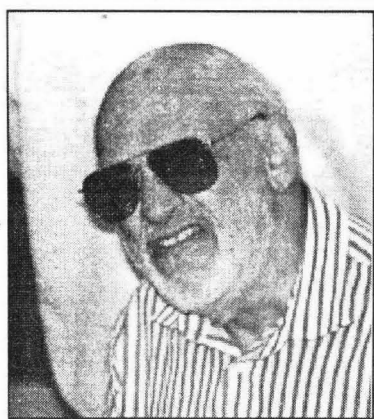


# Millennial Dean

## Dean's Corner

### Turkeys!

by Jean-Paul Revel



I hope you had a great Thanksgiving, all of you, those who stayed behind and those who braved the throngs and went home to a Turkey such as only a Mom can cook. Unfortunately, that's all ancient history. You are already back in your classes and the term is near its end. The amino acids you extracted from the Turkey are well ensconced in your own proteins, and the glow of seeing family and friends is slowly dissipating.

We are all members of groups, some acquired through self selection, such as one's friends, others "inherited" like our parents and siblings. Even while enjoying your short visit home, you probably looked forward to come back here, feeling a bit lost without the company of your new friends at Caltech. The friends that we make on our own are in a special category. We select a special few among the people that fate brings us near to. There is no telling what attracts us, what the chemistry is... maybe it is a pheromone. I am sure you have all heard of the Gypsy Moths exploits in

that respect. The females attract potential mates from miles around by sending out a cloud of 7,8-epoxy-2-methyloctadecanes as a guide. The males detect vanishingly low amounts of the stuff and follow the concentration gradient to their potential mates. We don't know much about human pheromones, contrary to what the makers of Chanel want us to believe, and it is unlikely that they form the basis for human friendships. All we know is that among those with whom we share a common living space, a common place of work, the same house, or some common experiences there are a few to which we become especially loyal. Besides these close friends we also form less tight bonds with groups of other people, classmates, and to some degree, everyone at school.

Part of being friends is that each tries to protect the well being of the others. Each of us becomes his/her friend's keeper. But there are times when things become awkward. Because we don't belong just to one group, but to several at the same time we may have multiple, and sometimes conflicting, inter-

ests. It is like the situation of new conscripts who have to tear themselves from their close ones, to serve that much larger unit, their country. We understand that the needs of the country have precedence over those of our own private little groups. We have to endure sacrifices as the Unum comes to help the Pluribus. Not easy to take, but understood by all as a necessity.

Something like this happens at Caltech too. We have loyalties to our friends, the members of the alley we live in, the whole Hovse, the Institute. When there are conflicts between the attentions asked of us by different groups, we solve the dilemmas by applying the rule expressed in the Honor Code that we accept to live with when coming to Caltech. We fulfill our obligations to all by avoiding taking unfair advantage of other Caltechers. Easier said than done, of course. In fact, the Code of Conduct ends up being violated over and over in the case of things that are seen as just fun, nothing serious, pranks or other RFs. Such breaches may seem trivial to you, but are not so to others, and breaking the rules may have the consequence that everyone's freedom becomes restricted. Sometimes it seems appropriate to protect

a friend who has become embroiled in a prank or some other adventure, which both of you consider harmless. However it is not yours to judge whether something is innocuous, that is the prerogative of the object of the prank, and/or the bystanders, all of the way to the Institute itself, or, even further afield, the Institute's neighbors, the city and so forth. Attempts at protecting your associates may place you too in harm's way. It is indeed a hard spot to be in, having to choose between the interest of your friend or those of wider constituencies. However one feels about one's endangered companion, not telling all the truth, or at least all one knows of the truth, ends up in endangering one's own status. What's to be done? The first thing to note is that the Honor Code does not ask anyone to compromise their friends. It wants you and everyone else to behave in a way that does not result in anyone taking unfair advantage. It is your friend's, the joker's, responsibility to come forward. Should s/he not do so, s/he leaves you to take the rap for him/her, which means s/he is taking unfair advantage of you. The proper thing for him or her to do is to come forward and admit who was really involved. That's what the Honor System Handbook says in black and white: "a note should be left informing the victim that he or she has been the object of a prank. The note should indicate

the clear identity of the prankster(s)". If that rule is followed then no one gets to be suspected who should not be, no one ends being taken advantage of.

If the people involved do not accept the responsibility of their actions, then you, any of us, the unjustly accused and others in the know, should give thought to what sort of friend it is that they are protecting. How much of a sacrifice should anyone make for a Turkey who has so little respect for you that he/she/they allow(s) someone to take a potential rap in their place? In such cases, do all you can to convince the actual perpetrators that they should do the right thing, that they should stop taking advantage of you. Get all of your true friends to work on these cowardly low lifes. Remember, horror of all nightmares, that failure to answer questions "may be considered an Honor System violation in itself". Select your friends from among people who have the courage to do the proper thing. Only they merit your friendship. Don't let yourself be attracted, moth-like, by a pheromone gradient. Give considered thought to your choices in friends...

*Jean Paul Revel*

A bientot, and enjoy watching the odometer turn over!

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## Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Measurement Science Conference (MSC)** luncheon will be held on January 20, 2000 at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California.

The **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** extends invitations to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 p.m. until 10:15 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation. The group usually discusses a particularly relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. For more information, call x8331.

**Standard First Aid training** will be offered by the Safety Office for the campus community. The two-day American Red Cross Standard First Aid Course integrates adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with other first aid topics. Participants having valid First Aid certification, but expired Adult CPR certification, can register for recertification. Recertification will be held on the first day of instruction. Classes will be conducted in the Brown Gym Classroom during the morning hours of Wednesday, December 8 and Thursday, December 9. American Red Cross certification will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the course. The only charge for the course is \$12 for the mandatory text, available at the Safety Office. For more information and to register for the class please contact Caprice Anderson at 626-395-6727.

The **Totem**, Caltech's literary magazine, welcomes written and artistic contributions and editorial input from students; this year, we are seeking graduate student works in addition to undergrad creativity. Please email [totem@its](mailto:totem@its.caltech.edu) or mail to Totem Editor, MSC#610 with your submissions, and also to be added to the mailing list

The **Caltech Ballroom Dance Club** [CBDC] will be starting their next series of classes, i.e. for the second half of the '99 Fall Quarter. For more information, see [www.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.caltech.edu/~ballroom) or call 626-791-3103.

**H & SS Division** offers the following Selected Topic Courses for winter term 2000: H 161 Rethinking the 1960s\*, Lit 180 Science & Literature in 19th Century England\* SES/H 169 Milestones in the History of Astronomy from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period\* SES/PL 169 Topics in Philosophy of Psychology: The Nature of Intelligence\* SES/PL 169 Philosophy of Probability\* Lit 180\* "Knowing, Madness, and Murder: Selections from American Literature" Instructor: Martha Banta; M 1-4pm 1e Dabney. The HSS division is also offering another section of Hum 7a American Society and Politics - Winter Term. Instructor: Kousser; T 7:30-9:30pm & F 3-4. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter.

**Hollywood Square** -- If you have a group of 15-25 people, age 16 and older, you can have fun and earn money by becoming a member of the studio audience. Reservations are being taken for the following dates with arrival times of 10:00 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.: and Dec. 11, 12. Also taking reservations for **Family Fued** on the dates: Dec. 17, 18, 19 and Jan. 8, 9. For more information, calls 323-575-

2448 and ask for Karen or Heather.

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## EVENTS

**Caltech H&SS Division Seminar of Science, Ethics, and Public Policy** presents Dr. Lynn K. Nyhart, Associate Professor of History of Science at University of Wisconsin - Madison. The Ape in the Museum: From Dangerous Predator to Gentle Giant at Room 25 - Baxter Building, Fri., Dec. 3, at 4:00 p.m. Seminars are open to the community. For information, contact Marion Lawrence at [marion@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:marion@hss.caltech.edu) or (626) 395-4087 [www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html](http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html).

The **Safety Office** will be holding an open house on Thu., Dec. 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be food, door prizes, and displays of some of the services they provide. The Safety Office is located in room 25 of the Keith Spalding Building. The entire campus community is invited.

**Berlin's Meaning in Los Angeles: Architecture and the City**, a conference at the Getty Center sponsored by the Getty Research Institute and the Goethe-Institut, Mon., Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Tue., Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Contact Teha Makow at 310-440-6474 for more information.

**Caltech presents Conjunto Cespedes**, one of the leading purveyors of the Afro-Cuban musical form known as "son." Sat., Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are \$22.00, \$18.00, and \$14.00; Caltech student price is \$5.00. Call 1-888-2CALTECH or campus x4652 for more information.

**Senator Adam B. Schiff and Staff** presents a Holiday Season Meeting, Mon., Dec. 13, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., 21st Senate District Office, 35 S. Raymond Ave. Suite 205, Pasadena. Hear an update on the 1999 legislative session and share your ideas for new legislation or responsive state government. Donation of a new, unwrapped toy will be gratefully accepted by Explorers from the Altadena station of the CHP for distribution to needy children in the local area. Please RSVP to 606-683-0282.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Work Abroad with IAESTE in 2000!** Since 1948, IAESTE, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, has given students the opportunity to experience the world. Opportunities exist for: - Engineering and science students who want to be placed into paid technical internships in engineering, computer science, mathematics, natural and physical sciences. - Work permit service for students who have identified overseas internships. - Students to start local chapters of IAESTE on campus. IAESTE will offer three \$1000 scholarships for students placed into IAESTE internships. Students

can connect to IAESTE on the web, <http://www.aipt.org/iaeste.html>.

The **Literature Faculty** is pleased to announce the **54th Annual McKinney Competition**. The Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize is awarded each year for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. This year, prizes will be given in three categories: poetry, prose fiction, and non-fiction essays. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced. Include your address and phone number. In the poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction should not exceed 12,000 words. Essays may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities. The prize in each category will be \$300. Only one entry in each category, submit works to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, by no later than March 31, 2000. No entries will be returned. Winners will be announced in May. Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for the competition in that category. If you have any questions, contact Prof. La Belle, extension 3605, or Barbara Estrada, extension 3609.

**Truman Scholarships**-The Truman Foundation seeks students seeking careers in the non-profit, government, or education sectors. Applicants should have an excellent academic record and considerable public or community service experience. More information is available in Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad. The campus deadline date is January 10, 2000.

**Andover Teaching Fellowships.** Phillips Academy, Andover has ten to twelve fellowships for graduating seniors who would like to teach at Andover for the 2000-01 academic year. They also have a special summer teaching assistant program. Applications are available in Fellowships Advising & Study Abroad. Feb. 16 application receipt deadline. Note that Andover is in Massachusetts.

The **Jewish Free 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 **John Gyles Education Fund** is offering scholarship awards up to \$3,000 for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. Citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or above, and demonstrate financial need. To obtain an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education

Fund, Attention: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 1999 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

Students and faculty are invited to submit proposals to the **National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA)** by December 15 to fund student projects and faculty courses and programs that enable students to pursue the development and steps leading to commercialization of their innovations. Two types of NCIIA grants are offered: Advanced grants of up to \$20,000 to student innovators provide support for the development of new products and technologies with commercial potential and Course and program development grants of up to \$50,000 to faculty to provide support for the creation and operation of classes and programs. Please contact the NCIIA to obtain additional information at [www.nciia.org](http://www.nciia.org) or by phoning Phil Weilerstein, NCIIA Director, at 413-587-2172.

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 with nuclear or power options. Applicants must be U.S. citizen or U.S. national, considering a career in the nuclear power industry, minimum GPA of 3.0 as of Jan. 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 e-mail at [nanteap@inpo.org](mailto:nanteap@inpo.org). Entries must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by Jan. 29, 2000

**Glamour Magazine's 2000 top ten college women** competition for female college juniors has begun. It's an ideal opportunity for talented students to be rewarded for their leadership roles on campus and in the greater community. Winners receive \$1000, coverage in the October issue, and the opportunity to meet with top professionals in their field, usually during a few-day stay in the New York City. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by Jan 31, 2000. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the application.

The **Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity** announces the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest 2000, a contest designed to challenge college students to analyze urgent ethical issues confronting them in today's complex world. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to compete for awards of up to \$5,000. Information is at

[www.eliewieselselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselselfoundation.org), or call 212-490-7777.

The **American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE)** is offering scholarship awards of \$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, extra-curricular 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 (Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers). Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information you may contact: The American Society of Naval Engineers, 1452 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3458 or phone (703) 836-6727. The website address is [www.navalengineers.org](http://www.navalengineers.org). Entries must be submitted to ASNE by February 15, 2000.

The **College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation** is accepting applications for scholarship and fellowship awards for the 2000-2001 academic year. Applicants must be female, U.S. citizens, full-time undergraduate and graduate students, sophomore or above, and must have a 3.0 or higher G.P.A. To apply, submit an application form, a one page, typed essay, a current academic transcript, and three letters of recommendations, 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, 1999.

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. High school seniors who will be entering college for the first time as undergraduates are also eligible. 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 an 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, 1999.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [mints@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@tech.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.

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