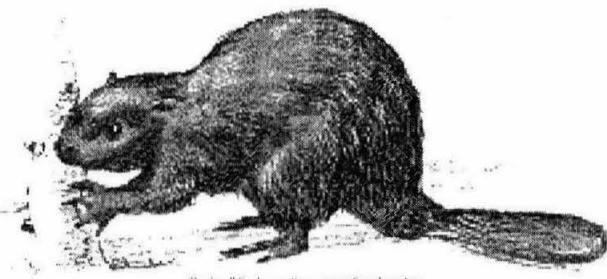


007
Tomorrow Never Dies
Baxter Lecture Hall
Friday, April 14th at 7:30 and 10:00



+ Add Day is
+ Monday (4/17)
+ + +

The California Tech

VOLUME CI, NUMBER 22

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 14, 2000

**FAULTY BUILDING:
SIEH EXPLAINS
CONTRIBUTIONS
TO EARTHQUAKE
DAMAGE**

BY JON FOSTER

"I spent a lot of time on strange web sites today," said Dr. Kerry Sieh to a nearly full Beckman Auditorium, "and this is what I want you to remember."

With that, he turned the slide to reveal a picture of "La Femme fatale" and a picture of a fault zone with the description, "Le Monde fatal." Sieh, professor of Geology at Caltech, was presenting at the continuation of the Watson Lecture series on April 12th.

His talk, entitled "Acts of God, Acts of Man: How Humans Make Natural Hazards Into Disasters", explained many of the major mistakes which people in the past have made when planning cities and designing buildings, and attempted to provide some guidance on what we should do when considering future buildings.

Sieh's pictures of earthquakes (the natural disaster he talked most about) were particularly impressive, and his numerous jokes, though sometimes somewhat irreverent, kept the audience thoroughly entertained throughout the talk.

He began by telling the "Tale of Two Countries," Taiwan and Turkey. From Taiwan he showed a Mobius rail-road strip, the reason why "you shouldn't build walls across faults", and a graveyard that had been opened up in the September 21st, 1999 Taiwan quake.

The engineering problem, Sieh said, had been basically solved, pointing out how newer buildings had not been nearly so affected.

"Geologists are pretty much the high priests of the earth," he quipped, "and this" (he showed a picture of a collapsed bridge on a nice even fault line) "is the hazard of not talking to the high priest."

His point was simply that modern technology, and even modern knowledge about fault

PLEASE SEE EARTHQUAKE ON PAGE 3

212 Prefrosh visit this weekend

BY KENNETH KUO

"The Admissions Office controls the weather!" After going through a few Prefrosh Weekends, any upperclassman can relate that no matter how bad the weather is in the days preceding (or after) Prefrosh Weekend, the sunshine for which Southern California is renowned always breaks through.

Yesterday was no exception as 221 cheery-eyed prefrosh (prospective freshmen) representing 38 states and 2 foreign countries come to visit Caltech by way of the Ricketts-Fleming courtyard.

They arrived by car and plane at all hours of the day on Thursday and gathered all together for an orientation meeting at night.

Prefrosh Weekend is an event which upperclassmen view as a time to take a break from studies in order to help the prefrosh ascertain an impression of Caltech—the research opportunities available, the work and the classes.

One must not ignore, however, the difficult decisions which the Undergraduate Admissions office had to make in order to make Prefrosh Weekend 2000 possible to effect the ongoing replenishment of Caltech's 900 undergraduate student body.

Caltech is experiencing a banner year with various notable



PHOTO BY ERIK DILL

Students arrive in good spirits for Prefrosh Weekend

events such as Professor Ahmed Zewail selected for the Noble Prize in Chemistry and President David Baltimore chosen to receive the National Medal of Science.

Of more influence to high school seniors, however, was that *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Caltech as the number one national university in its 1999 ranking of colleges.

This distinction bestowed upon Caltech may be the primary reason why the applicant pool dramatically jumped to 3514 this year.

When asked whether the jump should be attributed to the general increase of about 20% in applications to colleges around the nation, Director of Undergraduate Admissions Charlene Liebau indicated that it seemed unlikely as the quality of the applicants was uniformly high.

She elaborated by saying that the effect of our ranking in *U.S. News* probably made more already qualified students aware of the existence of Caltech.

Whatever the reason for the increase in applications, one major concern of the Admissions

Office was to ensure that only about 220 students decide to matriculate as students.

In the previous two years, larger than normal class sizes have entered Caltech—about 235 students for this year and about 260 students for the previous year.

A decision was made to offer acceptance to only 435 applicants which is down from last year's 520.

This year's accepted pool represents 417 high schools, 42 states, and 24 foreign countries.

PLEASE SEE PREFROSH ON PAGE 3

Oracle system mishap causes confusion, delays

BY JONG OH

Each term, when registration time comes around, there is a scamper to get into courses designated limited enrollment, which includes most laboratory classes.

This year, there was no scamper, not even a hurry, to register for Bi 10, although this class can only support 48 students. The reason was that on the course schedules, the course was not designated limited enrollment, and 63 students signed up for the course. The main cause of this overenrollment was no office or department, but rather an unfortunate consequence of working with unfamiliar systems.

The registrar's office, in accor-

dance with a campus-wide implementation of a new database network system, switched over to the new system on September.

All the course information, including limits on class and section size, was stored within the old records.

Under the old system, this limit information for each course was transferred term to term and year to year as necessary, said Dr. Judith Goodstein, Registrar, and this left the registrar's office only assignment of instructors, times, and locations.

When the new system was brought on-line, no one was aware that the records of limits would not automatically trans-

fer over to the new database. "No one knew, and we relied on the system for the last fifteen years," said Dr. Goodstein. It was a shared confidence in the system. The registrar's office filled out a form for Bi 10 which did not specify it as limited enrollment, and sent it to the biology department.

Because both sides were so accustomed to class limit records automatically rolling over from year to year, both sides assumed that the database records would limit enrollment in the course.

Other limited enrollment classes, such as Ch 3a and freshmen humanities, are taught so often that it was known right away that they would be limited enrollment.

However, Bi 10 is taught only once a year, and thus the specifics of that course were less familiar to the registrar's office staff, who already had their hands full of getting the system to Fortunatey, Dr. Ray Deshaies, instructor of Bi 10.

PLEASE SEE ORACLE ON PAGE 3

Inside the Tech

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Letters & News

Caltech prof probes playwright identity

BY TECH STAFF

"The Authorship Question: Will the Real William Shakespeare Please Stand Up?" will be explored by Caltech professor of literature Dr. Jenijoy LaBelle at the University Club of Pasadena's Thursday Cultural Buffet on April 20.

Since the late 18th century, Dr. LaBelle notes, an astounding assortment of theorists have doubted that the plays traditionally attributed to Shakespeare were actually written by him. "The story of these attempts to ascribe the Shakespeare canon to other writers is a fascinating chapter in the history of taste and scholarship," she says. A selection of the most notable attempts to discredit the Bard will be reviewed and their strengths and weaknesses analyzed. Dr. LaBelle's review should firmly establish whether critics can successfully dethrone Shakespeare as the true writer of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet," or if their efforts are "Much Ado About Nothing."

Dr. LaBelle joined the faculty of the California Institute of Technology in 1969 as the first woman hired at the Institute on the professorial level. She has written extensively on Shakespeare, 17th Century writers and the poetry and art of William Blake. Her books include "Herself Beheld" and "The Echoing Wood of Theodore Roethke."

The Thursday Evening Cultural Buffet is open to the public, at the University Club of Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA. Admission for the Dr. LaBelle's presentation only is \$10, the presentation and the following buffet dinner are \$25. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 626-793-5257.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's unfair to sweep the broken glass under the rug

By Robert Enright

I am outraged by some of Dean Revel's comments in his Dean's Corner on April 7, 2000. He says that it is "indeed good to expose newcomers to all facets of life at Tech," yet claims that some Houses' web pages are "inappropriate" because they contain material that may be "downright repulsive and insulting to the sensibilities of many," and should be taken down. It seems that he feels that we should present an idealized representation of Caltech that has been cleansed of any possible information which prospective students may find offensive or unpleasant. There is a word for this: it is called a "lie". This is one of the things which has irritated me every Prefrosh Weekend I have experienced. Nearly everyone who comes in contact with the prospective students glorifies and exaggerates the wonders of coming to Caltech, and candy-coats or omits everything unpleasant about attending here. The Houses' web pages contain material which is representative of the personalities and opinions of a number of their members. Should a prospective student decide to come here, there is a non-negligible chance that as a result of rotation and room picks, the student will find him- or herself in a house, or with a roommate, who offends or repulses him or her. Such a student will not mesh well socially here, and will be unhappy, as might the current students who have to deal with them as well. I believe it is unfair to sweep the broken glass under the rug, so to speak, only to have the prefrosh step on it later when they become students. Had I been honestly informed about other unpleasant issues during Prefrosh Weekend, and realized just how much I would loathe many of my days as a student here, I might have reconsidered and been happier elsewhere.

I can however, concede Dean Revel's comment that the school's point of view should not be confused with the students'. However, all this requires is a simple disclaimer pointing out that house web pages are not the opinions of the Institute as a whole.

Indeed, many internet sites which offer free web page hosting specifically warn viewers that some of their hosted content may be found offensive or inappropriate.

Please send submissions for letters to the editor to

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Pasadena, CA 91125

or by electronic mail to

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Deadline for submissions is Wednesday 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.

Roger Enright is currently a senior at Caltech

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News

EARTHQUAKE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lines, is only useful if that information and technology is taken to heart by the individuals who decide where people will actually live.

Why don't people take the necessary precautions when building?

The problem, according to Sieh, is that "the Earth's metabolism is much less than ours." Even along active fault lines, often many hundreds of years pass between major earthquakes.

After the devastating pictures of Taiwan, Sieh showed pictures of people rebuilding their businesses and lives... right back on the fault line.

"People were actually trying to dig the fault away to fool the ge-

ologists," he related. Later he told one success story about how San Bernardino Valley College had gone to great effort to restructure their campus to avoid the fault line it was lying on.

This second example is what Sieh would like to see in the third millennium. "You don't build on deltas," he said as he showed up Turkish hotels now submerged in water, "you put a golf course there, or maybe a parkway, or someone you don't like."

Sieh ended with a picture of a Chinese city at risk from landslides, earthquakes, slumping, and several other natural disasters. "Before you get involved, please get advice from your geologist," he gestured to the slide, "and if you pay him, he'll tell you how to avoid all those things."

ORACLE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was able to reduce the class size to 48 and accommodate the students for whom the course was a requirement.

When asked about the various schedule conflicts that were present in the some students' schedule, Gloria Brewster, who works at the registrar's office said that because of the bugs in the software and unfamiliarity of

the staff with the new system, the registrar's office was pressed for time to meet the deadline so that students would have schedules by the time next term started.

To meet the deadline, conflict checking of the schedules was overridden, in order to speed up the process, and thus some conflicts were not caught.

However, the system is into third term and is expected to perform much better next term.

PREFROSH:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One curiosity is that only 25% of the people in the accepted pool are from California compared with the low 30% in previous years.

Liebau indicated that increases exist in several of the areas where Admissions keeps records.

For instance, there was an increase in the number of applicants who were actively engaged in math, science, and/or engineering activities in the form of science programs, research projects, etc.

More women applied, which Liebau attributes to the encouragement of women to go into science related fields during their junior high and high school years.

Preparation for Prefrosh Weekend was aided by representatives from all undergraduate houses, who comprised the Prefrosh Planning Committee. The group has been planning for the event since January.

In closing, Liebau said that "Prefrosh Weekend is planned to be your adventure at Caltech to help you make the best college decision."

Events for Prefrosh Weekend run all through this weekend until Sunday morning.

Conrad's serves good food in friendly mannerBY DANA SADAVA AND
TASHA VANESIAN

mix and match toppings and side dishes. Breakfast is served all day. We sampled their yummy cheese blintzes and had them

Conrad's is somewhat of an upscale Denny's with moderately good food and inexpensive prices.

Dress casual but the clientele range from shabby to suave (a la the semi-fancy lounge in the back). Expect to see lots of Techers there.

Service is prompt and friendly. If you get there around eight, you'll practically have the restaurant to yourself.

As for food, the salads are adequate and fresh. They'll let you

lathered in strawberries. Their meatloaf was excellent, but their vegetables are uninspired.

Conrad's had many daily specials. We recommend it as a nice break from TFM.

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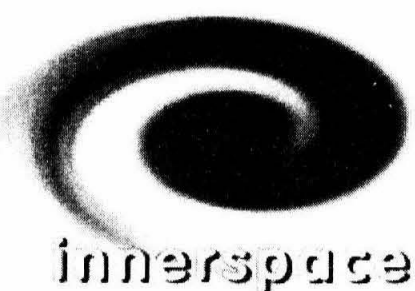
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Inner-ASCIT



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BY JASON MELTZER

Welcome, Prefrosh, to sunny Los Angeles! The land of beaches, Hollywood, cell phones, cool cars, freeways, and (as a comic at the Improv pointed out) home to the demographic of people solely responsible for the phrase "what-ever, dude!" Yes, here you can see many unusual things. Where else can you happen across the sets of three different movies in one day? Where else can you sun yourself for most of the year beneath lovely reddish-brown skies? Where else can you be nearly run over by hordes of SUVs on each of the eight different highways you need to take to reach your destination? And where else can you drive down one street and see both opulent mansions filled with movie stars and homeless transvestite prostitutes selling themselves for crack? LA's the place, and you're in it.

Just perverse enough — though a bit out of place in its surrounding urban sprawl — is Caltech. Caltech is an oasis, a shelter in the midst of the storm. A happy place where everyone is smart, everyone is honest, everyone cares, and everyone loves puppies. Prefrosh Weekend may make you believe

ing that some of the things you will learn during Prefrosh Weekend aren't true or useful for deciding where to go to college. What I am saying is that you should not believe everything you see or hear at every college you visit, Caltech included. Caltech does a particularly good job of making its Prefrosh Weekend enjoyable for visitors. Part of the reason is that the administration organizes fun events and runs things very smoothly. The students also get very involved, free up time, throw parties, and entertain their guests. Usually it's a good time for all.

A good time for all, however, is not a very accurate description of undergraduate life at Caltech in general. Keep in mind, we are not miserable creatures laboring endlessly under the burden of our workload (not most of us, anyway), but undergraduate life here can be called sedated at best, hellish at worst. First off, as you probably know, students here work hard. Harder than students at any other university. And not only is there a large amount of work, but it's difficult. No, it's damn hard. This is no place for those with

these things, in heart if not in mind, but don't for one second think it more akin to "California Dreaming" than "Hotel California." Remember, "this could be heaven or this could be hell."

I'm not saying Caltech is a terrible place, nor am I say-

ing that some of the things you will learn during Prefrosh Weekend aren't true or useful for deciding where to go to college. What I am saying is that you should not believe everything you see or hear at every college you visit, Caltech included. Caltech does a particularly good job of making its Prefrosh Weekend enjoyable for visitors. Part of the reason is that the administration organizes fun events and runs things very smoothly. The students also get very involved, free up time, throw parties, and entertain their guests. Usually it's a good time for all.

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Then there's the social life. This is an oft complained about aspect of undergraduate life (especially by me in this semi-regular column). Strangely, I think that other members of the Caltech community have a worse opinion of it than most undergrads themselves. For example, I was once in a situation where a graduate student actually compared it to *The Lord of the Flies* (which brought about my reply: "it's really not that bad"). To a minor degree, this is not a terrible analogy. It holds in that we have vast amounts of freedom at Caltech that most other college students don't enjoy. This

is offset by the fact that we spend more time concentrating on our studies than most other college students. Overall, we do not abuse our freedoms (which is where *The Lord of the Flies* analogy breaks down), but at the same time the social fabric of undergraduate life is somewhat bland. There are parties every once in a while, and people certainly have friends, but lots of time is spent working, most of the rest sleeping, and what little there is to spare goes to social interaction. Compound this with the general ineptitude of many Techers in social situations and you have one pretty dull social life.

Let's not forget about the ratio, either. The male to female ratio, that is. It's getting better, but it's still pretty bad (close to 2:1). I would go so far as to say that the ratio is the underlying cause of most of the problems in the undergraduate social life at Caltech. It seems to add a fundamental tension that makes the social setting far worse. Many Prefrosh don't think about it. Do think about it.

This weekend you will see many things that, if you attend Caltech, you will not see again until next Prefrosh Weekend. Take the International Day. This is not a common event. In fact, it only happens during Prefrosh Weekend. There are also lots of parties; the density of parties is way higher this weekend than any other time during the year. In fact, we may have as many parties this one weekend as we have over the rest of an entire academic year. The carnival is a great touch this year. It's new. ASCIT used to put on a party for the end of Prefrosh Weekend.

That, at least, was a very truthful depiction of an aspect of Caltech life: it was a fairly representative party. In other words, it sucked. The carnival should be much more fun, but don't expect to see it again for another twelve months! Finally there are all the people about. They're out, willing to talk to you, friendly, cheery, not doing work. It's not usually like this. Typically the people here are nice (nicer than at other schools I've visited, anyway), but it's not the same. It's not a bad atmosphere, but it's no Magic Kingdom.

All of this sounds very bad, but I'm not here to tell you about the nice happy side of Caltech. You'll see plenty of that this weekend as it is. I'm the cynic; the guy who'll point out the thorns on the rose. So don't take this as the whole picture, but do keep it in mind. And think about this, as well: knowing that any school's Prefrosh Weekend (or whatever theirs is called) is a show-off event, compare Caltech's to other schools'. When I visited other colleges, I was very unimpressed. Most of the people were either mean or indifferent. In specific, I recall at Carnegie Mellon most undergrads saying things like "This school is okay, but I really wanted to go to Cornell." Nobody ever said that at Caltech; the people were nice, the place clean and pretty, and the weekend fun. So even if it is a show, it's a good show. That should count for something, right?

—Jason Meltzer is a junior and writer of the semi-regular Tech column Innerspace.

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Budget for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Income	
ASCIT Dues	51000
ASCIT Van (Sale)	5000
Surplus (From previous years)	45000
Total Income	101000

Expenditures	
Publications	
Tech Subscriptions	5100
Totem Publishing	800
UROH Publishing	200
Total	6100

Salary	
Totem Staff	200
CLUE Staff	500
Bookkeeping	4500
Total	5200

Operations	
Copies/Election	400
ASCIT Movies: Traditional	3000
DVD Library	4000!
Teaching Awards	500
Teaching Awards Banquet	500
Jamroom	600
ASCIT Donuts	1600

Athletics	1000	ARC	100
BoC	2200	IHC	100
Co-sponsoring of Campus Events	800		
Budget Meeting Supplies	100		
ASCIT BoD	300		
Outstanding Debt Allotment	3000!		
Total	18200		

Special Projects	
ASCIT Website Design	3000
Screening Room	7000!
Total	10000

Special Events	
Semana Latina	900
Pranks	500
Total	1400

Social Events	
Beach Trip (3rd Term)	1000
Concert (1st Term)	500
Late-Night Donuts	2000
Formal	5000
Multihouse Event Sponsorship	4200
Interhouse Memorial Fund	1400
Prefrosh Party (Carnival)	1000
Rotation Party	700
"EO" Event	300
TBA	1000
Total	17100

Clubs (more information on webpage)	
Allocated Funds	7766
Future Allocation to Clubs	727
Quiz Bowl Nationals	507
Total	9000

Totals	
Expenses against Dues + ASCIT Van	56000
Expenses against Surplus	11000
ASCIT Endowment	34000
Total Expenditures	101000
! - Expenses against Surplus	
Amount Outstanding Debt Allotment	3000
ASCIT Movies: DVD Library	1000
Screening Room	7000
Total	11000

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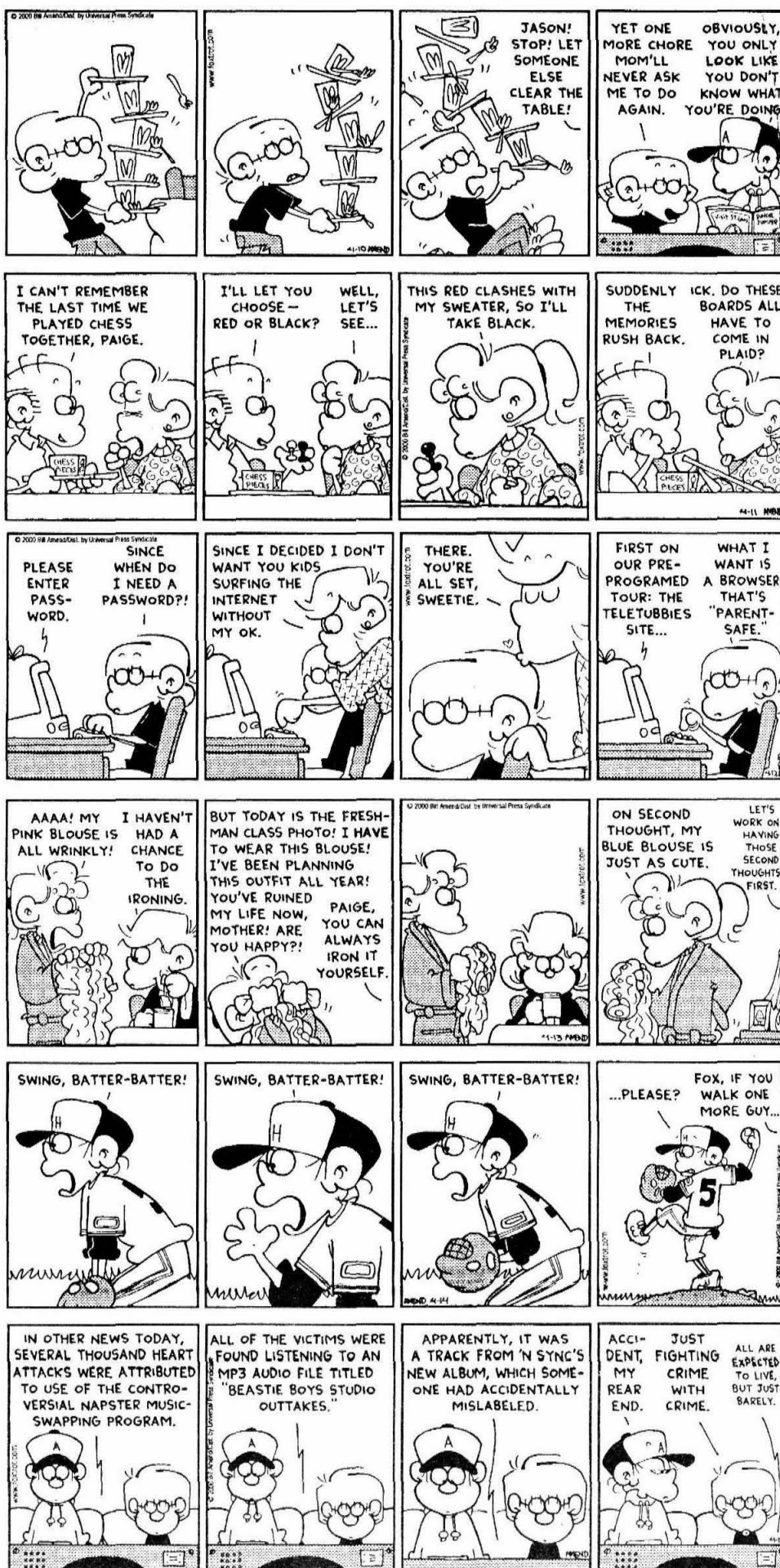
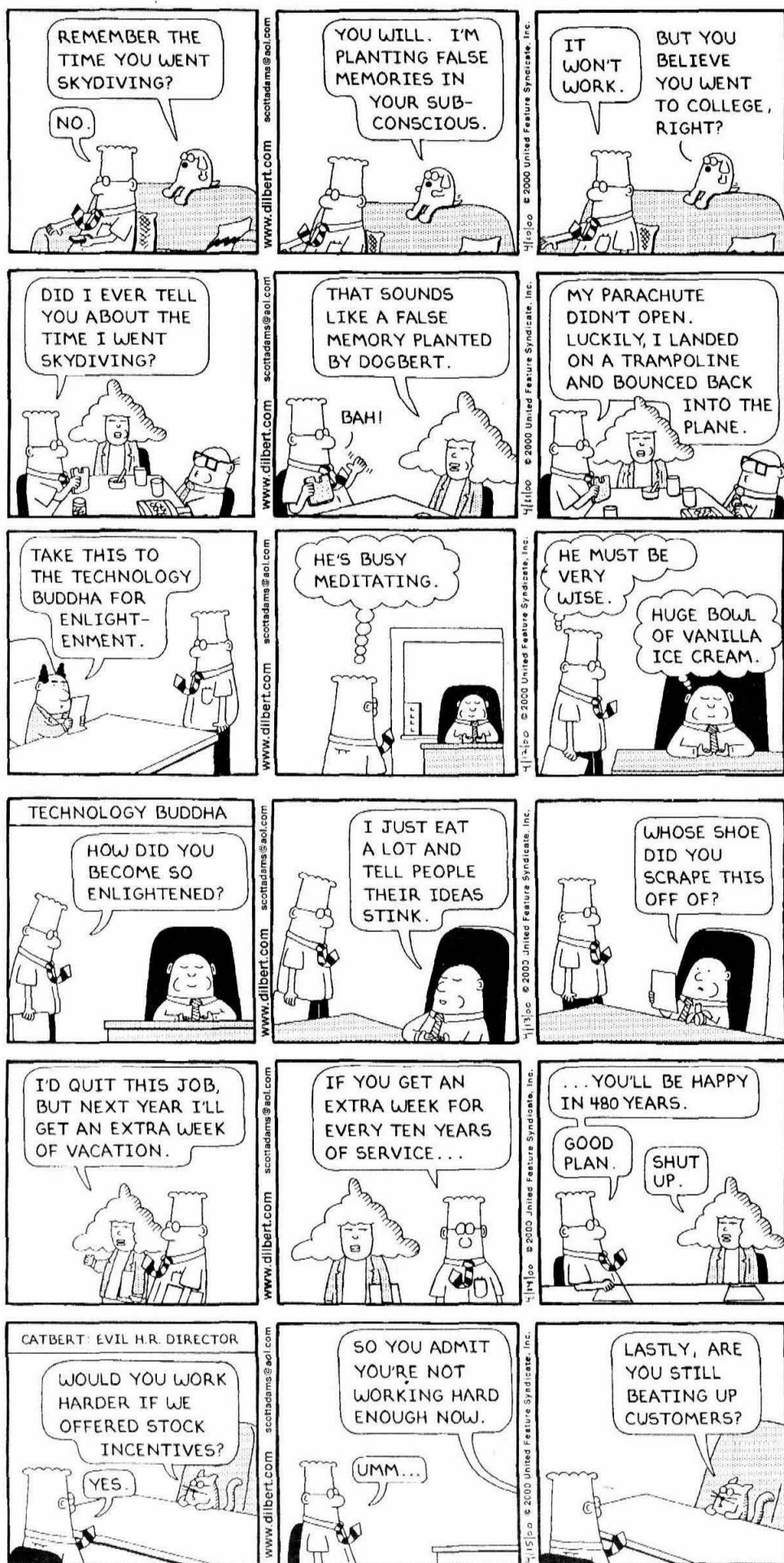
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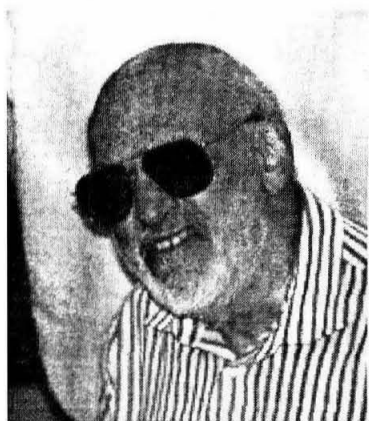
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The Dean of Students

Dean's Corner

Welcome to Caltech

by Jean-Paul Revel



To the potential members of the Class of 2004

Well, well, here you are, maybe-members of the Caltech class of 2004! Let me greet you from the Dean's Corner, the spot I occupy right here, each week! Welcome all! We have tried to arrange a pleasant visit to our beautiful campus, but we have trouble predicting the weather, let alone controlling it. The chances of a clear day are pretty good, however, in spite of what you might have heard. They don't make smog the way they used to anymore. As a result, a great view of the mountains (the San Gabriels) can be had from campus. For a breathtaking sight go to the 9th floor of Millikan library. You can see from JPL to Mt Wilson and if you hold your head just so, all the way to Mt Baldy, still covered with snow... and if the view is not as well advertised, at least you'll have seen the inside of one of the libraries.

You have read our literature and know that we are small and that we pride ourselves in the advantages that state confers. You also know how excellent we are or you would not be here today. You have read about our ratios, the good and the bad: the 3:1 student to faculty ratio and THE ratio, which is slowly approaching 50%. If all of you come, in the proportions in which you have applied, THE

ratio will be 37%! You have read about our 3 Craaford Prizes, and 28 Nobels (the last one, just last fall, was Ahmed Zewail, the Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Physics and Professor of Physics), and how many of our professors are members of a National Academy. But what does that mean to you? A top researcher does not necessarily make a good teacher, although a lot of the professors are both. What's important about top professors is that they can be role models, that you can acquire attitudes and outlooks from them which will serve you well in your own careers. It also means that other bright and imaginative people like you will be attracted to the professor and this entourage will contribute to the exciting atmosphere. So we hope that you'll find at Caltech a great environment in which to acquire the foundation on which you are going to build for the rest of your life.

You'll have great opportunities for trying your wings at research, real work in a real lab. Speak about it with anyone of your hosts on campus. Next summer there will be more than 300 SURFers, and SURFs are by no means the only way to do research. Some of you will even get to contribute sufficiently to have your name on published papers. Just ask Hugh Heffner, one of last year's frosh. He worked in Dr. Patterson's lab, and saw the work he helped with (devising a means of inhibiting

the proliferation of melanoma cancer cells) published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

I know, I know, all of that is great... but the people that you will be in contact most will not be professors or even grad students, but your peers, the other frosh and the frosh of last year, and those of 2 and 3 years ago. They will be your cohort, and so you need to ask if interaction with them will help you to learn, to grow and to mature. How good are the interactions? I can't do better than to quote a letter from an ex-student, who left Caltech because at the end of his frosh year, he decided that he did not want to be a scientist after all. After being away for 6 months he wrote back (I quote him with his permission but I have changed the names and some details, lest the universities he describes take umbrage): "Phillip here. Phillip Smith. The one with the big ears. Yeah, that one. In any case, I decided to e-mail you all en masse with a few pearls of wisdom I have garnered from my days over here at the Big, Lame, Boring School, er, I mean, UXXX. You see, hardly a day passes without my reflecting upon my short time at Caltech, recalling a flurry of memories from which I derive

much warmth and happiness. These thoughts naturally leads [sic] me to think about where I am now and compare. The result of my inquiries: You are all the luckiest bastards on the face of the planet. Granted, I only go to school 3 days a week. Granted, I do about as much homework in one week as you all do on any given day after 1:00 in the morning. Granted, I haven't seen a problem set since I left y'all. I say unto you, I have never known a greater group of people than those I knew at XYZ. Hovse [Dean's Comment: *They are all great houses!*], and I miss you all like members of my own family. The next time you're working non-stop through the night to get that mid-term finished, just remember these few words of mine. You are the luckiest bastards on the face of the planet to have each other as you do. I speak from experience; it is far better to be laden with work but in good company than to have a life of leisure with none to inspire you to greatness."

So there you have it. Caltech is hard, very hard and all worth it. You can succeed here if you follow some simple rules. The secret is: work, be organized, and don't let yourself be distracted from what you are here for. And what you are here for is to study and learn. If it is in a congenial environment, so much the better, but what counts in the end is work, a steady 4 year long pull. So if you have a chance to do anything at all before com-

ing here, and of course you'll all be coming, please take the time to learn HOW to study. Many of you have been able to coast up to now. Well, that comfortable period is over if you come, and whatever skills you can acquire to help you organize yourselves will be really important. So come here and experience life under the Caltech Honor Code. I know that many of you will be attracted by the benefits that are afforded by having such a system. It is indeed wonderful to have the trust and confidence of the faculty and of your peers. To be trusted to take your exams home. To be believed implicitly. But don't for a minute however imagine that this comes without responsibilities. Each year there are people who fall short of the high expectations that our code implies. Many of these failures are due to a lack of appreciation of how difficult it truly is to uphold the code. The rewards only come in measure of the effort one makes to sustain the Honor Code down to its smallest ramifications. Enough said for now. I hope you have a great visit, and that we are in your future. See you all soon, or as I say usually say in ending my column,

à bientôt!

Jean Paul Revel

(Based on my column from 4/17/98)

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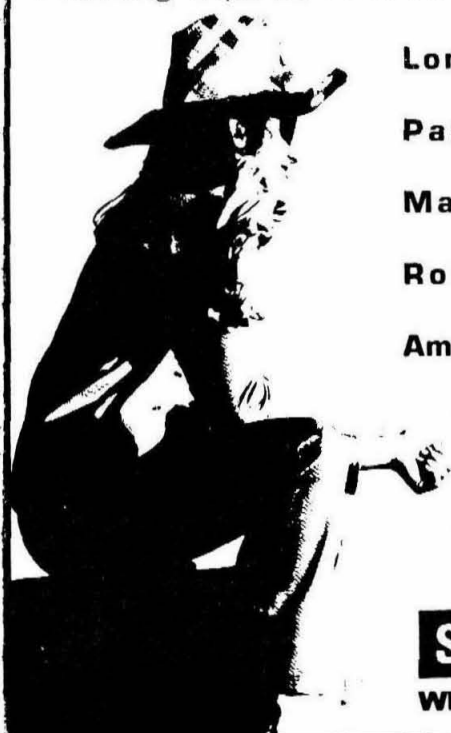
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIT Guitar Classes for the spring term will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting on Apr. 4. Beginning, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Intermediate, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Advanced 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. For more information, contact Darryl Denning at (323) 465-0881 or by email at ddenning@caltech.edu, or visit www.cco.caltech.edu/~musicpgm/guitar.html

Beginning Lindy Hop class, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for four successive Mondays starting Mon., Mar. 27 [taught by a professional dance instructor] \$24.00 except \$16.00 to Caltech undergraduates and Beginning American Fox Trot, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for five successive Wednesdays starting Wed., Mar. 29 [student taught, nominal \$1.00/lesson except free to CalTech freshmen], both held in Winnett Lounge on the Caltech campus. No partner is required. Refreshments and dance practice time are provided after each class. For last minute changes see www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom or call Don (626) 791-3103.

Due to recent vandalism, Cleveland Elementary School in Pasadena is seeking donations of books and equipment for the school's library. Specifically, the school is in need of two overhead projectors and books appropriate for grades K-6 to replace those stolen or destroyed. Donations may be made directly to Cleveland Elementary School at 524 Palisade Street, Pasadena, California, 91103. For questions or further information, please contact Principal Abel Quesada at 626-794-7169 or Laura Biedebach in the office of Congressman James E. Rogan at 626-577-3969.

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

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.

eral membership meeting Wed., Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m. at 269 Lauritsen. The flying club has its own aircraft fleet and offers aircraft rental, flight instruction, group flying trips and camaraderie to aviation enthusiasts of all skill levels. There will be a presentation by Greg Feith of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Anyone with an interest in aviation or who wants to learn to fly or any pilot who is interested in joining the flying club is invited. For further information, contact Greg Detweiler x1697 at Caltech or Peter Gluck 4-9425 at JPL.

OASIS, The LA chapter of the National Space Society (NSS), will hold a meeting at the Beckman Institute room 115 from 3 - 6 p.m. on Sat., Apr. 15. The public is welcome to attend. For information about the club see our web site at www.nss.org/oasis.

Earthquake Preparedness Training will be offered by the Pasadena Fire Department through the Safety Office. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Baxter Lecture Hall on Thu., May 18th. Learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The session is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. For reservations call Caprice Anderson at x6727.

The Battlefield Band will perform Celtic music on Sat., Apr. 15, at 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Inspired by their rich heritage of Celtic music, Battlefield Band mixes the old songs and tunes with new self-penned material. Tickets are \$25, \$21, and \$17, youths 12 and under receive \$4 off. Rush tickets go on sale for \$10, 30 minutes before performance. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Dale Smith will narrate the Armchair Adventures travel film *Nepal in the Shadow of Everest* on Fri., Apr. 14, at 8 p.m. Smith journeys to Kathmandu where he witnesses religious ceremonies on the banks of the sacred Bagmati River. Tickets are \$9 and \$7. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Earth day celebration, Winnett Center, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Caltech's ninth annual celebration will include booths featuring local environmental organizations, EVs on display, music by folk musician Eleni Kelakos, and inexpensive food provided by the Caltech Vegetarian Club. Chandler Dining Hall will provide free Earth Day cake. Sponsored by Caltech Environmental Task Force and the Caltech Y. For information, contact Athena Castro x6163.

Eileen McGann will appear in concert on Sat., Apr. 22, at 8 p.m. in Dabney Lounge. This evening will feature equal portions of traditional Irish ballads, and self-penned songs, all sung in a rich, alto-soprano. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Caltech students receive an \$8 discount. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Garry Krinsky will present a family program entitled *Toying with Science* on Sat., Apr. 29, at 2 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. The program explores the scientific prin-

ciples of gravity and leverage, simple machines, human imagination, and more. Tickets are \$10 for adult and \$5 for children. For more information, call 1-888-2CALTECH.

SCHOLARSHIP

Political Internship - The Beckman Internship will be available for the summer of 2000. The internship, supported by friends of Arnold Beckman, will pay a stipend of \$4,000. It allows a selected intern to spend the summer working in the office of a politician and to see the inside process of government. The intern is expected to make arrangements with the appropriate political persons. It is open to any undergraduate who intends to be a Caltech student next year. If interested, submit a brief proposal describing where and how you would use the stipend, to the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, by Monday, April 17, 2000.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, is handing out money—big money—to college inventors and their advisors. Each winning student - or student team - receives a \$20,000 cash prize. Faculty advisors each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. The competition, open all full-time college students and judged by distinguished scientists and inventors from across the country, awards up to six prizes each year. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2000. In addition to cash prizes, winners and their advisors will travel to the induction ceremony of the National Inventors Hall of Fame on September 8-9, 2000. During the weekend, winners will be honored and have the chance to learn from the greatest scientific minds of our time who visit the Hall of Fame each year for the induction festivities. Applications are available at www.invent.org/collegiate.

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

more information, contact Prof. LaBelle, x3605, or Barbara Estrada, x3609.

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

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

The P.L.A.T.O. Education Loan Program is offering students a chance to receive up to \$10,000 in scholarship for college. Any student enrolled in an accredited two- for four-year college or university is eligible to apply. Scholarships are meri-based and applicants must have a grade point average of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). Winners will be chosen by Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America (CSFA), an independent third party, and scholarships will be awarded August 2000. All information and application material can be accessed, 24 hours a day, at www.plato.org. Applications must be submitted online by April 30, 2000.

The John Gyles Education Fund is offering scholarship awards up to \$3,000 for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or above, and demonstrate financial need. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. To request an application, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, Attn: The Secretary, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Dr. Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in

2000 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.

The **Department of Defense** hosts three student internship programs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. These include Internships in Terascale Simulation Technology (www.llnl.gov/str/str.html), Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) Pipeline Program (www.llnl.gov/asci/index.html), and Graduate Interns in Nuclear Weapons (www.education.llnl.gov/gint). Housing and salary are at competitive rates. For more information, contact Barry Goldman, 925-422-5177, or goldman1@llnl.gov.

Information and applications for 2000 Summer Work-Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, **but no later than June 1, 2000**. If awarded, work-study funding will begin July 5, 2000.

The last date to request any change to your 1999-2000 Financial Aid Award is Monday, May 1, 2000. Requests for 1999-2000 made after May 1, 2000 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at x6280 if you have any questions.

Each year, the **Faculty Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid** grants a number of Upper Class Merit Awards to the most academically-talented of the Institute's Sophomores, Juniors, and, occasionally, Freshmen. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional performance in formal classes and/or in independent research, and not on financial aid. Last year, the committee recommended a total of 46 Upper Class Merit Awards. Awards ranged from \$6,425 to full-tuition, \$19,260. The number and caliber of the applicants determine the level of awards in any year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office at 515 S. Wilson or online at www.finaid.caltech.edu. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. The deadline for submitting completed paper applications to the financial aid office is 5 p.m., Apr. 21, 2000. No exceptions will be made to this deadline.

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 specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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EVENTS

The Caltech/JPL flying club (AACIT) will hold its Spring gen-