

The California Tech

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MARCH 3, 2000

CAMPUS CENTER CONSIDERED

BY JONATHAN FOSTER

Caltech is a tiny campus, but Techers tend to be lazy and after a few weeks of being here, the prospect of going all the way over to Keith Spalding for something looks like a major expedition. Facilities for the performing arts are also thinly spread, and many times locations are booked for something else and a group of students is forced to find somewhere else. On a campus full of engineers and scientists it seems that someone should be able to come up with a solution to this problem.

A committee of students and faculty is currently trying to come up with just such a solution. Although still very much in the initial exploration phase, this group is attempting to formulate a plan for a new Campus Center. According to Morgan Venable, one of the undergraduates on the committee, this center would include, "whatever the students want and/or the campus needs in terms of more centralized services." This would probably include facilities for art, music and theater. It would also, according to Venable, "consolidate the places where people need to go on campus for services." This might include a mail center and the relocation of some key administrative offices to the new space.

The proposed site for the new study is the current location of the physical plant. "The Physical Plant building is a temporary structure, put up many years ago... It has only one floor, and is thus a tremendous waste of space on our already crowded campus", explains Venable. Additionally, the location of this site is ideal. It sits close to the plaza area which almost always is populated, thanks to the influence Chandler and the Red Door Cafe. The current offices in the Physical Plant, services such as security and the key office, would be given new space in the new building.

At this early stage, most aspects of the plan are still subject to change. This means that now is an excellent time to voice opinions on the subject. Suggestions and comments can be e-mailed to Morgan Venable (venable@its.caltech.edu)

Creating Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs

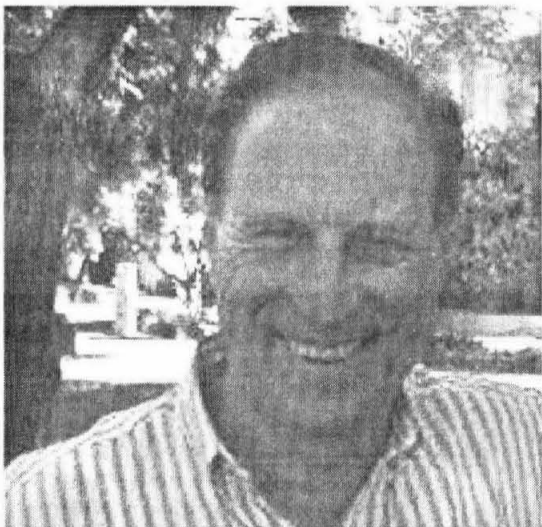
BY JUSTIN KAO

This week's Watson Lecture was presented on Wednesday by Kenneth A. Pickar, J. Stanley Johnson Visiting Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Speaking on entrepreneurship at Caltech, he discussed its causes and essence, Caltech's entrepreneurial alumni, what Caltech is doing now, and finally, where Caltech and entrepreneurs will be going in the future.

According to Dr. Pickar, there are two major drivers of change: war, and new technology. War produces entrepreneurship by necessity, while technology produces entrepreneurship through change and disruption. Citing Moore's Law, "the defining relationship for technology in the last third century" which states that the number of transistors in a silicon chip doubles every eighteen months, as an example, he defined disruptive technology as that which "destroys old markets and skills and creates new ones." This makes it pos-

sible for small companies to move in when "'good' companies fail" to change with the times.

Along the same lines, Pickar talked about the Internet, the "mother of all disruptive technologies." By affecting "all as-



Professor Kenneth Pickar

pects of all companies," it changes existing roles and creates new ecological niches, much like a natural disaster upsets the balance of an ecosystem. The Internet, said Pickar, is an example of a new technology

that forces new business models. Pointing out a trend, he discussed how competition from the Japanese forced American businesses to improve quality control at the individual level. Then, the widespread use of computers led to companies implementing business-wide "process engineering" in order to stay competitive. Now with the Internet, "learning and intellectual processes" are much more important, leading to an age where people and knowledge make a company valuable, not production of physical goods. This change is affecting every aspect of business, as well as creating opportunities for all the Internet startups that have begun in the last few years.

What makes an entrepreneur? Says Pickar, entrepreneurs

are "single minded visionaries," "driven, high energy," "original," and "very persevering." Comparing this to Caltech admissions' statement of what they're looking for ("You have a passion for math and science... your main focus is to be in the best academic environment"), Pickar asked how Caltech managed to produce so many entrepreneurs without a business school, without a law school, without a medical school and with a focus on academics. It turns out there are some positives in Caltech's favor: leading edge research, resources at JPL, access to faculty, students with integrity, and perhaps most importantly, "[Caltech students] are used to Internet time" - an adjustment students at other universities have yet to make.

Pickar went on to talk about past Caltech entrepreneurs, ranging from the recent sale of Ortel Corporation to Lucent for \$3 billion, to the founder of Caltech, Amos Throop, who moved to California at the age of 69 and bought orchards and dealt in real

PLEASE SEE WATSON ON PAGE 3

New Associate Dean/ Director of Minority Student Affairs appointed

BY JOHN OH

Since March 1, Caltech has had a new Associate Dean/Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs. Sue Borrego, who has worked at Caltech for the past eight years as the Executive Director of the Caltech Y, has become a full time staff member in Student Affairs. This is not the first time Ms. Borrego has worked for the Office of Minority Student Affairs; she worked for the office four years ago. Ms. Borrego completed her doctorate work in Higher Education/Social Justice at Claremont Graduate School and her dissertation is on the "The Implications of Socioeconomic Class in the Academy." Ms. Borrego has been an interim associate dean since this summer. She will hold the official position for at least two and a half years. Her new duties will

include working with undergraduate and graduate students of under-represented minority origins to support them in their academic and other pursuits. She noted the different backgrounds among students, and in her eight year at Caltech, she has found the diversity of the student body fascinating. She believes that being from a school like Caltech will help her greatly in performing her duties. Ms. Borrego's immediate goal is meeting students. Although she has been at Caltech for quite a while, she says she still has many students that she has not met. She will have lunches in small groups of 3-5 students. She also plans to hold two open Minority Student Affairs per month, as well as two open lunches per month. Her long term goal is to make the Minority Student Affairs Office more

PLEASE SEE DEAN ON PAGE 2

Core under criticism

BY DANA SADAVA

A second look at core curriculum requirements has been initiated with the formation of the Student Curriculum Advisory Committee.

Composed of mostly freshmen undergraduates and headed by Deans Ravel and Green, the committee seeks to identify common frustrations with the first two years of academic life at Caltech.

So far, many complaints and suggestions have been offered. At a recent meeting, A major topic of discussion was the requirement of all students to take Chemistry 3A, a general chem-

istry laboratory course.

Abel Bourbois, SCAC Representative for Ruddock House, said, "Many students claimed that Chemistry 3A is underunited, and that a student can pass the class without learning much."

Variation in the quality of Chemistry 1b was also targeted. More variety in freshman humanities course was requested. Committee members questioned the value of the ombuds system.

A Faculty Curriculum Committee headed by professor Harvey Newman is working closely with the SCAC to realize revisions.

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News

Huang Talks about Women in Academia

BY ELISABETH ADAMS

"You're too young to worry about a glass ceiling." So Dr. Alice Huang informed the room full of undergraduates, grad students, and other women (and a few men) who went to the Athenaeum Monday for her luncheon.

Following a rather stereotypical small lunch, (women's luncheon... chicken caesar salad...) Dr. Huang spoke for about an hour on her own experiences as a woman in academia and addressed the general concerns facing all women who want to juggle independent careers and families.

Although many Caltech students simply know her as President Baltimore's wife, Dr. Huang has never been content to rest upon his credentials. It was while she was a post doc at

MIT in the late sixties and early seventies that she first fully realized why it was so important for women to have their own separate academic identity. Huang related the story of a world-renowned female research associate whose mentor left the institute after many years. Suddenly, because she was without an official faculty sponsor, the research associate was unable to get grants or otherwise carry out her work as she had. Disturbed by this dependence on male sponsors, and determined not to fall into a similar situation if something happened to her husband (she was working in his lab at the time), she approached Harvard about becoming an associate professor. They recommended that she become a research associate so that she "not have the pressure of tenure" if she were

to have children. She responded that the full professors she had seen in the past seemed to have more control over their lives than research associates, and that that was really what she wanted. They relented, and she became a member of the Harvard faculty, where she stayed for 20 years.

Her own life experiences illustrate some of the other problems facing women. When she had her daughter, she was unprepared for the sudden onslaught of hormones and the effect they had on her; as she put, "nature has done something terrible." Later, when she was affiliated with New York University, she worked three days in New York and commuted back to Boston to spend the rest of the week with her husband.

Huang is currently serving on a commission investigating some of the important questions

about women in the academic world. How can the number of women at each stage of academia be increased, and why do so many leave? How can the academic environment be made more receptive to women?

Huang offered some tips on things women pursuing careers in academia could do to make their lives easier. Mentors are important, male as well as female, although it is a good idea to be sensitive to the wives of male mentors; speaking as someone who has been on both sides, Huang suggested trying to cultivate good rapport with the wife, which will alleviate concerns she might have about the close intellectual relationship that develops between women and their mentors.

Her closing words of advice were: "Whatever job you do, do it well."

ASSOCIATE
DEAN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

effective in supporting under-represented minorities. She hopes to facilitate research opportunities and to develop cohesiveness amongst minority students. Ms. Borrego also has concerns about the accessibility of the Office of Minority Student Affairs. The office is scheduled to relocate to Keck Graduate House, near other Student Affairs offices, in hopes that it will allow students easier access to the office's services. She stresses the importance of student affairs offices, noting that many students choose not to come to Caltech because it lacks the broad social diversity that are present in other universities.

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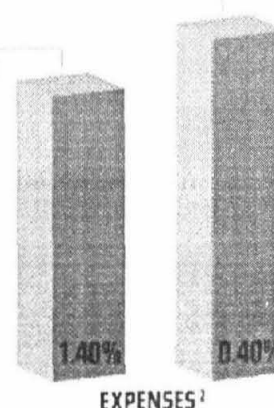
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News/Editorial

WATSON

LECTURE:

Activist Exposes Human Rights Violations

BY CLAUDINE CHEN
AND EMILY BRODSKY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

estate. In between were founders of Xerox, Intel, and Beckman Instruments. In addition, several other companies, including Avery Dennison, Compaq and TRW were founded by Caltech alums.

In concluding, Pickar discussed Caltech's current efforts to promote entrepreneurial activity and outlined what might be happening in the future. Pickar gave an overview of the Industrial Relations Center, Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum, the Entrepreneur Club, the Student Investment Fund, and other entrepreneur-related organizations. Caltech focuses on research in "the most exciting areas," leading to new technology which "germinates entrepreneurs." In the future, Caltech may become more strongly linked to business, as MIT is, and the spinning off of Caltech companies will become a more streamlined process. Said Pickar, "If Throop could return and see [Caltech's] entrepreneurial spirit, he would be very pleased."

Rich in mineral wealth and natural resources, such as oil and virgin teak forests, Burma also once boasted to be Asia's rice bowl. How, then, could this once-wealthy nation fall to the ranks of the world's Ten Least Developed countries, where people starve and fear for their lives? Louisa Craig, co-founder of Burma Forum and a veteran Burmese activist, highlighted the interrelationship between human rights abuses and destructive environmental practices in Burma in a talk sponsored by Caltech Environmental Task Force and the Caltech/Pasadena chapter of Amnesty International on Tuesday, February 29. As documented by Amnesty International's recent report, forced labor is being used to build an oil pipeline through the rainforest, which is only the most recent in a string of human rights violations.

Human tragedy

A former British colony, Burma gained independence in 1948. There was promise of a federal democracy, but the government that came to power was weak, and in 1962, General Ne

Win staged a coup, putting the army in control. The military then worked to undermine the people's security. They nationalized most private businesses and devalued people's savings in banks. A student demonstration against the government in July 1962 resulted in government troops surrounding the school; the student union, with students inside seeking refuge, was blown up. In 1988, millions poured into the streets for peaceful demonstrations led by students and monks. What resulted was a massacre. Trucks piled high with the dead and the living wounded kept the crematorium burning for four days. The military maintains its numbers because families are so poor that the young men enlist in the military to be able to make a living. The military then forces young recruits to abuse villagers, making themselves a target of hatred, leaving them no alternative but to stay in the relative safety of the military.

Environmental damage

The cost on the environment and human lives from the greed of the oppressive military dictatorship is well portrayed in the building of a pipeline from the Burmese coast to Thailand,

funded by Unocal and Total, a French oil company. The army is charged with protecting the pipeline, which cuts through the natural habitat of many animals. Lower level officials impose on villagers, forcing them to provide food and lodging and to work on the pipeline as slave labor, using their own tools. The government has also sold logging rights of the virgin hardwood forests in eastern Burma to Thai loggers, who were banned from clear cutting in Thailand because of resultant landslides and loss of life. Logging roads make the forests and the people hiding in them more accessible to the military and their assault on ethnic minorities. The military sweeps through, killing over half the villagers and gang raping the women. Villagers are used as slave labor to carry the army's loads for months at a time.

As long as foreign investment brings in money to the government, there will be little enticement to change.

Louisa Craig is a Burmese national who has been an activist both in and on behalf of her native country. She fled Burma in 1962 after her husband, headman of the Karen minority ethnic group, was assassinated dur-

ing peace talks with the newly established military regime. In 1986, Ms. Craig co-founded the Burma Forum, an advocacy group based in LA. Among the group's successes is a selective contract campaign that has convinced municipalities like the city of Los Angeles to refuse contracts to companies that do business in Burma. This strategy of applying economic pressure helped reform South Africa and it is hoped that it will have a similar effect in Burma. More information can be found at the Burma Forum webpage, (www.burmaforumla.org) which includes a list of companies in and out of Burma. Unocal and Total are among many corporations targeted by the boycott. Among the companies that have recently withdrawn from Burma are ARCO and Texaco.

We can do our part by pressuring the city of Pasadena and Caltech to adopt selective purchasing. To get involved in local events, please attend the club meetings of Amnesty (the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the GSC office on the top floor of 1052 Del Mar), or contact CETF at cetfers@caltech.edu.



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ASCIT Minutes/Outside World

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

Minutes of the ASCIT BoD Meeting (2/28/00)

Present: New BoD; Guests: Andrea McColl, Dave Guskin, Tasha Vanesian, Angie Han, Augusto Callejas, Dana Sadava.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 pm.

Melinda brings in snacks—cinnamon rolls and chocolate chip cookies “hot and fresh from the oven.” The members of the BoD are distracted for the rest of the meeting.

Guests

The BoD conducts second round interviews for the ASCIT appointed office of little t editor, with the help of current editors Angie Han and Augusto Callejas. The two candidates for the position are Andrea McColl and Dave Guskin. The editors and the BoD asks each candidate about his/her publishing experience, obligations over the summer, ideas for themes, and willingness to work if not appointed. The BoD then excuses the candidates and grills Angie and Augusto with questions so they wouldn't feel left out. (Aside: The current little t has an Edward Gorey theme!) We thank them for their input then move on to the interview for Tech business manager.

The only candidate for Tech

business manager is Tasha Vanesian. The BoD interviews her with the help of one of the current Tech editors, Dana Sadava. (Aside: Tasha, Emma, and Martha-Helene all have the same favorite color—purple). The BoD thanks both guests for attending.

New ASCIT Appointed Officers

Tech Business Manager	Tasha Vanesian
little t Editor	Dave Guskin
little t Business Manager	Nathaniel Austin
Big T Editor	Jacob West
Big T Business Manager	Den Thap
Totem Editors	Helen Claudio
Election Chair	Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmadi
Movie Chair	Michael Schein
	Wesley McCullough

General Meeting

The BoD closes the doors to appoint the offices. All of the interviews, with the exception of the ones tonight, were held over the weekend. All of the offices, with the exception of Movie Chair and little t Editor, have one person running uncontested. The BoD's decisions for the remaining two offices take up much of the meeting.

The meeting continues. Eric reports that he has four to five people from different houses lined up for his Executive Committee. He may need to call an emergency ASCIT meeting (or send an emergency ASCIT email) to get the BoD's approval by the end of this week.

Next, the update on the ASCIT

BoD Retreat at Capra Ranch. Melinda's been calling Capra all week without getting an answer. (But looking into the future, by Wednesday, Melinda will have made reservations from the evening of Friday, March 31st to Sunday, April 2.) The BoD is planning on inviting some of the publications staff.

Eric passes out the club survey that he and Jason made last week. It contains a list of clubs (mostly the ones funded by ASCIT last year) and allows ASCIT members to indicate their interest in each one. The survey also asks if undergrads would like a joint ASCIT/GSC Formal this year. Lower cost, more people. If there is support for a joint formal, Melinda says that hotels might be too small so she will look into country clubs.

Eric lists the information he would like Martha-Helene to put on the advertising posters for the third term Budget Meeting. All clubs that need funding (and those who wish to be recognized by ASCIT) must submit a proposal. The posters will include the web page where club leaders can go to download the club questionnaire cover sheet.

Sean gives his treasurer's report on ASCIT's financial situation. According to his records, ASCIT has much more than what was previously thought, though there may be some uncashed checks still out there. He has also set us up with online banking.

Meeting adjourns at 11:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason C. Cardema

The Outside World

by Nicholas Breen

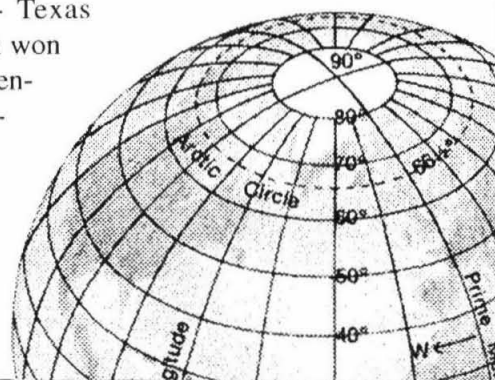
LONDON, ENGLAND — Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet has been ruled medically unfit to stand trial and has left the U.K. Home Secretary Jack Straw indicated that the 84 year old general had suffered “extensive brain damage” and could not understand complicated phrases nor clearly express himself. Pinochet was placed under house arrest 16 months ago while receiving medical treatment in England, in response to the request of Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, who wanted him deported to face charges of human rights abuse during his reign.

MOZAMBIQUE - Massive flooding of three major rivers continues to devastate settlements across Mozambique. An estimated one million people have now been relocated by the water. The South African military has been running helicopters nonstop for six days to rescue people stranded by the flood, including many that had been taking refuge on treetops for days. International aid is beginning to pour in, but President Joaquim Chissano estimates that \$250 million may be required for Mozambique to recover.

UNITED STATES - Texas Gov. George W. Bush won important GOP presidential primaries last Tuesday in Virginia, Washington state, and North Dakota. This gives him the edge, however temporary, over his chief

rival, Arizona Sen. John McCain. Some supporters of Bush indicated that they were particularly upset by a recent McCain speech, where he attacked the religious extreme right wing of the GOP. The third contender for the nomination, Alan Keyes, has yet to win any primaries. The next major round of primaries is on March 7th, “Super Tuesday,” when 16 states including California will make their choices.

ORBITING THE JOVIAN MOON IO - NASA's Galileo probe, nearing the end of its final mission, may be deliberately crashed into Jupiter rather than leaving it in a deteriorating orbit and risk it crashing into Europa. Although the chances that the probe carries any viable Earth-based life-forms are small, project scientists do not want to take any risk of contaminating Europa, which is the most plausible location in the solar system to contain life outside of Earth. The Galileo probe, originally designed for a two-year mission, has been operating for eleven years. Once its Io mission is completed in 2001, the craft will have insufficient fuel to perform additional missions or maintain its orbit.



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Proposition 21 & Sports

Proposition 21: danger of further degrading a flawed system

BY SONALI KOLHATKAR

Proposition 21 is the "Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative" on the ballot for California this March. This 25-page initiative details new laws that are all aimed at Californian teenagers between the ages of 14-16, specifically to allow teenagers charges with crimes to be treated as adults within the legal system. It also expands the targeting of "gangs" and increases penalties for felonies. Despite its "tough on crime" appeal to Californians, Proposition 21 is a dangerous initiative which would further degrade a flawed justice system.

Top 10 Reasons Why YOU Should Vote NO on Proposition 21

10. Proposition 21 could increase your taxes. The California Department of Corrections estimated that this initiative requires 22,000 new prison spaces over the next 30 years at a cost of nearly a billion dollars. The Initiative provides no resources to pay for these prisons, and the burden will ultimately be borne by taxpayers.

9. Proposition 21 has been undemocratic from its inception. This initiative has NOT been the result of grass-roots campaigning. Rather it has been bankrolled and sponsored by former Governor Pete Wilson who spent \$1 million (from a remaining presidential campaign fund) on professional signature gatherers to qualify this initiative after the state legislature rejected his initial juvenile crime package.

8. Proposition 21 pledges more jails than schools. Twenty years

ago California pledged to be a leader in public education but today it is ranked 41 out of 50 states in education spending. Since 1984, the state has added 21 prisons and only one university campus, and is the #1 state in prison spending in the country.

7. Proposition 21 strengthens an out-of-control incarceration rampage. In February 2000, the prison population of the United States reached 2 million (more than any country in the world). While US prisoners comprise 25% of the world's prison population, Americans comprise only 4.5% of the world. Proposition 21 is in the spirit of California's existing draconian Three Strikes law which requires citizens to serve life sentences upon their third conviction, most of which are non-violent offenses, better addressed by rehabilitation.

6. Proposition 21 will strengthen the corporate-sponsored prison labor industry. In addition to state-owned enterprises, private corporations have begun taking advantage of the low-production costs of prison labor. "Currently more than 90,000 state and federal convicts work in a variety of public and private enterprises while serving time." (Washington Times, April 96). Those private corporations include Boeing, Microsoft, Eddie Bauer, Planet Hollywood, etc., who hire a non-unionized work force for a tiny fraction of normal wages. It is no surprise then that some of the sources of funding for Proposition 21 include huge corporations like Chevron, Union Oil, TransAmerica, etc. (California Online Voter Guide) in whose

interests it is to expand cost-cutting prison labor by increasing the prison population.

5. Proposition 21 will destroy the lives of convicted Californian youth. If Proposition 21 passes, 14 year-olds will be tried as adults subject to the death penalty and sent to adult prisons where youth are 5 times more likely to be raped and 8 times more likely to commit suicide than adults. Proposition 21 will eradicate due process for juveniles and weaken confidentiality rules making it more difficult for reformed juveniles to acquire jobs after serving prison sentences.

4. Proposition 21 gives police more power. Proposition 21 requires youth to be tried in adult courts if the prosecutor CHARGES the youngster with certain crimes and prosecutors will rely on the police to determine those charges. Proposition 21 will extend the Three Strikes law, grossly expand wiretapping

rights, and allow police units such as the corruption-ridden LAPD CRASH unit to identify any group of youth from the same ethnic background and wearing similar clothing to be labeled a "gang" (This definition will not extend to mostly white college campuses such as Caltech).

3. Proposition 21 will support an already racist justice system. Two thirds of the 2 million imprisoned Americans are black or latino Americans who comprise less than one fourth of the US population. If this is not enough evidence that the justice system has a racist bias, a recent Color of Justice study in California shows that after transfer to the adult system, black youth are 18.4 times more likely, Asian youth are 4.5 times more likely, and Latino youth are 7.3 times more likely than white youth to be sentenced by an adult court for similar crimes.

2. Proposition 21 just isn't nec-

essary despite current fears of crime. Crimes by minors in California declined 30% over the last decade and 7% in 1998 alone, while adult offenses dropped by 6% in 1998. Yet news reporting of crime stories has steadily gone up. For example, while homicides declined by 13 % between 1990 and 1995, on the network news during the same period, coverage of murders increased by 326 % (Center for Media and Public Affairs).

1. Pete Wilson is relying on Californians to blindly vote yes. The Proposition 21 initiative is one of the longest ever proposed. Its framers are confident that Californians will not read through the tedious details and will vote yes. Exercise your democratic powers and send a message to the likes of ex-governor Wilson that you don't believe in creating a future of hopelessness to California's youth. Vote NO on Proposition 21!

Bird: Athlete of the week

BY CHRIS HUGHES

Jonathan Bird, Men's Basketball (Freshman/Woodland Hills, Calif.) - Men's basketball freshman forward Jonathan Bird concluded the season tied for the SCIAC league in rebounding at

8.1 boards per game and also led the SCIAC in double-doubles with six in the 14 league games. The final league stats were released on February 29, following the completion of the SCIAC regular season. Bird is a member of Fleming House

Last week in sports

Baseball (3-10, 0-9 SCIAC)
Occidental 18, Caltech 1
Occidental 12, Caltech 3
Occidental 6, Caltech 3
Men's Basketball (1-24, 0-14 SCIAC)
Occidental 67, Caltech 35
Men's Fencing (6-6)
Cal State Fullerton 15, Caltech 12
UC San Diego 19, Caltech 8
Women's Fencing (1-10)
CS Fullerton 21, Caltech 6
UC San Diego 18, Caltech 7
Men's Golf (0-3, 0-3 SCIAC)

La Verne 321, Caltech 388
Men's Tennis (4-4, 1-3 SCIAC)
Caltech 5, Cal Lutheran 2
Redlands 7, Caltech 0
BYU-Hawaii 7, Caltech 0
Women's Tennis (5-4, 2-2 SCIAC)
Chapman 6, Caltech 3
Caltech 5, Cal Lutheran 4
Redlands 9, Caltech 0
Men's Track and Field (0-2, 0-2 SCIAC)
Women's Track and Field (0-2, 0-2 SCIAC)

This week in Caltech sports

Baseball: Fri., March 3, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 2:30 p.m.
Sat., March 4, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 11 a.m.
Men's Fencing: Sat., March 11, NCAA Western Regionals, 10 a.m.)
Women's Fencing: Sat., March 11, NCAA Western Regionals, 10 a.m.
Men's Golf: Mon., March 6, at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 12:30 p.m.
Men's Tennis: Sat., March 4, Whittier, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Tennis: Sat., March 4, at Whittier, 9:30 a.m.
Men's Track and Field: Sat., March 4, at SCIAC Four-Way Meet, Pomona-Pitzer, 11 a.m.
Women's Track and Field: Sat., March 4, at SCIAC Four-Way Meet, Pomona-Pitzer, 11 a.m.

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Proposition 22

Protection of marriage

BY JARED UMPIKE

Proposition 22 only makes a two-word change to the existing statute, adding the words "or recognized", changing the statute to: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid *or recognized* in California."

Taken out of context, such a short phrase can be misconstrued to intend massive amounts of bigotry, hatred, and elitism.

Note that the statute as it stands already says "a man and a woman." Those who support the No side of the Proposition would be hard pressed to eliminate those five words, or to add, "a man and a man, or a woman and a woman, or other (specify) _____ and other (specify) _____."

Antagonists of the Proposition therefore attack supporters as "religious" bigots, close minded, etc. in an attempt to gain political sympathy, and would have you believe that the phrase "a man and a woman" is being added — which is not the case. In this way they can gain political advantage by pouring negativity on the Protection of Marriage campaign without having to go through the process of making modifications to the statute on their own, running the risk of meeting large

amounts of opposition in the process.

The Proposition hopes to prevent another state's acquisition of a same-sex marriage-acceptance law from forcing California to recognize and accept same-sex marriage laws as legally binding in this state, thereby forcing a change in the definition of marriage. The implications of a fundamental change in the definition of marriage in a state like California are far-reaching, as one of the most populous and influential states in the Union.

I have no intention of attacking homosexuality or relationships of an "alternate life-style"—America is a beautiful country because it has personal rights of freedom, and the law should, and, I believe, does, extend to protect the expression of love between two people who truly love each other. If my argument were directed towards that expression of love, or the life-style and intimations of a group labeled as "different" by the populace at large, my beliefs would encourage me to attack sexual intimacy outside the bonds of marriage as well as homosexuality itself.

But I make no attempt to do either, nor do I plan on convincing anyone to change their personal

beliefs or behaviors. I believe there are many—for I have met some—wonderful, interesting, and often spectacular people who consider themselves homosexual.

I would not consider myself a bigot or homophobic, and I would hate to lose friendships on the basis that I acted, wrote, or thought that way. On the issue of gay rights I would even go so far as to consider myself a supporter, when it came to protecting those rights inalienable to everyone—freedom from fear of violence and hatred, fear of rejection, fear of the lack of freedom to breathe in a culture already closing in on us from so many sides.

But on the issue of extending the "right" of marriage to two people of the same gender, I prefer the following interpretation: before we seek to extend rights or jump on people who place barriers in the way of our extending rights, let us consider a few similar arguments concerning marriage.

If marriage is a right to be enjoyed by two persons who truly love each other, why cannot a sister marry a brother? We have a law that says to the effect, "You cannot marry your sibling." Is this bigotry? We could claim, "Yes, the two are in love, and wish to start a lasting relationship within the bonds of marriage, enjoying the same benefits under the law as any other couple who marry." Countering that, we could say,

"Too small a genetic pool; causes higher probability of genetic disease(s) in offspring." I would wager to say this is generally accepted.

Or, as some might react, "Disgusting!" Where do we draw the line on the definition of legal marriage? I should not hesitate to say that I would not condone all marriages between "a man and a woman." Mother-son, father-daughter?

Why does the statute not say, "a woman and men," or "a man and women?" That is easy: the federal government has enacted laws against bigamy, the *crime* of marrying while an undivorced spouse from a valid prior marriage is living. Is this "antireligious" bigotry? In Utah, prior to their acceptance as a state in 1896, the federal government actually jailed 1300 Mormons who were practicing polygamy at the time, in the hopes of getting the Church to ban the practice. The Church conformed to the United States law after having travelled thousands of miles to avoid persecution anyway—instead of facing the army entering Utah to confiscate their lands and property.

While the practice of polygamy ended over 110 years ago, and I don't believe should be reinstated now, I am still the descendent of a great great great grandfather who had forty-four children. But since it is politically correct to

think of polygamy as a strange practice, it is not bigotry to pull 1300 men out of their homes, as well as women, who were found "in contempt of court" and jailed for refusing to testify against their husbands.

Before pointing fingers at Protection of Marriage supporters remember that millions of people enjoy marriage and the prospect of starting families within the bonds of this covenant. I believe they would feel their relationships mocked by such a slight on the institution. I maintain that the institution of marriage has been propagated and was established for the purpose of creating families and strengthening them. Already attacked from so many sides, the family unit will have difficulty withstanding such an assault to its roots.

Efforts to protect *any* group from unfair treatment should not go unaided, and I wish to express the admonition that we all take measures to rid ourselves of the intolerance, misconceptions, and discrimination that leads to hate and binds the freedom of others. Those in favor of Protection of Marriage value marriage just as any person values their own right to freedom from fear and hatred. Using some other state to force us to change our definition of marriage will not necessarily bring with it fair treatment; it might very well bring resentment.

Pro on 22: A simple definition of marriage

BY BROCK BEAUCHAMP AND
AARON ROBISON

"Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." These 14 words are all that Prop. 22 would add to the law, officially defining the Californian view of marriage. You may well be wondering, is it really that simple?

Before we begin the discussion of the proposition itself, we would like to make one thing clear. It is our firm belief that every human being is to be equally accorded the respect and dignity they deserve. While we may disagree with the views espoused by others, it is certainly not our wish to devalue anyone in the process. If we believed that Prop. 22 was discriminatory or unfair, we would be among the first to speak out against it. However, we believe that Prop. 22 has been carefully crafted so that it simply clarifies the definition of marriage—no more, no less. Most groups that oppose Prop. 22 cite somewhat similar laws in Virginia, Illinois and Florida, where some privileges associated with domestic partnership were retracted. However, these laws are far more

complex than the 14-word proposition at issue here in California.

For example, the Florida law (HB 147, 1997) contains a provision barring state agencies from giving "effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding or claim arising from [an organized] marriage or relationship."

The 27 states that passed straightforward definitions of marriage like Prop. 22 have seen no change in domestic partnership benefits whatsoever.

Another allegation made against Prop. 22 is that it will be used to deny hospital visitation rights. However, these rights are spelled out very clearly in the California Code of Regulations, section 70707, and could not be overturned by the passage of the proposition. The code allows a patient to "designate visitors of his/her choosing, whether or not the visitor is related by blood or marriage." Furthermore, every hospital is obliged to consider the patient's wishes "for purposes of determining who may visit if the patient lacks decision-making capacity. At a minimum, the hospital shall include any person living in the household."

California currently has one of

PROPOSED LAW:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "California Defense of Marriage Act."

Section 2. A Section 308.5 is added to the Family Code to read: 308.5. *Only marriage between a man and a woman is recognized in California.*

the most extensive series of laws protecting the rights of same-sex domestic partners in the nation, and there are at least three new bills (AB1990, AB2047, and AB2211) currently in the state legislature that would significantly expand these rights even further.

So, if Prop. 22 is not about the endangerment of civil rights, what is the real issue? The only point of consideration at hand is how Californians think marriage should be defined. From both an historical and a cultural standpoint, this definition has almost universally been that marriage is between one man and one woman. The Kentucky Supreme Court acknowledged this in the case *Jones v. Hallahan*: "Marriage was a custom long before the state commenced to issue licenses for that purpose. In all

cases, marriage has always been considered as the union of a man and a woman, and we have been presented with no authority to the contrary." Due to recent nationwide developments, California has an opportunity to affirm this definition. Prop. 22 finds its origins in the "full faith and credit" clause of Article IV of the U.S. Constitution, which allows Congress to prescribe the manner in which contracts from one state ought to be recognized in another. Congress took this constitutional prerogative in 1996 by passing the Federal Defense of Marriage Act in a landslide vote that crossed party lines. It established a provision that no state would be required to recognize a same-sex marriage arising in another state. Since that date, 30 states have instituted measures in response

to the Defense of Marriage Act affirming marriage as between a man and a woman. Prop. 22 is California's response, placed on the ballot with the signatures of over 700,000 registered voters. Prop. 22 stands out, though, both for its simplicity and the care that was taken in its construction to prevent it from removing the existing rights of same-sex couples or singling out any group for discrimination.

There is nothing in the language or intent of Prop. 22 that could be used to remove the current rights of any Californian, heterosexual and homosexual alike. Prop. 22 merely closes a current loophole in California law, as set forth by Congress, which would force California to recognize same-sex marriages originating in other states, even though such marriages are not legally recognized by California law.

Prop. 22 is not about discrimination or prejudice, it's about marriage, and what marriage is and always has been. What Prop. 22 sets out to do, and the only thing it sets out to do is to resolve, once and for all, that the state of California recognizes and affirms marriage as it has been for millennia, as the union of a man and woman as husband and wife.

Proposition 22

No on Prop 22: Take a stand against discrimination

Proposition 22 is only 14 words long -- "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" -- and its stated goal is to single out same-sex couples, to deny them the right of civil marriage. Although no state (including California) currently allows or recognizes same-sex marriages -- and this is not likely to change in the near future -- Prop 22 would be a preemptive strike, in the event that any other state were to begin recognizing same-sex marriages.

Supporters of Prop 22 would have you believe that the measure is simple common sense, that it is somehow necessary to "protect" marriage, and that it won't be used to deny basic civil rights to gays and lesbians and their families. But the truth is, this initiative is complicated on both a moral and civil level, and it will hurt many Californians and their families.

In California, there are over 1000 rights and responsibilities bestowed by the state upon a couple when their relationship is legally recognized in marriage. The right to visit one's loved ones in the hospital, the responsibilities of both parents to provide financially for their children, the rights of all children to be pro-

tected by Social Security should one of their parents die, and the rights of an American to live with his or her spouse even if he or she is from another country are but a few examples.

Proposition 22 seeks to permanently deny committed gay and lesbian couples and their children these legal rights, responsibilities, and protections.

But that's not all. If Prop 22 passes, it will be used as a weapon against lesbian and gay equality on all fronts, not "just" marriage. Supporters of Prop 22 deny that this is a possibility, yet in states where anti-marriage laws similar to Prop 22 have passed, anti-gay forces are using those laws to attack existing domestic partner benefits, the right to adopt a child, and basic civil rights such as antidiscrimination statutes. This has already happened in Idaho, Florida, Illinois, Virginia, and Washington.

In Washington state, an Appeals Court ruled a few weeks ago that a law similar to California's Prop 22 was a sufficient basis to deny basic inheritance rights to the surviving partner of a same-sex couple -- specifically, the court ruled that the surviving partner had no rights to property in the deceased partner's name, even

though they had lived together for nearly 30 years, because their relationship could not be recognized legally -- a direct consequence of the anti-marriage law.

And elsewhere in the country, The University of Pittsburgh is currently arguing that Pennsylvania's anti-marriage law precludes compliance with local antidiscrimination ordinances, where the local ordinances have been used as grounds for obtaining equal treatment of gay and heterosexual employees in the area of dependent health care benefits.

There are currently at least 400,000 same-sex couples living together in California. In fact, the percentage of gay men and lesbians living with partners is the same as the percentage of heterosexual adults living with partners, approximately 60%. Many of these families have children. Studies show that relationships of same-sex couples function in ways that are similar to those of opposite-sex couples, and same-sex couples have the same mix of reasons for wanting to marry as opposite-sex couples. They nurture one another in sickness and health, often providing critical support in periods of major illness, benefiting not just the individuals involved but society as a whole. Recognition of these relationships would contribute to their stability.

But Prop 22 would be harmful

to both the adults and children in these families. It would create great uncertainty for both the couple and those who deal with them regarding their legal status, and the legal relationship between the non-biological parent and any children could be deemed invalid.

If Prop 22 passes, California will be taking a giant step back toward the days of discrimination. The authors of Prop 22 knew this when they wrote the proposition, they were well aware of how similar legislation is being used in other states, **and that is what they want for California!**

Regardless of their feelings about same-sex marriage, millions of Californians have come together in agreement that Prop 22 -- officially named the "Limit on Marriages" initiative -- is discriminatory and wrong for California.

From a religious perspective, this has been a highly sensitive issue. Religious communities are divided over the question of whether or not their clergy should bless the lifelong commitment of gay and lesbian couples. Clergy representing more liberal denominations have officiated at gay and lesbian commitment ceremonies for years, while more conservative religious denominations have remained adamantly opposed.

These are decisions which are appropriately left to each faith to debate and decide. However, secular legal rights should not be

curtailed for one group of citizens because of the religious preferences of another.

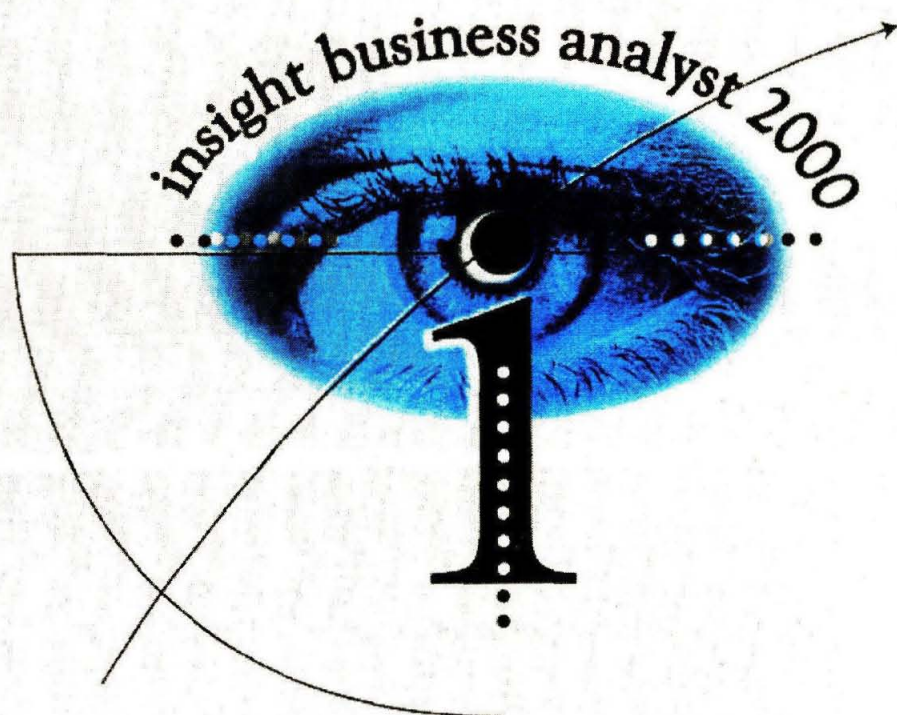
Should Prop 22 pass, it will, in effect, impose the Mormon, Catholic, and Baptist view of marriage on us all. The separation of church and state is an important principle which should not be casually cast aside.

You don't have to support same-gender marriage to oppose Prop 22. You just have to believe in a few basic values -- keeping government out of our personal lives, respecting each other's privacy, and not singling out one group for discrimination or for special rights. Prop 22 will do nothing to "protect" marriage, but it will endanger the civil rights of gay and lesbian Californians.

WE URGE YOU to take a stand against discrimination, to take a stand against divisive wedge-issue politics, and to **VOTE NO** on **PROP 22!**

Thank you,
Aron J. Meltzner, Undergrad/
Geology

Michelle Armond Kevin Austin, Ph.D. Mark Barton, Ph.D. Martin Basch Richard G. G. Beatty Steven Boggs, Ph.D. Sue Borrego Maria Brumm Rich Chin Amcera Chowdhury Susie Clark Dan Daly Bob and Suzy Dollar Dave Doody Eric Fischer Sue Friedman Heather Graven Barbara C. Green Eitan Grinspun Cate Heneghan James Ingalls, Ph.D., and Sonali Kolhatkar Bill Irion, Ph.D. Eike Jens Bill Jones Joy Justice David Kaplan Leslie M. Kay, Ph.D. Branislav Kecman Anne Kelly Robert Kern Juna Kollmeier Audrey Lee Erin Lindsay Andrea McColl Sarah Milkovich Chris Miller Dule Misevic Jim O'Donnell Craig Peterson Byron Philhour Nick Pinney Linsee Ramsay Marcus Runyan Anna Salazar Frank and Margaret Sangiorgi Rory Saynes Bethany Joy Sciaroni Ladan Shams Stephen Shepherd Kerry Sich, Ph.D. Robert Southworth Elizabeth Stameshkin Ian Swett Oana Tocioian Kathryn Todd Donald Trask Debra L. Tuttle Scott Van Eissen Morgan Venable Dana Vukajlovich David and Lisa Wald Clare Waterson Kim D. West Samantha J. Westcott Thomas E. Wilhelm, Ph.D.



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Proposition 22

No on 22: Preserve the freedom

BY STEPHEN SHEPHERD

The arguments for and against Proposition 22 should be fairly familiar by now, and in many ways they appear intractable. To many Californians, the risk that Prop 22 will be used to discriminate against homosexuals is balanced by the risk that failure to pass Prop 22 will jeopardize cherished family values. These people don't support discrimination, by and large, but believe that marriage has a religious role that transcends modern politicking: Marriage is an institution, they claim, that is defined and sanctified by God, that unites one man and one woman together as a family.

As a gay man and a proponent of religious freedom, I face a similar quandary. I do not endorse discrimination based on sexual orientation, but neither do I support antagonizing a religious group or infringing upon their holy beliefs. I *oppose* Proposition 22 because I believe neither religious principals nor sexual orientation are grounds for discrimination.

While many conservative Christian groups are opposed to same-sex marriage, not all religious organizations have the same position. The Episcopal Church has announced that it is not ready, as a national body, to take a position on the morality of gay marriage—individual congregations are left to decide their own positions on the issue. The Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Council of Churches acknowledge the distinction between civil and ecumenical marriage, and believe same-sex marriage should be legalized as a civil right. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, California Council of Churches, Church of Religious Science, Pacific Congress of Quakers, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Unitarian Universalist Association, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and other religious denominations actively support the legalization same-sex unions. Clearly, there is no consensus, even within the religious community, on the morality of same-sex marriage.

In light of the different religious (and secular) views on same-sex marriage, it is unfair to impose the moral views of specific groups on society as a whole.

Prop 22 is not about protecting the religious institution of marriage, no matter what the authors

may allege. The function of civil law is to provide a context for all cultural and religious traditions, while endorsing none. Legal recognition under California law is not a moral statement, nor is it a religious doctrine or dogma to which any California citizen must oblige. It is simply legal recognition.

There have been secular arguments against same-sex marriages. Opponents of same sex marriage have argued that homosexuals are inherently abnormal, promiscuous, and inadequate parental figures. These arguments have foundered. Scientists have found ample evidence of biological predeterminants of sexual orientation, and mainstream medical organizations consider homosexuality to be a normal (if minority) manifestation of human sexuality. Homosexuals are about as likely as heterosexuals to be in a committed relationship, and 10% of these couples have children under the age of 15 (US Census 1998 Current Population Report, after Wald 1999). Children raised by gay parents are as likely as those raised by straight parents to be emotionally and intellectually healthy (American Psychological Association 1995).

Without valid biological or social arguments against same-sex marriage, the moral controversy is the only remaining justification available to Prop 22's supporters.

Many proponents of Prop 22 believe they are defending their morality and religious convictions from government intrusion. It is my belief, however, that Prop 22 is an attack on religious freedom rather than a defense. Prop 22 singles out a specific subset of religious and secular unions and denies them the legal status provided to other couples: Marriage.

Marriage is one of the most central aspects of the spiritual lives of many people. The peoples of the Earth have a great variety of marital customs, but all—or very nearly all—recognize and sanctify family unions in some manner. In any community that values pluralism and individual freedom, individuals should be able to pursue their own cultural and religious convictions when finding a spouse.

Already, California—and the rest of America—recognizes legal proceedings that are not unanimously supported by all Christian denominations, much less all spiritual individuals. For example, many religious groups, notably the Catholic Church, disapprove of divorce and do not permit remarriage. That California and the US do recognize remarriage after divorce in civil law does *not* mean that either the US or California affirm the morality of remarriage, nor does it force the Catholic Church to change its teachings regarding remarriage.

Similarly, interfaith and interracial marriages are legally recognized through the United States, though various religious organizations have deemed these immoral and profane at various time periods. Some still do not recognize these marriages. Nonetheless, I think most reasonable people would agree that individuals have the right to follow their own heart in these matters. The issue of same-sex marriage is not substantially different from the above cases.

Congregations of many religious denominations have united in opposition to Prop 22, including Catholic, Community, Congregationalist, Episcopal, Interfaith, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reform, Reconstruction, Unitarian, Unity, and independent Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist groups among others.

To publicly and legally commit to share one's life with another person is one of the most central aspects of the human experience. The freedom of two loving individuals to marry is one that I cherish very deeply. Voting NO on Proposition 22 will preserve this freedom, and will not diminish or threaten the freedom of religions to bestow their blessings as they choose. Protecting marriage and protecting civil rights are not mutually exclusive. Vote NO on Proposition 22.

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Equality for all?

BY JASON MELTZER

The text of Proposition 22 is as follows:

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "California Defense of Marriage Act."

SECTION 2. Section 308.5 is added to the Family Code, to read:

308.5. Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

That's it. What this has to do with "defense of marriage," I have no idea, but the title's pretty catchy, huh? Sounds so noble, almost chivalrous. In reality, this has nothing at all to do with marriage, but something very different: *hate*. Yes, hate—that age-old friend to millions of bigots and idiots; hate—that's been around since the first sentient monkey beat the hell out of his enemy with his bare hands; hate—that'll be around until it kills us all with our own stupidity!

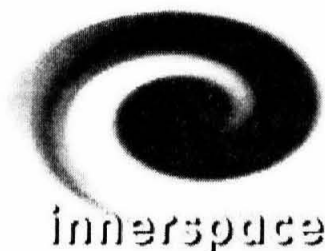
What exactly is the point of a law that specifically disallows two people (who are not a couple comprising a man and a woman) to marry and be protected under the laws governing such a union except to persecute such people? This doesn't seem to add anything to current marriage laws, it doesn't add any

new protections to traditional families or marriages, it simply will strip those living as nontraditional couples from any rights associated with their union that may arise in the future (currently gay marriages are not recognized in any states). How does this defend marriage in any way, or benefit anyone, for that matter, other than to gratify the hatred of those who wish to persecute others not like themselves? The answer is: it doesn't.

This proposition seems to have no redeeming value other than to take rights away from those who are already suffering under the heel of ridiculous societal and legal oppression. Clearly, this is simply a ploy to make it very difficult to grant homosexual couples the same rights as married people, as well as a way to stop them from having legal marriages at any time in the future.

Ah, but hatred only goes so far. Hatred has a partner in these nasty schemes: Religion. For some strange reason, Christianity (the most popular religion in this country) has a grudge against homosexuals. Religious, bigoted, non-rational people feel that they need to dictate not only morality but laws for the rest of

us! (Now, I'm not saying that *all* religious people are like this, and I've met some very nice and logical people of faith, but there's certainly a positive correlation, and I'm not talking about the nice ones.) I'm not one of these "relative ethics" people who thinks everyone should



have their own personal view of right and wrong, but I do think that people who calibrate their moral compass with fantasy books written thousands of years ago are just plain wrong.

My reasoning on the issue of gay marriage seems a logical perspective: what the hell's wrong with it? Nothing! Does it hurt *me* in any way if these people get married? No. Does it hurt anyone else? No. Then why not let them marry? Why not give them the same rights as everyone else? If it doesn't hurt anyone, what's the problem? Because you think your silly book of verse tells you it's wrong? That's just plain ignorance and illogical thought.

I'm not done yet. California (and many other states) follows the principle of "popular sovereignty," which gives the masses the power to decide on certain issues.

That's the idea of a Proposition: it's a referendum. In my opinion, this is a very very stupid idea. As I just outlined in the above paragraph there are some pretty ill-willed people out there who justify their hatred with established firmaments of society. I don't think these people should be deciding important issues of state!

The masses just aren't smart enough to deal with these matters; they should be left to people who can and do understand what's best for the commonwealth, not some schmuck (or rather, a group of them) who thinks his bigotry should be state law!

This brings me back to my basic tenet of human existence: *most people are stupid*. I don't want stupid people deciding laws for me, do you? When such issues are decided by taking data from the entire populace, the voices of reason and right can be very easily drowned out by those of ignorance and hatred. The "average person" is pretty dim, easily convinced by false arguments, and often swayed by hatred or ill-reasoned morality.

And half the people in this world are dumber than him! The idea of putting issues of importance to the will of the masses is perhaps the worst idea in statecraft *ever*!

I'd rather see a dictator than popular rule any day. At least you can kick out a bad dictator; it's far more difficult to increase the intelligence of the entire populace in any reasonable amount of time. Why do I think all this? Well, take Prop. 22 as an example. There are lots of people who think this is a great idea! And there are even more who will vote for it "to protect marriage" without even knowing what the damn thing says. I don't want these people making decisions. They shouldn't be allowed to shop for groceries, let alone decide laws for an entire state!

On the issue of the Proposition itself, usually it's critics mildly admonish it by saying "it's unnecessary" because California marriage laws are already specific to heterosexual couples. I'd go way farther: it's just plain evil. It's bigotry and hatred in the name of legislation, complete with a positive-sounding title to fool the stupid. I encourage anyone with the ability to vote in California to do so on March 7 and strike down this ridiculous piece of legislation.

Bioscience Education and Careers in a Post-Genomic World

Professor David Galas

Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences

Wednesday, March 8th
Student Activities Center
Room 13
4 - 6 pm*

The rapid growth and cross-disciplinary nature of bioscience industries are creating new career opportunities for students with biological and chemical sciences, mathematics, engineering, and computer science backgrounds. Dr. Galas will discuss the dramatic developments occurring in bioscience research, and their implications for the creation of new products and applications.

David Galas, chief academic officer at Keck Graduate Institute of the Claremont Colleges, led the US Department of Energy component of the Human Genome Project and was president and chief scientific officer of Seattle-based Chiroscience. One of the first biotechnology companies to assemble a full gene-to-drug discovery program.

Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) is a pioneering new graduate school focusing exclusively on the development of applications for the discoveries in the biosciences, and on the education of leaders for bioscience industries.

KGI is accepting applications for its inaugural professional Master of Bioscience (MBS) degree program beginning August 2000. All successful applicants will receive full-tuition fellowships, along with the possibility of a stipend. Admission and financial information will be available at the presentation.

*Refreshments will be served.

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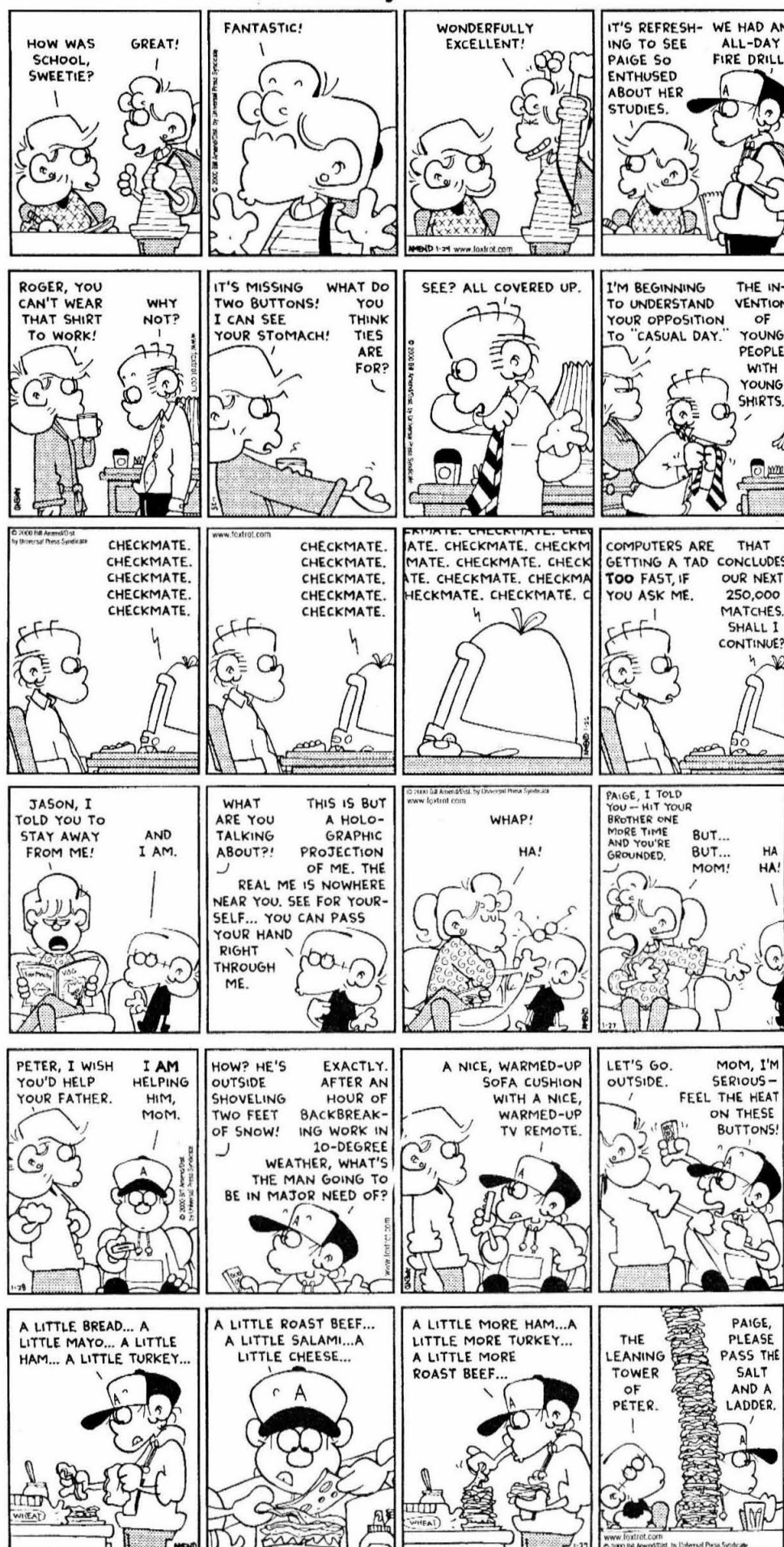
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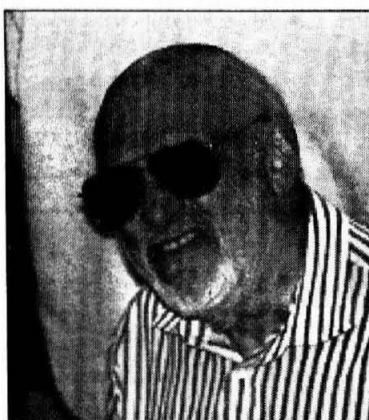
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Dean's Corner

Ants and Rants

by Jean-Paul Revel

I am not telling any of you anything new when I say it has been pouring, just pouring cats and dogs, in the last few weeks. Ingrates that we are, we now lament the rain when, before the New Year, we fervently hoped for some. There is obviously no way to please us humans. So we complain, but can you imagine where all this water leaves those who blamed last fall's "drought" on La Niña conditions? Maybe the jet stream has been dipping just a few hundred miles further south than expected, that could do it. But I hear, yet am hard put to believe, that in fact we have not yet reached the normal "year up to date" rainfall.

Be all that as it is, I know of one great impact of the rains—the effect it has on wildlife, to wit, the ants which live next to the house. They have decided to come inside, where it is warm and dry. Hordes march brazenly through the tiniest of openings and invade the kitchen. My wife and I fight back, wiping out thousands at once. Perversely, even though I exterminate them, I find them fun to watch, with their characteristic hurry-and-stop manners, paus-

ing to check out the ants running in the opposite direction. They halt just long enough for a mutual touch with their antennae and then off they go again on their respective ways. They feel the need to make sure that every one in the crowd is from the home-nest, and so presumably friendly.

So brazen or desperate were the ants last week that they even invaded my bathroom. There were too few crumbs to be found on the counter top, so their number remained low, limited to exploratory patrols. They must have been disappointed to find only soap remnants and other crumbs flavored with hints of minty toothpaste. With wet hands I swept the patrolling ants into the sink, taking guilty pleasure at flushing them down the drain.

That's when I noted the strangest behavior of the few remaining stragglers. Their pheromone trails all confused by the unexpected deluge that hit them, the ants ran in haphazard directions. Here came one, heading straight towards a water puddle, hitting it and Whoa!! I have never seen such a reaction; a backwards run of several inches, full tilt. This repeated itself over and over, with ants bumping into water

drops and bouncing back in a straight line as fast as they could. It was an astounding sight. Not just backing up a few steps and then starting off in a new direction. No, no, they executed a long panicked run backwards. I had not realized that ants could run, really run, in reverse, in a straighter line than they go forward and at a speed greater than their usual forward gait. Now, ants don't like water; that's why they came into the house in the first place. For small creatures like them, surface tension, which is not a hazard we have to worry about, presents a fierce trap. But in this instance it must have been "something in the water" as they say, something from the counter top, so utterly distasteful to the ants that they hastened to beat a retreat, not even taking the time to turn around. At the end of their run, far enough to feel out of danger, they stopped and cleaned their antennae with their front legs, apparently trying to remove the horrible taste. I now wish I had taken a sample of the water to find out what was so repellent.

Primed with my ant-counters, I find reference to them everywhere I look. For example, in the March issue of Scientific American, Eric Bonabeau and Guy Theraulaz speak of "Swarm Smarts". "Using ants and other social insects as models," they explain, "computer scientists have created software

agents to solve complex problems, such as the rerouting of traffic in a busy telecom network." I guess the ants have things to teach us even in high tech pursuits. While each acts as an individual, as a group they carry out activities which seem to be directed by a knowing mind, carefully planning the next move. As ants move along they leave a trail of pheromones which their companions will follow. The more ants go down one particular pathway, the more are attracted to the same path. The two Antologists (may I?) describe an experiment in which ants were presented with a bridge with two branches, one twice as long as the other, directing them to a food source. The ants very rapidly selected the shortest path. Imagine two ants, one following the short, the other the long pathway. First one, then the other, discovers the food and rushes back to tell its friends still in the nest of its good fortune. The ant that had selected the short path arrives back home first and for a time, its trail has a double pheromone dose (one laid down while going, the other while coming back). That is the track that other ants will follow in preference. Pretty nifty way to pick up the shortest way to food!

The same article also talks about "antomorphic" (I guess it should have said, Myrmidomorphic) robots, programmed with a very few simple instructions yet capable of complex, seemingly cooperative behavior, such as working "together" to push a puck towards a light. These ant-like robots brought to mind the 4 wheeled crawlies which whizz about campus. The day excursions of these vehicles driven by

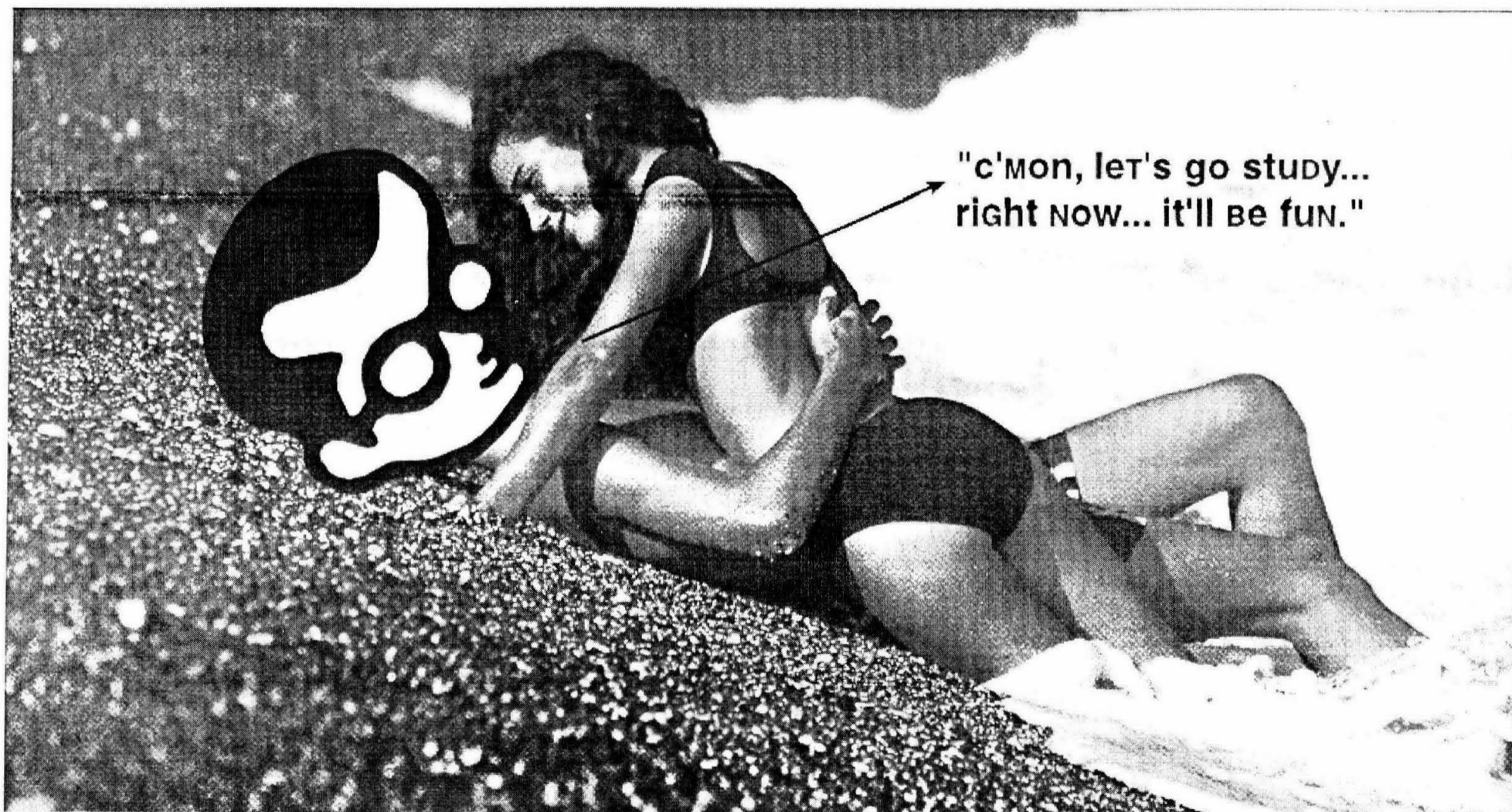
their owners are the legitimate ones. They deserve no more attention than a sneeze, you know, a Day Atchoo so to say. It is the clandestine excursions in the dark of the night, revealed later on the Security docket or perceived as a dark shadow lurking by; those I worry about. Please take a minute to read my recent email. I guess one way around misuse of the carts would be to have a "lojack" installed on each vehicle. Not an especially cost effective solution, but I already have some other suggestions and I would gladly get more. Maybe one of you, smartest of the smart, could come up with something effective and affordable? Maybe something as simple as the realization that using someone else's property without permission is not acceptable?

Don't ask me about details, but while idly dreaming about vehicular rants I discovered the images taken from the shuttle radar mapping mission which just ended. Look up image PIA02718 at <http://photojournal-a.jpl.nasa.gov/outdir> Zowie kazzoowee!! There is the 210 Freeway and Mount Liberty and the golf course around the Rose Bowl, JPL and Lake street too, is that Lake street? Campus seems just off the picture. But I think that PIA02734 shows Beckman Auditorium from space, too bad that part of the image is so fuzzy. Methinks I am going to propose we trace carts from the Shuttle!!

A Bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

Jean-Paul Revel



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Mints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mints@tech.caltech.edu is experiencing problems, please send all mints to *tech@ugcs.caltech.edu*

Mark Your Calendars! Admissions, Prefrosh Weekend will be held Thursday, April 13th through Sunday, April 16th. For more information email *dina@admissions.caltech.edu* or *ryan@admissions.caltech.edu*.

Quiz Bowl intramurals are coming on March 4. Quiz bowl is a fast paced Jeopardy!-style competition for teams of up to four students. This competition is open to the entire campus, undergraduates, grad students, and faculty alike. To sign up, go to www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~jc/signup.html, or follow the link from the club site at www.its.caltech.edu/~quizbowl. For more information, contact Kevin Costello at *costello@its.caltech.edu*

The Disbursement Audit Office will relocate from the third floor of Keith Spalding Building (Business Services), Room 307, to 363 South Hill Street. Initially, Disbursement Audit Office will occupy a part of the first floor of the main Hill House, but eventually move to the Garage structure in the back of the Hill House. The telephone numbers and fax (626) 229-0740 will remain the same. The new Mail Code for Disbursement Audit will be 2-7. Only minor disruption in the morning on Tuesday, Feb 23, 2000, is anticipated due to this relocation. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Spring Term Offering: Beethoven, An Exploration of the Composer's Life and Work, Mu 123, MW 11-12:30 at 19 Baxter. Instructor: Neenan Prerequisite: Some proficiency at reading of musical scores - MU127 or equivalent ability. Permission of instructor required. Ludwig van Beethoven is arguably the most influential and important composer in the history of music. Mu123 will explore his life and work, using Maynard Solomon's landmark biography and musical examples from the major genres (symphony, concerto, string quartet, piano sonata etc.). Lecture/reading course with in-class discussion, listening, video presentations and live performances. Field trips to off-campus performances to be arranged. Because of the nature of the course (ie. some musical analysis), students must have some proficiency in reading music.

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.

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

Bax. Copies of HSS course schedules are available in 228 Baxter.

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

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

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*.

EVENTS

The Caltech Y has tickets for Stomp, Sat., Mar. 4, 5:00 p.m., at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Tickets are \$18.50 each, limited to two per person.

Dreams of Martha Stewart, Beckman Auditorium, Sat., Mar. 4, 8:00 p.m. Sally Bondi performs Pamela Parker's one-woman play about the eternal quest for perfection. Tickets are \$22, \$18, and \$14; youths 12 and under receive \$4 discount; student and senior rush tickets may be purchased for \$10. For more information call 1-888-2CALTECH.

Gary Schocker, flute, and Jason Vieaux, guitar, will perform at Dabney Lounge, Sun., Mar. 5, 3:30 p.m. The performance is part of the Lagerstrom Chamber Music Concerts and will include works by Bach, Guiliani, and Schocker. Call 1-888-2CALTECH for more information.

Caltech Science Education Club presents "Can Distance Learning Over the Internet Work? What are the Implications for Schools and Universities?" Mon., Mar. 6 at CAPSI House, 287 S. Hill, 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. A panel of Caltech and public school educators will discuss the issue. Pizza will be served. For reservations contact Jane Sanders, 395-3297, 395-3222, or *jzs@caltech.edu*.

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

Local Red Cross Chapters hosts the sixth annual Red Cross Spirit Award, Sat., Mar. 11, at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Awards will honor the cast and creators of the TV series *JAG* for its positive portrayal of men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. Also featured will be a Humanitarian Award for Hydeia L. Broadbent and special humanitarian recognition to Bonnita Wirth, Ph.D., and Barbara Cienfuegos, L.C.S.W. Please RSVP to Melanie Jones at 626-799-0841 x503.

SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

The American Meteorological Society is pleased to invite applications for the 2000-01 AMS/Industry Undergraduate Scholarships in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. Prospective candidates from the fields of earth sciences and related fields who intend to pursue careers in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences are encouraged to apply. The award is based on merit and awarded to students who demonstrate potential for accomplishment in these fields. Applicants must have successfully completed two years of study by August 2000 at an accredited institution with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status. The scholarships are available to students who will be juniors in the fall of 2000. The award is renewed for the senior year based on the recipient's performance and recommendation of a faculty advisor. Applications can be obtained from the AMS web site at www.ametsoc.org/AMS. Any questions may be directed to Donna Fernandez, 617-2272426 x246, *dfernand@ametsoc.org*; or Stephanie Armstrong, 617-227-2426 x235, *armstrong@ametsoc.org*. **Applications must be submitted by March 3, 2000.**

The Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund will award five \$10,000 and fifty \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate women in the fall of 2000. Applicants must be women currently residing in the United States who plan to return to an accredited four-year college or university and plan to enroll part-time or full-time to complete an undergraduate baccalaureate degree.

Eligible applicants must have completed at least one semester of college a minimum of five years prior to September 30, 2000 and not have enrolled for more than one college course per semester since September 30, 1995. For further information and application materials, you may contact Elizabeth Tuma, Program Manager at 507-931-0439. Only the first 1,000 applications received will be considered for an award. Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2000.

The Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs, through the Desk and Derrick Educational Trust, is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2000-01 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. citizens, completed at least two years of undergraduate work, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, demonstrate financial need, and plan to pursue a career in the petroleum or allied industry. Awards in the amount of \$1,000 annually will be made to full-time students. Part-time students qualify \$400 annually. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information, you may contact: Evelyn Black, Desk and Derrick Clubs, 4823 S. Sheridan, Suite #308A, Tulsa, OK 74145 or email at *evelyn.black@labatt.com*. Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2000.

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

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

The JVS Jewish Community Scholarship Fund announces the availability of applications for the 2000-01 academic year. The funds are intended to

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

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.

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