

ELECTIONS ARE
COMING! THEY'RE
GOOD FOR YOU TOO!



Donuts at 8 am. Go to the ASCIT Movie, "The Maltese Falcon" on Friday, CCF Pancakes in the RF courtyard on Saturday Morning. What a weekend!

see techer run

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

Packet sniffer hacks CCO, UGCS, Student Hovses

BY SHAY CHINN

For as long as there have been computers with restricted access, there have been people who have made it their careers breaking that control.

Whether hackers, those who break in to systems to see what's on them or their more sinister cousins crackers who break into computers for profit or malice, there have been people who do their best to find weaknesses and exploit them to their ends.

During the last few weeks, there has been a large number of computers which were compromised ranging from lowly

PC's to cco itself. System administrators have attempted to curtail this assault but there are certain things that should be know about the three major forms of attack.

1) Packet sniffing - This attack is used once a host has been compromised at the root level. At this point the network card can be put in "promiscuous" mode and read all the traffic that goes past the wire. In this manner other connections can be reconstructed or even hijacked.

There is currently no known way to remotely detect a machine sniffing (though efforts are on the way by the TechnoGeeks)

so the best defense against this attack is a secure type connection provided by ssh. The secure shell provides a level of encryption which makes it extremely unprofitable to sniff. It simply takes to long. Use it wherever possible and beware that any time information is sent in cleartext (unencrypted) there is a chance that someone may be watching.

2) System attack - Exploiting certain errors in the networking daemons.

If you do not have "root" on a system this does not affect you. If you do you should close down all ports that are not in use and

be aware of the weaknesses of many of the daemons. Sendmail has been a notorious hole because of various buffer overruns. The current version is 8.8.8 which may have addressed these issues. Other chancy daemons are the imap2 protocol and pop3 email protocol. All are subject to attack to gain root.

3) Password guessing - Make sure your password is rather difficult.

Letters numbers or non numbers such as !@#%&^*(){} are perfect choices which make a password nearly impossible to guess. Certain dictionary style attacks can break certain passwords in seconds by guessing dictionary words and/or any personal information. These dictionaries can

include words in any language, not just English. Please do not make it easy on people.

Computer security is something all users should be aware of. There is definitely at least one person running a packet sniffer from a compromised computer that the TechnoGeeks are attempting to trace, as well as many accounts which have been stolen from cco, ugs and personal systems. To the people running LINUX, examining the log files and the process list would be extremely wise to do now, as well as regularly.

Non-ITS systems which are known to have been compromised include: Ricketts, Blacker, Fleming, Del Mar, and Marks.

Caltech teams to attend collegiate programming competition finals

PRESS RELEASE

January 22, 1998 Organizers of the 22nd Annual ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, sponsored by IBM, announced today the names of college teams who will advance to the contest's World Finals in Atlanta, February 27-28, 1998. Approximately 3,750 of the world's brightest students representing 700 universities in 40 countries competed in 1997, with only the top 162 students qualifying for next month's finals.

ACM's announcement of finalists follows last week's Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) conference in California, where industry leaders discussed the critical economic need for skilled technology workers. According to industry reports, up to 400,000 jobs requiring computer software skills are still open. As part of the conference the U.S. government announced several training initiatives to increase the number of technology workers. IBM's sponsorship of the competition is one way the global information technology company hopes to increase interest in the computer sciences at the collegiate level. Since 1970, ACM has organized the contest to challenge and inspire students

in the computer sciences. For the next five years as sponsor, IBM will help expand the contest through its global presence. This past year marked the first time schools in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Japan competed, in part due to IBM's efforts.

The contest pits teams of three students against a host of complex, real-world problems, which they must solve in a set amount of time. Students rely on their programming savvy skills, creativity, and teamwork to solve problems as they race against the clock in the five-hour battle of logic, strategy and mental endurance. Teams that solved the most problems in the fewest attempts and the least amount of time qualified for the World Finals.

Regional contests were held around the world from September through December of 1997, with 54 teams earning the right to compete in Atlanta. Last year's champion - Harvey Mudd College - will return to defend their title. Schools in the U.S. and Canada which will participate in the World Finals in Atlanta are (in alphabetical order):

California Institute of Technology; University of Alberta Case; Western Reserve University; University of Arkansas; Fayetteville Christopher Newport University; University of California, Berkeley; Duke University; University of Central Florida; Florida Institute of Technology;

University of Dayton; Harding University; University of Miami; Harvey Mudd College; University of Minnesota, Morris Indiana; University of Pennsylvania; University of Missouri, Rolla; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University of Texas, Arlington; McGill University; University of Texas, Austin; Oklahoma State University; University of the Pacific South Dakota, School of Mines and Technology; University of Waterloo South Dakota State University; Virginia Tech; Stanford University; and State University of New York, Stony Brook.

International delegations will bring teams (26 in total) from universities in Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, and Taiwan.

Established in 1970, the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest is the oldest and largest programming competition for the world's universities and colleges. The contest, sponsored by IBM, fosters creativity, teamwork, and innovation in building new software. For more information about the ACM Programming Contest, visit the Web site at <http://www.acm.org/contest>.

Elevator smokes out Keith Spalding

by Qaytii Isaacs

The freight elevator in the Keith Spalding Administration building caught fire on Tuesday, February 3rd around 2pm causing a total evacuation of the building and the City of Pasadena Fire Department to be called.

"The motor on the freight elevator caught fire and burned up," explained Tom Hanson, who is in charge of fire alarms at Caltech. The fire was put out with a fire extinguisher before the fire department arrived.

The small fire caused Keith-Spalding to fill with smoke and all the people in the building were quickly evacuated to the patio in front of the building. The Caltech employees waited in the pouring rain for approximately one hour.

The Pasadena Fire Depart-

ment arrived at the building and determined that the fire had indeed been put out. The firefighters then proceeded to clear the building of excess smoke with large fans.

The Caltech employees returned to the building, though there were some titters to one fireperson's yell, "Go back inside! Go back to work!" The rain subsided shortly after Keith Spalding reopened.

The incident caused the Caltech Post Office to close for the brief period of time. Also, mail was picked up early on Tuesday because of the fire, causing all mail taken to the post office after the incident to be postmarked a day late.

Currently, the freight elevator in Keith Spalding is out of service. Parts have been ordered for its repair.

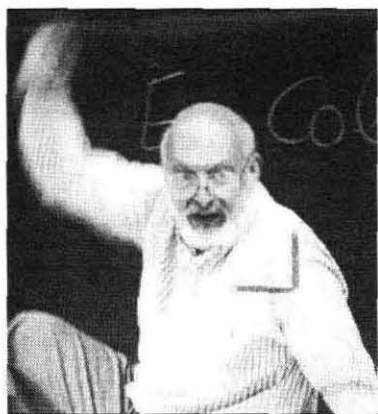
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Dean's Corner

When a Duo is a Sextet!

by Jean-Paul Revel

and Kennedy. Even Jimmy Carter confessed that he had sinned, in spirit if not in fact. Many have been caught in the same strait, including men of the cloth, and many more have not been discovered. In addition, I find it offensive that the whole thing has been puffed up for political or commercial gain. I find it inappropriate to examine what happens behind closed doors, although I realize, and Clinton must have known, that presidential closed doors are invitations to snoop. Yet for partisans to go Tisk Tisk, for journalists to elevate this to a real crisis, when it seems that what is happening is that they are selling papers, or air time, or are simply afraid of losing out on a story that their peers will have been reporting on, that is revolting. I also find it hard to imagine that none of the people making all the deprecating noises and remarks have never been involved themselves, in their imagination if not in fact, in similar adventures.

We need to recognize that in

spite of our vaunted sophistication the higher functions of our brain are supported by the animal in us. Our closest biological relatives are the Bonobos, a species of chimpanzees, who are sexually very active. Judging by their physical behavior one is led to imagine that, should they have been endowed with speech, their conversations and literature might well be all about f—ing. And that's true for us as well, to such an extent that we "Westerners" are embarrassed about it, is it not? Except for the fact that education leads us to talk about sex, sexual attraction, carnal love in circumlocutions, sex is obviously one of the most basic and powerful instincts controlling our lives. However that does not mean that we should give free rein to these instincts and behave like Bonobos, who lack the human ability to control their behavior.

Just when this control was acquired and why it did develop is not known. Those of you with the time for extra reading might contemplate J. Diamond's *The Third Chimpanzee* for interesting analyses of the problem. In fact it

is not clear to me whether that is a question of human (as a species) development, as opposed to a cultural veneer, which would differ from one human society to the other. If we look at the history of man as we understand it, our "modern" ways have developed only recently, but humans of our species have been developing for 500,000 years or so. "Modern"

...should they have been endowed with speech, their conversations and literature might well be all about f—ing.

society, including a gradual recognition of the equality of sexes, has been developing for only a very short time, say a couple of hundred years. Obviously not all human societies have developed synchronously. There were politically potent females a long time ago like the mythic Amazons, the Queen of Sheba or Cleopatra, and more recently Joan of Arc, Catherine the Great, Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. But it is only recently that efforts have been made to bring equality between the sexes in all walks of life. We modern western men have noth-

ing to be proud of really, as progress has been pretty slow and chaotic. Witness the fact that the Victorian repression of women is pretty recent. Just think that even in a civilized country such as France, women have been able to vote only since 1945. We admitted women here at Caltech only 25 years ago and our country still has not yet passed the ERA.

As leaders and future leaders we have to acquire and/or develop the sensitivity to deal with each other in a respectful way. Many of the constraints imposed by the necessities of survival are slowly being removed as we understand more about human physiology. Our brains, however, do not change as fast—there is a disjunction between the urges of our instinctual minds and the desires of our conscious mind. Let's analyze our behavior and act to the benefit of all, not just our atavistic selves.

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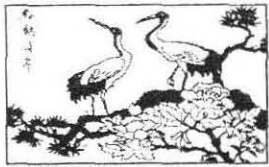
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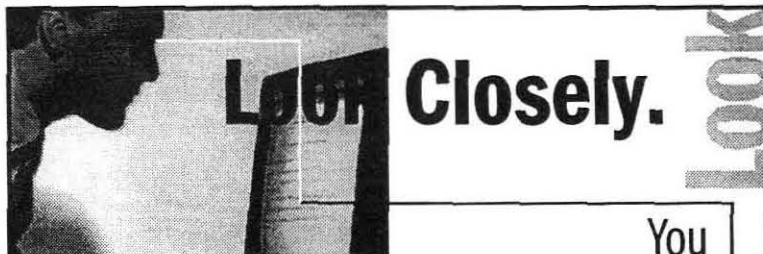
Friday, February 6th - SAC 13

Questions & Answers: 11:45am - 12:45pm

Pizza & Presentation: noon - 12:30pm

Please RSVP (for the pizza count) to Angie Bealko '96 at bealko@alumni.caltech.edu or angie_bealko@adc.com

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Travis Hime wins 1998 Brewer Prize

Tom Tombrello is pleased to announce that the winner of the 1998 Brewer Prize is a freshman, Travis Hime. He is a student in the 1998 class of Ph11, who exhibited the best performance on the competitive problems ("hurdles") that were used to select the class.

Mr. Hime plans to major in physics. He is a graduate of

New Canaan High School in New Canaan, CT. Previously, he won the Bronze Medal at the International Physics Olympiad.

Dr. Richard G. Brewer, BS 1951, generously endowed a prize to be awarded annually to the Physics 11 "hurdles." The recipients of this prize will have demonstrated outstanding intellectual promise and creativity at the very be-

ginning of their Caltech careers, and the Brewer Prize formally recognizes this.

The income from the Prize endowment will support the students' stipend for the summer while they work on an independent Physics 11 project. The winner of the Brewer Prize will be announced each year and the Prize will be listed among the awardee's honors upon graduation.

Beckman Internships: a summer opportunity

BY BRIGITTE ROTH

Wouldn't it be great to get away from Tech for the summer? Does the prospect of taking a break from science appeal to you? If you answered yes, then please read on. If not, then please read on!

I spent last summer working on a Beckman Political Internship. I had taken Law 133, a course on tax law, taught by Professor McCaffery of USC Law School. In this class I was introduced to feminist tax law, the focus of my work last summer. The fellowship was for ten weeks, which I mostly spent in investigation at the USC Law Library. I performed a comparative study of the tax systems of various countries to see how they had dealt with issues of taxing women, in order to see what we Americans can learn from them.

I discovered that there are a variety of alternatives to our unfair system and analyzed the effec-

I performed a comparative study of the tax systems of various countries to see how they had dealt with issues of taxing women

tiveness of these programs in dealing with different feminist tax issues.

I learned a great deal about legal systems and law research. I highly recommend that anyone interested in political science apply for this fellowship. All you need to do is find a project and advisor. Since the Beckman will fund you entirely, it should not

be difficult to find someone who wants to work with you.

I would like to mention some of the perks of this program. First, you will get all the money at the very beginning of the summer. You will spend none of it on taxes (except, of course, when you buy taxable products with it). You are not required to write a paper at the end of the summer (only a blurb for *The Tech*), nor are you required to give a presentation. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the realms of political science, and to learn some things about yourself in the process.

If you would like to apply for the Beckman Political Internship, stop by the Deans' office. The application deadline is the same as for SURFs (March 2), and the requirements are fairly similar. Go for the Beckman!

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

Canberra, Australia - A two week constitutional convention began on Monday to discuss cutting ties to the British Monarchy by no longer recognizing the Queen of England as its head of state. Polls show that more than half of Australians would prefer being able to choose a new head of state.

Cavalese, Italy - A cable car from a ski lift fell 260 feet, killing all aboard after a low-flying United States military jet on a training flight cut the cable. Local officials complained that Marine Corps planes routinely try to fly under the cables on their way back to the air base.

Seoul, South Korea - Due to the ongoing financial crisis in South East Asia, South Korea has admitted it is unable to pay its share of the construction of nuclear power plants in North Korea. The project is an important element of a deal halting North Korean production of nuclear weapons. South Korea is expected to ask the United States and Japan for additional financial support.

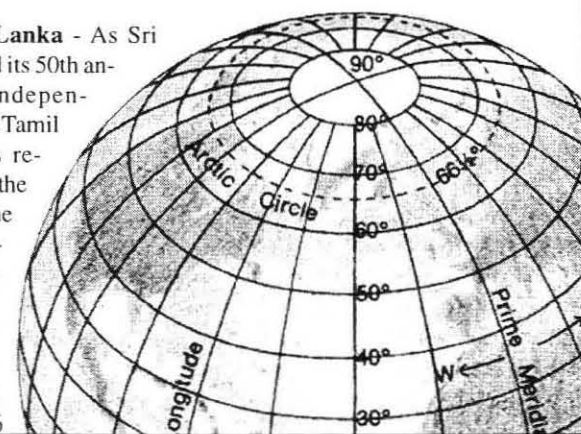
Columbo, Sri Lanka - As Sri Lanka celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence, separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas renewed attacks in the eastern part of the island. The location of the celebration had to be moved from the central town of Kandy after a bomb killed 16

people and damaged Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist shrine.

Atlanta - National figures for the first six months of 1997 show that AIDS deaths in the United States fell 44% from the same period in 1996. Scientists attribute the drop to the new protease inhibitor therapy which has greatly lengthened life expectancy. Although the number of new cases of AIDS also dropped, the low death rate means that the number of people with AIDS has risen 13% in the same period.

Washington, D.C. - Monday President Clinton proposed the first balanced Federal budget in almost 30 years. Strong economic growth allows for more government spending while maintaining standard programs. Mr. Clinton urged that any further budget surpluses be used to support the Social Security system.

Nagano, Japan - The Winter Olympics for 1998 are to be held in Nagano Japan. Coverage begins tonight. For more information see <http://www.nagano.olympic.org>



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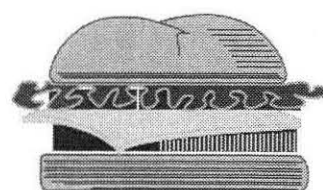
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A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

JANUARY 28, 1998

Present (at some point): BoD (minus Mike Westover), Adrienne Hyldahl, Nicholas Breen, Wren Montgomery, Katy Isaacs, Owen Afreth).

(This week Mike W. = Bill and Mike A. = Monica.

Meeting called to order at 22:08.

Meeting closes at 22:08.

Meeting opens at 22:11.

Nicholas Breen has been appointed the new editor of the 97-98 *Big T*.

Dealing With Guests

Owen—Thinks there should be some sort of signup system for the TV in Club Room A because other people are moving in on his valuable porn time. Kiran is delegated the task of more fairly allocating television resources so that everyone can enjoy an equal amount of adult entertainment.

Wren—Is having trouble getting a proof of the 96-97 *Big T* printed out. The BoD suggests a variety of not broken printers that could be used for this task. Maybe a team of hard working monks could scribe the ancient text by hand. No payment will be distributed until the text has been reviewed.

General Business

Publications Manager—Monica and Baldeep agree that it would be helpful to have a Publications Manager to act as a buffer for the BoD. Baldeep wants to create this position as part of a partial fusion of some operations and resources. Monica would like to see the office created immediately to facilitate the long-term achievement of the same goal. Baldeep is charged with gathering more information on the topic. Other suggested BoD positions include: Minister of Fish, Froggie-

Style, ASCIT Masseur, and Director of Stupid Crap. You don't love me.

Censoring—Monica is concerned that he is increasingly often being asked to omit information from the minutes. He feels that it is

not the place of the BoD to selectively release information about the proceedings of its meetings. If we want a Minister of Fish, then the students deserve to know about it, damn it. It is agreed that no relevant information is to be left out of the published record.

Getty—The ASCIT/Y Getty trip may or may not be on. The Kohl/Kiran may or may not be getting it on. The Y is looking into transportation alternatives. The maximum cost to ASCIT (even if we go by goat) will be around \$300.

Bylaws—There are several by-law change proposals that need to be dealt with. In a mad reach for power, Kiran wants to change Resolution III so that class Secretary/Treasurers will be known as Vice-Presidents. There is some acid induced confusion about the procedure for changing BoD Resolutions. Monica will figure that one out when he comes down. Kohl suggests removing the office of Athletic Manager and make it appointed by the IHC. Monica wants to make some small corrections here and there and possibly change the drapes. Adrienne will give another shot at redefining the Executive Social Committee. Cross your fingers everyone. All proposals are to be formulated, sent to Monica, voted upon by the BoD, and put on the ballot in the upcoming Lard Ass Election.

Officer Reports

Baldeep—The UROH is printed. Will be meeting with Kohl to go over the ins and outs of his new job as our beloved ASCIT President. There are no ASCIT jackets just yet and the third term budget meeting will be organized. BoD members are to finish their officer handbooks - NOW! The budget meeting will be some time second term.

Kiran—Went to Student Affairs to get ASCIT a five digit account number for use with the copier. They gave us the BoC's old

number, which is about \$2100 in the hole. Alex is considering BoCing himself. This deficit is from the printing of the Honor System Handbooks. The Deans feel that ASCIT should pick up the bill now and in the future. There is general agreement on the BoD that the Honor System affects more than just members of ASCIT and the handbooks should be supplied by the Deans' Office. The ASCIT Capra retreat has been officially scheduled for the weekend of March 29th.

Adrienne—The ASCIT lights and trusses have been purchased. They will be available for use by student organizations for the nominal fee of \$20 (which will go to maintenance of the equipment). Installations are being organized.

Geoff—The IHC will be meeting with the Core Curriculum Committee Thursday. They met with President Baltimore sometime in the past. Dr. Baltimore had a very positive attitude about the House System and the undergraduates at Caltech. There was some sort of naked thing at the track meet.

John—Is exploring what advantages ASCIT gains by being a corporation.

Monica—The budget survey will be going out real soon. Hopefully, Monica will be able to make the Quality of Student Life report available in its native form. The computer is sadly NTless hopefully that will change soon. An embosser with the ASCIT seal has been ordered. Kohl and Monica went on a spree in Staples and got all kinds of new office supplies - including another white board. The check for the computer arrived from Student Affairs.

Alex—The BoC is turning over its membership as Houses have their elections. Umuhlet's see.

Kohl—Will meet with the Gnomes soon.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary

BEER

by Mike Astle and Tim Reed

This week, we will be reviewing three stouts that can be easily found in local liquor stores. Stouts are easily identifiable by their opaque black color and creamy head, as a result of using large amounts of roasted barley in the brewing. Stouts are quite popular among British and Irish drinkers to this day. The taste of a good stout should be pleasantly bitter on the tongue, with a creamy texture and a noticeable malted barley flavor.

We will be sampling a Brazilian Beer called Xingu, an English oatmeal stout, and an American stout, as well as offering sure fire hits for those of you willing to give stouts a try.

Xingu Black Beer: (shin -goo') I must admit that I haven't had much experience with non-European or non-American beers, but this Brazilian effort is not half bad. On first tasting, I noticed that the stout is heavily malted. This sweet, chocolaty taste is certainly its best quality. However, this same quality will leave you with a molasses aftertaste that puts you in need of another sip (to postpone the aftertaste). Its thinness does not do justice to its black-as-night appearance and forbidding jungle label. This beer comes in a 20 oz. bottle, which is probably too much volume for most people to drink in one sitting, especially with its disappointing characteristics. Both reviewers would avoid buying Xingu again, unless stuck in Brazil with a craving for beer.

Young's Oatmeal Stout
Good stuff... Nice and thick. There are only a few oatmeal

stouts available at most liquor stores—this beer and Sam Smith's Oatmeal Stout. What I like most about Young's (aside from its great taste) is the smooth drinkability. A nice hoppy aroma adds to its fine qualities. For those interested in this brew, another good bet would be Sam Smith's Oatmeal Stout, which has a more obvious oat flavor. Mike is usually cautious about oatmeal in his beer, but

Its thinness does not do justice to its black-as-night appearance and forbidding jungle label.

wouldn't mind buying this one again. Tim loves that Quaker Oats guy.

Pike Street Seattle Stout

Despite this brew's nice aroma, we had some reservations. First, the flavor seems more like a por-

ter than a stout. Most stouts enjoy a smoothness that this brew completely lacks. Second, it entirely missed a good head when poured. It comes nowhere close to comparing to the "float-a-quarter-on-it" head that the Guinness Pub Draught (which is still our favorite) offers. Third, it has too much hops in the aroma, taste, and finish to make it palatable to most people. Although Tim personally likes a strong hoppy flavor, he would not invest in a bottle of Pike Street but, instead, would go with one of the other two. Mike thinks it would make a great Glade Plug-in air freshener.


Here's a list of some of the best stouts that can be easily found: Guinness Pub Draught (can) Murphy's Irish Stout (can) Sam Adam's Cream Stout (bottle) Sam Smith's Oatmeal Stout (bottle)

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at
Steele House

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Wednesday, February 11, 1998
9 - 11pm

Come Early

✓ ASCIT Election Extravaganza ✓

ASCIT SECRETARY

According to the bylaws, the Secretary shall, during the absence of the President and Vice president, assume the duties of the President. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors. He shall post, or otherwise make public, copies of the record of each meeting within three days subsequent to that meeting. He shall post notice of all meetings of the Corporation in which legislation is to be acted upon or discussed, together with a complete statement of such legislation at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The secretary shall maintain a current file of the minutes and reports of all ASCIT committees, and all committees and organizations having interests in common with those of the Associated Students. He shall oversee communications, elections, and the records and archive.

Wren Montgomery



Most of you know me as that person who walked up to you and begged you to write an article for the *Tech* last year—the one with the blue, black, or white hair. After being slave to the *Tech* for a year and a little (and growing out all the dyed hair), I've decided I'd like to work with ASCIT, instead of just writing about it. Just imagine the amount of time and energy I'll have free from not working with the newspaper. Now imagine it applied to ASCIT. That's a lot of time and effort that I'd like to give to you.

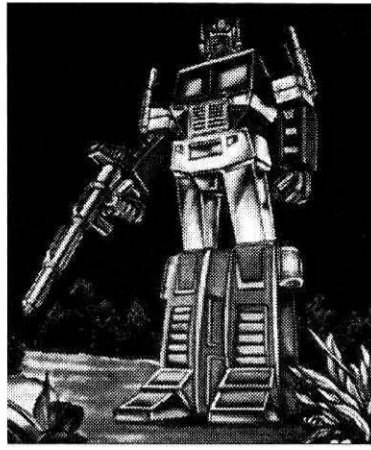
My qualifications are in your hands—or shortly will be; much of what the Secretary does is paperwork, and after 50 issues (including the popular *Cosmopolitech* and the critically acclaimed April Fool's issue) of the *Tech* and the 1997 Yearbook, I know paperwork. I know the resources the *Tech* has and how to use them to make the ASCIT Minutes more entertaining.

Photoshop is a wonderful tool.

As a second qualification, I like to listen and talk to everyone. One of the jobs of the ASCIT officers is to find out what people think of the student government ...how better to find out than to talk to people? This will give me a chance to talk to even more people. I also know most of the people involved in Publications—and am willing to work with Baldeep on his proposal to reorganize the ASCIT Publications.

Finally, just think, I promise to submit the ASCIT minutes every week. I will be as constant as the Dean, if a bit more coherent. Think of it as my payback for all the times I've made someone else write for the *Tech*.

Mike Astle



I like being ASCIT Secretary. But enough about me, let's hear about Optimus Prime.

Originally created by the Quintessons as part of their consumer goods line of robots. First named Orion Pax, he admired the Decepticons, unaware of the full extent of their plans. Just prior to the first Cybertronian Civil War, Orion was critically injured in a Decepticon attack. Transferred into a new body by Alpha Trion, he was renamed Optimus Prime. Sometime afterwards, he became the uncontested Autobot Leader. During his 4-million year deactivation period, other Autobots took his place on Cybertron, but upon his return, the leadership was given back to him.

Presumably, when he became Autobot Leader, the Autobot Matrix of Leadership was passed on to him from the

previous commander.

Optimus Prime died in 2005 after a fierce battle with Megatron during a Decepticon invasion of Autobot City. The Matrix was passed to Ultra Magnus only seconds before Prime's death. He was reanimated temporarily by the Quintessons in 2006 for the express purpose of leading the Autobots into a trap. During this time, Rodimus Prime, the present Autobot Leader, returned the Matrix to him. Soon after, the Quintesson plot was revealed and Optimus, in an attempt to save the Autobots from the trap, piloted a ship to certain destruction after giving the Matrix once again to Rodimus.

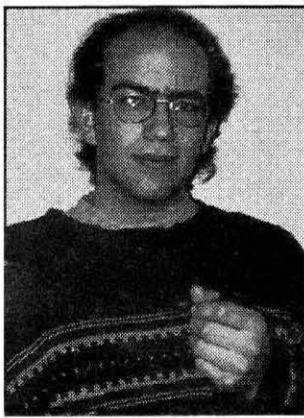
Some time after, Don't be a Gobot. Vote for me.

Optimus's body was discovered by a team of human scientists testing out a new form of shielding. His body was brought back to Earth, where strange spores were found on his body. The spores were soon found to cause madness and violence in those infected. One of the scientists, a man who blamed the Transformers for his daughter's need for bionic implants, infected the robots with the spores, but also inadvertently caused every being in the galaxy to fall prey to the same illness, called the "Hate Plague" by those uninfected. After Rodimus was infected as well, Sky Lynx sought the aid of the Quintessons so they could reanimate Optimus Prime, whom they hoped could regain the Matrix in order to combat the plague. Prime, protected by the same shielding that was being tested when he was found, was revived and sent after Rodimus. After a brief battle, Optimus took back the Matrix and released its energy, causing the madness to dissipate. Optimus has remained Autobot Leader, and holder of the now powerless Matrix, ever since.

ASCIT TREASURER

According to the bylaws, the treasurer shall receive all money belonging to the Corporation and shall deposit it to the credit of the Corporation in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors shall determine. He shall keep a full account of money expended and received and shall make a report of such account once a term at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, and at such time as the Board of Directors may desire. He shall have the Corporation books audited as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall receive and present to the Board of Directors term and annual reports of all ASCIT publications, and he shall ensure that all publication officers are informed of and comply with the provisions of Article XIV. He shall have direct charge of all Corporation property.

Robert Saliba



Have you wondered why the ASCIT van is now the Student Affairs van? Why was ASCIT donuts distributed in front of the DRL's office? Why does the Institute always seem to be right about what is and isn't legal? Simple, ASCIT doesn't have much money. We can't afford auto insurance, so we lost the van. The DRL pitches into Friday morning donuts and we, the ASCIT members, have to travel over to her office to enjoy them. The Institute can pay for legal advice, so their ideas are always the law.

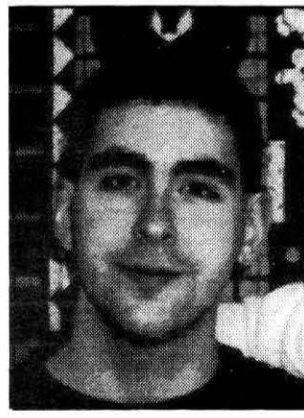
Even worse is ASCIT's lack of effort at attaining funds. One of my first acts as treasurer will be to clarify ASCIT's non-profit tax status for donations. Talking with alumni has convinced me that this is the major stumbling block to donations directly to ASCIT. That is why I want to be the ASCIT treasurer. In order to have the

autonomy that we want, we need more money, lots of it. As a corporation, ASCIT is a very special student government. I want to use ASCIT's corporate status to solicit funds, provide the Houses with a solid platform to search for House money, and create a monetary tool to promote student issues. When there is any change in Institute policy, one of the very real questions is who is going to pay. A well funded ASCIT could break into these decisions as a powerful platform. There is a lot of money floating around Caltech for the benefit of students, I want to see more of that money CONTROLLED BY STUDENTS.

But wait! What why should I want ASCIT

to have more money? Why does ASCIT need Robert Saliba? When I was on the BoC, I became convinced that the best way to run students was by students. When you vote for me, you are voting for a student self-rule advocate. I don't want to

Mic Westcoat



I've been *The California Tech* Business Manager for the past year, so I've had plenty of experience handling lots of money responsibly and keeping *The Tech* way out of the red and deep in the black. I've worked well with ASCIT's bookkeeper (who is one and the same as *The Tech's* bookkeeper), as well as plenty of experience in dealing with the BoD. In short, I know all the ropes about *Tech* finances pretty well. It's been a lot of fun, too.

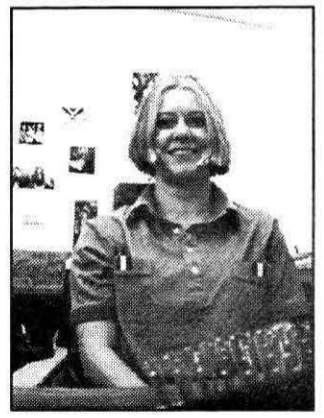
However, life at Caltech is too short to stand still for very long. I'm eager to do more. I'm ready for a change. I want to bring my talents, energy, and expe-

rience to the ASCIT BoD. Since so much of what ASCIT is about is publications and the office of ASCIT Treasurer is the one BoD seat most closely connected to the financial dealings of the publications, I feel I'm quite well suited for the job.

I've done my good work for *The Tech*; now let me serve ASCIT and you better as member of the BoD. On Monday, you get to vote for ASCIT Treasurer. Please vote for me.

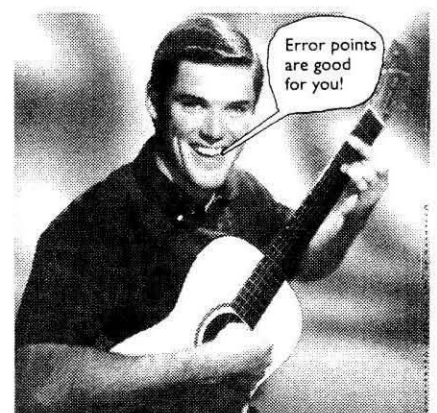
be tested by an administrator in order to use the Student Affairs van. I don't think that I should have to look for a prof in order to go on a ski trip or use the Capra Ranch. If you agree, vote for Saliba to vote for the money to make your own choices.

Paula Whitten



Hello, I'm Paula Whitten, and I'm running for ASCIT Treasurer. The Treasurer handles all the monetary duties for ASCIT — basically the taxes, keeping the financial books, and the end of year audit. Sound fun? Maybe not for most people, but you see, I love money and therefore I also love everything to do with it—stocks and bonds, CDs, account statements, and even doing tax forms. I always do my own taxes, and would love to be in charge of handling the IRS for ASCIT as well. As for the other duties of the treasurer, such as networking with vari-

ous committees to figure out financial information, I really enjoy working with people. Therefore, talking to chairpeople would be no problem—just another facet of the job that I would enjoy. I think that these qualities make ASCIT Treasurer the perfect job for me. Even if you don't agree, please vote for the best candidate. Thanks for your consideration.



✓ ASCIT Election Extravaganza ✓

IHC CHAIR

According to the bylaws, the Interhouse Committee Chairman shall call and preside over meetings of the Interhouse Committee. He shall be responsible for liaison between ASCIT and the various House organizations. He must be either a junior or senior in the fall term immediately following his election.

Tanya Tickel



I think that the increase in interest in student politics this year shows a willingness among the student body to address issues between the undergraduates at Caltech and the rest of the Caltech community that have in the past year been brought into a clearer focus.

Since any of us running would serve well as IHC chair, and I'm not sure whether I'll win or not, I'm going to spend the rest of my column just talking about that so everyone will know what I think regardless of the outcome:

Trust seems to be settling out of the mixture of professors and students, security guards and staff who live at Caltech recently. It's shown itself in the tightening of restrictions on alcohol at campus parties, in a lessening of take-home exams, in the cancellation of a track meet, and in the ending of decades of tradition in the undergraduate houses - most visibly this year in Ricketts.

Whether it is the instant suspicion with which security guards react to students caught in the middle of a prank, or the tense worry that administrators have when a pair of freshmen venture a couple of hundred yards off a beaten trail; the idea that we undergraduates act with the responsibility and accountability that we cherish as the basis of our honor code has begun to slip from Caltech's mind.

Do we deserve it? Sometimes we may do something that isn't too well thought out, but in general (ricketts) those involved accept responsibility and everyone at

the school learns from the mistake. The key, though, is that the intent was not to spite the administration or to destroy the public image of Caltech. We're smart enough to take care of ourselves, responsible enough to want to take care of ourselves, and young enough to take offense at higher-ups making rules in order to take care of us.

How do we smooth relations and again enjoy the freedom we are beginning to let slip? We have to open communications again, maybe even sacrifice a little, if only temporarily. If that means giving an ear to the Dean and to the DRL, I think it deserves a shot, so that they may let us speak in return. Maybe we'll again be able to tell stories to the pre-frosh about how the Mosh bailed us out of jail without question or moral judgement; about our honor system; and about how the trust between undergrads and faculty is characterized by the belief that our new President showed in his colleague before coming here.

There are plenty of elite schools, but none of them operate like ours - we enjoy more autonomy in the academic side of our lives than almost any other institute in the country. Our social responsibility, by similarity, deserves equal trust and freedom. I think we can get it if we're just persistent about asking. Thanks for reading this.

Brett Tolman



I care a lot about life at Tech, and I want to become active in something bigger. I've been involved in Page House for the past two years. A Vice-President (Soc. Chair) as a freshman, I was uncomfortable telling a social team made up of my friends and fellow frosh what to do and when to do it, so I worked on most social events alone. I was insanely enthusiastic about my job. I tried to involve people from other houses. We did something almost every week: we bungee-jumped, some of us jumped out of a plane, and sixty people (the biggest lately) went on a great ski trip to Mammoth.

As president, I overcame my inability to delegate responsibility, as I've worked with both elected and appointed offices to help make the house a better place. It's a lot of work, as a president has to be an unbiased voice of reason on every issue that affects a house, and I've done my best to keep things running smoothly. But I want to work for more than just my own house.

IHC Chair is an important position to everyone on campus. As a house president, I've seen the inner workings of the IHC: six other presidents, a secretary, and two IHC Chairs. On a personal level, I know many Caltech administrators who are involved with students. I have worked with Dr. West (DRL), Dr. Brennan (VP of Stud. Aff.), and Dr. Lorden (former VP of Stud. Aff.). I know Dr. Frautschi (the MOSH) and Dr. Baltimore (the man). And I've worked for Tom Mannion for two years. The IHC Chair works with these and other people regularly. The IHC Chair runs picks at the end of Rotation Week. I've been on picks teams, and as a president, I am familiar with the delicate issues that

happen during Rotation week (this year with my house, a little too familiar!). (and to those who may think I want to use the position to better my own house, please know that even if I was so immoral to try, that six other presidents would quickly put me in my place.)

As a member of the ASCIT BoD, I hope to work with Baldeep and others to help make this crazy school just a little better (hopefully a lot better). I've been involved in house politics for two years now, and with weekly meetings, I've seen a lot of stuff happen, and I've seen a lot of things put off. I hope to use my experience to help the BoD in any way I can.

In my statement two weeks ago, I mentioned the Quality of Student Life Report. I still hope to work to implement its recommendations, and IHC Chair is a great place from which to act. I've spoken with Charlene Liebau about what can be done to increase matriculation of both female and minority students. There are other issues discussed in the report, and indeed other facets of our life and our student government that deserve attention, and I want to offer my assistance. The IHC Chair deals with seven presidents, and coolly works with egos and addresses issues in spite of the many differing opinions. As a President, I've seen this happen, and I hope to use my leadership skills to keep things running smoothly. I have a strong desire to work for a bigger part of Caltech. My experience will help me, and your vote will let me get started.

Jaideep Singh



Wassup, eh? I am running for IHC Chair, as you can tell by the big box around my statement that say "The fools running for IHC Chair." I am running for this office for a couple of reasons. One of the big reasons that I want to be IHC Chair is to help improve the relationship and the communication between the administration and the student body.

Some recent events have evinced the fact that there is a big communication gap between the students (aka Calvin I. Techer) and the administration (i.e. The Man). Some administrators think that the students are all a bunch of raving socially depraved lunatics that vent our sexual frustration by burning everything that we can get hands on. That's not completely true. Some of us like to ingest chemicals that we have randomly mixed together in Chem 3. The administration also has a skewed viewpoint on what goes on in the houses. I think the IHC needs to take a more active role in helping the administration understand what the students want and do. Now the students, on the other hand, like to think that the administration holds symposiums on a regular basis to come up with new ways to make our life suck. I would like to work with the IHC to put together a

super secret and elite SWAT team to sabotage these meetings that they have.

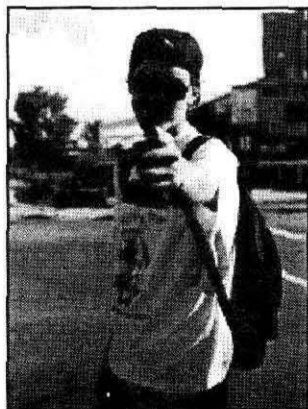
Okay, so none of this stuff happens to this extreme, I think. The point is that when stuff happens in a student house, the administration should know who to call to get the information that they need. The reverse is true. When the administration introduces a policy change, the students need to be aware as to exactly what it is and why it is. It's like playing the phone game. When "That's a nice pasta dish" turns in to "Your mother is \$5 prostitute," people, in general, tend to get the wrong impression.

Another thing that is more specific to the Chair is his involvement on the ASCIT BOD. It would be nice if the Chair was more involved in ASCIT stuff as opposed to being a warm body on the BOD. There should be much more collaboration and cooperation between the two. Together we can take The Man down! Anyway, these are just some of the things that I would like to see happen. That is why I am running for IHC Chair.

ARC SECRETARY

According to the Little T, the Secretary of the Academics and Research Committee assists the Director of Academic Affairs in the running of the ARC and takes minutes at ARC meetings. The ARC Secretary can vote on issues brought before the ARC.

Erik Streed



Hello, my name is Erik Streed and I am running for the position of ASCIT Academics and Research Committee (ARC) Secretary. The ARC Secretary's job boils down to a couple of characteristics. The first is not flaking. The second is the ability to record proceedings. I can do this. I am the best qualified candidate for ARC Secretary for the following reasons. I bring to the job 2 years of experience as a writer and Editor of *The California Tech*. As an editor I wrote extensively about the Student/Faculty conference last year. These conferences should return to their previous biannual schedule and this means that it is the responsibility of the next ARC Chair and Secretary to make it

happen. It is also the responsibility of the ARC Chair and Secretary to make sure that important issues related to academics and research are discussed at this conference in a useful and productive fashion. As an editor of *The Tech* I have experience making these discussions between students and faculty happen. Unlike the other candidates, I have served on this committee as a Rep-at-Large for the past year and believe that continuing on as Secretary will make for a stronger, more effective ARC.

Roger O'Brient



As my picture indicates, I got a head start on flaming after just being here for only four weeks. This is why I am eager to seize control of Academics and Research Committee. As a member of this committee (well, only secretary, but it's a start) I will use my cunning powers of manipulation to control the minds of all profs here and coerce them into making the course loads more reasonable for all. So you see, it is in my best interest to hold this position ... and it's in your best interest too. With me in power, gone will be the days of tepid academia nuts.

As secretary, I plan to usher in a new era of unprecedented quality of ARC notes.

I have the hands but not the handwriting of a surgeon, I can spell wel, and I have a high capacity for spending hours on long committee meetings. Besides, I'm a frosh ... I've got more time than 3/4 of the population here. And as a frosh, I'm still going through the core, which means that my feedback about these classes will have the most impact on the student body as a whole. So fulfill your civic duty and vote today. Just remember, a vote for me is a vote for a better tomorrow.

Dee Ghosh



HI! I'm DEE Ghosh, and I'm running FOR the position of ARC Secretary. I'd love to do the job because I have a lot of enthusiasm for helping out the undergraduate community accomplish its goals for academics and research. I've held secretarial positions before, and I think it's really fun taking notes and then projecting them back as minutes for various publications. I've written for and been editors of publications before, so I know how to deal with them. The Academics and Research Committee takes care of a lot of important issues, such as registrar's and dean's office policies and the core curriculum.

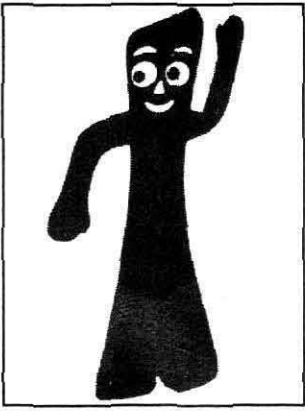
It will be my job to make the undergraduate community aware of any changes and important developments, which I would gladly do. I love communicating with my fellow undergrads and telling them what's up, as everyone who knows me can agree on. So, that's all I have to say. After all, I have to make this short yet to the point, like a good SECRETARY would. So, vote for Dee for ARC Secretary!

✓ ASCIT Election Extravaganza ✓

TECH EDITOR

According to the bylaws, The Editors of [The California Tech] are responsible for the selection and preparation of all content of that publication, exclusive of advertising material. They are responsible for meeting deadlines agreed upon with printers or other contractors.

The
Pentuberant
K'Tea Isaacs
Stew
Erik Dill
Terry
Shay



NO,
Kohl Gill,
Wei-Hwa Huang,
and Flip Lubber



Hi. We think that we should be your best choice for the office of Tech Editor. Our credentials are vast: Wei-Hwa has been Tech Editor for two years, and has been actively involved in the Tech since when. Kohl has been ASCIT President (admittedly a job that has nothing to do with the Tech or Caltech in general, but he'll learn). Flip, the newest addition to the team, has been so diligent in learning the job that he's been in the Tech Office on a continuous basis for weeks, with nary a complaint. And finally NO, who really needs NO explanation, has been a consistent candidate on ballots for years, and has consistently garnered votes in many elections.

Our campaign is simple: we think that the position of Tech Editor is way too powerful and needs to be cut down. Why, anyone who becomes Tech Editor can print tripe like this election statement, and mail it to houses nationwide, whereupon they will be burned in the fireplace and its ashes scattered to the wind, inhaled, and invading everybody's esophageal tract.

Therefore, we will induce a "laissez-faire" approach: except for occasional requirements like election statements and ASCIT or IHC minutes (which we promise to edit heavily to show our devotion), we will only print amusing items that have to do with mentally-impaired beings, such as Dilbert* and occasionally the Dean's Corner (only when it fits the criteria, of course).

Other than that, we will just kick back and enjoy the salary, even after we graduate. Occasionally we may find it necessary to print propaganda to ensure our continued term, but you will forget that now. I said, now.

But above all, we encourage you to go to those ballot boxes and vote; for, after all, voting is more important than not voting, and including sappy statements like that will make you like us more. And remember, a vote for us is a vote for NO.

addresses vital community issues while capturing the unique spirit of Caltech. We have visions of a more regular I.W., a balanced editorial view, and a truly Rivetting third term. We'd like to establish better coordination with our staff writers, attract new contributors, and expand the current horizons of the issues covered by *The Tech*.

To us, the paper is an extremely important asset to the Caltech community. That is, we're willing to flame and put our asses on the line to deliver you a quality paper packed with Dilbert* for your Friday morning, donut-eating pleasure. "From Hell's heart, I stab at thee"—vote for us, read your Dilbert*, write for *The Tech*...

As the next editorial team for *The California Tech*, we have both experience and vision. All of our team has had considerable past experience as editors. The freshmen on the team, Shannon, Erik, and Katy work hard every Thursday to put out the current paper, which they have been doing for the past term and a half. The senior members of our team, Terry and Shay, are returning from a year's hiatus from editing and were editors for almost three years previous.

Our vision includes a professional paper that

ASCIT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

According to the bylaws, the Director for Social Activities shall be chairman of the Executive Social Committee. He shall be responsible for the organization of the Corporation's social activities and shall coordinate them with the social activities of the undergraduate houses. According to the *title t*, the Director for Social Activities plans all ASCIT Social events (various parties and the Formal) and uses his good judgement on how to distribute the remaining social budget to clubs and events.

Jasmine
Sekanina



Pictured above are Jasmine Sekanina and Jamie Walls making "whoop! whoop!" noises, moments before Jamie's deportation to Papua New Guinea, ordered by Heidi Fleis. Some of you may recall Jamie ran for ASCIT president against Dave Relyca, two years ago.

Ron
Dollete



I can't be photographed. I go to all the house social events, but I always end up on the other side of the lens. And that's why I don't have a picture. Simple. Of course, it's never stopped me

from going. The only down side is that I have to be a piece of clip art instead. Poor me.

Fellow ASCIT deviants,

Jasmine's the name, and sadomasochism's my game. (You can't spell "Jasmine" without S&M!) Actually, I double as a dominatrix—to cater to all your prurient fantasies. But, let's get down to business. I would first like to address the fact that I am a graduating senior. This means that, should I be elected as your Social Director, I would serve for only the remainder of the school year. I have six serious goals:

- (1) Throw a very cool prefrash party, with padded mosh-pit, loud music, and flashing, spinning, and pulsating colored lights. I would plan to incorporate Chris Walker's laser-show devices as well.
- (2) Organize an elegant and romantic ASCIT formal at low cost to members, similar to the one organized by Adrienne Bourque last year, at the Doubletree.
- (3) Throw a wild ASCIT-sponsored theme party to be determined later. I imagine it being

similar in some ways to my conception of the prefrash party—namely, minus prefrash and plus alcoholic drinks (ages 21+). I would plan for the lighting effects at this party to REALLY knock you out. I would also hope to construct rooms with different themes and music. I will attempt to import drag kings and queens from Hollywood; understand, however, the drag industry is expensive and it's economy fluctuates greatly. But these are just my ideas. In regard to ASCIT-sponsored parties, I am highly interested in hearing about and trying to match the partying demands of

the undergrad population.
(4) Expand the current assortment of lighting available to houses for parties. ASCIT has recently purchased a few pieces of lighting equipment, such as a strobe light and florescent light projector, which can be rented out to houses in a similar fashion that the Y rents out 300W speakers and amplifiers. I have interests in adding to this collection, especially in the direction of a grandiose disco ball with pinspot and colored rotating spotlights (helicopters). I also am greatly concerned with keeping down the cost of replacement parts. The typical G.E.

30W lights with built-in paraboloid reflective dishes cost \$10, for example. While they don't burn out often, they're a nuisance to find, especially in comparison to the neon and incandescent bulbs conveniently available at say, hardware stores. I can promise lavish lighting effects at ASCIT-sponsored parties because it's my obsession—I mean, hobby. Those annoying lights that blink on the olive walk are just one of my hobby's many incarnations. (It's homemade, and they're easy-to-replace incandescents.)
(5) I would attempt to pass a bylaw that allows the Social Di-

ASCIT ATH MAN

According to the bylaws, the Athletic Manager shall be chairman of the Athletic Committee. He shall procure all athletic awards for the Corporation. A group of Corporation members may hold this position. According to the *title t*, the Athletic Manager helps provide varsity letters and jackets for athletes. He also acts as the go-between for ASCIT and the Athletic Department. Occasionally, he will meet with all of the House Athletic Directors to go over current interhouse sports rules and requirements.

Audrey
Lee



Call me Audrey,
Call me Audrey Lee,
Come Rain, Come Shine,
Come Nudity.
If you be generous with your support,
That would make me, Ath Woman Audrey Lee,
Come Rain, Come Shine,
Come Nudity.

Tennis is my thing,
As are integrating differentiating, and fantasizing
Of an Ascit Ath Woman,
Who's not afraid to say she CAN
Encourage athletic participation
In this technical nation.

Diligence, I lack nothing of the sort,
Whether on or off the court.
A true Beaver I am most definitely
And hence I say to you,
"You can count on me."
So when it comes time to cast your vote,
choose Audrey Lee,
Come Rain, Come Shine,
Come Nudity.

Dan
Daly



There once was a man named Dan,
Who conjured a thought on the can,
"I could get all the ladies,
and buy that Mercedes,
If I was the ASCIT Ath man."

He knew that he had just one chance,
And then quickly he pulled up his pants,
So he made up some shit,
Stretched the truth just a bit,
"ASCIT, my life's work will enhance."

But Dan put more thought to this plan,
"I really could be a good Ath Man,
dedicated and sincere,
to Baldeep and my peers,
there's no better man than Dan."

rector to pick their own social team. In theory, his or her social team is comprised of the Social Veeps of all seven houses. In practice, this never happens. In order for the Social Director to pull off all of his or her stunts, he or she must find people who are motivated to help out. In reality, this is already how it works.
(6) Besides setting up for parties, I will keep an open ear for other suggestions for socializing events, and pursue them, given enough interest from the undergraduate community. Such get-togethers could be anything from group trips to the L.A. County Jail to women's night

with live entertainment (what's a fire-stripper?) to overtaking third-world nations with ICBMs (they'd never see the faces of their enemy)!

My primary credential as far as dependability goes is that I was Secretary of Ricketts for two consecutive years. That's not something to brush aside. I also dance in seven-and-a-half-inch heels with three-inch platforms; one might consider that a bonus.

Filled with anticipation for an ultra-thrilling third term,

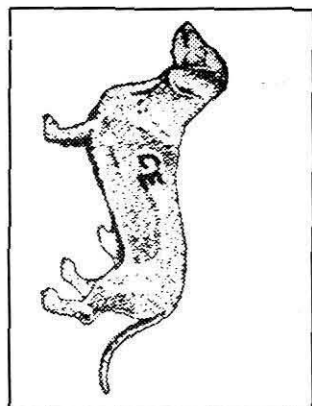
Jasmine Sekanina

✓ ASCIT Election Extravaganza ✓

ASCIT DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

According to the bylaws, the Director for Academic Affairs shall be chairman of the Academics and Research Committee and shall be responsible for all other committees formed by the Corporation on academic affairs. He shall be responsible for the production, publication and distribution of the Course Listings for Undergraduate Education. According to the *title 1*, the Director for Academic Affairs publishes the Course Listings for Undergraduate Education (CLUE), that fine booklet that lets you get the previous term off your chest. He also chairs the Academics and Research Committee (ARC). Every couple of years, he and the ARC put together a Faculty-Student Conference.

Alan Jones



Why am I running for ASCIT Director of Academic Affairs? Because I want the vast fame and glory that comes with the position, of course, but also because I think I can do a pretty spiffy job of it. Let's get to the point: what are the responsibilities of the director? The first is to chair the ARC committee. I've spent the last year as a rep-at-large for the ARC, so I have an idea of what it can and should be doing, which namely is to improve the state of academics here at Tech. Hopefully you've all noticed (and filled out) the course questionnaires in the lounge of your local house. Those questionnaires will be used as part of a program the ARC is working on to help train ombudspeople. It's things like this that I would like to continue to hopefully change your thinking from "What the hell is the ARC?" to, "Gee, what would we ever do without an ARC to serve us

here at Tech?" The second responsibility is to publish the C.L.U.E. Not much talent required here, just a big time commitment and responsibility to get it out reasonably soon. It is also my understanding that the next director will have the responsibility of getting the ball rolling for the next student/faculty conference like the one held last year. I attended last year's, and I know right off that one of the things that needs to be improved is the publicity for it to get more students, and especially more professors, to attend. All in all, this is not a excessively taxing job, and one I think my meager skills will suffice for. Thus my promise to you: an involved ARC and a timely CLUE - what more could you want?

Devi Thota

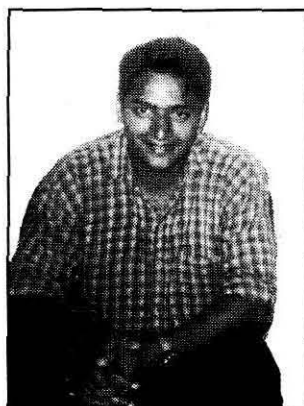


Hello, my name is Devi Thota and I'm running for the position of Director of Academic Affairs. I'm a junior mechanical engineer and served as the Secretary of the Academics and Research Committee this last year. In this position, I've had personal experience with the planning of projects that the ARC promotes in order to benefit the student body. I was involved in running the Student-Faculty Conference, coordinating the ARC representatives for the decision about the annual teaching awards, planning the campus wide ombudspersons survey, and the upcoming training session. Working with the previous ARC Chairperson, I've learned about what the position requires both as head of the ARC and as a member of the student BOD. It has

been an enjoyable satisfaction to participate in a committee that accomplishes its goals. I think that there are a multitude of projects that next year will bring, such as helping improve the ombuds system effectiveness, educating the graduate students and professors about the meaning of the honor code, and choosing new topics and committees for the next student faculty conference. I have a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the position of Director of Academic Affairs and would enjoy working towards the benefit of the student body.

Please remember my name when you vote.

Puneet Newaskar



University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small. - Henry Kissinger

Well, Mr. Kissinger obviously knew nothing about ASCIT. He got the vicious bit right though. What might seem to some like a dull-ass election with the usual assortment of tech nerds competing in fine honorable spirit is indeed a passionate and bitter struggle for domination. As for the small stakes bit, the man couldn't have been wronger. Just ask Kohl Gill or Baldeep, ASCIT's fine leaders, past and present, on a cold, dark night and they just might tell you what they told me... ASCITs all about power, power & more power...

But on a more serious note, the office of ASCIT's Director of Academic Affairs is undoubtedly important because it concerns one of the most integral and inescapable aspects of Caltech life. To serve as the undergraduate communities voice on an issue that concerns us all, good communication ability is mandatory. This is something I have. I'm resourceful, reliable and committed to doing a good job. Most importantly, I should add,

I'm approachable and sociable. I'm one of the officers on Fleming's Social Team. The support of my house in this regard together with my considerable experience running clubs and activities in high school have made me confident of my organizational skills and ability. Therefore, although my time at Caltech has been limited, I am enthusiastic about this job and have the time and energy to serve as the student body's academic affairs representative.

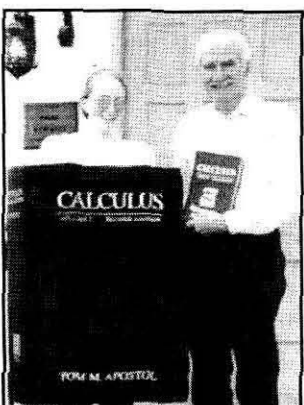
Academics at Caltech are something students share a bit of a love-hate relationship with. I'd be honored to play an active part in making the whole experience more comfortable and more rewarding for everyone here. So put me in office and I assure you I'll serve you well. Your support would be much appreciated.

Make me DoA!
Hanging is too good for a man who makes puns; he should be drawn and quoted.

ASCIT UPPERCLASS DIRECTOR

According to the bylaws, the Upperclassman Director at Large is responsible for the management, finances, operation and maintenance of the ASCIT van and copier. He must be an upperclassman at the time of his election. The Upperclassman Director at Large may also be called upon to perform other duties as specified by the Board of Directors.

Autumn Looijen



Why should you elect me Upperclass Director at Large? I'm a lot better than the competition.

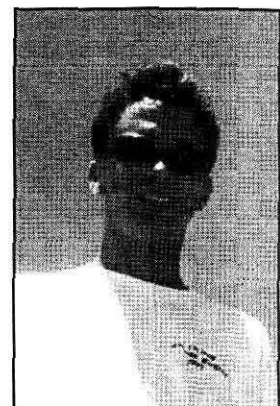
- When the copier breaks, NO will let it languish for as much as a year. I'll get it fixed promptly.
- Want a copier account? NO won't even pick up your form. I'll make sure you get your account promptly.
- Tired of remembering your social security number? I'll oversee getting the copier on the

ID card system (the current Upperclass Director has already started this), so you just swipe your card and copy. You won't get such treatment from my opponent. Let's face it. NO just wants the job because it'll look good on his resume. Elect me instead.

ASCIT FRESHMAN DIRECTOR

According to the bylaws, the Freshman Director at Large is responsible for the publication of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Handbook. He must be a freshman at the time of his election. The Freshman Director at Large may also be called upon to perform other duties as specified by the Board of Directors.

Steven Craver



Hello everyone. My name is Steve Craver, and after careful consideration, I have decided to run for the position of ASCIT Frosh Director at Large.

The office of Frosh Director allows room for the director, to go beyond the necessary duties, and I believe that I have both the dedication and the creativity to do so. I have previous experience planning meetings and social events which is a necessity for this position. So far at Caltech, I have been on the Lloyd

House Social Team, where I had the opportunity to start my involvement in the Caltech student government system. I feel that I am fully qualified and would be extremely happy to serve as Caltech's next ASCIT Frosh Director at Large.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nita Losoponkul



I never really know what to write for these things, but hey, I'm running for Frosh Director. Being a frosh and all, I'm sure there's a whole lot of people who have no idea who I am but still, it would be great if you all came out and voted for me, if not, then for Steve (he's a great guy!). I'll skip the whole production on qualifications and so forth, because what the heck, we're all at Tech for some reason or

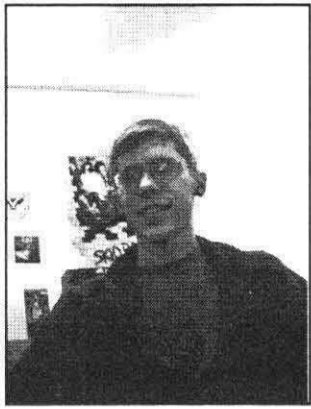
another and I'm sure most of you aren't really interested (nor have the time) to sit and read boring campaign bits/election statements (but if you really care to know, you can hunt me down - I'm not too hard to find). Bottom line, just vote.

Officer elections will be held Monday, February 9, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

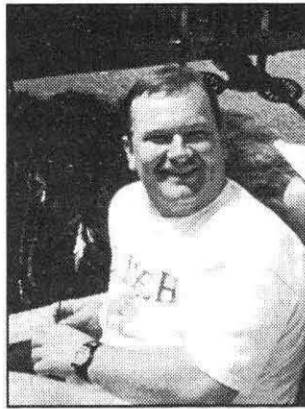
ASCIT Election Extravaganza

BoC SECRETARY

Alan Lewis



Kevin Bradley



According to the *little r*, the BoC Secretary and the BoC chairman investigate alleged violations of the honor code. The BoC Secretary is also in charge of keeping the records of the BoC and taking minutes at meetings.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Proposition 90210 - Redefinition of Class Officer Titles

The current text:
III—CLASS OFFICES
SECTION 1. In accordance with tradition, elections for senior and junior classes shall be held by the end of third term at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Class officers shall be President and Secretary-Treasurer, and shall take office at the beginning of the next academic year.

Change the text to:

III—CLASS OFFICES
SECTION 1. In accordance with tradition, elections for senior and junior classes shall be held by the end of third term at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Class officers shall be President and Vice-President, and shall take office at the beginning of the next academic year.

Reasoning:
Renaming the posts of both Junior and Senior class Secretary/Treasurer to Vice-President more accurately reflects the nature of those two positions—assisting the President. Neither group of officers have records or a treasury.

Proposition 4077 - Redefinition of Executive Social Committee

The current text:
XII—COMMITTEES
SECTION 2. The Director for Social Activities shall be chairman of the Executive Social Committee. The Board of Directors, with the advice of the outgoing Executive Social Committee, shall appoint no more than three at-large representatives. The remainder of the committee shall consist of the social chairmen of each undergraduate House. The Executive Social Committee shall be responsible for planning and organizing all social functions of the Corporation.

Change the text to:

XI—COMMITTEES
SECTION 2. The Director for Social Activities shall be chairman of the Executive Social Committee. The chairman shall appoint a representative from each undergraduate House to the committee and may appoint other representatives at his discretion. The Executive Social Committee shall be responsible for planning and organizing all social functions of the Corporation.

Reasoning:
Bring the bylaws up to date with current practice.

Proposition 8675309 - Update of Elected Officers List

The current text:
IV—OFFICERS
SECTION 1. The general officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Interhouse Committee Chair-

man, Director for Academic Affairs, Director for Social Activities, two Directors at Large, and Athletic Manager. These offices, and those of Board of Control Secretary and Editor of the California Tech, are elected officers.

Change the text to:

IV—OFFICERS
SECTION 1. The general officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Interhouse Committee Chairman, Director for Academic Affairs, Director for Social Activities, two Directors at Large, and Athletic Manager. These offices, and those of Board of Control Secretary, Editor of the California Tech, and Secretary of the Academics and Research Committee, are elected officers.

Reasoning:
Make list of elected officers complete.

Proposition 314159 - Deletion of Office of Athletic Manager

The current text:
IV—OFFICERS
SECTION 1. The general officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Interhouse Committee Chairman, Director for Academic Affairs, Director for Social Activities, two Directors at Large, and Athletic Manager. These offices, and those of Board of Control Secretary and Editor of the California Tech, are elected officers.

XII—COMMITTEES
SECTION 3. The Athletic Manager shall be the Chairman of the Athletic Committee. The Board of Directors, with the advice of the outgoing Athletic Committee, shall appoint no more than three at-large representatives. The remainder of the committee shall consist of the athletic managers of each undergraduate House. The Athletic Committee shall be responsible for maintaining the Corporation's interests in athletics at all levels of competition.

Change the text to:

IV—OFFICERS
SECTION 1. The general officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Interhouse Committee Chairman, Director for Academic Affairs, Director for Social Activities, and two Directors at Large. These offices, and those of Board of Control Secretary and Editor of the California Tech, are elected officers.

Reasoning:
It is more appropriate that the office of Athletic Manager and the functions of the Athletic Committee be handled by the IHC.

OK, so I reeeally want to be the Board of Control Secretary. Even though I wasn't elected last time (or the time before that) I'm not giving up. Now that I've spent some time on the BoC as a Rep at Large I have a better appreciation for the duties of the BoC Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for: investigating reports of Honor Code violations (with the BoC Chair), taking the minutes of the preliminary investigation, reporting the findings of the prelims to the full

Board, taking the minutes of the meetings of the full Board, reporting the results to the Dean (if necessary), keeping the records of cases leading to convictions, and destroying the records of cases that don't lead to convictions. I believe that I have the necessary skills to take on the duties and the responsibilities of the BoC Secretary. Thank you for your time (again).

Voting on Bylaws will occur on Monday, February 16

that I am ready to take on the added responsibility of Secretary and fairly represent the undergraduate student body. Second, I think the position of Board Secretary is well suited to my skills. I've been a BoC rep for my house for the past year, and while it hasn't always been enjoyable, I do feel that I've done a reasonable job of fulfilling the duties of my position. If elected, I believe I can provide the qualities of reliability, compassion, and discretion, which are essential for the position of BoC Secretary. Thanks for reading. Don't forget to vote!

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AMD K6 166 \$ 935 IRA04
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Intercollegiate Scoreboard

1/28:	Men's Tennis	Caltech	7	LaVerne	0
	Men's Basketball	Caltech	37	Occidental	56
1/31:	Baseball	Caltech		PCC	RAINED OUT
	Women's Basketball	Caltech	48	La Sierra	37
	Women's Swimming	Caltech	93	Whittier	75
	Men's Swimming	Caltech	117	Whittier	45
2/3:	Women's Basketball	Caltech	52	LIFE Bible College	40
2/4:	Men's Basketball	Caltech	25	Redlands	64

Watching Goulet: The Update

A decision was reached regarding the Interhouse Track Meet at the closed meeting that took place last week. Nude runner, Dave Goulet's score will be disqualified.

The rest of the scores posted at the track meet finals will still stand. The events that were not held because of the disruption was rescheduled and completed shortly before press on February 5th.

No other disciplinary action was taken against Goulet or Page House.

Interhouse Standings

Fleming	164
Page	156
Lloyd	117.5
Ruddock	112
Dabney	78
Blacker	74.5
Ricketts	26

Ultimate Frisbee scores have not been compiled yet. Track is not in due to complications

Track and field off to quick start

Caltech Sports Press Release

The track & field team begins their '98 season under the supervision of Head Coach Don Bene and Assistant Coach Julie Tingle.

Returning for the men's team are seniors Dan Kleiman, Brian Barris and Tim Yarnall. Kleiman and Barris are both distance and middle distance runners who have and should continue to bring a great deal to the team in both leadership and skill. Yarnall is the team's veteran

pole vaulter.

Other returners include distance runners Bill Hiestand and Troy Lee. Bret Victor, a sprinter and Aaron Kuzin, a thrower both return after a one and two year hiatus, respectively.

Newcomers include sprinters Paul Novak, Nosein Kouros-Mehr, and Nathan Flowers-Jacobs. Thrower Steve Schell also joins the team. The newcomers in the middle distance and distance arenas include Ian Shapiro, Adrian Seymour, Alex Rosefield, and Jay Hubisz.

The women's team is very

small this year but hopes to have a promising year. The team is made up of all newcomers who are very enthusiastic and eager to compete. They include sophomores Lori Robinson who does multiple events, sprinter Roussislava Zaharieva and freshman thrower Amy Duello.

Both teams are young but have great potential. The coaches hope to move the teams up in conference standings and to help everyone improve in their respective events. They open their season at home on February 7th.

Upcoming Matches

2/6:	Women's Basketball vs. Occidental	5pm
	Men's Tennis vs. LaVerne	3pm
2/7:	Track vs. CLU, Concordia, LA Trade Tech	12pm
	Baseball vs. California Christian	12pm
	Women's Tennis at CalLutheran	9:30am
	Men's Tennis vs. CalLutheran	9:30am
	Women's Basketball at Claremont	3pm
	Men's Basketball at Claremont	7:30pm
	Swimming vs. Biola	11am
	Fencing at UCSB	10am
2/9:	Golf vs. Claremont at Empire Lakes	12:30pm
2/12:	Women's Basketball vs. Pacific Christian	5:30pm

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HAVE YOUR PLANS FOR REBELLION BEEN REPLACED BY SARCASM AND COMPLACENCY?
AND I THINK I'M GOING BALD!

MY NEW POLICY IS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST SINGLE PEOPLE. IT'S TOTALLY LEGAL!

WRITE YOUR MARITAL STATUS ON THIS LIST, SO I KNOW WHO HAS NO REASON TO GO HOME AT NIGHT.

DANG! WHAT ARE THE ODDS YOU'D ALL BE POLYGAMISTS?

I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT MY CAREER PATH.
OKAY.

MY PLAN IS TO WORK YOU UNTIL YOUR HEALTH DETERIORATES AND YOUR SKILLS ARE OBSOLETE. THEN I'LL DOWNSIZE YOU.

I'M ILL.
REALLY? I'VE NEVER HAD A PLAN WORK THIS FAST BEFORE.

I'M WEARING MY WORK CLOTHES WHILE I TELECOMMUTE, TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE.
IS IT WORKING?

I'LL TEST THE THEORY BY SEEING IF MY CLOTHES STOP ME FROM GOING TO THE KITCHEN.

APPARENTLY MY CLOTHES ARE DEFECTIVE.
HAVEN'T I BEEN SAYING THAT?

CATBERT: EVIL HR. DIRECTOR
THE COMPANY KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, WALLY.

WE HAVE LOGS OF ALL YOUR PHONE CALLS, WEB HITS AND E-MAIL. WE HAVE YOUR URINE TEST, COLLEGE GRADES, SALARY AND FAMILY CONTACTS...

IT'S AGAINST OUR POLICY TO KILL EMPLOYEES AND REPLACE THEM WITH LOW-PAID IMPERSONATORS, BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW IT'S FEASIBLE.

OUR NEW E-MAIL MONITORING SYSTEM SHOWS THAT YOU SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE LAST WEEK.

COINCIDENTALLY, THE NEW ALICE MONITORING SYSTEM DETECTS TWENTY HOURS OF UNPAID OVERTIME.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUAL, PRODUCTIVITY WILL SOAR NOW.
BEEP... BEEP... BOOP... NOW DETECTING CLUELESSNESS IN THE VICINITY.

WELL, SWEETIE, WE'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD AND HAVE NOW SEEN "TITANIC."

I'VE GOT TO SAY, FOR A THREE-HOUR FLICK, THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
"PRETTY GOOD"?
"PRETTY GOOD"?

THE MOST MOVING, EXCITING, WONDERFUL, HEART-WRENCHING, TOUCHING, ROMANTIC, POWERFUL, EYE-OPENING, TRAGIC, PERFECT LOVE STORY I THINK I'VE EVER SEEN AND YOU THINK IT'S JUST "PRETTY GOOD"???

UH-OH. I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO HOME WITH YOU TONIGHT, ROGER.

HONK!
SNIFF!
HONK! HONK! HONK!

COLD? FLU?
"TITANIC" SOUNDTRACK.

ANDY, YOU MIGHT WANT TO UPDATE THE MESSAGE ON YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE.
OH?

IT'S THE ONE YOU PUT ON THERE LAST MONDAY ABOUT NOT BEING IN BECAUSE YOU WERE CATCHING A MATINEE SCREENING OF "TITANIC."
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

WELL, NOTHING... IF YOU'VE BEEN SEEING MATINEES OF "TITANIC" FOR 30 DAYS STRAIGHT.

DON'T TELL ME.
YOU KNOW, THIS MAN IN FRONT OF ME AT TODAY'S SCREENING CRIED JUST LIKE THAT.

YOU KNOW, MOM, ACCORDING TO MY CINEGEEK MAGAZINE, THEY USED A 44-FOOT MODEL FOR A LOT OF THOSE SHOTS OF THE TITANIC.

AND AT THE END? WHERE EVERYONE'S SUPPOSEDLY FREEZING IN THE OCEAN? THEY FILMED IT IN A HEATED INDOOR POOL AND ADDED ALL THE FOGGY BREATH WITH COMPUTERS.

IN FACT, FOR THIS ONE SCENE WITH JACK AND ROSE RUNNING AWAY FROM A WALL OF WATER...
JASON, ARE YOU TRYING TO SABOTAGE MY LOVE OF THE MOVIE??

WELL, I'M OFF TO THE 6:00 SCREENING. THE TV DINNERS ARE WHERE THEY GET PAID?

SWEETHEART, DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE GETTING JUST A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY?

YOU'VE SEEN "TITANIC" HOW MANY TIMES NOW? TWENTY-FOUR?

WATCHING IT OVER AND OVER ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THE ENDING... THE BOAT SINKS! IT'S SAD, BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
I KNOW, BUT AT LEAST WHILE I'M IN THE THEATER, IT'S LIKE EVERYONE'S STILL ALIVE FOR THOSE SIX HOURS.

UM, DON'T YOU MEAN THREE HOURS?
I CAN'T DRIVE ALL THE WAY TO THE CINEPLEX AND JUST SEE IT ONCE.

ROGER, I KNOW IT MUST SEEM WEIRD THAT I'VE GONE SO GOO-GOO OVER "TITANIC."

BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THAT FILM HAS RESONATED WITH ME LIKE NOTHING HAS IN WHO KNOWS HOW LONG.

IT'S MADE ME WANT TO LIVE! TO LOVE! TO MAKE EACH DAY COUNT! TO GET OUT AND DO THINGS!
LIKE WHAT?

I'M FLYING, JACK! ... I MEAN, ROGER.
ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T USE MY REAL NAME RIGHT NOW!

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THE BDR

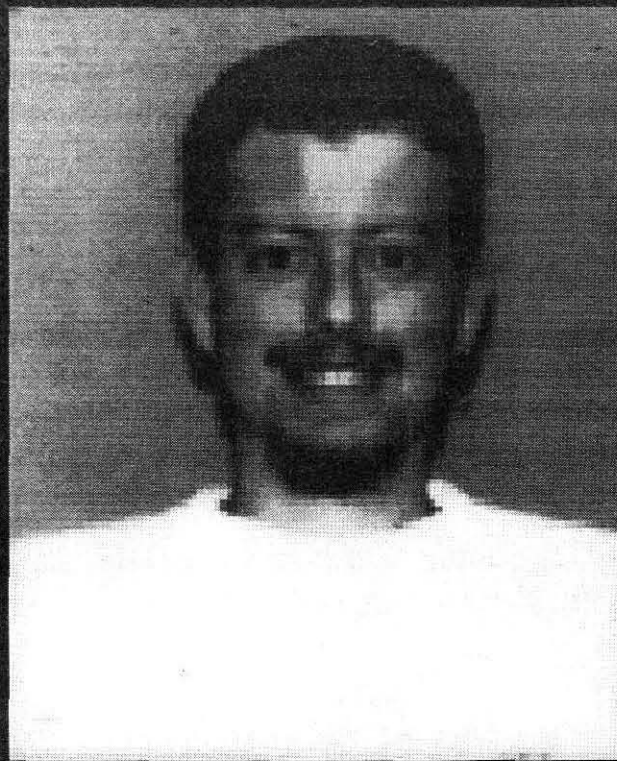
The Inside World would like to issue a long overdue apology to the undergraduates for Ruddock House: thanks for putting up with all this shit.

Top Ten Reasons the New Editors Suck

10. Terry's blowjobs leave much to be desired
9. Because there's a Rudd on the team
8. Anagrams of "The California Tech Editors" include "Death on a horrific testicle" and "Oh Christ, datafile erection!"
7. There aren't any girls on the team
6. Dave Blau is cuter than all of them put together
5. Too many freakin' slack-ass bio majors
4. Wei-Hwa's crossword puzzles would have been more interesting
3. If you lined them all up end to end, they wouldn't go very far
2. Two words: Shannon Stewman
1. Terry is a chicken soft taco (extra sauce, please)

WAR!

A Pagegirl Ate My Grits...



And She Liked 'Em!

ACCIDENT IN THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday, Jan 21, during a routine demonstration done in 22 Gates for chem 1 the Caltech's chemistry department suffered a fatal accident. A gas which was evolved during the demonstration spread throughout the unventilated room and caused breathing problems in many individuals. One innocent victim required hospitalization.

The Administration immediately began meeting with itself and late last week come to a conclusion which was announced this Monday, Feb 9th. Dean Revel was quoted as saying, "This one accident after decades of good chemistry demonstrations bespeaks a dangerous activity. More specifically, an activity which is too dangerous to allow to continue on this campus. Moreover, this dangerous experiment was illegal to perform in an unventilated room such as 22 Gates."

The administration not only decided to disallow chemistry demonstrations, but later amended their decision to wipe out the chemistry department entirely. This seemingly rash decision was decided after the chairpersons of the chemistry, chemical engineering, and biochem divisions met with the Dean to discuss the administration's reaction. The dean was later quoted as saying, "They failed to completely agree with me, which means they have rocks in their heads. We can't allow an entire department of such people in this institute."

It was decided that all the space which had previously been used on campus for chemistry shall belong to a new level of administration just recently created. The offices of Happiness and Life, HappyLife for

SEE ACCIDENT ON PAGE 4

Where did all these monsters come from?

Bulbous foreheads and hairy bodues... these half-apes were fathered by a Techer, inasmuch as gene splicing can be considered parenting. These creatures have such gross appetites, for food, for sex, for attention, for everything voracious. Is this Hell? I suppose everyone at Tech asks that question once in a while. They are so strong, so animal, and they frighten me. How can he love them; why does claim them as his children, these obscene mutations of normality?

Oh no, this one is after me! It has a package in his hand; it carries its favorite food: white turtles, about the size of a human palm, and still alive. I must flee this place, but the creature is so strong, my struggle frustrating in its futility. Such a malicious... is it a smile? It tears a leg off the turtle, devouring the

limb with repulsive flourish. The now three legged prey hears the crunch of its own body.

The monsters are quick; the turtle is moving in my mouth, where the beast had forced it. I feel the shell pressing against the roof, the claws ripping my tongue, and I spit out the turtle and spin away from my laughing captor. The white shell moves over my bare feet and I run from this inhuman himan creation.

Another turtle runs in front of me; they are quick. There are six — no, a dozen. White everywhere, and the mass grows as I watch. The only way to win is to crush the teeming turtles, or eat them — where are those apes? Where is the cruelty, now that cruelty has become necessary? I see that they are being overrun, too. I cannot bear to crush any one of the now over-

whelming turtles, for then I know I will lose my humanity, even in defendint it. I hear the sirens, adn the police are here. Crush the turtles, I urge them, feeling my sanity slip away. Drive your cars over them, and ignore the crunch of broken bones.

The wheels begin to move and i keep running. A quick glance back show that the cops are being defeated. I get to my car, and my hand takes up the shotgun from its rack. Millions of little white turtles, multiplying as I watch. The car will crush the enemy, and the gun will kill the monsters.

Gaining speed, my car moves among the throng. I can only shoot once before the turtles begin to swarm up the car, heedless of the bloody, pulpy

corpses of their brothers. I close the windows to keep them out, to keep my humanity in, but I am losing. The car is overed in white-shelled bodies; the car is sinking through the street under the weight of the creatures taht are fighting to get in; the machine's walls are beginning to buckle. I put the shotgun into my mouth. I have lost.

Jed Wing is a sexy, sexy

IN THIS ISSUE

THIS ISSUE'S SCOREBOARD

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Dabney	1
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Lloyd	SUX
Page	1
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Ruddock	SUX ASS



Jim's Journal

by Jim

Tony and I played basketball again today.

Today we decided to play a game of HORSE.

Tony realized I was no good at lay-ups, so he won by doing a lot of lay-ups.

It started to get dark and he wanted to keep playing but my hands were getting cold.

Today I got home from the copy store around 4pm.

I was really tired, so I took a nap.

When I got up it was 6 o'clock.

For a second, I couldn't tell if it was morning or night.

I took Mr. Peterson outside today.

I scooped up some snow and showed it to her and she was afraid of it.

But after a while she was lying belly-up and feeling right at home.

When I brought her back inside, she was wide-eyed, darting back and forth, then stepping suddenly like she was possessed.

Today Ruth and I ate at a nice restaurant.

The waiter brought us some water and said he'd be right back.

He didn't come back for quite a while and Ruth said, "I wonder if he forgot about us."

But he eventually came and took our order.

Today I accidentally broke a bowl.

It smashed against the sink as I was washing it.

It was a ceramic bowl that was microwave-safe and it was the only one I had.

Little slivers of it flew everywhere and I tried to pick up every last one of them.

Today I went to the store to buy a bowl.

I picked one out and asked the cashier if it was microwave-safe.

She said it should say on the bottom, then tilted it and said, "oh-our price tag covers it up!"

So she took a few seconds to pick off the price tag, which was the kind that doesn't come off very easily.

Today I got up early.

I worked at the copy store from 10am till 4pm.

I worked with Joel, who at one point said, "This place is nowhere, man."

Then I went home and Mr. Peterson, who was napping on the chair, looked up at me for a second or two, then went back to sleep.

Today when I came home I saw the mailman putting mail in the apartment's mail boxes.

I stood there and waited for my mail.

He asked if I was expecting something important today and I said not really.

Today I was looking out my window.

I was just passing the time.

I would pick a certain person and follow them as long as I could see them.

One person came from inside a building next to mine, then kept walking up the street until all I could see was a speck.

Today I was walking down the street when I saw a guy fixing his bike.

"Hey, could you gimme a hand here?" he said.

I held a wrench while he tightened a screw.

He thanked me, then described how he almost got in an accident a few minutes ago, which is why he stopped to look over his bike.

Today Ruth and I went for a walk.

We passed by a cat in front of a house.

Ruth stopped to pet him and said, "Hi fella, and he seemed friendly."

I leaned down to pet him and he took off running, and Ruth said, "You scared him off, Jim!"

Today Steve told me he was going to be on the local TV news.

He said he was shopping at the grocery store when the news crew was asking people questions.

I asked him what for and he said they just wanted his opinion about some food-related news story.

"But that doesn't matter," he said. "What matters is I'm gonna be on TV."

Steve was on the local TV news today and we all went to his place to watch.

They did a few national news stories, then they did the story Steve was in.

He was in the grocery store and they asked what he thought about a certain issue and he gave his opinion.

We all clapped and cheered, and Steve bowed. Tony said, "You were barely on two seconds!"

Today I got up and fed Mr. Peterson.

When she was done eating she started washing her head.

She licked her head then rubbed it on the side of her face a few times.

One time she caused her ear to flip in-side-out, and it stayed that way until she rubbed it again and it popped back to its normal position.

Jim's Journal

by Jim

Today I was calling somebody when Mr. Peterson jumped up on the counter.

She walked right in front of the phone, so I couldn't dial the number.

I paused while waiting for her to move, but she just stood there looking at me.

I put her on the floor and started dialing again, but she jumped up and stood in the same place.

Today after I got up I ate a bowl of cereal.

I didn't have anything to read or look at while I ate, so I stared at the cereal box.

In small printing on the side of the box was a toll-free number I could call if I had any questions about the cereal.

I stared at it during almost the entire time I ate and couldn't think of any questions I would ask.

Today I went to Ruth's place and she answered the door slumped over in her bath robe.

"I have a cold," she said.

She also said she didn't know if it would be a good idea to visit her.

"You don't want this cold," she said.

Today Ruth called me and asked if I'd pick up some cold medicine for her.

I said I would and headed out to the store.

They didn't have the kind she wanted, so I got a different brand.

I showed up at her place and explained that they were out of the kind she wanted and she said, "Whatever."

Today Ruth was telling me about a bad dream she had.

She was working at the dentist's office, like she normally does.

Except her dentist was Frankenstein's monster.

"It was so scary I woke up in the middle of the night screaming," she said.

Ruth is finally getting over her cold.

"I'm so happy it's over with," she said.

Then she noticed that she was all out of Kleenexes.

She flattened the box and put it in the trash.

Today I was walking home from work after dark.

I noticed it was a clear night and you could see all the stars.

I decided to lie in the snow and stare up at the sky for a while.

I started to get sleepy and felt like I didn't have the energy to get up.

Last night I was sitting in bed staring at the ceiling.

I wasn't tired, so I just sat there.

I felt Mr. Peterson jump up on the bed and walk up my legs.

Then she came up to my face and I could feel her cold, wet nose touch my face.

Today Steve came over and said, "I'm bored."

We sat around for a while.

"I'm still bored," Steve said.

Ruth said today that my apartment could use some cleaning.

I don't mean to sound rude," she said, "but men are slabs."

She said she'd help me clean, and that it would be no big deal.

We started by vacuuming and dusting. (Ruth vacuumed and I dusted.)

I finished cleaning my apartment today.

I scrubbed the bathroom and the kitchen and everything.

I even scrubbed out the kitchen cabinets.

When I was done I had a lot of energy left, but I took a nap anyway.

Today I was just sitting around watching TV.

Tony came over and said, "Hey, Jim how's it goin'?"

We sat and watched TV for a while.

He started sniffing and said, "Did you clean or something?"

Today was trash day.

I got out a big plastic garbage bag to fill it with all my trash.

I tried to open it, but it wouldn't open.

I realized I was trying to open the wrong end, so I tried the other end and it opened right up.

I washed a load of clothes today.

I didn't have anything else to do today, so I just sat in the basement laundry room and waited.

Before I put my clothes in the dryer I emptied the lint filter, which is my favorite part of doing laundry.

When I brought the clothes back up to my apartment, Mr. Peterson jumped on top of them and got comfortable.

Today Ruth and I went out to eat.

This place is pretty good," she said.

I went into the bathroom where somebody had etched something on the wall.

"This place sucks!" she said.

Jim's Journal

by Jim

Today I went to the grocery store to buy a whole bunch of food.

I got milk, bread, frozen peas, apples, hot dogs and some macaroni & cheese.

While I put all the food away, Mr. Peterson jumped in the bag and stayed there for a long time.

I cooked up some macaroni & cheese with chopped-up hot dogs in it and watched TV.

Ruth came over to visit today.

We were just sitting around when we noticed Mr. Peterson sneezing.

Ruth reached out to her and said, "God bless you, Mr. Peterson."

Mr. Peterson ran away as fast as she could.

Steve said, "It would appear the one below wants the other one's english muffin wrapper."

Today at the copy store a mom and a little kid came in.

They looked at the rack of pens, scissors and stuff.

After a while, the mom said, "Are you ready to leave now, Peter?"

And the little kid said, "Okay, lets leave," in a very adult way.

Today I decided to go visit my mom back in my hometown.

"Jim! well, hello," she said.

She told me I came just in time because she was cooking a big meal.

I went into the dining room and my grandma said, "Jim! well, hello."

(I didn't know my grandma would be there, too.)

It's nice not having anything to do.

It snowed today.

My mom said she liked having me around so I could shovel the driveway.

Even though it was cold, I got so warm shoveling that I took my coat off.

Today my high school friend Dave came over.

He said he and some of our other friends from high school were going to a movie tonight.

He wanted to know if I wanted to come.

I said I would.

I went to a movie last night with Dave and his friends.

Afterwards we went to Hardee's and Genes packed ketchup packets with his fist.

Dave and the rest of them laughed and people looked at us like we were crazy.

I had an okay time, but I was glad to get home.

Today Steve told me he's been talking to Mike about working together.

He said they thought of a funny TV sitcom idea.

"It would be set in Hell," he said.

He said they were thinking of writing a script for the pilot episode.

Today Steve and I went over to Mike's.

They were planning to write a TV sitcom that takes place in Hell.

"Hey, Mike said, 'Let's call it 'Hell in a Handbasket.'"

Steve laughed and said, "Perfect!"

I went over to Mike's place today.

He and Steve were there to write a TV script.

But we mostly just sat around talking.

"What I'd really like to write is a super-hero movie," Steve said.

It was really cold outside today.

I stayed inside and read a book.

Mr. Peterson sat right under my light, so I couldn't see.

I moved her out of the way and she squawled at me and went right back under the light.

Man into Steve Jay.

I asked him how his TV script writing was coming along.

"I don't know," he said, "we haven't done much on it."

Then he yelled, "Look out!" just as a bicyclist came barreling down the sidewalk.

Today Ruth and I went out to eat.

This place is pretty good," she said.

I went into the bathroom where somebody had etched something on the wall.

"This place sucks!" she said.

This page of comic strips is dedicated to long-time staffer Zack Berger, who asked the famous question "So, do you guys have lots of comics stock-piled, or what?"