

**Mon. Jan. 21:
No classes! :)**



**REDEMPTION:
PARTY @ AVERY!**

Sat. Jan. 19 9 PM

The California Tech

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 11

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 14, 2002

Dear Readers,

As you have noticed by now, the publication date of *The California Tech* has been changed from Fridays to Mondays. Though the change may seem to be sudden to some of you, the editorial staff of the newspaper has been reviewing this alteration for quite some time, and we believe that it is only fair to inform you as to why we have decided to make this change.

As editors, we have received a good bit of criticism about the quality of the newspaper...and yes, we agree that sometimes it was warranted. But what is less understood is that most of our faults are a direct consequence of our lack of time to work on the paper. Our previous publication date left little time for reporters to write their articles and even less time for the editors to put together the paper.

We're not saying it was an impossible task; after all, numerous people have done the job before us as did we for about a year. However, the pressures that were added seemed unnecessary. Editors and reporters should not be penalized for their participation in the newspaper by doing poorly in classes or getting even less sleep than the average Techer.

Please don't suppose that we made this change for selfish reasons. If we had intended to make life easier for ourselves, we would have made the change much sooner (as editors we are responsible for only three more issues!). Our intentions were to improve the quality of the paper as well as the lives of the people involved in the process. Hopefully, reporters and editors can spend more time improving the quality of the paper (meaning that we will have enough time to copy edit the WHOLE paper—no more horrifying mistakes!).

Lastly, for those of you who are traditionalists, we realize that the Friday morning *Tech* was important. But change must occur. In fact, we are not the first editors to have altered the publication date: in the 1960s and 70s *The Tech* was published on Thursdays. So change has occurred in the past and is occurring now.

Your Editors (for a bit longer),

Neda Afsarmanesh &
Janet Zhou

Alda to speak at commencement

BY RUMI CHUNARA

Renowned actor, director and writer Alan Alda will speak at this year's commencement ceremony on June 14th, 2002.

Personally contacted by President Baltimore, Alda will have the honor of delivering the commencement address at the Institute's 108th ceremony.

Alda's recent portrayal of Richard Feynman in the play QED familiarized him with Caltech and its student population. Alda has appeared on the Broadway stage and in dozens of movies. He is well known for his role as surgeon Hawkeye Pierce on the Emmy award winning show *M*A*S*H* which aired in the 1970's and early 80's.

Despite Alda's many successes, his selection as this year's commencement speaker may have come as a surprise to many, especially this year's graduating class. Alda was not a high choice on their list of potential speakers and was not selected in the usual way.

Each year, senior class presidents use polls to get an idea of what speakers the seniors would like to hear. In the past, speakers have included politicians, artists, writers and scientists.

A committee comprised of faculty, a graduate student and undergrads coordinates the senior class speaker selection. The undergraduate representatives are the senior class presidents (Dinkar Gupta and Tory Sturgeon, '02) and the Chair of the Graduate Student Council (GSC), Jose Mumburu, represents the graduate students. The faculty members consist of the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, Jerry Nunnally; Vice President of Institute Relations, Robert O'Rourke and the Marshall for the commencement ceremonies, Dr. Kim Border.

The committee compares all of the potential speakers, a priority list is set up, and the non-student members of the selection committee try to contact the potential speakers in order of preference. Because there are usu-

ally more undergrads graduating each year, their choices are given more weight than those of the graduate students. An official invitation is not sent out until there is a confirmed interest from the potential speaker. The next person on the list is not

contacted until the previous speaker is deemed not possible.

Recently, on a trip to New York, Baltimore contacted Alda, and invited him to speak at the ceremony without the committee's go-ahead. Unfortunately, neither

of the senior class presidents were willing to provide a quote on this important issue.

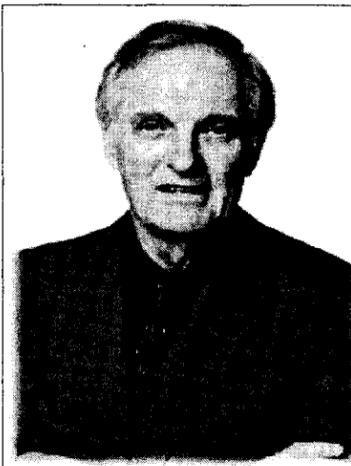
One of Alda's career highlights does bring him into light as an appropriate speaker for a graduating class of Techers. In his ninth year as host of the PBS television series, *Scientific American Frontiers*, Alda shows that his interests do include science.

Alda, who will be 66 years old at the time of commencement, attended Fordham University in New York, and as a dedicated feminist, was appointed in 1976 to serve on the national commission for the observance of international women's year, where he co-chaired the equal rights amendment committee.

Justin Ho (Class of 2002) notes, "There would not have been anybody that the senior class as a whole would have decided on. There was no solidarity." Thus, he looks forward to Alda's commencement address.

Not all seniors are as hopeful as Justin, however. Senior Ben Lee assumes that "Alda was selected because of his 'scientific' credentials as the host of *Scientific American's* television series *Frontiers*." Lee wishes Alda good luck since "Caltech students are horrible audiences for scientific speakers when they suspect the speaker of knowing less than themselves."

Past speakers at Caltech's commencement ceremony include President George Bush, author Ray Bradbury, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and TV personality Bill Nye "The Science Guy".



Undergraduates protest administrative decisions

BY CHRIS ELION
AND TODD SCHUMAN

On December 12th, the undergraduates of Caltech took a break from their finals and gathered together for a common cause. Over 200 students assembled on the Olive Walk as a show of solidarity and to express



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN LIEBLING

their opinions regarding issues that have a major impact on student life. Topics discussed included health insurance, student parking, residence life issues, fire policy, and the Ricketts Fire Pot.

Sophomore Tom Fletcher began the rally with an introductory speech and then handed the floor over to other students. Several members of the audience spoke during the open-mike session, sharing personal opinions regarding a variety of issues. Some students raised concerns about rising health care costs and privacy issues under possible future Caltech insurance plans. Others discussed the recent recommendations published by the Task Force for Undergraduate Residence Life, many expressing their views that certain proposed changes would cause more harm than good. A

number of students also shared anecdotes about living under the current housing system and spoke about the benefits of Rotation and house traditions.

After the speeches, rally organizers provided banners for students to sign and make comments. These banners will be soon be on display in the Parsons-Gates building. Students interested in learn-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN LIEBLING

ing more about the rally and viewing the banner comments can go to <http://skyvalley.caltech.edu/protest/>.

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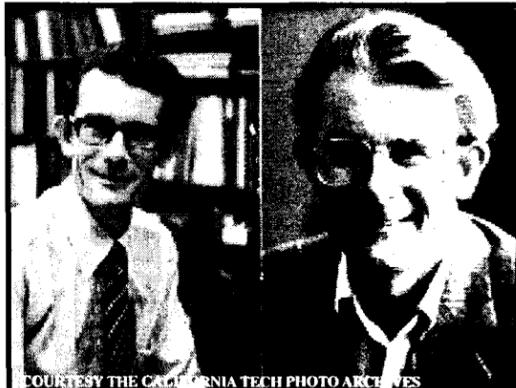
BY JON FOSTER

The first time most Caltech students will see the name Chris Brennen is on The Dean Brennen "Remain Calm" Bench that sits between Ricketts and Fleming and used to be the site of ASCIT donuts. The bench was given in 1992 to commemorate the end of Dr. Brennen's term as Dean of Students. "Thank-you Chris" reads the note on the bench signed by "The Houses & ASCIT".

On January 8th, a message from President Baltimore to the Caltech community revealed the sad news that Dr. Brennen will be stepping down as Vice President for Student Affairs at the end of this month for personal reasons. He will, however, continue his teaching and research. Dr. Brennen first came to Caltech in 1969 as a Research Fellow. In a few years he became an associate professor of Mechanical Engineering. After becoming a full professor in 1982, Dr. Brennen served numerous positions which were important to

Caltech and especially its undergraduates: Master of Student Houses from 1983-1987, Dean of Students from 1988-1992, Executive Officer of Mechanical Engineering from 1993-1998, and Vice-President of Student Affairs from 1998-2002. Despite this busy schedule, Dr. Brennen also served as the chair of numerous faculty committees and was a member of even more. Undergraduate graduation requirements, minority admissions, student housing, student health, and undergraduate research were just some of the areas in which Dr. Brennen's participation touched students' lives at Caltech.

A search committee is being formed to find a new Vice President, and President Baltimore has promised to keep the Caltech community apprised of the details of that search. In the in-



COURTESY THE CALIFORNIA TECH PHOTO ARCHIVES
Chris Brennen has long been an important part of Caltech life. A photograph of unknown date shows a younger Brennen and a more modern photo.

terim, Baltimore asked Professor Gary Lorden, who served as Vice-President directly before Dr. Brennen, to fill the role of acting Vice President. Tory Sturgeon, who had an opportunity to work with Dr. Brennen as a member of student government, said, "Chris is incredibly kind and receptive and very understanding. Just an incredibly sweet guy." There are many students on campus who will join with Baltimore in "expressing sincere appreciation to Chris for his spirited and passionate dedication to the welfare of Caltech's students."

Caltech biologists invent newer, better method for making transgenic animals

PRESS RELEASE

Using specially prepared HIV-derived viruses stripped of their disease-causing potential, California Institute of Technology biologist David Baltimore and his team have invented a new method of introducing foreign DNA into animals that could have wide-ranging applications in biotechnology and experimental biology.

The Baltimore team reports, on today's Science Express Web site, on their study of single-cell mouse embryos that have been virally infected in a manner that leaves a new gene from a jellyfish permanently deposited into their genomes. The mice, after they have been carried to term, carry at least one copy of the gene in 80 percent of the cases, and 90 percent of these show high levels of the jellyfish protein. Further, the study shows that the offspring of the mice inherit the genes and make the new protein. Thus the method makes transgenic mice that have new genetic potential.

According to Baltimore, who is president of Caltech, the use of the HIV-like viruses could prove far superior to the current method of producing transgenic animals by pronuclear injection.

"It's surprising how well it works," says Baltimore, whose

Nobel Prize-winning research on the genetic mechanisms of viruses 30 years ago is central to the new technique. "This technique is much easier and more efficient than the procedure now commonly in use, and the results suggest that it can be used to generate other transgenic animal species."

The technique exploits features of HIV-like viruses known as lentiviruses, which can infect both dividing and non-dividing cells, as gene delivery vehicles. Unlike HIV, the lentivirus is rendered incapable of causing AIDS. The lentivirus carries new genes into the cell's existing genome. In this case, newly fertilized mouse eggs were engineered to carry the green fluorescent protein (GFP) derived from jellyfish.

Baltimore and his team developed two ways of introducing the lentivirus into cells: micro-injection of virus under the layer that protects recently fertilized eggs, or incubation of denuded fertilized eggs in a concentrated solution of the virus. The latter method is easier, although less efficient.

The transgenic mice, once they are born, carry a protein marker in all body tissues that make

them glow green under a fluorescent light. This trait is genetic because the trait is a permanent feature of the animal's genome, and thus is carried throughout life and is inheritable by offspring. The term "transgene" refers to the fact that the new gene has been transferred.

Transgenics holds promise to biotechnology and experimental biology because the techniques can be used to "engineer" new, desirable traits in plants and animals, provided the trait can be identified and localized in another organism's genome. A transgenic cow, for example, might be engineered to produce milk containing therapeutic human proteins, or a transgenic chicken might produce eggs low in cholesterol.

In experimental biology, transgenics are valuable laboratory animals for fundamental research. A cat with an altered visual system, for example, might better accommodate fundamental studies of the nature of vision.

According to Baltimore, the procedure works on rats as well as mice. This is a huge advantage to experimentalists because of the number of laboratory applications in which rats are preferable, he says.



by Nathan Wozny

What's new at the Y?

- The Y kicked off the term with a weekend full of activities, including a trail maintenance project, Reading to Kids, a trip to "Beauty and the Beast," and an LA Philharmonic performance.

- Norton Simon Museum.

Enjoy fine art close to home at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena on Saturday afternoon, Jan 26. Transportation is provided; admission is free for students. Contact dwu@its for more information.

- Pasadena Symphony tickets. Enjoy the music of Holst and Debussy under the baton of Jorge Mester at 8 pm on Saturday, Jan 19. Discounted tickets will be available at the Y; drop by or call X6163 for details.

Did you know?

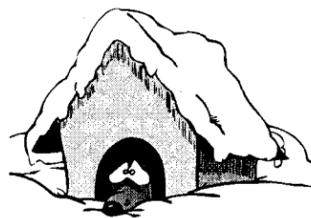
The Y ExComm (Executive Committee) is a group of undergraduate and graduate students responsible for planning and implementing the Y's programs. New ExComm members are elected by current members, but anyone interested in being involved or bringing a program idea to the Y is welcome to talk to us!

The Y ExComm meets every Monday at noon in the Y Lounge to plan upcoming Y events. If you are interested in what we do, please stop by! The Y is located on the first floor of the Student Services Building, south of the Holliston parking structure.

Submitting to *The Tech*?

All submissions to the newspaper (meaning all minutes, announcements, Mints, editorials, letters to the editors, etc.) must be emailed to tech@ugcs.caltech.edu by Thursday midnight.

Thanks!



Bills Piling Up?

Alumni Fund - Student Phone Program is Hiring for Winter Calling! Network w/alumni, sharpen your interviewing & negotiation skills, support Caltech, & earn good \$\$\$!

(Frosh may apply, but must obtain Dean's approval to accept a position)

x6323 - lapencor@cal

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
editorial email: editors@tech.caltech.edu
advertising email: adv@tech.caltech.edu
ISSN 0008-1582

VOLUME CIII, NUMBER 11
JANUARY 14, 2002

EDITORS

Neda Afsarmanesh
Janet Qi Zhou

BUSINESS MANAGER

Tasha Vanestian

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dana Sadava

COPY EDITOR

Sam Yeager

COMICS EDITOR

Kenneth Kuo

STAFF WRITERS

William Fong
Robert Li
Jonathan Foster
Iram Parveen Bilal
Kevin Bartz
Kevin Tse
Terry Yen
Philip Wong

CONTRIBUTORS

Jason Mitchell
Kenneth Kuo
Crippling Depression
Dean Revel

TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

Vikram Dendi

MINTS

Tammy Ma

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

Justin Kao

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elisabeth Adams
Jonathan Foster

CIRCULATION STAFF

Leo Rozenberg
Chris Crabbe
Jeff Bolz

FEATURE WRITERS

Justin Ho
Jialan Wang
Niky Morgan

ADVISER

Hall Daily

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5 p.m. Monday
Announcements (Mints): noon Monday
Letters to the Editor: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Unsolicited Articles: noon Monday

Published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

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ASCIT

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

JANUARY 7, 2002

Present: BoD + newly appointed VP Katharina Kohler - Ayeh, Marcus; Guests: Jon Dama & Rob Christy, two members of the Donut Development Crew; special cameo appearance by former ASCIT president Eric Tuttle. First meeting of our last term called to order at 4:10 pm.

Guests

DVD library. The DVD library has not been restored to fully-functioning mode, which has been the result of some sluggishness in finding a secure location that will not witness the theft that occurred last school year. Sarah Cooke departed for a month-long geology field trip, thus vacating her position and leaving the task in the hands of the Donut Development Crew. Jon Dama believes that an electronic self-locking device can be fabricated for the cabinet and will require a computer interface. Katharina adds that in light of the fact that the burglar entered the Coffeehouse through an open window, grates should be placed on the outside of the windows that would still allow the network cable to pass through, but prevent entry of kleptomaniacs. An announcement will appear in the Tech upon restoration of the DVD library, and in the meantime, Joe Jewell will go about purchasing more movies.

General Meeting

A new VP. The ASCIT BoD welcomes Katharina Kohler, who will be serving as BoC Chair until the new elections. Katharina was appointed by the Excomm shortly after Joe resigned to embark on a term at Cambridge.

Student-Faculty Conference and Housing Task Force report. Discussion concerning the recommendations made by the Task Force on Residential Life Initiatives (<http://donut.caltech.edu/vote/finalreport.pdf>) will be added to the agenda of the Student-Faculty Conference Quality of Life Outside the Classroom Committee. As undergraduate selection to the committees is rapidly approaching, the BoD reached a consensus on the picking procedure. For the Quality of Life committee, especially, the BoD discussed the benefits and disadvantages of setting a cap on the number of representatives that had previously served on the Housing Task Force. We are looking for an infusion of new ideas and dialogue concerning the proposals, and it would be helpful to have a member of the Task Force on

the Student-Faculty Quality of Life Outside the Classroom Committee to clarify any miscommunications that may arise between the report and students. The BoD decided to allow the ARC to oversee appointments to the Core Curriculum Committee, as it pertains exclusively to academic matters. Student appointments to the remaining committees will be made by the BoD, and students will be selected to serve on the committees based on their e-mail submissions. Upon selection of the members of the Student-Faculty Conference committees, minutes of the meetings will be placed online. Undergraduates will also be welcome to place their opinions as posts on online bulletin boards.

CRC formalities. Before the end of our term, Martha-Helene would like to write amendments to formally establish the CRC Chair as an elected position and to clarify the procedure for appointing CRC representatives. A second meeting for the week is proposed to discuss the selection of a committee to appoint the CRC reps, with input from Aaron Robison, the current CRC Chair, and Dave Guskin, the current BoC secretary.

ASCIT van. A scrapyard is offering to pay \$125 for the van - a rather paltry amount, but with possible back-registration fees, the van may not be worth much more if we were to find a buyer and sell it as a functional automobile.

E-mailing lists. The undergraduate body has been receiving mass e-mails more frequently, with the likely result of many deleted e-mails. In order to reduce spamming, the BoD is requesting that the Donut team develop an online interface where students can remove themselves from e-mailing lists that will be used by different on-campus organizations, i.e. Res Life, the Study Abroad Office etc. The eventual goal is to target mass e-mails only to interested students. While another option is for students to opt-in, that is, for students to take the time to add themselves to different lists, there is a worry that students may procrastinate logging on to Donut and miss some important e-mails that they would find interesting. More updates on the progress of this system forthcoming.

Dr. Chris Brennen. The BoD extends its gratitude to Dr. Brennen for his many years of dedication on behalf of students as the Vice President for Student Affairs. We wish him a speedy transition in returning to his post as Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm, followed by a clean-up meeting on Wednesday.

Evidently,

Justin

A.S.C.I.T.
Minutes

JANUARY 9, 2002

Present: BoD; Guest: Dave Guskin, BoC Secretary. Meeting called to order at 9:00 pm.

Guests

Dave's primary reason for attending this BoD meeting was to participate in discussions concerning formalization of selecting CRC representatives and the election of the CRC undergraduate co-chairman. He also came to request the little t bonus and to remark on an unfortunate incident that occurred when Erik Dill acted as the business manager. The little t did not generate enough advertising revenue to cover its costs, and consequently Dave and Nate Austin had to pay \$400 out of their own pockets to cover the cost. Dave requested \$400 for covering their expenses, shared equally between Nate and himself, and \$100 each to Todd and himself for completing the 2001 little t. As several houses did not request multihouse funding during our term, there was a surplus in the social budget that could cover the request.

Attempts to reach Aaron Robison, the current CRC Chair, for input on writing proposed Bylaw to formally introduce the CRC as a governing body were

unsuccessful.

General Meeting

ASCIT Finances. Student Affairs has decided to do the ASCIT accounting for no charge out of kindness, meaning that \$10,000 earmarked for an outside party to handle our financial affairs can be siphoned to a different function in the ASCIT Budget for the next BoD. Student government organizations at other schools, including those that are independent of the academic institution, often have finances and tax-paperwork completed by a department in the academic institution. ASCIT is very grateful to Student Affairs for stepping forward to perform this duty. Our payroll will also be integrated into their accounting system, so that salaries will be paid through a new ASCIT Caltech account, rather than checks from ASCIT directly. The BoD will make recommendations to our successors for ideas on how to spend the extra money. Most of the BoD members agree that club funding should be greatly increased.

DVD Library. The BoD wishes a speedy restoration of the DVD library, to be accomplished by the Donut development team. The Web guys have requested a barcode scanner, in addition to someone with woodwork experience to help in crafting the electronic lock. Money will also be taken out of the movie budget and put towards the purchase of a new computer for the DVD library interface

and locking. Within the DVD library, there are currently 130 titles without cases and covers. Joe Jewell's frosh-com is enlisted to make the DVDs more attractive and identifiable. With regards to the purchase of new titles to add to the collection, it is unsure whether we should obtain blockbusters which are relatively ubiquitous or focus on titles that wouldn't be easy to find at the neighborhood Blockbuster. Student input is requested, and the donut website will be summoned to allow students to enter titles or select genres that they would be interested in seeing in the DVD library.

ASCIT van. Martha-Helene told us that a guy, whose name was not disclosed, offered to sell the van for us. On inspection of the stickers on the van, it would appear that registration had not been paid since 1996, although Martha-Helene remembers from the previous administration that the old UDAL did take care of the fee. Todd is assigned to go to the DMV on Friday to determine if registration has been paid in the recent past and if updates are necessary.

CRC Chairman Election. To recognize the CRC undergraduate co-chair (co-chairing with a member of the faculty), the BoD will be scripting a new Bylaw, to be ratified or rejected in a vote by undergraduates. A few features of the position were discussed, including whether or not

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ON PAGE 4

AmCyte, Inc. is focused on the transplantation of microencapsulated insulin-secreting cells (islets of Langerhans) with the objective of alleviating diabetics of their need for supplemental insulin. This proprietary technique of protecting the islets within a membrane or microcapsule has allowed the Company to develop a procedure whereby diabetics may be cured of their need of supplemental insulin by a simple injection of the encapsulated cells into the abdominal cavity without the need for lifelong immunosuppression. This product (BetaRx™) is expected to be the first widely available, effective, long-term therapy for diabetics.

We are currently seeking the following candidates:

Senior Director / Director

AmCyte, Inc., a leader in cell / tissue transplantation, is seeking a highly qualified individual to direct the Molecular Cell Biology Group. As a key member of leading scientists focused on proliferated islet cells, the candidate will be responsible for advancing our research in cell proliferation and differentiation.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology or a related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.

Senior Scientists

Conduct cell biology, molecular biology, and biochemistry research related to the growth and differentiation of pancreatic β cells. Contribute to the development cell therapies for the control of diabetes and its complications.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in cell biology, or related field with a strong publication record and a proven ability to develop and implement robust research strategies.
- Biotechnology or biopharmaceutical company experience and/or tissue engineering experience highly desirable.

Research Associates

Research Associate will be involved in cell and tissue culture, immunocytochemistry, DNA cloning, and RTPCR.

Qualifications:

BA/BS degree in Life Sciences. 2 years experience desirable.

AmCyte is privately held and well financed. The company operates in a modern, spacious and well-equipped facility located in Santa Monica, California. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package. Interested candidates should contact us via email at hrcode123@AmCyte.com or by fax at (310) 453-6178.

ASCIT & News

ASCIT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to add the CRC Chair position to the BoD and whether to include election of the position in the first election, accompanying votes on the President and BoC Chair/VP positions, or the remainder of the BoD positions in the second election. Arguments for holding the CRC Chair voting in either election were given. Since the CRC Chair and BoC Chair roles in maintaining rules of conduct are similar, it seemed appropriate to group these two elections together. However, part of the reason that the BoC Chair and President elections are separated from election of the remaining ASCIT positions is that candidates would choose whether or not to run based on the people elected to President and VP. The BoC secretary is also an elected position, and interested candidates may base their decision to run on who was elected, as many of the members of the BoD may choose to run based on their assessment of working with the President-elect. The CRC representatives are not elected positions, and therefore, there is no conflict in moving the CRC vote to the second election. In addition, placing the CRC election in the second round would allow candidates running for the position of the BoC chair that did not win the election to run for the position of the CRC chair. Placing the CRC chair and BoC chair elections in the same round would force qualified candidates to choose either one but not both and possibly eliminate good candidates from one of the positions. After much discussion, it was agreed that the CRC chair would be elected by all undergraduates in the second round of elections and that the elected CRC chair can not also serve as the BoC chair and vice versa. A debate also ensued over whether or not to include the CRC chair as a position in the ASCIT BoD. Since the CRC is a student-fac-

ulty committee, the CRC chair acts as a liaison between ASCIT and faculty and it would be in keeping with the mission of ASCIT to use the position as a representative for faculty interactions. Based on the experiences of the CRC chair in overseeing cases concerning Institute policies, this student could also bring additional insight into BoD discussions. However, as the CRC chair deals primarily with Institute policies and not the Honor Code per se, which is exclusively student-run, the argument was made that the position of the CRC chair was slightly separated from those of the ASCIT BoD. Namely, each of the positions serves ASCIT in a particular way that an undergraduate assessing Institute policies would not. The CRC frequently oversees cases in which the Honor Code is not a factor and the infraction concerns Institute policies and would therefore be slightly abstracted from the other positions. Ted also added that in the event that the BoD decided to do something in violation of the Institute policies, while in keeping with the Honor Code, the CRC chairman, in representing Institute policies to some extent, would be in conflict. At the end of the discussion, the BoD decided to maintain the CRC chair position as a separate entity and observe that including the CRC Chair election with BoD elections would be performed for convenience. The BoD also added that the Bylaw should include provisions for holding a new election if the CRC Chair vacates the office. The CRC would be given the freedom to institute its separate proceedings to police itself.

Appointment of CRC representatives. Martha-Helene presented a proposal for forming a committee to appoint students as CRC representatives following the election of a new CRC chairman. In her proposal, the committee would be composed of the newly elected ASCIT president, IHC Chairman, BoC Chair, the outgoing CRC Chairman, and an outgoing CRC representative, chosen either randomly or by consensus

by the CRC. This 5-person panel excluded the incoming CRC Chairman as a checks-and-balances measure. Marcus raised the claim that the IHC Chairman did not expressly represent the opinions of the IHC, adding that the position was elected by the entire undergraduate community and not by the House Presidents. While the position required coordination of ASCIT with IHC, a representative chosen by the IHC and not necessarily the IHC Chairman may be more appropriate for serving on the committee. Another concern was that the 5-member panel may be too small, and a proposal was made to increase the number to 9 members, with 4 selected members of the ASCIT BoD, 4 selected members of the IHC, and the outgoing CRC Chairman acting as the facilitator for the meeting. The delegates from the BoD and the IHC to the appointing committee would be selected based on consensus of the respective bodies and would work with the outgoing CRC Chairman as a single electing body.

Publications business. The BoD voted unanimously to reimburse Dave and Nate \$200 each for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the publication of the 2000 little t. In light of problems with publication, Todd proposed some form of publication reform, to prevent negligent students from being appointed to the posts in the future. The publications suffer from lack of interest and lack of incentives, and there is rarely more than a single candidate applying for each of the positions of editor or business manager for the Big T and little t. If the salaries of the positions are raised, there may be more qualified students willing to put in the time to see publication through. Increasing the salary would also give us more control over their work. The BoD's final decision of the night was to award \$99 each, as opposed to \$100, to Dave and Todd for their work on the little t.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 pm. Evidently, Justin

Farley speaks at Caltech

BY KEVIN BARTZ



You may have seen him in the Stop the War rally at Oxford. You may have read his anti-war commentary in The Guardian or The Nashville Daily. You may know him as the Green Party alternative to House Rep. Bob Clement—whom he calls “Bob Inclement”—in Tennessee. Or, you may know him as the otherwise humble mathematician who cracked a lattice puzzle nearly as old as himself.

Dr. Jonathan Farley is a man on a mission. At home and abroad, the lattice theorist turned politician is out to diffuse what he calls “the madness of King George”: America’s pro-war contingent. He’s the left wing’s rock of ages, a vocal factor in President Bush’s 15% disapproval rating—and proud of it.

The second in the Caltech Y’s Social Activism Speakers Series, the Green Party pundit hailed by Ebony as “Leader of the Future” took the stage Friday night in Avery Library, sharing his outlook on “How to Fight the Right and Win” in a public discussion with students and faculty.

One of only four to receive this year’s Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award, Upscale magazine’s 31 year-old “math genius” hasn’t turned his back on academia. But even as he spends his sabbatical year researching at Oxford University, the Vanderbilt professor’s convictions are firmer than ever—to the tune of a long-distance Congressional campaign aimed at stamping out “two old white men with identical views.”

“My measure of success is not getting elected but rather how much I can focus attention on these issues,” Farley explained. Presently, he’s working to stem the tide of support for America’s war in Afghanistan, which he dubbed a racially motivated attack by Republicans who “like to bomb people [and] try out new weapons.”

“This so-called ‘War on Terror’ doesn’t make any sense,” he asserted. “Should the US be lecturing other countries on terrorism when it’s supporting terrorism itself?” Farley cited an alleged wave of anti-American sentiment in Oxford, where nearly half the student population voted to condemn the US bombings. “Coming out of Nashville and England, he has a different perspective on the war,” said Kaisa Taipale, a leader in Caltech’s Peaceful Justice Coalition (PJC).

Instead of al-Qaida, Farley would redirect Americans’ battle cry to “the real evils: the KKK, the LAPD and the FBI.” Pointing to a still-standing Nashville monument to a Confederate cavalryman as evidence of persisting racism, Farley first pushed for African-American reparations before even Jesse Jackson took up the issue. In the backdrop of such injustice, “the ‘War on Terror’ is a farce,” he said.

Farley sets an example as an academic politician—or perhaps a political academic. And it’s the fusion of the two that sets him apart, at least in the eyes of Math Postdoctoral Scholar Ed Goins, who spearheaded the effort to bring Farley to Caltech.

“The goal was to have Caltech see that a scientist could actually have a political standpoint,” he explained. “Even though he’s here as a mathematician, he could also use the chance to share his political views in a laid-back atmosphere.”

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2002

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Features

The Ticket Stub

by Jialan Wang

sometimes consume them addictively.

As an antidote, two movies I saw over the break are perfect examples of great "arthouse" movies that surprise and enlighten while they entertain. Both decidedly un-Hollywood, *Lantana* and *Gosford Park* (both still playing at the Laemmle), excel based on old-fashioned elements like great scripts, superb ensemble casts, and artful directing as they follow twisting plots of love, murder, and intrigue. Transcending the genre boundaries that so often trap mainstream movies, *Lantana* and *Gosford* are funny, dramatic, and suspenseful in turn without ever being formulaic.

GOSFORD PARK

2 hrs 17 min,
Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Clive Owen, Ryan Phillippe,
Eileen Atkins, Michael Gambon
Directed by Robert Altman
Rated R

Like a great Bach fugue, Robert Altman's *Gosford Park* is a pitch-perfect intertwining of subplots and dialogues among many lively characters. Following a classic murder mystery tradition, the film follows a group of rich British folk (along with a few of their Hollywood film star friends just for kicks) to the countryside for a weekend shooting party. A murder occurs, and almost everyone is a suspect.

Although the cast is filled with gems of British stage and screen, only a few have wide recognition among American audiences. In the lead role is Michael Gambon as Sir William McCordle, lord of the estate where the story takes place. Most notable among the familiar faces is the marvelous Kristin Scott Thomas playing Sir William's much younger wife Sylvia, who has given up all affectations of interest in her husband. The McCordles' houseguests include Sylvia's sisters Louisa (Geraldine Somerville) and Lavinia (Natasha Wightman), with their respective husbands Lord Stockbridge (Charles Dance) and Lieutenant Commander Meredith (Tom Hollander); Constance, Countess of Trentham (Maggie Smith); film star Ivor Novello (Jeremy Mortham); and as a wonderful contrast to the British aristocrats, American B-movie producer Morris Weissman (Bob Balaban).

The film is set in 1932, a time when the decadence of the Jazz age had given way to economic depression and looming conflict in Europe. Although nearly all of the guests have the haughtiness of royalty, Sir William is actually the only one with real money, and his friends and relations live off of him like barnacles. Reflecting the uncertainty of the times, a trace of frantic desperation runs through all of Sir William's hangers-on as they scheme for his money. Although the soap opera of the

As much as I regret to admit it, I am a film snob. By that I mean that in general, I hate mainstream movies. By mainstream movies I mean the movies that play at every movie theatre in Pasadena except Laemmle and Academy 6. To me, mainstream movies are like junk food. They have pretty packaging, and I

nobles would have been more than enough material for a less ambitious cast and crew, they only occupy half of this story – and the less interesting half at that. You see, the McCordles employ a small army of servants to keep their extravagant estate in order, and in keeping with their lavish lifestyles, most of the guests arrive with their own servants. The servants not only prepare meals, shine shoes, and wash clothes for their masters, they also act as spies, confidants, and lovers. Despite several clandestine liaisons, the class barrier between the nobles and the servants is unmistakable, symbolized geographically by the stairs separating the servants' quarters from the rest of the house.

Among the notable downstairs characters are Helen Mirren's icily efficient housekeeper Mrs. Wilson, Emily Watson's soulful housemaid Elsie, and Ryan Phillippe's mysterious and devilishly seductive valet of Morris Weissman. Fans of independent film will also recognize *Trainspotting*'s Kelly MacDonal delivering one of *Gosford Park*'s most expressive performances as Countess Constance's maid Mary Macreaghan.

The film's sympathy towards the servants is illustrated in the contrast between the ingénues Isobel and Mary. Isobel is a bony waif consisting of sharp elbows and pointed eyebrows and triangular hair, but Mary is all soft brown eyes and sweet Scottish lilt. While Isobel has the riches and beauty of a glamour girl, she also has all the personality of a mannequin and lacks even the wiles that lifted her mother to status. On the other hand, the humble handmaid Mary is worldly without ever relinquishing innocence; she is wise and naïve in equal measures – often simultaneously. No wonder the guys are enchanted by Mary and only see Isobel as a key to her father's fortune.

LANTANA

2hrs 1 minute
Rated R
Starring: Anthony Lapaglia, Geoffrey Rush, Barbara Hershey,
Kerry Armstrong, Rachael Blake

Lantana is a film that celebrates women – not the glossy paper dolls that populate most Hollywood movies, but women who are much more intelligent, sensitive, and real. The women in the film span class boundaries, ranging from well-to-do psychiatrist Valerie (Barbara Hershey) to working-class nurse Paula (Daniella Farinacci). They are sensual and vivacious but they are also marked with the flaws and scars that go along with wisdom.

The film is set in contemporary Sidney, Australia. While the city is as sophisticated as any modern city, the film has a distinctly rural feel. The characters seem to inhabit a city that barely manages to control the wilderness that constantly threatens to invade along its edges – an apt metaphor for the emotional turmoil that simmers beneath their composed veneers. In the opening sequence, the camera slowly – almost lovingly – pans across the body of a woman lying face-down on the ground beneath thorny branches of lantana, the Australian shrub of the film's title. The same affectionate light is cast upon all of the film's women, and the film dares us to love them as we wonder which will end

up dead. Although it is hilariously funny, *Gosford Park* doesn't wring out cheap laughs by ridiculing its characters. The film's thirty-odd speaking parts are each so brilliantly written and executed that each character is distinctive yet fleshed out beyond a stereotype. Even the most conceited blue bloods are shaded with vulnerability and tenderness, and the most humble servants are endowed with dignity and grace. Robert Altman's film is at once a meticulous portrait of class, a catalog of love's myriad configurations, and a close-up of everyday cruelty and everyday kindness. But above all, it is first-class entertainment.

The next scene depicts brutish cop Leon (Anthony LaPaglia) cheating on his wife Sonja (Kerry Armstrong) with wily seductress Jane (Rachel Blake). While their lovemaking is heated, it is fueled by desperation instead of passion. Both Leon and Jane use the affair to fill the voids left by their faded marriages, but even in this initial scene ever-present reminders of their estranged spouses sour the thrill of illicit romance.

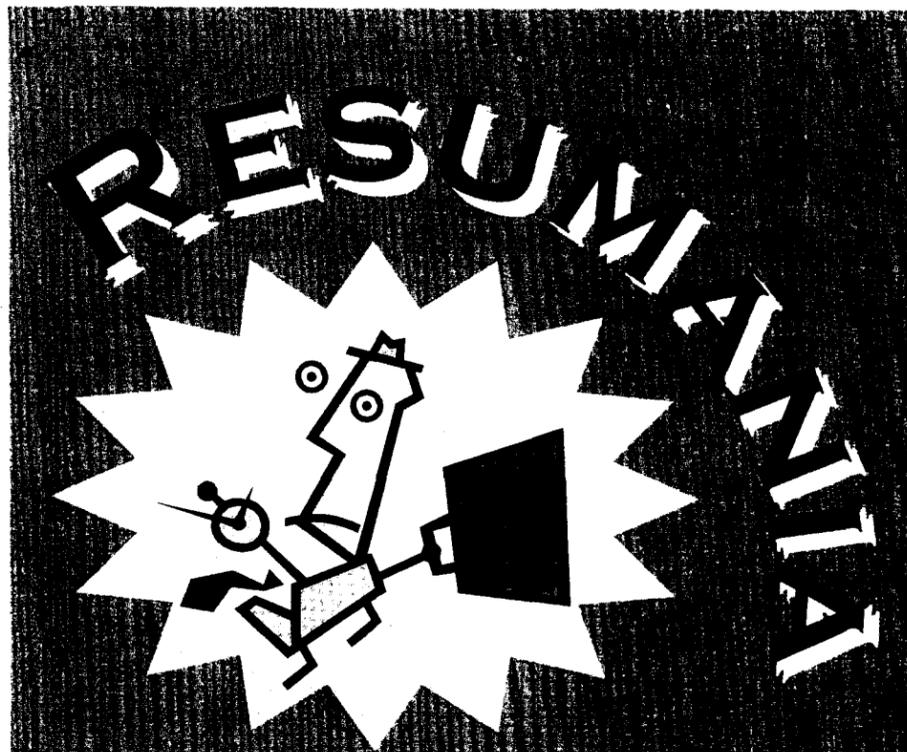
Although Sonja is reluctant to acknowledge it at first, her suspicion of Leon's infidelity eventually drives her to see therapist Valerie. Although she maintains professional distance towards her clients, Valerie herself is haunted by their tales of infidelity and deceit as she struggles to rebuild her marriage to aloof academic John (Geoffrey Rush) after the death of their daughter.

In an effort to re-spark their dimming marriage, Sonja persuades Leon into joining a salsa-dancing class. Both characters do discover passion through the class, but unfortunately, not with each other. Leon meets Jane, a flirtatious fellow dance student, and Sonja rediscovers her latent sexuality through

dancing itself. The tension is palpable in a scene in which Leon walks in late to the class only to find Sonja and Jane dancing together because of the shortage of male partners. Leon's guilt reaches a fever pitch when Sonja introduces him to her new acquaintance, and his eyes dart nervously as his feet shuffle clumsily. Their fates spiral toward collision to the sexy salsa rhythms.

Later that night the film's three central women find themselves at turning points in their lives, and one of them turns up missing. Leon, of course, is assigned to investigate the disappearance, and the film takes a turn for the noir as the case quickly turns into a murder investigation. Although the murder mystery unwinds in an engrossing and unconventional way (I guarantee you'll never guess who did it), it is but a vehicle for the film to explore its wonderfully complex characters.

Like standard romantic comedies such as *Serendipity*, the characters in *Lantana* are improbably linked by fate and coincidence. Unlike such movies, *Lantana* does not steer its characters toward an inevitable punch line. Also, unlike most serious dramas, it does not rely on gimmicks such as geniuses, disabled people, or war to win our hearts.



RESUMANIA

Friday, Jan 15, 2001
1:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Olive Walk Career Dev

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Caltech Alumni will be on campus to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review your resume • give you advice & suggestions for improvement | <p>Bring your resume to the tent on Olive Walk</p> <p>Career counselors will be available to answer quick questions.</p> |
|---|--|

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Comics

DILBERT® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

YOUR PROJECT IS CANCELLED. YOU'LL BE DOWNSIZED IN NINETY DAYS.

UNTIL THEN, FEEL FREE TO WANDER AROUND LIKE A ZOMBIE.

I WALK AMONG THEM BUT I AM NOT ONE OF THEM.

HERE ARE SOME PROJECTS TO FINISH BEFORE YOUR LAST DAY.

BUT... I'LL HAVE TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW I'VE BEEN DOWNSIZED.

I'LL GET THIS INFORMATION TO YOU RIGHT AWAY. IS NINETY DAYS SOON ENOUGH?

I'M UNEMPLOYED AND I DRIVE AN ELECTRIC CAR.

THESE ARE MY ABS. I TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF AND I'M NOT ROMANTIC.

I REALIZE IT'S A LONG SHOT BUT DOES ANY OF THAT TURN YOU ON?

DO YOU THINK I SHOULD GROW A BEARD WHILE I'M UNEMPLOYED?

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA. A BEARD SENDS A MESSAGE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

UM... OKAY. I ASSUME YOU ALREADY HAVE A SHOPPING CART AND FILTHY RAGS.

MAYBE I'LL TAKE A JOB AS A WAITER UNTIL I CAN GET A JOB AS AN ENGINEER.

YOU'RE NOT QUALIFIED TO WAIT ON TABLES. HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

THE MANAGER IS OVER THERE SLAPPING A DRUNK.

HI. I CAME TO APPLY FOR A SERVER JOB.

OKAY. TELL ME HOW YOU WOULD HANDLE AN ABUSIVE DRUNKEN CUSTOMER LIKE THIS GUY.

UM... WITH KINDNESS? YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHIELD YOURSELF WITH A TABLECLOTH.

IT BOGGLES THE MIND HOW MUCH TIME YOU'VE SPENT PLAYING THAT VIDEO GAME.

IT'S THIS ONE DARN LEVEL! I CAN'T GET PAST THE RED ORB GUARDIAN!

EVERY TIME I TRY TO KILL HIM, HE SQUASHES ME FASTER THAN YOU CAN BLINK! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR A MONTH NOW!

I SWEAR, THIS GAME IS DEFECTIVE.

THIS FROM THE BOY WITH 18 OOOZING BLISTERS ON HIS THUMBS.

I'M SERIOUS. I'LL GIVE YOU TWO THOUSAND MORE TRIES, THEN I'M QUITTING.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME!

OOOPS, SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE.

DONE?! COULDN'T YOU SEE I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DO BATTLE WITH THE RED ORB GUARDIAN?! I JUST PAUSED IT SO I COULD GET SOME MORE SUGAR IN MY BLOODSTREAM!

THIS WAS GOING TO BE MY 10000TH ATTEMPT! I WAS FEELING EXTRA-LUCKY!

WHO SAID I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU RESET IT?

THEN WHERE'S THE RED ORB GUARDIAN?

WELL, LET'S SEE... THE FIRST TIME I SNEEZED, I GOT PAST HIM!

AAAA! YOU THINK I PUSHED THIS BUTTON... HOW?? HOW?? WHAT'D YOU DO?!

PAIGE, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DEFEAT THE RED ORB GUARDIAN FOR OVER A MONTH! HE'S THE TOUGHEST VIDEO GAME FOE I'VE EVER FACED!

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET PAST HIM? YOU STINK!

IF YOU WANT AN ANSWER, THAT'S NO WAY TO ASK.

OK, OK, YOU DON'T STINK. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

MUCH BETTER. BUT I SAID "FRESH-BAKED."

COOKIES?

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET PAST HIM? MORE COOKIES?

WELL, OF COURSE YOU DID ONCE HE WAS DEAD. WAIT! I KNOW! IT WAS THE SWORD OF FURY! AM I RIGHT?!

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. JASON... STAND, JASON...

DID YOU USE THE FLAMING SWORD? THE SCREAMING SWORD? THE SWORD OF DEATH? THE SWORD OF PAIN? THE AX OF VENGEANCE? THE MACE OF MIGHT? THE RAZOR ARROWS? THE EXPLODING ARROWS? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

IF YOU MUST KNOW, I SIMPLY WALKED RIGHT BY HIM.

SO THE SECRET TO GETTING PAST THE RED ORB GUARDIAN IS TO NOT ATTACK HIM??

BUT HE'S HUGE! HE'S NASTY! HE'S THE MOST LETHAL VIDEO GAME CREATURE EVER! HE TOWERS ABOVE YOU WITH FISTS LIKE ANVILS! SKILLS LITTER THE GROUND AT HIS FEET!

AND YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EVEN TRY TO TAKE THIS GUY ON IN A FIGHT??

WOW. TALK ABOUT COUNTER-INTUITIVE. REFRESH MY MEMORY. YOU SPEND HOW MANY NANOSECONDS IN THE REAL WORLD EACH DAY?

WHY SO GLUM? I SPENT AN ENTIRE MONTH TRYING TO KILL THIS ONE VIDEO GAME FOE, AND IT TURNS OUT ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WALK PAST HIM!

WHO KNEW YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO CLUB HIM OR KICK HIM OR LOB FIRE BALLS AT HIS HEAD, JUST BECAUSE HE'S HUGE AND FIERCE AND CAN SQUASH YOU AT WILL!

YOU'VE HEARD THE SAYING, "DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR?"

A LIFE LESSON? WHO THE HECK WANTS TO THINK OF THIS AS A VALUABLE LIFE LESSON. IN THEIR VIDEO GAMES, MOTHER!

SHEESH. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL TRY STICKING THEM IN THE FUNNIES.

OH, SHOOT - I LEFT THE RAW CHICKEN OUT ALL NIGHT. WELL, I'M SURE IT'S FINE...

APRISO Information Session

When: January 22, 2002, at 5:00PM

Where: 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Center for Student Services

Apriso is the world's premier provider of plant and warehouse automation solutions for fortune 1000 companies. We are headquartered in Long Beach, California with an international presence in Poland, France, Germany, UK, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and Singapore. Visit our website at www.aprison.com. All Computer Science/Engineering majors are encouraged to attend.

APRISO On-Campus Recruiting

When: January 24, 2002

Where: 3rd Floor Career Services in the Center for Student Services

We are looking for Software Developers to work in our Long Beach headquarters. All Computer Science/Engineering majors and candidates from other degrees with proven, exceptional programming skills are encouraged to attend.

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Dean's Corner

Work hard, work smart

by Jean-Paul Revel



Whew! Glad the break is over. One of the things hanging over my head was a huge pile of petitions from ambitious Techers, demons for punishment all, who want to take overloads, more than 51 units for Frosh (it sounds innocuous till one is reminded that it means 51 hrs/week for 10 weeks) and 54 hrs/week for students in later years. Of course that's 20% more than most ordinary mortals spend at their jobs, at a time when the idea of a 35 hour week is gingerly being tested by some local employers. Actually a 35 hr week would be an underload! But is the law of the land in that hedonistic country, France, and has also been adopted or at least discussed in several other European countries. One German company, Volkswagen, has even instituted a 28.8 hr week. Clearly the Caltech standard is far from having universal acceptance. Overloads are granted only when it is clear that the student is capable of carrying the standard maximum with a distinction which implies ease. After all, the magic 486 units needed to graduate (483 if you are a Math major, don't ask why they are different) can be fulfilled by taking barely more than 45 units a term. An interesting consequence of overloads is that they help to level the playing field between those of our students who are, or believe themselves to be, very-very-very smart (and so clamor for huge overloads, which in fact is not so very-very-very smart) and those who are so very-very-very smart that they don't have to flaunt it, and take on a more reasonable schedule.

Such enthusiasm for hard work at the Institute stands in conflict with the feelings expressed by Andy Rooney, the caboose commentator of the "60 minutes" program, who has been making derogatory noises about the work load at universities. In his view, universities allow altogether too much free time to their students, and, *per passu*, to their teachers too. Of course he thinks that the profs waltz in 3 times a week, deliver their 50 minute spiels and waltz out again, having done their thing. He forgets (or may be did not know) that a professor at the university is not just an inflated high school instructor (no put down intended, they work pretty hard). But most university profs not only spend much time organizing material for lectures and labs and preparing their presentations, but, at least at places like Caltech, also have responsibilities for running their laboratories, doing research, which implies discussions with

grad students and post docs, long sessions at the library analyzing what others have done or are doing, writing papers for scientific journals to share their results with colleagues elsewhere, writing detailed proposals to government agencies or foundations for grants to support their research. Once in a while they must also find time to think. They also consult for the government (barely covering their expenses in doing so) or industry (usually more remunerative). One "good" thing I guess, is that Andy, in his weekly 5 minute lecture (0.08 units) did not mention CIT. We are such small fry that he overlooked us, or may be, not having a football team, we are invisible. Besides, mentioning how hard people work here might have ruined his story. That reminds me of an evening ride to catch a red eye at LAX, going to DC as a consultant, being the sole passenger in an enormous bus. The driver and I made small talk. He was curious where I worked. Caltech. Ah how is it at Calpoly? what did you say? Calstate? My nephew goes there, do you know him?

So how much do profs work? As chance would have it there was a discussion of how profs spend their time in a recent issue of Science (Freeman et al. 2001 Science 294,2293 (Dec 14, '01). Would you believe that in that survey it comes out that profs actually outdo the Caltech students! Nearly one third of biology profs queried admit that they work 60 hour weeks, and nearly a quarter of other Ph.D. scientists have similar schedules. Assuming that these people sleep the sleep of the just 8 hrs a night, that leaves just 6 hrs for the rest of their lives, plus of course the canonical day of the Lord. Even old geezers between 35 and 44 still work 50 hours a week at their desks or benches. Our students seem to manage their heavy schedules by sleeping late, forget the early lecturing profs (I don't condone that, but also I am not going to roust the students out of bed either. It is time for them to start taking responsibility for themselves). The heavy professional overload is said to be a consequence of the Tournament like organization of the science enterprise, winner takes nearly all, so engendering intense competition. Being scooped is a constant fear and goads the young investigator into spending more and more hours at work in an attempt to be first.. Such schedules take their toll as they create serious conflicts between career and family. Women Ph.D. biologists without children actually work longer hours than their male counterparts. Women with families how-

ever spend much less time in their labs and offices, presumably busy nurturing future Techers. Their careers often suffer from this, presumably because the time away from the bench does not allow them to keep up with rapid advances in their fields.

At least that's what's said and this lore goes to support the practice of headlong rush to work long hours. But is it really so? Just looking at our Faculty there are in fact quite a number of women, recognized as

leaders in their fields, who very successfully balance career and families. The 35hr work week in France has been accompanied not by a decrease, but rather an increase in productivity. And Volkswagen seems to be doing quite well for itself. And then there is this stuff about British science. You know, all these people obsessed with taking tea and engaging in other quaint activities, yet who, in spite of all that, maintain an enviable level of scientific productivity. While being first can secure a level of support unavailable to those ranking lower, spending longer and longer hours in an attempt to catch the leader may not be the way to go. An obvious countermeasure is to be much more

clever than the other guys, something the British may well attain through wisdom that grows from tea time discussions. May be the extended hours scientists work are not so much due to the "tournament" mentality, winner takes most of all, but a lingering case of studentitis nosleeposa. Working hard is undeniably a factor in ensuring success, but working smart is at least as important, probably more! Do you hear, Andy?

A bientot!

Jean Paul Revel

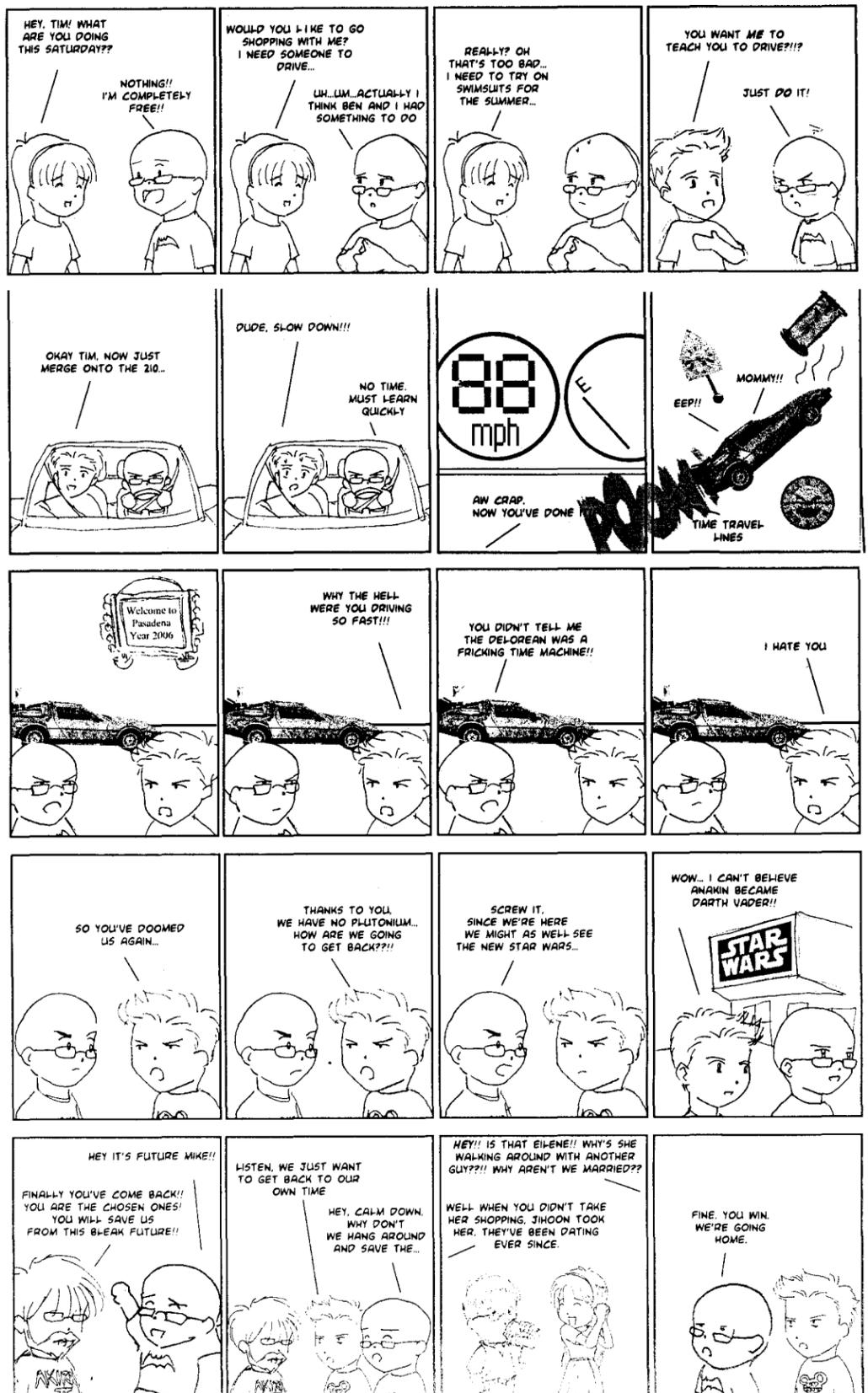
Jean-Paul Revel
Dean of Students

Crippling Depression Term One

www.CripplingDepression.com

By Ben Lee, Tim Wan and Mike Yeh

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to anybody is purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff. Contact feedback@cripplingdepression.com



Mints

Announcements

The Caltech Flying Team is looking for new members! Caltech is a member of the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Flying Association and competes in the annual SAFECON flying competition in February. Competition events include navigation, bomb drop, flight simulator, and many others. You do not need to be a pilot nor a member of the Caltech Aero Association in order to participate! For more information about joining the flying team or attending practices, contact Elaine Ou (ou@caltech.edu) or Gilead Wurman (gwurman@caltech.edu), or visit the Aero Association web page: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aacit>.

Piano Player Wanted! The Caltech Swing Band is looking for a piano player. Must be able to read music, and have some knowledge of chords and jazz styles. If interested, please contact Bill Bing wbing@caltech.edu

The Glamour Magazine's 2002 Top Ten College Women Competition has begun. The competition is open to all full-time juniors regardless of major or GPA. All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2002. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the application.

Work-Study Opportunity at JPL. Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory Archival Data Analysis for Studying Temporal and Spectral Properties of Gamma-Ray Sources. This is an announcement of opportunity for one or two undergraduate students in physics or astronomy to participate in a part-time work-study research program to process and analyze archival data obtained by the Burst and Transient Spectroscopy Experiment (BATSE) onboard the NASA Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory. The major scientific objective is to study the properties of gamma-ray emission from cosmic sources including black holes and active galactic nuclei and neutron-star systems. For this research, it would be useful if the student had some experience with programming as well as working with the Interactive Data Language (IDL) package. Employment would be on a part-time work-study basis during the school year and possibly up to 40 hours per week during the summer. If interested, or for further information, contact Dr. James C. Ling, JPL 169-327, (818)354-2819, james.c.ling@jpl.nasa.gov.

As a result of **Irvine Foundation** funding, Caltech has a limited amount of money available for diversity programs related to underrepresented minorities and women for academic year 2001-2002. Proposals from students, faculty, and staff are welcome and should clearly address how the program relates to issues of diversity. Proposals should also include a description of the event, including purpose, audience, date, location, and budget. Application forms can be picked up at the Caltech Y. An Institute committee will review the applications and make the awards. For more information, contact Athena Castro (athena@caltech.edu) or Greg Fletcher (gregf@caltech.edu) at ext. 6163.

Student Programming Board. The Caltech Women's Center invites you to be part of the new and exciting changes taking place in our office. Our new staff is interested in working with you to develop programs and services that meet your needs and interests. Get involved now! Take on a leadership role in deciding how the Women's Center addresses the issues you are interested in. Be a part of designing, developing and implementing programs and events focused on women's and gender issues. Undergraduate and graduate students, women and men encouraged to get involved. Contact the Women's Center at ext. 3221 or stop by our office in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

Athenaeum Tennis Ladder. All Athenaeum members, ages 18 and older, are invited to join a new managed tennis ladder. Once per month, ladder managers will post matches to be completed by the end of the month. Players call each other to arrange mutually agreeable date and time to play. The ladder includes both men and women, but matches will be formed between players within a few ladder rungs of one another. Each of year trophies will be awarded. Signups welcome at any time. For more information, contact Jane Wider at (818) 952-0941 or Rich Dekany at (626) 395-6798 or email to ahntennis@caltech.edu.

Are you interested in discussing life at Caltech and in the United States? If so, the **Intercultural Discussion and Support Group** provides a forum for Caltech students to explore the process of cultural adjustment and relating across cultures. The group meets every Monday from 12-1 pm in the Women's Center Lounge. (265-86, 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services). This group is facilitated by the Counseling Center and International Student Programs, and is open to ALL Caltech students, graduate and undergraduate, American and international. Drop-ins welcome. Since lunch is provided, please contact Jim at endrizzi@caltech.edu if you plan on attending one of the meetings, this will guarantee that we have enough food!

The Dean of Students Office needs tutors in all areas--help is especially needed with the main Institute requirements e.g., MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2, CH1, etc. The pay is \$10.00 an hour. A strong understanding of the subject matter, patience, and the ability to communicate well are the qualities needed as a tutor. If you are an upperclassman and would like to be a Deans' tutor please stop by the Deans' Office to see Sandra located in 102 Parsons-Gates.

Community Service Opportunities Abound!

The Caltech Y offers students and staff a variety of ways to participate in community service. Opportunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Shelter, math tutoring (on or off campus), reading tutoring, and working at local hospitals. One-time community service events are planned each term and opportunities for service on a regular basis exist. Undergraduates with federal work-study can receive \$15/hr for their community service work. To be added to the community service interest email list, or for more information about the Community Service Program, please contact Greg Fletcher at gregf@caltech.edu ext. 6163. Or, stop by the Caltech Y in the Center for Student Services (formerly Keck House) for a complete listing of opportunities.

CIT Guitar Classes for winter quarter will meet on Tuesdays in SAC Room 1, starting January 15 as follows: Beginning Guitar Class-- 4:30-5:30 pm, Intermediate Guitar Class--3:00-4:00 pm, Advanced Guitar Class-- 5:30 -6:30 pm. Classical and flamenco repertoires are explored, but techniques transfer to other styles of guitar. The Beginning Class includes a jazz/folk chord system. Classes are free to Caltech students and other members of the Caltech community (space permitting). Undergrads can receive three units of credit. The instructor, Darryl Denning, has an international background in performance, teaching and recording (two of his CDs are available in the Bookstore). Mr. Denning can be reached at ext. 2923 or (323) 465-0881 or by email at ddenning@caltech.edu. www.music.caltech.edu/guitar.html.

The Student Phone Program is hiring for winter term! Student callers are needed to contact alumni nationwide. Sharpen your interviewing, negotiating, and networking skills while working in a fun and rewarding environment. Evening and weekend hours available! Paid training provided before you begin calling. Please apply by January 16. Pick up an application in Dabney Hall Room 309. Fresh are encouraged to apply, but must obtain approval from Dean to work. For additional information please contact Lucie at lspencer@dar.caltech.edu or call ext. 6232.

Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Discussion Group

Whether you are out and proud, exploring your sexual identity, coming out, or anywhere in-between, we invite you to our Discussion Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15 pm in the Health Center Lounge. The group is a great place to meet new friends and the atmosphere is generally very relaxed; at the same time, more personal and "serious" discussion topics can be addressed. This is a confidential meeting and attendance does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation; supportive students and staff are welcome as well. And refreshments are served! For more information call ext. 8331. To find out about LBGT events on campus, please visit the Caltech Student Pride Association (CSPA) calendar at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cspa/>.

Scholarships

The SEG Foundation is pleased to provide information on scholarships awarded to students majoring in geophysics or a related science, directed toward a career in exploration geophysics. Applications and additional information is available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline for submittal of applications and all supporting documents for academic year 2002, is March 1, 2002. Applications may be sent by fax to 918-497-5565. However, supporting documents (reference letters and grade transcripts) must be original documents. SEG Scholarships range from \$500 to \$12,000 per year with the majority of awards between \$1000 - \$2000. The SEG Scholarship Committee awarded \$201,500 in scholarships for the 2001 academic year.

The Evalee C. Schwarz Charitable Trust for Education is a trust created to give 0% interest loans to deserving graduate and undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:

- be an American citizen, enrolled at an accredited institution.
- be a resident of the state of the school in which you are attending.
- clearly demonstrated excellence in academic achievement as evidenced by a strong GPA and outstanding performance on national standardized undergraduate and /or post doctoral admission tests.
- you must otherwise qualify for financial aid in the form of government grants.

At present, this Trust is not accepting applications from foreign students, or from students seeking to complete a law degree. It is not the policy of this Trust to accept applications for theses, dissertations, internships, residencies or affiliations. Regarding repayment, this Trust offers a 12-month "grace period" following graduation to all students. Repayments of the loans shall begin one year following graduation or with in one year of the time a student discontinues good faith pursuit of his or her scholastic career prior to graduation. The Trust determines the repayment schedule and time frame. Please contact Ed Robinson at 410-897-9600 or email: info@evalee.org or visit the website <http://www.evalee.org> for more information.

2002-2003 National Academy Scholarships. For 2002-2003, new scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power option. Please note that electrical and mechanical engineering majors without nuclear or power options are eligible disciplines. For additional information on nuclear industry career opportunities and the National Academy Educational Assistance Program, visit www.nei.org "Careers & Education". Brochures and applications are available at the Financial Aid Office, 355 S. Holliston, 2nd floor. Complete application packages must be postmarked by February 1, 2002.

Introducing the **Bank of America Financial Aid Sweepstakes!** Yes, we're giving away scholarships. One of them could be yours. In case it hasn't registered, you could win one of the \$1000 scholarships to put towards your college education. In case you haven't registered, check out our Web site at www.bankofamerica.com/studentssweeps. Bank of America. We make students and banking click.

For more information on available scholarships, please visit the Financial Aid web site at <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html> All qualified students are encouraged to apply!

Upcoming Events

WEST (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology) will be holding several events this term. While the Lunch with Faculty Events are designed for female students and require an RSVP to westclub@caltech.edu, the Open Forum Events are open to the entire Caltech community (males and females; students, faculty, and staff) and do not require an RSVP.

Jan. 17 Open Forum, 7-8pm, Beckman Institute Auditorium
Speaker: Dr. Miriam Feldblum, Special Assistant to President Baltimore and Faculty Associate in the Division Humanities and Social Sciences

Topic: Who's Tracking the Progress? Women Students and Faculty at Caltech

Jan. 22 Lunch With Faculty, 12-1pm, Carriage House

Speakers: Profs. Melany Hunt and Linda Hsieh-Wilson

Feb. 11 Open Forum, 7-8pm, Beckman Institute Auditorium

Speakers: Profs. Dennis Dougherty, Jean Ensminger, Jared Leadbetter, and Erin Schuman

Title: A Day in the Life of a Caltech Professor

For more information on WEST, please email westclub@caltech.edu.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91126

To submit a Mint, e-mail mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be no longer than 150 words. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Saturday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.