

Tech SURFers to present research projects this Saturday

by Jim Cheng

As part of their Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship experience, Caltech SURF students will be giving oral presentations on the research they have conducted over the past summer this coming Saturday.

This year, over 240 Caltech undergraduates participated in the SURF program and will soon report on the results of the research that they have conducted over the summer with their Caltech or JPL sponsors. Research projects to be presented include baseball statistics for re-

lief pitchers, the SURFSAT communications satellite to be launched later this year, and the Chemistry Animation Project headed by Dr. Nathan Lewis.

The speakers' presentations will also serve as the first round of competition in the Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Competition, now in the third year, thanks to the contributions and fundraising of alumni and the SURF Board.

Caltech's SURF program is now in its 17th year after it was

started by Professor Fred Shair in 1979.

Projects include baseball statistics for relief pitchers, the SURFSAT communications satellite to be launched later this year, and the Chemistry Animation Project headed by Dr. Nathan Lewis.

SURF was loosely based on a prior NSF program here at Caltech, but incorporated an ap-

plication process based on the grant-seeking process and special activities such as seminars and discussion series.

With 157 sponsors from both Caltech's faculty and staff members at JPL, the SURF program offers students the chance to do research with their research sponsors in a wide variety of fields.

SURF opportunities also exist for students to work on projects in industry through the

Small Business Industrial Associates program.

SURF students are selected each spring from a pool of applicants. To be considered, applicants must have maintained a minimum of a 2.00 GPA and turned in their research proposals and letters of recommendation. These proposals are then reviewed by a board of Caltech faculty and JPL staff.

Students interested in participating in the SURF program next summer should stop by the SURF office or speak to one of the members of the SURF Student Advisory Council.

Cross Country Teams Blaze Into Home Stretch

by Brian Barris

It was true crunch time for the Caltech Cross Country Teams Saturday, October 14 in La Mirada Park. The time when the contenders are separated from the pretenders, and the Caltech teams proved to themselves and the rest of SCIAC that they are definitely contenders this year. The meet was the SCIAC Multi-Dual Meet, the first of the two meets that will determine SCIAC finishes for this year. Scoring was done in a pair-wise dual meet system, tabulating each result as if only those two teams were running.

The women's team placed 6th at the meet, and with slight improvements can look to move up at least one place at the SCIAC Championships in two weeks. Caitlin placed sixth with a strong 19:18 time for the women's 5K course. Second was Janet Sun, finishing 24th overall despite a fall in the middle of the race. The duo of Phyllis Chen and Gretchen Larson placed 34th and 35th, respectively. Karen Bletzer rounded out the top five for Caltech. The rest of the women entries, in order of finish, were the three Amys: Aimee Pierce, Amy Dullard, and Amy Chang-Chien; Kelly Walker, the lying, deceitful harpy; and Katie Stofer.

The men's team finished in 4th place with a 4-3 dual meet record. Dan Kleinman led the way with a 5th place time of 26:50, appearing to be finally getting into strong form after missing the early season with an injury. Brian Barris came across in 28:42, ending up in 22nd place. Conrad "Goose" Ziesler continued to impress in his frosh year, finishing 28th with a time of 29:06. Dave Richard finally

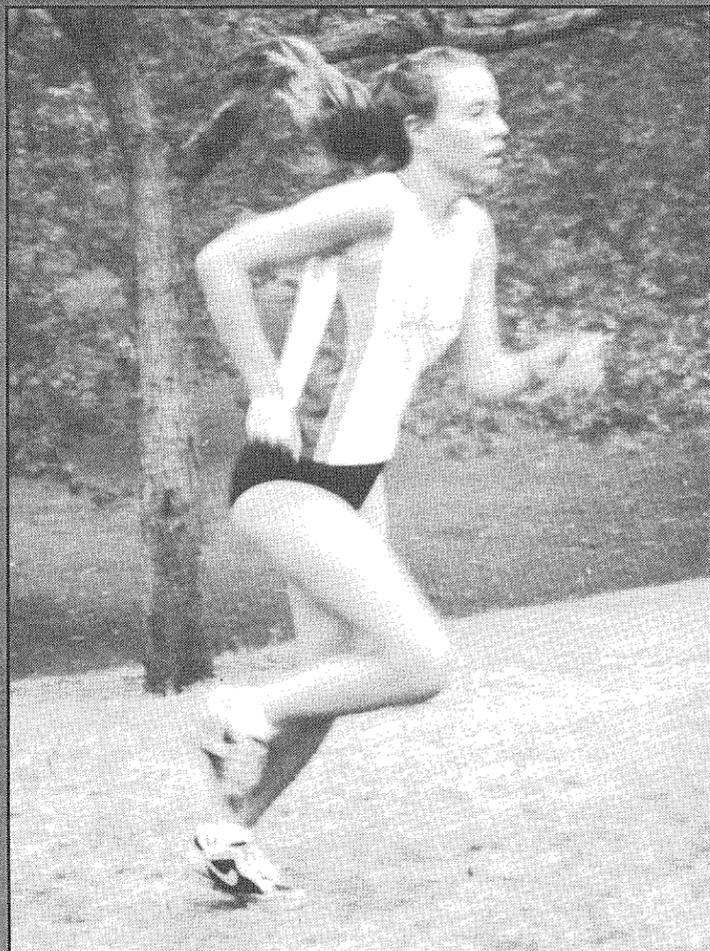


PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM O'BRIEN

Caitlin Henderson on her way to a new personal best of 19:18 at the SCIAC Multi-Dual Meet

made his long awaited step up, running a 29:11 for 29th place. Tom Dmukauskas also broke the 30-minute barrier, finishing in 29:49 despite continuing to suffer from illness. Bwah Nakatani and Harmesh Lad rounded out the top seven for the Beavers. The rest of the men's finishers were Chris Cary, Ben Siron, Tom "Pepe" Collier, Leonard Sung, Seth Blumberg, and Richi Gilmore.

Both teams are hopeful of their chances for improvement at the Conference Championship Meet, which will be run at the very fast and aromatic Prado Park in Chino. This meet will be second under the Invitational

Scoring system rather than like a dual meet. The women simply need small improvements from certain individuals, and the teams directly ahead of them go down. The men can look to the return of Tom Meyer, a definite top 5 runner who had to miss the Multi-Dual Meet due to a pilgrimage to Tibet. With his return and the improvements that can be expected on the quicker course, the men look to a historic 3rd place conference finish. The only possible complication would be if Biola actually fields a team this week, after mysteriously skipping last week's meet.

College Bowl Returns to Caltech

by Mason A. Porter

Caltech will be holding its first intracollegiate College Bowl Competition since 1988 on Saturday, October 21. It was organized by Craig Leff of JPL, who had been putting time into this endeavor since July. A total of thirteen teams will be competing tomorrow for prizes provided by Tower Records, Hamburger Hamlet, and other local establishments.

The competition will feature both a morning and an afternoon round robin. The winner of each will then face each other at about 4:00 p.m. to determine the winner of the entire event.

Six teams are scheduled to compete in the first round. The following morning schedule was valid as of Tuesday evening: Four Moles and a Funeral, Dosa Dudes, The Usual Suspects, Free Radicals, ME Grads, and Ruddock 2. The competition begins at 9:00 a.m. and is expected to last for about three hours.

Starting at 12:30 p.m., seven more teams will be competing in the second round robin tournament. As of Tuesday evening, the teams scheduled in the afternoon were: Steuben House, The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, The Possums, The

Damned Scurves (and a Flem), The Barking Spiders, The Herpelhodes, and Ruddock 1.

College Bowl, reminiscent of Jeopardy, is similar to Science Bowl, in which many college students compete while in high school.

The main difference is that College Bowl has a more eclectic nature, thereby enhancing the chances of success in the competition for those who have less knowledge of science.

Each team has four players. College bowl is played in two halves, each of which is about seven minutes long. There are two types of questions: toss-ups involving both teams as well as bonus questions worth various amounts of points for teams that answer the toss-up questions correctly. If the two teams are tied at the end of the game, there is a 'sudden death' period to determine the winner.

College Bowl will take place in SAC 13, SAC 15, and Winnett Club Room 1. All Techers are encouraged to attend and root for their favorite team and terrorize their least favorite, although projectiles will not be provided and probably should not even be brought. Saturday should prove fun for everybody involved.

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Quest For Profit Destroys Environment

Though not explicitly guaranteed in the Constitution, Americans have long considered the right to make money a fundamental right. Any governmental effort to protect the environment is met with cries of outrage from the business world: "Hey! That'll eat into our profits!" Unfortunately, this unquestioned right to make money is the root cause of many of our most pressing environmental problems.

Why do Americans defend the right to make money so fiercely? The rags-to-riches fairy tale is very powerful. A less ambitious version of the tale, the "American dream" (the dream of having a higher standard of living than our parents), motivates many Americans. Unfortunately, as our standards of living increase, so does our consumption - we drive more cars, make more trash, and demand more from the environment.

Over consumption, especially combined with the Earth's skyrocketing population, leads to a variety of environmental woes. One of the most obvious problems is deforestation. Forests are cleared for one overriding reason: because it is profitable to do so. As long as the demand for wood and the demand for meat (and thus the demand for grazing land) continue to increase, destruction of our forests will continue.

Deforestation has several implications. First, since deforested land cannot hold as much water as before, devastating floods will become more common - floods which, besides wrecking havoc on the people and property nearby, will wash away the topsoil, degrading the land. Second, deforestation leads to a decrease in biodiversity. This is bad not only for the cliché reason that we may lose a potential cure for cancer somewhere in the rain forest, but also because biodiversity is our protection against a single disease wiping out all our food crops. Third, forests are the Earth's natural mechanism for producing oxygen. Since animal life (which includes us) depends on a plentiful supply of oxygen, it would seem somewhat unwise to destroy the Earth's oxygen factory.

Other nasty effects of over consumption include global warming (as, for example, more people can afford cars) and air, water, and land pollution (as energy consumption increases).

As Ophuls and Boyen note in *The Politics of Scarcity Revisited*, we are rapidly approaching the Earth's limits. We already use up 40% of terrestrial NPP (net photosynthetic production - the amount of energy produced by plants) by paving over land, changing forests to farmland, etc. As population and consumption increase, we will use up

more and more NPP. Unfortunately, since NPP is the food that all the animals on the planet (including us) share, if we use up 100% of NPP, there will be no food energy to support any other species. Since we depend on other species for our survival, this would be a bad move. In fact, using 100% of NPP would be such a bad move that it would probably kill off the entire human race. Ophuls and Boyen estimate that, at current levels of consumption, the earth can only take two more doublings of population. Since population currently doubles about every 40 years, our time frame for change

is very short.

I know what you're thinking: technology will save us! Unfortunately, technology can only buy us time. Technology cannot create something from nothing. It can help us use what we have more efficiently, but there is a limit to how efficient we can become. Sooner or later, we will have to face the problem. We can either do it now, while decreasing consumption will be relatively easy (since population hasn't crept too high yet), or later, as a desperate, last ditch effort. Second, we should not rely on technology to save us. The worst possible consequence

of decreasing consumption is unemployment; the worst possible consequence of relying technology is extinction of the human race. Risk analysis would therefore lead us to the conclusion that it would be unwise to rely on technology.

So what is the solution? Perhaps being content with what we have would be enough, but that is unlikely. We must be prepared to accept stiffer measures, including taking away that cherished right to make money. After all, the alternative is taking away the future of our race.

Autumn Looijen

Letter to the Editor

Chickens of the World: Unite?

On Tuesday October 17, I went to the panel discussion in Dabney lounge on "Environmental Racism, Sexism, and Other Forms of Oppression" (sponsored by the Caltech Y). I found the discussion very informative, but not entirely for the reasons the speakers had intended.

There were four speakers: two who spoke about animal rights and two who spoke about environmental racism. The first speaker gave a slide presentation about animal rights and feminism and the relationship between the two. The presentation consisted mostly of slides showing cartoon depictions of animals in high heels and "pornographic poses" and explicit photographs of women's sex organs garnished with various types of food. The conclusion of the talk was that our society "fragments" animals and women in many of the same ways and that speciesism and sexism are somehow variations of the same type of oppression. The other animal rights activist spoke about the plight of chickens. Her talk consisted mostly of horror stories about how the poultry industry treats chickens. She referred to poultry farms as concentration camps and described how genetic alteration of chickens is responsible for the alienation a chicken feels from its own body. She criticized the environmental movement for looking at animals as populations

instead of individuals and accused them of discriminating against domesticated animals. She finished her talk by castigating Carl Sagan for having the audacity to suggest that chickens were dumber (and therefore not entitled to rights) than chimpanzees. She countered Sagan's claims with anecdotal evidence of chicken intelligence and chicken language.

In contrast, the two panelists who spoke about environmental racism gave compelling evidence that pollution generating plants, toxins, and waste sites are disproportionately located in minority neighborhoods (even after normalizing for income). They spoke at length about the effects of different types of pollutants on the affected populations and concluded with a description of their legal and grass roots efforts to combat environmental racism. The examples they used came from Los Angeles county which made their case even more poignant.

I came away from this discussion feeling the same way I do every time I see the ridiculous sign on the 110 freeway declaring South Pasadena the most endangered community in America. I find the sign somewhat offensive (and even more absurd) considering what goes on in communities not too distant from S. Pasadena where multiple freeways crisscross neighborhoods, and violence, drug addiction, and abject poverty are endemic. Similarly, I find it ludicrous (and maybe even a bit racist) to equate the plight of a poor

African American or Latino living next to a toxic waste dump to an overweight chicken. Nonetheless, this seemed to be an implicit message in having the panel discussion.

The final speaker (a Latina speaking about environmental racism) commented that she was impressed by the passion with which the different speakers pursued their topics. She then added that she had had chicken for dinner before coming to the panel. It was in this comment that I saw the real evidence of fragmentation in our society, where we are so isolated from one another that some of us can believe that a chicken has more pressing problems than an oppressed human being.

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Core Curriculum Changes



by Dave Stevenson

The Caltech faculty is working on a major change in the set of courses taken in the first two years that the institute requires of all who graduate. Taken together, these courses constitute what is called the Core Curriculum.

The change in the Core is likely to be the beginning of the largest change in the structure of Caltech education in decades. It will be an evolutionary process rather than revolutionary, so not all the changes will be implemented at once, but it is an attempt to recognize that the nature of science has changed in the decades since the current core was formulated. It will also attempt to address shortcomings in the coordination or coherence of current core courses.

My purpose in this article is to explain why this is happening, what has happened thus far, and what will happen in the coming months as the all-important details of implementation are worked out. You have the opportunity to provide guidance and express opinions on this process, as I will explain at the end of this article.

Caltech faculty, like Caltech students, do not have a monolithic view of what the core should contain and accomplish. Certainly the current core is strongly oriented toward the acquisition of tools, and the large enrollment of de facto core courses (CS1 and AMa95) shows that there is widespread acceptance of the importance of basic tools, no matter which option is chosen.

But should the core be merely the acquisition of these tools? Regardless of one's view on the success of the current core, there can be no doubt that the character of science has changed since the post-Second World War era (a period of physics-dominance). We are now in an era when information-rich sciences have come to the fore and where computers and the manipulation of large amounts of data play a larger role.

Biology is the prime example of an information-rich science and an area which many believe contains the most exciting challenges in all of science. Earth science (including soci-

etal issues of environment, climate change, and so forth) is another information-rich science replete with exciting challenges.

Many faculty believe that the current core is deficient because it allows a Caltech student to graduate without any exposure to these sciences and their challenges. This does not mean that the value of physics, chemistry and math is somehow diminished. Indeed, many of the strongest advocates for change (and many Caltech biology faculty) were trained as physicists and see the value of that training. But can someone aspiring to be a scientist or engineer in the year 2000 afford to be unaware of the approaches and issues of information-rich science? Should students even decide on their option choice without exposure to these other areas of science? There are other issues driving curriculum change as well, but these are widely viewed as the most important.

The process of determining curriculum change began in 1993, with the Academic Policies Committee. This committee, chaired by Tony Leonard, professor of aeronautics, included student members and sought plenty of input from students.

Of the proposals it submitted to the Faculty Board, the one that received strongest support sought to place the core curriculum firmly in the hands of the institute faculty at large rather than in the hands of the individual options. This requires the setting up of a group who would oversee the core curriculum, decide on its content and select the best instructors for the courses. What this means is that the content of Ma1 and 2 should not be determined by the traditional instructors of those courses (primarily pure mathematicians), or physics by the physicists or chemistry by the chemists. It also became apparent that there was a strong sentiment against increasing the size of the core; indeed, many fa-

vor a smaller core. The current implementation will be faithful to this boundary condition that the core should not increase in total number of units required.

In 1994-95, a task force co-chaired by Harry Gray, professor of chemistry and David Goodstein, professor of physics, brought forward proposals for implementation. Their somewhat peripheral but nonetheless important proposal to change the rules concerning P/F in the latter part of the freshman year was accepted and implemented. They also brought forward some specific ideas about how the core curriculum should change.

The proposed change would reduce physics by 9 units (from 54 to 45), math by 9 units (from 54 to 45), and Chem 1/3 by 3 units (from 24 to 21), thus freeing up 21 units and providing the opportunity to insert some new courses. These new courses, whose nature and timing are yet to be determined, are commonly referred to as menu courses. "Menu" implies choice but there has not yet been any decision reached about the extent to which choice will be provided. The basic structure of this proposal was accepted by the faculty and the implementation was left to a newly formed Core Curriculum Council, which I currently chair and which will include several students (as yet to be named).

The most important part of this Council is a Steering Committee, kept deliberately small since large committees have difficulty getting things done. Aside from myself, the membership of the Steering Committee is Jacqueline Barton (professor of chemistry), Roger Blandford (professor of astrophysics), Charles Brokaw (professor of biology), David Goodwin (professor of mechanical engineering and applied physics; member of the committee by virtue of being Chair of the Curriculum Committee), Richard McKelvey

(professor of political science), Barry Simon (professor of mathematics and theoretical physics), Tony Leonard (professor of aeronautics) and possibly a student member. The larger Council has about 25 members, including current instructors of core courses. The steering committee will be doing the bulk of the work in defining the new curriculum, and will use the Council as a sounding board and source of advice.

Although the new menu courses are in some ways the most important challenge confronting the steering committee, we cannot proceed to defining these courses until we figure out when they are likely to be scheduled. Will they show up in the third quarter of the freshman year or first quarter of the sophomore year or even later? To the extent that they may serve to guide students in their choice of options, an early scheduling is preferable.

On the other hand, the basic tools in Math, Physics and Chemistry also need to be properly covered. The committee cannot deal properly with the new menu until it decides on how to structure and modify the existing math, physics and chemistry requirements. Consequently, the committee is beginning with this difficult issue - difficult since it requires reducing the number of units in each of these components.

The structure of the menu is, of course, a very important issue. Even if one accepts (as many do) that biology is an indispensable part of the menu, does that mean that it should be required? Many have argued that the best way to succeed with the menu is to provide choice but put much effort into assuring that the choices are so enticing that the goals are accomplished without coercion. In this notion of a limited "marketplace" of courses, it will be vitally important to get the very best instructors and Divisional and institutional support for the new offerings.

It is desirable and appropriate that there be some experiments in this evolutionary process of curriculum revision. (An "experiment" means something that can be abandoned later if it doesn't work). There are also many issues not covered here (including the possibility of a small required course in scientific communication, and the eventual need to look again at the humanities and social science offerings). But the most useful and pressing need right now is to decide on changes to the existing core and the nature of the new courses.

Of course, there are also more detailed but nonetheless important questions about the suitability of particular faculty for teaching core courses. For student readers of this article, there are several ways that you can influence this process or promote discussion: (1) By sending me a message at djs@arms.gps.caltech.edu. (2) By writing to *The California Tech*. (3) By expressing your views to the student representatives on the CCC (although their identity is not yet known as I write this).

I'll end on a mildly provocative note directed specifically at students: You are the most knowledgeable people on campus concerning the content and (in)coherence of the current core, and the nuances of topic ordering and course scheduling. But do you have a basis for deciding what is appropriate for the new menu? When I talk to students, I find most to be very conservative in their views on the core. And many express views about biology or other currently non-core areas that have been determined by high school experiences or by existing course offerings. (There is no requirement that any of the new menu courses be even remotely like an existing course offering!) I hope that you will approach this issue mindful of which aspects you are expert on and which you may have preconceptions about.

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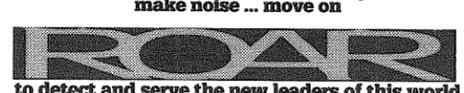
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READ ME!!

Due to technical problems, ASCIT Movies will not be showing *Die Hard: With a Vengeance* on Friday night. *Die Hard* will be rescheduled for a 2nd term showing. *Demolition Man* will be shown next Friday as usual. Please accept our apologies.

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Y NEWS

by Donna Ebenstein

The Caltech Y has another big (sort of!) weekend planned for you:
Friday: 12:00 PM— Annie Rapid will be here for a noon concert at the Winnett Center for the conclusion of Kaleidoscope (aka Diversity Week)
1:00 PM— this week's mountain biking trip has been changed from 2 to 1 PM
Saturday: 9AM - 1 PM (for any of you who are awake) — College Bowl in Winnett Lounge — if you aren't signed up you can still come and watch!
10 PM— It's the second Saturday Night Alternative Movie of the year in BI Auditorium. The title has not been selected yet, but if you want to know ahead of time you can call the Y at x6163 or stop by anytime.

If none of this interests you, we are still selling discount movie and theme park passes, as well as renting camping equipment. So get out and have some fun this weekend!

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Calendar

by Terry Moran

Frosh Activity

It's Nate's birthday. Pond his ass.

Exhibits

On the cool and eccentric side is Hagop Sandaldjian's new sculptures exhibit at the **Museum of Jurassic Technology**. What's truly taking about these sculptures is not their content (mostly Disney characters are portrayed) nor their content, but their size. Or should I say *lack of size*: all of Sandaldjian's works can stand easily in complete detail and painting on the top of the point of a pin. Point blank, they make 'the world's smallest engine' in Bridge look like a supercomputer to these characters. But the truth is that, though this exhibit will be moving on to other locates on November 2nd, the Mu-

seum of Jurassic is filled with such unbelievable exhibits, with the museum dedicating itself to showings of unusual to unbelievable natural phenomena. It's worth a look and a laugh.

Concerts

David Bowie is coming back for a special Halloween show, but without his little sycophantic partner from NINnies. The show is at 8pm at the Paladium on the 31st, but tickets go on sale on Saturday, 10am. **Chris "somebody's whining" Isaak** will be performing on Sunday December 3rd with the Wallflowers at the Pantages. Tickets are available through Ticket-Bastard.

Shows

The **Karamazov Brothers** are going to perform at the Beckman today, October 20th.

These characters are known for their variety, performing parody, physical comedy, wordplay, music and juggling, but its most worth it if you can get in on the last minute "lets fill the house" tickets which are pretty cheap, but are subject to how many seats are left a few minutes before the show. These are worth finding out about.

Not to miss the Halloween spirit, Matt Groening and his crew will be showing up at the Golden Apple on Melrose this October 25th between 6 and 9pm for a special signing session of Groening's newest comic book Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror, his "Halloween gift to the nation." I just personally think Groening is cool, even if you have to buy a book to meet him. Ask about his father Homer and his son, Homer Jr.

Movies

The newest "let's-cast-as-many-big-names-in-one-movie-as-we-can" movie of the year has just come out this week: **Get Shorty** is based on a novel by Elmore Leonard and has casted DeVito, Russo, Hackman, and to top it off the return of Travolta. What is turned out by this great cast is an equally great and entertaining show; but the real victory of this movie is that, out of Hollywood style, the book's plot was not massa-

SEE PAGE 8

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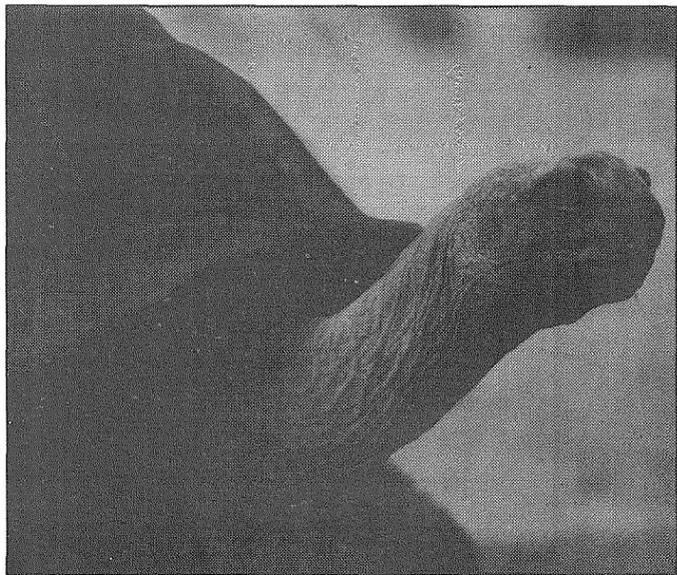
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Roger
Nomura Jr., O.D.

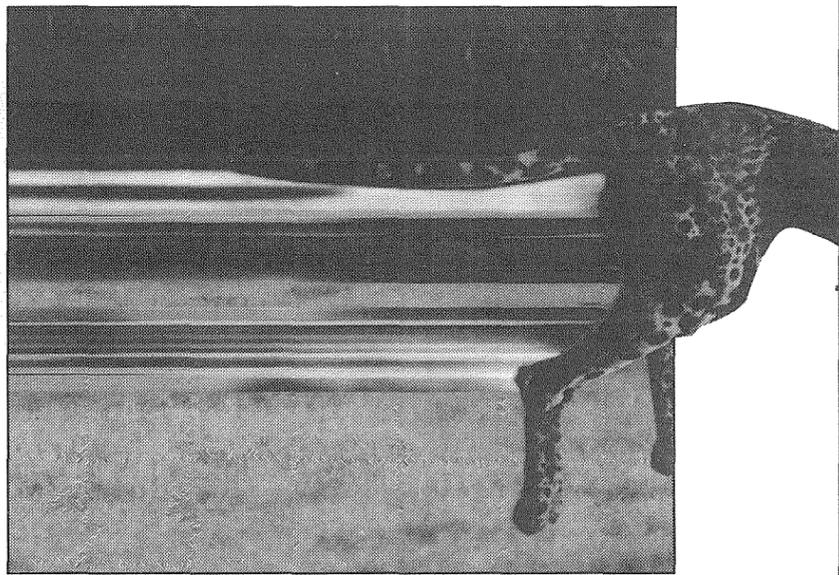
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WORLD NEWS UPDATE

by Maria Huang
and Myfanwy Callahan

Moroni, Comoros Islands — France invaded the Comoros Islands off the East African Coast to halt a coup in their former colony. About 1,000 French marines and Foreign Legion troops landed Wednesday. The French will negotiate the surrender of coup leader Bob Denard. (NYT)

Tokyo, Japan — Shoko Asahara, leader of Japan's Aum Supreme Truth Cult, confessed the cult's involvement in the poison gas attack in the Tokyo subway system earlier this year. However, cult followers insist the confession was forced. This breaks his 141-day silence on the topic. (LA Times)

Nadi, Fiji — The Fijian government has invited 28,000 Hong Kong Chinese to emigrate, joining the indigenous Fijian and the large Indian minority. This may boost the Fijian economy, but locals question the invitation of so many. (NYT)

Moscow, Russia — Yeltsin's only obvious political heir, Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin, announced on Wednesday that he would not run for president. This leaves the future of Russia uncertain. Although no party is clearly more popular than the others, the Communists may do better than other groups in parliamentary elections this December. (NYT)

Bosnia — NATO warplane bombed three Bosnian missile batteries on Oct. 4. According to NATO, the NATO pilots were threatened by the Serbs who had trespassed the no-flight zone, and therefore had the right and responsibility to take legal military action. (NYT)

Skopje, Macedonia — The Macedonian Parliament named an interim president Wednesday after President Kiro Gligorov was seriously wounded from a car-bomb attack. It is unknown who was responsible for the attack. (NYT)

Newark, NJ — Pope John Paul II arrived Wednesday in Newark for his fourth visit to the U.S. His 5-day visit to the East Coast will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. (LA Times)

Pensacola, Florida — Hurricane Opal with winds reaching 145 mph swept over the Florida Panhandle Wednesday. Storm surges reached 20ft about normal tides. This is the worst hurricane to hit the area since 1969. Damages as yet unestimated. (L.A. Times)

Marin County, CA — A wildfire fanned by warm, dry winds had destroyed at least 47 homes near Point Reyes National Seashore in western Marin County, CA, Wednesday night. The blaze burned from the small Inverness Park southwest to the Pacific Ocean, and even fire fighters in Oregon and Lake Tahoe joined the battle against the fire later. (LA Times)

**ADAM VILLANI:
MEDIA GUY**

KROQ vs. Power 106

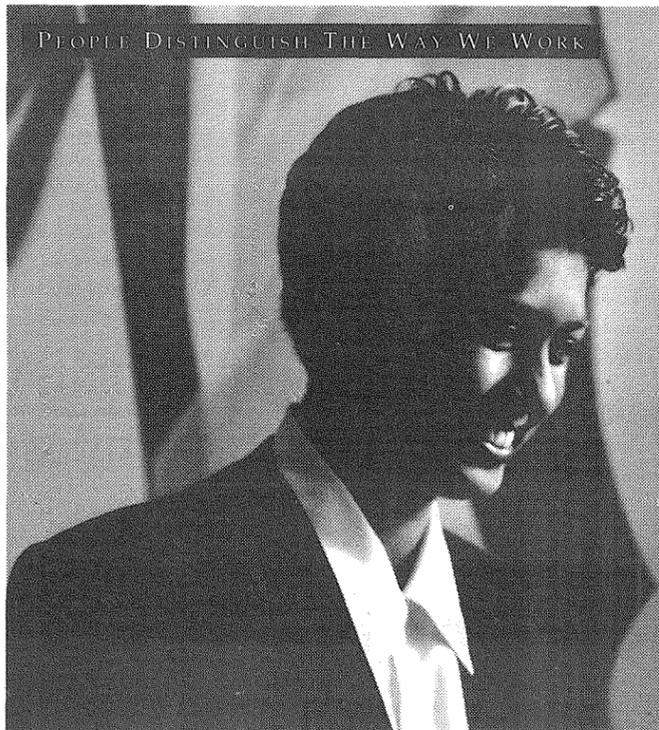
I've been a loyal KROQ listener since the mid-80's, but the time has come when an endless diet of Green Day and their ilk has driven me to abandon them in favor of greener pastures a little to the left on the dial. That's right, this white guy has turned from L.A.'s venerable so-called alternative station to L.A.'s home of hip-hop, KPWR 105.9 (or Power 106). Old-school funk, rap, and long mixes of beat-driven house music are fine substitutes for the techno and industrial music that one can only hear on low-powered college stations (if you're lucky) or the 80's New Wave and technopop that KROQ saves for the occasional "Flashback Weekend," and Power has some great, enthusiastic DJs. They're certainly not perfect, though; they've picked up KROQ's Poorman and there are still a number of songs that I find annoying, mindless, or just plain boring (case in point: Mariah Carey's "Fantasy," which sounds like mud and samples almost all of the Tom Tom Club's great "Genius of Love.") But I digress; the main point is that I feel KROQ's betrayed me and its other longtime listeners who deserve to hear an actual variety of music.

To Die For

This new film from director Gus Van Sant (Drugstore Cowboy) and screenwriter Buck Henry (The Graduate) is a scathing indictment of America's greed and TV culture which is sure to draw comparison to Natural Born Killers but is a much better movie. Oliver Stone's Killers hit you like a ton of bricks, falling into the trap of thinking that the more vomited onto the screen, the better. To Die For is much tighter; the cinematic "tricks" accent the story rather than distract you from it, and Nicole Kidman, Joaquin Phoenix, Ileana Douglas, and Alison Folland give great performances.

Dead Presidents

Dead Presidents is an ambitious movie about a black soldier returning home from Vietnam from the Hughes Brothers (Menace II Society), but feels unfocused and in need of an editor at several stages in the production. There's no paucity of good material here (the robbery scene is downright incredible) but the whole is less than the sum of its parts.



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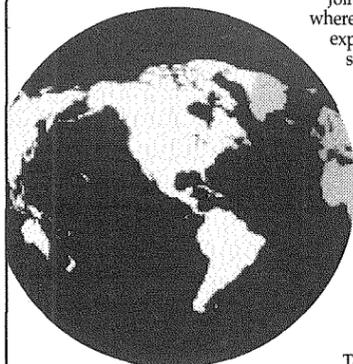
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Opiate of the Masses II: The Redemption

by Joe Trela

In which we learn why demographics studies should never cross paths with a new league.

So now I'm looking at the sports section of the paper, and it says on page C1 that the new major soccer league, Major League Soccer (now *there*, by Crom, was a stretch) has announced the names and logos of their new teams. And the first thing that comes to my mind is, "Where's the comics section?" The second thing, though, is "How many of those needles they use to inflate soccer balls did they stick in their brains, anyway?" It's hard to believe that all of the good names are gone with only four major leagues and a brace of minor ones. The best looking logo probably belongs to Washington D.C. United (an eagle in some sort of heroic pose), but when I say it looks good, I mean on top of the Reichstag circa 1940. The other names and logos don't even bother with the fascist imagery; some of them are just plain goofy. For an

example, take the Tampa Bay Mutiny. Is it particularly *wise* even to hint to the players that they switch to the other team on the spur of the moment? Presumably, the San Jose Clash will play in neon green paisley shirts, black and red striped shorts and rhinestone cleats. The Kansas City Wiz and Colorado Rapids could play each other in the Flow Bowl. And instead of a cumbersome name like the New York-New Jersey Metro Stars, why not take in the whole megalopolis and call them the Boys from Boswash? But perhaps we (or I) should stop complaining and start preparing for the inevitable expansion teams. Some ideas: the Seattle Lattés, the Atlanta Gingriches and the Houston Petrodollars. And, of course (thanks to Adam Villani), playing at the Rose Bowl, our very own Pasadena Gated Communities!

PICKS!!! PICKS!!! PICKS!!! (Not to be taken internally)

CINCINNATI VS. PITTSBURGH (Thursday Night Retro-Prognostica-

tion): After losing to the expansion Jaguars, Steelers' coach Bill Cowher locks himself inside his office with eight peanut butter sandwiches, two six-packs of Jolt cola and one of those vibrating electric football games. He emerges after two days with a beatific smile, a game plan and no shoes; local papers laud him for learning how to handle stress better.

Pick: Cincinnati

HOUSTON VS. CHICAGO: Since both cities are major ports, the two cities decide to have a "mayor wager" of local products; Houston wagers a 50,000 barrel tanker of Texas crude against Chicago's bid of 50,000 assorted cow parts.

Pick: Chicago

MIAMI VS N.Y. JETS: With Boomer Esiason still out from a concussion and backup QB Bubby Brister suffering from a sore thumb, the Jets announce an open tryout for throwers; alas, Dwight Gooden already has a job in the Bronx.

Pick: Miami

JACKSONVILLE VS. CLEVELAND: An electrical fire renders Municipal Stadium temporarily unusable for the game. Unfortunately, the emergency plan (go to Jacobs Field) never took into account the possibility of a certain baseball team playing there in mid-October, and the result is a football game on the lawn in front of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a broken wax figure of Sid Vicious and bruised feelings all around.

Pick: Cleveland

NEW ORLEANS VS. CAROLINA: Flush with their victory over the Jets, several Panthers members make the drive to the famous (some say infamous) "South Of The Border" roadside Mecca to load up on victory fireworks and accidentally set Barry Foster's ego on fire.

Pick: New Orleans

DETROIT VS. WASHINGTON: Members of the Michigan Militia drive en masse to the game in order to protest the "socialist government's team." Their plan fails, however,

when one of them is caught entering RFK Stadium with a glass Pepsi bottle planted on them by an ATF agent. The group is politely escorted out.

Pick: Washington

ATLANTA VS. TAMPA BAY: With both teams having unexpectedly successful seasons, Bucs' coach Sam Wyche exclaims, "Somebody pinch me!", in a crowded room. Someone does, and he suddenly wakes up to find out he's actually a shoe salesman in Flint, Michigan. He still likes the color orange, though.

Pick: Tampa Bay

KANSAS CITY VS. DENVER: Senator Bob Dole sets up a discreet inquiry as to whether Marty Schottenheimer's name recognition can help him in a presidential campaign despite the fact that the relevant Kansas City is not in Kansas.

Pick: Kansas City

MINNESOTA VS. GREEN BAY: In a desperate attempt to get another football team, the city of Los Angeles announces a tentative deal with ABC/D (that's ABC/Disney to you) in which the megacorporation will pay to transplant the entire city of Green Bay (including the Packers) to a specially prepared plot of land in the Mojave Desert. In payment, Los Angeles will give up every child born within the city limits on Walt Disney's birthday in 1996.

Pick: Green Bay

INDIANAPOLIS VS. OAKLAND: Impressed with the Colts' victories over St. Louis, Miami and San Francisco, former Indiana Senator Dan Quayle declares this coming week to be "Official Colts Week" in order to "celebrate the many decades of football entertainment the Colts have brought to Indianapolis."

Pick: Oakland

SAN DIEGO VS. SEATTLE: Following a razor-thin no vote on building a new stadium for the Mariners, the chief executives for the Seahawks announce their desire for their own new stadium and announce that they will start gathering signatures for a ballot. "We can't lose!" says one board member.

Pick: San Diego

SAN FRANCISCO VS. ST. LOUIS: Replacement QB Elvis Grobac throws two footballs at a fan who asked him to gyrate and do a lip curl for his aunt from Memphis. The NFL commissioner rules against a fine, but mentions that "he'd better get used to it over the next four weeks."

Pick: San Francisco

BUFFALO VS. NEW ENGLAND (Monday Night): In an attempt to keep business partners in New England on their good side pending the outcome of the referendum on secession, a group of Quebecker businessmen sponsor "Free Canadian Cuisine Night", where Patriots fans in the luxury boxes can eat all of the fries and gravy they can handle.

Pick: Buffalo

Last Week: 6-7. Damn you Oakland Raiders! DAMN YOU ALL TO IRWINDALE!!
Current Record: 6-7.

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ASCIT MINUTES

Official ASCIT minutes of 10/16/95

Present: Jon, Dave, Kanna, 24, Tom, Laura, 16, Greg, Lori Hsu, 32, Jian Zhang, David Wang, and Darth. Hut.

Flakes: Melissa, James, Ken, Olmy

- Meeting blossoms into fruitful existence at 10:23 p.m. The New Meeting time for the ASCIT BOD is officially declared to be Monday night at 10 p.m in SAC 64.
- Dabney needs \$150 in multihouse money cause they're going skating with the Scurves. We give it to them. Real good. Dabney also wants about \$50 for the pumpkin drop, but we delay donating to the drop erst they know how much they're getting from the other houses.
- David and Jian finished this year's yearbook. They want their money. The BOD approves the editors' salaries plus bonuses (total \$1500) as stated in the contract approved by the previous BOD. The BOD discusses the editing of the yearbook, especially the blacking out of the middle finger in a senior picture and the editing of words such as a** in the house section (how can you edit the word a**?). It is agreed that the editors will make it abundantly clear to next year's seniors that pictures containing profanity or obscene gestures will be edited so as to remove the profanity/obscenity/other words ending in ity' from the picture. Due to personal time constraints, David and Jian both resign as editors of next year's yearbook. Mike Ru and Donna Akutagawa are the remaining editors. Internal reshuffling within the staff/editors/business managers of the yearbook will compensate for the loss of two of the four editors.

Officer Reports:

Melissa: I'm such a flake.
 Ken: No, I'm a flake.
 James: No, I'm a flake.
 Laura: I showed up and participated in pending discussion.

- Greg asks for compensation for himself and Kristie Armentrout for the ASCIT Post-Rotation party. Kanna writes them both checks. Greg estimates the cost of the Halloween party at \$1200. The BOD also discusses the procrastination of house and club social teams

turning in party paperwork. If forms are turned in before the first day of a new semester, Greg can put the events in his social calendar, and security guards and funding requests don't become last minute issues. The BOD believes that organizations that turn in their party forms before the first of the semester should be financially rewarded

from \$50 to \$150. However, no actual agreement of funding is passed, as Greg wants to discuss this proposal with the Dean's office and the DRL.

- Tom told Jon about SS 13. Tom also suggested putting ASCIT Movie posters in the Grad houses. We already do this. Oh well.
- The BOD wants Peter Manca to discuss the ASCIT Mov-

ies' losses with Stan Borodinsky to see if something can be done to reduce the size of said losses. \$3000/term is a bit much.

- Dave gets to go to Palm Springs for Xmas break. Dave will also rewrite the election bylaws because the current bylaws allow instances to occur in which people neither win nor tie.
- Jon is mad at people who

don't show up to BOD meetings. Sorry. These minutes are pretty boring. They didn't let me put in the joke about the chicken and the priest. Maybe next time.

David Relyea
 ASCIT Secretary

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Events

*The Y will be hosting **Annie Rapid** in a Noon concert Today, October 20th, in the Winnett Quad. Bring your lunch and listen to a great concert. (That's an order!)

***Erin Riley**, Criminalist and Forensics expert with the Los Angeles Police Department, will speak at the Saxon Auditorium on the Pasadena City College on Wednesday, October 25th at 7 pm. Riley will be speaking about DNA as evidence and forensics in general, and will hold a general question and answer session following the talk.

***Opera a la Carte** will be presenting their performance of *The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan* in the Beckman Auditorium at 8pm on Saturday, November 4th. The show will feature fully costumed musical numbers from shows such as *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Tickets range from \$22 to \$28, with a \$2 student discount.

*Guitarist **Paul Galbraith** will be performing a Paco A. Lagerstrom Chamber Music Concert from 3:30 pm on Sunday, November 5th in Dabney Lounge. Admission is free.

*The **Caltech Occidental Band** will be holding a concert directed by William Bing with guest conductor Frank Ticheli, Professor of Music at USC on Saturday, November 11th, at 8 pm in the Beckman Auditorium. Admission is free.

The Volunteer/Community Service Program is going to be holding an **Adopt-a-Meal Program** every third Saturday of the month at the Union Station beginning October 21st. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome. Sign up in the Caltech Y if you are interested. For more information, please contact Prista (prista@uges.caltech.edu) or Athena at extension 6163.

Ken Armstrong will host an Armchair Adventure travel film entitled "**Darwin's Patagonia**" on Friday, October 27th, in the Beckman Auditorium at 8 pm. Admission starts at \$7.00.

The Y presents "the Varsity Sport of the Mind": **College Bowl Campus Championship** on October 21st in the Winnett Club Room 1. To sign-up in this competition, write Craig Leff at cleff@haleakala.jpl.nasa.gov or call the Y at x6163 before tomorrow, October 14th.

The Monrovia Arts Festival Association will be holding its annual **Fine Arts Festival** exhibiting the works of over 120 artists on October 21st and 22nd between 10 am and 5 pm at Library Park, Monrovia. Admission is free.

Notices

*The Hwa say: All students interested in taking the **Putnam** are invited to attend practice sessions for the Putnam competition! Please send your opinions on good times and places for weekly meetings to putnam@uges.

*The Caltech Bookstore is currently holding its third annual **Giant Pumpkin Raffle** (and *man* is a beauty). Raffle tickets are given to

Announcements

♦ denotes a new announcement.

any one purchasing \$2 or more from the bookstore; the drawing will be held on October 27th at 12 noon at the bookstore.

The **Caltech Swedish Club** will have an informal meeting on Sunday, October 22nd at 3 pm at 204 S. Holliston, Apt. 11, in Pasadena (one block north of the Caltech campus). The meeting is open to anybody who likes to speak Swedish or is interested in Scandinavian culture. We will eat Swedish cinnamon buns (kanelbullar), drink Swedish coffee and chat in Swedish and English. For more information contact Lena Peterson via e-mail: lena@pcmp.caltech.edu or phone x6994 (day) or 683-9102 (night).

The **Totem**, Caltech's literary magazine, can now be found on the WEBB at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~totem>. Check out the electric version of the great art and poetry of the Caltech community and drop us a line to tell us what you think! Also, there are still extra copies of last year's Totem left; come by Dabney 27 if you'd like one. The Totem is open to the entire Caltech community, and accept any creative work, from visual arts to poetry and essays to musical composition. Every submission will be carefully considered. You can submit your masterpieces to totem@tech.caltech.edu, or mail them to MSC 568. For more information, call 584-7141.

The **Caltech Folk Music Society** is seeking volunteers. If you like the sound of acoustic guitars, singer-songwriters, tight harmonies, and a whole host of other things that get lumped into the term "folk music," they invite you to give them a call at 791-4583 for more information about volunteering or to get your name on the mailing list to find out about upcoming events.

From the Counseling Center

*The Counseling Center is offering a **Women's Therapy Group For Graduate Students** to begin in the fall term. The group is designed as an expansion of the women's group offered last year which provided an opportunity for women to examine a range of personal and professional issues in a confidential setting. Through the group discussion, women will be able to examine their patterns relating to others, their family and intimate relationships, and challenges they experience in achieving success. Another important goal of the group process will be to facilitate a sense of closeness and connection within the group. Each group member needs to meet with the group leaders for a pre-group interview. If you would like more information or to schedule a pre-group interview, please contact the Counseling Center at x8331 by October 27th. The group will be offered on Tuesdays at the Counseling Center and will begin in November

Are you looking for help in dealing with procrastination? A six-week **Procrastination Group** for graduate and undergraduate stu-

dents will be presented beginning Tuesday, October 24th. The group will provide an opportunity to discuss procrastination difficulties, to examine the psychological issues which may contribute to procrastination, and to learn ways to begin to overcome procrastination. Kevin Austin, Ph.D., Director of the Student Counseling Service, will lead the group with staff member Jamil Ali, M.A. The group will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15 pm to 4:45 pm in the Health Center Lounge. For more information call Virginia at x8331 to arrange to meet one of the group leaders prior to beginning the group. This meeting is required in order to attend the group. So don't procrastinate, call today!

Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being out, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? We invite you to the **Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Support Group** every first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7:30 to 10:00 pm in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting, and attending does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation—only that he or she is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discuss a particular topic relevant to the group that week and then move on to announcements and general discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you would like more information, please call 395-8331.

The Women's Center and the Counseling Center are co-sponsoring a confidential **Assertion Training Group** for both graduate and undergraduate women. The group will focus on developing assertion skills to be used in professional settings. Goals of the group will include: developing a conceptual understanding of aggressive, non-assertive, and assertive behavior; practicing specific behavioral skills (eye contact, voice projection, body language); strengthening cognitive skills including gaining an understanding of rights and appropriate behavior; and problem solving specific difficult situations. Jan Aura, Ph.D. and an intern from the Counseling Center will co-facilitate the group which will be held for the next five weeks at the Women's Center on Mondays from 12:00-1:00 pm. If you would like more information or you would like to sign up for the group, please contact the Counseling Center at (818) 395-8331.

Competitions

Disc Makers is giving a chance in a lifetime for unsigned bands to get signed! The **Disc Makers' 1995 Los Angeles Unsigned Band World Series** is open to all unsigned Southern Californian bands. The six finalist of this competition will be given the chance to perform for music industry's leaders at the Troubadour on November 30th, while the top band will be given the chance to record their album to be mastered, manufacturing, and promoted as a major-label-quality CD (a prize valued at \$10,000). The contest is open to all Southern California bands that submit either a demo or CD by **November 9th**, along with a \$15.00 cover charge to: Disc Makers' 1995 Los Angeles Unsigned Band World Series, 213 W. Alameda, Suite 101, Burbank, Ca 91502.

Fellowships and Scholarships

From the Deans Office:

Applications are available in the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-Gates for the **Churchill Scholarship Program**. The one-year graduate study award is available to graduating seniors and graduate students. It includes full tuition, \$6,000 living allowance for a full-year program, and a \$500 travel allowance. At current exchange rates, the value of a Churchill Scholarship is approximately \$20,000. Churchill College is a predominately engineering and science-oriented college at Cambridge University. Applicants must be U.S. citizens between the ages of 19 and 26. The deadline to submit a complete application to the Deans' Office is **November 13th, 1995**. Caltech can nominate two candidates to the Churchill Foundation.

The **Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation** awards scholarships to juniors who have outstanding leadership potential and intend to pursue careers in public service. If interested, please stop by the Deans' Office, 102 Parsons-Gates for more information. The deadline for receipt of nominations for this scholarship is **December 1st, 1995**.

From the Financial Aid Office:

Applications and/or information on the following and additional undergraduate scholarships are available at the Financial Aid Office at 515 S. Wilson, second floor. All qualified students are encouraged to apply.

*The **Kamehameha Schools Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate** announces its **Native Hawaiian Higher Education Program Scholarships**. Applicants must be of Hawaiian ancestry, be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 for undergraduates and 3.5 for graduates, must demonstrate financial need, and must have a service project to implement in a Hawaiian community. Completed applications are due no later than **Wednesday, November 1, 1995**. To receive an application, call 1 (800) 842-4682, ext. 8216.

***Asian & Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE)** is offering four \$500 non-renewable scholarships for the 1996-97 academic year.

Applicants must be California residents attending at least half-time in Fall of 1996 and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Applicants must also have undergone special circumstances or unusual hardships, must have a need for financial assistance to complete their educational goals, and must have a community involvement or do volunteer work with Asian and Pacific American populations. To apply, complete an application and statement of candidacy and submit it to the Caltech Financial Aid Office no later than **November 24, 1995**.

*The **California Irrigation Institute (CII)** announces a \$500 scholarship award for junior and senior undergraduates majoring in an irrigation or water-related field of study. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, must provide two recommendations from professors in the area of soil, water, irrigation, or other agricultural-related fields of study, and must not have previously received the award. Applicants must also write a 500-word essay on a subject dealing with water management and/or irrigation and must be willing to attend the annual CII meeting (all expenses paid). Applications are due **November 25, 1995**. For an application or more information, come to the Financial Aid Office.

The **California Park and Recreation Society Aging Services and Activities Section** announces its scholarship competition. Undergraduates and graduates may apply for the \$250 awards. Applicants need to be full-time students in the areas of recreation, leisure studies, or in an aging-related field. Applicants also must have GPAs of 3.0 or above and must have financial need. The deadline to submit applications is **November 30, 1995**.

The **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.** is offering nonrenewable scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to full-time engineering students in the final two years of undergraduate study. Students must have a GPA of 3.25 or above and must be involved in the fields of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, or refrigeration, or in related areas including indoor air quality, energy conservation, human comfort, or HVAC system design, operation, or maintenance. Applications are available at the Financial Aid Office, and are due **December 15, 1995**.

The **Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity** is sponsoring its annual essay contest for full-time undergraduate juniors and seniors. Students are challenged to examine and analyze urgent ethical issues in essays of 3,000 - 4,000 words. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$2,500, and third prize is \$1,500. Essays must be postmarked by **January 12, 1996**. For essay guidelines and additional information, visit the Financial Aid Office.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 4

cred in any way to make a spotlight for the actors, but in fact has been called "one of the best...novel adaptations" by critics.

On the other side of the dial is the recently released **Scarlet Letter**, which comes with the disclaimer in the credits "freely adapted" from the novel. Well, I didn't like the novel too well (being a Catholic and all...), but I like less a movie that is altered from the original to the point of losing even the visages of the original meaning of the tale. This novel was originally written by Hawthorne to in some way redress the errors of his ancestor who was the infamous judge Hawthorne of the Salem Witch Trials, but Joffe makes this into a tale of soft porn and of immorality vindicated over morals. Only in Hollywood and only in the nineties could casual sex come to the Puritans. And if only Hawthorne could take a swing at Joffe himself.

Restaurant

Okay, I have in the past rec-

commended a wide variety of good restaurants, but selfish needs call. This week my recommendation goes to my other employer, **The Coffeehouse**. Not that they have started frying with Canola or anything (admit it, you love the deep fryer!), but the Coffeehouse is simply cool. The waiters will harass you, the paint colors disgust you, the food desensitize you, but would you be at tech in the first place if you didn't like pain? Actually, the Coffeehouse is a lot more than a place to eat: it is a place to tip, er, to talk, to relax, to read, and to get better cookies than you could ever make. Specialties include: Dan's studly invertable shakes, a fine sampling of Villani's musical tastes on Wednesdays, and infinite sodas (ask Jamie Walls about that one...). But don't come with America Express and don't come unless you can give at least a five dollar tip—we won't serve anyone tipping less. Okay, I lie. But come down anyway. It would be nice to see a few North housers and maybe, if it is not too much to ask for, a couple of grads or an alum or two? (Not including Gavin or Ward).



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