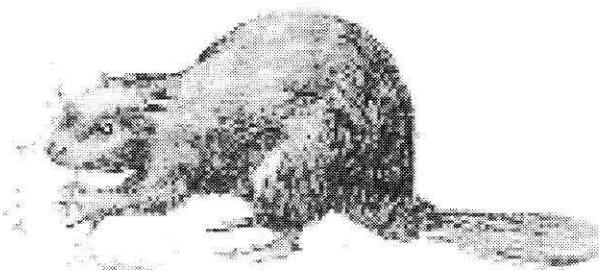


T

THE BIG T

Is the Big T done?

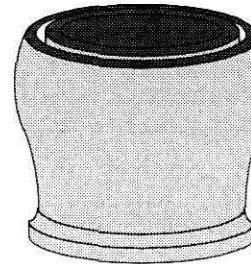
ask Wren



Wren by Carolin and the Web Dudes

Special Pull-Out
Section: The
Ricketts Pot

see page 5



THE CALIFORNIA TECH

VOLUME XCIX, NUMBER 12

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998

Caltech Amateur Radio Club Sweeps National Championship

BY YIN LUNG SHIH

Caltech beats Big 10, Big 12, Big East, Big West, SCIAC, and others!

Caltech doesn't get to win very often against other schools in a sporting competition of national scope, but this November Caltech took the number 1 spot in a nationwide college competition, the Fourth Annual Collegiate Championship of college amateur radio clubs.

The Collegiate Championship is comprised of two lesser

competitions taking place in the 1st and 3rd weekends of November. Scores are awarded based on the total number of amateur radio contacts completed times the total number of officially recognized regions, called "sections" in amateur radio parlance, contacted. The Caltech Amateur Radio Club (CITARC), which holds the callsign W6UE, achieved 990 contacts, or QSO's, in the first competition, using a digital communications mode called CW (also known as Morse

code), with a clean sweep of all possible sections. CITARC followed that up with an astonishing 1687 QSO's and another clean sweep of all sections in the second competition, which was based on phone (also known as voice) modes. CITARC not only won the overall competition, but it won each individual competition by commanding scores as well. The normalized point scores show the huge margin by which CITARC took first place.

RADIO CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CALTECH BENEFACTOR AND TRUSTEE R. STANTON AVERY: 1907-1997

BY PUBLIC RELATIONS

R. Stanton "Stan" Avery, maverick inventor and long-time Caltech trustee and benefactor, died early Friday, December 12, at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. He was 90.

Long a household name because of the Avery labels he created and marketed, Avery had a strong association for many years with the Institute. He became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1971, and served as chair between 1974 and 1985. At the time of his death he was a Life Trustee and trustee chair emeritus.

"The whole Caltech community is deeply saddened by the passing of Stan Avery," said Dr. Gordon E. Moore, chair of the Caltech Board of Trustees and chairman-emeritus and co-founder of the Intel Corporation. "He was a great supporter of the Institute, and he will be fondly remembered by the trustees, the faculty, and the students and staff."

Avery's most recent major gift to Caltech was Avery House, an 80,000-square-foot dormitory on the northeast end of campus that was completed in September 1996. True to his entrepreneurial spirit, he provided the resources to make Avery House one of the most innovative dormitories in America-to wit, a dorm with an entrepreneurial focus that



PHOTO COURTESY PUBLIC RELATIONS

would both celebrate and support the spirit of innovation and invention. The dorm has space for graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty families and visiting entrepreneurs and other special guests.

In October, Avery participated in an Avery House event for inner-city teenagers. The event, "Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs Today," drew a number of 13- to 17-year-olds with an interest in entrepreneurship who

heard the 90-year-old Avery tell the story of his career.

An Oklahoma native, Avery came to Southern California after high school and earned his bachelor's degree from Pomona College. He initially thought about entering the import-export business after spending an entire college year in China, but the grim business climate of the Depression

AVERY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Chris Brennen new Vice President of Student Affairs

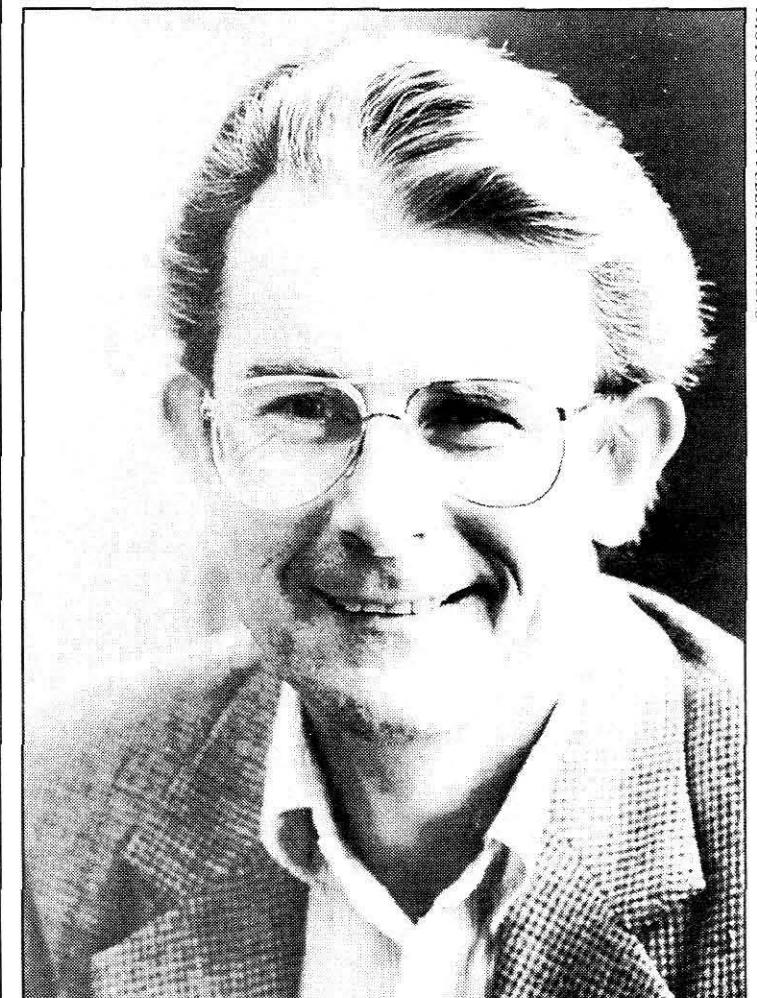


PHOTO COURTESY PUBLIC RELATIONS

Former Dean and MOSH Chris Brennen has been appointed Vice President of Student Affairs. Stop by and visit him in Parsons-Gates. We did.

Caltech Surf Talks The Final Round is coming soon

BY CAROLYN MERKEL

Fame, fortune, and \$1000 in prize money will be up for grabs at the final round of the Doris S. Perpall SURF speaking competition Tuesday, January 13. The competition, which takes place between 3:00 and 5:45 p.m., will be held in the Beckman Institute Auditorium. The Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Awards were created by Bob Perpall, a Caltech alumnus and member of the SURF Board, in memory of his late

wife. The awards are meant to be an incentive for students to prepare excellent final oral presentations for SURF Seminar Day. The competition has grown to a three-round event. First prize is \$500; second, \$300; third, \$200. We hope you can attend some (or all!) of the presentations and support the hard work of your friends and fellow students.

The schedule of the day's events can be found in the SURF ad on the bottom of page four.

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RADIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

CITARC is one of the country's best college amateur radio clubs. W6UE was first licensed as 6UE in 1923. But there has been a Caltech Amateur Radio Club on campus since 1918. Along with the educational and recreational aspects of amateur radio, there is also a more serious side. Amateur radio is often a critical component of civic and organizational emergency preparedness plans.

Phone lines and networks may not survive, may be seriously degraded, or may not be able to handle the communications traffic in an emergency affected region. Amateur radio provides a backup to frail landlines and CITARC is there to provide that backup for the Caltech campus.

CITARC frequently participates in amateur radio contests as well as emergency preparedness exercises. In fact amateur radio contests are just another way of maintaining a high state of preparedness for emergencies.

Radio operating skills, technical expertise, station quality, and ability to improvise are constantly tested in a contest situation.

COMBINED SCORE OFFICIAL RESULTS:						
Call	School	CW	Phone	Total Pts	1000	1000
N5XU	Univ. of Texas*	672	686	1358		
K3CR	Penn State Univ.	605	702	1307		
WO9S	Univ. of Chicago	719	455	1174		
W4ATC	North Carolina State U.	644	480	1124		
WB9JBF	Univ. of Wisc-Milwaukee	370	724	1094		
W6BHZ	California Poly	472	519	991		
W3EAX	Univ. of Maryland	515	348	863		
W1AF	Harvard Univ.	659	137	796		
WA5BU	Baylor Univ.	568	194	762		
W8EDU	Case Western Reserve U.	581	9	590		
W0EEE	Univ. of Missouri-Rolla	231	265	496		
W7UNR	Univ. of Nevada-Reno	8	128	136		

*formerly known as W5EHM

CITARC also participates jointly with the JPL Amateur Radio Club, W6VIO, in an annual emergency preparedness exercise, which takes place in June, known as Field Day. On Field Day, which really takes place over a weekend, W6UE and W6VIO are set up on Mt Gleason in the Angeles National Forest.

A bare field, empty on Friday, is sprouting antennas, towers, generators, tents, and cable by Saturday at noon. After a period of intense operating activity that proves the effectiveness of this temporary station, the field is again bare by Sunday

night. This joint Caltech/JPL effort has taken first place nationally in its class several times in the last 10 years.

The W6UE amateur radio station is located in Winnett Student Center and membership is open to all members of the Caltech community. The club station is capable of international contacts on virtually all frequencies, using CW, voice, digital, packet, satellite, or other modes. You do not have to have an amateur radio license to join and the club will assist those who are interested in obtaining their license. Club information is available on the world wide web at <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~w6ue/>

AVERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

eventually led him into the circumstances that would ultimately make his fortune as an entrepreneur and inventor.

In 1932, with a \$100 loan from his bride-to-be and some machine-design experience with a company that had gone out of business, he cobbled together a prototype labeling machine from various mechanical parts. This machine was to make possible the first commercially successful self-adhesive labels, and is the ancestor of the Avery label enterprise as it exists today.

From that modest beginning, the company grew into the multibillion-dollar international Avery Dennison Corporation.

In addition to his Caltech affiliation, Avery through the years was also a member of the Huntington Library board of trustees, director of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, past president of United Way, trustee of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, member of the Claremont University Center board of fellows, and vice chairman of the Performing Arts Council of the Music Center board of governors.

Avery is also widely known to college students and faculty

in Southern California for the Durfee Foundation, which was created in 1960 by Avery and his first wife, the late Dorothy Durfee Avery, to promote a number of individual efforts that are one-of-a-kind ventures that are unlikely to receive support from any other source.

Since 1985, the Durfee Foundation has sponsored the American/Chinese Adventure Capital Program to nurture creative interaction between Americans and the people of mainland China.

Avery is survived by five children, Russell D. Avery, Dennis S. Avery, Judith Newkirk, Stephen Onderdonk, and J. Lawrence Onderdonk. His second wife, Ernestine Richter Onderdonk Avery, died earlier this year.

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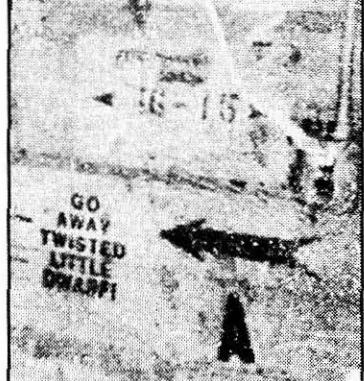
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A.S.C.I.T.

Minutes

JANUARY 5, 1998

Present (at some point): BoD (minus Kiran), Mason Porter, Dave Tytell, Stephen Shepherd, Tim Henson, Maria Satterwhite, Jason Briceno

Meeting called to order at 22:06.

(This week Mike W. = George and Mike A. = Weezy.)

Dealing With Guests

Dave—Has a fiance. Wanted to let the BoD know how much work Wren Montgomery has been putting into the *Big T*. Dave is going to be married. He says that the book has gone from being in a shambles to nearly complete in a matter of three weeks. He has found the person with whom he wants to spend the rest of his life. Dave suggests that we be sure to reward and praise Wren for her dedication and hard work. Congratulations Dave! Maybe I'll get invited to the wedding.

Maria—Is concerned about the great Ricketts Fire Pot Incident Problem Snafu Accident BBQ Thing (the RFPIPSABT). Alex reveals that there will be an open discussion between Ricketts House, himself and the BoC Secretary (Brigitte Roth), and the Deans in the near future. Hopefully this meeting will allow all sides to finally see what the others are say-

ing. Maria suggests that maybe the Honor Code Committee could be reactivated for a formal discussion of the issues that have been raised by this incident. The BoD agrees that it is not our position to take any action at this time.

Tim—ASCIT bounced him a check after squandering its vast riches on drugs and fast women. Luckily, crack sales are up this month so John pays Tim, slaps him on his butt, and sends him to second grade.

General Business

Lori—Is not present at the meeting. She is officially stepping down as IHC Chairperson.

Totem—Mason and Stephen (editors) give the BoD a run down on what's up with everybody's favorite literary magazine. The 96-97 book is yet to be published and its entire editorial team has disintegrated save for Mason. Appointing seniors as editors turns out to be a mistake because they tend to disappear after graduation. The half complete work hangs perilously in publica-

tion limbo. Mason and Stephen are apparently the only remaining active members of the 97-98 editorial team. With prompting from our guests, Weezy moves that Stephen be appointed the sole editor of the 97-98 *Totem* in order to consolidate responsibility for its publication. George seconds and the BoD votes 4-0-1 (with Baldeep abstaining in memory of the absent Kiran). Mason and Stephen discuss the possibility of fusing the 96-97 and 97-98 *Totems* in one *Ubertotem*. Weezy hopes that it just doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Either way, Stephen is to get back to the BoD next week with his vision of the *Totem*'s future.

Big T—Little China. The now partially defunct 96-97 *Big T* editorial staff has already received part of their compensation. The BoD expresses concern that they are being paid for a job left undone. Wren Montgomery wants the BoD's assurance that she will be paid before she devotes even more of her time to the long overdue *Big T*. Kohl will calm Wren's fears with his soothing voice and strong hands. The BoD will meet with the *Big T* staff and Hall Daily (publications advisor) next week to get this mess straightened out. Nominations for 97-98 *Big T* Editors will be up soon. The BoD will make public the cash compensation received by

MINUTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

OUT AND PROUD

Caltech/JPL Outlist

www.cco.caltech.edu/~clu/outlist.html

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(have fun with this space... eat it: more taste, less filling.)

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

ALGIERS, ALGERIA—In western Algeria, 529 civilians were burned or slaughtered in their homes in two more attacks by Islamic militants last weekend. The Algerian Government has refused The European Union's offer to bring international pressure to stop the killings.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE—The Government of Zimbabwe plans to seize 1500 farms owned mostly by whites for redistribution among the populace. Britain, the colonial power of Zimbabwe before their independence in 1980, has given \$75 million since that year to help the African nation buy out white farmers, but has refused to help defray the costs of the resettlement onto the seized farms.

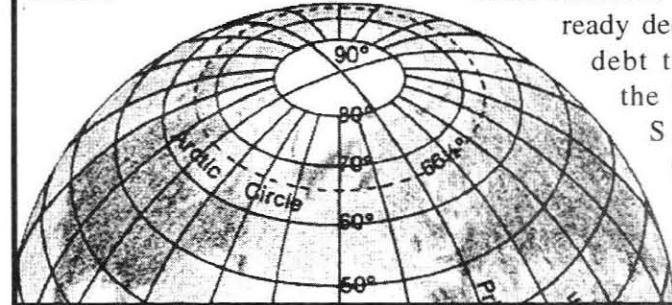
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO—Julio César Ruiz Ferro, Governor of the southern state of Chiapas, resigned from office Wednesday. He was blamed for ignoring tensions which may have contributed to the killings of 45 Indian villagers by a pro-government paramilitary gang last month.

OTTAWA, CANADA—The Canadian Government formally apologized to its 1.3 million indigenous peoples for 150 years of paternalistic programs which have largely destroyed Indian communities. The Government also promised a \$245 million "healing fund" for Indians who were forcibly relocated.

TEHERAN, IRAN—In a recent television interview, President Mohammad Khatami proposed cultural exchanges between the United States and Iran, easing the way to better relations. The State Department, however, reiterated that any dialogue must first occur between the two Governments.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—While the U.S. focuses on saving South Korea's economy, plans for stabilizing the economy in Thailand and Indonesia have faltered. Their currencies have plummeted as investors pull out of what is becoming an ever more unstable Asian market.

Both countries are already deeply in debt to both the United States and Japan.



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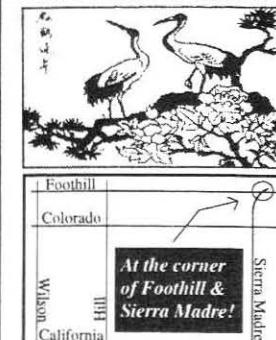
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ASCIT Minutes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the editors in the past.

Brennen—The new VP for Student Affairs, (former Dean) Dr. Chris Brennen, wants to meet with the BoD. Weezy will try to set up a pizza lunch on next Wednesday.

Agenda—The BoD pages through a list of all projects slated for consideration in the remainder of our term of office. Responsibility for each one is delegated to somebody or another. Come by the ASCIT office when Weezy happens to be there and maybe he'll show you the list.

Officer Reports

Baldeep—Thinks it would be mad phat if we got fly-ass ASCIT jackets to show off our corporate pride (and svelte figures). The BoD lets out a rebel yell and flies into a binge of drinking, yak shaving, and other such carryings on. The UROH is almost done. Stay on target. Progress is being made on the web-based book market. Stay on target.

Adrienne—There is now

a calendar of all campus social events on the web. Check it out at www.cco.caltech.edu/cgi-bin/soc-cal.cgi. Houses and clubs sponsoring events are encouraged to pass that info along. Some lucky group might just win \$240 dollars worth of pudding! ASCIT—we gots da pudding.

George—**Heine** Hasenfeld is getting with the Deans and the ombuds training foretold by prophets long dead may actually happen. The cold Alaskan winter is holding up publication of the CLUE. Damn that El Nino!

John—Around \$1,000 in club funding from first term was not picked up and is now lost forever. Don't let this tragedy happen to you. Come and get your dough before John blows it on vinyl underthings. There is also a great deal of Special Events funds left to be spent. Are you having an event? Is it special? Come and ask for some money then you big idiot.

Weezy—There is a new a capella musical ensemble in town—Ecphonema. You may have seen their act in Vegas or at ASCIT donuts. The BoD of

ficially recognizes them as a club type organization. Put that in your pipe and smoke it, mister.

Alex—There are two new representatives-at-large on the BoC, Kevin Bradley and Jeanne Wilson. If you are tired of the rigors of Caltech life, give either one of them a firm kick in the butt. Welcome to the Terror Dome. The BoC could really use a laptop. Not one of them newfangled fancy type laptops. Just something that can process words will suffice. The BoD charges Alex with the holy duty of recovering this most sacred relic and buying it (if it doesn't cost too much).

Kohl—Is seeking (free) guidance from a group that offers planning consultation to non-profit organizations. Kohl (and possibly a mystery guest) will be meeting with the Board of Trustees alumni committee in the next two weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 00:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Astle
Mike D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary

Y news

by Karen Bletzer

January 7, 1998

The Y office has moved to the Steele House, 355 S. Holliston. The Y staff will be sharing the upstairs bedrooms as office space with the Residence Life Office, but the Y receptionist will be located on the first floor for your convenience. You can still buy discount movie tickets and helium balloons and rent camping equipment at the new location. Y Executive Committee meetings will be held at Steele House during lunch every Monday. Join us to help plan events this term.

Broomball was canceled fall term because not enough teams signed up by the deadline. Teams who are currently signed up will remain on the roster for this time. It

has been rescheduled for Friday, January 23 from 11 PM to 3 AM at the Pasadena Ice Rink. The cost is \$30 per team. Sign your team up beginning January 7 at the Y's new location.

On the community service front more tutors are needed for the Pasadena Police Action League (PAL) tutoring program which helps student athletes who are having trouble with their grades. Tutoring occurs two afternoons a week at the four Pasadena public high schools: Muir, Pasadena, Blair and Marshall. Times for tutoring depend on the sports season.

Volunteers are also needed for Project Angel Food, a service run by the Pasadena AIDS service center that delivers lunches to people homebound with AIDS. Call Athena, x6163, for more information on Project Angel Food, PAL tutoring, or information about other community service opportunities. Remember that Federal Work Study students can earn \$12/hour through the Community Service and Volunteer Programs Office.

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Finalists:

Sudipta Bardhan, *An Analysis of the Potential Regulatory Regions of the Interleukin 2 Gene*, Mentor: Ellen Rothenberg

Teo Der-Stepanians, *High Efficiency Class-E Power Amplifiers*, Mentor: David Rutledge

Mary L. Mosier, *What Role Does the Amygdala Have in Mediating Social Interactions in Nonhuman Primates?* Mentors: David G. Amaral (UC Davis), John Allman

Keri L. Ryan, *Seismic Response of Tall, Flexible Structures Supported with Base Isolations*, Mentor: John Hall

Kartik A. Srinivasan, *Coating Strain Induced Distortion in LIGO Optics*, Mentors: Rochus Vogt and Dennis Coyne

Louis K. Thomas, *3D Painting*, Mentor: Peter Schröder

David E. Tytell, *Determining the Cause of Elliptical Cratering on Mars*, Mentors: William F. Bottke, Jr. (Cornell) and Stanley Love (JPL)

CONTACT SURF AT X2885 OR SURF@CCO FOR MORE INFORMATION.

</

Legends of the Pot

Caltech alumni tell some of the history of the Ricketts Pot, stories they heard or were a part of during their time here.

To the Editor,

As I recall, when I arrived at Dabney House in '74 the Ricketts Pot was marble.

About my junior year there was a serious fire with lots and lots of organic solvents. This continued until the pot glowed red (according to contemporaneous accounts).

A few days later it was still wicked hot, so some rocker scientist (not) sprayed it with a hose, whereupon it broke. I don't think any of the students at the time were aware of its origin, but it turned out to be from Pompeii or something. The faculty outrage over the destruction of a priceless antiquity was significant. Although apparently not as serious as faculty outrage over a case of 2nd degree burns.

For a few years there was a piece of concrete sewer pipe in the Ricketts courtyard until a new pot was obtained (I believe in '79).

I'm sorry to be vague on the details, but I wasn't actually involved. However, this was a Significant Event which should form part of any history of the Ricketts Pot.

—Mark McHarg ('79)

Shortly after the destruction of the original pot (I also have been told it was a priceless Pompeian marble donated by Millikan), a sewer pipe replaced its position. The sewer pipe was painted black before I arrived in '76, with a few graffiti adding to the ghetto flavour. The sewer pipe took the place of the real pipe, but not in the hearts of the Scurves. Imprimis, it was so tall that any four square serve over it was too wimpy to ace second square!

During early '77, Alan Silverstein spearheaded the effort to collect funds and contract the replacement of the sewer pipe with a more faithful replica of the original. As reported elsewhere, B&G filled the air gap between the fire-brick liner and the reinforced concrete outer shell with their leftover cement, and the third pot was soon cracked. A small plaque at the base of this pot intoned "Fatui invercundi, semper..." roughly translated from "Always remember to change the firebricks, FROSH!". The sarcasm was as shortlived as B&G's recall of their instructions.

Sometime in the early 80's, Larry Rotter almost singlehandedly built a fourth pot. This one used a short sewer pipe for the fire liner, inspired by LA beach fire pits of the same sturdy construction. The pot was completed just in time for rotation. I recall Larry sitting in the infant pot, hosing down the sides to keep them from being overheated by the displaced bonfire which burnt in the corner of the courtyard. This air gap was stuffed with insulation and topped with a sheet metal rain shield. The metal did not last long, but 20 years is a new

record for the longevity of reinforced concrete in the courtyard :-)

I can't recall whether the drainage system was installed for the third or fourth pot... A design feature was to allow forced-air combustion hot enough to melt steel, but soon it was clogged by ashes and etc.

Destruction of the pot has always been occasion for celebration in the past. It's hard to imagine scurves letting other people hog the fun of smashing a treasured buddha. I've participated in the destruction of only two pots - perhaps a trip to sunny southern California is in order?

Speaking of destroyed pots, there were in the eighties still a few chunks of pink marble about in one pair of lucky hands or another.

—Clark Brooks

In the summer of '90, the inner ring was replaced (mostly thanks to Nathan Rockwell and Jason Surace) with another sewer pipe. The airgap was again filled with insulation, but the rain shield was not replaced. Only a small part of it remained at that point. It was discovered at that time that the template for the outer pot had been lost.

The next destruction/construction occurred in the spring of '96. An industrious, on-leave, bored Scurve decided to replace the Pot. Using the outline of the existing Pot, he made a new template. With the help of some of the actual students, the Pot was destroyed and a new one cast.

—Brian Chafin

I will be happy to contribute my piece of the Pot's history. Larry Rotter built the Pot that I knew and loved in the summer of 1981. I helped with the finishing touches, and was familiar with its construction.

That Pot lasted for fourteen years of frequent use, and safely contained hundreds of fires.

When it came time to replace that Pot, I happened to pass by just when some engineering advice was needed. The experiences with Larry's design guided the following design.

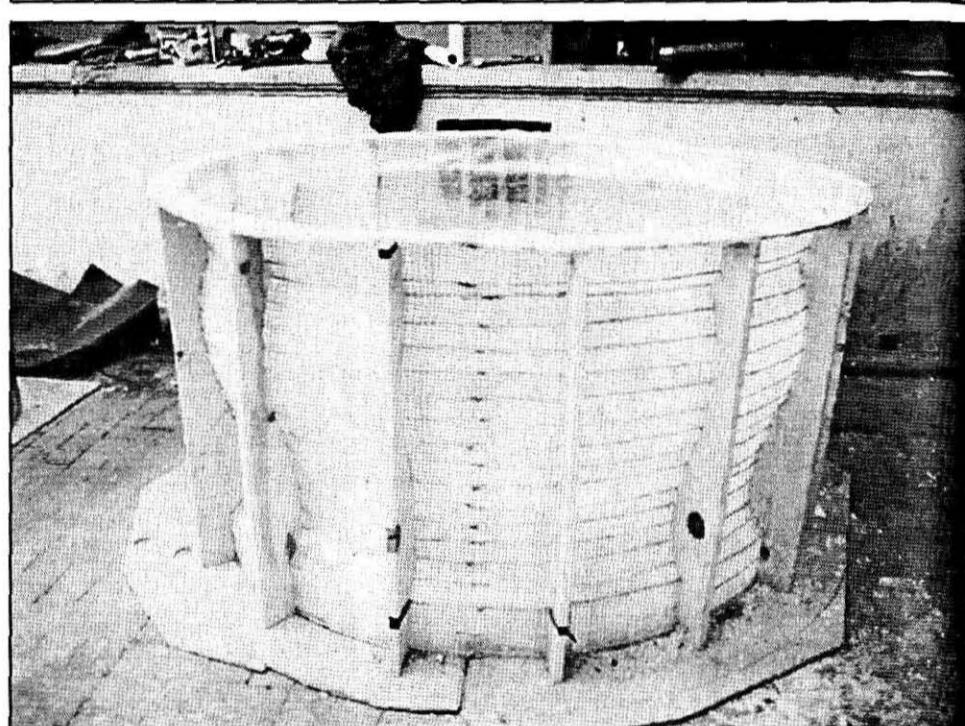
The ideas and memories set against the backdrop of a roaring fire or simmering embers are countless and priceless.

—Bob Mackey '85

Ricketts Hovse Pyro

Let me say that I don't really care whether the pot is removed or not (I know, I speak sacrilege), but I do NOT like the way it sounds like the administration is doing it. I'm only writing to add some history to this discussion...

I was there when we started having fireballs. They were invented in the lounge (using the gas fireplace). Believe it or not. We took them outside when, after a few, we were afraid we would damage the ceiling. At the time nobody "knew" how to do fireballs, we just knew that suspended sawdust was an explosive ma-



The current pot rises from the rubble of the old.
Photos courtesy Ricketts Hovse.

terial.

At that time the pot was a 4-5 foot high piece of sewer pipe that had been painted black (so much for tradition). The previous (marble) one having been blown up (literally) a few years before (but not with a fireball, I was told it was a combination of too much gasoline and a lot of paper and other combustibles).

In 3.5 years nobody was ever hurt (except for some singed eyebrows) by the fireballs we had. The only damage was to the tree (which is probably not there anymore). Of course there were several instances of collateral damage to bare feet from the broken glass between the bricks of the courtyard, but that is a different story.

So, the fireball "tradition" is about 17 years old. Which, by the way, is very long for Ricketts traditions. At least from what I know of and what I remember from discussions with Scurves from before my time (back when men were men and giants walked the Earth).

The pot itself goes back to the building of Ricketts. It was donated (I don't remember by who, maybe L. D. Ricketts himself) and was a

genuine Italian marble artifact (artifact == object of old, but unknown age). This was used, but not designed for, fires over the years. In the 50s or 60s it was severely cracked by at least one large blaze. In the 70s fires continued to occur and the cracks got worse. In 1974 or 1975 a LARGE fire was planned using gasoline and various combustibles (paper, etc.). The result was an explosive mixture that literally blew the remains of the marble pot into pieces (some of which hit the walls around the courtyard).

Students procured and put in place a piece of sewer pipe to replace it (mainly to judge whether four-square serves were legal). This was then used for fires and began to get damaged itself. This was replaced in the summer of 1978 by a fire brick and concrete pot (paid for by alumini contributions) that was designed specifically for fires. Unfortunately Buildings & Grounds screwed up when they built it and filled in its air gap with concrete.... This, the last pot I knew, began to crack almost immediately because of this error....

—Jon Vavrus 75-79

DEAN

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Before continuing I must interject some background which has not been specifically discussed with the students previously. Everyone knows that fires are tightly regulated by civil authorities. The Pasadena Fire Code states that for open burning the Fire Department has to be notified, the material to be burned has to be approved, and that the fires must be more than fifty feet from any structure, exit or thoroughfare, and fire fighting equipment and a person knowledgeable in its use has to be

present. Barbecues and grills, which by definition support only coals or very small flames, require a clearance of only 10 feet, although a fire extinguisher has to be provided. The California Code deals very severely with setting fires that cause damage or injury.

Well it turns out that a student had some fireworks, which are illegal to possess, and these were confiscated by Security. Dr. West went to the Fire Station to turn them in. She was greeted there not only by Fire Department people but also by Police Arson investigators. It became clear that the City is very concerned about fires at Caltech. They are aware of activities

which they would act on if off campus, but which they are not handling because they are on campus. Should something happen which they would need to be involved in, I have little doubt that they would crack down

Be that as it may however, the point is that the students' fun and games, Fireballs, but also Fire Fountains and other such activities, even conducted by experts, could result in grave consequences for the Institution. I have heard it argued that lack of practice would make Fireballs more dangerous if attempted. Of course that argument does not hold if no more Fireballs are tried, as agreed to.

Perhaps this will help to explain

to all that, if no solution which neutralizes the Ricketts Pot is found, it will have to be removed. Leaving it in place unaltered, with the promise that it would not be used for specifically forbidden purposes has not worked out in the past. Dr. West is awaiting suggestions about what to do with the Pot: Can it be made into a fountain, into a planter, filled with dirt or cement? Almost anything will be OK, except the kind of thing that can be used for dangerous and/or illegal fires or similar activities. So please make suggestions: This is a second opportunity. What will it be besides a bone of contention?

GEOFF

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

sponsibility under the honor code. I find it harder to find grounds for doing so when the result will be a "public execution" by the Dean.

Caltech undergraduate life is unique, special, and necessary if we are going to be able to maintain our level of focused academic excellence. For undergrads, that system depends on a lack of animosity with the rest of the institute, and a feeling on both sides that the other is working for mutual benefit. I would hate to see the system fray any more than it has already.

Burning Issues: The Ricketts Pot

Dean's Corner

Well Head of Caltech

by Jean-Paul Revel

campus.

One is whether use of the Pot for unauthorized purposes is a breach of the Honor Code. I would argue that by doing Fireballs some of the students have taken advantage of others. These actions

have led to physical injury, and have also threatened Caltech's relation with

the City in which it is situated. They have potentially endangered many other people, say if a fire had spread to the surrounding buildings. Along those lines, some of the games being played in Blacker and which have recently been immortalized, are at least as dangerous. One can therefore justifiably ask why the issues were not brought forward as complaints to the BoC. Of course I or Dr. West could have done so, and so could the students. My own reasons for not bringing this matter to the BoC were several. One is that because of the ramifications which extend outside of Caltech, it did not seem appropriate to bring into play a purely internal mechanism. If one thinks about it, the extent to which the Honor System controls life at Caltech is extraordinary. But it cannot replace the President and Trustees and their appointees in matters that involve or impinge on interactions with the world. A second reason was that there were possible legal ramifications to the incident, which again made it not so appropriate for resolution by the BoC.

Yet another problem I saw with a BoC intervention is that the normal outcome of its deliberations, to nullify the advantage gained by some over the rest of the Caltech Community, would have been hard to apply. Nullification does not work in a case of this sort.

Humpty Dumpty cannot be made whole again, restored to his pristine state. I am told, however, that this has not inhibited BoC involvement in other instances. It would have been possible to reach a protection decision to protect the community from a recurrence. On reflection and

times, i.e. that there is a breakdown in Student-Administration relations. I must say I am frustrated by such statements because I know that the Administration harbors none of the ill will implied by such pronouncements. Why would we be in Student Affairs if we were not interested in Student welfare? It is difficult to imagine what else the Administration can do to encourage communication. I have talked to and exchanged e-mail with the House President about the Pot and so has Kim West. I have had discussions with the Ricketts Six, some individually because they thought they would be expelled outright, others along with the rest of the group. I have also talked extensively with Ricketts' Fireball Aficionado #7. I have talked to other students and Alums who have sought me out. I have made myself available at dinner time with students, visiting Houses in turn with the MOSH. I believe several of you have talked to other administrators as well. I have accepted student arguments that they had been given too few opportunities to discuss the Pot's future. As you read this, I will have started to discuss holding a forum where opinions about what to do with the Pot can be vented. I must confess I think that the Administration has bent over backwards to allow good interactions in spite of very serious problems. So let's not emphasize differences and demonize them by speaking of breakdown. Differences of opinion are to resolve, not to cultivate. Let's all pull together

Best wishes for '98 et a bientôt...

J.P. Revel

talks

with the BoC

Chair and Secretary, I

now think I should have approached them in spite of my reservations. I must emphasize that the decision not to do so does not reflect a lack of confidence about the students' ability to deal with problems, only a feeling that there are problems that need to be dealt with in other ways. It may well

be good to establish a clear set of guidelines.

This brings me to a view expressed to me several

MIND STALK

by D. R. Sullivan

Every year tens of thousands of people die in car accidents. After years of social activity centered around the Ricketts fire pot, one frosh was burned. The house involved voted overwhelmingly to cease the activity in which the accident occurred. The administration, showing the keen grasp of proportion and risk analysis which Caltech expects of its decision makers, quickly decided that the undergraduates could no longer be trusted and that the fire pot should be removed.

The Dean claims that playing with fire is highly dangerous, and that "there have been enough incidents to indicate it is time to close the barn door." Perhaps the Dean would like to enumerate these incidents. One frosh, for the first time that I have heard of, was injured in a Ricketts fireball; the House has voted to cease that activity, which actually sounds like an overreaction. Five years ago Dabney's fire bricks were removed, as the end result of a bonfire which was visible from Hill; had a friendly authority been around to emphatically suggest that fires should not be visible from off campus, the incident would never have gotten out of hand. For over sixty years a stream of untrained undergraduates has passed through Ricketts and Dabney, playing with fire, yet somehow failed to burn down not only the buildings they live in, but the trees in the courtyards containing the fires. Someone of a scientific mind might think by now that the chance of disaster was low, and that the occasional mishap was not the average.

We are here, the Dean says, to learn and gain a foothold in our area of interest (pity the poor Techer interested in everything!) and not to take risks. The Administration is here, he says, to make sure that our time here is as safe, pleasant, and profitable as possible. The Dean talks about opportunities to develop as engineers and scientists, and about psychology. Perhaps the Dean has not noted that the psychology of scientists calls for playing around, meeting challenges, taking risks, possibly even with their own lives. Perhaps the Dean has not noted a psychological need, in a stressful envi-

ronment like Caltech's, for challenges other than the official ones provided by classes. Perhaps the Dean could manage to see how the message of "No fire. No alcohol. No creatively placed walls in Avery. (But a creatively placed fire station across from it!) No Rivets or little 't's of provocative taste." does not, given human psychology, easily convince the students that their pleasure is of great concern.

Earlier the Dean has written "Beliefs in invulnerability which underlie playing with fire are totally irrational." Later he notes that one can minimize the risk of playing with fire, but not eliminate it. Do beliefs in invulnerability underlie research with dangerous chemicals, radioactive materials, or viruses? Can one eliminate the risks involved with such research? I think not, on either count.

The Dean is fond of reminding us that playing with fire, or under-21 drinking of alcohol, are illegal. I am not sure what point he is trying to convey. If he is saying that the Institute, not known for its boldness in lawsuits to begin with, does not wish to tolerate any activity which might expose it to litigation, once can hardly argue with him. If he is trying, however, to invoke our civic instincts so that the students make no more trouble, I fear he will have a hard time of it. A system in which it is illegal to smoke hemp leaves, illegal for people who can vote and die for their country to drink alcohol, illegal for men in Georgia to engage in anal sex, and illegal to export encryption software to countries which are not only perfectly capable of writing their own but may have invented the algorithms in question, is not a system in which a law commands much intrinsic respect beyond that of brute force.

And none of my comments begins to address the mechanics of the administration's decision to remove the fire pot, as appallingly described by Shannon Stewman, or his quick dismissal of Anglo-Saxon tenets. The administration likes to say, sometimes, that Caltech students are special. Perhaps the administration should begin visibly behaving as if it believed its words.



In the middle of Ricketts courtyard, there stands an object, resembling a pot-bellied stove without a pipe, and of cement rather than cast iron. This is the latest, hopefully not the last, incarnation of what has come to be called the Firepot.

Some claim the Pot's origin to be with Millikan, making it somehow anathema to touch or change anything that the great man had ordained to be. From the photographs published in the Tech, the original was certainly more graceful than the present altar, and the grating over the top made it clear that it was not intended for fires. I talked to the Caltech Archivist, who graciously made a search for documents pertaining to the origin of the Pot. Here is what she found in the May 30, 1931 minutes of the Executive Council:

"Undergraduate Houses-Ricketts House court -Well Head

Dr. Munro reported that Mrs. George Millard had in her studio a very beautiful well head of Verona marble which Mr. Kaufmann considered especially suitable for the court of Ricketts House, that the price of this well head was \$850, but that Mrs. Millard had offered to make a gift of one half of this amount by a reduction of the price to \$425. Dr. Munro then recommended that the Institute accept Mrs. Millard's offer, and stated that he would personally arrange for the payment of the other half of the cost, provided there are not sufficient savings to take care of it in the budget.

On motion of Mr. Balch, seconded by Mr. Robinson, it was voted that the recommendation of the architect and Dr. Munro as stated be approved."

So there you have it. It really is not Millikan's Pot, but Munro's Well Head. (Dr. Munro was a Prof. of History and Member of the Executive Council, Mr. Kaufman the Architect of the South Houses, Mrs Balch and Robinson, members of the Board of Trustees.)

This being settled, there are several questions which have been raised by the use of the Pot for Fireballs, and other aspects of the cult of fire elsewhere on



Burning Issues: The Ricketts Pot



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

Perhaps the solution is to build a device with 8 catapults which would throw trays of sawdust over the pit, instead of having live people throw them.

—Mithra Hartmann

Dear Editors,

Keeping the fire pot is nothing more than common sense. There is, quite simply, no better place on the face of the Earth to have a bonfire than outdoors in a paved courtyard, surrounded only at a distance by concrete walls and terra cotta rooftops, and under the watchful eyes of at least half a dozen people pursuing advanced degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering.

Using a concrete planter to contain the fire makes it even safer.

It is true that this incident was precipitated by a serious injury, but the injury was not caused by a bonfire. From what I've heard, it was caused by a dust explosion, which the fire was used to ignite. This may seem like a trivial difference, but it's not—for instance, a match can be used to light a bomb, but that doesn't mean that matches should be banned from Caltech.

Bonfires themselves have been lit safely and provided pleasure to Techers for at least 30 years, and I suspect much longer than that. It's no wonder—after all, people have been enjoying pleasant nights around bonfires for tens of thousands of years. People send their children to summer camps run by strangers to enjoy bonfires that are lit in much more vulnerable surroundings.

If Techers were forced to go somewhere else to enjoy a bonfire, it would not shield Caltech from negative publicity. To the contrary, there would be a continuing worry that an accident, or more likely prosecution, associated somehow with a pyrotechnic stunt would bring unfavorable attention to the institute. What people might fear to do on campus even with a sympathetic audience might be attempted off campus with an unseen but very unsympathetic reception. Even a simple bonfire can lead to widespread devastation and even death, in the dry outdoor terrain of California.

Likewise, when considered as a fireplace, the firepot is of a superior class. The average fireplace burns within a spark's reach of wooden floors and whatever a homeowner has left nearby, and vents its smoke through a chimney that can become so coated with creosote that it will catch flame and perhaps set the house afire. Even Caltech's fireplaces are surely less safe than the Ricketts pot, though they are certainly safer than some my relatives use.

It should also be remembered that while the injury that occurred can be blamed on an unwise decision by some students, that it may well have been avoided had the students not been acting hastily and in an unadvised manner, attempting to duplicate something which they apparently had never seen done, because of a previous ban on the attempt. The effort to prohibit "fireballs" may have done more to cause actual injury than to prevent it. This is a tiresome theme from American politics in general, and I fear the same will be true of bonfires should the Caltech administration take a hard line against them.

I realize that there is outside pressure being placed on Caltech about this, but there is no aspect of Caltech's uniqueness that would survive if outside pressure were allowed to dominate. I realize that the United States, especially California, is no easy place for those who are not exactly the same as all others, but the administration in the past has done an excellent job of negotiating some degree of tolerance for Caltech's eccentricities. I can only hope that these efforts will continue.

—Michael Serfas

Drs. Revel and West, and the Caltech community.

As an alumnus of Ricketts House, I would like to comment on the planned removal of the Ricketts House Pot. As I see it, there are two issues which need to be addressed.

The first issue is the removal of the Pot itself. The Pot is an integral part of Ricketts House itself. It has been around, in one form or another, since the marble Pot Robert Millikan donated to the House when it was being built. For those several score of years, it has been the focus of many House social activities and traditions. Tray Ball just would not be as much fun without the risk of the ball going in the Pot.



After the Pot, the most popular social focus is probably the television. It would certainly be a shame to destroy an object which promotes interaction of House members and to promote one which does not.

The Pot and the traditions surrounding it also provide a link between current students, recent alumni, and older alumni. This bond is formed through shared experiences. These experiences are unique since the Pot is itself unique. Its traditional uses (bonfires during Rotation, the burning of the flamable Apache decorations, and, yes, fireballs, to name a few) are integral to the culture of Ricketts House. It is as important to Scurves as the Flemming cannon is to Flemms and hallway murals are to the Darbs.

In face of this high value, a very important reason must be found to justify its removal. Granted, fireballs are illegal and dangerous. But not more so than firing a cannon! In the seventeen years that Scurves have been doing fireballs, this is the first major injury to occur. That injury would easily justify outlawing of fireballs. It is less easy to use it to justify destroying the whole Pot.

I remember that, about six or seven years ago, a student did some research into the legality of having fires in the Pot. It turned out that, since the fires were contained in the Pot, that they were perfectly fine as long as they stayed within a couple of feet of the rim. Either my recollection or the original research might be faulty, or the laws could have changed in the intervening time. It should still be kept in mind before condemning the Pot on grounds that bonfires are illegal, especially since other Houses have uncontained fires that are certainly illegal.

The second issue and more important issue I would like to discuss is the

manner by which the decision to destroy the Pot was made. Please pardon any facts that I might mistake. My information comes from a multitude of intermingled e-mail threads between alumni and current students.

I was a student during a period that was arguably the nadir of Caltech administration/under-grad (at least the under-grads in a few Houses) relations. These problems played a major part in the formation of the office of the DRL itself. The source of those problems was, for the most part, differing views of the responsibilities students assume in the Caltech community.

Some students made mistakes and did some stupid things. Most of their under-grad peers expected that the particular Houses involved would be permitted, as self-governing bodies, to correct the problems themselves. They did not think it unreasonable for the administration to administer some appropriate punishment to those involved. The administration saw things differently.

Those involved were punished, but much of the punishment seemed to the under-grads to be unfairly harsh. But the administration also decided to prevent the possibility of the same problems occurring again. To do this they placed restrictions on whole Houses.

The basis of the argument was trust. Caltech, through the Honor System, had fostered an atmosphere where the students felt that the rest of the community regarded them as responsible and trustworthy, if occasionally rambunctious. Historically, they had earned it. Students generally go out of their way to prevent parties or stunts from getting out of hand. They are very careful to prevent bad publicity about the Institute. Whereas other universities get noticed because

students a few years ago and, as is apparent in some of the e-mail I have received, is the attitude they still hold. Thus they are angered when the administration's actions show that this apparent trust does not actually exist. One of the most common problems are dictums handed down by committees which do not have under-grad members. Such committees are often seen as arbitrary and uninformed. Without student representation, they are likely to have a narrow perspective. They are also likely to have incomplete or erroneous facts. A case in point came up in the recent alumni e-mail conversation about the Pot. Apparently, Dr. Revel was under the impression that frosh are forced to do fireballs as part of the Ricketts House initiation. Unless things have changed drastically in the past couple of years, that is wildly incorrect.

In fact, frosh were usually discouraged from participating in fireballs until upperclassmen could determine which ones were competent enough to handle it.

Thus very few students ever got to do a fireball until after their freshman year. I doubt that most students ever participated in a fireball, except as observers.

So why should the administration care that the students feel that their rights as members of the Caltech community have been violated? After all, isn't the administration there to protect the students? The trouble with that sort of reasoning is that it turns into a self-fulfilling prophecy. If the students perceive that they are no longer trusted, then they will no longer behave responsibly. It is only tradition and this sense of responsibility which prevent the student houses from becoming just more fraternities. If that happens, then the administration would certainly have a lot more problems on its hands.

In addition, today's students are tomorrow's alumni. The problems a few



freshmen die of alcohol poisoning at fraternity parties, Caltech gets noticed for entertaining pranks such as changing the Hollywood sign.

They are still showing that they are worthy of trust, since those involved in the fireball incident readily admitted their involvement. Therefore, the under-grads of Caltech believe that, when a mistake is made, they should be allowed to deal with it.

In many cases, administration should be involved in the resolution only as a overseer, to make sure that it is resolved. In other cases, it should be involved to punish the offenders, if necessary (although almost always that duty could be left to the Board of Control). But any wider behavioral problems that might become evident should be dealt with by the students themselves.

So this was the attitude of the stu-

ALWAYS been factors in the administration that didn't believe in the honor system, nor in the ability of the students to not act like spoiled children. I do believe, though, that some of the stresses on the administration have changed. We are in a far more litigious environment today than in the 70s... As has been mentioned by others. In order to deal with the administration you need to understand their motivations and needs. In general they are not out to "get the students", nor do they want to be dictators. They have much better ways (at least in their minds) to spend their time (research, getting money, etc.).

In my day we dealt with them in the spirit of previous times. We practiced civil disobedience. When they made some stupid rule (which they did, often). We ignored it. When they enforced it, those involved paid the penalty and we still ignored it. We also talked to them and explained why it was a stupid rule. Eventually they got tired of trying to enforce the rule (they wanted to get back to research, fund-raising, or whatever) and changed it with student input (and patting themselves on the back for their great communication and understanding). The key to this working is that we understood and accepted that we were breaking the rules when we did it, and that the majority of students agreed that the rule was stupid.

If someone had been instrumental in causing someone else to get burned over 30% of their body, their being kicked off campus would not have been questioned. Stupidity has a price and we all realized it (even if we didn't think we were being stupid at the time...). The flip-side was that the administration knew that they could not issue punishments that were unreasonable or undeserved (students, parents, alumni and faculty would get in an uproar).

Well, I've rambled enough. I have one question. Having been engulfed in a sawdust fireball near the pot myself, how did the individual get burned so badly? Dispersed burning sawdust really has very little heat content....

—Jon Vavrus 75-79

Dear Editors,

The Pot means as much to me, as a Scurve, as the Cannon does to Flemms. I fondly remember the night (was it Fleming's Froshwash?) that several Flemms came over and tried to roll the Pot away, not realizing that it was a solid concrete structure, affixed, like many concrete structures, to the ground with very buff rebar. The thought of several redshirts clustered around the Pot heaving and grunting with all their might brings a smile to my face.

The Pot is a fixture in many Ricketts traditions including PCDE, ringing the brakedrum, trayball, pyrotechnics, and not least of all, four-square. Who as a freshman does not remember Rotating through Ricketts and watching the artful Pot-ricochet kills of upperclassmen and the formidable obstacle to serve caused by someone standing on the Pot?

In my opinion, removing the Pot removes the heart of many things that were fun about Ricketts. Perhaps substitutes will be found in time, but I think an essential connection between alums and students would be lost.

How many times has the Pot served as the centerpiece in a class photo? How many times has it served as a focal point late at night while we shot the breeze around it? What is it if not the hearthside of a Norman Rockwell painting?

Forgive me my sentimentality. I would miss the Pot. Ricketts House would be stripped of much of its character, both concrete and symbolic. And Caltech would be correspondingly diminished in stature, at least to this old and decrepit alum.

—Julius Yang '93

years ago alienated from the Institute a whole generation of students for at least two Houses. Some of the alumni discussing the Pot issue are concerned that that group would not have much influence with the administration because it, as a whole, has a very poor donation record.

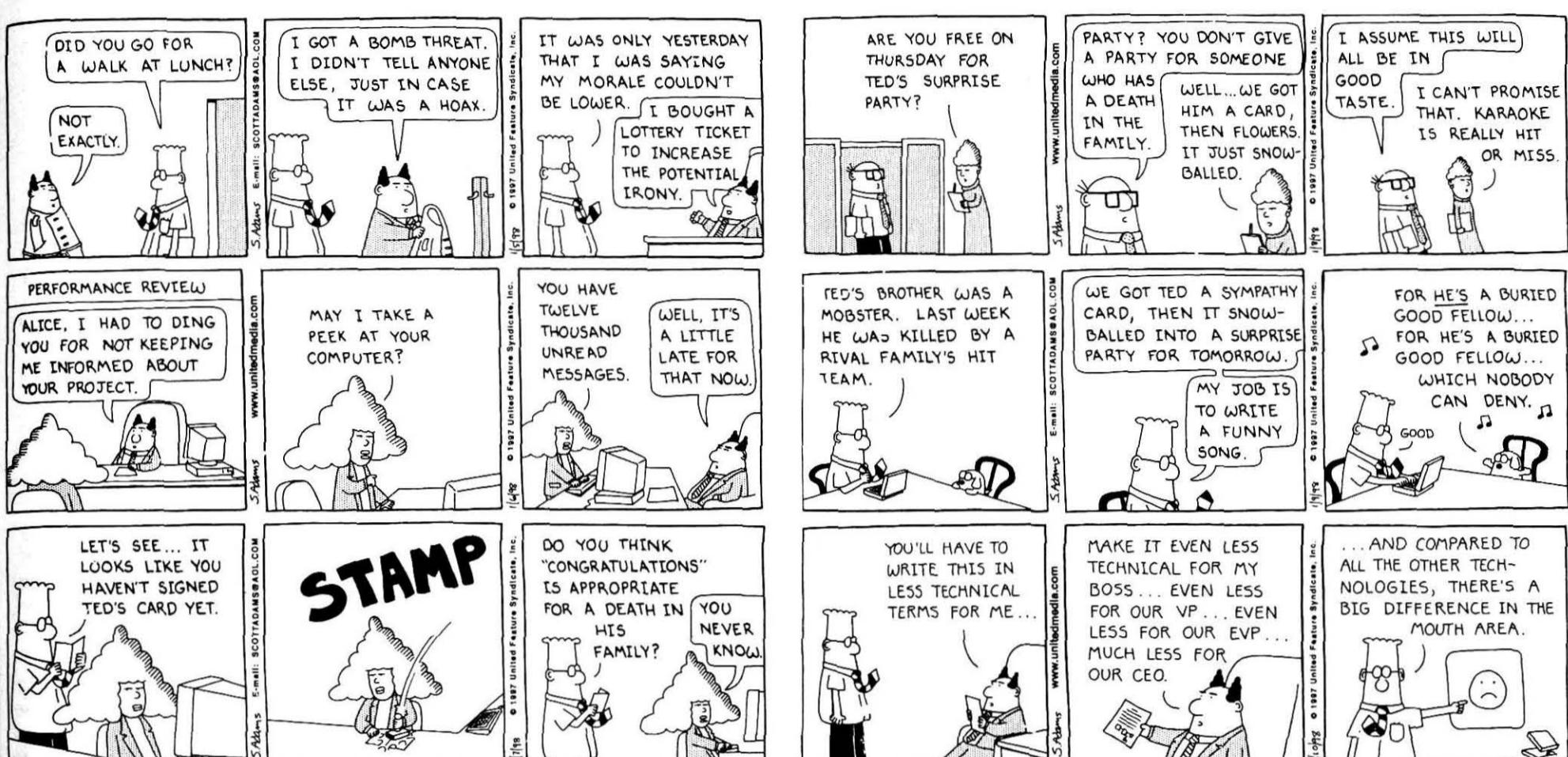
One reason for that is the desire not to support administrative practices with which we did not agree. Actions such as the current one are unlikely to convince us that those practices have changed and that the administration has returned to respecting and working with students. Even more unfortunately, they are likely to alienate another whole generation of alumni.

—Brian Chafin, Ricketts '92

Dear Editors,

Some of the talk about the administration changing is hard to believe. There have

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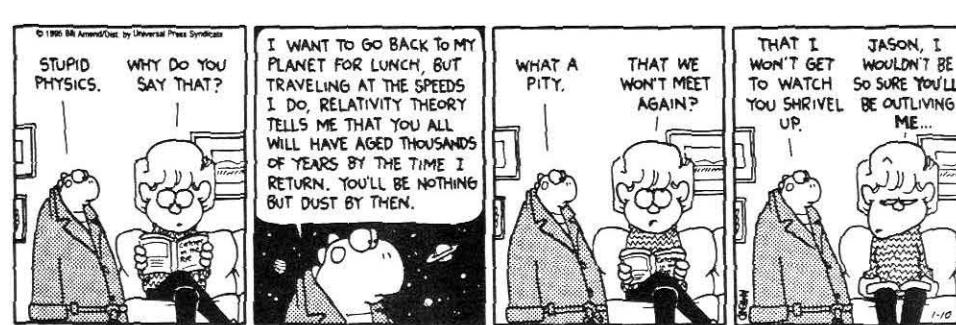
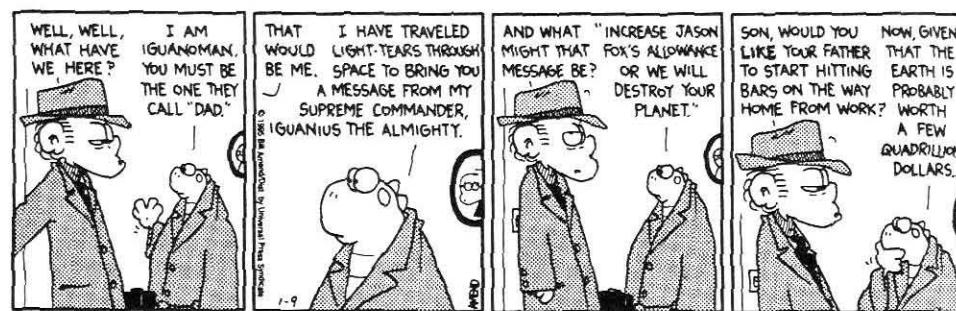
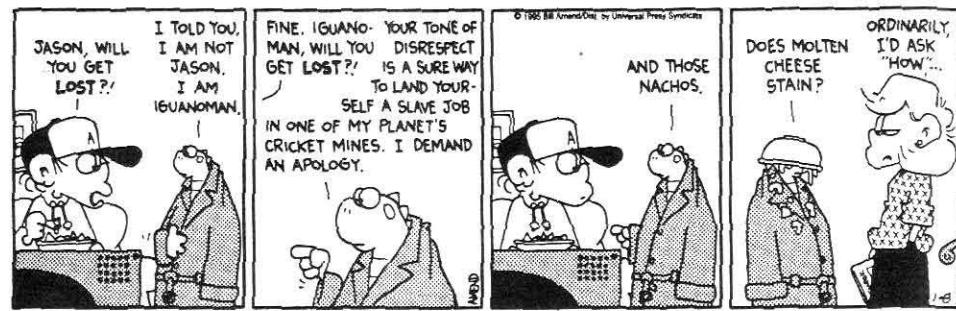
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FoxTrot by Bill Amend



PASADENA IS FAMOUS FOR MORE THAN JUST THE ROSE BOWL Since 1988

Committed to Excellence, Free Support.

We are committed to giving you a high quality, reliable system. All systems are assembled by us right here at our headquarter. Quality control is strict with every system being tested and burned-in 72 hours before delivery. All systems come with a one year carry-in parts and labor warranty, no questions asked. And our service personnel are trained to provide technical support at no charge to you.

Satisfaction Guarantee!

Most of our customers have been with us for a long time. We do all we can to make sure you're happy. If for any reason you have a problem with your system, we offer a 30 day money back guarantee & 1 year warranty covering parts and labor. We also have a GE 3 year additional warranty & Action Call Software support membership available as an option.

About Pasadena Computer Center.

Pasadena Computer Center is located in Pasadena, CA with branches in New York. With almost ten years in the industry, Pasadena Computer Center learned how to serve its customers well. Some of our repeat customers include the Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL), GTE, U.S. Postal Service, Rockwell, Pacific Bell, UCLA, USC, Los Angeles Unified School District, Caltech, Edwards Air Force Base, Kaiser Permanente, Cal State LA and many community colleges. No matter if you're looking for a computer to use at home or a hundred computers for the office you'll get the quality and service you expect.

**HOME/OFFICE STATION**

- > Medium Tower Case w/230W
- > Intel Triton VX Chipset w/512KB Pipeline Cache
- > 32MB EDO Memory
- > 4.3GB EIDE Hard Drive & 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > S3 Virge 3D SVGA Card w/2MB Memory
- > 15" 0.28mm NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 33.6 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail
- > 16X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- > 3D Sound Card w/Software WaveTable & 160W Speaker
- > 105 Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Mouse
- > MS Windows 95 CD & Lotus SmartSuite 97

PENTIUM 200MMX \$1175 HOA01
PENTIUM 166MMX \$1095 HOA02
AMD K6 200 \$1185 HOA03
AMD K6 166 \$1085 HOA04

SUPER MEDIA PLUS

- > Medium Tower Case w/230W
- > Intel Triton 430TX Chipset w/512KB Pipeline Cache
- > 39MB SDRAM
- > 6.4GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive & 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > S3 Virge 3D SVGA w/4MB Memory
- > 17" 0.28 NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 24X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- > 56K X2 Fax/Modem w/Voice
- > SoundBlaster AWE 64 & 240W Speakers
- > 105 Key Windows 95 Keyboard & Microsoft Serial Mouse
- > Windows 95 CD & Lotus SmartSuite 97

PENTIUM 233MMX \$1865 HOA01
PENTIUM 200MMX \$1725 HOA02
AMD K6 233 \$1795 HOA03
AMD K6 200 \$1715 HOA04

INTERNET READY TO GO !!

- > Mini Tower Case w/230W
- > Intel Triton VX Chipset w/512KB Pipeline Cache
- > 16MB EDO Memory
- > 2.5GB EIDE Hard Drive & 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > 56K X2 Fax/Modem w/Voice
- > PCI SVGA Card w/2MB Memory
- > 17" 0.28mm NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 12X CD-ROM Drive
- > 3D Sound Card & 60W Speakers
- > 105 Key Windows 95 Keyboard & Internet Mouse w/3 Buttons
- > Microsoft Windows 95 CD & Best 10 CDs

PENTIUM 200MMX \$1005 HOA01
PENTIUM 166MMX \$995 HOA02
AMD K6 200 \$1035 HOA03
AMD K6 166 \$935 HOA04
6X86 200 \$995 HOA04

3D GAME STATION

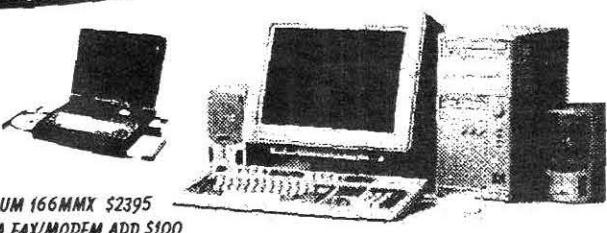
- > Sub-Medium Tower Case w/230W Power Supply
- > Intel Triton VX Chipset w/512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- > 16MB EDO Memory
- > 9.5GB EIDE Hard Drive & 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- > 33.6 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail
- > SVGA PCI Card 64 bit w/2MB Memory
- > 17" 0.28mm NI SVGA Color Monitor
- > 16X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- > 3D Wavetable Sound Card & 60W Speakers
- > 104+ Key Windows 95 Keyboard & 3 Button Internet Mouse
- > Windows 95 CD & Best 10 CD

PENTIUM 233MMX \$1225 HOA01
PENTIUM 200MMX \$1085 HOA02
PENTIUM 166MMX \$985 HOA03
AMD K-6 200 \$1065 HOA04

MOBILE MULTIMEDIA

- > 12.1" TFT Active Matrix Color Screen
- > PCI SVGA W/32MB EDO Ram
- > 16MB Memory, up to 128MB
- > Toshiba 2.1GB EIDE Hard Drive
- > Built-in Touch Pad Mouse, Built-in 1.44 Floppy
- > Win 95 Keyboard, MPCG Card
- > 16bit Sound Card, Microphone & Speakers
- > Two PCMCIA II & One PCMCIA III
- > NiMH Battery, Carry Case

PENTIUM 200MMX \$2500 / PENTIUM 166MMX \$2395
PENTIUM 200 \$2425 / PCMCIA FAX/MODEM ADD \$100



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SPORTS

Don Sutton Elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame

BY MASON PORTER

The Baseball Writer's Association of America announced the results of their Hall of fame ballots on Monday, January 5th. Don Sutton, in his fifth year of eligibility, was the only player the writ-

ers elected this year. He received 388 out of 472 possible votes. The only other player named on more than 50% of the ballots was former Big Red Machine superstar Tony Perez, who fell just 34 votes short of the 355 needed for election.

Last year, Sutton fell just

9 votes short of the requisite 75%. He is tied with Nolan Ryan for 12th on the all-time win list with 324 victories. In his 23 year career, he also fashioned a 3.26 earned run average and struck out 3574 batters (fifth all time).

Ryan (who becomes eligible for the Hall of Fame next year) is now the only one of the twenty pitchers with at least 300 victories not in the Hall of Fame. Likely to be elected along with Ryan in 1999 are Robin Yount, George Brett, and Carlton Fisk, who all become eligible for the first time next year. Former Brave Dale Murphy also become eligible then, but he certainly will not be elected for several years if at all. Jack Morris and Rich Gossage become eligible for election in 2000. Both pitchers have a good chance of being elected eventually, but neither is likely to become Hall of Famers the first time they are on the ballot. Kirby Puckett, Don Mattingly, Dave Winfield, and Kirk Gibson become eligible in 2001. Puckett and Winfield will be elected in their first year of eligibility, while Gibson has little chance of ever being elected and Mattingly is a long shot. Pete Rose, who should be a Hall of Famer, remains ineligible due

to his suspension for gambling.

Perez was on the Hall of Fame ballot for the 7th time. He is 16th on baseball's all-time RBI list with 1652, and every player ahead of him who is eligible for the Hall of Fame is already in it. Perez hit about 380 homeruns during his career, the prime of which was spent with the Cincinnati Reds during the 1970's. Sutton was among many on Monday that stated that Perez belongs in the Hall of Fame. He will likely be elected eventually, but he will probably have to wait until at least 2000, as next year's class is quite strong.

There are several players besides Perez and Sutton who received more than 200 votes this year. Ron Santo, in his 15th and final year of eligibility, received 204 votes, so he will now have to rely on the Veterans' Committee to be elected. Jim Rice received 203 votes, and Gary Carter received 200 votes. Steve Garvey fell just 5 votes short of 200. The Veterans' Committee will meet on March 3rd to determine who they will select for the Hall of Fame. Among their top candidates are Bill Mazeroski, Gil Hodges, and Lary Doby.

Several players on this year's ballot will not be on it next year because they garnered fewer than 5% of the vote. These are Jack Clark, Pedro Guerrero, Willie Randolph, Carney Lansford, Brian Downing, Mike Flanagan, and Rick Dempsey. Clark and Guerrero in particular were electrifying players, although both had their careers cut short or diminished by injuries. The next four were solid but not spectacular players, and Dempsey was a backup catcher for most of his career.

Sutton, now a broadcaster for the Atlanta Braves, was a deserving Hall selection, although there are legitimate gripes against his selection. He needed 23 seasons to earn his 324 victories, and he won more than 20 games only once. Some people make the same complaint against Nolan Ryan, but Sutton received an average of about two more runs for every nine innings he pitched during his career than Ryan did. A similar argument states that Sutton was a solid but unspectacular pitcher during his career, but it seems that his level of performance *should* be considered spectacular given the fact that he maintained it for almost a quarter of a century.

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INFORMATION SESSION/CASE WORKSHOP
Tuesday, January 13, 1998, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
Athenaeum Main Lounge

Interested candidates must submit their resumes along with transcripts, SAT/GRE/GMAT/LSAT scores, and location preference(s) by Friday, January 16, 1998 to:

McKinsey & Company, 400 South Hope Street, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071-2890
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Announcements

* There will be no ASCIT movie this week.

* Myfanwy is now also a Scurve.

* Nominations for the offices of **ASCIT President and VP/BoC Chair** will open at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday the 14th and close at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday the 20th.

* **Guitar Classes** for the spring quarter will meet on Tuesdays starting on January 13 in Room 1 of the SAC as follows:

Beginning Guitar Class
4:30-5:30 P.M.

Intermediate Guitar Class
3:00-4:00 P.M.

Advanced Guitar Class
5:30-6:30 P.M.

For further information on the classes, please telephone (213)465-0881 or e-mail ddenning@cco.

* The **Caltech Ballroom Dance Club** will offer two new 5-week classes this quarter: Beginner Viennese Waltz will be taught by Derrick Bass; Salsa will be taught by a professional instructor from Let's Dance. The cost is \$20 for undergrads, and \$25 otherwise. Refreshments and practice dance time follow each lesson. Time and location is not certain, so watch the posters or visit www.caltech.edu/~ballroom for more details.

* Beginning Monday, January 5th, free anonymous HIV testing, using an oral HIV antibody test, will be available each Monday evening from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the AIDS Service Center, 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena. Persons wishing to be tested may make an appointment by calling (888)488-9242. Walk-ins will also be accepted. Both pre- and post-test counseling will be provided, and results will be given the following Monday.

* Students can pick up a free copy of the **Guide to European Railpasses** in Fellowships Advising & Resources, SAC 25. FAR also has other information geared to student travel.

The **Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group** meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the Health Center lounge. This is a confidential meeting and does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation—only that s/he is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you would like more information, please call x8331.

Events

* The Division of Science, Ethics, and Public Policy will be holding a seminar, **The Road to Rin Tin Tin: Social Construction of the German Shepherd Dog**, this afternoon at 4:00 in Baxter 25. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call x4087 or e-mail york@hss.

* David Koerner, piano, and Tom Lloyd, cello, will be playing in

Mints

* denotes a new announcement.

Dabney Lounge on Sunday, January 11th.

* The next Ernest C. Watson Caltech Lecture, **The World of our Grandchildren: Visualizing Alternative Futures with the World Wide Web**, will be held on Wednesday, January 14th, in Beckman Auditorium.

* The first movie to screen in the **German Film Series** this year is "Ehe Der Maria Braun". It will be shown in Baxter Lecture Hall on January 14 at 7:30 P.M. The film features English subtitles; there will be an introduction and discussion afterwards. Admission is free. For more information, please call x3610.

* **New York Philomusica** will be appearing in Beckman Auditorium on January 18th at 3:30 P.M. This Coleman Chamber Concert will feature music from Hayden, Hindemith, and Brahms.

* The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureships in Science and Civilization will be featuring Professor Alexander Morgan Capron from the National Commission on Bioethics, speaking on **Counting Sheep: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Human Cloning** on Thursday, January 22nd at 4:00 in Beckman Institute.

The **Distinguished Speaker Series** of Southern California is moving into its second season. The events will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on six remaining dates, at 8 p.m.. Colin Powell will be speaking on January 21st, 1998. Dominick Dunne on February 26th. Elizabeth Dole on March 12th. Jean-Michael Cousteau on April 8th. Maya Angelou on May 13th and Mark Victor Hansen on June 10th. For more information, contact (800) 508-9301.

For most Caltech events listed, further information can be obtained by calling 395-4652 or (888) 2-CALTECH, or through the Caltech website, <http://www.caltech.edu>.

Fellowships and Scholarships

* The Glamour Magazine's 1998 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, 1998. Contact the Dean of Students Office, 102 Parsons-Gates for the applications.

The **Korean American Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to offer over 48 scholarships totaling over \$52,000. Applicants must be full-time students of Korean heritage enrolled in at least the 2nd year of college, graduate school or professional school in the Western Region. Each applicant must submit an application form, transcripts from the last two years, two letters of recommendation, one picture taken during the last year, and a copy of both student's and parents' or guardians' Federal Income Tax return from last year. Ap-

plications and information may be obtained through the Financial Aid Office or through the foundation website at www.kasf.org. Applications must be submitted by January 31, 1998. **UFA**

The **Josephine de Kármán Fellowship Trust** is pleased to announce the availability of ten fellowships in the amount of \$7,000 for 1998-99. All studies must be carried out within the United States and expanded within the United States. Fellowships are open to students entering their senior undergraduate year and graduate students entering the terminal year of a Ph.D. program in Fall 1998. For application information, visit the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 1998. **FAR/UFA**

* All undergraduates can apply for a **summer or academic term fellowship** for research at one of nearly 60 federal and industrial facilities, which range from 8-16 weeks and available in a range of science and engineering fields. Students receive a minimum of \$300 per week plus travel to/from the facility. For summer fellowships, applications are due by February 1, 1998. For more information, visit the Obtaining Fellowship section of www.awu.org.

* The Postgraduate Fellowship allows graduating seniors, Master's or Ph.D graduates to work for one to three years at a national laboratory. Fellowships are funded by the host lab/facility, and include support for stipends, travel, relocation, and other allowances. For more information, visit the Obtaining Fellowship section of www.awu.org.

Applications are now being accepted for the 1998-99 **National Academy for Nuclear Training scholarships**. Scholarships are \$2500 each and will be awarded to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, or chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering with nuclear or power options. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, have minimum 3.0 G.P.A.s, and be full-time sophomore, juniors, or seniors in 1998-99. Preference will be given to students demonstrating specific preparation for employment in the U.S. nuclear power industry. Scholarships are renewable. Applications and information are available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 1998. **UFA**

Applications are now being accepted for the **College Women's Club of Pasadena Scholarship Foundation**. Two nominations will be made from Caltech. Applicants must be

female, U.S. Citizens, sophomore year or higher, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Each nominee must provide a completed application form, a one page, typed, personal essay, transcript of college work to date (including current courses and commitments), three recommendations, preferably from professors familiar with applicants aspirations and achievements, and a current resume. All application materials should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office no later than Thursday, February 5, 1998. **UFA**

Seniors interested in journalism as a career may wish to apply for the **Newhouse School of Public Communications fellowship** for Masters programs in journalism at Syracuse University. Students receive full tuition, \$1,100 per month living stipend, up to \$1,500 for moving expenses to Syracuse, NY. \$800 for travel, up to \$1000 for books and fees, and a paid professional internship with a newspaper. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, and members of underrepresented groups in the journalism field. Fellowships Advising can send you more information on the program or contact the program director, Jane Lorraine at jalarrai@suadmin.syr.edu. Applications are due February 10 and GRE general test scores are required for application. **FAR**

The **American Society of Naval Engineers** is offering \$2,000 undergraduate scholarships and \$3,000 graduate scholarships for the academic year 1998-99 to students who are interested in naval engineering. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, must demonstrate a genuine interest in a career in naval engineering, and must be applying for either their last year as an undergraduate or co-op undergraduate program, or one year of graduate study leading to a designated degree at an accredited college or university. The deadline to submit applications is February 15, 1998. **UFA**

The **Backpacker Outdoor Scholarship Program** is offering twenty-five \$1000 scholarships in three categories: Outdoor Leadership, Environmental Leadership, and Outdoor Writing. Students may apply for more than one scholarship, but can only be awarded one. The scholarship is open to any full-time undergraduate student, any major, attending a four-year college. The student must maintain a 3.0 G.P.A. average or better and must be a junior or senior the year the scholarship is used. The application and submission requirements are available in the Financial Aid Office. Entries must be postmarked by February 16, 1998. **UFA**

The Dean of Students Office is ac-

cepting proposals for the **Monticello Foundation Internship** and the **Robert and Delpha Noland Summer Internships**. Three to five Caltech undergraduate women will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside of the Caltech community for ten weeks during the summer. Applicants are required to identify the projects in which they wish to participate. Please stop by the Deans' Office to review sample proposals from past years, or to discuss your proposal before the deadline date. Proposals must be received by March 2, 1998.

California residents who plan to attend graduate school in California should apply for the **California Graduate Fellowship Program**. The application deadline is March 2, 1998. Information booklets giving details and application procedures are available from Fellowships Advising. Information is also available on the Web at <http://www.csac.ca.gov>. **FAR**

The **American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society** is offering scholarships to undergraduate juniors and seniors and graduate students who are interested in careers in the electroplating and surface finishing industry. Undergraduates must be full-time and must be majoring in metallurgy, metallurgical engineering, materials science or engineering, chemistry, chemical engineering, or environmental engineering. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 1998. **UFA**

The **Jewish Family and Children's Services** offers financial support for Jewish individuals and their families. Individuals may apply for up to \$5,000. Special scholarships are available for study in Israel. Eligible students must have financial need, have at least a 3.0 G.P.A., and be residents of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin or Sonoma counties, or the Bay Area. There are no deadlines—applications are accepted throughout the year and are available in the Financial Aid Office. **UFA**

For information on the listed fellowships, assistance with essays, or clarification of questions, contact:

FAR - The Fellowships Advising and Resources Office.

For information, please contact Lauren Stolper at lauren_stolper@starbase1.caltech.edu. To make an appointment, call x2150.

UFA - The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.

For information, call x6280, or stop by 515 S. Wilson for an appointment.

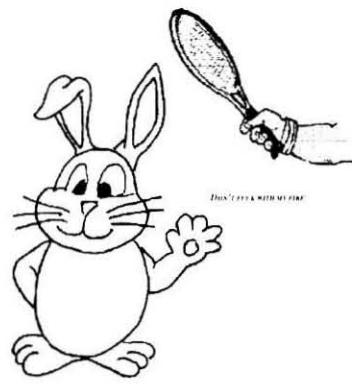
To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@caltech.edu or Mail Code 040-058 by noon on the Monday prior to its inclusion. Submissions must be brief and concise, and the editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material.

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THE SCOREBOARD

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Ruddock	SUX



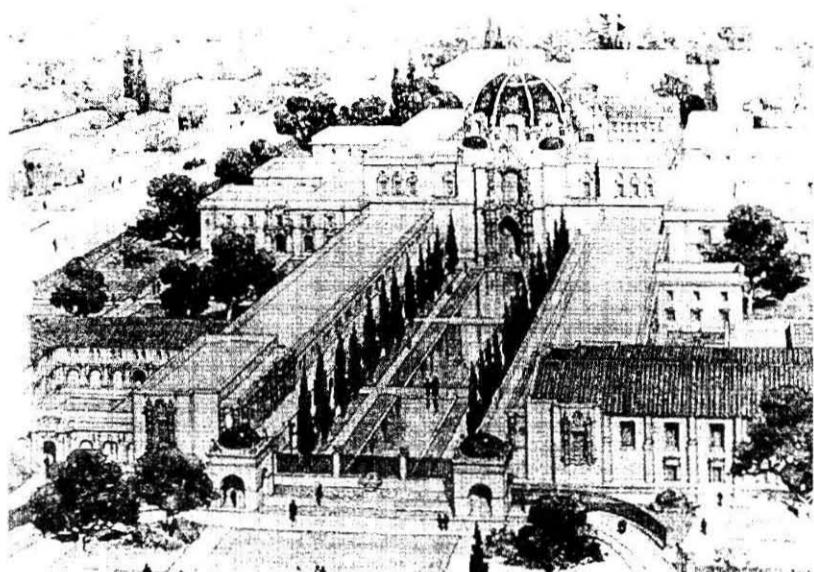
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be having sex this
week...

THE INSIDE WORLD

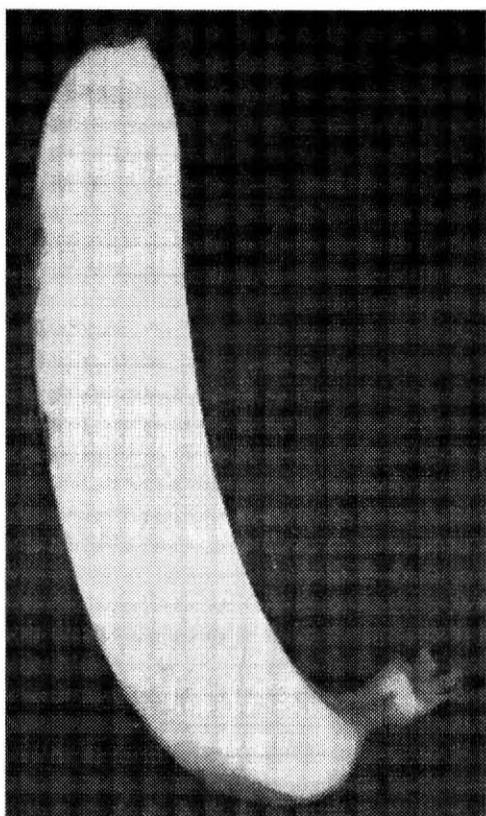
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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1998



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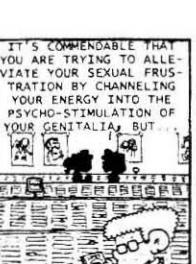
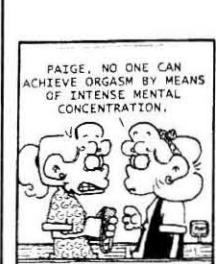


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**THE INSIDE
WORLD:
CREAM
YOUR
PANTS...
THEN GO
YÅÅHTING**

IN THIS ISSUE



FLEM106

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens in a Ph 106 lecture?

You are anally raped.

What if you like that sort of thing?

He screws you through your belly button.

And if you like that?

Then you'll love Ph 106.

ζ typically faces the blackboard. How does he rape students from that position?

Periodic boundary conditions and a fifty foot Penatron(TM). Ph 106 students who have been around long enough avoid the back row.

Fifty feet? How does that come close to fitting?

Lorentz contraction. At ninety-five percent the speed of light, the Impaler(TM) is only fifteen feet in your reference frame. Enough to seriously maim, but not to kill. That's the point.

But aren't you Lorentz contracted in his reference frame?

Yes. For him, it's like screwing a pancake. He likes that.

So isn't there a problem here?

No. His fifty feet of fiberglass encrusted rod doesn't actually fit in all at once. For him, the penetration takes several hours. He likes that.

How does it feel like on your end?

The initial entry, marked by blue shifted light, is instantaneous. Then in a red flash of light and synchrotron radiation, he slows down, causing it to expand very non-instantaneously. That hurts.

How did you figure all this out?

Since we're doing relativity, ζ gave us the option either (a) working the "impaler problem" out on the board or (b) participating in a demonstration. If we chose (a), we'd have to work the problem out faster than the person before us.

So what happened?

He called on Yi.

and ...?

A: Gaining knowledge through experience is vastly overrated.

What would Ricketts have if not a pot?

1. Fireclub-juggling Russian circus bear
2. "Oil Fires of Kuwait" action playset
3. "World of Sodium" aquatic theme park
4. 15,000,000 non-childproofed lighters
5. Large vat of oxygen,
6. 2 large vats of hydrogen
7. One pot-sized candle (we make the wick)
8. Hell: the interpretive historical site
9. "Community garden" pot-shaped planter
10. A pyro stripper
11. Spontaneous Human Combustion lab
12. 1 metric ton of pre-authorized FEMA fire disaster relief forms
13. A GIANT can of oily rags
14. 10 ft high pile of magnesium shavings
15. Sawdust mill
16. Acetone fountain in the shape of a penis
17. Bic lighters, giant butt that farts when you walk by
18. Hyperbolic dodecahedron jungle gym (like the Mathematica book)
19. Surplus missile silo with nose cone above surface to rub for good luck
20. Huge catapult pointed at the ath
21. Concertina-wire tightrope across the courtyard
22. Mountain of broken glass: make your own sand
23. "Hot Kohl's hot coals" (tm)
24. A terminator T-1000 "honor code ENFORCER"
25. "Wart-be-gone" hydrofluoric acid fountain
26. Subscriptions to "soldier of fortune", "mercenary for hire", and "the firebug weekly"
27. Our very own hole in the ozone layer
28. Blasting cap novelty earplugs
29. Bottomless pit/fire marshall's slidepole to hell

CosMOLE PERSONALITY TEST

Nate Lewis:

- a) Offered to write on the chalkboard for him.
- b) Pretty slides
- c) Put chalk on his salad when he took me to lunch at the Ath.

The Ath:

- a) Went with my advisor.
- b) Drank beer at an ombuds meeting.
- c) Ran through naked.

Stephen Hawking:

- a) Cooler than Einstein.
- b) "Coke, no ice."
- c) Ran me down outside Lauritsen.

The Star Wars Trilogy:

- a) Seen it more than 10 times.
- b) Han Solo's A** / Leia's metal brain
- c) Return of the Jedi.

Geology field trip:

- a) Posted my report on the web.
- b) Rocks and beer! Rocks and beer!
- c) Beer and tequila! Beer and tequila!

Feynman:

- a) Q.E.D.
- b) Safecracker
- c) Sure, I remember Dick.

Hum class:

- a) Needed for a well-balanced education.
- b) Scheduled nap.
- c) Take 'em all senior year.

Decompression:

- a) Have a complete set of 12 shirts.
- b) Love that chili!
- c) Cleaned the chili pot. Never again.

Operating system of choice:

- a) UNIX
- b) Win '95/ Mac OS 8
- c) QNX

You meet someone during Rotation, you ask them:

- a) "What were your SAT scores?"
- b) "Where are you rotating out of?"
- c) "Want to see my genetic defect?"

A's- Anal Retentive

You are the admission committee's favorite candidate for Tech. You bear a striking resemblance to Kent from "Real Genius." You have never turned in a homework set late, and you still haven't beaten Riven. Stop using e-mail to communicate with the outside world. Remember it only takes 40.5 units a term to graduate on time!

MOSTLY B's- NORMAL (WELL, FOR THIS PLACE)

Okay, so you're doing all right. But take a walk on the wild side to spice up your life. Tie-dye your underwear, visit the Dabney Hot Tub, turn on the lights in Crud, hurl your Tommy (but not Tommy's) off the roof of Millikan, eat a Tommy's (but not a Tommy) Triple Threat.

C's- PSYCHO

You've been here too long. You've probably cavitated naked with the lady in the EE Stockroom to get extra parts for your labs. Stop inhaling the asbestos and try walking above ground once. UGCS is naming its machines after you. Maybe it's time to take a term off and try organic farming.

a forest of whimsy

*S*ive beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are heavy of heart. let them drink and forget their misery, and remember their sorrow no more. proverb 31:6-7.

in the dabney courtyard there are many trees. their death for the sake of saturnalia was mourned by the hovse of love. their corpses have been displayed to slap the figurative faces of the who kill—those who kill for the ostensible reason of a joyful holiday. killing is *never* right. killing is *always* wrong. the greatest of the commandments is this: love your neighbor as yourself.

the dabney hovse courtyard gallery is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. "a forest of whimsy" will be on view at least through the weekend.

