

Drop Day is Wednesday:  
Drop those classes, drop 'em all.



Check out election statistics and a  
poll of Caltech students on page 4

# The California Tech

VOLUME CII, NUMBER 8

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 10, 2000

## NAPSTER: THE END OF AN ERA?

BY DANA SADAVA

On December 7th of last year, the Recording Industry Association of America filed suit against Napster, Inc. for "contributory and vicarious infringement of copyright laws." A week ago, napster.com was still the number one visited music website.

Five major recording labels were represented by the RIAA in its lawsuit, which claimed that the ability to download MP3 music files free of charge, a service Napster provides, encourages the violation of copyright laws that compensate artists every time their music is shared. An injunction against Napster was subsequently issued by a federal judge who concurred that Napster is not protected under copyright law.

Napster, an 18-month old California-based company, recently solved its lawsuit problem by merging with Bertelsmann, a division of BMG, one of the recording labels involved in the suit. The deal between the two companies states that the suit against Napster will be dropped if it devises a way to charge its customers and give a certain percentage of its revenues to Bertelsmann.

With the suit resolved, the questions arise: Is Napster, who hasn't yet charged for its services, illegal now? Will people pay to download music they used to download for free?

It has been reported that 69% of college students currently use Napster on a fairly regular basis. Many colleges, like NYU and Kent State, have prohibited students from using Napster until a fee is charged for its services.

Dean Jean-Paul Revel stated his position: "Napster is fine if it is used in a way that doesn't infringe on copyright laws. If you have permission to use it, then fine."

As for what will happen when Napster charges a fee, an October survey found that 68% of Napster users are willing to pay fifteen dollars a month for use.

Even with its concession to Bertelsmann and the RIAA, Napster maintains that it has not violated any copyright laws. According to the Audio Home Recording Act, "noncommercial copying by consumers is lawful." Last year, the RIAA lost a similar case to Diamond Multimedia Systems, who cited that statute.

## Certainly not politics as usual

Controversy and uncertainty prove that all votes are equal, just some are more equal than others.

BY LISA WANG

Three days after we headed to the polls, America still hasn't found a president. As everyone anxiously waits in suspense, one thing is sure: this election is for the history books.

Currently deadlocked at 49%-versus-49%, with Bush leading the ongoing Florida recounts by a 229 margin and Gore leading in the nationwide popular vote, the election results are changing by the minute. The ballot recounts from Florida, the ultimate battleground in this election, cannot be finalized until November 17 at the earliest, say Florida State election officials.

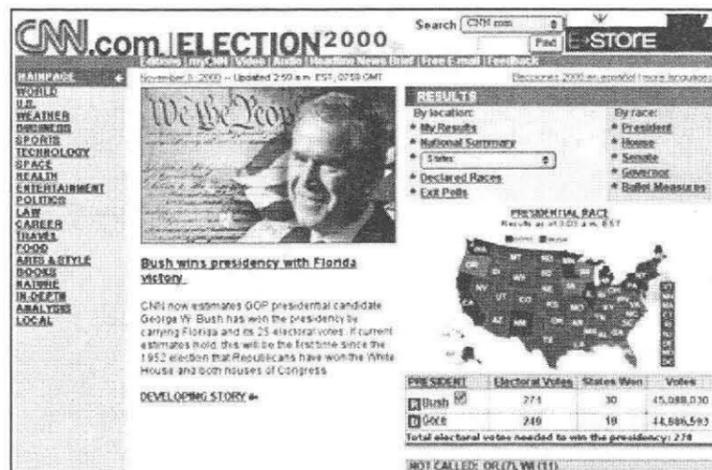
Those who were transfixed in front of TV sets and computer screens late Tuesday night know just how agonizingly the election returns came in. The media traced Bush's victories through-

out the south and the west, and Gore's embarrassing losses in Arkansas and Tennessee, his

Bush had 246. But Florida's 25 electoral votes were still up for grabs and could pull either can-

taken Florida, then later switched to announce that Bush had won in the final count.

For several hours, the world thought that Bush had claimed the presidency; several online news sites and early editions of some papers proclaimed a winner, and Gore himself phoned Bush with his concession. When Gore failed to show up at his 4:00 AM EST concession gathering in Nashville, however, TV networks began rescinding their premature election calls. Since the election was so close, Florida law mandated a recount. (Bush led Gore by only 1200 votes out of 6 million cast and 5000 votes remained uncounted). Gore called Bush again to rescind his concession in light of the development, and the contest remained open.



Several news agencies, including CNN, prematurely declared Bush the winner before receiving word of the Florida recount

home state. By the end of Tuesday night, with votes from Florida, Oregon and New Mexico still uncounted, Gore held 260 electoral votes while

didate above the 270 electoral vote line required to win the election. Some news agencies announced early on, based on exit poll data, that Gore had

## David Lee and Sally Ride join Caltech's Board of Trustees

BY ROBERT LI

Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, and David Lee, a leading businessman in telecommunications, have been elected to Caltech's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Sally Ride is a graduate of Stanford University with dual bachelor's degrees in English and physics as well as master's and doctoral degrees in astrophysics. In 1978, she was one of the first six women to be admitted to NASA's astronaut program. Five years later, Dr. Sally Ride, as a crew member of the space shuttle Challenger, became the first American woman



Sally Ride

to go into space. After the Challenger explosion in 1986, Dr. Ride served on the Presidential commission investigating the disaster. The next year, she retired from the astronaut program.

Currently, Dr. Sally Ride is a professor of physics and the Director of the California Space Institute at UC San Diego. She is also involved with the Kidsat program at JPL.

A graduate of McGill University, Dr. Lee received a doctorate in physics with a minor in economics from Caltech. In 1997, he co-founded Global Crossing, a communications company that is building a revolutionary fiber-optic IP-telephony network across the world. Dr. Lee established the Center of Advanced Networking at Caltech as well as a similar facility in National Chia Tung University in Taiwan. Recently, he



David Lee

Dr. Lee currently serves on the Board of Oversees of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He also serves on the Board of Global Crossing Ltd. and New Focus, Inc.

The Board of Trustees of the California Institute of Technology, with over 70 members, is the body that provides guidance and leadership to the Institute's research and academic programs.

## Fresh frosh parties

BY IRAM PARVEEN BILAL

The adrenaline levels are shooting high as the ever-fresh frosh of Page and Fleming work on their annual frosh parties. In a continuation of a decades-long tradition of individual house parties, both houses are putting on equally intriguing but different themes. Page has decided on the theme of scary pirates while Fleming has settled on a more peaceful "glow-in-the-dark" theme. The parties take off this weekend: Page's on the 10th and Fleming's on the 11th.

In the past, people from various colleges in California have shown up for the parties because of the high levels of spirit, and to see the creativity of us smart Techers. Even high school students have gotten caught up in undesirable activities and illegal

drinking. For this reason, the parties are likely to be security-tight and controlled. So don't worry, be there!

On-campus parties are rare here, and with strong academic pressures and high workloads, it becomes necessary for students from all over campus (including graduates) to blow off steam. Hence, a high turnout is expected. This is also a time of student unification, when bounds of academic and social life are crossed for the sole purpose of celebrating the entry of a new group of energetic, unique and intelligent students (us frosh!).

It is indeed interesting when frosh are suddenly challenged with such a large project. But what is even more interesting is the way upperclassmen, within

PLEASE SEE PARTY ON PAGE 8

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## Letters

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Is Caltech misrepresented?*

Last week's edition of The California Tech had two articles in it which seem to show the two polarized views of Caltech: one, written by a student, describing some less-than-perfect aspects of Caltech, and the second, written by Dean Revel, attempting to show us that everything is "hunky-dory." Let it be known, Dean Revel, that everything is not "hunky-dory."

The student, a frosh, complained about the lack of sleep due to overwork. I shall begin by stating that if you are a frosh and think you have a lot of work now, just wait until you become a sophomore and things really begin to get tough. But with that said, he brings up a good point. We need 486 units to graduate, which, as many of you probably know, translates to 40.5 units per term. Since I don't know of any courses which are 4.5 units, most of us take a not-crazy-for-Tech workload of 45 units, or five classes. And don't even start me on the fact that most of our classes here are severely underunited; I know what a 40 to 50 hour per week job is like, and it is much, much, much less time than I currently spend on homework.

Now, let us compare this to a workload at another well-known and rigorous school which is on a 10-week term trimester: Carleton College in Northfield, MN. And I quote: "Students usually carry three courses each term." Three. Imagine your life if you had only three courses. What could you do? Well, for starters, you could actually learn the material, and master it, instead of having to cram constantly because the fire-hose never shuts off. And then you could exercise the social, or creative, or whatever, side of your life that gets silenced the minute you realize you have five problem sets due the next day.

Dean Revel brings up a couple of points which need to be responded to by a student. Like most of the Caltech administration, he trumpets our wonderful 3/1 student-faculty ratio. Before I came to Caltech, and when I heard that ratio, I thought to myself, "Wow, that's great! There'll be a lot of student-faculty interaction, since that's what that ratio seems to imply!" Now let me ask: how much student-faculty interaction have you had this week, month, term, year? I can say resoundingly: none. Again, Dean Revel mentions that "we have the best faculty as measured by their research rank." This brings up the question: is a good research fac-

ulty a good teaching faculty? I believe my experiences here (and those of many of my friends) would answer that question as no. I do not consider a good teaching faculty one which spews equations at you, leaving out the explanations, and leaving portions of the lecture as "an exercise to the student." I do not consider a good teaching faculty

are unable to speak English clearly. This is not to say that all Caltech faculty are horrible professors; I have had a few professors whom I would consider exceptional (although a large percentage of those were visiting faculty or non-professorial level).

Second, Dean Revel mentions that "top students will often be attracted by the research opportunities." Yes, Dean Revel, I am

the Dean's next sentence: "At Caltech anyway, many, if not the majority of, students spend a lot of time doing research in various professors' laboratories." This, Dean Revel, is blatantly false, based on my experience. In my circle of friends, not one of them is doing out-of-class research. I have only done six units of research my entire time here, which is significantly less than I had hoped to do. Yes, many of us do research during the summer. However, again coming to the point made a few paragraphs above, many of us are unable to do research during the school year because of the insane workload. In no way do we do as much school-year research as at someplace like MIT, with its excellent UROP program. What's the point of coming to a top-notch research school with top-notch research faculty if we are unable to do research on a regular basis?

Caltech has not even begun to

fulfil the expectations I created when I was searching for the best college. Unfortunately, it was grossly misrepresented to me, and probably to a majority of my fellow students. Instead of presenting the average Techer, the glossy brochures showed us the exception to the rule. It is my hope that the administration will cease marketing an incorrect image and begin telling prospective students the truth of life as a Techer.

-Anonymous

*"What's the point of coming to a top-notch research school with top-notch research faculty if we are unable to do research on a regular basis?"*

one which gives out homework sets which take twice as long as the class is united. I do not consider a good teaching school one which leaves a large number of its students left to TAs for explanations, a number of whom (through no fault of their own)

one of those students who was attracted to Caltech because of its research opportunities. I was extremely excited by the thought that I would have the ability to do research during the school year as early as my freshman year. At this point, I shall quote




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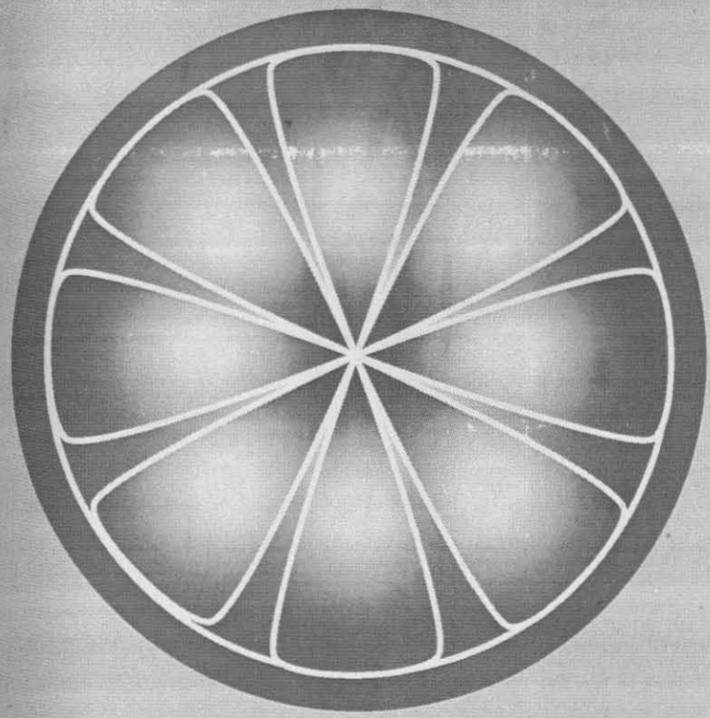
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## Politics

## ELECTION:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tially serious, as demonstrators in Palm Beach County, Florida, are protesting what they perceive as an unfair and confusing ballot, and both sides are complaining about the other.

One thing that is provided for by the constitution is what happens if for some reason some members of the electoral college do not participate. Such a situation is conceivable, since if the issues in Florida are not cleared up before December 18 it is possible that a judge could restrain Jeb Bush, governor of Florida, from issuing the Certificate of Ascertainment necessary for Florida's electors to participate in the final vote. In this case, it appears as if Gore would win.

## LA COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS

Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

## National Offices:

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

AL GORE	DEM	1,598,375	63.56
GEORGE W BUSH	REP	812,154	32.29
RALPH NADER	GR	77,651	3.09
PATRICK J BUCHANAN	RFM	10,702	0.43
HARRY BROWNE	LIB	10,268	0.41
HOWARD PHILLIPS	AI	3,347	0.13
JOHN HAGELIN	NL	2,306	0.09

UNITED STATES SENATOR

DIANNE FEINSTEIN	DEM	1,569,375	64.49
TOM CAMPBELL	REP	693,994	28.52
MEDEA S BENJAMIN	GR	66,805	2.75
GAIL K LIGHTFOOT	LIB	39,690	1.63

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 27TH DISTRICT

ADAM SCHIFF	DEM	106,063	52.76
JAMES E ROGAN	REP	87,972	43.76
MIRIAM R HOSPODAR	NL	3,579	1.78
TED BROWN	LIB	3,430	1.71

## State Offices and Measures:

ASSESSOR			
RICK AUERBACH		754,961	38.33
YOLANDA T SALAZAR		307,681	15.62
JOHN LYNCH		158,758	8.06
JOHN Y WONG		157,463	7.99

32 - VETERANS' BOND ACT	YES	1,581,302	69.06
	NO	708,582	30.94
34 - CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMITS	YES	1,377,379	61.62
	NO	857,778	38.38
35 - PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS	YES	1,160,971	51.60
	NO	1,088,801	48.40
36 - DRUG PROBATION/TREATMENT	YES	1,518,917	65.29
	NO	807,640	34.71
38 - SCHOOL VOUCHERS	YES	648,746	26.85
	NO	1,767,141	73.15
39 - SCHOOL FACILITIES 55% VOTE	YES	1,325,606	56.72
	NO	1,011,409	43.28

## Los Angeles County Offices and Measures:

DISTRICT ATTORNEY			
STEVE COOLEY		1,348,005	63.69
GIL GARCETTI		768,611	36.31

## ELECTION STATISTICS

TOTAL PRECINCTS	4,963	100.00
REGISTRATION	4,075,037	
ABSENTEE TOTAL	425,861	
BALLOTS CAST/TURNOUT	2,583,715	63.40

## Meanwhile, at Caltech:

Out of 55 students: 50 (91%) were eligible to vote and 5 were not.  
 Out of the 50 eligible: 40 (80%) were registered and 10 were not.  
 Out of the 40 registered: 21 (55%) actually voted and 19 did not.  
 That makes 42% of eligible voters (national average is 52%).  
 Out of 21 votes: 11 (52%) Gore, 6 (29%) Bush, 2 (10%) Nader, 2 (10%) other.

## The Outside World

by Erik Dill

Manchester, England - Going against the parents' wishes, doctors performed an operation to separate twin girls joined at the abdomen. Since the girls shared a heart and lungs, it was previously known that the operation would be fatal for one of them. As predicted, the weaker twin died, though the other one was reported in "critical but stable" condition.

Jerusalem, Israel - A Palestinian fishing boat exploded next to an Israeli patrol ship in a failed suicide bombing. An Israeli helicopter gunship attacked a van with rockets, killing Palestinian militia leader Hussein Abayat. Clinton is trying to patch peace back together. So far 202 people have died.

Iran - A 1,000 student pro-democracy demonstration at Tehran University ended peacefully, though plainclothes police arrested several students after they left the area.

Bellevue, Nebraska - Dr. LeRoy Carhart, who successfully challenged Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortions as excessively vague, may lose his clinic. Opponents bought the building with the partial intent of displacing his practice.

Washington, D.C. - The FDA banned phenylpropanolamine, found in cold remedies and diet suppressants, citing studies which link the compound to an increased risk of stroke in young women.

## Honeywell

## Imagination Required.

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Interviews will be held Friday, November 17 on the 3rd floor in the Career Development Center. You may sign up at

[www.recruit.caltech.edu](http://www.recruit.caltech.edu)

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by Henrik Ibsen

Translated by Eva Le Gallienne

By arrangement with International Creative Management, Inc.

Directed by Shirley Marneus

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# Ticket Stub

## The Ticket Stub

by Justin Ho

### Requiem for a Dream (A)

Rated NR: for material which would otherwise connote an NC-17 rating

Does anyone remember the movie  $\pi$  from 1998? The film in which a reclusive mathematician believed he could use math to predict every conceivable phenomenon in the world, especially the pattern of the stock market? He hit an impasse somewhere, a number outputted that caused computers to crash and that put a faction of Hassidic Jews in a frenzy because it was a direct translation of God's name. However far-fetched the movie was, it worked. Perhaps this was due to the character's paranoia, which trickled into the audience and created a disturbing epiphany that the number was key to everything in the universe. Or maybe the movie worked because of the uber-chic fusion of an excellent soundtrack to roving,

psychedelic camera images that heightened hysteria. It wasn't reminiscent of "The Blair Witch Project" because the story, editing, etc., had the air of pre-fabrication, but it was contrivance at the pinnacle of glitzy pop culture.

The director of  $\pi$ , Darren Aronofsky, returns for a sophomore effort in "Requiem for a Dream," but the film exudes the craftsmanship of a virtuoso. There weren't any social statements in his previous film, no cathartic themes which come close to Requiem's brutally didactic anti-drug message. But with that in mind, Requiem is anything but an after-school special, as indicated by its NR rating, usually a euphemism for a film which would otherwise be NC-17.

Drugs and sex are the true common denominators shared by all peoples. Sex, as required for procreation, is the rudiment of human existence. The relationship between drugs and all human existence may be sketchy, but taken figuratively, and using drugs as a substitute for addiction, the connection clarifies itself. It is addiction that drives this movie and its characters to their dark fates. To those who may be uneasy that addiction is a trait shared by ev-

eryone, rest assured that some addictions are more fatal than others. I've only used the reference to illustrate that as far as Aronofsky has gone in making his characters extreme, there is still a universal underlying humanity to them.

Requiem's main character, Harry Goldfarb, is a youthful Brooklyn thrill-seeker who doesn't have the financial means of procuring chemically-induced highs until he hatches a scheme to be a dope dealer with a friend, Tyrone. He's a lost soul who has found a counter-part in Marion, a suburban well-to-do junkie who mistakes psychotropic substances for the affection she did not receive growing up. Needless to say, the druggie underworld is many times more exhilarating than reality. When they consume, the movie becomes a flurry of dazzling images, a visual masterpiece equivalent to the elation of being high, and for this Aronofsky should receive accolades. He decorates hallucinations, mixes temporal and spatial reality, and allows the camera to circle its subjects in an effect which is disorienting and allows a fascinating glimpse of drug users' identity detachment. As the characters' eyes stare, ostensibly at nothingness, there is a sense of a detached state of consciousness looking inward without

pity. The spectator may assume the role of voyeur, but when the film attains its hysterical intensity, it is not an audience staring at the physical and emotional remnants of a dilapidated noodly-armed junkie, but an eye which has merged with the subject's own psyche. The audience can stare out at distorted reality.

Harry, Marion, and Tyrone are joined in the ups and downs of drug use by Harry's aging mother. Years from her pleasure days, she is the quintessential victim of the empty nest. Rooted in loneliness, she turns to diet pills, uppers and downers, prescribed by a quack doctor. The effect is initially comical as her surge in strength and attentiveness makes her lift a few couches here and there. But the levity is matched by the fact of her addiction, rooted in her sense of mortality and uselessness. Despite her signs of weight loss, including her ability to fit into a pretty red dress for a TV show, she is never and can never be happy. The addiction ultimately works on two levels, for the moments following her high of appearing on TV are trying to find a future endeavor to match that sense of elation.

The sense of inevitability begins to plague each of the other characters as well. The once-glitzy druggie urban underworld

turns awry and back-stabbing. A stash of money is used to pay for Tyrone's bail, and the means of maintaining the trio's addiction habits become noticeably absent. A sense of madness consumes them, especially Marion. Upon withdrawal, her loving character is ravaged by an inner, craving monster willing to go to any lengths to satisfy itself. Marion's willingness to rob herself of her dignity is madness, but an example of the lesson that, perhaps, can only be taught by going past the brink of bad taste. The fates of the four characters, their castration, their insecurity, their insanity, and the annihilation of their dignity are stomach-churning to watch, but as the images mount in distressing intensity, there's a cathartically pleasing amazement that 1000 hours of after-school specials certainly could never reproduce. The primary function of the movie may not have been to teach drug awareness and abstinence. This everlasting message might hit home especially because it is more of an after-thought, a means to an end of raising the bar of filmography in general. But treated in any context, the film is sure to remain in the mind of the audience. And in light of its salient and surely visceral qualities, it is anything but an ephemeral or amorphous dream.

## JAPAN INTERNSHIP Information Session



Are you a freshman, sophomore, or junior who wants a meaningful, research-based summer internship? Are you interested in the Japanese culture? Then save the date for this presentation.

**When:** Friday – November 17, 2000  
12:00 noon to 1:00 PM

**Where:** Career Development Center  
414 S. Holliston Avenue  
3rd floor conference room



\*Space is limited to the first 30 people.  
Light lunch will be provided.

Contact Angela Wood (ext. 6364)  
at the Career Development Center  
for more information.

## Are you graduating in 2001?

Over 200 companies will be recruiting on-campus this year. Beginning November 1st, many companies will be interviewing BS candidates. Sign up NOW! Don't miss out on these companies coming this fall.

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Enron Corp.	marchFIRST /Undergrads	Teradyne, Inc.
Ericsson, Inc.	Mattel, Inc.	Texas Instruments, Inc.
eSpeed, Inc.	Maxim Integrated Products	ThirdVoice, Inc.
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Goldman Sachs - Investment Management	Nomadix	Walker Digital
Gordian	Nuance Communications	Wastach Venture Fund
Homestead.com	NVIDIA Corp.	

Contact the Career Development Center at  
ext. 6361 or [career@caltech.edu](mailto:career@caltech.edu).  
Visit us at 414 S. Holliston Avenue, 3rd floor  
to register for on-campus interviewing.

## Intercultural Tech

# Relating across cultures: challenges of adjustment

BY ELIZABETH SHON

What are the challenges of adjustment to a new culture and environment? How do we connect with and relate to someone from another culture? What is American culture? What is it like to be an international student at Caltech and adjust to the Caltech culture? These are some of the questions the Intercultural Discussion and Support Group will attempt to address. ISP staff and counselors from the Counseling Center will facilitate this group, which will be open to all Caltech students. Meetings are 12 to 1 p.m. Mondays, beginning November 20, on the second floor of the Center for Student Services. Anyone interested in knowing more about the group should call the ISP office at 6330.

### Relating Across Cultures

Culture can be defined as the customs, values, assumptions and norms shared by a group of people. These values and assumptions, which we were all taught, shape the way we behave, communicate and relate. Encountering new cultures and different people can be exciting and enriching. At the same time, for international students, it can

be quite a challenge to work through culture shock, adjustment, and identity confusion. For Americans in a relationship with someone from another culture, it can also be confusing, uncomfortable and frustrating.

Some international students may cope with adjustment by denying that they are living in another culture. They may remain isolated, or befriend only others who are from their own culture. Perhaps some Americans cope in the same way, by either consciously or unconsciously befriend only people who are like themselves. Certainly, one can understand the need to be connected to others who can communicate in the language that one is most comfortable with, and with people who share one's values and beliefs. But to what extent does this comfort interfere with the process of learning how to relate across cultures and deal with differences?

It is not uncommon for international students who are trying to establish themselves in a new environment to feel ignored, inadequate, invisible, disliked or rejected. They may feel anxious about making mistakes, or about not knowing or doing what is

expected. In spite of this, we place the burden of initiating encounters on the international student. Wouldn't it be nice if some of us Americans could reach out, welcome, and play the host once in a while?

But perhaps some of us Americans have our reasons for not being more welcoming and open. Maybe we don't recognize the challenges international students face. Or perhaps our lives and schedules are already too tight for new relationships. Maybe we feel inadequate in our knowledge of other cultures and are afraid to be found out. It could also be that we are uncertain about how to behave in a relationship with someone who is different. Perhaps new ideas and challenges to our way of thinking are too much to handle right now. If only we could keep in mind that people from other cultures can relate to our fears.

A cross-cultural encounter can be anxiety-provoking because it is an emotional encounter. We are taking a risk and stepping into the unknown. The challenge in these encounters is for us to learn how to manage the emotions evoked when we come up against something that is different from what we expected. In

these situations, we may experience confusion, discomfort, and hurt feelings. Students come away from a cross-cultural encounter thinking, "They don't like me." "He's such an idiot." "Did I do or say something wrong?" "They're thinking I am to aggressive/passive/uninterested." These attributions and judgements are our way of making sense of what has happened. After these judgements are made, we are likely either to do something the other person will find offensive, or withdraw.

The next time you notice yourself or the person you are relating to having these emotional reactions, try asking yourself if a cultural difference may be affecting the interaction. Then, suspend judgement and consider whether the other person may be behaving in a way culturally normal for him or her. When we take the time to reflect on culture and how it affects our reaction, our reaction typically subsides. If we have withdrawn or offended, we can re-engage and try to rebuild or repair the relationship.

Despite its challenges, it can be very gratifying and eye-opening to have a relationship with an individual from another cul-

ture, particularly if that culture has values directly opposed to those of our own. I've found that when I open myself up to other cultures, I open up options and choices for myself. In college, as I gained more exposure to the American culture, I found that I had the option to be assertive with authority figures, something Korean culture had not allowed me. I must say, however, that it is nice NOW to have these choices. When I first discovered the choices, it hit me pretty hard. It shook the very foundation on which my values had been built. All of a sudden I wasn't so sure who I was and who I wanted to be. I felt cheated by my own culture and misunderstood by the dominant culture. What helped me the most through this period was talking to others who were striving to be bicultural or multicultural, people who could relate to and support my struggle. Reading and learning about intercultural communication and multicultural identity was also helpful. It is my hope that this group on Intercultural Discussion and Support will provide the kind of support and assistance that will enhance the personal and relational struggle for all involved. Come join us!

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## A South Asian soirée

BY VIDYASANKAR SUNDARESAN

OASIS (Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Subcontinent) presented TARANG, a lively evening of Indian culture, music, dance and food on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, at the Ramo Auditorium. Most of the participants were Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students at Caltech, and the event was attended by more than 200 people. Details of the program and participants can be found at the club's website <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~oasis>.

Beginning with a short presentation of southern Indian classical music on the bamboo flute by P. T. Narasimhan, the show included dance items based on the eastern classical idiom of Odissi and vocal music from northern and southern Indian classical traditions. The unifying theme of the program was based on the theory of five elements (space, air, fire, water and earth), which is found in most of the world's old cultures. Ramesh Srinivasan, the master of ceremonies, gave a running commentary on the theme, with fascinating highlights of how the classical Indians and other allied cultures have theorized about the universe. Water, earth and air were represented by group dances, choreographed by Deepshika Dutta. Space and fire were represented through music and vocal recitation, rendered by Vidyasankar.

Krishna Kutty and Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, southern California residents, were guest musicians, who played the Violin and Tabla respectively. Shreesh Mysore, a new Caltech graduate student,

accompanied the musicians on the Mridangam. In addition to the opening recital on the flute, the other musical portion of the evening consisted of vocal music, rendered by a group of Caltech students, with Tabla and Mridangam accompaniments. Shabari Basu also played the Harmonium to accompany the group singing. Both northern and southern Indian systems of classical music are based on melodic scales, called Ragas, and set to periodic time measures, called Talas. Over the last two hundred years, because of the British presence in the subcontinent, Indian musicians have adopted the violin, and adapted its tuning and playing techniques to suit the requirements of Indian music. The quality of the music and dance pieces was of a high caliber, and it was evident that a great deal of planning and practice had been done by all the participants.

After the Indian dances and music came the hilarious skit put together by undergraduates, called "Nerds are Studs". They roped in the dean, Jean-Paul Revel, to play himself! Based on a format of TV dating shows, the play was a humorous look at the gender ratio in Caltech, and the culture of our diverse student body. The lines were highly enjoyable and it was a delight to watch Caltech students being able to laugh at themselves. Kudos to Mona Sheikh and Julia Greissl, the authors, and the participants, Jared, Jim, Nate, Omar, Basit, Lisa, and of course, Dean Revel! The evening ended with delicious Indian dinner, featuring the staples of rice and naans, along with Tandoori chicken, daal, vegetable dishes and dessert.

# ASCIT minutes and news

## A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

November 6, 2000

Present: BoD; Guests: Dave Guskin, Derek Shannon

Meeting called to order at 10:44 pm.

Hmmm wasn't someone from the little t supposed to come this week? We send Chris to go find a representative. He comes back with Dave Guskin, editor extraordinaire. He gives us his report.

First, the publisher didn't charge tax because ASCIT is a non-profit organization. Next, we paid \$400 less because of the lateness thing. Finally, we ask if copies will be given to the administration.

Dave promises to distribute copies to Parsons-Gates, all 7 Hovses, and other student-related offices (like Minority Student Affairs and the ASCIT office). He will work to put the little t on the web over winter break. We need to get Nate to come to our next meeting to report on the finances.

Derek runs in and out of the office copying Mars Society stuff from the ASCIT computer.

General Meeting

Emma will email undergrads about the CS 1 survey using the general mailing list on Donut. She may also interview CS 1 TA's for more input on the whole "should CS 1 teach C" controversy.

We still have a few committees to appoint students to-

Health, PE, and Library.

Eric says that, according to Barbara Green, it's too late for us to join the November leadership retreat for LA area colleges unless we really, really want to do it. Maybe we will do something in April, at the beginning of the next BoD's term.

Sean received an email from our accountant concerning the tax code and how it applies to non-profit organizations like us. He will look into tax law, maybe consult some lawyers, and figure it out by next week's meeting.

Meghan talked to Erik Dill who says that a large part of the Big T will be finished by November 11. The rest of it should be done by December and will be back from the publisher in time at the beginning of second term.

Melinda is working on settling the Formal accounts. The big donations have all been received including those from Tom Mannion, Women's Center, and TFM. We are still waiting from some grad students who still haven't paid for last year's tickets. We also need to sort out our finances with the Alumni Association.

Melinda says that Dean Revel and Dean Green liked the idea of Double the Ratio Day with Harvey Mudd (where the female population of one school will be transported to the other one for a day, then vice versa another day). It could even happen this term.

She talked to Occidental College, who would like a big construction party at Caltech reminiscent of the days of Interhouse, which we probably won't be allowed to do. Scripps wanted to have an intercollege party on

their campus perhaps first term, but more likely it will be second term.

The ASCIT lights have been bought by Dan Liebling and Ted Jou. They bought 3 for \$960. Melinda is in charge of finding a closet in the SAC to store the lights. She will contact Stan Bordinsky in person.

We are still waiting to hear from the BEM 101 prof, Glenn Freed, for info about a money market account as an option in which to invest the ASCIT Endowment.

Eric, Chris, Laura, and Sean will meet with Andre on Friday to discuss the Coffeehouse.

Jason bought a Playstation2 for the Coffeehouse. Although it is more expensive than the Playstation One, which was our original plan, we feel that people would like the PSX2 much more, especially since it is really hard to find. Jason will look into lockdown equipment.

Eric will work on the Coffeehouse management transition. Marcel has stepped down after a year of service and is now passing his job over to Dominika Rytwinska and Melissa Soriano. Eric will also talk to Wes about setting the DVD library up in the Coffeehouse.

He has been working on the Screening Room with Tom Mannion, who is ready to start moving stuff. They are going to paint the room black with red carpet.

The Student Lounge (where the old arcade used to be) will be painted yellow with cream carpet. Eric and Sean will go buy the television for the Screening Room this weekend.

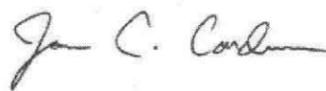
Meghan will talk to the Caltech guy in charge of selling the ASCIT van. We are going

to sell that vehicle if it's the last thing we do.

Martha-Helene talked to the Glee Club about requesting funding at the Budget Meeting later this year.

The BoD approves the purchase of the ASCIT lights. The BoD approves the purchase of the PSX2 for the Coffeehouse. The details of the voting have not been recorded, so if a certain person were ever the only one to disagree with the rest of the BoD, nobody else would ever know about it.

Meeting adjourns at 11:45 pm. Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Cardema

October 30, 2000

Present: BoD - Martha-Helene; Guests: Dabney - Beth Sciaroni, Zack Chadick; Jamal Rorie

Meeting called to order at 10:09 pm.

Guests Beth knows a band that she would like to invite here to do a concert. The band is called Paige. They are charging \$300 and she is requesting \$200 from ASCIT and Dabney House will cover the rest.

Someone asks if the \$200 funding will come from Dabney's multihouse event allocation, but someone else says that they spend their first term funding on the Pumpkin Drop, which brings up the question of if and when Dabney will request their money for that. Beth says she could go get the guy in charge of it and we say sure. We also assure her that we could supply \$200 for the concert, since Dabney never used their

multihouse funding from third term last year.

Jamal is in charge of the comic collection in the Coffeehouse. He estimates the cost of comics for this year to be \$310.

Some members of the BoD request specific comics, including Gen13, DC Vertigo, and Powerpuff Girls (bum bum ba ba bum bum). We make a note to include the Coffeehouse comics in the budget next time.

Beth comes back with Zack. We ask him if he would like money for the pumpkin drop. He says yes. Sean writes a \$200 check for the pumpkin drop and a \$200 check for the concert.

General Meeting

Laura and Chris, as the student representatives on the Core Curriculum Steering Committee, give us a brief report of their last meeting. I can't put any of it in the minutes since they were mostly only proposed changes and Laura and Chris didn't take notes.

On a side note, Laura mentions that she is trying to find a good home for 4 chinchillas, two adults and two newborn babies. Interested people should contact her at brogoch@its.

ASCIT Movies has rented out the big screen at Pacific Hastings for the 10:40 pm showing of Charlie's Angels. Tickets are free for ASCIT members and are only \$2 for everyone else.

This is the second time we have rented out Pacific Hastings, the first time being on the opening night of Mission Impossible 2 third term last year. That was the largest congregation of Techers I've ever seen off campus.

We almost completely filled

PLEASE SEE ASCIT ON PAGE 8

## Uniting music and physics in 19th-century Germany

BY SERINA DINIEGA

In his talk, entitled "The Standardization of Aesthetic Qualities: Physics and Music in Nineteenth-Century Germany," Dr. Myles W. Jackson discussed the blurring of the boundary between physics and music in Germany during the 1800s.

Held Thursday, November 9, this talk examined the effect of scientists (like German physicist Wilhelm Weber), their inventions and discoveries (such as the ability to accurately and consistently measure pitch), and artisans (like the Italian violin virtuoso Niccol Paganini).

The first part of his talk was centered around the effect of physicists on the music world. Scientists studying waves, vibrations and sound discovered equations and reasons for changes in pitch and tone; and consequently found solutions to

various problems plaguing musicians, vocalists and composers.

For instance, musicians were unable to hold the pitch of the organ pipe constant as they varied intensity. This is due to the physics of the longitudinally vibrating air column—as intensity changes, the pitch will drop or rise.

However, Weber discovered that transversally vibrating items, like a reed, experience the opposite effect with changes in intensity.

By combining these two effects, Weber was able to create constant pitch, thus giving musicians a more consistent method of measuring pitch. These scientific studies aided the musical community's search for a standardized concert pitch.

This search for a standardization of music was the focus of the second part of Jackson's talk.

Examining the various inventions that sought to allow musicians and composers to accurately and consistently tune instruments, he also discussed the controversy surrounding an attempt to standardize concert pitch.

In the last part of Jackson's talk, he addressed the idea of quantizing artistic skill. Many people argued against the use of science in the realm of music, claiming that science attempted to over-explain the beauty of music, thus decomposing genius into equations, mechanical skill, and physiological advantages (for instance, having very flexible fingers).

While this question of whether science robs us of the inherent beauty and emotional evocation of art was never answered (and probably never will be), the general movement toward standardization and quantization in aesthetic qualities led Germany, and the rest of Europe, towards an intriguing and productive blending of physics and music.

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### Cal Tech Interviews

Information Meeting:

November 14, 2000

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Center for Student Services,  
3rd Floor Conference Room

Interviewing:

November 15, 2000

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## More minutes...more news

### ASCIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the 900-seat theater.

Eric is waiting to hear from the Caltech lawyer about an online company called BestBookBuy, which compares textbook prices across different suppliers. We would like to have this linked to the ASCIT book mart but need to know about the legal issues first. Chris informs us that IHC meetings are now during lunch on Tuesdays (instead of Fridays).

It is not possible for ASCIT to join the Caltech Endowment, since it is only for Caltech funds and ASCIT is a separate non-profit organization. Jason has asked Glenn Freed, the BEM 101 prof, for advice on other investment options.

Barbara Green, Dean Revel, and the IHC approved last week's proposal concerning CRC student appointments. Eric will meet with Barbara Green this week to discuss the Leadership Conference.

Emma informs us that the CS 1 survey is ready. She will use the undergrad mailing list on donut to tell people about it.

Meeting adjourns at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Cardema

### Yoghurt

BY J.S., C.P.E., P.D.Q., W.F.  
AND J.C.F.

This week we're bringing you two concerts, that's twice the entertainment for the same low, low cost.

In honor of the occasion, we're each being two people. Bonus points if you can identify what all the initials stand for.

If you're tired of not being able to get culture from anything but yoghurt due to your deplorable lack of a car, fear not.

This weekend is a concert by the Pasadena Symphony. They play in the Pasadena Civic Center at the corner of Green and Euclid (across from where the mall used to be). This is easily within walking distance for Techers (it's not even as far as the AMC).

The Pasadena Symphony, under the direction of Jorge Mester, will be playing music from Vienna and the Americas.

The pieces include Paul Hindemith's "Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber" (that's a mouthful), Schubert's Symphony No. 23, Huapango by Mexican composer Jose Pablo Moncayo, and a new work by

Peter Schickele (A.K.A. P.D.Q. Bach).

I don't know much about many of these pieces especially Schickele's work or Moncayo, so I'll just say that the Pasadena Symphony is always enjoyable and Jorge Mester is cool (though not as cute as Esa-Pekka Salonen).

The concert is Saturday (yes, tomorrow) at 8 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Center.

Student tickets are \$7.50 with ID and can be purchased anytime the week of the concert, i.e. today.

There's no pre-concert lecture that I know of.

Now for our special double feature.

There is also an awesome concert at the L.A. Phil this weekend. Pianist Vladimir Feltsman joins the Phil for probably the most famous piano work of all time, Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini."

You're almost certainly familiar with this piece, but it is amazing to hear it live with a gifted pianist and orchestra.

Too bad we weren't in L.A. in 1942 when Rachmaninoff himself performed the solo with the L.A. Phil before his death in '43. However, Feltsman is billed as an excellent pianist. He started touring with the Moscow Philharmonic at age 11.

However, his career was inter-

rupted when Soviet authorities banned him from performing in public for 8 years.

It wasn't until 1987 that he was finally granted permission to come to the United States and perform.

There is another favorite piece on the program: Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique." I personally love this work, but there is a great story behind it.

Berlioz was madly in love with a Shakespearean actress, Harriet Smithson. She, however, was completely indifferent to him. And yet (maybe glomming does work after all—kidding) he persisted, and she began to feel a mild curiosity followed by interest, and then she (gasp!) married him.

What's wild is that he never learned English and she barely spoke any French (there's a relationship obviously built on **c o m m u n i c a t i o n**). Unsurprisingly, the marriage didn't last long.

But, when he wrote the "Symphonie fantastique", Berlioz was deeply in love. The symphony is similar to a symphonic poem, but much more programmatic.

An artist is obsessed with a woman. She appears to him as a melody. Thinking of her, he feels a depth of passion and emotion. He goes to a ball to distract himself, but in the midst of the whirling dancers, her melody appears.

He goes to the country and listens to shepherds playing tunes. He thinks that she might have feelings for him, but he is filled with doubt.

He tries to kill himself with opium, but it sends him into a terrible dream. He is to be executed.

As he marches to the scaffold, her melody is heard but drowned out by the chop of the axe. You can actually hear the chop and hear his head bounce on the floor. Finally, he dreams of a mad witch's Sabbath.

Her melody is transformed into a drinking song and she is seen as cheap and unworthy of him. Personally if someone wrote a piece like this, for or about me, I have two words: "restraining order."

The third piece on the program is Mehul's Symphony No. 1. Mehul had considerable influence on Berlioz, Wagner, Schumann, and all the major composers of the day.

This will be the first L.A. Phil performance of his 1st Symphony. So, L.A. Phil, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, tonight and Saturday night at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:30.

Pre-concert lecture 1 hour before, tickets \$10 with student id and go on sale 2 hours before. You should know the drill by now.

See you next week.

## Final fall sports tally

BY TECH STAFF

### Men's baseball

Head coach: John D'Auria  
The men's baseball team went 1-21 in SCIAC this year.

### Men's and Women's cross country

Head coach: Scott Jung  
Their best meet was the Biola Invitational on October 7 when the men came in second place overall and sophomore Eric Anderson came in fourth place overall. Amy Kelly was consistently the highest placing female runner for the season.

### Men's and Women's Fencing

Head coach: Geoge Clovis  
In their November 5 tournament, both the men's and women's teams dominated, beating IC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA and USC. Their next tournament is on November 18 at UCSD.

### Men's Soccer

Head coach: Julie Levesque  
This season's highlight was goalie Cris Cornell being ranked 9th in the nation in NCAA Division III in number of saves. In the last week of the season, he averaged 14.6 saves per game. The team finished 2-12 overall in SCIAC.

### Women's volleyball

Head coach: Brent Reger  
After winning four of their six first games and being named co-champion of the Life Bible tournament, the team went on to finish 0-14 in SCIAC.

## PARTY:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the boundaries laid by old traditions, help with the ideas and let the juniors implement them. These events are just some of many challenges posed by Caltech to incoming frosh. (Of course, managing the workload being one of the greatest!) In fact, the authorities agree to give homework extensions during the time leading up to the parties. Thus, the frosh are pressured to do everything they can to make these nights as memorable as possible.

This year, Page has a more time-consuming preparation schedule because of the constructional nature of its party. Fleming is, however, spending its bonus time advertising for and improving their party.

Make sure that you do not miss either of these thrillers. Will the new Flems and Pageboys live up to everyone's expectations? Will the traditional red and blue colors fill in as deeply as always? Well, watch out and see for yourself!



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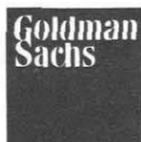
To compete in the Double Iron Triathlon, Patricia is focused on pushing her athletic limits. Back in the office, her concern is the well-being of 18,000 employees. What makes your heart race?

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## **Goldman, Sachs & Co.**

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**Presentation on Portfolio Risk Monitoring**  
 Center for Student Services–Dining Room 5  
 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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# Comics

## DILBERT® by Scott Adams

## FoxTrot by Bill Amend

THIS SIGN IS MY PASSPORT TO CUBICLE TRANQUILITY.

I WONDER WHY NO ONE EVER THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE.

NICE SIGN. DOES IT KEEP AWAY THE UNDESIRABLES?

YOU SHOULD PUT AN "E-" IN FRONT OF YOUR TITLE.

IT'S TOO BORING JUST BEING THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY.

FROM NOW ON, CALL ME THE E-DIOT.

IF ONLY THERE WERE AN EASY WAY TO REMEMBER THAT.

YOU CAN COMPENSATE FOR YOUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE BY TALKING TOO MUCH.

AND DON'T BE LIMITED BY SOCIETY'S EXPECTATION THAT YOU BE INTERESTING.

SOMETIMES I LIKE TO SIT QUIETLY AND THINK UP IDEAS.

NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM THAT.

I'M LEARNING TO GOLF.

NOW I WON'T BE EXCLUDED FROM ALL THE MALE-DOMINATED GOLF EVENTS.

HAVE YOU BEEN DOMINATING GOLF EVENTS?

SOMETIMES I CAN MAKE THEM MISS PUTTS ON TV.

THANKS, HUN.

HON?!

YOU SEXIST Z!Z! I WILL BURN YOUR VILLAGE AND MAKE SLAVES OF YOUR CHILDREN!

IT'S SHORT FOR ATTILA THE HUN. EVERYONE CALLS YOU THAT.

THAT SEEMS HARSH.

I DECLARE NEXT FRIDAY TO BE "HAWAIIAN SHIRT DAY."

HEY, YOU'RE DISGUIISING PUNISHMENTS AS PERKS!

THEY'RE ON TO US.

DID YOU TRY THE FAKE SMILE?

HACHOO!

CURSE YOU.

COME IT OCCURS TO ME AGAIN? THAT RATHER THAN SAYING "BLESS YOU" TO PEOPLE WHO SPRAY THEIR SPIT AND GERMS IN MY FACE, I SHOULD BE DOING QUITE THE OPPOSITE.

SO CURSE YOU, EILEEN, YOU INCONSIDERATE, EAR-SPLITTING, MICROBE-SPEWING FOUNTAIN.

CURSE YOU FOR THAT, TOO!

DID YOU REMEMBER TO VOTE TODAY?

SHOOT! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!

A GAJILLION DOLLARS FOR THE GAS BILL... A GAJILLION DOLLARS FOR THE ELECTRIC BILL...

A GAJILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PHONE BILL... SEVERAL GAJILLION DOLLARS FOR THE MORTGAGE...

CAN I HAVE A MEASLY \$50 TO BUY A NEW VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE?

WELL, IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD TIME TO ASK.

CHECKMATE. I WIN.

YEAH, YEAH...

STOP STICKING YOUR CD OUT AT ME!

THIS ARTICLE SAYS HOLLYWOOD'S ACTORS AND WRITERS MAY GO ON STRIKE THIS SPRING.

THINK ABOUT IT— NO NEW MOVIES... NO NEW TV SHOWS...

AND THIS IS DIFFERENT HA HA.

CAN SOMEONE TARE TONIGHT'S FUGITIVE? I'M GOING TO 'CHARLIE'S ANGELS' WITH STEVE.

GUESS WHAT? MOM'S MAKING HER WORLD-FAMOUS TOFU AND EGGPLANT PIROGIES FOR DINNER!

WOOHOO!

I WISH HE WOULDN'T GLOAT EVERY TIME HE'S EATING OVER AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.

DON'T THINK THERE WON'T BE LEFTOVERS, PAL!

### Vanilla

### by Jason Mitchell

ALL THE ALLEYS IN THE HOUSE ARE COVERED IN LAVISH STUDENT PAINTINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHERBERT IS PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE A HIPPIE'S LSD TRIP.

WHILE ROCKY ROAD IS COVERED IN INKBLOTS, FRACTALS, AND OTHER NEAT THINGS, ALL PAINTED IN BLACK AND WHITE.

BUT THERE IS ONE ALLEY, VANILLA WHICH IS COMPLETELY DEVOID OF ALL ART. THERE ARE NO FLOWERS, NO SKULLS, NO VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS, NO SCANTILY CLAD WOMEN. THERE ARE ONLY WHITE WALLS, AND A BIT OF PAINTED TRIM.

VANILLA IS, OF COURSE, THE FROSH ALLEY. (WELL, ONE SOPHOMORE.)

IT WAS TERRIBLE! HE WAS THERE IN MY DREAMS, TRYING TO PROVE SOME PROOF, AND ONLY USING SMILEY FACES!

WE HAVE TO TAKE THE INTEGRAL OF WHAT??

MAKE THE ε-δS GO AWAY!

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**DANCER IN THE DARK (R)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 2:35 5:40 8:45

**THE YARDS (R)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 2:00 4:30 7:15

**DR. T AND THE WOMEN (R)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [11:30] 9:50

**No One Under 17 Will Be Admitted**  
**REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (NR)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [12:15] 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:55

**THE CONTENDER (R)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [1:15] 4:05 7:00 9:50

**THE RAT CATCHER (NR)**  
 Fri. - Thu. [12:30] 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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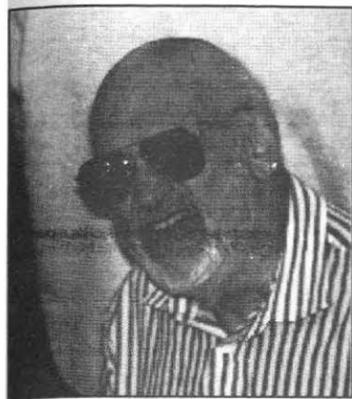
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# The future?

## Dean's Corner

### Difficult choices

by Jean-Paul Revel



It feels very odd to be writing early this election week, knowing that by the time you read my column you will know what for me is still the future. You will have heard the most important news of the week, the year, perhaps of the decade or more. But here I am now, sitting at my desk, unable to penetrate the darkness of the future. The races are just too tight to allow more than partisan guesses. Tomorrow night, of course, "there will be a flash of light" and part of the future, at least one of the instruments which will determine the future, will be revealed, I think, maybe.

For your own peace of mind I hope your chosen candidate wins in the election. For the sake of the rest of us, of course, I hope you made the obvious right choice, the one I plan to make myself when I walk into the voting booth with my cribsheet, on which I will laboriously have entered my choices. You did in fact vote,

didn't you?. I am concerned because I heard a report claiming that fewer than 50% of eligible voters were expected to cast their ballots. And it might rain in some vital parts of the country, biasing the results even further. We are proud of our stature in the world, of the influence we wield. But how should people in the rest of the world, who will have to deal with us through our elected leaders, react to the apathy of the superpower's own citizens in selecting leaders? I hope dire predictions of low participation will have goaded many to vote who otherwise might not have. What makes it easy not to vote is that it is hard to believe that one ballot, one's own, is going to determine the future, ours and the rest of the world's. Add to this the feeling that there is not sufficient information to form a solid basis for a decision how. It would look as if many voting decisions were made in the dark and were capricious rather than thoughtful. Who really knows anything

about the candidates? The information we have about them is mostly derived from partisan presentations on TV or glossy leaflets stuffed into our mailboxes. We know about candidates mostly by how they are advertised, rarely by what they really stand for, in their heart of hearts. What we are told is often meant to obfuscate rather than to enlighten. Possibly damaging information is withheld to make the candidate more appealing. Deciding how to vote requires plowing through not just the literature with which we have been inundated, but also to seek fresh, reliable, independent sources of information. Who really is that person presenting herself as a candidate? The contentious, disputatious person seen in the last debate or the much smoother personality seen today? The bumbling ignoramus, or the subtle charmer adept at people skills? And then there are all the candidates about whom there is no information, beyond their names, party affiliation and the office that they are vying for. While it may indeed be too difficult or too ex-

pensive for some of them to present themselves to a wide audience, it could have been so easy to set up a web site. Maybe it is better for them that there would be no info at all. They might get elected "by chance". If it is a tall order to learn enough about blood and bone candidates, it is also hard to decide how to vote on the often arcane propositions presented to us on the ballots. It would seem that one would have an easier time of it. After all, one does not depend on fleeting impressions, but on a written document, one that can be read and reread. The trouble, I find, is that they can be so well crafted that their true impact is hard to divine. The wording can be so convoluted that it is difficult to know just what is proposed. Sometimes it might even be downright misleading.

And so it can be difficult to form opinions based on a careful personal analysis. It is tempting instead to take the word of pundits perhaps well intentioned, but still someone else's word. It can be one of the familiar TV anchors, a trusted commentator, a newspaper, some friends or colleagues; it can be the political party to which we belong (shades of authoritarian countries!). I received voting guides from the Republicans the Democrats, the Los Angeles

Times and the New York Times, and even from the AARP (for you youngsters, that's the American Association for Retired People).

Having said all this...life will have to go on whether my candidate wins or not. Our president, to whatever party he belongs, will hopefully be surrounded by wise counselors. None will be intent on imposing their morality on the rest of us. They will be people compassionate not just in words but in deeds. World-wise advisors not prone to overly nationalistic and selfish points of view. People who'll listen to the demands and needs of other nations and will work to help them achieve their goals. Someone willing to admit that the solution to problems is not necessarily found in military interventions. Someone who'll listen before acting, someone who is confident but does not imagine that his impulses are always right.

Instead of having to rely on such pious hopes, it would of course be so much better to do the homework, however difficult, as a more secure, if not guaranteed, way to achieve your goals.

A bientot,

*Jean Paul Revel*

Jean-Paul Revel

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## Mints

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club** [CBDC] continues its offerings of dance classes and parties with the next set of lessons starting the first week in Nov, as shown below. Please run the class announcement for the duration of the class.

**Beginning Lindy Hop** - taught by a professional dance instructor, a four week series on Mon 6, 13, 20, and 27 Nov'00: \$16/series for undergraduates, \$24/series for others. The lessons will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Mon in the Winnett Lounge with a 1/2 hr. practice period after each lesson.

Refreshments will be provided, and no partner is required. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom), or call Don at 626-791-3103.

**Beginning Rhumba - "Amateur"** - taught, four week series on Wed 1, 6, 15, and 29 Nov'00 [note: no class on the Wed, 22 Nov, prior to Thanksgiving Day], free for undergraduates, \$1.00/lesson for others. The lessons will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Wed in the Winnett Lounge a 1/2 hr. practice period after each lesson. Refreshments will be provided, and no partner is required. For last minute changes see [www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~ballroom), or call Don at 626-791-3103

**The Caltech Ballroom Dance Club** hosts a series of weekly "mini-parties", i.e., no lesson/demonstration or theme as done for the "regular" parties. The parties are free and take place in Winnett Lounge after each pro-taught class [the Lindy Hop for the second half of the Fall term] on Mon from 9:00-11:00pm. Refreshments are provided and no

partner is required. From 9:00 to 9:30pm music pertaining to the previous class will be played, but after 9:30pm feel free to make requests &/or bring your own music.

**Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group**: Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issue 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 Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 8:15 until 10:15pm 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 are served. If you would like more information, please call ext. 8331

**The Caltech/JPL Flying Club Fall Membership Meeting**: The Aero Association of Caltech will hold its Fall membership meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 14, in room 201 East Bridge. Featured speaker Dick Rutan will be presenting the topic "Adventure Is The Essence Of Life". Dick Rutan set a world record in his unrefueled, non-stop flight around the world in the Voyager aircraft in 1986. Rutan has also attempted to fly a balloon non-stop around the World in 1998, and more recently made a flight to the North Pole in May, which ended with the AN 2 aircraft breaking through the ice after landing at the North Pole and sinking into the Arctic Ocean. Anyone interested in aviation, or in learning to fly is invited to attend the meeting. For more information about the club or the Fall Meeting, contact Elaine Ou at [ou@its.caltech.edu](mailto:ou@its.caltech.edu).

**The Health Center is offering free flu vaccinations**, and \$75 meningitis vaccinations on campus 11/14 only. It is very important that we get this event advertised in the TECH asap so that our students have a chance to participate. Please review the attached informational piece below, and submit it for printing. Call me at ext. 6396 if you have any questions.

## EVENTS

**All members of the Caltech Community** are invited to audition for the TACIT production of Shakespeare's Othello in Ramo Auditorium at the following times: Sat., Nov. 11, 2-5 pm; Sun., Nov. 12, 7:30-10:30 pm; Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30-10:30 pm; Sat., Nov. 18, 2-5 pm. See [www.its.caltech.edu/~tacit](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~tacit) for

related information as it becomes available. Othello will be performed during winter term on three consecutive weekends beginning Feb. 16, 2001.

**Amy Goodman, media activist and co-host of Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now**, opens the Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series on Friday, November 10th 5-6pm - Grassroots Organizing Roundtable. A unique opportunity to talk with Amy about her experiences in a small group setting. Held in Avery Library. Space is limited. Contact the Y at x6163 or [athena@caltech.edu](mailto:athena@caltech.edu) to sign up. Open to the Caltech community only 6-7pm - Dinner with the speaker. A limited number of spaces are available to have dinner with Goodman. These spaces will be determined by lottery. Students will be given priority. To be placed on the list, email [athena@caltech.edu](mailto:athena@caltech.edu). 8pm - Keynote Talk - "Democracy Now! From East Timor to the United States" Beckman Institute Auditorium. Open and free to the public. For more information about the series or Amy Goodman, contact the Caltech Y at ext. 6163 or log on to [www.y.caltech.edu/activism/](http://www.y.caltech.edu/activism/).

**Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Lecture Series** for Fall Quarter 2000:

Dr. Myles W. Jackson, Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Willamette University, The Standardization of Aesthetic Qualities: Physics and Music in Nineteenth-Century Germany, Thursday, November 9, 2000 4:00 p.m. Room 25 Baxter Building

The William and Myrtle Harris Distinguished Lectureship in Science and Civilization presents Dr. Peter Galison, Professor of the History of Science and of Physics, Harvard University, Poincare's Maps and Einstein's Clocks, Friday, December 1, 2000 4:00 p.m. Beckman Institute Auditorium

Seminars are on the Caltech campus and are open to the community at no charge. For information, contact Michelle Reinschmidt at (626) 395-4087 or [michelle@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:michelle@hss.caltech.edu). For a complete list of SEPP Seminars and Harris Lectures scheduled for this academic

year visit our Website: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/ses/SEPP.html>

The **Aero Association of Caltech** will hold its Fall membership meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 14, in room 201 East Bridge. Featured speaker Dick Rutan will be presenting the topic of Adventure Is The Essence Of Life. Dick Rutan set a world record in his unrefueled, non-stop flight around the world in the Voyager aircraft in 1986. Rutan has also attempted to fly a balloon non-stop around the World in 1998, and more recently made a flight to the North Pole in May, which ended with the AN 2 aircraft breaking through the ice after landing at the North Pole and sinking into the Arctic Ocean.

Anyone interested in aviation, or in learning to fly is invited to attend the meeting. For more information about the club or the Fall Meeting, contact Elaine Ou at [ou@its.caltech.edu](mailto:ou@its.caltech.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Financial Aid Office has applications and/or information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located at 515 S. Wilson, second floor.

\* **The National Academy for Nuclear Training** is offering \$2,500 scholarships to eligible students majoring in nuclear engineering, power generation health physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, or chemical engineering with nuclear or power option. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, enrolled full-time in a four-year accredited institution, minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher, and interested in nuclear power careers. Additionally, scholarships will be renewed for current Academy scholars who maintain their eligibility. For further information on the National Academy Educational Assistance programs, please visit [www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org). Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Please send completed application materials to: Na-

tional Academy for Nuclear Training, Scholarship Review Committee, P.O. Box 6302, Princeton, NJ 08541-6302. Entries must be submitted to the National Academy for Nuclear Training by February 1, 2001.

\***The Measurement Science Conference (MSC)** has established scholarships to students in an Engineering or Science or Quality Assurance degree program. The scholarship program places emphasis on papers or projects that discuss the advancement of measurement science technology. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher, completed at 24 units of upper division courses in Engineering or Science degree or five courses in a Masters Degree Program in Quality Assurance. Current members of the Measurement Science Conference Committee are ineligible for this scholarship award. Also, applicants must be able to attend the Measurement Science Conference luncheon held on January 18, 2001, at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information regarding MSC Scholarships, you may contact: Rick Careyette, MSC Scholarships Chairperson, Teledyne Electronics Technologies, Marina del Rey Facility, 12964 Panama Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066-6534. Entries must be submitted to Teledyne Electronics Technologies by December 1, 2000.

\***THE GLAMOUR MAGAZINE'S 2000 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, 2001. Contact the Dean of Student Office, 102 Parsons-Gates, for the applications.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact [mints@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:mints@ugcs.caltech.edu) or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Attn: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. Email is preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all material. Deadline is noon Wednesday. Unless specified, all mints will run for two weeks.

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