A season for singing: Caltech celebrates the holidays

BY DIPAKI GROSH

The Caltech Men's and Women's Glee Clubs present their annual holiday concert, this year titled "A Season for Singing," Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, 1996 at 8 p.m. in Dabney Lounge. To top everything off, this fine concert will include free admission!

Joining the Glee Clubs will be the Caltech Chamber Singers, the Clef Hangers and special guest, the Van Etten Handbell Choir. The Women's Glee Club is under the direction of Monica Hubbard; the Men's Glee Club director is Donald Caldwell; and Gregory Norton is director of the Van Etten Handbell Choir.

This program of festive music for Hanukkah and Christmas will feature Libby Larsen's "Ringeltanz," a suite of carols which were originally 15th and 16th century instrumental dances celebrating the winter solstice, but which later had words added to them, making them carols. The audience will join in on the final carol. Early arrival is recommended since there is no standing room available. Also, a reception will follow the concert.

In honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Women's Glee Club, the entire program will highlight the work of women composers. Among those represented are Katherine K. Davis, Imogen Holst, Libby Larsen, Karen Tarlow, Gwyneth Walker, and Mary Elizabeth Caldwell.

Everyone involved has put a great deal of work into this concert. The glee club members, including undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni, have rehearsed at least twice a week since the beginning of the term until the concert. Each glee club holds separate rehearsals once a week and a combined rehearsal every Wednesday.

Another event on the holiday schedule is the annual Messiah Sing-A-Long, led by the Men's Glee Club on Friday, December 13 at noon in Dabney Lounge. Admission is also free to this event.

Junior takes victory in design contest

BY WHEN MONTGOMERY

"That's some good nerd entertainment!" was Walt Ogbon's comment after the twelfth annual MET72 Design contest, held yesterday at Beckman Auditorium. The hall was filled with Techers cheering for their friends and housemates. Particularly prominent was the Blacker flag, as many of the Mole's turned out to see if this year, for the first time ever, a Mole would win the Sprocket trophy.

Twenty-five students participated in the contest, which was a "glorified game of Hungry Hungry Hippo," according to Amy Barr. The contestants had 35 seconds to get as many golf balls of a certain color into a drain. Doesn't sound hard to you? Add one constant out to get balls of their own, and to prevent you getting any. In addition, only limited materials are provided: masonite, plexiglas, aluminum, two electric motors, a few hall bearings, a length of shafting, some brass bearings, a few pulleys and rollers, and other miscellaneous surplus "junk."

Design solutions ranged from Erik Jan's winning shovel-like design, which simply scooped the balls over the drain until they went in, to Tad Fujisaka's "bear-trap" design, which tried to rake the balls in. The double elimination tournament eventually whittled the competition down to Eric Jan from Ruddock House and Seth LaForge from Dabney House. In a tension filled finale, the Mechanical Engineering department defended their honor against upset CS major LaForge, best known as this year's CS 1 head TA, who advanced to the final round undefeated with his clever "wedge" design. Until the last rounds, this detachable piece of metal successfully halted opponents and LaForge was able to push

ME72 contest winner Eric Jan holds the sprocket trophy proudly while second place winner Seth LaForge cheers in the background.

Abracadabra: holiday magic

BY PUBLIC EVENTS

Four international award-winning magicians with their own special blend of astounding surprises, dazzling prestidigitation, and rib-tickling laughs will join other world-class artists when Holiday Magic comes to Caltech's Beckman Auditorium this Saturday, December 7, at 8:00 p.m.

England's Martin Lewis, Israel's Amos Levkovich, and Canada's Christopher Hart will join America's Ed Alonzo, Tom MacFarlane & Friends, and Clockwork in what is being billed as "the perfect family show."

The production will open with a special musical salute to the holidays by Tom MacFarlane & Friends. The group includes Tom MacFarlane, Marianna Giordano, Kimberley Allman, and Max Mendez, all veterans from opera and Broadway.

One of today's leading manipulation magicians, Amos Levkovich and his doves have created a unique approach to magic by combining Magic on Stage with their powerful performance of Ed Alonzo has starred in several Las Vegas revues.

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Dear Editor,

I can’t believe it, ASCIT is signing on with the FUNC. Did I miss something? Was there a vote on this issue some day when I worked through lunch? Did the editorial in the Tech not make it clear to the ASCIT committee what is going on here? ASCIT is the enemy!

FUNC is made up of those people from your high school English class who fervently insisted that the SAT doesn’t really measure anything, even though you even beat them by 300 points.

At stake here is my (and your) right to be judged by the numbers.

The U.S. News rankings are made up of a lot of data that has strong correlations to undergraduate education: student teacher ratio, spending per student, average SAT scores, etc. The rankings are not perfect, but they are not meaningless. Rejection of college rankings is the first step toward rejection of all numerical assessment of excellence.

Do you want that, ASCIT? Do you want to be forever judged based on your smile at the interview and your delicacy with an essay?

We contend that such a situation (being uninformed) is unnecessary. The League of Women Voters has been educating voters for over 75 years in the form of written materials, candidates’ forums, and proposition discussions, pros and cons. This year, written material was available in Millikan Library.

In addition, a monthly unit meeting is held in the Athenaeum on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 a.m., for breakfast and discussion. Please call Janet Jenks, x5419, for a reservation and the cost of breakfast.

For further information, please call the Pasadena Area League Office between 10:00 and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 798-0965.

ROXANA ANOSH PRESIDENT ELSA HODGE V.P. VOTERS SERVICE

Jack Langsdorf

MindStalk

by D. R. Sullivan

There seems to be something a tad schizophrenic about the modern progressive movement, or at least parochial. I recently read an essay from Z magazine entitled "The Economics of Greed," putting forth many of the alleged evils of our economy. What caught my notice this time was the remark on companies were discovering that they could get perfectly fine programmers in India and elsewhere for salaries less than $10,000. This was presumably to be seen as a bad thing, the high tech equivalent of blue collar wage competition from Mexico or Taiwan, and is something I should be concerned about myself, but I found myself wondering, from the modern-liberal/progressive point of view, the problem was exactly, and what the solution should be.

Our laborers are worse off for the competition, but the foreigner are much better off for having a job. Should we raise trade barriers again, to protect the right of our programmers to have $30,000 salaries while Third World programmers starve? is a tidy sum in much of the world. Opening our markets exposes that fact, and makes it in all wealthy global citizens. The only way to escape that is to keep the barriers, withdraw from the world, keep the world from the benefits of trading with our advanced economy. I don’t get it. It’s interesting to note that at the international level, the lowering of tariffs, the freeing of trade, is always referred to as liberalization. I don’t think there is an ‘conservative’ equivalent. Mercantilism, perhaps.

How to Stop Domestic Abuse

Imagine a man. A big, strong man. An unsophisti-
cated but emotional man. Who, for whatever reason, isn’t happy. Imagine you hate your wife — small, weak, just due to an unfortunate nature education possessed of a tendency to feel helpless and vulnerable. Would you rather come home after drinking three shots of whisky and after smoking three joints of marijuana? I’ve had an intimate relative who was an alcoholic, and while they may not have been any more productive, talking to him about marijuana, I’m pretty sure my whole family would have been better off emotionally. And physically, if they had been a violent alcoholic, a fate I avoided. I really don’t get the fits our politicians throw over marijuana.

Dangerous? To society? There’s the example above, and I haven’t even seen or heard about stone drivers much. Stoned motorists after a sports event?

Dangerous? To the smoker? Well, I disagree with extreme Torontos – giving back people from their own personal sometimes, but even granting that there was a legitimate interest ext, I’m not sure I see.

Laura

LARRY

MERRICK

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Dangerous? To the smoker? Well, I disagree with extreme Torontos – giving back people from their own personal sometimes, but even granting that there was a legitimate interest ext, I’m not sure I see.
Drugs haven't killed our inner cities; gangs fighting over the right to sell them have.

Illegal drugs are no worse than legal drugs, and then go on. In this case I'd say move marijuana into the legal category, truly separating usable drugs from those which can only be abused.

Admittedly, that is not the only possible consistency. The FDA already seems to be taking on tobacco. Perhaps in another decade it could be illegal, and then we'd only have alcohol left. Which catalyzes all that domestic abuse. And causes all those drunk drivers. Really, we should get rid of that, too.

But I assume I don't have any adherents at this point — we've tried that already, back in the good old days when controlling people's bodies took a Constitutional amendment, not a bureaucratic decision. Thirteen years later, we went to another trouble — 2/3 of Congress, 3/4 of the states, and in pretty good time too — of passing another amendment for the sole purpose of saying "Whoops. That was a mistake." We weren't the only ones, either. Norway adopted prohibition in 1919 in a popular vote with a ratio of 5:3. Seven years later, it was repealed by a similar margin. After thirteen years, Finland repealed its prohibition in 1932 with a popular majority of 70%. Apparently, those countries didn't like violent smuggling anymore than we did. Drugs have been around for longer than the war on them. Drugs haven't killed our inner cities; gangs fighting over the right to sell them have. As they might have done in the 1930's, except we ended Prohibition too soon.

One of my pet ideas is that we're put up with the War on (some but not all) Drugs for so long precisely because all illegal drugs put together aren't that big a problem. Not that many people use them, so the crime rates and corrupting effects on law enforcement aren't as great as when alcohol was illegal.

Or maybe we're just dumber now.


There are few pleasures in my life as sweet and pure as sinking my teeth into a new deep idea, in bringing to buy a theorem, in the give and take of an intense conversation, (And few as much work to get, especially without enough sleep.) There can be joy in wisdom, passion in cerebration, and danger in reading too much Nietzsche.

Merry Yuletide, of whatever faith ye be. ("There is no fruitcake but The One Fruitcake, and It is never eaten, but passed around.")
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Tuesday, January 21, 1997, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
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FEATURES

How to choose a major and find a job at Caltech

by Samson Timoner

Most freshmen struggle to answer the same question about the future. "How do I choose a major?" and "How do I find a research position?" are questions I have heard often this year. Some freshmen ask a more barbed question: "Do I want to be a scientist, and if not, should I stay at Caltech?" If you are facing these questions, you are among the many who wonder what path they should take to their future. In this article, I will address some of the resources at Caltech that can help you choose that path.

The biggest problem freshmen face in choosing a field of study is that freshmen are not normally exposed to what is studied at the scientific frontiers. The freshman courses cover a very small subset of the scientific fields. Most freshmen are not introduced to neurobiology, even though this is a very exciting field in which to be working right now. Also, freshmen barely address what scientists study; they address the techniques and concepts used by scientists. In other words, there is a lot more to chemistry than what is in Chemistry 1a. If you find Chem Lab boring, it does not necessarily mean you will find being a chemist boring.

Since classes are studied in creating a field of study, how do you become exposed to the scientific frontiers? The answer is in the Thursday Colloquium. Every week the Caltech Calendar announces what events happen at Caltech. If you want to know what chemists actually study, go to a chemistry colloquium. Do you think you might be interested in astronomy? Go to the weekly Wednesday astronomy colloquium. Physics has a weekly Thursday colloquium that is designed to be understood by the general scientific community. If you have no idea what organic chemists study, perhaps try Wednesdays, Bio Seminars. As a final note, some people find that research is not for them. In that case, there are many other resources at Caltech useful for other careers that I did not describe here. Keep in mind that Caltech graduates have been successful in many other fields such as the movie industry (Frank Capra) and finance (Steve Ross). Caltech is a premiere institution. I have described only a few of the huge number of valuable resources that you can use while you are here. Your job as an undergrad student is to find those resources and make the most of them while you are here.

Tips from Samson

- Get the Caltech Calendar: available in most buildings, on the World Wide Web, by e-mail or mailbox delivery. E-mail calendar@cco to be added to the mailing list.
- Go to seminars and find out what you do and do not like.
- Find a professor and start doing research now. If you do not like the field by the end of the third term just to make sure you were not scared away by the initial hurdles in starting new research. At the very least, you will learn what you do not like. Conversely, you might find you love what you are doing. By the end of your freshman year, after two terms of going to seminars, you should know what fields interest you. If you do not find those in fields, get another job! I did exactly this during my freshman year with very good results. I have worked in the same group for more than two years.
- The second strike in your favor is that you took the initiative to find him or her. The second strike in your favor is that you showed interest in their research. You have work study, they pay only 25% of your salary. You are practically free! If you have work study and the professor has no money, offer to work for free! Experience doing research can be extremely valuable for your future. Also, if you offer to work for free, the professor will probably find a few dollars to pay you.
- Once you find someone to work with, start immediately! You can get papers or books to read over winter break. Or, if you will be around during winter break, go right to work. If you like what you are doing, apply for a SURF. Think of SURF as a conduit for paying half your summer salary. If you do not like your job, you should probably work until the end of third term just to make sure you were not scared away by the initial hurdles in starting new research. At the very least, you will learn what you do not like. Conversely, you might find you love what you are doing. By the end of your freshman year, after two terms of going to seminars, you should know what fields interest you. If you do not find those in fields, get another job! I did exactly this during my freshman year with very good results. I have worked in the same group for more than two years.

Finally, if you are facing the first strike in your favor is that you took the initiative to find him or her. The second strike in your favor is that you showed interest in their research. You have work study, they pay only 25% of your salary. You are practically free! If you have work study and the professor has no money, offer to work for free! Experience doing research can be extremely valuable for your future. Also, if you offer to work for free, the professor will probably find a few dollars to pay you.
- Once you find someone to work with, start immediately! You can get papers or books to read over winter break. Or, if you will be around during winter break, go right to work. If you like what you are doing, apply for a SURF. Think of SURF as a conduit for paying half your summer salary. If you do not like your job, you should probably work until the end of third term just to make sure you were not scared away by the initial hurdles in starting new research. At the very least, you will learn what you do not like. Conversely, you might find you love what you are doing. By the end of your freshman year, after two terms of going to seminars, you should know what fields interest you. If you do not find those in fields, get another job! I did exactly this during my freshman year with very good results. I have worked in the same group for more than two years.

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Dean's Corner

Thanksgiving and the naked apes.

by Jean-Paul Revel

Are humans just animals, naked apes? We like to pretend that no, it is not so. We want to believe that we are different from the other apes, the hairy kinds, in that we strive to resist going where our basest instincts push us to go...that we recognize that there is something else besides the animal in us...in other words, that being human is more than having less hair.

One of the shocking things modern biology has taught us that cannot be denied is that we share more than 98% from that of the hairy apes by only 2%. That is one measure of how little we differ from animals. Certainly, I don't consider that some of that is used to code for the extra hair. Of course, there are other differences, as well, and so quite a bit more than the two percent must contain what is necessary to construct the special features of our brain which drive human behavior.

And yet there are many aspects of our behavior which reflect that special something which we call our humanity, rather than our beastliness. One such thing is our ability to express gratitude. It is perhaps not a qualitative difference, since it has features in common with a dog's licking of its human friend's face and an ape's grooming behavior. But hopefully it is a quantitative one.

To what, last week we celebrated Thanksgiving, an expression of appreciation for having so many of our needs fulfilled. Some of us give thanks to a deity for the turkey, corn and pumpkin. Others give thanks closer to home, to the other humans who made this possible, the Indians, and (perhaps) I should say or, since the Wampanoag and their greatest chief Massasoit are not always explicitly remembered) to our families, friends, acquaintances, colleagues. It should be a short jump from there to thank all the others who make our life possible, bearable, interesting, exciting, fulfilled. Our parents and siblings, spouses, and children, pupils and teachers and classmates and schoolmates, all the women and all the men who daily work along with us. And it should be a short jump to express these thanks not only on one special day, but every day.

A corollary of our appreciation is to respect these others, not to make fun of them, or down grade them because they are different from us. It is those differences which enrich us and respect is a prime way to express our gratefulness for what they give to us. It would be nice if we could find that here at Caltech, where we pretend ourselves in having the semblance of a creme de la creme, young people as our students, a 2% advantage would show itself in all its glory.

Rather than poking fun at others, calling them yahabies, jocks or other epithets, painting women as sex objects, rather than intellectual achievements or seeing men only as supercrazed brutes; or forgetting some sort of low life, not apes anymore, but closer to beasts than "civilized" people rather than poking hurtful 'for let's appreciate what all this versatility has to teach us. Certainly, we have very little to be proud about how we have treated Blacks, Gays, Lesbians, Latinos, Japanese, Jews and Chinese, Poles and Women and all the others. Let's remedy that by applying the 2% solution, every day, in all we do. A bientot.

Baby. It is a highly energetic album, but gives an impression of spoken word and punk. Lyrically the album is very poetic and cynical and all in all highly entertaining. One report hails them as "fuzz the primordial slurf of rockabilly with broken hometown hybrid of gospel, R and R, and punk mayhem, the group sound a swash through the rolling cane fields of the contemporary music scene."

You can listen to that, or you can trust me.
**FEATURES**
6 December 1996

**Reduction Shakespeare Company gave a lively, hilarious interpretation of the Bible**

by Wren Montgomery and Ryan Cox

"Were there computers in the Garden of Eden? Well, Eve had her apple," jokes of genre provided the backbone of the Reduced Shakespeare Company’s "The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)" which appeared at Beckman Auditorium Saturday, November 23. The Reduced Shakespeare Company consists of three very talented guys, Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor. The performance was lively and hilarious. The energetic performance involved singing and dancing, acrobatics, and plenty of interaction with the audience. Little previous knowledge of the Bible was necessary, although a little went a long way. In fact, some ignorance was assumed: the song explaining the differences between Elijah and Elisha, Joseph and Joseph, as well as all the Johns, was aimed at the Biblically ignorant. The three troopers bounced through 66 books of the Bible in about 2 hours. No subject was too sacred to take a pot-shot at. Adam and Eve, Noah’s ark, even the Book of Job were discussed and dissected in the most entertaining way possible. From Genesis (which included a handy flowchart to minimize “begats” distributed to the audience) to Revelations (staged as a Broadway extravaganza), the Bible was explained in the most popular phrases and allusions of pop culture. There was even a Madonna and child joke. As always, the fellows (who have previously taken on Shakespeare, Wagner’s Ring cycle and U.S. History) generated as much entertainment from the audience as from the subject matter. The inevitable late-comers were duly reprimanded, with water and shaving cream. A fair number of Caltech students in attendance were brought onstage to appear as the pigs, ducks and trout on Noah’s ark. The Reduced Shakespeare Company is done now. But, unlike Halley’s comet, they will return in less than 67 years. If you really can’t wait a year, their next performance will be in Miami, Florida, over winter break. But be warned, as what the program says is true: "This show is a high-speed, roller-coaster type condensation of the entire Bible and is not intended for people with heart ailments, back problems, theology degrees, inner-ear disorders, and/or people inclined to motion sickness. The Reduced Shakespeare Company cannot be held responsible for expectant mothers."
Liberian Social Justice Foundation Inc.

P.O. Box 31438 • Cincinnati, OH 45231
Tel: (513) 931-1872
Fax: (513) 931-1873

Dear Prospective Member:

Liberia should have a special place in the conscience of the United States of America. Its impetus to become a nation came from the United States. For 149 years, it was a special ally of the United States. Yet, for the past years, as a civil war has taken almost 200,000 lives, displaced more than two-thirds of the population and destroyed its infrastructure, the United States has treated this great tragedy as a regional problem.

Liberia has a unique historical and cultural link to the United States. Settled by African Americans, many of them former slaves, in the early decades of the 19th century, Liberia became a republic in 1847. The United States influence on Liberia is reflected in the nation's constitution, the star and stripes of its flag, white and blue flag, the structure of its government, the names of its cities, its schools' curriculum, its official language and the remarkable degree of good will its citizens feel toward America. Through all the major conflicts of the 20th century, Liberians have been among the most dependable of the United States. In both World Wars, Liberia declared war on the enemies of the United States and offered vital aid, ports, and natural resources to support the United States military. During the Cold War, Liberia voted with the United States on every significant resolution at the United Nations.

Yet when Liberia's security was most at risk because of the civil conflict the United States government deferred to ECOWAS, an under-funded regional organization composed of some of the world's poorest nations. Half of the $10 million earmarked by the United States to support a peacekeeping force had not been committed by April 1996. Meanwhile, the cost of the United States of responding to the humanitarian crisis since 1990 has been emergency relief assistance valued at over $445 million, over $266 million provided in the past year alone, an eight times the amount committed to peacekeeping.

In the absence of a viable security plan, the torrent of refugees continues to undermine Liberia's relations with its immediate neighbors. Though the United States has imposed sanctions against members of the warring factions that obstruct the peace process, the United Nations has not been able to implement the peace process.

During the Economic Community of West African States(ECOWAS) concluded meetings that provide a new timetable for the peace process. Starting August 20, the war factions are to observe a cease-fire, dismantle checkpoints and withdraw from zones of combat. The peacekeeping force, expanding from 6500 to 18000 troops, is to deploy through Liberia in November. Demobilization is to be completed by January 31. Elections are to be held on May 31 with a turnover to an elected government on June 15. The revised plan calls for sanctions against members of the warring factions that obstruct the peace process. Sanctions include restrictions on travel, freeze on economic activities, exclusion from electoral process and war crime charges.

Liberia has one opportunity to assert its international leadership at a critical juncture to ensure that the success of the peace process.

The leadership that will lead to an involvement of United States troops. It does mean that the United States must heighten its diplomatic efforts to coordinate the implementation of the peace process and gather the additional resources necessary for effective peacekeeping and demobilization in Liberia.

The United States must strengthen the response of the international community to the needs of the peace process. The foundation for a new international approach to the peace process already exists with the International Contact Group for Liberia, the group of donor countries that have supported the peace process. The concept behind the ICGL—should be expanded to a tightly coordinated partnership that includes the United States, ECOWAS, and the United Nations. This high level of cooperation will ensure that scarce resources are effectively utilized.

The outbreak of fighting in Monrovia in April-May of 1999 was the latest in a series of clashes in Liberia's intractable war. During the past nearly seven years, the war has produced shocking humanitarian conditions for Liberian civilians. The most recent fighting exacerbated even further these conditions. Humanitarian assistance organizations have been unable to deliver food and other emergency services because of the fighting in Monrovia. Their resources hound by gangs of combatants and the safety of their relief workers threatened, these organizations closed or dramatically reduced their operations in Liberia.

As a result of the civil war in Liberia, an estimated 350,000 Liberians are internally displaced; another 800,000 are refugees in neighboring countries that are among the poorest in the world. Approximately 30% of the population in Monrovia, up to 350,000 persons, were forced to flee their homes due to the April-May fighting and another 3,000 died. During June, several 3,300 children were reported having died in areas without water and sanitation. Now that the dust of the Civil War in Liberia is settling down, an era of NEW LIBERIA is at hand. Whether anyone likes it or not, an Icadership is bound to emerge, supposedly to some leadership which will inevitably affect our lives and the lives of our people for many years to come.

Liberia's Social Justice Foundation has carefully examined the administrative and operational policies of both the past and present administration in Liberia, and in our opinion, much more needs to be done to help Liberia go in the direction she needs to go. We as Liberians must try to have a positive influence on the selection of the national government and the corresponding leadership which will inevitably affect our lives and the lives of our people for many years to come.

The leadership that will lead to an involvement of United States troops. It does mean that the United States must heighten its diplomatic efforts to coordinate the implementation of the peace process and gather the additional resources necessary for effective peacekeeping and demobilization in Liberia.

The United States must strengthen the response of the international community to the needs of the peace process. The foundation for a new international approach to the peace process already exists with the International Contact Group for Liberia, the group of donor countries that have supported the peace process. The concept behind the ICGL—should be expanded to a tightly coordinated partnership that includes the United States, ECOWAS, and the United Nations. This high level of cooperation will ensure that scarce resources are effectively utilized.

The outbreak of fighting in Monrovia in April-May of 1999 was the latest in a series of clashes in Liberia's intractable war. During the past nearly seven years, the war has produced shocking humanitarian conditions for Liberian civilians. The most recent fighting exacerbated even further these conditions. Humanitarian assistance organizations have been unable to deliver food and other emergency services because of the fighting in Monrovia. Their resources hound by gangs of combatants and the safety of their relief workers threatened, these organizations closed or dramatically reduced their operations in Liberia.

As a result of the civil war in Liberia, an estimated 350,000 Liberians are internally displaced; another 800,000 are refugees in neighboring countries that are among the poorest in the world.

Approximately 30% of the population in Monrovia, up to 350,000 persons, were forced to flee their homes due to the April-May fighting and another 3,000 died. During June, several 3,300 children were reported having died in areas without water and sanitation.

Now that the dust of the Civil War in Liberia is settling down, an era of NEW LIBERIA is at hand. Whether anyone likes it or not, an Icadership is bound to emerge, supposedly to some leadership which will inevitably affect our lives and the lives of our people for many years to come.

The United States Social Justice Foundation Inc. is a broad-based social nonprofit organization. The mission of the LSJF is two-fold: we are dedicated to restoring a just and stable society in Liberia, and to improving the quality of life for all Liberians, both at home and abroad.

On behalf of our members, I appeal to you for financial assistance in support of LSJF activities. An application for membership is included which contains a breakdown of membership fees. Please know that any amount you can contribute will be helpful to us. Your support of the Foundation, and your awareness of its concerns is deeply appreciated. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to write us or call. Thank you for your time, your contribution, and your generosity. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Liberian Social Justice Foundation Inc.

Best regards,

Edwin G.K. Zoedua
Executive Director/Chairman

EGKZ/min
The U.S. need campaign finance reform?

**BY JOHN HATFIELD**

Not too long ago, Clinton's integrity was called into question (again) by donations to his campaign and the Democratic Party by a certain Indonesian businessman. This is part of a larger problem that the financing of campaigns has grown to a multimillion dollar industry, with money being paid for "access." In general, money does not buy a vote on any one bill. However, it does buy you precious time with the elected party for the donor to explain his or her views on the subject to the candidate itself.

Thus, if it is an issue that does not really affect the members of a congressman's district, he might be more inclined to garner most of his information about the bill from his constituents, or from himself, with the people who helped elect him. This, on a large scale, leads to the voters being swayed by the special interests.

Unsurprisingly, today's system allows almost unlimited money to be "given" by a donor. Although there are many complex, and at first glance, restrictive regulations, regarding the amount of money that can be given to candidates, there are many, many holes. The main hole is this: although there are tight restrictions on how much money may be given to a candidate, there are no restrictions on how much money may be given to a political party or on advertising done by the group itself. Thus the AFL-CIO can effectively give millions of dollars to the Democratic campaigns, as they did this year. Who thinks union issues will not be one of the top items for Demo­crats in the Congress this year? (Min. 25 People)  

Mr. Clinton, as you know, is suggested to let the voters see through this deception, simply allow anyone to give as much as they want to to any party or candidate. He believes further that this is the best system since if people disagree of a candidate's method of procuring funds, they will not vote for him. There are two problems with this argument, however.

First, people generally vote for the candidate they know, however, the support and name recognition acquired by the money will almost certainly weigh out any negative effects associated with the donor (Clinton's funding scandal did not hurt him at all).

The second is that people do not care enough to research the funding of their representatives. The idea is also false as people do not now bother to find this sort of information out, nor would they in the future. It would take a lot of hard work that most people will not and should not have to do.

I propose the other extreme. Simply have the government fund all candidates for nationwide office whose name will appear on the ballot, and allow no private funding at all, in any form. This is a simpler solution. The voters do not need to worry about where the funding comes from and the current congressmen, no longer paranoid about procuring funds for the next election, will only have to worry about the people they represent.

There are two main objections to such a plan. One, the government paying the money is a drain on taxpayers. However, the government has over a trillion dollar budget. Funding the congressmen is little more than a drop in the bucket. The second question is who gets the money. Obviously, the Republican and Democratic candidates, as well as any other candidate whose name appears on the ballot, which generally involves showing more than 3-5% of the vote will be captured by the candidate. This will lead to a nice side-effect since the two main third parties, the Libertarians and Ross Perot's party, will have a chance to be on an equal playing field with the overly well-funded Democrats and Republicans.

In sum, the best chance in campaign finance reform is to eliminate private funding completely and have the government fund the campaigns completely. If this is done, for the first time in a long time the representatives' minds will be centered on what they should have been centered on all along: the wishes, concerns, and needs of their constituents.
Women's basketball records first victory

by Amanda Schaffer

The Caltech women's basketball team beat Life Bible College Wednesday night to give the Caltech women's basketball program its first victory in intercollegiate play. The 53-50 victory boosted the team's record to 1-5 and improved the outlook for the rest of the season. Playing tough, competitive basketball, the team has been improving steadily since its season opener against Christian Heritage. Through the first six games, three players have established themselves as leaders for the team: freshman Erika Swanson, playing forward at center; junior guard Lori Hsu; and junior Irene Wong, also a guard.

The team has two games left before winter break. A December 6 home contest against Bethany and a December 7 road trip to Occidental. Coach Michelle Kerzie is worried that the lack of competitions throughout December may be a setback, but says the team should be able to put it back together and be competitive in January.

Erika Swanson takes a free throw for Caltech.

Swimmers start strong vs. Whittier

by Amanda Schaffer

Caltech's men swam to an easy victory against an incomplete Whittier team, while the women started off strong, but couldn't stave off a comeback by the Poets.

The men pulled off a lopsided 185-80 win, made possible because most of the Whittier team was unavailable due to the NCAA water polo tournament. In the diving competition, Mike Fisher defeated Tech teammate Philip Rodriguez and Radostin Ouda for the victory. Swimmers Mike Grebeck and Jim Pierce led the effort in the pool, with Grebeck winning the 50 and 100 yard freestyles and Pierce taking the 1000 freestyle, 200 IM, and 100 backstroke events.

The women's team led Whittier 42-11 halfway through the competition, thanks to several excellent performances. Liz Callaghan won both the 1- and 3-meter diving events, and Jen Holland won the 200 yard freestyle for the Beavers. Phyllis Chen won an exciting 200 IM, coming back to regain her early lead and take a four yard victory after a Whittier swimmer pulled even during the 3rd leg of the race. Despite good swims by Audrey Lee and Keri Ryan, the Beavers fell to the Poets 108-77.

Men's basketball team routs Life College

by Amanda Schaffer

The men's basketball team came away from last weekend's Hi-Tech Tournament with a 79-57 rout of Life College, boosting their record to 1-2. Josh Moats scored 29 points and Ben Turk had 25, both securing spots on the All-Tournament team.

The Beavers opened the tournament with a hard-fought, 70-63 loss to Cal Christian led by Turk (25 points, 16 rebounds), Moats (22 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists), and Mike Kuhlen (14 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists). The loss put the team in the consolation playoffs, where they beat Life to finish in third place. Josh Moats contributed 5 rebounds and 3 assists in addition to his point total, while Ben Turk supplemented his shots with 13 rebounds and 2 assists.

Larraine Segil

Author, Business Consultant, and Entrepreneur

Friday, December 13
12:00 PM
Winnett Lounge
Free Lunch Included

Ms. Segil, cofounder of the Lared Group, a business consulting firm, and author of Intelligent Business Alliances: How to Profit Using Today's Most Important Strategic Tool, will be speaking on how she's reinvented her career several times, moving from practicing law to founding four entrepreneurial business consulting to companies worldwide, including teaching several times a year at Caltech's Industrial Relations Center.

This event is cosponsored by the Organization for Women at Caltech, the Women's Center, Avery House, and the Caltech Women's Center Management Association.

Copies of Segil's book will be available for purchase, courtesy of the Bookstore.

Please RSVP to Betsy Woodford, ext. 6240, or betsy_woodford@starbase1.caltech.edu

Library Services During Move to the Sherman Fairchild Library

- Moving crews will be working in Millikan and the Branch Libraries from Monday, December 9 through Friday, December 20.
- Some floors in Millikan may be closed temporarily while the movers are working. Notices will be posted by the elevators.
- After December 8, information materials in the engineering branch libraries will not be accessible but may be delayed.
- Document Delivery and Interlibrary Loan services will be available as usual. Requests for engineering materials may be delayed somewhat during the move.
- The Sherman Fairchild Library will open on January 2, 1997.

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ME 72: Wedge against the machine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

golf balls into the grate unimpeded. Dave Zito, also of Dabney, won the "Divine Intervention" award for being saved by technical difficulties twice and beating the placebo (the Grad Turkey entry, to ensure an even number of contestants) once, causing him to advance to the final rounds. While none of machines imploded or exploded, there were a few technical mishaps. Jonathan Aldrich was disqualified when his vehicle was improperly connected to the power source.

The contest was designed by Professor Erik Antonsson to provide a real-world engineering atmosphere. Students learn about the design of new things and the solution of open-ended, ill-defined problems. It has been featured on CNN and "Scientific American Frontiers."
Mints

\( \frac{5,500}{00} \) denotes a new announcement.

\( \frac{5,500}{00} \) the American Chemical Society is sponsoring a scholarship program for qualified applicants who are interested in entering the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, or related chemically related fields such as environmental science, materials science, or toxicology. To be eligible, applicants must be African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, or Alaskan Native, and must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents. Applicants must also be full-time freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in one of the above fields, and must demonstrate financial need. The deadline to submit applications and supporting documents is February 15th, 1996.

The College Women's Foundation of Los Angeles is sponsoring the 1997 Elie Wiesel Ethics Essay Contest for the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The essay contest is open to all juniors and seniors, and the prize is $5,000 second prize and third prize is $1,000. Eligible students must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents, and regularly enrolled at a U.S. secondary school or college. The theme for the 1997 Essay Contest is "The Limits of the Individual's Responsibility to the Common Good." For more information about the contest, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

The American Chemical Society's Scholarships and Fellowships Foundation is sponsoring the 1997 NACE Foundation Internship and the Rob- ert and Delphina Nolan Summer Internships. Three to five Caltech under-graduates will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside of the Caltech community for ten weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a

from the Financial Aid Office, and must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by February 7th, 1997.

The American Chemical Society's Scholarships and Fellowships Foundation is offering more than 40 scholarships of $1,000 or higher to full-time undergraduates in the American chemical sciences in their senior year and are available in the Financial Aid Office.

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