ASCIT faculty talks begin

by Kohl Gill

Undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty: By now you should have gotten these Illy days...'

The Sherman Fairchild library, which opened Monday, sports a large reading hall and nifty lamps.

New Fairchild Library embraces keycards

by Erik Streed

The most recent addition to the Caltech campus, the Sherman Fairchild Library opened Monday, January 6 for institute use. The library is to be dedicated this coming January 14 at 3:45 p.m. in a ceremony on the west side of the building, near Dabney Gardens. This new library houses materials for the Engineering and Applied Sciences (E&AS) division. Constructed with funds provided by the Sherman Fairchild Foundation, the library consolidates the holdings of several E&AS departmental libraries in one location. Journals are stored on the second floor in space saving automated racks which run on tracks. The third floor has a reading room with a cherry wood barrel vault ceiling. This room was modeled after the Linonim and Brothers Room at Yale. Construction of this library marks a shift by the Caltech Library system towards a more technologically based approach to servicing the Caltech Community. Afterwards access to the library is control via the same keycard system that has been implemented at Avery House. The Xerox machines will soon be equipped with card readers to allow students, faculty and staff to charge copying directly to their accounts. In addition the library checkout system may also be integrated into the Campus Card System. Sherman Fairchild Library, like the recently constructed Moore Labs, is filled to the brim with fiber optic cable to provide high speed digital communications capability.

Hawking speaks on black holes

by Terry Moran

Now in his tenure period stay at Caltech, Steven Hawking gave a technical lecture concerning "Loss of Information in Black Holes" in Ramo Auditorium yesterday. Although the talk was only part of the weekly Physics Colloquium, the lecture was well attended by both physics and non-physicists staff and students. The highly theoretical talk covered the integrity of information as it approaches and reaches the singularity of a black hole. During his lecture Hawking also more accurately described the details of his most recent bet, made against Kip Thorne and JohnPreskill which he conceded upon a

Hooked on politics?

by Sara Beiser

Found a summer job yet? If the opportunity for a paid summer internship in politics or public policy interests you, read on. The Dean's Office in 102 Parson-Gates will be accepting proposals for this year's internship until Monday, March 3, 1997. Proposals should say how and where you would use the $3600 stipend. Encourage any undergrad with interests in politics and public policy to apply for the internship, and start searching for a sponsor soon.

The high profile of welfare reform provided a number of opportunities to explore my long-standing interests in social service and social justice. The New Jersey's capital. Now that President Clinton has signed legislation abolishing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, states will receive block grants of money to spend as they see fit, within certain strictures. New Jersey was already involved in drafting an alternative plan to AFDC and General Assistance (GA) for the state, and this plan became the basis for the Work First NJ legislation currently before the New Jersey legislature. As an agency that tries to address many of the needs of the disadvantaged in the greater Trenton area, Mercer Street Friends provides non-partisan policy research and analysis to inform and improve public policy as part of its mission to improve the quality of life for the community.

Newspaper clip. Hawking conceded a bet about naked singularities to Preskill and Thorne.

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH
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FRIDAY, 10 JANUARY 1997

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ASCIT Secretary

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Media Guy returns to review the latest movies.
Dear Editors,

I'm writing this because your most recent Tech, D.R. Sullivan's provocative “MindStalk” article, has, I believe, set the stage for a self-love fest of two issues back, a request for affirmation (Hey, can you tell me I'm smart?). Incidentally, Cal tech students will most likely be on the wrong side of this fight when they own their own businesses ten years from now, their consciences appalled by the “liberal” defenses of ren-of-the-mill exploitation of the poor world majority.

As Sullivan points out, the modern progressive movement is “a tad schizophrenic” at times, but activists do understand their old foe, economic imperialism, despite its new look. The Zapatistas understand all of these things when they declared war on the Mexican government during the day NAFTA went into effect. Karl Marx understood all of this when he said, “I vote for free trade because it hastens the revolution.” It’s not inconsistent, as Sullivan suggests, for progressives to be opposed to neoliberal trade policies.

BYRON PHILLIP GRADUATE STUDENT

And now, a word from Rob

Dear Editors,

At the surface, I’m moved to write by D.R. Sullivan’s provocative “MindStalk” article. However, unlike her in the most recent Tech, I’m going to baffle and confound a few other things while I’m at it.

First, I want to point my enthusiasm and encouragement for well-reasoned opinion writing in the Tech. From John Hatfield and Neil Stevens’ YENO debates, to D.R. Sullivan’s “MindStalk,” to the continuing discussion of issues in the letters to the editor, and even in J.P. Revel’s musings on human nature, the last issue had a lot of what I really look forward to finding in a campus newspaper: something resembling a living, breathing discussion of a few of the important issues that shape our world.

The Tech has always done a pretty good job of fulfilling what is probably its central “mission”: disseminating news and information to the campus community on concrete topics such as sports, academics, and student government. Not long ago, the Tech’s reach in this area made a healthy expansion to world news and broader entertainment reviews. (Myfanwy Callahan’s “The Outside World” is the first place I turn in the Tech, as I no longer find time to really follow the news, and she provides a great, well-rounded, concise look at the world at the world each week.) But only as of late has the Tech really found fertile ground in authors opening their minds to the public (myself included), I hope and inviting readers to consider the more difficult, larger questions thrown at us in the real world. That such writing occasionally fosters discussion of such issues away from the printed page is encouraging for me to see. Perhaps it is a result of my existence in the rather distantly-connected graduate community, but I was beginning to feel that Caltech is a social graveyard, where all discussion centers on science alone.

I was beginning to feel that Caltech is a social graveyard, where all discussion centers on science alone.

when all they hear are complaints of inevitable errors and the Dilbert retorts.

Okay, on to D.R. Sullivan’s “MindStalk” article. It was superbly written, a fantastic read. (Hey, can you tell me I’m jealous?!) But I have to respond to Sullivan’s ruminations on marijuana and the “War on Drugs.” (Capitalized to prevent lawsuits from the Bush administration.) I won’t argue Sullivan’s assertion that marijuana is no worse than the other drugs readily available today, particularly nicotine and ethanol. It is clearly of the same ilk, however, and if the legal drugs are a bane to society, so is dope. To suggest marijuana’s legalization in that light would be like suggesting that we be able to work on the Supreme Court because the others already on the bench are no worse than he would be.

Frankly, I’d be all too happy for legalizations of every imaginable drug if we were possible to restrict the detriments of choice should not be made readily available to anyone, even mature adults. (This is not to say such a law would not have its problems, few ideas, but no room or time to share them here.) Until then, rather than adding another recreational drug to the “lethal six,” I think we should continue to work to weasel ourselves of what is already there. This won’t be as easy as we might imagine, for we need to be aware of the power of the financial and addictive “needs” that back up our current champions, to keep them alive. Through whistle-blowing information efforts, we might be able to whistle the list of legal drug abusers down to the immorals, the addicted, and the falsely stupid, the latter of which would try to abuse

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
"Experts" agree: most of us experience a physical addiction even if we never got hooked on drugs. It's our craving for sex.

I'd suggest a melding of John Hatfield and Neil Steven's well-written arguments as a viable third option to campaign reform. Allow donations to flow freely to all can­didates, but require that each ad, placard, festivity, or whatnot for it came from, dollar-by-dollar. Most of Callie’s seminars are, as Samson said, dry, highly-technical, and often just plain unclear. I fall asleep at most, quite honestly. It is rare to find a good speaker around here, I don’t know why. It may be the perceived audience. At any rate, my advice is to take your core course experiences as a starting point, talk to your TA's about their work, and aim for the Ch10/Ph10A/P110-type courses. Oh, and drop in on research group meetings—most are open to any­one who wants to stop by, if you ask first. This is a great way to get in the door, and they are usually better than the seminars.

B. Finally, about my now-distant experience a physical addiction even if we never got hooked on drugs. It's our craving for sex.

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Finally, about my now-distant experience a physical addiction even if we never got hooked on drugs. It's our craving for sex.
Stalking the MindStalker
by Cherish E. Brown

Conservative Confusion

What a bunch of crazy conservative sheep! It just so happens that I’ve been researching some of the topics our friend D. R. Sullivan discussed in his article “MindStalk” in the December 6, 1996 edition of the Tech. I’d like to give the perspective of liberal on these topics, and since my father-in-law insists that I’m a token liberal, I think I am more than qualified.

Let’s start with the assumption that it’s better for companies (and people in less industrialized nations) to seek workers overseas at $10,000 than in the U.S. for $30,000. The problem is that everyone, except the owners of corporations large enough to move overseas, loses. For instance, small business owners cannot compete because of their inability to mass produce some items or cut their labor costs to pathetically low levels. If it becomes cheaper to hire labor at 1/3 the original cost, in order to compete, U.S. workers will have to agree to wages of $10,000 and no benefits. Can you live on $10,000 per year in any of California’s metropolitan centers? Didn’t think so; it’s going to happen because they’ll be cheaper. The argument that globalization is better for overseas workers is also faulty. In many countries, either by legal regulation or military force, workers are not allowed to organize or unionize. This means that they will end up remaining in poor working conditions, have very few rights, and be treated no better than slaves. Perfect examples of this are the U.S. clothing companies exploiting Salvadoran teenage girls by making them pay for their own sewing equipment, beating them for not working quickly, blacklisting them for attempting to unionize, and forcing them to work over 80 hours per week. All for forty cents an hour, if that. Hasn’t anyone ever heard of human rights? And the United States Commerce Department is helping more U.S. industries do this!

Anyways, if U.S. workers have to take 1/3 their original pay, less benefits, to compete, that distribution creeps farther toward inequality. Even with the introduction of welfare during the Nixon administration, this inequality has grown significantly, especially during the Reagan administration. When the final statistics are compiled, the welfare “reform” bill and the introduction of NAFTA and GATT will undoubtedly widen this inequality.

What does this mean? Under the trickle-down theory, which is already pretty medieval in nature, the rich are given tax breaks to create jobs for the bottom 80% of the population. But with the globalization of our economy, the rich get richer by cutting labor costs, and the poor in the U.S. get poorer because all the tricksles are going overseas. The other problem is that executives aren’t just doing this to $30,000 programmers. They’re also doing it to minimum wage factory employees, like the Price Pfister plant in Pachuca which laid off over 1,200 minimum wage indexed workers and moved it plant to Mexico.

The argument that globalization is better for overseas workers is also faulty. In many countries, either by legal regulation or military force, workers are not allowed to organize or unionize. This means that they will end up remaining in poor working conditions, have very few rights, and be treated no better than slaves. Perfect examples of this are the U.S. clothing companies exploiting Salvadoran teenage girls by making them pay for their own sewing equipment, beating them for not working quickly, blacklisting them for attempting to unionize, and forcing them to work over 80 hours per week. All for forty cents an hour, if that. Hasn’t anyone ever heard of human rights? And the United States Commerce Department is helping more U.S. industries do this!

There is also another false assumption which seems to fuel the globalization argument: Conservatives seem to believe that there are enough jobs out there. But according to my research, the entire global economy can be run on only 20% of the population. That leaves 4/5 of the world’s population unemployed, and unless someone does something, impoverished.

What’s so bad about that? After all, the world is already overpopulated, right? Most of workers and their families are single mothers who are entitled to food assistance. But when we provide food assistance, their husbands are free to go off and work for a living. This last suggestion is rather superficial and runs the risk that the upper 20% will renge on their responsibilities, since following this option means they aren’t willing to cut into profits to actually let people work for a living (gasp!). It’s said that people complain about the poor while hoarding incredible excesses for themselves.

On a final note, I know of no serious progressive organization that doesn’t advocate tariffs, repeal of NAFTA and GATT, or unionization of all workers. Just check out the back of a ballot book. And Democrats don’t count. (You don’t seriously believe they’re progressive, do you?)

Bandaids for Women

I don’t know of any one way to stop domestic abuse because of the unpredictability of human nature. I certainly think that anyone interested should visit Kathleen and Beverly in the Women’s Center, as they have a lot of training and experience in dealing with this sort of problem.

The author advocates use of marijuana instead of alcohol among those who abuse their spouses or girlfriends. While alcohol is involved in just over half of reported incidences of domestic violence, it is not the root cause of domestic violence. Removing alcohol may decrease violent tendencies, but it doesn’t address the psychological component of abuse.

If we opt for bandaids solutions instead of looking at the real problem, we haven’t made any real progress. Alcoholics Anonymous, the quasirationalization of our background or physique can abuse others. On another note, being emotion less doesn’t mean you’re sophisticated; it means you’re human.

A woman feeling helpless isn’t “due to an unfortunate moral education.” Morality has little to do with allowing oneself to be victimized. Being abused at a young age is one of the primary factors. It’s also due to mass sexism that makes it virtually impossible to get alimony in divorce (between 10 and 15% actually receive alimony, but mostly in cases of physical and mental handicap in a long-term marriage), regardless of an abusive relationship. Perhaps it’s because many states require single mother to provide the name of her child’s father, regardless again of an abusive situation, before she can receive public assistance. It’s virtually impossible for a woman to single-handedly raise a family without some type of public assistance. It could also be because women make 71 cents on the male dollar, and that 1/3 of female householders’ families are in poverty and constitute 2/3 of those on welfare. And with the passage of the welfare bill, the nearly 60% of recipients who are women fleeing abusive situations and using the safety net interminably, no longer have any guarantees. It’s not like job training is cheap, provides child care, and doesn’t have waiting lists. I guess I would feel a little helpless, too.

The Real Drug Problem

Since the second half of “MindStalk barely dealt with domestic abuse and instead became an argument for the legalization of marijuana, it’s only fitting that I comment on the real problem with drugs. I believe the problem is with misusing drug abuse as a criminal problem. In the long run, it would be much more effective to pit drug users in rehabilitation and help provide opportunities so that those people don’t return to the conditions which initially led to the abuse. It makes far more sense than blaming victims for conditions over which they have little control.

I would like to make available the sources which I used for my article. If anyone asks, I can give them to the editors of the Tech for distribution.

[If you are interested in this information, send e-mail to: authors@tech.ca |] [ed.]
Quiz: Are you a Nerd?

by Gene Plotkin

1. Metaphysics is ...
   a) An interesting facet of human knowledge dealing with such topics as the existence of God, Freedom, and Reality.
   b) A branch of physics dealing exclusively with the quantum behavior of subatomic particles.
   c) An evil myth perpetuated by liberal politicians in their tireless fight against science.

2. E-mail should be used ...
   a) As a method of communication to send brief, informative messages to specific individuals.
   b) As a way of avoiding expensive phone bills.
   c) As a way to avoid downloading large graphics. side scrolling, and bugging repeatedly.

3. The term "nerd" is used in reference to ...
   a) A top-notch education and research opportunities.
   b) The great Rainbow Serpent of the Aborigines.
   c) A close call between Albert Einstein and Dave Barry.

4. The greatest thing about college is ...
   a) The top-notch education and research opportunities.
   b) Grooving to the psychedelic funk beats of dance music while staring at illegal substances fill the air and couples make out on the floor.
   c) Hacking into the department computer at 2:30 in the morning and changing the screen saver to a bouncing "NERD IS RULED" message.

5. Dishib...
   a) Is a current comic strip which focuses on the trials and tribulations associated with the modern hi-tech workplace.
   b) Carolina Evans of the same old joke over and over again.
   c) Is the greatest thing to grace the annals of modern history since the creation of TVa"ly. Or, in northeast DELRERT RULES!!

6. Clothes should be worn ...
   a) In current and orderly fashion, depending on the time of year and occasion, with matching arrangements and colors.
   b) Like cubical features.
   c) To deceive her, or wrangle the facts of import from technology.

7. A nice way to spend the evening with a date is ...
   a) Dinner at a nice restaurant, followed by a romantic walk on a moonlit beach.
   b) Going to a burger place or a movie, then going back to the dorm and banging repeatedly.
   c) Surfing the web browsing hands each person types with the free hand.

8. What is a nerd ...
   a) Biologically speaking, it is a remnant of the species through time.
   b) A helluva lot of fun.
   c) www.playboy.com

9. A nice way to spend the evening with a date is ...
   a) Dinner at a nice restaurant, followed by a romantic walk on a moonlit beach.
   b) Going to a burger place or a movie, then going back to the dorm and banging repeatedly.
   c) Surfing the web browsing hands each person types with the free hand.

10. The perfect dream job is ...
    a) President of the United States of America.
    b) Wealthy slave owner and oil tycoon in the Middle East.
    c) Senior resident hacker at Microsoft Corporation.

SCORING GUIDE: Give yourself a point for every time you chose answer C. A nerd would get a perfect ten. If you score in the 7-9 range, that means you're almost there. 5-7 means you should work harder at it. 3-4 means you're almost normal with just a few nerdy tendencies. And if you scored below 3, then what the hell are you doing at Caltech?

BET: Hawking concedes technically last year. In this bet, Hawking denied the existence of naked singularities—which is by current understanding a black hole without an event horizon inside of which the laws of physics are not obeyed. The concession of this bet, made against the two "Tech professors Thorpe and Preskill in September of 1991, was made based upon numerical studies presented by each professor concerning bare critical collapsing stars—stars which are just borderline in mass upon becoming black holes—that showed that black holes may in fact exist without an event horizon, and thus could integrate numerically for Einstein's equations, thus demonstrating the possibility of the existence of a naked singularity. Hawking still contends that stars of these types are a high physical improbability—like dropping a pin upon a hard surface and having it land and balance upon its point—and thus not specifically to be counted as naked singularities (as they likely do not exist); as this was not made clear in the text of the original bet, Hawking conceded on the technicality of the theoretical possibility versus the physical likeness.

Multiple undergraduates were in attendance. In reference to the level of technicality of the talk, one undergraduate student was heard saying that "the first fifteen minutes were comprehensible, the last fifteen minutes were incomprehensible, the jokes were funny, and the forty minutes in between were completely over everyone's head."

Hawking normally gives a more general open physics lecture during his winter's stay at Caltech which has not yet been scheduled. Hawking will be continuing his stay at Caltech through late February.
ADAM VILLANI: MEDIA GUY

by Adam Villani

Hi there! As you may know, I graduated in June, but I figured that as long as I'm still in Southern California, I'm still looking for a job, and still paying attention to the media, I might as well start writing Media Guy again and bask in the fame, respect, and renumeration checks it gives me.

As is usual after a prolonged absence, this week's column will consist solely of movie reviews, but in upcoming weeks expect items on the Grammys, the new TV ratings, or whatever.

Pornmeister Flynt, as portrayed by Woody Harrelson, is undeniably sleazy, yet charismatic and human. Shawshank Redemption. Pornmeister Flynt, as portrayed by Woody Harrelson, is undeniably sleazy, yet charismatic and human. Curiously enough, the real Flynt is still and uncomfortable-looking in a cameo as a judge early in the film. Rock star Courtney Love is (surprise, surprise) a natural as Flynt's stripper-turned-junkie wife, but the real find here for me is Edward Norton as Flynt's fresh-faced but sincere lawyer Alan Isaacson, who has the unenviable task for an actor of giving several courtroom speeches, but manages to sound like he's talking common sense rather than preaching. You'll emerge from this movie thoroughly entertained and cheering for the First Amendment.

Michael

The script for this movie may have seemed deep to a Scientologist like John Travolta, but it's full of hollow Hollywood spirituality, with nothing more significant to say than "relax" and "all you need is love," while reassuring you that smoking, fighting, and going to bed with women you just met is OK. Travolta plays Michael, an angel sent to Earth with no more purpose than to play matchmaker with the charming and unphysically perfect Sylvia Sidney who shines as a blissful geriatric who fends off the aliens, and Pierce Brosnan is fantastic as a pipe-smoking professor convinced the Martians will act in a logical and peaceful manner.

Sylvia Sidney shines as a blissful geriatric who fends off the aliens, and Pierce Brosnan is fantastic as a pipe-smoking professor convinced the Martians will act in a logical and peaceful manner.

elements of subtlimity when Michael shows the simple beauty of being alive on Earth. But a few good points don't outweigh the contrived, chick-fried plop and empty message.

Beavis and Butthead Do America

My sister tells me she'd never seen me laugh so much in a theater as when we went to see Beavis and Butthead Do America. The boys (both voiced by creator/director/co-writer Mike Judge) find their TV stolen one day, forcing them out of the house and eventually all across the country. Freeing B&B from their station of sublimity when Michael shows the simple beauty of being alive on Earth. But a few good points don't outweigh the contrived, chick-fried plop and empty message.

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Mars Attacks!

Tim Burton's big-budget spoof of alien attack movies is very funny indeed and skewers genre conventions with pinpoint accuracy, so why wasn't it fully satisfied, I think the answer is that Burton was perhaps too accurate with his parody. While many of the scenes and characters are funny or downright hilarious, others seem to be mere representations of what one would in any alien attack or disaster movie — the subplots with the ex-boxer trying to get home to see his family would have been tired and unfunny in Independence Day, and it was tired and unfunny here, too. A few factors, such as Danny DeVito and Oliver Stone, have shown up just so we could say, "Hey, look, it's Danny DeVito in a wacky sci-fi movie. Is it not to laugh?" The Martians themselves are humorless throughout, with their oversized, wavy brains, monosyllabic speech, and bizarre schemes to destroy the Earth and its inhabitants. Sylvia Sidney shines as a blissful geriatric who fends off the aliens, and Pierce Brosnan is fantastic as a pipe-smoking professor convinced the Martians will act in a logical and peaceful manner. I'd still recommend the movie, but I wish it had been trimmed from a flawed hour-and-forty-five minutes to a near-perfect hour-and-fifteen minutes.

Ridicule

This Cannes Festival opener takes place just before the French Revolution, and involves Polonius, an engeni- neer from the countryside noble by birth, who wants to drain the disease-spreading swamps of his homeland but finds he must play the games of the court in order to get anything done. So he finds himself sharpening his tongue under the tutelage of a court doctor andchasing a rich noble's widow instead of taking care of his countrymen and pursuing the doctor's daughter, who is intelligent, and dusty beyond belief. This movie lets us have our cake and eat it, too; we can revel in the quick wit and repartee of the court while simultaneously despising them for being so corrupt. Check it out at Laemmle's Music Hall theater in Beverly Hills.

My To-See List

I don't want to miss Set It Off, Mother, The Portrait of a Lady, Evita, Everyone Says I Love You, La Ceremonia, Scream, Jackie Chan's First Strike, or the Kenji Mizoguchi retrospective at UCLA's Melnitz theatre.
WELCOME TO THE HOTEL. ALLOW ME TO TOUCH YOUR BAGS, YOU FEEL OBLIGATED TO TIP ME.

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Dr. David Stevenson is the George Van Osdel Professor of Planetary Science at Caltech. He earned his Bachelor's of Science degree from Victoria University in New Zealand in 1971 before earning his Master's Degree there the following year. He received his Ph.D. at Cornell in 1976. Dr. Stevenson has been a member of the Caltech faculty since 1980. Dr. Stevenson was recently awarded an ASCIT Teaching Award for his excellent performance during the 1995-96 academic year. Though this was the first time he won that award, he had previously been awarded the graduate school equivalent.

I had a chance to speak with Dr. Stevenson a couple of months ago. When I asked him about teaching, he stated three reasons he found teaching at Caltech to be a rewarding experience. Dr. Stevenson considers Caltech special because of the quality of the students here. Additionally, there is a certain level of personal satisfaction involved in teaching. Finally, there is a personal self-interest involved. He receives both a feeling of satisfaction from doing a good job and a revitalized view of material he had not previously taught. "When you think about how to teach a course well, you think about the basic ideas...you end up understanding the material better yourself."

"When you think about how to teach a course well, you think about the basic ideas...you end up understanding the material better yourself."

Stevenson taught one term of Applied Math 95 last year. "Aaaaargh!! 95 is hard!" says a tech student. Unlike many of his predecessors, he was able to breathe life into that class. Indeed, this is why many students nominated him for an ASCIT Teaching Award.

Dr. Stevenson normally prefers to teach a class for three years before moving on to a new challenge. However, the importance of the change in Caltech's core curriculum and the arrival of Geology 1 have made it impossible for him to do this with AMA 95. It is intended primarily for students interested in engineering — not to seduce them on behalf of the natural sciences, but to show them another branch of science. This class will allow students to see the applications of physics, chemistry, and math to the real world. Ge 1 will have both lab work and field trips to see the geological features of Southern California. Astronomy 1 is similar to Ge 1 and will be taught by Dr. Roger Blandford. Ge 1 and Ast 1 should eventually be joined by like offerings in other subjects. Dr. Stevenson stresses that it is beneficial to expose students to different ways of thinking within the core. Earth science, astronomy, and biology all have independent ways of thinking; they are complementary and must be shared.

A Call for Submissions

This article is meant as the first in a continuing series of articles highlighting professors and TAs at Caltech who have done an excellent job. The Tech encourages the submission of both article concerning professors and TAs and suggestions of people to highlight. Inquiries should be sent to editors@tech.
What’s new? Another holiday season has swept by, in a haze of parties, celebrations, parades, football games I did not watch, an Opera I did watch (some of us are a little peculiar) and other essential activities of the season. Oh yes and of course also gifts small and big. When I was small, in France, les Eireennes were given out on New Year’s day, Christmas being a somewhat more solemn holy day, except of course for the Christmas dinner, a feast in the middle of the night after coming back from Midnight Mass...The feast ended traditionally with a Chocolate Buche, a Yule Log, and included fowlis such as the Peacocks who cry so plaintively about their fate in Carmina Burana.

Just before the holidays I played Santa Claus, Pere Noel, for Danby House. I hate to admit it, but...I got lost in the Alleys and ended up in Blacker. The people there were so engrossed in a Kung-Fu show that it took quite a while for one of them to react and notice that Santa Claus had arrived. Imagine! Santa descends into their midst unannounced and nobody notices! Is that the height of Cool or what? I guess all is well with the world. The next generations of Techers have supernatural powers of concentration, nerves of steel, cannot be rocked by anything, and will surely be able to guide the Nation, no the World through who knows what troubled times.

Eventually one of them recognized that there was something peculiar going on, what with Santa by now practicing his Kung-Fu moves in a corner of the room. Turning on her extrasensory powers, this kind student, a bio major I am proud to say, had detected the signals of distress emitted by the Darbs. They were concerned that one of the runners of my sled might have broken off or that the Reindeer had rebelled at the extra trip that the visit to the Darbs represented and had stopped to munch the grass instead (a real delicacy after lichen under snow) or that all of us had just gotten lost in the smog. This kind person took pity on poor Santa and took him to where he had to go. Attended by Saint Bernard with a little leg hanging from their necks, Santa had a grand time enconced in a deep arm chair, handing out finely crafted and thoughtfully prepared gifts as if he had made them himself.

But back to the real world. The opera was "Cosi Fan Tutte" which was played on TV. Loosely translated the title means, "They All Behave This Way" or more concisely, "That’s Typical". The interesting thing to realize is that when the opera was written in the late 18th century it created an uproar and ended up not being performed for a long time, because it was felt to be too sexist! The music is beautiful and the singing was thrilling. The story has to do with two virtuous sisters, who watch their beloved go to war...and are spared into bestowing their love on two strangers (actually their disguised lovers, who deserve to be called in front of the BOC for merci­ lessly taking advantage of their lady friends). It is the ladies’ unfaithfulness which was said to be "typical," and even though the boy friends had to take rather drastic measures to gain the ladies’ attentions, let alone interest, in the end it is the ladies who are blamed for the whole thing.

What’s new? Cosi fan tutte...and a happy and successful Winter Term.

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Or visit us on campus at the following:

Information Session, Thursday, January 16th, Room SAC 13
Interviews, Friday, January 17th

ELECTRONICS FOR IMAGING, INC.
BELGRADE — President Slobodan Milosevic acknowledged that opposition parties had won control of Nis, the second largest city in Serbia. This is the first concession he has made to protesters who have been demonstrating for the past seven weeks. Protests were sparked when the government tried to invalidate opposition victories in 14 of the 19 largest cities.

JERUSALEM — A rocket launch from Lebanon landed in Israel Wednesday, causing no casualties, but raising tensions in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Hebron negotiations are almost complete, awaiting a final decision on a single issue.

MOSCOW — Two weeks after returning to work from his quintuple bypass surgery, President Yeltsin has fallen ill again. He was hospitalized for pneumonia Wednesday evening. His ill health could under- mine public confidence in the stability of the government.

SAHARA — What was hoped to be the first round the world manned balloon trip came to an early end when the balloon was forced to land in the Algerian desert. The crew had began their journey the day before in Marrakesh. They were the first of three crews to attempt this flight in the coming weeks.

CHICAGO — In Chicago and nationwide a disturbing trend in crime is taking shape. The growth in violent crime. Moscow — Two weeks after First NJ had been in place in 1993, there would have been three people competing for every available job, with ratios of as high as eleven seekers for every two job openings. The job opportunity numbers were all new and replacement job openings, and the job seeker numbers added the number of unemployed people to the number of AFDC and GA recipients mandated to work, i.e., those who did not fit in any of the exemption categories. More detail was available for the adult female AFDC population, and we found that there were significant employment barriers for large portions of this population. Statewide forty-three percent had no high school diploma or equivalent, eleven percent spoke only Spanish, and thirty percent had not been on the job search work experience had been on welfare continuously for five or more years.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to influence the planning of welfare policy through nonpartisan research, helping bring some of the dimensions of the county and state welfare populations and policy situations into the public view. I also appreciated the up-close look at jobs in social services both in government and in non-government agencies, and now looking at graduate school and a career in social services/public policy, specializing in accessibility for the poor. You don't have to go to a science grad school after Tech! For more information on how to apply for the internship with your own project in politics or public policy, please contact your office. If you have any questions about the Beckman Internship program (or welfare reform in New Jersey), feel free to e-mail me at swisher@ecu.caltech.edu.
Phil Niekro elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame

BY MASON A. PORTER

It was announced Monday that the baseball writing and knuckleballer Phil "(Knuckie"") Niekro to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Niekro narrowly missed election in 1987 but got 380 votes out of a possible 473 (80.34%) to get elected. One needs to be on 75% of the writers' ballots in order to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in this manner. Niekro was the only person to get the requisite 355 votes this year. He becomes the 229th member of baseball's Hall of Fame.

Niekro, 50, was a 14-game winner in both his fifth and final year of eligibility. Tommy John won nearly 290 games in his career, and deserved many more votes than he received. Ten returnees were on fewer than five percent of the ballots and can therefore no longer be considered for the Hall of Fame, except under special circumstances. They are Ken Griffey, Fred Lynn, Graig Nettles, Bobby Bonds, Rusty Staub, Rick Reuschel, Mike Scott, Garry Templeton, Terry Kennedy, and Terry Puhl. Of the first year candidates, only Dave Parker (83 votes) and Dwight Evans (28 votes) received enough votes to remain on the ballot next year.

The Veterans' Committee is scheduled to make their selections in March this year. This committee serves to recognize managers, umpires, Negro-league stars, and players overlooked by sportswriters. This year, they are expected to elect the late Nellie Fox to the Hall. Fox missed induction by only two votes in 1985.

Next week, Mason Porter offers his thoughts on future Hall of Famers.
Tennis shoes.

square and line dances. The dance is hosted. Come out and s quare dance on Friday,

Hall. Caller Lloyd Lewis will be calling both

4:30pm

has

ning Class includes ajazzlfolk chord system.

units of credit if they choose.

features some

keepyou ahead

of the American Association of University

Cal-tech undergraduates, $5 to other Caltech

graduates, $15 to all Caltech students and other

students demonstrating specific
talent in the employment of nuclear power plant.

Applications must be postmarked

earlier than 1st February 1997.

The Ellis Wessel Foundation for Human

Contact: Wessel Prize in Ethics. The essay must

be a composition in a line of text no

price is $3,000, second prize is $2,500, third price is $1,000. Essays must be

poured as a competition entry. If you

arrangement, you are invited to:

on the Geophysical

Geology

Evolutionary Explosion?” on Monday.

Caltech, with the following
timeframe: the

the Geology Department will be giving a Geo-

Logical and Planetary Science Seminar en-

titled "A Geophysical Trigger for the Can-

not be accepting new members for this

this sign-up day, contact Director, Monica

week per month (Monday from 7:30 to 9:30

and webpages(@caltech.edu or at extension 600) for an

apartment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The Calltech Women's Glee Club is accept-

in order to be named a Morris K. Udall Scholar: The Morris K. Udall Scholarship

and 12th, at 5:30pm in the Daley Lounge. The program includes

hosted by Mount, Skovidakis, and Beethoven.

is free.

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