Hans Bethe, professor emeritus of Cornell University, Nobel laureate and one of the pioneers of modern quantum physics, gave an hour long general interest retrospective on "The Making of the Bomb" this Thursday the 16th of January. The talk had to be moved from 201 East Bridge (the normal site of Thursday Physics Colloquium) to the more spacious Ramo Auditorium due to an unexpected surge in interest that may have related to the L.A. Times mentioning the event in its weekly Science Calendar. As it was, even Ramo was unable to seat everyone who wanted entrance and the lobby was packed with people trying to listen to the talk as it was taped outside through speakers.

This year's talk was much less technical than in years past and dealt with his experience with the Manhattan Project to develop a working atomic bomb during World War II. He described how nuclear fission, the principle behind the A-bomb, was discovered by Otto Hahn in late 1938 and a theory explaining the process was developed in 1939. By 1941, there were at least four countries attempting to develop a weapon based on fission that had a legitimate chance of success: Germany, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union's research program was shocked into near-inactivity by the sudden German invasion of mid-1941, while the American program, which had been initiated by Albert Einstein's personal letter to President Roosevelt on the day before Pearl Harbor, was proceeding at a pace that could be charitably called stately.

In England the war with Germany spurred intense interest in the development of fission weapons. The secret "Maud Committee" was formed and determined that a nuclear weapon was feasible. While England lacked the resources to build the bomb, America possessed the industrial strength and manpower to produce a weapon before the Germans. Since America was the only one of the Allied Powers with this ability, their effort was thrown into high gear with the appointment of General Leslie Groves as head of the project in September 1942.

Bethe emphasized in his talk that the successful creation of the bomb by the United States consisted of many related projects that dealt with one particular problem. During the question and answer session after the talk Hans Bethe was asked if more freedom of communication would have hastened the creation of the bomb. Bethe responded that the limiting factor was the production of fissionable materials (plutonium and enriched uranium) and that many of the projects, like the explosive lens, were completed successfully without revealing the entire project. When questioned if America should have dropped the bomb on Japan, Bethe asserted that it saved lives by ending the war quickly and preventing the Japanese from making a bloody last stand. In an interview after the event by The Tech, Bethe indicated his support for the Department of Energy's nuclear stewardship program of replacing nuclear tests with advanced supercomputer simulations.

Hans Bethe was born in Germany in 1906 in the contested province of Alsace-Lorraine along the French border. He entered the University of Frankfurt in 1924 and received his doctorate in 1928. Bethe was forced to flee with his wife to England in 1933 because of the rising power of the Nazis. In 1935, he accepted an assistant professorship at Cornell University, with which he has remained affiliated to this day. In 1938, he produced the work on stellar energy production that would earn him a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1967. Richard Feynman received his Ph. D. from Hans Bethe in 1942. Bethe officially retired from Cornell in 1975, but he continues to work on the physics of supernovas and neutron stars. These talks are a yearly event for Bethe, who usually spends a month or so at the balmy environs of Caltech on winter sabbatical.

Maurer takes first in SURF competition

BY SAMUEL TMUEN

Sebastian Maurer won first prize in Wednesday's third and final round of the Doris S. Perpall SURF speaking competition for his presentation of numerical simulations of magnetic vortex lines in type II superconductors. The competition took place in the Beckman Institute Auditorium. Out of more than 180 original presenters, eight finalists remained to compete for three prizes on the basis of presentation skill. The finalists presented a wide range of scientific research, ranging from femtosecond chemistry, which was examined by Julius Schiff-Base, to simple terms. Bill Whitney, who has been a judge every year since the first Perpall competition, remarked on the particular quality of the speakers this year, making the process of choosing winners especially difficult.

The Doris S. Perpall awards were created by Robert Perpall, a member of the SURF board, in memory of his late wife. The awards were started in 1993 as an incentive for students to prepare excellent presentations. The first place winner will receive $500; the second $300; and the third $200.

Sebastian Maurer, winner of the coveted SURF speaking award

Oliver Stone to visit

BY PUBLIC EVENTS

Director Oliver Stone will give the 1996-97 James Michelin Lecture, entitled "Film, Chaos, and Mass Delusion." Born in New York City in 1946 of a French mother and American father, Oliver Stone dropped out of college in 1965 to teach in Vietnam and returned in 1967-68 as a soldier on the front line. He completed his studies at New York University Film School in 1971 and worked at several jobs around New York until the success of his screenplay "Midnight Express" in 1978.

Among his many film credits are "Platoon," "Born on the 4th of July," "JFK," "The Doors," "Natural Born Killers," and "Nixon." He has been nominated for an Oscar six times, and has won twice. He also has an Emmy to his credit from the HBO movie "Indictment: The McMartin Trial." For a more complete filmography, point your Web browser at our event page: http://www.ccc.caltech.edu/~opef/fs97/se/970128.html

The James Michelin Distinguished Visitor's Program has been established under a gift from Miss Bonnie Cashin to foster a creative interaction between the arts and the sciences.

OLIVER STONE: "FILM, CHAOS, AND MASS DELUSION," Tuesday, January 28, 1997 at 8 p.m. Beckman Auditorium Free (Tickets are not required)
On Political Labels

I apparently have been dubbed a neoliberal and a conservative. Actually, that might not be so contradictory; I suspect neoliberal means conservative, although I haven’t been paying too much attention to the most recent mutation of labels. Still, when I said that the lowering of trade barriers is always called liberalization, I should have said that it could have been called that. Adam Smith was firmly part of that liberal tradition known as the European Enlightenment, and he was not the first opponent of the mercantilist and protectionist policies.

For my own positions, I aesthetically prefer the term ‘liberal’. But since to obtain any accurate meaning I must attach the prefix ‘eighteenth-century’ to it, I am forced to use ‘libertarian’, itself stolen from the anarchist opponents of the author who followed Proudhon, Kropotkin, and Bakunin. And the libertarian position is hardly close to most conservative positions, as may be noted by our calls for the legalization of drugs (although conservative William F. Buckley agrees here) and prostitution; absolute freedom of speech, trade, and movement; zero tolerance of pollution; and a smaller military, given that the United States is surrounded by Canada, Mexico, and two very large natural moats. Doubt as to the legitimacy of corporations is also not inconsistent with libertarianism, although not widespread.

On the other hand, I freely admit no more attachment to the labels ‘progressive’ or ‘populist’ than to ‘conservative’. I do not think that ‘progressive’ need be synonymous with ‘liberal’ — in fact, given the way I use the latter term, it often will not be.

On Free Labor Markets

Byron Philhour quotes me: “Opening our markets ... makes us all wealthy global citizens” and takes me to task. My interpretation is that he assumed my “us all” referred to everyone in the world; for the purposes of the article it referred to Americans.

Opening our markets allows us to direct our markets to the rest of the world and shows how well off most of us are. Given that most of us live through labor for others, and not by directly manipulating owned physical wealth, obviously we will find ourselves competing with equivalently skilled foreign workers with lower standards of living, and thus be worse off.

I fail to see how this is, in itself, exploiting the foreigners, as Cherish Brown claims. If someone is working for dirt cheap wages, presumably they feel the alternatives are worse: either being shot, or starving. If the company is holding a gun to their head, this is slavery. If their government is holding a gun to their head, this is still slavery, but in that they are starving. I recognize that sometimes one can link a multinational to both the job and the poverty, but often the latter has quite independent causes, such as in the entire Second World.

On Drugs

Robert Rossi grants that marijuana is no worse than alcohol or tobacco, but says it is no better, and that public and private health agencies should deal with domestic use in that situation, and try to prevent and destroy various public and private health agencies for marijuana being illegal, the entire exercise has been inspired by various puns shrinking over Proposition 215. The title — “How to Stop Domestic Abuse” — was taken from one of my previous articles, and I think it would be an improvement.

CONTINUING ON NEXT PAGE

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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OPINIONS

ending the attempt at prohibition would be a simpler way of cutting the violent crime rate.

Not that I can say anything for the Federal government ban on any drug, anyway, especially as a constitutional amendment was needed for alcohol.

One might have thought that would have established a precedent.

One might also think that the availability of a federal drug program might tell us something about the feasibility of keeping them out of a very large country.

On Banditism

I fear Cherish Brown (in my shameless attention grabbing mode) was not part of my previous article, and that I think she will be an improvement.

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A few months back, I wrote a fic­tio­nal story about a couple who wanted to have children. The story discussed the interview they underwent, blood tests, psychological analyses and other hoops that the state required them to jump through before they were allowed to have children.

The story was inspired by a job application from a bookseller, where they asked questions like: ‘When was the last time you used drugs?’ or ‘What do you like to do when you’re alone?’ They even check your credit history!

Translation: If you’ve had bad times and have had money problems, you are too untrustworthy to get a job. It made me think about the call to get people back into regular employment. But was it just a fictional story, right?

Last Friday, however, I became physically ill when I picked up the LA Times. It was, far more realistic than I thought.

Governor Pete Wilson, Mr. ‘Family Values’ himself, is urging county welfare offices to push adoption on single parents. This is the same man who is trying to make it impossible for single parents, unmarried couples and gay and lesbian couples to adopt.

I knew now that Wilson has no family values and certainly does not have the best interests of our state’s children at heart. Worse yet, the only people he really cares about are married, financially stable, white folks.

The only people he really cares about are married, financially stable, white folks.

I just believe that, in my case, I’d be showing my child how trivial I believe my responsibilities are to him. I think that he would learn how to be a good human being (and someday, a good parent) by seeing his parents struggle with life’s obstacles. He would see how people who really care may give up material possessions, but would never give up the love they share.

The California Tech

Governor Wilson goes overboard

by Cherish Brown

In the Times as saying, ‘I have said repeatedly that if you are a woman of any age and any income level and are not mature enough, financially stable enough or otherwise did not have the capacity to provide a loving, stable and secure environment for the child, then you should consider alternatives like adoption.”

Can Wilson honestly say that a person may be of “any income level” and still be “financially stable”?

Barriers, or necessarily permanent.

On Education

People keep saying that parents need to take an interest in the education of their children, and to encourage them to take an interest in science in learning. But it seems to me that this will continue to be an intrinsically difficult task for as long as the parents do not trust or have a strong interest in their own education.

The best way to teach is by example. One will not reliably raise a polymath by telling your child she can watch TV after she has done her homework or finished her summer reading list.

Interviews: January 30, 1997

Visit our web site at www.vitesse.com to find out, then see us on campus.

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Power and Morals

President Gingrich? Well, not quite. He is close, though, too close.

For many Americans, second in line is too close for Georgia’s sixth district U.S. Repre­sentative, and they’re right. Gingrich is not the kind of man we need as President. He is surrounded by too many accusations and wrongdoing to be the First Citizen, but he is just what we need as our Speaker of the House. As a former Whip, Gingrich knows how to wield influence in the Congress. As a conservative Repub­lican, he can provide a balance in the government by opposing President Clinton. Controversy breeds ingenuity, and Washington is where we need ingenuity.

The Democrats in the House, attempt­ing to regain the favor of the vet­erans, will use the next two years to work on the polls, and the nations problems at the same time. Gingrich and the Repub­licans will have to work harder to retain their advantage. Gingrich’s ethi­cal problems will only force him to try harder to please the people, whether he strives for the balanced budget or a re­paired Medicare system. Gingrich will be the catalyst for a storm of proposals for the next Congress, and it will result in a better government. Republicans may control the house but they want to reclaim the Lincoln Bedroom, and the rest of the White House. In the name of the party, Gingrich, along with the Senate leadership, will put forth bill after bill, making a show of sending their “mandate” to President Clinton.

Well, the President may not be eli­gible for re-election, but his Vice Presi­dent is.

MINDSTALK: Education and more

On Feminism

I’ve read that Betty Friedan’s simplified formula for feminism was that “women are people too, and should be treated as such.”

I think this is the second best such formulation I’ve heard. The one I prefer is more like: “women are people first.”

The difference is that the first statement conveys for me an image of a table, at which People sit, and at which are surrounded by Women coming as a group and demanding a place. Which may well be what was needed at first, and is needed in most of the rest of the world. But our mothers and grandmothers have gone through that stage for us; I would hope that we can move on, to simply see people sitting at the table, some male, some female, (some) lower class. Differences between sentient beings exist, but should not be
Circle of Fire

OPINIONS

BY AUSTIN COLLINS

Hi there, and welcome to the very first Circle of Fire. The very first in a series, as this is the last addition to the California Tech's weekly articles. As the above graphic and motto should indicate, this column will be a forum in which, every week, I frame a subject of my choosing. If you're lucky, and I'm suitably inspired, that subject will even be framed with style.

This week's topic: Legislation.

Excessive legislation, to narrow the scope of the article down just a tad, I'll narrow it even further; I'm not talking about those really inane laws that are used by every half wit (on second thought, quarter wit) who thinks it is trendy to bash on government. For example, in Florida, it is currently illegal for an unmarried woman to skydive on the Sabbath day. No joke — but I don't care. What do I care about? The seatbelt law. Does it save lives? Sure, it does. Is it a good idea to fasten your seatbelt? Of course it is. Are legislatures justified in passing such laws? Hell no.

The philosophy behind our system of government, as it pertains to legislation (and the role of government) can be illustrated pretty well in a quote by Benjamin Franklin. He said, "My rights stop at the tip of your nose." Effectively enforcing this barrier at the tip of every citizen's nose is the task of legislation. Legislation, by its very nature, restricts personal liberty. Ideally, it does so only in those cases where another person's "nose" is endangered. How does stripping you of your right not to wear a seatbelt protect anyone else's liberty? It doesn't. As such, legislation has no right to implement any law requiring such. But they did, anyway; people cheered. I'd wager good money that the vast majority of those in favor of the seat belt law already buckled up. The law, in the form that they favored, did not restrict their own personal liberty in the least. They already buckled up...in effect they passed the law with the specific purpose of limiting the freedom of another group of people who differed solely in their lack of personal safety.

So, sure, they were less safe than if they buckled up. That ought not matter. The relevant question is were theyposing a danger to those that do elect to fasten their seatbelts? The answer, clearly, is no.

One person actually tried to convince me that people who do not wear their seatbelts pose a danger to pedestrians near a car accident. It is possible, he claimed, that a person not strapped to his car seat could be flung through his windshield and strike an innocent passerby. People wandering aimlessly around, spewing nonsense like this criteria. Nope. It doesn't.

A congressman in Texas, I forget precisely who, argued once that the seat belt law was a matter of "simple utilitarianism." Most people accept this, too. "Oohoo, utilitarianism. Greatest good for the greatest number...the seatbelt law clearly fits this criteria." Nope. It doesn't.

J.S. Mill, the effective father of utilitarianism (I don't count Bentham and his profoundly silly Calculus of Pleasure), gave a related example in On Liberty. He spoke of an unsafe bridge, and a man attempting to cross it. He concluded, on utilitarian grounds, that people are not justified in forcibly preventing him from crossing the bridge. They are allowed to vigorously attempt to persuade him that the bridge is dangerous, and he ought not to cross it. In fact, they're obliged to do everything in their power to convince him he should not cross the bridge; in the end, though, if he's stupid enough to try it he has that right.

The seat belt law is but a single example, but an illustrative one. Buckling your seat belt is a good idea. Requiring that people do it saves lives. However, this sort of legislative practice can be quite insidious. There are hundreds of similarly motivated laws on the books; it is one reason legislatures have become so slow, and out of touch. In attempting to core every ill via legislation, they make the process of legislating more important issues more difficult.

In the same line of thought, one can argue that it starts you down the "slippery slope", and sets a dangerous precedent for legislation. I prefer, however, to phrase it this way: For all in good intentions, the seat belt law is one class of society's...
The Serbian Prime Minister Benjamin announced its willingness to honor opposition victories in the capital and Serbia's 2nd largest city. Daily protests over the last two months continue and may stop only when the government gives up the capital.

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat finally agreed on a partial Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. Late Tuesday night they reached agreement on Hebron and signed an associated document describing further steps towards peace.

PARIS—Separatist movements in Corsica met with severe consequences from the French government. Three top leaders and others from the movement are now in jail. Prime Minister Juppé hopes this will bring an end to 20 years of sporadic violence for the sake of Corsican autonomy.

ZURICH—Only weeks after the Swiss government ordered banks to preserve records of any dealings with Nazi Germany, a security officer discovered the destruction of WWII documents at the Union Bank of Switzerland. Investigators have been trying to trace Jewish assets deposited in Swiss accounts during the war.

SAN FRANCISCO—A group of doctors and patients sued senior officials of the Clinton administration in order to protect the medical use of marijuana in California. The suit maintains that the administration's plans to take away prescription licenses from doctors who prescribe the drug is a violation of the First Amendment.

The facts about depression

An information and screening program

BY THE COUNSELING CENTER

It is a long-standing myth that if you are strong-minded you will not become depressed, but depression is a true psychological and medical disorder. The distinction between depression as a clinical syndrome and depression as a mildly altered mood state, such as sadness or unhappiness, can be confusing. Sadness and unhappiness are normal and universal phenomena. Depression as a clinical syndrome is something quite different.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, depression affects over 15 million Americans each year. The lifetime expectancy for developing depression is 20 percent in women and 10 percent in men. Less than half of the people suffering from depression seek treatment for it, mainly because it is difficult to distinguish depression from the normal feelings of unhappiness, and because of the perception that strong willed or intelligent people should be immune from depression or should be able to handle it themselves. Whatever the reasons, those who do not seek treatment suffer unnecessarily and increase their likelihood of experiencing other episodes of depression in the future. In addition 10 to 15 percent of people who suffer from depression do commit suicide. These facts are all the more tragic because clinical depression is a treatable disorder with 80-90 percent of people experiencing improvement with treatment.

Knowing the signs of depression and getting help are two key factors in overcoming depression. Listed below are the most common signs of depression:

- #183# Feeling sad or empty most of the day; occurring nearly every day.
- #183# Inability to enjoy activities, persistent apathy or lack of motivation.
- #183# Sleep disturbances, either too much or too little.
- #183# Significant changes in appetite or weight, an increase or decrease.
- #183# Fatigue or loss of energy.
- #183# Feelings of worthlessness or inappropriate guilt.
- #183# Trouble in concentrating; problems with making decisions.
- #183# Recurrent thoughts of death.
- #183# Irritable moods.
- #183# Poor school performance.

If you feel that any of these symptoms apply to you, or you would just like to get a "check up" on your level of depression and learn more about it, we invite you to attend The Depression Screening Day put on by the Counseling Center, as part of Wellness Week. This program will be held Tuesday, January 21st, in Club Room 1 at Winnett, beginning at 12:00, and is open to all Caltech students. A short lecture on facts about depression will be presented, and you will have the opportunity (not required) to take a depression screening test. After this, you will have the option to meet for a short time with a member of the Counseling Center staff who will go over your inventory results with you and suggest further steps you may take. Students are welcome to attend the lecture without taking the inventory, and you may also take the inventory without meeting with a staff member.

Certainly the stresses of academic life make one vulnerable to depression. Why not take this opportunity to see how you’re doing, or to find out more about the concerns of a loved one dealing with depression? For more information about the program, please call Virginia at the Counseling Center, ext. 8331, or email us at virginia_licon@starbase1.
The Why Store

by Ron Dollete

After releasing two independent albums and endless touring in the Midwest, The Why Store showcases their incredible talent nationwide on their self-titled, debut release on Way Cool Music. Actually, this is way cool music. They’ve got a really nice, catchy tune to their music, very down to earth and palatable like the sounds of Toad the Wet Sprocket or Counting Crows. The CD is a great collection of 13 songs from this Indiana band. The first impression one receives is that the band is not the typical alternative band which keeps popping up these days. Their sound is very rich and Christopher Shaffer, the lead vocalist, displays a very moody and melancholy attitude in his songs, ranging from introspective songs like “Father” and “When I’m With You” to more cynical songs such as “Lies” and “Fool’s Bargain.” Warning, though, “Nobody” and “Lies” tend to be really repetitive and while that’s not a real problem, Shaffer’s voice is a mix between that Eddie Vedder and one dude from Queensryche. And when Shaffer sings these songs, it just gets really annoying because of his voice. Okay, so there’s one fault with the album. (It’s just a sign that too much Eddie Vedder is a bad thing.)

Another song that appears on the album is “Lack of Water,” which is placed at track 27. I don’t know why. But anyway, it was initially released on their second album and it really attracted people at their new label, so it’s been slightly fixed up and re-released on this new album. “Lack of Water” has the same hippe-rocksound as Dire Straits and other rock mainstays. (In fact, the introductory riff on “Lack of Water” sounds very similar to “Sultans of Swing.”)

The Why Store is a very original and talented band and this new self-titled unquestionably shows them to be a group that isn’t just another modern rock clone. “We’ve always stuck to our guns,” Shaffer says. “We all have friends in other bands who’ll see that 5 Green Day is hot, write a song similar to theirs, and shop it around. With us, it’s not a matter of sounding or looking like whatever’s in style at the moment. We’ve always felt that we’d make it just by doing what we do best.”

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Opportunities for graduates with the following: BS/MS/Ph.D. in EE/ME or CS

Information Session
Monday, January 20th

On-Campus Interviews
Tuesday, January 21st

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Dear Ernest,

What are the real contents of Tommy’s Chili? I ran some through the new $80,000 HP gas chromatograph in the Ch 4 lab, and now it’s an $80,000 paperweight with a cool screensaver. (They told me I passed and I need not come back….)

—Intestinally challenged

Dear Concerned,

Tommy’s restaurant propaganda would have you believe it was founded in 1946 by Tommy Koulax, supposedly the man in the big white suit smiling on the Tommy’s restaurant card (the photo club isn’t). However, when I contacted Robert Stack of Unsolved Mysteries, he sent me the following information:

While the “Tommy’s” restaurant was indeed founded in 1946, it was not established by Koulax but in fact by Dr. Otto Von Schnitzel, an ex-Nazi scientist imported to the American military following WWII who specialized in nuclear physics. Originally a classified military project, the name Tommy’s was in fact a bastardization of “Atoms,” a favorite expression of Schnitzel: “Yell, we’re going to split some atoms today.” Von Schnitzel soon proved too unstable and was dismissed.

Rumors persisted of secret experiments conducted under the cover of the newly formed “restaurant,” particularly after the FDA agent responsible for approving the chili for human consumption disappeared while on an inspection tour, along with the only known list of chili ingredients. A partial list was discovered in 1971 by private investigator Dan Chase, but was dismissed as an obvious fake because it listed ground beef and beans. The true list will probably always be as much a mystery as the origin of the Tommy’s Corporation-Ukraine Nuclear Authority annual picnic.

Dear Ernest,

Where on earth have you been?

—Missing you dearly

Dear Needs A Life,

Actually, it was a far, far better place that I have been to than I have ever been before. While there, I did a far, far better thing than I ever had done before, and I had a far, far better rest than I have ever known.

Dear Ernest,

I’m having trouble getting Linux to recognize my sound card even though I’ve recompiled the kernel five hundred times. I’ve checked the root level makefile to make sure all the right modules are linked in, and read through the entire million line kernel core dump just to see if I could figure out what was wrong—looking at it in binary, though, I did find pictures of Bill Gates, the Mandelbrot set, and evidence that completely rules out the single bullet theory. I’m trying to run a Disney sound source with Microsoft Linux, v. 3423. I’m at the end of my file, what do you suggest?

—Compa-stud

Dear Kevin,

First, you should tear out the sound card, put it in a small paper bag, and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Then, throw out the PC and buy a real computer, an SGI O2. Your problems should be solved.

GINGRICH: President?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

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Actually, it was a far, far better place that I have been to than I have ever been before. While there, I did a far, far better thing than I ever had done before, and I had a far, far better rest than I have ever known.

Dear Ernest,

I’m having trouble getting Linux to recognize my sound card even though I’ve recompiled the kernel five hundred times. I’ve checked the root level makefile to make sure all the right modules are linked in, and read through the entire million line kernel core dump just to see if I could figure out what was wrong—looking at it in binary, though, I did find pictures of Bill Gates, the Mandelbrot set, and evidence that completely rules out the single bullet theory. I’m trying to run a Disney sound source with Microsoft Linux, v. 3423. I’m at the end of my file, what do you suggest?

—Compa-stud

Dear Kevin,

First, you should tear out the sound card, put it in a small paper bag, and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Then, throw out the PC and buy a real computer, an SGI O2. Your problems should be solved.

GINGRICH: President?
A few days before Christmas I saw a car passing in the street, a woman at the wheel. I felt sad, I must say, that I was not there to help her. It came to me that she might have meant Boys in general but Caltech students in particular. That cut even closer to home. At least the Caltech decal was small and that was a relief. Maybe no one would notice the sticker on the left and wonder whether it had anything to do with the sticker on the right. Of course, may be I was being overcautious. It was not "Little Boys", it was Boys. Could the sticker have referred to a positive use of the word, such as our Boys in uniform, who, heroically serving the country, were perhaps not gentle and sweet, but appropriately tough? It is true that since the Crusades, when chivalrous knights suffered hero- ics left and right, war has often been claimed to be conducted in gentlemanly fashion, gentlymanly being defined as "what we do to correct, obviously deserved by the enemy." It is hard to conceive of anyone in the soldierly state as gentleman in spite of chivalry and respect for the rules of war. The sticker might have been inspired by such a train of thought, but somehow I did not think so. Boys, in the context of the bumper sticker, most likely meant inconspicuous brats, with no savoir faire and the brats were Caltech students. So, in fact, it was a very good thing that parking stickers as they are affixed to many bumpers are seen from a very oblique angle and can't be read, hopefully not even recognized, except by someone within the family.

But why was it that I took this comment as derogatory, rather than matter of fact? Was it not true after all,that many of us men manage to upset our spouses, girlfriends, acquaintances of the other sex or significant others at one time or other, being ungenerouslythe best of intentions, no harm meant? Besides, men do not have the monopoly for causing such problems. A better statement would have said that people have problems with other people, although the problems can easily be multiplied by sexuality, a fact we may want to deny, but is hard to disregard. So maybe the sticker was just a matter-of-fact statement, or maybe reflected a recent unpleasant personal experience.

I considered the possibility that the sticker was just meant to be humorous. It would have been great if I could have really believed that. Or if I could just have convinced myself that just the fact that it was a woman driving the sticker bearing car, did not mean she had a visceral negative reaction to boys. The car might have been borrowed, even stolen. The driver could have been a long haired man. Would I have reacted the same way if it had been a man at the wheel?

All of these ruminations were not getting me very far and I still wondered in any ways the unknown driver, I'll show my bias and say female driver, had become so disappointed. Was she a student who had been flattered at dinner time? Had she been offended by the sartorial or sanitary customs of (some) students? Had she become disillusioned because she was not treated as an equal? Was she upset because she felt that she was not appreciated for her brains, but for her sex?
On December 2 the Board of Control held the first in a series of open business meetings to discuss procedural concerns. The following topics were briefly discussed at the last meeting and an outline of what will be covered at the next meeting on Thursday, January 23.

The BoC recently published a report in the Tech that contained a fictitious abstract with some commentary and attendance statistics from the first 2 terms of the 1996-97 Board. Some discussion centered around whether the content of this report was truthful and relevant to the question at hand.

The BoC should be required to approve any product or any publication that is accurately attributed to the Board. The statement should be to discuss procedural concerns. The only real conceit of the movie is that the setting has been moved for many years to come. Branagh's influence is so great that fame and well-respected actors seem to be falling over themselves to appear in his movie; Richard Attenborough has one line, and John Gielgud shows up but doesn't even have a speaking part. Patrick Doyle's musical score is also occasionally intrusive. Taken as a whole, though, Hamlet is drama at its best, commanding attention yet very accessible. Weekend shows are still selling out early at Laemmle's Royal Theatre in West LA, where it's being presented in extra-sharp 70mm format.

FM 101.9 and 1260 AM

The word on the street is that FM 101.9, the "adult album alternative" station will be changing to an all-Spanish format within a month. I have no great love for this station, but I did like to tune in at times, because they're the only commercial station that seems to be a fictitious abstract with some commentary and attendance statistics from the first 2 terms of the 1996-97 Board. Some discussion centered around whether the content of this report was truthful and relevant to the question at hand.

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Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

If you are going to read mysteries, this is the place to start. Here are the deductions from cigarette ash, the impossible cases and the "elementary, my dear Watsons" that have become so famous.

While the stories are anything but realistic, Doyle makes the impossible plausible and, despite all of the parodies and criticisms, the stories are actually passably good. Of course, there is still plenty of suspension of disbelief, but if it was absolute realism that you wanted you wouldn’t be reading this book in the first place. The short stories are fast paced and straightforward. This collection includes Doyle’s forays into third person writing and stories told by Holmes himself, but neither style is anywhere near as good as those narrated by Dr. Watson.

The novels vary in quality. The Hound of the Baskervilles is, of course, the classic and A Study in Scarlet (in which Holmes and Watson make their first appearance) is good mostly as an introduction to the characters. It starts well, but phenomenally. I have found that it is impossible to read these books in chronological order, as just about every book that Jacques writes seems to be set in a different time. In fact, it makes more sense to read them in the order that they are written, as later books contain references to previous ones, even though they haven't happened yet. This said, I do think that it is better to read Mossflower first, as it is otherwise a bit of a letdown.

Redwall
By Brian Jacques

This is actually the first book of the Redwall series, though Mossflower precedes it chronologically. I have found that it is impossible to read these books in chronological order, as just about every book that Jacques writes seems to be set in a different time. In fact, it makes more sense to read them in the order that they are written, as later books contain references to previous ones, even though they haven’t happened yet. This said, I do think that it is better to read Mossflower first, as it is otherwise a bit of a letdown.

Redwall is set in Redwall Abbey, built and populated by mice, moles, squirrels, badgers, etc. (Don’t try to think too hard about relative sizes in this book, it will only confuse and discourage you.) The creatures live peacefully (and eat a lot) until they are attacked by a wandering horde of rats, ferrets, weasels, etc. A young mouse named Matthias rises as the leader against the invasion, various allies are found and a lot of killing is done. It’s fairly typical fair but nice light reading and the characters are well developed.

David Letterman’s New Book of Top Ten Lists and Wedding Dress Patterns for the Husky Bride
by David Letterman and the Late Show with David Letterman writers

I’m not sure that this really counts as a book. It has words and a cover and all but it’s pretty severely lacking in the way of plot. On the other hand, it’s pretty funny (#5 Thing Heard at an NBA Game: “Damn! Michael Jordan just quit to try professional hockey!”)

There actually are wedding dress patterns in the back of the book, but they’re on a 1” scale so they probably won’t do you much good unless your Barbie’s been putting on a few pounds lately.
Crime and Incident Beat

November 26th, 1996

Theft
Women's clothing, valued at $200, was taken from the dryer on the north wall of the laundry room in Dabney-Blacker basement.

November 29th, 1996

Theft
The front and rear tires of a car were stolen.

December 2nd, 1996

Theft
Track mountain bike seat, valued at $50, was taken from a bicycle parked on the south side of Muir Lab.

Theft
While on patrol, security heard a collision near Wilson and San Pasqual. Police confirmed north and saw west as the suspect back into a station wagon at the intersection of San Pasqual and Wilson. The suspect did not stop. The Pasadena Police Department was notified.

December 3rd

Theft
An unknown person took a claim slip belonging to the victim and retrieved a package containing cookies and a plane ticket valued at approximately $50. The Airline was notified of the theft.

Burglary
An Apple II keyboard valued at $149, two air line tickets valued at $935 and a Teleport Pkecnum Fax/Modem value unknown, were taken from West Bridge, room #59. Person reporting the incident noticed the items missing at 7:30 am on December 3, 1996. Person reporting also noticed the south window open. Pasadena Police Department notified.

December 7th, 1996

Theft
Red Merry mountain bike, valued at $300, was taken from the lobby area of 1170 Del Mar. At 3:00 am, the victim parked his bike in the lobby. Upon returning to the lobby at 10:00 am, discovered the bike missing.

December 8th, 1996

Suspicious Person
White, male 6', long brown hair, approximately 30 years old. At the time of the incident, subject was wearing a tan coat, light blue pants. Victim reported that the subject apparently spent the night in the back yard of his residence at 903 S. Hill.
Bjork may know that she should try to keep her marriage alive by having sex with other men and telling him about it. The movie was shot on a handheld camera, without theatrical lighting and in authentic settings rather than sets and then edited "on performance" with deliberate disregard for focus or framing. The entire film was then electronically touched of much of its color, perfectly portraying the bleak world Bess lives in. The strength of the story and the freedom Von Trier has allowed his actors work together to tell an extremely emotionally powerful story; film newcomer Emily Watson (as Bess) gives the best female performance of the year. This is on my very short list of the best films of the year.

Bjork, Telegram
Iceland's best export since cod has a new album with nine remixed songs from Post and one new tune. These are no cheesy no-thought "extended dance remixes, but complete rethinkings of the original songs, ranging from harsh industrial versions of "Possibly Maybe" and "Enjoy" to a highly creative and tuneful arrangement of "Hyperballad" by the Brodsby Quartet. Fans of Bjork may know she sees remixing as a real creative tool of musical exploration; in only two post-Sugarcube albums she's released ten songs as singles, each available in numerous versions. The mixes on Telegram are some of her best. The album is not a good introduction to Bjork, but if you have your courage you can check out Telegram.

Also Playing
Jerry Magazine
Tom Cruise showed us in Rain Man that he can act; here, he gets to do it again. Writer/director Cameron Crowe (Singles, Say Anything ) reminds us that it's impossible to make small, heartfelt romantic comedies. The supporting cast is great, too.

The Crucible: This movie version of the classic play about the Salem witch trials is, as expected, a fiery indictment of superstition and false allegations. Daniel Day-Lewis is perhaps a bit of a ham in this, but it's such a blood-boiling story that you can't blame him. There's nothing really new here if you've read the play, but it's still very effective. Emma: Gwyneth Paltrow shines in this delightful adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. The busy yet insightful Emma was transformed into Clueless in 1995; this straight adaptation is in limited release for the Oscar voters to remember it. Swingers: Aspiring actors hang out in bars and try to pick up chicks; one succeeds, one fails. Swingers has an elemental premise but the script is sharp and funny; you'll likely recognize yourself or people you know.
Cafétech is sponsoring a day Blood Drive which will be held in the Winest Student Learning Center on Wednesday, January 20th from 10:15am and 5:30pm. Please contact Vol. Zsuzsanna via e-mail at Volc@cad-tech.edu or at extension 6601 for an appointment. Walk-in's are also welcome.

The Caltech Jazz Band will perform on Friday, February 5th in the Student Center at 7:30pm. The band is made up of students and alumni who have an interest in performing jazz. The program will feature a variety of music styles and will conclude with a jam session. For more information contact student affairs at ext. 6652.

Dr. Morton Ghiathi, professor of uroono-obstetrics, will present a concert of his works on Friday, February 16th in the Cottrell Lecture, "Cardiac Fluid Dynamic: Versus the Heart." The lecture will be at 2pm in pint 506. Free admission. For more information contact ext. 6652.

Caltech Graduate Students are invited to participate in the Raul Aubry Scholarship program which is designed to provide financial assistance to graduate students. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15th, 1997.

Cafétech invites all Cafétech students to participate in "The Global Student Union - Cafe tech Undergraduates," at Cafétech at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 21st. We are in search of creative ways to serve our community. Many students are interested in becoming involved in the Cafe tech community and are looking for ways to participate. We welcome all students to join us as we discuss various ideas for involvement.

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