Opposable Bums: A word from the ASCIT President

BY KOHL GILL

Hi, there. I'm Kohl Gill, and I'm your new ASCIT President. You shouldn't be surprised, sein'n how I'm unopposed. Doesn't that make you feel all warm and really inside, knowing that the leader of your student body was the only schmuck willing to do the job? That bothers me like rain is the morning.

Hmm. Perhaps I began wrong. I actually am honored to be your president. Let's see... The Democrat's Guide on How to be People:

Step one: Act Sincere. Howdy! Let you'be the kind of person who reads more than the first couple paragraphs of a Tech article. Yeah, I thought so. You have opinions, too, about how things should be run around here, right? You've probably considered writing your opinions in the Tech on occasion, haven't you? My, you're quite the activist! But, wait! Have you thought about Student Government? No? Well, friend, do I have a deal for you!

Step two: Stoop down to their level.

But I don't know what ASCIT does? You should, considering you give them dues every term anyway. Check out the section in the little t, or (goodness, no!) skim the Bylaws. There are a lot of offices that need competent people, and sign-ups for most of them are posted on the window of Winnett.

But I don't have the time or energy for an office! What are you doing, taking classes? Sure, an office takes time and effort, but you'd be surprised how worthwhile one of these jobs can really be. Imagine the feeling of accomplishment you get when a party comes off just right (Director of Social Activites) or when you get the van back (Upperclassman-Director-at-Large) or when ASCIT survives another audit (Treasurer). You get to have an impact on (and power over) the entire undergraduate community.

To tell you the truth, I'm actually a lot more organized now than I was when I entered my first office. Think about it. But I'm already doing too much as it is! Now that really annoys me. Granted, there are those folks doing Y stuff, club stuff, and House stuff, and I respect them; I really do. But for every one of these guys, there's gotta be two or three people out there (especially in the bigger North Houses, where House offices have more competition), competent and willing, who have succumbed to the apathy of their peers. You know what? Apathy Sucks!

Step Three: Infect them with your emotions.

If you've read (or skimmed) this far, I commend you. I bet you're tired of your ranting. You know what I'm tired of? I'm tired of people complaining that ASCIT doesn't do enough for them, and then not offering any suggestions, or trying to change things themselves. I'm tired of hearing of Houses that discourage ASCIT involvement out of some twisted phobia of losing their competent leaders. I'm tired of the ASCIT President (and now, the V.P./BoC Chair) running unopposed (or virtually so). But I'm especially tired of walking by Winnett and seeing noone signed up for various rad, neatoo positions.

Come on, guys, sign up. If you lose, so what? If you win, you get to meet people from other Houses (God forbid!), get to know administrators and faculty (they're not all goblins), and get to bend this entire campus to your will! Well, I wasn't going to put this in, but you have a right to know: all the really stellar babes are in Student Government. Granted, they're out governing other schools, but that doesn't make the statement any less true.

Alright. I'm gonna stop writing now. If you want to talk to me about an office, or anything else, here's how to reach me:

kohl@cco
x1590
R 56
Sign up outside Winnett!

Natural Born Reality Check

BY RON DOLLETTE

"You've got to ask the right questions," said Stone in a talk at Caltech Wednesday night. "Who owns the world? Who owns the media? What does President mean? Where does the money go? Are you going live like slaves or like Spartans and deny the goddamn bastards victory over your soul?"

For a man whose name is nearly always said in the same breath as "conspiracy," Oliver Stone made it no secret that he thinks America is in trouble. In this talk, entitled "Film, Chaos, and Mass Deception," the world famous director, screenwriter, and producer analyzed American history since World War II and the roles politics and media play in our thoughts and society.

One of Stone's major foci in this lecture was the Vietnam War, in which he served for fifteen months in an infantry division (and for which he subsequently received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star). He described it as a rotten war and "a rotten war is lost by rotten politicians." Stone said the draft was too easy to dodge: if you could afford a college education, or even a trip to a doctor, you could evade the war. "If you're a forest of great trees, you've got to go to war, even the senators' sons." He added that the rich would then feel the pain of war, and change would be initiated. The Vietnam War, however, continued on for financial purposes, when it could have been resolved before Nixon even came into office.

By contrast, Stone describes how during subsequent visits to Vietnam, the Vietnamese didn't complain about MIA's and POW's the way that the Americans did; they've moved on. He says, though, that "we have a duty to remember to those who died for our country... Move on, but remember." Stone explored various aspects of the Vietnam War in films such as Born of the Fourth of July and Platoon. (Interestingly, Platoon was originally written in 1976, but was not produced).
Brown's factual assertions, and her judgment as to which gender issues are germane at Caltech, are at least among the most important factual points categorically. We all classify our acquaintances in a variety of ways, but it is untrue that the principal consideration of or evaluating applied to women by Caltech men is "babe versus bitch." The validity of her assertion that Caltech men usually speak of women in these terms (they don't) is less important than her implication that we think of women in these terms. It is unreasonable to assume that a multitude of individuals within an entire gender share the same perceptions, much less the same primary conditioned criterion for evaluating others. In fact, to whatever extent we do categorize each other, the individual classificatory schemes are far more sophisticated than Brown suggests, and certainly are not dominated by the puerile considerations she ascribes to the entity known as "Caltech men." Granted, all human males do notice traits like physical beauty, and such things do influence how we think about women. At the same time, there are enough other deceptions of femininity by which individual women invariably emerge as -- surprise! -- individuals, not "babes and bitches." The statement that "male students treat many of the women here like toys or sex objects" is fanciful in the extreme. Brown's statement is so contrary to my experience that it is difficult to attack -- how does one argue that the sky is blue, and not in fact chartreuse? To begin with -- and I hope that I will not offend my female friends by saying so -- there is little a priori temptation to treat a randomly-chosen建筑物or an object, a toy or a sex object. Although the women have a clever saying: "The odds are good, but the goods aren't."

If anything, the social climate generated by the skewed gender ratio leads to more gentlemanly behavior.

The California Tech

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oh, Please....

Dear Editors,

I would like to offer an alternative to Cherry Brown's representation of the status of female students at Caltech. Although the Tech's readership is primarily undergraduate, my object is not to communicate these opinions to my fel-lowers. Rather, I wish to add-descent, that the Caltech experience is different for women in our society by means of the skewed gender ratio; it is an important distinction. The behavior is clearly motivated by economics, not the inherent wickedness of men, the failure of our society, or even the sex of its inhabitants. It is simple matter of supply and demand.

Whereas women are clearly sought and are sometimes threatened, the men are more interested not in what they are, but in what they are capable of generating. To "sate" the sexual desire of Caltech men, as Brown put it. There is such a thing as loneliness and a single unaccomplished desire -- companionship. There is much that is unsatisfactory from a rational perspective, too. Probably, compared to the brightness of her personality, her quality, and attitude of the women here are prevalent.

The California Tech

August 4-8, Pasadena, CA 91105 (626) 395-1582 advertising: (626) 395-1584 editorial: (626) 395-1580

13 JANUARY 1997

VISA LOTTERY BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

The instructions for the 1998 U.S. State Department Diversity Visa Lottery have been announced. The dates for this year's lottery are from February 3 through March 5, 1997. Nationals of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, India, the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, Great Britain (except Northern Ireland), Poland, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, and Canada are not eligible for the program. To pick up a copy of the procedures on how to apply for this lottery, stop by the International Programs Office (Lloyd House, Olive Walk) if you are an international postdoc, professor, researcher, or staff member.

Bargain Finder Travel

A special service being offered to the Students of CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

World Travel Group, Inc.
1873 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 102
Pasadena, CA 91105
(818) 796-4448

Caltech must identify themselves and request the "Bargain Finder Desk"
Unacknowledged sexism needs to be addressed at Caltech

Dear Cherish,

After reading your article in the January 24 edition of the California Tech, I felt compelled to write about a personal experience and to the Caltech community at large.

First, I would like to commend you and tell you that young women such as yourself, and to my family and the Caltech community at large. I believe that you have the ability to teach us by example and to help us become a better community. However, on individual does not treat others with respect and human dignity, then it is our collective responsibility to inform that individual that they have not crossed the boundaries of acceptable human behavior. Our adults, especially those in the positions of role-models, have the responsibility of teaching others to be responsible for one's actions. The excuse is, "boys will be boys" or "they are going thru a stage" doesn't cut it.

The direction that our society as a whole is heading in is clearly one of total culpability for one's actions. We share his characteristics as well as our positive and negative qualities. We share his action's intelligence. I just finished reading Cherish's article and it feels truly great to thank you and high school. When I read Cherish Brown's article and it feels truly great to thank you and high school. When I read Cherish Brown's article and it feels truly great to thank you and high school.

Second, there are a couple people who said that men would never get away with printing what I did in the Tech. You're right: men could never get away with raping women or using derogatory terms, harrassed, and treated with general disrespect. They couldn't get away with it because it doesn't happen on nearly as grand a scale as it does for women. If you think that I was merely publishing offensive or "hate" literature against men, then you might want to check out some back issues of the Tech or the BFD. I have frequently seen things published by men which were offensive to women. On a final note, I'd like to say that I don't hate men. I have a wonderful husband (who just happen to help confront) and he has several good friends through political and other organizations who happen to be men. However, to some men and enlightened: they liked my article.

Cherish Brown

The Outside World

The commission, established by the country's past, offers to grant amnesty for conspirators.

SOFIA, Bulgaria — With a collapsing economy and threats of mass protests, the ruling Socialist Party has offered to meet with opposition leaders to plan an early parliamentary election. Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev stated, without a date for elections, "the chaos and power vacuum may cause a threat to civil peace."

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In response to a Freedom of Information request, the CIA revealed that it had taught security forces in five Latin American countries the techniques of mental torture. The instruction was formally stopped in 1985.

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The commission, established by the country's past, offers to grant amnesty for conspirators.
An Essay on the Orthography of the English Language as an Example of Spontaneous Order

The writing system of the English language is often denounced for its inconsistencies and complexities, particularly the lack of a direct connection between spelling and pronunciation. Some complexity I acknowledge, but I wish to present the beginnings of an argument that our orthography has evolved into a fairly robust and rational system for a problem other than exactly representing pronunciation.

First case: the "silent e" isn't. Most of you should know this already, but I'll go through it anyway. Although final e's aren't pronounced as such they do lengthen preceding vowels, a rather necessary task as we have 5 vowel symbols and 13 simple vowel sounds, although that includes the schwa which is sort of defined as the vowel English doesn't care about. Still, even the long/short dichotomy taught in grammar school (inadequate — can you come up with 3 values for 'a'? But then they still impose Latin syntax on our language) gives ten sounds, which five of which our alphabet doesn't include. tone/tun/rune/done/done/might seem an exception, with the save value as 'ton', but then try pronouncing 'don'. The vowel is still lengthened. Of course I would pronounce 'con' like 'don' but 'cone' like 'tone' — the vowel is still lengthened, but inconsistently somewhere.

Second case: some dialects drop 'r' or 'h' in many places. Should their writing conform to their pronunciation? I think most would agree that that would confuse them and us.

Asking for spelling to reflect phonetic pronunciation raises the question of whose pronunciation will be represented.

Asking for spelling to reflect phonetic pronunciation raises the question of whose pronunciation will be represented.

Using the rules of the dialect — rules often similar in form to other dialects, but with different irregularities, but not of English's complexity in fact solving a problem most people don't realize exists. A rather 'fair' solution, thus. However get the benefit of some relation between spelling and pronunciation, using variable rules for variable dialects, while having the same written language be a bridge between different dialects, unlike Chinese which uses an arbitrary set of ideograms, one for each word.

And then much of the remaining irregularity is not random, but encodes historical information, which may well be subject to more rules. Our French, Greek, and Italian imports are the biggies here. "philosopher" could be "philosfer", but would lose the handy etymological crutch — particularly considering how much of English's classical constructions get adopted by other languages, e.g. the Japanese and Russian words for a telephone are more or less "telephone". And conversely, knowing that "philosopher" is Greek in origin helps transcend the "f" sound properly. Similarly, one could gripe about having to memorize the odd spelling of 'shato' (actually, I want to pronounce that with a long 'a', 'woops') 'chateaux', and ask for it to be spelled 'shato', or one could remember that French sh is 'ch', 0 is 'eau', and that the word is French, thus spelling it with ease, except for the terminal 's' of 'Bordeaux', whose justification I am unfamiliar with.

Again, there are still flaws, but most of what is considered an insanely flawed structure is in fact quite powerful and useful for dealing with a multi-dialectal and history-rich language. Which becomes all the more impressive when one considers that not a jot of intelligence was ever applied to the overall design, except perhaps by multiple typesetters in Elizabethan England and Noah Webster. So much for the perils of anarchy.

On Drugs and Language

Doublepeak is here! "human remains pouches" for body bags. "collateral damage" for civilian casualties. "freedom fighters" for terrorist... We MINDSTALK on page 7

Caltech is a rigorous institution... Neither men nor women have much time to analytically categorize their peers as sexual objects.

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BEING BILINGUAL IS YOUR TICKET TO SUCCESS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

Interview with the world's top companies at the Pan-Asian Job Fair!

Feb. 7 - Feb. 8, 1997
South San Francisco Convention Center 200 South San Francisco, CA 94080
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Walk In Registration Accepted To register or get more information, contact: International Career Information, Inc. Phone: 1-800-859-8535 http://www.dci.com/acw

Pan-Asian Job Fair

being bilingual is your ticket to success. take advantage of it.

Men and Women, Struggle and Adversity

by STEVEN P. BENNET & ANDREW LAUCHARUS

Few statistical aspects of the undergraduate body as a whole pervade the social structure at Caltech further than the "ratio" of men to women. Although Caltech, as an institution, has made much progress toward its goal of diversifying the community, there is clearly much work to be done both in recruitment and in the attitude of our students. Nonetheless, Brown's article represents an unreasonable attack on Caltech men, both in the student body and in the administration.

United States history has shown us the adversity women face in many areas of society, and Brown has many good points concerning some attitudes among uneducated and ignorant men. Generalizing to all men at Caltech, however, is pousing the same reasoning that she condemns in her arguments. Her article opens with a sweeping generalization about male constructions concerning women at Caltech. Specifically she contends that Caltech men do not have the ability to consider women as equals, either intellectually or socially. Certainly this isn't a new idea — it is not without foundation, since it has been only recently that the "boys' club" of science has opened its doors to women. But young people in science, particularly at a place like Caltech are not the old men of 50 years ago. It is our belief that the kinds of male stereotypes purported by Brown (although certainly not nonexistent) are becoming less prominent at Caltech, and are neither defended nor condoned by administration.

Contrary to Brown's implication that only women prioritize studies at Caltech, most men are here to learn as well, not to "sexualize" the girls. In all honesty, Caltech is a rigorous institution, where most of an undergraduate's time is taken up by schoolwork and classes. Neither men nor women have much time to analytically categorize their peers as sexual objects or otherwise. We believe more undergraduates are concerned with surviving Caltech and learning from each other. With many female professors and teaching assistants involved in the lives of undergraduates, it would be difficult for any "maleマー" to justify a claim that women are nothing more than sexual objects, rather than learners in their fields. Gender issues certainly exist at Caltech as they do everywhere, but articles such as Brown's diminish rather than bring us together.

On several occasions Brown says she is waiting in the wings and the entire text argues that this sexist, objectifying, and obvious behavior is wrong, sometimes illegal, and that will not be tolerated at her university. Statements like this are simply not true, in that Caltech as well as collegiate institutions all over the United States have striven to create an environment free from discrimination, whether it be sexual orientation, gender as well as to instill fair treatment. Programs like Caltech Women's Center as well as the process for filing grievances show that Caltech has already shown its belief that behavior is wrong and unacceptable.

Potentially the most disturbing part of last week's article is Brown's accusation that house officers, faculty, and administrators act done events supposedly taken place without warrant, and is unfair, especially since the readership of the New York Times extends to trustees, administration, alumni, and parents. As former House President, I can attest to the commitment of myself and all my colleagues to the defense of the interests of all undergraduates, not just those in particular Houses, and certainly not those of a particular gender. Undergraduate leadership reflects this in my four years as a student I have seen female ASCIT presidents, female presidents of sororities, BoC chairs, and numer­ous other campus-wide positions. Clearly the Caltech electorate feels that women have a right to be considered and treated as equals also to lead. Brown also accuses women at Caltech of "allowing" this stereotype to continue. Activists oppose these stereotypes do not have to include writing myopic articles for the Tech. In fact, as an article such as this is not likely...
Dean's Corner

The Honor in the System

by Jean-Paul Revel

guarded college student who acted as his "nurse" during the holidays. His defense of this student is the only part of the movie that I remembered, and the ex-military man's renewed olfactory interests in life left no mark at all.

My wife chided: "You were never good at Integrals; there are many aspects to this story that you have to take into account." Yes, it was true, I only remembered the part about the Honor System. The student stands wrongly accused of carrying out a particularly audacious prank at school, because he refuses to identify the true pranksters. While the pressure on him mounts more and more, he cannot bring himself to snitch even at his own detriment.

I guess this is the place where I too have serious problems with the Honor System. Nullification of advantages gained in an unfair fashion, and protection of the community against a recurrence are civilized and just ways of dealing with the problems that arise. But to set the machinery in motion someone has to suspect wrongdoing, someone has to call attention to a breach of procedures. Whoever is cheating is doing something dishonorable, but that does not make it easy to tell on them.

In the movie there is an impassioned plea and strong praise for the student who by his willingness to risk his own better interests, protects the identity of the perpetrators. He is extolled as being the incarnate image of the honor code. But that is not the Honor Code we live by. The hero, had he been at Caltech, would in fact have been breaking the code himself.

The little t of '46-47 says that "Tech's most sacred tradition, allows all examinations to be conducted without faculty supervision. It allows the student to leave his belongings anywhere on the campus with safety. It allows dealings to proceed between faculty and students with absolute confidence in the student's honesty." Well and good if the rules are not disobeyed. But, if they are disobeyed, one is left with the ethical problem of having to tell on friends or acquaintances.

Is it not curious while deploring the behavior of people in other societies who were encouraged to tell on each other to the part we miserably have built a system where in fact we have to do the same thing? We explore snitches, stool pigeons, moles (of course, I am not referring to M. Blacker: them, we approve of!). Yet, unless breaches of the norms of conduct are brought to the attention of those responsible to enforce them, the rules won't get enforced.

If crimes are not reported, the Honor Code turns into a hollow facade. It is bad if students do not report the untoward things that they see. It is also bad if professors feel that it serves no purpose for them to convey suspicions of cheating to the BoC because no punishment seems to follow. So for our Honor Code to work, for our BoC to act, someone has to report suspected misdeeds, someone has to accuse.

One account that I have mentioned before explains that in an in-class exam, if one student observes another doing something he thinks inappropriate, he is to stand and cry out "Honor Code Violation" without pointing out who is cheating.

Dean's Corner

The Honor in the System

by Jean-Paul Revel

Recently I saw the rerun of a movie on TV. It was called Some of Us Woman, and had made an impact when it came out a few years ago, but I had not seen before. I expected a sweet, romantic movie which my wife and I would watch quietly by a rainy fire, while the promised downpour would materialize outside. Warm and snug and cozy, a perfect way to ease into the New Year. Except that, as I remember, the movie was not at all what I thought it was about.

The title was only just a come-on, to bring the suckers into the theater. Actually that's happier days and had decided to leave his belongings anywhere, where I too have serious problems with the Honor System. Nullification of advantages gained in an unfair fashion, and protection of the community against a recurrence are civilized and just ways of dealing with the problems that arise. But to set the machinery in motion someone has to suspect wrongdoing, someone has to call attention to a breach of procedures. Whoever is cheating is doing something dishonorable, but that does not make it easy to tell on them.

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If crimes are not reported, the Honor Code turns into a hollow facade. It is bad if students do not report the untoward things that they see. It is also bad if professors feel that it serves no purpose for them to convey suspicions of cheating to the BoC because no punishment seems to follow. So for our Honor Code to work, for our BoC to act, someone has to report suspected misdeeds, someone has to accuse.

One account that I have mentioned before explains that in an in-class exam, if one student observes another doing something he thinks inappropriate, he is to stand and cry out "Honor Code Violation" without pointing out who is cheating.
Caltech Y activities got off to a good start this term: we've hosted several noon concerts, as well as presenting the Martin Luther King day festivities here on campus. We're putting together many new and different activities, so watch for more Y stuff this term. Of course, we're continuing our present programs; there will be more Saturday Y Hikes and mountain biking trips this term, so if you're interested stop by the Y for more information. We'll be holding Mini- Decompression next Saturday, Feb. 8; this term's mini-decompression will be bigger and better, so mark it on your calendars. There will also be another installment of the ever-popular Caltech Y Bofoo Bonecrusher Broomball later this term, so start honing your ice skills.

As always, if you're interested in volunteering in some of the community programs the Y participates in (remember, work-study students get paid!) or want more information about any of the Y's programs, stop by the Y. If you want more info on any of the Y's programs but don't have time to stop by, call Chris at x6163. He's also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at sundbergc@starbase1.

**ASCIT Minutes**

May 20, 1996

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/16/97
Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Kohl, Emily, Kara:
Meeting starts at 10:14 p.m.

Officers' Reports
- Emily said that the houses that are planning trips to Star Wars will not be subsidized by ASCIT. Installations are at the end of February and hopefully at the MOSH's.
- Kohl happily declared two of the three committees for the Student-Faculty Conference are established: 1) Honor System and 2) Student Life. Printed copies of the CLUE will be available soon.
- Dave Bacon got a request from SAFCOM for the ASCIT BoD to respond to certain ideas voiced by the students. The BoD replied.

Maria said that the Open Business Meeting went well. Another bylaw change is going to come up in about a week.
- Dave R., Heidi, Kristie and Andrew talked with the person that ASCIT would like to have as their bookkeeper. She's mulling it over.
- Meeting adjourned 10:59 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/12/97
Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Kohl, Emily, Kara, Wes:
Meeting starts at 10:08 p.m.

- Andy said that the publications area will be consolidated in about a month's time.

Officers' Reports
- Kara wanted Fleming's interhouse money. The UROH is a third done.
- Alexis bought legal sized paper for the copier. Copier account request sheets are out.

- Kohl says that the Student-Faculty Conference Committees will be formed this weekend. It will be an open meeting. The place is yet to be determined.

- Kristie says ASCIT will not be in debt. Clubs, come get your money for this term. Sign up for Treasurer.

- Dave brought up the idea of hiring a bookkeeper. ASCIT decided if they can afford a bookkeeper, they'll hire one 7-0-0.

- Emily e-mailed Bill Penn.
Meeting adjourned 10:45 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 1/9/97
Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Kohl, Alexis, Kara:
Meeting starts at 10:20 p.m.

Officers' Reports
- Kara says that the UROH is getting along. She's getting suggestions.

- Kohl is going to advertise the CLUE beginning of next term. He went to the Faculty Board meeting.

- Maria is having another Open Business Meeting early second term. Topics of discussion are nullification and unanimous decision. She also recommended a change to the ASCIT bylaws. It passed 7-0-0.

- Maria said that the Open Business meeting will be early the week of the 20th.
Meeting adjourned 10:31 p.m.

Official ASCIT minutes of 12/5/96
Present: Dave R., Maria, Grace, Kristie, Dave B., Kohl, Emily, Kara, Wes:
Meeting starts at 9:47 p.m.

- Wes came to request ASCIT funding for a CCF square-dance. He requested $150 for a caller. ASCIT voted to give Wes $100.75 for the event 7-0-0.

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The Fallen Man
by Tony Hillerman

My only complaint about Hillerman's writing, from reading his earliest books, was that they were more action than mystery. However, in this latest novel he seems to have moved past that and given an authentic murder mystery. There is certainly action here, but the author has learned some moderation and how to provide fair clues for the murderer. The book features both Hillerman's detectives, Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. Leaphorn is now retired from the Navajo police, where Chee has been promoted to acting Lieutenant.

The story is set on a reservation in New Mexico and begins with the discovery of a skeleton on rock ledge. It is connected with a missing person and the family hires Leaphorn to find out what happened. Chee's personal life and his hunt for cattle rustlers provide the sub-plots. Altogether it's a very well crafted book, containing and hard to put down. It contains quite a bit of description of Navajo culture and reasons why they are suppose to white people, ironic since Hillerman himself is white. For that reason and the fact that I don't know what real Navajo think of his writing, I am wary of Hillerman's analysis. Still, this is really a minor part of what is basically a good read.

The New Yorker Book of Ca Cartoons
by Various Contributors

A tiny (4"x5") book collecting the best cat cartoons that have run in the New Yorker over years. Some are divineely ("I've never seen him paint next to anyone longer") others funny in their absurdity and cat playing with a ball of yarn gets so tangled up that he is just plain weird (a woman standing behind three irresistible cuts with the names listed below like a yearbook pictue. You have to have or know anyone to really appreciate this book.

**FEATURES**

**A Wonderful Work of Art**
by Daisy James

- Slightly imperfect
- Pretty darrn good
- Decent
- Bad
- Birdcage liner

**Birdcage liner**

by Bradey Honsinger

- A Wonderful Work of Art

- Off-schedule}

- Slightly imperfect
- Pretty darrn good
- Decent
- Bad
- Birdcage liner

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by Tony Hillerman

My only complaint about Hillerman's writing, from reading his earliest books, was that they were more action than mystery. However, in this latest novel he seems to have moved past that and given an authentic murder mystery. There is certainly action here, but the author has learned some moderation and how to provide fair clues for the murderer. The book features both Hillerman's detectives, Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. Leaphorn is now retired from the Navajo police, where Chee has been promoted to acting Lieutenant.

The story is set on a reservation in New Mexico and begins with the discovery of a skeleton on rock ledge. It is connected with a missing person and the family hires Leaphorn to find out what happened. Chee's personal life and his hunt for cattle rustlers provide the sub-plots. Altogether it's a very well crafted book, containing and hard to put down. It contains quite a bit of description of Navajo culture and reasons why they are suppose to white people, ironic since Hillerman himself is white. For that reason and the fact that I don't know what real Navajo think of his writing, I am wary of Hillerman's analysis. Still, this is really a minor part of what is basically a good read.

The New Yorker Book of Ca Cartoons
by Various Contributors

A tiny (4"x5") book collecting the best cat cartoons that have run in the New Yorker over years. Some are divineely ("I've never seen him paint next to anyone longer") others funny in their absurdity and cat playing with a ball of yarn gets so tangled up that he is just plain weird (a woman standing behind three irresistible cuts with the names listed below like a yearbook pictue. You have to have or know anyone to really appreciate this book.

**FEATURES**

**A Wonderful Work of Art**
by Daisy James

- Slightly imperfect
- Pretty darrn good
- Decent
- Bad
- Birdcage liner

**Birdcage liner**

by Bradey Honsinger

- A Wonderful Work of Art

- Off-schedule
I suspect the answer will be "yes," the only difference is in the drugs, but these are really bad drugs." Which won't add to the question of why we should expect Prohibition to succeed this time — arguably the more addictive the drug, the harder it is to eradicate, and why are there drugs in prisons? — and invites discussion of the effects of the drugs themselves. Illegality is a fairly recent phenomenon, were drugs made illegal to save society from an epidemic of abuse at the time? We seem to have survived a long time without worrying about the question.

Guerrillas in the Mist

Actually while my list above was accurate in usage, it reflected a common confusion of concepts. 'Guerrilla' is best applied to unconventional military operations, employing 'hit and fade' attacks; 'terrorist' to attempts to induce random terror in a population. The two are independent terms. An established government can be quite terrorist in practice, and a guerrilla movement with well-defined targets (and good aim) need not induce widespread terror. But bombing an enemy capital with an air force is normal warfare, while systematically shooting only legislators would probably be called terrorism.

(Credit to an Economist article for ideas.)
“One Flame a Week - My Promise To You.”

The Age of Excuses.

Somewhere around six weeks ago, I had occasion to watch an episode of Dateline NBC. The subject of the episode was the story of a man who had been trying over and over to obtain his certification to teach in California’s public education system — but kept failing the math section of the exam.

Like all people who fail in a given endeavor, he was faced with a choice. He could either 1) admit he failed or 2) pass the buck. Of course, the story was over his allegations that the test was ‘culturally biased.’ You see, this man was black, and felt that the math portion of the exam unfairly discriminated against blacks.

Now, I’d seen a similar argument made against the written portion of such exams, claiming a Euro-centric bias in the works covered. This sort of argument merely made me scoff at what lengths people would go to in order to avoid admitting their own incompetence.

This man’s claim, however, actually left me with a strong desire to grab hold of the nearest garbage can and vomit into it. He’d taken the test over thirty times, and in thin attempts had failed to demonstrate even a passing proficiency in high school level mathematics. They made the test available on Dateline’s web page, so I took a look at it. The math section was actually somewhat easier than the math section of the S.A.T. Instead of his simply being a moron, however, he chose to pin his failure on the test itself.

The “white man’s math”... what a silly concept. The simple fact of the matter is that the man did not know the mathematics well enough to qualify to teach to other students. Suppose we changed the test, and he passed? Then he would immediately go to work teaching his impressive knowledge of non-cultural biased mathematics to our children. Whoop-de-do.

The bottom line was that he should look to a greater length to develop how hard he tried to prepare for the exam. You know I really hate to be the one to break it to people, but if someone tries really hard and still fails an extremely basic test THIRTY TIMES, the word for the person is not ‘oppressed’, as claimed, it’s ‘stupid.’

Yes, stupid. Not ‘ill prepared’, or ‘not quite ready’ - Stupid. S-T-U-P-I-D. For one reason or another, the man simply lacks the mental capacity necessary to be a teacher. Tough break, but my sympathy for him does not extend to the point that I will allowances my children’s education to another person’s else’ to look to him for as the source of their own learn.

I must confess, however, that I honestly wonder whether he had hired a tutor instead of a lawyer he might have passed it in the first thirty-three times he spoke at length in the episode about the shortage of black mathematicians, and suggest it was a cause for lower math scores among blacks.

You know, if I insisted that my children could not learn from a black teacher, I’d likely be branded a racist. This guy claims black children can’t learn math from white teachers, however, and they put him on TV.

The interviewer for Date­line dutifully interviewed a group of minority children, who agreed with the “educator” in the show who kept bashing the math test. As one of them so succinctly put it, “How’s he gonna teach me what I got to know he’s been where I been?”

It’s easy. He teaches you the math, instead of trying to understand your home life. In turn, you learn the math, instead of complaining that he doesn’t under­stand your culture.

People these days have it easy. There’s any number of new mainstream excuses for your failure. If you’re a minority, and stupid, the choice is clear - cultural bias. That must be how he went to a job college of your choice, right? If you’re white, and stupid, try affirmative action. That must be how he got into the col­lege/job of your choice, right? If it’s your child that is stupid, and not you, I suggest Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Or, if your child is not stupid but you, try hyperactivity to explain why you are so useless as a parent. Maybe you’re a moron? What a silly concept.

Or, you’re a woman? Must be genetics that explains your grotesque appearance, not the cheesecake on your plate.

If you’re not stupid, however, then just shut up and learn the math. Then, teach it to your children. Why do you have to teach it to them, instead of leaving it to the teachers? Because that man finally did pass the test, and would have been unfairly hired as an as­sistant principal.

It really is that simple.

“Cyrano: So, this is your re­venge? Compte de Guiche: Take it to mean I serve your King, and vent my spleen.”

—Rostand
STONE speaks on media

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

until 1986, when a British company finally decided to do the movie. No American studio ever attempted it.

The underlying of the lecture revolved around Stone and his conflicts with the media. As one can imagine, his reputation as the man with a conspiracy theory has ruined his credibility. He insists that he is not a liar, and it's better to be "hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not." He deplores how corruption the media has become, and how corrupt the American population has become because of its obsession with the media. "If you have a deep voice and look good on TV, you can sell anything," he said, referring to CBS anchor Walter Cronkite. Stone reflected on how America has poured itself into sensationalism, warning us that there are two things that need to be divorced from the media and politics. He called the current state of the media "all the news that's fit to thrill."

In direct response to this disgust with the media, Stone released the film, Natural Born Killers, which he describes as a complete media regurgitation. "It was done in the spirit of throwing up." In the film, he targets the American landscape of the 1990's where TV is swamped with such events as two stupid ice-skaters, or O.J. Simpson, or the Menendez brothers.

He summarizes the chaos by saying that TV and the dollar bill have corrupted us. In fact, Natural Born Killers drew a lot of fire from conservative Bob Dole, who stated that Hollywood was killing people while opposing a ban on assault rifles. Stone reminded us that weapons kill people, not movies.

As far as his conspiracy theories go (such as Kennedy's assassination), he says that they exist in great quantities, and cites examples such as Caesar and Popes and kings, and all men of power. "When you get it, people want it... Why not JFK?"

Stone's outlook for our future is bleak. He's afraid that conformity has already set in, and that issues are set by the media. Even arguing must be done within the paradigm that the media delivers. His latest film, The People Vs. Larry Flint, showed how even one's right to speak is limited. Commenting on America's aggressive culture, he says "It drives people fucking bananas." His advice, essentially, is to choose your own path and act accordingly despite the opposition. Stone follows a quote from Dante: "In times of crisis, those who are neutral are condemned to hell."

...it's better to be "hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

...it's better to be "hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

EINSTEIN BECAME ELECTED TO THE POSITION OF SUPREME RULER OF EARTH.

I VOTE FOR MYSELF MANY TIMES.

I HOPE YOU'LL BE A BENIGN RULE.

I THINK I'LL JUST KEEP AN EYEBALL ON THE EVENT.

SWEETS WITH THE MOSH AT STEELE HOUSE

355 S. Holliston

Wednesday, February 12, 1997
9 - 11pm

Come Early

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Come Early

All the planets spin west to east, except one. Why does it spin in the opposite direction?

-Michael Dole

Covina, CA

You're undoubtedly thinking of Venus as the planet that spins east to west. In other words, if you arrived on Venus in the morning, the sun would be in the west and would set in the east. The only thing is that it would set about four Earth-months later! That's because a day on Venus lasts for 243 of our Earth-days.

Actually, you should probably add Uranus to your list of planets in retrograde (or "backward") rotation, because it is tipped more than 90 degrees from the sun. Because fairly big bodies were going gobbled up by the planets that we observe today, the inclinations of the axes as well as the spin rates are probably relics of these collisions. Both Venus and Uranus originally rotated from west to east, just like the other planets, and then flipped over. Perhaps the collisions of other bodies with these two planets flipped them over permanently. In the case of Venus, the tidal effect of the sun's gravity also undoubtedly had a profound effect.

-Peter Goldreich

Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Physics at Caltech.

WOMEN: A response

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to foster the changes that Brown is anxious to see.

Her examples of women being forced to "tolerate or accept sexist behavior" are both flawed. In the first example, she uses the viewpoint of one individual to generalize to all men and society in general. I think very few people would hold that point of view, namely that Jon Benet deserved to be sexually assaulted. If the perpetrator were caught, he would be prosecuted for sexual assault and murder, and he could never convince any jury that a six-year-old girl was "asking for it."

"Even in gorilla clans, a male gorilla who attempts intercourse with an unwilling female is punished by the entire group." If this is being used to say that modern society is primitive in comparison to gorilla society, then it is a failure. Is Brown claiming that modern human culture does not condemn rape as a crime?

Throughout our history as a nation, the people and leadership of the United States have struggled with the question of equality. From apportionment of voting districts through the civil rights movements for both ethnic minorities and women, we see that problems are indeed present, but also that people have a commitment to seeking solutions. The key to solving problems of inequality is to work together towards common goals. Clearly it is important to address problems that women face, especially in science where women have historically been at a disadvantage. But the way this must be done is through cooperation, and hard work, not by reversing the same unproductive and closed-minded stereotypes on the other gender. Brown has many valid points about the perception of women in society, but her cause would be better served without an angry assault on the male gender, or Caltech men specifically.
"D. E. Shaw is the most technologically sophisticated firm on the Street." —Fortune

D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. is a small (around 400 employees), highly capitalized (over 800 million dollars in equity capital), very successful Wall Street firm specializing in various aspects of the intersection between technology and finance. We are now aggressively seeking exceptional candidates in a variety of fields for positions in our offices in New York, Boston, London, Tokyo, and Hyderabad, and are prepared to compensate highly talented individuals at a level exceeding that of the market.

D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. is an equal opportunity employer.

We're recruiting at CalTech:

On-campus information session:
February 17, 4 pm in Room 13 of the Student Activities Center

Off-campus interviews:
February 18
Submit resumes by February 10 to oncampus@deshaw.com or (212) 403-8499 (facsimile)
Mints

denotes a new announcement.

All graduate and undergraduate students are invited to attend the annual University and College Student Essay Contest. This year's topic is "The Inflowing \n
Sill on Sunday, February 9th, at Caltech students is for appearances from Bill Frenzer, who will be performing at Beckman Auditorium, served following the seminar. For further looking giving a John Michael Bishop, M.D. Professor, Against Infectious Disease on Thursday.

12

The first movie to screen in the German LAEMMLE THEATRES Suite.

5.00. The price for tickets available for Caltech students at the Desk of the Pacific Union, 708 E. Colorado Blvd. (No passes or discount tickets.)

1997.

The California Tech