Student-faculty conference: focus on Student Life Committee

by Erik Stiess

Editor's Note: Last week was pretty busy between prefresh weekend and the Earth Day festivities. Since the prefresh were here, the Tech editors felt that it would be better to hold off coverage of the student-faculty conference until this week. Many sensitive issues that needed to be addressed were brought up. Extensive coverage of these could unfairly bias prospective students against attending Caltech by presenting a skewed view and highlighting known problems out of proportion. Even so, we, the editors feel that the student-faculty conference should be covered in depth to reach the many of you who didn't attend. Please respond with your comments and suggestions to editors@tech.caltech.edu.

Beginning after lunch, the student life committee had the highest attendance of the day. However, undergraduate turnout was still less than average day in B1, which is also held in Roosevelt Lecture Hall. Attendance, only a handful of faculty members and relevant staff were present. Conspicuously absent was Kim West, Director of Residence Life, for whom student life is a daily concern.

Strangely the committee dedicated to student life had the fewest number of undergraduates on it (Christie Edwards and Jim Halberstam) who did not appear to be an accurate representation of the undergraduate population. An agenda for the session started out with broader topics such as internal communications and advising for both the undergraduate and graduate communities. Hot subjects such as the failure of Avery's house, drug and alcohol policy at Caltech (DAPFC), and dying traditions such as the Senior's Dance were brought up. The afternoon started out with a discussion on communication within the Caltech community. Questions about the existence of a Weekly Calendar and Ombudsman's office were raised by students who did not know where they were. It was generally concluded that the creation of a single comprehensive listing/database of Caltech personnel and the potentially useful skills they possess would be a good thing.

Discussion then progressed to the current advising system for undergraduates and graduates students. A need was expressed that the current advising system is outdated and change should be looked into. Dean Jean Paul Revel expressed his frustration with the syndrome of secretaries signing yellow add drop cards in place of consultations with professors about course change decisions. Several students felt that the need to have an advisor (or a secretary) was superfluous and thought that they were responsible enough to select classes for themselves. Students with poor and good advising experiences testified about the current system. The overloaded advising schedule of professors in the Engineering and Applied Sciences division cited as a particular source of concern.

After these two moderately peaceful sections the issue of Avery arose. If Avery was to become the center of the Caltech Community it has so far failed in its mission. A round of laughter followed the expression of this purpose for Avery. While Avery clearly has better food then any other board option currently available to the undergraduate population, its dining hall is not designed to host large influxes from the seven houses. This led to a joint Blacker House/Avery dinner being cancelled at the last minute earlier this year. Several Avery policies cited by undergraduates as being contradictory to effective student involvement, interest, and growth included no cuts, trials, or suspension. There are all staples of undergraduate life in most of the seven houses. A major binding force in the existing houses are warden dinners that lack of interest in warded dinners killed them at Avery. Transfer student Dusan Mitrev identified possible sources of Avery's inactivity in stating, "Who went to Avery? People who got kicked out of their major were interested in getting out of their life is responsible enough to select classes for themselves. Students with poor and good advising experiences testified about the current system. The overloaded advising schedule of professors in the Engineering and Applied Sciences division cited as a particular source of concern.

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Rules are necessary for a civil society

By JOHN W. HAYFIELD

In Mr. Stevens's article, he mentions what he sees as the government continuing to encroach on our rights as individuals. Although I must agree that taxes are much higher than they need or should be, the idea of ridding ourselves of ideas such as eminent domain and zoning rights in pursuit of greater personal freedom is a very uninformed one.

The original impetus for forming government was that the government would take away some of our rights, but in return would protect us, our possessions, and the public at large.

Before government, we lived in a state of complete "freedom," in which we could do anything we wanted to. However, people formed government, giving up some of those rights, in order for protection and the advancement of the general good.

The government's use of zoning laws and eminent domain are a definite example of where the people should give up their rights in order to promote the common good. We give up our right to drive at 120 mph in order to promote the greater good of not getting killed on the highways. There are many other examples of laws that are made in order to let us lead much less dangerous lives in order to give up a bit of our freedom.

Eminent domain is one such example. Eminent domain refers to the government's practice of forcing people to sell their land so the government can build important infrastructure, such as interstates and airports.

Although it might be a bit of an inconvenience for the people who must move to make way for progress, it is better for a society as a whole. The people generally get paid a bit more than actual market value anyway.

Imagine trying to get Caltech from LAX if no freeways existed. For that matter, LAX would be out in the middle of the desert, since to build the airport and expand it the right of eminent domain would probably been used.

Zoning laws are yet another example of government telling people what to do with their land for the greater good. Due to the fact that the monarchs in my country back home refused to vote for zoning laws, I have a gravel pit in my backyard.

Zoning laws are instrumental in keeping up property values and ensuring that neighborhoods will not have heavy industrial factories or porn shops suddenly show up in their midst. We need laws to protect the individual, but we also need laws to protect society as a whole.

In conclusion, laws that restrict the individual are accepted, even if they promote the greater good of society. This does not mean I support more government intervention in life. The differences between my views and those of Mr. Stevens, thus, can be best characterized as follows: he believes that the fundamental rights of the individual are just that: fundamental and God-given, and that government should not be able to transgress them, no matter what the cost. I, on the other hand, see the protection of our freedoms as necessary part of an advancing society.

The reason we should have such rights is, in the first place, to begin the assembly jury trial, etc. in that we are best for society and will lead to a better society for all of us in the future.

The principle of private property in jeopardy

By NEIL STEVENS

Ever since the first person was punished for stealing, government has protected our right to property. But, this trend is changing.

With the inception of income tax, eminent domain, and "sacrifice," it seems that our government, with no opposition from the people, is trying to take our property from us, instead of keeping others from making off with it.

Public opinion is starting to shift this way, too. No, there was no mass support for the IRS this past tax day, but look at Bob Dole's loan to Speaker Gingrich. CNN-Time polls show that a majority of Americans feel that Dole's loan is wrong.

Why is that? I don't quite understand. The way I see it, Dole is a private citizen, and he is choosing to loan money to another citizen. Who are the public, the government, or a bunch of bankers in New York to say whether some Kansan has the right to loan his own money as he chooses?

The public also takes for granted basic services. The last time you traveled down a freeway, did you think about where the land came from? Well, I did. Whenever the government decides that it wants your land, it "buys it from you at 'market' value." I place market in quotes because a market implies free choice, which a citizen lacks in claims of eminent domain. Where's the outcry?

What about taxes? Estate taxes of 50%, income taxes of 38%, and more, all enforced by an independent set of tax courts, subject to different standards than traditional civil and criminal law. There is staggering potential here for the unilateral confiscation of property, under the auspices of an audit, with little recourse for the citizen.

Apathy must end. Politics in this country used to be an integral part of life, an interesting diversion from the day-to-day grind. Issues mattered, and parties were responsible to the people. Many a party in this country has faded in the past, but the modern Republicans and Democrats are entrenching themselves endlessly. And, with this party entrenchment comes government entrenchment.

Only citizens can change anything, and we must. Otherwise, more of us will lose our free choice, our homes, or our savings.

SUMMER WORK-STUDY APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Information and applications for 1997 Summer Work-Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work-Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 2, 1997. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 2 to be considered if awarded, the work-study funding will begin July 14, 1997.

1997-98 UPPER CLASS MERIT AWARDS

Each year, the Faculty Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid grants a number of Upper Class Merit Awards to the most academically talented of the Institute's Sophomores, Juniors, and occasionally, Freshmen. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional performance in formal classes and/or in independent research and not on financial need. Last year, the Committee recommended a total of 46 Upper Class Merit Awards. Awards ranged from $6,000 to full tuition, $18,000. The level of awards in any year is determined by the number and caliber of the applicants.

Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office at 515 S. Wilson. The DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IS 5:00 PM ON APRIL 25, 1997.
In Time, a poll was cited that claimed 51% of people said Dole's gift was inappropriate, and 58% said Gingrich should leave office. I am highly skeptical that 50% of the people polled even knew what actions of Gingrich's caused this ruckus in the first place.

Social Psychology (wooo hoo) has something to say about this. When people have insufficient information, they look to others as a source of knowledge. This works pretty well in a lot of situations, but not in politics. There will always be more political cartoonists and comedians than real leaders. Money talks, people say — you are listening to Dole's $300,000 shout of confusion.

This doesn't mean that because he's old and rich you have to agree with him. It does mean that a life-time of service and $300,000 should not be discounted as merely "party-political." He might be right, he might be wrong. Of course, none of us can hope to have his knowledge of the situations, or look to someone else who does. What does your Congressman think of the situation? Do you even know? Try a more visible figure, like the President.

Oh, wait a minute, that's right. He didn't say anything insightful about it did he? No, he just complained about college costs. Good way to avoid giving an informative answer — after all, people disagree with informative answers some of the time.

The situation is analogous, as so many things are, to a Simpsons episode. In one, groundkeeper Willie saves Homer's reputation with a videotape of a conversation, and later vilified on a Hard Copy spoof for his videotaping ways. When Marge reminds Homer that Willie saved them, Homer remarks, "But Marge, he has to be evil. Listen to the background music!

I used to think that the current cynicism in government is the direct result of a lack of leadership. Turns out it's not, though. It's a lack of emphasis on leadership. There are leaders within government, but nearly everyone enjoys a good joke more than they enjoy a political thought. As long as this is true, mass media will continue to reflect that trend and we will continue to elect comedians instead of leaders to the Presidency.

It really is that simple. "Cynical, So is this your revenge? Comique de Guerre: Take this to mean that I love my King and vent my spleen." — Rostand

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

Gramsh, Albania — Ricotta located government storehouses of weapons last month, capturing hundreds of thousands of AK-47 assault rifles. Locals are now smuggling them to Albanians living in nearby Macedonia, who are sending them to unknown destinations.

Algeria, Algeria — Islamic rebels attacked a village near Algiers, savagely killing 93 people. Since 1992, when the Government canceled an election in which the Muslims were likely to win, Government and rebel assaults have killed over 60,000 people.

Lima, Peru — A government assault on the Japanese embassy in Peru succeeded in freeing the 71 remaining refugees who had been held there for over four months. All of the terrorists and one hostage were killed.

Moscow, Russia

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Jiang Zemin of China agreed to work together to limit American influence in world politics. Although not explicit referring to the United States, they stated, "No country should seek hegemony, practice power politics, or monopolize international affairs."

Los Angeles — Breaking a world record, a woman aged 63 gave birth to a healthy baby, raising questions about age limits on pregnancy. She had become pregnant using an egg donated from a much younger woman.

Washington, D.C. — A ban on poison gas weapons may succeed in passing the Senate after Bob Dole announced his approval. The US is now the country in the group not to have signed the pact.
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SATELLITE JTC
Saturday April 26 at the Pasadena Holiday Inn
Two sessions 9:30a - 11:30a / 1:30 - 3:30

THE CALIFORNIA TECH JOURNAL

APRIL 21, 1997

Minutes
Meeting opened at 22:38 by Kohl.
BoD members present: Kohl, Gill, Maria Sattinweber, Lin, Lin, Hsu, Max Westcoat, Administrative Officer, Shekir, Beck, Balder, Sadhu.

Guests present: Ryan Cox, Erik Streed, Max Westcoat, Abraham Keun.

PAUL Cox and ERIC Streed (five Ethics God) report that Tech has lost some potential advertising revenue due to a somewhat lackluster performance on the part of the last business manager in the last few weeks.

Balder has nothing to report related to his position as Fresh director besides that he's overworked and underpaid.

John reports that he's working on taxes for ASCIT and trying to figure out what the status of ASCIT's several accounts is. He noted the new Tech business manager is that he should work closely with him to take care of several details pertaining to the Tech business structure.

John has left the room because he thinks being a legacy to ASCIT.

Meeting begins at 22:55 for the interview of potential Tech business managers. Cox and Streed remain in the closed meeting to interrogate candidates under the bright light.

Minutes opened at 23:30.

Dan Velez enters. Dan requests a letter from ASCIT so that the Repub Club may receive recognition from the California College Repub. He is also interested in receiving funds for the club. Questions about the legality of funding political and religious organizations will have to be addressed in relation to the Corporation's non-profit organization status.

Meeting closed at 23:40 to interview another potential Tech business manager.

Dabney social event.

Ryan Cox and Erik Streed exit so the BoD may vote to appoint a business manager for the Tech.

Meeting opened at 23:58.

The Board has approved Mike Westcoat as the new Tech business manager.

Kiran reports that people should see a full report on the subject of the van in an upcoming article in the Tech. (Nothing else - Ed.) A card swipe for the ASCIT copier has not been installed yet.

Sandeep reports that several CDs were left at the prefrsh party. Among them is a Wagner CD. Despite the entertainment value of seeing hundreds of Techers leap upon a common target with intent to shower, the DJ fortunately did not play the latter disc. If you left your CDs at the party, contact Adrienne in 2207.

SUDS (Supplemental Undergraduate Donor Distribution Service) will be conducted on the night of May 1st (morning of May 2nd) at 01:00 this morning.

The ASCIT formal will be held May 23rd, and the price will be $30 for ASCIT members and $40 for non-members. It will be a reception, dinner and dancing starting at 8:00.

Mike Westcoat reports that ARC rep large signs are up at Winnett and are coming down Tuesday, April 29th at 17:00.

Lori reports that the sign sheets for committee appointments are coming down Tuesday, April 22nd. Interviews will be held next week.

The IHC is being deal with the issues of Avery Pick. Tom Mannion will be giving each of the seven fine houses $3500 for improvements.

Kolb reports that a woman called him a little while ago and he got excused from the meeting.

Meeting closed at 00:36.

Respectfully Submitted

Minutes

April 10, 1997

Present: Lori (chair), Brett (Page), GeoF (Darby), Sharmy (Pleming), Judy, (secretary), Steve (Lloyd), Jeremy (Ruddock). A woman called (Blacker) is drunk off his ass and wants someone to call him. He is very sorry he can't make it to the IHC meeting. GeoF (Rickers) calls for a house meeting.

Before the meeting begins, Lori points out agendas while Steve shows his 101 Dalmarcan pan and Judy tries to call Marty. The phone has far more than twelve buttons on it and Judy isn't an engineer, so she doesn't really call Marty.

The meeting begins.

Prefrosh social events are discussed.

- Page: Magician, Friday, 8:00 p.m.
- Lloyd: Capture the Flag, Friday, 9:00 p.m.
- Darby: Banda, Friday, 9:00 p.m., 12:00 am and Tye-dye, noon or so on Saturday.
- Fleming: Xenoglingg, Saturday, 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. Saturday.
- Blacker: Midnight Ultimate, Saturday.
- Rickers: a surprise (to IHC, anyway) Friday. GeoF sorts Lori an email, but the computer ate it, so we don't know what it was.

In order to show the prefrosh that the food should be rated as well as the sides of the Olive Walk, Lori and Judy randomly arrange north-south swap for dinner on Friday.

Sharmy requests that derogatory signs about other houses and other posters like that ar thugs may have put up taken down since prefrosh are beginning to show up. House homemade pages should be rated as well as both sides of the Olive Walk, Lori and Judy randomly arrange north-south swap for dinner on Friday.

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We move onto DAPAC. We agree that student trained bartenders should be preferred as house managers, but if they want to promote our house, they will be permitted to do so.

Please note: Lori (chair), GeoF (Darby), Carl (BFD), Marty (Racker), Sharmy (Pleming), Jeremy (Ruddock), Steve (Lloyd), GeoF (Rickers), Brett (Page), Judy (secretary).

Carl passes around a copy of a prefrsh version of the BFD. Judy passes out a letter to Kim West about DAPAC and the revised eligibility rules for Interhouse. Lori passes out an agenda with the 17th prefrosh roster the presidents have received. Brett got a prefrosh schedule that instructed all prefrosh to come to his room at 2 AM on Saturday. GeoF (Darby) makes a note in his calendar.

Lori asks if anyone thinks the BFD is unfair to their house. After some consideration, Jeremy agrees it's okay, but tells Carl that he doesn't want to copy yet....

Marcy asks if it was okay that he told a prefrosh that Fleming is cool, and debunks the debate over whether we want to be to the prefrosh. Of course, if people were saying what the school was really like, there would be four people enacting, so we agree it's all good, though, taking care of the issue.

Lori says that is making each house $3500 for improvements, which can be used for just about anything except a conflict.

Since the more people that sign up, the more interviews we get to give, Lori asks us to remind the house to sign up for faculty-student committees. We pick interviews times next week.

Brett pipes up...My back was hool up to his back...I had my camera so I was taking pictures. I'll bring a picture. The game was some kind of fifty seconds..."I shouldn't handle fifty seconds."

GeoF (Rickers) Then Brett again suggests parachuting as an Interhouse event. I'll probably be on a Friday night, probably 900 (the house help pay). FY 300 people die a year jumping out of planes. Four people die each year by having soda machines fall on them. Therefore, you should be able to jump out of one plane for every 400 Cokes you have.

Barbara Green wants us to try to have a party professionally bordered. The most crucial thing is that the committee has, the more they want to do their job, so the GeoF talk about a joint Rickers-DAPAC social event.

Marcy asks if anyone who went to the student faculty committee meeting heard "stupid rumors that stupid stuff happened. GeoF (Rickers) confirms that stupid stuff happened, and insists that records of previous BoC hearing will be helpful. Steve, who is now part of the BoC fan club, also went to the BoC session.

The MOSF is resuing and a meeting is being called to choose a new MOSF. Steve is on the committee because you have aJoey. Someone suggests I'm the new Gaddis for student congress. Steve decides that the meeting is on file. Is okay. so Geoff...I would agree.

Meeting closed at 00:57.

Respectfully Submitted

END
An excerpt on Staff-Faculty relations

Ellis Meng

I'd like to be uping this time that we're saying all these wonderful things, we'd like to get these things out here, but you'll have to understand that what we're saying for this thing are sadly unrepresented at Tech. I received an e-mail recently that I'd like to read to everyone and ask for your comments on. This is from Michelle Pine. She is the administrative assistant on Dr. Tombrello and Dr. Scheret. "I received why the staff members have to offer, which is why I have


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Dean's Corner

Et la tête sous le robinet ... (With my head under the spigot) one. But the law says twenty one. Caltech is responsible to take care that no one younger than that is exposed to EtOH internally. The liability to the Institute if someone should be hurt as a result of illegal drinking would be enormous. Of course we would all be affected emotionally, whatever the age of the victims.

But here the law of the land says that only at twenty one can an individual legally consume alcoholic beverages. Before that it is defined, verboten, forbidden.

Now I doubt that an 18-year-old is necessarily any less able to handle alcohol or other dangerous practices, than someone who is twenty one. But the law says twenty one. Caltech is responsible to take care that no one younger than that is exposed to EtOH internally. The liability to the Institute if someone should be hurt as a result of illegal drinking would be enormous. Of course we would all be affected emotionally, whatever the age of the victims.

From the time we are born, and perhaps before that, we are all ruled by the laws of the land, laws which can only be changed if enough people vote for the change. Since most of you are old enough to marry, serve in the military and vote, you might consider that route to change the legal drinking age. There is no question that drinking can be a wonderful social lubricant. George Jean Nathan said (I don't know who s/he is, but I found the quote on the net and I liked it) that "I drink to make other people interesting." There certainly is something to that.

But people will only remain interested if they are able to carry on an interesting, coherent conversation. The effect of alcohol depends on its concentration in the blood stream and that depends on what's being consumed, by whom (big, small, fat, skinny etc.) and how.

Do we really need to drown our reticence to expose ourselves to allow us to talk to our neighbors? Is that the way to get someone else to like us, or for us not to be afraid of them knowing about us? I vividly remember calling a close friend on the phone and being really turned off when the voice that answered was slow, somewhat slurred and seemed to belong to someone who was out of it! I shiver even now in remembering the revelation. Yet I also am aware that there is no question that has not prevented me from having my own courage, or rather making me forget the side when my brain is impaired by alcohol.

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But in fact all the courage, the feeling of well being, of mastery— all that is a delusion. Drinking does not change our reality. It only changes our perception of it. EtOH is a depressant and its goal is that it prevents us from realizing it. As Bertrand Russell said "Drunkenness is temporary suicide: the happiness that it brings is merely negative, a momentary renunciation of unhappiness." So drinking is far from the Macho thing it is so often seen to be.

In my first year at University, the practice in the lab in France was to save up our "spillage allowance." We had to account to the revenue for all the alcohol used in the lab, minus 10%, which was considered to have been lost as a transfer. That encouraged everyone to improve our lab technique and quantitative transfer was the first skill we learned. The alcohol we did not spill and did not have to account for went to make aperitifs.

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If you have a book that you would like to see reviewed in this column, please drop it by my room (108 B) and I’ll try to get it in the next week or so.

The Cat who Said Cheese
By Lilian Jackson Braun

I really don’t know why I read these books. They have very little with which to recommend themselves, either artistically or as mysteries. Braun combines the silly and the improbable willy-nilly, and then writes as if she expects to be taken seriously. And yet I have bought and read every book in this extensive series. Go figure.

The books are all about a man and his two Siamese cats, Koko and Yun-Yun. Koko has “special powers”, attributed to his whiskers, that make him able to tell when someone is being killed and who did it, which then tries to transmit to his master. It’s a silly premise at best, at worst it’s a cat blacking out a city by sitting in a pyramid. Other low points include the newspaper column that the protagonist writes. Horrible smarri prose about nothing in particular, and the descriptions of the adoration that he receives from the townspeople. It is nice to be someone that everyone adores, but no fun to read about. As murder mysteries they vary in quality. The major problem is that the murderer rarely survives to the end of the book, which can be all right if used well and sparingly but is a poor thing to make the cat do. There are even occasional books where the readers don’t even meet the murderer, which violates the cardinal rule of fairness in mystery writing. Braun also leaves a lot of loose ends which she does not tie up and which don’t really have any bearing on the story.

This particular book is about a food festival in the town where most of the stories are set. There really isn’t that much to say about it that I haven’t said already. I should say, though, that in the grand scheme of things these books aren’t that bad. The fact that I can read them all the way through without gagging says quite a bit, considering the many truly terrible books on the market, which even I wouldn’t waste my money on.

I’ve Been Gone For Too Long
Edited by Monique Bogerhoff

This is a collection of stories by field biologists and anthropologists about things that have happened to them in the field. Some are terrible, like finding that your data have burned to the ground. Others are worse, like dealing with the red tape in Uganda. The quality of the stories varies with the writers. The worst are the ones written by two people which use an odd mixture of first and second person narration. That is, everything is “we” and “us” but the characters are all called by their names, there is no “I”. It’s disconcerting and, in my opinion, bad writing, but it only shows up in two or three of the stories.

The stories themselves are the best thing about the book. The difficulties in storing poisonous snakes, absurd culture clashes, and general reminders of how nice civilization is and why mankind bothered to evolve it. The lives of these researchers seem interesting and exciting, and just about every one ends reasonably happily. On another note, I suspect that the stories have been heavily edited, because none of the authors are professional writers and the enormous flowery descriptions that amateurs generally write of nature are conspicuously absent.
The California Tech

Mint's

All these lectures are designed as an insourced astronomy. The Caltech Task Force, the Caltech Y, and the GSC will have this event. Food will be available with a $1 donation.

Hiroo Kanamori, John E. Smits, Harold J. Ip, and Albert Billings Ruddock Professor of the Humanities at Caltech, and moderator of the Center for International and Area Studies, will be presenting Louis Killen, John T. Roberts, and Tony Barrand in an after-concert discussion on the significance of the upcoming U.S.-[country] relations.

Today, April 25th, at 4pm in Baxter Lecture Hall. These lectures are designed as an interconnected series introducing some of the central problems and techniques in earth and planetary science and in astronomy. All will be directed at a non-specialist scientific audience.

Travel lecturer Biddy Hutton will be presenting the next Arcueil Adventures travel film entitled "Argentina: The Land of Passion" today, Friday, April 25th, at 4pm in the Beckman Auditorium. Admission starts at $20 through the Caltech Ticket Office (x4652).

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The American Association of University Women offers a number of fellowships to women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, including one-year post-doctoral fellowships and special dissertation fellowships. The institutional fellowship is awarded to women who are not citizens of the U.S. or permanent residents who are eligible in full-time graduate or post-doctoral study in the U.S.

From the Financial Aid Office, 515 S. Wilson, second floor:

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Famous House World Pranks

Ricketts-PCDE

Ricketts House celebrates two of their favorite things: Polish Constitutional Day Eve (PCDE) and drunken debauchery tonight, starting with the annual making-of-the-House Pole "contest" (really, pity Amit and Terry tomorrow). Expect loud drunk scurves ramping through your virgin hallways singing nastier songs than any made by Snoop Doggy Dogg.

Famous House enters a McDonalds contest (many times).

Blacker-BBQ

Tom Mannion

Enough Said.

Dabney-Polyester Night

Friday Night: Wear lounge clothes, play poker.

Fleming-Hawaiian BBQ at the Mosh

The Mosh has invited everybody.

"I want to reassure you guys that the administration... has always liked pranks."

—Gary Lorden

Looking for funding for your prank? Try ASCIT—they set aside $500 for pranks. The Y, the Student Investment Fund, and the Alumni Association may help, too.

Inside World policy

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The next IW will be published in 2 weeks, so submit something!

All Inside Worlds must include the author's name, which will not be published, but will be released if necessary. Inside Worlds may only be written by current undergraduates. The editors reserve the right to edit any or all parts of an Inside World submission. No libelous material or ad hominem attacks will be accepted. It is the author's responsibility to check material written about another person to see if that person considers it libelous.

Please submit via e-mail to editors@tech.caltech.edu, or drop a 3.5" Macintosh disk in the IN box outside SAC 40 by the Wednesday before the publication date. Please also submit a hard copy to the IN box. Submissions may be used at a later date in future publications.
Chem 69a: Darbic Interactions
by the Dabney House Chemists

We, the Dabney House Chemists, lectured on Darbic Interactions at the Society of Chemical Sociologists' Conference in Monte Carlo last month. The following are excerpts from our presentation, for review by the Caltech Community.

The expected correlation between band-aid and razor blade use was not observed. However, we did find a correlation between razor blade and matchbook use. This is best explained by the hypothesis that the razor blades are used to "line up" white powdered offerings to Dabney House deities in ceremonies involving incense.

Despite the fact that only four subjects reside in lower Alley 7, a quarter of all Darbic condom use occurred there. We hypothesize that the Dabney Chemists (who both live in lower 7) find great pleasure in dropping water-filled projectiles on passers-by in the SAC courtyard. It is difficult to tell.

We observed a strange phenomenon in some of the alleys: more items could be found in a given alley box than had been left there the previous week. We have several hypotheses for this. The most plausible involves quantum tunneling effects. Theoretically, objects could penetrate the barrier presented by the walls, ceilings, and floors, and be observed simultaneously in more than one alley box. It is also possible that items confined to a lonely alley box do not take proper precautions, and produce offspring. A third theory holds that some of the items placed in the boxes are migratory creatures, who are attracted to the alley box closest to the current Warcraft game. Some of our detractors claim that the Darbs are transporting items from alley box to alley box, but we find this hypothesis to be without merit, as Darbs do not appear to possess the necessary intellect to perform such tasks.

These and other phenomena have made Dabney alley boxes a major field of active research at top institutions worldwide. We at Caltech hope to continue to stay abreast of new developments in this exciting new area.

The Dabney House Chemists present the first annual...

Guess the Mystery Item Contest
by Val Anderson
and Autumn Looijen

Months of painstaking analysis have shown a clear relationship between the use of a mystery item and the sex lives of undergraduates in Dabney House. Can you guess what the item is? Tell Autumn or Val, or e-mail The California Tech at editors@tech.caltech.edu, and if you are the first to get it right, you will receive a T-shirt designed especially for you by us, the Dabney Chemists.

(Hint: It's something found in the Dabney Alley Boxes.)

Dabney House Condom and Mystery Item Usage

Blacker
Hey there, Metal fans! Make sure to get your own personal copy of the Heavy Metal masterpiece, "Secret Evil!!" Metallica is dead, Megadeth is no more, Pantera are posters. Clearly, the new Monsters of Rock are Secret Evil, and they're not gonna put out any slow song shit. If it ain't a power chord, it ain't in their song. Check out the lyrics to the title track:

Secret Evil
Shh... Don't tell.
Shh... Don't tell.
But I'm the mother fucker, Straight from hell!
And
We're gonna get your mother.
We're gonna get your brother.
You will not suspect.
Because it's secret!!
It's Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Shh... Don't tell.
Hey, Don't look.
But you won't know.
If you're in our book.
And
We're gonna get your cousin.
We're gonna get your dog.
You can't prevent.
Because it's evil!!

It's Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!

Cross your heart, And hope to die.
Stick a needle, In your eye.
It's secret! It's secret!
Cross your heart, And hope to die.
Stick a needle, In your eye.
It's secret! It's secret!
This is just a song.
So don't blame us.
Your the mother fucker, Making all the fuss.
And
You're gonna get your mother.
You're gonna get your brother.
You're the evil.
You're the secret!
You're Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!
Secret Evil!!

Now that's some thought-provoking stuff. Make sure to get your own copy... Coming in two weeks. The count down starts now.