David Baltimore appointed as new president of Caltech

BY MEDIA RELATIONS

PASADENA, 13 May 1997 — Dr. David Baltimore, one of the world’s leading scientists and winner of the 1975 Nobel Prize for his work in virology, has been appointed president of the California Institute of Technology. The announcement was made Tuesday, May 13, by Dr. Gordon E. Moore, chair of Caltech’s Board of Trustees. Baltimore will assume the presidency this summer, succeeding Dr. Thomas E. Everhart, who has served for the past 10 years.

“David Baltimore is perhaps the most influential living biologist, and surely one of the most accomplished,” Moore said on announcing the appointment. “He is our nation’s leader in the effort to create a consensus on national science policy regarding recombinant DNA research. This nationwide effort helped all-lay reservations about genetics research, and also established research standards that are followed by the genetics community to this day.

Baltimore has also been a major figure in Washington as head of the National Institutes of Health AIDS Vaccine Research Committee, and also in 1986 as co-chair of the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine’s committee on a National Strategy for AIDS.

“Dr. Baltimore’s colleagues have described him to us as subtle, perceptive, and keenly insightful about people and complex issues, and as having the mind of a humanist as well as a scientist. Caltech’s faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends will find him a fascinating person with whom to work and from whom to learn.”

Baltimore, 59, was born in New York City and earned his doctorate at Rockefeller University. He did postdoctoral work at MIT, and later worked as a research associate at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., from 1965 to 1968.

He joined the MIT faculty in 1968, and was appointed to a full professorship in 1972. After founding the Whitehead Institute, he served as its first director until 1990. He was a professor at Rockefeller University from 1990 to 1994, and Rockefeller’s president in 1990 and 1991. Since 1994, he has been the Ivan R. Cottrell Professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology and the American Cancer Society Research Professor at MIT.

His honors include the 1970 Gustave Stein Award in Virology; the 1971 Eli Lilly and Co. Award in Microbiology and Immunology; the 1974 National Academy of Sciences’ United States Steel Award in Molecular Biology; and the 1975 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1974, and in 1978 was elected a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a foreign member of the Royal Society in England, and a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

He is married to Dr. Alice Huang, Dean for Science at New York University and also an eminent biologist. The Baltimores have a daughter, Lauren, who recently graduated from Yale and now works in New York City.

Ditch Day was Friday!

BY RON DOLLETTE

I knew when I awoke to hammering and welding at 7 in the morning that one of Caltech’s oldest existing traditions, Ditch Day, was upon us.

We all know about it — the day when seniors muster up their creativity and ingenuity to come up with the greatest stack ever seen. Or at least that’s what their hopes are.

In a test of militaristic achievement, participants of the Commando stack (care of the Page and Fleming RAs) were involved in a variety of tennis-ball-launching, court-yard-crossing madness.

Of course, there was also the Gratuitoous Sex stack, with the brie falling bit by bit into acid when the undergrads made mistakes, or the Mission Impossible stack employing a real life game of Mine-sweeper.

Partakers of the Brady Bunch stack not only to dress in hip 70’s clothes, but also to get to perform a little non-time concert to raise money for their dog’s ransom.

In the self-dubbed Greatest Stack In The World, underclassmen played a Sneakers-like role where they avoided motion detectors, killer computers, and also had to record a conversation with a professor on tape and then splice and re-record his words in order to receive the clue.

In the ultimate brute-force stack, the 24 victims in The Downward SpiralEndured through fourteen torturous trials, one for each song on the Nine Inch Nails CD, claiming responsibility for three mailed shopping carts, two shattered hats, a convert to the Church of Swinology, a hand injury, an ankle injury, the bald and scrawny member of Fleming House, everyone avoiding the kosher stuff, Tim not remembering anything, a pig in the basement of Thomas, and Spam in the stomachs of all.

In the end, the participants were stumped by a most enigmatic puzzle of all: Trent Reznor’s lyrics.

Flams celebrate Ditch Day with a sign of the times.

Students awarded Dean’s Cup for improving undergraduate life

BY SUZETTE CUMMINGS

The Deans’ Cup Awards were presented at a luncheon in The Athenaeum on April 29, 1997. These awards, accompanied by small cash prizes, are designated for students whose concern for fellow students is demonstrated by persistent efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate life.

Michael Herrera and Tim Uy each received a 1997 Deans’ Cup. Mike Herrera received the Cup for his contributions to Caltech and his fellow students. Mike has been very active in the underrepresented minority student community, serving as president of CLASES last year and secretary in the prior year. He has been one of the stars of Challenges and Choices at New Student Orientation and has tutored community students through the Caltech Y.

Michael Herrera, recipient of the Deans’ Cup
Mistrust spoils gift of doughnuts to security guards

To the Caltech community:

After hearing about the unfortunate incident with Dabney’s palm tree, we decided to share with the Caltech community our recent experiences with security.

As many of you may know, the idea was to get doughnuts and coffee from far Foster’s, put them on a box (table) by the motion detectors, and then set the motion detectors off and run. Unfortunately, they got caught in the process, and as far as we know, they never tried again.

We at IBF had heard about their attempt, and we recently decided to try it ourselves, to see if we could do a slightly better job of it. So we went and got the doughnuts and coffee, found ourselves a box, and made our way down there. We set the stuff up, put signs to direct security to it, and had someone set off the motion detectors.

However, we were careless enough to send someone who didn’t know where the motion detectors were or what they did. When they thought of a trap gave us some pause. It was then that we made a rather stunning discovery: They hadn’t even touched the food! Once we had completed our (rapid) exit, we discussed the results of our excursion. All in all, we were rather disappointed by the way in which they rejected our offering. Not only did they ignore the food we’d gone out of our way to provide with them, they also left the debris for us to clean up, and they left it in what appeared to be a trap. They didn’t have to eat our food if they didn’t trust us, but they couldn’t have left it in the tunnels. If we hadn’t come back to check on it, the remains of the food would have just sat there and collected cockroaches and mold. (Although we do appreciate a good fungus garden, we’re not terribly partial to bugs.)

"Traps" and roaches aside, there is the issue we wish they had trusted us a bit more. Our sole intention was to do something that both we and the security guards could enjoy. (OK, it was also to test the hypothesis that had we continued to provide security, they would be more likely to trust us, and the motion detectors will work better.) We deliberately left a (slightly modified) copy of a Caltech ID there and emphasized in our note that there were no undergrounds, so they could be assured that the Honor Code applied, and that it wasn’t some one off campus trying to poison them or something like it.

It is possible that security thought that the motion detectors were set off entirely independently from the presence of the doughnuts. In this case, who would want to eat doughnuts or drink coffee that had been touched by a prankster? Security might have been less concerned if we had left a note saying that the doughnuts were there for a prank, and that they had been there for a day, but also the time.

And since it had been obvious, assuming they bothered to read our note, that we were not trying to trick Caltech students, and that the food was fresh, they are unfortunately lead to the conclusion that, frankly, security doesn’t trust us students. Of course, it is entirely possible that there exists another explanation, and so we would be happy to hear security’s take on the issue — we don’t wish this to be merely another anti-security rant. We just want to share our experience, and perhaps give the Caltech community something to consider the next time they run across a prank, and follow undergrads something to think about before the next time they try one.

Sincerely,

Undergraduates

OPINIONS

Don’t complain about working at Tech

Dear Editors,

I agree with Austin Collins’s last Circle of Fire. People should certainly be aware that they have to work hard here, and complaining about school work liking or not liking a school are two different things. Things are far from perfect here, but I know that I’m much better off here than I would have been had I gone to any other university that had accepted me. Though Caltech is not a social mecca, I’m the type of person who actually has more of a social life here than I would elsewhere. Moreover, anybody who is willing to work hard can do well. They may have a lower grade point average here than at another school, but I think most people find that graduate schools and business take that into account.

Anybody who comes here expects to work very hard and is extremely naive. Before the last three pre-frosh week-Ends, I have heard numerous Tercers state that we should not let the pre-frosh think that we do work here. Maybe it’s just me, but I find that to be extremely dishonest. Although students who apply here should be aware of how much work Caltech students have to do, one should not try to mislead them into thinking otherwise. I’m beginning to think that I was more prepared for what I was going to face here because I did not come to pre-frosh weekend.

I must also concur with Austin Collins’s opinion about the opportunities here. Next summer, I will be undertaking my second SURF project. Both of my projects have resulted from e-mailing (fully tenured) professors and asking them to come up with a project for me.

I am certainly glad that I came here. (I can always catch up on my sleep during the summer.)

At how many major research universities would I get such positive responses?

I am also fairly confident in the opinion of the article with which I disagree. I do not believe it is as simple to leave as Collins suggests it is. If one does obtain poor grades here, transferring may be difficult. Additionally, I believe that even people who claim to be constantly busy at Caltech are quite aware of what a degree from Caltech is worth and decide not to go because of it. It’s true that Caltech is not for everybody, but I am certainly glad that I came here. (I can always catch up on my sleep during the summer.)

Mason Porter Undergraduate
The California Tech

NEWS

One Flame A Week — My Promise To You

BY AUSTIN COLLINS

This is, in part, a continuation of last week’s article on people’s discontent at Caltech. However, this week’s topic is narrower in focus, but broader in scope. This week’s topic is: Pay in Theoretical Physics.

As a future theoretician (knock on wood), I used to think of all the jobs that opportunity and paid jobs in physics were woefully few. In my mind, I always visualized the pay as receiving in terms of how difficult the job is. I'd think of all the jobs that were far easier than theoretical physics, but still paid better, and think something was amiss. After all, I could learn to be an accountant far more easily than I could learn to do physics, yet odds are accountants will make more than I do. It was a conversation with Dr. Rochus Vogt that changed my viewpoint here. He told me of a conversation he had while back with the then Prime Minister of India, who remarked to him how lucky he was to be one in a land that so generously supported the sciences. After mulling this over for a while, I realized how lucky I am to have the chance to be paid at all to study the things I will one day.

Imagine life as a physicist in a barter system. “Hi, I’ll make you a deal. You give me some food, and I’ll think about gravity for a while.” Or, “If you build my house, I’ll think about gravity about my dissatisfaction with the job. It's hard to ask for more than that, isn’t it? It really is that simple.

“Cyrano: So, is this your revenge? Compte de Guiche: Take this to mean that I serve my king and not my master. It's just as enjoyable to me (and as useless to others) as playing a game. Hard to ask for more than that, isn’t it? It really is that simple.

The Burmese military government has clashed many times with the police, and 73 people have been killed since campaigning began.

Jerusalem, Israel — American diplomats have discovered that one quarter of the homes in Jewish settlements of West Bank and half of those in the Gaza strip remain empty. The Israeli government still contends that it is expanding its settlements in response to natural population growth.

Yangon, Myanmar — The Burmese military government arrested at least 50 members of a pro-democracy movement led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The arrests seem to be an attempt to stop a congress of the National League for Democracy next week, which would mark the seventh anniversary of their unrecognized election to power.

Moscow, Russia — Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin proposed a drastic 20% cut in Russia’s budget to reduce the unmanageable deficit. His plans include slashing military spending and state subsidies for industry.

THE STUDENT AFFAIRS VAN IS HERE!

The van is available to students and Student Affairs staff for Institute purposes only and its use must be approved by the Dean of Student Office, Office on 102 Parsons-Gates. Individuals wishing to use the van must have an organization account number in order to receive approval to drive it. It is available to both ASCIT and GSC members.

The Deans’ Office is starting a sign-up for prospective drivers because a drive check and a Security Clearance are required before one is allowed to drive.

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From $250 to $400 in the Gaze Strip remain empty. The Israeli government still contends that it is expanding its settlements in response to natural population growth.

The Outside World

by Myfanwy Callahan

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA — Violent protests have broken out in many cities in response to high unemployment and declining living standards. The Government economic reforms which brought stability and high growth rates to Argentina have also led to record unemployment rates of 17%.

KINSHASA, CONGO — Rebel leader Laurent Kabila was installed as President last week. During the revolt, he received critical foreign support from several neighboring countries in the form of military advisors, munitions, and troops.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA — Over 10,000 protestors showed their opposition to the cancellation of election rallies in Indonesia. The opposition Development party has clashed many times with the police, and 73 people have been killed since campaigning began.

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Received via the IMF, the CFA Institute, and the ICC in Paris.

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Received via the IMF, the CFA Institute, and the ICC in Paris.
The California Tech

I.H.C.

Minutes

Tuesday, May 13

Present: Brett (Page), Steve (Lloyd), Jeremy (Ruddock), Judy (Secretary), Lori (Chair), Shumway (Fleming), Geoff (Ricketts), Geoff (Dabney), Marty (Blacker), Biff (housing), and Ryan Chornoock (Blacker’s Secretary).

Random ASCIT BoD types: Adrienne, Maria, Kohl, Kiran, and John drill in and out throughout the meeting. These IHC groups come to see what it’s like to be one of the seven most popular, or one of the two sexiest people on campus, instead of a lame-o who didn’t get elected to house office.

Biff talks about summer housing. He’s going to need more spaces for the summer because Mosher-Jorgensen will be under construction. He’s asking for 200 spaces, and if they’re not filled up, he’ll return them to the houses so we can have doubles as singles. Biff says he’s not going to give non-Techers doubles as singles before he gives them to Techers. Geoff (Ricketts) says that’s a good thing ‘cause if he did we’d kick his ass. Biff says he’d enjoy that, but he’ll still give us the extra rooms. In fact, he’ll let us know by senior finals week so people won’t have to move twice. Biff also asks that house affiliated OC fill up 50%. He doesn’t want to mix visitors in OC houses, so he says that’s reasonable. Lori makes a feeble attempt to save us this summer with the simple request that “we want air conditioning”—“me, too,” is Biff’s response. (For those of you that don’t know, the student houses are the only buildings on campus that don’t have air conditioning. Maybe this is the administration helping us out by trying to make those Tech kids a bunch of hot-totties. It isn’t working.)

Steve says that ditch day is tomorrow because he was woken up at 4:00 that morning to the sound of hammering in the courtyard. Geoff (Ricketts) says it’s always tomorrow, it’s just more tomorrow than other days.

Adrienne comes in to observe our awesomeness. Steve sets her on a track towards coolness by tearing up her picture of Ken Debner, hypnotizing extraordinaire. “You’re going down!” she threatens as she leaves giggling. Steve and Geoff (Dabney) tell the rest of IHC of how the two of them shortening the on campus orientation since the frosh were bored anyway. IHC could move rotation back a day to shorten it a little more than usual, but not all the upperclassmen will be back on Saturday, and besides, we want rotation’s „huge„ ugly shit to take place on the weekend. Biff adds that something more important that Caltech 1a should have to happen before a tradition like rotation changed. So the frosh will have to stay bored. Geoff (Ricketts) points out that bore-dom is part of life: the fros’l’ll be bored in class, too, but we aren’t canceling that.

Next year, though, we’d liked to be asked for input before plans are made... Maybe someone could take the IHC to the Air. Before leaving, John adds that ASCIT has $1500 for random stuff and some prank money left as well. Come ask ASCIT for it. Steve suggests the money be used to take the IHC to dinner at the Parkway Grill. We could prank the restaurant if we had to.

Somewhere during John’s story, Maria wandered in. She finally gets her opportunity to ask how to be as cool as the IHC. We tell her there is no hope. Bummed, she answers, “so hey, there are these like things...” and she passed out a survey on the BoC. Fill out the surveys ‘cause the house with the most surveys filled out will get a reward, probably

Foster’s (doughnuts, not beer, unfortunately) since they don’t have that much money. Geoff (Dabney) asks if the president of the house that fills out the most surveys can invite the IHC to lunch at the Ath for the reward instead. This is a far superior idea.

Maria jumps in again, says that she’s on a women’s review committee and they want to eat in the student houses, so she wants to set up a schedule. Geoff (Dabney) says no Ath, no deal. Nobody has a preference about days, as long as they have a little notice. Maria says she’ll email a schedule to the ihec@ugcs.

While she’s gone, she and Adrienne try to use what they have learned from IHC. They copy Ken’s picture and put a copy on the door of SAC 64 and all the doors of the house post. They are cool,”osasers.”

But I digress... Brett declares, “I have a small thing.” and Steve adds, "I call mine, Thor, God of Thunder." Brett’s sky diving trip will be Friday May 30, and it’s $120/person, so sign up with a friend from another house.

Meeting closes, but we’re rudely interrupted by more ASCIT types. Kiran and Kohl wish they were us. We offer to bake them ex-lax brownies if they’ll leave. Finally, they go away, but first they say that Ken Debner is hot!!

We choose Frosh Admissions Committee Members: Nasim Afsharmanesh; Amy Barr; Jim Buckwalter; Ryan Dickman; Jonathan Little; Michelle Miller; Adrienne Hyldahl, alternate; Jaideep Singh, alternate.

In sum, taking IHC to lunch is cool, ASCIT sucks, and Ditch Day was tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

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What: EV-1 Day at Caltech

When: May 29, 1997

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: At the San Pasqual Cul-de-sac

(Right outside the Red Door Coffee House)

From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be several General Motors EV-1 electric vehicles on campus available for test drives. Drivers must be over 18 and have a valid drivers license.

At 4:00, there will be a technical presentation regarding electric vehicles:


Refreshments will be served. For more information, call x6373.

Sponsored by Caltech Corporate Relations and the Caltech Electric Vehicle Club.

FEATUERS

The California Tech
from the prefrosh party. The Bert year) J ust more cash for the p.m.

already pimping Officer Reports IHC will pay for what they did Ernie:

Bert: Bert: Bert:

m al is on Friday. Adrienne still more iron

Adrienne - The Kiran - The Padmanabha . Barth. In the category of prose fiction, first prize is

1997 contest for excellence in writing. In the category Maldonado .

awarded jointly to Alex Dunn and Siddhartha

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Summer Employment at The Athenaem

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Nominations for:
Junior/Senior Class Officers little t Business Manager BoC Secretary will be open until Tuesday.

The McKinney Committee of the Caltech Literature Faculty is pleased to announce the winners in the 1997 contest for excellence in writing. In the category of non-fiction essay, first prize has been won by David Barth. In the category of prose fiction, first prize is awarded jointly to Alex Dunn and Siddhartha Padmanabha. Robert Lin won first prize in poetry. Honorable Mention is given to Mason Porter, Karen Bletzer, John Teipel, Tanya Ticket, and Carlos Maldonado.

The California Tech

A.S.C.I.T. Minutes

May 20, 1997

(11:25) Judy drops in. The IHC formally challenges the ASCIT BoD to a snowball fight on the Olive Walk to be

held at high noon this Friday. We are gonna beat the crap out of those beslubbery rump-fed flax-wenches.

• Baldeep - The BoD will be eating in the houses as follows: Tuesday (20th) - Blacker, Thursday, (22nd) - Dunbevy, Wednesday (28th) - Fleming. Thursday (29th) - Lloyd, Monday (2nd) - Page, Wednesday (4th) - Ruddock.

Features

May 23, 1997

• Kohl - The BoD will do lunch with Ms. Hassenfeld of the Ombuds Office on the 21st.

• Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D. Astle
ASCIT Secretary
Ditch Day: a senior's perspective

BY SAMSON TIMONER

Did they have fun? Did it work? Did they finish the stack? Did they like it? Nervousness overwhelms me almost to the point of shaking as I stumble back on campus after a full day of exile. It is 5:02 on Friday, May 16, 1997; Ditch Day has just ended.

A picture flashes back into my mind. It is about 5 p.m. on Ditch Day 1994. The stack I am working on, The Mechanical Engineer's Universe, has not finished. Jeff Miller walks by me in Blacker Courtyard and says, "That was F-cking cool! That was so F-cking cool!"

I look over and see a group of wide mouth grinning people with a look of awe on their faces. Whatever they had experienced, it was awesome. They had worked on Bevan Bennett’s Total Recall Stack and they were overwhelmed by it.

Through a little bit of work, Bevan had brought incredible happiness to the lives of other Techers for one day. The looks on those Techer faces were priceless. It was amazing to me that you could make people that joyful.

I knew I had to try to create that. Somehow, I had to have a stack that would utterly overwhelm people. That look needed to be re-created.

As I walk into Blacker Courtyard, I see a bunch of red-shirted underclassman to my left. It was they, my Mission Impossible (TV series) Stack had finished. At least some of the stack must have worked.

But did they like it? Did all the work I did, all the sleep lost and all the lab time skipped amount to anything? Was I able to get that look?

Kacie Shelton’s face was the first I could make out. She was soaking wet with her red Mission Impossible shirt clinging tightly to her body. She had a grin plastered across her face. I was practically in shock. Beside her was Ryan Cox, with a similar look. Then, I realized they all had it. They liked the stack. It had worked.

It is amazing to me that they had that much fun on the stack. That the stack did work so well was not due to me. The people who signed up for my stack immersed themselves in their roles. They had the perfect personalities for an action-adventure stack. They made it work. They added commando style maneuvers to their activities. They took the many problems in my stack as challenges to make the stack work. They decided to have fun, so they did.

Ditch Day was my opportunity to give back to the house. It was an opportunity to make some people as happy as Blacker House has made me many times during my four years at Caltech. Ditch Day was also an opportunity for me to get something: a memory. That look on their faces was priceless and I will always remember it.
Remember all the excitement you felt as a kid at the prospect of an afternoon of gooey, messy fun playing Candyland! You probably also remember the disappointment you felt when the game just didn’t deliver. Well, the Candyland Stack, created by Jenny Ohgi and Gretchen Larson, was created to eliminate that childhood trauma.

The two teams, lead by the Imperial Head Bonbon and the Grand Jujube, had to complete a series of tasks as they traveled the life-sized Candyland board. The teams individually faced such tasks as tossing a syrup-soaked Frisbee, Mashed Potato Sculpture, and Popcorn Stuffing. Both teams were forced to crawl through the Jell-O Tunnel to find survivors of the “Gumdrop Avalanche” that were buried in 25 gallons of Jell-O.

The Imperial Head Bonbon’s Team defeated their opponents in a Gingerbread Castle Building Contest and went on to win the entire game! But with the finish line behind them, the teams now faced the final challenge - the King’s Bodacious Bungalow. The teams had to work together to destroy three walls of the hut and navigate an egg safely out of the remaining wall. The barriers before them were a Concrete Wall to pound through, a Wooden Wall to take apart and then re-piece together, and a Cake Wall (made of 16 cakes!) to eat through. These walls proved no match for the mighty teams, and the Candyland Kingdom with all of its rewards was finally theirs!
Several Japanese Films in Repertory

After the U.S., Japan is my favorite country for films. Like other Japanese art forms, Japanese movies concentrate on capturing the essence of a moment, either by using delicate touches or through outrageous bravura performance. While hardly any new Japanese films get released in America these days, if you search you can usually find a special screening of an older Japanese film listed in the L.A. Weekly every couple of months or so.

Kenji Mizoguchi is widely re­nowned as a director of women, and The Love of Sansaku (the Actress) (1947) is no exception. While not his best-known work, this postwar tragedy I caught at UCLA a while ago explores the liber­ation of women through the rise and fall of a stage actress and the men in her life. A love tragedy is a common enough theme in Japan, but this film also exam­ines the role of an artist in society, a sub­ject Mizoguchi gained world fame with in Umano and his Five Women.

In the 1960's, director Seijun Suzuki deliberately rebelled against the rigid formal­ism of directors like Mizoguchi and Yasujirou Ozu, creating delicious gangster movies that so astonished the Japanese studio heads that they fired him, black­listing him from moviemaking for over ten years. Surely one of these movies that got him in trouble was Fighting Elegy (1966), which, while not showcasing martial arts, can be best compared to the wild Hong Kong actioners of today — only quite as restrained!

Mizoguchi made his return in 1980 with Zigeunerweisen, a film more subdued in tone, but with a plot so bizarre I couldn't possibly explain it in less than a page. Mizoguchi made a live appearance at some of the recent screenings of his movie at the Nuart in West L.A.

Taking the more serene approach to moviemaking is Hirokazu Koreeda with last year’s Moharosi, which I saw at UC Irvine a couple of weeks ago. Moharosi is a solemn meditation on loss, follow­ing a woman for a year after her hus­band inexplicably commits suicide. The level of emotional reaction I had to this film of sublime beauty rival's that of last year’s top pick Dead Man.

This perfectly composed film conveys its meaning not primarily through actions or dialogue, but rather the relationship of the lead character to her environment. Someone once said that a cinematographer's job is to make sure that every frame of a film is a perfect photograph; I wish every cameraman in Hollywood would watch this movie.
The last week will be hard to beat for sheer excitement and high jinks. I hope you feel that way too.

There was the ordinary Ditch Day stuff: regattas in the Millikan pond, and sharks too; a lemon drop, no, I mean a melon drop, or at least I guess it was a melon, it was big but not so big, and seems to have dropped from far up Millikan, a cute little school bus, a fancy electric car, and by blow guns on the plywood deLorean, which seems to have been changed in significant ways, by the addition of Avery Fairchild Library, of the Beckman Institute, and of the Sherman Beckman Institute, and of the Sherman House, and of the Sherman House, and of the Sherman House, and of the Sherman House, and of the Sherman House, and of the Sherman

Doris.

The Tech pressed on with the erection of the palm tree, which seems to have taken place on the Court of Man. The event at 3 o'clock in the Court of Man was a boxing match with the wicked warlock of the West, this one attended by the Press. I had thought it might be a flying saucer with Mickey-Mouse-Eyed-Aliens, or a helicopter or perhaps the Hindenburg making a landing. I had my office searched for vampires to kill, no vampires here... (I never did tell the vampire destruction team that I am an honorary vampire, having done research on bats in my past... hee, hee, hee...). It also seemed that magnets were in great demand, with door closers a possible alternative. I was crowned, belted, my imaginary daughter married away into the clan of Hercules, and I was reassassinated, all for clues, clues, clues...

Well, Ditch Day is only part of the news. The other part, of course had to do with the action on the palm tree, an early morning occurrence, which was rapidly subdued. There are continuing investigations on the molecular assembly-disassembly process which seems to have taken place on the Court of Man. There is at present no evidence that a palm tree had actually materialized. Had I not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it.

PCR analysis (you'd know about this if you had taken Bi 1) of debris taken from the scene reveals no palm DNA, only that expected from grasses which are normally being nurtured at the location. A mystery indeed. Some have even proposed that the photographs which purport to show the palm tree at its most erect stance, were actually fakes, products of "Photoshop."

And then there was the maze, installed on the Olive Walk to test which group would run rings around the others. The results, as published in last week's issue of The Tech, the prestigious scientific journal of the West, seem to indicate that these two groups are running after each other, rather than around each other.

However, I would like to point to a major flaw in the experimental design. That is, there are many other categories of individuals besides Profs. and students who use the Olive Walk. Since they do not seem to have been categorized separately, and their physical characteristics make them more akin to students than to Profs, their presence may have skewed the results in the students' favor. Also, Profs were invited for lunch at the AAS, thus swelling their ranks, and so the data is even more suspect.

The biggest news, however, was the election of Dr. David Baltimore to the Presidency of Caltech. About him, more later, I am sure. But what became sealed by appointment is that Tom and Doris Everhart are leaving.

We knew this would happen sometime, as President Everhart had announced that he would resign from his post at the end of this academic year, but somehow it was not until the Presidential Search Committee announced the results of its deliberations and negotiations, that the enormity of this move has struck me.

Lots of things have happened during the Everharts' tenure here. The campus has been changed in significant ways, by the addition of Avery Fairchild Library, of the Beckman Institute, and of the Moore, and the launch of the Biology Initiative... and these are only the bricks and cement, not the people, and the new directions in which our research and your future will be able to expand.

Thanks for all, Tom and Doris. A bientot.
DILBERT by Scott Adams

Dilbert's computer says, "Dilbert's thermostat can detect human stupidity." Dilbert wonders if there's anything less warm.

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

This magazine says that "the last world is doing a book and now it's doing the first movie." Peter chimps, "agreement."

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When We Were Kings
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**Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Mostly Baroque Chamber Music at Noon</td>
<td>at the Dabney Lounge at 12pm. Sponsored by Student Affairs and the Friends of Caltech Instrumental Music, the concert program includes works by Bach, Telemann, and Pach. Lunch will be provided for the first 100 people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Goldeich, Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Physics, and Thomas Prince, Professor of Physics, will be discussing &quot;The Life, Death, and Rebirth of Stars&quot; in an Astronomy/Geology 611 Opera on Friday, May 23rd, at 4pm in the Baxter Lecture Hall.</td>
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<td>This week's ASCiT movie is Mighty Aphrodite (starring Woody Allen). Showing at Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30pm and 10:00pm. Student admissions are $2.00 and $2.50 for all others.</td>
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<td>TACiT will be presenting Don Juan in Hell by George Bernard Shaw. Showing in Dabney Hall on May 23rd, 24th, 30th, and 31st at 8pm, and May 25th, 26th, and June 1st at 2pm. General admission is $8 and student admission is $5. For more information, call x4652 or e-mail <a href="mailto:tickets@caltech.edu">tickets@caltech.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>On May 28th, students, staff, and faculty will be given the chance to test drive one of several General Motors EV-1 electric vehicles from 11am to 3pm at the San Pasqual Cul-de-sac. All drivers over 18 and with a valid driver's license will be able to drive the test vehicle. The test drive session will be followed at 4pm with a technical presentation regarding electric vehicles entitled &quot;The History, State of the Art, and future of Electric Vehicle Propulsion&quot; by Ronn Jamieson, Chief Engineer of the EV Propulsion of the General Motors Vehicles Department. This event is sponsored by the Caltech Corporate Relations Office and the Caltech Electric Vehicle Club.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. James A. Secord of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge will be giving a Science, Ethics, and Public Policy talk on &quot;The Evolutionary Science as Public Culture since the Enlightenment&quot; on Thursday, May 29th, at 4:00pm in Judy Library.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Totem has extended its submission deadline and will now accept submissions until June 12th. You can contact The Totem by e-mailing totem@ecoo or by contacting individual editors (Mina Leung, Amanda Eckermann, Peter Wang, Mason Porter, and Andrew Stroud). The Totem editors look forward to seeing your submissions!</td>
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</tbody>
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**Mints**

"On chance to test drive one of Electric Vehicles entitled "Postwar Film" at the Dabney Lecture Hall on May 23rd, at 4pm in the Baxter Lecture Hall."

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**The John Gyles Education Fund**

Offering financial assistance to Caltech students, the John Gyles Education Fund, 27 N. Catalina Ave., Pasadena, is pleased to announce the continued availability of financial support for Jewish individuals and their families. There are many forms of financial aid available for study in the US and abroad. The California Tech presents a free East Coast Swing class on Wednesday night sessions—7:30-9:00pm—In winnett lounge. The club is also hosting Rumba lessons on Thursday nights—7:30-9:00 in winnett lounge. Bejita by Let's lead LA, these classes will cost $10 per session.

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**For the Counseling Center**

Looking for a safe and supportive place to discuss issues such as coming out, being gay, dealing with family, coping with a homophobic culture, and being GLB at Caltech? Want somewhere just to make new friends? You are invited to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group, which meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7:30pm till 10:00pm in the Health Center Lounge. This is a confidential meeting and attending does not imply anything about a person's sexual orientation—only that he or she is willing to be supportive in this setting. The group usually discusses a particular relevant topic and then moves on to the general discussion. Refreshments are served. If you would like more information, please call x331.