Couch Fire Hazards Pose House Problems

By Mayanka Prasad

"When I was a Frosh..." begins another sagacious upperclassman. The Frosh all roll their eyes and begin to hasten away. "We used to sit on couches!" roars the wise upperclassman. I stop and glance dubiously around at the forlorn folding chairs and the encompassing empty space that now dominate the alcove. "No, really. It's true..." and he proceeds to walk the former glory of the place.

Everyone at this point has heard of the infamous Fire Safety Massacre, in which House traditions were raped and plundered. Poor Techers were robbed of what little they held onto under the onslaught of rigorous academia: the very couches that they slacked off on. All that remains in the wake of this destruction are the white tape lines, the insignia of the Fire Marshal.

According to Jaideep Singh, Chairman of the IHC, the trouble began with the recording of a movie in Ricketts House. Allegedly, a fire marshal associated with the movie felt in his duty to warn Caltech that if the numerous fire safety violators he observed were not removed, he would have to report them. In fear that the Undergraduate Houses would get completely shut down, Caltech Safety in conjunction with Caltech Residence Life wreaked havoc throughout the hallways of each of the houses, banishing almost anything that crossed their path. The main argument of the fire marshal was that exits were being blocked. However, many students wonder what exists to do with ice machines beneath stairways. Others inquire about annihilated couch setups nowhere near exits. Still others question the necessity of taking away furniture that is within the taped off lines which could constitute a fire hazard.

How can the Undergraduate Houses be compensated for their losses? What more canE students expect? Each house is working independently with the Caltech

Mars Program Experiences Turmoil

By Jeremy Tollefson

It might be possible that sometime in 2025, most of the world will be riveted to television sets to watch the first manned mission to Mars with a ten minute delay. The first steps of planning such a mission were taken this past year, most notably by the local chapter of the Mars Society here at Caltech. Starting with the designs of the NASA reference mission version 3.0 and the Mars Direct Mission created by Robert Zubrin (the popular author of The Case for Mars), several graduates and undergraduates planned a mission to Mars, one that could conceivably take place within the next few decades. These adventurous students went to Houston to present their ideas at a competition aptly titled HEDS-US (Human Exploration and Development of Space, University Partners). There, the Caltech team received second place for their ideas, which reduced the mass of Robert Zubrin's plan by a factor of two and made several additional improvements to NASA's original constructions. It was considered a success for many. Since then, the Mars Society has revised and updated their plans to version 2.0, and this year will be working on the next version. The competition and excitement for a mission to Mars was, however, bittersweet, as Congress had announced their plans to refuse the full budget amount that NASA requested for the upcoming year and instead proposed a billion dollar cut. The science community across the nation, including the Mars Society, erupted in outrage and reacted immediately to the situation. Without this requested money, many projects in NASA would need to be placed on hold, and others would be scratched completely off the board. All space missions including all upcoming missions to Mars would be put behind schedule and the date of the first human on Mars would be pushed much further into the future. A flurry of faxes and emails shot through the telephone lines to congressional representatives, thanks to lists of the representatives sent to scientists and students throughout the country. Most of these lists maintained the importance of NASA and the wants of the public to see the future development of space. In the words of one member of the Caltech Mars Society: "Why am I in this country if there's not going to be a space program?"

However, the recent announcement that the cut will not occur brought a huge sigh of relief from the community and those that are Marsbound. For another year we can remain confident.
TTThe Outside Worlddd
by Cheryl Forest

Tokaimura, Japan: A nuclear accident occurred yesterday morning in this town’s privately owned uranium-processing plant. Thirty-four workers were exposed to radiation, and of these, three had to be hospitalized. The official explanation for the accident is that through an equipment malfunction or other such event, a “criticality incident” had occurred—this means that an unwanted and unchecked nuclear chain reaction became self-sustaining. If there is a bright side to this entire situation, it is that “early shutdown” became self-sustaining.


Mexico City: An earthquake of magnitude 7.4 hit Mexico Thursday at 11:30 AM. (For those of you who don’t know, an earthquake is a movement of the ground associated with liquid hot magma.) It was centered in Oaxaca, which is located on the Mexican W. coast.

Prize in literature yesterday. He began his career in the wake of the Third Reich, and his writing has both explored and explained German y over the past century. In an interview on Thursday, Grass said, “I was constantly a candidate for economics prize next Wednesday, chemistry prizes next Tuesday, the peace prize October 15, physics and mathematics prize next Monday, the physics and mathematics prize October 1, 1999 2 The California Tech wants you!

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The California Tech

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The California Tech

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Safety Office bans Couches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Safety Office in hopes of a compromise. The IHC proposes the presence of a third party to help mediate and to act as a second opinion in the query of what constitutes a fire hazard. In addition, several ideas are being tossed around to compensate for some of what is lost, such as a deck connecting Lloyd and Rudock House or at least the return of couches which fit within the white-taped lines. Some of these ideas seem unlikely, others may be the only solutions. All that is definite is that the Safety Massacre has drawn more than blood. It has taken the life from many student hideaways.

Mystery Surrounds Mars, Baffles Public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Climate Orbiter (due to a simple navigation error), there is an air of confidence that this lander will succeed. When it reaches the surface, it will take pictures to be sent back to Earth and will use a small scoop to test the regolith of the Martian surface. In addition, two Deep Space 2 probes will fall from high above the surface to impact the terrain and sink deep into the ground to take measurements, providing terrain scientists with further information on martian composition.

The solar powered lander will function for one full day which, in the southern hemisphere near the pole and during the summer, is quite some time. This robotic mission to Mars will help answer many questions about the highlands in the area, the layered terrain, and several quirks about the surface. It will be yet another step to eventually sending a small group of humans through space for several months to eventually leave a footprint in the rocky, red, and windswept regolith of Mars.

Shakespeare’s Caltech

By Jeremy Tollefson

To play, or not to play: that is my question:
Whether 'tis better in my mind to suffer
The equations and diagrams of incomprehensible numbers,
Or to ignore them and face my friends,
And by opposing end them? To enjoy: to relax:
No more; and by relaxing to claim we end
The suffering and the thousand unnatural shocks
That brains are heir to; 'tis the coach
Devoutly to be want'd. To enjoy, to relax:
To relax: perchance to sleep: ay, there's the catch;
For in that relaxation in bed what sleep may come
When I have disregarded all my horrid sets,
Must give pause: there's the hitch
That makes calamity of sleeping in;
For who could bear the report card from Tech,
The professor's comments, the TA's memory,
The pangs of too many games, the UASH,
The heat from the office and the burns
That many others of the worthy takes,
When we ourselves might our efforts end
With a single pun? who would problems bear,
To strain and rack over a difficult proof,
But that the horror of something outside Caltech,
The protective Bubble from whose bourn
No student returns the same, scares all
And forces us to bear the classes we have
Than escape to others that we know too much of?
Thus intelligence does make cowards of us all;
And thusly our original disposition
Is sickly transfigured with the intense labor of <insert class here>,
And courses of incredible importance and meaning
With this in mind their subjects gain hilarity,
And lost the fear they held.

Environmental Task Force in short

The Caltech Environmental Task Force’s principle action has been pushing Caltech to adopt an Environmental Policy. In the past year, CETF members have met with Caltech administrators, trying to sell the idea that a environmental code of action would not only be responsible but economical. In addition to this campus action, CETF organizes the Earth Day Fair, invites various speakers to campus to speak on environmental issues, and organizes various outings, including Eco-home open houses and beach and LA River clean-ups (in collaboration with the Caltech Y.)

For this next year, CETF will continue to lobby for an environmental policy, which could include measures for better funding for improved recycling, and water and energy conservation for existing and future policy, which could include measures for better funding for improved recycling, and water and energy conservation for existing and future buildings. We also have a speaker lined up for October 6, Winnett Club Room, noon, Bob Brister, to talk about Saving the Sierra Nevadas, and a Beach Clean-up planned for October 23.

BLURB

The protective Bubble from whose bourn
No student returns the same, scares all
And forces us to bear the classes we have
Than escape to others that we know too much of?
Thus intelligence does make cowards of us all;
And thusly our original disposition
Is sickly transfigured with the intense labor of <insert class here>,
And courses of incredible importance and meaning
With this in mind their subjects gain hilarity,
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We're Number One!

Welcome fresh! You've entered the wondrous world of Caltech — a magical place where all your wildest dreams can come true. This will be true for some during the summer. This is the rest, life will suck big time! Nah, I'm being exceptionally harsh and not completely true to my own thoughts. As I've said in previous columns, I really do like Caltech and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else, but I have to complain about something.

There are many cool things about Caltech. Where else can you wake up at noon and go to sleep at 3 and be on a "normal" schedule? Where else can you finish all 20 hours of work one day and then talk to your friends about playing with Linux? Where else can your primary form of interpersonal communication be ICQ? Where else can you be a no-talent writer getting paid by a third-rate newspaper? [Editors' Note: We hate you, Jason.] And yes, where else can you see frozen pumpkins being grilled from behind a story building? Only at Caltech, of course! I'm sure you'll find plenty of other things to add to that list in your time here, depending on how wisely you use it.

Caltech is a good place to be at, but believe it or not, I actually like it better than the summer. This shouldn't be surprising because there's no work. [Sports Editor's Note: What are you talking about?] Sure, there's SURF, but unless you have a slavedriver mentor or only take 30 units per term, you won't do half as much work as you'll do during the school year — and you get paid for it! If you're really lucky, you can have a job that you're actually interested in, too. The best part about the summer is that there are lots of people around with lots of free time. And because there are no House activities, there are many opportunities to interact with people you may have never met before. In fact, any of my close friends I've met during the summers at Caltech.

I am sure that the ratings people at U.S. News didn't consider these factors when they chose Caltech as their #1 school this year. They factored in our SAT scores, the money the Institute spends per student, the academic reputation, the student selectivity, and various other criteria. They didn't encompass the je ne sais quoi of Caltech — the essential strangeness that characterizes the Caltech experience. It's in the students, the classes, the professors, and the campus. There's something very different about the Caltech experience, far as I can ascertain. Perhaps it's the Honor System, or the Houses, or the fact that everyone here is really smart, but something's different from the typical college or university. Depending on who you are, it may be different in a good way or a bad way. That's something that everyone will have to figure out for themselves, of course. For me, I think it's been good so far (despite some regions of bad). [Copy Editor's Note: Regions of what?]

With that thought, I will end this pitifully short column and wish you well until next time! Hopefully then I will have more to write about.

Innerspace is a recurring column in The California Tech. Jason Melzer is a Junior. Questions, compliments, or other comments should be directed to jasonm@its. Also, we the editors don't really have anything against Jason. He writes a regularly interesting column.

Soccer, volleyball fall in close games

Chris Hughes, Dir. Media Services
Caltech Athletics

Caltech sophomore goalkeeper Craig Vielegg (Wheaton, Ill./Wheaton Warrenville South) stopped 11 shots on the afternoon, including several at point-blank range, but the Bears soccer team dropped a 3-0 decision to Occidental on Wednesday. Later in the evening, the Caltech women's volleyball team fell in three games to Whittier, 15-6, 15-5, 15-5.

In soccer, the teams battled scoreless on a hot, muggy afternoon until Tigers forward Jeremy Kelley found the back of the net at the 30:35 mark. Occidental added two penalty kicks in the second half for the 3-0 decision.

The young Caltech volleyball squad continues to improve. Junior outside hitter Jennifer Fong (San Leandro, Calif./Redwood Christian) paced the Bears with five kills on 10 attempts while sophomore Karen Lam (Sec- tile, Wash./Ballard) and Barbara Krazat (Orange Grove, Texas/Orange Grove) tied for team-high honors with four digs apiece.

On Saturday, the soccer team hosts conference-rival Redlands at 11 a.m. on the Caltech North Athletic Field while the volleyball team hosts Occidental at 7:30 p.m. at Braun Athletic Center. Also that day, the Caltech water polo team will host the Caltech Classic beginning at 9 a.m. in Braun Pool. All Caltech athletics venues are at the corner of California Blvd. and Wilson Ave., in Pasadena. Admission to all Caltech athletic events is free. Soccor: Occidental 3, Caltech 0. Goals - Occidental Jeremy Kelley (Dave Burke), 30:35. Occidental Rene Velado (PK), 66:51. Occidental Rene Velado (PK), 83:57. Halftime Score: Occidental 1, Caltech 0. Goals: Caltech Craig Vielegg (11 saves), Occidental Efrain Panigis (3 saves). Records: Occidental 2-3-1, 1-1-1 SCIAC; Caltech 0-5-1, 0-2 SCIAC; Volleyball: Whittier d. Caltech 15-6, 15-5, 15-5. Kill Leaders: Whittier (Bridget Tichauer 7), Caltech (Jennifer Fong 5). Dig Leaders: Whittier (Amy Reid 5), Caltech (Barbara Krazat and Karen Lam 4). Records: Whittier 5-6, Caltech 0-9.

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As long as we can remember, Rotation has been a crucial part of the Frosh initiation into Caltech. Along with Frosh Camp, rotation allows the incoming Frosh to check out the seven houses at Tech, while at the same time allowing for the upperclassmen of each house to interview the Frosh and find out a little bit about them. The many many many strict rotation rules, which in principle sound pretty good and fair, one must look at these rules in practice and it is clear to see that not only does it lead to frustration and confusion on the Frosh's part, it completely buries the true potential of Rotation week under heaps of bureaucracy and mindless statutes.

Rotation, in principle, is a great idea. What better way for the incoming Frosh and the existing hard-liner upperclassmen to meet and greet each other; find out about each other so that all parties involved may make the best choices once Saturday comes around. Its policies seem fair and unbiased, and seem to be in the best interest of everyone involved. This is of course, only in principle.

In practice, things are much much different. Rotation should be about communication. In all venues of life, and most certainly when meeting new people, we need to communicate our idea, opinions, and views. Sure, facts are great, but after the twelve gazzillionth "Oh, I came here because of the people" and the seventy-five quintillionth "Yeah, people are really diverse here," one begins to wonder just what exactly the purpose of rotation is. It is confusing enough to meet new people and find out about the houses without silly red tape rotation rules preventing people from expressing their opinions.

Sure, some rules are appropriate. We really can't have houses spending exorbitant amounts of money on rotation, nor can we have upperclassmen pulling special favors for the Frosh. But what we can have is a free and intelligent forum where everyone can openly show their view without fear of repercussions. We are all intelligent and bright here; it is an insult to our intelligence to assume that we cannot be held responsible to make our own decisions based on our viewpoints of the houses as they were truly meant to be seen; without rotation rules hindering our way.

Rotation has become a water-down weakening of what it has the potential to be. We know that they are all fine houses, we know that all opinions are only those of the speaker, and we know that people will only speak about past experiences. What we don't know is what people think, what their true opinions are, and, ultimately, what their experience can teach us. As one upperclassman so accurately put it, "I can't say much about my house, because I live here, but I can say things about other houses... but that's against Rotation rules, sorry." We will be living in these houses for four years. We want to know the dirt, we want to know the special events they hold; what we don't want is to be told they are all fine houses. People excel in competition, and this holds true for Rotation. If the houses were given more freedom to compete, not only would we all have more fun, but the Frosh would be able to make a better and more informed judgment when ranking houses.

Caltech is a fine school, and rotation is a fine week, the rules are fine, and of course, they're all fine houses -- but there is so much more potential there that we are not fully using by the straitjacket rotation rules. Let us do what we do best. Let us compete, let us speak, let us be free.

### Counterpoint

**Let us speak, let us be free**

_by John Oh_

### Point

**Milk Rotation for all it's worth**

_by Jon Foster_

Ah, Rotation. That wonderful and mystical process by which Frosh find the fine house that is perfect for them, and the other houses find the frosh who will least disrupt the empires which the fine house members have been building since the dawn of time (or at least Caltech).

At least, that is what they would have you believe. The truth is that it is not perfect and not always enjoyable. But it is not that bad either, and with a little careful brainwashing perhaps you too will be able to see the good in Rotation.

Of course, I am restricted in what I can say on the matter. I doubt that many of my fellow frosh would mind being whisked off to the Moon at a fine houses expense, yet still we should realize that next year (if we don't flame) we would be forced to provide such escalating entertainment for next years frosh. And so, in my opinion, in the past, we have had Rotation Rules (although that is only to the best of my knowledge). And not only do such Rules provide a necessary safeguard against damage to the global economy, they are also a great source of private amusement. Where else would your first lesson of college be Newspeak 3.14a? Do not look at it as a restriction, but as a challenge to your ability to make meaningful conversation without imparting genuine knowledge. Remember, the IHC is watching you.

Also, Rotation provides a wonderful chance for us to see upperclasspersons suffer. To us, the banal conversations that pervade fine house receptions are still somewhat new. Pity the poor super-senior who has been forced to endure thousands of such conversations. Or, if you so choose, do not pity, but mock. We are basically invaluable during Rotation, between the fine houses trying to be nice, and the security blanket of pass/fail. We can corner those poor upperclasspersons in various corners and torture them all evening, as they realize their homework time as well as their sanity is slipping away.

Yet, for all my remarks, I truly believe Rotation is good. We can rely on our own poor judgment to choose where, and with whom, to live. We need not depend on the fickle favor of some Housing Office. We get free food at the receptions. We are practically forced to meet people, which is, in the long run, a very good thing. We have ample opportunity to postpone or ignore our work for the first week. It is even possible, is it not, that Rotation will actually allow us to find the fine house in which we'll live and happily suffer at Caltech for the next 4+ years. 

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I loved all of this book, except for the ending. I hated the ending. I was going to talk about all the plot and the writing style, but that ending just made me too mad. Okay, I’ll say a bit. You know the basics, boy raised by apes becomes a sort of jungle superman, falls for a woman that he sees. There are details, mostly well handled, some believable. Really what this book is is unapologetic trash. Good trash, but light reading in the extreme. People with delicate sensibilities be warned, there is nothing politically correct about this book.

Racism, sexism, class stereotypes, and maligning of endangered species are all here. You just have to remember when the book was written, and accept that the way things will see the light of day in the Disney version. Other things will probably be dropped as well (the ending had better be) but it would be too bad if they lost any of the scenes between Tarzan and Jane. Not exactly acceptable modern romance, but undeniably readable. The whole book is very sexy while staying entirely G-rated, though it gets an R for violence; the action in almost literally nonstop and extremely bloody. I read the whole thing in about three hours and could not put it down to do my most- overdue work, and that’s about as good a recommendation as I can give. But I really hated that ending.

Agatha Raisin and the Wellspring of Death
M.C. Beaton

Speaking of things I hate, this is about ten of them. An unrepentantly ugly book, the only thing this has to recommend it is that the writing is above abysmal. That made it bearable to read, but just barely. I can only think of one character in this book who is even remotely likable, her far too-infrequent appearances were a breath of fresh air in this tomb. Every other character was petty, nasty, crooked and/or generally unpleasant. The murders are almost inconsequential and the motives, even the red herrings, are too absurd to be seriously considered. What’s more, the heroes are headed by one of my least favorite stereotypes, the idiot female sleuth. According to the formula, she bumbles her way through the case, finding no clues and making everyone hate her, while her more competent supporting cast solves the mystery under her nose. This is positively the last time that I pick a book at random off of the shelf at the store.

The Ravens of Blackwater
Edward Marsten

This is the second in Marston’s series of mysteries based on the the creation of the Domeday book in medieval England, though the books are independent of each other. They follow the adventures of two agents of William the Conquerer as they try to unravel property and other disputes in order to create the elaborate census. It is a good premise for a mystery series, and well executed. Though I could ask for more in the way of support for the denouement, it is generally well plotted and fun to read. Marsten has clearly done his research, which is sometimes a little too apparent in the rather stiff speeches made by the protagonists, a Norman soldier and a half-Saxon clerk and lawyer. They represent their respective sides a little too perfectly and state them too much like a textbook. The research comes out a bit better in the settings and situations that the author creates for his characters. They are as true to the times as I can imagine, and give a better sense of the times than pages of exposition would have. The villains are villainous, the heroes heroic and the star crossed lovers appropriately devoted. Not the stuff to shake the literary world, but a good way to pass an afternoon.

Star Wars: Episode 1- The Phantom Menace
Terry Brooks

Imagine seeing the movie without the incredible special effects, gorgeous scenery or the charisma of the actors and you have this book. It is difficult to judge because it is so close to the movie that, having seen it, reading this is just like running through the movie ion your head. I wonder what it’s like being an author and not being able to control the characters, plot setting or dialogue of your book. About the only thing that is unique is the insight he gives into the characters’ thoughts, but even those are suspect. Considering the amount of control that Lucas is said to have, I can’t help but wonder if he “directed” this too. Also new are a couple of scenes on Tatooine that add almost nothing to the story; we will probably see them when this movie is re-released in twenty years. The bookstore only had the unfinished cover (Anakin and Watto); if you are going to buy it I would recommend the Ewan MacGregor version (yum). Not that anyone is going to buy this, since everybody who wants to read it just going to come and borrow my copy anyway.

The Collected Writings of Margaret L. James and R.M. Barff Fort Frink

A beautiful little collection, following the writer as she moved through her laments like gems like the legendary amazon.com review of Tommy Irl and the response e-mails it elicited from clueless and uncurious people. In total, the book spans three years of work, from the early days when the author was so sure that she had no readers that she mailed copies to later times when the paper seems to have abandoned the idea of copy-editing entirely. Also included are a few feature stories, written with the single, selfish desire to “get to do cool stuff for free.” Having won some small acclaim in here little community, she moved on to see what the great wide world had to offer. That lasted for about five minutes before she ran screaming back to hide under her bed, where she remains to this day. Goodbye everybody, it’s been fun.

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Advice for the new students about rotation
by the IHC 1999-2000

- If you missed a House lunch or dinner for whatever reason, religious, sports, or classes, then just inform a member of the IHC.

- Be sure to give every House an equal chance.

- Keep in mind that we've all gone through Rotation before and that we stick with it because it seems to work. Try to be yourself and try not to stress out.

- Try to rank your preferences as honestly as possible. Please don't try to play the system. The best policy really is just ranking your preferences honestly. If anyone tells you how to rank or if anyone gives you any advice on how to rank, then they are probably committing a Rotation Violation and this incident should be reported to the IHC as soon as possible. Remember the only objective information that the Presidents have to go on is your preference sheet.

- You have to rank at least 4 Houses, but you can rank up to all 7 Houses. Only under extremely unusual circumstances will you be forced to live in a House that you did not rank.

- Please do not rank two Houses the same unless you absolutely have no preference of one over the other.

- Talk to the House President of the House that you really want to live in.

- Dinner is 1/2 hour early on Friday.

- Lunch on Saturday:
  Blacker 11:50
  Dabney Noon
  Ricketts 12:10
  Fleming 12:20
  Lloyd 11:50
  Ruddock Noon
  Page 12:15

- If you are not going to be around on Saturday to rank your Houses, pick up a ranking sheet from the RA of the House that you are rotating out of ASAP.
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by Jean-Paul Revel

set the tables each morning in a clatter of tables and chairs scraped on the floor. The tables then had to be set and the food served in a din of attempted conversations, people raising their voices in a futile hope to be heard. It was a clear case of feedback, with others having to raise their voices, till no one could understand anything of what was being shouted. Everyone had to bus their own dirty dishes, after which all the tables had to be folded again, and the chairs restacked to leave room for the rolling of tables into storage, after which the chairs had to be unstacked once more and arranged for the morning session. And the same for lunch and again for dinner. Talk about KPI! We even had to take along an additional half dozen students just to do the dishes, but then last year the dishwashers were broken... but let's get back to this year's Camp. One of the impressive things in Big Bear, which had nothing to do with the locale, was the incredible depth of talents, even nonscholastically inclined, demonstrated by the incoming student body.

There were pianists, percussionists, rock and wind instruments including vocal cords and kazoo guitars, guitar soloists, graceful dancers, jugglers, both musical and physical, and even a raconteur, but he was not a student. All were incredibly (Oh, dear! oh dear! good faith!) good performers, many worthy of the professional stage, rather than some remote camp in the wilderness. Ah! wilderness again.... Well I know, it was not so wild after all, there were enough fast food places visible from the sleeping buses to give indigestion even to ravenous wolves. But then I was told that there is a Burger King (or is it a MacDonald's?) in Beijing... and many years ago I walked by a then newish "Golden Arches" in Moscow, and saw the line the newly established pizza joint there, snaking around the block in the summer (continental) cold. So if the comforts of French fries and the delights of sour pickles on anemiotic tomato on lettuce waiting in the heat of a greedy putty, faced with mayo, mustard and ketchup, quickly managed to reach these (at the time distant) places, why should they not have invaded the local wilderness? Note that there is a Rock 'n Roll Cafe and a Holiday Inn in remote a place as Urumchi, Xingjiang, 2500 miles west of Beijing, stuck between Siberia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Among the new features at camp this year were the low rope exercises, which turned out to be great fun. It was interesting to see how many lessons about life at Caltech could be illustrated by having people stand on a log. And the wrestling, revamped Challenges and Choices was better than ever.

Better than ever also was the ME contest, held not in a modest pool constructed by budding engineers, but in a large swimming pool. It was a great show, and for once, most people could see what was happening, even though binoculars might have been helpful for some. Of course we also got to visit the BBSO - not the Boston Symphony, silly, but the Big Bear Solar Observatory (there is a picture of it, including thennos invisible from the causeway, on the first floor of East Bridge). The observatory is now run by the New York Institute of Technology, but was part of Caltech until very recently. It is built on a jetty extending into the lake, because the cold air above the water leads to a very quiet air column above the observatory, improving daytime "seeing" greatly. When we were there, however, the visibility was zilch because of thunder clouds, but it was exciting to see the solar telescope - actually several telescopes all mounted on the same stand - and to hear about the work being done there. Yes, all of these things, and s'more added up to a historical Fresh Camp. A hoot!
**Mints**

*The John Gyles Education Fund is offering scholarship awards up to $3,000 for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be Canadian or U.S. Citizens, have a 2.7 GPA or higher, and already plan to attend an educational institution. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. To obtain an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The John Gyles Education Fund, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Frederick, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5G4. Filing dates for mailing documents in 1999 are April 1, June 1, and November 15.*

The Measurement Science Conference (MSC) has established fund to grant scholarships to students in an Engineering or Science or Quality Assurance degree program. The scholarship program places emphasis on papers or projects that discuss the advancement of measurement science technology. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, have a general average point of average of 3.2 or higher, completed at least 24 units of upper division courses in Engineering or Science degree or five courses in a Masters Degree Program in Quality Assurance. Current members of the Measurement Science Conference Committee are ineligible for this scholarship award. Also, applicants must be able to attend the Measurement Science Conference luncheon held in October 1999, at the Disneyland Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For further information regarding MSC Scholarships you may contact: Rick Careytte, MSC scholar Chairperson, Teledyne Electronics Technologies, Monterey Del Rey Facility, 12926 Panama Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066-6534. Entries must be submitted by November 26, 1999.

To submit an event for the Mints, contact mints@tech.caltech.edu or mail your announcement to Caltech 40-58 Atm: Mints. Submissions should be brief and concise. The editors reserve the right to and abridge all material.